



WINTER 17/18

Happy New Year!

EMBC Provincial Operating Guideline

A new POG 3.15 covering the training and use of Trackers in GSAR tasks has been drafted and is awaiting approval and release by Emergency Management BC.

The purpose of the POG is to provide for the safety of SAR Volunteers when participating in training, response or practice involving the use of tracking in the search for lost persons.

This POG is a welcome development we have been working towards since the BC Tracking Association took over GSAR Tracker training back in 2010.

We will be including the new POG in a future newsletter once it is officially released.

BCTA Memberships

If your membership expired as of 31 Dec 2017, please renew by completing the form at: [http://www.bctracking.org/BCTA%20Forms/Membership_Form_2018\(fillable\)%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.bctracking.org/BCTA%20Forms/Membership_Form_2018(fillable)%20(1).pdf)

Spring 2018 BCTA Courses

We already have several courses in the planning stages for this spring! Keep an eye on the BCTA website calendar between now and April for course announcements and registration forms:

<http://www.bctracking.org/Calendar.html>

13-15 April Salt Spring Island – Track Aware & GSAR Tracker

27-29 April Princeton Track Aware, GSAR Tracker & Advanced Tracker.

11-13 May Comox Valley – GSAR Tracker & Advanced Tracker

25-27 May Fort Saint John - Track Aware

1-3 June Campbell River – Track Aware

TBA June Comox Valley - BCTA Instructor TTT Course

TBA July or August Nechanko Valley Vanderhoof BCTA Instructor TTT Course (See next article).

Course announcements will also be posted on the BCSARA website Training Calendar. https://www.facebook.com/pg/BCSARA/events/?ref=page_internal

GSAR Tracking Instructors

Are you well-organized?

Are you able to comfortably address a class of adults?

Do you speak clearly and project your voice?

Can you handle a 14-hour day, outdoors in any weather? Are you willing to travel?

Then we need you!

With EMBC issuing POG 3.15 and an expected increase in the number of courses being requested – particularly in Northern

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Regions – the BCTA is looking for additional GSAR Tracking Instructors to deliver the Track Aware, Tracker and Advanced Tracker programs all over the province. If you feel very comfortable speaking in front of your peers, are self-motivated, well-organized to deliver a program over a 3-day course – and willing to travel – you may be a candidate for instructor.

Applicants must be current BCTA members, GSAR Tracker or Advanced Tracker certified, and must be recommended by their SAR Group. Background in adult education or instruction, or the JIBC Basic GSAR Instructor Course is an asset. You will be sent an application form to complete and return for selection.

The BCTA Instructor Course requires pre-study of course materials and attendance at a one weekend Train the Trainer course. Meals and accommodations are provided while on course. Some travel expenses may be reimbursed, depending on distances and cost. You should ask your SAR Group if they will cover your travel expenses for GSAR Tracking Instructor training. See the course calendar for up-coming dates and locations.

If you are selected for the course, you will be required to sign a letter of support, making a commitment to instruct courses.

BCTA instructors are volunteers and are not reimbursed for their time. However, when you are assigned to instruct a course, most travel, meals and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed at the normal EMBC GSAR rates. BCTA Instructors are covered under SARVAC insurance and EMBC Training Task Number (Worksafe BC) while instructing a course.

An Instructor course is being planned for June, hosted by Comox Valley GSAR. Another course has been proposed for

Vanderhoof in July or August, hosted by Nechanko Valley SAR – if there is sufficient interest.

If you are definitely interested and would like more details, please contact the BCTA Training Director training@bctracking.org

26,000-Year-Old Child Footprints Found Alongside Paw Prints Reveal Oldest Evidence of Human-Canine Relationship

<http://www.ancient-origins.net/history/26000-year-old-child-footprints>



There is little doubt that humans and dogs are naturally inclined to be best friends. But when and how did this dynamic duo first emerge? Conventional wisdom holds that agrarian man domesticated scavenger canines about 15,000 years ago. However, recent archaeological discoveries and DNA analyses show that not only is our friendship closer to 30,000 years old (possibly 40,000 years) but also that man did not master and breed wolves into companionable dogs. Rather, our relationship was built on mutual benefits and respect. This new reality has been made strikingly clear by the discovery of a set of footprints indicating a small child walked alongside a large wolf some 26,000 years ago.

