



Ireland's voluntary
all-weather,
extreme-terrain
emergency service



2009 annual report

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Image: Courtesy of Land Rover/4x4

Introduction to the Irish Mountain Rescue Association



The Irish Mountain Rescue Association (IMRA) is a registered charity (CHY10412) and the representative body of the twelve voluntary mountain rescue teams that operate throughout the island of Ireland. We are also known as Mountain Rescue Ireland or Tarrháil Sléibhe Éireann.

The twelve teams that make up IMRA are:

1. Donegal Mountain Rescue Team
2. Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team
3. Galway Mountain Rescue Team
4. Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue Team
5. Kerry Mountain Rescue Team
6. Mayo Mountain Rescue Team
7. Mourne Mountain Rescue Team
8. North West Mountain Rescue Team
9. Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA)
10. Sligo Leitrim Mountain Rescue Team
11. South Eastern Mountain Rescue Association (SEMRA)
12. Tramore Cliff Rescue Team

The twelve teams consists of over 350 men and women who provide a voluntary emergency service to people lost or injured while walking or climbing in the mountain ranges of Ireland. This 24 hour 999/112 emergency service is funded by government funds and public donations.

The Irish Mountain Rescue Association (IMRA) has the following objectives:

1. To assess and keep under review the requirements of mountain rescue services.
2. To establish mountain rescue services as required to benefit the public.
3. To act as a central organisation in liaison with civil and service authorities.

Current roles for mountain rescue teams include:

- Mountain Search and Rescue
- Air Crash Response in Remote Environments
- Sever Weather Support (Snow, Storm and Flood)
- Missing Person Search in Non-Mountain Environments
- Swift Water Rescue (Not all teams)
- Animal Rescue in Remote Environments (Not all teams)

IMRA operates as a co-operative association of the teams that works on consensus for the best interest of the teams and the casualty. Each team has developed administrative and operational practices based on their experience of working in their local communities and terrain.

IMRA respects the tradition of each team and at the same time looks to identify opportunities to benefit all teams and to promote practices developed by one team which will benefit all teams. It works with the teams to offer national events to aid and assist in the development of the teams. These events include:

- National Conference and AGM (hosted by and rotated amongst the teams)
- National Operation ("Reek Sunday", Croagh Patrick, Co. Mayo, the last Sunday in July) and
- A number of national training courses.

At the local level, each team also develops its own schedule of management meetings, training, and fundraising to make sure that its members are appropriately skilled and equipped when needed.

IMRA was founded in 1965 and over the years has established links with other agencies to ensure that it has the most up-to-date information and the necessary resources to respond to incidents. These links (in no particular order) at a national level include:

- Order of Malta
- Irish Red Cross
- Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI)
- Irish Coast Guard (IRCG)
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency (NI)
- An Garda Síochána (AGS)
- Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- Coillté
- National Park and Wildlife Service
- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
- Department of Justice
- Department of Defence
- Air Accident Investigation Unit
- Irish Air Corps
- Royal Air Force
- Civil Defence
- Health Service Executive (HSE)
- Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC)
- Bord Oiliúnt Sléibhe (BOS - the Irish Mountain Training Board)
- Mountaineering Ireland (MI) and
- Irish Cave Rescue Organisation (ICRO)

In addition to the national links, we have international links with the following Mountain Rescue organisations:

- International Commission for Alpine Rescue (IKAR-CISA)
- Österreichischer Bergrettungsdienst (Austrian Mountain Rescue Service)
- Mountain Rescue Association (MRA, covering the USA)
- Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland (MRC-S) and
- Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MR-EW)

Chairman's Annual Report

After another busy year for the voluntary Mountain Rescue services on the Island of Ireland we can reflect on the past twelve months with a sense of pride and satisfaction. This success has been firmly built on the foundations of successful developments at Team, National and International levels. The Mountain Rescue community of 350 volunteers in Ireland is part of the broader International community of Mountain Rescue.



In 2009 IMRA representatives participated in Training and Seminar events hosted by IKAR (International Commission on Alpine Rescue), the Mountain Rescue Association of America, the Mountain Rescue Council of England and Wales, the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland and the Austrian Mountain Rescue Service. In addition to these IMRA supported events, many of the Irish Teams participated in winter training exchange programmes across Europe. These links have continued to bear fruit by allowing our Developments to be benchmarked and directed by international best practice. Our engagements in the wider community is also a two way process, this year we had an Austrian delegation visit Ireland to learn about our 'GPS Live Asset Tracking Technology'. This system offers Irish Mountain Rescuers improved levels of efficiency and safety in their emergency response roles. For our service to be successful we depend on our member Teams and the wider Mountain Rescue community to continually improve the quality of our training and the range of our skills and techniques. In this vein, 2009 has seen a continuation in the development of our service and we look forward to 2010 with confidence.

Review of IMRA's areas of activity for the past year (2009);

1. Training
 - Party Leader Course delivered
 - Leadership Course delivered
 - Operational Management Course delivered
 - Search Management training & research (US Course attended)
 - Technical Rescue Seminar/Foundation Course delivered
 - Team Assessments (Ongoing)
 - Regional Training Exercises delivered
2. Fundraising
 - Rebranding and launch of new Logo
 - Launce of new Collection Boxes

- On-line donations
 - Merchandising (T-Shirts, Magazines, Clothing, stickers, badges, etc)
 - Supporters club
 - Grant Applications
 - Int. MR Fundraising Day (through IKAR)
 - On-line CRM package
3. Statistics
 - Compile and Interpret national statistics for 2008
 - Annual release
 - Online module (being developed)
 4. "Call Out" Magazine (3 editions published)
 5. Croagh Patrick event
 6. SARDA Ireland North application to join IMRA
 7. Public Relations
 - Press Releases
 - Produced Stock Graphics/Posters
 - Pop up banners
 - Training for Team PRO's delivered
 8. Representation & Relationship Building with Irish Stakeholders
 - The Gardai (Points of Contact & Service Level Agreement developed)
 - National Coordinating Committee / Northern Ireland Mountain & Cave Rescue Coordination Committee
 - PSNI (Memorandum of Understanding review)
 - Irish Coast Guard / Maritime Coast Guard Agency
 - Air Corps / Aviation
 - BOS (National Mountaineering Training Body)
 9. Representation within the global Mountain Rescue Community
 - MR England and Wales & MRC of Scotland
 - IKAR
 - MRA (United States)
 - Mountain Rescue Conference 2010

10. Medical/First Aid
 - Subcommittee established
 - Collation & collection of stats ongoing
11. Accounts/Treasurer
 - Produce & Agree an Annual Operational Budget
 - Administer our Development Grant
 - Administer IMRA Grant Aid scheme
 - Administer the full-time Development Officer
 - On-line accounts package
12. Website / Virtual HQ
13. EU Exchange of Experts Programme
 - Austrian trip to Ireland
 - Return trip being organised
14. Communication & Administration
 - Internal Communication
 - Calendar of events
 - E-mail contact list
 - Operational Contact List
 - Executive Committee meetings
 - AGM & Conference (meetings, workshops, lectures & social)
 - Officer meetings & Conference calling
 - Sub-Committee meetings (TDG, Medical, Search Software, 2010 MRC Conference Sub-Committees)
 - Steering Committee meetings
 - Website www.mountainrescue.ie
 - Stakeholder communications
 - Annual Report published
 - Routine correspondence
 - "Call Out" circulated
 - Records & minutes
 - Antivirus software to teams
 - Trial and gifted/donated equipment to teams
15. Group insurance
 - Liability Cover
 - Personal Accident Cover
16. Communications & GPS systems
 - GPS Live Asset Tracking
 - Repeaters
 - Mapping (North & South)
 - Satmap

In completing my three year term as IMRA Chair I will take this opportunity to wish my successor a successful term at the helm and I would like to acknowledge all of the Volunteer committee members and all of the Teams and their members for their commitment to our fellow mountaineers who 'get into trouble in the mountains'. It has been a privilege and an honour to hold the office of Chair of our representative Association. I look forward to returning to my own Team as an active volunteer and to continuing to benefit from my involvement in Mountain Rescue on this Island.

