



Call Out

December 2008 • Issue 7

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE IRISH MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

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Irish Mountain Rescue Association

Cumann Tarrthála Sléibhte na h-Éireann

2009

CONFERENCE AGENDA

2009 Mountain Rescue Conference and AGM

Working Together...

The 2009 Irish Mountain Rescue Conference & AGM will be held in the Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle, County Down and hosted by the Mourne Mountain Rescue Team.

Friday 9th January

21.00hrs – 0000hrs

Arrival/Registration/Informal Social meeting (The Burrendale Hotel)

Saturday 10th January Mountain Rescue Conference

07.00hrs - 08.30hrs - final registration

08.00hrs.....*Breakfast*

09.00hrs - 09.30hrs

Conference Official Opening

Session 1:

Theme “Working Together”

09.30hrs - 10.15hrs

1A: Working within a MR Team (Pat Holland)

10.15hrs - 11.15hrs

1B: A Review of two recent Major MR Incidents (DWMRT & GOI)

11.15hrs - 12.00hrs

Tea/Coffee inc. “Gear, Gadgets & Gismos”
- (A brief demo by exhibitors of some new products)

12.00hrs - 12.45hrs

1C: Working Together across the border (TBA)

12.45hrs - 13.00hrs

1D: Working Together a summary (IMRA Chair Liam Mc Cabe)

13.00hrs - 14.00 hrs*Light lunch*

Session 2:

Practical Workshops

14.00hrs - 15.30hrs

2A: Media Training workshop (Open to All)

2B: Training/Development Sub-Committee meeting

2C: Medical Sub-Committee meeting

Session 3:

Something Different

15.30hrs - 16.30hrs

Indoor/outdoor activities

Session 4:

Practical Workshops

16.30hrs – 18.00 hrs

4A: Reviewing developments in Search Management (including a demonstration of the Asset Tracking GPS system). Donal Mc Namara

4B: Treasurers meeting (inc demo of new online accounts package)

4C: Team Leaders meeting

19.00hrs – 21.00 hrs

Official Reception & Dinner (to include the presentation of Distinguished Service Awards, followed by informal social evening)

Sunday 11th January Mountain Rescue AGM

(Open to IMRA members & MR guests)

08.30hrs *Breakfast*

09.30hrs - 11.45hrs

IMRA Annual General Meeting

Presentation on “New Charity Regulations – How they will effect MR”

Including: 2008 Team Reports and normal AGM business

11.45hrs - 12.00hrs

Plenary & Close (IMRA Chair and Mourne MRT)

12.00hrs

Light Lunch (not included)

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Call Out

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Cover Photo

The Glen of Imaal MRT (GOIMRT) celebrated 25 years of service to their community in 2008. This photo shows members of the team during a night training exercise earlier this year. Picture: René Kral

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 **Irish Coast Guard**
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As 2008 draws to a close it would appear that it has been a landmark year for mountain rescue. Internationally, the International Commission on Alpine Rescue (ICAR / IKAR) celebrated their 60th anniversary. Across the Irish Sea, mountain rescue in the UK, comprising the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland and Mountain Rescue-England and Wales, celebrated their 75th anniversary. Finally and locally, the Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team celebrated their 25th anniversary and to recognise this milestone, this issue's cover features the team in action during a night training exercise earlier this year. It's an amazing achievement that the three organizations have reached their respective anniversaries. It's also an achievement that the membership of the three organizations – past, present and future – should be suitably proud of. Congratulations and best of luck with the next stages of your development and service.

We have another full and varied issue of "Call Out" ready for you. We have an expanded news in brief section, interviews with three key personalities in the Irish MR community, the second part of our MR IT applications article, reports from two MR conferences, the second part of our four part team leadership series, and all the regular features from IMRA and our teams including the tech tip, reports, diary dates and incident summary.

This issue, our seventh, was actually due out in October 2008. Unfortunately we experienced a number of delays which had the knock-on effect that we are only going to print now in December. For all our subscribers, fear not – you will not lose out on an issue. We will honour our offer of four issues even if it takes us more than a year to produce and mail those issues to you.

