



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.

Editorial Staff

Grumpy Crackpot

Bill Barrett

Creative Genius

Eric Mott

New Kid on the Block

Debrah
Schnackenberg

Board of Directors

President

Bruce Fosdick

Vice-President

Carl Kline

Field Director

Scott Walker

Treasurer

Bill Barrett

Secretary

Bill Clendenning

At Large

Paul Ashton

Sheriff's Liaison

Lt. Larry Noble

be-lay **verb** \bi-'lā\

- 1: to secure a person at the end of a rope
- 2: to captivate with a fabulous newsletter

PO Box 1102
Castle Rock, Colorado
80104

WHAT I DID LAST SUMMER...

IT WAS AN EXCITING SUMMER FOR THE Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) here on the Front Range. From the multiple county EOCs and the state EOC that stood up for weeks on-end during our dramatic fire season, to the full-scale Operation Vortex exercise that just concluded, the EOCs in eastern Colorado have been busy!

What's it like to work in an EOC? This summer I worked in both the Douglas County EOC and the El Paso EOC during the Waldo Canyon Fire, and I just completed two days of work in the State EOC for the Operation Vortex Exercise. Both were great experiences but both very different.

If you've never worked in an EOC or with an Incident Management Team (IMT) you might wonder, "Just what does an EOC do?" I find a lot of people have misconceptions about the role of an EOC—thinking of it as a kind of "command center." Those of us who work with the Incident Command System (ICS) know that it is used to manage functions in the field whether it's a SAR mission to a larger emergency or disaster. The EOC, as a general rule, does not provide any command functions. Instead it serves as a central point of coordination. If you think of ICS and the

EOC as two rotating cogs with inter-meshing teeth you get a sense of how ICS and the EOC continually integrate together with ICS providing command for operations in the field and the EOC taking in requests for resources and information from the field, working to find and fulfill those resources and information needs and then, hopefully, getting them back out to the field where they can be used.

Working in the El Paso County EOC during the Waldo Canyon event was rapid-fire, complex, and changing every single hour. El Paso County, like Douglas County, structures its EOC into emergency support functions (ESF). For instance, ESF 9 is SAR and ESF 11 is the Animal Desk. The day I arrived at the El Paso County EOC the phones on the ESF 11 desk were ringing off the hook, just as they had since the fire started. The Deputy Operations Director pointed at the desk and said, "You're the Lead!"

"Oh boy", I thought.

Oh boy—I was right. The next few days went by in a blur for me and the team of folks I had working the ESF 11 desk as well as every other desk in the EOC. Every day the fire was doing something different. We

(Continued on page 6)

Fatherly Advice

Field Director Scott Walker

It's August September October and a lot has happened since the last newsletter!

Missions

This summer's mission load seems to have been typical, nothing in a week, followed by a mission-a-day for four days. Here are some stand-outs: a wildland fire evacuation near Trout Creek; a wildland fire stand-by to assist El Paso County SAR; a canine team sent to El Paso county for an H. R. D. mission; a Castlewood Canyon search; an ATV crash on 677 with a special helicopter hot-load; a search for and rescue of a diabetic motorcycle rider on Dakan Road; an assist to Alpine Rescue Team on Mt. Bierstadt; four bicyclists missing from trail 327????; an injured bicyclist above Strontia Springs; an assist to Custer County SAR on Crestone Peak; assist to Custer and Pueblo Counties for a downed aircraft; an all night search (almost) near Thunder Butte; and others you may (or may not) remember.

Thank you to all who responded!

Class of 2011-12

Twelve of the initial seventeen beginners completed the requirements to become fielded members of DCSAR. Ten members completed their sign-offs prior to Memorial Day weekend and an eleventh finished over the holiday weekend. John "Joe" Hoey and Zach Jump started the process on May 5th. They were followed by (in alphabetical order) Tyrone De Maria, Mark Granger, Sherry Groeger-Godwin, Chuck Hightower, Kim Lundell, Cathy Murray, Jan Sturgeon, Colt Theil, Brett Whispell and **finally**, Clifton Slay on September 12th. A year long journey is complete, now the adventure begins. This group bonded throughout their training, but was really solidified, by a "cool" overnight sign-off session in April. You guys and gals deserve to ROCK!

Class of 2012-13

"710 CALL DISPATCH . . ."

President Bruce Fosdick

What is the Colorado Search and Rescue Board?

From time to time, you may hear the name Colorado Search and Rescue Board (CSRB) tossed around at team meetings. What is CSRB?

