

*that others
may live*



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LCSTAR

Newsletter for Larimer County Search and Rescue, Inc.

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edited by: Jim Powers

Tenacious: having parts or elements strongly adhering to each other; not easily pulled apart; cohesive, tough; persistent in maintaining or adhering to something valued... *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*

You can find meaning in many things in life and there are many meanings that could be drawn from the "concluding" Atadero search on June 14. For someone who stills feels kinda new to the team, and has a newbie's perspective, the meanings of the words *tenacious* and *caring* apply. Those words kept bouncing around in my head as we crept, bounced, slide and worked our way down to the Big South trail on Saturday after the find. These are the words that describe the team to me. Oh sure, there are others, like: professional, skilled, motivated, fun-loving, hardworking, etc. However, these two words stand out.

Events seem to define who we are. President George W. Bush, like him or not, appears to be defined by his actions relating to the events of September 11, 2001. In my brief tour with LCSAR the Atadero search seems to be defining, not by the way the media reported us, but by

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how we saw ourselves. I say "we" as I sure took on the team's attitude and feelings even though my involvement was vicarious during the first search.

In three and a half years there hasn't been a time when I questioned a veteran team member that they were not willing to tell me what their role in the initial search was, what their theory for not finding Jaryd was, and what they were still doing to find him. I guess for people outside LCSAR that would be defeating, frustrating and might feel hopeless. For LCSAR it was motivating, something to drive us to be better.

Tenacious...caring.

I think you can see who we are in Webster's definition. We are strongly adhering to each other, not easily pulled apart, cohesive. I say that pretty well says TEAM.

Why am I going off like this? Well, Saturday, June 14th, was very meaningful to me. I want to say how honored I am to be a part of this team. Examples: Sarah Brauer had the sensitivity to hand the baby tooth that was found to Allyn Atedero so that he could hold what was believed to be a part of his son one last time. Sarah Babbitt, during our debrief, said how comforting it was to come up to the area where the find took place and feel the quiet, caring professionalism, and that the searchers treated the scene respectfully.

For those who stayed in town to support the effort by being available for a mission, for those who wanted to go but the numbers had been reached, and for those of us who went I feel like a big well done is in order.

Thank you for letting me be a part of your team!

This is a segue into talking about other defining times...the history of LCSAR, later in this issue. I know that this has been done before by George and others. I felt it was time to explore our roots again so those of us who are relatively new to the team can appreciate our heritage. Jim.

He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool...shun him. He who knows not, and knows that he knows not, is willing...teach him. He who knows, and knows not that he knows, is asleep...awaken him. He who knows, and knows that he knows, is wise...follow him. Chinese Proverb

Norma Govan, the gentle yet intense lady who keeps us all sane! Like many of you my first experience with Norma was during my BASART CISM Class. Later I learned that a LCSAR tradition is when she opens her home to us for the LCSAR Christmas party. Classy, caring, generous! Skilled, professional! We have had a number of interviews/bios. with our male teammates so I thought it time that we honored some of the women who make our team special. Who better for me to lead off with than Norma?

Norma Govan:

A quote sits on Norma's desk, one that she tries to live by and that she teaches in CISM is: *If you don't like something, change it...if you can't change it then change how you look at it.* How this wonderful lady looks at life is truly inspirational. As I sat across from her, asking questions and being drawn in by those penetrating, yet gentle eyes, I was struck by the strength and grace that she exudes.

Norma was born in Dumont and raised in Bergenfield, New Jersey. After completing high

school she got a job at New Jersey Bell Phone Company, working there five years. She married Dave Govan, six months after he graduated from the Naval Academy. Soon they had four wonderful children: Donna, Eileen, Terry and Dave. I'm sure that the challenges of working and motherhood were there but as Norma tells the story it all seems to have flowed for them.



Did they have challenges? How about a Navy guy, a graduate of “the Academy”, choosing to end his career after only one tour of duty because to do otherwise would mean that the kids would be without their dad too much? Or, the challenge of Norma going to college at night...she calls it “Last Chance” college, where she majored in Family Relations and Child Development (night school at Rutgers University-New Brunswick).

While balancing being a dedicated wife and mom Norma began teaching and working with schools using her credentials as a pre-school director and substitute teacher. Dave was working for New Jersey Bell, has the chance to move to Colorado to work for Mountain Bell. It is 1973 and the challenge...er, opportunity here is that he will work for half as much and their expenses would be almost double. Sounds about right?

Not allowing the difficult financial times in Fort Collins, or a daughter about to start C.S.U., or anything else to be a burden to them, Norma and Dave decide to become real estate agents. The way Norma describes this adventure makes a person want to go into business with their spouse. She explained how they used each other’s strengths, a strong work ethic, and lofty values, based on serving the client’s interests, to build their business.

So, in a few short years they had moved, started a new business, and probably lots of other stuff (like being involved parents belonging to Parent-Teacher Organizations, helping in the schools, that kind of stuff), when Norma starts following news articles about searches and rescues. Being doers both Dave and Norma joined LCSAR. The year is 1981. Now we’re not talking about a couple of footloose young kids, we are talking about “mature” people with responsibilities that love to serve and to learn.

Norma admits that the technical stuff was not her strong point however she mastered the knots she needed to know, a couple of anchors and was ready to contribute. Twenty-two years later and Norma is still contributing.

I asked Norma if she liked the important place that she has carved out for herself with the team. Although CISM is a critical element in our SAR team it isn’t enough for Norma. She would like to be in the field, in the trailer, where the action is. O.K., use your fingers, Norma was in her 50s when she joined the team in 1981 and still this petite lady wants to participate in all aspects of search and rescue. From what I can tell it is only her great sense of balance: family, work and team, that keeps her less involved than she’d like to be. Norma told me that when she comes back, assuming she ever goes “on”, she’s going to come back as two Normas, so she can do it all.

The tender heart of this fine lady showed when she answered the question about what was the most meaningful mission for her. It was the Dusty Milton search. This was a lost little boy in the Estes Park area who was found after two or three intense hours of searching. Sadly, he had drowned.

What do you like about SAR? Norma said that she loves the focus that is necessary to have a successful search or rescue, something that brings people together working toward the same goal: finding or helping someone who needs us whole blocking out all other distractions. Being part of a team, in its finest sense, where people trust each other, can count on each other, each doing their part, and the bond that results.

Is there anything you’d change about the team? “No, not really”, was the answer. Then, after a few moments of reflection she said, “Well, only one thing...communication”. It seems that Norma feels that with good communication a team will grow, relationships grow, effectiveness grows. You know, all that good stuff that we kind of overlook so that we can become more proficient technically. Does she have any ideas on how to accomplish this? You bet, just ask her!

Recently, Dave, Norma’s husband fell and hit his head. This was potentially a very, very serious injury. Anyone who had the chance to talk to Norma during this time, and during Dave’s subsequent recovery, had to be aware that Norma’s glass is always more than ½ full, showing how she lives the quote on her desk. At

a chance meeting outside of Sam's Club, Norma told me that their lives had taken on an even more special meaning after going through this rocky time.

O.K. Norma, what's next?

Spending time interviewing Norma was really a joy for me and I drove home really uplifted. Thanks, Norma, for staying on the team and including us in your life's balance. Ed.

Notes from a retired BASART Coordinator

With all of the extra time I have since retirement as BASART Coordinator, I have occasionally reminisced about the good old BASART 2003 days. One of the best memories is that of the fantastic support that Team Members gave to the BASART program. For many of the field sessions, there was almost a one-to-one ratio of Team Members to BASARTs! And although my perspective is limited to a three-year horizon, it seems that Team Members can always be counted on to help with BASART.

Again, my perspective is limited, but it seems that the instruction gets better each year. Some of this may be due to technology like PowerPoint and DoggieCam; but most of the improvement comes because instructors continually adjust presentations based on what worked/didn't work for the previous class. The instructors really did do a professional job. BASARTs and Team Members consistently rated classes and field sessions high and the most frequent suggestion for what to change next year was "nothing."

With excellent team support and quality instruction, 22 new S1's are ready, in their words, to "bring the noise!"

The only aspect of the BASART program that fell short of expectations was the role of the mentor. On paper, the mentor guidelines looked great, but in practice few were able to meet these guidelines. Perhaps there needs to be different expectations—and a different name—for a Team Member who takes a few BASARTs under his/her wing. Maybe trying to force the frequency of contact is not the way to go and that the progress of the student should dictate the amount of contact needed.

