



Winter/Spring 2019

Ten Years and Still Growing!

By Randy Rorvik Provincial Course Coordinator

The Association needs YOU to carry on the huge progress made in the first ten years of BCTA history and even more – the BCTA needs you to help carry it into the future. (And if the concept of creating your own legacy doesn't get you, see * below.)

Ten years in, and BCTA has accomplished so many of its goals through the hours and hours of work and inspiration, brought by Members who have been with us from the beginning, Members who joined somewhere along the way, and even the newest Members who have thrown themselves into the mix and ensured the implementation of so many of the Association and the Board's plans and goals.

Now, the Board is up for renewal. Some old faces are stepping down and some new positions are opening up. It is the perfect time for anyone with a desire to have an impact on the future direction of the BCTA to join the fun. In the past, more than one position on the Board has been filled by one person (let's not always see the same hands...) We need to lessen the load on the few and open up to the many. It can only be done by more Members stepping up and throwing down. In return, you can ensure you join Little Nellie, Mount Lolo, and "Mike" as part of the legend and lore of the BCTA.

At the upcoming AGM, the elected positions of Director Training, Secretary, Vice President, and Provincial Course Coordinator are open for nominations. Also, appointed Committee positions of Communications and Membership Committee Chairs As well, there is a keenly identifiable need for a new Social Media position. Further, the Board

is examining re-instating the positions of Regional Directors, to expand the Board as well as reconnect with all areas of the province to make sure specific needs are being met across the varying BC SAR landscape.

Some of the exciting work to be done by the new Board will be looking at further development of the Advanced Core Curriculum, developing a Mentorship Programme, promoting Tracking throughout the Province; continuing the work being done with respect to the EMBC Provincial Operating Guideline, as well as responding to the EMBC and BCSARA feedback; promoting and presenting the Core Curriculum for the Track Aware and Tracker levels which were successfully launched last year.

The BCTA encourages all Members with ideas and energy and time to contact the president@bctracking.org

***20 Awesome Benefits of Volunteering**

1. Reassess your strengths and weaknesses
2. Explore your interests
3. Strengthen past skills
4. Develop new skills
5. Learn something new
6. Become the teacher you never knew you were
7. Broaden your horizons by interacting with new people & places
8. Strengthen your compassion for others
9. Improve or develop new interpersonal skills
10. Gain a natural sense of accomplishment through helping others

11. Achieve a new or strengthened sense of purpose
12. Increase your self-esteem and self-confidence
13. Have a brighter outlook on life
14. Develop a new support system through those you meet volunteering
15. Improve your physical health through more active volunteer opportunities
16. Improve your overall mental health by helping others
17. Experience [greater happiness through volunteering](https://www.everydayhealth.com/depression/how-volunteering-can-lesser-depression-and-extend-your-life.aspx)
<https://www.everydayhealth.com/depression/how-volunteering-can-lesser-depression-and-extend-your-life.aspx>
18. Expect a healthier and longer life expectancy when you're a regular volunteer
19. [Advance your career](https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve) through new connections, work experience and skills <https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve>
20. Experience more fun and greater life fulfillment

To walk away with the most positive volunteer experience, all you need to bring with you is the following:

- Positive attitude
- Compassionate heart
- Open mind
- Motivation to help in any way that you can!



Annual General Meeting 11 May 2019

The 2019 British Columbia Tracking Association Society Annual General Meeting will take place at Camp Barnard 3202 Young Lake Sooke, BC, on Saturday, 11 May at 19:00 (7:00pm).

Members unable to attend in person may attend via teleconference by calling: 1-877-353-9184 code: 7181728#

You must have a current BCTA membership in order to vote at the AGM. Those whose memberships expired on 31 December 2018 may attend the meeting. However, they will not be eligible to vote without a current membership.

BCTA Minutes, Financial Statements & AGM Agenda will be posted and available on the membership website under: <https://db.bctracking.org/login.aspx>
Resources > File Library > Society Business.

2019 Elections:

Members can find the instructions for voting in the election in the BCTA Membership website at: <https://db.bctracking.org/login.aspx> under Resources > File Library > policy and Procedures and Society Business. Descriptions of the duties of each position are contained in the By-Laws.

Members may nominate someone or self-nominate by contacting the President via e-mail at least 2 weeks before the AGM at president@bctracking.org
Members nominated must be confirmed and must agree to stand for election to the positions.

