



# FALL 2016

## **BCTA MEMBERSHIP YEAR IS EXTENDED!**

At the July Board of Directors meeting, it was approved to move the fiscal budget year and the membership year to correspond with the calendar year. It was agreed that all current and new 2016 memberships would be extended to 31 December 2017. Replacement membership cards would not be issued, as current 1 & 3-year membership cards will be honoured to the end of their expiry year.

Current BCTA Membership stands at 188.

## **TRACKER LOGS**

Several recent course critiques have asked why we don't hand out certificates for everyone as having attended a course.

Track Aware, Tracker and Advanced Tracker qualification certificates are presented only when a student meets the expectations and assessment criteria and achieves a certification level. Certification to any level is not solely based on the number of hours of tracker training achieved or the number of courses taken. It is based on demonstrated performance during a course.

As with all EMBC GSAR training, it is the volunteer's responsibility to log their training and certification in their GSAR logbook, signed by the instructor. For those attending a course who do not have a GSAR logbook, they should request a Novice Log Sheet. This is their record of training.

It is important for the instructors to know each student's level of training, their hours and how recent. This information needs to be included in the course registration form, as well as kept in a log book. This allows instructors to group students in

appropriate teams for field training. Of course, this will depend on how many students there are at what experience levels. Sometimes more experienced students are teamed with first-time novices in order to evaluate leadership, teamwork and mentoring. Other teams may consist entirely of more experienced 20 or 40 hour students who are given more challenging lines of sign.

In short, certificates are not simply handed out as having attended a course. The signed GSAR logbook or Novice Log sheet are your record of training.

## **TRAINING REPORT**

To date, we have conducted 8 courses for 132 students this year, with three more courses scheduled.



**Terrace 3-5 June 2016**

This was a large course with 23 students, not only from Terrace, but also from Prince Rupert, Kitimat and as far

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away as Hope and Salmon Arm! The following achieved certification:

Jon Coutts - Tracker - Terrace SAR  
Ron Steinke - Tracker - Terrace SAR  
Jon Currie - Track Aware - Terrace SAR  
Stephanie McLean - Track Aware - Terrace SAR  
Troy Leech - Track Aware - Hope SAR  
Gerry Mattson - Track Aware - Canadian Rangers



## Vanderhoof August 26 - 28 Track Aware & Tracker Course



## Sunshine Coast Sechelt September 9 - 11 Track Aware & Tracker Course

Congratulations to all those who achieved their certifications. More photos are on the website.

## Upcoming BCTA Courses

For course details, see the website: [www.bctracking.org](http://www.bctracking.org)  
> Courses > Course Calendar.

**September 23 – 25** (Registration deadline has passed)  
Track Aware Course Tumbler Ridge  
Coordinator: Brandon Lewis

**September 23 – 25** (Registration deadline has passed)  
Track Aware & Tracker Course, & Advanced Refresher  
(Advanced Trackers are welcome to register and attend for tracking hours, however this is not an Advanced evaluation course.)

Port Alberni Coordinator: Jane Witticase

**October 14-16** (note date change)

Track Aware Course

Coquitlam Coordinator: Robert Sell

GSAR groups wishing to host a BCTA Tracking course in 2017 - please see: [www.bctracking.org](http://www.bctracking.org) > courses > How to Host a Course ([Here](#)) and contact your Regional Director.

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Recognize these tracks? Answers on page 7.



## 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](mailto:communications@bctracking.org)*

### **Manning Park Skyline Trail Search Randy Rorvik – Princeton SAR**

Princeton GSAR was called out to search for 2 subjects, a father and son in Manning Park in the evening of [August 7](#) 2016.

Party of 4 had planned to hike the Skyline 1 trail from Strawberry Flats to Lighting Lakes. Just past the junction of Skyline 1 (to Lighting Lakes) and Skyline 2 (West to the Skagit Valley) Trail, the father and son decided to turn around and return to Strawberry Flats, and then drive to Lighting Lakes to pick up reporting party. They never arrived

Princeton GSAR members set up command at Strawberry Flats. Weather during the day and evening had seen violent rain and hail storms (during the night teams reported a temperature of 3° plus rain and hail)

Subject known to be wearing shorts, maybe had rain jackets. Dad hiker boots, son runners.

Team 1 tasked to hike from Skyline trail 1 from Lighting lakes West to Junction. Team 2 tasked to hike from Strawberry flats to Junction then West on Skyline 2. About 03:00 Team 2's tracker cut possible sign of 2 subjects heading West. Further along the trail they found definite sign that was probably our subjects. At one point

the sign showed coming back East then 2 lines heading West.

