

LCSTAR



Newsletter for Larimer County Search and Rescue, Inc.
Fall 2001 Edition

1303 North Shields Street, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524

**I slept and dreamt that
Life was joy,
I awoke and saw that
Life was service,
I acted and behold,
Service was joy-----**

Tagore

We honor all the Firefighters, Police Officers, Emergency Medical Personnel and Urban Search and Rescue workers who lost their lives in New York and all those who continue to serve in New York, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

LCSTAR INTERVIEW: KEITH SCHAFER

By Sarah M. Babbitt

So who is Keith Schafer and why is he just an S1? He has no plans to move up through the ranks again, and "They can't make me," he says with a big smile. Why, since he just joined LCSAR 18 months ago? Because this is only the most recent incarnation of Keith Schafer in SAR.

Starting in Idaho, where he was stationed with the Navy, Keith has been a founder and/or instrumental member of numerous SAR teams. In 1975 he was a founder of the Idaho Falls Nordic Ski Patrol (a patrolling part of the Nat'l Ski Patrol.) Upon moving to Loveland in 1976 (where he lived next door to Ken and Joanne Klein) he joined the Brian Mountain Nordic Patrol in Boulder, and became president of that team. It was around this time that he "somehow got involved with" the Civil Air Patrol. As part of CAP he helped form the Colorado Ground SAR team, a ground operation of CAP, which he helped toward MRA associate certification. Along the way he also found the time and energy to get married and raise two children (and he now has 4 grandchildren.)

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Keith joined the Larimer County Rescue Team as it was in 1977 (at that time it was a paid team.) Among many other missions, he participated in the 2-week search around Greyrock for Eric Viehl (of whom no sign was ever found.) Upon moving to Utah in 1988 he joined the Jeep Patrol. As Keith describes it they required everyone to have a white 4WD vehicle, and he refused to buy one---so he just drove his white Grand Am. "Never got stuck, though, and they got stuck all the time!" Another big smile.

1991 took Keith and his family to Hawaii for the first time, where they stayed for a year (Hawaii was to become a favorite work and play haven for Keith ever since, and he returns there for about 6 weeks each year.) When he returned to Utah he joined the other renegades who had split off from the Jeep Patrol and formed a SAR team. He was in charge of getting the team MRA certified, which they did in about a year. Keith is proud of his time there because it was difficult to become a part of what is a very tight-knit, religious community. Becoming president for a few years, being an incident commander and getting them MRA certified were accomplishments he looks back on fondly. "I was happy with the team when I left. It was evolving to another level, and I like to see that. New leadership was moving up. You are a success when you are not irreplaceable. Especially in SAR."

Then there was the year he was the Intermountain Region MRA chairperson. And his 5 years on the Dive Rescue team in Utah ("the most stressful job, I think, in the entire world.") And the fact that he's responsible for bringing George Janson into LCSAR (ah, so it's his fault!!)

So Keith Schafer has paid his SAR "dues." But it's clear that it doesn't feel anything like 'dues' to Keith. "SAR's fun. The camaraderie is definitely part of it. Working with people under stressful conditions is always interesting." He

cites Chris Wright's calm demeanor on the Atadero search when he announced to Keith that Mark's helicopter had crashed. There was absolutely no excitement in Chris' voice, which impressed Keith. "I control my adrenaline when responding to these [missions] by plugging in a tape of John Denver." "You can sit and think about the problem as you're going in: What do I need to do, where do I need to go, what do I have in my truck, what do I need to assemble?"

The Atadero search took place before Keith was officially back on LCSAR, but as Keith explained, "I go on missing-kid searches—that's a given." So he drove from Estes Park to incident base, approached George (who was SAR manager for that operational period) and said, "Can I help?"

He had applied to return to LCSAR by then and he attended as much of BASART 2000 as his schedule allowed. Some might question why someone with so much experience in SAR would go through BASART, but "whether I have experience or not is irrelevant. The fact that they don't know me" is the point, and "until I learn what they're doing and they learn who I am I'm just a new guy." On the other hand, Keith says it's "nice being 'the old guy'—you don't have to be perfect. It's a nice position to be in. You don't have to be involved with the politics. The politics is the hard part of SAR." And he's found that that is the case everywhere—this team is no different than any other in that regard.

Keith likes to watch what's going on. He's "taken the last 11/2 years to learn what this team is doing," trying to understand the systems we use and why, before making comment or giving input. There are certain things he'd like to see done better, but he'll "do it any way they want to do it as long as it's safe." "Those of us who've been around a long time need to listen to the new people coming in, being aware of some of the new and different stuff coming along" (such as some of what is taught in Rigging For Rescue.) But he cautions that we also need to be wary of



*Keith Schafer.
Photo S. Babbitt*

some of it—cool and complex is not necessarily the best way to go. He points out that efficiency and safety generally go hand-in-hand. He plans on hassling Kurt (of Rigging For Rescue) about using interlocking bowlines and one carabiner on our vertical system, because "it's a hassle and it adds very little in the way of safety," and "because I can," he laughs.

Keith's technical experience is broad—he has conducted studies on self-equalizing anchors, and some of his information is used by Rigging For Rescue and is cited in the book *On Rope*. He is currently working on a proposal for a slow-pull knot efficiency test that he hopes to have a CSU engineering student carry out as a project. The test will use the 4 or 5 knots used the most by MRA teams and test them under slow-pull conditions (which is more relevant for most rescue work than dynamic fall testing,) using both old and new rope. Keith is also on the committee reviewing LCSAR's current technical standards.

An "Airforce Brat," Keith was born in Texas but moved around quite a bit while growing up. He joined the Navy after high school and spent 9 years in the service, stationed in Alameda (where he served on the USS Coral Sea and the USS Enterprise) and in Idaho (where he was an instructor and a reactor operator at a nuclear training facility.) His interests in backpacking, rock climbing and cross-country skiing began

during these years in the Navy.

Keith remains a member of the Navy Reserves and was recently honored by a promotion to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. This is quite an honor because it is the highest rank attainable by non-commissioned personnel. He must be nominated by a commissioned officer, and the promotion is approved by an act of Congress. These days Keith works as an engineering consultant for Marsh, Inc. His work takes him all over the world working on power plant steam systems. In addition to his 6 weeks per year in Hawaii, he gets to American Samoa once a year, and he gets to “throw in a little Indonesia and Australia, England, a couple of other places..” But it’s Hawaii he enjoys the most. In fact, he thinks they need a SAR team—he is generously willing to go there and train them and he’s got their bright orange aloha team shirts all picked out! On the other hand, “the water’s a little cool in Hawaii,” so for diving he prefers the 88-degree waters of Samoa. He insists it’s quite safe, too, adding that “the sharks don’t bother you ‘cause they’re all full, there’s so much food down there. They don’t care about you.”

One talent that Keith didn’t put on his BASART application was his Ukulele playing. He explained that the exposure most of us have to the instrument does not do it justice at all. He takes lessons each time he’s in Hawaii, and “I’m getting pretty good, if I do say so myself!” He plays Hawaiian songs, mostly, but is also working on “Anchors Away.” While on the Islands he also likes to watch Hula, which is also much more complex and beautiful than most of us know. “It’s really nice—almost a martial art in a lot of ways.”