From an organizational standpoint, there are several changes that should be made to the training schedule:

- more compact schedule; i.e., don't schedule around all holidays and CSU events (spring break and graduation)
- more logical sequence of classes; e.g., do Practice Search before Rescue classes
- weather days for field sessions—one for Search and one for Rescue; i.e., if a field session has to be canceled, there is already another date on the calendar for "make up"

With one of the larger graduating classes ever, some may think it inconsequential that two BASARTs dropped out. In every BASART class, there seems to be some who, in part, drop out because they did not appreciate or understand the financial and time commitments for SAR. Perhaps an initial orientation meeting for those interested in joining LCSAR would help insure that prospective members have an appreciation of the equipment and time requirements...as well as have a realistic picture of missions and mission load.

A more timely issue, though, is to ensure the 22 new S1's stay active. With the likelihood of no BASART program next year (due to effort needed for MRA re-accreditation), it is important to reduce turn over with new members. A suggestion made at the July Executive Board Meeting was to have a Team Member follow up with the new graduates to help keep them actively involved in training and in missions. If you have suggestions on how this could and should be done, please contact someone on the Training Committee.

Ron Alexander, BASART Coordinator, retired

Editor: You will note how many times Ron mentions his being "retired". From personal experience I think that you have to be the Coordinator at least twice to be sure you get it right. Ron did such a phenomenal job and added so much organization to BASART that his second tour of duty will be awesome. I vote that we don't accept his retirement!



The BASART Final, The Story: It was a couples retreat at Shambala Center, near the Boy Scout Camp in Red Feather. Buddy, the reporting party and uncle of a despondent and very pregnant lady, called ES saying that the lady's husband, Bill, had not been seen for about 12 hours. Amy found credit card receipts and thought that Bill was going to take her to Shambala,



however he had not and she STRONGLY suspected he had taken another woman. When ES checked it out they found Bill's truck and that not only was hubby missing but there were two couples missing as well. IC was set up across from the Boy Scout Camp, teams were selected and Search Manager Sarah Babbitt briefed the teams. The search took most of the night with all subjects found. Just after midnight, or there abouts, it was discovered that our pregnant reporting party's uncle had taken it upon himself to come and look for the missing husband. Uncle and wife wanted to open up a can of some serious "whup __s". Uncle, it was determined had a heart condition and so there was some urgency in finding him.. When he was found the medical condition was a badly sprained knee but the heart condition was o.k. Therefore the carryout would begin at first light. The challenging up haul and lower was accomplished with great finesse. All members of the BASART Search and rescue team returned tired, happy and uninjured (probably a little sore the next day).

The scenario was written and produced by Cheryl Kennedy and Jim Powers; directed by Sarah Babbitt; with starring roles by: Kathy Shepard; Bill and Becky Young; Bill Daniel, Ken Miller and of course Alan Kennedy; supporting role George Janson (also known as Star Man). Special thanks to all the team members who helped and especially the 2003 BASART Class.

CONGRATULATIONS NEW S1s!!! (and mom Julie)



LCSAR 2003 Training Schedule:

September:

1 st	Labor Day	
3 rd	Advanced Navigation	19:00
6 th	Highland Festival	
7 th	Dog Practice	8:00
	Highland Festival	
9 th	TNT	18:00
10 th	Executive Board	18:30
11 th	CSRB Meeting	19:30
12 th	UTS Tracking Class	8:00
13 th	UTS Tracking Class	8:00
	Dog Practice	8:00
14 th	UTS Tracking Class	8:00
15 th	Training Committee	18:30
17 th	BC Pickoff Class	19:00
20 th	BC Pickoff Field	8:00
21 st	Dog Practice	8:00
23 rd	TNT	18:00
24 th	SAR Manager	18:30
27 th	Dog Practice	8:00



October:

1 st	Firearms Safety Class	19:00
4 th	Firearms Safety Field	8:00
5 th	Dog Practice	8:00
8 th	Executive Board	18:30
11 th	Dog Practice	8:00
	Tracking Field	8:00
13 th	Columbus Day	
14 th	TNT	18:00
15 th	Highlines/Guiding Lines	19:00
18 th	Highlines/Guiding Lines	8:00
19 th	Highlines/Guiding Lines	8:00
	Dog Practice	8:00
20 th	Training Committee	18:30
22 nd	SAR Manager	18:30
25 th	Dog Practice	8:00
26 th	End Daylight Savings Time	

Dave Zader demo



Gather in the river and learn the best way down

November:

1 st	BASART Application Deadline	
2 nd	Dog Practice	8:00
3 rd	BASART App. Review	18:30
5 th	Team Elections	19:00
8 th	Dog Practice	8:00
	SAREX – Interagency	8:00
11 th	TNT	18:00
12 th	Executive Board	18:30
13 th	CSRB Meeting	19:30
16 th	Dog Practice	8:00
	Tracking Field	8:00

(Ken Klein, Brent Deitrich and Sarah



Babbitt practice Mid-Face Medical)

17th Training Committee 18:30

November (cont.):

19th Cold Wx Survival 19:00

22nd Dog Practice 8:00

Cold Wx Overnight/
Advanced Navigation 14:00

23rd Cold Wx Overnight

26th SAR Manager 18:30

27th Thanksgiving

28th Estes Park Thanksgiving

Parade 12:00

30th Dog Practice 8:00

December:

3rd BASART Class Selection 19:00

6th Summit Cty. Avalanche

Seminar

Wellington Christmas Parade

Dog Practice 8:00

7th Summit Cty. Avalanche

Seminar

9th TNT 18:00

10th Executive Board 18:30

14th Dog Practice 8:00

15th Training Committee 18:30

17th LCSAR Christmas Party 18:00

20th Dog Practice 8:00

Tracking Field 8:00

24th SAR Manager 18:30

25th Christmas

28th Dog Practice 8:00



George shows how ascending should be done-- see even Mossbacks can do it!



Lisa Lilly (in litter), Darrell Turman and Dave Egley. Mid-Face medical

Faith is to believe what you do not yet see; the reward for this faith is to see what you believe...Saint Augustine

The above quote is so appropriate when it comes to a *search*. Just before the start of the assignment for the team I was on in the Atadero II search, team leader Scott Evans advised that we should **expect** to make a find. He suggested that we visualize, as best we could, what we were looking for so that we'd recognize it when we saw it. Sure enough Scott made the find.

A Queue from the Quartermaster

After a 3 1/2 year opportunity to serve LCSAR as Quartermaster, it's time for me to step down and pass this opportunity on to another Team member. In my 3 1/2 years I've heard a lot, seen a lot, and learned a lot and have enjoyed 99% of all the experiences.

One item that I was not ready for, when I volunteered for the Quartermaster, was the time commitment necessary to do the job effectively. That is a very large part of the job. Consider the following, for starters: one day a week should be allowed to go to the Cache just to check on equipment, then there is the monthly Executive Board meetings. Now add TNT's, Wednesday night team meetings or classes, special meetings (not scheduled on the calendar), and weekend field training classes, then missions and I believe you may start to get the picture.

I am in no way attempting to frighten any member away from this job; rather, it is an attempt to let you know there is a large commitment of time needed for the Quartermaster position. When I accepted this position it was literally handed to me in a box and portable file carrier with the crossover statement being "I don't know what's in here, but here you go." Talk about confusion and fear. For the first year I bugged George Jason about where to get this, or where to find that, and so on. I will not do that to the next Quartermaster. I will make the transition as painless as possible and, as I was helped during my years as Quartermaster, I will help the next Quartermaster as she or he sees fit. The positions description and responsibilities are listed in the Team Policy and Procedures, #9.7 and the Team Bylaws, Article V section #7.

The team elections will be this November, so you have some time to consider the opportunity of the Quartermaster position.

As always, I'm certain there will be questions, so please e-mail me or catch me at a meeting, and I will do my best to answer your questions.

One more item for consideration, as Quartermaster, you get to carry the only team Credit Card. It's a really cool feeling to walk into a sports shop and purchase TEAM items and whip out the ole credit card, pay for it, and watch peoples faces as you walk out the store with your arms full of stuff. OH what fun it is !

