

April—May 2003

NEWSLETTER

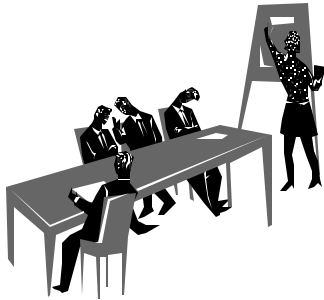
Colorado Search and Rescue Board

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

Special Points

Of Interest

- Shuttle Search News
- Trainings
- New Canteens!
- MRA Re-cert



The next CSRB meeting is May 8th at Camp George West in Golden

CSRB and the Shuttle Report

In mid-February, CSRB was asked by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support the Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery Search in Texas. Columbia disintegrated during re-entry on February 1, spreading debris from possibly as far west as the California coast to Louisiana. The search was concentrated in east Texas in an area approximately 10 miles wide by 240 miles long. Ground search was concentrated two miles either side of the 240 mile long centerline representing the ground track of the shuttle.

Members of Alpine Rescue Team, Douglas County SAR, El Paso County SAR, Larimer County SAR and Rocky Mountain Rescue Group responded. Vail Mountain Rescue Group and Park County SAR had personnel on standby. The Coloradoans worked with SAR personnel from several Washington state teams. FEMA used wilderness SAR personnel from only these two states. The Colorado contingent supported operations at the search bases in Corsicana, Hemphill and Palestine. There was a fourth search base in Nacogdoches.

All field personnel, including the SAR members, had to go through an orientation to the overall search. The emphasis was on safety since there were many natural and shuttle related hazards in the search area. Shuttle hazards included toxic fuels, pressurized containers, explosives and biological experiments. These paled in comparison to the more prevalent natural hazards: alligators, feral hogs, wild boars, six kinds of poisonous snakes, poisonous spiders, ticks, mosquitoes, poison ivy, swamps and swamp gas. Tornadoes, lightning and heavy rain were also problems. Daytime temperatures in the last weeks of the search were in the mid-80's with humidity above 50%, while early in search the opposite was a problem - freezing weather.

The worst problems though, were the vines and thorns. Thorns ranged in size from 3" spikes down to rose bush sized ones. These were so bad in areas that searchers became "human Velcro," getting caught on so many thorns at one time that they couldn't move. Vines were so numerous that they too, could stop searchers dead in their tracks. Some people took to carrying pruning shears to cut their way out. Most search crews carried sticks made from downed tree branches or 5 foot lengths of wooden closet rod available from supply. The sticks were known as "whack-its" for their use in the brush, but once the snakes started coming out, the name had a second meaning, and then sticks also became known as "poke-its."

The primary job of the SAR personnel was to train searchers in grid search, and then to evaluate the crews in the field to ensure that they were searching properly. NASA set a goal of 50% to 75% probability of detection (POD) of a piece of shuttle material 18 to 24 inches in size.

Search training consisted of a 20 minute PowerPoint presentation followed by a brief field practice. The search crews were all wildland firefighters ranging from experienced Type I hotshots to brand new Job Corps crews. Since the firefighters already knew (for the most part) how to work as a team in the field, the objective of the train- *Continued on page 3*

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News, Notes, and Stuff...

May 28-31, 2003

Don't miss NASAR's 31st Annual Conference and Exhibition!

What do Personal Location Beacons, "Surf Rescue," and the Columbia Space Shuttle Disaster all have in common? They are all workshop topics at NASAR's annual conference. This year's event is shaping up to be the biggest and best in the organization's history. Featured presenters will include notables such as tracking expert, Ab Taylor, and SAR dog guru, Sandy Bryson. Bo Derek has been invited to serve as Mistress of Ceremonies for the opening ceremonies. March 14, 2003 is the deadline for "early bird" discounts, **register today!**
<http://www.nasar.org/general/conferences.shtml>



UTS Tracking Class

El Paso Search and Rescue will be hosting a UTS Track Aware/TK1 class May 9-11th at their base: 3950 Interpark Drive in Colorado Springs. Pre-register for the course prior to April 29th. For more info, contact Paula Allen @719-264-2439 or e-mail: "allenpaula@aol.com". Further details can be seen at the UTS website: "www.utstrackingservices.com".



UTS Tracking Class

San Juan County Search and Rescue will be hosting a UTS Track Aware/TK1 class July 25-27th in Silverton. Pre-register for the course prior to July 15th. For more info, contact Pat Swonger at (970) 387-5857 or e-mail at: pswonger@vidion.com. Further details can be seen at the UTS website: "www.utstrackingservices.com".



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



UTS Tracking Class

Larimer County SAR will be hosting a UTS Track Aware/TK1 class September 12-14th in Ft. Collins. Pre-register for the course prior to September 1st. For more info, contact David Hake at (970) 498-0664 or e-mail to: dhake@frii.com. Further details can be seen at the UTS website: "www.utstrackingservices.com".

