

Taconic Valley News

PETERSBURGH

Rescue On Top Of The Pass

by Doug La Rocque

Late Tuesday afternoon, April 13, the Petersburg Ambulance and Fire Department, along with a pair of Rensselaer County Sheriff’s deputies, responded to a call for help for a woman suffering a medical incident on the Taconic Trail (also known as the Petersburg Pass), about a mile and a half in off the road. Her companion on the hike indicated she would not be able to walk out. Petersburg Fire Chief Mark Murray immediately called for the Grafton Fire Department’s Argo rescue vehicle.

The woman was located just as night was falling and the Argo was sent in. Rescuers immediately loaded her into a Stokes basket (a device used to immobilize or transport a victim over rough terrain), secured it to the Argo and began the arduous journey out. That took about 30 minutes. Safely back at the parking area at the top of the Pass, she was transferred to the Petersburg Ambulance and transported to a local hospital. Everyone involved in the rescue was fine, including the couple’s two dogs.

The Bennington Ambulance Squad also stood by at the scene but was released when it was determined no Advanced Life Support (ALS) was needed.

who had fallen on one of the trails at the end of Stuffle Street, leading into the Pittstown State Forest. Once again, the distance off the roadway required the use of the department’s Argo to transport her out, an endeavor that proved to be no easy chore, as the woman’s injuries were serious but not life threatening. She was transported to the Albany Medical Center by Mohawk Ambulance, as ALS services were needed. Paramedics from Mohawk also hiked into the accident scene to deliver pain medication to the victim, to assist with the removal. No other injuries were reported.

By way of reference, an Argo is a 6 or 8 wheel rescue vehicle, in this case still outfitted with tracks. It was named for its stamina on land and water after the Argonaut of Greek mythology.

The Grafton Fire Department has been called upon many times over recent years to assist neighboring communities with difficult rescues.



Rescuers transfer the woman from the Argo to the Petersburg Ambulance Tuesday evening, following a medical incident on a trail near the famous snow hole near the tri-state border on the top of the Petersburg Pass. Photo by Doug La Rocque

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Rescue Number 2 In A Week
On Saturday, April 10, the Grafton Ambulance and Fire Department responded for a woman

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