



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Media Release
April 10, 2009

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department Dive Rescue team is hosting the "**3rd Annual pancake breakfast fundraiser**" on May 17th 2009 in conjunction with National Safe Boating Week at Kootenai County Fairgrounds. The event is in memory of Gary Fox, a local business man who drowned in lake Coeur'd Alene.

The fundraiser is a continued effort to raise money for additional dive equipment and a remote operated underwater vessel (ROV) to work in conjunction with Side Scan Sonar equipment that was purchased after considerable amount money was donated by community members, making it possible to initiate this program.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department has had a Dive Rescue Team for many years and recently established a new Sonar team that consists of Sheriff's Department members and civilian volunteers. Our goal is to obtain updated dive equipment to include underwater communications, dry suits and a remote operated underwater vessel (ROV). The past two events have raised approximately fourteen thousand dollars collectively.

This equipment is quite costly. For example, the initial purchase of the ROV is estimated at thirty-five thousand dollars and the underwater communication is six thousand dollars to outfit just two divers. Dry suit costs range from one thousand dollars to twenty-five hundred dollars per suit. Diving in dry suits is an essential part of diving in the northwest where water temperatures hover around 36 degrees in the winter months.

The pancake breakfast is open to the public and everyone is invited to come to the Kootenai County Fairgrounds between 7:00 am and 12:00 pm and enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee and juice. **There will be many displays on site to include the Sonar boat, dive equipment, underwater communications demonstration and raffles.**

The media is invited to attend this worthwhile event as well as the "set up" process the day before, May 16, at the fairgrounds from 1000-1200.

Any questions can be directed to Sgt. Matt Street @ 446-1300.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff