

*that others
may live*



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LCSTAR



Newsletter for Larimer County Search and Rescue, Inc.
Winter 2004-5 edited by: Jim Powers



HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



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**Our very own Christmas celebration in Estes! Will this be the last time Truck 10 is decorated?
Ya think?**



What a year! Of course the most memorable event for many of us will be the training, practices and two MRA tests, or to be more accurate the test and retest. To say that we were challenged would be an understatement. Yet, now that some time has passed I think we agree with Ken Klien, we have some unfinished business to take care of in 2006. It's all perspective. Then again the event we should dwell on is our **25th Anniversary**. Headlines in the Coloradoan: **"Search team logs 25 years, 500,000 hours of work."** For the past twenty-five years Larimer County has had the dedicated efforts of men and women who searched for and/or rescued those in need. Prepared, consistent, caring, acting with great professionalism, the members of Larimer County SAR have been and continue to be an important part of the community. **Drum roll, please!**



Executive Board update

A great big Thank You to the outgoing members of our Executive Board: Sarah, Dutch, George, Leigh, Brian and Amy. You guys demonstrated great leadership, organization and a wonderful sense of humor. Sarah has given the board eight years of her life; Mark was our Field Coordinator, and been on the team since he was 12, I think. Leigh kept us frugal and in the green, and what can you possibly say about Dutch? (except great work!) New to the board last year - and they did a really super job - were



Brian and Amy. By the way, they have run and won their positions again for 2004-05. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Christmas is the holiday of hope and gratitude – hope in the spirit of mankind; hope that old grudges and seemingly intractable disputes will give way to reconciliation and peace; and gratitude to God for blessings and redemption. Jack Kemp

Celebrating 2004, a year of accomplishment...and the holiday, too.



If you missed this party you missed something special!



Dan appears to be thanking our gracious host and hostess, Santa Dave and Norma. Thank from LCSAR

From the President:

Team Members of LCSAR...

Well, another year has ended and a new one has started. 2004 was a year that was filled with highs and lows for the team, with the lows seeming to have the greater impact. I saw a team so full of optimism receive the news that we had failed the MRA Recert test and would have our full membership rating be "reduced" to Associate membership. I saw the moral of the team falter for a short period and then I witnessed the strength of the team come back and say "We'll get it done at the next recert tests in 2006". I need to add that at no time did I feel that we "FAILED". Our peers judged us and we came up short in their estimation. I also want to add: when I spoke to other Region team members there was a tone of disbelief that we failed. But, that is behind us now and we can move on with our tasks for 2005.

I wish to thank the past members of the Executive Board for the commitment they made to the team in prior years: Sarah Babbitt for her 8 yrs. as an Executive Board member, and immediate past President, Dutch FlaHavan as Vice-President / Secretary, Leigh Rhynalds as Treasurer, and Mark Sheets as Field Representative.

I want to thank the new members of the Executive Board for stepping up and running for the positions vacated by the previously mentioned persons: Jim Powers as Vice President / Secretary, Dan Fanning as Treasurer, Bill Young as Field Coordinator.

A special thank you goes to Amy Ho for sticking it out for another year as the Training Officer and Brian Walsh for continuing to handle the demanding job as Quartermaster.

Janice Weixelmen and Justin Fox have stepped up to be the BASART Training Coordinators for 2005. I believe they deserve our respect and support for undertaking this huge task.

As has been mentioned earlier, 2004 was the 25th anniversary of LCSAR. The Executive Board is looking at having a 25th anniversary celebration this summer after the BASART training has been completed.

I would like to thank the team for judging me worthy of being President for Larimer County Search and Rescue. I hope to be equal to the task as the past Presidents have set a very high standard. And, I especially look forward to input from you, my fellow team members, so that we can keep the team moving forward.

Dave Frank
President LCSAR, Team Representative

2004-05 Training Committee

Happy New Year! Since November, your Training Committee has been hard at work planning BASART 2005, as well as the calendar for the entire year.

In January, we have a bunch of snow practices, as well as the normal tracking and dog practices. BASART begins in February, and will run into June. This year, concurrent with BASART, you will also notice something new on the calendar called "Leadership Training." We're very excited that our Field Coordinator, Bill Young, has offered to teach this series of classes. They are designed for anyone who wishes to practice their skills on a more advanced level, as well as those who would like to move forward into leadership roles.

You'll notice a couple of other new additions to the calendar; things we've not seen before. Stay tuned for the next edition of LCSTAR, where I'll go into more detail regarding what's to come!

A very important note for all members—we've filled the calendar this year with all of the trainings required for any upgrade you might wish to achieve! We encourage each and every one of you to attain a new rating this year. The classes are all there, all you need to do is commit to the challenge. In the words of

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Anais Nin, "There came a time when the risk to remain tight in the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom."

Best wishes for a very happy new year!
-Amy Ho
Training Director



Training Committee- 2005

Here is a list of who is on the TC for the year—we are many and mighty! ☺

- Amy Ho (Training Director)
- Robin Anderson
- Tom Chapel
- Eric Foster
- Justin Fox
- Norland Hall
- Ken Klein
- Jim Mines
- Jose Negron
- Janice Weixelman
- Bill Young

Can you say “Titanium Litter”?

By Brian Walsh, Quartermaster

As your Quartermaster (still working my way up to Halfmaster) for a second year I'd like to fill you in on some new equipment we've recently received, will receive soon, and are currently working on.

DOLA, the agency that distributes monies from the CORSAR Card, gave us a good chunk of money, \$6000, to spend in 2004. Here's what we've bought with that money:

- ➔ 3 Titanium Litters
- ➔ 2 SKEDs
- ➔ 6 rope bags for 150' ropes
- ➔ 400 yards of 1" tubular webbing
- ➔ 200 meters of 7mm rope



The new Titanium litter is almost exactly like the ones we have now but they weigh only 17 lbs. That's 14 lbs. less than our current litters. We also had six attachment points installed to each litter. Two on each side, one at the head and one at the foot. These attachment points will make rigging the litter easier for vertical operations. These attachment points will also keep all carabineers inside the outline of the litter and therefore won't catch on or bang against a rock face.

Another cool piece of gear we bought is a SKED. Think of a SKED as a flexible, extremely durable, multi terrain toboggan, except we have to pull it instead of ride in it. Not quite as fun but still cool. The SKED is ideal for snow missions but can be drug across any type of surface (dirt, roads, etc.) and can be used in some vertical situations. The SKED comes in a nifty carrying bag that can be strapped to your pack or carried solo with its own backpack straps. We'll be pulling these babies out for our upcoming snow trainings. *(Note the use of a SKED in the Boise County, Idaho, mission story to follow on page 7, Editor)*



The rope bags for the 150' ropes have been in use for several months now and have been very handy. You don't have to coil that rope around your neck anymore.

The tubular webbing will be used to replace our current webbing as it expires. Did you know that our webbing and rope expire after five years? Yep. Every piece of rope and webbing gets replaced to ensure that we have good reliable rope to hang on. We also replace any rope or webbing if it looks or feels questionable.

The 7mm rope will be used for this year BASART to make the Prucell Prusik system. Do you remember how to create Prucell Prusiks? This will be a great chance to impress your team mates. You can find the directions in the BASART Training Documents on the LCSAR Team Members page of our website.



We also have a prototype of an Oxygen Bottle Bag. I'll be bringing it to the next couple meeting for everyone to take a look at. I'd really appreciate any input so we can create a great O2 bag.

I look forward to using this new equipment with you in the coming year. If you have any ideas or comments about equipment please contact me or bring them to an executive board meeting.

2004 Contributions to LCSAR

Lendra Lovett
Sharlene Haegor
Wayne Long
DOLA
Don and Fonda Hall
Joe and Mary Welk
A.L. and M.R. Chalmers & Horowit
Thomas J & Delores Linnik
Tom & Elizabeth Maloney
Sportsman's Warehouse
Thomas J. Brewer, D. D. S.
Dave Chambers
Earl & Carol Clark
Ralph & Viva Lugbill
Anita Prinzmetal
Bryon & Sally Prinzmetal
Wayne & Janice Gibb
Robert & Joyce Hamblin
Ronald R. Sheets, M.D. William E. &
Janice A. Newman
John M. & Mary Jo Hazlitt
Sutherland Family Foundation
Bill & Nita Sheets
Raymond J. & Jeanette Scherbarth
Donald C. & Jane Lenhart
Scott J. & Jane M. Kipp
Don D. & Betty L. Eysen
Mark Cousines
Friends of the Westminster Library
Jonathan C. Ludlum
Jess & Judith Rodriguez
William A. & Alta L. Wachs
David M. & Lisa A. Herrera
Brent or Kali Goring
Graham Foundation
Whole Foods Market
Jon T. & Lammers, Elizabeth Larson
Dotty & James, Jan Rooke
Ronnie & Shirley Hogan

Jon & Theresa Sonstroem
Jim & Lois Dillon
Leta Albrecht-Uhl
Lois A. Skipper
Melody & Edward Garlington
Dieter Skowron
Joyce Harmon
Daniel & Karla Flook
Kurt & Shelly Lofdahl
John and Sandy Taylor
Bob and Alice Williams
Ron and Maria Hernandez
Cody Morland
Long's Peak Scottish Festival
Brian Schafer
Estes Park Bd. Of Realtors
Estes Park Lions Club
Fort Collins Coloradoan
Mark & Barbara Richards
James or Nona Watt
John & Manon, Carol Beckett
Memorial Hospital Coding
Dept.
Leysa E, Robertson
Transwestern Employees Club
Michael & Barbara Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Jones
Transwestern Pipeline Co.
Doug & Justina Toombs
Ballenski Family
Shelley Calisher
Robert & Liana Clark
Rex & Pamela Cue
James H. or Ruth H. Doyle
Tim & Sherry Gaines
Geo-Seis Helicopters, Inc.
Abdol H. & Cyndi Kay
Ghasvarian
Kathryn Henderson

HP Employee Charitable Program
Randall & Nancy Huber
Jax Surplus
Victoria M. A. Jordan
Ken's Muffler Shop
Robert E. & Jan Ludlum
Loveland Mountain Club
David V. or Louise Z. Mosnik
William T. & Sonia Murphy
Teresa & Edward Mueller
Janet Neal
New Belgium Brewing Co.
Poudre Valley Lions Club
Rose Purcell
Schrader Oil
John & Gwendolyn Scott
Sears Trostel Lumber
Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp
Les & Evelyn Stickler
Carol Volk
Ralph or Faye Widgren
Bill Lacock Insurance Agency
Thomas & Judith Wright
Charles & Allene Gotttinger
Fort Collins Area United Way
Larry & Joan Allen
Thomas Riley Cody
James & Lynne Barnes
Wanda Hoffmann
Dorothy Miller
Elizabeth Rex
Dale Misch
Donna Govan
World Reach, Inc.
Jeff & Brenda McKee
Cathy Zitti

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The mission described below was masterfully handled by the Idaho Mountain Rescue Unit. It was so similar to a mission that we had last fall (see Monday 25 Oct. 2004 – Cedar Gulch, in the mission reports) that I thought it made interesting reading. As described the scree descent to the river crossing was more demanding then our approach to the water, the river crossing somewhat more challenging, and the carry-out back down to the river then up to the road was more technical. None-the-less the parallels are there, especially the multi-agency involvement and teamwork. (ed.)

