



Serving the Colorado  
SAR Community  
since 1966

# NEWSLETTER

June—July 2005

<http://www.coloradosarboard.org/>

**Colorado Search and Rescue Board**

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

## Special Points Of Interest

- CSRB Meeting
- Holloway Award
- SAR Mgmt Academy
- Rocky Mountain Trackers

**The next CSRB  
meeting is July  
2nd - Alpine  
Rescue Shack in  
Evergreen at  
1200.**



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## July CSRB Meeting 07/02/05

### Alpine Rescue Team "Shack"

**Meeting starts at 1200**

**No Training this Meeting. Have a great Holiday Weekend!**

## 2005 J. Hunter Holloway Spirit Award presented to David Thorson

David Thorson, of Canon City, recently appointed judge in the 11th judicial district, was awarded the J. Hunter Holloway Spirit Award May 7 by the Colorado Search and Rescue Board.

The award is the highest presented by the state association, and commemorates Mr. Thorson's years-long personal commitment to the professional advancement of Colorado's SAR community.

Mr. Thorson has been a member of three Colorado SAR teams, and recently "retired" from Park County SAR team to accept Governor Owens' judicial appointment and move to Canon

City. He has served the Colorado SAR Board as president, vice-president, governmental liaison and legal counsel. He has also volunteered a great portion of his life as legal counsel to the Mountain Rescue Association and as a Colorado State SAR Mission Coordinator and search management instructor.

SAR first "got in his blood" as a teenager in Evergreen, where he was a young member of Alpine Rescue Team. He continued in college, serving with Tacoma Mountain Rescue Unit. Once settled in Summit County, Colorado, he remained a member, and leader of, Summit County Rescue Group until he moved to Park County to serve as district attorney. Once there he soon became a key motivator in



**Dave Thorsen, pictured on the right, accepts the Holloway award from Howard Paul, CSRB President**

*Photo courtesy Debi Johnson*

*(Continued on page 4)*

# News, Notes, and Stuff...

**Please note that the bi-monthly CSRB meetings in July and September will be on holiday weekends (July 2 and September 3). Please plan accordingly so you can be there!**

Thompson Valley EMS will be sponsoring a 6-day, 54-hour WMI at NOLS course. This course is ideal for EMTs, first responders, nurses, physicians, and other medical professionals. This course will upgrade EMTs to WEMT and other participants to WFR.

This course is from August 3-8 at Pingree Park in Fort Collins. Tuition is \$795; which includes tuition for the course, lodging, and meals. Students are required to stay at Pingree Park.

Contact Heather at 970-669-1235 or hdodson@tvems.com for more information.



There will be a tracking/trailing seminar for K-9 handlers, and team members that work with K-9's on the team. Heartland K-9 Services will present a 20 hour tracking/trailing school on Sat/Sun July 9 & 10, 2005. This class will include urban tracking, as well as tracking through highly contaminated areas, parks, paths, and more. Discussion will include obtaining and preserving scent articles, scent theory, weather factors, and more.

For registration information contact instructor, Jeanette Smith. Space in the class is limited. A regular course description can be found on the website [www.heartlandk9.com](http://www.heartlandk9.com)

Jeanette Smith  
Heartland K-9's

## Colorado Rockies Appreciation Event

Medical Personnel and Families

This season the Colorado Rockies would like to invite all Medical Personnel and their families to the Rockies game on Sunday, September 11, 2005 @ 1:05pm against the Arizona Diamondbacks. On this day the Rockies are offering discounted tickets.

Midfield Box - \$16 = \$17 savings  
Pavilion - \$10 = \$3 savings  
Lower Rightfield Reserve - \$7

These tickets are available by clicking on the link below and using the login information.

<https://www.groupticketwindow.com/groupticket/mlb/rockies/group>

Username: ems2005 Password: gorockies

If you would like a group of these tickets together for you department or families please call me at 303-312-2227.

