



October 2003—January 2004

NEWSLETTER

Colorado Search and Rescue Board

PMB 424, 7645 North Union Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Special Points Of Interest

- 2003 in Review
- SARCON!!!
- CAP Grounded!
- JHH Application

The next CSRB meeting is Jan 8th at Camp George West in Golden



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President's Corner - 2003 in Review

Well, another year is almost completed. Search and Rescue continues to change throughout Colorado and the United States. I thought I would share some of those items.

New Sheriffs. In January, we welcomed 38 new county sheriffs to office in Colorado and CSRB was allowed to offer a few suggestions for the coming year. These "rookies" (as county sheriffs, that is) seemed to get a lot of things thrown at them during their new sheriffs academy. We wish them well.

DOLA and the Colorado Search and Rescue Fund. The annual report from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (administrator of the Colorado Search and Rescue Fund) relates that 54 missions were submitted and funded under Tier 1 - those holding licenses and requiring assistance in the amount of \$56,584. One additional mission was funded under Tier 2 - family members of license holders - \$5,220. Under the new Tier 3 (non-licensed or family members) - 16 missions were funded to the extent of \$20,448. This represents 71 funded missions. Thirty-eight counties requested \$648,225 from the grant funds administered by the fund. \$279,892 were funded. The county sheriffs maintain three seats on this board and CSRB holds two seats. Thanks to the head working members of the DOLA staff (Steve, Tim & Sue)

and to our delegates (Keith Conquest, Tom McCabe - just retiring and John Agnew who is taking his place). The fund runs on the state fiscal year - July 1-June 30.

Personal Locator Beacons

(PLBs) - July 1st saw Personal Locator Beacons becoming the new rage in search and rescue? Or, at least this is the message coming out of the national and local press. In reality, they have been around, but became legal in the continental states on July 1, 2003. NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) in conjunction with AFRCC (the Air Force Rescue & Coordination Center) receive the distress signals and then transmit them to the local state agencies. In Colorado, that is the Colorado Search and Rescue Board. Because of the initial cost, there are not many floating around, yet. CSRB will then notify the county sheriff's office with whatever information is available when and if a signal shows up from Colorado - it may be only the latitude and longitude of the beacon or it may include a full registration of who owns the beacon. In either case, there will be no information on the type of emergency. (All sorts of claims are being made by the manufacturers and the media as to what these devices should be used for.) This information will go to the counties and they will then need to follow-up.

The first rescue has occurred with much fanfare in New York State this fall. The victim was airlifted to safety

and the national press went ecstatic. However, a few weeks later, the same victim went back to the same area to get his gear and, guess what? He set it off again! Now he's been charged with "false reporting" on the second case and our rumor sources tell us that he has been charged in the first case, as well. Are you prepared for an alert? Is your sheriff's dispatch center - will they know who to call?

New SAR Coordinators. Senior Coordinator Barry Mitchell has been working on five new State Coordinators to assist the current six coordinators. Keep up the good work. These folks are really a blessing when your IC is up to his/her waist in alligators.

The Shuttle Tragedy. Colorado was involved in perhaps the largest search and rescue (recovery) effort in U.S. history. Following the crash of the Space Shuttle, CSRB was called and asked for assistance. First a call for a Plans Section Chief was made and then for Search and Rescue Specialists. Washington State beat Colorado getting the Plans Chief role filled. Three candidates were being queried when that request was cancelled.

Seventeen people from several teams were selected to travel to Texas to help run line search operations and to train thousands of Wildland Fire Crews the tactics of land searching. Most went for a week or two. Others made two journeys. All returned with fantastic stories. Washington State and

News, Notes, and Stuff...

CSRB Members,

The Colorado Search and Rescue Board's new web site is up and running. You can visit it at <www.coloradosarboard.org>.

The site is still under construction. This is your site. If you have any ideas, suggestions, photos, SAR images, etc, please feel free to submit them for the web site.