To close off, we would like to wish all our readers and their families a very merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2009!

60 Years of IKAR

REPORT BY Toni Grab, IKAR President

ICAR was founded in 1948 out of necessity. In 2008, after 60 years, ICAR is still actively promoting progress in mountain rescue, not only for the people in serious difficulties in the mountains but also for the safety of the mountain rescuers themselves. ICAR started with 11 member organizations from 5 alpine countries and today has 57 member organizations from 31 countries around the world; by the end of 2008, it will be 60.

If each mountain rescue organization had to take experiences from operations and figure out all technical and material improvements themselves, it would take decades to reach the knowledge level of ICAR in 2008.

It is and remains a matter of honor that mountain rescuers – from the rock, ice, and avalanche specialists to the helicopter crews and mountain rescue physicians – bring their knowledge, skills, and experiences – particularly the bad ones – to the ICAR platform.



Mountain rescue organizations who do not use or take full advantage of the ICAR platform are, for the sake of people in serious difficulties in the mountains, asked to step completely into ICAR and apply the insights won from ICAR at home within a useful period of time.

Even the most advanced member organizations will only keep that status if they work with ICAR (give and take). Even the best can grow from problems experienced by other mountain rescuers and so remain the best.

It would be in the best interest of mountain climbing organizations without their own rescue service

to have mountain rescuers of their country work with ICAR. It makes sense that mountain climbing organizations send delegates to ICAR, not just to have an overview but also to cultivate contacts.

ICAR notices that, increasingly, national and international norms restrict rescue possibilities. Mountain rescuers in the alpine countries are also confronted again and again with the problem that they are willing and able to mount a rescue operation but are hindered from doing so by norms made by others who are not mountain rescue specialists. We want norms and guidelines which concern mountain rescue to be exclusively made in cooperation with ICAR. It is important that norms and guidelines leave the possibility to find solutions specific to the accident situation.

ICAR is asking the authorities in the member countries to "balance the books" in regard to norms. ICAR, as specialist in the field, is of course always available to help everyone find good solutions.



OSi sponsor Irish Mountain Rescue Association

A recent sponsorship agreement between OSi and the Irish Mountain Rescue Association puts OSi data at the core of life-saving search and rescue activities

Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi), the national mapping agency of Ireland, operates within the public and commercial interest by creating and maintaining the definitive national mapping and related geographic records of the State. The organisation has a central role to play in the social and economic development of Ireland. Our mission is excellence in providing quality mapping and geographic information services to meet society's needs

OSi data has many uses and applications across a broad range of industry but it is with great pride that we can facilitate the IMRA's Search Management Programme and contribute in some way to the outstanding work carried out by this organisation.

The Irish Mountain Rescue Association relies on accurate and current mapping to coordinate search and rescue operations. The provision of OSi Discovery Series data will enable IMRA teams to respond to a call-out with greater speed and manage their search operations with increased efficiency and precision.

OSi produce a complete range of digital and paper mapping products including urban, rural and tourist & leisure mapping at a variety of scales. The Discovery Series 1:50,000 scale and OSi Trail Master interactive route planning software, have long been the mainstay of hill-walkers, climbers, cyclists tourists and outdoor enthusiasts.



Women's Specific MRT Jacket in Development at Mountain Equipment

Following a highly successful launch of the Kongur MRT jacket late last year, Mountain Equipment have announced that they will soon be producing a Women's version.

The Kongur MRT is a GORE-TEX® Pro Shell jacket that has been developed specifically for Mountain Rescue use. Based on the multi-award winning Kongur design, the MRT variant features reinforcement in key areas and integrated reflectivity in order to maximise protection and safety for team members. Initially only available in a Men's cut, we have just learned that a Women's specific version will soon be available.

Commenting on the company's move to produce a Women's version of the jacket, Mountain Equipment's Marketing Manager Richard Woodall said; "We experienced a very positive response to Kongur MRT jacket at the launch in Stirling, so much so that it was immediately clear that there was a strong demand for a women's version to be made available as soon as possible. As a result we have pushed ahead with this development and expect the Women's jacket to be available for teams to order by late Spring 2009."