British Columbia Tracking Association

www.bctracking.org

The following positions marked with an ** are open for nominations for this election. Current incumbents are shown for all positions.

President: Jeni Christie (Juan de Fuca)
****Vice President:** Dwaine Brooke (Kamloops)
****Secretary:** Darlene Berry (Comox Valley)
Treasurer: Darlene Berry (Comox Valley)
****Director Provincial Course Coordinator:** Randy Rorvik (Princeton)
Director Memberships: Dylan Baker (Campbell River)
****Director Training:** Win Koch (Comox Valley)

Committees:

BCTA members are encouraged to be more involved in the Association by volunteering for one of these committees; please contact the Committee Chairs below for details:

Memberships – Dylan Baker
Policy – Randy Rorvik
Course Coordination – Randy Rorvik
Communications – Win Koch
Training – Win Koch (includes all BCTA certified instructors)

BCTA Memberships

Reminder: one-year memberships expired on 31 December. Current members can go to <https://db.bctracking.org/login.aspx> and log in to access and view their own member information. Please send any changes or corrections to: membership@bctracking.org

2019 Membership forms are available on the BCTA website www.bctracking.org

BCTA Website – New Look!

In a few weeks we will be rolling out our home website, with a new, fresh look. It will still have all the course announcements, newsletters, contact information, course descriptions, How to Host a Course, membership forms, etc. Dylan Baker will be taking over as webmaster. We can always use more help in the Communications Committee – someone to edit and produce the newsletter and someone to look after keeping our Facebook page up to date.

We would like to thank John Semenec, our webmaster for the past several years for the outstanding work and support he has provided to keep our members, the GSAR community and the general public informed about what we're doing. John has also kept our Facebook page up to date not only with course announcements, but also to share photos you have taken at our courses. Thank you John!



TRAINING

Spring Courses on the Calendar:

26-27 April Princeton
Track Aware, Tracker, Advanced Tracker

3-5 May Salt Spring Island
Track Aware, Tracker

10-12 May Juan de Fuca
Track Aware, Tracker, Advanced Tracker

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24-26 May Comox Valley
NEW Train the Trainer Level 1 - Track Aware

7-9 June Terrace
Track Aware, Tracker

More Upcoming Courses...!

19-21 July Archipelago (Haida Guaii)
Track Aware

23-25 Aug Nechako Valley (Vanderhoof)
Track Aware, Tracker

20-22 Sep Sunshine Coast (Squamish)
Track Aware, Tracker, Advanced Tracker

Detailed course announcements and registration forms, course descriptions, **How to Host a Course** and BCTA Membership forms are available at: www.bctracking.org. Courses are also posted on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BCTrackingAssociation/> and the BCSARA website Training Calendar. https://www.facebook.com/pg/BCSARA/events/?ref=page_internal

Tracker Tales



As always, Tracker Tales and pictures from your SAR or tracking experiences are welcome. Please send them to the Editor at: communications@bctracking.org

Please see the safety bulletin next pages.

NEW - Download Your Certificate!

BCTA Members can now download and print a 2-sided, wallet-sized certification card for any of the BC Tracking qualifications they've been awarded (Track Aware, Tracker, Advanced Tracker). To access your certificate, simply sign into the membership website (<https://db.bctracking.org>) and view your profile. From there you can review your hours, download certificates, and recent course evaluations, beginning from 2018.

SAMPLE:



Editor's Note: The following article applies while members and instructors are attending a BCTA course under an EMBC Training Task Number. Any injuries must be reported to the assigned First Aid Attendant and the Lead Instructor, who is responsible for notifying EMBC and completing the Form 7.

**COME
HOME
SAFE**



RADeMS

Response Assessment and
Decision Making Support



Canada

This report is provided by the Search and Rescue Joint Health and Safety Committee for the purpose of highlighting potential safety issues; the Committee will revise materials and issue Safety Advisories should they be required.

SAR SAFETY NEWSLETTER –

Issue 12, February, 2019

THE IMPORTANCE OF INJURY

REPORTING...Time is of the Essence!