Thanks.
Don Davis
CSRB Webmaster

Avalanche Management Book Available

"Snow Avalanche Management in Forested Terrain," a Ministry of Forests, Forest Science Program of British Columbia publication, is available online in PDF format. The book addresses snow and avalanche phenomena in a forestry setting and outlines harvest design and silvicultural strategies to reduce avalanche risk.

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfd/pubs/Docs/Lmh/Lmh55.htm>

We Knew This Was Coming—PLBs Now Available for Rent

Many in the SAR community feel that PLBs will not become widely available due to their high cost. However, a recent press release announces that they are available for rent and many outdoor stores are considering renting them to their customers.

PLB Rentals, LLC has announced the launch of an on-line rental service for Personal Locator Beacons (PLB's). Approved by the FCC and NOAA for use in the United States in July of this year, PLB's are hand held devices that when activated transmit a signal that is detected by satellites which then provides location and identification information to the appropriate Search and Rescue agencies.

"Our goal is to provide affordable and easy access to PLB's for individuals and families enjoying the wilderness", says Wayne Walcott, Vice President and co-founder of PLB Rentals, LLC. "Getting these life saving devices in people's hands, allows 'peace of mind' for the outdoors enthusiasts and their families."

While the life saving benefit of having a PLB in the event of an emergency is clear, at a purchase price of between \$500 and \$1000, the cost can be prohibitive. Walcott believes the rental market for PLB's is substantial, and at a typical rental rate of \$49/week (plus \$5 S&H) nearly everyone can afford to be properly equipped, just in case.

If you ever need to find your way to the regular bi-monthly meetings of the Colo. SAR Board, there is a map on the OEM website. Go to: <http://www.dola.state.co.us/oem/images/cartoem.gif>



Fosdick	Bruce	B_FOS@msn.com	MC/D/President/ Treasurer
Wichmann	Ann	awlogan@mindspring.com	D
Janson	George	georgej@nrel.colostate.edu	MC/D
Ginther	Leonard	l.l.ginther@worldnet.att.net	MC/D
Mitchell	Barry	N0KV@arrl.net	MC/D
McDonald	Mike	mgmsar@attbi.com	D
Thorsen	Dave	dthorson@starband.net	D
Remsburg	Dan	remsburg@bigfoot.com	D/Newsletter
Stuebe	Brian	stuebe@dimensional.com	D/Sec
Young	Bill	wyoung@frii.com	D/VP

Demotivational Factors in Search

(Part 1 of 2)

My search area was a drag: only 10,000-foot elevation, boring without a view, and not on Bill's route. The snow was becoming wet and heavy as concrete, and my leg muscles knew. To make matters worse, base handed me my search map showing their orange bus marked in a wrong location, which confused and irritated me... We struggled up a steep hill intending to scout two small lakes... When the snow level crept higher up my thighs, futility and tiredness set in; at 11,000 feet, my thinking was becoming affected by the reduced oxygen... I decided to skip the second lake...

At base we entered the old bus together and flopped down on metal seats... "Did you look across trails, go up the slopes, check out each lake?"

His voice was sharp with precision, and I slumped in my seat, eyes studying the floor, answering, "Yes, yes, yes..."

-- from Mountain High, Mountain Rescue by Peggy Parr

For some of us involved in search and rescue, search is the end all motivator. It's a puzzle to be solved, a game to be savored. For some, it is virtually the only game in town. For others, it is something we train for and do, but it is a rather banal counterpart to the technical rescue that motivates us; we do it because it comes with the territory...literally. Either way, leaders of mountain rescue organizations will benefit from understanding what motivates, or more importantly, what demotivates the ground pounders upon which we depend for successful searches.

In this article I present five demotivational factors that I have garnered from personal experience. The list is not comprehensive, but hopefully it provides fodder for further thought. Each of these factors can be addressed at least partially, either ahead of time in training, or by the search manager on scene.

