



RIDGE MEADOWS SEARCH & RESCUE

RICK LAING



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Ridge Meadows Search and Rescue (RMSAR) is a volunteer SAR group based in Maple Ridge. Rick Laing, who has been an RMSAR Manager for 36 years, was nominated for Community Champions and chose to use the opportunity to highlight RMSAR as a whole and as an incredible network of dedicated volunteers. He even brought a few friends to help tell RMSAR's story!

serving the community since

1969

34
volunteers

2/3

calls occur in Golden Ears Provincial Park

36
average annual calls

Can you provide the sequence of events that take place when a call comes in?

RICK: The on-duty SAR Manager receives a call from either RCMP or BC Ambulance through Emergency Management BC's Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria. The SAR Manager will decide what type of response is required and what resources may be needed, such as a helicopter or mutual aid from neighbouring SAR Groups. The SAR Manager will then page out the team with basic details and a staging location.

What's the most important thing people should know about RMSAR?

RICK: We are volunteers who enjoy helping those in distress. If you or someone you know are in trouble in the wilderness, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1.

What is the most important piece of advice RMSAR would like to share with outdoor adventurers?

RICK: Be prepared. There are lots of great resources available to help you plan for your adventures!

How long have you been a part of RMSAR and what is your "position" title?

RICK: 36 years, SAR Manager

AL: 31 years, Lifetime Team Member

BARBARA: 35 years, Team Member & Treasurer

MIKE: Former Team President

How did you become involved with RMSAR?

AL: My wife and I were sitting at the dinner table and she saw an ad in the local paper about recruiting. I asked her when the info session was, and she replied: "Right now!" I thankfully made it in time.

BARBARA: My husband joined first and I would sometimes go and watch weekend practices. Over time, other members then encouraged me to join as well. 35 years later and here we are.



Can you share a memorable story from a call you attended?

AL: Many years ago, I was driving to an assignment inside the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest, when a tired and disheveled looking man stumbled out of the bushes beside the road. The man (our missing person) had been fighting through the dense brush when he heard my vehicle approaching and made his way to the road just as I approached. After a brief and confusing discussion (he spoke almost no English, and I spoke even less Japanese), we determined that he was in fact the subject of our search. He was not injured at all, and I was able to drive him back to our search base.

What is it like being a part of this team of volunteers?

AL: It's a great group of people, from all manner of backgrounds coming together for a single purpose and doing so with the utmost professionalism. I'm proud to be able to contribute to this team.

BARBARA: It is like a second family, where everyone looks out for each other.

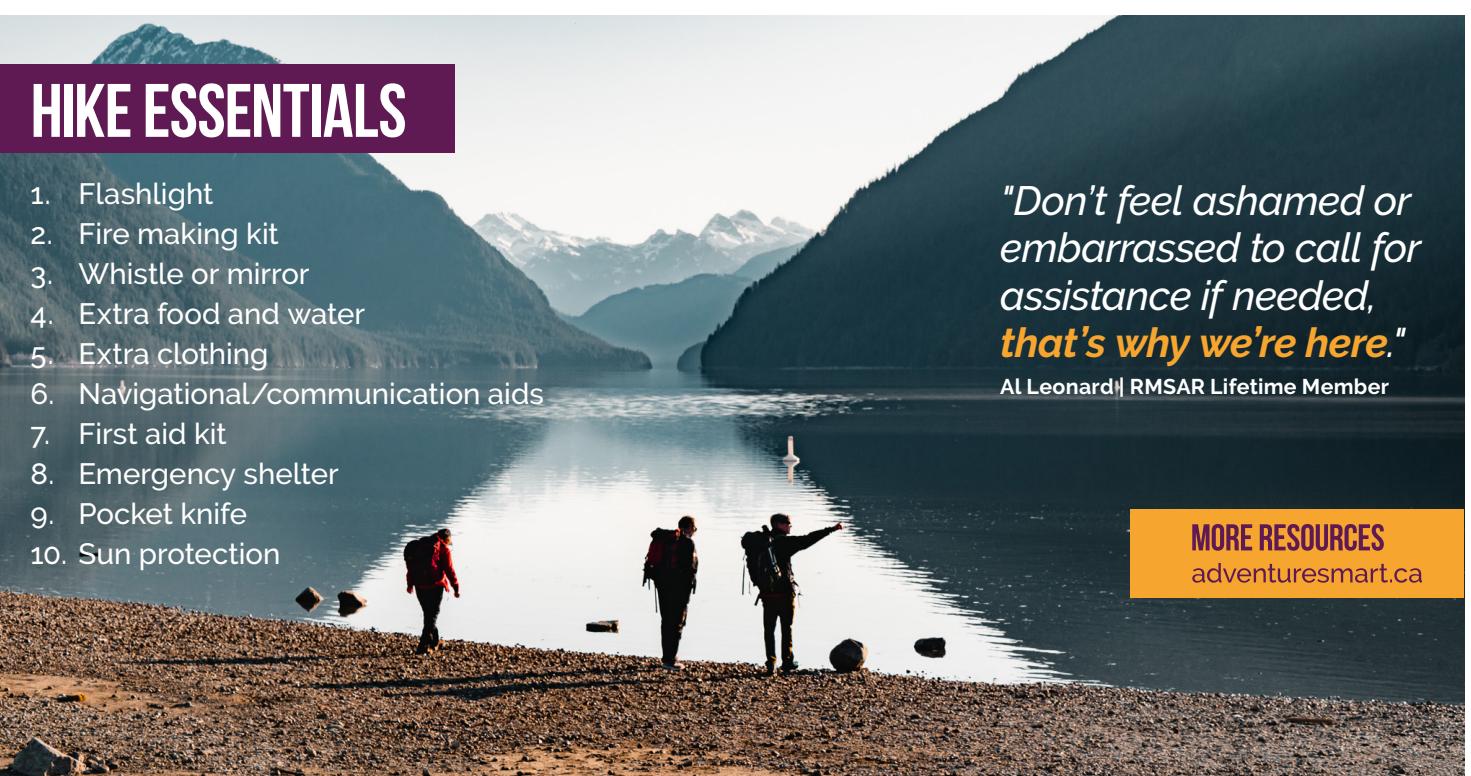
HIKE ESSENTIALS

1. Flashlight
2. Fire making kit
3. Whistle or mirror
4. Extra food and water
5. Extra clothing
6. Navigational/communication aids
7. First aid kit
8. Emergency shelter
9. Pocket knife
10. Sun protection

"Don't feel ashamed or embarrassed to call for assistance if needed, that's why we're here."

Al Leonard | RMSAR Lifetime Member

MORE RESOURCES
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