What else is important to Keith Schafer? It’s important to him that people be acknowledged and respected for their knowledge and experience, but that they not be considered special or put up on a pedestal. In addition, he stresses that in SAR “regardless of who finds the subject or ‘does the save,’ if you want to call it that, no individual ever deserves singular credit for that. Ever. Because if one person makes the find, he’s only over here because someone else is over

there, or someone told him to go over there—so it’s always, always a team effort.”

Keith has been involved in countless missions over the years, and can think of 6 or 7 that were “incredibly intense.” The “Christmas Miracle” was one which received a lot of media attention (that would have been 1987 or 1988) and a mission in which he worked with Stan Kilgore—a former CAP member who has greatly influenced Keith (and George and Mark, as well.) Stan “had a tremendous impact on all of us because of his leadership abilities.” Another which sticks in his mind was a CAP mission in Canon City where they “pulled out the subjects and the team with the “Jolly Green Giant” helo,” using the jungle penetrator down through the trees. “It was like ‘Close Encounters of the Third Kind,’ watching them being sucked back up into the helicopter!”

One of the things which is exciting about SAR, for Keith, is that “you go from one extreme to another. Extreme boredom followed by incredible chaos. It’s chaos that’s interesting—it’s not really chaos, it just looks like chaos. “ “It’s just like that: One minute you’re driving down the road, fat, dumb and happy. The next minute you’re screaming to an avalanche in a helicopter. That’s really exciting.”

“I like the technical work the best. It’s the most challenging, because you have to think so much under such incredible stress. And when a team comes together it’s a really neat thing. Or when you make a knot-pass and the litter team never even knows it. That’s my favorite. Ken Miller (another former LCSAR member) and I did that on a rescue” [another big smile.]

Keith then made a point of bringing up Ken Klein, because “Ken is probably one of the best friends I’ve ever had, ever.” They have been on many backpacking trips together, some as long as 90 or 100 miles. They’ve been on “some of the most excellent backpacking trips, and we’ve done some of the most stupid things” (like not noticing that their maps changed to 80-foot contours when they got to the Tetons..) And spending Ken’s birthday doing 10 miles of bush-

whacking in thick bear country—"one of the few times I've used very, very foul language!" They hiked the Grand Canyon rim to rim with their sons, running out of water once and filtering more from a mule trough at midnight. "I can't recall ever having an argument, even on an extended, 9-day trip like that. He's one of the best guys I've ever met. You can quote me on that. Ken is a great person. Ken and Joanne have been great friends to me." When he told me of their plans for another trip coming up, I asked if it didn't sound like a SAR mission waiting to happen. His response: a big laugh and "Oh, no, we'd never admit that!"

Keith Schafer takes his participation in SAR very seriously. When it comes to getting the job done, he's a no-nonsense kind of guy. But whenever possible the task is accompanied by his smile and sense of humor. And his humility. When asked what else the world should know about Keith Schafer he smiled and replied, "I make the best minestrone soup there is. I make the best minestrone soup there is. I do."



The BASART Coordinator is making noises again!!

(Calling all Mentors)

Even with the 80-degree weather you can feel that fall is in the air. Know what that means? It means that I am going to start making BASART noises. You know the ones: "Sign up to be a Mentor!" and "Let me know what BASART classes you want to work on," those kind.

We had some really fine Mentors for the 2001 class, however some folks had difficulty making many of the meetings. I think you can figure the obvious: your help with the applicants learning our systems is invaluable. More than that, by being really involved you can see if the applicant isn't really going to "fit." If there is something that can be done to help them then we can address that early, if not then we can deal with that early as well. Please consider being a Mentor, you will find it fun and rewarding.

If you let me know which classes and field sessions you are interested in then I will be able to use you more effectively. We are very fortunate to have the talent we do that always steps up to teach, however it would be beneficial to have some new talent do more than stand in the wings. Come on, don't be shy, this is one of the big efforts that LCSAR puts forth.

Thanks, Jim

*Why is this man sitting on this woman's lap? And why are they both smiling so hard?
Practicing the B.C. Pickoff at Duncan's Ridge.
Photo courtesy of Dave Frank*

Stress and Distress

By Rita Stern RN, BSN

Stress is the way you react physically, mentally, and emotionally to various conditions, changes, and demands in your life. Stress is part and parcel of common life events, both large and small. It comes with all of life's daily hassles as well as with larger crises and life-changing events. Even very positive events can be very stressful. Unless you can regularly release the tension that comes with stress, it will greatly increase your risk for physical and mental illness.

What Stress does to the Body

At first sign of alarm, chemicals released by the pituitary and adrenal glands and the nerve endings automatically trigger these physical reactions to stress:

- * Your heart rate increases to move blood to your muscles and brain
- * Your blood pressure goes up.
- * You start to breathe more rapidly
- * Your digestion slows down.
- * You start to perspire more heavily
- * Your pupils dilate
- * You feel a rush of strength.

Your body is tense, alert, and ready for action. After the natural "alarm" reaction to a real or perceived threat, your body stays on alert until you feel that the danger has passed. Then your brain signals an "all clear" to your body, and your body stops producing the chemicals that caused the physical reaction and gradually returns to normal.

Problems with stress occur when your brain fails to give the "all clear" signal. If the alarm state lasts too long, you begin to suffer from the consequences of constant stress. You may find it difficult to see the relationship between stress and physical health problems, because the long-term effects of stress are subtle and slow. However, experts in every area of medicine are discovering links between stress, disease and poor health.

Becoming more Stress-Hardy

Some people seem to be more resistant to stress, and studies indicate that these people are less likely to get sick. Researchers have identi-

fied 4 personality factors that stand out in stress-hardy people:

- * They have a strong commitment to self, work, family and other values
- * They have a sense of control over their lives
- * They generally see change in their lives as a challenge rather than a threat
- * They have a strong network of support and close relationships

It is never too late to develop a more stress-hardy personality. The first step is to believe that you can do it---positive thinking. Approach one challenging area of your life at a time. Be committed to making things better for yourself and those around you. Accept that changes will occur, and know that you will be able to deal with them. Call upon your support network to get the help you need. As you begin to gain control over one challenging area of your life, you will find more time and energy for tackling additional areas.

Recognizing Stress

The signs of stress are classic. Headache, stiff neck, nagging backache. You may start to breathe rapidly or get sweaty palms or upset stomach. You may become irritable and intolerant of even minor disturbances. You may lose your temper more often and yell at those you care about. Your pulse may increase and you may feel jumpy or exhausted all the time. You may find it hard to concentrate. When these symptoms appear, recognize them as signs of stress and deal with them. Just knowing why you are stressed is the first step in coping with the problem. It is your attitude toward the stressor that affects your health the most.