Regards *Liam McCabe*
Chair (outgoing)
Irish Mountain Rescue Association

Training Development Group

Annual Report 2009 :: Seamus Bradley, Chair

The IMRA Training Development Group (TDG) was created at the Annual General Meeting in Westport in 2008. Its aim was to begin to create a more strategic approach to training for IMRA teams utilising the Development Grant from the Department of Transport. The 2009 programme was developed initially at a planning weekend held in Larch Hill in October 2008. A draft programme was then provided to teams for discussion and a further workshop was facilitated at the IMRA AGM in Newcastle in January 2009. The final programme was then approved at the March 2009 Executive meeting. The programme consisted of the following actions:

- Foundation Rigging Course
- Team Leadership Course
- Operations Management Course
- Party Leader Course
- Attendance at USCG/USAF Land Search Management Course
- Regional Exercise Programme

Foundation Rigging Course

This course was facilitated in partnership with the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland (MRC-S). Initially five members of IMRA teams travelled to Lochaber in June to attend the MRC-S Foundation Rigging Course. Over the course of the summer this group then worked to transfer the course to Achill Island where it was facilitated in October. Two members of the MRC-S instruction team also travelled to Achill to assist and ensure continuity between the two courses. In particular I would like to thank the facilitation team of Colm Byrne (Mayo MRT), Ronan Lenihan (Glen of Imaal MRT),

Richard McCarter (Donegal MRT), Mike Sandover (Kerry MRT) and Graham Stanbridge (NWMRT) for their work on this course.

Team Leadership Course

This was the first of two brand new courses developed from scratch in 2009. The need for the course had been identified at a TDG review meeting in October 2008 and work began at that time to develop a syllabus and supporting content. The concept for the course stemmed from the need to provide support and personal development to current and future team leaders in their role. The course ran over one weekend in June and explored a range of issues including motivating teams and conflict management. Pat Holland (SEMRA) led the development of this course and was closely supported by Mary Mullins (SEMRA) and Diarmaid Scully (Glen of Imaal MRT).

Operations Management Course

The Operations Management course was the second brand new course for 2009. Developed by Kenny Roberts (DWMRT) and myself, it was designed to compliment the Team Leadership course. This was the first time that we had used the Kippure Estate as a venue. The course ran in September and focused on the operational knowledge required to run an entire incident from initial alert through to debriefing.

Party Leader Course

The highly successful Party Leader Course was facilitated in Larch Hill in November. This course was

particularly notable as a live incident in Glendalough meant that the Saturday afternoon session became the focus for all of the course staff and participants. Special thanks is extended to the members of the Calder Valley MRT who made the trip to assist in instructing on this course so that continuity is maintained between this course and its counterpart offered by Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MR-EW).

US National Search and Rescue School Inland SAR Planning Course

In September Donal McNamara (SEMRA) and Diarmaid Scully (Glen of Imaal MRT) travelled to New Jersey to participate on the US National Search and Rescue School Inland SAR Planning Course. The US National Search and Rescue School was established in 1966 as a facility devoted exclusively to training professionals to conduct search and rescue. The school is currently located at US Coast Guard Training center Yorktown, Virginia, and teaches a variety of marine and inland search planning courses. They now have over 22,000 graduates, men and women, civilian and military, including over 1,800 from 103 foreign nations. We believe that Donal and Diarmaid were the first Irish graduates from the US Inland Search Planning Course.

This intense five day course provided the opportunity for the participants to learn in detail the US approach to search management. It is intended that this information will help IMRA to contribute further to the development of search management in Ireland in the future.

One immediate impact was the attendance of Dr Katya Hanson from New Jersey SAR at the IMRA AGM in January 2010. Dr Hanson had met with Donal and Diarmaid on the course and came across to give a highly informative presentation on Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) programmes.

Regional Exercise Programme

Two regional exercises were facilitated, one in Co. Fermanagh in August and the other in Co. Wicklow in October. In Fermanagh, NWMRT played host to Sligo/Leitrim MRT, Donegal MRT, DWMRT and the Irish Cave Rescue Organisation. The exercise focused on working collaboratively and ICRO provided a detailed and highly technical cave rescue demonstration. In Wicklow, the exercise focused on teams working effectively with air support from the Irish Coastguard and the Irish Air Corps AW139 helicopters.

Summary

2009 was an incredibly busy year for Training Development. We saw three brand new courses rolled out and a successful regional exercise programme. We were also able to build our internal capacity with a visit to a search course that we were previously unable to access. The impact of this programme is beginning to be visible in team operations and with a few more programme cycles to embed practice and enhance course facilitation I am confident that we will see continuing impact from these courses on team operations.

IMRA Medical Sub-Committee

Annual Report 2009 :: Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan, Chair

Chair: Patrick O'Sullivan; Vice-Chair: Mary Mullins; Secretary: Gerry Butler.

Terms of Reference (TOR):

1. To produce a background document exploring the past history of medical care in mountain rescue in Ireland, the nature of the injuries that were treated, the treatments used, etc.
2. To develop a set of aims and objectives for the Medical Sub-Committee.
3. To seek legal advice as appropriate in relation to medical care by first responders in remote or inaccessible locations.
4. To develop links with other national and international first response services to benefit from their experience.
5. To develop Mountain Rescue Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs).
6. To identify the additional training required.
7. To organise a Search and Rescue Medical Conference in due course.
8. To explore what relationship the IMRA Medical Sub-Committee should have with PHECC.
9. To secure funding for the work of the Medical Sub-Committee.

During the year, the Medical Sub-Committee has continued to try to progress the work on its Terms of Reference, focusing initially, as agreed, on the data collection. The first meeting of the year was a workshop held at the AGM in January 2009 in Newcastle. There had been a poor response up to then to collect data about the casualties treated by the teams in 2006/2007. However, there was a good attendance at the workshop, with most teams represented. It was agreed that renewed efforts would be made by the representatives of the Sub-Committee from each team to ensure that the data collection forms were completed for the relevant years and returned as soon as possible, so that we could get a detailed picture of the expertise required in

caring for those casualties on the hillside.

As the year progressed, the returns remained poor. A further meeting of the Sub-Committee was held in August at Sport HQ in Dublin and the results of the data collection were again discussed. It was agreed that each Team should be asked to nominate someone to be responsible for ensuring that the data collection was completed. There was then a discussion on developing a national standard for medical training for MRT members, initially by an exam which could be organised locally. It was agreed to consider adopting the IKAR Syllabus or the Casualty Care Syllabus being used by Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MR-EW) and the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland (MRC-S) for Mountain Rescue in Ireland. It was also decided to conduct a survey of the level of medical expertise in the Teams to establish a baseline. Mark Casciani stepped down as Vice-Chair and Mary Mullins was duly elected to the position.

The next meeting of the Medical Sub-Committee was held in October, again in Dublin. Representatives to the Sub-Committee had been nominated by each Team trying to get a contact person for each team (excluding the Mourne and North West MRTs). Team members were still having difficulty completing the forms for some casualties/incidents. It was agreed that at that stage that teams should fill in forms as best they could.

