

*that others
may live*



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LCSTAR

Newsletter for Larimer County Search and Rescue

Spring/Summer 2006



Editor: Jim Powers

Please remember: If you are not getting your copy of the LCSTAR newsletter from the team web site then you are missing out on a color version. Just point your browser to:

<http://www.larimercountysar.org/Newsletters/Newsletters.htm>



Congratulations new S-1s! Well Done.

(for those of you missing from the picture, sorry.)

From the President:

Hi Team,

Having just returned from the MRA Conference, which was held in California, (north, across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco) I have a few tid-bits of information to share. In 2007 the MRA Conference will be sponsored by the Weber County SAR Team, in 2008, the Conference will be in Vermont, and in 2009, the MRA Conference will be in Portland, Oregon for the 50th Anniversary of the MRA.

While attending the conference in California, I got exposure to using a Vortex tripod as an aid for getting the litter and or attendant over the edge. They seemed quite applicable for their environment but then again the Tripod was taken to the practice area by vehicle and weren't hauled in a mile or more by manpower. The practice area was at the Headlands Institute, Environmental Learning which was originally a military installation and is now a center of sorts.

I have several pictures, far too many to post to the web, and would like to share them with the team some night before a meeting and I will be sharing more information with you at those team meetings.

The LCSAR Policies and Procedures have been revised by a revision committee and were recently signed by the Executive Board; I encourage you to peruse through them, as there are some notable changes.

It is quite apparent that our mission load has increased as well as our PSAR requests. I want to remind team members that when you do a PSAR, we have outlines on the team page, for various PSARs that can assist those who are new to the presentation process. Most all the PSARs require some sort of visual aid such as the video, "Lost But Found, Safe and Sound" and those need to be checked out by using the check out form found on the team web site. The check out system applies to all LCSAR equipment, books, videos, CDs etc. Please adhere to this check out system, so that team equipment can be properly kept track of.

LCSAR is sponsoring a Regional Meeting and Regional Training day, September 16 2006. The past Regional Trainings have attracted as many as 60 participants from the Rocky Mountain Region. I will be e-mailing more information to the team, as well as requesting help for this event in the very near future.

I want to thank you all for responding to missions when possible and keeping yourselves safe and helping each other stay safe. I have been involved in many team-building efforts in my job, but I have often told those in attendance, "If you want to see real team work, you should see how a rescue team can come together and get'er done"

Dave Frank
President, LCSAR

Preventive Search and Rescue

PSAR is a community outreach program to help make people aware of the things that they can do for themselves to prevent needing SAR services or to facilitate their own rescue should they need our services. It also helps raise awareness about our organization.

For a fairly small time commitment of a couple of hours (in most cases) you can help teach kids and adults some common sense tips and techniques that will make their outdoor adventures safer and promote LCSAR at the same time. Anyone can help, even you!

Upcoming events include: Throwing candy as you follow one of the SAR trucks at the Corn Roast parade in August and MORE!

Sign up by contacting John Lee at:

Work=498-5071

Cell=567-4463

Home=593-9231

[Email=jlee@larimer.org](mailto:jlee@larimer.org)

PSAR * you can help, too



Marin County, California) I have a few in Ogden, Utah will be in Stowe, Oregon for the 50th

the Vortex tripod as an quite applicable for their by vehicle and weren't Headlands Institute, Environmental Learning





May 17th, the Arthur's Rock mission: BASARTs and LCSAR Team members working together. This is the practical application of BASART class room and field practice.

Dave and Becky Egley's Trip



If you haven't been following the adventures of team members Becky and David Egley then you must not have any vicarious desire to be watch (through their journal entries and photos) as this happily married couple test their back country skills and endurance. They are Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail and as of June 18th had put 702.8 miles on their boots. Desert, mountains, snow, snakes, are all part of the exciting trek. Check it out at: <http://www.trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?id=143343>

From Complacency to Apathy

What is written below is a political thought for you. Whether we are a liberal or a conservative, fascinated by local, State or Federal politics or not, we can not afford the luxury of ignoring the real facts about what is going on in the world. I usually refrain from anything political as I'm not sure that it belongs in a newsletter geared for search and rescue. However, in this very volatile time, where you can't be sure about what the politicians or news media are saying, spinning or maybe lying about, I'm encouraging all of us to pay attention and learn the facts. (Editor)

About the time our original 13 states adopted their new constitution, in the year 1787, Alexander Tyler (a Scottish history professor at The University of Edinburgh) had this to say about "The Fall of The Athenian Republic" some 2,000 years prior. "A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, (which is) always followed by a dictatorship."

