



June—July 2003

NEWSLETTER

Colorado Search and Rescue Board

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

Special Points Of Interest

- Jaryd Atadero—2nd Look
- Trainings
- DOLA News
- HIPAA Info



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

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JARYD ATADERO SEARCH a second look

George Janson, Field Co-ordinator, Larimer County Search And Rescue Team

Many of you have, by now, learned of the recovery of human remains that may be those of Jaryd Atadero – a 1999 search in Larimer County at which many of you likely participated, that garnered international media coverage. For those of you unfamiliar with this case, a synopsis follows.

Saturday 2 October 1999 is a pleasant blue-sky day, the autumnal colors still brilliant along the Big South Fork, a popular trail located 48 miles (an hour's drive) up from the mouth of the Poudre Canyon. Jaryd, age 3, his sister Josslyn, age 6, and eleven members of a Christian Singles Group begin the hike at about 10:00 that morning. Allyn, the father, at that time the proprietor of the Poudre River Resort, does not accompany the group on the hike. (Jaryd's mother, divorced from Allyn, resides in southern California.) Two fishermen begin their trek up this same trail shortly after the group, and as the church group straggles apart, gradually work their way ahead. Jaryd is running between the adults, not minding them very well, and being very talkative with the fishermen. As the fishermen approach campsite 2, about 1½

miles up the trail, they find a fishing hole they like, and checking to be sure Jaryd has not followed them to the river's edge, see him walking rapidly up the trail adjacent to the post marked '2'. Down the trail, about 50-80 feet away, they see the lead hikers of the church group. Presuming that those folks have Jaryd in sight, they turn their attention to fishing. They are the last people to see Jaryd alive. It is now about 11:30.

Realizing that Jaryd is no longer among them, the group begins to call and search for him, doing so for about an hour, before sending several back to Poudre River Resort to alert Allyn. Allyn joins the group to search and call for Jaryd for another hour, then returns to the lodge just after 14:00 and calls 911. The page to the on-call Emergency Service Specialist, Lt. William Nelson, is sent at 14:26, followed at 15:07 with the page to the on-duty SAR Manager, George Janson. The lag in alerting the SAR resources is [standard procedure] to allow the mountain deputy to verify that, indeed, a search is needed. It is about 16:30 when resources begin arriving at the trailhead, where the ICP is situated. Sunset is 18:41 – twilight ends at 19:08 – the waning crescent Moon will appear at 00:46 Sunday, though little of it's light will be able to penetrate the depth of the narrow Big South Canyon.

Big South Fork of the Poudre River twains Never Summer

Range (on west) from Mummy Range (on east) as it threads northward down this steep-walled glacially gouged trough in the 8,000-10,000 elevation Montane Zone. Dense woodlands of aspen, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and Englemann spruce crowd each of the east and west facing slopes, and willow thickets thrive along the river's edge. The trail runs the length of the east side, entering the Comanche Wilderness about a ½ mile up from the trailhead. The ICP is at the trailhead at 8,440 elevation, the southern terminus of Peterson Lake is at 9,490 elevation, the east ridge tops out at over 10,200 feet, and the west ridge at about 10,000 feet. Sixteen designated camping areas are irregularly spaced along the 7 mile length of the route. We begin to use these designator posts along the trail as a 'mile marker' system for determining search areas.

We send trackers to the LSP, then dog teams and search teams from the lower trailhead (the ICP) and the upper trailhead at Peterson Lake, in a 'pincer movement', expecting to find Jaryd somewhere along, or adjacent to, the trail. The teams meet between campsites 7 and 8, at about 20:00, with no sight or sound of Jaryd. At the ICP we realize we're in for a long night – not the quick find we were expecting in this terrain. We expand our plans, and order more resources, plus a helicopter, for arrival at first light, 07:00 Sunday.

News, Notes, and Stuff...

