

Moose Lake News by Jim Onarheim

This is Part two of my story on Cold Water Rescue training. You may remember last week I talked about training that I attended with the Winter Fire Department on Cold Water Rescue. This past Saturday Feb. 8th the training was repeated for 4 additional Sawyer County Fire Departments.

The training was organized by Training Officer Mark Gritzmacher of the Round Lake Fire Department. Over 30 Firefighters from Bass Lake, Spider Lake Round Lake and the Town of Hayward Fire Department attended.

The morning session which started at 8 AM at the Town of Round Lake Town Hall was the classroom session. Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) instructors Mike Dorsey and Todd Weich had some very valuable training that they shared with all the students. A good power point presentation was given, and some very good demonstrations were explained to the students prior to going out on the ice.

About 11:30 everyone moved from the Town Hall to the Round Lake Narrows which is next to Round Lake Marine. There was open water under the small bridge on Hwy B. This area was set up as the training site for this training. Several Firefighters got to experience wearing a Mustang suit which is an insulated waterproof yellow colored suit that the rescue person / Firefighter wears when going into the cold water.

The WITC Instructors would set up a simulated emergency where an individual fell through the ice and needed to be rescued. At least two rescuers would enter the water with the special suites on and a safety rope attached to them. They would then rescue the person in distress. This exercise was repeated many times so as many people could experience using the suites. Many feet of rescue rope were used so Firefighters that were on shore could help pull the person to safety. Everyone that got close to the open water would be required to have a rescue rope attached to themselves for safety.

The Round Lake & Spider Lake Fire Departments own an inflatable rescue boat together that was used for the training also. The boat worked wonderful. Many firefighters that I talked to were very impressed with the quality of training. All the Fire Departments in Sawyer County have mutual aid agreements with each other. We all work together as one big fire department. The training concluded around 3 PM

Because of my commitment to Ambulance duty on Saturday, I spent the day working the Hayward Lions Club Pre-Birkie. We were stationed at the OO Trail Head with our ambulance. We did have a few skiers that we took care of but nothing too serious. One thing we did notice Saturday while working at the OO Trail Head was seeing many skiers and volunteers fall on the hard pack ice/snow. Because of their age just about everyone got up and walked away uninjured.

This reminds me, to remind you, to be careful while walking across the parking lot or out to your mailbox. There is a lot of ice and it is very slippery. We have transported many people from falls on the ice lately. A good friend of mine fell and fractured three ribs. Be careful! As we get older we get hurt easier and don't heal as fast.

The Round lake Fire Department responded to a snowmobile accident south of County Hwy B East of the West Fork of the Chippewa River. This happened just shortly after our training concluded Saturday afternoon. A person hit a tree and had to be air-lifted from the scene by a Medical Helicopter. They were transported to a Duluth hospital. The Fire Department utilized the Kubota Utility vehicle that was

purchased with money from the Moose Lake Festival a few years ago. Thanks again people for your support during the festival. The Kubota worked just great for getting the person off the trail and out to the roadway. It helped save that person's life.

Pool League this past Thursday at Louie's had 4 teams shooting it out for First Place. When the games were finally over Daryl Enk and Larry Fullerton took First place. Second place went to Tom Koehler and Brad Daywitt. The TP award was given to Dean Broberg and Roger Winters. Everyone had a great time.

Our snowmobile trails need snow. Our trails are getting packed down and are getting an ice build-up. It is hard for some of the liquid cooled engines not to overheat. To keep a liquid cooled engine cool, it needs loose snow. It is hard to keep the engines cool running on a hard- packed trail.

My stepdaughter was using one of my machines last Saturday evening and it started to overheat several times. There is an item that is called scratchers that can be purchased to help prevent this overheating. They are mounted on the skis and help loosen the hard-pack snow/ice as you run over it. This loose ice and snow then help's cool the liquid or the antifreeze that runs through the cooling lines under the sled that eventually cools the engine. People that have air cooled engines are not having this problem. I have two sleds one liquid cooled engine and one air cooled. I have not had a problem with the air-cooled sled.

Fishing on Moose Lake has really slowed down. I have talked with several people and they are just not getting out. Temperatures have been very mild and comfortable for fishing, but I guess people may be waiting for the open water fishing this spring like I am.

Birthday wishes this week will go out to Vika Richter on February 13th. Tera Neibauer on the 14th, Adeline Henchel on the 15th, John Myhre on the 16th & Rose Frisch on Feb. 17th. Happy Anniversary to David & Joan Runice on the 13th and Steve and Karen Blodgett on Valentine's Day Feb. 14th.

That is all I have for this week. If you have any news that you would like to have included it any of the upcoming weeks please contact me. I can only do it with your help and input. Send your items of interest to myself Jim Onarheim at 715-462-4448 or jonarheim@centurytel.net

For information on the Town of Round Lake government, check the website: townofroundlakewi.org. For Moose Lake Improvement Association (MLIA) information, view the website at MLIAhaywardwi.org. Have a great week and Stay Safe everyone!