The other good news for teams is that they can now place bulk uniform orders directly with Mountain Equipment; contact Martin Dixon on +44 (0)7710 358762 or email martin.dixon@mountain-equipment.co.uk

IMRA selected to pilot online office for community and voluntary organisations

IMRA has been chosen by The Wheel (www.wheel.ie) and ENCLUDE (www.enclude.ie) as one of ten Irish charities to take part in the "E-magine, E-nable, E-engage" project. To quote the Wheel's website:

"The way in which we use technology can help us work smarter, not harder. Working smarter helps us to reduce costs. The Wheel, in partnership with Enclude, is piloting a unique initiative for the community and voluntary sector in Ireland which will result in a new way of using information and communications technology (ICT).

We are developing and piloting an online office consisting of a suite of information technology (IT) solutions to serve the basic management needs of a large proportion of community and voluntary organisations"

ENCLUDE is an independent non-profit IT consultancy service to the Irish non-profit sector. It was established in 2006 and is a charity itself. The ENCLUDE mission is to bring affordable, trustworthy systems and IT consultancy to Irish charities and make available the benefits of ICT in terms of performance improvement, operation efficiency and the better use of donor funds. ENCLUDE is about e-inclusion - the reduction of the digital divide in Irish Society.

ENCLUDE initiated the E-Magine project in 2007. ENCLUDE's envisions that all small or medium sized Irish charities can have access to adequate Information Management and Finance systems. This can be realised by delivering IT services online [the Google model] and building the support and training infrastructure enable to organisations take full advantage of the new systems. With the support of The Wheel, the E-Magine Pilot Project received funding from Dept. of the Taoiseach ASC fund to enable ENCLUDE to further research the needs of the Sector and to deliver services to ten organisations.

Eighty-three organisations applied to be part of the E-Magine Pilot Project. The criteria for choosing organisations were absence of current systems; management buy-in and the ability to project manage the introduction of a new system. We also took into account the potential to have impact on other organisations. The Pilot Project has been a huge success with all projects being delivered within 5 days of effort parameter. "We now feel we have a proper system to support our work" was a common response.

Ciaran Hayden of ENCLUDE explained "The E-Magine Pilot Project is the first phase in realise the ENCLUDE vision of an online, feature-rich portal that offers the Irish non-profit community a range of appropriate business applications at very low

cost".

The tools which will be delivered as part of the project are:-

1. SQL-Ledger (www.sql-ledger.org) - a double entry accounting/ERP system which can be accessed remotely using a web browser as the interface to the system. "SQL-Ledger is a registered Trademark of DWS Systems Inc. Copyright © DWS Systems Inc. All rights reserved".
2. Salesforce (www.salesforce.com) - an easy-to-use web-based CRM solution for sales, service, marketing and call centre operations that streamline customer relationship management and boosts customer satisfaction.

IMRA is currently working with SQL-Ledger with the option to explore Salesforce at a later date. Currently all of our financial transactions have been entered for 2008 and all of new financial transactions are now being placed through the system. It has even been used to generate up-to-the-minute financial statements for our September Executive Committee Meeting. The configuration of the system for IMRA's needs took two sessions between IMRA's Development Officer and one of ENCLUDE's consultants, Ciaran Hayden.

Some of the advantages which have become immediately apparent from using the system include:

- A central and consistent record of financial information for the current and future treasurers of the organisation
- Better accountability of state grants and public donations particularly in light of the expected requirements of the new Charities Regulator
- Easier tracking of the organisations debtors and creditors
- Easier auditing of accounts
- Provides financial monitoring of particular projects
- The development of processes between the staff and treasurer in handling financial transactions
- Ease in issuing invoices and receipts to our member teams

Next steps for the E-magine IMRA project include:

- Mastering the SQL-Ledger interface for the IMRA users
- Preparing the accounts for the 2008 audit
- A presentation of the SQL-Ledger to the IMRA teams at the 2009 Conference and AGM
- Taking the initial steps toward an IMRA Salesforce implementation.

The E-Magine Pilot Project is being delivered through the partnership between The Wheel and ENCLUDE. It is has been assisted by funding from the Department of the Taoiseach, under the Access, Skills and Content (ASC) Initiative.