In September, the Medical Sub-Committee Chair attended the IKAR Medical Commission conference in Zermatt. He had been able to attend both a pre-conference workshop and the conference itself. Papers were being prepared by the Commission on the assessment of casualties in the mountains, a modular first aid kit, high altitude drugs and general medicines to be carried when answering a call-out. A paper on standards for Heli-med was also discussed between the Air and Medical Commissions of IKAR. The diagnosis of death (by non medical people and by medical

people), especially in cases of severe hypothermia, was also considered. The Chair also attended the 2nd International Accidental Hypothermia Symposium which was held in conjunction with the IKAR meeting.

The Medical Sub-Committee was also represented at the MR-EW Medical Symposium in the Lake District in November.

The Medical Sub-Committee held another workshop at the IMRA AGM in Tramore in January 2010. It was well-attended and productive. There was a very active discussion about the earlier presentation by Eric Pirie on casualty care in Scotland, England and Wales and how it applied to casualty care for Mountain Rescue Teams in Ireland. The census form was finalized for use in establishing the current levels of medical expertise available in the Teams.

The following proposals were agreed by the meeting to be put by the Chair to the first meeting of the new IMRA Executive in March:

- 1) That IMRA adopt the MRC-S and MR-EW Casualty Care Syllabus nationally as the standard qualification for those who wish to train to that level.
- 2) To distribute the agreed census document to Teams to establish the current levels of medical expertise in the Teams and the standards for casualty care set by each Team.
- 3) To establish a register of the medical skills available in the Teams.
- 4) To proceed with the data analysis of the routine statistics and to amend the routine data set collected to document the skills that are necessary in dealing with casualties in remote locations.

These proposals were subsequently agreed by the IMRA Executive and it is the intention of the Medical Sub-Committee to progress them during the coming year,

Development Officer's Report

Annual Report 2009:: Paul Whiting, Development Officer

2009 was my third year with IMRA as Development Officer (otherwise known as IMRA single staff member). I'm what's referred to in the community and voluntary sector (also referred to as the "Third" sector behind the public and private sector) as a multi-disciplinary worker as I do not have one single responsibility such as fundraising or communications or IT but rather I am responsible for all of these and a whole lot more.

On a day to day basis, I'm responsible for managing the National Development Plan and National Fundraising Plan, putting together our national publication "Call Out", keeping the website up-to-date and being a focal point for the IMRA teams, officers, the public and our stakeholders for getting in contact with each other and / or providing them with information.

No day is ever the same – it's one of the reasons I love my job.

My background is in Information Technology and Project Management so I've brought my experience and knowledge of these areas to the development of our national Mountain Rescue body and to the

development of the teams. For example, two of the systems I've introduced to IMRA during this time is an online book-keeping system called SQL-ledger to manage our financial transactions and an online customer relationship management system (CRM) called Salesforce to keep track of our growing number of supporters and stakeholders.

One of the things I devoted my time to in 2009 was looking for opportunities to develop strategic partnerships between Mountain Rescue Ireland and commercial partners. Unfortunately, we do not seem to fit the mould required by many of the available grants on offer or the corporate sponsors out there so we have had to get creative about how we can provide for our teams. While we may not be able to provide them with money, developing these strategic partnerships has meant that we can provide goods and services to the teams at reduced prices and at the same time these companies benefit from our knowledge and experience. We have two such strategic partnerships that we have been developing during 2009 and we look forward to formally launching these in 2010.

Difficulties faced

After 3 years in IMRA, I've developed my own quote "This year's development project is next year's administration". While I have been successful in my earlier years delivering new projects, initiatives and offerings for the teams, 2009 has been more of a struggle. It has been difficult to continue to develop new projects, such as the strategic partnerships, while working on the next issue of "Call Out" or processing memberships for our "Supporter's Club" as I'm the only person to handle it all.

The IMRA Executive would be aware of this but now we must look at how we can maintain what has been delivered up to now and continue to produce the next service for the teams. Two possible options is to slowly grow the staff with some part-time positions or consider bringing in a new type of volunteer to Mountain Rescue. Traditionally, Mountain Rescue has been a voluntary organisation where the volunteers who did the searches and rescues also did the management. When I came onboard in late 2006, I joined as a "non-operational"

member of IMRA, i.e., I would not be participating in the searches or the rescues. Not long after in 2008, I was joined by our National Treasurer, Norman Purdy, who is also a "non-operational" member of the Mourne MRT and IMRA. Perhaps the time is right for IMRA to have more "non-operational" volunteers to help the representative body to do the work the "operational" volunteers don't have the time to do?

Financially Speaking

Believe it or not, 2009 was the first year that IMRA set down at the beginning of the year to develop a budget for itself. Prior to this, if IMRA had money to spend on equipment or to run a course, it did these. If IMRA didn't have the money, it dreamed of a time when it might be able to do these things or began to plan for a time when it could. Setting a budget for ourselves and keeping to it during 2009 was a major step forward for us and a sign that we're maturing and getting smarter about the way we operate as an organisation.

In 2009, due to the Global Financial Crisis, our grants were reduced and donations from our supporters were also down. Surprisingly this did not happen at the start of the year but late in the year.

The 2009 budget was a great step forward for us but one of the lessons we learnt from the experience

was that we needed to plan for the budget towards the end of the previous year and not at the start of the current year. Therefore we came up with our 2010 budget in November 2009 to co-incide with the timing of our Development Grant from the Department of Transport. It also helped that we had a better sense of the cuts to our grants so that we could plan accordingly in developing the 2010 budget.

One of the other things we learned is that we need to begin working on diversifying our income streams as we are currently greatly exposed to an over-reliance on Government Grants. We appreciate all the help we get from Government (and of course, we could do with more) but we now must start learning to stand on our own two feet just like an infant does. We will be considering our options in 2010 so watch this space for future developments.

The money that is raised from our fundraising efforts and donations is normally distributed to the teams through a process we call the "IMRA Grant Scheme" whereby teams or individuals can put forward a project that they would like IMRA to fund to help develop Mountain Rescue nationally or at the local level. We would normally announce how the fundraising money from the previous year had been distributed via the IMRA Grant at our Q1

Executive Meeting in March and then publish this in the Annual Report. This year we have had to defer the announcement until our Q2 Executive Meeting in late May and to a subsequent issue of "Call Out".

Looking ahead

2009 also saw the completion of our first 3-year National Development Plan. There had been previous attempts at developing and keeping to a development or strategic plan but they had not been successful. This was probably due to the fact there was a no staff member there during the 3 year period to keep it updated and to keep referring back to it.

With a new Chair and Secretary coming on board in 2010, it will also be time to create a new National Development Plan for the next 3-year period of 2010 through to 2012. This will be an interesting process for the organisation and it will be fascinating to see what the teams will want and instruct the national organisation to work towards on their behalf.

So in closing off, I would just like to thank the officers of the IMRA Executive Committee, the team members of our twelve teams and the members of our various stakeholders who help me on a regular basis to the develop the Irish Mountain Rescue Association. I couldn't do it without you!

