



November 2011

# BELAY ON!

Douglas County Search and Rescue Team, Inc.

**BELAY ON!** is the official newsletter of Douglas County Search and Rescue Team, Inc. and is published quarterly, or whenever we feel like it.

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be•lay **verb** \bi-'lā\

1: to secure a person at the end of a rope

2: to captivate with a fabulous newsletter

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PO Box 1102  
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## TEAM HITS HALF MARATHON STRIDE

THIS NOVEMBER, DCSAR PARTICIPATED IN the third annual Highlands Ranch Community Association (HRCA) race series Backcountry Wilderness ½ Marathon in Highlands Ranch. Each year since the race's inception, DCSAR has served as course stewards, manned water stations, provided medical and logistical support, and helped set up and tear down the start/finish area pavilion.

DCSAR's Wild Bill states that before the inaugural running of the event, HRCA race officials noticed team recruitment flyers posted at Highlands Ranch recreation centers. They were adding the half marathon race to their schedule and looking for a beneficiary. They then contacted him and inquired if the team would be interested in supporting this event—it seemed a perfect match, especially given the race's remote course and terrain. The rest is history!

According to Bill, preparation is the key to any successful event. Meeting with race organizers, reviewing the course, developing duty stations, recruiting members, organizing teams and overall logistics takes anywhere from twelve to fifteen man-hours each year. However, all the planning time pales in comparison to the time members donate to make each event a success.

"DCSAR ROCKS!" says Wild Bill.

Most foot races take place on improved roadways where support can easily and quickly attend to an incident. However, the relatively inaccessible course for the Backcountry Half Marathon plays to DCSAR's ability to coordinate operations in remote areas. Maintaining communications between course waypoints and the start/finish area is crucial, should a runner become injured. Factor in the combined medical skills of the team and Bill agrees with the editorial staff that this is one of the best organized races in the Front Range (if we do say so ourselves).

The team benefits in many ways in exchange for its participation, Bill says. Many Douglas County residents are still unaware that the team exists. Events such as the marathon increase public awareness, which in turn creates support. Through these efforts, we are able garner financial, public, and political support in Douglas County and beyond.

Numerous DCSAR members have even run the race as contestants over the years. Wild Bill confirms that this is actually a plot to increase the efficiency of the whole operation:

*"You have to understand the strengths and weaknesses of all members to*

*(Continued on page 8)*

## FATHERLY ADVICE

Field Director Scott Walker

SUMMER IS OVER, AND IT WAS PRETTY QUIET FROM A search and rescue standpoint. Even though the numbers were low, we did have some interesting stories to tell. Consider the following:

- Driving 150 miles through three different counties for what started as an in-county mission and turned out to be no mission.
- A night carry-out in Castlewood Canyon through rough terrain.
- A Spot activation for one of our own.
- A three day out-of-county search on Mt. Missouri.
- Multiple out-of-county missions for some of our dog teams.
- A patient refusal that turned into a patient collapse.
- Recovery mission on Challenger Point in August, using winter gear and techniques.
- A multi-day search in the Lost Creek Wilderness area followed by a recovery, with some extra stories for some of us...
- A dog rescue that got more attention on the Internet than any of our people rescues.
- An all-night search for two overdue motorcyclists.
- Two missions for injured motorcyclists.
- A two-day evidence search of a crime scene.



*(Continued on page 9)*

## “710 CALL DISPATCH”

President Bruce Fosdick

### Out of County Responses—Expectations

SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THE DOUGLAS COUNTY SEARCH and Rescue Team has been requested to help other teams on search and rescue missions. Sometimes, we find out that things are not done the same way on other teams and some confusion can take place.

Responses start through our on-call system; the on-call coordinator gets notified that another team may need assistance (canine teams, ground pounders, search managers, etc.). The request may require a special skill set (high altitude, four season, or technical).

The call may be for the day, or even a long term commitment. Is it a search, rescue or a recovery effort?

