

LCSTAR



Newsletter of
Larimer County Search and Rescue, Inc.
1303 N Shields St, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524

Winter/Spring 2003 Edition

In Memory: Klaus Hoffman
1932-2002



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Klause-Dieter Hoffman

On May 11, 1932, Klaus-Dieter Hoffmann was born in Flensburg, Silesia in Germany (now part of today's Poland). He spent his early years in Silesia before he, his brother, Lutz and family was driven west by the advancing Soviet army during World War II. His family resettled in Münster, Germany, while surviving the Allies' bombings and war in general.

He graduated from Paulinum Gymnasium in Münster. He then attended college in Dortmund, Germany and obtained a degree in Education. He also taught elementary school in Dortmund.

In 1959, he traveled to the United States as a foreign student sponsored by Richard St. Clair at Kirksville State Teacher's College in Missouri. On April 2, 1961, Klaus married Wanda Marie St. Clair, his sponsor's daughter, and adopted her young son, Robert. He subsequently graduated with a Master's Degree in English.

Klaus, Wanda and Rob then moved to Iowa City, Iowa, in order for Klaus to attend the University of Iowa for doctoral studies. He received his Ph.D. in German with a dissertation on the writer Agnes Miegel, the subject of a later book. Their daughter, Lisa was born in the fall of 1964.

Dr. Hoffmann and his family moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, to join the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Colorado State University in 1967, where he taught German culture and language. He was known as a demanding but kind teacher, and there were many students who specifically sought out his classes. He organized the departmental German film series every year and was also in charge of the German Club. He was infamous in the department for his wide repertoire of excruciatingly bad jokes and puns, and enlivened many a dull departmental meeting with his mischievous sense of humor. In the College of Liberal Arts, he delighted in acting as marshal every year at the Commencement ceremonies.

Although a professor of German, Dr. Hoffmann spoke Spanish (in addition to Latin and other languages), and was a great admirer of the Mexican people and culture. He regularly attended events at El Centro and was always quick to bring them to the attention of other faculty members. He participated every year in the Colorado Conference of Foreign Language Teachers, where he gave workshops to high school teachers of German on German culture and song, often accompanying himself on the guitar.

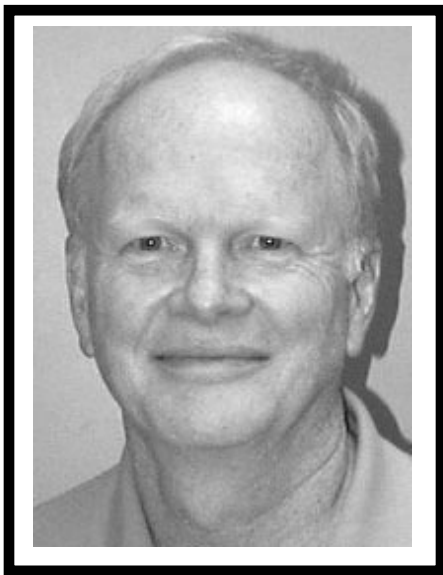
Dad spent considerable time with his wife and children including activities with Boy Scouts, music, school and trips home to Germany. He was a strict father and conservative in his politics. He enjoyed witticisms and plays on words along with a good sense of humor and constantly educated all of us about his views on history. However, we all learned not to pull him into a game of Monopoly.

In 1979, Klaus joined the Larimer County Search and Rescue Team and trained and certified a series of four German Shepherd dogs as his partners on the team. Over the past 23 years, he regularly participated in training sessions and rescues in all kinds of weather with his dogs. He was known for being hard to keep up with on the trail even after his recent, 70th birthday.

During the past few years, he was enthusiastic about visits he made to a German-speaking enclave in western Russia (the area of Trakanen). He was intending to return there part-time after he retired from Colorado State University in the spring of 2003 to teach and live. In the words of Langston Hughes:

Tell all my mourners
To mourn in red –
'Cause there ain't no sense
In my bein' dead.