2009 Financial Report

Income & Expenditure

INCOME 2009	€	EXPENDITURE 2009	€
Interest received	155	Subsistence	4,758
Annual Grant	28,982	Travel & Motor Fuels	-
Insurance Grant	72,000	P.R.	450
Development Grant	33,504	Printing	9,474
Team Subscription	18,000	Design	3,419
Donations	9,683	Postage & Carriage	2,620
Sundry	5,027	Web Site costs	1,499
Training	800	Office Equipment	442
Advertising	1,128	Mountain Rescue Equipment	1,971
Subscription (Call out)	60	Communications Equipment	2,662
Supporter Membership	1,600	Medical Equipment & Supplies	-
Sale of Fundraising Goods	1,902	Audit & Accountancy Fees	790
		Bank Charges	38
		Subscriptions	1,049
		Memberships	2,208
		Training & Accreditation	41,037
		Insurance	27,609
		National Conference & AGM	8,003
		Fundraising Goods for Resale	9,115
		Fundraising	500
		Foreign Exchange loss	17
	172,841		117,659
		Excess of Income over Expenditure	55,182
	€172,841		€172,841

As audited by Michael Cosgrove and Partners, Co. Mayo

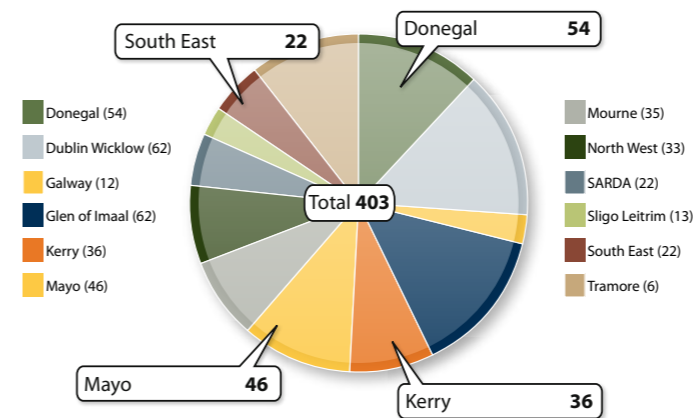
Balance Sheet

	€		€
Debtors Control Account	910	Creditors	2,585
Bank General Current Account	114,220	Accruals	
Bank Fundraising Current Account	4,075	Insurance Nov/Dec 2009	19,734
Bank Fundraising Current Account	443	Expenses	444
Bank Deposit Account	9,812		
Bank Deposit Account	15,496		
	144,957	Opening Reserves	67,012
		Excess of Income over Expenditure	55,182
TOTAL	€144,957	TOTAL	€144,957

Incident Statistics Report – 2009

The 12 Mountain Rescue Teams of the Irish Mountain Rescue Association (IMRA) reported involvement in 296 separate incidents in 2009. This compares with 214 in 2008, 201 in 2007, 229 in 2006, 279 in 2005 and 176 in 2004. A total of 403 returns were made referring to 296 separate incidents, allowing for incidents where more than one team was involved. The table below shows the number of incidents each team was involved in.

A total of 13,642.5 person-hours or almost 1,703 working days were provided by volunteers dealing with these 296 incidents. IMRA teams responded in 2009 to: 109 search incidents (37% of all operations) and 178 rescues (60%). Teams also provided pre-arranged standby/assistance for 9 organised events (3%).



Excluding standbys, which are previously arranged with the requesting group, 71% of callouts to Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs) came through the 112/999 system via An Garda Síochána, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the HSE Ambulance Service, or the Irish or UK Coast Guards. Sixty two (8%) of all calls to Mountain Rescue (MR) teams emanated from members of the public out on the hills either suffering a calamity or present at or coming across an incident, or from the organisers of mountain events; while 10% of calls were from other mountain rescue teams and occasionally wildlife rangers seeking support and assistance.

Irish mountain rescue teams mobilised during 2009 in response to 120 reports of persons reported injured; 169 incidents where persons were reported missing, lost or overdue; 12 sightings of flares, reported falls or shouts for help heard; 11 times to assist landowners recover lost and injured animals and 39 times to rescue crashed or stranded motorists and perform various humanitarian relief operations in snow, ice or flooding conditions. MR Teams deployed onto operation on 9 other occasions to provide an on-scene mountain emergency service presence in support of a range of community and tourist activities in mountain wildernesses, such as the annual pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick in Co. Mayo on the last Sunday of July each year.

Mountain search and rescue incidents were evenly distributed throughout all four seasons. Unusually severe winter conditions in early and late 2009 produced increases in operations for all IMRA teams when they responded by providing rescue and humanitarian relief services to local communities and persons stranded in vehicles during snow & ice conditions; though August 2009 also produced a comparable level of search and rescue operations.

Seventy-one percent of all mountain rescue incidents occurred at weekends (Fri, Sat, Sun or Mon) - with 8% more incidents occurring on Saturday compared to Sundays. Statistics indicate the likelihood of a mountain rescue callout occurring on Saturday & Sunday is almost twice that of a Friday or Monday and three times that of a Wednesday.

Analysis of the outcomes from mountain search operations indicate that: 16% of missing persons sought turned up or were located outside the search area, while another 6% of those sought were found by other

search & rescue agencies. The average distance between the point where an individual was located and the point they were last seen was 1.91 km while the range these distances was from 0.5 to 5.0km (the median distance was 1.7 km). Statistics also show that persons searched for were not found in 13% of incidents.

416 uninjured people were assisted directly by mountain rescue teams in 2009 during the 296 incidents where information was recorded. Another 154 people were injured, treated and evacuated to primary medical care and 17 fatalities were handed over to the statutory emergency services.

Incident outcomes record that rescue operations located, treated and evacuated 30.6% of subjects, while 26.1% were located and evacuated i.e. did not require treatment for injuries; Outcomes for 10% of incidents are either not recorded or were described as 'Other/Not Relevant'.

Where injuries were noted, lower limb injuries were most common at 33%. However over 55 cases of serious injuries, involving head/spinal, serious multiple injuries, heart attacks and other medical instances were treated and evacuated. In addition, 44 of the 154 of those injured were also suffering from hypothermia. Teams recorded 59 stretcher evacuations with an average carry distance of 1.91 km. Recorded distances that MRT's stretched casualties to waiting ambulances or helicopters ranged 0.1 km to 5.0 km with a median distance of 2.0 km.

Casualty evacuation by helicopter is recorded in 49 incidents. This figure and operational statistics reports for 2009 do not record the increasingly effective use that helicopters from various services provide as tactical airlift support to mountain search & rescue operations.

Injury Types reported:	No. of Incidents
Lower Limb Fractures/Dislocations	48
Minor cuts & bruises	8
Upper Limb fractures/dislocations	5
Other medical injuries/conditions	28
Head and/or Spinal injuries	8
Abdominal/Chest injuries	4
Serious Multiple Fractures	2
Heart Attacks	7
Serious Lacerations	3
Pelvic Fractures	3
Other / Unknown	38
Total	154
Hypothermic cases	44

Incidents reported with:	No. of Incidents
One person injured	106
No injuries	5
>2 people injured	11
Two people injured	99
Unknown /not recorded	83
Not relevant i.e. standbys, other	12
Total	214

ANALYSIS		
Mid-Week day	115	29%
Weekend day		
(Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon)	288	71%

Monthly & Seasonal Analysis

Month	Incidents	%
Jan	34	8%
Feb	44	11%
Mar	24	6%
Apr	22	5%
May	28	7%
Jun	32	8%
Jul	28	7%
Aug	47	12%
Sept	39	10%
Oct	26	6%
Nov	24	6%
Dec	55	14%

IMRA would like to acknowledge the assistance and support of the following agencies in caring for the casualty on the mountain:-

An Garda Síochána, P.S.N.I., Irish Air Corps, R.A.F., Irish Coast Guard, HM Coast Guard, H.S.E., N.I.A.S., Fire Service, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service, Irish Army, Civil Defence, Irish Red Cross, Order of Malta, Irish Cave Rescue Organisation and the National Park and Wildlife Service.