Well, that's all I have...

Dave Frank LCSAR Quartermaster (for now)

From the President

By Sarah M. Babbitt

The initial page came in the wee hours of Tuesday morning. I had Taft Hill Road all to myself as I headed home from Loveland, where I'd been meteor-watching with a friend in his back yard. Now the breeze in my open windows was my only company until the shrill sound of the pager. Though I could hear my pillow calling my name, I was glad I wasn't already in bed because waking up to that screech is such a violent jolt. I didn't envy all those folks who, cozy in their beds, were about to experience that shock when the first all-team page came out. Keeping the nose of the car pointed north I headed through the night toward the cache-----

The page came in the August early afternoon heat. Squinting in the intense sun, I was in the midst of a small crowd shuffling out of the gate from the sculpture show. Hmmm, I have plans for a 2 PM. Hmmm, whatever else happens on this rescue it's definitely going to be mighty hot. Hmmm, I'm relatively close so would be one of the first on-scene. Hmmm, how are my injured feet feeling? Hmmm, I remember seeing lots of emails from folks who were going to be out of town this weekend. By the time I got to my car the decision was made. Up the hill we go-----

The page came in as I was doing an evening massage session at a client's home. Not wearing my pager while I work, I could hear it calling to me but I couldn't satisfy my curiosity until the end of the session. During those 20 minutes or so I guessed about the contents of the page and debated what I'd do, while trying to stay focused on my client. It was chilly and late. Hadn't been home since 8 AM. The mission was probably in the farthest north part of the county and here I was in south Loveland. I was ready for rest. But the idea of a mission does get the blood flowing. After the session, upon seeing it was a search in Estes, I changed my clothes and headed up the canyon-----

And there you were.

Last week, last fall, in the heat, in the cold, there you were. Over 70 of you go through similar debates in your head every time that pager sounds. Most of you have the additional family concerns to factor into the equation. And you are there. Jolted awake in the night, you show up. When you have other plans, you show up. When you'd simply rather take a deep breath and have no plans at all, you show up. Some of you have been showing up for 20 years.

This is why LCSAR commands, and deserves, the respect that it does in this county. This is why I have such profound respect and love for this eclectic group of crazies. When it comes down to it, you show up. A simple act, really. But one of the finer things you can do for another human being.

Thank you.



LCSAR (a.k.a. “the MRT”): a Brief Personal History

Writing a history, however brief, of the Larimer County Search and Rescue Team is fraught with peril. Individuals who were central to it’s inception may not be mentioned and the mention of others may enhance their importance beyond their actual influence. But such specifics are not really that important to this brief story; the when and why and how are more germane to our view and so, we shall begin but with the caveat that it is through the prism of one particular person - whose name appears attached to this article.

In the summer of 1970, three acquaintances and I were in the Poudre Canyon and saw a forest fire up on the south rim. Mark Twain once observed that all one needs for success is ignorance and enthusiasm. In that same spirit, we resolved that we would walk up to the fire and see if there was something we could do to help. Our route followed a nasty 4WD trail which an ancient Emergency Services truck had taken minutes before, presumably to access the fire line. When he arrived, the director of Emergency Services, John Englebert and his assistant Jack Tamlin (who would oversee fire and search and rescue operations for several years thereafter) were on scene with a handful of fire fighters scratching out what I was told was “fire line”. In response to our *fait accompli* offer of help, Englebert passed out some water bottles, shovels and Pulaskis, told us the line needed to be three feet wide and down to mineral soil and sent us on our way. Such was the extent of my training for my first Emergency Services mission. It was also the beginning of my introduction, as the years would pass, to a vast array of very dedicated and talented people both on the fire crew and what was to be called the Larimer County Mountain Rescue Team. Almost all have gone their separate ways over the years but several friends remain in the Fort from those days.

The Mountain Rescue Team (MRT) was formed with a core group of individuals around 1972-73. We met in the Emergency Services office space in the basement of the old Court House. All three vehicles for all emergency services activities in the county were housed in the 3-bay garage there facing Mason Street. Among the most prominent

founders were Rick Perkins and Jerry Read. The former eventually became the Emergency Services Director, County Emergency Manager and currently works as a Sergeant with the Sheriff’s Office; the latter, Jerry Read died tragically several years ago due to a medical condition while soloing in the Gore Range. Read was the head of the team when I joined in 73...the first so-called SAR Manager that we had and later on also served admirably as my roommate and dart throwing companion. Both Perkins and Read had had SAR experience with Alpine Rescue when in high school in Evergreen, Colorado and brought some recognizable training protocols and organization to what had been, arguably, a rather amateur collection of call-when-needed searchers prior to the MRT’s inception.

If there was a need for searchers for a lost hiker prior to this time, Englebert would enlist whoever was available to conduct line searches in grids or whatever other method seemed might bear fruit. These people included off-duty Deputies, the occasional jail trustee, local ranchers, family members of the missing and volunteers responding to appeals to the public. There really wasn’t a team, per se, and certainly no regular training of a cadre of specialists who could do anything remotely close to high angle rescue (at least anything we might now recognize as high angle rescue....I myself once tensioned the line of a victim loaded Tyrolean traverse across the Poudre River by backing up an Emergency Services truck. The front bumper was our anchor. I’ll go no further with additional such admissions).

But I have to give credit to Englebert and Tamlin for the job they did do. Dick Spiess, currently with Poudre Fire Authority, joined Emergency Services in the mid 70’s and did a great job in assisting the growth of the team. Support for the nascent MRT was always forthcoming and they did all that was possible with a pathetic budget to accumulate equipment which was purchased not at Jax Surplus (it really was a surplus store then) but at places like the old Gerry Mountaineering in Boulder, REI mail order from Seattle, Kelty and other “early” suppliers of real gear. Our early training was scant by today’s LCSAR standards but it was far superior to what had been and we all, slowly but surely, kept pushing

the bar upwards, not only for what we would find acceptable in our recruits but ourselves as well. A tall cement wall in the courthouse basement was drilled for placing anchors and we actually did many sessions there in rope work. Many of us back then literally learned to climb together, learned about anchors and simple raising/lowering systems and we jealously guarded our one and only beat up Stokes litter and small collection of team pitons.

Speaking of recruits, to this day I smile when I consider the BASART process: applications are taken all year, good candidates are selected and others weeded out, and then months of a long regimen of training for those who have passed muster prior to participation in missions in the field. Then there is the achievement of specific ratings. In the early seventies, new members were simply told to show up at the next team meeting. We would put their only contact information down on the list (which was a single phone number...no cells, no pagers) and they were on the team until such time as we felt they couldn't hack it. We needed numbers then and our standards for team membership usually revolved around the question, "when can you start?". Also, almost everyone originally enticed to participation with the fire crew ended up on the MRT as well. In many respects, the two teams were one, depending on the mission - fire or rescue. Over the years however, that line became more and more pronounced until there really were complete distinctions.

Fire crew members were then, as today, paid for their services. But the formative years of the MRT saw paychecks for search and rescue personnel as well. As I recall, we got minimum wage for both county (non federal) fires and SAR missions. Compensation of \$1.75 an hour went further 30 years ago than it does today. The team became all volunteer without pay (such as

it was) around 1978. My biggest paycheck for MRT activities came July 31st and the first week of August, 1976 when I and many MRT members responded to the Big Thompson Flood. Start to finish, I believe our record stood at one successful rescue (in the river) and 138 body recoveries.

I left active participation as a team member in the late seventies but returned to the call list for both the fire crew and what was by then called the Larimer County Search and Rescue Team in 81'. A progenitor of the current team patch (same pattern but circular and without the scroll effect on top) was created around 1978 and I had it on my mountain parka for precisely one mission prior to leaving Fort Collins for a three year hiatus. The 80's saw significant strides in team training, and all around professionalism and we finally started to get more and more applications for membership, enough that being selective with recruits was not considered a luxury beyond our reach. I continued my association with LCSAR as a member of Emergency Services from '87 to '93 when I took the "out to pasture" desk job of County Emergency Manager. I decided carrying a 50 lb. pack up the side of Poudre Canyon at 3 a.m. was easier when I was 25. But the memory of all those missions and, perhaps more importantly, all those team members with whom I worked, sometimes desperately, is no such burden. I am proud of having been a member and equally proud of those others who have gone before. I am proud of you who continue the work which we started once upon a time in the basement of the old Court House. That building was finally torn down last week but the team, better than it probably has ever been, is still here. In you. Keep the faith of those who have gone before and pass it on to those who will come after.

