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Quarterly Feature - Member Profile

Amy is currently a trainee with our team, but she is no stranger to search and rescue. While living along Michigan Lake during high school, her experience as a life guard and family in the Coast Guard led her to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Her love for water took her to Eckerd College in Florida to join their maritime search and rescue team while earning degrees in marine biology, French and a Masters in Academic Administration. It was while living in Florida that she met her future husband Mark, a member of the US Coast Guard.

After graduation, work took Amy and Mark to Hawaii and California. While in Hawaii, Amy began cycling with a local group and it soon became a favorite activity that has led to competing in races and triathlons. California gave the couple Dakota, a stray that has found a wonderful family.

Arriving in Rapid City just eight months ago, Amy immediately looked for a search and rescue team to join. When not training for land search and rescue or responding to calls, she teaches in the local school system and makes the most of living on the edge of the Black Hills. Amy and Mark love the outdoors and are looking forward to putting the kayaks they built into the water.

Annual Picnic

Our annual picnic was in June. It was wonderful to see everyone that was able to make it along with their families and share in all the delicious food!

Length of Service awards were handed out by Tammy with assistance from Addison and Cameron

New this year are team coins. Jeremy Stauffacher and JD Dannenbring received coins for their heroic water rescues in the fast moving flood waters connecting to the White River and Rick Lehmann received a coin for years served as Team Leader.
Events and Training

July
7th – Business Meeting
14th – Anchors/Vortex/Systems
28th – Skree and Air Extraction w/SDANG

August
4th – Business Meeting
 ATV/UTV prep
15th – Central States Fair Parade
15th & 16th – EAFB Open House

September
1st – Business Meeting
 Electrical Safety
19th – Open House
22nd – Light trailers & Trailer Loading
29th – Extrication Check Sheet

Team Goals

The following goals have been set for 2015:
• Complete a replacement plan for Rescue 1
• 25% increase in attendance by general membership
• Develop a Leadership Taskbook
• Identify equipment, age, cost, usage, and service life for creation of replacement plan

Training Update

Well another quarter of the year is past and we have some good training coming up.

In July we have Anchors/Vortex/Systems. The three things are all part of rope rescue. Without a good anchor we are not able to haul or lower a load safely. The Vortex is a tripod system that helps get the ropes off the ground and makes going over and back up the edge much safer and easier. The system part is all the ropes, pulleys and other hardware that is needed to make the system work. We also are doing Skree and Air extraction setups.

In August there are so many other activities in the hills going on that we do not train so our members have time to enjoy the month.

September is Electrical Safety. We never know when down power lines may affect a rescue and we want our members to be safe. This is also the month of the open house!!!! We have a lot to do for it so we are super busy getting ready. We wrap the month and quarter up with how to set up the light towers and load the equipment on trailers.

~ Jason Dannenbring
Training Officer

Team Leader’s Corner

Over the last few months, our team has been busy as more and more people get out with the warmer weather. The rain has also added to our call volume. We had four members of our team respond to a water rescue off BIA 41. A vehicle had been swept from the roadway and the Rapid City/Pennington County Water Rescue Team and Pennington County Search and Rescue were requested to assist. Team members successfully reached the vehicle and rescued all occupants. Although rare events, these rescues are the ones we train for throughout the year. Fortunately, we have the equipment and dedicated volunteers to make these successful. A huge thank you goes out to all members involved.

Team members participated in several trainings, including teaching Wall Fire (and surrounding responders) the Emergency Rescue Technician course and a Social Media for Natural Disaster Response and Recovery class. We also learned about unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and their application in emergency services. Stay tuned as we begin integrating that technology in to our every day response.

~ Tammy Stadel
Team Leader
Operations Update

We have been busy already this year. We have responded to several calls due to the high water levels in our area and I expect that to continue until the water levels recede. We urge everyone to use caution when around the water.

As we move into the heart of the summer we are continuing to prepare for the upcoming events. This year’s Rally promises to bring many people to our area. The increased number of people in our area will increase the call volume on the agencies in our area. We have prepared for this increase and will continue to respond to calls and support our local infrastructure.

I would like to thank all of the Team Members that have given up countless hours this year preparing for, and responding to emergencies in our area. Without you, we would not be able to do all the great things we do!

~ Andrew Randazzo
Assistant Team Leader - Operations

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Rescue Rack

Jake’s other job as a DJ on the bar scene has unexpected consequences

“All I said was to throw more light on the scene”