



**Serving the Colorado SAR Community since 1966**

August—September 2006

# NEWSLETTER

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

**Colorado Search and Rescue Board**

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

**Special Points  
Of Interest**

- ?? SARCON 2006
- ?? Trainings!
- ?? NASAR Notes
- ?? Who Gets Credit?

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



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**September CSRB Meeting**

09/02/06

**Alpine Rescue Team "Shack"**

**General Membership Meeting starts at 1200  
Training starts at 1400**

**SARCON 2006**

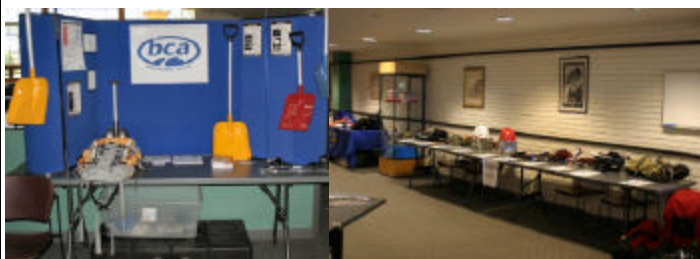
SARCON 2006 is in the history books!

We had a wonderful SARCON in Gunnison this year. The guest speakers were great, the weather was great, the facility awesome, and the local staff invaluable!

From the CSRB President, Howard Paul:

*"Many thanks to everyone here this weekend because we all enjoyed your camaraderie! Large kudos to the SARCON team: Ian Vowles (MSAR), Dan Remsburg (TCSAR), Leonard Ginther (CAP), Joe Ben Slivka (SCRG), Zak Slutzky (WSMRT), Bruce Fosdick (DCSAR), Greg Jones (SCRG) and Howard Paul (ART) -- but the real thanks go to you for attending; we learn just as much from each other as from the excellent classes taught by our great faculty. We welcome comments and suggestions; look for a survey in you mail shortly!*

*Our thanks also go to the many suppliers showing their wares this year; and to our silent auction and raffle prize donors! They help make the event "fun" for all while we examine the latest tools that help us get the job done: So That Others May Live.*



# News, Notes, and Stuff...

## A Note From a SARCON Keynote Speaker

Just an open to note to say, having just returned from the Colorado SARCON 2006 in Gunnison, that this is one of the nicest conferences, with one of the loveliest settings, with absolutely some of the best people ever! What a great conference. The amount of behind the scenes work, and dedication from the staff, from everyone including Ian Vowles and Howard Paul, to the friends and families who helped make everything work, and all the vendors, made this conference was an unqualified success. Thanks so much to all for the hard work and enthusiasm! I can't wait for your next one - and, if you've never been to CO's SARCON, be sure to put it on your calendar for next time! It's one you won't want to miss.

Thanks again,

Kimberly R. Kelly

## ITRS 2006

For any of you anticipating attending ITRS 2006 this November in Golden, the room block expires October 12th. The great room rates we have will go up substantially and rooms may not be available once the block is full or we reach the October 12th deadline. If you are planning on attending ITRS 2006 in Golden and haven't already made a room reservation, call the hotel or go to the special link below for ITRS on-line reservations.

<https://marriott.com/reservation/availability.mi?propertyCode=DENWE&gc=tecteca>

Denver Marriott West Hotel  
1717 Denver West Boulevard  
Golden, Colorado 80401 USA  
Toll-free: 1-888-238-1803  
Phone: 1-303-279-9100  
Fax: 1-303-271-0205

For more information on ITRS 2006 go to:<http://www.pmirope.com/PDF%27s/2006%20ITRS%20Flyer.pdf> or call Sherry Cox at PMI (706-764-1437 ext 234).

## International Snow Science Workshop (ISSW).

Telluride, Colorado:

October 1-6, 2006. Organizer: San Juan Field School. This workshop will bring together snow scientists and avalanche practitioners to discuss theories, present papers, and explore innovative new research topics.

