

On the Scene with Yukon SAR



Kluane SAR

On April 13, members of Kluane Search and Rescue held a multi-agency training event at Kathleen Lake in Kluane National Park. Nine participants from Parks Canada, RCMP and KSAR were joined by a Trans North helicopter and pilot to respond to an avalanche scenario involving seven skiers, five of whom were fully buried.

In the training scenario, the initial report came into the warden office, two wardens were dispatched to the site and the RCMP and KSAR were asked to assist. The responders staged out of a viewpoint near the lake and accessed the scene by snowmobile and helicopter. The primary and secondary search teams found all of the victims within a couple of hours of the initial call.

This training event provided opportunities to put into practice multi-

agency cooperation, radio inter-operability, winter travel techniques and avalanche search techniques. They also discussed helicopter safety and deployed the portable KSAR radio repeater. For more information contact Brian at brian.bakker@pc.gc.ca.



Whitehorse SAR

The SAR group based in Whitehorse stays busy throughout the year. WDSAR members specialize in navigation and boat SAR. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month at the EMO office at 7 pm. Members participate in training during regular meetings as well as on evenings or weekends. For more information contact Al at aekholm@northwestel.net.

Faro SAR

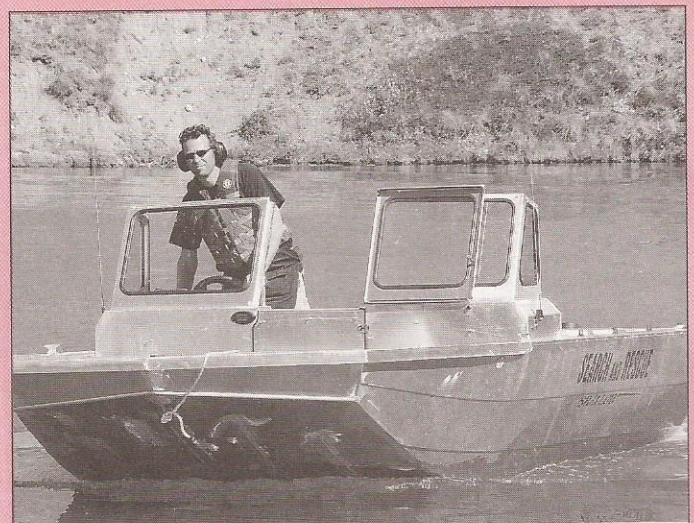
The SAR group in Faro is small but active, meeting the first Wednesday of each month at the Faro Firehall at 7 pm. Members continue to train in map, compass and GPS. One of the group's main annual activities is providing boat safety during the Yukon River Quest in June. For more information contact **Bill Wood at 994-2425.**

EMO Volunteer Partners

Yukon Emergency Measures works closely with search and rescue (SAR) organizations throughout the territory and with the Yukon Amateur Radio Association (YARA). These volunteer-driven local organizations make meaningful contributions to the well-being of our communities.

Carmacks SAR

SAR volunteers in Carmacks participate in the spring and fall training SAR exercises in Whitehorse, and some members took the swift water rescue course last year. Given that river rescue is by far the majority of their callouts, this course was an excellent training opportunity for Carmacks SAR members. In June 2008, Carmacks SAR received a new jet boat to support their efforts. For more information contact Kendell Tricker at 863-5221 or ktricker@hotelcarmacks.com.



Chris Locke, a small engine technician with Yukon Government's Department of Community Services, tests a new search and rescue boat on Schwatka Lake in late May. The new boat will be based in Carmacks, and its first trial was the Yukon River Quest in late June. This is the third "Shallow Water Extreme" boat purchased for Yukon SAR organizations. Faro received a boat in 2006 and Whitehorse received one in 2007.