-Erik Nilsson

It is easy - well sort of - to collect names and dates and write a history from that. Many folks have helped me gather ideas and facts. We will be hearing from them. When I asked Eric, the current Larimer County Emergency Manager, to write it was to be a personal view. I want the texture and the color of the times and the people that are our roots. This will be a series of articles in our newsletters that will show where we came from and our proud heritage as seen by those that have been there and got the T-shirt (and patch).

Editor

Our Commitment to Mark

By Keith Schafer, Emeritus Member

It began as a routine search mission with the usual anxieties that go along with missing children. This time the mission was a missing three year old boy, lost in the mountains west of Fort Collins, Colorado, along the South Fork of the Poudre River. Missing children searches bring out larger number of team members than others. The urgency to respond quickly and the need to help a child and his family overcomes all other responsibilities in a search and rescue member's life. But this search would be different than others; this would not only involve trying to help find a missing child, but also to help one of our own. Another tragedy was in the making.

The search was nearly textbook, as searches go. It was well organized and the incident commanders were deep in the process of solving the mystery: interviews of witnesses and family were conducted, maps were pondered, scenarios developed, analyzed and discarded or further analyzed. The last known position was checked for tracks and sign of the small boy and the multitudes of other jobs that must be performed to make the search effective and efficient were started. Since there was a river in the area, search qualified divers were called and assigned the search of the cold mountain river, to look at the areas no one really wants to consider. Attitudes must be kept positive so that the searchers will be effective. Team members must stay focused on the task at hand.

The area was a typical mountain canyon with steep sides through most of search area. The stream was at a low level for the season since it was early fall and most of the snow melt had already occurred. The terrain was wooded and the aspens had started to drop their leaves, carpeting some of the area and covering potential tracking sites. The trail on which the boy was last seen was close to the stream, never more than about thirty yards away and almost always in sight. The trail crossed two large boulder fields which were extensively searched for any sign.

To help in the search, a helicopter was dispatched from F. E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Being able to fly slow and low expands the capabilities of the search and can greatly enhance the probability of detection. On this particular day, the four Air Force crew members were accompanied by a Larimer County Search and Rescue member, Mark Sheets. Mark is a highly experienced member with nearly two decades of experience and having a search and rescue trained member on board can be valuable, not only as another set of eyes, but to oversee the search area for future planning. The

search day was proceeding normally, but no sign had been seen of the small boy.

In mid afternoon while flying down the canyon on a normal search pattern, the helicopter lost lift and plunged into the trees onto one of the few flat areas near the stream. As it came into the trees in a nearly flat attitude, the rotors were sheared off and scattered over the area. The tail rotor was broken away and several trees pierced the ship as it descended through them. The pilot, per normal procedure, attempted to shutdown the helicopter's turbines, but the switch was somehow disabled in the crash, allowing the turbines to stay on. With the threat of fire greatly increased by the running engines, the pilot and passengers were pulled and dragged from the wreckage. Mark, being the most critically injured of all those on board, was dragged out by search team members that were very close to the site at the time of the crash. He was pulled about ten yards from the running helicopter and quickly assessed for his injuries. Other team members began arriving at the crash seen.

Mark's injuries were critical and painful. Although only semi-conscious, it was determined that he had a possible femur fracture, broken back and shoulder. In nearly all injuries, it is best to leave a victim in the position found until the proper equipment is obtained. This is especially true in the case of back and neck injuries. Because of the looming danger of an explosion, it was immediately decided to move Mark and all others up the hill to a safer place.

The position of the crash site posed a unique problem to the rescue members. The ship was setting in the middle of a flat spot between the trail and the stream. The turbines were running blasting the jet exhaust uphill across the trail which was located only ten yards way. The canyon sloped upward on the other side of the trail. The threat of explosion of the craft was ever present and, as the engines heated up, increasing. The rescue members were isolated from the escape route unless they were willing to accept the risk of passing near the running helicopter.

In search and rescue, there is an established safety rule that all members are made aware of from the beginning of their careers. Safety begins with the individual team member then extends to all the members of the team. After that the safety of the on-lookers and family are primary, then lastly the patient. This thought process is founded on not just the concern for our own, but on maintaining our ability to help the one that needs our help. We can't help others if we jeopardize our own safety. Safety can be enhanced by training, the use of standardized techniques, and awareness of the presence of the dangers in a given situation. This rescue presented a challenge to that thought process. We had five

victims, one needing immediate care. The escape and approach route had a recognizable danger to anyone who passed near the running helicopter.

The acceptance of this eminent danger was almost casually accepted by the rescuers. The team settled down into the matter-of-fact, these are the cards we're dealt so get over it, kind of attitude. To an outsider the chaos would have been overwhelming. But the chaos was structured and each member found a function to perform. Our commitment turned to Mark, the other victims and their needs. The dangers were accepted and ignored. (Ed.: the dangers were not ignored, in the normal sense, not overlooked; the dangers were observed, analyzed, planned for then put out of the rescuers mind—no longer a distraction.) When the time came to pass the helicopter, there was no mention of volunteerism, no votes taken, no machismo attitudes, just a job to do. When four litters were moved the two miles to the ambulance and the arms and legs were tired and bruised, no one complained,

no one gave less than one hundred percent. As each litter arrived, team members turned back up the trail to help the remaining members with their burden.

To an outsider, a volunteer search and rescue team may seem to be a bunch of egotistical do-gooders that are after personal glory and recognition. Although those types of people exist in all walks of life, including search and rescue, nothing could be farther from the truth. The members of Larimer County Search and Rescue, Larimer County Dive Rescue, the other teams participating in this search and all other volunteer teams like them through out the world, are dedicated to helping people in need of their skills and dedication. SAR team members train hard and participate in searches and rescues at great personal sacrifice of time and expense, and, more often than not, without any recognition. The payment comes in the successful completion of a mission, without harm to our own. Our commitment is to Mark and to all others that need our help.

LCSAR INCIDENT REPORTS – May through August 2003

Team goes to the dogs, and cleans up on an earlier mission!

compiled by George Janson, Senior Mossback

Monday 26 May 2003 Memorial Day – Greyrock trail – It starts innocently enough -- I am working on the Jeep, listening to the various frequencies on my SAR radio, when, at about 13:00, I hear the call about an injured dog. Hikers on scene have reported a large dog has been injured in a fall from the rocks at Horsetooth Falls. While Parks 18, the nearest ranger, heads for the site, various others speculate (on air) about how a dog could fall there -- "must have been off leash", which means the owners get fined -- and discuss how they would get a 130 lb. dog to the parking lot. Parks 18 and the large group with the dog improvise a litter with two raincoats and two long branches, and between them carry the dog out. Fortunately, no one suggests calling the SAR Team. I continue working on the Jeep - little did I know ... At about 17:00, more radio traffic about another large dog in trouble. Bravo 10, currently at Ted's Place, has been flagged down by some hikers to report a dog that was too tired to move at the top of the Greyrock trail. He notifies Dispatch, and as he and they gather more information, word comes that the owner is injured. → *At this point, you need to know that Dispatch has been having a busy day, and now they are preoccupied with handling a road rage incident at the south end of the by-pass where "a gun has been drawn", and multiple law enforcement vehicles are responding, as well as Ocean 2, Dave Mosier, who happens to be ¼ mile away, and when Dave arrives, he requests an ambulance for "someone who is down, and they're doing CPR". Dispatch is busy!* ← Now, back to Ted's Place. Dispatch, knowing that Ocean 2 (who is first on call) was just on the air, contacts him and asks that he talk to Bravo 10 about the possible Greyrock mission, so that Dispatch can get back to working the incident at the by-pass. Well, Ocean 2 is on his way to teach at the first night of the week-long wildfire fighter training class, so he contacts Ocean 5, Justin Whitesell, to take the Greyrock call. After several more radio and cell phone conversations, Justin has Dispatch page the Team, at 17:25, for an emergency response direct to Greyrock parking lot. Having heard all this transpire on the radio, I was able to quickly finish working on the Jeep, wash the grease off me, and respond once the pager alerted. [Note: For those of you who do listen to these radio frequencies, we need to wait for the official 'go ahead' (i.e.: the pager) before responding, as that is when our presence is authorized, and when our coverage's begin.] As Justin, and I, are en-route, Doug Grimm comes up on Channel 4 to tell Justin that he is in Greyrock parking lot, interviewing returning hikers. Greyrock trail is crowded today, as many people are telling Doug about the tired dog, who weighs an estimated 115 lb., with the husband at the base of the rock, and about the wife who is very tired and moving slowly, with two walking sticks, down the Meadows Trail. No one is telling him of anybody who is injured. Once Justin arrives, he and Doug begin to sift through the accumulated information, trying to figure out what to do with the responding LCSAR members. By the time I arrive, they have determined that the whereabouts of both the wife and husband are unknown, as hikers are now reporting the dog tied to a tree, with a basin of water available. Thus, the first order of business is to locate the two owners -- we know where the dog is, and that it's too tired to move, even if he weren't tied to a tree -- so we send Team 1, Scott Evans, Ron Alexander and Mike Erickson, up the Meadows Trail, and