CSRB is a statewide membership organization of individuals, search and rescue teams, county sheriffs and other state, federal, and local government officials who have an interest of advancing search and rescue (SAR) throughout the state. The organization meets six times per year to discuss recent legislation and changes in SAR technology in formal sessions. DCSAR is a member of the Colorado Search and Rescue Board.

CSRB has been around for nearly four decades. In the early years, they attempted to just get teams together to foster healthy SAR programs. With over fifty-five SAR teams in the state and another group of single resources ever-present, this is sometimes like herding cats. Each county is different and so is their search and rescue team. The politics were sometimes hard to get past. Some things change over the years, some don't.

During the legislative session, members keep a watchful vigil on bills coming out of the state legislature to see how they might affect local SAR teams. CSRB works closely with the County Sheriffs of Colorado for this purpose.

Another important function is to provide a network for teams across the state to access mutual aid for those missions when there simply are not enough local assets. This assistance can include ground pounders, canine resources, trackers, avalanche rescue teams, technical rescue teams, and federal helicopter and aviation assets.

There are currently ten individuals who serve as state search and rescue coordinators. They are on duty twenty-four hours a day to ensure that resources can be located if a county sheriff requests assistance. These individuals have more than fifteen years of experience



(Continued on page 9)

(Continued on page 10)

Member, Mountain Rescue Association • www.mra.org



CODE 1! MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DENNIS McLAUGHLIN

This edition features member #727 and his dogs

How long have you been in Colorado?

We moved from Rockville, Maryland, just outside Washington, D.C., to Colorado eighteen years ago, after I retired. I worked for over thirty years in the fire/rescue service in Montgomery County, MD where I started as a private and moved up to fire chief at the Chevy Chase Fire Department.

How did you meet your wife?

I met my wife, Jodie, in a small Maryland town called Sandy Spring shortly after leaving a job with the National Security Agency to go back to the fire/rescue service. I had been hired as a lieutenant with the town's fire department. My engine crew and I stopped by her house one afternoon in a fire engine so that I could ask her out for a date. She said "yes" despite her mother's misgivings, as Jodie is much younger than me. After the date, she went home and told her mother that she was going to marry me (she hadn't told me that). We have been happily married for thirty-five years.

How did you get interested in SAR?

I initially started as a search dog handler in Maryland. Back there, SAR activities are much different with few real, all hazard SAR teams, per se. Our dog team, Mid-Atlantic Dogs, often was the only resource requested for missing or lost people in the state of Maryland. When I moved to Colorado, I joined Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado and El Paso SAR where I served in many capacities from Mission Coordinator to President over twelve years. From 2006 until late 2009, we lived in Phoenix, AZ. There, I joined the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office K9 Posse and served as commander of the unit for a year before returning to Colorado and joining Douglas County SAR. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has about twenty-five SAR units (mounted units, mountain rescue, Jeep Posse, Desert Search Units, volunteer helicopter unit, K9, etc.) composed of over 2500 people.

How about your most memorable mission?

Over the years, I've been lucky enough to have had fourteen "finds" with my dogs. The most memorable one occurred in Mesa, AZ when Grits located a fifty-nine year old Alzheimer's/Parkinson's disease subject who had been laying in the desert for nine hours after disappearing from a care facility. The area he was in had been searched by a police bloodhound, a SAR air scent dog and a helicopter with infrared (at night). Had he not been found by Grits, I don't think the area would have been re-searched and the man probably would have died.

What is the most important lesson you've ever learned about SAR Management?

Start by having well trained team members and well trained, experienced SAR managers. During a mission, build the overhead team up as needed, keep good records, and always have enough of the right resources available to accomplish the mission. You can always send resources home if you don't need them.

What advice would you give to an individual who is just starting their SAR career?

Ask lots of questions so you know what you are getting into regarding costs and the time commitment for training, missions and other activities. Most people seem to be able to handle the financial aspect of buying gear, etc. but I

(Continued on page 4)



Member, Mountain Rescue Association · www.mra.org



Member Spotlight (Continued from page 3)

think that many people underestimate the amount of time needed to be a good SAR member. Attend as much training as you can, especially during your first year or two and continue your learning process every time you go to a training or SAR mission. What goes on at missions, particularly in other counties, can be an eye opener and make you appreciate how good DCSAR really is.

What do you look for in a new SAR dog?

I look for a dog with lots of drive, inquisitiveness and one that is friendly with people and other animals. This is often very difficult when picking a puppy as they haven't developed enough to display all the attributes you might be looking for. You oftentimes don't know how good a dog is going to be until it really grows up and then it might be too late.

What was your very first dog like?