Demotivational factor #1: Belief that the assigned search area is a low probability area

The people assigned to search an area (segment) absolutely must behave as though they believe the subject is in that area; it is difficult to maintain this required state of mind if the searcher believes that the subject is probably not in his or her

assigned search segment.

Scenario #1: You arrive at a search in which the (intentionally) missing party left a note proclaiming that he was going to walk straight west, into interesting rocky terrain, until he collapsed. You get ready to go into the field, and then patiently wait and watch the first several groups being assigned areas to the west. When your turn finally arrives, you are assigned to search straight south, never getting more than several hundred yards from the main road through the area.

Scenario #2: Two climbers are overdue from a climb on a large south facing rock formation. The standard access to the formation is around the east side; most of the routes don't top out, so the standard exit is to rappel and come out along the standard approach. If one of the climbers is injured, the evacuation is certainly along this standard route. You are assigned to search along an easy trail to the backside of the formation (from the north). You know that if the missing climbers had managed to climb all the way to the top of the formation and rappel off the backside to the trail they could easily walk out. You also know that there is virtually no access to the climbing area or the standard descent routes from this trail (i.e., if they are found injured in the high probability areas, there is no way you will get there in time to help on the ensuing rescue).

In both these scenarios, the assigned searcher would likely be thinking about the unlikelihood that the missing parties are in the assigned search area. This would translate into lowered concentration, less effort, and a lower overall POD.

So what can we as search managers do to motivate these searchers? In these cases, the demotivation arises, at least in part, from a lack of understanding of why lower probability areas need to be searched. In planning and executing a search, the search manager typically goes through a series of steps: define the search area boundary, segment the search area, assign POA's to the search segments, allocate resources among the segments, etc. In a typical search, no single search area is really a "high" probability area: one or two segments might be higher probability than the rest, but not by a huge factor. Search managers, seeing the big picture, understand that they cannot apply all of their resources to searching a single segment, thereby risking that the very conspicuous subject not

be found simply because nobody bothered to look in the right segment. The best method to overcome this demotivation is to provide the same kinds of insight to the searchers, through training in search methodology (segmentation of search areas, assignment of POAs to segments, etc.). Long before the search ever begins, individual searchers should understand that the difference between high and low probability segments is nothing more than a little human intuition; the subject never knows he or she is in a low probability area! And, as it happens, simple experience on searches can help with this demotivation: in both scenarios above, the subjects were found in these "low" probability areas. The search management team for a given search should also emphasize the importance of each assigned area, placing it into the context of the overall search if appropriate.

Demotivational factor #2: Belief that the missing party can't possibly still be alive after this long

If you've done search for any significant amount of time, you've probably had one of these searches: the child who has been missing in dangerous terrain for over 24 hours; or the elderly person, described as "frail", who has been missing overnight in horrible Winter conditions; or the suicidal party who has been missing for 2 days. Search for a live victim is generally easy to get up for; the potential payoff, saving a life, is huge. Many of us will drop what we are doing, make relatively large sacrifices in time at work, or time with family, for the possibility of a live-find. Searching for a body is significantly less motivating. The payoff isn't as great, and the emotional toll of dealing with a body can be daunting. Generally, the sacrifices we are willing to make in order to participate in a search for a body are less significant than for a live subject. The worst situation from a motivational standpoint probably arises when a searcher responds to a mission under the assumption that it is a search for a live subject, but then becomes convinced that the subject can't possibly be alive. The cost-benefit balance just isn't right. The first antidote to this malady is to provide, in training, as much anecdotal evidence as possible about surprising episodes of survival. Share stories, whether personally experienced or simply heard about third-hand, wherein grandma has survived under egregious condi-

Colorado provided the main thrust of search and rescue specialists who responded.

Before everyone gets mad about not getting a chance to go, we often had twenty-four hours notice to get teams picked, checked in and approved with the U. S. Forest Service offices in Fort Collins or Pueblo and get the people to the airport at DIA. Did I mention, part of this took place during the blizzards of March? Thank you everyone who responded and the teams that let them go and those who volunteered to standby in case of last minute switches. Thanks to the other State Coordinators who made calls.

