



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LETTER FROM THE BOARD	2
HOW CIUSR STARTED	2
NEW EQUIPMENT	3
LETTER FROM THE TRAINING OFFICER	3
TRAINING CALENDAR	4

TRAINING.....

Training has been a huge part of our time over the summer. If it's nice, we're wet.

So far we've completed the line tender swimming/ towing/lifesaving skill tests for ERDi as well as worked on new search patterns.

We've also conducted underwater topographical mapping of a lake in north Des Moines, reviewed our 'standard' search patterns and had a very busy summer.



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Our website has been upgraded!
www.ciusr.org
- Trivia from our last issue (pg 3)
- In the next issue (page 3)

ROPE SIGNALS

Tender to diver

- One pull on the line: okay, okay?
- Two pulls: stop, take out slack, reverse direction
- Three pulls: come to the surface
- Four pulls: stop, don't move (there could be danger ahead or a boat entering the search area)

Diver to tender

- One pull on the line: okay, okay?
- Two pulls: advance line
- Three pulls: object found
- Four or more pulls: assistance needed

FROM THE BOARD

Hello to all,
The Board has thankfully been in a position over the summer to mainly allow training to be the focus of our meetings.

We are currently gearing up to assist with the various Special Olympics Polar Plunges throughout the state. In addition, the DNR and

the Army Corps of Engineers asked us to search the local beaches at Saylorville and Big Creek following all of our high water this year. We were looking for holes and trash that would be a hazard for swimmers. Thankfully we didn't find much but Larry Doss believes he now officially earned his 'stick finders' certificate.

CIUSR is thankful to all its members who continually give of themselves for not only our deployments but for the other community service projects we do.

Have a safe and uneventful rest of the summer!

—CIUSR BoD

HOW WE STARTED

In the winter of 1972 approximately 32 people met at the Polk County Fire department to talk about creating an underwater search and rescue team. These men were from the central Iowa region including Carlisle, West Des Moines and Urbandale.

These 32 individuals worked under the guidance of Matt Leydens to start their diver training.

Throughout the 14 week "GI" training program the met at Valley High School every Sunday. Each day started with calisthenics, swimming 32 lenth of the pool, then scuba training with masks and fins, then without tanks, then concluded with classroom training.

Matt Leyden was known as "Leather Lungs" for sitting on the bottom of the pool with no tanks and watching the other trainees move through their paces.

Out of the 32 individuals who started, 16 finished those first 14 weeks. After finishing all that training, the entire group road tripped to

Joplin for open water certifications. That trip included about six surrounding fire departments.

Since then, training has evolved into a monthly endeavor and the team has expanded to include not only divers, but ground personnel and K9 teams.



A Dive Rescuers Prayer

When I'm called for duty God to dive beneath the waves.

To search for an unfortunate soul whose body they have claimed.

Let swiftness be my virtue to find that soul in time.

Please let this be a rescue lord and not the other "kind"

Be my eyes in the darkest lake and guide me with your hand that this person may be saved when we return to land.

If this is not your will Lord then please show me the way to sort out this sad mystery and to dive another day.

If things become the darkest Lord and it's I that you call home please guide my friends and family that they'll never walk alone.

FROM THE TRAINING OFFICER

And more training.....

We've actively been working on our ERDi dive tenders certification, which included a day at the Ames Municipal Pool. We have started other segments of the diver training and are working to get as many members through the ERDi dive tenders written exam.

In October and November we are looking to get out of the state for our ERDi open water certification as well as freshening up our incident command system skills.

As the weather becomes less friendly we will start more classroom training with the idea of conducting some ice diving

and rescue training during the cold months.

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

— Bryan Gentner and Ed Phillips

CIUSR Training Officers



NEW EQUIPMENT

We have been able to upgrade some equipment over the past couple of years to reflect the fact that we are also upgrading our skills. As part of this package we purchased a 28' trailer which will serve as our command center and equipment center during deployments.

We've also upgraded our personal equipment by purchasing PFD's (and all the required equipment) and helmets that meet NIMS standards.

Even the dogs have life vests (provided by their handlers).



FROM THE LAST ISSUE

One of our divers pointed out that the picture on the front cover of the last issue had some problems. Turns out the regulator hoses were on the wrong side of the diver. If you look closely the word 'Nitrox' is also spelled

backwards. The picture was transposed by a graphic designer and then cut and pasted into the newsletter.



**NEXT ISSUE:
JANUARY 2008**

K9 and water search

Diver training

More fun Pictures

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

<http://www.ciusr.org>

Our website has been updated!

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.

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

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

10/21/2007 – ICS

11/17-18/2007 – ERDi Open water
cert (tentatively scheduled)

12/14/2007 – Holiday party

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

CENTRAL IOWA
UNDERWATER
SEARCH & RESCUE

