

*that others  
may live*



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**LCSTAR**

Newsletter for Larimer County  
Search and Rescue, Inc.

edited by: Jim Powers

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**Summer-Fall 2004**

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Today, September 28, 2004, we have exceeded our goal. The team has contributed \$5356, and by doing that we will receive another \$5000 through the Challenge Grant. Way to go team! And, with our fun raisers, I mean Fund Raisers, we are getting closer to sitting in our new truck. Can you picture rolling up the back door on our new truck to expose all that room, and every bit of our SAR stuff is there, easily accessible? WOW!

There was Fair Parking, the Highlands Fest, and of course Whole Foods. This doesn't include the important financial support, time



and skill given by individuals, us, *the team!* Organizing and contributing to the success of our adventure has truly been a huge effort. I think we have to recognize that Don Davis and Russ Buckley have really been stalwarts for us. Thanks guys!



Let's see, what other interesting things have happened since our last newsletter? Well, there was a certain re-test. Again, Ken Klein did a phenomenal job. He not only honed our skills but also kept it fun, interesting and educational. I told many interested friends that because of Ken and our president Sarah's efforts what was a frustration was turned into an opportunity. From my vantage point we not only grew in character but also our technical rescue skills improved. What kind of magic will they have to pull out of their helmets now remains a surprise. I had started to write the story of the retest, Sarah saw my notes beginning with: Starbucks at 7:46 am. But, with the "end of the story" being different then what I planned I have put the scraps of paper with my notes to one side and will see if they ever get printed. My sense is that this is just the end of another interesting (?) chapter rather than the end of the story. However, nothing can take away from the sacrifice of many on the team who showed up, worked hard, and performed under pressure. I'm sure that we will be revisiting this many



times in the next few months. It is so easy to think back and second guess what we did and how we did it. We will likely have another debrief, now that we know the results. We need to determine what we think we did right, what each of us could have done differently, or if we'd have done anything differently. I know I am wondering a lot about my roll. Ah well, when you put all this in perspective we are still a dedicated team, that does some really good things.

For example:



or this



Shoeless Walter, found and happy

Or, this



leading to this.



In the giant scheme of things this is just a hiccup, one more obstacle to study and overcome. Think of the history of this team, where we came from:

this



(Original Larimer County SAR patch)

to this



Remember you get great traction  
on a rough road! And, we've sure  
been bumpin' along, haven't we?  
Well, that's my 2 cents (editor)

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The group from September 18, 2004

*We need to beware of the modern tendency to admire image and personality over character and conviction.*  
Chuck Colson

What is our conviction? (Please think about this...we are what we think we are!)  
How we handle the current challenge will show our character.

*What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters as to what lies within us.* Ralph Waldo  
Emerson

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It has been suggested that we put together a few sentences on being an ITC/SARDOC Dispatcher because we might be in need of a few soon - not sentences; ITC's.

It can be a very hectic few minutes or hours in the midst of weeks and months of boredom. The main responsibility you would need to think about very seriously would be your ability to handle phone calls from wherever you live/work/drive and your ability to do this at any time. Our duty cycles run from 7pm on Wednesday to the following Wednesday. There are obviously going to be times when you just can't take a call. We all help one another in these cases because we know we will be able to return the favor next time.

You should have decent organizational skills to take incoming calls about the request and then to organize the response. For the ITC role you will be working with the SAR Manager for the most part. As a SARDOC Dispatcher (SD) you are a little more on your own although the handlers are very helpful and the SARDOC Coordinator can always be one of your first calls to help figure out what kind of response is needed. As an ITC our job is to take the basic info about the search from the SAR Manager and decide a plan. Then you need to put out a page and wait for the calls to come in. Your job pretty much ends when you have communicated back to the SAR Manager on what resources are coming and then taking any late calls from folks who just want to give their availability. If a second operation period is required you may be up early the next morning starting the whole process over again. Please keep in mind, before you run away in a panic, these calls don't come in very often. I have had many more weeks of no calls than calls, and only a very few weeks where there have been more than one call in the week.

For SARDOC the call is suppose to come in to Larimer County Dispatch and then they page us to call the person or agency with the request. We must then call the requester and get lots of info (there is an interview form). Dog handlers need to know a lot of information about the situation. They can also, at their discretion, call the requesters to find out more for themselves. Once you have the info, you need to look at the map and figure out who your closest dog resources are and start calling. You may also need to arrange for support people for the handlers. You usually end up leaving messages and paging people through their local Sheriff's dispatchers and then waiting for them to call back. One of the most important things you need to do is make arrangements for standing these resource down in the event the mission ends while they are in-route. A lot of times the drives can be very long and the last thing you want to happen is for the handlers to have to drive all the way to the incident before they find out it's over. Sometimes it means arranging for them to call you back from a pay phone every hour or so just to make sure it's still a go. SARDOC requires that the SD submit a brief log of all calls and that is usually just an e-mail listing the times that calls went in and out and briefly what was said.

I hope I haven't scared you too much. It is really an important role that needs to be filled and can either be in addition to your mission responses or in place of if you are just having trouble getting in the field. Thanks!

Mike Fink



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Question from Shirley: What's wrong with the high strength anchors, two of them, as seen from two different angles (Note: the two anchors were tied to same huge boulder due to limited number of anchors available) Keep reading to find the suggested answer.



This quote seemed appropriate to repeat:

*Success consists of getting up just one more time than you fall.* Oliver Goldsmith

And from last time:

*Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win great triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat.* Theodore Roosevelt

This is new:

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

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**CONGRATULATIONS:** Robin Anderson, now a Search Leader; Janice Weixelman, now Search 2!

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**Don't forget to Vote!!!**

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#### **Thanks from the President**

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve on the Executive Board since the summer of 1996, first as Vice-President, then as President for the last 3 years. Now it's time for me to be a "normal" member of the team, though I'm not sure I know just how that's done!

Being LCSAR president unquestionably has been one of the most difficult things I've ever done in my life. Taking someone off a mountainside in bad weather in the middle of the night is a whole lot easier than being responsible for the hearts and guidance of a group of passionate people whom I care about very much.



I'm rather surprised at my sadness at stepping down (though I know it's the right thing for me and, I think, for the team.) I'm glad I can write this instead of say this in person to the whole group because I know I'd cry and you don't need that!

We've gone through a lot in the last 3 years, including the deaths of two teammates, the MRA conference we sponsored in 2002 and our more recent reaccreditation struggles. I've always done my very best, though there have been plenty of times when my best seemed woefully inadequate to the task. It has been at those times when the wisdom and love of my teammates----both on and off the Executive Board----has overwhelmed me and helped this team to keep moving forward in a positive way.

I feel like I should have something profound with which to leave you. Mostly I'd like to express my tremendous gratitude for the challenges, growth and support. I have tried to lead with tact, insight, a sense of humor and, hopefully, some grace.

Thank you.  
Sarah







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