

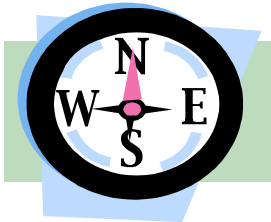
Serving the Colorado  
SAR Community  
since 1966



April - May

2008 Issue

The next CSRB meeting is May 3rd - CMC in Edwards, CO at 1200 hrs.



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

**Colorado Search and Rescue Board**

## May CSRB Meeting

05/03/08

CMC in Edwards, CO (see below)

General Membership Meeting starts at 1200

WinCasie Training after the meeting

### Colorado Search and Rescue Board - On the Road in May

The Colorado Search and Rescue Board will have it's May meeting in the beautiful Eagle Valley. The regular meeting is scheduled for Saturday May 3, 2008 on the Campus of the **Colorado Mountain College (CMC) in Edwards, Colorado** hosted by Vail Mountain Rescue. From the I-70 exit at Edwards, proceed south, turn left at the traffic light (just past the Shell Complex) and follow the road down the hill and you will see the CMC parking lot on the right. If you go past the giant flag, turn around and try again. Vail Mountain Rescue will flag routes to the proper classroom.

As part of the activities, we will hold our regular meeting beginning at 12 noon. There will be updates on resources, the FEMA credentialing project, legislative updates, and the upcoming SARCON 2008 to be held in Gunnison this summer. During the Mission Reports section, Tim Cochrane will review the large search in Mineral County for the two missing snow-boarders from New Mexico and plans to re-open the suspended search back up in May. This will probably be a large effort with two states participating. Tim has been assisting the county sheriff in organizing the next effort which will launch once the snow melts (probably late May or early June). The State Coordinators will keep all interested teams posted about this call-out.

Following the regularly scheduled meeting, a training on WIN CASIE

(windows version of Computer aided search etc.) will be presented by George Janson. If you have a laptop computer and have WIN-Casie installed, bring it along. This class will go from approximately 3pm until 5 pm on Saturday afternoon. This is an important part of all search planners arsenal and hope the class will be a great benefit.

### Managing Large Search and Rescue Operations

As part of our weekend in Eagle County, Barry Mitchell, Senior Coordinator for the Colorado Search and Rescue Board, will put on his program on Search Management for Large Missions. This presentation is geared to Sheriffs and their command staffs, Search and Rescue Coordinators and Emergency Management - anyone who might get caught in a large mission. Anyone is welcome. This program has been presented four previous times throughout Colorado with great success.

The program will be held, Friday afternoon (May 2, 2008) from 2:30-4:30 pm at the **Alpine Bank in Eagle, Colorado** - down stairs in the meeting room. Barry Mitchell and Bruce Fosdick will stick around as late as anyone wants to answer questions after this session.

# News, Notes, and Stuff...

Routt County Search and Rescue is pleased to announce that May will be declared "Search and Rescue Awareness Month" by Governor Ritter at an upcoming press conference! We are still waiting on the details (date, time, etc.) from the Governor's office, but will get word out to as soon as possible so we can have a great showing of support. In the meantime, we would like teams to start putting together simple events to promote the following:

Public awareness of the services provided by their local volunteer SAR team.

Public education in regards to back country safety and what to do in a back country emergency.

The truth about the Colorado SAR Fund and charging for SAR missions.

I am trying to put together some simple public service announcements that teams can forward to their various local media. In addition, it would be great for all teams to meet and greet the public, especially the children. Below are a few suggestions.

Make up sample fanny packs – 1 for adults, 1 for children – with the 10 or more essentials already inside. Take these along with handout lists of the items to the local grocery store on a Saturday morning, to schools, or even to the mall for a few hours and just be available.

Visit area schools and present programs like Hug-A-Tree, or Lost! But found.

Ask the local paper if they would do an insert for free. You may have to make the copies and stuff the papers, but they would do the delivery.

Sponsor a coloring contest through the schools or newspaper and award the winner a t-shirt, a pack with the essentials or even a cash prize (just ask and someone would donate).

Have an open house at your facility.

While we realize this is short notice, however, it is also a great opportunity for the SAR Community of Colorado to get one step ahead of negative publicity, to really inform the general public about our side of certain issues that come up year after year (charging for SAR and who should handle calls), to push public education beyond the Hug-A-Tree program and to do all of this in a neutral non-threatening or aggressive way.

Any comments, questions, concerns or other, just let me know at [ssdawn@yahoo.com](mailto:ssdawn@yahoo.com).

Dawn Alperti

Routt County SAR

**YOUR  
2008  
CSR  
BOARD**

Bruce	Fosdick	B_fos@msn.com	President/D
George	Janson	georgej@nrel.colostat.edu	VP/D/MC
Dan	Remsburg	n0vsx@msn.com	Sec/D/Newsletter
Mike	McDonald	mgmsar@comcast.net	Treas/D
Leonard	Ginther	l.l.ginther@worldnet.att.net	D/MC
Lanny	Grant	lannygrant@sopris.net	D
Tim	Holden	timothy.holden@colorado.edu	D/MC
Joe Ben	Slivka	jbslivka@co.summit.co.us	D
Glen	Kraatz	ggkr1@mindspring.com	D
Barry	Mitchell	n0kv@arrl.net	D/MC
Mike	Smith	k9tracker@netscape.com	D
Ian	Vowles	Ian@modric.net	D

**I did not have any minutes from the meeting, as I was off on a mission during the last meeting. As soon as I can get some notes from the meeting, I will get it posted on our website. In the meantime, I have added a few articles to fill the space.**

*Dan Remsburg, CSRB Secretary*

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### **SAR Icon Passes Away**

Earl Berger, 82, recipient of the J. Hunter Holloway Spirt Award in 1997, passed away this week. Earl is survived by his wife Betty, who was co-recipient of the award. They were both very active in Civil Air Patrol, particularly in communications and ELT direction finding.

Earl's obituary is posted in the Boulder Daily Camera at <http://tinyurl.com/6zgbuf>

Memorial service will be held 2:00 pm, Saturday, April 19, 2008 at Crist Mortuary Chapel, Boulder, CO. Inurnment at 9:30 am, Monday, April 21, 2008 at Ft. Logan National Cemetery, Staging Area B, Denver, CO.

Mike McDonald

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### **Emergency.Net/DHS News**

We are happy to announce the addition of the U. S. Dept of Homeland Security Data Connector on our National Weather Situation Page at...

<http://www.emergencyemail.org/newsemergency/situationpagenews.asp?sit=27>

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

After you click on the above link to our National Weather Situation Page look for the DHS Connector link which is located at the top of the page to access real time constantly updated information being supplied by U. S. DHS to The Emergency Email & Wireless Network. (The location of content can be changed using the Customize button).

This type of fused content is made possible with our partnering with VueTOO <http://www.VueTOO.com> who supplies us with their data fusion content platform.

New content resources will be added to this page in the near future making all of your critical news, weather and information available on one page from multiple sources.

We wish to thank both the U. S. Department of Homeland Security for their data and VueTOO for their unique web

system. We also wish to acknowledge those sponsors whose links appear on this page.

THE EMERGENCY EMAIL & WIRELESS NETWORK  
<http://www.emergencyemail.org>

*Ed. Note: If you have not subscribed to this free service, you need to as you get advance notice of weather systems that can affect you team, as well as other important issues.*

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### **Basic Public Information Officer (PIO) G290 April 22-23 Alpine Rescue Team 28811 Rainbow Hill Rd., Evergreen (Evergreen Parkway at I-70)**

This course is intended for the new or less experienced PIO. Its emphasis is on the basic skills and knowledge needed for emergency management public information activities. Topics include the role of the PIO in emergency management, news release writing, public speaking, and television interviews.

Register on-line at

<http://www.dola.state.co.us/dem/training/75EZ.cfm>. The course name is **Basic Public Information Officers (PIO) G290**, date and location is April 22-23, Evergreen.

The Alpine Rescue Team headquarters building is directly across the road from the El Rancho Restaurant, at I-70 near Evergreen. You might also remember a gas-stop/liquor store/bar/restaurant (formerly the Observatory), on the corner across from El Rancho (it's no longer open). A.R.T sits immediately north by northeast of that site. If you get befuddled, call (303) 526-2417.

From Westbound I-70, take exit 252 [Evergreen Parkway]. At the first traffic light turn right, and then take an immediate right-hand turn onto Rainbow Hill Rd. You'll see the HQ building on your left.

From Eastbound I-70, take exit 251 [El Rancho / Evergreen]. At the stop sign turn right. The road bears to the east and climbs. As you crest the top you'll see Quality Suites and the El Rancho restaurant on your right, and traffic signals ahead. Just before you get to the traffic signals turn left, onto Rainbow Hill Rd. You'll see the HQ building on your left.

Lodging available across the street at Quality Inn & Suites.

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Howard M. Paul, Public Affairs Manager  
**Colorado Search and Rescue Board**  
[www.coloradoSARboard.org](http://www.coloradoSARboard.org)

## Emergency Services Bills at the State Capitol

By *Howard Paul*  
Past President

The Colorado General Assembly this year is considering more bills dealing with (non-law enforcement) emergency services than any time in recent memory. Whether or not it is the result of years of effort by the CSRB, the Colorado State Fire Chiefs Association (CSFCA) and EMS Association of Colorado (EMSAC) I don't know. But given the great interest in emergency services - especially volunteer services - it appears to me that senators and representatives "finally get it." They understand the extraordinary value of non-paid emergency responders: the tens of thousands of hours donated and the millions of dollars of unpaid salaries to SAR techs, firefighters and EMTs. The CSRB, the CSFCA and EMSAC worked together on several of these bills - just as SAR, EMS and fire departments do on calls every day - both in testifying and in drafting necessary amendments to best serve everyone in emergency services. This underscores the necessity of inter-discipline cooperation and assistance.

Bills have many topics

Group health insurance for emergency service volunteers.

HB-1334 would allow counties, fire districts or ambulance districts to create group health plans for volunteers in ambulance services, SAR and fire departments and allow creation of insurance pools. It passed the House on February 27. Testifying on behalf of SAR were Bill Frost of Mesa County Ground Search Team, Dan O'Sullivan, formerly of Larimer County SAR, Jerome Stiller of Alpine Rescue team and Howard Paul of CSRB/Alpine Rescue Team. March 20, it was amended by the Senate Local Government Committee to include "not-for-profit nongovernmental entities" to include private, volunteer EMS services and fire departments and the committee passed the bill unanimously. O'Sullivan, Stiller and Paul testified again that day before the Senate. An interesting aspect of February's House Committee hearing was that the day of the House Local Government Committee hearing was youth day at the Legislature and many kids of elementary school age

were present everywhere (even a marching band!). Rep. Steve King, Delta, speaking of the dozen or so youngsters present at the hearing, noted he wished every child that was present in the House Chamber earlier in the morning could have heard the stories our (emergency service volunteer) witnesses just told and that the volunteers' dedication to serving those that need their help shows that they are the everyday heroes and this young generation should look up to them as models, and volunteer as they do everyday.

Protection of jobs of SAR and Civil Air Patrol volunteers.

HB-1097 passed March 12. It protects the jobs of Civil Air Patrol members and "qualified volunteers" of private (volunteer SAR) organizations that follow specified "registration" procedures and stipulates civil enforcement procedures. It also is limited to "non-essential" employees, but is not limited to certain-sized employers. The CSRB will publish an article explaining the steps needed to implement the law, after the Governor signs the bill.

Creation of pensions for volunteer EMTs.

HB-1315 is modeled after the volunteer firefighters pension program. Members of the EMSAC Board of Directors testified how important such a program would be to retaining and recruiting EMTs for volunteer services statewide. The bill passed the House Local Government Committee February 15 and is awaiting a hearing by the House Appropriations Committee.

Protection of jobs of volunteer firefighters.

SB-116 passed March 13. It protects the jobs of volunteer firefighters who are non-essential employees that leave work to respond to an emergency in their response area which requires all personnel to respond.

Protection of funding in ambulance and fire districts.

