

SPEAR

SEARCH AND RESCUE



S.A.R.A.I.D Training Day!

On a hot weekend at the end of June SPEAR members took part in a joint USAR shoring training session with S.A.R.A.I.D

You might remember we told you in last month's newsletter that SPEAR has been in contact with other search and rescue teams since two of our trustees attended SIMEX18. One of those teams we can now reveal is S.A.R.A.I.D! A large, well established and very well-respected UK based charity specialising in USAR. We were approached by one of their senior members and set up a meeting to discuss the possibility of future training and deployment opportunities. After that meeting S.A.R.A.I.D invited 3 of our senior members to attend a training session with them at their training base, Nailsea Fire Station. It was a chance for us to meet their members, see how they train and operate and to get stuck into some USAR training. The guys arrived on Friday night to meet everyone and have a tour of the facilities at Yate fire station, where they were spending the

What Have We Been Up To?

USAR UNIFORM



The team have been measured for newly designed USAR coveralls

FUNDRAISING



A fundraising calendar has been made with each member taking a month each

MOU's



We are in the process of trying to set up MOU's with local fire services

MEMBER OF THE MONTH



JOHN WALKER

A HUGE WELL DONE FROM EVERYONE AT SPEARSAR!

JOHN RAISED A MASSIVE £445 FOR SPEAR BY UNDERTAKING THE FAN DANCE, A GRUELLING 24KM MARCH WHICH IS ALSO PART OF SPECIAL FORCES SELECTION PROCESS. HE FINISHED IN 3HRS 22MINS AND CAME 3RD IN HIS GROUP



night. They took part in an icebreaker involving a lot of UN acronyms and sat in on one of S.A.R.A.I.D's trustee meetings. Next morning the day started early with shoring theory and chainsaw familiarisation among other things. After lunch the practical session began, with a multitude of calculations and basic shore building all the way up to a confined space extrication scenario where the shores that had been built and installed by SPEAR members were assessed by instructors. Despite a nail biting finish where we were up against the clock all the shores were finished in time and all were passed as safe! Not bad for a charity that, as a unit, hasn't completed any USAR training before. Check out our  blog for more pictures and information about exactly what the teams got up to on the day.

Team Building Paddle Day

June's training session was a team building day in Oxford on the River Cherwell. Members took to kayaks, for what was meant to be a gentle paddle on a sunny afternoon with some theory on strainers, water hydrology thrown in. What the team weren't expecting though was an absolute battle against the flora of Oxfordshire's waterways and multiple capsizes and entanglements along the way. Due to the unusual and wet spring we've had there were a lot of fallen trees along the route



and these caused some real challenges for all the members on the water. The team fought for hours to complete just half the planned course and almost everyone took a dunking after getting caught on a low bough or one of the many hawthorn branches along the way. Despite this unexpected adventure everyone had a great time and learnt a lot about the difficulties of navigating a river with natural debris. It was certainly a great teambuilding exercise and everyone was very pleased to reach the pub for a well-deserved drink and bite to eat at the end of the day. It'll definitely be one we repeat in the future!

Quiz Question of the Month

Answer to May's question: A 'C' within a diamond on a USAR worksite means the site has been cleared of all casualties, alive and dead. Good luck for this month's quiz question! *If you have an idea for a question, email it to l.hooper@spear-sar.co.uk*

Question: In a marine unit capacity what does SRT stand for?

HOW ELSE CAN YOU HELP?

Donate via our Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/spearsearchandrescue>

Search for SPEAR Search and Rescue on the Just Giving website to make a donation. Alternatively, you can fundraise for us. Contact us for more information

SPEAR SOCIALS

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