Thanks, Justin Rossi, Colorado Rockies Ticket Sales  
303-312-2227



Howard	Paul	<a href="mailto:hmpaul@ecentral.com">hmpaul@ecentral.com</a>	President/D
Bill	Young	<a href="mailto:wyoung@frii.com">wyoung@frii.com</a>	VP/D
Dan	Remsburg	<a href="mailto:n0vsx@msn.com">n0vsx@msn.com</a>	Sec/D/Newsletter
Bruce	Fosdick	<a href="mailto:b_fos@msn.com">b_fos@msn.com</a>	Treas/D/MC
Leonard	Ginther	<a href="mailto:l.l.ginther@worldnet.att.net">l.l.ginther@worldnet.att.net</a>	D/MC
Lanny	Grant		D
George	Janson	<a href="mailto:georgej@nrel.colostat.edu">georgej@nrel.colostat.edu</a>	D/MC
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Barry	Mitchell	<a href="mailto:n0kv@arrl.net">n0kv@arrl.net</a>	D/MC
Ian	Vowles	<a href="mailto:Ian@modric.net">Ian@modric.net</a>	D

**CSRB Meeting Minutes**  
**05/07/05**  
**Alpine Rescue Base**

The 2005 J. Hunter Holloway Award was presented to David Thorsen.

**Training**

Plan is to schedule any classes as far in advance as possible so as to accommodate teams that have to travel long distances. If a class is closer in the future, they can elect to wait to attend it locally.

SARCON '06—The site is very important to the success of the event. It should be fairly central to the SAR population and able to handle 150-200 attendees. It must be able to accommodate the dates, facilities, and local terrain requirements. The 2006 class is currently looking at Alamosa, CMC Leadville, and CMC Gunnison at this time. We currently have the Gunnison facility penciled in for May 13th weekend in '06.

**Standards**

Drew Davis— The committee has a draft document created. It will have a 2 week comment period.

Dale Atkins— The avalanche response model is being worked to meld into ICS. Ski Patrol at the next BOD meeting. The plan is on paper.

Mike McDonald—No ASTM or NIMMS report. Stated counties must comply with NIMMS to receive FEMA funding. DOLA has taken this ahead in regard to receiving DOLA funds in the future. This includes typing search crews to FEMA categories.

**MRA**

Joe Ben Slivka—DCSAR is going for their first all-disciplines accreditation in June. Routt, Grand, and Alpine are coming up for reaccreditations. The MRA National Spring meeting will be held in Vail.

**NASAR**

Jackie Golike is no longer the Executive Director for NASAR. She is being replaced by Megan Riccardi Bartlett until a new Exec. Director is elected. Mike McDonald will be the CSRB rep at the NASAR conference. CSRB needs to be a member of NASAR.

**Resources**

SAR Dogs—Bill Young and Dennis McLaughlin— Trying to get FRRD and SARDOC training dates to coincide. Missions have been slow. 3 teams are in training (El Paso, Routt, and Larimer) and 3 others are out for illness or injuries. Ian Vowles visited k( SAR in Cortez recently. He reports they have a very nice facility.

**SAR Fund**

The May meeting will be May 25th in Summit County. Grant apps are being reviewed.

**PR/Ext Affairs**

Concerns about an aircraft search out of Canon City. Pueblo (Steve Douglas) called CSRB with concerns that SAR missions were being run in his county without their knowledge. A joint meeting between CAP, CSRB, CSOC will be set up to review practices for working on mutual missions.

**Communications**

Joe Ben Slivka reviewed the 800 Mhz systems. The statewide SAR talk channel is up and running. Notes that this frequency is NOT to be used for tactical operations, strictly for comms between teams, etc. You do need to be within view of a tower site. He also covered the NB VHF issues upcoming and noted that we need to get a common naming convention established for the frequencies we all commonly use. He did note that the new NB frequencies will be limited to 45 watts ERP. CSRB will strive to license 3 NB frequencies for statewide use by SAR teams.

**Other Business**

Joe Ben Slivka reported on the All Hazards Management Regions Advisory Committee. It is important that you know which region you are in as a lot of funds are channeled through the regions. They are working to match 9 emergency coordinators to the 9 regions.