HB-1163 sought to address the impact on emergency services districts when an Urban Renewal Authority (URA) imposes Tax Increment Financing (TIF) within the urban renewal area. When URAs impose TIF, property tax revenues are frozen at the level existing at the time the TIF becomes effective. Districts will only receive the revenue from property taxes at the level that exists at the time the project be-

comes effective, for as much as 30 years thereafter (until the bonds are paid off). This despite the fact that as the project progresses, assessed values increase tremendously and frequently the demand for service also expands accordingly. School districts are protected from this freeze because they are made whole by the School Finance Act, but for fire and other emergency services districts, their primary source of revenue is property tax and revenues cannot keep pace with the increased costs of service.

The urban renewal statutes are being used by some municipalities to "blight" properties that have relatively new commercial buildings on them, as well as using Urban Renewal for large pieces of vacant ground that is already planned for development. In many cases, emergency services districts are not consulted regarding the impact of the TIF arrangements. On February 5 the bill was killed by the House Finance Committee.

Increased Accountability Requirements for Special Districts.

HB08-1259's Section 1 would have prohibited any fire or EMS district (ambulance, hospital or health services district) from providing any service outside its boundaries. Obviously, this would have eliminated every mutual-aid agreement for EMS or fire response. The onerous language was removed in the House Local Government Committee on February 28; it passed the House on March 4 and is now awaiting a hearing by the Senate Local Government Committee.

Trauma care funding.

SB-11's purpose is to make up the estimated \$85,000,000 shortfall in collections by ambulance services and hospitals since the elimination of no-fault auto insurance five years ago. It would establish an "emergency responders and trauma care reimbursement fund" by increasing automobile registration fees. It would also require insurance policies to include emergency medical care coverage. It won't be placed on the calendar until its sponsor, Senator John Morse, a former EMT-P who is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, is done with budgeting in mid-April.

# SARCON 08

SARCON 2008 is coming !!! This year's amazing SAR conference will be held at Western State College, Gunnison, between July 18th - 20th. We have added more classes in the past few weeks and encourage you to visit the website: [www.sarcon.org](http://www.sarcon.org) to stay up to date! For those new to Search and Rescue, several solid basic classes have been arranged. These will provide newer members a good grounding and the basic principles of SAR, how to search, stay safe and communicate. Our instructors have many years experience teaching these critical subjects.

Virtually all courses will provide "hands-on" training as well as lectures. After the resounding success of 2006 with the introduction of the 4 hour teaching block concept, we will repeat the same format in '08. Each subject is offered for a 4 hour class, thereby allowing all attendees to have a good chance to really learn and retain the skills. In addition, most classes repeat once increasing the opportunities to attend the classes you want. (See class schedule) As well as the basic introductory classes, which have been so enthusiastically received - where else can you learn map/GPS, basic SAR skills and navigation /tracking all before beer 'n pizza?

We will also be offering a wide variety of challenging and exciting programs for all tastes. These include top instructors in Track Awareness, world authority and leader in the USA for Alzheimer's and the issues faced by searchers seeking such subjects, SAR Data and lost person behavior by a recognized national authority, Clue Awareness and how to really find them!! A seminar on the Analysis of Technical Rescue Systems - how to make it work from and be safe !

You will be able to get your hands on more ropes with the Technical demo of various systems, in particular one of our vendors will be making equipment available to work with and evaluate in your own hands. Forensics and crime scene scenarios, (how CSI is not quite real), Search Theory and its application in Land SAR. Due to the ever changing communications scene, we have added a class specific to today's issues, and as more and more of us come up against ICS in day to day scenarios, we have added a short course for prospective section chiefs .Plus many more attractions

to tempt the SAR volunteers, new and vintage! Further subjects also cover use of air support, how to locate and prepare an LZ, load/unload and fly safely in helicopters, use of air assets and CAP - high birds when radio is an issue, what is available, where and how to get it. We are now advised that CAP will bring their Hyper Spectral GA-8 aircraft which should offer a perspective many of us will never normally see!!

We are looking forward to welcoming back the Colorado Army Guard helicopters and our new instructor team from Flight for Life.