Duke, my first dog was purchased as a pet. I got interested in working SAR with dogs when I helped a friend who was training his dog to be a search dog. Initially, I was the lost subject for his dog but I saw how interesting and rewarding it was to see the dog accomplish a successful search. I thought that I would try Duke and had to work hard with him. He was a big, blocky headed Lab who, during training, would find the subject, go to a location where he could see me and stand there like "Hey dummy, I found him over here" instead of coming all the way back to indicate a find. He once found a dead suicidal subject and was so depressed that I had to play with him for several days to get him out of his funk. Dogs love to find live people but can get depressed after locating a dead person.

Tell us more about your career.

I started out at age eighteen as a member of a very active volunteer fire department in Md. and lived in the fire station. Although I went to college, my love was the fire/rescue service. I'd do anything, including cutting school, to go fight a fire. At twenty-one, I decided that I wanted to serve my country and joined the Air Force. I went to Indiana University for nine months to learn Russian before being deployed to Berlin, Germany and then went to St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea for a year. In both of those places, I copied the communications of Soviet fighters and bombers as they flew over East Germany and the Arctic. After being discharged, I went to work for the Rockville, Md. Fire department for \$5400 a year. After a couple of years there, I went to work for the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Md. as a Russian analyst where I translated Russian military communications, developed information about the capabilities of Russia's offensive and defensive systems and wrote reports that were widely distributed in the intelligence community. After five years at NSA, I was hired by Jodie's dad as a Fire Lt. (he probably later regretted that) in Sandy Spring, Md. Several years later, we all became county employees which made us part of an 800 person county fire/rescue service. I retired in 1994, moved to Colorado and worked for five years as a private inves-



(Continued on page 5)



Member, Mountain Rescue Association • www.mra.org



Member Spotlight (Continued from page 4)

tigator. Jodie works for USAA Insurance Co. and supports my activities.

Why do you like fire/rescue so much?

There are many similarities to fire/rescue and SAR - every day and every call is different - could be a dull day with no calls or it could be one with a plane crash, train derailment, tanker truck on fire on the interstate with several fatalities, house fires, a child struck by a car, you name it. At a younger age, I guess I was an adrenaline junky (sort of like Wild Bill). In SAR, it is much the same. You don't know what you are going to be faced with when you get called out. You hope that your training and experience will enable you to be up to the challenges you face.

Have you ever had a summer quite like last one?

If you mean the Waldo Canyon Fire, not really. Hopefully, it was a once in a lifetime event. I stayed as long as I thought it was safe to stay at our house but I never really thought that it would be as bad as it was. Many houses 250 feet from ours are gone.

How annoyed was your wife that you took pictures of the fire heading toward your house?

She wasn't very happy with me as she was trying to gather up important stuff as I stood out in the street taking pictures. As I said, it was a once in a lifetime event and I wasn't going to miss it. Having seen lots of fires and other catastrophic events, but none quite like this, it didn't scare me at all but she didn't appreciate that.

What was it like to have the support of DCSAR during your evacuation?

Dennis and "Gunny" doing something in a boat...

I can't say enough about how much Jodie and I appreciated the support of DCSAR during the fire. I was in daily, sometimes hourly, contact with Bruce, Bill and Carl. At one point, early on, Bill told me he'd page the team to help us evacuate. I thought, how great is that? DCSAR and its members do truly ROCK and I am so glad to be a member of such an outstanding team.

Thank you!

—Eric Mott



Member, Mountain Rescue Association · www.mra.org



(Continued from page 1)

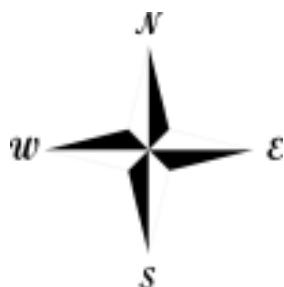
were coordinating with the County Animal Response Team (CART) to dispatch trucks and trailers into the pre-evacuation and voluntary evacuation areas to get horses, alpacas and other small livestock out and to the large animal shelter at the Norris-Penrose Event Center. Evacuees were calling to find out where they could take their animals and we were directing them to several shelters that had been set up around the Springs.

I worked on helping the gentleman who owns The North Pole up by Cascade to get into the restricted zone to feed his reindeer and to make sure that the bears that had invaded and torn up Cascade after the evacuation weren't making a buffet of his herd. We had to figure out how to get food and water into the dogs and cats that had been left behind in the evacuations or how to get them transported safely out. The tensest hours were when we thought a mandatory evacuation of Palmer Lake might have to be triggered. We scrambled to do a pre-evacuation survey of the area to try to understand how to avoid a horse trailer traffic jam that could clog the only two egress routes out of the area. Via the ESF 9 Desk (which was conveniently right next to me) I borrowed an El Paso SAR team member who knows Palmer Lake really well and paired him up with an animal welfare person to do a pre-evacuation survey of the area so that we had a complete map to make decisions from. I was incredibly relieved when the fire stopped moving that way and we didn't need to evacuate the area after all. But we ended up with an amazing map and I owe the guy from EPCSAR a case of beer!