Managing symptoms of stress

Some people try to relieve the symptoms of stress by smoking, drinking, overeating, using drugs, or just "shutting down." Some people become abusive or violent in response to stress. These examples are unhealthy ways of dealing with the symptoms of stress. Some healthy ways are

- * Express yourself. Stress and tension affect your emotions. By expressing those feel-

ings to others, you may be able to understand and cope with them better. Talking about a problem with a spouse or a good friend is a valuable way to reduce tension and stress. Other expressions of self like art; music or writing may also be valuable tension relievers.

* Cry. Crying can relieve tension. It is part of your emotional healing process.

* Get moving. Regular, moderate physical activity is a great way to manage stress. It reduces the stress chemicals that have built up in your body.

* Be kind to your body and mind. Getting enough sleep, eating a nutritious diet, avoiding caffeine and taking time to do things you enjoy can all contribute to an overall balance in your life.

“To Respond or Not to Respond?”

By Mark Sheets

To Respond or not to respond to the mission? That is the question that all of us face when the pager goes off. Here are some thoughts that I have gleaned from team members: “I’ll delay my response because after all, the page is for Grey Rock and it will resolve itself if I just ignore it.” Furthermore, “there are at least 75 LCSAR members and someone else will want to go so I better not hog a spot on this mission.” Or “Damn, it sure is late and I’m almost in REM-sleep so I’ll just turn my pager off and go back to bed.”

It has been said that we get rolling on missions way too early, only to be stood down thus breeding a lackadaisical attitude towards the response. Remember one thing that is commonly taught by our very own team in PSAR events is “Call sooner rather than later.” And another is that “We would rather be stood down from a response respond to someone who has let themselves get in over their head.”

Recently, we have experienced excessively poor responses to our missions. One mission was so poor that we considered calling in other state SAR resources for the second operational

period. A recent rescue we had required the use of Wildland Firefighters to respond for a carry-out, not of the original subject but of a fellow EMS member who dislocated his hip while responding to our poorly attended rescue. YIKES, now that is pitiful!

We are blessed with a large number of quality people that make up our SAR Team. Some people in the SAR community point out that since we are one of the four large SAR teams (those having 50 plus members) in the state, we should be able to handle at least the first two operational periods without blinking. In the past, this has been very true and with the current membership it should be today. In addition, we are fortunate to have a full-time Emergency Services Division of the Sheriff’s Department that “filters” a whole lot of calls before they wake us up in the middle of the night. If you don’t believe that, buy or borrow a radio and listen to all the calls they resolve before calling out the SAR team. Only a few counties have the luxury of dedicated ES deputies---the others depend on their local SAR team to do it all, from callout to resolution and some of these SAR teams have only 10-20 members. Kudos to our ES Staff!

“But do I respond to this page” you ask? Maybe I can answer this for you by referring to the Pager Guidelines as stated in the “LCSAR Team Policies And Procedures”, section 4.4.3. First, you need to ask yourself, “Can I make at least 20% of the all call-outs?” (guideline #3.) If not, maybe you are not a good candidate for carrying a team pager. Second, if you are like any other breathing individual, you will want to take a vacation now and then, thus making you “unavailable for a period of time to respond” (guideline #7.) This is OK but you are required to advise the In Town Coordinators (ITC) of your inability to respond. This allows the ITC to note your availability before the crisis, enabling them to plan accordingly.

So, YES you do respond to the page. Maybe not the mission but you do respond to the page! If you can not respond to the mission, remember to let 20-30 minutes elapse before calling the ITC with your intentions to not participate, allowing those who can participate to

get through on the line. Additionally, we are asking the ITCs to collect availability information in the beginning for both first and second operational periods in hopes of letting you get a little more sleep should a second operational period be necessary, so be prepared to be asked for your extended availability.

In short, the only reasons not to respond to mission pages are: 1.) You are unavailable and you have proactively communicated this to the In Town Coordinators. 2.) You are lying unconscious, in a crashed helicopter somewhere. I can tell you from experience, the second reason is one you do not want to try!

Search On - and respond to missions as much as possible! The public (and the team) needs you out there looking for them.

GPS Games: A Double-edged Sword.

George Janson, Senior Mossback, Larimer County Search And Rescue

There are at present three different "GPS Games" engaging the interests of the more technologically enhanced segment of our backcountry public - Geocaching, Letterboxing, and Degree Confluence. I first became aware of this nascent nationwide trend toward using GPS instruments for navigation games from an entry in the National Park Service's "Morning Report" of 21 March 2001. Olympic NP Ranger Mike Butler investigated the impact on the NPS system, as these activities may cause damage to historic, archeological and natural sites. (Read his findings under the "Operational Notes" section at <http://www.nps.gov/morningreport/msg00806.html>) I've since looked at the web sites (listed at the end of this article) for each of these activities, and discovered many examples of their growing existence within Larimer County. In fact, one of my co-workers accidentally stumbled upon one of these caches. He and his wife (a former LCSAR member) enjoy off-trail hiking, and he and I have had many discussions about outdoors topics. He was thus aware of geocaching, and was even able to participate, as the topic of that cache happened to be "green", and they had a suitable green item with them to swap.

THE ONE EDGE - SAR missions - Sooner or later, these activities will generate missions for lost and/or injured participants, especially as the need for more 'challenging' locations evolves. Problems of weather, dead batteries, equipment failure, etc. will begin to plague participants, and I suspect many of them will not have basic survival knowledge or equipment. I put them in the same Lost Person Behavior classification as berry-pickers, et.al. They will be off-trail, concentrating on the GPS display, and potentially approaching the cache from any direction. Then, they have to find their way back to their vehicle -

Our Mission

LCSAR is dedicated to providing the citizens and visitors of Larimer County professional quality volunteer wilderness search and rescue services at no charge. LCSAR members also provide wilderness safety education services.

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which might not have been marked as a waypoint when they departed. We could have some interesting missions ahead.

THE OTHER EDGE - Member Training -
Many teams face the challenge of providing motivation for members to build their navigation skills. We use elements of Orienteering in our land navigation training, encourage members to participate in 'O' meets, and have even published the list of known aircraft wreck sites for Larimer County in our newsletter, as inducements for our members to practice these skills at their own pace. We can now add these GPS Games to the list.

Every new outdoor activity brings a new set of challenges to our SAR community, and these three are no different. As with many SAR incidents, it's beneficial to have preplans, even if it's just the awareness. Have fun out there!

<http://www.geocaching.com/>
Geocaching - The Official GPS Cache Hunt Site
<http://www.letterboxing.org/lbna/america.htm> Letterboxing North America
<http://www.confluence.org/>
the Degree Confluence Project

Medical News: The Laws Have Changed

By Rita Stern RN,BSN,EMT-B,NREMT

This is going to be one article that you will probably want to save for future reference. The laws have changed for EMT-certified Coloradoans. The state of Colorado now recognizes all Nationally-Rated EMTs (NREMT.) For this certification, you take the exam once in your lifetime and renew every two years with required 72 hours of continuing education as well as skill verification. There are exams offered around Colorado if interested.

