

# Inyo County Search and Rescue

## January 2019 General Meeting Minutes

January 3 2019

### Call to Order

The January Inyo SAR general meeting was held at the Posse Hut, called to order shortly after 7PM by president Elsbeth Otto.

A number of new people attended the meeting: Cameron, who just moved here a year ago, Jaime Lopes who has worked in OV for 10 years, Ryan who has lots of time on his hands, Katie who is apparently Rose's doppelganger in Independence and Manzanar, Bonnie Short, who worked for a couple parks back east, and Heather who was back for her second meeting after a few months away.

### December 2018 Events

**Saline Valley:** Laura recapped the 7-9 Dec training in Saline valley. As ever, it was a good way to get to know team members, both in and out of the hot tubs, as well as practice a range of technical skills, including knot-tying party tricks, the black art of piton craft, short-roping and short-pitching, ascending & rappelling, as well as working multi-stage raise and lower rescue scenarios that included human anchors, bush anchors and deliberate sabotage of so-called invasives. One particular advantage to the multi-day Saline training is the lack of time pressure: there was time to iterate, and to figure out what does and doesn't work.

**Campfire Debrief:** Julie recapped some notes from the Campfire debrief, which will be typed up and circulated to the team as time permits, and particularly encouraged everyone to try to participate in a mutual-aid scenario every year. It was a great way to represent the county, and to learn how other teams operate.

**Drybone Canyon:** There was one mission callout in December (on Erik's birthday -- Dec 28 for future reference) for a male victim with unknown injuries who appeared to need extraction from the Cottonwood Mountains in Death Valley. An unsuccessful attempt to extract was made evening of the 28th, and four team members reported to LP morning of Dec 29th for a potential helicopter hoist operation (Rose, Max, Paul R. and Stacey). Subject was located and talked to over loudspeaker. Apparently he was on day one of a week-long canyoneering trip, had taken a ~20-ft fall, reported leg and head injury. Helicopter landed and Inyo SAR team members went up-canyon to recon, but couldn't reach him, so it was decided to extract him via hoist. H80 got into the canyon with 5 feet of rotor clearance, team member was lowered and retrieved subject via the hotseat. (see the go-pro footage here: [here](#))

There was considerable discussion about risk management in this scenario. When team members reached the subject, it appeared that his injuries were relatively minor (subject was walking on his ankle and even doing jumping jacks, reporting only that he felt 'fuzzy'), while the risk to the team to extract him with 5 feet of rotor clearance was high. However, it had been difficult to ascertain the extent of his injuries in advance.

Technical notes: Paul pointed out that his spot device reported erroneous locations because of echoes in the canyon. Also that comms were initially on Mazurka 2, but they subsequently switched to Calcord blue because of lack of reception.

## **Team Business:**

The team voted unanimously to adopt the policies and procedures as drafted and sent to the team in November (see [here](#))

For the AVY courses that SAR will be sponsoring, a motion to preapprove \$3900 in reimbursement (estimated \$325 for up to 12 full members) was made and approved unanimously by the membership. Team members will still need to request reimbursement individually, however.

We started reevaluating our team gear many months ago, and identified a lengthy list of gear to upgrade or purchase, including a new litter, load sensing cells, cord, ropes and webbing. Elsbeth made a motion to approve the total of \$7040.51 in expenditures, which was approved with no dissenting votes.

Julie suggested that we should consciously maintain two full equivalents of the first-out gear so that we don't get in a situation where First-out is in the field, but the heli team comes back to the hut for gear and it is not available. It was suggested that we form a small committee to organize a backup set of gear, and that David Chambers should head it up, but perhaps it should wait until the new truck is here, which we expect to be by July.

We also discussed purchasing a security plan for the SAR website, which Elsbeth decided to table for the board to discuss.

## **Upcoming dates:**

**Jan 12 Winter Race Series** Ed put a callout for runners, and 3-4 volunteers to help with the race: they would need to show up around 7:15, help with registration at 8, race is 9-11

**Jan 17 Thursday AVY Training** ESAC will be doing an in-depth avalanche training on Thursday Jan 17th at the posse hut, covering terrain choices and decision-making process.

**Jan 19 Saturday Winter Travel Training:** time and location TBD, hopefully somewhere in the Bishop Creek drainage.

**Jan 28 SAR Installation Dinner** at Mountain Rambler Brewery. Members should have received the evite from Ariana. Please RSVP before Jan 20 with number attending and meal choices.

**March 2 MRA Recert** is happening at Heavenly in Tahoe. We have reserved lodging for Friday and Saturday night. The wrinkle is that we can only have a max of 10 rescuers, plus proctors, for a total of 13.

**12-14 Jan and 25-27 Jan SMC AVY Class** There are still slots available (at least 2, and could be up to 8 if we get another instructor). Course for most is 25-27 Jan, some of us are doing 12-14 Jan with Mono SAR.

**Adjournment** Elsbeth Otto adjourns the meeting well after 8 PM.