It is important that members realize what they are being asked to respond to. What did the page say? What additional information was incorporated into the member information line? Did it suggest a higher level of training? Did it suggest that we question our own capabilities? Of course it did. Are you up for the task?

This year we have had a large array of out-of-county missions to other counties. We responded to Boulder, Chaffee, El Paso, Fremont, Jefferson, Park, Rio Blanco, Saguache, and Teller counties; one of our canine teams even went out of state. What we saw when we got there was different each time. We have been to large counties and small. Maybe their SAR team consisted of six to eight members, or maybe they had over eighty members on their team. Regardless, if we were called, that meant they needed extra help.

Sometimes we got an adequate briefing as to what was expected. Other times, we got a poor or inadequate

*(Continued on page 11)*



## Code 1! Member Spotlight: David Farrar (Dr F)

THIS ISSUE'S SPOTLIGHT FEATURES DAVID FARRAR, LONGTIME MEMBER, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND expert on the use of the SPOT locator beacon.

### Where did you grow up?

I grew up on the outskirts of Washington DC, but spent my summers on a lake in the mountains of Pennsylvania. That makes me one-third city boy, one-third suburbanite, and one-third Appalachian hick. I spent most of my time in the water: swimming, fishing, SCUBA diving, white water rafting, and kayaking. I am as comfortable in the water as some of our climbers are standing on the edge of a cliff. I moved here in 1995 for a new job and to raise kids.

### When did you join the team? Did you have any prior SAR experience?

I joined the team in 2000 out of boredom. I had a steady job and good family life . . . I needed something to add a little spice—never did any SAR stuff before. I was in the Civil Air Patrol as a kid, but if a plane crashed in DC, it was in someone's front yard—not much call for searching there.

### What do you do at Raytheon?

I write software that controls satellites for the government—you never know who is watching when you are outside. That is about all I can say about it. I have been a computer programmer in one form or another for about thirty years.

### Tell us about your family; and what they are up to?

My wife has her Masters in Computer Science, but decided to be a housewife when we had kids. Now she works the occasional part time job. Cindy, my seventeen year-old is going to UNC next year and plans on becoming a high school math teacher. Pam, my thirteen year-old cancer survivor, has no plans beyond raising hell. She has gotten into taekwondo and has just been issued weapons (scary). She is also a great shot with her .22 rifle and my .45 Glock (even scarier).

### How did you get to be so smart about ropes, force vectors, angles, and all that dang stuff?

It helps having the engineer's mentality. Rope work is just another problem solving game that I have always loved. Some people hear voices in their head. I see pictures and numbers, which makes the rope work easy. (*Are you sure you don't hear voices, too? —Ed.*) Going to a bunch of conferences like ITRS (International Technical Rescue Symposium) helps too.

### What did it feel like to have the cavalry charge of DCSAR members coming through the forest to find you?

Oh, boy. After that cop jumped my Jeep I turned around and there was Bruce. My first thought was "oh no, what did my wife tell him?" Then I saw the string of headlights off in the distance I knew I was doomed. Afterwards it actually felt really good. I never imagined so many people cared enough to come out for me. I know

(continued on page 4)

### DCSAR Coefficient of Callout Response

$$M / (2 \times \cos (A / 735))$$

A: Battery life of a Jeep Wrangler Unlimited;

M: Distance to Goose Creek trail from Douglas County





## Code 1, continued from page 3

they will deny it now . . . but they did come.

Thanks again everyone! That feeling is worth the harassment I'll get forever after.

### How is the Jeep running?

The Jeep's doing great. This is the first vehicle I've had go over a 100,000 miles and it is running perfectly (knock on wood). After the SPOT incident the battery lasted for a month and then died twice at work. So I now have a brand new battery and hope to have no other problems . . .

Thanks, Dave, for your numerous valuable contributions to DCSAR! You rock!



Dr F instructs the 2011/12 recruiting class on their first day of field training. September 2011



## 2011 Christmas Awards Nomination Ballot

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

(name optional, probably best to stay anonymous . . . )

I observed **742** do the following:

Date \_\_\_\_\_ (make up one if necessary).