View from the River Canyon—Jeff Munn (Printed with

permission from the Idaho Mountain Rescue Unit, Inc., Charlotte Gunn, editor; photos by D. Ritzenhaler)

Any plans for Halloween changed when what we thought was going to be a simple rescue turned out to be about a 14-hour ordeal. Because of the subject's reported condition, we felt we had to go ahead in the dark. Bob Meredith, OL, designated Tim Henning as team leader; Tim, Dominick Merrell, David Ritzenhaler and Jeff Munn were the first team to descend to the canyon floor. Before heading down, we

realized that we faced not just one technical problem but five problems: (1) To get down to the bottom of the canyon in the dark. (2) To get across the river. (3) To climb 500-700 feet to the patient. (4) To set up a lowering system to bring the patient down to and across the river. (5) To raise to raise the patient to the highway. The first part of the problem was to get lots of equipment and us down to the river. We expected a big challenge, but it turned out to be mostly a long steep scree slope with a fifty-foot rappel in the middle. Upon reaching the river, we started looking for the best place to cross, as we were intending to wade across the river; this was the shallow season according to the locals. Finding what we thought to be a good spot, we stripped off our socks, replaced our boots, rolled up our pants and proceeded into the water. In about a minute, we found ourselves with water up to our knees, and our legs and toes were numb due to the very cold water. We decided this method of crossing the river was not viable and built a fire to warm and dry ourselves. Our other choices included a helicopter (ha, ha), a bridge or—more practical—some sort of inflatable boat. (Kris Walker, where were you?) After several hours of waiting for such a craft, Jerry Newland, Ron Moomey, Dan Scovel, Martha Vandivort, Paramedic Dan Elmore of the Ada County Special Operations Team, and members of the Garden Valley Fire Department Swiftwater Rescue Team arrived at the river. Getting that inflatable kayak down the steep slope was apparently quite the ordeal. Tim asked Jeff to be the first one ferried across by Lt. Phil Palmiotto of the Swiftwater Team, and to take a static line for a potential highline if needed. This was easier said than done because of the hydraulics of the water against the rope. Palmiotto repeated trips with the boat until rescuers and equipment were all safely across. The next step was to determine which draw to crawl up. At this point, we still did not have an exact location for the subject. The crew up on the road used the laser sight on the deputy's pistol, asking the subject to tell them via FSR when it was aiming directly at him. Once this was determined, we began our hike up, made a bit easier by the IDT lights, but a lot harder by the scree that slid downhill under every footstep. The paramedic started two IV's and applied Ron's heat packs to help rewarm him; we then packaged him in a vacuum splint (which the IMSARU member who had carried it described as a hellish device to pack) and a Sked for the slow trip down the mountain. As the subject warmed, he said his legs were starting to hurt—better news than “can't feel them”! The rocks were wet and



slick and the dirt seemed to give way with every step. With two 300-foot pitches, we made it safely down to the river. Palmiotto practiced first with an uninjured person, then used the inflatable kayak to ferry the packaged patient across the water. Those on top, supervised by Meredith, had set up a 4-to-1 mechanical advantage haul line and a belay line for raising the litter. Everyone not already committed elsewhere received quick instruction in rope handling and became part of the pulling teams. [Note: Everyone recognizes the effort needed for raising a loaded litter. However, there was a surprise for those pulling the 900 feet of belay line with all its friction load—and no mechanical advantage system for that rope.] The tired team below had to manage the litter and persuade their tired legs to carry them and all that equipment back up to the road.

According to the evening news, the subject was treated at the hospital for contusions on his back and mild frostbite, and released.

Other agencies working on this same rescue were Boise County Sheriff's Office (Chief Deputy Bill Braddock as IC for the first part), Ada County Sheriff's Office, Garden



Valley Fire District and seven members of their Swift Water Rescue team, Crouch Ambulance, U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Department of Transportation, Ada County Special Operations Team and Life Flight.

Notes:

1. During the successful evacuation, the black cloud hovering was that no one knew the location of the other two hunters (an adult and a 10-year-old boy) stranded beyond the river, and our people were going to be too exhausted to mount a search on Sunday afternoon. Kline took the hunter who had reported the problem and drove up and down the river road until they finally spotted the missing pair and were able to shout across the water to persuade them to remain where they were until help could arrive. The Swiftwater Rescue Team thought Meredith was making a bad joke when he told them they needed to move their operation downriver half a mile and ferry the other two stranded hunters across. It wasn't a joke and the tired team did their job professionally.

2. The South Fork of the Payette River is a popular kayaking scene, though this stretch, between Big Falls and Little Falls, is avoided by even experienced boaters. Without the professional skills of the local Swiftwater Rescue Team, this rescue would have been a different story. Everyone felt good about the multi-agency effort that probably saved this young man from dying of hypothermia.



Editor: With our resources would we have handled this the same way? A boat sure would have saved my frozen toes and a certain team member a swim.

* * * *

SARDOC News 1/2005

SARDOC has four weekends a year throughout the state. The first one of the year will be an Avalanche Weekend on February 12th and 13th, it is going to be focused on winter training methods and different ways to train when there is snow on the ground. Saturday the 12th will be focused on alternative training in Steamboat and Sunday will be focused on Avalanche training on Rabbit Ears Pass, east of Steamboat. We will be hosting a Weekend in May. More information later.

News: Mike Erickson and Merlin passed their large area air scent test and are fieldable within county. We are working on getting his multi-subject and night tests done so that he is finished. Way to go Mike and Merlin.

Robin Anderson and Toss are almost ready to ask for confidence forms so they can begin their testing in Air Scent

Eric Ackerman and Torrey are working hard in trailing.

Dan Fanning and Bear are training a new puppy, Tracer in trailing. Tracer is our Calendar Boy. There is a picture of him in the Coloradoan Community Calendar. You can pick up a calendar at the Office of the Coloradoan Newspaper office. It will cost \$.50.

Jayne and Lakota are working on evidence.

Allen and Rosie are our only Certified Avalanche Dog in the County.

Kathy and Ember are working on evidence.

Three dog teams: Dan and Bear, Jayne and Lakota and Kathy and Ember are working on water certification. They can only work on that when the water is not frozen, so, hopefully this summer, we can get all three certified in water.

We welcome all of you to come and play with us.

Kathy and Ember
Northern Area Director SARDOC

LCSAR INCIDENT REPORTS – June to December 2004

compiled by George Janson, Senior Mossback

Sunday 13 June 2004 – Roaring Creek – Paged at 11:20 for direct response to Roaring Creek trail, MM 81.5 in the Poudre Canyon, on a report of a 70 year old male that was hiking, and who had passed out twice. The original information was that the subject was 1 hour up the trail. Poudre Canyon QRT, PVH ambulance and Greeley Air Life also responded. The QRTs and Air Life were first on scene and hiked to the patient, reporting him to be 1/3 mile up the trail. He was taking beta blocker medications which combined with his age, the

altitude, and the exertion of hiking caused him to pass out. He was part of a senior group called the Fort Collins Newcomers, who said they plan a hike each week. After the Paramedics evaluated him, they allowed the subject to hike out on his own. Once the subject was in the parking lot, LCSAR was stood down, and all were back in Fort Collins by 15:00. Comment from Dave Hake: Sorry for all the pages but we didn't have enough people responding to do this carryout if in fact it was a mile up the trail, which is fairly steep on that part of the trail. Allen Weaver made it to the patient and helped walk him out, and a few of us carried the litter part way in. Thanks for your response!

Sunday 13 June 2004 - Long Draw road - Synopsis from Dave Hake: Just thought I would tell all of you that there was another mission Sunday night that never developed into anything. SAR Manager's received a page to call Don Griffith at around 23:30 on Sunday night. ES had received a report from a woman in Weld County saying her husband and son were fishing up Long Draw road and hadn't returned home yet. Don said there was some confusion between the daughter and the mother as to when they were due home, so Don was just giving us a heads up while he took a drive up to find the vehicle. Don was stood down shortly after when the subject called home saying they were on their way. Aren't you glad we let you sleep some nights?

Friday 18 June 2004 - Denver - Reported by Mike Fink: Page at 21:30 from CSRB Coordinator Kim Veitch seeking dog resources for a missing 21 year old autistic male, last seen 20:30 at 7171 S. Pennsylvania Street, Hopkins Elementary School. Cross streets are Arapaho and Broadway. The request is for air scent dogs. Dan Fanning with Bear and Brian Walsh were available, plus Allen Weaver available as support as he did not feel Rosie would do well in an urban setting. 22:20 Stand down - Dennis McLaughlin with El Paso called. He had just been on the phone with Kim, who said that the lost person had been found.

Sunday 20 June 2004 - 2025 N. College Ave. - Reported by Don Davis: At 22:51 LCSAR was requested to send dog handlers to the Poudre Valley Trailer Park at 2025 N. College Avenue for a missing 9 year old female, last seen at 18:30. The agencies involved were LCSO Deputies, Emergency Services, LCSAR, PFA Fire (light truck and night vision). Team Members involved were: Don Davis - L1, Mark Sheets - ITC, Dave Hake - Tracker, Doug Grimm - Tracker, Natalie Ray - Dog Handler, Dan Fanning - Dog Handler, Allen Weaver - Dog Handler, Kathy Shepherd - Dog Handler, Norland Hall - Dog Support. The girl was found at the neighbor's house next door. She stated that with all the commotion outside she was afraid to come out. Yes, Deputies had knocked on the door of the house earlier, but no one answered. When a neighbor checked the house later, the door was answered and the girl came out. The girl was OK and the family was relieved that she was found. At 23:59 the stand down page was sent.

Monday 21 June 2004 - Poudre River, MM 76 - SAR Manager page at 14:18 for assist to Dive Rescue with a body recovery in the Poudre Canyon above Spencer Heights. On Sunday, ES responded to assist LCSO Patrol in locating a suicidal subject, and searched the immediate area for the subject. Due to recent heavy rains in the area, personnel were unable to establish a direction of travel for the subject. It was determined that due to the circumstances it was not safe to field searchers in the area, and the Mountain Deputy would return the next morning to see if the subject had returned to the vehicle. At 07:16 Monday morning, it was determined that the subject had not returned to his vehicle. Also, lab analysis found that blood was on a handgun that had been secured in the immediate area on Sunday. ES, the Dive Team and LCSAR were enroute, to search the Poudre River downstream from the subject's vehicle. Shortly before arriving at the scene, a citizen spotted a body in the water at mile marker 76 and notified the Deputy who was staged at the subject's vehicle. ES and Dive Team arrived on scene and initiated recovery operations while LCSAR was enroute. At 14:15 the body was recovered and turned over to the coroner, who confirmed it was the body of the missing subject. LCSAR response was stood down at 16:17, and all personnel were clear of the scene at 16:30.

Sunday 27 June 2004 - RMNP, Fern Lake - At 21:58 the duty SAR Manager was paged, with a request to assist RMNP with a carryout from Fern Lake of a 15 year old male (Boy Scout), possibly suffering from appendicitis. This was RMNP's third major SAR event of the day. Responding were George Janson - L1, Becca Frager, Dave Egley, Tate Hickox, Jose Negron, Tom Chapel and Mac Durgeloh. Janson stayed at the ICP with IC Jim Detterline and the RP, who is the scoutmaster for the Scout Troop from Kansas. LCSAR met the carryout team at The Pool, a scenic resting area on the trail, to help with the final miles of the carryout. Janson drove the RP to the trailhead, so the scoutmaster could accompany the subject to Estes Park Medical Center. RMNP had their usual post-incident debriefing at their SAR Cache, after which all LCSAR personnel departed, at about 03:00.

Wednesday 30 June 2004 - Poudre River, MM 113 - Reported by Sarah Babbitt: Wednesday evening, at approximately 18:35, the Dive Team was responding to a kayak pinned in the river

at mile marker 113, just below Grey Rock. There were a couple of us already at the cache, and Bill Daniel happened to hear on the office radio that Justin W. had requested a page to go out for extra hands (from the Support Group) to help with the task since there weren't quite enough Dive folks and many of them weren't very experienced. Bill called Justin on the radio and said that there were some SAR folks already at the cache for the class, and would he like some of us to respond instead? Justin said great, so Bill, myself, Ken and Robin headed up the canyon. We put together a lowering system to get the dive boat down the embankment to the river, helped a bit with rigging the boat and the highline/Kootenay carriage across the river, and did some hauling to help move the boat back and forth. It was interesting to see how this all went together (I'd seen it on paper but not in person before.) We were back at the cache by 20:30. Sorry about any confusion, since no page was sent out requesting us, but there was a later page standing us down.

Saturday 3 July 2004 - RMNP, Ute Trail - Reported by Russ Buckley: Responding for LCSAR were: Anderson, Babbitt, Evans, Negron, and Buckley. The subject was a 65 year old woman from Montana. She fell at ~11:30 while hiking on the Ute Trail in RMNP, above tree line. She was with her husband, and a friend from Estes Park. Her location was ~1 to 2 miles from the junction of Ute Trail and Trail Ridge Road. She had trauma to the soft tissue of nose, lips and mouth. Severe bruising and cuts to the eye areas. She had substantial bleeding. She was unconscious for some minutes. She later complained of hip and rib pain. Rangers responded to a cell phone call for help. They assessed the subject and packaged her for a carry out. An IV was started with some pain medications. At this time a severe thunderstorm came through, with lightning strikes less than 1000 feet away. It was decided to transport the subject down Ute Trail, rather than up, to get the subject and responders below tree line as rapidly as possible. There were six responders, plus the two hikers, who were with the subject to begin the carry out. Team 2, two Rangers and Buckley, started up the Ute Trail at ~15:00. We reached the team carrying down ~3 miles up the trail and helped carry down to a very tight backcountry helispot. An Air Life helicopter from Denver made the pickup. The Rangers performed a textbook helicopter load, very professional. However, I provided the flagging tape, one helmet, gloves and eye protection for the operation. So, carrying your equipment is essential, even if only to provide it to others to make the mission a success. Anderson, Babbitt, Evans, Negron were Team 3 and almost made it to the helispot before the helicopter took off with the subject. A number of thunderstorm cells passed through during the mission and the helicopter operation was iffy even at the end. If the subject had had to be carried down the trail, Team 3 would have been critical. RMNP was most appreciative that LCSAR responded with the five people.