By Professor Sara Saz and Paul Nelson



LCSTAR Profile: Jim Powers
When I think of Jim Powers, my first thoughts are of his near-constant grin and his bemused chuckle.

That's not something you can say about most of the dentists or lawyers most of us know----and Jim is both a dentist and a lawyer.

Jim Powers had a former life as a Californian. Upon graduation from dental school he went into the navy and took care of the teeth of the marines at Camp Pendleton. Two years later he started in private practice in San Jose, which he continued until 1997 when he moved here to Fort Collins. Meanwhile, he'd always been intrigued by 'legal stuff' and found himself in a place in his life where he "needed a really good diversion." Some people needing a 'diversion' would take up crochet or racquetball----Jim decided to go to law school and enrolled in the Santa Clara University night program. He quickly

realized that his training in dentistry had been quite the opposite of legal training: Gleaning "scientific facts and coming to a clear conclusion, versus using the facts and obfuscating." It only took one law school test for him to realize that he'd gotten into a very different world! Upon receiving his J.D. he practiced law part-time for a year and a half while continuing with his dental practice.

We have the Jared Atadero search to thank for bringing Jim to us. "It caught me," Jim says, and he read and listened to all he could about the mission and felt frustrated at his inability to be of help. A neighbor of his, Eric Neilson, then with Emergency Services, told him about LCSAR, and Jim drove his application to our office just under the wire for the deadline that year. He'd never done any real camping or backpacking before. But he was interviewed by Dave Bigelow and Steve Carr, a meeting that he describes as "an hour-plus of pure enjoyment," and he was accepted into the BASART class of 2000. "It was all new, from buying the backpack on." He admits to a fear of heights, but says that the instruction was so great that rappelling the first time was "no problem."

When Jim isn't doing BASART coordinator things (he held the post for two years, and recently handed it over to Ron Alexander) or otherwise involved with SAR activities, he spends as much time as possible with his wife, Margie, and their 3 children----Josh, 15, Jessica, 11 and Joe, 5. Jim also has 2 grown children, Kathy and Leslie, both of whom now live nearby (Berthoud and Windsor) and he also now has a 20-month-old grand-daughter, Sophia.

Jim is very involved with the Ridgeview Classical Schools here in Fort Collins, where his 3 youngest are now all students---he has been on the Accountability

Committee there for most of a year, and is impressed by the selflessness and drive of the school's founder. Jim was invited to serve on the school's board of directors in November, 2001. He struggles to balance the pull of family time, LCSAR, and the school, at the same time hoping some day to get back into other pursuits, especially flying. He used to fly a Twin Cessna and a Mooney and had gained his instrument flying license. You may catch him occasionally gabbing with Mark Sheets about this shared passion.

With all that Jim has going on, he feels frustrated that he can't be more a part of the mission side of our team. He is grateful for the sensitivity of his LCSAR teammates who understand the balance he is trying to keep. "We have a great group," says Powers. He's spent a lot of time with flying groups and dental groups and school groups and there is always the "negative ego stuff." Jim enjoys and appreciates the fact that most people see LCSAR as a way to be the best they can be, without having to put someone else down or stand on someone else's shoulders to do that. "Of all the organizations I've belonged to, this one---most of the time---does not lose sight of what we're here for. Everything is seen through the filter of 'is this going to be better for the subject?'" And Jim Powers clearly enjoys studying the people and interactions around him. He is able to look

at the big picture and see that the team has a slightly different personality each year. "The whole dynamic is so interesting," he muses. "There are a lot of really great people, such a great group of resources." And, "Mike Fink is an enigma."

And there "is a certain part of the anonymity thing that I like," says Powers. "It doesn't matter how many letters you have after your name. What matters is: Are you thoughtful? Are you caring and are you willing to be a team member?" He points out that one of the things he learned from a consultant who helped his dental practice is very applicable for a group such as ours: If you have a complaint, bring it up but be sure to also bring two possible solutions as well.

Jim's favorite aspects of being with LCSAR? "Getting to know the people, and continuing to learn. There's always something to master, always a challenge."