Team 2, Dave Hake and Allen Weaver, up the Summit (main) Trail. Allen has doggie electrolyte fluid and doggie treats with him. Ultimately, we locate the wife, Kathleen, who is being assisted down the Meadows Trail by a group of women and their children. Kathleen is not injured, just very tired and moving slowly. Soon after we locate the husband, Alan, who is hiking down to meet with his wife and take her home, intending to come back for their dog, Fergus, an Irish Wolf Dog, tomorrow morning. [Some of us wondered if the dog would have been alive then, as a tired and tethered dog might be too tempting a target for a hungry cougar.] Hikers who had been going up trail had brought word to Alan about Kathleen's condition, so he decided she needed his help more than the dog. Team members persuade Alan to return to the dog's location with them, as Kathleen is in good hands. Now that we have both owners located, we send the remaining members, Mark Sheets, Sarah Brauer, Bill Daniel, Brent Dietrich, Andy Donelson, Norland Hall, Dave Frank (who has additional dog food with him) and Sarah Babbitt (fresh from a hike to Chasm Lake), as Team 3 with the litter and wheel to evac Fergus. By and by, the three Teams split into various sub-segments, so we have some radio fun with callsigns for Team 1A, Team 3Q, etc. -- I guess you just had to be there. Our preference is to have Fergus walk down -- we hope that the hours of rest plus the electrolyte will revive him enough to walk -- and he did, for about 30 feet! Fortunately, Fergus is so tired, and his paws so sore, that he willingly allows himself, all 130+ lb. as estimated by Team members, to be strapped into the litter -- see attached photo. We have 13 Team members, plus Alan, to do the evac -- they could have used more. Darkness is upon them, and the trail is now wet and muddy, due to several short, and one longer, rain squalls that have passed through. As one member put it, "It was too hot for raingear, and too wet for not using it, so you were wet with or without raingear". At about 23:00, Fergus is delivered to his owner's vehicle, and he promptly lays down for a much needed recuperation. We advise Kathleen and Alan to have their vet do a check up on Fergus. We have the incident debriefing, and everyone heads home, mumbling something about 'the next one'. Afterward, there was e-mail discussion about carrying dog booties for use in situations like this, so that the dog would hopefully be able to walk out under its own power. However, Cheryl Kennedy offers these observations: Dog booties are not adjustable for size of dog. You have to buy based on the size of the dog's foot span, so we would have to carry booties in every size they stock. The type also varies based on the need. Booties for the Iditerod Dog Sled Race in Alaska are much different than booties used in desert terrain. If a dog isn't used to wearing them they will usually refuse to walk. If a dog is already hurting and not wanting to walk, the attempt to put an unknown item on its feet may possibly trigger the dog into behaviors that it would not normally exhibit, including aggression if uncomfortable enough. I would not recommend utilizing booties in this type of situation, and I don't believe the other handlers would recommend it either. In closing, a thank-you note from Fergus' owners: *Our family extends our thanks and appreciation for the efforts of all the "unpaid professionals" on your team and the Sheriff's department who assisted in evacuating our dog Fergus down the trail from the base of Greyrock. Fergus is recovering quietly at home. From the extent of the injuries to the pads on his paws, it is unlikely he would have been able to walk out on his own, and he would likely have incurred more serious injuries in the attempt. We applaud the professionalism, cheerfulness, encouragement, compassion, and willing spirits of your team in action in the field. Descending a steep trail with a litter in the dark was a fatiguing and challenging task, but it was executed flawlessly without incident. We've attached some digital photographs from this incident to this message. Regards, Alan and Kathleen Nelson, Fort Collins.* [Those images are in the Team's photo archive on the computer/LAN system.]

Tuesday 27 May 2003 – Greyrock – What is it about this hunk of rock? Another 'different' mission ... 16:28 -- "SAR Manager on-call please call Dave Mosier". When I call, he is on the other line with the subject, Donna, who is using her cell phone -- I'm able to hear Dave's side of the conversation, and so pick up most of what's going on, until he hangs up and we continue the discussion. Donna is lost in the Greyrock area. She has been hiking solo, had reached the summit, and was hiking back when she decided to do an off-trail excursion, getting herself disoriented in the process. She hiked back up the hillside until she had cell coverage, then called her husband, Brian. He told her to call 911 to report her situation, and meanwhile, he would drive to the parking lot and wait for the searcher's arrival. When talking with Donna, Dave learns that she can see the smokestack at Rawhide Power Plant, and some white buildings on the far distant horizon, that she is on the side of Greyrock under an overhang, and there is no trail visible -- she is calm and uninjured, just concerned about her inability to locate the trail, and Dave tells her to stay where she is. We discuss potential areas for Donna's location, then decide to have the Team respond direct to maximize daylight, and because we expect at least 6-8 fieldable people will arrive -- just in case Donna is not where we think she is. I send the Team page at 16:45, when many of you are in between work and home, and head for Greyrock. Dave Mosier arrives first at Greyrock parking lot, and I a few minutes behind him. Upon my arrival I ask Dispatch for the count of responders: zero on the counter, and 4 who called in (including myself). [Well, someday, maybe, our expectations will be fulfilled on the first page.] Moments later, Dave Hake in Truck 10 arrives, followed many minutes later by Sarah Babbitt, so they went out as Team 1 at 18:02. L-o-n-g time later, we accumulate Don Davis, Doug Grimm and Mike Erickson, which we sent out as Team 2 at 18:33. Meanwhile, the husband is patiently waiting at his truck in the parking lot ... Now, we invoke the ITC to request another 3-4 people, and finally get Jeff Wicks, Liz Caldwell, Scott Heffernan and Norland Hall, who ultimately remain in base, as Team 1 has voice and visual contact with our subject at 19:42, just as Team 3 is departing base. Teams 1 and 2 bushwhack to the subject's location, and find a 'usable' route back to the trail,

reaching the upper junction at 21:00, then arriving at base at 22:05. The subject did not panic, and stayed where she was, which turned out to be very close to where we expected she would be -- she was safely extricated from her rock-top perch and safely walked out to the trail -- and everyone safely traversed the trail in darkness back to base -- we didn't need all these people after all. However, as IC and OPS, ES and SARM have to be prepared for contingencies -- that's why we keep pestering you until we get sufficient resources staged at the ICP.

Wednesday 28 May 2003 – Greyrock – The SAR Manager meeting was in progress when at about 18:58, the ES pagers alert us to yet another missing hiker at, where else, Greyrock! My duty cycle is about up (we transition at 19:00 each Wednesday), so I ask Don Davis to take the call, as he is the next L-1. He and Kevin go to the ES office to make the calls. About 5 minutes later, both return -- mission is over. While talking to the RP, who was at Ted's Place, the RP saw his missing buddy walking toward him. The two had been descending the Summit Trail, and were about half way between the upper and lower junctions, when the buddy decides to go exploring off trail. When he doesn't return, the RP searches for him for about an hour, then drives down the canyon to Ted's Place to report him overdue.

Obviously, the buddy finds his way out, discovers the vehicle gone, and hitches a ride to Ted's Place.

