



AGM 2011 Special Edition

2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Gardom Lake BCTA/UTS Tracker 1 and Tracker 2 Courses and Annual General Meeting 24 September 2011.

We would like to acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Search and Rescue New Initiatives Fund (SAR NIF)



Government of Canada
National Search and Rescue Secretariat

Gouvernement du Canada
Secrétariat national Recherche et sauvetage

Canada



This year's Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Tracking Association Society was held on

Saturday, 24 September at Gardom Lake, near Enderby, BC. Many thanks to Roger Meunier from Shuswap

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Volunteer Search and Rescue who not only coordinated the Universal Tracking Services Advanced Tracker 1 and 2 Courses that weekend, but also hosted the Annual General Meeting.

The AGM agenda, together with all required attachments, were provided more than 30 days before the meeting via e-mail to all current members. Also, copies were placed on the bctracking.org website > Members Only > files link. Printed copies were posted at the lodge/dining hall at Gardom Lake the weekend of the AGM.

A conference call was established so those who could not attend in person could attend via teleconference. Unfortunately, no additional members joined in via teleconference and it was terminated 10 minutes after the posted time for the meeting.

There were 32 BCTA members present plus two invited guests: Clive Giolma, BC SARA Director, Thompson/Okanagan Region; and Gordon Byrnes, Instructor, Universal Tracking Services.

The meeting was chaired by the BCTA President, Win Koch, and the Recording Secretary was the BCTA Vice President, Tania Walter Gardiner.

PREVIOUS MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT The minutes of the 2010 AGM were accepted and passed, as were the Financial Statement and the 2012 Budget. A request will be made to the National SAR Secretariat for a one-year extension to the NIF Contribution Agreement, which has funded Association Tracker Training for this year. Also, a Gaming



The BCTAS presented Mike Neeland with a Lifetime Honourary Membership in recognition of his many years of dedication to Tracker Training in BC, as well as being the founder of the BC Tracking Society. L-R Win Koch, Mike Neeland and Roger Meunier.



**Congratulations Mike!
He had his cake and ate it too!**

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Grant application has been made requesting training funds for 2012.

A Special Resolution was approved to amend the BCTAS Constitution as requested by the Societies Registrar, following last year's annual report. The amendment consisted of editorial changes: removing the BCTAS logo and spelling out BCTAS in full, no abbreviations.

DIRCTOR'S REPORTS

Vancouver Island – Peter: Still learning and interested in the alignment with GSAR and tracking training, such as the task assignment and clue sheet. An In House course is scheduled for Central Saanich in October.

Central - Dwaine: There is a course scheduled for Silver Lake in mid-October. If there is more interest to host a course in the South, Dwaine is ready to help.

South East – Jerome: There is interest building in tracking in the South East region. He has put a pitch out to host a course and that he would support and put into action.

South West – Squamish is hosting an In House course in October. See the website calendar for details.

NW & NE – Roger: Tried to offer a course in Smithers – some interest but nobody stepped forward to host and be the course coordinator, which is needed. Vanderhoof, Stewart and Burns Lake SAR have also expressed an interest in tracking training. The Association needs to review training for the north given the small numbers and vast distances.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy – Tania reported that the Committee has written a number of policies over the year to guide training, SAR NIF spending, administrative functions, and others. Other policies need to be revised and created to support training and administration, such as 'fee for service model' if there is no grant or NIF funding. Anyone with good admin or policy writing skill sets and understanding of the BCTA Tracker Training Program, are invited to ask to join the Policy Committee.

Membership – Win reporting on behalf of Peggy: currently at 106 members and 48 are 3-year memberships. This shows a real commitment to the Association.

Training – Mike: working on creating a resource list of trackers for call out (similar to BC Cave Rescue). Creating a list of who is capable of executing and presenting a class (Lead Instructors). Need a Train the Trainer course. 'You build it and we will come'. Put together a request for a course and we will bring the instructors.

Communications – Win: Newsletters have been sent out to keep both members and non-members up to date. Ram Sudama is the Association webmaster. All requests to put items on the web site should go through Win for editing. Yahoo link is for members only.

The BCTA Newsletter also goes to BCSARA Vice President who has agreed to forward it to the Regional Directors. EMBC/PEP SAR Specialist, Jeff Haack, has agreed to send the newsletter to PEP Regional Managers, RCMP training officers, conservation,

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Parks and agencies interested in Tracker training.

Information about courses is also sent out by Mike on his Tracker Grapevine, as well as Peggy to the BCTA membership.

Tracker stories and lessons learned are always welcome for the newsletter.

REVIEW OF PRECEDING AND ON-GOING ACTIVITIES

Fund Raising: Roger reported that there still are some BCTA hats and t-shirts available.

Win reported that the Gaming Grant application has been submitted. The SAR NIF Contribution Agreement is for 1 year only and ends 31 March 2012 unless we can obtain an extension. Use it or lose it!

