



January—March 2000

# NEWSLETTER

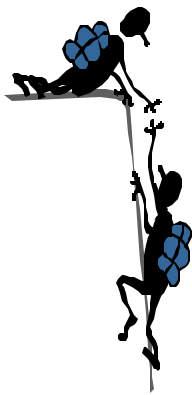
Colorado Search and Rescue Board

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

Visit us on the Web at: "[http://uvb.nrel.colostate.edu/~daveb/csrb/csrb\\_home.html](http://uvb.nrel.colostate.edu/~daveb/csrb/csrb_home.html)"

### Special points of interest:

- In Memory
- SARCON
- SAR Insurance



**The next  
CSRB  
meeting is  
March  
9th  
1930-  
2130 at  
Camp  
George  
West in  
Golden.**

### In Memory - Tom Frazer

The Colorado Search and Rescue Board regrettably announces the death of Tom Frazer, long time member of the Colorado Search and Rescue community. Tom passed away February 14, 2000 after a bout with respiratory problems.

A member of the El Paso County Search and Rescue Team since 1977, Tom has also been active on both a state and a national level having served the Colorado Search and Rescue Board in many capacities; President, Vice president, Secretary and Treasurer. Tom served many terms on the Board of Directors and most recently served as the Senior Search and Rescue Coordinator.

As a State Coordinator, Tom assisted countless county sheriffs and local search and rescue teams find necessary resources to aid in their searches. Tom taught search and rescue management (MSF and Plans Section Chief) through the Colorado Search and Rescue Board.

On a national level, Tom was the Secretary-Treasurer for the Mountain Rescue Association and a member of the ASTM - committee 32 on search and rescue standards.

A professional in search and rescue who rarely had a negative thought about anyone. Goodbye dear friend, rest in peace.

## Alpine MLPI Class



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# CSRБ General Meeting Notes January 13, 2000

**Elections:**

This year there were 6 candidates for the 6 positions open on the board of directors.

Bruce Fosdick	Joe Stevens
George Janson	Keith Conquest
Bill Nelson	John Warner

Keith Conquest made the motion to accept the candidates without a vote. The motion was seconded and there was no discussion. The vote was accepted by all teams present. Fifteen (15) teams were represented in the vote.

The new board consists of:

Fosdick	Bruce	bfosdick@uswest.net	MC/D/ President/ Treasurer	00/01 2nd
Fosdick	Rick	richard.fosdick@lmco.com	D	99/00 1st
Frazer	Tom	tfrazer@earthlink.net	MC/D	99/00 1st
Ginther	Leonard	leonard_ginther@emass.com	D/Secretary	99/00 2nd
Janson	George	georgej@nrel.colostate.edu	MC/D	00/01 2nd
McCabe	Tom	elkheart@compuserve.com	MC/D	99/00 1st
Nelson	Bill	nelsonwd@co.larimer.co.us	D	00/01 2nd
Remsburg	Dan	remsburg@bigfoot.com	D	99/00 2nd
Rhodes	Tom	rhodes@nyx.net	D	99/00 1st
Conquest	Keith	Conqu@mindspring.com	D	00/01 1st
Stevens	Joe	stevens@cmn.net	D/Vice President	00/01 2nd
Warner	John	warner@vampa.com	D	00/01 2nd

**Tom Fraiser:**

Tom's condition is serious. Call Keith Conquest for information. Tom has been isolated for health reasons. Tom is in Colorado Springs Memorial room 5608. Please send cards for now.  
NOTE: Tom passed away on February 14, 2000

**Training:** (George Janson Training Chairman)

Managing the Lost Person Incident (MLPI):  
Alpine is hosting a class February 12-13, 26-27, 2000. This will be at the Alpine Rescue Shack. The cost will be \$150 for non-NASAR members, \$125 for non-voting NASAR members, and \$120 for voting NASAR members. For more information contact Leonard Ginther at: 303-426-4955 (leave message) or l.l.ginther@worldnet.att.net

Idalia is hosting a class in March 10-12, 2000. For more information contact George Janson at: 970-482-2618 or georgej@nrel.colostate.edu

More classes: ElPaso County SAR, Aspen Mountain Rescue, and Gunnison National Park are requesting classes too.