Icelandic Association for Search and Rescue

At the recent Washington State SAR conference the Icelandic Association for Search and Rescue reported on a new training CD they are developing. Everyone in the audience wanted a copy, even though the presentation was done in Icelandic. A CD in English is in the works, but meanwhile, visitors to the website can get an English translation on the web by clicking on the English tab found in the bottom left hand corner of the home page. <http://www.landsbjorg.is>

Canine Shuttle Searcher has Health Problems

Colorado Task Force member Lee Dunn and his border collie Sky responded to the Columbia Shuttle Disaster to search for human remains. Sky is well qualified for the work, as he is a Type II FEMA disaster dog, as well as a wilderness and human remains detection certified dog in his home team (Beartooth Search Dogs – Montana).

After searching for several days, Sky was injured by one of the nasty thorns so prevalent in the Texas search areas, and developed a joint infection from the wound. Lee took him home, and last Sunday (May 4th) Sky was kicked by a mule and his front leg was badly broken. Upon taking him into the veterinarian for surgery, it was discovered that his kidney values were tremendously elevated; most dogs would have been comatose with these values. It is believed that the cause is leptospirosis, which is apparently common in Texas. In a sense, it was very lucky that Sky was kicked, as otherwise the kidney failure may have gone undetected until too late. Perhaps a lesson learned is to perform baseline blood tests both prior to and post deployment to a different environment. We all hope that Sky will recover fully!

Law Bytes: Are You Really Covered Under the New HIPAA Privacy Rule?

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) seems to have a lot of people in the emergency management, EMS, and SAR world slightly confused. Are you required to follow this act or not? The article from Merginet provides detailed analysis of how the act might impact you.

http://www.merginet.com/emsnewsfiles/503_17.shtml



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”.



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>



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The more we learn of this energetic child's activities, the more we realize he's likely sleeping soundly, and might not hear the search teams, so we relay information to the searchers, asking that they begin looking for likely spots where Jaryd might be sleeping. More information from the family reveals that Jaryd typically wakes up at first light, so the field teams are asked to be extra vigilant as dawn approaches. First light into the canyon floor came and went, with no sign of Jaryd. By now, the additional field teams get their briefing, to concentrate farther off trail, and look for places Jaryd could be hiding. We task them to search slowly and very thoroughly, in 'crawl mode', looking into and under any place a small child could take refuge. Dive Team resources are deployed to search in the river adjacent to the high probability zone, and the FE Warren Air Force Base UH-1N helicopter is due in at any time.

The helicopter will fly three sorties. For the first one, they stay relatively high flying above the Big South terrain, going up and down the canyon and it's adjoining ridges, including around Barnes Meadow Reservoir. After refueling, they fly lower altitude, up and down Big South Canyon again, then up and down the various side drainages that emanate from the canyon. Our next task will have them fly as low and slow as possible above the various scree, talus, rock, and cliff outcroppings along the trail, beginning at the one closest to ICP. They ask for an observer. Mark Sheets has just arrived at ICP, to relieve me as Operations Section Chief, and we decide it's prudent for Mark to go as observer; he is rested (whereas I have been up most of the night), the overview of the search area will be beneficial for his subsequent planning and tactical deployments, he's a trained observer for Colorado Civil Air Patrol, and he's also a pilot (and thus is familiar with how terrain appears from up in the air). Mark gathers his gear, and boards the helicopter.

After bringing Mark on board, the helicopter flies a short orientation route so Mark can get his bearings while the pilot checks the local conditions, then they depart to refuel. Back on scene, they maneuver into a low hover, less than 100 feet AGL, over the first talus slope, a small one about 1/2 mile up the trail from the ICP. They are transitioning to the next one a few hundred feet up the canyon when the crash occurs,