For the State-certified EMT you are required to renew every three years. What has changed is there is no more required written or practical exam. Yes, it is gone. All that is necessary to remain current is 40 hours of continuing education with skill verification. A refresher class offers all the skills necessary with no additional exams. Since we do not exercise our skills as much, a refresher course is recommended in addition to the continuing education. If your certificate has expired there is hope: please see me for the re-entry program in which you can re-certify without taking the class over.



*Too much fun at the Scottish Highlands Festival.
Photo courtesy Dave Frank.*

Whiskey Soup!

The best of the Scottish-Highlands Festival can now be yours!

Many of us have fond memories of the annual Scottish-Highlands Festival in Estes Park. But for some of us our favorite part is not in the official festival program. Finally, Ken Miller is generously sharing the recipe to his famous (or infamous, depending on how much you may have imbibed) Whiskey Soup.

Ken says the recipe comes from It's an old Scottish Custom by Neil Maccallum. Apparently this recipe is suggested as the only means of defeating the 'Green Man,' a personification or image of Nature. The recipe is as follows:

1/2 pound of fine oatmeal and 1/2 pound of running heather honey are thoroughly mixed with a cupful of cold water. Two pints of whiskey are slowly added to this. Stir briskly with a silver spoon until the mixture froths, then bottle and cork tightly. After a few days the corks may be reverently removed.

Ken substitutes high-altitude honey from Madhava Honey in Lyons. He also shakes the bottles two or three times a day to remix the whiskey, and has found that about three weeks is a good 'set time.'

And, thankfully, a blender works as well as a silver spoon.

Enjoy!

The following is an excerpt from a special article entitled "America Under Attack: The '10 Commandments' of Responding to Mass Terrorist Attacks" by George S. Everly, Jr., PhD, FAPM, International Critical Incident Foundation, Loyola College in Maryland and Dept of Psychiatry, Union Memorial Hospital, and Jeffrey T. Mitchell, PhD., Emergency Health Service at the University of Maryland. Excerpted by Norma Govan.

There are three fundamental phases to the terrorist attack:

1. The pre-attack, pre-crisis phase. There are three functions which are to be performed during this phase: a. threat assessment; b. prevention; c. psychological preparation of the primary target populations as well as emergency services population. The authors believe that the better prepared the population, especially the emergency services population, the less severe the overall impact of the attack.

2. The acute event management phase. In this phase communications, fire suppression, law enforcement, emergency medical and other rescue and recovery personnel perform their respective functions. Emergency mental health personnel provide acute psychological support.

3. The consequence management and reconstruction phase. This is the phase wherein the emergency mental health personnel must facilitate the recovery process; in effect, rebuild



Some of LCSAR's finest staffing the booth at the Scottish Highlands Festival. Courtesy D. Frank.

the psychological aspects of the city, state and country. CISM is the virtual standard of care.

The "Ten Commandments" of Psychological Response

1. First, never lose sight of the fact that the terrorist act is designed to engender psychological instability.
2. Establish crisis intervention hot-lines and walk-in crisis intervention facilities in every community affected.
3. Provide pre-incident psychological resiliency training.
4. Collaborate with mass-media services to provide on-going information to all involved.
5. Take whatever steps seem requisite to re-establish a sense of physical safety for the public.
6. Enlist the support of local political, educational, medical, economic and religious leaders to facilitate communications, calm fears, provide personal crisis intervention (if appropriately trained to do so) and instill hope.
7. Re-establish normal communication, transportation, school and work schedules as soon as possible.
8. Understand and utilize the power of symbols as a means of re-establishing community cohesion.
9. Initiate rituals to honor the survivors, honor the rescuers and honor the dead.
10. Do no harm! Although well-intended, early psychological support may be counterproductive if a. it interferes with tactical assessment and rescue efforts, b. is applied in such a way as to interfere with natural recovery mechanisms, or c. it intensifies the manifest level of experienced traumatization..

Summary: Terrorism is psychological warfare. This is a war that is won not on a battlefield, but in the mind.

For complete copy of this article and "Children's Reactions and Needs After Disaster" Contact Norma, Two Rivers CISM Team at 223-6104 or page me at 5851.

Following are the portions of the mission reports from the second quarter of 2001 which were inadvertently edited out of the newsletter. My apologies to George Janson who so painstakingly puts these together.

Thursday 4 January 2001 - Lambs Slide, RMNP - Request at 12:33 from RMNP for assist with a lengthy carry-out. Report from Joe Evans, Chief Ranger: On January 4th, Brian McMahon, 23, of Boulder, Colorado, lost control of his descent while boot-skiing down Lambs Slide near Longs Peak. McMahon slid 300 feet before striking a rock and sustaining a compound fracture to his right tibia and fibula. An attempted helicopter evacuation was unsuccessful due to high winds. This necessitated a five-mile carryout by a 34-person rescue team comprised of park staff, Larimer County SAR volunteers, and Colorado Mountain School guides. McMahon was transferred to an ambulance at the trailhead around 01:00. Lambs Slide is an 800-foot, 70-degree-slope snow and ice field named for Reverend Elkanah Lamb. In August, 1871, Lamb attempted an uncharted descent down the east face of Longs Peak and had an experience similar to McMahon's. Although Lamb was able to arrest his fall and therefore was uninjured, he later wrote about his harrowing experience: "Quicker than I can tell it, my hands failed to hold, my feet slipped, and down I went with almost an arrow's rapidity. An eternity of thought, of life, death, wife and home, concentrated in my mind in those two seconds."

Wednesday 7 February 2001 - Eagle Butte, SD - Report from Jayne Zmijewski: Paged at 14:13 for dog teams to search for a missing 66 year old male, in the Red Scaffold Road area of the Cheyenne Indian Reservation near Faith, SD. The individual has epilepsy and when he felt a seizure developing, went outside his home for fresh air, which sometimes stops the onset. He has not been seen since. Search was started at

22:00 Tuesday. Weather is blowing and drifting snow, with over a foot of accumulation over past 36 hours, and extremely poor road conditions. Search activity would be suspended at dark for the night and resume in the morning. No LCSAR/SARDOC dogs were available until the weekend, so Eagle Butte Dispatch Center was advised we would not be responding at this time. The Dispatch Center at Eagle Butte notified us Wednesday night that the subject was found deceased at about 18:00.