Fast forward a few months and I've just now finished 2 days of working in the state EOC (SEOC) during "Operation Vortex," a multi-county full-scale tornado disaster exercise. It was great experience, but not nearly as frenetic as the real deal in Waldo or even as busy as the county EOCs were during this exercise. Working in the SEOC as requests for resources and information come at you from three county EOCs is also challenging during an exercise—but when the screen on your desk lights up reporting 50 casualties and 200 injured at DIA it's reassuring to know, "it's just an exercise".

As October comes to an end we can all hope that our EOCs "go dark" for a while. Hopefully, the phones will stop ringing and the big screen TVs will go silent for a few months—everyone needs some well deserved down time before tornado and fire season arrive in the spring and the phones start ringing again.

—Debrah Schnackenberg



Member, Mountain Rescue Association • www.mra.org



A WILD (LIFE) EXPERIENCE:

DCSAR RESCUES RECORD NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN A SINGLE DAY

The Wildlife Experience museum in Parker invited DCSAR to participate in a family fun day on Saturday, September 8. A constant stream of visitors throughout the day took tours of a command vehicle, observed and asked questions about our technical systems, made friends with Teak the rescue dog, and (mostly children, thank goodness) took rides in our Stokes litter with wheel.

As usual, many visitors didn't know Douglas County had a search and rescue team, so these PR events are invaluable to get the word out about DCSAR and build community goodwill. Please consider participating in these events when the invitation is extended!

See Scottie's column for the amazing list of PR events we have done in the past year.



Member, Mountain Rescue Association • www.mra.org



WAYPOINTS: THINGS TO REMEMBER ALONG THE ROUTE . . .

DCSAR Colorado Life Track Quick Start Guide

Setting up the Receiver

- Open the cover
- Set the BAND to either A or B A = 201 B= 206
- Dial in the FREQUENCY (example: 206.283 — input 283)
- Set the signal/ battery switch to SIG
- Set the LED / ML switch to the off position, which is in the center
- Make sure the ATTENUATOR is OFF
- Set the GAIN to MAX
- Set the TUNE knob to 0
- Plug in the antenna you intent to use
- Turn on the power (Set power to INT or EXT.)

Tracking

- Turn the gain to MAX.
- Using the Unidirectional antenna, turn 360 degrees. Hold the elements of the antenna horizontal.
- Get your null points.
- Advance towards the signal.
- As the signal gets stronger, turn the gain down to the point where you can barely hear the signal.
- Keep advancing towards the signal, turning down the gain as you go.
- When the gain gets turned down all the way, turn the ATTENUATOR ON, and return the gain to MAX.
- If you still have the signal with the attenuator on, then the transmitter is within 50 feet.
- Remember to track in teams of two, one to work the receiver, and one to navigate and keep the team safe.

Courtesy Dr F



Please cut out this form and fold it inside your Mike Map . . .



Member, Mountain Rescue Association • www.mra.org



Fatherly Advice (Continued from page 2)

Thirteen trainees were accepted to join DCSAR, but only eleven of them made it to the "mandatory weekend" introduction training. This looks like another good group of people. Please take time to get to know your newest teammates.

Extra Efforts

In the last Newsletter I mentioned that several members have really stepped up and given extra time and effort to the team. They continue to do that. Carl Kline, freshman vice president, has organized a long range planning committee. They set big goals of new trucks, money for a building, liposuction for 749, and other needs. They soon

found out "times are tough." Did they stop trying? No, they are continuing to try to meet those goals and help the team grow. Thank you Carl and the rest of your committee, keep up the fight.

Included on Carl's team are Paul Ashton and Morris Hansen. These guys are pounding on doors and making phone calls to try and get donations from sources we may have previously overlooked. Morris has also used some personal contacts in an attempt to get additional help from the county. It's not that the county has ever, not wanted to help, we just need to be in contact with the correct people and ask the right questions. Morris knows people and isn't afraid to ask. Because of Morris's work we should soon be seeing a "new to



Photo caption contest: contact field director with your entry (or your concerns).

us" truck to replace 704. I'm not even going to mention the effort Morris has given to the vehicle committee over the last few months. But if I did, I would talk about his welding skills and how much time he has given to the cause. Paul Ashton is also working hard on additional projects. Paul stepped up to organize an awesome day at The Wildlife Experience. He has also made suggestions to me, on how to improve the team, and we are working together to make those ideas become reality. Great work fellas. We all appreciate it, even if we don't always tell you.