SARCON has so much to see and learn we almost need to make a video of it to enjoy year round !! (Any offers?)

In addition to many chances to sharpen your skills over the weekend, both Friday and Saturday night will feature events, presentations, key note speaker and a BEER 'N PIZZA "Social" - the chance to network and socialize with your peers, browse the Vendors wares and relax in our new exciting venue at Aspinall Hall.

Online payment and registration is available. Our payment system takes Visa and Master Card. You can securely pay online or you can send a check. Simply complete the online registration, print a copy and mail it in. If your agency is a branch of government: Federal, State, or County - we will accept printed registrations from the online system with your purchase order. ( Fax these to: 800-813-2128 ) Cancellations: No matter how hard we try, cancellations cost us money. If you have to cancel, trade with a colleague - we can easily change the name. If it is unavoidable we will do our best to refund you 100% but each case will be evaluated on its merits.

Thank you for supporting YOUR conference, it is a great pleasure to help arrange it.

On behalf of your 2008 SARCON team, we look forward to seeing you in Gunnison!

Ian Vowles

Coordinator 2008



## Vail Mountain Rescue's Tim Cochrane Wins International Mountaineering Award

Long time local, Tim Cochrane, the Eagle County Sheriff appointed Operations Director for Vail Mountain Rescue, has received one of the most prestigious awards in international mountain rescue - The Silver Plaque International Award for Alpine Solidarity. This award, presented by the Italian mountain rescue organization and prized by mountaineers everywhere can only be given to those who have dedicated their life to the alpine aid. This includes not only mountaineers, but all those who have been distinguished in the risky business of rescues in the mountains. It emphasizes the merit of those who put their own life at risk in order to help others.

Past winners of the Silver Plaque Award include many of the climbers, fire and police officers, foresters and mountain rangers around the world who regularly put their life on the line for those in trouble in the mountains. It also includes such notables as Pope John Paul II and the Dalai Lama. The

award has also been won by another Vail local, Dan Aguilar, who received it in 2000.

Tim's background in mountain rescue certainly fits this definition. His rescue career began in 1967 with a tour of duty in Vietnam where his primary mission was combat rescues of downed air crews. That was followed by operational and leadership roles in mountain rescue activities in California, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

Coming to the Vail valley in 1978, Tim has been continuously involved with the Vail Mountain Rescue Group for over 30 years. He has served as a rescue technician and a group leader, as well as his current position as Director of Operations, which he has held since 1982.

During his time in Colorado, Tim has also served on the Colorado Search and Rescue Board since 1980 and has been appointed state Search and Rescue Coordinator successively by Colorado Governors Lamm, Romer, Owens and Ritter. Additionally, Tim has also been very active in the national Mountain Rescue Association, eventually

serving President of that organization.

In his career he has logged over 2,500 missions in various capacities, As a Incident Commander, he has managed over 100 operations involving large numbers of searchers and requiring the coordination of the efforts of many different organizations. Some of these, like the recent search for Michelle Vanick in Eagle County, are well known, but many other searches remain hidden in the mist of time. This anonymity is in keeping with the traditions of both mountain rescue and the Silver Plaque Award, where saving lives, not getting headlines is the major goal.



## Press Release

Members of the K9 Search and Rescue Team, Montezuma County United Search and Rescue, Colorado State Parks, Dolores Fire Department, Pleasant View Fire Department, Egnar Fire Department, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Emergency Services, Amarillo (TX) Alliance of Search K-9's, and Archuleta County Search and Rescue agencies participated in a recent training event focusing on team recruitment, retention and leadership.

The event was held at the Dolores Fire Department and led by Kimberly Kelly Falconer, a renowned search and rescue expert and educator. Participants were challenged to define their own values, passions, and talents and evaluate how well those things were reflected and appreciated by their emergency services involvement. The results included passionate discussions about leadership and cooperation among teams and team members. "Training like this, where we take the time to talk about the fundamental issues that drew us all to this business, makes for better

teams and team members," said Chuck Melvin, K9 Search and Rescue Team Leader.

