



February – March 2002

NEWSLETTER

Colorado Search and Rescue Board

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

Special Points

Of Interest

- 9-11 Presentation
- Rod Willard
- Classes, Classes

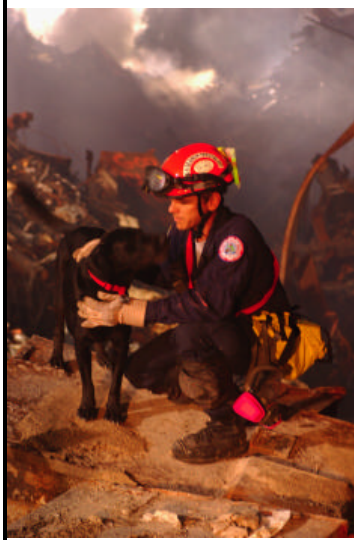


The next CSRB meeting is March 14th at Camp George West in Golden

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CSRB Meeting Special Presentation

Ann Wichmann and Matt Claussen will present a PowerPoint presentation of their deployment to the World Trade Center at the CSRB meeting on March 14th. Ann and Matt deployed as Canine Search Specialists with the Colorado Task Force



One, which is in the FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

The team was deployed on September 21 and returned on October 1, 2001. Please come and learn about the task force system and how the rescue dogs helped locate victims of this disaster.



New York, NY, September 20, 2001 – FEMA Urban Search and Rescue team, from left to right, D. Tosch, H. Orr, K. Gordon, R. Weckbacher and M. Scott, pose for a portrait with their dogs. Photo by Michael Rieger/FEMA News Photo

SPECIAL SELECTION

The Weber County Sheriff's Search and Rescue has chosen K-9 handler Sue Purvis and her dog Tasha as a volunteer search and rescue team member for assistance with the potential search and rescue call-outs during the Salt Lake City 2002 Winter Olympics. The Sheriff's office is responsible for Weber County backcountry, which includes out of bounds ski areas at Powder Mountain and Snowbasin Ski Resorts.



Rescuer Killed In Freak Ice Climbing Accident

Victim Was Ice Climbing With Friends When Ice Fell

Gabriel Elizondo, Staff Writer

Posted: 8:14 p.m. MST January 5, 2002

DENVER -- A man ice climbing with friends near Vail died Saturday (1/5/02) when he was struck in the head with a large chunk of ice, according to the Eagle County Sheriff's Department.



ROD WILLARD

The victim was identified as Rod Willard, 40, of Loveland, Colo.

Willard, a world-class mountaineer and paramedic for the Poudre Valley Hospital Ambulance Service, is well-known in the Colorado search-and-rescue community. Willard once was part of a team that helped rescue French climbers stuck on Ama Dablam

mountain in Nepal, his friends said. He lost part of his fingertips in the effort, according to Tim Kovacs, past president of the Mountain Rescue Association.

Willard also volunteered for six months as a rescue climber at Mount McKinley in Alaska. Willard recently retired as a member of the Larimer County Search and Rescue team, where he served for 11 years and was often seen assisting at some of the major searches in the Colorado high country for the past decade.

"Rod was known in the search-and-rescue community for many, many years," said Don Griffith, emergency operations supervisor for the Larimer County Sheriff's Department. "We lost a good climber and a good friend."

The accident that killed Willard occurred around 3 p.m. while Willard and four friends were ice climbing on a frozen waterfall just east of Vail, on the south side of Interstate 70 in the White River National Forest, Eagle County Sheriff's Sgt. Mike McWilliams said.

Willard was near the bottom of the frozen waterfall helping pull ropes (belaying) when another ice climber above Willard accidentally knocked

free a chunk of ice that hit Willard in the head. Willard was knocked unconscious and transported to Vail Valley Medical Center with severe head and spine injuries. He was pronounced dead at 3:20 p.m., according to McWilliams. "All indications are that it was just a bad accident," McWilliams said. "He was wearing a helmet. It just turned out to be a very large piece of ice that hit him."

The accident has left many in the search-and-rescue community deeply saddened. "He died doing his passion," said George Jansen, a field coordinator for the Larimer County Search and Rescue team. "We should all be as lucky as Rod to pass away while we are doing our passion, our greatest joy."

Jason Greany, Willard's paramedic partner for the past six years, added, "Rod really lived life on his terms. He turned his life into one big experiment. I'll never forget his screensaver on his laptop read 'Get out and do it. Live life.'"