The theme of this year's workshop is "A Merging of Theory and Practice." For further information, contact ISSW, PO Box 3260, Telluride, CO 81435; (970) 728-3829; e-mail: [info@issw.net](mailto:info@issw.net); [www.issworkshop.org/](http://www.issworkshop.org/).

## Welcome—New SAR Team To CSRB

We wish to extend a hearty WELCOME to the newest group member of CSRB!

West Elk Mountain Rescue out of Paonia made the trip to the SARCON in July, liked what they saw, and joined up!

We hope to see more of them!

**YOUR  
CURRENT  
CSRB  
BOARD**

Howard	Paul	<a href="mailto:hmpaul@ecentral.com">hmpaul@ecentral.com</a>	President/D
Joe Ben	Slivka	<a href="mailto:jbslivka@co.summit.co.us">jbslivka@co.summit.co.us</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	<a href="mailto:lannyg@earthlink.net">lannyg@earthlink.net</a>	D
Tim	Holden	<a href="mailto:timothy.holden@colorado.edu">timothy.holden@colorado.edu</a>	D/MC
George	Janson	<a href="mailto:georgej@nrel.colostat.edu">georgej@nrel.colostat.edu</a>	D/MC
Mike	McDonald	<a href="mailto:mgmsar@comcast.net">mgmsar@comcast.net</a>	D
Barry	Mitchell	<a href="mailto:n0kv@arrl.net">n0kv@arrl.net</a>	D/MC
Ryan	Root	<a href="mailto:barkingdog@qwest.net">barkingdog@qwest.net</a>	D
Ian	Vowles	<a href="mailto:Ian@modric.net">Ian@modric.net</a>	D

**CSRB Meeting Minutes**  
**01 July 2006**  
**Alpine Rescue**

Called to order at 1211

**RESOURCES**

SAR Dogs—Need more trailing and water scent dogs. Dogs have been used on a couple of water missions. There were questions and concerns about callout procedures and effectiveness. As of 6/30 there were 14 air scent, 5 avalanche, and 3 water scent dogs. If it is a cadaver search, do not hesitate to call for dogs. Most air scent dogs can handle this.  
Other—Estes Park now has a dive team. All 3 current teams are in Larimer County.

**STANDARDS**

ASTM—Mike McDonald reported that they are retyping the animal rescue. The Vets group is working on it. ASTM Horse SAR project is in turmoil as the different entities are differing in viewpoints. 3 ASTM drafts were presented in one day.  
IMT—Still accepting applications.

**TRAINING**

Ian Vowles went over the SARCON info. Web registration experienced a glitch but was fixed right away. We are ready to go for SARCON!  
MLSO/MPLI—Aspen is still not nailed down. They have a new training director. Boulder County will have a class in October. Larimer class was cancelled as only 3 folks were signed up. Douglas had their own class. We have a standing invite to return to Montrose to do another class. Joe Ben Slivka said they are having a 3 day NIMS class in Summit County in August.

**MRA**

CSRB received an award form MRA which will be presented at SARCON.

**NASAR**

The goal of NASAR is to be the SAR credentialing agency in the nation. There is an RFP out to redo the Hug-a-Tree program. There is an RFP out for MLPI. Editor is Dave O'Connell. Draft copy out for review Sept-Oct.  
There are 333 registered PLBs in CO. #9 in nation.

The AFRCC is moving to FL. The National SAR Committee is working on post-Katrina reports. Drew Davis and Howard Paul received a NASAR award for their typing work on the Wilderness Search Crew.

**SAR FUND**

Meeting was the end of May. Discussions were held on the VHF issue. Letters are coming out about them. 3 large Type 3 missions came in after the deadline. Next meeting will be at the County Sheriff's meeting in January. They are just getting info from some counties.

**PR**

Read a thank you letter from the family of a subject from June.