at about 15:30. Moments later, the ICP radio begins reverberating with the anxious voices of team members reporting that the helicopter has just gone down. The ship falls from about 100 feet AGL, coming to rest on it's right side, wedging between the pines, shearing off the rotors, the fuselage cracking into three sections, the tail boom overhanging the hiking trail (the only access back to the ICP), with the turbines still whining at near full power. Over two dozen searchers are nearby, and they quickly remove the five survivors from the hulk. Additional rescuers from LCSAR and RMNP are requested, as are air and ground ambulances. By 18:00, all five have been transferred to three air ambulances and two ground ambulances. Sometime around 18:30, as the last members leave the scene, the turbines fall silent. For the moment, Jaryd is forgotten; though ironically, this is when the world learns of his disappearance. Local, national and international media had assembled in Boulder to hear a [yet again delayed] announcement in the Jon Benet Ramsey murder investigation. A helicopter crash on a search for a three year old child is as a siren song to them – seventeen satellite trucks vying for a narrow slice of sky to bounce their stories to their constituents, for the same topography that should have constrained Jaryd's movements now blocks the path to the orbiting communications satellites.

Lt. Nelson and I hold a group tactical debriefing for the rescue, then send all personnel home to sleep. Fortunately, six rangers from RMNP have just arrived, (too late to help with the rescue), so we task them to staff the ICP and continue the search for Jaryd through the night. We give them the stack of documentation for the search, (which is incomplete due to the crash rescue), to pass on to the morning operational period's command staff. Then we go home to sleep – the two of us have each been awake nearly 40 hours by now.

Additional searching with field teams, dogs, and divers is done throughout the subsequent week, to continually cover high probability areas and expand as needed, in hopes of finding the boy alive. The weather remains moderate: day temperatures in the 50-60°F range, nights in the 10-20°F range, light and variable winds at times, mostly clear skies, and no storms. A second helicopter, a Lama from GeoSeis Helicopters in Fort Collins, is used on Monday 4 October, to search

(unsuccessfully) along the entire drainage. In the vicinity of camps 4-5, they encounter swirling winds that require full power to break free – shortly after, the pilot drops the observer back at ICP and returns to Fort Collins. This is the same area where the few dog interests, and indeterminate track sign, end. The active search continues until 17:00 Friday 8 October, when it is suspended due to lack of clues to Jaryd's location. However, due to the Air Force's ongoing investigation of the helicopter crash, the Forest Service elects to keep the Big South Trail closed to the public. The crash is just inside the wilderness boundary. All wreckage is removed two weeks later, at the conclusion of the on-site investigation. *[The official Air Force determination of the cause of the crash is that the helicopter was flying too low and too slow for the conditions. They experienced a momentary loss of lift, either from out-of-ground-effect turbulence or a downdraft over the ridge, from which the pilot had neither power nor air speed nor altitude enough to recover.]* Contaminated soil is also removed, replaced with topsoil, and re-vegetated. The trail is finally reopened to the public on Wednesday 20 October 1999. Numerous hikers and Team members have been in the area since then, with no new clues discovered – until Wednesday 4 June 2003.

Two local Fort Collins hikers, scrambling around off trail, high up the east slope, come upon the sneakers and clothing – they instantly know what they've found. They take photos, and remove some of the articles, which they bring to the Sheriff's Office the next day. Photos are e-mailed to Allyn Atadero at his home in Littleton – and he confirms that it was the clothing Jaryd had worn that fateful day. Friday, a contingent of Sheriff's personnel climb to the scene, retrieve the remaining articles, and process the scene. Later that afternoon, LCSAR is notified, with a request to keep it confidential until after Monday's press release. This gives Allyn time to notify his family members, and the finders a weekend's respite from the media. The weekend is also LCSAR's final 'exam' overnight field exercise for our new member trainees (which all 22 pass), so rather than reschedule, the consensus of LCSO and LCSAR personnel is to defer an evidence search until Saturday 14 June, weather permitting.