Season	Incidents	%
Spring	90	22.3%
Summer	88	21.8%
Autumn	110	27.3%
Winter	113	28.6%



A member of the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (www.ikar-cisa.org)

Annual Review

350 volunteers, 12 rescue teams, 1 mission: Guiding You Home

In 2009, the Global Financial Crisis has effected many segments of Irish society and Mountain Rescue is no different. Our grants from the Government were reduced by approximately 10% and donations from the public were down by 30% compared to 2008. If you've been thinking about making a donation to Mountain Rescue or joining our Supporter's Club, please consider doing it now.

In 2009, €26 million were left to Irish charities through legacy donations and Mountain Rescue got none. Imagine the difference a gift in your will would make to our life-saving work."



National Foundation Rigging Course, October, Achill Island

IMRA teams provide a 24 hours a day x 7 days a week x 365 days a year voluntary emergency service



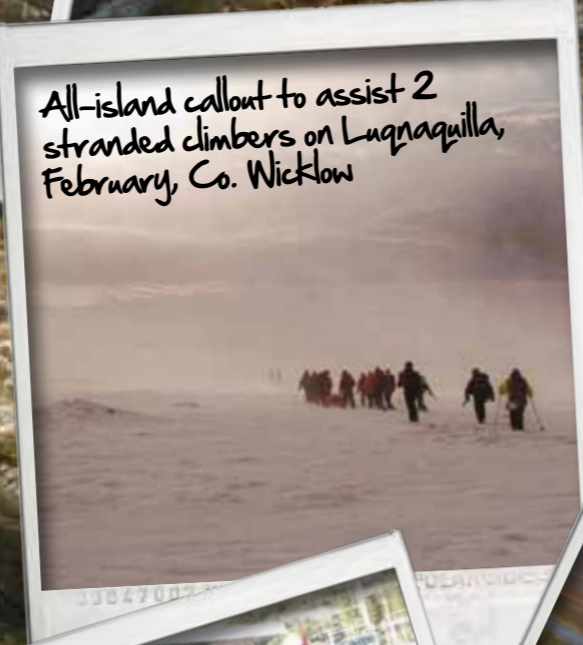
National Party Leader Course, November, Larch Hill



National Reek Sunday Operation, July, Croagh Patrick, Co. Mayo



DNMRT, Winter training, April, Bulgaria



All-island callout to assist 2 stranded climbers on Luqnaquilla, February, Co. Wicklow

Demand and need for the teams has, in general, increased in the last 5 years. This is expected to continue as the general population look for relatively low-cost leisure pastimes.

In 2009, IMRA teams were called out on 296 seperate incidents (a 38% increase over the previous year). From these 296 incidents, 416 uninjured people were assisted, 154 people treated and 17 fatalities were handled by the teams.



IMRA attends 50th Anniversary Conference of the MRA (USA), June, Oregon



IMRA members attend the International Commission for Alpine Rescue, October, Zermatt, Switzerland

The level of funding available to teams each year makes it difficult to plan for long-term large-scale strategic purchases such as replacement vehicles or the establishment of team bases/rescue posts.



National Operations Management Course, September, Kippure Estate



Two Regional Exercises held in Co. Fermanagh and Co. Wicklow



Sligo Leitrim gets new Incident Control Unit



SEMRA gets new Incident Control Unit

In 2009, IMRA volunteers provided over 13,600 person-hours or the equivalent of 1,703 working days dealing with incidents. These figures do not take into consideration time spent training, fundraising, or organising/managing the team.

Teams receive 20-50% of their annual operating costs through government grants. This percentage varies depending on the size of the team and how busy they are. The rest of their operating costs have to be covered through fundraising.



US Search Planning Course, September, New Jersey



Team Name: North West MRT. **Team Charity Number:** XR 61304. **Year team was established:** 1980. **Team Web Address:** www.nwmrt.org.
Team Postal Address: N/A. **Chair:** Noel McGillian. **Secretary:** Eileen Coulter. **Treasurer:** N/A. **PRO:** Han Fisher. **Equipment Officer:** Paul McNicholl.
Training Officer: N/A. **Team Leader:** John Binns. **Deputy Team Leaders:** Han Fisher, Joan Gribbin, Paul McMulklin



Chair: Noel McGillian

NORTH WEST MRT

Development activities in 2010

Since the majority of North West MRT work is Search there is a recognised need for a Command and Control type vehicle. The Team will be making efforts to fundraise to obtain this asset. Consolidation of basic training is now a priority as the new members begin to take part in operations.



Development activities in 2009

The Team has had its busiest year ever. The fleet of operational 4 wheel drive vehicles are now modernised and recruitment is so high that a waiting list is now in operation. The Team is working hard to improve inter Agency working and is active in running joint training and operations with the statutory services. Sport NI have been very supportive in delivering funding to upgrade vehicles and equipment.

Team Chair's introduction

The North West MRT have a number of challenges ahead in this coming year. I feel confident that we have the people, talent and ability to meet these head on and deliver an improved Search and Rescue Service for the community.

Acknowledgement and thanks to donors and supporters

Sport NI



Team Name: Kerry Mountain Rescue Association. **Team Charity Number:** CHY10607. **Year team was established:** 1966. **Team Web Address:** www.kerrymountainrescue.ie.
Team Postal Address: Kerry Mountain Rescue Association, New Road, Killarney, Co Kerry. **Chair:** Brendan Coffey. **Secretary:** Mick Long. **Treasurer:** Liam Ryan. **PRO:** Gerry Christie.
Equipment Officer: John Cronin. **Training Officer:** Lorcan McDonnell. **Team Leader:** Jimmy Laide. **Deputy Team Leaders:** Tom Murphy, Tim Murphy

KERRY MRT



Chair: Brian Coffey

Development activities in 2009

A higher standard of assessment for entry to the team was introduced in 2009. A new and higher standard of assessment for progression to full membership was also introduced. Team members are now

being trained to REC 4 standard in first aid. The team also purchased a defibrillator in 2009 and regular training is provided to members. Our technical rescue systems continue to be developed and refined based on new developments in technology and best practice.

Development activities in 2010

The team will maintain and strengthen its links with other agencies in our area of operation such as the IRCG teams, Garda, Civil Defence and any other relevant organisations.

Development in training and equipment standards is ongoing. Members Manual will be updated.

Team Chair's introduction

2009 was a busy year in terms of

call-outs one of which involved, yet again, the recovery of the body of a lone climber.

In 2009 some of our more experienced team members stood down from active service but have been replaced by some very capable and enthusiastic 'youngsters'. We are fortunate to be able to call on such a calibre of new member in order to bring the team into the future.

Acknowledgement and thanks to donors and supporters

We acknowledge all our sponsors personally and via our web site. We wish to thank all those who supported us financially and otherwise in 2009 and look forward to your continued support in 2010.



Team Name: Tramore Cliff and Mountain Rescue Team. **Team Charity Number:** N/A. **Year team was established:** 1978. **Team Web Address:** www.cliffrescue.ie.
Team Postal Address: 2 Bramble court, Tramore, Co. Waterford. **Chair:** Dave Keane. **Secretary:** Mag Carroll. **Treasurer:** Tom Pfeifer. **PRO:** Mag Carroll.
Equipment Officer: Robert Hennessy. **Training Officer:** Mario MacRory. **Team Leader:** Raymond Cowman. **Deputy Team Leaders:** Robert Hennessy



Raymond Cowman (Team Leader)

TRAMORE CLIFF & MRT

Development activities in 2010

In 2010 it's a new decade and time for change in terms of training, equipment and vehicles. We have reviewed our call out reports and plan to develop 3 sub teams which will specialise in terms of Search, Rope Access Skills and the Mountain Skills.

Our Equipment Officer is undertaking a review of the team's equipment and we have started

a replacement programme for equipment in line with Best Practice. Our team vehicle was recently retired and we are look at sourcing a replacement response vehicle this year.