**Plans Section Chief (PSC):**

Spring ElPaso County SAR will be hosting a Plans Section Chief class. For more information contact Drew Davis at: 970-482-4797 or ddavis@frii.com.

**ICSAR:**

The training committee will need to verify if there are any current instructors available for the NASAR course or look for alternative courses and instructors.

MSO vs. MLPI: (Bruce Fosdick, George Janson, and Leonard Ginther)

George Janson now has copies of the student manual for MSO, one for each instructor. Any current MLPI instructor who does not have a copy, please contact George, so he can arrange to get one to you. There was no other work done by this committee. George will initiate e-mail discussion of the MSO Project with the instructors. Anyone wishing to assist should email [georgej@nrel.colostate.edu](mailto:georgej@nrel.colostate.edu) to be added to the list.

SAR Conference: May 19-21, 2000

Routt County SAR is hosting the SAR Conference in Steamboat Springs. This will be at Colorado Mountain College. More details later. For more information contact: Loran Logan - 888-981-1021 telephone voice messaging or email - sckit@cmn.com

**Other Training:**

Operation Lifesaver: AMTRACK  
Lanny Grant disaster drill near Flattops.

**Legislative Updates:**

Paying for Search and Rescue has raised its head again. A review of Colorado Search and Rescue Board's policy on not charging for search and rescue.  
Bill 00-1156 Using communication devices in a vehicle.  
Bill 00-0519.01 concerning the exclusion from Colorado taxable income of charitable contributions made by non-itemizing taxpayer.

**DOLA:**

There is a consideration to relieve people buying multiple licenses getting sticker for \$0.50 and \$2 for education that promotes hunting. Taking this bill in front of legislators has dangers of getting adjusted or removed. Several time the sunset law has been threatened on this bill. Revisions are out for review. Purchasing of licenses is down.

DOLA grants went out. There were 42 requests not all have been finalized. Grants must be in by April 1st with SAR statistics. It is estimated that \$450,000.00 will be available via applications with county sheriff

**Helicopters:**

Fort Carson Helicopters are out for a year. 571 St. Medivac will still be around.  
Army Guard Huey 1Bs have been grounded.  
Inquires are being made at Hill Air Force Base for now.

**SAR Statistics:**

Teams are requested to submit information to CSRБ in order to put together statewide statistics. This information can be downloaded from the SAR software.

Teams applying for grants will need statistics that justify request on grants.

**NASAR:**

No Report.

**MRA Report:**

No Report.

**Search Dogs:**

No Report.

