



Grande Cache Search and Rescue Newsletter

GC SAR Benefits From the Community

It's been a busy year for GC SAR. We participated in nine successful rescues, have had many training opportunities and we are very close to moving in to our new home!

Without the help of the community, these things would not be possible. We would like to thank community partners Encana, and the Municipal District of Greenview for their generous donations. Thanks to all who have donated their time and resources to making this a huge success.

With a few work-bees under our belts and a few professional touches here and there, our new building is nearing completion and we look forward to our grand opening in the spring of 2012.

Milner Power has generously donated funds to aid our efforts in securing appropriate rope equipment for the future. We are lucky to have so many skilled members on our team to ensure we practice our rope rescue skills, which will now come go hand-in-hand with using our new rescue trailer.

Fundraising is always an ongoing process to keep our organization up to date, and we are grateful for the funds received to bring GC SAR to the standard we now enjoy. If you are interested in donating to GC SAR, please visit our web page at <http://www.gcsar.ca> for contact information.



Donation presentations from Encana and Milner Power

Fall Training

Polishing up on our skills is one of the most important things we can do as a group.

Our September training was all about ropes. Mark Wood, our resident expert demonstrated the key rescue knots and with the help of guest expert Perry Kirkeby, our group was well practiced by the end of the evening.

Also on our agenda was a demonstration of GC SAR's newest piece of equipment; our all-terrain rescue trailer. This trailer is similar to the equipment our group trained with during our SAR Basics course in conjunction with Grande Prairie Technical Search and Rescue. We are looking forward to completing our rescue kit with updated rope equipment to ensure our rescue trailer will be fully operational.



Why SAR?

Grande Cache is a mecca of wilderness opportunities, but with this can sometimes come danger. Volunteer organizations such as Search and Rescue are utilized by local rescue and law enforcement agencies.

In 2011, GC SAR participated in 9 searches ranging from missing hunters, runners, and missing persons. Doing what we can to keep people safe is the reason.

Continuing to train and update certifications is key to our success. A special skill set is required to handle a variety of unpredictable situations. To participate in searches, each member must complete a SAR basics course and move on to supplement these skills with specialty skills such as swift water rescue, man tracking, high angle rescue and mapping.

ATV Training

As part of our monthly training schedule, a small crew took advantage of a beautiful day to brush up on ATV skills with a trip to Caw Ridge.



Check Out Our New Building!



The fundraising focus of our group has been to complete our new building, housed in the Grande Cache Public Works yard. Many hours have gone in to this project and it is nearing its completion.

With this project complete, GC SAR will be able to store all of its gear and resources in one location which will reduce response time considerably.

The building will also double as a command post for some operations and a much needed meeting space and training facility. Thanks to the generosity of our local community, we will see the completion of our new building in the spring of 2012.



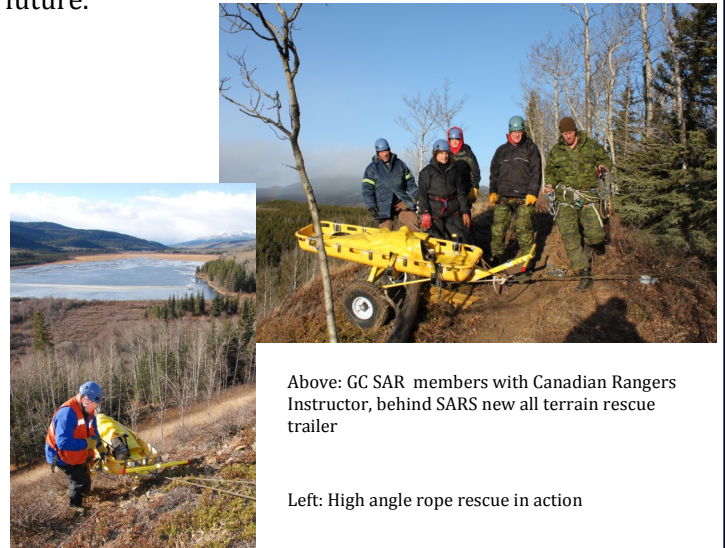
Rope Training with Canadian Rangers



As part of our ongoing training, GC SAR was invited to participate in high angle rope rescue by our local Canadian Rangers group.

The Canadian Rangers instructed members on various rope rigging techniques through high angle rescue scenarios. This gave members an opportunity to test the new all terrain rescue trailer.

This unique training allowed members to assess current rope rescue equipment on hand and determine needs for the future.



Above: GC SAR members with Canadian Rangers Instructor, behind SARS new all terrain rescue trailer

Left: High angle rope rescue in action

Our New Calendar

Have you checked out our web page lately? We have a new calendar! All of our events (and a few events from related groups) will be posted here so you will always be "in the know." Our calendar can be found by visiting our webpage and clicking on the "Calendar of Events" link. If you have anything you would like added, please email Elaine at elaine.byblow@gcsar.ca.

Contact/Membership Information

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