



BRITISH COLUMBIA TRACKING ASSOCIATION

~ NEWSLETTER ~

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BCTA BOARD

It is with great pleasure that I announce the new **BCTA Board** for the upcoming 2024 year.

President: Darlene Berry (darlene.berry@bctracking.org)

Vice- President: Jane Lizotte (jane.lizotte@bctracking.org)

Secretary – Lana Johnson (lane.johnson@bctracking.org)

Treasurer – Daphne Hamilton-Nagorsen (daphnehn@telus.net)

Training Officer – Peter Wilson (peter.wilson@bctracking.org)

Membership – Jane Lizotte (membership@bctracking.org)

Webmaster – Dylan Baker & Jon Unger (via contact@bctracking.org)

Communications – Vacant (c/o Darlene Berry & Lana Johnson for interim)

REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

Vancouver Island – Sue Strugnell (suejdfsar@gmail.com)

South East – Martin Martens (mlmartens@gmail.com)

South West – Daphne Hamilton-Nagorsen (daphnehn@telus.net)

Central – Brian Stainsby (bstainsby@cosar.ca)

North East – Trent Blair (trent.blair@pgsar.ca)

North West – Janice Frueh (janice.frueh@bctracking.org)

Current Vacancies

Include:

Communications person who would be willing to write (with assistance) a periodical Newsletter.

If you are a good candidate for this role, please email darlene.berry@bctracking.org expressing your interest.



TRACKING TIPS AND TRICKS

Night Search Tactics

Day glow flagging tape and high luminosity chalk power are recommended for night tracking. They are particularly bright if used in conjunction with an ultraviolet flashlight.

Always carry several lights for different purposes – and spare batteries. Multi-light headlamps that can be adjusted from dim to bright as may be required; red lamps for map-reading and trail searching; focused, soft yellow lamp for seeing details in a track; and maybe a laser for pointing and an ultraviolet for illuminating reflective objects.

You can somewhat prepare yourself for night tracking by wearing a brimmed hat and sunglasses in the daytime. This reduces the time it takes for your eyes to adjust to night vision.

Like with the sun in the daytime, if there is a good moon available at night, look up-moon to see the best contrast on the ground. If there are lights in the vicinity, try not to look in their direction, as that will reduce your night vision.

As in using natural sunlight (see diagram below) a low flashlight light angle (about 45 degrees) gives the best shadow contrast.



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Introducing BCTA Regional Representatives:

~ Martin Martens, Southeast

Martin lives on Vancouver Island in a spot called Deep Bay, an hour north of Nanaimo, 30 minutes south of Courtenay. He is currently a member of Comox Valley SAR. He joined Comox Valley SAR in May 2023 after 9 1/2 years with Arrowsmith Search and Rescue. Martin is a Tracker and Tracking Instructor with the BCTA. He is also a GSTL, SAR Instructor, Rope Tech 1, and has a current Emergency Medical Responder License.

Outside of SAR, Martin is a Professor at Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo. He was a volunteer Ski Patroller at Mount Washington Alpine Resort for 14 years and is currently on the Ski Patrol at Mt Cain (a small and spectacular ski area in northern Vancouver Island).

~ Brian Stainsby, Central

Brian joined COSAR twenty years ago. He took his first UTS Tracking Course in 2005 and is now BCTA certified as an Advanced Tracker and Instructor.

Within COSAR he is also a Search Manager and helped to set up the first Mountain Bike Rescue Team in BC exclusively using Bikes.

Retired in 2019, Brian enjoys extended road trips in his van, finding new trails to bike and new ground to track on.

Brian is looking forward to his new role as a BCTA Regional Director and doing what he can to promote Tracking within the dozen SAR groups in the Central Region.

TEAM TRACKING DESIGNATIONS

Reminder that all SAR Teams may train to the Track Aware level, however only SAR Teams that are recognized with EMCR as having a Tracking Capabilities Designation may train at a higher level.



President's Message

Special thank you to Quesnel SAR for hosting the BCTA AGM at their August 26 Tracking Course. I wish to thank: Jeni Christie (Central), Shelly McPhee (Northeast) and Joan Burdeniuk (Northwest) who held the positions of Regional Directors for these areas and for their support of BCTA and fulfilling those roles.

Welcome to the new Regional Directors Brian Stainsby, Trent Blair and Janice Frueh who have agreed to take on these positions. A thank you to Daphne Hamilton-Nagorsen, who has also taken on the position of Treasurer as well as being the Southwest Regional Director and Our Membership Director Jane Lizotte who has stepped forward and taken on the position of Vice-President. Thank you to everyone. It is so nice to have a full Board and support from past and present members.

Welcome aboard to the 13 new BCTA Instructors to the Team.