After the training, the K9 Search and Rescue Team began preparing for several other upcoming events including two scheduled demonstrations of the search dogs' skills: one in Mancos for Kelly Findley's Outdoor Ed class on April 8<sup>th</sup>, and one scheduled for Dolores 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Additional upcoming Team training includes a seminar on identifying bones in the field that will be presented by expert Jerry Fetterman on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Team is also cooperating with other area search and rescue professionals and Colorado State Parks in planning a comprehensive search and rescue exercise to be held in the area of Lone Mesa State Park June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The Team is always looking for members and can be contacted at 970 882 4746, P.O. Box 487, Dolores, CO 81323 or at [www.k9team.org](http://www.k9team.org).

## **Overdue Aircraft found, Pilot Alive and Well**

After midnight, Colorado Wing CAP and Utah Wing CAP received a call for an overdue aircraft that departed Animas Airport at Durango around 11:30 AM Sunday April 6, 2008 and did not return. His wife became concerned and notified the FAA.

After some preliminary research on the weather, radar data, aircraft information, interviewing the family on the pilot and some daylight, Colorado Wing was able to launch two aircraft from southwestern Colorado. Weather kept the rest of Colorado Wing from launching as all the other airports were weathered in. Utah Wing was unable to launch any aircraft because their aircraft were weathered in as well.

Radar data was also analyzed during the night and the flight was tracked to the Colorado/Utah border. Radar coverage in Southeastern Utah is very limited so the track was lost.

The pilot enjoyed using the back country air strips in Utah and had suggested that he would go to one of these locations and return in the afternoon. Continued investigation showed that there were around 250 of these back country strips. The aircraft the pilot had was good for these areas because it has a low landing speed and short landing and takeoff requirements. The pilot moved to Durango in the last 6 months and had landed at these back country strips about every other weekend for somewhere around 10 to 20 trips.

This search required a great deal of coordination between Colorado and Utah Wing Civil Air Patrol, local Sheriff's and the National Park Service.

During the time we were searching a local scenic tour flight spotted the aircraft down on a river sandbar on the north shore of the San Juan arm of Lake Powell. The pilot was seen walking around the aircraft. The National Park Service launched a helicopter to pick up the subject. The pilot was taken to the Park Service office.

He explained he had a mechanical problem on takeoff and got stuck in the sand. He tried for several hours to get the plane unstuck and in the process damaged the prop. He knew another plane could not safely land on the sand bar, so he started walking to another dirt strip (his original intended destination). After 4 hours of walking he built a fire for the night, but was haunted by tarantulas coming on to the warmth. After daylight, a friend flew over, but he realized then that he forgot to bring the ELT with him so he could signal his location. He friend flew around the area a while then left. Finally, he decided he had to get back to his plane and the ELT. Once there, he activated the ELT when an aircraft was overhead.

Colorado CAP had 3 sorties, 6.2 hours and 23 personnel involved.



## **Internet Site Created to Aid Search and Rescue**

An Internet-based SAR organization has been formed to conduct collaborative analysis of aerial and satellite imagery during search and rescue operations to help locate down or missing aircraft or vessels. It officially developed from the Internet search effort for aviator Steve Fossett (for more information on that search see article above). The organization seeks experienced, credentialed Imagery Analysts or SAR observers to evaluate information passed on from volunteers who scan the imagery but who don't necessarily have a SAR background. Users must register and follow the policies of the Web site. For more information go to:

<http://internetsar.org/>



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

**Upcoming Calendar of Events**

Cave Rescue Training	04/26-27	Glenwood Springs
CSRB Meeting	05/3/08	Edwards, CO
EMS Gala and Auction	5/16/08	Littleton
JHPTS Class	6/6-8	Lusk, WY
CSRB SARCON	07/18-20	WSC Gunnison
JHPTS Class	7/25-27	Ouray, CO

**Do not forget  
 the NASAR  
 Conference!  
 5/29-31  
 Colorado Springs, CO  
[www.nasar.org](http://www.nasar.org)**

*Remember to send newsletter articles to: "n0vsx@msn.com". Mail to: Dan Remsburg, 1978 High Chateau Rd., Florissant, CO 80816. Do you have a great SAR photo? Any photos submitted can be scanned and returned.*