**COMMS**

The licensing takes time due to frequency coordination with neighboring states, mainly NM and KS. 451.400 for packet/data

**OTHER**

State All Hazard—A state plan is required in order to get future federal dollars.  
Fallen SAR Members—Bruce Fosdick is waiting for input before a decision is made.  
Charging for SAR—Howard Paul, Dave Thorson, and Charley Shimanski will be getting together at SARCON. Hope to have a white paper out this fall on the subject.

**MISSION REPORTS/LESSONS LEARNED**

We went over some of the Evan Thompson search in Fremont County.  
Douglas—busy! Found you can get the GPS of a cell phone without calling the phone.  
Larimer—Information from originating agencies. Twice that info has proven to be wrong. Be sure the info is accurate. Double-check the info given from the initial report. You may need to re-interview.  
CAP—Helos are nice to have?

Adjourned at 1421

*Respectfully Submitted*  
*Dan Remsburg*  
*CSRB Secretary*

## Notes from the NASAR

### National Conference

May 23-27, 2006 in Austin, Texas

#### Awards

The Colorado State Award was given to Howard Paul and Drew Davis for their work on resource typing.

#### Results of the strategic planning study

NASAR Vision - Become the global source for search and rescue credentials.

Mission: Develop and provide professional credentialing products and services to the search and rescue community.

NASAR sees:

- An increase in urbanization and a decrease in outdoor skills needed in search and rescue.
- Technology taking the "S" out of SAR. The organization needs to put the "R" back in NASAR.
- SAR becoming a paid public service agency and/or a private sector enterprise.

#### Hug-a-Tree

NASAR has a request for proposal (RFP) out for updating the program. It is also seeking a corporate sponsor to fund the program.

#### Managing the Lost Person Incident (MLPI)

NASAR selected Dan O'Connor as the editor for the rewrite of the course. Among his credentials is being one of the authors of CASIE. MLPI instructors have supplied their inputs. Once the draft is completed, it will be sent out for peer review by selected experienced SAR managers, including some that are not members of NASAR. One of the requirements of the new course is that it include opposing views on "controversial" SAR issues. The goal is for the new course to be out in 2007.

#### Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC)

Director Lt. Colonel Ben Wash said the AFRCC is in the process of moving from Langley AFB, Virginia to Tyndall AFB, Florida. The move is scheduled to be complete by February 1, 2007.

**Update** (August 2006) - Tyndall ops will be a backup to Langley for normal SAR operations and the lead on disaster ops. Some staff will be assigned to Tyndall, but the main operation will remain at Langley. If you work with AFRCC on missions, you may sometimes work with Tyndall instead of Langley.

#### Personal Locator Beacons (PLB)

The AFRCC program to issue each state a computer system to work PLB missions has officially died. Vermont was the only state to actually get the system, but a couple

of states bought their own (not Colorado). There is no funding (other global activities are taking all the DoD money) and the PLB mission workload that some predicted never materialized. In 2005, there were 116 PLB activations and 66 of those involved the US military (non-combat). Of the remainder, only 5 were distress.

There are 333 PLBs registered in Colorado, putting the state #9 on the list. The top 8 states are all coastal states. Alaska, Florida and California lead the list with each having over 2000 PLB registrations.

The first hiker related PLB save in the lower 48 states was made in May in Washington state, just before the conference. There have been a number of PLB saves, but the others have been aircraft or boating incidents. The case involving the first and second PLB "saves" in 2003 has yet to go to trial.

The first private enterprise Rescue Coordination Sub-Center is scheduled to become operational on October 1, 2006. Procon Inc. leases and sells PLBs which are coded as belonging to the company. If one is activated, the notification is routed directly to Procon which deals with the activation. If Procon determines it is a real emergency, the company will notify the responsible state agency, which is CSRB in Colorado.

#### National Search and Rescue Committee (NSARC)

The presidential and congressional reports on the hurricanes Katrina and Rita responses both make specific recommendations regarding search and rescue. NSARC, which is made up of all the federal agencies responsible for some aspect of SAR, is drafting responses to the recommendations. The committee intends to keep the distinction between "civil SAR" and "disaster SAR." Civil SAR is the everyday SAR guided by the National SAR Plan. Disaster SAR is the large scale, infrequent incident that is guided by the National Response Plan.