We will be taking the Fall/Winter time to move BCTA forward and improve our program.



TTT Course August 2023—Welcome to the 13 new Track Aware Instructors

Back Row Left to Right—Jane Lizotte (Membership / new Instructor), Peter Wilson (Training Officer | TTT Instructor), Paul Broen (new Instructor), Darlene Berry (President / Treasurer / TTT Instructor), Dale Parker (new Instructor), Knut Herzog (new Instructor), Grant Johannesen (new Instructor), Lucky McDonough (new Instructor), Brian Stainsby (new Instructor).

Front Row Left to Right— Lana Johnson (Secretary / new Instructor), Andy Mueller (new Instructor), Gary Bratton (new Instructor), Trent Blair (new Instructor), Johnathan Grieve (new Instructor), Wade Sharp (new Instructor).

TRACKING TIPS AND TRICKS

Night Search Tactics (Cont'd)

Unfortunately, during a trail search, you will not be able to put the light source in front of you, shining back.

Instead, you will have to put it at your side and try to shine it across the direction of travel. If you need to closely examine a print, place the light out in front, shining back towards you for best contrast.

Always be mindful of where you are holding your tracking stick – don't

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TRACKING TIPS AND TRICKS

Night Search Tactics (Cont'd)

poke your team mate behind you!

Only one team member uses the flashlight at a time. Multiple directed lights are distracting and confusing. Use your tracking stick to point out areas of interest where you would like to have the light.

Never wear a headlamp while tracking! It's OK for navigation and safety enroute, but not when you are looking for sign. A red lamp is best. Never look at your team members with your headlamp on – it destroys their night vision for 30-45 minutes!

For safety, use a dim flood light source. A steady red LED bicycle light worn on your chest pack or lower on your body, will illuminate the ground ahead of you. A red bike LED lamp or glow-stick on the back of your hat or pack will enable other team members to see you without compromising night vision.

Always wear safety glasses and preferably a low or wide-brimmed hat, and gloves.

—From a Vehicle or ATV

If you are heading out to the search location in a vehicle, watch for sign along the road by using low-mount fog lamps, rather than high-beam or high-mounted flood lights. Dim or even turn off instrument panel lights. Use flashing lights, siren and/or PA system at intervals to attract the lost subject.

Try to cut for sign moving away from a road or highway, looking into the darkness, rather than moving towards the bright lights of traffic.

Always remember:

**What you don't see at night
can hurt you!**

Stay alert and be aware of your
surrounding at all times.

~ Track Aware Course Manual



New Vice President

~ Welcoming Back Jane Lizotte
(+Membership)

Jane has been in SAR since 2017 at her hometown of Salt Spring Island. She immediately knew that tracking is the area that she wanted to pursue. She has been active in many positions and task groups with Salt Spring SAR and is a Team Leader, Tracker, Instructor, Mentor to new Members and Wilderness First Responder.

Jane likes canoeing (and is a Canoe Instructor) and swimming. She has two kids who are active in Girl Guides and is a Girl Guides Trex and Pathfinder Leader.

Her hobbies are counted cross stitch and puzzles.

Jane's goal for this new term is to create a sense of excitement and passion for the tracking curriculum and to encourage SAR Members and every MIT province-wide to take at least one 20-hour weekend Tracking course.

Jane is looking forward to connecting with fellow Trackers throughout the province during her term as VP. Cheers!



TTT Course November 2023—Quesnel



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Up-coming Courses

Our Regional Directors have started contacting the SAR groups in their area regarding scheduling courses for the 2024 year. A few groups have expressed interest in hosting courses. If you are thinking of hosting a course, please let your Regional Representative know and they will assist the Training Officer making the arrangements.

As courses are requested, our Training Officer sends an email to all Instructors to see who is available. We currently have 38 active instructors throughout the province.



Happy Holidays Wishes!

Have a wonderful holiday season and start to the New Year.

We are looking forward to training and sharing in many more tracking adventures with everyone in 2024.

Our #1 goal is to help SAR Teams from across the province to see the values in tracking, to encourage their membership to become trained tracking professionals, and to support them in ongoing practice as it is a perishable skill.

Newsletter Submissions

Members are encouraged to share photos, tracking success stories, or other items of interest to our membership, by submitting proposals to lane.johnson@bctracking.org.



Sunshine Coast SAR Course August 19-20, 2023

Left to Right— Lee Fish, Kisti Swanson, Elisha Moussadjji

Top Right Photo, Back to Front— Sara Skeath, Natalia Kouznetsova



Tracker Training—Quesnel August 19-20, 2023

Sign Cutting Teams working together to solve the mystery.

Left to Right Upper Row — Jane Lizotte, Grant Johannesen

Lower Row — Johnathan Grieve, Rod Sabo



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