Discussed the meeting dates for the upcoming holiday weekends. Some mention of returning the meeting to Thursday night for those months. No decision made.

**Mission Reports/Lessons Learned**

Larimer—They finally recovered the body of the woman missing in the Poudre River

Teller—Nothing significant

Douglas—All local stuff

CAP—Nothing

El Paso—Very few

Mounted Rescue—Nothing

Gilpin—Nothing

RMR—Nothing

RMNP—They have a new ranger. Rich Perch is the new SAR coordinator for RMNP.

Arapahoe—Slow

Summit—Poor choices made by subjects. Need to devise plan to alert everyone that avalanche blasting is going to happen. Very important to do this for searcher safety.

Alpine—Slow

Meeting Adjourned

Training followed presented by Cheryl Kennedy.

*(Continued from page 1)*

resurrecting the Park County SAR team.

Mr. Thorson was in charge of one of the largest and most complex mission in the past 20 years, the Peak 7 avalanche of 1987. He set the standard as a cool, calm and collected mission leader - he ran a very complex mission like it was a short walk. Just as importantly he took the time to teach his colleagues how to do it better. His leadership ability first arose decades earlier, when he served as part of the search management team on a Colorado-historic mission on Mt. of the Holy Cross, as a high school member of a SAR team in 1968.

His nomination says, "David typifies that "never let go, always strive for the best " spirit of the award's name-sake; Cut from the same cloth, Thorson and Holloway defined search and rescue in Colorado through the 1980s and today his personal dedication is beyond reproach. Throughout his tenure with Colorado SAR teams and the CSRB, Thorson consistently set a high standard which served as a goal for others to match. He has been selfless in assisting other teams, evidenced by his help to Douglas County in organizing its first SAR team in 1989, and his leadership of the team in Park County."

As legal counsel to both the CSRB and the national Mountain Rescue Association, Thorson played a key, critical role in ensuring the Colorado and national SAR communities are professional, well trained and smart. His understanding of complex, intertwined Colorado statutes formed the basis for many of the CSRB's current institutional philosophies and positions.

As a State SAR Mission Coordinator and search management instructor, he carried forward the spirit of Holloway to ensure the public could travel the back country, with Colorado having in place one of the nation's foremost SAR communities. He first taught search management in 1988; he continued to influence, by example, the leadership of Colorado's SAR community for many years as an instructor. He remained energetic in teaching SAR teams and team members how to recognize and minimize liability. For countless years he taught at the CSRB's Colorado State SAR Conference. More important were his logical explanations of complex organizational, operational or legal questions around the table of regular CSRB meetings; or the important, last minute, telephone call or e-mail from a team, the CSRB or the Mountain Rescue Association.

David Thorson has been instrumental in raising the level of professionalism of this profession to the level at which it remains today -- that of one of the finest state SAR systems, with among the best SAR teams in the nation.

The award remembers J. Hunter Holloway, a Coloradoan who served the search and rescue community at the national, state and local level for decades as a rescuer, teacher, advocate, mentor and leader of both state and national SAR associations. It has been presented only 10 times since Holloway was killed in a car crash in 1992.

### **Teller County SAR Incident Command Vehicle Nears Completion**

A lot of hard work, elbow grease, and generous donations and grants have went into the creation of the new (to us) Incident Command Center. The vehicle will be ready for missions this summer with just the computer networking and a few details left to go. The RV was brought up from Texas by the infamous "Texas 7" fugitives. After seizure by the SO, it was transferred to TCSAR as part of a grant process. Members of the Mountain Amateur Radio Club spent a day equipping the vehicle with all the communications equipment required. Though not able to be taken far from the pavement, it will serve as a very nice ICP—much better than the hood of my truck, as so often we have had to do as we did not have a Command Vehicle. Amenities include a check-in/out station, a comms area, spaces for all overhead functions, map boards, and kitchen. Computers will be networked as well as WiFi being available for mutual aid, if other teams have wireless laptops.