<p><b>ASTM:</b> Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>Newsletter:</b> Keith Conquest made the motion was made to use local vendor to do printing and mailing of the newsletter. John Warner seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The vote carried and the motion was passed.</p> <p><b>Mission Reports:</b></p> <p>Teller County: Quiet.</p> <p>Douglas County SAR: Quiet.</p> <p>Arapahoe: Nothing to report.</p> <p>USFS: Alpine: Saxan Mountain – 11 year old and father from Illinois stop in Georgetown. Used Cell phone took one hour to find or locate. Provider narrowed down to cell. 900 Foot scree evacuation, air lifted head injury.</p> <p>Larimer County: Bill Nelson promoted to Captain of Operations, which includes Emergency Services. Bill intends to continue with active participation in SAR/ES incidents and events.</p> <p>Two missions worth noting: First: Avalanche on Diamond Peaks, likely caused by telemark skier. Detailed write-up is on Colorado Avalanche Information Center's web page, under "Accident Reports" <a href="http://www.caic.state.co.us">http://www.caic.state.co.us</a>. Of note is that during that evening, the ES staff made inquiries about the availability of CDOT resources for control work, should such be needed in the morning. They learned that CDOT only works areas that affect highways. For control work elsewhere, preplans will need to be made with other agencies that have certified blasters, such as nearby ski areas.</p> <p>Second: Combat Rock, a popular, somewhat remote climbing area in the Big Thompson Canyon. Two climbers, leader takes a fall, drops about of 30 feet and sustains fractures on both legs, belayer was unable to arrest the fall.</p>	<p>Rampart: Activated new years eve.</p> <p>Park County: Mostly lost kids who were visiting friends.</p> <p>Routt County: Lots of snow, 8 calls, responded to 6, 15 people rescued. Seven were Metro area people unfamiliar with backcountry preparedness.</p> <p>CAP: No data to report.</p> <p>Search Dog Network: Quiet.</p> <p>Garfield: Steve Crocket is gone.</p> <p>El Paso County: 191 calls, 26 rescues, 46 searches, 5 hasmat.</p> <p>State Coordinators: No report.</p> <p><b>WEB Page:</b> CSRB is looking for a WEB Master to assist in supporting the WEB page at location: <a href="http://uvb.nrel.colostate.edu/~daveb/csrb/csrb_home.html">http://uvb.nrel.colostate.edu/~daveb/csrb/csrb_home.html</a> Dave Bigelow has set up something as an example and will accept HTML files to add on. However, CSRB needs to have somebody organize and update the WEB page.</p> <p>CSRB also has a list server at: (<a href="mailto:csrb@rmsd.com">csrb@rmsd.com</a> .) Subscribe by sending the words "subscribe csrb" to <a href="mailto:majordomo@rmsd.com">majordomo@rmsd.com</a>.</p> <p><b>Other:</b> Dave Bartel memorial was displayed. Plaque will be placed in the new sheriff's training center. Search Dog Network will take care of plaque.</p> <p>Keith Conquest made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, no discussion and was passed in vote.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>TRAINING</i></b></p> <p><b>MLPI Classes:</b> <u>Idalia is hosting</u> a class in March 10-12, 2000.</p> <p>Plains Rescue and Recovery Team, Yuma, CO 10-12 March \$150.00. Contact George Janson at: <a href="mailto:georgej@nrel.colostate.edu">georgej@nrel.colostate.edu</a> or 970-491-3621</p>	<p>Two other MLPI classes are in the planning/ scheduling stage.</p> <p>Planning has begun to host AFRCC/National SAR School's five day "Inland SAR Coordination Course". We're negotiating now to find location and date, which we hope will be in Front Range area in spring 2001.</p>
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**DOLA Search and Rescue Grant**

DOLA Grant applications for the search and rescue grants have been distributed to the county sheriffs throughout Colorado. They are due in Grand Junction by April 1, 2000 and remember you need to include a copy of your mission reports for the year 1999. You can send them to CSRB or the Department of Local Affairs.

## **Insurance, Liability and your Sheriff**

By Deputy Grant MacDonald,  
Jefferson County Sheriff's Department  
and

Howard M. Paul  
Alpine Rescue Team, MRA;  
CSRB Public Affairs Manager

This article was originally published by the CSRB in 1996.

For some time, Colorado's SAR professionals have asked questions concerning Worker's Compensation coverage for members of SAR teams that leave their "home" county to provide mutual-aid. In researching the issue, we have uncovered other related issues of which you, your team and your sheriff should be aware.

### **Worker's Compensation -- whose responsibility?**

Worker's Compensation (WC) insurance for volunteers in SAR is required in Colorado. If your team's workers' compensation insurance is provided by your county sheriff, or other county entity, that coverage follows you when you respond to another county, no matter how your team was requested. The requesting county has no Worker's Compensation responsibility should a team member be injured. If someone is injured, you should of course immediately notify the mission IC and the responsible authority's (county sheriff) representative, as well as your own team. The law also requires you to file the initial notice of injury with your team within four working days.

You should check with your WC carrier and determine if your policy excludes coverage of anyone traveling in a helicopter. You may be surprised. Jefferson County is self-insured, and expressly excludes all but the county's regular helicopter crew -- pilot and observer -- from coverage. If you anticipate your team members ever climbing aboard any aircraft -- civilian, military, government, rotary-wing or fixed-wing -- you should know this.

### **CSRB Policy**

When CSRB SAR Coordinators request teams provide resources for mutual-aid, they do so knowing that WC coverage is the responsibility of the sending agency. The coordinator may discuss this with your team's on call coordinator, but given the circumstances of that

phone call they may not remember to do so. It is the policy of the CSRB to expect that SAR teams are aware of the source of their WC coverage, and will not expect protection from any other source.