Monday 12 February 2001 - Loveland Pass - Request at 03:18 via CSRB for assist to Alpine Rescue Team with dogs and resources to search for two sisters, ages 16 and 20, missing since 12:30 Sunday when they hitched a ride from a motorist to the top of Loveland Pass to go snowboarding. Three LCSAR members, James Mackler, Andy Donelson, and Scott Evans responded to Loveland Pass. Synopsis from Jeff Sparhawk of RMRG/FRRD: Front Range teams were asked to assist Alpine up on Loveland Pass. The call came in Sunday evening for two missing sisters, ages 16 and 20. They were last seen on the ridge a half mile west of the top of Loveland Pass. They had been snowboarding down the basin towards I-70 and Loveland Ski Area with their brother and a friend. The plan was the girls were going to continue along the ridge and then snowboard down to meet the guys. The men skied down expecting to see them in a few minutes at the lower switch back on the road. Alpine searched all night on both the north and south sides of the ridge and all throughout the basin they were supposed to descend. RMRG formed two snowshoe teams and worked their way up from the lower switch back to tree line. FRRD formed two teams who started from the top of the pass to traverse into the basin on skis. I stayed to help with command stuff and to keep Kiyla available in case someone found a suspicious slide with tracks leading in to it. Flight for Life had one of their Denver ships up searching. Mike Everest (Alpine Field Director) was scanning from the helicopter and spotted the two girls

off the south side of the ridge below tree line. The pilot decided to go to Frisco to get the high altitude Flight for Life ship, came back, dropped some rescuers off and eventually evac'd the girls. It was evident from the road and the radio reports that avalanche danger was a real threat and the winds were continuing to load the slopes all day. I don't know the official roster, but it seemed to me that the following teams assisted: Alpine, Summit, Grand, RMRG, Larimer, El Paso and Teller. The Salvation Army showed up (mainly to feed RMRG I think) and there were two or three Air National Guard helicopters that were requested but got stood down before they arrived. Some of the experienced rescuers were saying we got really lucky. This could have easily been a multi-day hard dangerous mission. Thanks to all those who responded. Much media coverage of this incident.

Musings from a member unable to respond that night: I received the page ... and wondered: Which side of the pass were they on? Did one of them hit a tree and the other stay with her not wanting to leave her? Did one get hurt and the other get lost trying to find her way out? Either way, I knew they had to be very cold up there and they needed to be found fast! I almost got out of bed to check the map to see what the terrain looked like, so I could guess which way they might have gone. Instead, I fell back to sleep and dreamed ... I was riding in a car with other LCSAR members, on our way to the search. I was dozing when I realized that we'd just turned around, so I asked if the girls had been found? Someone said "No, but it's already 07:00 and we're still an hour away from Loveland Pass, so we've decided to turn around." I said, "So we will be a little late! It'll be hectic right at 07:00 with everyone showing up. By the time we get there, who knows, we may get the best assignment?" "You're right, we should head back up." I started trying to contact Summit County SAR on the radio to let them know we would be late ... then my alarm went off ... it was time to go to work. I'm doing well falling back to sleep between pages, so I was fast

asleep again when I should have called in for not responding.

A standard method for call-ins for _search_: The SAR Office phone 498-5314 is a good alternative for leaving messages for those who will _not_ be responding to the initial call. It can be easily called and checked by ITC's when things start to slow down to see who has called. Multiple calls can be handled by the County voice-mail system so busy signals would be rare. There will be times when other messages are present on the system and the ITC's need to make sure these messages are delivered in a timely manner to the appropriate individual. It may even be advisable to seek assistance from the other ITC's to help with checking this voice-mail if the duty ITC gets real busy. For _rescue_, the call-in number is 498-5315 [note this is a change from the prior number, due to the relocation of dispatch]. This connects with an answering machine in dispatch. Say your last name, and hang up. The counter will increment for each phone call. Please do not report multiple names on one call, as the counter will only increment by one. REMINDER that Dispatch has a new number: 416-1985.

Saturday 12 May 2001 - Moraine Park, RMNP - Paged at 16:02 [during the BASART Rescue III training session at Combat Rock] for dog teams for water search of the Big Thompson River in Moraine Park for a 9 year old child. The boy was next to his father on a smooth rock, slipped off the rock and instantly disappeared below the water's surface. LCSAR's response was stood down en-route at 16:50 when divers located the subject's body. This incident began at 13:53 when ES was advised that Estes Park Dive Team was responding to Rocky Mountain National Park to assist the Park Service on a report that a child had fallen into the Big Thompson River near Moraine Park. About 20 minutes later ES was advised that Estes Park Dive Team was requesting assistance from the Larimer County Dive Team for rescue/recovery efforts. Search operations with pike poles were concentrated in

an area where two articles of the boy's clothing were found. One pool was at least 12 feet deep and a drop camera was relayed from north Fort Collins to check that area. At 16:00, RMNP asked for dogs to search along the banks of the river, and two water dog teams from LCSAR/SARDOC responded. At about 16:45, just before the camera and the first dog team arrived on scene, the boy's body was located by an Estes Park Dive Team member, approximately 10 feet upstream from where his clothing had been located, and in the general area where he had fallen in. According to the divers in the water his feet were still pinned under a boulder. 55 people from nine different agencies were involved in the massive search effort - including the Larimer County Dive Team, Estes Park Dive Team, Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department, Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado, Estes Park Medical Center, Estes Park Police Department, Larimer County Sheriff's Department and Estes Valley Victim Advocates.

Wednesday 16 May 2001 - Coffintop Mountain, Boulder County - Request at 17:49 to assist RMRG with search for missing 80 year old male. RMRG searchers located the subject just as LCSAR personnel were arriving, and they assisted with the carryout. The subject was reported missing after he got separated at noon from four Sierra Club members with whom he was hiking. Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, the Lyons Fire Department, Boulder County Parks and Open Space officials, Front Range Rescue Dogs, Boulder County Mounted Search and Rescue, the American Red Cross and the Boulder County Sheriff's Office all arrived on the scene. At approximately 19:30, the subject was located in a rugged area in Deadman Gulch. He had fallen and suffered serious injuries to his head, chest and wrist. His condition deteriorated during the evacuation, and he was pronounced dead at the scene at 22:55. Subsequent information received from Dave Hibel, Operations Section Chief for this incident: This is a preliminary report from the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group

and is intended to summarize events for the responding agencies. An investigation continues by the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, the Boulder County Coroner and

Boulder County Sheriff. SITUATION: At 14:42 hrs on Wednesday, May 16, 2001, Boulder County Sheriff's deputies (BCSD), the Rocky Mountain Rescue Group (RMRG), Front Range Rescue Dogs (FRRD), and Lyons Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) were toned to search for an 81 year old hiker who was reported missing for about two hours in the Coffintop Mountain area of the South St. Vrain canyon southwest of Lyons, CO. Boulder County Open Space (BCPOS) was paged at 15:13. A group of hikers had departed that morning from a picnic area below the Coffintop Cliffs (~29 mile marker of Colo. Hwy. 7, South St. Vrain Canyon, elev. 5700 feet), intending to hike to Coffintop Mountain (elev. 8049 feet) and back. The missing hiker, an 81 year old male in reasonably good physical condition who reportedly had diminished hearing ability, was last seen by his companions at about noon, at about 6900 feet elevation and a mile east-southeast of the Coffintop Mountain summit. Terrain in the area is generally granite ridges and outcroppings with cliffs and steep-sided valleys. Wooded hillsides with rugged, densely-vegetated gullies are common. The intended hiking route lacked a continuous established trail. SEARCH: The victim's companions had abandoned their hike and continued their unsuccessful search while calling for/awaiting help. RMRG arrived at the picnic area/trailhead at 15:20 hrs. and began a hasty search at 15:40. Initial search efforts by all agencies were directed toward containment of the rather large search area and investigation of potential victim "escape routes" and "terrain traps". Because the intended route ascended a ridge with possible descent routes into several rugged areas, the initial search area was large - estimated at about 3 square miles. A relatively large search was deemed appropriate due to the victim's known hearing difficulty, large search area, lateness of the day and the rugged terrain. LVFD and others investigated all driveable roads in the area, while