*(Please cut out this form and submit to the awards committee.)*

See you at the Christmas party on December 10 at the Warhorse Inn!





## Meet the Class of 2012

EVERY YEAR WE TRY TO RECRUIT THE BEST POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR OUR TEAM. IT TAKES THE BETTER PART OF A YEAR TO GET fielded; during that time, we get to know the new members and they get to know us. To help the team learn more about the class of 2012, we solicited responses to several questions.

(We received answers to our survey from all but three recruits. Those three promise to wash dishes after the Christmas party.)

We are very selective in how we advertise for new members. We advertise in newspapers because we only want members who can read. We post notices on our web site because we want to find computer literate folks who can converse with the computer engineers on the team. We post notices in local bars for obvious reasons, and we hound people who have donated to us to get them to give us more. All of these methods proved effective as every one resulted in at least one new recruit this year.

Reasons given by the recruits for joining are what most of us would expect: a love of the outdoors, a need to volunteer—to give back to the community. There are also those who are looking for self fulfillment, learning skills, getting outside, finding something to do, and to be a role model for kids. We suggest they be careful here . . . there are many different types of role models on the team.



Scanning for signs of life in the new member class . . .

New members hail from many corners of the country: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio in the east; California and Alaska from the west. One member admits to being from Arkansas and another, Aurora, Colorado. We may need to give the recruit from Aurora a little extra help.

We have an EMT, someone who was trained by US Navy Special Ops, and an ex-helicopter pilot. We found a fire fighter, an ICU/ER nurse, another EMT, and an EMT B instructor in this group. Wow!

SAR experience? One was on a SAR team in Washington (ours is better), and another has participated in some SAR activities with our friends in El Paso county. Yet another has participated in some high ropes training (what ever that is . . . we'll see how he does at Castlewood Canyon).

*(continued on page 7)*



## Meet the Class of 2012, continued from page 6



2011 annual new member hazing and ascent of Devil's Head. The funny looking man who tagged along and took this picture was later determined to be 733's father-in-law.

The rookies are happy with training and say we are doing a good job. The pace is quick and interesting. There is some concern about the slippery nature of WB and general apprehension with future ropes training. The fear of heights expressed by one of our rookies should provide a good time for the team.

The team's average vehicle Miles Per Gallon is not going to be helped with this class. We have one Prius and a couple of reasonable vehicles (according to this reporter); we even have a rookie who argues that her primary mode of transportation is a bicycle. She even offers to bicycle-pool with whoever can fit on the back. Unfortunately these great modes of transportation are offset by rookies who drive vehicles too large to mention (Yukon?) with miles per gallon more like gallons per mile.

Lucky for them we have a famous and well-organized car pooling system!

Please join the staff of "Belay On" in welcoming these new members and complimenting them on the dedication they are showing towards their training. Rumor has it we can get a significant discount for fun at an Indoor Speed Raceway in our county and a tractor can be made available for all of our landscaping needs!

—Bill Barrett



Member, Mountain Rescue Association • [www.mra.org](http://www.mra.org)





## Half Marathon, continued from page 1

*truly utilize them where they can benefit the team the most. In this case, allowing him not to interfere with the logistical operations of the race is a huge benefit to the team. Some people work well with others, while some are best suited to be on their own—running from the others. [Giving them] a beer or two [at the finish line] is a small price to pay for this luxury."*

Janine Reister, director of the race series, says HRCA's partnership with DCSAR has worked well and she is inspired to work with such a "well-oiled machine."

*"... partnering with [DCSAR] not only provides our participants with the safety we require, but allows us to give back to you as well. We hope that the awareness that our race brings to your organization will continue to bring you support. I continue to feel like I'm part of a military op, just waiting for my next command on the walkie talkie—although Bill corrected me on the correct radio term, my bad for forgetting . . ."*

Janine states that participating runners enjoy the level of professionalism DCSAR brings to the event, and that the team is fun and inspiring to them as well. Runners really appreciate the fact that the same group of yellow-jacketed cheerleaders that serves them water along the course can be also be found at the finish line serving them refreshments (although she secretly hopes, for her sake, that the keg-tapping incident of 2010 is not soon repeated; even though, miraculously, no beer was wasted).