"75 years of Mountain Rescue"

- A personal view

REPORT BY Jimmy Barry, SEMRA

An Irish man, Scots man, English man and a Welsh man were sitting around the same table. You would be forgiven for thinking that this is the start of a joke, but this is not the case instead it was four nations speaking with the one voice. Each had a different story but their voices were in tune and all wanted the same goal, and that was to help people. Since the first mountain rescue teams were set up seventy-five years ago in the UK that goal hasn't changed. The equipment we use has improved, but the conditions we work in and the people like the four "Volunteers" sitting at that table, their dedication to saving lives will never change.

We come from all walks of life, and every profession, men and women young and the not so young. We venture out in all kinds of weather to help someone we have never met. If asked why you will get the same resounding answer's from them all, "because we love it" or "we want to give something back". The wives and husbands of these volunteers have a hard time getting them to cut the lawn or help with the shopping on a Saturday, but if a call out comes in the early hours of the morning, they have no problem getting up and heading off into the dark to find god knows what. Time is the greatest gift of any volunteer, these people - my friends - give it with open hearts, and if at the end of a search or rescue someone says thank you or buys them a pint, it's enough to keep them happy.

Every day somewhere in these Islands someone dials 999 or 112 and asks for Mountain Rescue, and for the past 75 years there has been someone to answer that call. This life saving commitment will continue for another 75 years and long after that. As volunteers, support funding has been vital from each of our parliaments and especially the hill walking public. We thank you all and hope this support continues into the future.

During the first weekend of September at the UK Cave and Mountain Rescue Conference in Stirling, Scotland, it was announced that in two years time the conference will take place here in Ireland. The conference is designed to bring people together every two years, so they can discuss what's new, look at case studies, and find better ways we can work together for the person that needs our help. Over 300 volunteers gathered in the University of Stirling, and by Sunday evening as we made our way back to Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland we had made a lot of new friends. As one of the many Irish delegates I was proud of our history, and looking forward to the challenges that face mountain rescue here in Ireland. Peter Howells MR-EW stated "he was delighted to see so many of the Irish mountain rescue community attend, and he looks forward to 2010 when the conference will be hosted in Ireland.

On the flight home I was reminded of a young Irish Man that lost his life on K2 going to the aid of fellow climbers a few months ago. Ger McDonnell had that spirit, that love for his fellow man that is to be found in every mountain rescue volunteer in these islands, and he like all the rest of us that do this job, will give you the same answer if you ask why? "Because I wanted to help".

Do you want to help Mountain Rescue?

Here are two easy ways which readers can help

1. Lyons Extraordinary Charity Giveaway - Lyons has launched a new programme called the "Lyons Extraordinary Charity" where they are donating €10,000 every month in 2008. Visit www.lyonscharitygiveaway.ie and find out how to

- nominate IMRA and our teams to win €10,000.
2. Write about your rescue - If you've had an IMRA mountain rescue team come to your assistance would you consider writing about it? We'd love to hear about how we made a difference to you. We'd also like your permission to be able to print either your full article or excerpts of your article in our Annual Report or "Call Out".

CALL OUTS

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2008 Q3



SUMMARY TABLE FOR 2008 Q3

Note: This is an estimate of the number of incidents handled by Irish Mountain Rescue teams in 2008 Q3 and the PSNI team is included to reflect that. The total number of incidents handled across Ireland (N.I. and R.O.I.) was 85 in 2008 Q3. The total number of incidents handled by IMRA was 77 in 2008 Q3.

This is obviously not the official number of incidents as it has not been verified by the IMRA Statistics Officer. The reader should not draw any conclusions about a team from this table in regards to the ability of the team, the terrain a team covers or the ability of the walkers/climbers in that area. The reader should also remember that this information is seasonal and will vary from quarter to quarter.