Finding sign on Skyline 2 allowed command to, at daybreak, task a helicopter to pick up Team 1 and fly West on the Skyline 2. They saw people at Mowich camp and landed to interview them.

They were surprised to find our 2 subjects with the campers. Cold but in good shape..

Subjects had missed the right turn at the junction and continued along Skyline 2 until they arrived at Mowich camp. They turned around and starting back to Strawberry flats. As it got dark they decided to head back to Mowich camp. Campers doubled up and shared their sleeping bag with subjects.

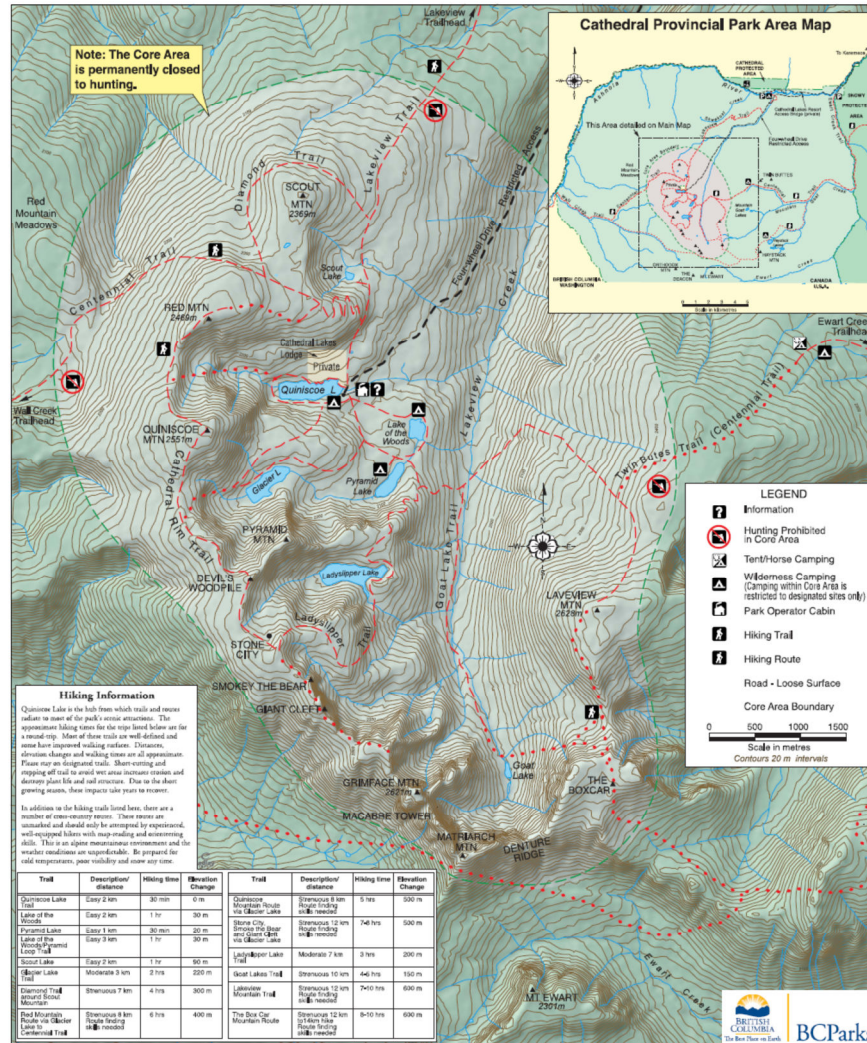
The helicopter transported them to command and returned to Mowich camp for Team 2 who had followed their sign into camp.

The team went for a well-deserved breakfast at the Pinewoods Dining room. Manning park resort surprised the SAR team by paying for breakfast!



The following article has been edited from contributions by Scott Hare (Princeton SAR) and Kelly Carnochan (Central Okanagan SAR).

# Cathedral Provincial Park Core Area



On Sunday 21 June, 2015, two subjects were reported missing following a planned day hike from Cathedral Lakes Lodge at Cathedral Park near Keremeos. A major search began Monday, June 22 and lasted until Sunday, June 28.

The two subjects had left the lodge for a day hike and were expected back for dinner that Sunday Evening. They headed out on the trail to Glacier Lake. Then they headed to the Rim Trail, where

they met up with two lady doctors, This became the Place Last Seen (PLS).