"DCSAR is fantastic! Not only are we thrilled to have you as part of the event, we are honored to help support your mission."



Pre-race briefing, November 2011

Over forty members participated this year. Thanks to all for your continued support of this important annual event! As those of you who were there know, our teamwork and preparedness made a significant impact on the safety of the participants of the 2011 running. DCSAR Rocks!

—Eric Mott



Member, Mountain Rescue Association • [www.mra.org](http://www.mra.org)





## Fatherly Advice, continued from page 2

For all of you that participated in these or any other missions, THANK YOU.

We also participated in a lot of public relations and emergency stand-by events over the summer. These events are a great way to show the community what we do and are important for our image. Events included: Agilent Technologies safety fair, Mountain Mettle equine endurance ride, Highlands Ranch 4th of July parade, RMMCC fall poker run, Western Union safety fair, two Cub Scout hero nights, and a Home Depot safety event

Other additional time was put in at Vail Mountain Rescue's MRA retest, and our new member weekend training. Thank you to everyone who helped set-up and spent extra time at these events.

Congratulations to the most recent members of the class of 2010-11 to become fielded members: **Darryl Summers,**

**Adam Derito, Becky Mueller, Dylan White, John Roth, Andy Christensen** and **Morris Hansen**. I know it seems like they have been around for awhile. Most of them fielded right after the last edition of the newsletter was sent out. This completes the transition of our most recent trainees to fielded members.

2010-11 trainee statistics—thirteen recruits, nine of which earned their pagers for a sixty-nine percent graduation rate. GOOD WORK, and as I have said before, I know you will all be a valuable part of the team.

The class of 2011-12 has started their training. Sixteen members began their journey on the weekend of September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Please take time to get know these future members.

### Daddy Reminders:

*Driving to and from the scene* is the most dangerous thing we do. Be safe. Remember, it's not "our" emergency. When enroute to a mission we need to abide by all traffic laws. We are not allowed to use emergency

lighting on our personal vehicles. Drive safely and arrive at the scene so you can participate in the mission.

At the end of all missions—especially long or overnight ones—make sure you are in condition to drive home following the mission. If you need to sleep before driving, do it! Drive safely and arrive home so you can participate in life.

*Assisting other counties* is part of our mission state-

ment. It is important to send members out of county when we can. Here are some things to remember when a page for an out of county mission goes out:

All Fielded members in good standing, that have submitted qualifications survey and DCSAR personal medical history form to the Field Director, shall be considered eligible for three-season out-of-county *search missions below 10,000' elevation*.

Out of county missions are for other teams – Our on-call  
(Continued on page 10)



Antennae repair training, Summer 2011



## Fatherly Advice, continued from page 9

coordinator needs to let that county know how many resources they can expect ASAP. After the page goes out – read the page . . . make sure you feel you meet any qualifications stated in the page. Reply to the information line within an hour (unless the page says otherwise).



Joint training with Air Life, Summer 2011

Call the information line – leave name, availability and a phone number where you can be reached – “Joe SAR is available for the XYZ County mission on Saturday and Sunday. I can leave as soon as 22:00 on Friday night. I can be reached at 303-555-1234.” WAIT for the coordinator or an appointed team leader to call you.

If you do go out of county, remember to notify the DCSAR on-call coordinator upon return to county. At least one participating team member will be required to complete an Out of County mission report within one week of returning to Douglas County.

Other things to remember about going out of county: You should usually plan on a 24 to 48 hour commitment. Don't over extend yourself, if you arrive at base “spent” you are not an asset to the mission. While on the mission remember to remain within your qualifica-

tions. For missions that are not *search missions below 10,000' elevation*, a qualifications list has been created. To participate in “specialized” missions you must be shown as qualified for the mission requirements. If you have questions about your qualifications, see me.