“This past summer, while on task, I received a very small scratch that turned into a complicated medical situation. I, along with other members of my team, were out searching for a missing person in some extremely dense bush. We couldn't see our own feet and had to stay in constant communication with each other to avoid separation. It was hot, pushing through the bush was exhausting and, eventually, I slipped on a log and fell down. Not hard but I had fallen backwards and sat on a sharp stick, which poked me through my pants and scratched my skin. Uncomfortable but not painful. Not a big deal I thought, and the location of the scratch was a little embarrassing, so I didn't say anything. After returning home, I checked it and again it seemed very minor, no big deal. However, I soon learned that it was a big deal as it became infected and I was prescribed antibiotics. The antibiotics were not enough and I had to have the abscess surgically drained, which hurt a lot. Even with freezing to numb the area and fentanyl to block the pain, the surgery was excruciating. The infection was compromising my

overall health and I had to take time off work. It was a painful process and the healing time was slow, and I now have a scar that tugs and hurts all the time. The scar will eventually heal, and I am otherwise suffering no side effects, but it could have been worse. Had I reported this to members of my team, it is very likely that I would have been treated sooner. I might have been prescribed the antibiotics early enough to avoid surgery, and WorkSafe would have covered my time off work (which they didn't do). The moral here is report your injuries; whether it is to the SAR Manager, GSTL or Safety Officer, report it. Make sure it is recorded. We tend to report near misses and injuries requiring first aid and definitely those requiring medical care. Let my experience serve as a reminder that even the small, seemingly insignificant injuries need to be reported as well. And for those SAR Managers, GSTL's and Safety Officers out there, record those injuries. Follow up with the member. A phone call or a text is all it takes and you might save someone else from going through what I did. For everyone in the field, take care out there. Do your best to avoid slips and falls but when you can't, take the time to mention it. Because when it happens, it can be a real pain in the ass (no pun intended).”

We thank the GSAR volunteer involved for submitting this report.

**Remember, It's Not Just The Subject
That Relies On You.**

THIS MEMBER'S STORY... Why were they denied wage loss benefits?

- ☑ The member described what seemed to be a fairly minor injury. They decided it was so minor it was not worth reporting; most of us probably would have made the same decision.
- ☑ It was only later, after the wound became infected, that its seriousness became apparent.
- ☑ Unfortunately, since the initial injury was not reported to a SAR Leader, nor was EMBC informed, it was not possible to link it to the operational SAR task. Consequently, wage loss benefits were denied.

INJURIES....Which ones should I report to my SAR Leader?

- ☑ As a rule, any injury which occurs during a SAR response **or an approved training task** should be reported.
- ☑ No matter how small or seemingly insignificant, report any injury to your SAR Leader (e.g. GSTL; SAR Manager; etc.); this member's experience illustrates the importance of reporting everything.
- ☑ All SAR Groups must keep a First Aid Record or log book; all injuries incurred during training or response must be recorded, even ones which seem "trivial" and require only minor first aid. By linking an injury to an approved SAR activity, members are protected in case their situation worsens.
- ☑ If you sustain an injury and are unable to continue your assignment, ensure the SAR Manager completes an **EMBC Incident Report and a WorkSafeBC Form 7 (Injury Report Form)**. These forms must be transmitted to EMBC or you risk being denied wage-loss benefits if you cannot work.

SAR MANAGERS (or Lead Instructor – Ed.) Which injuries need to be reported to EMBC & WorkSafeBC?

- ☑ SAR Managers do not need to report apparently "minor" injuries, requiring First Aid-only, to EMBC or to file a Form 7, but these minor injuries must still be logged in the SAR Group's First Aid Record, and noted on the Task Report; this will protect the injured member if unforeseen complications occur.
- ☑ A "significant" injury is one which requires medical care of some kind beyond simple first aid; all significant injuries must be reported to EMBC. **All volunteers (including convergent volunteers) are eligible for wage-loss benefits as long as they are signed in to the approved task each day they attend.**
- ☑ EMBC Policy 5.07 explains in detail which injuries are significant and must be reported to EMBC and WorkSafeBC.

REPORTING TIMELINES...Rapid action is needed.

- ☑ For any significant injury, the SAR Manager **(or Lead Instructor – Ed.)** must inform EMBC ECC of the injury during the same Operational Period in which it occurred, and **must provide EMBC with a Form 7 within 72 hours.** The SAR Manager must provide copies of the Task Report, Sign-in Sheet and Incident Report as soon as possible.
- ☑ **All paperwork must go to EMBC and NOT directly to WorkSafeBC.** The EMBC Executive Director needs to sign the Form 7 to make it official; EMBC will then send everything to WorkSafeBC.

RESOURCES...Detailed injury reporting policies & instructions.

- ☑ EMBC Policy 5.07 has detailed information on policies, procedures, forms and FAQ's and is available here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-management-bc/policies>