Team Chair's introduction

Tramore Cliff & Mountain Rescue Team continues to support the community both locally and

regionally in terms of providing assistance when called upon in both cliff and remote access areas. Our members are organized and sourced from around the Tramore & Waterford areas.

Our volunteers and their training and development is at the heart of our decision making process. This is further supported and matched by the teams drive to provide the best equipment available to our volunteers.

2010 is the start of a new decade and the team is looking forward to the challenges that will come from providing a Search and Rescue Service to the communities we serve.

Acknowledgement and thanks to donors and supporters

Newtown Cove and Guillamene Swimming Club for holding the 2009 Christmas Day Swim in aid of Tramore Cliff and Mountain Rescue Team



Development activities in 2009

Training, Training, Training is how we will remember 2009. The team undertook a number of courses in First Aid up to REC4 level. In addition members also attended Rope Rescue courses, Search Skills Courses and the regular training sessions on the Cliffs and in the Mountains. 2009 will be remembered for developing 6 trainee members.



Team Name: SARDA. **Team Charity Number:** CHY11172. **Year team was established:** 1987. **Team Web Address:** www.sardaireland.com. **Team Postal Address:** N/A.
Chair: Henry Smith. **Secretary:** Catherine Kelly. **Treasurer:** Martin Bonar. **PRO:** Elizabeth Alderton. **Equipment Officer:** Caitriona Lucas. **Training Officer:** Trevor Hornbrook.
Team Leader: N/A. **Deputy Team Leaders:** (Qualified Dog Teams) - Mick Grant, Caitriona Lucas, Dave Geughan, Catherine Kelly

SARDA

Development activities in 2009

Assessment held in May 2009 a success with 2 more dogs gaining qualification. Coastguard heli training exercise including winching exercise. First Aid training and MS training completed by members. Avalanche training trip to Scotland by two dog handler teams. Training courses attended in England by training officer and one other handler. Trainee dogs progressing very well towards assessment levels. Raised the profile of SARDA at emergency response events.

Acknowledgement and thanks to donors and supporters

Massbrook Dog Foods & Satmap Systems





Team Name: Mayo MRT. **Team Charity Number:** CHY17952. **Year team was established:** 1994. **Team Web Address:** www.mayomrt.com.
Team Postal Address: PO Box 40, Westport, Mayo. **Chair:** Peter Jordan. **Secretary:** Mary Walsh. **Treasurer:** Dave Fahy. **PRO:** Dick Harnedy. **Equipment Officer:** Pat O'Hora.
Training Officer: Michael Coyne. **Team Leader:** Colm Byrne. **Deputy Team Leader:** Pat Murphy. **Safety Officer:** Aiden Dever. **Stats Officer:** Michael Kavanagh



MAYO MRT

We also achieved our own Official Charity status during 2009.

Development activities in 2010

The plans for 2010 include commencing early planning for the annual Reek Sunday pilgrimage in July as well as the other standing events on our calendar. We are continuing to pursue a number of avenues with a view to realising our own permanent base. We recognise the need to consolidate our vehicle fleet and may need to face the necessity of some advanced maintenance or upgrades this year. We continue to pursue the

improvement of facilities on Croagh Patrick to include the reinstatement of the medical tent base as well as an in-depth recce for Air Corp and Coastguard LZ's and reference points as well as liaison with OSI for map upgrades.

Team Chair's introduction

It has been a pleasure to serve as Chairman of Mayo MRT during 2009, a year which has seen the strength of the team proven in standard as well as more extended and testing incidents, which demanded and received the whole hearted effort of the entire

team. It is usual for Mayo MRT to experience such effort on Reek Sunday, but in addition during 2009 we were confronted by 2 extended incidents which required such commitments focused into 24 hour periods, both of which also involved the additional psychological and emotive impact of dealing with fatalities. It is with some pride therefore that we head into 2010 with an incredibly gelled and motivated, well trained and experienced team ready for most anything they are likely to encounter on the mountains.

Awards/grants received

Annual Coastguard/DoT Grant
 HSE Lottery funding for medical equipment

Members who received a Distinguished Service Award at the 2009 Conference (In Newcastle)

Colm Byrne



Development activities in 2009

Mayo team had one of their busier years in 2009 with a total of 46 incidents. We were fortunate to receive a donation of a 1993 Landrover from a member of the public. Through IMRA we secured funding for a second base radio for use on Croagh Patrick and also took delivery of an IMRA repeater to be located in Mayo for use on Reek Sunday and for the use by Western teams. We carried out some necessary basic drainage works around our Reek base at Taobhnacrobhe and took delivery of a new set of Mountain Rescue Jackets from Paramo. In our October recruitment drive we had an intake of 12 new members.



Team Name: Glen of Imaal (Red Cross) Mountain Rescue Team. **Team Charity Number:** CHY3950. **Year team was established:** 1983.
Team Web Address: www.wicklowmountainrescue.ie. **Team Postal Address:** Team Secretary, Glen of Imaal MRT, PO Box, Laragh Post Office, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow.
Chair: Mark Casciani. **Secretary:** David Buckle. **Treasurer:** Sean Byrne. **PRO:** Ann Fitzpatrick. **Equipment Officer:** Ivan Mahon. **Training Officer:** Aaron Byrne.
Team Leader: Ronan Mullen. **Deputy Team Leaders:** Mark Casciani, Ronan Lenihan, Ann Fitzpatrick

GLEN OF IMAAL MRT

Development activities in 2009

1. Fundraising & developing Wicklow Rural Partnership Grant application for Team Base
 2. Training: Lyon Rope Access Operators training; EMT and EFR training; Search management; Joint team co-ordination - helicopter training etc

Development activities in 2010

Begin construction of Team base in March 2010.
 Continue fundraising; Recruiting new members; Continue training in formal Rope Rescue; EMT & EFR casualty care. Continue relationship building



Team Chair's introduction

Chairman 2009: Mark Casciani
 Team Leader 2009 and 2010: Ronan Mullen

Awards/grants received

WRP grant €144K towards MR Base received;
 2 members qualified as EMT's & 2 as EFR's;
 7 members re-qualified as Swift

Water Rescue Technicians;
 1 member qualified with MSc in Emer. Mgmt;

Acknowledgement and thanks to donors and supporters

Wicklow Rural Partnership;
 All supporting Wicklow County Councillors especially Mr Pat Casey, CC, WCC;
 the FoG (Friends of the Glen) fundraisers;

Members who received a Distinguished Service Award at the 2009 Conference (In Newcastle)

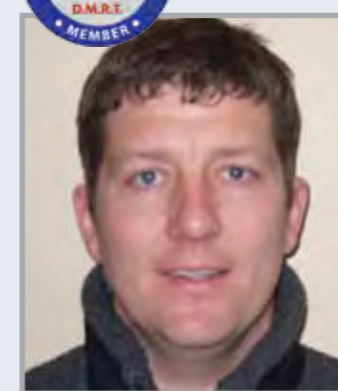
Ben McCabe
 Joe Moore



Irene Codd (Team Chair)

Development activities in 2009

SEMRA was very busy in 2009. Our biggest development was the purchase and fit out of our new base vehicle. The vehicle is highly functional and has been a great asset on callouts and during training. We had our full team assessment in May which went very well. In March, 6 trainees were assessed and upgraded to full team membership. We undertook a recruitment drive during the summer and since September we are training 18 new members. We participated in training with the Coastguard helicopter, sent



Joe Pond (Team Leader)

Development activities in 2009

We have updated our vehicle fleet, replacing our two very old Land rovers with two 04 Nissan Navaras; The team is working to equip these vehicles with enough equipment to support a five man party hill team anywhere in Donegal.
 Glenveigh National Park donated a Portacabin, rescue team members and park staff have been

Team Name: South Eastern Mountain Rescue Association. **Team Charity Number:** CHY17543. **Year team was established:** 1976. **Team Web Address:** www.semra.ie.
Team Postal Address: Grainne Ryan, Coolquill, Killenaule, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. **Chair:** Irene Codd. **Secretary:** Grainne Ryan. **Treasurer:** Rosarie Kealy. **PRO:** Jimmy Barry.
Equipment Officer: Terry Brophy. **Training Officer:** Maureen O'Brien. **Team Leader:** Michael Power. **Deputy Team:** Matt Joy, Paddy Looney, Ray Bradfield

SEMRA

members on a leadership training course, ran a heights training course, sent members on heights training run by IMRA, sent members on an operations management course, took part in a regional training day, sent members on a party leadership course, ran a full team training weekend and organised regular hill training days.

