



TRACKING STEP BY STEP... JHPTS - VISUAL TRACKING AND TRAINING INC.

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October 8, 2018

TO: JHPTS-VTATI administrative board

SUBJECT: Cascade, ID – Trinity Pines Conference Center – IMSARU training course summary

Instructors: Preston Funkhouser, Julie Balch and Team Lead Joel Hardin

The training course began on Monday, October 5th at 0800 hours with eleven (11) students in attendance. On October 1st there were twenty (20) students registered to attend the course and within the week nine (9) students withdrew their registrations due to family illness, deaths within the family, student illnesses and other uncontrollable circumstances.

The weather was customary for the area at this time of year with the signs of winter to come. Cool nights (not freezing) and mid-fifties daytime, beautiful colors and pleasant. Precipitation in the form of very light rain fell on Friday and Friday night with periods of sunlight and a fair breeze. Saturday and Sunday were delightful.

The low student numbers allowed instructors to flex the usual schedule of tracking curriculum with advanced tracker introduction of regimented tracker processing of crime scene and unattended death scenes.

Instructors conducted three separate certification boards:

The first consisted of two novice students who have long been associated with the JHPTS program, Jim Johnson and Russell Murata. Both represent Malheur County, Oregon SAR and have been the tracking trainers for that SAR group. They will continue in that capacity as JHPTS Designated Trainers. They have been issued In-House Training Manuals and will receive instruction as to other requisite administrative paperwork.

The second boarding examined two Basic Trackers; Mike Rowe and Robin Embry for entry to the Apprentice Training level. Mike Rowe represents IMSARU SAR group and Robin represents the Idaho County SAR unit. Both subjects presented themselves very well and knew the material at the proper levels and spoke without hesitation. Both will strengthen their individual groups and the tracking program delivery to additional students.

The third board examination brought two Apprentice applicants for the Journeyman Tracker training level; Alisa Rettschlag representing the IMSARU group and Dietrich Biemiller representing Snohomish County SAR. Both applicants will greatly assist further expansion and growth of the JHPTS-VTATI program. Both applicants have been functioning at the Journeyman level within their respective SAR groups and have exhibited and demonstrated meeting all criteria at the Journeyman training level. Both have worked several courses and classes as Assistant Instructors completing all



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administrative functions in fine fashion. They will become very important to augmenting the present instructor cadre.

All applicants were granted upward progression to the requested training level without reservation.

The training course was enjoyed by all.

Instructor Lead – Joel Hardin