### **Locally imposed WC limitations**

Your local authority that provides your WC insurance may place limitations on your team that require you to officially notify them in case you leave the county to provide mutual-aid. Any such requirement should be well planned and spelled out in writing in your team's agreement with the county. A searcher injured on an out-of-county mission of which your county was not officially informed may have no WC insurance!

Your WC provider may also wish to place a geographical or distance limit on your responses that it will cover. If this occurs, it will be helpful if you would advise the CSRB so coordinators can note this in their statewide SAR resources file. If a CSRB coordinator calls your team to request mutual-aid, and you have any sort of WC limits, let the coordinator know. It is the CSRB's policy that coordinators will assume that teams are aware of their insurance source and any locally imposed limitations. Of course, if your team obtains its own WC insurance, these rules do not apply.

### **Liability of the SO**

While a requesting county's sheriff does not assume responsibility for the arriving team's WC insurance, they do assume general liability for any and all actions of mutual-aid teams. This could include claims of injury to a third party, or of negligence on the part of your team or its members. Regardless of any liability insurance you may have in place, as well as team standards or protocols, the requesting county's sheriff is legally responsible for your actions.

### **Can a sheriff delegate authority to volunteer units?**

In 1995, the Colorado Attorney General was asked three questions:

1. "Can the sheriff delegate his authority to... volunteer organizations (involved in SAR operations)?"
2. "What is the potential liability of such an organization for negligence in performing SAR?"
3. "Could the sheriff be held vicariously liable for the organization's negligence?"

The Attorney General's informal opinion, states "the

sheriff cannot delegate overall responsibility to conduct SAR operations within his county; however the sheriff may seek assistance from both public and private sources."

"A volunteer who is authorized by the sheriff to participate in a SAR mission and who is subject to the control of the sheriff is deemed a public employee (CRS 24-10-103.4a), and is covered by the Governmental Immunity Act."

Unauthorized volunteers are not so protected, and "... may be liable for negligent acts of omission or commission..."

"A sheriff may be liable only if the sheriff has a legal duty at the scene, knows that a private unauthorized volunteer is at the scene, knows that the volunteer is incapable of providing assistance, and consciously refuses to attempt to remove or limit the activities of the volunteer."

#### What does all this mean?

Two distinct points come from this. First, as the sheriff is always responsible for SAR operations, your agreement should define how the two agencies will carry out SAR operations. Perhaps it will state that the sheriff, or his representative, will remain the IC; and that the "XYZ SAR Team" will fill the role of operations, plans, etc. Or it may state that the ICS general staff positions will be filled by sheriff's officers (unlikely).

Next, it is very important that your agreement with your sheriff clearly defines who is an "authorized vol-

unteer." Whether the sheriff merely "authorizes" (by whatever means) whomever your team carries as a member, or by a more formal process, your team members must be "authorized" to do so by the sheriff. Lacking this authority, you and your team are not protected from liability.

This second point must also be remembered when mutual-aid resources are called. In many counties, the SAR team itself makes this request -- either direct to other teams, or to the CSRB coordinator. As noted above, only "A volunteer who is authorized by the sheriff to participate in a SAR mission..." means that your county sheriff must authorize the mutual-aid units. Two obvious methods to do this are: the sheriff makes all requests for SAR mutual-aid; or through your agreement with the sheriff, he delegates this action to your team -- which may also require supporting actions such as maintaining a knowledge of the capability of mutual-aid SAR teams, etc.

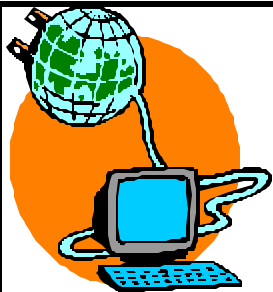
It can be argued that any mutual-aid SAR units, of which a sheriff is not aware and has not "authorized" "...may be liable for negligent acts of omission or commission..."