"He was one of the top climbers in the world," said friend Chris Wright, who now lives in Sierra Vista, Ariz. "He climbed to live, not to die." Willard is survived by his wife of five months, Kerry, and a stepson.

FOR SALE

COMPLETE LIGHT BAR/WIG-WAG/SIREN SYSTEM WITH CONTROL UNIT.

One "Code 3 Force 4 LP" light bar with four rotators, a center grill with speaker, and clear lenses (blue and red filters over rotating lights). Includes wig-wags, and a complete control unit that includes wail/yelp/hi-lo, and four light/siren settings. Best offer...

Contact:
Charley Shimanski
cshman@americanalpineclub.org



To those interested in CSRB hat pins:

There are only a few (yuk, yuk) of the CSRB hat pins, which are available from CSRB (\$5 each) - the bag is currently in the custody of the CSRB President - Bruce Fosdick. It is easiest to let Bruce know to bring them to a meeting because it probably costs more to ship them than the pin is worth.

Bruce Fosdick

The CSRB web page is up and running. The URL address is: "www.csrb.org"

Rick Fosdick
Software Engineer - ECDS
Phone: (303) 971-3239
Fax: (303) 971-3807
E-mail: richard.fosdick@lmco.co

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



Fosdick	Bruce	bfosdick@uswest.net	MC/D/President/ Treasurer
Fosdick	Rick	richard.fosdick@lmco.com	D
Wichmann	Ann	awlogan@netone.com	D
Luethy	Phil		D
Hipsky	Skee	Istvan.Hipszky@wcom.com	MC/D
Ginther	Leonard	l.l.ginther@worldnet.att.net	D
Mitchell	Barry	NOKV@arrl.net	D
McDonald	Mike		D
Thorsen	Dave	dthorsen@amigo.net	D
Remsburg	Dan	Remsburg@bigfoot.com	D/Newsletter
Stuebe	Brian	stuebe@dimensional.com	D/Sec
Young	Bill		D/VP

UTS Tracking Class

<p>What: Track Awareness / Tracker I and II Course</p> <p>Sponsors: Larimer County Search and Rescue Web Page: http://www.fortnet.org/lcsar</p> <p>Who: Universal Tracking Service, Inc Web Page: http://www.utstrackingservices.com</p> <p>Instructors: Joel Hardin and other UTS instructors</p> <p>Date: August 23rd, 24th, 25th, 2002 - Friday, Saturday, Sunday</p> <p>Time: Starts: Friday, 8/23/02 at 8:30 AM Ends: Sunday, 8/25/02 at 2:00 PM</p> <p>Agenda: Friday Check In 8:30am at Emergency Operations Center 1303 N. Shields, Ft. Collins (Rolls and Coffee will be provided) Class Session 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch 12:00 - 13:00 (Bring your own or we</p>	<p>will be close enough to town to hit the area restaurants)</p> <p>Field Session 13:00 - 17:00 Dinner 17:00 - 18:30 (Same as above) Field Session 18:30 - 22:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday</p> <p>Field Session 8:00 - 12:00 Lunch 12:00 - 13:00 (Same as above) Field Session 13:00 - 17:00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday</p> <p>Field Session 8:00 - 12:00 Lunch 12:00 - 13:00 (Same as above) Debriefing 13:00 - 14:00</p> <p>We will also make sure there is plenty of cold water and a few refreshments for the field</p> <p>Cost: \$ 150.00 total cost includes tuition, course materials, and refreshments</p> <p>Lodging: Lodging is NOT included. Lodging arrangements need to be made by the Student.</p>
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<p>Dear colleagues in Colorado SAR:</p> <p>It was ten years ago today that Peter Peelgrane and Sky-9 crashed into Horsetooth reservoir as a result of a sudden and catastrophic mechanical failure in the engine. Although his two passengers died in the crash, Peter miraculously survived and lived for three years before he died from complications from pneumonia.</p> <p>As I find myself reflecting on Peter's life, I thought I'd update all on his family and what they're all up to these days...</p> <p>Peter and Karen's son Luke - who was a precocious little 8 year-old back then - is now a very mature 18 year-old man who has already begun a career in the military, following in his father's footsteps. He is working in Special Forces and stands over 6' 2" tall. For his 18th birthday, Karen gave Luke his father's aviator sunglasses.</p>	<p>Their daughter, Tanish, turns 22 this month, and will be finishing her degree in Australia this spring. She has traveled extensively and recently completed a lengthy Outward Bound School program. Last Sunday Tani expressed to me an interest in joining Alpine Rescue Team when she returns to the United States.</p> <p>As for Karen, she has continued her efforts with the Brain Injury Foundation, and has given many lectures on alternative treatments for brain injury and other physical ailments. She still lives at the family homestead on South Marion in Denver - and is doing quite well.</p> <p>To date, Peter Peelgrane is the only recipient of the "Lifetime Achievement Award" of the MRA Rocky Mountain Region, and an Honorary member of Alpine Rescue Team. The pool room at the Peelgrane home remains as a tribute to Peter, with a lifetime's achievements all adorning a "wall of fame."</p> <p>Charley Shimanski</p>
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CSRB and Mesa County SARC are Co-hosting MLPI Training