Saturday 31 May 2003 – Hayman burn area, Park County – At 08:52 comes a page for the SARDOC coordinator to call dispatch. Park County SAR is requesting dogs to assist with a search for two overdue Forest Service employees who are working in the Hayman [2002 wildfire] burn area. In addition to their own members, they have searchers responding from Arapaho, Douglas and Teller counties. Dan Fanning with Bear, and Jaynie Zmijewski as support, respond to the ICP, but are turned around shortly after, at 16:50, as searchers had just located the missing subjects, and both were OK.

Friday 06 June 2003 – Big South trail, Atadero search revisited – Team page at 19:03 with information that Jaryd Atadero's clothing had been found on Wednesday by hikers at UTM 13/0432640/4496441, and that at the request of Sheriff Alderden, we keep it confidential until after Tuesday's media briefing. In addition, a planning meeting is scheduled for Monday evening, to organize a grid/evidence search of the area, to occur Saturday 14 June. *From Cheryl Kennedy via e-mail: I will be unable to attend the meeting on Monday evening as I will be at work. In planning for the mission on the 14th, thought you might need to know that if you are planning on using dog resources, the only qualified cadaver/evidence resources in the county at this time are Zephyr, Apache, and Ember. Zephyr and Apache are not available due to handler not being available for terrain (assuming the general area of Big South). Kathy Shepherd has documented cadaver finds in Virginia, should she feel qualified to do this type of mission. There is a possibility of qualified resources being brought in from out of county if you need them, in Dennis McLaughlin and Barbi Atkins from El Paso and Sue Purvis from Gunnison County, all of whom have significant cadaver/evidence experience. Should you decide to use dog resources please let me know and I will make arrangements for personnel if they are available.*

Tuesday 10 June 2003 – Big South trail, Atadero search revisited – Sent to the CSRB and Regional MRA e-mail lists: For the benefit of our team and those from other counties who helped on this search, the clothing was found 500 feet "in elevation" above the trail on the east side, not 500 feet off the trail, as the media has been saying. Hopefully that information gets corrected at today's press conference. It was in a rock band and it's a very vertical climb just to get to it. We'll be climbing and rock scrambling around boulders the size of cars to search the area. This area, along with much of the search area, was considered too dangerous to search when the search was going on. I'm sure George Janson will do a better follow up on this later, when our searching is over. I just wanted to clear that piece up. David Hake

Friday 13 June 2003 – Big South trail, Atadero search revisited – I want to explain to those who might be a little confused or angry as to what the process was to select who will be searching this Saturday. Bill Young has been in charge of this and at the Monday meeting (that everyone was invited to) we were concerned that we would have an overwhelming response, when only 12-15 searchers could safely work in that steep terrain. So Bill decided to get a list of those who felt they really needed to go and passed around a call list at the meeting. Those that could go either way didn't sign up. I think from that initial passing of the call list, Bill had all that he needed and so that's why no one received a page asking for searchers, and instead you received the page saying we will be searching and we have enough personnel. It wasn't a "call your buddies and tell them to get signed up before the page goes out" type of thing. It was simply, "let's get a show of hands from the people who were obviously very interested in this search" because they were at the meeting on Monday. If you were unable to attend the Monday meeting due to other commitments and are one of those people that just "have to go" (maybe you were at the original search and need some closure) you should call Bill and tell him your situation. I would be willing to step down from going up if we get too many searchers. Some people feel I'm too emotionally attached to this one anyway to be doing 'anything' on this search, but that's another story! You can bet I'll be up in that area later this year multiple times anyway. David Hake – To add to Dave's explanation: There is also a need to make sure there are enough people in town to handle any missions that may come up. Hence there was no call out for Saturday's Atadero mission, since Bill Young had enough people sign up on Monday. So those that are not going need to be ready for any other missions that come up. If you signed Bill Young's list on Monday then you are going on the Atadero Search. If you are not sure about your status in going, or if you must go, call Bill Young. Don Davis

Friday 13 June 2003 – Big South trail, Atadero search revisited – OK, I went up to the clothing remains site on Wednesday, then up to the top of the ridge, then back down through the remains site. Phew! By all means be sure to get team members back down to the trail before any rain falls and gets the lichens on the rocks, and other slippery stuff, wet. There could be an accident as it is, but the odds will go up greatly if it's wet before every one gets down to the trail. The flagged way up is very rugged, steep and bouldery. I told Dave Hake about a "scrape", near the clothing site that I asked him to look into, which unfortunately I did not. It is only 25 feet to the north and consists of what you might imagine a cat to scrape over feces. If you go you might look at it too. If it is feces it might be worth collecting in a ziplock baggie and bring back for these necropsy people. It may turn out to be some positive evidence! The feces that had dark hairs in it that I gave Lynxwiler [on the original search in 1999], coincidentally was collected within 25 meters of where the flag line leaves the trail and starts up to the site. Near the start of the flag line, to your left as you start up, looks like a piece of yellow flagging. I was curious about it. It isn't yellow, it is faded orange!, and might still be from our original search. During that search I was at this "turnoff" spot a couple times, but can't remember with whom, possibly a dog team, and maybe with Seoux Leroux. But I have not found the UTM for 'mountain lion track' while with Leroux to see how that compares with the spot where the flag trail to the clothing site leaves the Big South trail. But, I know something went on at this spot – dog alerts or interest or something, it looked very familiar. Bill Young said that the NecroSearch folks, reported on in today's Coloradoan, might go along on Saturday. He thinks they were the ones with the bloodhound during the search. I think it's too rough and a dog will have difficulty with the boulders, via the SO's route. I went via campsite #2 angling over and upward and by chance and eyeing the 6 figure GPS display, and found the site. Later in the day I returned to the site from the ridge top and went back down the SO's flag line to the trail. Their route is more difficult, but it is marked. Doug Grimm

Saturday 14 June 2003 – Big South trail, Atadero search revisited – Saturday dawns warm and clear sky – we stage at the Cache at 07:00, then arrive at the Big South trailhead at 08:30, where we find a bevy of media awaiting us. Also joining us are personnel from DOW and NecroSearch; and Allyn will be along later with personnel from the local Child Protection Network (CPN). For safety and evidence protection reasons, the Forest Service closes the east slope, from the edge of the trail to the ridge, between camps 1 and 7, to keep the media and general public out of our way. The find site is about 500 VERTICAL feet off the trail, over 1,050 feet laterally from the LSP, and is a relatively open, somewhat level clearing adjacent to a cliff band. [The media had a collective tendency to ignore the word 'vertical' when reporting the distance to the clothing site.] It takes over an hour to hike the 1½ mile of trail and make the 500 foot climb/scramble to the site. By 10:00 most members are on scene, receive their briefing and assignments, and begin the searching at about 10:30. Two teams begin searching an area of about 300 feet radius from the clothing site, one doing the north half, the other the south segment. At 11:30, Scott Evans, leader of the north team, locates what appears to be the top portion of a small human skull, and moments later, Sarah Brauer finds a small tooth nearby. Also on this team is our 'resident' dentist, Jim Powers, and he confirms that the tooth is human, and of a size consistent with that of a 2-4 year old child. The remains are in a dense thicket, the skull fragment in a crevice and the tooth on a log spanning the crevice above the skull fragment. The position of the skull fragment is such that it is visible from only a narrow angle, and it is fortuitously lit by a shaft of light from the morning sun. This site is about 180 feet due north, and about 20 feet elevation higher, than the clothing site. The original evidence searching is continued (by LCSAR) until the designated acreage is reached, as is a forensic search (by NecroSearch) of the debris around and under the remains, both of which reveal no other clues. Allyn is taken to the site, and is given the tooth to hold for a while, after which he and the CPN personnel return to the trailhead, to meet with the media. By 16:00 the processing of the combined sites is completed, we all return to the trailhead, and depart. At 17:00, several TV news stations give their live broadcasts from the trailhead.

So, the obvious question is, did we search this section during the original mission? No ... and yes. Not on foot, as the searchers were told to search uphill as far as they thought it reasonable that a 3 year old would go, and the highest any team went was about 100 feet vertical in the less technical areas. (One tracking team did go higher along the wilderness boundary area, which is over ½ mile north of this clearing.) However, the helicopter overflew this area several times, and would likely have done a low level hover over this clearing, had it not crashed. In addition, the section of trail below this area (between campsites 2 and 3) had very little to no interest from the search dogs – they had stronger interest farther up the trail between campsites 4 and 5, in the vicinity of the same swirling winds that buffeted the Lama helicopter.