RMRG people hiked into the field in small scratch-search teams and FRRD sent dog teams into several areas considered to be likely descent routes. Spotters with binoculars scanned likely terrain. An RMRG team arrived at the Last Seen Point (LSP) at ~17:00 hrs. As time passed, more searchers arrived and the search area was expanded further. Additional search assistance included: Boulder County Mounted Search and Rescue, Larimer County Search and Rescue, and Alpine Rescue Team. An Alouette Lama helicopter from Geo-Seis Helicopters, Inc. searched with pilot and two volunteer "spotters" in calm weather and good light from about 17:30-19:30, and coordinated their efforts with the field teams and search coordinators. RESCUE: The victim was located at 19:30 hrs. by RMRG/BCPOS searchers, about 3/4 mile northeast of the LSP at ~6100 ft. elevation in an unnamed west branch of Deadman Gulch. He had apparently fallen into a rugged drainage, and had sustained multiple injuries including closed head injury, open left wrist fracture, multiple lacerations and bruises. He was noted to have rapid and shallow breathing. The helicopter spotted the victim from the air, directed searchers into the gully, and attempted to find a nearby landing zone. Additional rescuers, paramedics, and firefighters were requested, along with first aid and rescue equipment. A nearby landing zone could not be located. The victim was bandaged, splinted and made as warm and comfortable as possible while awaiting paramedics, routefinding and additional rescuers & equipment. He was placed on high-flow oxygen, loaded and packaged in standard RMRG fashion including C-spine precautions. The easiest evacuation route was chosen, down (with occasional uphaul) the rugged and heavily-overgrown gully approximately 1/2 mile to the road in the South St. Vrain canyon. Evacuation began at 21:10 hrs. The victim was lowered about 100 ft. over/through fallen boulders and down a short vertical section to the waiting paramedic, who reassessed the victim's condition and provided advanced care including "decompression" of a possible hemo-pneumothorax. Uncommon for local rescues, the evacuation was

assisted by a LVFD chainsaw crew who cleared away underbrush in advance of the litter. The victim continued to experience difficulty breathing during the evacuation despite eventual intubation and positive pressure ventilation, and was pronounced dead at 22:50. RECOVERY: The evacuation traversed out of the gully into easier terrain, and was completed by approximately 23:35. Repacking and cleaning of contaminated (biohazard/Poison Ivy) group gear continued on scene and in Boulder until ~02:00, and was continued in the following days. RESPONDING AGENCIES: people/animals (* = volunteer) [Alpine Rescue Team*: 14] [American Red Cross*: 2] [Boulder County Sheriff Department: 7] [Boulder County Coroner: 1] [Boulder County Victim Advocates*: 4] [Boulder County Parks and Open Space: 2] [Boulder County Mounted Search and Rescue*: 7/plus 6 horses] [Boulder County Regional Communications Dispatchers/ICS van: 2] [Boulder County Sheriff Deputies: 5] [City of Longmont Watershed Rangers: 1] [Front Range Rescue Dogs*: 5/plus 4 dogs] [Geo-Seis Helicopters, Inc. pilot/ground crew: 3] [Larimer County Search and Rescue*: 8/plus 3 dogs] [Longmont Emergency Unit-Light truck*: 2] [Lyons Volunteer Fire Department*: 20] [Pridemark Paramedic Services: 3] [Rocky Mountain Rescue Group*: 30] ESTIMATED HOURS: Total response: 116 people, 6 horses, 7 dogs. Total searchers in the field: 51 people, 6 horses, 4 dogs. Estimated people hours, all agencies: ~770. Estimated RMRG people hours: ~300.

**Missions Report – Third Quarter of 2001
(partial)
compiled by George Janson, Senior Mossback**

Sunday 01 July 2001 – Eldora Townsite, Boulder County – Reported by Mark Sheets: Paged at 05:17 with request for searchers and dogs to assist Rocky Mountain Rescue Group (RMRG). Kevin Harner said that they had been searching all night for a 14 year old Boy Scout who was separated from his troop yesterday around noon, in the Townsite area of Eldora. Kevin said that the boy had been stating that he would like to spend the night out

alone, under the stars. Kevin was requesting 8 members and any dogs to respond ASAP to the staging area at the end of the pavement on the Eldora Townsite Road. LCSAR sent 8 searchers and 3 dogs, who were stood down at 05:52 when RMRG notified us they had found the boy, who was OK.

Tuesday 03 July 2001 – Creedmore Lakes – Reported by Mark Sheets: Paged at 15:29 for duty SAR Manager to call dispatch ASAP. Then at 15:31 disregard last page, followed by 15:49 duty SAR Manager call Ocean 2. At 15:57 came the SAR Manager information page that Cheryl is headed for the search, followed at 16:01 with the page that a search is beginning for a 60 year old male in the Creedmore Lakes Area. At 16:10 comes the stand down – subject has been located by Fire Crew – and the 18 responding members plus three dogs return home. In speaking with Dave Mosier, a 60 year old male fishing with friends on the North Fork of the Poudre River near Creedmore Lakes was last seen around noon, and his friends had been searching for him since. While in route, I hear Northern Dispatch talking to a Forest Service Fire Crew [EMT] that had made contact with the subject at the Creedmore Lakes parking lot. ES requested they evaluate the subject for medical and stood down LCSAR when subject's medical report was of no consequence.

Friday 6 July 2001 – North Cheyenne Canyon, El Paso County – Reported by Mike Fink: Paged at 07:37 to call CSRB Coordinator. El Paso County SAR is searching for a 56 year old male, from Michigan, who has been out since 10:00 yesterday in the North Cheyenne Canyon area. They are currently only requesting dog resources. El Paso County didn't start fielding people until 04:00 this morning, shortly after they were notified. Bruce Fosdick, the State SAR Coordinator, suspected that El Paso would be putting in a call for the second operational period later this afternoon. The area is described as very rugged at around 7000 feet and temperatures were expected to be in the 90's. It is an active Bear and Cougar area. Allan Weaver (Rosie), Estelle Purvis (Echo), Dave Hake, Jayne Zmijewski, and Kristin Ballenski left the county about 10:00 to assist. The last seen point is known and scent articles are available. Angela Snovak (Isis) [Alpine SAR] was also responding from the Evergreen area as a SARDOC resource. Saturday 7 July 2001 Only dogs were again requested by El Paso County SAR for their ongoing search for the 56 year old male from Michigan. According to Jaynie & Allen there was not much scent to detect, probably because of the extreme heat, but also possibly because there was never much there to begin with. The terrain is rugged and the altitude is 7000 - 8000 feet and maybe moving even higher today. Based on evidence and scent, Jaynie & Allan feel the search might move to the Gold Camp Road area to the