Unrelated to the reports, NASAR and Civil Air Patrol have been given seats on the committee. NASAR will represent civilian ground SAR and CAP will represent civilian air SAR. Both organizations have been invited to meetings for several years, but only as observers.

Mike McDonald

## Who gets the Credit?

*By Howard M. Paul  
CSRB President and Public Affairs Manager*

In May of this year many Colorado SAR teams assisted Fremont County SAR in their four day search for an eight year boy that had gone missing from a camp site. He was found by the search effort, in which more than 230 people took part.

At the conclusion of the search the press were quite incessant at the search base -- that's their job which I do not criticize. The PIO for that day eventually relented and the affiliation of the find team was finally revealed. The press then interviewed members of the field team that made contact with the youngster and that raised the eyebrows of some. I will also mention that a CSRB state mission coordinator also took it upon himself to issue news release in which he quoted himself (not an uncommon news release tool), violating the policy of the CSRB and of the state mission coordinators. A passionate discussion to and fro was quite lively for a few days on the Colorado SAR list server -- some correspondents were quite perturbed, to use a polite term.

As long as I have been involved in SAR, it has been the standard of the profession that we do not single out individuals, because it is a team effort of many. That is generally accepted by every team I have worked with in Colorado. A second rule is we list every agency when asked by the press, or we list none - it's all or nothing.

Teams are free to deviate from these standards when it is appropriate to do so. I recall an avalanche last winter at which the subject was located by a ski patrol avalanche dog flown in by Flight For Life. The press wanted to interview the dog handler (they always are drawn to SAR dogs!) and the IC and PIO allowed it -- but before that happened the SAR team PIO quickly briefed the patroller. That resulted in a superb educational piece on the evening news, because the handler stressed the importance of avy safety rules, while professionally downplaying his role.

Shortly before the search in Fremont County, I and a reporter from the Rocky Mountain News discussed this very issue. He wanted to know how to get the inter-

view with the actual person(s) that might have found a missing party. "That is what our readers want to know, from the real person in the field, not a spokesman talking in general terms," he said. I explained the team effort position of the SAR community, which he understood, but wanted to get past.

Back to our Fremont search; George Janson wrote on the list server, "That a particular Team, and a particular individual on that Team, is singled out as having 'found' Evan does, in my opinion, a disservice to the dozens of other Teams and individuals who participated. The particular person who 'found' Evan is just a matter of happenstance -- it could have easily been a different person from a different searching team who happened to be in the right place at the right time to actually make contact with Evan."

*George is right.*

But I soon heard a another perspective, from now-MRA VP Charley Shimanski, who is the CEO of the Colorado Nonprofit Association and previously was the executive director of the American Alpine Club. Charley is a teammate of mine on Alpine Rescue team. He pointed out that we, the SAR community, are intentionally missing out on a superb chance for important PR for SAR teams. We all must raise funds to keep the doors open and our boots on the ground. Such news stories keep the team's good name in the public's mind.

Charley does not disagree with the credit-the-team-effort concept, but says no one should be berated for a little bit of local news coverage by the find team's home news media. In other words, at the mission we are a team but a bit of local PR back at the home of the team is acceptable.

*Charley is right.*

But it is our responsibility to ensure we do this correctly. We, as a state organization, must promote the position that our member teams teach their members that the team effort is paramount. Anytime a team member is interviewed that should play up that fact. As George said, it is commonly the luck of the draw who is assigned the segment the in which the eight year old is scampering about. Teams need to be careful in choosing who will speak to the

press, those with good communication skills and who understand the entirety of the big picture are best.. Which, by the way, was done: the SAR team member that found the eight year old was quoted in the newspaper as saying, ""I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time to help this little guy."