Sunday 4 July 2004 - Greyrock - At 16:27, ES and LCSAR responded to Greyrock trailhead on a report of an injured dog that needed to be carried out to the parking lot. Responding units arrived at the trailhead and began walking in to meet up with the injured dog and its owner. LCSAR units made contact with the subjects at 17:35 and assisted them with transporting the injured animal down to the parking lot. All units cleared the scene at 18:15.

Wednesday 7 July 2004 - Big South Trail - Reported by Mark Sheets: John had his wife, Trudy drive him up to the beginning of the Poudre River up in Rocky Mountain National Park to be dropped off at 08:00. He intended to hike down the Poudre River to the Big South trailhead where he had planned to meet his awaiting wife around 15:00. John estimated this trip was 16-17 miles (actual is about 18). Things John didn't know: 1- The bridge has been washed out for many years now. This time of year, a river crossing is out of the question. 2- Because the bridge is out, it is best to destinate at Peterson Lake. 3- Many people have been duped into this hike thinking that they will simply stay on the west side of the Poudre and come out at the Big South Trail Head. There is a well beaten foot path to prove this, until it just stops because you can walk no further. 4- The terrain becomes very nasty (vertical) preventing easy travel to Hwy 14. This is obvious on topographic maps but not on Forest Service maps. (John had a Forest Service map) The search begins: It was decided to send one team up the Big South Trail, one team to Peterson Lake and the other team to Corral Lake (just above Peterson Lake). Because the subject was dropped off in the Park, we had no established footwear pattern to work from. John could be anywhere along the 18 mile-long route. This is a huge search area, especially with only one SAR Manager and six field team members. I could see the odds were against us. It turns out that John had a UHF Family Radio Service (FRS) radio to hopefully talk to his wife when he was approaching the trail head. These are 2 watt radios so they can be limited in range. You know me (Radio Geek) I happened to have two of these walkie-talkies in my car and I have programmed these radio channels into my mobile radio also. I gave one radio to the Big South team (Team-1) and the other to the Peterson Lake team (Team-2). Unfortunately John did not have extra batteries for his radio. The chances that he was monitoring (or had the battery life to do so) was

slim. All teams were sent to their assignments and I left Trudy with Kevin Johnston at the ICP to go drive to Peterson Lake to hopefully make some radio contact via FRS with John. I got less than a mile from the ICP when I heard a response from my blind transmissions that was really weak. I asked "If this is John, click twice". I hear "click - click". Gosh - could we be so lucky? Turns out that John had heard the loud "Fox Hound Horn" (like the one that Scott Evans uses) being blown by Team-1 and decided to turn on the radio. Team-1 could hear John pretty clear so they continued to work with him and I returned to the ICP. John indicated that the "Low Battery Light" on his FRS was blinking. We decided to go to 15 minute schedules to conserve battery life. He would also turn it on at the blow of the horn. This worked well. John had built a fire as to aid in visual searching should someone be out looking for him. Team-1 coordinated with John using the horn, voice and radio to somewhat pin-point his location. They could only see the glow of his fire in the forest so getting his location down accurately was a challenge. He was 17 miles into the trip where he had cliffed out near the stream. Only one mile from his destination where Trudy was anxiously waiting for him. Teams-2 and 3 were recalled and reassigned to walk over the top of the mountain on the west side of the Poudre in order to descend down towards the Poudre River to John and his campfire. From my mobile radio, I was able to "cross-band link" our SAR-2 channel with the FRS channel so everyone could now hear and talk to John when needed. Due to very steep terrain, these teams were moving slowly and cautiously and the ordeal was taking longer than one would have thought to reach John. Around 02:00, Teams-2 and 3 reached him. They decided bivy until first light so that travel in the conditions would be safer in daylight. Team-1 returned to camp and headed home at 02:30. Teams-2 and 3 started walking out around 05:15, and everyone was back at the ICP around 06:45. John and Trudy bought the team breakfast at Vern's.

Thursday 8 July 2004 - RMNP - Reported by Dave Hake: We had received a page around 3:00 or 4:00 in the afternoon on Thursday for dogs and support to assist RMNP in a search for an 80 year old overdue Volunteer in the Park (VIP). I believe 3 dogs, handlers and support personal responded to the search. Bill Young was in Estes and went to RMNP's SAR cache to help out with the mission. Don Griffith was also there to help out. I think it was because of the overload the Park was experiencing since this was the third incident that day. Someone from the dog group can fill in more details as to what they did but it sounded like they were called in to conduct a hasty search of the trails in the area. Walter (the overdue subject) had parked his vehicle at Longs Peak trail head and was in route to Longs Peak earlier in the morning. He was seen by several people but some of them saw him on a new trail that linked Estes Cone to Lilly Lake area. This was odd because he never traveled that trail before. The last report was about ¼ mile from a switchback on that trail. It sounded like the dog teams did not have sufficient winds to be able to clear much except the trails they were on and it sounded like they were not asked to do more than that. Walter has been known to always walk with trekking poles and one Ranger found some ski pole marks along a trail that is to the north of the PLS. Don G. paged me at 12:00 midnight and asked if I would be willing to work the ski pole marks as a tracking assignment and do it before the next large crew of searchers arrive the next morning. He was hoping I could make something out of it to help focus the search. I agreed and contacted Scott Evans to assist me in doing so (sorry Doug, I wished you were here!!) We arrived at the SAR cache and were given a UTM of the ski pole marks - let me rephrase that - "one" ski pole mark! And it was about a mile away from the PLS and a good distance to hike in! Both Scott and I felt it would be a waste of time to work that mark since there are many hikers who used ski poles or trekking sticks to hike. Instead we decided to work from the PLS which was only about a mile hike in off of Hwy 7. We wanted to see if he went off at the switchback to the north because they found out more information that he has been known to walk with his head down and sometimes blows past switchback turns. Also, there was a small drainage just to the north of the switchback so it looked like a likely spot and it hadn't been checked yet. By the time we were in the field it was 02:15 and we were the only team fielded at that time, other than some rangers doing trail blocks. We found some ski pole marks along the trail at the PLS but they were older than today's sign. We checked the switchback and found some sign leaving the trail but were uncertain if it was Walter or just a searcher. After working it more Scott found the first identifiable track and it was a standard Vibram pattern like what Walter was said to be wearing. We finally started finding ski pole marks along with this sign so we were more excited that it just might be Walter's! We followed this sign west off the trail from the switchback and it started to turn uphill, stopping at clumps of trees, then turned downhill, then back uphill as if he was trying to find the trail again. We reported all this to ICP and said when the next group of searchers and dogs show up in the morning they need to cover that area. The sign then took a turn downhill and seemed to keep going down as if he had

given up and started to panic. By then it was 05:00 and getting light. There were some good down slope winds and I told ICP to have an air scent dog work below us as soon as they arrive. We decided since we had it narrowed down to one drainage we would cut for sign farther down and use attraction like we've been doing with the horn. We finally got a response from the horn! We couldn't understand what was said so we continued without getting any response. We reported this to ICP and asked if there were teams in the area and were told that no other teams were fielded yet. We continued down towards the sound with lots of attraction. It was 5 to 10 minutes with no luck then finally another response! It was Walter! He was found next to the stream in the drainage about half way down. He was cold, wet, missing one boot and had cuts on his head from taking several falls. Other than that, he was OK! By then other teams had arrived at ICP from around the state and everyone converged to the location for the carryout of Walter. It was a simple wheeled litter and a short scree carryout and it seemed to take longer for the medical stuff than it did for the carryout! First it was us doing basic first-aid and Scott's five course meal. Then a WFR came in and did her head to toe, then an EMT came in and did more, then a Paramedic came in and did even more! I felt sorry for Walter, he really just wanted to walk out on his own after getting some hot fluids in him. I think his pride was the most injured part of him. If you don't know Walter, he's been a part of the Park for many years and they think of him as family. He's summited Longs Peak over 100 times and when the Rangers found out we found him alive, they couldn't thank us enough. I think a lot of the Rangers see a little bit of themselves in Walter and hope when they're 80 they will still be hiking as much as Walter does. It sure is nice when tracking pays off this way. It makes me realize the time we put in on tracking is worth it! *From Mark Magnuson: I wanted to pass along our thanks for the great assistance provided by LCSAR last week in the Walter Tishma search. As you likely know, Walter is a long-term volunteer here who has endeared himself to Park staff and thousands of visitors throughout the years. As always, everyone from LCSAR who came up to assist were eager, well prepared, and professional. Dog teams and handlers worked their assigned areas and of course the good tracking skills of Dave and Scott certainly paid dividends. Please pass along our thanks to all involved.* NPS Morning Report of Monday 19 July 2004 - Rocky Mountain National Park (CO) - Search for Missing Park Volunteer - On 8 July, long-time park volunteer Walter Tishma, 80, went hiking on his own time near Estes Cone, an area and trail that he was very familiar with and had visited many times over the years. When he failed to return to his vehicle, a hasty search was begun by rangers. Information obtained from other hikers suggested that Tishma had likely left the designated trail and was traveling in steep, rugged terrain. Search efforts were escalated; by early evening, more than 40 people and three dog teams were committed to the operation. Confinement was established around the search area through the night while searchers continued to look for him. Trackers from the Larimer County SAR team picked up signs near a trail switchback around 06:00 the next morning that led searchers to Tishma. He had missed the switchback and become disoriented in the steep, forested terrain. After being treated by a park medic for minor injuries and dehydration, Tishma was raised via litter up steep terrain to the trail, then taken to a waiting ambulance. He was hospitalized for several days. Also assisting in the operation was the Larimer County Sheriff's Department's Office of Emergency Services and the Arapahoe Rescue Patrol. This was the fifth search in the park over a two-day period. [Submitted by Mark Magnuson, Chief Ranger]

Friday 9 July 2004 - Berthoud - Reported by Mark Sheets: At 08:15, LCSAR was paged to provide SAR dogs at 914 Kansas Street in Berthoud for a missing 3 year old male - gone for about 1 hour. Sheets, Fanning and Zmijewski responded along with Dave Mosier of LCSO-ES. I arrived to find about 45 neighbors, 10 Fire Crew, 1 Ambulance and 3 Berthoud PD officers all at the residence (Jamie Baker was driving the ambulance). I then spotted a very emotional Hispanic female (guessing mid/late 20's) who could barely speak. I attempted to get scent articles lined up for the incoming dog teams. She was so emotional I couldn't get through to her about what we needed. I asked if her husband was around, she said no, but pointed to her father who lives with her. As I was attempting to communicate with him (no habla engles) the mother comes walking out on the front porch, clutching the child yelling "I found him" in Spanish. Mom burst out in tears and rips the child from mom's arms and starts hugging and kissing the little boy. The little boy was in the house the whole time, frightfully eluding the police officers who searched the home. At 08:48 the stand down page was sent. Dave Mosier turned around and all LCSAR went to get coffee in Berthoud.

Friday 9 July 2004 - Blue Lake in Rawah Wilderness - [Note: The next day was to be our MRA vertical tech retest, which was postponed due to this mission.] Reported by Janice Weixelman: Paged out at 21:27 for a rescue at Blue Lake (which is in the Rawah Wilderness) for a young man with a broken leg and torso trauma. Eric Foster and Dan O'Sullivan took