Colorado Search and Rescue Board and Mesa County Search and Rescue Control are co-hosting National Association for Search and Rescue's (NASAR) Managing the Lost Person Incident class in Grand Junction. This class will be 24-hours (4-days) of classroom training, April 20-21, 27-28, 2002.

This class recommends that students have ICS-100 (Introduction to Incident Command System) before taking the class. During this class we will cover a range of search and rescue topics. There will be a few tabletop map exercises included in the class. The class is designed for Search Managers and does a fair job of covering the "Operations" part of Search and Rescue. More information on the class can be found

at www.nasar.org. This is a certified class and NASAR requires 70% passing grade on the test to get certification of completing the class.

Mesa County SARC has opened this class up to all teams and there is a limited availability in the class. The cost will be \$175 for non-NASAR members and this includes a year individual (voting) membership in NASAR. For teams that have a Team Membership with NASAR (non-voting) the cost will be \$160. For individuals with individual NASAR memberships (voting members) the cost will be \$155.

People interested in taking the class can get more information by contacting, Leonard Ginther at 303-426-4955 Home Phone (Please leave a message) or l.l.ginther@worldnet.att.net.

Larimer County Search and Rescue is hosting the MRA Spring Conference 2002.

The dates for the conference are:
June 7, 2002, Friday thru June 9, 2002, Sunday

The conference will be held at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado.

It is time to start making plans for attending the conference. For information about the conference, visit the Larimer County Search and Rescue web site at <www.fortnet.org/lcsar> and click the link "MRA

Conference 2002". The web site will be updated as conference plans develop. Please spread the word about the conference to your team members and anyone else who may be interested in attending.

For conference registration and information contact:
Don Davis
Larimer County Search and Rescue
8415 Coyote Run
Loveland CO 80537-9665
Phone: 970-669-9016
E-mail: <<mailto:dondavis@frii.com>>

The Colorado Cave Rescue Network
is sponsoring a 2-day hands-on seminar: "An Introduction to Cave Rescue". It will be held at the Cave of the Winds in Manitou Springs on April 13 and 14, 2002.

This two-day course is designed as a basic orientation to cave rescue. The class is geared toward cave explorers, emergency services professionals, law enforcement, and rescue personnel who wish to expand their knowledge and experience into the specialty of cave rescue. Our seminars usually have a 50-50 mix of cavers and SAR. No previous experience in caving or search and rescue is required.

Topics:
Introduction to Cave Rescue
The Rescue Process
Underground First Aid, Problem Recognition, and Treatment
The Cave Environment
Cave Safety
Medical Considerations and Hypothermia

Underground Communications
Patient Packaging and Transport Techniques

Saturday April 13 will be held in a classroom and will include lectures, slide shows, hands-on patient packaging and communications. Sunday April 14 will be a mock rescue in a local cave

Both days will run from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The charge is \$20 per person for non-NSS members (National Speleological Society), and \$15 for NSS members. Applications must be received before 5 April 2002. Registration after deadline will be \$30 per person.

For information, contact Steve Reames at (719)495-0141 or email at reames@diskdrive.com

Hunting Guide Battles Rescue Bill

January 18, 2002

By Melanie Brubaker Mazur
Herald Staff Writer

A Bayfield hunting guide's backcountry medical emergency has turned into a battle over a \$2,610 bill.

Mike Attebery, 43, said he won't pay a bill from Mercy Medical Center until he receives a breakdown of the medical costs incurred during an emergency helicopter flight to the hospital.

The incident occurred the morning of Sept. 13, when Attebery, a guide for Over the Hill Outfitters, was preparing to head down the mountain on the final day of a hunting trip.

