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Dear Ori,

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy Miller".

Amy Miller

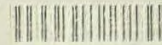
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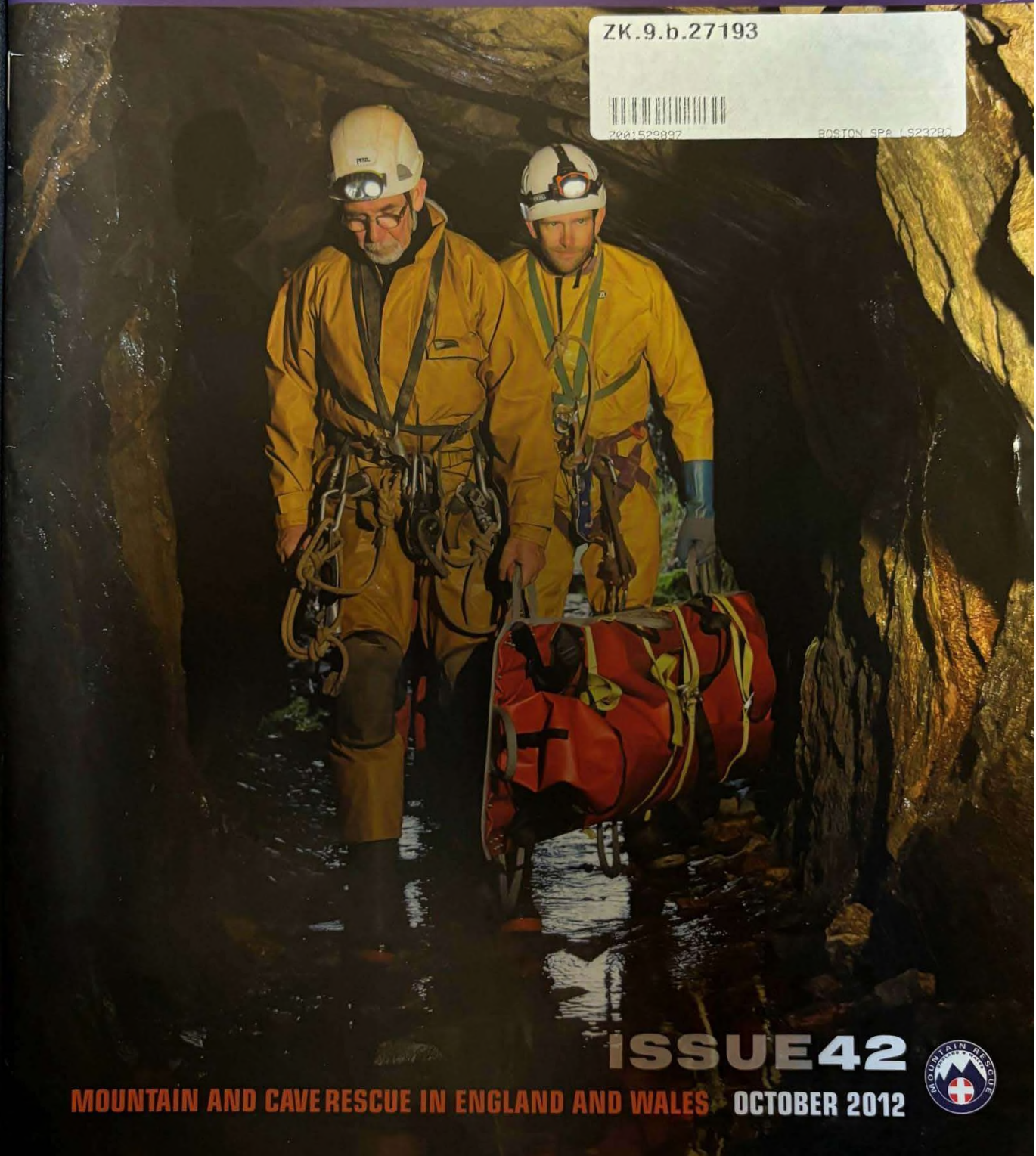
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**WELCOME TO
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Every care will be taken of materials sent for publication however these are submitted at the sender's risk.

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ISSUE 43**

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5 December 2012**

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FRONT PAGE

Cumbria Mine Rescue Unit take part in a photoshoot for Petzl at Hospital level, Coniston Copper Mines. Photo ©Dave Willis courtesy of Petzl.



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**mountain
rescue**



OCTOBER 2012

Word *first* **DAVID ALLAN**



As I write this we are emerging from one of the best, if not the best, conference held. The amount and quality of information provided was exceptionally good and the venue was a real bonus. The excellence of this event was a fitting tribute to the work that Peter Howells has contributed over the years and sets the bar very high for his successors to clear.

There are many lessons to carry away and expand on, but one of the striking things that ran through most of the weekend was the commonality of challenge and purpose running through all the different mountain and cave rescue bodies that were present. This is a welcome direction of travel at a time when the profile of mountain rescue in the outside world is high. This outside world sees mountain rescue as a single entity and the differences between parts of the organisation are of interest only to us.