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	B_FOS@msn.com	MC/D/President/ Treasurer
Wichmann	Ann	awlogan@mindspring.com	D
Jansen	George	georgej@nrel.colostate.edu	D
Ginther	Leonard	l.l.ginther@worldnet.att.net	MC/D
Mitchell	Barry	NOKV@arrl.net	D
McDonald	Mike	mgmsar@attbi.com	D
Thorsen	Dave	dthorson@starband.net	D
Remsburg	Dan	remsburg@bigfoot.com	D/Newsletter
Stuebe	Brian	stuebe@dimensional.com	D/Sec
Young	Bill	wyoung@frii.com	D/VP

Continued from page 1 ing was to orient them to the proper spacing, alignment and speed needed to achieve the desired POD. To evaluate the crews, the SAR personnel followed them on their search assignments.

The vast majority of crews made good searchers. Some needed help from SAR to get started, but after a couple of days in the field they got the method down. Crew motivation and attention while searching was demonstrated by their finding quarter size pieces of shuttle, pieces in the trees, pieces that were found by following angled marks and broken branches on trees and even pieces that were buried in the ground. Crews would spot a suspicious hole or mound of earth and probe it with their sticks.

When not training, evaluating or assisting search crews, the SAR personnel flagged grid lines, searched areas where it would be inappropriate to send an entire crew, taught searchers how to use a compass or GPS and assisted with field medical emergencies (EMTs, paramedics and ambulances were with the crews in the field) . There was almost a missing person search one evening in Palestine, but the missing person, from NASA, was found just as operations was activating SAR. He had walked out of the search grid in the wrong direction.

Search operations at each base were organized into four to six groups, with each group having four or five strike teams. A strike team consisted of a leader and two 20 person crews, each led by a crew boss. These were the search crews. In the field with each crew were NASA employees and EPA contractors. NASA would help identify what was found, and the EPA contractors recorded the locations with GPS, photographed the pieces, and collected them. In addition, each group had medical, safety and law enforcement officers. A fully staffed group had between 200 and 250 people, so each base had between 1000 and 1250 people in the field on a good day.

Each search base was set up like a large fire camp and managed by a Type I Incident Management Team. There were between 1200 and 1500 people at each base including all the overhead personnel and contractors such as catering and laundry. All these people and the search crews slept in tents in the bases. Unlike fire camps though, all the tents were under some sort of roof because of the weather. At Palestine, the entire base was located inside an old factory that covered about 6 acres. In Hemphill, the base was at the rodeo grounds. The main arena was covered but had no walls, and was not large enough for everyone, so "circus" tents had to be used for overflow sleeping areas.

The NASA, EPA and SAR people had motel rooms since they didn't work directly for the Type I teams. Except in

Hemphill, where the management policy was that everyone slept in a tent, including the SAR personnel. NASA and EPA were exempt from this policy because it was their search, and the incident team was working for them and FEMA. The SAR members at Hemphill tried the argument that they were part of FEMA, and therefore exempt from the policy, but this argument failed, even with the intervention of FEMA.

In addition to the ground search, there was an air search involving some 50 helicopters and a dozen fixed wing aircraft. The air search concentrated on the areas beyond the four mile ground search corridor, but some air operations were conducted in the ground search areas. Unfortunately, a search helicopter crash killed two of the five people on board. There were no serious ground accidents, but one searcher suffered a stroke in the field.

A search diving operation, with over 160 divers, sonar and remotely piloted underwater vehicles was conducted by the Navy and Coast Guard in the Toledo Bend Reservoir on the Texas-Louisiana border. Although radar showed, and eyewitnesses saw, debris go into the water, the search turned up very little. The reservoir was filled with trees, houses and vehicles which were not cleared out before the area was flooded.

Success and progress were measured by how many bags of material were collected and how many acres were searched each day. A bag could have one or more pieces, so the bag count did not indicate how many pieces of shuttle were actually found. On a good day, the bag count would be a couple of hundred with about 3000 acres searched. Acreage depended on the difficulty of the area as much as it did on the number of searchers. Overall the searchers averaged just over 3 acres per day per person.

Approximately 78,000 pieces of Columbia have been found which account for about 37% of the shuttle by weight. This far exceeds what NASA expected to find. As of April 28, almost 640,000 acres have been searched. The Hemphill and Palestine bases are closed and the remaining ground search operations are to end on April 30.

This was the largest ground search ever conducted and was a once-in-a-lifetime event (hopefully). All of us who participated are honored and privileged to have been a part of it, and thank FEMA, CSRB and our home units for giving us the opportunity.