OLD BUSINESS

The Tracker Call-out and Tracker Advisor projects are still undergoing discussion. The new Training Committee will continue to work out the details.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and approved to award an Honourary Lifetime Membership to Mike Neeland for his outstanding and long-time contributions towards tracker training in BC.

ELECTIONS

BCTA Executive and Directors **2011-2012**

President: Win Koch
Vice President: Bart Bjorkman
Secretary: Vacant
A/Treasurer: Win Koch

Regional Directors:
SE: Jerome Liboiron
SW: Vacant
Central: Kelly Carnochan
North: Dwaine Brooke
VI: Peter Wilson

Committee Chairs:
Membership: Peggy Shelley
Training: Bart Bjorkman
Communications: Win Koch
Policy: Bart Bjorkman

Contact information at:
<http://www.bctracking.org>



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Board Meeting – September 2011

Immediately following the AGM, the new board met formally for the first time and selected chairpersons and members for the special committees. The committee chairs and members are:

Training

Chair: Bart Bjorkman
Mike Neeland
Peter Wilson
Kelly Carnochan
Randy Rorvik

Membership

Chair: Peggy Shelley

Policy

Chair: Bart Bjorkman
Dwayne Brooke
Kelly Carnochan

Communications

Chair: Win Koch
Dwayne Brooke
Ram Sudama - Webmaster

Help Wanted Treasurer

The BC Tracking Association Society requires a volunteer to fill the Executive position of Treasurer within the Association Executive. The duties include keeping the financial records necessary to comply with the Societies Act, to render financial statements when required and to complete reimbursement claim

Help Wanted Secretary

The BC Tracking Association Society requires a volunteer to fill the position of

Secretary within the Association Executive. The duties include conducting the correspondence of the BCTA, issuing notices of meetings, keeping minutes of meetings, have custody of all records and documents except those of the Treasurer, Chair the Membership Committee and keep a register of members of the BCTA.

Help Wanted

BCTAS Regional Directors

The BC Tracking Association Society requires volunteers to fill the positions of Regional Directors throughout the Province of BC. The duties include: liaising with PEP Regional Managers, BC SARA Regional Directors, GSAR training officers and trackers within the region, providing tracking training materials and advice, facilitating tracking training, assisting other Regional Directors and providing reports, as required. Directors are voting members of the Executive Board of Directors and play a great role in furthering Tracker Training in BC.

For further information or to nominate a suitable volunteer for any of the above positions, please contact President@bctracking.org

All nominees/volunteers must be BCTA members in good standing and be willing to stand for election at the 2012 Annual General Meeting. The nominees/volunteers will need to be approved and appointed by the Board in an Acting capacity. Following the AGM elections, the term will be for a period of up to two years.

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Tracker Tales **SPARWOOD SEARCH**

Getting called out is almost a weekly occurrence now that the Search Managers in the SE region have discovered the efficacy of tracking.

The Sparwood search was actually two operations happening simultaneously. The ground search for a 3 year old boy, who sometimes wanders in his sleep, and a criminal investigation into a 46 year old male who may have abducted the child. SAR Trackers were tasked by both SAR managers and the RCMP - depending who needed their tracking skills.

The first evening, a Sign Cutter from Creston and a TK1 from Kimberley were tasked to clear some ponds near the housing development (LKP). Once cleared, they were tasked to cut for sign at the 25% ring, based on Robert Koester's "Lost Person Behaviour" statistics. (the area where statistically 25% of children 1 to 3 years old are found). The Trackers were stood down at 05:00 am, after cutting for sign all night. This "25%" area was also a high POD as it is a housing development that is under construction and was basically a huge track trap.

After a couple of hours nap and daylight, the Trackers were up at 07:00 and worked on closing the box. Later in the day, trackers from Vernon and Shuswap

SAR arrived, making two tracking teams. The SAR Managers were very happy with the negative outcome - as there was a high POD, they felt comfortable that the barefoot boy did not just wander off.

Meanwhile, the SC and TK2 were tasked with cutting for sign around the crime scene (site of the abduction). They found one signature print consistent with a three year old barefooted person. The RCMP called in the Ident team and the dog handler - who work with the SC quite often. The child's print line of sign was paralled by a line of an adult boot sign. The police OIC was visibly impressed with the find.

The RCMP major crimes unit then called in the two tracking teams to cut for sign around the perimeter of the 11 acre property where the suspect lived. As a river ran through the center of the property, Each SC took a team and tracked the perimeter on either side of the river. There was no sign of the abductor or subject at that location, which confirmed the theory that the RCMP had developed.

An amber alert was issued. After five days, the abducted child was mysteriously returned to the home late at night. The abductor was captured a few days later.

As this search was very large (over 500 searchers) and complicated, due to the criminal nature, the SAR Managers organized a de-briefing with all of the major players involved. The SC was included to represent the trackers - who really proved their worth on this high urgency search and criminal investigation!