When mutual-aid teams are involved, it is still a best practice to use the list "everyone or no one standard" (even though the longer the list the less likely it is the press will include it, instead of just the aggregate number; and the list reported may not be correct through no mistake of ours -- the news is but the first draft of history). When a member of an assisting agency is serving as spokesman for the search, they should credential themselves as the incident spokesman, not from their own agency. The voice of the incident then is identified as the incident speaking, not one (assisting) agency.

The CSRB is not frequently asked about a particular mission. Generally we will always defer to the local authority, the sheriff, or the SAR team. Our chats with the press are usually concerning "big picture" background information, such as the inquiry I took tonight from an Aspen print reporter; he wanted to know how common was it that SAR teams rescue hikers that have fallen off ridges high on 14ers such as the Maroon Bells. Or, asking about statewide trends, "Is the number of rescues increasing?"

We -- the SAR community -- can take a middle ground position on this issue, as long as we ensure that our teams and our team members are taught, and we remember, that it is the team effort that finds those that are lost, that luck in who is assigned the right segment is important, and that when interviewed by your team's local press, we emphasize everyone's efforts.

## Awards presented at SARCON

Several awards were presented at SARCON, both by and to the CSRB and members. One common theme we hear about Colorado, from others in SAR around the nation, is "how far ahead of everyone else" Colorado is, and what a good system we have here. This is because of the superb work our state's individuals and teams do -- great examples of selfless dedication to the subject. These are well illustrated by awards we and others are privileged to present.

### 2006 J. Hunter Holloway Award

Dennis McLaughlin (below, 2nd from left) was involved in Search and Rescue in Colorado from 1994 to 2006,



with El Paso County SART and SARDOC; he recently moved to Phoenix, Arizona. His nomination, by Marcia McMahon and Ina Bernard, states, "The most special quality about Dennis is his desire to help everyone else. He has encouraged and mentored so many newbies and helped them along to certification. His sheer delight in watching and helping teammates and dogs train and succeed is contagious and does much to advance the quality and enthusiasm of teams in the field." His nomination was for his personal commitment to the professional advancement of Colorado's SAR community, though he is deserving in several of the categories.

Dennis often attended SAR and Dog seminars to improve his knowledge, which he untiringly shared with his peers. He regularly gave lectures for SARDOC gatherings as well as for other groups. In the ten years Dennis has been with SARDOC, he has been the mentor of many of the dog handlers today. When he isn't on a mission, he's at training, helping aspiring dog handlers learn the game. He has always been a tremendously positive force in the dog world, coaxing handlers along and helping them with whatever they needed to work on to advance to testing. He has also participated in countless tests, insuring the quality of SARDOC certified dog teams.

### NASAR State Award for Colorado

Cheryl Kennedy's nomination of Drew Davis and Howard Paul reads, "'For service above and beyond in participating and implementing quality processes for all search and rescue personnel, therefore enhancing the capabilities of all so that 'Others May Live. Drew Davis and Howard Paul have been driving forces for quality search and rescue in the State of Colorado for many years.

As the President of Colorado Search and Rescue Board, Howard has been instrumental in the drive to establish standard-

ized search and rescue processes in the State of Colorado. Howard's expertise as a Public Information Officer as well as an EMS and SAR professional bring very strong skills to the table, yet he has the communication capabilities to get very diverse groups to come to a meeting of the minds. His open minded leadership skills and strong field skills are a strong asset to NASAR.

Drew Davis spent many years working in Emergency Services as a part of his job, while also honing his skills in search and rescue leadership, as well as fire service. He is one of only two people who currently teach Incident Commander and Operations classes for NASAR. Even after Drew retired from active field operations and also retired from the law enforcement, he has continued to be a driving force in the State of Colorado. His knowledge of project management, project group selection, along with a strong background in multiple disciplines has also lead to a continued focus towards quality SAR personnel to optimize the potential for the best outcome for the potential subject.

