

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

THE DIVE LINE



JANUARY 2008

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Our website has been upgraded!
www.ciusr.org
- More new equipment (pg 3)

NEW YEAR, NEW BOARD, NEW EQUIPMENT

Our yearly election is complete and with the previous adoption of new bylaws, we now have a more cohesive transfer of leadership. This year we elected a new vice president and treasurer (listing of officers is below). Next year we will elect a new president, secretary and training officer.

In addition, we had a transfer of the secretary position. Due to time constraints, our previous secretary stepped down into an assistant position and a new secretary was appointed for the remainder of the term.

We also added some new equipment to the team (pg 3). Our train-

ing calendar for early 2008 is solely focused on finishing our ERDi certifications. We also are focusing the rest of our training calendar on meeting NIMS requirements and continuing to expand educational opportunities for members. As always, we would be excited to have you join us. Have a safe 2008!

— The CIUSR Board



CIUSR BOARD OF DIRECTORS — UPDATED!

President
George McConeghy

Vice President
Bryan Aller
Assistant
Larry Doss

Treasurer
Earnest Pettit

Secretary
Susan Aller
Assistant
Robin Habeger

Training Officer
Brian Gentner
Assistant
Ed Phillips

WHAT TO TELL DISPATCH WHEN REQUESTING CIUSR

Polk County Dispatch now had a form that they fill out when we are requested. Items on this form include:

- Date, Time and County where the incident happened
- Name of the caller, agency they are calling from, phone number of caller
- Nature of the incident

(drowning rescue/ recovery, swift water rescue/recovery, evidence search, ice rescue, other)

- Location of the incident
- Time of the incident
- Directions to the location of the incident.

They will then provide you with the name of two CIUSR contacts:

- George McConeghy at 515-249-2280
- Susan Aller at 515-238-3971

It is important for you to call Polk County SO with this information because we are all dispatched with a pager system. This information will get us on our way as quickly as possible. This is crucial in a rescue situation.

WATER SEARCH WITH DOGS – HOW IT WORKS

For those who would like an explanation, we have a theory which is based on some reasonable assumptions about what scent is and based on two laws of chemistry - the Law of Diffusion and the Phenomenon of Evaporation.

A person gives off scent all the time - whether they are on the surface or under water, under ground or under rubble. We are all like "Pig Pen" in the comics with a little cloud of dust (or scent) around us all the time.

If we assume that scent is composed of both the soluble and insoluble solids, liquids and gases associated with the human body, then the Law of Diffusion tells us that these soluble solids, liquids and gases will disperse in the surrounding water much like table salt.

As these "scent" molecules from a body diffuse into the water, some will reach the surface, where evaporation takes place. Once in the gaseous state, dogs can easily detect the scent on air currents. There is also some evidence that dogs have the ability to actually taste scent in the water.

Those insoluble molecules lighter than the surrounding water will also rise to the surface and float. These insolubles provide scent to our dogs, too.

This is only a simple explanation, but from observation in the field, we know that human associated scent comes to the surface or out of the water and is detected by the dogs.

You might wonder how long a body can produce scent sufficient for a dog to detect. Nobody knows exactly, but we have one documented case of a dog detecting a body under water in the Kern River, in California, after 192 days. According to the report, 'the body was so tightly wedged up into a cavern in the rocks, that it

had to be pried free. The diver noted that, since the body wasn't on the bottom, he might have missed it, had it not been for the dog's alert." During the same search, the dog alerted on human bones which, according to the pathologist, had been in the river for not more than a year. In my opinion, I don't think 192 days or a year is the limit.

—Excerpt from Marion Hardy's "Water Search with Dogs" Full text available at <http://www.pawsoflife.org/K9trainlib.html>

Next time Q & A about divers and dogs....



FROM THE TRAINING OFFICERS

Completing ERDi training is our top priority this spring. We have specifically designed our training calendar to finish out our ERDi training in the first part of this year. Please refer to the detailed training calendar and we encourage anyone who is interested in getting this certification to attend.

We will also be providing safety for the Special Olympics Polar Plunges this spring. If you would like a great way to meet all of us and an interesting time, come on out!

Both on March 29th at Coralville and Indianola.

— Bryan and Ed

NEW EQUIPMENT— A BOAT

A new boat was purchased with funds we received from the sale of a donated boat. We are truly excited to add this to our equipment list and will be getting it out as soon as the water thaws.

Thanks to the **Hartford Fire Department** for selling it to us!

We now have a red 16' flat bottom boat, complete with trailer and (1) 7.5 hp Honda outboard motor, (1) 6 hp Mercury outboard motor, and (2) fuel tanks.

MEMBERS COMPLETE ERDI WRITTEN TEST

Our December training was not just the typical annual holiday party. We had 12 members complete the ERDi written test and complete their AED/Oxygen certification.

NEXT ISSUE:

APRIL 2008

K9 and water search continued

More fun Pictures

If you have a suggestion on something you would like us to cover, send us a note at info@ciusr.org

2008 CIUSR Training Calendar

1/1/2008 — Spillway Fun Dive, Saylorville Dam, 1000 @ Owl Center, Saylorville Lake

1/1/08 — Urbandale Pool @ 0900 — ERDi pool requirements, dive search patterns

2/17/08—Ice Diving—0900—TBD

03/09/08 — Surface Operations and Line tending (ERDi) - 0900—Ames, Ada Hayden Park

03/29/08 — Special Olympics Safety for Coralville and Indianola

04/20/08— Joplin Mo. Weekend trip - ERDi final dive requirements

05/18/08 - Public Relations and Incident Command Review—0900—Owl Center, Saylorville Lake

June 8 or 22, 2008 — River Rescue

07/20/08 — Mock Deployment

08/17/08 — Ballard Country Club Pond Survey—0900 (ERDi compliant for those who need it)

09/21/08 — Bradgate Quarry Dive/camping

10/19/08 — TBA

11/16/08 — State of Iowa Medical Examiner, Ankeny—DMACC Campus 0900

12/17/08 — Christmas Party—1000—Owl Center, Saylorville Lake

<http://www.ciusr.org>

EMERGENCY ACTIVATION

Polk County Sheriff's Dispatch

515.286.3333 or 515.286.3322

CIUSR is available to emergency management agencies, law enforcement agencies and fire departments 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

What we do

CIUSR provides highly trained professional volunteers to assist emergency management agencies, fire departments and law enforcement agencies in the case missing persons or items underwater. We will arrive on scene with fully trained and equipped divers, support personnel, canines and handlers. We come fully equipped to effectively and safely complete all underwater operations. We assist in the following situations:

- Swift Water Rescue
- Ice Rescue
- Evidence Retrieval
- Recovery

Where we respond

Our primary response area is Polk, Story, Dallas, Madison, Warren, Marion and Jasper counties. However, we are available for mutual aid all across the state of Iowa.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Bryan Aller at (515)-238-8938 to set up a time for us to come talk to your department concerning CIUSR and how we may be of assistance to you.

CIUSR Board Members include:

President: George McConeghy, Adel
(515)-249-2282

Vice President: Bryan Aller, St. Charles
(515)-238-8938

Secretary: Susan Aller, St. Charles
(515)-238-3971

Treasurer: Earnest Pettit, Oceola Police Department

Training Officer: Bryan Gentner, Ames
(515)-291-3439

Training Officer Assistant: Ed Phillips, Grimes
(515)-986-2103

CONTACT INFO

CIUSR

Polk County Sheriff's Office

206 6th Ave, Suite #112

Des Moines, IA 50309

515.286.3800

<http://www.ciusr.org>



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UNDERWATER
SEARCH & RESCUE