He was rounding up horses when the pain hit. Attebery, who has broken bones steer wrestling in rodeos, said the intensity was like nothing he had ever experienced before. He became sick to his stomach, and a piercing pain shot up his back and right side.

Randy Palmer, the owner of Over the Hill, asked Attebery if he thought he needed to fly out from the camp, about seven miles north of Vallecito Reservoir. Attebery didn't think he would survive the six-hour ride on horseback, but he had a fishing license and knew the 25-cent surcharge he'd paid to the state's Search and Rescue Fund would cover the cost of a flight to Durango.

Attebery was flown by helicopter to Mercy, where it was found he was passing a kidney stone. He didn't have health insurance to pay for the \$1,700 procedure to break the stone into small pieces, so he got a prescription for painkillers and went home.

In October, Attebery took another painful hit: a bill for \$3,325.30 from Mercy.

Attebery said he doesn't have a problem paying \$830 for the IV and fluids a paramedic gave him in the helicopter or the tests and procedures in the emergency room. What he took issue with was a \$2,324 line item for "AA Acute Base-Rotary."

The item was especially troubling because the La Plata County Sheriff's Office, which conducted the search and rescue, had already covered a \$620 bill from New Air Helicopters for the flight and was reimbursed by the Colorado Search and Rescue Fund.

"I'm being charged twice for the helicopter, and that's \$2,600," Attebery said. "For a guy that's a horseshoer, that's a lot of money."

Attebery said he's asked the hospital for an explanation of the charge or a copy of the hospital's policy on how the charges are figured, but he hasn't received a satisfactory answer. The bill also contained a separate charge for flight mileage – \$270 for the 20-mile round-trip. Paul Gibson, supervisor of Mercy Air Care, said such charges are typical for backcountry emergency flights. Although he said he can't discuss specific patients' bills because of privacy regulations, he said the Search and Rescue Fund pays for the rental of a helicopter and other costs associated with search operations. However, the fund doesn't cover medical service. The charges Mercy Air Care bills for backcountry emergencies cover the cost of paramedics, physician advisor time, liability insurance for the hospital, markup and other costs, Gibson said.

"People say, 'It only took five minutes,' but it goes way beyond that five minutes," Gibson said.

Gibson said flight bills are in accordance with hospital policies, and Mercy's rates are cheaper than what other helicopter services charge.

Tim Sarmo, regional manager with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, which administers the Search and Rescue Fund, said the fund covers only expenses associated with the search and rescue of a licensed person.

"It's not insurance for victims," he said. "It covers expenses by search and rescue teams."

Sarmo compared the situation to one in which someone has a heart attack on the street. If an emergency medical technician arrives in an ambulance, those costs are the individual's responsibility, he said.

La Plata County Director of Search and Rescue Butch Knowlton said the fund was started in 1987 by the Colorado Legislature to help sheriff's departments pay for search and rescue operations, which they are required by law to conduct. Until that time, taxpayers were shouldering the costs.

Originally, the fund was meant for hunters and anglers who paid the 25-cent fee as part of their license, Knowlton said. As the number of hikers, canoeists, mountain bikers and other recreationists grew, so did the need for searches. As a result, a hiker's certificate program was started several years ago, charging \$3. Now called the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Card, it's available at Colorado Division of Wildlife offices and many outdoor stores. If someone requiring a search doesn't have a certificate or license, the costs are borne by sheriff's departments.

Unlicensed people can be billed by the sheriff's department for the cost of the search, although that is not typical, Knowlton said.

On the advice of his lawyer, Nancy Agro, Attebery is not paying the bill from Mercy until he receives what he thinks is an adequate explanation of the charge.

"It seems to me like they should be able to explain this figure," Agro said. "A \$2,000-plus item deserves an itemization."

Mercy has notified Attebery that it is submitting the bill to a collection agency. He won't pay it, he said, and he thinks it will go to small-claims court. "I'm not going to pay it until I'm told what it's for," he said.





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

The Last Laugh

The latest in the government and industry's attempts to protect us from ourselves or prevent frivolous lawsuits:

From the instruction manual on using the back light of my new Casio altimeter watch:

"Warning! Never try to read your watch when mountain climbing or hiking in areas that are dark or in areas with poor footing. Doing so is dangerous and can result in personal injury."

Howard

Remember to send newsletter articles to: "remsburg@bigfoot.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.