The training committee is working, as always, to improve our training program. Trainings will now start between

(Continued on page 11)



Member, Mountain Rescue Association · www.mra.org



710 Call Dispatch (Continued from page 2)

managing SAR incidents and other emergency service activities. Two members of the team currently serve in this capacity: Barry Mitchell and Bruce Fosdick. DCSAR gets calls for out-of-county responses many times per year. Barry currently serves as the senior state search and rescue coordinator for Colorado.

Members of the Colorado Search and Rescue Board also monitor standard setting processes on a state and national level. Mike McDonald has been very active in this process and is currently reviewing a set of standards adopted by the National Park Service for its possible adoption in Colorado. He also serves on the national F-32 committee for the American Society for Testing and Materials, another standard setting organization. CSRB does not tell teams what their standards should be, but rather offer some standard ideas for better, more efficient operations. In some states, there are state standards for SAR.



CSRB also provides training opportunities throughout the year, with multiple classes in Managing Land Search Operations, a thirty-two hour search management class. In addition, most years CSRB attempts to put on a state conference or management academy for all SAR teams. Mike, Barry, and Bruce all serve as instructors at these trainings. Instructors are also used to teach specific requests for trainings presented to local teams.

Three members of the team also sit on CSRB's Board of Directors - Mike McDonald currently serving as treasurer, Barry Mitchell who serves as the senior state SAR coordinator and Bruce Fosdick, currently serving as president.

CSRB works hard in Colorado to raise the bar on search and rescue activities from its training programs to finding trained assets when a team or county needs more help. Teams help CSRB provide the help that is done by continually training so that they can be helpful when called to assist. Douglas County SAR is proud to be part of CSRB.

—Bruce Fosdick

742 demonstrates DCSAR fire-building skills—Rampart Range, 2012



Member, Mountain Rescue Association • www.mra.org



Fatherly Advice (Continued from page 9)

08:00 and 09:00 based on time of year and topic. Most trainings will be objective based and should end when objectives are met. This may result in shorter training days, but that's not guaranteed. Start time will be announced at the prior Wednesday's meeting. If training start time is not between 08:00 and 09:00 it will be publicized at least two weeks prior to the training date, if possible.

Public Relations

Now that summer is coming to an end ... wow ... was it hot! Our PR events will be cooling down as well. Thank you to everyone who helped out at the public relations happenings, medical stand-bys, and other events representing DCSAR over the summer. If you missed them here are a few places the yellow shirts showed up at:

- Second annual DCSAR fundraiser at Elk Mountain Brewing
- Memorial Day weekend stand-by on Rampart Range
- Spring Poker Run
- Mountain Mettle
- Highlands Ranch 4TH of July Parade
- Atalaya (New Mexico) MRA Re-accreditation
- AirLife Memorial
- Mountain Rescue Aspen - MRA re-accreditation
- MRA/NASAR conference
- Labor Day weekend stand-by on Rampart Range
- Wildlife Experience 10 year anniversary
- Fall Poker Run

As always, I like to point out things team members are doing outside of DCSAR. We have several members participating in sprint triathlons; Paul Miller has started this trend and competed in two events this summer. Becky Mueller also ran in two events. Bill Barrett competed in two races as well, and was 3rd in his division at both events. Cathy Murray not only competed in sprint races, but ran in a full length triathlon, and then went to Rampart Range for the Labor Day weekend stand-by. Steve Huffman following the advice of the DCSAR beavers did not go in the water.....he did compete in a duathlon where he biked, ran and then biked again. The final Triathlon that Paul, Bill and Cathy competed in was a benefit, with money raised going to the organization of the athletes choice. I do not know the final numbers, but I do know that over \$1,000.00 was raised for DCSAR—thanks! Congratulations to all of you, nice work.

For those other runners out there; DCSAR will once again be supporting the Highlands Ranch ½ marathon. Team members run for free.....but you must carry your SAR pack. Oh, that's just Josh, but you will be required to render aid as needed.

Life's short, play more.

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

See Ya! —Scott



Member, Mountain Rescue Association · www.mra.org



Contact Info

**Douglas County Search and
Rescue Team, Inc.**

Mailing Address:

PO Box 1102
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Telephone:

Bruce Fosdick, president
303-688-2751

Website: www.dcsarco.org

Email: dcsarco@comcast.net

**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.

Douglas County Search and Rescue Team, Inc.

PO Box 1102
Castle Rock, CO 80104