TEAM	TOTAL	DATES
Donegal	9	03/07, 06/07, 06/07, 16/07, 18/07, 27/07, 29/07, 17/08, 27/09
Dublin Wicklow	9	30/07, 22/08, 22/08, 30/08, 01/09, 07/09, 14/09, 14/09, 14/09
Galway	4	12/07, 27/07, 03/08, 03/08
Glen of Imaal	9	04/07, 27/07, 02/08, 19/08, 22/08, 30/08, 30/08, 14/09, 14/09
Kerry	7	26/07, 04/08, 05/08, 10/08, 28/08, 30/08, 27/09
Mayo	9	25/07, 27/07, 29/07, 30/07, 06/08, 08/08, 23/08, 24/08, 04/09, 13/09
Mourne	10	12/08, 16/08, 17/08, 17/08, 18/08, 18/08, 26/08, 27/08 and 2 call outs without any dates.
North West	2	27/07, 16/08
SARDA	3	13/07, 03-04/08, 26/09
SEMRA	6	14/07, 27/07, 30/07, 01/09, 26/09, 26/09
Sligo Leitrim	5	27/07, 29/07, 12/08, 17/08, 24/08
Tramore	1	26/09
International Rescue (Thunderbirds are go!)	3	21/06 (Mt. Mansfield, Vermont), 27/07 (Croagh Patrick), 04/08 (Tower Ridge, Ben Nevis, Scotland)
PSNI	7	05/07, 11/07, 21/07, 28/07, 09/08, 22/08, 23/09, 24/09
Approximate IMRA Total	77	i.e. not including PSNI incidents

Supporting Mountain Rescue ...

Mountain Rescue in Ireland is a voluntary emergency service provided by the 300 to 400 male and female volunteers that represent our twelve rescue teams. If you would like to support Mountain Rescue in Ireland or one of our individual teams, please contact our Development Officer via phone or email to discuss.



▲ You must be kidding! Photo courtesy of Mario MacRory, Tramore Cliff & MRT

www.mountainrescue.ie

MOUNTAIN RESCUE IRELAND
SUPPORT OUR VOLUNTEER RESCUE TEAMS



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR VOLUNTEER RESCUE TEAMS....

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€20
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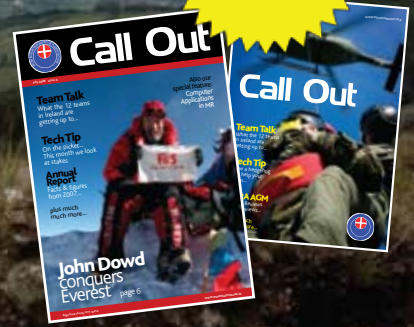
€5
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OPTION
3

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€30



Get four copies of Call Out mailed directly to your door for a year. Your subscription goes to supporting our teams.

OPTION
4

Join our supporters club

€50

A year's subscription to Call Out, a t-shirt and 2 car stickers

All for...

Order Form

Please pay by bank cheque or postal order made payable to "Irish Mountain Rescue Association (IMRA)" and sent to the following address

'Call Out' Magazine, Irish Mountain Rescue Association, SportHQ, 13 Joyce Way, Park West Business Park, Dublin 12, IRELAND

• Please tick your required choice

Option 1 Option 2 Option 3 Option 4

• If purchasing a t-shirt please specify your size by ticking the box below

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Suggested donation (€25)

Total

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Kongur MRT Jacket

Exceptional Design for Exceptional Conditions



Stealth Hood is helmet compatible & fully adjustable. Uses a laminated and wired visor to provide full-field vision even in the most appalling conditions.

3-Layer GORE-TEX® Pro Shell Lofoten reinforced shoulders, sleeves, front hem & seat offer workhorse protection to survive sustained use.

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Double centre-front storm-flaps combine with water resistant YKK® zippers to ensure the jacket remains water-tight in all weather conditions.



Professional mountain guides and instructors have relied on the multi-award winning Kongur Jacket for years. Awarded Best Winter Mountain Waterproof by Trail magazine for the last four years in a row the Kongur has set the modern standard for shell performance in severe mountain conditions.

You told us you wanted a jacket that was all this and more. A jacket specifically designed to handle the exceptional demands of remote mountain rescue work, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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For team order enquiries call Martin Dixon on +44 (0)7710 358762 or email martin.dixon@mountain-equipment.co.uk

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