Jonathan Hart began his presentation with an observation that resonated loudly with me. He described a recurring anxiety in the dark hours of the early mornings concerning the risk of serious injury, or worse, to team members as a result of a vehicle accident. Discussions at earlier team leaders' meetings have shown that, far from the mountain tops and snow covered slopes, the biggest risk in mountain rescue operations is driving to the incident. A measure of reassurance is now

provided by the work that Daryl Garfield and his group are doing to establish more robust national guidelines on driver training. This will not be easy as for many people driving ability seems to be a hallowed area transcending the ability to climb. We need a resolution to this even if it is not to everyone's liking.

As William Cosby noted: 'I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody'.

The conference enabled people from all walks of mountain and cave rescue to communicate directly with each other with clear benefit all round. Elsewhere we have not done so well in the area of communication but will be making valiant efforts to correct this, as evidenced by articles elsewhere in the magazine. This problem is by no means unique to mountain and cave rescue. Across the whole spectrum of human endeavour the cry of 'I didn't know' and 'Nobody told me that' are recurring claims. We have access to so many means of contact now that it is more and more difficult to explain or excuse the absence of communication. Putting this right must be one of our top, if not the top, priority in the immediate future. If nothing else it might prevent us falling into the scenario of Franklin Jones: 'Experience is that marvellous thing that enables you to recognise a mistake when you make it again.' ■

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SARLOC: THE FUTURE

RUSS HORE

I write this on my return from the superb UK MR Conference. It was nice to catch up with old (and some not so old) friends and I enjoyed presenting my thoughts, to those who attended my talk on the Sunday morning, about where SARLOC is heading in the future. For those that couldn't make it, what follows is where I plan to take SARLOC over the next few weeks.

Web-based MRMap.ini

I have mentioned before, Dave's and my wish to make updating the MRMap.ini file easier and that we are developing a web interface. All the MRMap.ini details will be held in a database on the MRMap website. MRMap will periodically download a new MRMap.ini file from the website for local use thus not requiring a persistent internet connection.

One of the benefits of this approach is the details in the MRMap.ini online database will be available to other applications running on the MRMEW ICT servers. Thus, SARLOC can identify what you have designated as your SARLOC radio IDs from your team ID every time you request an activation. This will help the next development of SARLOC, the 'token-based system.'

Token-based system

Currently the URL sent to the 'LostPer' contains a valid MRMap radio ID. The problem with this is it could be open to abuse once a LostPer becomes a 'FoundPer' and sits in the pub showing his mates how he was 'found'. This could result in unwanted entries in MRMap.

The token system will not send a radio ID to the LostPer but a random string of characters (eg. 'S4hUk4'),

which will be valid for a set period of time (minutes, hours, days etc). Once the MisPer is a FoundPer any SARLOC hits for that token will be ignored.

SARLOC currently has an interface to allow you to request a token, which you could then manually add to the SARLOC URL and send to the LostPer.

Manually requesting the token and editing the URL is not really a satisfactory way forward given the random nature of the token and the transcribing errors that may ensue.

I am currently building a web page interface to allow you to request a SARLOC activation. MREW have kindly provided me with a WorldText account from which SARLOC can send text messages.

This is a work in progress but should be available shortly. The interface will look something like this:—

1. Given the online MRMap.ini database, when you tell SARLOC your team ID, it can retrieve your SARLOC radio ID(s). SARLOC will generate the token and store an association between it and your radio ID.
2. You provide the LostPer's mobile number.
3. You optionally provide a 'team' mobile. When SARLOC gets the location of the LostPer it can text the location to this mobile number.
4. If you provide an email address,



AT THE END OF MY TALK, I SHOWED WHERE WE MAY BE IN A YEAR'S (OR MORE) TIME WITH AN AUGMENTED REALITY IPAD APPLICATION. IT DOES NOT EXIST (YET) BUT MAY FIRE SOME INTEREST!

SARLOC will send the location to this address.

5. The valid time of the token can be selected. If 'ever' is selected the token will remain active until it is deactivated, which will be carried out from another admin web page.

6. When the button is clicked, SARLOC will send the SMS to the LostPer, updates MRMap and optionally sends the details back via SMS/email.

BUT what if you have no Internet connection?

SARLOC SMS activation

I am currently testing a method of requesting a SARLOC activation via SMS. If you have no internet connection you will be able to send an SMS to a defined phone number to activate SARLOC. Your SMS to SARLOC will contain the mobile number for the LostPer, a team ID and possibly other items. SARLOC will then send the request to the LostPer

and send you a text message back when it gets the location. By the time you read this I hope to have this in the hands of the testers.

As always, if you have any questions please contact me on sarloc@russ-hore.co.uk. ■



An IT professional, Russ Hore is currently exploring how IT can help MR from a GIS point of view. He is responsible for developing the SARLOC system.

Team ID :	NEWSAR	RADIO ID 23167	1
LostPer mobile :	07710374650		2
Team mobile :	078374632546		3
Team email :	team@team.website.org.uk		4
Valid for :	ever		5
			6