The subjects reached Quiniscoe Mountain and took some pictures. Then they headed left (looking towards Quiniscoe Lake). They saw what they thought was the Rim Trail and started up the rocks, finding some cairns. But, because it was very rocky and steep they didn't think that was the trail. They hadn't asked anyone what it actually looked like, or what to look for. So, they decided to go

around the mountain. They walked through a high alpine area, climbed through rock patches, went through some snow, went past Red Mountain for about an hour and a half and finally found a trail - thinking it was the Centennial Trail - they followed it and the cairns to a large rocky area.

The subjects found a stream and decided to follow it, thinking that it would lead to a waterfall at the end of Quiniscoe Lake near the lodge. They left the trail and walked downward along this stream for about four and a half to five hours....it was about 5:30 pm when they stopped and admitted that they were lost. They had a map with them, but hadn't checked it until they realized they were lost. The terrain was nothing what it should be and they were down into the trees with lots of deadfall. They decided to make a shelter for the night.

The next morning they heard a helicopter and assumed that a search for them had started. They walked, trying to retrace their steps, hoping to get back up into the alpine. There were little tributaries that fed off the stream and they had no idea which one to follow. They never paid attention the day before because they didn't think they would be backtracking. They soon found a large clearing with a rockslide on the east side of a valley.

They decided to try and get as visible as possible, so they climbed up from the rocks to the tree line and made another shelter, where they stayed from Tuesday until **Sunday**, when they decided to walk out.

They described the area as a V-shaped valley, with a stream in the middle. From the rocky clearing, they had climbed up through about 100 feet of bush, then up a steep rock clearing, about 600 feet.

They decided to leave the shelter on Sunday morning to walk out, after watching where the helicopters were concentrating their search they figured out the direction they had to travel. By using the **sun** and a mountain they could see, they set their direction to travel.

The map indicated that they should hit either the Diamond Trail or Centennial Trail. They found the Centennial Trail, and eventually found the sign that said To the Lodge, Diamond Trail and Rim Trail.

Kelly and Vernon GSAR members arrived approx. 08:00, on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> Operational Period 5 - then did the hurry up and wait...and wait....and wait.....

At approximately 10:30 Kelly asked the SAR Manager if they could put together a tracking team and go to the vehicle (as this had not been done). He agreed, so Kelly, Scott Hare and Mark Moroz (Tracker 1) went to the vehicle, which was still in the parking lot quite a few miles upriver from base camp. After a few minutes Kelly was able to pick up part of a print from the driver's front door, it was under the dog's tracks and the other members' tracks. Initially, she only got a couple of lugs, then some more lugs and part of the heel, which included a faint X along with approximate length. Scott Hare (Tracker 1) was able to pick up a partial print from the passenger front with a bit more at the back door with an approximate length. The three trackers were quite confident with their find, and went back to base. Mark Moroz had to leave, but they picked up Glen (Track Aware) to form a 3-person tracking team.

Command sent them to the PLS, as reported by the two Doctors who had passed the subjects. They started down the trail with no sign, continued following the trail to the Junction of Rim Trail & Quiniscoe, where they continued on Rim Trail. After quite a bit of time they came upon some lugs under other tracks, then they spotted the X, along with dimples from the sign they found at the vehicles. They reported to base and continued. During the whole day they were only getting enough sign to convince them that they were on the same two prints taken from the vehicle. However, they did not know if it was conclusive sign of the two missing hikers. They followed the sign to the very top of Rim Trail, at the top they followed it south, then it doubled back

To the North there was less sign and at the top it was very rocky, with little vegetation. But every time they were about to lose hope they would find the X again and regained their confidence. The task was ended about 20:30pm.

The next day, Operational Period 5, searchers were sent out (with only one Track Aware member), but were unable to find any more sign.

