

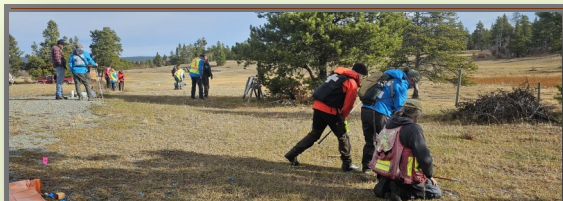


BRITISH COLUMBIA TRACKING ASSOCIATION

~ NEWSLETTER ~

www.bctracking.org

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



BCTA BOARD

It is with great pleasure to announce the new **BCTA Board** for the upcoming 2025 year.

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

Vice- President: Jamie Tudway-Cains (jamie.tudway-cains@bctracking.org)

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

Treasurer – Daphne Hamilton-Nagorsen (treasurer@bctracking.org / daphne.hamilton-nagorsen@bctracking.org)

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

Membership – Daphne Hamilton-Nagorsen (contact@bctracking.org)

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

Communications – Vacant (Interim: Darlene Berry & Lana Johnson)

REGIONAL DIRECTORS:

Vancouver Island – Janice Frueh (janice.frueh@bctracking.org)

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

South West – Sue Strugnell (suejdfsar@gmail.com)

Central – Brian Stainsby (bstainsby@cosar.ca)

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

North West – Paul Broen (paul.broen@bctracking.org)

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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 – 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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Newsletter Editor Phone: 250-255-9696
Email: contact@bctracking.org





Princeton SAR Course May 10-12, 2024

President's Message — DID YOU KNOW?

The BCTA Website (bctracking.org) can be accessed by anyone. Here you will find information on “How to Become a Tracker”, how long it takes to become a tracker under “Course Descriptions”; “Join” the BCTA and become a member; how to “Host a Course”; “Newsletters” dating back to 2010.

The BCTA Membership website (members.bctracking.org) can only be accessed by current members.

The website has a multitude of information, such as:

- keeps track of your BCTA courses, your evaluations, and your certification;
- lists upcoming BCTA Courses;
- has a Lexicon of Tracking Terminology with pictures;
- has further reading materials and booklets;
- the business side of the BCTA Society are posted.

As a BCTA member, when you attend a tracking course, you are covered by SARVAC and WorkSafe BC insurance, thanks to EMCR and BCSARA. Course tuition is half price. Memberships are for the calendar year January – December. \$15 for a year or \$40 for three years.

We have successfully completed 8 courses this year (Salt Spring Island, Princeton, Prince George, Arrowsmith, Columbia Valley, Juan de Fuca, Tatla Lake, Quesnel)

Unfortunately, 3 courses were cancelled due to low enrollments (Terrace, Mackenzie, Campbell River). In order for a course to go forward, there is a minimum requirement of 12 students at any one level. If a course is combined with Track Aware and Tracker the course must still have 12 students at one level and 6 at the other level.

Each Tracking course is 20 hours, starting Friday evening and ending Sunday early afternoon. It generally takes 60 hours of practice to be Track Aware certified. If you practice with your team and come prepared and show that you meet all the criteria, you will be certified. Certification is not based on how many courses you have taken but on your performance on a course. BCTA has province wide standards that are used to assess students. This way, no matter where you take a BCTA course you will be taught the same procedures and when you go out with your team or on mutual aid, everyone will understand the language you are using and the processes to help locate a missing subject.



Bottom: Quesnel SAR Course October 25-27, 2024



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Welcome to BCTA's new Vice President:

~ Jamie Tudway-Cains

I have been a member with Cowichan Search and Rescue for the last 15 years, 14 of those serving on our Board of Directors, with the last 6 as President.

I am currently a Level 1 Search Manager, Swiftwater Team Leader, Rope Rescue Team Leader, GSAR Instructor, AdventureSmart Presenter, Tracker, and Tracking Instructor. I am also on my second term as the South Island Regional Director for BCSARA.

I guess you could say I have a passion for SAR.

I am looking forward to working more hands on with BCTA and am grateful for the opportunity.

Cheers!



