

Ravalli County Sheriff's Office
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Chris Hoffman, Sheriff

Stephen Holton, Undersheriff

Press Release:

Update on Search for George Alex Baumann:

September 2, 2014

Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman said today that the active search in the mountains east of Stevensville, for George Alex Baumann has been suspended.

Hoffman said that the 56 year old Stevensville man was reported missing on August 27th. The Ravalli County Sheriff's Office, Search and Rescue, a local helicopter service, and one search dog team from Jefferson County were all on scene that first day but found no trace of Mr. Baumann.

The search continued both in the Ambrose Creek area, east of Stevensville, and on the valley floor through the weekend.

Hoffman said that five dog teams including elements of True North Search Dogs from Helena, Western Montana Search Dogs from Bozeman, volunteers from Ravalli County Search and Rescue, and Ravalli County Sheriff's deputies searched all day, both Saturday and Sunday to no avail. Hoffman said that the teams combed the area, searching almost 90 miles inside a more than three quarter mile circle centering on Ambrose Saddle.

(A map of the search area, including GPS tracks created by each search team is included in this release).

Hoffman said "our search and rescue teams, and the dog teams from out of the area worked hard in the rugged, heavily timbered search area. We couldn't have hoped for a better effort, only a better outcome."

Ravalli County Sheriff's investigators were continuing to follow leads regarding Baumann's disappearance on Monday and Tuesday. Hoffman said that he was convinced that if Mr. Baumann was in the Ambrose Creek Saddle area, he would have been found, and that if investigators uncover evidence to suggest another location to look for George, teams would be sent to look.

In the meantime, the investigation into George Baumann's disappearance will continue until he is located. Hoffman said "We want to know what happened to George Baumann, and as we continue to follow current leads we are asking for help from the community. If anyone has information relating to George Baumann's disappearance, we are asking that they contact the Sheriff's Office at 363-3033."