Development activities in 2010

In 2010, we will focus on a plan

to upgrade our 4x4 vehicles to increase our reliability and capability. We will continue to train the current trainees and hope they will be ready for assessment by the summer. Up skilling of our current members is always a priority in our team and we will endeavour to participate in as many courses as possible to ensure the team's progression.

Team Chair's introduction

SEMRA continues to provide a mountain rescue service for the very large geographical area encompassing areas in Wexford, Waterford, Kilkenny, Carlow,



Tipperary, Waterford, Limerick and Cork. The high level of participation in training, flag days, callouts and meetings this year was exceptional considering the challenging year gone by. Our members worked very hard to prepare for our assessment and the fit out of our base vehicle took a lot of care and attention. We are very proud of this vehicle which is a tremendous asset for our team. All the best to those that stepped down from the team during 2009. Your contribution to the team is very much appreciated.

Awards/grants received

€10,000 from Waterford Leader Partnership
 IRCG annual grant

Acknowledgement and thanks to donors and supporters

All the walking clubs in our area for their support and sponsorship. The public that donated very kindly during our flag days.

DONEGAL MRT

working together to make it a fully operational rescue base. The base was officially opened in March 2010.

Through training days, visits and meetings with local units in Donegal we are forging better working relationships with Coastguard and Civil Defence units in the county.

this increased work load. As part of this development, we have taken on six new members in 2010. Monthly diesel and insurance bills run at €500 and €1000 per month, this money has to be raised annually by the team members within the County. The team is always looking to new ways for the team to raise money.

Development activities in 2010

In the early part of the year the team took on a retired fire station in Glenties in West Donegal. The building is big enough for us to house one of the vehicles, a small equipment store and a meeting room. Over the next 6 months we plan to have it operational.

In 2009 our callouts had doubled, so for 2010 we will be looking to adapt our training plans and team members to be able to cope with

Acknowledgement and thanks to donors and supporters

Donegal County Council for the Glenties Fire Station. Pramerica staff who helped with initial clean out of the Glenties base & Glenveigh National Park for helping to establish the Glenveigh Base and use of their facilities





Team Name: Mourne Mountain Rescue Team. **Team Charity Number:** XR 28794. **Year team was established:** 1962. **Team Web Address:** www.mmr.org.uk
Team Postal Address: c/o 8 Slieveshannagh Park, Newcastle, Co. Down, BT33 0HW. **Chair:** Ed Kilgore MBE. **Secretary:** Jeremy Purdy. **Treasurer:** Suzy Carson **PRO:** Ed Kilgore MBE.
Equipment Officer: Ian Mc Cracken. **Training Officer's:** Leo McGrath /Martin McMullan. **Coordinators panel:** Martin Mc Mullan, David Goddard, Stevie Synnott, Ed Kilgore, Ian McCracken, Leo McGrath, Suzy Carson



MOURNE MRT

courses and 4 members are now trained to give pain relief drugs. Members attended a rope rigging course and training has developed in three main areas of Search management, Technical and First aid.

We are continuing to develop the GPS tracking system and were involved with BBC and UTV in making television programs which featured its use.

Development activities in 2010

The team will continue to develop training systems in all three areas. An internal assessment will be held in March for members who have been trainees for at least a year.

The base in Newcastle will be revamped to make better use of the facilities. We would hope to get radio repeaters to allow better radio communication during rescues as the terrain we work in does not allow good radio communications over any distance

without having to use relays. We will continue to develop links with other teams and emergency services.

Under team training we held a weekend seminar on mountain rescue with speakers from the NWMRT, PSNI (scenes of crime talk) and ICRO.

The team continues to represent ourselves in the ongoing MOU discussions.

Team Chair's introduction

The team is in a healthy state with the funding from the development plan allowing us to upgrade equipment and avail of training opportunities. Work by members to reorganise the equipment storage in our base has made a positive impact on its use for rescue.

Five new members have joined and they are fitting in well with training and practice.

The team hosted the IMRA conference and AGM in January

2009 and the feedback from those attending made all the work worthwhile.

The report on the assessment carried out in October 2009 for the NIMCRCC was very positive.

The team continues to give talks to local community groups and have taken part in emergency services days to explain the work of mountain rescue teams. 2009 was a busy year with 35 actual 999 callouts.

Acknowledgement and thanks to donors and supporters

We would like to acknowledge the help given by the staff at Sport NI and the assistance from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure.

We would also like to acknowledge the help and assistance from a large number of local business people who helped us with funding or prizes when we were setting up for the IMRA Conference. Our thanks also go to all the groups who donated to our cause during the year.



Team Name: Galway Mountain Rescue Team. **Team Charity Number:** CHY 18968. **Year team was established:** 1980. **Team Web Address:** www.gmrt.ie.
Team Postal Address: 24 Fuchsia Drive, Renmore, Galway. **Chair:** Ronan Concannon. **Secretary:** Paul Masterson. **Treasurer:** Brendan Noonan. **PRO:** John Burke.
Equipment Officer: Mark Lang. **Training Officer:** Stephen McGrath. **Team Leader:** Ronan Concannon. **Deputy Team Leaders:** Stephen McGrath, Mark Lang, Ronan Waters, Pat McDonald.



Top: Ronan Concannon (Team Leader)

GALWAY MRT

and association chairperson. This allows for the role of team leader to be directly elected by the members and gives the team a more balanced structure. We ended the year by obtaining our charity number.

Development activities in 2010

In 2010 we will be focusing on refining our operational plans and creating a definitive operations manual. We are working to increase member involvement in the making of decisions. We will be looking for ways to make our training programme more flexible and exploring opportunities for e-learning.

Team Chair's introduction

2009 was a good year for Galway MRT. In addition to an increase in callouts over 2008 we made a number of significant

organisational changes and now have the capability to transport 9 team members with equipment across rough terrain. We rounded out the year by obtaining our charity number. I look forward to 2010 and hope that we will continue to build on our successes.

Awards/grants received

HSE Lottery funding
 EBS Building Society supporting volunteers programme
 Galway VEC grants



Galway Local Authority grants

Acknowledgement and thanks to donors and supporters

HSE West, Galway County Council, Galway City VEC, Galway County VEC, EBS Building Society, People of Galway City and County



Team Name: Dublin & Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team. **Team Charity Number:** CHY10148. **Year team was established:** 1984. **Team Web Address:** www.dwmrt.ie.
Team Postal Address: Dublin & Wicklow MRT, C/O Roundwood Garda Station, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. **Chair's name:** David Williams. **Secretary:** Paul Keenan.
Treasurer: Dave Cleary. **PRO:** Paul Gilbert. **Equipment Officer:** Paul Lynch. **Training Officer:** Mark Flynn. **Team Leader:** Mark Flynn. **Deputy Team Leaders:** Chris England, David Butler, Gen Ward, Fearghal Bracken, Declan Cunningham



David Williams (Chair) - above
 Mark Flynn (Team Leader) - below



DUBLIN & WICKLOW MRT

Development activities in 2009

- 3 team members have trained and qualified to Emergency Medical Technician.
- 4 members travelled to Bulgaria to train in specialised winter skills.