Truck 10 and responded. Mark Sheets, Justin Fox, Mac Durgeloh and I followed them up the canyon to the Blue Lake trailhead. Dave Moser was with the RP and we learned that 4 men (20's) and a younger brother of one of them (age 14) had gone backpacking up to Blue Lake, then decided to hike on up to the peak above Hang Lake a little farther up. If you are familiar with this area, you know that the banks around the Blue Lake are funnel-like, extremely steep and without a true shore. The area around Hang Lake is not much better, quite steep. Mike (age 23) was from Minnesota, and was already having some difficulty with the altitude, feeling dizzy, short of breath, and weak. He began to come down from the peak, and because of the steepness of the slope began to walk faster, then run, as he was unable to stop himself. He ended up falling forward onto his elbows and attempted to tuck which caused him to roll on down the slope. (He tells me he thinks he fell 1000 feet, but in looking at the map, it was probably more like 150 to 200, which is still a long ways.) Mike noted that his left leg hurt tremendously. His friends, Steve and Nick, checked him over and found bruises on his left front ribs, and Mike noted that it hurt to breathe. Mike had a cut to his left 5th finger that he says was "to the bone" and his friends applied a nicely done compression dressing and taped it well. They decided to go back down the mountain (to Greeley). They made it down the trail only a short distance and Mike stumbled and fell again, and again he went downslope a distance (maybe 25 feet). At that point, Mike hurt everywhere and felt he could not breathe well. He was dizzy and felt "off balance", as well as being very tired. The group decided to make camp, bed Mike down and leave Nick's younger brother, Neal with Mike. Nick and Steve would then go for help. This was done, Mike was wrapped in clothes and a sleeping bag, with an additional sleeping bag over the top of him. He immediately fell asleep. Apparently, Neal did a great job of watching camp and keeping a fire going until he too became tired and bedded down. Nick and Steve made it down the trail for help, but when they reached the car found they had forgotten their car keys. (I never did find out how they summoned 911). Our page came through as above, about 22:00. The first people and Truck 10 arrived at the trailhead approx 23:30, and Justin, Eric, Mac, Dan and I became the hasty medical team. Dave Moser had spoken with someone who has extensive experience with the area, and we were told the closest landing zone would be up from where the camp was determined to be. (Back up that steep incline.) Mike had an FRS radio with him. We headed up the trail and approx 01:00 had voice contact. Mike sounded good, said his sleep made a great improvement in his level of pain, his breathing was painful but not otherwise difficult. He did complain of a frequent wet cough. He stated he would try to get up to help signal to us, and was actually able to get up and walk. When we arrived at the camp (approx. 01:30), he and Neal were seated on logs by a campfire that had gone out, they had not been able to re-start it. Eric set up a radio relay as communication was difficult down in the steep gulch, Mac and Dan quickly built a nice warm fire, and Justin and I checked Mike out. Mike was alert, oriented x3 with facial abrasions as well as an abrasion to his left ear. His neck was not tender with palpation, he denied any neck pain and felt he actually never hit his head. There was no spinal process tenderness, nor did he have any pain with flexion or extension of his neck. Neurologically, he was completely intact. His lungs were clear and he had great air movement. However, he had a frequent, wet cough and when he blew his air out hard it would cause a coughing spasm (that's called bronchospasm), almost an asthmatic type of cough though he denied history of asthma. Mike was able to speak in complete sentences, his nailbeds and lips were pink. He had abrasions on his belly but the abdomen was soft and non-tender with active bowel sounds (he states he was never nauseated and had been drinking fluids frequently during the night when he would wake up, he also had been able to urinate on several occasions). He had a large bruise over the midshaft of his left thigh, but was able to bear weight fully. His left hip and knee were both stable, right leg and both ankles were fine. (Overall, an extremely lucky young man). There were bottles of alcohol at the scene, all of which were still sealed, as the merriment that had been planned for was put on hold due to Mike's mishap. Mike was a non-smoker, no medical problems, no allergies. Good health was in his favor. After considerable discussion and conversation with Mike, it was felt he could walk out. He was given a couple of puffs of an Albuterol Inhaler, rested and then given a few more puffs of the inhaler. We then walked him upslope to the trail which left him breathless, though he stated it was the altitude. He had stopped coughing, his lungs were still clear, and he was still overall looking good. We let him breathe some oxygen through the mask to get his breath back. Knowing the next part of the trip was the downhill trek, we felt he would be OK, though sore, with the walk. And in fact he was. It was a slow walk down, the lower we went the better he felt he could breathe. We hit the trailhead around 08:00. So you know, there were several reasons to choose this method of evacuation. The most important was that he was stable, even though he was sore. I felt his cough was due to Acute Mountain Sickness (not quite the same as High Altitude

Illness), and descent would improve that. Because his lungs were clear, this helped me feel better about walking him down, and improvement with the Albuterol helped confirm my feelings that he was stable. The gully we were in was steep on all sides, the helispot would be a long and complicated uphaul (400 feet or more). Putting him into a litter would add some compromise to his airway, as he would be lying down, strapped in and would not be taking complete breaths. Since he was in good shape sitting up, I did not want to trade that for possibly making things worse for awhile. As you are all aware, these decisions are never straightforward. Many aspects of the situation should be looked at, and one small detail can mean a big change in plans. Our subject, Mike, was quite impressed that so many people showed up to take care of someone they did not know. He became more impressed when he found out we are a volunteer organization and that there was not a charge for our services. Before he left to head down the mountain, he requested a card so that he could send an appropriate donation to the team.

Friday 16 July 2004 - Poudre River - *big media event* - LCSAR assisted Dive Rescue throughout the weekend on this mission, without locating the subject, and the search is suspended until autumn, when the river level ebbs to its lowest levels. On Sunday, just before search activity was suspended, another motorcyclist slid into the guardrail at nearly the same spot as Gloria Nelson - see next report synopsis below for details. Press release from LCSO: At 12:30 today Larimer County Sheriff Deputies, Dive Rescue, Emergency Services, Search and Rescue, and the Poudre Canyon Fire Department responded to a motorcycle accident at mile marker 104 on the Poudre Canyon Highway 14. A 40 year old New Mexico woman [Gloria Nelson] riding a motorcycle apparently hit some sand and went down a 15 foot embankment into the Poudre River. Two other riders saw the woman fall into the river and followed her a mile down before losing sight of her. The motorcycle was picked up along the embankment. The accident occurred approximately 17 miles west of Ted's Place. The woman was wearing a tan leather jacket and gray rain suit. She was not wearing a helmet. Emergency personnel are still searching for the woman at this time. Larimer County Emergency Management has requested the Bureau of Reclamation to control the flow of the Poudre River. It may take until tomorrow morning, however, to affect the area. [See additional information under 2-3 October synopsis below.]

Saturday 17 July 2004 - Thermopolis, WY - Paged at 02:38 with request for Cheryl Kennedy with Apache to assist Goshen County Sheriff with water search. Another incident with teenagers jumping from old bridge abutments in center of town into deep pools of the Bighorn River below. She and Apache did some early morning searching on the Poudre for Gloria Nelson, then went on to Thermopolis. Due to the on-going search this weekend, no other LCSAR resources were available to accompany Cheryl.

Sunday 18 July 2004 - Poudre River - Report from Janice Weixelman: When I was at the hospital this afternoon, I stopped to see how Dennis was doing. He was the person who went over the guardrail today, requiring medical assistance. He gave me permission to let you know how he is doing and what happened. Apparently he slid on some gravel as he came around the bend in the road, laying his bike down. He hit the guardrail and went over it. He says he never lost consciousness, and remembers hitting his face and falling toward the water, and hoping he would not go into the river. He was not wearing a helmet. When I arrived at the scene, Tim from the Dive Rescue Team was already with Dennis, and had done an excellent job of assessing Dennis' injuries. Dennis had significant trauma to his face, primarily his nose, and had a good nosebleed going on as well as bleeding profusely from a gash across his nose. He denied any neck pain, or difficulty breathing. He did complain of some low back pain, but had no neurological deficits. The only other injury found was a laceration to his elbow. Tim had immediately started spinal immobilization, and placed a neck collar on Dennis as soon as he obtained one. We then moved the patient onto a backboard, then moved the backboard into a litter. This was rather difficult as we had a steep embankment and limited space to work with. Ropes were attached to the litter, and the litter was raised up the embankment with the joint efforts of those at the litter, as well as those on the road pulling on the ropes. It wasn't a perfect ride for the patient, but under the circumstances things actually went quite well. The patient was taken by ambulance to PVH. The Helicopter had been called, and a helispot was being put together, but the ambulance had arrived to the scene by the time the patient was lifted to the road, and the paramedics felt there would not be much time saved, and the patient was stable. Dennis underwent multiple CT scans of his facial bones, cervical spine, abdomen and pelvis. He has a nasal fracture, but no other broken bones. His lacerations to the face and elbow were repaired in the ER, and he was admitted overnight to be monitored. Dennis wishes to thank everyone who helped him today, and was amazed that he was attended to so quickly. He and his family are very grateful that

his injuries were not more serious, and that he was not another victim of the river. [Had the water level not been lowered for the Gloria Nelson search, Dennis would also have landed in the river. -ed.] *Query from some Team members: "I have a question ... did anybody sweep the road yet???"* Response from George Janson: While we were at ICP at Stevens Gulch over these 2½ days, there were literally dozens (if not more) of motorcycles that came down through there safely. Mark S. and Tim P. (LCDR) and Don G. and I discussed after this second one that it's not the 'sand' on or near the road that is the problem, it's the excess speed of the biker going into that turn. Mark's experience from investigating some of these type accidents while he was in law enforcement, as well as being a biker, is that the common reason given by the biker is "I hit some sand (or gravel)", when it was obvious that it was the speed when they hit that change of surface that was the real cause. The companion to this second incident biker had to lay his bike down to stop quickly enough to help his friend, so he was likely going a bit too fast as well - as Mark and Don G. observed, it's easy to do when on a motorcycle.

Wednesday 21 July 2004 - RMNP, Twin Sisters - Duty SAR Manager paged at 16:59 regarding sending dogs and searchers to assist RMNP on search for two teenage females, who were off trail in the Twin Sisters area. The girls had cell phone contact with RMNP dispatch; the girls just didn't know where they were off the trail. However, at 17:50, RMNP dispatch notified us they had located the girls, and would not need our services.

Thursday 22 July 2004 - Laramie River Ranch - Direct response page at 10:58 to respond to Laramie River Ranch for evac of a female who had fallen from a horse. However, at 11:02, Ranch personnel advised dispatch that the woman was now coherent, and they were walking her back to the Ranch. LCSAR response was stood down at 11:04. Report from Mike Fink: The following people were responding to this incident: Eric Foster, Justin Fox, Allen Weaver, Dave Frank, Becca Frager, Mac Durgeloh, Scott Evans, Don Davis (L1).

Saturday 24 July 2004 - Kelly Flats in Poudre Canyon - Direct response page at 12:12 for tech evac of 13 year old male with a broken ankle. Unsure if this is on the 4WD road (north side of the canyon) or on the hillside behind the campground (south side of the canyon, and farther upstream). At 12:42, an information page was sent advising that Edward 19 [the Mountain Deputy] and a doctor were on scene, on the hillside behind the campground. At 13:08 LCSAR response was stood down, as the subject was down off the mountain.

Saturday 24 July 2004 - Airplane Crash Synopsis - Report from Mark Sheets: *I have been getting calls from some SAR folks, curious about the airplane crash that I diverted from the Kelly Flats mission for. Evidently the Coloradoan printed in their story that Ft Collins PD, Civil Air Patrol and Larimer County Search And Rescue were first on scene to crash. The LCSAR reference was most likely seeing my car, marked with an LCSAR bumper sticker, and the fact that I was responding to Kelly Flats in my LCSAR orange shirt. They probably saw me at the ICP in that orange shirt. LCSAR was not really present, it just looked that way. I really was responding as Civil Air Patrol. Anyway, here is a synopsis: The airplane did not cause any injuries or damage to those on the ground except burning fuel drained down the curb and torched an un-occupied mini-van that was parked at the curb. It was truly a miracle as witnesses said the plane was not under the pilot's control. I recognize the plane from Fort Collins-Loveland Airport (see it out there all the time) but I don't know who owns or operates it. All three souls on board, perished instantly. When I arrived near the scene, I detected a heavy odor of fuel and I was still 1.5 blocks away from the crash. The IC asked me to proceed to the ICP where I conferred with the IC and some firemen that were wondering about how to turn off the Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT). I warned them that switching the ELT off could cause a spark and with the fuel I was smelling, it should be a concern. From my Haz-Mat experience, (they would have thought of this themselves - I hope) I suggested they monitor the air with a Flame Analyzer to see if the environment was still explosive. If the air was OK, they could safely proceed to turn off the ELT but still suggested they had more firemen standing by with Halon Fire Extinguishers, etc. They completed the task safely the following 10 minutes. I cleared the scene to proceed to Kelly Flats but when I got back to my vehicle, my pager showed a stand down. While on scene, I heard reports that fuel had drained into the sewer system and was blowing manhole covers off their holes. I did not witness any explosions myself but I bet that was pretty cool (unless it was my house was in that neighborhood). I believe for this reason, they called for an evacuation of residence until they could get the fuel situation mitigated. I can say that if you ever want to meet all your neighbors in the neighborhood at one time, have a plane crash into it. EVERYONE will come out and "mingle". :-)*

Tuesday 27 July 2004 - Custer County, Crestone Needles area - Initial request at 19:56 for SARDOC to call CSRB coordinator Phil Luethy regarding search dogs for a hiker missing in the Crestone Needles area of Custer County. No LCSAR dog resources were available to respond.

Next day (Wednesday) at 20:38, CSRB tasked LCSAR for searchers, for arrival at ICP on Thursday morning. Unfortunately, no LCSAR personnel were available to respond.