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Alpine Rescue Team, Colorado, USA  
<http://www.heartbeat-of-evergreen.com/alpine/alpine.html>

Public Affairs Manager, Colorado SAR Board  
[http://uvb.nrel.colostate.edu/~daveb/csrb/csrb\\_home.html](http://uvb.nrel.colostate.edu/~daveb/csrb/csrb_home.html)

Send no attached files without prior inquiry



If your agency is a not-for-profit organization, you may wish to check out: "<http://www.guidestar.org>" to verify the info posted there.

GuideStar is a searchable database of more than 620,000 nonprofit organizations in the United States. Type a name in the Charity Search box to find your favorite charity, or use the Advanced Search to find a charity by subject, state, zip code, or other criteria.

Howard

## SAR 2000 (RESPONSE 2000) TO BE HELD IN COLORADO SPRINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! SAR 2000 (RESPONSE 2000) will be held September 28-October 1 at the Sheraton, Colorado Springs, Colorado. More Details will be posted over the next several weeks.

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

CSRB PRESENTS  
SARCON 2000 May 19-21

SEARCH AND RESCUE  
IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

HOSTED BY  
ROUTT COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE  
Steamboat Springs, CO

Two Day Advanced Ropes with Leo Lloyd

Beginning Ropes

Swift Water First Responder

Varied K-9 Classes - Plus:

Navigation for K-9 Teams

FEMA-Training and Use of Disaster Dogs

Managing an Incident

ICS 200

Helicopter Classes

Communications with Family/Friends of the Subject

Packaging the Patient

GPS and Mapping

ATV

Hug-A-Tree

Tracking

Successful Grant Writing

Avalanche - Rescue Simulator

...and much more!

*Accommodations/Meal Package: Includes Friday/Saturday Night Lodging*

*Dinner Friday/Breakfast & Lunch Saturday and Sunday*

*SARCON 2000 Special Dinner Saturday Night and Class Fee*

**Colorado Mountain College 95.00**

**Fairfield Inn by Marriott King or Double Queen 155.00**

**KOA Campground-Call Direct (970) 879-0273**

**Meals Only: 35.00**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Registration/Class Info Form Will Come to Individual Members**

ONGOING ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS • VENDOR BOOTHS • EQUIPMENT DISPLAYS

# *MLPI Class at Alpine Rescue Base Feb 12-13 & 26-27*



In the wee hours of the morning, teams from across the state assembled at the Alpine Rescue team's building to begin a grueling 4 day class aimed at molding common searchers into the elite managers of SAR missions.

Bleary eyed from hours of driving, they welcomed the wonderful hospitality of the class hosts while blissfully munching on donuts and mainlining cupfuls of coffee. Soon they were ready to begin the ordeal.

It wasn't long before the students realized that the class was going to cover some serious topics about managing a search effort. PODs, POAs, PLSs, and LPKs abounded and ricocheted off the walls as the students became sponges trying to absorb all the information being disseminated.

Welcome relief came in the form of tabletop exercises designed to allow students to apply their new knowledge to actual missions that have occurred. These exercises spotlighted what can go wrong during a mission and how to prevent making the same mistakes through applying professional management principles.

These students came from many walks of life, different backgrounds, experiences, and locations but all carried within them the fire that burns deep within the soul to assist those in need. They all realized that, even though they were from different teams, that they all had a common focus and worked wonderfully together.

Under the watchful eyes of the instructors (Leonard Ginther, George Jansen, Bruce Fosdick, and Howard Paul) students from Alpine, Teller, El Paso, Douglas, Jefferson, CAP, and others I can't remember made it through all four days of the class. They came away with a wealth of new knowledge and a healthy respect for the SAR managers who have been doing this for years. They realized the difference between being a searcher in the field and a SAR manager who must orchestrate all those field teams in the classic mystery of Search and Rescue.

*(Top to bottom: Howard Paul covers a hot topic. Students hard at work on a tabletop exercise. We all made it! Class photo on Day 4 before the final exam.)*

*(Photos taken by Dan Remsburg, not pictured)*





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***Remember to send newsletter articles to me at: "remsburg@bigfoot.com" or fax to 719-687-5457. 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.***