

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

THE DIVE LINE



MAY 2007

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- CIUSR is over 35 years old this year
- Upgrading of our training and certifications (Page 3)
- CIUSR and the Special Olympics (Page 2)

DEBUT OF QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Greetings!

Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter. CIUSR turns 35 this year and with that some changes are being put into effect.

First and most important, CIUSR is upgrading its training and certifications to keep in line with the release of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). For more information on this see page 3.

We are also joining the technology age and have started work on a new website. This will house information on the team, old

versions of the newsletter and a training calendar. It is currently under construction but please check for changes at

<http://www.ciusr.org>.

We also gave the logo a new look and along with that have additional equipment that has been added to the team.

Membership is strong as ever, we have certified divers (individuals and those from various teams), line tenders, support personnel and nationally certified cadaver K9 teams.

The next year is going to be full of learning and setting the foundation for a successful 35 more years.

—CIUSR Board of Directors



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CIUSR Board Members include:

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

Vice President: Scott Madison, Ames
(515)-314-0570

Secretary: Robin Habeger, Ames
(515)-231-5763

Treasurer: Rhonda Comegys, Des Moines
(515)-681-8906

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

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all,

The past 35 years have been great for this group and the entire team is excited as we move into the next phase of our development as an underwater search and rescue organization.

We have a Board of Directors that is working closely with the membership to outline a new and progressive direction for the team. Part of this new direction includes cross

training and more advanced for everyone. This cross training is in areas such as ICS, CPR/First Aid, crime scene preservation and other areas as outlined by National Incident Management System, NFPA and OSHA.

Our Board, combined with the expertise of the team members, brings a wealth and breadth of knowledge that will be used to leverage CIUSR to the next level. **CIUSR** has a bright and long future.

CIUSR is committed to working with other organizations and would welcome an opportunity to talk or train with you. Please contact any one of the Board of Directors about how we can work together.

— George McConeghy,
President CIUSR

HISTORY OF CIUSR

The organization was founded in 1972 and originally named the Polk County Underwater Recovery Unit. Over the years the unit expanded to include several agencies outside Polk County.

Swift water and ice rescue were also adopted into the training program.

In 1986 the organization changed its name to **Central Iowa Underwater Search and Rescue** to better reflect its coverage area and mission purpose.

CIUSR is a registered 501 (c) 3 non profit organization and is comprised totally of professional volun-

teers. Many of our members have been or currently are with fire departments or law enforcement agencies.



CIUSR is over 35 years old and has some of the most experienced rescue/recovery divers in the state as professional volunteer responders.

THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

CIUSR is now a sponsor for The Special Olympics Polar Plunges.

This year, **CIUSR** provided divers and safety personnel for three Iowa Polar Plunges. These official plunges were held at Big Creek in central Iowa, Coralville Lake in Iowa City

and in Indianola.

CIUSR is proud to help The Special Olympics with these fundraising events.



Bryan Aller, Scott Madison, Herky, George McConeghy and Bryan Gentner at Coralville Polar Plunge

FROM THE TRAINING OFFICER

Training

One of the most important words in our vocabulary.

CIUSR has made a commitment to pursue public safety diver certifications for our divers and line tender certifications for others. These certifications will be taught by an accredited certifying agency and nationally/

internationally recognized.

Why you ask? NIMS is one reason, safety is another, but without these certifications we leave ourselves and the requesting agency open to legal liability.

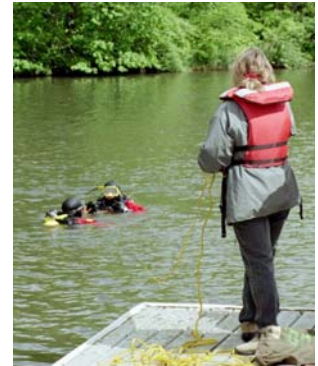
NIMS is also requiring additional training (see below) for all personnel. We

are have already begun the process of meeting these guidelines over the past six months and will continue to do so.

We would welcome anyone who would like to train/dive with us to call and find out more. 515-291-3439.

— Bryan Gentner

CIUSR Training Officer



Rhonda Comegys works with divers.

NIMS—WHAT IT MEANS TO CIUSR

NIMS — National Incident Management System

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtm>

The development of a nationwide credentialing system is a fundamental component of NIMS. A national credentialing system can document mini-

mum professional qualifications, certifications, training and education requirements that define baseline criteria expected of emergency response professionals and volunteers for deployment.

As part of this system, public safety diver training is needed by underwater search and res-

cue teams to be appropriately typed and deployed without legally endangering the requesting agency.

CIUSR is working towards this goal.

CIUSR provides assistance with the location and recovery of drowning subjects, swift water rescue, ice rescue/recovery, and evidence recovery.

CIUSR CERTIFIES MEMBERS IN CPR/AED



George McConeghy, Jason Hamilton and Bryan Belcher

In April members of CIUSR upgraded their CPR/AED skills by completing the National Heart Association's official training.

This four hour training outlined the new CPR guidelines and how to use an AED.



Earnest Pettit



Bryan Gentner

<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.

MORE INFORMATION

Contact Scott Madison at 515-314-0570 or ciusrdvr39@yahoo.com to set up a time for us to come talk to your department concerning CIUSR and how we may be of assistance to you.

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.

CONTACT INFO

CIUSR

Polk County Sheriff's Office

206 6th Ave, Suite #112

Des Moines, IA 50309

515.286.3800

<http://www.ciusr.org>

TRAINING CALENDAR

05/20/2007 – River Rescue

06/10/2007 – Special Ops/Search

07/15/2007 – Open Water Certification

08/19/2007 – Standard Search Ops

09/16/2007 – Boat/Search Ops

10/21/2007 – ICS

For more information contact Bryan Gentner @ 515-291-3439.



Robin Habeger and Herky

CENTRAL IOWA
UNDERWATER
SEARCH & RESCUE