north and further uphill. It was hot all day, which is terrible for good scents (and sense) and the winds were light and constantly changing. They did have very good scent articles. The area was also very scent- and clue-contaminated because all the recreators have to use the same trail to get through the area. Lots of poison ivy too. Sandy Witte from Routt County and Shannon Young from Mesa County (the two furthest away) agreed to drive all night to help out on the search. I hated to call them but I ended up calling or paging every SARDOC resource in the state to let them know what was going on and to ask for their help. Jen & Chara & James Mackler are also going from Larimer. Getting the early start there at 05:00 should be good for the dogs. I do not know why they didn't search all night. To the others who called from LCSAR to offer their help – thanks! but we were just looking for dog support right now; which ideally and very basically is someone who is an excellent navigator, who understands how to mark the map for the different types of alerts, who is familiar with the dog and how it alerts, and lastly, during your spare time, is able pick up on all the other clues that may be out there. SARDOC has a Wilderness Support Rating that gives you all these skills. You can call any handler for more details. David Hake continues: I'm back from El Paso and as Mike said the temps were HOT! Air wasn't doing much except drying yours and the Dogs noses. Not much for directions. The attached map shows the routes our team members took. I only heard UTM's and Alert directions from Jen and James so they will have to fill you in on the rest. The subject was located just about a 1/2 mile from the ICP as shown on the attached picture of the map ... the map ... what a concept to actually have a map to work with! They gave us a simple little trail map that had no topography on it and it was a challenge to say the least. The map attached is something I did with TOPO once I got home. Tip number 1 – When going out of county, expect to not have a "real map"!!! Take what you can. I ended up making waypoints in my GPS and doing "Go To's" to triangulate to see where we were on the trail map. What fun!!! Anyway, this is a short summary of what happened ... oh yea, half way through the day El Paso SAR got called for a mission up by woodland Park (15 miles away) for a hiker with a broken leg. I was at base resting up so I jumped in with them to help on that. 1 mile of "nasty and steep" trail. So if you're hungry for a mission ... answer those out of county pages ... and have fun. Oh, I forgot to tell you. I met a person on the trail that said she was hiking the trail the day our subject was reported missing and thought she had talked to him. I did a quick interview asking her some questions and got some good info and got her phone number for base to call her later if they need more info. This ended up being one of the key pieces to the puzzle. She had told me that he asked if she knew which trail went up to that mountain and pointed but she couldn't tell me which mountain because we were up the canyon. Base called her back later in the day and

had her show them. Command sent two teams to the base of the mountain she pointed out and the subject was found. Just goes to show you, "Talk to people"! I guess she had told some searchers the day before the same thing and a team was sent up the trail but nothing much was done with the info. The subject took a hike up to the top of the mountain she pointed to and must have lost footing and fell 200 feet. It's sad that he was found dead but at least we were able to give the family some closure. We all know how important closure is.

Friday 6 July 2001 – Pineridge Reservoir – Reported by Cheryl Kennedy: Paged at 06:15 with request from LCSO Investigations for possible search. I contacted Sgt. Josey for information regarding possible search at Pineridge Reservoir. Possible evidence/cadaver but very limited information and no reported missing persons or assaults. Due to lack of information and small area, I determined to limit response unless further information located prior to 07:00 mission response time to Pineridge Reservoir. Two LCSAR/SARDOC dog teams responded. A group of people in the Pineridge parking lot at 01:00 on 4 July reported by cell phone to LCSO of hearing a woman scream in the northwest corner of the reservoir area (right in the curve of the road vicinity). They became concerned and drove down to the curve. There was a lone vehicle parked at the curve, and they parked near that vehicle. Continued hearing a woman screaming for help coming from directly east of the vehicles. Deputies arrived on scene and a FCPD street canine was dispatched to check the area. A deputy was assigned to watch the vehicle after other LE units departed. At 04:00 a known sex offender came up the trail to the parked vehicle. Stated he had been fishing (did have fish). LCSO wanted dogs to clear triangle area in northwest corner of reservoir area in case there was an incident that did occur. Other investigation continuing while searching. Heavy tree area with numerous foot trails and game trails. Dense underbrush. Hasty search of trails and drainage areas, as well as east side of reservoir for 1/2 mile. Only light indicators from dogs (both pulled to same location) with some possible sign of altercation. Secured scene as possible crime scene and notified Sgt. Josey by radio. Minimal wind movement in vegetation area. Crime Scene Investigator brought to scene to document area of dog interest as other investigation continued. All units clear of Pineridge Reservoir at 11:00.

Saturday 7 July 2001 – Chambers Lake area – SAR Manager page at 22:50 regarding some missing individuals at Chambers Lake area, but stood down at 22:53 when dispatch was notified that the subjects had returned home.

Monday 16 July 2001 – Greyrock area – Paged at 19:40 to

respond to Greyrock. Dispatch had received a 911 call at 19:30, and the caller stated that he and another hiker were lost in the Greyrock area. After the call had disconnected, subsequent efforts to contact the caller were unsuccessful. LCSAR responded to the area with 18 members. Emergency Services located the vehicle in the trailhead parking lot and dispatch contacted the owner. Deputies contacted the roommate who advised that two brothers, age 30 and 32, of Nebraska were hiking in that area. At 23:05 team members made voice contact with the subjects and by 23:30, all parties were on the way down the mountain. There were no injuries. The brothers had food and water with them, although they were not prepared with proper clothing.

Saturday 21 July 2001 – Lost Lake area – Paged at 20:00 to search for two missing children, 8 and 13 years old, in the Lost Lake area. Stand down came at 20:35 when dispatch was advised that the children had been located and were OK, however, another search was possibly developing ... continued below.

Saturday 21 July 2001 – White Pine Mountain area – At 21:29, paged to respond to White Pine Mountain area for a missing female. LCSAR was stood down en-route at 23:17 when dispatch was advised that the female had been located in Loveland.

Saturday 28 July 2001 – Greyrock trail – Paged at 16:14 to respond to Greyrock trailhead for carryout of an injured Great Dane dog. Just after 17:00, eight members had assembled at the trailhead and were walking to the bridge when they encountered the owner with his 4 year old daughter, Emma, and their injured dog, Arthur. While on the Meadows Trail, at about 14:30, the dog tore the pad of his left rear paw. Dad quickly found out that if he sent Emma a few dozen yards down the trail, Arthur would follow, apparently fearful of being left behind. As they were slowly limping their way out, some other hikers passed by, and called 911 to report the situation. The stand down was sent at 17:11.