Prince George SAR Course
May 24-26, 2024

Cover Page photos from Top Left to Bottom Right: Tatla Lake SAR Course
October 17-20, 2024 and Quesnel SAR Course October 24-26, 2024



Salt Spring Island SAR Course April 19-21, 2024



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Juan de Fuca SAR Course - after heavy rain
Oct 17-20, 2024

.....Introducing BCTA Regional Director:

~ Paul Broen, North West

I'm with Fort St. James Search and Rescue. I started with the group about 26 years ago. I find Search & Rescue rewarding as nothing is better than being able to bring home a loved one or finding closure for the family or helping someone that had a turn of events when they were out and just need some help.

Tracking has always been a passion for me, just ask our team who have all had varying levels of training. I started training at a young age with my Dad as we were out farming and in the bush enjoying nature. Through the years tracking has been an amazing tool in everyday life and naturally in searches. Throughout my personal career I have spent countless hours working in the forest industry covering a wide range of territory and working in different jobs within the forest sector from Operators, Supervisor, to Consultant.

I look forward to working with everyone this coming year. Please feel free to contact me at anytime if you have questions or suggestions/improvements.

Wishing everyone a prosperous 2025 with new friendships formed as we hold courses for our groups of volunteers that give so much.



Salt Spring Island SAR Course April 19-21, 2024



Quesnel SAR Course October 25-27, 2024



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Left: Quesnel SAR Course October 25-27, 2024

Right: Salt Spring Island SAR Course April 19-21, 2024

TEAM TRACKING DESIGNATIONS

**** Reminder that Tracking is now EMCR recognized as a Capability under GSAR so all SAR Teams are now able to train at all tracking levels. ****

Membership Renewals

With the new year upon us, this is a reminder to check your Membership status on the BCTA Members' website at <https://members.bctracking.org>. If your Membership Renewal is due, please send an e-transfer to treasurer@bctracking.org for either a 1-year renewal of \$15.00 or 3-year term for only \$40.00.

This website is also where individual Member's Course Assessments and Certificates may be accessed for viewing, downloading & printing.

We are looking forward to another year training and on task assignments with everyone.



Juan de Fuca SAR Course Oct 17-20, 2024 - triumphant after several inches of heavy rainfall



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Upcoming Courses

Our Regional Directors have started contacting the SAR groups in their area regarding scheduling courses for the 2025 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. In order to host a course, a minimum of 12 Track Aware Registrants is required, including to assist with hosting a Tracker / Advanced Tracker Course with a minimum of 6 Tracker + Registrants.



Above: Quesnel SAR Course October 25-27, 2024

Right: Tatla Lake Course October 17-19, 2024

Best of Holiday Wishes

Cheers to Tracking in 2025!

With 2024 closing and the new year dawning, we are grateful for those whom we have shared in training with and tracking on assignments. Similarly as with each new adventure a story ensues just like we believe that each track tells a story to those with open eyes and minds that take the time to examine the messages within.

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit photos, tracking success stories, or other items of interest for sharing with our membership to лана.johnson@bctracking.org.



CONGRATULATIONS Go To...

TRACK AWARE CERTIFICATION:

Brian Bancroft—Ladysmith
Joe Boutilier — Cowichan River
Ben Brown — Cowichan River
Marie Burgess — Metchosin
Naomi Callaghan — Prince George
Romain Chappaz — Logan Lake
Frank Coutu — Fort St. James
Daniel del Vecchio — Campbell River
Chantal Ethier — Campbell River
Patrick Farnum — South Columbia
Britta Hanks — Prince George
Linda Hildebrandt — Metchosin

Alex Lulua — West Chilcotin
Len Magnus — Fort St. James
Marcus Olsen — Central Okanagan
Christine Pachkowski — Central Okanagan
Linda Quon — Central Okanagan
Nathalie Samson — Arrowsmith
Ines Shanks — Juan de Fuca
Maelen Simser — West Chilcotin
Julia Tuininga — Prince George
Charlene Vohar — Prince George
Jeannette Weins — Prince George

TRACKER CERTIFICATION:

Ian Taylor — Juan de Fuca

ADVANCE TRACKER CERTIFICATION:

Tonya Crawford — Campbell River



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