Wednesday 28 July 2004 - Hell's Canyon - Duty SAR Manager paged at 21:42 regarding search for two female Forest Service workers who were overdue from a field assignment into Hells Canyon area; trailhead is at MM 5.5 on Hwy 36. LCSAR searched throughout the night, and began a second operations period in the morning, at which time Civil Air Patrol was tasked to provide a search airplane. The subjects were located by the CAP flight crew at about noon, and the stand down page was sent at 12:30. From Mike Fink: Between all those who called in, and those who left out-of-town messages, I would say I knew the availability of about 90% of the Team for this mission. Thank you all for your attentiveness to these details. I should mention that our declining numbers of people on the Team, and the fact that many of us are finding it difficult to get out of our other obligations, made the total resources that responded or could respond to the mission at 20 and 2 dogs for both operational periods. We called CSRB and had 6 folks from RMRG arrive at base to assist for 2nd Ops. Report from Mark Sheets: Hell's Canyon Mission 04M-1655A - Bill Standerfer, CAP Pilot, said that without the FRS radio that I had loaned the flight crew, they would have been very hard pressed to have made a find. Then after they were able to establish visual contact with the subjects, the FRS radio aided in communicating where the subjects needed to travel to meet the helicopter that landed and waited for the subjects at a nearby helispot. *Additional information from Ken McNaught, TVCS Alert Officer: At 07:32 I got a message from Mark Sheets about a couple of missing persons in the Hell's Canyon area, south of Estes Park. He did not have a Mission Number yet from AFRCC, but was working on it. While he was working on getting the number, he asked me to put together a crew for 49H to aid the Larimer County Sheriff's Office. The ace crew of Bill Standerfer, Dick Hamilton, and Gary Thomas were able to get to the plane about the time the Mission Number came from AFRCC, so very little time was lost between the time we could launch and actually did launch. They launched with a handheld FRS radio provided by Mark, and found the missing people. Mark will be submitting our CAP flight crew for 'save' ribbons for their work.* From Don Davis: Today, I talked with Don Bergstrand, the Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forest Safety Officer, about this mission. I offered him PSAR Presentations (on whatever topics that they want), Map and Compass Course, and the Wilderness Survival course. He is very interested in having us do something for their groups, and will get back with me on what he wants us to do for them. They had their After Action Briefing today with the four people involved in the incident, the two RP's and the two missing subjects. The two missing subjects did a number of things wrong. For starters, they did not take the USGS type maps (1:24,000 scale) that the Forest Service provided them, no spare AA batteries for the King Radio clam shell, incomplete survival kits, no head lamps, no spare batteries for either the FRS radio or the GPS, and their navigation skills were lacking for effective use of the map and compass and GPS. The Forest Service requires that their field personnel be properly equipped before they go out into the field. The USFS is impressing upon the four people involved in the incident the seriousness of the situation that they were in. He also extends his thanks and appreciation for the work that we did in finding their employees. He was also amazed that we search at night for missing people.

Wednesday 4 August 2004 - Red Feather area - Report from William Young: Another Wednesday night class missed because of a mission. 18:26 SAR Manager page, ½ hour before the start of my shift. I talked with Dave H. and agreed to take the mission. Mark and I had had a similar hand off earlier this summer. I had Mark page for a direct response (he was at the cache, and as L-2 he would stay back). Ocean 5, Justin, informed me we had a 72 year old male, with dementia, missing from his cabin in the Glacier View area, last seen at noon by his wife when she left for the Buddhist Center nearby. Their cabin is about 7 miles off the Red Feather road, in very rugged terrain. Sarah and I arrived before Justin, so we met with Edward 38 and the wife, Linda, and interviewed her about Jim, what he might be wearing, he walked with a cane, the medications he was on would not hurt him if missed taking them. She showed us where they have hiked before, she said he had bad sense of time and would respond to his name being called. She said she left at 08:30, came back about 15:00. When had Jim left? We had been there about 15 minutes, and as I was getting a scent article from her, we heard that a neighbor (Spencer) had found Jim about a mile down the road to the west, sitting on a rock, okay. Glacier View Fire also came to help, they know the roads and people in the area. Great turnout - thank you.

Thursday 5 August 2004 - Rawah Wilderness - Duty SAR Manager page at 06:58 regarding search for overdue father and son, from Minnesota, missing for several days now in either the Chambers Lake or Rawah Wilderness area. Ocean 2, Dave Mosier, went looking for the vehicle, locating it at the West Branch trailhead. Upon arriving, LCSAR sent a hasty team up the trail to locate the subjects. At 13:20 the hasty team made contact with the subjects, who

were on their way back down to their vehicle. After interviewing the subject it was determined that there had been a miscommunication between the subject and his wife on when he would contact her. All units cleared the scene at 14:15 and returned to Fort Collins.

Tuesday 10 August 2004 - RMNP - Report from William Young: 15:54 SAR manager page to call RMNP. I called and talked to Patty, they had a missing/injured hiker above Fern Lake between Spruce and Loomis Lake (there is not a developed trail between the two). The RP, who spoke Spanish and some English, said she left her friend, who was injured in a fall, to go for help. I think Patty said the pair had left on Monday for their hike. The first Ranger into area did not find her, the IC asked for LCSAR search dogs to help. They did not know what kind of search dog the needed, from the info I was given I told Patty we would send Air Scent dogs. She told me the vehicle that the RP and subject came in was at a parking lot, they would let us get articles from it. Allen Weaver with Rosie and Eric Foster responded. Kathy Sheperd with Ember and Brian Walsh responded a little later. About 18:30 I was listening to the Park's radio traffic that a team heard, then found, the subject at Fern Lake as they were walking to the cabin at the lake. At 19:05, the Rangers began walking the subject back down the trail, moving slowly, estimated time enroute of about 2 hours. Allen was at the vehicle getting scent articles when we were stood down. Kathy and Brian were in the canyon. Lesson learned: Who on LCSAR speaks a foreign language well enough to understand what an RP is trying to tell us? I heard the Park put a call out to its Rangers and others for a Spanish speaker.

Wednesday 11 August 2004 - Lost Lake area north of Red Feather - Report from William Young: Another Wednesday Night mission! If we schedule a mission maybe a meeting will happen instead? 16:35 SAR Manager paged to call Justin, 2 hours to go on my shift, I thought I would take it so Mark could go to the Executive Board meeting. Justin said we had 3 missing hikers in the Lost Lake area north of Red Feather, RP called from the call box nearby. RP stated that they had last seen the missing trio about 13:45 on a hike 4 miles south of Lost Lake. Missing was one 23 year old female and two 18 year old males. The group of 6 was camping at the lake. To their credit they did call early, not waiting till dark to ask for help. Having been to Lost Lake before I thought their "4 miles south of the lake" was not right, you cross a road (Co.Rd. 179) after 1½ miles. Also, the area is surrounded by roads, should pick them up on the road. We did some early planning at the Cache, Mike E. would stop on Co.Rd. 179 to watch that road and maybe drive a 4wd road that goes from there to Co.Rd. 180. Eric F. and Sarah talked and Eric came in on 180 by Creedmore Lakes. I was about 10 minutes from the lake Justin called said a FedEx driver had just seen the trio on 180 towards Creedmore. The RP and the FedEx lady drove to pick them up. I followed about 5 minutes behind them and with Eric at the west, we figured we had them! The RP and FedEx meet Eric at the Creedmore road but no subjects. Meanwhile, I found the water bottle that FedEx had given them, on 180 at the turn into FS 181.1 (where we have had BASART finals before). Eric checked the Creedmore parking, no subjects, he started blowing his horn, and while driving back to 180 he heard voices respond. He stopped and they came out of the woods/meadow between 180 and the road into Creedmore. Very tired and thirsty. In debriefing them, they had crossed the road or roads several times and were about 6 to 8 miles from where last seen. Great turn out, sorry no one really got "fielded".

Lessons: 1- roads are not necessarily containment for subjects, they do cross or leave the road after finding one. 2- everybody has different concept of time and distance, be careful in using what a RP tells you. 3- There is now a call box at Creedmore Lakes that calls into Albany County, WY. Thanks everybody. All of you make it easier and fun to be SAR Manager.

Thursday 12 August 2004 - CSRB request for Fremont County - Report from Mark Sheets: Barry Mitchell with CSRB is requesting resources for Fremont County. They started a search this morning for 42 and 21 year old father/son hikers that went for a 9-mile hike in the Beaver Creek State Wildlife area on 11 August. <http://wildlife.state.co.us/swa/view.asp> They did not intend to spend the night out. Fremont County called CSRB at around 16:00 and CSRB was able to muster up some searchers immediately to search today. They were requesting an overhead team and ground teams for Friday and possibly the weekend. Due to the fact that I am L-1 and the only SAR Manager in town and all our dogs are at the SARDOC training weekend, I regretfully had to decline sending any of our resources. This pains me as I know Fremont County can really use the help. Barry evidently is having so much trouble getting at least an overhead team that he said he may have to go himself.

Saturday 14 August 2004 - RMNP - Precautionary alert at 17:57 from RMNP dispatch, checking on resource availability for a search, not asking for response just yet. No LCSAR resources were tasked.

Sunday 15 August 2004 - Flowers Road - Duty SAR Manager paged at 12:27 with information that Ocean 2, Dave Mosier, was responding to Flowers Road to determine if a vehicle is still

there. At 12:49 another page saying that the Flowers Road mission was stood down, as the subject had made it home OK.

Thursday 19 August 2004 - Horsetooth Rock - subject (Adam) update from Rachel: I got a call yesterday from the subject that fell off Horsetooth Rock this summer [see 15 May 2004 report in previous newsletter]; he is doing much better. It has been a long recovery all summer, but his last leg brace comes off this week and he is hoping to come back up to Horsetooth and visit. He is extremely grateful and very impressed at all of our abilities and professionalism and assistance. Oh, yeah, and he broke no bones! Just bruised himself very badly. I'll let you know when he is coming to the park, and maybe some SAR folks would like to come and say "Hi".

Tuesday 24 August 2004 - Summit County in Utah - Report from Kathy Shepherd: Call went to Cheryl Kennedy from Joe Canfield in Florida, who is from the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children. It was for the missing 12 year old Boy Scout in the Uinta Mountains, Summit County in Utah, in the Pass Lake Area north of Mirror Lake. A contact person that I talked with at the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children (Brenda) said that the subject was fishing with his father on Friday when he fell in the lake and got his shoes and socks wet. His father told him to go up and change his shoes and whatever else needed to be changed. That was the last time he was seen. It's in the National Forest and at 10,000 feet. Very dense timber; temperatures have been very cold at night, ~20 degrees. They asked about cadaver dogs and maybe some air scent dogs. Later, when Brenda called the command post, they told her that they had enough resources at this time. So we are on hold for now.

Sunday 5 September 2004 - RMNP - Duty SAR Manager paged at 09:29 to discuss stand-by request from RMNP for overdue hiker on Longs Peak. LCSAR will only respond if Park personnel have not found the subject by evening. At 13:13 we received the stand down page stating that Jim Deterline had located the deceased subject near the summit. RMNP will perform the recovery on Monday, and likely LCSAR resources will not be needed. Additional information from the Loveland Reporter-Herald newspaper, by Pamela Dickman, Staff Writer: A 26-year-old man died this weekend on Longs Peak where he had been climbing with friends, authorities said. The man was from India but had been living in Fort Collins; he was not a student. Authorities have withheld his name until his family is notified. The man and two friends were climbing Longs Peak Saturday, said Kyle Patterson, park spokeswoman. In an area called home stretch - the last area before the final portion of the route to the summit - the other two decided to wait. "The victim wanted to go ahead and summit Longs Peak, and the others chose not to," Patterson said. When the man did not return to their meeting spot, his two friends hiked down and notified rangers about 6 p.m., Patterson said. As authorities began to search for the man, they learned another group of climbers had seen him near the summit of Longs Peak about 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Patterson reported. About 1 p.m. Sunday, searchers found him on the summit, a wide open area not too far from where he was last seen, she said. Conditions were snowy, icy and freezing Saturday and Sunday, Patterson said. In fact, the blizzard-like conditions led a ranger to stop searching Saturday night and a search crew to wait, for safety reasons, until Sunday morning to head out, she said. Officials do not know exactly how the man died, but they do not think it is suspicious. He could have died from exposure, a medical condition or from falling on ice and hitting his head, according to Patterson. An autopsy will determine the exact cause of death. The man was wearing jeans, a hooded sweat shirt and tennis shoes and did not have the appropriate tools and supplies for conditions, Patterson said. The conditions were classified as technical, meaning users are encouraged to be prepared for winter conditions that may require an ice ax and other equipment, according to Patterson. Technical conditions have remained throughout the season this year, which is not common she said. The weekend death is the fourth this year in Rocky Mountain National Park, which averages five deaths per year, Patterson said. It is the first on Longs Peak since 2000; three people died on the peak that year.