Development activities in 2010

- Continued recruitment and expansion of the team to keep numbers at the 40 member mark
- All team members are going through a total refresh and rebenchmarking of crag skills to ensure the same method and standards are followed by all
- Continued closer working relations with our sister team GOIMRT



Team Chair's introduction

- The busiest year ever with 62 callouts, particularly around the Christmas period. Including two callouts on Christmas day.
- The team continued to use its base in Roundwood for storage and meetings.
- 9 new members were put through their paces. They will go through a final assessment

in early 2010 before they become full team members.

Acknowledgement and thanks to donors and supporters

Great Outdoors – Main Corporate Sponsor. This year they sponsored 50% cost of our website upgrade. ISRT – Continued support through the years.



Team Name: Sligo Leitrim MRT. **Team Charity Number:** CHY 10412. **Year team was established:** 1985. **Team Web Address:** www.sligoleitrimmrt.ie.
Team Postal Address: Sligo Leitrim Mountain Rescue Team, "Harebell House", Loughanalteen, Calry, Co. Sligo. **Chair:** Fíona Gallagher. **Secretary:** Heidi Wickham.
Treasurer: Liam McKeeve. **PRO:** Alan Sayers. **Equipment Officer:** Iain Mounsey. **Training Officer:** Tim Roderick. **Team Leader:** Alan Sayers.
Deputy Team Leaders: Matthias Ruedel



Alan Sayers (Team Leader)

SLIGO LEITRIM MRT

We are working hard to get a permanent base, where we can leave the Van securely parked, and also have a small portacabin. Very hard to get anywhere - we may have some hope in the coming year to get some space in the old Council Yard.

Team Leader's introduction

As Team Leader I would firstly like to express my appreciation to all members of SLMRT for their sense of professionalism and ethos of service to the community. The volunteer spirit, which animates the Team, makes my role enjoyable and efficient.

I feel that we have a good eclectic mix of individuals who all give freely of their respective talents and experience to enhance our development as a group and operational abilities. Members have

often driven new ideas forward on their own initiative. Whatever challenges await us in 2010 I feel confident that we will be in a position to successfully overcome them.

Awards/grants received

Grant from Sligo Co Council;
 Grant from Leitrim Co. Council;

Grant from Sligo Corporation;
 Total amount was about 7,000 euro

Acknowledgement and thanks to donors and supporters

Sligo Co. Council, Leitrim Co. Council & Sligo Borough Council



Left: Norman Purdy, National Treasurer (Mourne MRT), Middle: Liam McCabe, National Chair (SEMRA), & Mary Mullins, National Secretary (SEMRA)

Irish Mountain Rescue Association
Registered Charity CHY 10412

SportHQ | 13 Joyce Way
Park West Business Park | Dublin 12
Phone: 023-8859822 (nationally)
Phone: +353-23-8859822 (internationally)
www.mountainrescue.ie



Executive Committee

The IMRA Executive Committee consists of the four elected officers of National Chair, National Vice chair, National Secretary and National Treasurer plus the team leaders of each team (or their representative – normally a senior team member)

Liam McCabe	National Chair	SEMRA
Seamus Bradley	National Vice-Chair	Donegal MRT
Mary Mullins	National Secretary	SEMRA
Norman Purdy	National Treasurer	Mourne MRT
Joe Pond	Team Leader	Donegal MRT
Mark Flynn	Team Leader	Dublin & Wicklow MRT
Ronan Concannon	Team Leader	Galway MRT
Ronan Mullen	Team Leader	Glen of Imaal MRT
Jimmy Laide	Team Leader	Kerry MRT
Colm Byrne	Team Leader	Mayo MRT
Ed Kilgore MBE	Chair	Mourne MRT
John Binns	Team Leader	North West MRT
Henry Smith	Chair	SARDA
Mike Power	Team Leader	SEMRA
Alan Sayers	Team Leader	Sligo/Leitrim MRT
Raymond Cowan	Team Leader	Tramore Cliff & MRT

Nominated Officers

In addition to the Elected Officers, the Executive Committee also consists of a team of Appointed Officers in a particular area of interest working on behalf of all teams.

Seamus Bradley	Chair: Training and Development Group	Donegal MRT
Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan	Chair: Medical Sub-committee	Mountaineering Ireland
Gerry Christie	Nat. Public Relations Officer	Kerry MRT
Gerry Butler	Nat. Comms Officer	Dublin & Wicklow MRT
Diarmaid Scully	Nat. Statistics Officer	Glen of Imaal MRT
Joe Dowdall	MR-England & Wales & MRC-Scotland Representative	North West MRT
Chris England & Mark Flynn	IKAR Representatives	Dublin & Wicklow MRT
Ronan Lenihan	BOS Representative	Glen of Imaal MRT
Dr. Patrick O'Sullivan	MCI Representative	MCI
Gerry Butler	PHECC Representative	Dublin & Wicklow MRT
Diarmaid Scully	Department of Defence Liaison Officer	Glen of Imaal MRT
Diarmaid Scully	Irish Aviation Forum Liaison Officer	Glen of Imaal MRT
Raymond Cowman	Civil Defence Liaison Officer	Tramore & Cliff MRT
Donal McNamara	Development Officer (Search and Tracking)	SEMRA
Pat Holland	Development Officer (Emergency Planning)	SEMRA

"How can you help?"

IMRA and its teams are made up of volunteers. After training and responding to call outs (i.e. incidents requiring the need of the specialist skills of Mountain Rescue), volunteers by their very nature, have little time left over for other necessary tasks involving Mountain Rescue. One of these tasks is fundraising. All teams are under financial pressures with the money generated each year (through grants and donations) being less than the running costs of the teams. Providing financial relief to the teams is the best way that you can help.

Here's some suggested ways to help:

- 1) Join our supporter's club (details on the inside back cover of this issue or on our website).
- 2) Raise the profile of Mountain Rescue in by wearing one of our supporter's t-shirts or place one of our bumper stickers on your car.
- 3) Organise a fundraising event for us.
- 4) Run or walk one of the many running events around Ireland and get your family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues to sponsor you.
- 5) Alternatively, DON'T run or walk in one of these events and get the people in your life to sponsor you NOT to participate :-).
- 6) If or when the time is right for you to include a charity in your will - please remember us.
- 7) If your employer has a "Charity of the Year" program, nominate IMRA for it.
- 8) If you've had an IMRA rescue team come to your assistance, consider writing about it so that we can print your story either in our Annual Report or our quarterly magazine.
- 9) Setup a standing order and enable us to plan more effectively for the future.
- 10) Consider making a donation to our endowment fund to help us meet our annual budget and so that we can plan our work programme in light of ongoing financial uncertainties.
- 11) Make a donation through our online Paypal facility or directly into one of our fundraising accounts:

Republic of Ireland (ROI)

Bank: Allied Irish Bank (Killorglin, Co. Kerry branch)
Sort Code: 93-63-40 • Account Number: 27101-264
Account Name: Irish Mountain Rescue Association

Northern Ireland (NI) -

Bank: First Trust Bank (31/35 High Street, Belfast BT1 2AL)
Sort Code: 93-80-92 • Account Number: 10557-148
Account Name: Irish Mountain Rescue Association