



BRITISH COLUMBIA TRACKING ASSOCIATION

~ NEWSLETTER ~

www.bctracking.org

<https://www.facebook.com/BCTTrackingAssociation/>

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BCTA BOARD

It is with great pleasure that I announce the new **BCTA Board** for the upcoming 2023 year.



President: Darlene Berry

Vice- President: Vacant

Secretary – Lana Johnson

Treasurer – Darlene Berry

Training Officer – Peter Wilson

Membership – Jane Lizotte

Webmaster – Dylan Baker & Jon Unger

Communications – Vacant



REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

Vancouver Island – Sue Strugnell

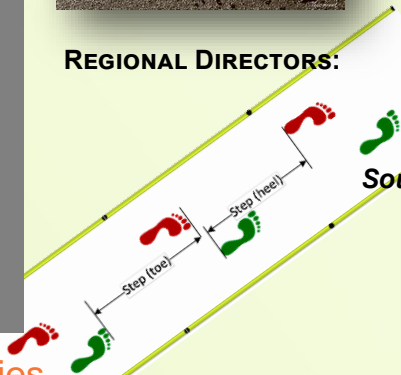
South East – Martin Martens

South West – Daphne Hamilton-Nagorsen

Central – Jeni Christie

North East – Shelly McPhee

North West – Joan Burdeniuk



Current Vacancies

include a **Communications** person who would be willing to write (with assistance) a quarterly Newsletter and a **Vice-President** to serve on the Board for the remaining one-year term which will be up for election in the Fall of 2023.

If you are a good candidate for either of these roles, please email darlene.berry@bctracking.org expressing your interest.

Up-coming Courses

Our Regional Directors have been busy contacting the SAR groups in their area and introducing themselves. A few groups have expressed interest in hosting courses. If you are thinking of hosting a course, please let them know and we will assist in making it happen.

As courses are requested, our Training Officer sends an email to all Instructors to see who is available. We have 12 active instructors, at the moment, and are looking for more.

Tracking is a Perishable Skill

Tracking takes practice...lots of it. Tracking is a perishable skill that is easily lost by not practicing regularly. With practice, you can hone your observation skills so that you recognize the small details, the clues that many untrained searchers may miss. As more search and rescue team members are trained to be Track Aware, Search Managers will be able to more readily and confidently use trackers to narrow the search area and define the lost person's direction of travel – and probable location. If, like so many search and rescue members, you find that you like the idea of becoming a better tracker, please continue training within your group as well as taking these weekend tracking classes.

Remember – the objective is to find little lost Nellie!

~ Track Aware Course Manual



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Mailing Address: 5000 Willis Way, Courtenay, BC, V9J 1L7
<https://bctracking.org/>

<https://db.bctracking.org/login.aspx>

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Email: contact@bctracking.org



Train-the-Trainer

Interested in being a BCTA Instructor? You need to be a BCTA member in good standing, have BCTA Tracker or Advance Tracker Certification. Be able to organize a course, speak in front of an audience, and pass along your tracking knowledge to fellow trackers.

A Train the Trainer course is two days and will be announced on our Members Website when we have finalized the location and date.

If you have an interest in Instructing, please send an email to our Training Officer.

Welcome to four
New BCTA Instructors:
Sue, Jamie, Susan & Martin
**Congratulations
on your Achievement!**

Membership & Training Fees

What does your Membership get you?

We use the membership fees collected to update our website; these fees were used to build the website we have today. The website has a multitude of information on it, such as:

- ⇒ it keeps track of your BCTA courses, your evaluations, and your certification. (If you were certified from another provider, let us know and we will update your personal profile);
- ⇒ it lists upcoming BCTA Courses
- ⇒ it has a Lexicon of tracking terminology with pictures;
- ⇒ it has further reading materials and booklets;
- ⇒ the Business side of the BCTA Society are posted.

Your annual membership fee goes strictly to pay for the association's administrative fees.

As a registered BC Society, we are required to keep Minutes and records and file annually with the Societies Registrar – including a filing fee.

As a BCTA member, when you attend a tracking course, you are covered by SARVAC and WorkSafe BC insurance, thanks to ECCR and BCSARA.



TTT Course November 2022 Sue Strugnell (Board Director | new Instructor), Peter Wilson (Training Officer | Instructor), Jamie Tudway-Cains (new Instructor), Janice Frueh (Instructor), Darlene Berry (President | Instructor), Susan Fussell (new Instructor), Martin Martens (Board Director | new Instructor), Win Koch (Instructor).

EMCR and GSAR Tracking

•As per the EMCR (was EMBC) Search and Rescue Procedures 2.12 Section 2.12.7.9, GSAR Groups, with the approval of EMCR, may be trained and equipped in various recognized search and rescue techniques (capabilities). It is only these GSAR Groups which are recognized for a Tracking capability that are approved to train and respond above a Track Aware level.

•What this means is that all GSAR groups in the province may train and respond up to the BCTA Track Aware certification. Those groups who are not recognized as having tracking capabilities are not permitted to take a BCTA course at a higher level (Tracker or Advance Tracker), until such time as they get the Tracking designation from EMCR.

•Currently there are 22 GSAR groups in the province who do not have tracking designation. This does not preclude your members from achieving Track Aware certification.

•Having Track Aware certification will make you a better searcher. You will learn how to look for the smaller details that an untrained tracker will likely miss.

Tuition paid for a tracking course goes to reimburse the volunteer instructors for their travel, meals and accommodations. A portion also goes to host SAR group coordinators for incidental expenses related to organizing a course. Instructors and coordinators are not paid for their time. BCTA Executives and Directors are volunteers and are not paid for their time.

⇒ The extra fees charged for meals, snacks and accommodation on a course go directly to the hosting SAR group.

When you attend a tracking course, you should be able to claim course training hours as specialist training with your SAR group.

Your SAR group receives annual training funds from EMCR. A portion of those funds should be budgeted for tracker training. That is your SAR group's decision in their annual budget. It's up to you to discuss the tracker training requirements with your SAR Group and Treasurer so that you may be reimbursed tuition, travel, meals and accommodations.

Newsletter Submissions Welcome

Members are welcome to share photos, tracking success stories, or other items of interest to our membership, by submitting proposals to darlene.berry@bctracking.org.



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