

Guidelines for TSAR Bike Unit

Purpose

The TSAR Bike Unit exists to perform hasty searches and to expedite location, medical assessment and rescue of individuals in rough terrain. Bicycles are an efficient tool for covering larger distances in less time than conventional ground searches. Bicycles provide easy access passed gated roads and over rough terrain such as single track or double track trail and are also capable of carry out reconnaissance and delivering a variety of specialized equipment.

Members

Any Trainee or Full Member is welcome to take part in training and Applicants are also welcome to participate. This unit is comprised of members who ride and own or have access to a trail bike. Bicycle riders are a resources to the team when they maintain the skill and proficiency to access locations over a variety of trail surfaces while carrying supplies and equipment. Bike unit members should be solid, reliable, experienced and physically capable.

Membership Requirements

Riding a bicycle over uneven surfaces of dirt and gravel is an inherently dangerous activity. When team members are asked to ride long distances over rough terrain they should be safe and confident in their ability. It is expected that all participants devote themselves to practicing the skills required to insure efficient safe operation. These skills include learning effective techniques for negotiation of rough terrain, proper crash abatement, and acquiring tools for bike maintenance and repair among others. It is especially important that everyone follow the direction of the person in charge of the operation. Everyone on the team should consider themselves to be a safety officer and practice proper trail etiquette.

Meetings

Weather permitting, the team generally meets on every, or every other, weekend on whichever day meets all member's ability to attend. Training rides can begin in late February or early March and can continue through late November or early December depending on temperatures. Each training usually lasts several hours.

Duties of Unit Leader

The Bike Unit Leader should be an experienced rider with at least 3 years of SAR experience. They are responsible for setting up regular Unit Trainings and to participate as a bicycle resource with their unit in team trainings when applicable and when requested by the Training Officer.

- Maintain a roster of unit members and their attendance.

- Inspect and maintain condition of all equipment.

- Keep abreast of standard rescue techniques and new equipment.

- Foster abilities, safety awareness, and team spirit in all members.

- Maintain communication with TSAR board.

- Determine required budget and necessary equipment purchases.

- Understand NMSAR rescue protocol and confirm guidelines for bicycle participation.

- Maintain a training manual.

Equipment

All members need a safe bike and helmet when training or on a mission. New members may borrow these items but should expect to eventually purchase their own. Listed below is equipment that each member will find useful as they continue training.

- Appropriate cycling specific kit & protection, including, gloves, glasses,

- Bike designed for trail use.

- Approved multi-sport helmet

- Saddle bike pack with repair parts

- Additional frame mounted water holders and bike packs