Sunday 5 September 2004 - Rawah Wilderness - Duty SAR Manager paged at 22:15 with report of an overdue male hiker on the McIntyre Trail in the Rawah Wilderness. Subject is from Eaton and is new to hiking, this being only his third hike (one of the prior was Greyrock). LCSAR was paged to stage at the Cache at 23:45. At 23:14 came the stand down page. Subject's cell phone battery had died so he was unable to call his home until he found a phone somewhere lower in the Poudre Canyon. LCSAR available for 1st Ops were Dave Hake, Doug Grimm, Tom Chapel, Scott Evans, Mike Erickson, Jose Negron, Ken Klein, Dan Fanning & Bear, Ron Alexander with Truck 10 and Trailer, Amy Ho for ICP support, Robin Anderson, Tara Henderson. Robin and Tara were given an assignment right away. Since our subject lived in Eaton near Greeley, they were to make contact with the reporting party (his mom) to get scent articles and possibly the map he was looking at to plan his hike. LCSAR available for 2nd Ops were Jayne

Zmijewski & Lakotah, Sarah Babbitt, Justin Fox, Mike Fink, Syl Manlove, Allen Weaver & Rosie, Jim Powers, George Janson, Dan O'Sullivan.

Monday 20 September 2004 - Custer County - SARDOC paged at 07:00 by CSRB coordinator Phil Luethy for dogs to assist Custer County. At 10:39 the page went out for any available LCSAR dog handlers to respond to Custer County. However, the stand down page came at 10:51, advising that the subject had been found and is OK.

Thursday 23 September 2004 - Crown Point - Sometime during the Wednesday SAR Manager meeting, someone asks if hunting season has started yet, and a few folks answer that bow and blackpowder season has just begun. There is some commentary about the type of mission load to expect, and I make the same comment I give to the media and others -- that if the weather reports predict bad weather, then the hunters expect bad weather and we have few missions, and if the weather is predicted favorable and stays that way, we have few missions -- it's when the weather is not what the hunters expect to encounter that we have a heavy mission load -- and then Don Griffith opines that he figures we're (statistically) overdue for a heavy hunter mission season -- best be careful what we "wish for". ... On-call ES Don Griffith talks with a distraught wife at about 23:00 Wednesday night -- her husband, name of Traer, had gone up to either Hourglass Reservoir or Browns Lake for an afternoon of hunting, driving his brand new 4WD truck, and planned to be home at dark. They live in Johnstown; he left home at 09:00. Don hopes to find Traer and his new truck simply stuck in the snow. He travels to Hourglass first, then to Browns Lake TH, where he finds the truck but no Traer, and has LCSAR paged at 03:37. There is about 5 inches of snow; it is windy and very cold. Just past noon, Traer starts out southbound on the Browns Lake trail, then sees fresh tracks of a large 5x5 point bull elk [he gets close enough to see it, but out of range for his arrow], and follows it -- going off trail to the west, then north, then west, then northeast. As he progresses farther north, he finally decides to break off pursuit, as he is too far away from the road to easily drag back the carcass. He's hunted the area for the past 10 years, but as he is looking for FS 142 [Black Hollow Road] which goes SE back to the parking area, he is enveloped in a whiteout, then darkness, becomes disoriented, ultimately finds a road which he thinks is 142 and follows it eastward; it turns out to be FS 142C, and he is at the dead end at the east end. He breaks some evergreen boughs and huddles in them for the night. At dawn he confirms where he is, and starts out, leaving his bow and quiver by the side of the road after walking for about 1/4 mile [he figures it could be spring before he gets back there to retrieve them], and makes his way back to the parking area just at 09:00. As he is hiking out, he does hear a siren [which Don G. is sounding intermittently], and realizes that someone is looking for him. Mike Erickson and Dave Egley have completed their perimeter search at about 08:45, and are at my Jeep while Dave Hake is giving me the update on what he and Doug Grimm, Justin Fox and Robin Anderson had found and their intentions. I have just assigned Mike and Dave to walk FS 142 in the NW direction, and as they walk to their vehicle, I hear someone ask "Are you looking for me?" to which Mike asks "Are you Traer?" just as I look in their direction. So Mike and Dave get the 'find award' for first seeing the subject. Traer did find and follow the fresh tracks made by Mike and Dave, thinking they were from the people looking for him ... Traer is dressed as described by his wife, in camouflage pants and jacket, and is carrying his small [camo] day pack. However, in addition to leaving his map back at his home, he leaves his cigarettes [Camel Lights] and lighter, as well as his cellular phone, in the console of his truck. His orange ball cap is in the truck, and he is wearing his camo cap. His wife said Traer is a heavy smoker, so the search teams expect to find numerous butts [everyone has looked at the cigarettes to know what the mottled brown butts will look like]. Traer tells me that it was a long cold night without his smokes and a fire, and that he does not discard his butts on the ground, but pinches them off and puts them in his pocket! [Nice to know he is conscientious, though we lose a valuable clue -- personally, I'm glad he doesn't drop them -- we have other clues to work with.] [FYI -- my AT&T analog cellular in the Jeep has coverage up there, but the digital Verizon cellular does not.] The other assignment is for Darrel Turman and Jose Negrón to take the east side of Browns Lake trail up to Flowers Road, then eastward on it, unless they find some tracks to follow. [Justin and Robin's assignment is similar, except on the west side.] Darrel and Jose are about two miles away when Traer walks in. Norland Hall is driving along Crown Point Road, enroute to base, when Traer arrives, so he turns around and heads back home. Everyone is back at base, the debriefing completed, and enroute home by about 10:00. Thanks to all who responded to the scene, and to the 10 available for 2nd Ops. Dave Hake provides details of the tracking efforts: Before we got there, Don Griffith and George found some possible tracks leading away from the vehicle, heading south toward the trailhead. We found some good prints in the parking lot even after several vehicles drove

over them. That was possible because our subject was up there around 11:00 yesterday while the snow was slushy, and those prints froze overnight. They were covered with snow, so we lightly dusted off the snow on some of the prints to verify them. Note: another item to put in your vehicle is a paint brush and a small whisk broom. I was going to bring some from the house and wished I had remembered to put them in my vehicle before I left! We ended up using my windshield scraper brush instead. Doug and I confirmed the tracks were heading south on Browns Lake trail, along with multiple other lines of sign. Two hasty teams were sent up ahead, staying off the sets of tracks, looking for tracks that leave the trail. Justin Fox and Robin Anderson did a great job of finding the correct set only a ¼ mile up the trail, leaving the trail heading west, and they continued to follow them. Doug and I cut the road to the north and west of Justin and Robin, and found our subject's tracks crossing the road heading north! First focus was south, then to the west, then to the north and west of ICP! It's amazing what you can do with simply following the right sign! At that time Justin and Robin caught up with Doug and I, and we sent them along the sign line so we could make another cut on the roads to the north. That's when George reported that our subject had walked back into the parking lot, from the northwest. Justin and Robin would have found him eventually and that counts in my book as a great success! Dave Egley and Mike Erickson had a hand in it too because they did a perimeter cut around base and the subject found their prints and followed them to the ICP.

Thursday 23 September 2004 - Cherokee Park - Continuing the 'best be careful what we wish for' scenario; this next day, at 17:47 comes the SAR Manager page for yet another overdue hunter! When I call him, Dave Mosier's first comment is something like "Are you ready for a big season this year?" ... A glass repairman is driving east on Cherokee Park Road when he is flagged down at MM 16 by a hunter, Mike, asking him to call 911 to report his brother Bob overdue. Mike and Bob are grouse hunting, and Bob has not rendezvoused at their truck [silver Isuzu pickup] at the planned time. Bob has diminished mental capacity from a prior [about 6 years ago] brain aneurysm. They have hunted this area for over ten years, and are both familiar with the terrain, which is why Mike is extremely concerned about his brother being overdue. The glass repairman drives further down the road before being able to call in the report. This is all the info we have, and Dave heads out to meet with Mike. I relay the sketchy info to ITC Clover Stout, asking for 8 searchers/trackers and dogs. Responding are Allen Weaver with Rosie, Norland Hall, Dave Hake, Doug Grimm, Jeff Grotenhuis, Eric Foster, Mac Durgeloh, Brent Dietrich and Tara Henderson, with Ron Alexander and Brian Walsh available to respond later in the evening. Turns out Bob has walked farther than expected, finally encounters a fence, follows it back to Cherokee Park Road, then back to their vehicle. Dave Mosier has just arrived and is talking to Mike when they see Bob walking toward them. The Team is just ready to depart the Cache [with Dave Hake and Doug Grimm already enroute to maximize daylight for tracking] when Dave Mosier advises the subject has returned, and the stand down page is sent at 18:27. I meet up with Dave as he's driving out, to get these details. And so, the season begins ... FYI -- for those listening to the conversation on Channel 1 -- the Middle Cherokee Unit is a few miles before MM 16 on Cherokee Park Road [Co.Rd. 80C]. The junction with Prairie Divide Road [Co.Rd. 179] is at MM 14, and the site where these grouse hunters park their truck is at the junction of an old [inaccessible] road into the west end of Middle Cherokee Unit. This 'road' is shown on page 19 of the Gazetteer [6th edition] above the 'P' in Cherokee Park just above Trail's End. Dave Mosier was talking with the RP and decided not to correct the discussion of which mile marker was at Middle Cherokee Unit. As he said to me later, "I knew you'd figure it out as you got closer and watched the mile markers".

Saturday-Sunday 2-3 October 2004 - Poudre Canyon - Planned search to resume looking for missing motorcyclist [see Friday 16 July 2004 mission report above]. Emergency Services is planning an all out effort to locate Gloria Nelson, the motorcyclist that crashed into the Poudre River earlier this summer. This will be a good training opportunity for both SAR and Dive Teams to let newer team leaders/trainees run things, since the operation will be very controlled. There will be three ES staff on scene to help any Dive or SAR trainees. LCSAR will provide support for Dive and also be doing some "pocket searching" from the banks. We will depart the Cache at 06:00 each day. We plan on being out of the field by 17:00 each day. Bring your PFD and helmet, and neoprene gloves if you have them. You won't need to wear packs, so walking on rocks along the steep shoreline will be easier and safer. Do bring extra dry clothes. Lunch will be provided. Drinks will also be available. There will be people from the Poudre Canyon QRT's doing traffic control. Many family members will be there, as well as LCSO Victims Advocates. We will do a thorough briefing each morning, and debriefing each afternoon, at the command post up in the canyon. The dogs will work some spots before the searchers and divers arrive. Justin Whitesell is IC. SAR Group Supervisor

is Bill Young, with SAR Group Supervisor trainee Sarah Babbitt. LCSAR participants throughout the weekend are: Clover Stout, Mike Fink, Syl Manlove, Christine Schraeder, Tara Henderson, Bill Daniel, Mike Erickson, Norland Hall, Leigh Mason, Jose Negron, Jayne Zmijewski, Dutch Fla Havhan, Jeff Grotenhuis, Janice Weixelman, Brian Walsh, Mark Sheets, Eric Ackerman, Anissa Elbially, Chris Ketterman, Tom Chapel, Russ Buckley. Synopsis from Sarah Babbitt: I would like to express my appreciation and admiration for all the people who worked so hard searching for Gloria Nelson all this weekend, as well as the weekend of the original search. Despite the fact that we did not find her, we can be proud of the skills and dedication of LCSAR and the Dive Rescue Team. It was a very thorough and professional search, in difficult conditions; even though the water was lower, it was still exhausting and cold for the folks in the water, and also exhausting for the folks scrambling about on the shoreline rocks all day, too. The two teams worked together very well, and we all learned from each other. Though I know we all hoped for a different outcome, I also know that this was a positive experience for both teams. Thank you all for being there.

Tuesday 5 October 2004 - El Paso County - Reported by Mike Fink: 19:48 paged for SARDOC to call El Paso regarding a car found for a person who has been missing since the 15th. Called Kevin in El Paso and not a lot of information was available yet. Unfortunately, the car had been towed from the last seen point and obtaining scent articles was uncertain. It was somewhat uncertain whether they wanted to presume this would be a body search (subject apparently had no history of being despondent?). They wanted resources at 08:00 in the morning at the Rampart Range Road, Ferris Recreational area. Subject was found by ground searchers around 13:00 - probable suicide. No LCSAR resources responded.

Sunday 17 October 2004 - ?where? - Duty SAR Manager paged at 17:28 regarding search for overdue hunter. At 10:08 Monday morning, S17 Don Griffith located the hunter, who was OK.

Monday 18 October 2004 - Dutch George Flats - Duty SAR Manager paged at 15:46 regarding search for missing hunter and 11 year old son in the Dutch George Flats area of Hwy 14. At 16:08 came the page from dispatch that the hunters had returned home.

Tuesday 19 October 2004 - Overland/Doubletree area of Fort Collins - Duty SAR Manager paged at 05:20 regarding a drunk 18 year old female lost in the Overland/Doubletree area of Fort Collins. Several LCSAR members arrived at the ICP just as LCSO Investigators determined the subject was likely not in the area. LCSAR response was stood down at 06:54.

