



ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

Search & Rescue

March, 2012 • Issue Number 9

What's Inside

Meetings

MRT
General Members

Training Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities



Rocky Mountain House Volunteer Search & Rescue Society
Box 1888, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta T4T 1B4
Website: www.rockysar.com

**General Members Meeting**

Thurs. March 29, 2012
1900 at the SAR Shack

Annual General Meeting

Thurs. May 24, 2012
1900 at the SAR Shack

Upcoming Training

MRT Meeting
April 17, 2012

MRT Practise
April 21, 2012

MRT Meeting
May 8, 2012

MRT Practise
May 13, 2012

Volunteers Needed

**Bartending/
Drive Home**
April 14, 2012

Safety Day
May 2, 2012
9:30 - 4:30

Drive Home
May 19, 2012

**Two injured, rescued in west country Feb. 11**

BY STU SALKELD
EDITOR

Article courtesy of The Mountaineer Publishing Co.



STARS on Highway 11 February 11, 2012

Emergency services personnel spent a demanding night rescuing an injured mother and daughter Feb. 11.

According to Rocky Search and Rescue President Ed van Heeren, the group was called out to an area west of Nordegg last Saturday around 5 p.m. "We got called to go in and do a mountain rescue for two injured patients around Allstones Lake," said van Heeren by phone Feb. 13, noting the area is west of Nordegg, across from the Bighorn Dam area. Van Heeren said the two injured people were participants in an "adventure race." A girl lost control and slid down a slope, striking a tree and breaking her femur just above the knee.

Van Heeren said the girl was crying out in pain, so her mother went down the hill after her, lost control, slid and also hit a tree, breaking ribs

and injuring her elbow, wrist and head.

Emergency services including ambulance, fire department and RCMP were called, but the remoteness of the location would soon complicate matters even more.

Bystanders and ambulance personnel began a rescue and Rocky SAR were also called. However, daylight was disappearing so rescuers had to hike in. Van Heeren said it took Rocky SAR three-and-a-half hours to hike in.

"We finally met up with them," he said. "We packaged them up into (rescue equipment) and started transporting them down the mountain." He said he quickly realized, with daylight gone, temperatures dropping and a breeze blowing, that getting the injured out on foot down a single-file trail wasn't possible. "It was not going to work," said van Heeren.

Instead, Rocky SAR and others made a camp, put up a shelter, found firewood and built a fire. Most of the other helpers were also sent down. "At that point there was nothing more they could do," said van Heeren.

Forced to stay overnight, he said they kept the fire going until morning which was tricky because there isn't a lot of firewood in that area. It was so cold, noted van Heeren, sedatives froze.

Preparing for morning, Rocky SAR called park rangers in Kananaskis, who have a special harness called a "helisling," which can be lowered into difficult areas. The injured were taken out to an ambulance and a STARS helicopter met them on Highway #11 to take them to hospital. "As far as I know, they're okay," said van Heeren of the injured.



General Members Meeting

Thurs. March 29, 2012
1900 at the SAR Shack

Annual General Meeting

Thurs. May 24, 2012
1900 at the SAR Shack

Upcoming Training

MRT Meeting
April 17, 2012

MRT Practise
April 21, 2012

MRT Meeting
May 8, 2012

MRT Practise
May 13, 2012

Volunteers Needed

**Bartending/
Drive Home**
April 14, 2012

Safety Day
May 2, 2012
9:30 - 4:30

Drive Home
May 19, 2012



Important Date Change

Please note that there has been a date change to the General Members meeting in March. The new date is March 29, 2012 at 19:00 at the SAR Shack.

SAR Fundamentals Course

Rocky SAR will be holding a SAR Fundamentals course soon. Please make sure that you have completed the ICS 100 and that your First Aid is up-to-date prior to registering for the course. These two courses are mandatory before you can go into the field as an active searcher.

Retiring!!



Congratulations on your retirement from Parks Alberta Myles.

PARTY!!



Warren Oates will be leaving us at the end of March. We would like to host a going away party for him at the SAR shack on March 30 (Friday) at 18:00 hours. It will be an informal gathering pot luck style. BYOB. SAR has a BBQ available so we can burn some meat as well. Mark your calendars - lets screech the Newf out.



Kris Heemeryck landing a helicopter on Allstones Lake February 11, 2012.

ID Cards

We have new ID cards (effective this summer), see Jayne to see if your card is available. If you have not had your picture taken for an ID Card, see Jayne or Chris.