- Dan Remsburg, Teller SAR

# Colorado Search and Rescue Board's SAR Management Academy

July 29, 30, 31, 2005

Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado

A reminder that the early registration deadline for the Inaugural SAR Management Academy is June 30. If your agency is to cut a check, it could take till then to get it through the appropriate office! After June 30, add \$50 to the tuition.

## COURSES

Volunteer SAR Agency Administration and Leadership 3 days \$ 99.00

SAR Management for the Initial Response Incident Commander 3 days \$139.00

Planning Section Chief 3 days \$ 249.00

## LODGING

Lodging and meal plan 3 days \$ 139.00

Lodging and meal plan (single occupancy) 3 days \$ 195.00

## Additional Fees

CSRB non-members add \$ 25.00

Registrations after June 30, 2005 add \$ 50.00

Be sure to  
get the  
registration form  
off the CSRB  
website!  
[www.coloradosarboard.org](http://www.coloradosarboard.org)

Two \$150.00 CSRB Peelgrane Scholarships are available. Scholarship Deadline July 15, 2005

To obtain a PDF brochure and a registration form, or a Peelgrane Scholarship application, go to [www.coloradoSARboard.org](http://www.coloradoSARboard.org),

## MOUNTAINFILM on Tour Hosted by Alpine Rescue Team

TELLURIDE MOUNTAINFILM SHOWS BENEFIT  
the Alpine Rescue Team!  
MOUNTAINFILM Festival: World-class Films for a  
Local Search and Rescue

You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll want to change the world, or at least go play in it for a while. That's right, Telluride's MOUNTAINFILM on Tour, which features the best selections from America's premier festival of mountain, adventure, cultural, and environmental film and video, is coming to town on July 7th and 8th at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden for two nights only. A benefit for the Alpine Rescue Team, the program will consist of different line-ups each evening - films varying in length and themes, from educational works about cultures and environments on the edge, to portraits of remarkable people, and adrenaline-pitched adventure and exploration.

Date: Thursday July 7th and Friday, July 8th

Time: Doors open at 6:00; Show starts at 7:00

Location: Foss Auditorium, American Mountaineering Center, Golden, 710 Tenth Street, Golden, CO 80401

Ticket prices: \$15

Where to purchase tickets in advance: REI Flagship and Boulder Stores; or at [www.AlpineRescueTeam.org](http://www.AlpineRescueTeam.org)

For Information: [www.AlpineRescueTeam.org](http://www.AlpineRescueTeam.org)

The MountainFilm website;

<<http://www.mountainfilm.org>><http://www.mountainfilm.org>





## MSARCO 2005

The third annual MSARCO (Mounted Search and Rescue Colorado) was held over the weekend 17-19<sup>th</sup> June at Kenny Flats south of Pagosa Springs.

Although several teams were unable to attend due to scheduling and travel conflicts an excellent group turned out for the weekend.



Friday was the “challenge trophy day” when teams competed to locate and record 20 orienteering points in the area. Due to expected ground team participation the course was divided into two parts, the complete course for the horse teams and a shorter course for the foot teams.

Mesa County ( last years winners ) were not able to send a horse team this year, instead Randy Engle and Gretchen Hartop attended as a ground team, they completed the assigned course in record time and then proceeded to complete the remainder of the entire course as if they were a horse team! Mesa County ground team won the overall challenge – beating two top horse teams from El Paso SAR!



*A well trained SAR horse!*

The quality of one’s mount was proven again to play an important part in the overall performance of the horse teams.

*Randy and Gretchen take a well-earned break!*



The overall feedback would indicate there is a demand for exercises of this type, especially popular was the competition part. The organizers will be seeking detailed feedback for an improved event next year!



Safety was covered by Mounted Safety Officers from the team leaders of Mounted Rescue and “Mounted Mobile”, the go anywhere 4x4 with on board



safety equipment.

The Mounted Trophy went to El Paso #1 and the second place by only a matter of minutes was El Paso #2. Other competitors who placed were Mounted Rescue Teams #3 and 4 and Las Animas 1.