"The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

From bondage to spiritual faith;
 From spiritual faith to great courage;
 From courage to liberty;
 From liberty to abundance;
 From abundance to complacency; !!!!!!!
 From complacency to apathy; !!!!!!!!
 From apathy to dependence; !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
 From dependence back into bondage." soon!!

Author unknown



It seems that every BASART has this initiation ritual, the litter tie in. And, if you are really special you get to be transported, too. Linn Crosetto and Ben Hockett (almost seen in this photo) are enjoying Anastasia Patterson's predicament.

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Changing of the Guard



Later this summer I have the pleasure of passing the newsletter editor's baton on to Nick Kirkes. Nick, a new S-1, has indicated a desire to step up and have a greater involvement with the team and its functions. So, beginning with the Summer/Fall edition he will take over the reins. Thanks Nick.

Studying our team Function Organization Chart you would see that the newsletter falls under the authority of the Vice President. That means that I will maintain oversight of LCSTAR, but only loosely so. Nick brings to his new job as editor both a technical and a practical expertise as he has strong computer skills and has been in charge of other newsletters in the past.

As you have probably noticed there has been a theme in the editorials that I have written for the last several issues, Volunteerism. The driving force behind this is my strong feeling that in most organizations and especially SAR, volunteers are underappreciated, by the public and, on occasion, by ourselves. We are loved at the moment that we are needed but beyond that...?

I continue to be amazed that people want to be a part of this team. We are an organization that requires such great sacrifices. These go far beyond time to respond to missions. When I think about the time necessary to keep our team functioning, time to stay sharp by training, and more training, to professional standards, it is impressive. Then, in order to stay in "business" we are asked to work at fund raising so that we may keep our equipment functional, or purchase new equipment that will improve our effectiveness. Of course, I can't overlook the fact that each of us purchases our personal search and rescue gear that costs us thousands of dollars, spent over our active membership period. SACRIFICE!

In a world of negativity, where politicians that are elected and paid handsomely to serve us only seem to serve the continuation of their power, where their agenda and platform is as narrow as getting reelected and putting their opponent down, unselfish volunteerism stands out! Who else stands out? Those few people, businesses and organizations that financially support our mission, stand out! They believe in our motto, "That others may live". Impressive!

It is true; we pay and pay in order to serve. When some in the culture of today have values such as "what's in it for me" or "what have you done for me lately", then what we and our supporters do stands out as unique! We must recognize and appreciate this in ourselves, in our teammates and those who help keep us "in business". Why? So that we go out of our way to assist in each other's success in this demanding and unselfish work. Let's strive to help each other be better, not correct and parent, correcting and nit picking things that really aren't that important.



That's my last two cents (maybe). Thank you for the opportunity to edit your LCSTAR newsletter, for allowing me to parade my editorials and photos in front of you since the Winter/Spring newsletter that Sarah Babbitt and I co-edited. I am excited that someone who will take an ownership interest in the newsletter is taking over. Nick's skills and desire to have a great communication tool, your newsletter, will go far in taking it up a notch.

Jim

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Let's not forget another of our former team members, now Warrant Officer James Mackler. James just informed us that he has over 500 hours of flight time and his tour in Iraq is about over. Following the war through his eyes has personalized it and made the sand, heat and sacrifice more real. Thank you James! (James is on the right in the photo.)

From the Training Coordinator:

BASART graduation was a great success with 20 graduates being invited to join the team. The field session for the BASART final included a search and a rescue scenario and our BASARTs proved their eagerness and abilities as they searched into the night, bivouaced down and affected an early morning rescue. The celebration breakfast at Beaver Meadows packed the rooms with excited chatter about the successful completion of 4 months of work, and anticipation of a busy summer to come. Congratulations to all our new S1's!!!