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

Sunday 15 June 2003 – Horsetooth Mountain Park – Direct response (non-emergency) page at 09:44 for carryout at Horsetooth Mountain Park for a 40 year old male, with possible broken ankle, about ¾ mile up the trail. At 10:03, while we were en-route, came the stand down page, as PFA medics were able to drive to the subject's location, and would drive the subject down to the PVH ambulance, which was waiting in the parking lot. Overheard on the radio

while we were responding, was that the incident was reported by a DPSP member, who happened to be hiking nearby (and had his radio with him). He relayed the subject's medical condition to dispatch, and advised that a litter evac was not necessary, as the subject could easily be assisted across the 75 feet of terrain to the PFA truck.

Tuesday 17 June 2003 – “The Crack” rock formation, west of Estes Park – Paged at 01:26 to assist the Estes Park Fire Department with rescue of an individual, who weighs about 230 lbs., wedged in the rock formation known locally as “The Crack”. An experiential education group was doing their night hike, part of which is to climb through the maze of openings in this jumble of rocks. A similar group had successfully traversed this challenge the prior night, with one individual who was heavier than the one who is now stuck. When Mark Sheets, who continually monitors a variety of radio channels, heard traffic about the stuck hiker, he grabbed two bottles of canola oil from his cupboard, and some large heavy-gauge plastic sheets from his garage, and added them to his rescue pack. On scene, we find Mark Magnuson, RMNP ranger in charge of their SAR team, and several other rangers, actively directing the rescue. Fortunately, we had just completed a joint training session with RMNP about a week ago, so we were able to mesh readily into their plans. Mark Sheets was one of the first on scene, so he was LCSAR on-scene liaison to Mark Magnuson. As they discussed methods to extricate the subject, Mark M. was wondering what to use for lubricant, so Mark S. reaches into his pack and hands him a bottle of canola oil. Mark M. is surprised to receive it, so Mark S. tells him (tongue in cheek) that it's standard equipment in LCSAR field packs! A raising system is set up above the subject, he is liberally swabbed with the oil, and painful inch by inch, the subject is released from the rock's embrace. We then lower him down the rubble of boulders to the trail, for a short carry out to the waiting EPMC ambulance, at about 08:00. He is taken to the hospital for a check-up. The stand down page goes out at 08:58, after all personnel and gear are down from the rocks. Those of us who did not have to go to work were treated to breakfast in Estes by the ES personnel.

Saturday 21 June 2003 – Gilpin County – SAR Manager group page at 18:10 for assist to Gilpin County with search for 55 year old female who fell into Coal Creek, near the town of Pinecliff. The request was for water dogs only, so Cheryl Kennedy handled the dispatch of appropriate LCSAR/SARDOC resources.

Sunday 22 June 2003 – Goodell Corner Mission – It's BASART Picnic day. At about 14:00, Ocean 3 and Ocean 5 and the Dive Team are paged to respond to Carter Lake Reservoir for a boat in trouble. They get stood down moments later, only to receive a second page, at 14:20, for another boat incident at Horsetooth Reservoir. This is about the same time that Dispatch is advised via radio that Edward 19, Edward 13 and Forest 15 are enroute to Goodell Corner and Bellaire Lake area on a report of a 57 year old female who has been overdue for at least 2½ hours. The second dive call gets stood down, so Ocean 5 checks on the status of the search, and is told Edward 19 is on scene, and he is requesting ES and SAR respond to Goodell Corner campsite 22. Ocean 5 initiates the page to LCSAR at 15:18. As it turned out, the RP and the subject were camping near Goodell Corner, but the RP had called in using the call box at Bellaire Lake, which led to the initial confusion about where we would be searching. The plan was to have responding members drive the three roads which converge at Goodell Corner. The subject self-recovered to their campsite. The following report is from L-1 Mark Sheets: *Not much I can say as we didn't get very far. I was getting fuel in Loveland when I heard Edward-13 (Mountain Deputy in Red Feather area) remark that their overdue female was 3 hours overdue and requested SAR respond. This was how the page went out to initially respond direct. Ocean-5 recognized the pointlessness of responding direct and asked me (Larimer-1) if we should stage at the Fire Cache. I replied - affirmative. A correction to staging was paged out. I decided to respond direct and Dave Hake was bringing in the first wave of searchers from the Cache. When I got to US-287 and the Bypass, I came upon an accident with injuries so I stopped to render aid. While I was rendering aid, I heard that the missing subject had returned. 32 People responded to that call. Yes - that is correct - 32 - WOW! We could have performed a grid search with so many people. Thanks to all for showing up. Meanwhile - take time to look up Goodell Corner on your locator listing. Also look up Rustic, Potbelly Restaurant, and Manhattan Road (they are all related). Then find them on your map. Just a little challenge for our new S-1's! Happy Searching!* – And this commentary from ITC Mike Fink: Well our new S-1's got a proper welcome to missions today - one that started unusually. First of all, the page to start things off was what we call "Direct Response". The page instructed you to proceed directly to the scene of the incident - Goodell Corner (a good test of the Place/Name Locator). If you called 498-5315, left your last name and hung up, you did exactly the right thing. The problem was this shortly changed to a more typical search response page, which required a meeting at the Cache and a call to the ITC. It did not, however, include the typical meeting time, which is usually about 60 minutes after the initial page. This time never got specifically decided, but arrangements had been made to have someone stay at the Cache until everyone who we knew was responding checked in. Shannon Heffernan was suppose to be ITC this cycled but due to her being out of town part of the weekend, I agreed to fill in for her but I didn't page this out because I figured if I needed to handle a mission, I would just put my name and number in the first page. I should have known better! Please remember that Direct Response pages require that if you are responding, you either make a phone call to 498-5315, leave your name and hang up, or call dispatch/900 on your radio, identify yourself by Call Sign or name and that your are responding to the "Goodell Incident" or whatever incident it is. When in doubt, or even if you just have questions, it is never wrong to call the duty ITC, or any ITC, though on Direct Response missions they may be responding too.