Saturday dawns warm and clear sky –

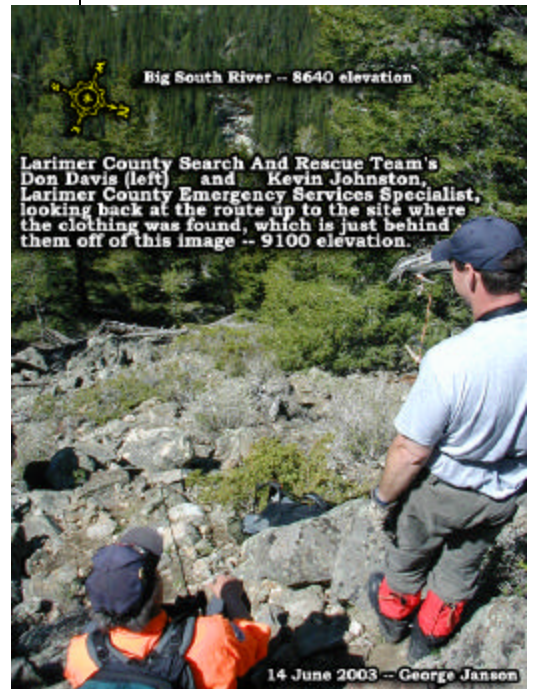
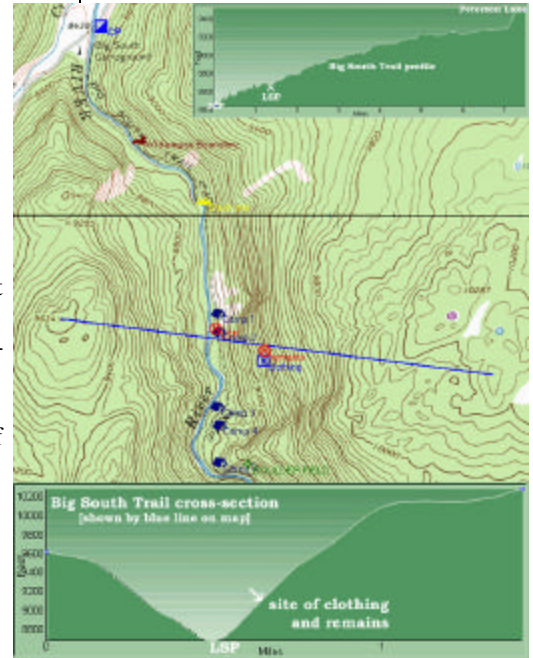
LCSAR and LCSO personnel arrive at the trailhead at about 08:30, with a bevy of media already waiting. Also joining us are personnel from DOW and NecroSearch; and Allyn will be along later with personnel from the local Child Protection Network (CPN). For safety and evidence protection reasons, the Forest Service closes the east slope, from the edge of the trail to the ridge, between camps 1 and 7, to keep the media and general public out of our way. The find site is about 500 VERTICAL feet off the trail, over 1,050 feet laterally from the LSP, and is a relatively open, somewhat level clearing adjacent to a cliff band. [The media had a collective tendency to ignore the word 'vertical' when reporting the distance to the clothing site.] It takes over an hour to hike the 1½ mile of trail and make the 500 foot climb/scramble to the site. The evidence search begins just after 09:30, one team covering northward, the other southward, for about a 300 foot radius of the clothing site. At 11:30, the skull fragment is spotted by a member of the north team, and shortly after another member spots a tooth nearby. Also on this team is our 'resident' dentist, and he confirms that the tooth is human, and of a size consistent with that of a 2-4 year old child. The remains are in a dense thicket, the skull fragment in a crevice and the

tooth on a log spanning the crevice above the skull fragment. The position of the skull fragment is such that it is visible from only a narrow angle, and it is fortuitously lit by a shaft of light from the morning sun. This site is about 180 feet due north, and about 20 feet elevation higher, than the clothing site. The original evidence searching is continued (by LCSAR) until the designated acreage is reached, as is a forensic search (by NecroSearch) of the debris around and under the remains, both of which reveal no other clues. Allyn is taken to the site, and is given the tooth to hold for a while, after which he and the CPN personnel return to the trailhead, to meet with the media. By 16:00 the processing of the combined sites is completed, we all return to the trailhead, and depart. At 17:00, several TV news stations give their live broadcasts from the trailhead.

