

Shark Marine Technologies donates side-scan sonar to the Bear Search and Rescue Foundation

Monday Nov 14 2005 Shark Marine Technologies Inc of St.Catharines, Ontario, Canada, deliver a Shark Marine Dual Frequency side-scan sonar to the Bear Search and Rescue Foundation. Company President Jim Garrington and Sales Director Jim Honey also provided a days worth of hands-on instruction for attending members of the US Coast Guard, Auxiliary Coast Guard, NY Fire Department, and numerous other local search and rescue personnel.

The Shark Marine Dual Frequency side-scan is used for underwater locating of sunken objects or drowning victims. Using sound waves, it is capable of searching a one square mile area in under 4 hours. This is significantly less time than it would take a team of divers to search and it further eliminates most of the risk factors involved in such an operation. The sound waves of the side-scan are also able to penetrate any poor visibility conditions of the waters.

The Bear Search and Rescue Foundation (BSARF) was established in honor of America's most decorated dog, Bear. On September 11, 2001, Captain Scott Shields and his eleven-year-old golden retriever, Bear, traveled to Ground Zero from Connecticut to help in the rescue efforts at the World Trade Center. Bear was one of the first canines to search the rubble and he is credited with finding the most victims, including the beloved FDNY Chief Peter Ganci and First Fire Commissioner Feehan.

More recently in New Orleans, the BSARF deployed 27 teams to Hurricane Katrina that it had funded or trained over the last four years. These teams averaged 220 human rescues per team along with hundreds of animals. In total just under 6000 people were rescued. In all 11,000 people and hundreds of animals are alive today thanks to the BSARF.

So often donations only flow in at times of major disasters. When something happens to one family only those that work in search, rescue and recovery really know how important the year round support is that they receive.

Jim Garrington and Scott Shields had met in the course of the work they both do. When Scott turned to Shark Marine Technologies to provide equipment to the BSARF Shark Marine's owners decided it would be right to help support the people who touch the lives of so many when disaster strikes.

The BSARF is dedicated to the support of Search and Rescue units across the country. They intend to make the Shark Marine side-scan sonar available to SAR units for training, to better familiarize themselves with the technology, and available for loan in times of emergency.

Shark Marine Technologies Inc. manufactures Remote Operated Vehicles (ROV's), Camera and Imaging systems including underwater security, search and recovery equipment and provides associated services.

For more information contact:

www.sharkmarine.com 905-687-6672

www.bearsearchandrescue.org