Standards. Oh what an ugly word! Maybe not. Some may be aware that 2003 saw many agencies start talking in earnest about standards for search and rescue. CSRB has been involved at many levels. Most of us play under some standard or another. This last spring, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) contracted with the Titan Corporation to set up Resource Typing Menus for any National disaster. Mountain Search and Rescue was one of the first to be presented (along with many others). This project saw

several changes thanks to many who responded from CSRB as well as other national organizations. While this may not appear to affect most of us now (are we planning on a national call-out?), only time can tell how this will pan out along with other standard setting agendas. More to follow!

Charging for Search and Rescue. As you know, we continue to see stories in the news regarding billing the victim for search and rescue efforts. Often these come from uninformed sources. The Colorado Search and Rescue Board stands behind it's adoption of a "no charge policy" dating back to 1987. There are other ways to get reimbursements and we fear the delayed call because someone was afraid of a charge. What would we all think of someone dying as a result of a delay? While we respect those in authority who might think that this is the best solution - we respectfully disagree as to the merits of this fund-raising method.

SARCON 2004. Under the guidance or Mr. Leonard Ginther, SARCON 2004 is starting to come together. The state Search and Rescue Conference has been absent

for several years. Next year conference is scheduled to be held May 14, 15, & 16, 2004 at the Ponderosa Retreat Center on the Douglas-El Paso County line - near Monument, Colorado. Fees and presenters are being determined. Do you have any ideas? If so, contact Leonard Ginther and he will put you in touch with one of the track coordinators (medical, search management, technical, etc.). It look like it will be a good conference and also be reasonably priced.

Website. I would be remiss if I didn't that Mr. Don Davis of Larimer County Search and Rescue Team for volunteering as the CSRB webmaster. What a great job - www.coloradosarboard.org. Visit the site today. Thanks Don. Erase any prior sites that you are aware of for the Colorado Search and Rescue Board.

Newsletter. Dan Remsburg has done an outstanding job this year on the newsletter and I wish to thank him as well.

I sign off wishing everyone a happy holiday and prosperous new year.

Bruce Fosdick, President

Elections

January is election time for the Colorado Search and Rescue Board Directors. Seven candidates have put their names in the hat for 6 openings. They are listed in alphabetic order;

- Bruce Fosdick (Douglas Co. SAR)
- Leonard Ginther (Colorado Civil Air Patrol)
- Phil Luethy (Alpine Rescue Team)
- Howard Paul (Alpine Rescue Team)
- Brian Stuebe (Arapahoe Rescue Patrol)
- David Thorsen (Park County Search and Rescue Team)

William Young (Larimer County Search and Rescue Team & SARDOC)

Dues - 2004

Dues bills just went out to all teams, organizations, sheriff's offices and interested individuals. There was no increase in dues for the years - \$15 for individuals and \$40 for teams sheriffs, and organizations. An application form is available on the website - WWW.coloradosarboard.org. Reminder to teams - your vote at the January meeting (January 8, 2004) requires that your dues be paid in advance of voting.

tions for several nights. Share stories about people who have been missing in the woods for 3 days, 6 days, even close to a month, and been found alive (by perseverant searchers). Share stories of subjects who had been assumed to be suicidal, but were grateful when found alive and saved. To less experienced searchers it may seem obvious that the subject isn't alive, while for more ex-

perienced searchers it is just unlikely, motivating them to be the ones to pull off a miracle. It is also critical to train search team members in the importance of finding deceased parties. Although the psychological lift isn't as great in finding a body, it is important to teach the psychology of closure. It is easy to convey the desperation that friends and family feel when someone is

missing. It is easy to convey how awful the uncertainty is for the missing subject's loved ones. It is amazing how grateful people are to simply know with certainty that the subject is dead, and to have the opportunity to bury their loved one; and search teams need to emphasize that psychology in their search training.