So, the obvious question is, did we search this section during the original mission? No ... and yes. Not on foot, as the searchers were told to search uphill as far as they thought it reasonable that a 3 year old would go, and the highest any team went was about 100 feet vertical in the less technical areas. (One tracking team did go higher along the wilderness boundary area, which is over ½ mile north of this clearing.) However, the helicopter

overflow this area several times, and would likely have done a low level hover over this clearing, had it not crashed. In addition, the section of trail below this area (between campsites 2 and 3) had very little to no interest from the search dogs – they had stronger interest farther up the trail between campsites 4 and 5, in the vicinity of the same swirling winds that buffeted the Lama helicopter.

Can we close out the search for Jaryd? Not quite yet – the quest for DNA from the remains will take at least 2-3 months. The remains and clothing will be scrutinized for evidence of a mechanism of death. And despite our current technology, we may be unable to find definitive proof. Was it a mountain lion attack? We may never know, though many of us believe the circumstantial evidence weighs heavily in this direction. Whatever the technical outcome, we hope that Allyn has sufficient 'proof' to give Jaryd a final resting place within his heart.





United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108TH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO SUE PURVIS AND TASHA THE SEARCH DOG -- HON. SCOTT
McINNIS
(Extensions of Remarks - June 19, 2003)**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
June 19, 2003**

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute today to a woman and her dog who willingly give their time to provide assistance to others. Sue Purvis and her search dog Tasha of Crested Butte, Colorado volunteer to help locate victims of avalanches. In doing so, they help bring closure to victims' families and perform a public service to their community.

During one week in March of this year, Sue and Tasha were called to the scene of two avalanches. The first trapped a 33-year-old man who had been caught in a slide while snowmobiling. Some 30 rescuers searched unsuccessfully for several hours before calling in Sue and Tasha. Together, working with another canine search team, they found the man's body within half an hour.

A few days later, the pair received a call involving another snowmobiler. This time, the victim triggered a massive slide 10-feet deep and several hundred feet wide. The slide packed so much power that the debris field was 20 feet deep and contained chunks of snow and ice the size of a van. Despite working by themselves, Sue and Tasha found the man's body buried in six feet of snow about an hour later.

Mr. Speaker, when Sue and Tasha venture off into the Colorado backcountry to search for victims, they often enter very unstable and dangerous snow conditions. Still, they do so willingly to help bring closure to the victim's families as quickly as possible. That unselfish spirit of neighbor-helping-neighbor is what helped make this country great, and I am truly honored to have the opportunity to honor Sue and her amazing search dog Tasha here before this body of Congress today.

DOLA News

In May, the Colorado SAR Fund Board meet and the following is a digest of the meeting.

There was approx \$444,887 available for use this year. Of that, \$102,415 was spent on administrative expenses. This number is high because of expenses related to the new SAR card and a new cost allocation from the state that DOLA had nothing to do with.

Tier I was \$53,466, Tier II \$5,220, Tier III \$18,738 which left about

\$265,000 for grants. Again this year there were over \$600,000 in requests so a lot of cutting had to be done. There were a few large teams that had gotten a large share of money the past several years, that we did not cut last year, and they got lower amounts this year. We again felt that the smaller teams that don't have a chance to raise money need all the help they can get.

On a personal note, I still remain concerned about some areas of the state that are paid for helicopter time to do their missions and don't

send a team in the field first or at all.

I think the staff in Grand Junction has done an OUTSTANDING job of running this program and getting the SAR card up and running. SAR teams need to support this effort a great deal to make the program work. All teams should be selling these cards or seeing to it that they are being sold by someone in their area.

Please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions.