Hmmm?? How do they know they were best friends? Were they walking together or was the wolf following the child or child following wolf tracks? -ED

Tracker Tales



As always, Tracker Tales and pictures from your SAR or tracking experiences are welcome. Please send them to the Editor at: communications@bctracking.org

Can you track in the snow???

Yes, quite easily... Just need to make this;



and watch this;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kprT7Q-RqLs>

I have tried it and it does work!

Randy Rorvik - Princeton SAR

SAR: Meades Creek

by: Janice Frueh, Cowichan SAR

Cowichan Search and Rescue was paged out at about 17:15 on a record setting warm October evening, the air thick with smoke from the massive Lizard Lake fire, still burning about 40 kilometres south-west of Cowichan Lake. After meeting teammates at the SAR Hall to load gear and connect trailers with UTV's, our SAR group convoyed west on Highway 18 to meet the RCMP at the "Last Known Point" on Meades Creek Road, Lake Cowichan.

Our SAR manager had gone ahead of the convoy and, after some discussion with the RCMP dog handler who had already worked the area for about three hours, came to my vehicle to ask that we get ready as quick as we can. She wanted Trackers to start cutting for sign around the subject's vehicle, parked beside a bridge that spanned the dry creek. Peter Wilson and I quickly geared up and dragged our sticks to the subject's truck. We briefly spoke to the RCMP dog handler, who told us that the high temperature and heavy smokey air were hampering his dog's abilities. We assessed the situation, checked the RCMP officer's footwear, and after determining the large amount of contamination around the vehicle, decided to conduct a large cut down into and along the far bank of the dry creek bed.

About a hundred metres down we made a right turn, crossed back across the creek bed on a compass bearing, and into forest. We identified the dog handler and dog sign almost everywhere. Our intention was to make another turn at about the one hundred metre mark of that leg, but extended it a bit as we could see a trail ahead.

Once on the trail we made another right turn, which would be the third leg of our box. Again, we identified the RCMP dog handler's boot print. As we neared the road and LKP, we discovered a secondary deer

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trail angling off to the left with an unidentified line of sign!

We radioed base to inform them that we have clearly marked a line across the first trail which indicates where we stopped, and gave them the bearing of our direction change. As Peter and I tracked the new line of sign, we really didn't even look at it. Instead, Peter watched the shoulder of the trail on the left, and I worked the right side. We were searching for an egress point indicating our subject leaving the trail. It wasn't far when I noticed some disturbance on the right shoulder, but it was difficult to "time frame" it because the extreme heat left everything so dry.

At this point I called out "MR.ROBINSON"! Well we heard something immediately, that sounded a bit like an owl, so we both hollered the second time, and heard the same response! The sounds were coming from the bush to the right of the trail. Peter radioed base, and I tracked the very dry line of sign into the forest. Peter caught up to me and we located our subject, unconscious behind a stump and under a fallen tree, about 50 metres off trail.

We immediately radioed base then started our First Aid Priority Action Approach which quickly determined there wasn't any hazards to us, and that our subject was down with a medical condition. While Peter ensured that he was breathing, did not have any apparent injuries and recorded the pulse rate, I radioed for a stretcher team and requested the Firemen to bring in their oxygen tank, as by now they were also on scene, at base. Once the subject was packaged and lifted out of the bush to the trail, we were informed that the ambulance would not be arriving for at least 20 minutes. After clearing it with our SARM, we signed the patient care over to the Firemen, who knew our subject, as he was a local man. We returned to base, helped close everything

down and hit the road to return to the SAR Hall in Duncan.

Summary: Peter and I were assigned this Tracking task at about 18:20, we radioed in the direction change at 18:30, and accessed our subject at 18:40. The dog and handler were unsuccessful due to the extreme heat, and overwhelming smoke from the forest fire. Our subject, Mr. Robinson, had had a stroke. Even in his semi-conscious state, he was able to respond to his own name being called out. It's important that SAR teams on task, call out the subject's name!