Saturday 23 October 2004 - Montgomery Pass - Duty SAR Manager paged at 17:56 to call Dave Mosier regarding lost hikers in the Montgomery Pass area. A person hiking the Montgomery Pass area reported that two other hikers might be overdue, and their green car is parked at Joe Wright Reservoir. While Dave Mosier was enroute, Forest 14 was flagged down by a motorist at the Big South trailhead, saying they might have been reported overdue, and then they drove off. Forest 14 checked the parking areas from Joe Wright to Cameron Pass, and found no vehicles in any of the parking areas, so Dave M. returned to Fort Collins. At 19:05 came the stand down page, that the hikers had self-recovered.

Monday 25 October 2004 - Cedar Gulch - Reported by Sarah Babbitt: Initial page came out at 18:10, as I was driving to the training committee meeting. Direct response to Cedar Gulch, mile-marker 107 up the Poudre Canyon, for evac of a male climber who had a rock fall on him. As we responded I heard Mark Sheets mention to ES's Dave Mosier on the radio that he was pretty sure that getting to Cedar Gulch would entail a river crossing. I grabbed Truck 10 from the cache and headed up. As I was arriving, Justin Fox and Eric Foster were heading into the field with the reporting party (the friend of the injured hiker) and the paramedics (with a litter). The trail was, indeed, on the other side of the Poudre, so a hand line was set up to aid SAR folks as we waded the stream. It was ankle-deep for most of the way across, until the last 15 feet or so when it was mid-thigh deep (on my short legs, at least). George Janson was L-1 and arrived on-scene about then. Eric and Justin were by then up with the patient and able to let us know what gear would be needed. About 10 of us grabbed ropes, vertical kit, some rock pro and some bash kits and headed out to get our feet wet. Some folks chose to wear their sneakers across the river while carrying their boots, so they could then change them and have dry feet. Scott Evans was in the lead up the trail. I waited until all four group were safely across the river before heading up the trail (well, all but Norland and Mac, since Norland took a small swim and needed to change clothes ...) There is an unofficial trail which follows the dry streambed up the gulch. Along its north side there are some rock faces which have been known as good climbing spots (though this whole area is now officially closed by the Forest Service). After about a half mile we left the trail and started straight up a steep, unstable slope. Lots of cactus. Lots of sand and rock. Long steep climb to a rock pile which teased us as we thought it was the top, only to get beyond it and see the rest of the hill with a bigger pile of rock at the top. Our patient was part-way up this last rocky stretch. As we stopped to catch our breath occasionally we were

treated to a stunning, almost-full moon shining on the rock faces and silhouetting some spires. I even saw a couple of shooting stars. Due to the lack of good anchors, Eric requested that the 600' rope be brought in, and lucky Mac was the guy who got to carry it! When I arrived on-scene the patient was on a rock ledge with the paramedics securing him, his right lower leg splinted. Apparently he had been scrambling up the hill with his friend and had pulled a rock down on himself in the process. Open, compound fracture - ouch. We used channel 8 (PVH North) for Ops, then used SAR 2 for the technical lower. After some initial confusion, this went well. We transferred the patient into the litter and secured him. It was a pretty chilly evening, so we bundled him under the sleeping bag and with extra clothes from SAR folks. Rock pro was used to set up the first anchor at the rock just below where the patient had been. Scott was litter captain, and he and 5 others carried/got lowered to the next anchor, almost 300 feet below. Another anchor on a small tree, another 200 feet, then the last anchor and a lower of almost 600 feet. My soaking feet weren't cold until I stood there running the brake for that long lower! The slope was so steep and unstable that it was much harder to walk down than to escort the litter. We spent a good deal of time 'skiing' on the rocks. Then the litter was at the trail and some more SAR team members met the litter team. They put on the wheel, and wheeled/carried out along the trail to the river. At some point in here Bill Young took over Ops from George, who had to leave town at 04:00 for a work trip. By this time the Dive Rescue Team had been fielded and had set up a high line across the river. The patient litter was taken across on the high line, then a number of us were able to be taken across on it as well. My feet had warmed up again on the walk out and I, for one, was extremely grateful not to have to put them back in that cold water! I was back at the river's edge right at midnight. All told, we had about 25 SAR team folks responding, along with numerous Poudre QRT folks and Dive team members. All the different groups worked together very well. As of the SAR manager meeting 2 nights later, we had no news on the status of our patient, though it's likely that he will recover well. Thanks to all who were able to come out that night:

Janson, Ho, Foster, Weaver, Daniel, Carr, Anderson, Grimm, Babbitt, Erickson, Durgeloh, Turman, Walsh, Mason, El Bialy, Dietrich, Powers, Chapel, Fox, Hall. Learning points: 1- We still have a problem with members not leaving their car keys in their vehicles on these roadside rescue missions -- we needed to move some vehicles to set up the river crossing, and had to work around them. 2- We used channel 8 as the command frequency, and channel 2 for the tech evac, however everyone up there went to 2, and no one stayed on 8 (or on both) for us to communicate with -- ICP had to break into the evac to have someone go back on 8 (we needed to know if there were keys for the vehicles we needed to move to set up the river crossing) -- reminder to Team to keep one person's radio on the command channel when there is a switch to the evac channel. *A thank you from Wyandt Holmes, EMT-P Poudre Valley Hospital: "I wanted to thank all of you for your help and skilled evacuation of Mark our patient from last night / this morning. Kevin, Claire, and I thought things went very smoothly. Everyone is to be commended for a safe evac in some pretty epic terrain in the dark. It certainly wasn't quite the quarter mile up the trail that dispatch initially led us to believe it might be."*

Sunday 7 November 2004 - Poudre Canyon MM 98 - Reported by Dave Hake: Direct response page at 11:31 to Pingree Park for an unconscious male about one mile off the road. It ended up being at MM 98 on the Poudre Canyon Hwy, which wasn't far from the Pingree Park road though. It was some hunters hiking up the canyon to the north of the road and the father was having trouble with the altitude because they came from about sea level. It sounded like he stopped to rest and the others went ahead. They tried to reach him via FRS radio but couldn't raise him so they hiked back down and found that he'd fallen and rolled about 50-60 feet down a steep drainage, hitting large rocks on the way and coming to rest at the bottom. Forest 15 and Edward 19 arrived on scene at the same time as the Poudre Canyon QRT's, before LCSAR's arrival. They determined the subject was dead, and LCSAR had to wait for the coroner and investigations to do their work before moving him down. He was about 300 to 500 yards up the drainage from the parking lot and not a mile. It was easy terrain and we had plenty of people. Thanks everyone for showing up and for those who would have if we needed you. *Press release from Eloise B. Campanella: Larimer County Sheriff's Office deputies and Emergency Services personnel responded with Larimer County Search and Rescue and Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District to the Poudre Canyon, near mile marker 98 at 11:30 on Sunday on a report of an injured hunter. Harold Kennaryd, 66 years old of Gainesville, Florida, was pronounced dead at the scene by Emergency Medical Technicians at approximately 12:00 noon. Witnesses report that Kennaryd had been hunting with his sons earlier that day, however they were not present when the accident happened. It is believed, at this time, that a fall may have*

caused his head injury. The Larimer County Coroner's Office will make the final determination as to the manner and cause the Kennaryd's death.

Sunday 14 November 2004 - Aircraft crash near Lyons - Report from Mark Sheets, in his alter-ego role as a Civil Air Patrol member: This mission started (for me anyway) as a CAP mission at 09:50 when I got a CAP page asking for an IC to handle a mission for a known downed aircraft west of Longmont. Shortly after, at 10:05, Dave Mosier paged for Janson or Sheets to call regarding a downed aircraft. Dave was being told by the FAA that they felt the crash was in Larimer County. The radio, phone and pagers started going nuts. I was hearing on the radio that Rocky Mountain Rescue Group (RMRG) had two teams already in the vicinity of Lyons and working a signal. Front Range Electronic Direction Finders (FREDF or "the ham radio guys") had two teams en-route and it was about to expand to 8 DF teams soon from those two agencies. The word was that the pilot reported to his friend via a cell phone that he could hear "road noise". Dave Mosier was thinking that they had to be near Hwy-36 or Hwy-34 to hear road noise. The pilot's cell phone of course would not receive any more calls (rolled to voice mail) so getting more info was not an option. I went south of Loveland a bit to a high spot to try to get a DF. I got a good one and called it into RMRG's Operations. Scott Evans was heading down from Estes Park and heard the radio traffic and offered to DF. For those of you who aren't aware, Scott Evans is a seasoned DFER from his MRA days in California. I was delighted to hear he was available. RMRG, being the crack DFERs that they are, were able to narrow down rather quickly that the crash was indeed in Boulder County. They were able to get into the field and quickly established voice contact with the pilot, Ross. After working the voice and continued DFing, they finally got to Ross and the other occupant, who were both uninjured. Larimer County and CAP were stood down at this time. The aircraft was a Cessna 152 which registers to a flight school based in Longmont, CO. I had heard (via radio) that the flight was an instructor and a student. *Additional from CAP IC Susan Wolber: Mission 04M-2480A Sunday 14 November 2004 Call from AFRCC came in at 09:50 for a missing Cessna 152. The airplane with 2 souls on board had gone down somewhere in the mountains west of Longmont on a VFR flight. Flight had originated from Longmont. There was an instructor with juvenile student on board. They had called the aircraft owner and reported the crash but did not know where they were. The owner then notified authorities. Boulder County Sheriff had launched RMRG to start a search. The SO was in contact with the owner, who would occasionally hear from the pilot. They encouraged the owner to direct the pilot to call 911, but the pilot continued to just call the owner and then turn his cell phone off, as the batteries were getting low. Ground teams assembled and reported numerous bearings on the ELT signal. Aircraft were not initially available due to weather, though as soon as it cleared an aircraft launched from Arapahoe Airport (just before the find was made). About 10:45 AFRCC called to relay latitude and longitude coordinates, which plotted out in Rocky Mountain National Park. This was relayed to the SO and the ground teams. At 11:10, I called AFRCC to confirm that I wrote down the coordinates correctly, since it was so far away from Longmont. The duty officer on the call told me this was her first real mission and that she had given it to me 'live' and did not have it written down. After further questioning, I learned that these coordinates were derived from plotting all the ELT reports from high flyers and then picking the center. Also found out there had never been a SARSAT hit. A message was immediately given to the SO and ground teams not to rely on the previous coordinates. At that time we requested Guy Loughridge start working NTAP data. At about 11:45 the pilot finally called 911, though the call was then lost due to a dead battery. The cell phone carrier was compliant with the new requirements for position reporting and with the 911 call came a latitude and longitude that was within 100 yards of the crash. RMRG and Lyons Fire were dispatched to the area and found the pilots and crash site. The crash site was about 2 miles east of Hwy 7 MM 31 near the end of Pyrit Road. At 12:00 everyone was paged to return to base (RTB). There were 20 CAP personnel involved with two ground teams from Boulder Squadron and 1 aircraft sortie from Black Sheep Squadron for 0.3 hours of flight time. At 12:05, Guy Loughridge called with NTAP coordinates that were right near the crash site. Lessons learned: Make a GPS and cell phone part of your survival kit. Any cell phone, even if it is not activated on a plan with a carrier has 911 access. They have to take and route the call, even if you do not pay your bill or have it signed up with any carrier. You can buy a GPS on e-bay for under \$50. Call 911 if you go down. Most carriers at least give the 911 center the tower your call is coming in from, some now give a position. If his first call was 911, many man hours of time would have been saved and increased his chances of being found much earlier. Ask questions when you get information about where it came from. The lat long provided by AFRCC was of very little value once it was determined how it was derived. Get Guy started on NTAP data as soon as possible. Over the years he has proven to be a great asset and has provided very accurate data. Colorado shares in two saves*

along with the RMRG ground team! Additional commentary from Mark Young, CAP Alert Officer for Mission 04M-2480A, Sunday 14 November 2004, totals for the day: 20 CAP people, many Rocky Mountain Rescue Group / Boulder County Sheriff personnel, 1 CAP aircraft launched from APA (rest of airports were fogged in) but they barely got out of traffic pattern before RMRG located subjects and the aircraft RTB'd. Multiple high-flyers called in the ELT, but the satellites never heard it (previous report of a satellite hit from AFRCC was actually RCC giving us an average of the high-flyer locations). Phone company was able to give us a triangulation on the subjects' cell phone that was close to actual location. Denver ARTCC was working with Guy Loughridge on the NTAP radar track data and had the answer at about the same time the subjects were located. Sheriff lat/long of "40.19 x 105.28" NTAP lat/long of "40.11 x 105.17" Yes they really are the same point - I'll let you figure out how. And one more explanation from Bill Standerfer, CAP, about: Triangulation with a cell phone is done by measuring the time differences between the arrivals of the signal at three different cell sites. Since the signal is digital (in most cases these days anyway), it's possible. However, it can be fooled with bounces, just like our favorite DF techniques. When it works, though, it could get you as close as 100 meters. This capability was required by the FCC to support the E-911 requirement. The regulation requires the cell phone provider to be able to locate a cell phone caller so that a 911 call gets routed properly. There are a couple of ways to do this. One is by triangulation with time differences and the other is with GPS. This rule was to have gone into effect on 1 October 2004, but all of the providers applied for waivers. The final deadline date is 31 December 2005. By that date, dispatchers must be able to locate a cell phone 95% of the time.