To both the new and continuing SAR members – Remember to keep checking the Training calendar for updates and new events. We continue training all summer long, and this is how you can plan your schedule ahead of time. August 5th is a date to plan for now, as this is a joint training exercise with the Civil Air Patrol, who has assisted with missions in the past. To plan for the winter, please note that December 10th will be the Summit County Avalanche Seminar. This is an excellent and informative class, not to mention FUN, for the basic foundations of snow and avalanche rescue. For those who have difficulty accessing the training calendar on our website, give me a call (222-7758), or shoot me an e-mail (tansytye@msn.com) and I will help you figure it out.

Have a great summer, keep the SAR managers and ITC notified of your availability by sending out an OOT of OOS e-mail to lcsar_all@fortnet.org. By sending out these notices to the entire team, other team members can have some idea of where our numbers may be if mission manpower is limited. Those who are not SAR managers or ITC are not expected to know what the number of the available team are, but being aware that response numbers may be down tends to increase our awareness and the need to respond.

Thanks,
Janice Weixelman
Training Coordinator
Larimer County Search and Rescue



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Study this picture. No, it is not Brandon Routh from the new Superman Returns movie, it is our own *super man*, Scott Evans. Scott is demonstrating the correct tie in technique. Count the number of ways he is connected. This is so safe that it even put a smile on Mike Fink's face!

→ I'm not sure what Mike is knitting but you have to admit he looks relaxed.



Executive Board News (six month highlights):

1. In January, we signed a Memo of Understanding with Diamond Peaks Ski Patrol for the use of the equipment trailer. The EB reviewed the BASART interview process and discussed how well organized it was and how well it went. We have 9 new avalanche trackers, thanks to Quartermaster Brian. We are still energized for fund raising for our new truck! Long discussions, once again, held about how to handle members who do not pay dues in a timely fashion (Policy 2.2.5).

2. In February, the EB instructed the Training Committee to explore more rescue training courses to further prepare our team for technical rescues and the MRA recertification test. The Wilderness First Responder class is in progress and well attended. The EB wanted to thank Eric Houck for all of his work on Truck 10. Mike Fink has set up a new laptop computer for field use.

3. March meeting: reviewed how well Bruce is leading the BASART class. Tom Shandley talked to the EB about what was good and what will be improved for the BASART interview process for next year. The EB began review of LCSAR's Policies and Procedures. Mike Fink will head a committee that will review and make recommendations as to what to change, modify or keep.

4. April: thanks to Dan Fanning helping to keep the EB on budget the team is staying in the black. The challenge is our need to continue fund raising for the new truck and future replacement of Truck 11 and the Comm trailer, both of which are showing signs of significant wear. Janice has scheduled *On Rope*, a technical class, as part of our effort to maintain a high level of proficiency. Early in the fall we will also have a *Rigging for Rescue* class offered. Dave Hake has taken on the huge task of finding us a team jacket. It turns out we will have two to choose from. We made a small adjustment to our budget to cover additional insurance to cover our members better in areas other than just training and missions. Job descriptions will be added to the Functional Position Chart, found on the team website. The EB reviewed the Policies that have been completed by the committee. This is not a glamorous job but needed and appreciated.

5. May: The EB talked about the production progress of the new Truck 10, chassis to be delivered later this month and looking to take delivery early July. Reviewed email policy.

6. June: Truck 11 had to have reverse gear repaired. Discussed insurance on new truck and need to review who would be driving it and special classes to teach driving techniques and systems use. We voted on the updated Policies and Procedures. Expressions of appreciation for the great job done by the P&P Review Committee. Email policy talked about AGAIN. The success of the raffle in 2005 was talked about and how we will expand and improve it. Darrell Turman has done a fantastic job on this project and has brought new ways of making money for the team.

This was not the entire content of each of the EB meetings. The summary is meant to give the reader an idea of some of the issues worked on.

There has been a common theme that has run through EB meeting for the past year, the new truck. After years of debating, planning, and mothering this project and now it is finally a reality. In recognition of the countless hours of hard work from our Truck Committee (some members have been on it throughout, some have come and gone). Thank You.

Proudly, here it is!

If you want to see more, keep reading!