...to be continued next newsletter

SEARCH & RESCUE

2004 Colorado

Search & Rescue Conference



**May 14 -16, near Monument.
Presented by your colleagues —
the Colorado SAR Board.**

- △ Classic SAR mission examples
- △ Minimizing your personal / team liability
- △ Highline systems analysis
- △ Hug-A-Tree instructor
- △ Whats new in search theory - lost person behavior
- △ Backcountry medical care
- △ Effective use of dogs
- △ Technical systems: hauls, raises and lowerings

(Sample topics — subject to change)

Plan now to attend!!

Registration: \$30 / Lodging & Meals: \$40 - \$85

**PLEASE
POST!**

www.coloradoSARboard.org

CAP Grounded?

Yes, 'tis true -- all 15 Colorado aircraft are grounded -- the article below quotes almost verbatim the letter sent to all CO Wing members. Ground pounder resources are not affected; CAP can activate as a ground team response only during this indefinite suspension, so our DF capability is available. As for air coverage, I quote from other letters sent to the membership:



"I am sure you have been asking the question, "What do we do if we have a mission in Colorado?" Our Region Commander has addressed that with the following plan: Wyoming will cover the North, Utah will cover the West, New Mexico and Arizona will cover the South, and Kansas and Missouri will cover the East."

"Some questions have arisen concerning our status during the suspension. First, will we be expected to coordinate ground and air activities with state and local agencies? The answer to that is Yes we will. Our ICs will be involved as usual. Second, will we be able to provide air crew members to out of state aircraft? Yes and No. PICs will not be used; Observers and Scanners can be utilized if the need arises. Third, will we be able to give ground operational support to aircraft recovering in Colorado? Most definitely. Please remember, our ground assets are not suspended. Please hang in there!"



Leonard and I will keep the Board and region up to date on future developments.

George Janson

Advance notice of event

(Mounted Search and Rescue Colorado - open training event/competition 2004)

MSARCO 2004 - Pagosa Springs area of Colorado. (South West Colorado)

There will be a restricted number of places for participants in this open training event, it is open to all and there are vacancies for helpers as part of the overhead team . Registration will open in early 2004 and we will advise the web address later. The format will follow ICS protocols where possible, the missions will be similar to orienteering challenges. There will be awards and prizes for each "mission" group.

Costs are estimated at \$25 per team, and registration is encouraged by teams (team = usually 3 people - Leader, Radio, Navigation) min team size is 2 . We will work to accommodate requests on team sizes.

Restrictions: For the "Experienced" track only pre-qualified teams will be allowed to compete - we will require participants to be qualified and provide authenticated experience history. Altitudes of up to 10,500 feet are possible on this track, making ability important (health and fitness of rider and horse!) There will be a Vet check for all equines and the organizers decisions will be final.

Standard requirements for equines will be: Health Cert , Coggins, Absolute min age of 4 years, must be well behaved and in health to participate at appropriate level. Regret no stallions allowed!!

Details:

June 11/12/13 2004 - Base camp opens June 10th at noon.

Provisional outline provides for:

Missions daily (Fri/Sat/Sun) there will be 3 tracks offered:

Experienced:

This group will be offered 2 or 3 day mission which will require good navigational skills - each team will be given a set start point to travel to, from there each correctly found "clue" will direct them to the next and so on.

Mounted Teams - whole weekend including overnight bivouac in the wilderness.

Foot Teams - whole weekend including overnight bivouac in the wilderness.

Intermediate :

Daily missions starting from base camp and returning at night - similar missions to experienced but in a more restricted area and easier terrain and clues.

Mounted and foot teams .

Training group :

Short missions from base camp approx 4 hours accompanied by an experienced leader - skills demonstrated / taught will include; Map reading and usage in the field, compass use, GPS use as a "check tool" NOT as a crutch! Field craft - traveling over terrain, safety, equipment and usage, introduction to communications.