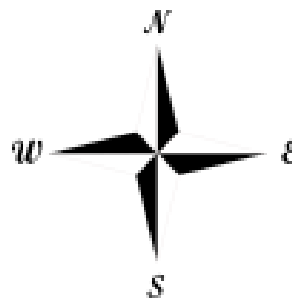
Elections for the Board of Directors will be held at our only December team meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Positions up for election this year are: Field Director – Scott Walker, Vice President – David Farrar, Treasurer – Mike McDonald, and Director at Large – Jesse Adamy. All of the incumbents are running for reelection.

If you would like to challenge one of them please let Bruce know so you can be added to the ballot. Change can be good, and the positions are open to any fielded member in good standing. If you feel you can help the team by taking over one of these positions, don't be afraid to run. Even if you're not running, remember to be at the December meeting to vote. Vote early and vote often!

As always my final thought is on staying in shape. I have been lying around for two months healing from an injury, so I need to work extra hard. Hopefully the rest of you have stayed in shape. If not, let me know and maybe we can put a winter conditioning program together.

Remember, I am always trying to improve as the field director. Please come to me with any concerns, questions, or comments. See ya!

—Scott



## “710 Call Dispatch” continued from page 2

briefing. Sometimes we were never debriefed when we got back and wondered, what the heck was base thinking? Did we understand their expectations of us, or did they just tell us to go out and find the guy or gal? Remember, they are running the mission as best they can—that just may not be very good.

Did we get fed, or were we expected to have all we needed in our packs—remember we recommend that you plan to take care of yourself for 48-72 hours—were you prepared? Were you carrying enough water to take care of yourself and the subject when he or she was located?

Did you have adequate clothing? The difference between being at home in Highlands Ranch and being on a snowfield at 13,000 feet on Missouri Mountain is very different. Weather in the mountains can change drastically—were you prepared?

How many missions took more than one day to complete? Were you able to stay, or did you have to go back home, even after less than a whole day? This hurts the planning process of mission base—understand your

commitment to the mission and plan to stay. Some days, the drive takes a day to complete. If you rode with someone else, it takes them out of the picture as well.

Are you up to the task? A couple of search and rescue missions this year took place above tree-line (two were on 14,000 foot mountains). Sure, you have hiked many of these same mountains time and time again. But, were you prepared to work at this altitude all day? Carrying a large pack and rescue gear create some adventures for your body. Did you think about that when the page came out? Did your ego override your brain?

Safety is up to us. I’m number one! Remember this when you ac-

cept an out-of-county page (in-county as well). If we cannot complete the job (whether on scene or just getting the page), there is no shame in turning it down. That is a lot better than sending someone down to bring you back because you are sick or injured. So, what are the expectations of yourself, when you take on a mission?

See you on the next call-out!

—Bruce



Photo caption contest: Submit entries to the Field Director; winner will receive an official DCSAR sticker . . .





## Contact Info

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**If you can't find us on the Rampart Range, you can find us on Facebook instead.**



## About Us

DCSAR is an all-volunteer search and rescue team formed in September of 1998. The team's first mission, for two missing dirt bike riders on Rampart Range, was on February 10, 1999. The missing bikers were located cold, but alive, in near blizzard conditions by team members.

Since then, DCSAR has served Douglas County, Greater Denver, and Colorado with distinction, averaging over one-hundred missions per year. Our 40+ members volunteer over 10,000 man-hours each year in the service of our community.

## Donations Welcome

DCSAR is dependent on grants and donations for much of its income. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation; all donations are tax-deductible as charitable contributions. ***DCSAR and the Douglas County Sheriff do not charge citizens for search and rescue services!***

DCSAR enhances our community by saving lives and promoting wilderness education and safety. You can be part of the team and help keep our mission alive. The contributions of you or your corporation will make a positive impact in Douglas County and surrounding areas.

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