Trip to Nepal



Many of you know that I was privileged to join a group of health care professionals in a trek to the Medical Clinic at the Everest Base Camp in Nepal. This was one of the most profound experiences of my life, and I have difficulty telling only a part of the story. The whole story, however, is too much for this newsletter, so here are some highlights:

I flew into Katmandu on May 7th and met our guide, Wongchu Sherpa, who would lead our group and remain at our side for the next 3 weeks. Others from the team arrived either before me, or over the next 2 days. We spent 2 days sightseeing in Katmandu, the capitol of Nepal at an elevation of 4000 feet, an incredibly crowded and busy city. On May 9th, we boarded a small plane (Yeti Airlines) to fly to Lukla at 9000 feet. Here we left any form of motorized or wheeled transport to begin the trek to Everest Base Camp, 35 miles and 9000 vertical feet away! Because of the time of year, we woke to fog and sometimes rain every morning. The clouds would usually lift by afternoon to give us wonderful views of the Himalayan peaks. Many of these peaks exceed 20,000 feet in elevation and would look at us from above the clouds. Most of our nights were spent in tents, although we did sleep in a "teahouse" on 2 occasions. The rooms at the teahouses had walls made from stone, small windows and no method of heat except for solar warming. Because the sun was not out many hours of the day, these rooms were quite cold, and we quickly learned that our tents were warmer shelters than the teahouse rooms. Morning and evening meals were always at a teahouse dining room, and these rooms WOULD be warm, as they were typically crowded with people from many countries and have a stove in which yak dung was burned for heat. Yak dung does throw off great heat but there always persists this odd odor.... We actually DESCENDED into Base Camp after climbing up to Kalapathar at 18,650 feet the day before. Base Camp is at 17,600 feet and is the filthiest place I have ever been. It sits on a glacier and can move up to 4 feet per day. The first chore of the day is to check the anchors and walls on all structures and reset or move anything that is not safe. Man has been moving around this area for approximately 80 years, which means that many years of yak dung, human waste, discarded hardware/food/equipment, etc. have been left behind to sink down into the glaciers. Everywhere you look at your feet, you can see any or all of

this. But if you look up to the horizon and view the landscape from a distance, you lose sight of this garbage and have a panoramic view that is beautiful beyond description.

The climbers had a summit delay this year, as Everest had record amounts of snow, and teams were forced to wait until the mountain was ready. Everest, or Chomolungma, is a goddess and she lets the climbers know when they can make their attempts. The Nepalis and the Sherpas will let the climbers know when this time comes, and all climbers must abide by this. When our team arrived at Base Camp, there were 27 teams and over 400 people with tents, yaks, and other equipment. On that day, the first team attempting the summit was already close to the top, and other teams were eagerly awaiting news on the radios.

During our 4 days in, out and around Base Camp we were notified of or assisted with the care of 5 fatalities. The environment of Base Camp is harsh, and we experienced a high temp one hot afternoon which reached 104 degrees, only to plummet to 37 below with wind chill that same night.

The stories, memories and education I attained while here are deep, and I am so grateful to Wongchu for the attention he gave our team. We were able to treat a number of Nepali people all along the way, as well as many trekkers, and this was done at no cost to them. But it seemed our service was a very small price for what we received in return. I have so many stories, and I would love to share them with the team at some point.

Janice Weixelman



New Truck from SVI Trucks in Loveland, Colorado

This speaks for itself:



(Note: the bottom 1/2 of the truck is in shadow, the truck is uniformly white with the wonderful mountain reflective graphics on the side)



← Over twenty years of great service!!!

Mark Sheets, Don Davis and Lee Curtis inspect every detail. →





Storage, you want storage?
 Lights, you want lights? The two
 “poles” on the back, on either
 side of the door leading to the
 litters and wheel, are tripod
 lights. Then there is the giant
 light set that rises from the roof.
 AND THERE WAS LIGHT! If
 there was some functional item
 that this group didn’t think
 of...well, I can’t think of it.



The reason for the inclusion of so many pictures is that this has been a long, long process and this is the happy ending.

What a super SAR vehicle!



Check out the smiling faces! No wonder this class did so well. They must love what they're learning. Or is it the thought of going to Coopersmiths when they are done?



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