These two gentleman, Howard Paul (L) and Drew Davis (R), continuously set an excellent example to others, not just on the own teams, or even within the State of Colorado, but on a national level, and as representatives of NASAR. It is my belief that such dedication and example should be recognized."

The award was presented by immediate past member of the NASAR Board of Directors Norm Rooker, now Chief Paramedic of Ouray County (center).



### MRA Award

The Mountain Rescue Association presented its Recognition Award to the CSRB for "Outstanding Support of Multiple Major Search Missions in 2005." The CSRB will obtain certificates for each of the 28 SAR teams active in the five major mutual-aid searches of 2005 (Geneva Lakes search on the west side of Snowmass Mountain, search then Rescue on NW side of Crestone Peak, search on Mount of the Holy Cross, two searches in Rocky Mountain National Park), and each state coordinator of last year for all their dedicated work.



### Peter Peelgrane Scholarship

The CSRB awarded two \$150 Peter Peelgrane Memorial Scholarships to Custer County Search and Rescue Team. The team sent six members to the conference and split the funds among all six.

## SARDOC News

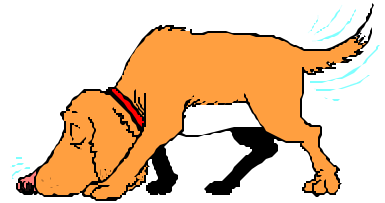
Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado (SARDOC) dog handlers have been busy responding to missions and performing PSAR programs. SARDOC dog handlers have been responsible for 4 finds and one assist to date in 2006. Three of the finds were for deceased subjects and one was a live find; the assist was also for a live subject.

If you are interested in having SARDOC perform a dog related SAR program for your agency or SAR group please contact our director-at-large at [atlarge@sardoc.org](mailto:atlarge@sardoc.org) and we will do our best to ac-

commodate you. Please keep in mind that our travel distances might be limited due to the high cost of gasoline.

If you are in need of SAR dog resources please contact CSRB or call our dispatch direct at 970-416-1985 and ask for the SAR dog dispatcher on-call to be paged.

Ina Bernard  
SARDOC Coordinator  
[www.sardoc.org](http://www.sardoc.org)



## Sincere Thanks From The Harlons

Terry and I wanted to express our appreciation for all the search and rescue efforts made that resulted in Terry's being found on June 1, 2006, near the Little Yellowstone Trail.

We'll long remember these events and are grateful for the care and concern given during our family's crisis. We were impressed with your professionalism and compliment each of you for your hard work.

We do plan another trip to your beautiful state of Colorado in the near future to enjoy your beautiful scenery and wonderful people!

**Terry and Judy**

## International Technical Rescue Symposium

November 3–5, 2006

Marriott Denver West, Golden, CO

The Symposium gathers persons from across the spectrum of rescue disciplines, including mountain rescue, the military, law enforcement, park services, water rescue, outdoor recreation, fire service, and rescue teams, along with equipment manufacturers and distributors. It provides an open forum through which they may share news and views on advances in equipment and techniques, technical problems, and issues of mutual concern:

- New Developments in Equipment
- Improved Techniques
- Medical Considerations in Rescue
- Comparative Team Techniques
- Analysis of High Angle Accidents
- Equipment Testing
- Developments in Helicopter Rescue
- Industry Standards
- SAR Screw-ups

ITRS encourages a free flow of information among participants, including informal evening sessions where attendees share experiences with their peers. Bring your slides so you can share your local experience with other attendees.

## ASTM Meeting November 5–6

A meeting of the ASTM F32 Search & Rescue Standards Committee will be held following ITRS2006 on Sunday afternoon and Monday at the Marriott Denver West.



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

### Upcoming Calendar of Events

CSRB Meeting	9/2	Alpine Rescue
JHPTS Tracking Class	9/8-10	Ft. Collins, CO
CSRB Meeting	11/4	Alpine Rescue
ITRS 2006/ASTM F32	11/2-6	Golden, 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.***