The training group will ONLY be on foot / vehicle .

More details will be published in January 2004.

Email enquiries to: ian@modric.net

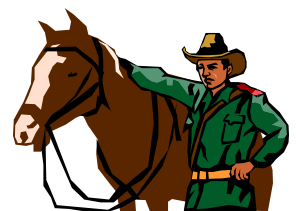
Unit A - Mounted Rescue

400 Ranch Place

Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147

Tel : 970-731-4062

<http://www.mountedrescue.com>



Colorado Search and Rescue Board's Annual J. Hunter Holloway Spirit Award

J. Hunter Holloway had an enormous influence upon SAR in Colorado. Through his years of work in public safety education, training of SAR team members, promotion of Colorado's SAR team efforts to the public, field responses and mission management, SAR team as well as CSRFB leadership, and representation of our SAR community on the Division of Wildlife's SAR Advisory Board, Hunter worked tirelessly to advance the skills and professionalism of Colorado's SAR responders and SAR system. His ultimate goal was to insure the public could travel the backcountry of our state, having in place the nation's foremost SAR community to provide aid when needed. His spirit is remembered by presentation of this award to those in Colorado who best exemplify his dedication to Colorado SAR.

Past recipients of the award include:

- Tim Cochrane, Vail Mountain Rescue Group, 1993 and Dixie Ferrick, United SAR, 1993
- Mineral County Sheriff Phil Leggett, 1994
- Stan Bush, Arapahoe Rescue Patrol, 1995
- Ron Bookman & Charley Shimanski, Alpine Rescue Team, 1996
- Earl & Betty Berger, Colorado Wing, Civil Air Patrol, 1997
- Joanne Stone, Gunnison Co. S.O., 1997
- Howard M. Paul, Alpine Rescue Team, 1998
- Drew Davis, Larimer County SAR Team, 1999
- Tom Frazer, El Paso County SAR Team, 2000

Any individual, whether or not directly affiliated with a SAR team, is eligible for this award by having demonstrated their dedication to the Colorado SAR community, or to (a) subjects(s) of a SAR mission in any of the following areas:

- Personal effort in public preventive safety education.
- Personal effort in professional education of the SAR community.
- Extraordinary efforts in a search or rescue mission, either afield or in mission management.
- Extraordinary efforts in ongoing support of SAR missions during the entire year.
- Personal commitment to the professional advancement of Colorado's SAR community.

Nominations will be accepted from any member of the CSRFB or CSRFB member organization, or any Colorado county sheriff. Nominations are due to the CSRFB by April 1st. The award will be presented at the Annual CSRFB SAR Conference in May.

Nominations must include, at the minimum:

- Name, address, organizational affiliation and telephone number(s) of the nominee.
- Name, address, organizational affiliation and telephone number(s) of the nominator.
- Complete SAR biographical profile of the nominee.
- Relevant personal biographical information.
- Complete details of the events, or ongoing service, for which the nominee has been chosen.

The greater the detail of the above information, the easier it will be to evaluate the appropriateness of making such an award.

Mail nominations to:

J. Hunter Holloway Spirit Award
Colorado Search and Rescue Board
7645 North Union Blvd., #424
Colorado Springs, CO 80920



PMB 424, 7645 North Union Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

<u>Upcoming Calendar of Events</u>		
Emergency Response Conference	1/7-9	Long Beach, CA
CSRB Meeting	1/8	Golden, CO
National Conference on Wilderness Medicine	2/7-11	Big Sky Ski Resort, MT
CSRB Meeting	3/11	Golden, CO
SARCON 2004	5/14-16	Monument, CO

Remember to send newsletter articles to: "n0vsx@msn.com". Mail to: Dan Remsburg, 1913 County Road 782, Woodland Park, CO 80863. Do you have a great SAR photo? Any photos submitted can be scanned and returned.