Keith Conquest

News From the Dog World

The International Rescue Dog Symposium was held in Prague, Czech Republic, April 24 – 27, 2003. Ann Wichmann was invited to present a program updating the global search dog community on the current status of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Canine Program. This program has really matured since inception in the early 1990's, and there are now approximately 130 canine teams who are certified at either the Type II (Basic) or Type I (Advanced) level. The pass rate for the evaluations is about 25%, and

many at the conference felt that the FEMA standard may be one of the toughest in the world.

Ann also presented a program on the canine response to the World Trade Center. This program was coupled with a presentation by Dr. Ben Ho, who spoke on the biological and chemical hazards encountered at the site. The conference participants were very interested in this topic, and had many questions on the future of canine responses to such hazardous sites. Good question, especially considering the current environment of weapons of mass destruction!

Sponsoring the symposium was the

International Rescue Dog Organization or IRO. This organization was developed in the mid-1990's to help coordinate search dog training and deployment around the world. The IRO also sponsors the "World Championships" which allows teams to compete in tracking, wilderness search, and disaster search. This is a great opportunity to hone rescue skills, and tests skills similar to our local and national canine standards. For further information on this organization, please contact Ann Wichmann, or e-mail the secretary Christiane Geritzer at: office-irodog.org

Backcountry Lightning Safety From NOLS

The National Outdoor Leadership school (NOLS) has an excellent web site with an entire page devoted to outdoor research. It's worth a look and perhaps even a bookmark. While not SAR specific, the emphasis on outdoor safety and wilderness medicine will interest SAR providers. Currently, you can find papers on lightning safety for cavers, the annual report, analysis of medical review, and the NOLS Backcountry Lightning Safety Guidelines. Rather timely for this time of year.

<http://www.nols.edu/resources/research/abstracts.shtml>



HIPAA

To Our EMS Clients and Colleagues:

EMT Held Liable for Damages and Attorneys Fees for Violating Patient's Privacy . . .

In a ruling that sends a strong message about the importance of EMS personnel respecting patient privacy, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals upheld a jury's verdict that an emergency medical technician invaded a patient's privacy by revealing confidential information about a patient the ambulance service treated and transported. The court upheld an award against the volunteer EMT and her ambulance service and its insurance company for \$3,000 in compensatory damages, and \$30,460 in attorneys' fees. The case--stemming from a call in 2000---was brought under Wisconsin law, and not the recently enforced HIPAA federal privacy regulations. This case really underscores the importance of having in place strong patient confidentiality policies and privacy training, even if your EMS organization is not a covered entity under HIPAA.

Check out the details of this important case, along with 6 important "Lessons to be Learned" from this

case---which started with good intentions but ended with a jury verdict in favor of the plaintiff. Click on the button for "EMS Law Weekly Tip of the Month" (or is that "Monthly Tip of the Week?") at the right side of our web site front page: >www.pwwemslaw.com to get this important information for your EMS service.

And if you haven't fully implemented a patient privacy program, consider the patient privacy tools available from PWW on our "PWW Products" page.

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ORDER "THE AMBULANCE SERVICE GUIDE TO HIPAA COMPLIANCE - SECOND EDITION" AND "HPTV - THE HIPAA PRIVACY TRAINING VIDEO FOR EMS" ON www.pwwemslaw.com.

New Water Purification Device

Miox makes water purification equipment. Their equipment electrolyzes a salt brine solution to provide chlorine, in the form of mixed oxidants, hypochlorous acid and various chlorine-oxygen combinations that are very effective at disinfection without tasting bad (that's the simple explanation, see their website for more). It seems to be very safe and more effective than most simple iodine/chlorine methods.

This fall, they will be marketing a small "pen" device that will use a salt tablet and a couple of lithium camera batteries and a bit of water to provide chlorine for water disinfection. It will be marketed through Mountain Safety Research (MSR)/Cascade Designs and available at the usual outdoor outlets. The military will also use the device.

http://www.miox.com/News/CDI_MIOX_License.html



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Upcoming Calendar of Events

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.