*El Paso combined teams.*

The second day saw a mock search with outside managers added for realism! There were 4 target dummies placed in the area of operations along with clues leading to them, as well as two live targets to provide scent for the dog teams.

It was typical of many searches with overload at the ICP on occasion – however by late afternoon as teams returned peace settled over the landscape as war stories of the two days were shared while enjoying the now famous Mounted Rescue chili!

The traditional raffle was held and a special raffle was added this year featuring hand crafted items from horse shoes by Mounted Rescue member Richard Rafferty. The proceeds went to help the radio purchase fund.



*Ground team gets initial briefing day 2.*

With overall attendance just below 50 the third annual event proved popular as ever, the last minute change in planned venue did adversely impact some teams and the organizers have already decided that MSARCO 2006 will remain in the Pagosa Area as this venue is so popular with attending folks.

The dog teams from K9 Dolores and Taos K9 reported a wonderful day and great training for their members.





**Rocky Mountain Trackers** is a nonprofit association; established by a group of dedicated trackers who want to raise awareness in the way searches for lost people are conducted. We want to do this by utilizing the most abundant amount of clues that are available to a searcher - Tracks or Sign (evidence of the passage of a person). Approximately every three feet or less, there are clues showing which direction the lost subject is traveling. That equals nearly 2,000 clues or pieces of sign, for every mile traveled. Yet, only a very small number of searchers understand how to find or even look for those clues.

- **Well-trained trackers are one of your most efficient resources**
- **Securing the Point Last Seen can make all the difference in the world**
- **Well-trained tracking teams can get a “positive” direction of travel within minutes**
- **Trackers can help verify if the search dogs are in fact on the line of travel**
- **Tracking teams continuously advance the Last Known Point**

Let's say you've just received information about an 8-year-old child who was reported missing from a group of hikers in your county. It's your responsibility to apply the appropriate resources to this mission. You may think about getting as many people as you can in the field quickly, maybe even think about ordering dog resources. We would like you to consider the following:

It is not suggested that you keep everyone out of the search area until trackers arrive; however, we suggest that you incorporate trackers into your search management tactics. Once a tracking team is on good sign it may cut your search area down tremendously.

**Rocky Mountain Trackers** is an association dedicated to providing well trained and experienced trackers to assist in searches, investigations, and anywhere else that may require tracking resources.

**Rocky Mountain Trackers** maintains a roster of **Certified Trackers** in **the Rocky Mountain Region** who are ready and qualified to respond at your request. They are field rated members of a Search and Rescue team in their area and they are certified as trackers by established Tracking Schools such as:

**Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services** <http://www.jhardin-inc.com/>

**Universal Tracking Services** <http://www.utstrackingservices.com/>

Too many clues are overlooked and we hope to change that. Lives depend on those clues. We are dedicated to saving lives or getting closure where life has already been lost.

**“We will make a positive difference in someone's life.”**

You can help make that difference by contacting us to assist in your next search mission. We are continually training very hard to see what others don't. Please, do not let non-trackers tell you that “It's too contaminated for trackers”. **Let Certified Trackers determine if trackers can be useful.**

For more information please contact **Rocky Mountain Trackers at: 970-691-1839**  
[www.rockymountaintrackers.org](http://www.rockymountaintrackers.org)

24-hour Contact:      On-call RMT dispatcher at **970-691-1839** or  
Larimer County Sheriff Dispatch **970-416-1985**  
Have them page the **on-call Tracker Dispatcher**

Area directors for RMT

Dave Reynolds  
Colorado Springs, CO  
719-649-0046

Dan Remsburg  
Woodland Park, CO  
719-459-5457

David Hake  
Ft. Collins, CO  
970-691-1839

Keith Black  
Cheyenne, WY  
307-630-2673



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

### Upcoming Calendar of Events

Wilderness Medicine Conference	7/23-27	Aspen, CO
JHPTS Tracking Class	7/15-17	Silverton, CO
SAR Management Academy	7/29-31	Gunnison, CO
WMI at NOLS	8/3-8	Ft. Collins, CO
International Technical Rescue Symposium 2005	11/4-11/16	Ft. Collins, 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.**