*Mike McDonald
Douglas County SAR*

The Salvation Army Replaces Aging Canteen (Food Service) Vehicles



The new mobile kitchen is being placed in service this month. It was custom manufactured in Los Angeles by AA Cater Trucks. The unit is 25' in length and is built on a Cummins Freightliner Chassis. The vehicle weight 17,000 lbs empty is 12' tall. The vehicle is a 10' wide including mirrors. It is totally self-contained commercial kitchen equipped with six burners, a 36" griddle, and two full size convection ovens. The kitchen has a four-pan steam table, a self-service warming oven, and hot/cold beverage service.

A new 3500 Chevrolet pickup chassis has been equipped with a new catering body and replaces the 1977 "cold truck" canteen that is being transferred to Cheyenne, Wyoming.

A grant from Xcel Energy and the use of equipment reserves collected over the past three years made it possible for The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services Program a.k.a. E. D.S. to replace the mobile kitchen canteen unit. "Canteen" is a generic term for any unit of The Salvation Army that is capable of serving food. The 1983 Chevrolet mobile kitchen will be transferred to another Salvation Army unit to be determined. The 16' kitchen trailer purchased three years ago will remain in service in the Denver area.



Denver based units serve the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Grand, Jefferson, and Summit Counties. Park County could be covered by either Denver or Colorado Springs. Eagle and Routt could be covered by either Denver or Grand Junction depending on location and access to the area. Other areas of the state are covered by The Salvation Army canteen closest to the search or disaster. Other Colorado canteens are based in Fort Collins, Grand Junction, and Colorado Springs.

The Salvation Army is looking for donations of communications equipment both VHF high band mobile and UHF equipment both mobile and portable. Any communities that are going to 800MHz or upgrading equipment that have working radios not being used that are operable in these bands please contact Michael Gelski (303) 296 2456.

INTERMEDIATE INCIDENT COMMAND (I-300)

May 16,17,18

Drew Davis and Assoc. and Larimer SAR are hosting a I-300 class.

Where is it?

The course will be held at the **Routt County Rescue Barn, 911 Yampa St. Steamboat Springs, CO.** Class will begin at 8:00 AM each day and go until approximately 5:00 PM.

How do I register and what is the cost?

The cost of the course is \$300 per person including course materials and breaks. You may register by mailing the attached registration form and sending payment to Routt County Search and Rescue POB 772837, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477 or by faxing or E-mailing Russ Sanford (RCSAR vice president and training director) at 970-879-8041: fax, 970-879-8040: voice, rtsanford@yahoo.com

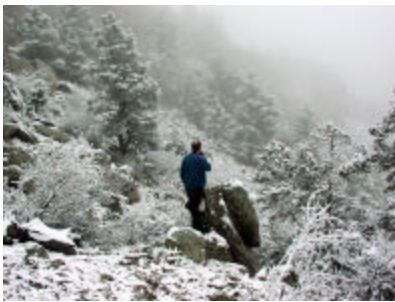
The deadline for registration is **May 12th**

MRA News

As Regional Vice-Chair for the Rocky Mountain Region of the MRA I can report that Rocky Mountain Rescue Group of Boulder successfully completed their Regional Re-accreditation on April 5-6. Each Rocky MRA team must be evaluated by their peers every five years in five areas of expertise: high angle rock rescue, low angle (scree) rescue, winter technical rescue, avalanche rescue and search. Over 40 evaluators and observers from 12 MRA units participated in the exercises.



Avi setup - Mike Cronin (Grand County SAR) and George Janson (Larimer County SAR) prepare to set up the avalanche scenario at Caribou. "Jim" was buried near the top of the slope and would later be evacuated in the winter technical scenario.



Jim Gallo (RMRG) looks over the scree scenario. RMRG performed a 600 foot litter uphaul with their cable system.



Evaluation team - most of the evaluators and observers pose while waiting for RMRG's response to "calls for help." The team was requested to respond to two separate rescue situations simultaneously and did a excellent job of dividing resources to expedite the rescues.

Greg Foley
Regional Vice-Chair
Grand County SAR

Communicating in a Crisis:

Risk Communication Guidelines for Public Officials, 2002

Communicating effectively during a crisis takes planning, preparation, an understanding of communications protocols, messaging and the media, and the ability to manage the flow of information. Each is a challenge that can be met effectively, to the benefit of those receiving messages in times of crisis.

Communicating in a Crisis: Risk Communications Guidelines for Public Officials is a brief, readable primer that can help you do just that. It describes basic skills and techniques for clear, effective crisis communications and information dissemination, and provides some of the tools of the trade for media relations. It can help you prepare for meeting the important responsibility of communicating with the public both directly and successfully during a crisis.

<http://www.riskcommunication.samhsa.gov/index.htm>



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

Upcoming Calendar of Events

UTS Track Aware/TK1 Class	5/9-11	Colorado Springs
I-300	5/16-18	Steamboat Springs
NASAR 31st Annual Conference	5/28-31	Reno, NV
UTS Track Aware/TK1 Class	7/25-27	Silverton
UTS Track Aware/TK1 Class	9/12-14	Ft. Collins

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.