Friday 3 August 2001 – La Veta area, Huerfano County – Original page at 11:01 was to SARDOC from CSRB Coordinator requesting dog teams to assist Huerfano County SAR. Reported by Dave Hake: Just a note to let people know what happened in La Veta (south of Pueblo). Dan Fanning and I left Fort Collins around 16:00 Friday, just in time to encounter 3 wrecks on I-25 and the Denver rush hour, and made it down to La Veta around 21:00. It was a missing 62 year old male with no known medical conditions, no reason for being missing, etc. His truck was found on a section of land that he recently leased, on

the west end of his 1,000+ acre ranch. Bear showed interest in many places that night as we worked him. As soon as we would get farther away he seemed to lose interest. We'll never know but I think Bear may have been on his trail and the guy was walking all around trying to find a route to his destination. We finished up around 03:30, then resumed fresh the next morning (as fresh as we could get with 2-3 hours of sleep on a hard wood deck!). Steve Inscho, Shawn Hines, and James Mackler joined us early that morning, and Jen Mackler, Chara and Sarah Brauer came later that morning. I found out that if you need a litter, bash kit, three 300' ropes and lunch brought up the mountain, just give it to Steve along with a Red Bull power drink or the other Blue something and he'll be there in minutes! Jen and Sarah worked Chara in a new area while the rest of us were searching areas that had already been searched ... three times! Chara alerted up a drainage that led to the top of the most prominent peak around [Cross Mountain]. While Steve, myself and Dave Reynolds (El Paso) worked a tracking assignment to the south of the peak, Steve saw a Vulture flying around the peak. That being the only clue anyone had found besides the alerts from Chara, we decided to go to the top and help Jen and Sarah figure out what the alerts were going to. We made it to the top of the peak ... well 20 feet from the top when Dave Reynolds said he needed to get back to base so he could leave by 16:00. Steve and I both knew what we wanted to do, but we couldn't split the team up because it was steep terrain. We went back to base and shortly after we returned Jen and Sarah called in saying they had a find. Not more than 100 yards from where we turned around. Unfortunately, the subject appeared to have taken his own life. They could only flag off the scene because it was now a crime scene until it was investigated. James and Shawn met up with them, and I told Base that James was more than capable to take over as Rescue leader for the evac, so that was the call. It was determined later to do the evac the following day, due to weather and darkness moving in. Our teams pulled out and headed home, realizing that it would be 12:00 the following day before anything was moved. They were able to get within 300 yards with ATV's and the evac was done safely without too many problems. The Incident command could have been a little better but in a county that small, I was surprised they had an Incident command at all. We utilized the locals for shuttling teams with ATV's and they were all very glad we came to help. All in all, a good search, and I would go back to help them anytime. Nice people. Thanks everyone for coming down and helping. [and Thanks, Ken, for understanding that we would rather do a search than park cars :-)] Herewith, the formal report from Hans Buljung (Huerfano County SAR Coordinator) Huerfano County Search and Rescue was involved in a missing person search from approximately 01:00 on 3 August until 14:00 on 5 August. The missing person was a 62 year old male from La Veta. Search

efforts began at 06:00 on 3 August by 10 members of Huerfano County SAR and assisted by ranch employees and friends of the family. The search centered on the location of his vehicle that was found parked on the western portion of the ranch property in the vicinity of Cross Mountain. Due to the extremely difficult search conditions of the steep terrain and dense undergrowth additional resources were called in to assist. A chartered helicopter with SAR observers flew over the area and dog search teams from SARDOC and a search coordinator from El Paso County SAR were called in. Two dog teams (dog handler and navigator) arrived at 18:00 on that evening and began searching. Another tracking dog team arrived at around 21:00 and searched for several hours. Additional searchers and trackers arrived in La Veta at 06:00 on 4 August. 40 SAR members and 10 local volunteers began a detailed search at 07:00. An additional dog search team from Larimer County also arrived at 10:00. At 1615 the dog search team from Larimer County located the subject's body near the top of Cross Mountain. Due to the terrain, danger from possible lightning, and poor access into the scene, recovery efforts were scheduled for Sunday 5 August. A 10 member technical team from Douglas and El Paso SAR and HCSAR members began recovery efforts at 10:00 on 5 August. Local volunteers provided rides into the area on ATV's and also cleared the trail of fallen logs and heavy timber. The body was safely recovered and the mission was completed by 14:00 on 5 August. Search and Rescue Teams involved: Huerfano County Search and Rescue, El Paso County Search and Rescue, Douglas County Search and Rescue, Arapahoe Rescue Patrol, Larimer County Search and Rescue, Search and Rescue Dogs of Colorado [El Paso County - 2 teams, Larimer County - 2 teams].

Friday 10 August 2001 - Bridges of Larimer County - Paged at 16:09 for Duty SAR Manager to call dispatch. Reported by Dave Hake: Doesn't sound quite as nice as "Bridges of Madison County" but what that heck! It's hard to get everything on a page, so I'll explain what the page was about. In case you haven't heard, the President will be going up to Estes Park for a visit next Tuesday, and of course, all kinds of protection is in order for this. Capt. Bill Nelson of the Sheriff's Office asked us if we would guard the bridges along Thompson Canyon, and maybe a few other places that need a guard, after the President's Men check them for bombs and such. They need someone to keep post after they've made their check until the parade of cars go through on their way up to Estes Park and back. Tuesday starting at 07:00 until 16:00, or until they are through. So far I have: myself, C.J. Fell, Sarah Babbit, Lee Curtis, Jaynie Zmijewski (If I were the President, I would ask Jaynie to ride in the car with me! She said she could bring her grenade launcher, but I told her I didn't think it would be necessary!) Ultimately, LCSAR members were not needed to supple-

ment the Sheriff's Office personnel, and our stand-by was stood down at 17:46 on Friday.

Friday 10 August 2001 - Horsetooth Mountain Park - Paged at 20:45 for Duty SAR Manager to call ES. While Dave Hake was talking on the phone with Kevin Johnston, they were advised that the child, a 5 year old female, missing at Horsetooth Mountain Park, had been found, and she was OK.

Wednesday 15 August 2001 - Glendo Reservoir, WY - Reported by Julie Weibler: Wednesday evening a 39 year old male went out to get his boat, which had floated away from the boat dock at Glendo Reservoir, while he was parking his vehicle. He suddenly started to wave his hands and his wife thought he was joking at first, then realized he was not joking and tried to swim out to help him. The water got too deep for her and she had to turn back and he went under. The Wheatland dive team started searching about 21:00 Wednesday night and searched until midnight. They were wanting to start searching again at 06:00 Thursday, however, no dog resources were available to respond that early. Jaynie with Miriah, Julie with Zephyr, and Dave Frank as support arrived early afternoon Thursday. The divers were out of the water at 10:30 (we requested that they be out by 14:00 to clear the water a bit). We started searching around 14:30 and, of course, the storms were starting to move in, so the water was getting pretty whipped up. Both dogs were searching from the pontoon boat we met at the marina. They had alerts in a fairly well defined area. Water is 12-14 feet deep in this area. Divers searched using a center buoy and doing pendulum swings from that buoy. We went out again after the weather cleared a bit. Dogs alerted in the same area, though this time slightly closer to shore with a wind direction change. Divers were preparing to search this area (said they had searched it prior to our arrival as it was the same area the witness said the subject went down), but were pulled out due to lightning strikes nearby. About 18:00 Thursday evening, I notified Darren to try to get Jim or Cheryl for Friday morning, as the authorities did not want dogs from further away [than Routt or Larimer] to be called; and neither were available. Searchers plan to dive the spot Friday morning and then drag the whole area, as they want to do a recovery before this weekend's visitors are swarming the reservoir.