Monday 13 December 2004 - Horsetooth Mountain Park - Duty SAR Manager paged at 21:54 to assist ES, looking for an individual up near Horsetooth Rock, who was believed to be intoxicated and not dressed for the weather. Some other hikers had encountered a male not dressed for the weather and acting strangely, so they made the report to the Sheriff's Office. Justin Whitesell and one support group member had responded to Horsetooth and were able to track the individual for awhile. Once the tracks were lost, LCSAR was paged to respond. At about 23:30, Dave Hake and Doug Grimm, who were heading up the trail to meet with Justin, encountered the subject walking down the trail. He was OK, though appeared to be intoxicated. He was just trying to find a place off-trail to pray, and admitted to having some drinks prior to hiking. Bravo 5 was on scene and took the individual back to his residence. All units cleared at 24:00. Others responding were Don Davis - L1, Durgeloh, Foster, Fox, Evans, Anderson, Grotenhuis, Negron, Weixelman, Ho, Frank, Zmijewski. Enroute to the call, the trailer broke its axle and had to be towed back to the cache. It will be out of service for about a month until repair parts arrive.

Thursday 16 December 2004 - Rapid City - Request from Pennington County Sheriff's Office for dogs to assist this weekend with search for missing airman. Allen Weaver with Rosie, Jaynie Zmijewski with Lakotah and Dave Hake, tracker, responded, driving out on Friday afternoon and returning late Sunday night. The search area is in a rugged area on the outskirts of Rapid City. The subject was ultimately located in Missouri. Extracts from Rapid City Journal, staff writer Bill Cissell: Authorities said they plan to expand their search area today for a missing Ellsworth Air Force Base airman. They also say they have no reason, at this point, to suspect foul play. Airman 1st Class Steven Lee Rutherford, 21, has been missing since early Sunday morning. The Pennington County Sheriff's Office found Rutherford's red Ford Focus on Sunday evening at the end of Dunsmore Road, off Sheridan Lake Road near Moon Meadows in southwest Rapid City. Rutherford is 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs about 160 pounds. He has brown hair and brown eyes. He may have been wearing dark-colored jeans. Rutherford's wife told investigators that the last time she saw her husband was about 2 a.m. Sunday. She found a note when she woke up later Sunday morning saying he was at work. She said she hadn't been able to reach him at work. Sunday was not a scheduled work day for the airman, according to his commander.

Wednesday 22 December 2004 - An Ellsworth Air Force Base airman, considered missing for the past 10 days, called his commanding officer about 9 p.m. Tuesday to say he was safe but needed financial help getting home from Springfield, Mo., didn't give a reason for his absence. The commander said the airman's status with the Air Force changed from "location unknown" to "absent without leave" after the call. Local authorities and Air Force personnel started searching for Rutherford on Dec. 12. For more than a week, about 900 people, including 880 members of Rutherford's unit, and four teams of dogs searched an 8-mile area around the location of the airman's vehicle. Pennington County Deputy Sheriff Jay Evenson said the dogs did catch Rutherford's scent near Spring Creek, proving the airman had been in that area.

Sunday 19 December 2004 - Assist to FCPD - Report from Don Davis: The duty SAR Manager was paged at 04:21 by Emergency Services Kevin Johnston. The Fort Collins Police Department was requesting search dogs to locate an intoxicated subject who had been missing for 1½ hours after leaving a residence on Dunne Drive. Subject did not have any shoes on and was not dressed properly for the weather. He was last seen in the area of Saturn Drive at about 05:00, lying down in a driveway, by a resident across the street. FCPD had officers checking vehicles and yards in the area since about 02:00. Subject found an unlocked door at a residence on Charrington Court, walked in and fell asleep on the couch. That homeowner brought the subject back to the Dunne Drive address, who notified FCPD that the subject was home. Dan Fanning's dog Bear was following a trail when the report came in that the subject was found. We were stood down at 05:20. The following team members responded to the mission: Don Davis - L1, Clover Stout - ITC, Mark Sheets - Mission Coordination Assistance, Dan Fanning, Scott Evans, Kathy Shepherd, Bill Young. The team was not paged out given the early morning hour, and that the request was limited to dog handlers and dog navigators.



A plaque of appreciation is being given to Mrs. Tillie Jessup and her granddaughter Susan Jessup. Tillie and her husband are the original owners of Syvandale Ranch. Their community spirit and willingness to allow us the use of their land is what Brian, Mark and Sarah are celebrating.
 ←-----

Team Member of the Year, a little emotional, Sarah Babbitt. The Classic ice axe donated by Ken Klein...gifted to him by Keith Schafer.

 →



**What me talk?
 Me a Davis Brother?
 Me surprised? I knew it
 all the time. Congrats, Amy!**



Other Winners:

Most PSARs: Kathy Shepherd and Ember; Most Classroom Sessions Attended: Janice Weixelman; Most Administrative Meetings: Sarah Babbitt (surprise!); Most Dog Practices: Mike Erickson; Most Field Practices: Sarah Babbitt; Most Missions: Scott Evans.

Total Activity Attendance: Robin Anderson

Team Spirit Awards: Bill Young, Janice Weixelmann, Brian Walsh and Eric Foster.

Hugs and Kisses, thank you awards: Russ, Sarah, Don, Anissa, Dave Frank, Dan, Mike Fink, Dutch, Eric, Justin, Becca, Tara, Amy, Jim Mines, Jim Powers, Ken and JoAnne, Leigh, Mark, Rita, Clover, Brian, Janice, and Bill.

If I missed you, I apologize.

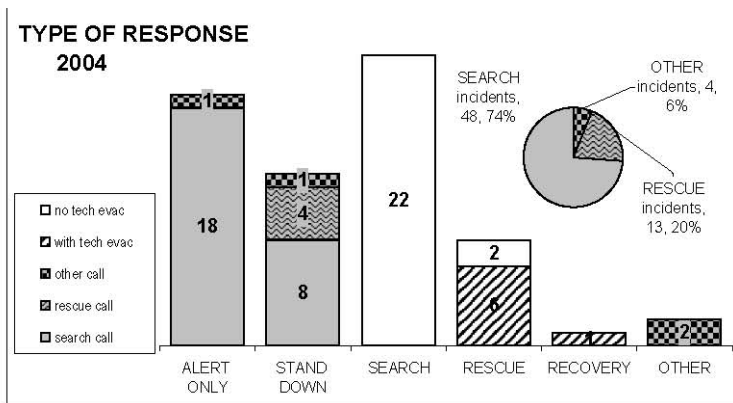
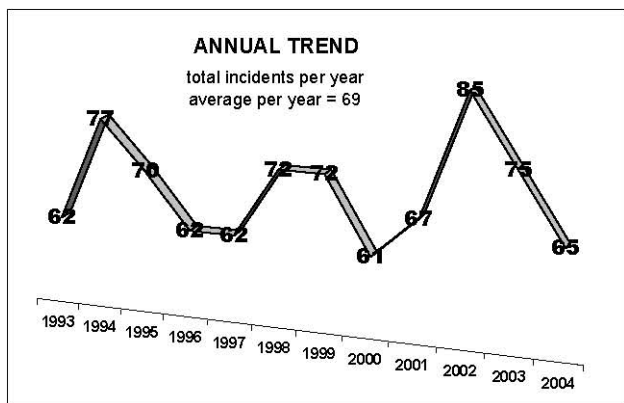


Last year's Winner of the Team Member of the Year Award selected Sarah Babbitt as this year's winner. Well done Dave! Yeah Sarah!

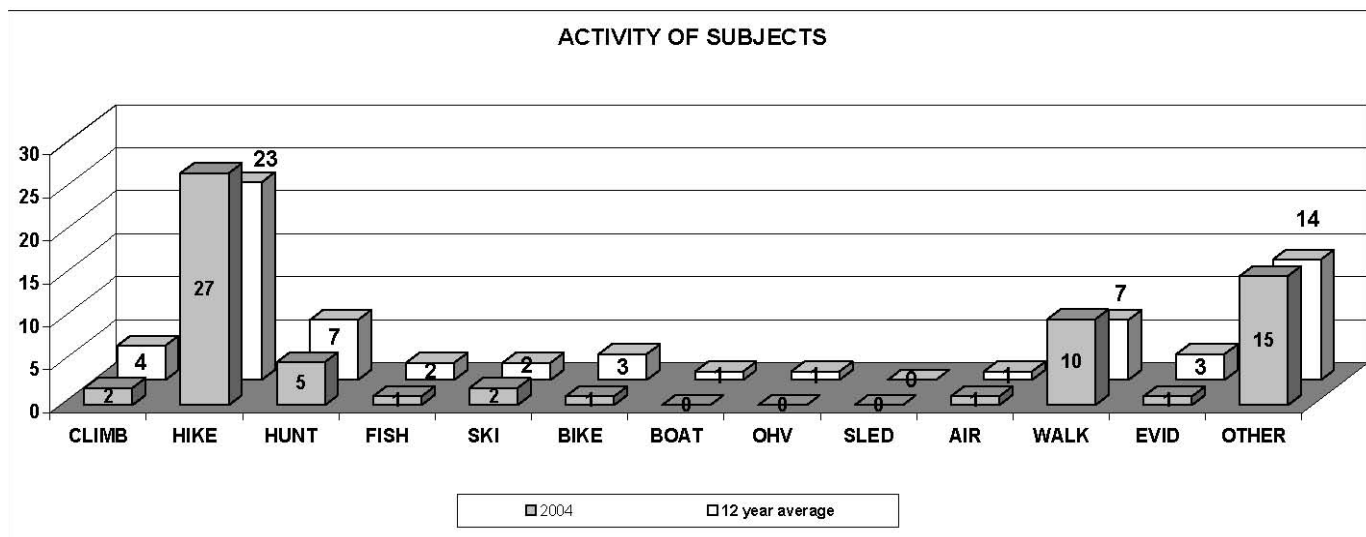
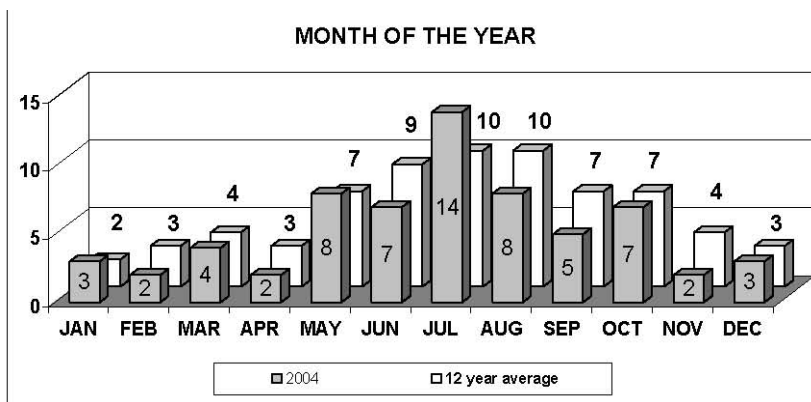
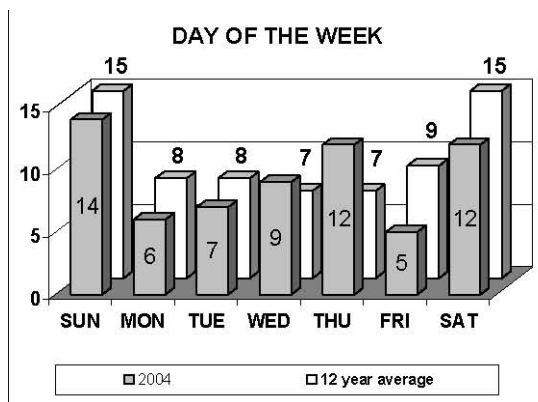


A blaze orange walker for our esteemed Mossback, 25 year veteran, GEORGE JANSEN!!

LARIMER COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE INCIDENT STATISTICS FOR 2004



ALERT = only leadership members are notified of a possible mission, and the general membership is not activated.
STAND-DOWN = general membership is alerted and is responding, but incident is resolved prior to Team's arrival at the trailhead.
SEARCH = known or suspected missing or overdue person; may or may not involve a technical evacuation once the person is found.
RESCUE = known injured or stranded person in a known area, usually involves a technical evacuation (using ropes, hardware and litter).
RECOVERY = known deceased in a known area, could be a mass casualty incident, and/or technical assistance to another agency.
OTHER = special events requiring the skills of an organized Team, or anything that does not fit into one of the above categories.



compiled by George Janson



Happy Holidays and a Prosperous and Successful 2005!



**Larimer County
Search and Rescue**
1303 N. Shields St.
Fort Collins, CO 80524

That others
may live