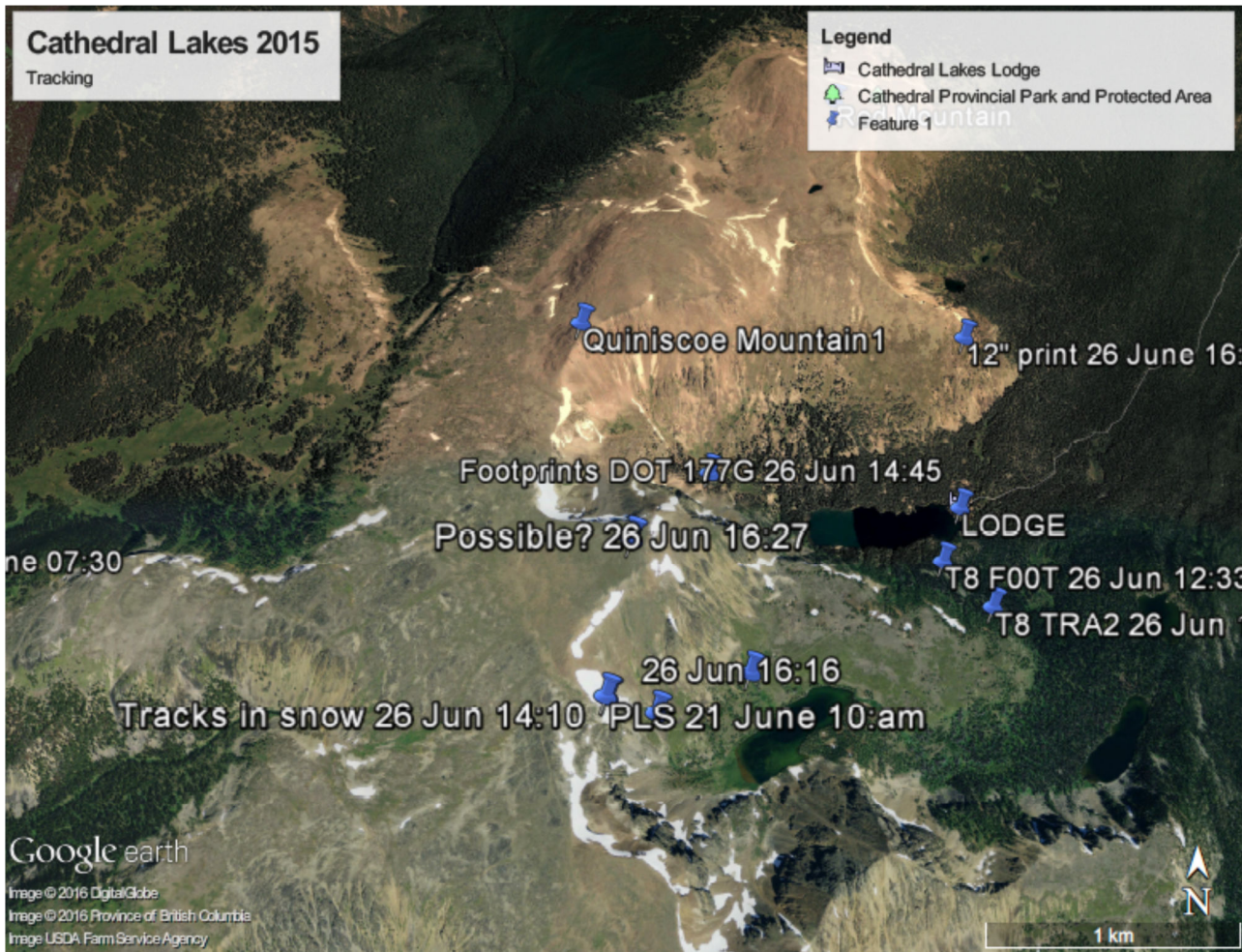


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After speaking with the subjects and the description of where they think they went, Kelly was convinced that they were following them. If trackers had been brought in during Operational Period 1, immediately after the K9 team finished, they could have determined and confirmed the subjects' direction of

travel. If trained trackers had been tasked to follow-up the next day, the subject's direction of travel could have been used to concentrate and refine the probable search area during Operational Period 2.



The image shows two side-by-side tracking forms. Each form has a large dashed outline of a footprint. The left form contains handwritten notes: 'TIME: 9:30', 'DATE: 25', 'LOCATION: Carport (Chub)', 'SUBJECT HEADING:', 'BASE TYPE:', 'PATTERN:', 'DIMENSIONS - OVERALL: \*L 10 1/2 W 3 1/2', 'HEEL: \*L W 3 1/2', 'STRIDE INTERVAL (TOE TO HEEL):', 'GROUND SURFACE: Grass', 'REMARKS: Dimple 8 across, small circles, large cash 1/4, Dimple', and 'REPORT TO BASE PROTECT THE SIGN'. The right form contains handwritten notes: 'TIME: 10:11', 'DATE: 25', 'LOCATION: Carport (Chub)', 'SUBJECT HEADING:', 'BASE TYPE:', 'PATTERN:', 'DIMENSIONS - OVERALL: \*L 10 1/2 W 4 1/2', 'HEEL: \*L 4 1/2 W 4', 'STRIDE INTERVAL (TOE TO HEEL):', 'GROUND SURFACE:', 'REMARKS: Tracks, 1/4, 3/4, 1/4', and 'REPORT TO BASE PROTECT THE SIGN'.

Trackers identified sets of footprints of both subjects that matched at their vehicle and at place last seen.

**Answers to Recognize these?:**

Wild horse (no shoes) & cow.