Sunday 4 July 2003 – back-to-back missions – RMNP rescue and carry-Out – Dadd Gulch rescue and carry-out – SAR Manager group page at 14:11 with request from RMNP for tech rescue team to assist with carry-out of subject with a broken ankle, from the Lake of Glass area. Team page went out at 14:31. L-1 Mark Sheets was hiking on Longs Peak trail, so he relayed a message that he was responding direct to the RMNP ICP. Additional information from RMNP was that the area was below Sky Pond but above Timberline Falls in the Glacier Gorge area, which is one of the more rugged areas in the Park, and they requested that we bring ice axes. ES personnel request that we limit the number of members we send to RMNP, to keep enough reserves in county. While members were responding to meet at 15:00 at our south staging area at Loveland Safeway, a second mission occurs. At 15:01 we get a direct response page to Dadd Gulch trailhead, at mile marker 93 in the Poudre Canyon, for a 20 year old male who is conscious and breathing, but is feeling tingling in his neck. [Turns out he took a high-speed header off his mountain bike, about 1½ miles up the trail.] L-2 George Janson and S-17 Don Griffith discuss allocation of resources, and through some miscommunications, two conflicting pages are sent out. Don's page [via dispatch] requesting all those responding to RMNP divert to Dadd Gulch came out before George's page [via the ITC] which instructed those close to Estes to continue to RMNP, and others to head to Dadd Gulch. The upshot was that [almost, see Russ Buckley's summary below] everyone went to Dadd Gulch. Doug Grimm, in Poudre Canyon, was close to Dadd Gulch, and got there shortly after the QRT ambulance. He hiked directly to the scene, and found the medics and QRT members had packaged the subject into their litter, and were moving down the trail, with the subject's friends assisting with the litter carry. By the time LCSAR members began arriving, the evac group was only about ½ mile from the trailhead. A few members were able to assist, though the bulk of the 35 responders just waited around in the parking lot. Sarah Babbitt had a particularly frustrating response, as she was near Estes when the RMNP page came out, was responding there, then diverted to Dadd Gulch, only to arrive there after the subject was out of the field – lots of windshield time, and no field activity! And now a report from Russ Buckley, who happened to be in a pager 'dead-zone' when the diverting page went out: *I received the first page on the RMNP mission as I was going into Big Thompson near the Dam Store. I said I would respond direct to RMNP. Being in the canyon, I did not receive the reassignment to the Poudre Canyon mission. When I arrived at the RMNP cache, I found out that I was to be the only LCSAR person. OK – now the summary. Male, mid-40's, hypertensive, had taken medications, climbing on cliff face above Lake of Glass at top of Glacier Gorge. At about 12:20 he fell ~25 feet down scree and snow slope, ending up in the creek. A paramedic ranger was about 100 feet away, located him from the scream and pulled him from the creek to a place he could be assessed, then radioed for assistance. Another ranger was about ¼ mile away and came to assist. Now confusion and poor communication signals came into play. As a result, the RMNP send a hasty team up, expecting a helicopter extraction would occur. That was not to be, and the call went to LCSAR for assistance. My team, three of us as Team 3, was assembled and headed at ~16:00 to Glacier Gorge trail head, with a full med-kit and their one litter wheel. Team 2 had gone up with only a litter (plastic) and their ropes, etc. During the time we were going up the trail, Teams 1 and 2 had partially stabilized the subject, who had a broken lower left leg, several broken fingers on his right hand, and various scrapes and dings, and they had transported him across and belayed him down a snow field. We, Team 3 followed by Team 4, meet the subject at ~17:30 just as Teams 1 and 2 get to the trail, ~3.5 miles from the trailhead. He was repackaged and fully stabilized and fairly heavily sedated. Total SAR personnel numbers 18 at this point. A second call came in and three rangers leave to handle it. The 15 of us wheel/carry the litter the 3.5 miles arriving at the trail head at ~21:30. We could have used more LCSAR people. The subject could not have taken the litter ride down (in my opinion) if he had not been kept sedated. It was a good carry out, but mission took 9 hours from the beginning. The debrief and gear work took another 1½ hours. Some observations: The RMNP personnel are all very skilled, but they did not work fully as a team. Bumping was not organized until some of us demanded it. Some people worked much harder than others as a result. The plastic litter is not ideal with their one wheel. If you tighten down in the wheel screw it collapses the litter; loosen it and it slips back and forth. Having two paramedics was great, so the full med-kit for them was essential. The second call was for a woman who strained her ankle and was walked out. During the debrief, a call came in from two climbers stranded below The Trough on the back side of Longs Peak. They were not hurt and had protective clothing, so were told to tough it out for the night and a team would get them in the morning. All in all a strenuous, fun day.*

Thursday 10 July 2003 – Johnson's Corner – SAR Manager group page at 09:08 to advise that Cheryl Kennedy with Apache and Dennis McGlaughlin with Duke [of EPCSAR] will be assisting LCSO Investigations on a cadaver search in the Johnson's Corner area, where some human remains had recently been discovered.

Sunday 13 July 2003 – Vedauwoo search request – Report from Dave Hake to ES personnel Don, Dave, Kevin and Justin: Just some information on the search request for the Vedauwoo area. You might have heard that the Albany County Sheriff's Department has been conducting a search in that area for the past month or so, because some human remains were found by a hunter. They have found bones up to 9 miles apart, which they estimate to be 3 to 4 years old. I have been in contact with Neil Mathison from Albany County Sheriff about the UTS Tracking class we have coming up, and when he called me a week ago, he asked if we had any 'cadaver dogs' for this search they were working. I told him that we didn't have 'cadaver' dogs per se, but there were a few who had worked cadaver incidents before. I referred him to the SARDOC ITC (Mike Fink), so he could ask the right questions for the dog people.

Tonight (Sunday), Neil called Mike Fink and it sounds like they are going to make one more push next weekend (19-20 July) and asked for cadaver dogs, and also asked for four teams of experienced searchers, to maybe help lead some of the volunteers they already have organized for the weekend. I told Mike that we should put an e-mail out on Monday to see if we have any searchers available, then we would see if it was OK with you to send them up. The page went out tonight instead, so I contacted Justin to fill him in on what it was about. Someone will be contacting you later this week if we have any members going up to help.

Wednesday 16 July 2003 – Vedaauwo search request – From ITC Shannon Heffernan: Here is a list of the people who said they were available to help this coming weekend. I have passed this list on to Dave Hake, who will be coordinating the search - so you will be hearing from him soon. 1) Justin Fox - Available both days 2) Syl Manlove 3) Don Davis - Saturday only 4) Dan Fanning - Sunday only 5) Christine Schrader - Saturday only 6) Jeff Grotenhuis - Available both days 7) Tara Henderson 8) Chris Ketterman - Saturday only 9) Eric Foster - Available both days 10) Estelle Purvis - Available Saturday (???-getting over a cold) 11) Daryl Turman 12 & 13) - David and Becky - Saturday only 14) Mack - Sunday only 15) Lisa Lilly - Saturday only (e-mailed) 16) Janice Weixelman (e-mailed) If I have made any mistakes, or if things have changed, please contact me and I will make sure Dave gets the information.

Thursday 17 July 2003 – Vedaauwo search request – Due to a wildfire in the vicinity of the search, the Albany County Sheriff's Department has suspended their plans for the search. They will notify us when they plan to resume the search.

Sunday 27 July 2003 – Creedmore Lakes – Mission 03-06-134 – Report from L-1 Mark Sheets: Time notified: 03:00 (SAR Manager page) – Time on scene: 05:57 – Time located: 06:00 – Darn, we are good! :) As you can see by the times, the two adult males that were missing from a campsite in the Creedmore Lakes area self-recovered. They had simply waited for some daylight to start moving. The two had departed their campsite around 22:00, to walk over to another campsite that contained a nephew and a son, so they could "scare" them. They pelted their tent with rocks, then got lost on their return trip to their campsite. No teams actually went into the field, and the trailer didn't even get set up.

Sunday 27 July 2003 – Greyrock – 12:08 SAR Manager page - E.S. advised of a man calling from his cell phone stating he was lost. After finally getting around to calling him for myself, I discover he is "cliffed out" on the side of the face of Greyrock, and is uninjured. I advise him to stay put, and that we were coming. He seemed to be a bit disappointed when I told him it would be 2.5-3 hours before we will be on scene. Because we had two trainings going on at this time, I was concerned that the turn out would be too light, so a page was put out stating the trainings were cancelled. Most all of the dog people that were training broke loose to respond. I am not sure if any of the tracking folks responded, as I didn't know who all was at tracking. We ended up with about 16 people total – plenty to do a solo rope rescue, but not near enough if a carry out was necessary. How did the subject get stuck? He had summited Greyrock and while coming down, he lost his way. He thought he would simply climb up Greyrock and start over. After climbing about 80 feet he came to an area where he could climb no further. He also could not / would not down-climb, so he called for help. A hasty team of five got to the summit in short time (good job, Team 1) while some of the later arrivals took up gear as Team 2. The subject's location was still in question, so Team 1, who had a cell phone, contacted him to work out his position so they could set up above him to bring him up. They used a 5:1 haul system and pulled him up, after James Mackler had rapped down to him and put him in a harness and a helmet. The subject walked out on his own power to the trail head, arriving around 19:00. Thanks to all those who responded. Looks like solo rope rescues are becoming the new thing??? Mark Sheets, on-call SAR Manager (for another 29.75 hours).

Year-to-date:

Greyrock incidents for 2003 =8 Year-to-date incidents total for 2003=41;
comparable span for: 2002 = 52 and 2001= 48



You pick the caption!!! (Your President in a lighter moment)

This just in:

Guess I can let the cat out of the bag now that we're back (NASA wanted it very low key so no media would be alerted). James and I and Ken Klien, until his jeep overheated, along with many members of CAP and Custer Cty SAR, had the honor of providing 4WD support to a group of NASA astronauts and the surviving families of the astronauts killed in the Columbia disaster. We accompanied them on a backpacking trip in order to dedicate the newly named "Columbia Point", in the vicinity of "Challenger Point", in the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness area. A plaque was placed on the point and Air force F-16s did a fly-by in the "Lost Man" formation. Due to weather and altitude concerns with all the folks from Houston we were only able to climb to the saddle below Humboldt Peak. The terrain was really challenging. We really got to know some of the amazing children and spouses of the Columbia crew, and many of the astronauts. James and I will write an article for the next newsletter giving more details. Jen Mackler



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That others
may live