Interview done by and written by Sarah Babbitt

Disclaimer: When I was interviewed by Sarah there were certain events that were time sensitive, i.e. how old my granddaughter was at the time, things like that (she is now 2, her mom is pregnant and my daughter Kathy has given me a grandson, Nicholas). So I started bugging her about when the newsletter would come out. Being very busy and very diplomatic she said soon. When soon didn't happen I asked if I could help. That is how I became the editor. I know I'll be teased editing the newsletter when I'm the subject of the interview, well get a life, there are better things to tease me about than that. On the serious side I would like this newsletter to be as good a communications tool as possible so please give me your input and feedback. I'll listen; I'll even take it sometimes.
Jim

Searching By Woods On A Snowy Evening

edited by: George T Janson (22 Nov 2001)
[with apologies to Robert Lee Frost, 1923]

**Who's in these woods I think I know.
His tent is near the trailhead, though;
He will not see me pausing here
To watch these woods fill up with snow.**

**My trusty search dog thinks it queer
To stop without the subject near
Between the woods and frozen lake
This darkest evening of the year.**

**She gives her harness bells a shake
To ask if there's been some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.**

**These woods I search are dark, and deep,
But I've an assignment to keep,
And miles to go before I debrief,
And miles to go before I sleep.**



Scott Evans, Sarah Babbitt, Allen Weaver, Ron Reed (missing Rita Stern)
Class of 1996



Scott Evans (left) and your president (really bad hat hair on the right) at the Summit County Avalanche Seminar in December.



BASART 2003 Nav I (What is Don Davis doing?)

From the President

A new year! Here we go!!

It looks like 2003 is presenting us with some new challenges, as well as some of the same challenges we face every other year (which means that SAR is just like the rest of life, I guess.) And we're already on track for a record mission-load year. Are you feeling strong?

Many thanks go to our returning Executive Board members: Quartermaster Dave Frank, Field Coordinator George Janson, Treasurer Leigh Rhynalds, and Vice-President/Secretary Dutch FlaHavhan. And our hearts go out to----um, I mean our thanks also go out to Andy Donelson for taking over the Training Director spot vacated by James Mackler (the doctors say that with enough time James will be his old self again!) All these folks put in a great deal of time and effort behind the scenes to make this organization run. And they're just the tip of the iceberg----Catrina Mianeki coordinated the BASART application process, Don Davis and Mike Fink stay on top of our computer systems and databases, Julie Weibler enters our activity info into the computer (so sign those sign-in sheets!), Rita Stern coordinates our medical training and keeps our trucks medically ready, Mark Sheets keeps our radio equipment functioning and legal, and Eric Houck, Amy Ho, Josh Brauer, Mike Fink and now Shannon Heffernan are our In Town Coordinators---always there when we need them at mission-time. Please take the opportunity to thank these folks and to ask if they need a hand with any aspect of their team jobs. There's an awful lot that goes into the smooth functioning of this team. Maybe there's another way you can help... ?

Which brings me to BASART 2003! Ron Alexander has jumped into the fray as our new BASART coordinator, with Jim Powers as his experienced advisor, and they've been doing an awesome job. Ron has been putting a great deal of careful consideration and time into preparing the BASART program, looking at all the details and seeing where we can streamline or condense or expand or otherwise improve our already great program. And it's a good thing he's such an organized guy because we are training a relatively large class this year (21.) Which is where *you* come in!!

If you haven't been personally approached and asked to teach a class, have no fear. There is still a very important role for you in training our new folk. We need all the help we can get for field trainings, so consider this your personal invitation to show up whenever you can help out. Remember, BASART is a great review time for your own skills (and it's possible that we won't be having a BASART class next year due to our MRA re-accreditation.) Additionally, helping to train the BASART class is a way to get to know the potential new members of your team.

Yup, **your** team.

Which leads me to another subject-----

For each of us (the Prez, included) our experience on this team is what we make of it (as with pretty much everything in our lives, right? Hhhmmm, SAR imitating Life again---) One of the issues which seems to come around on an annual basis is that some team members feel there is an "in" crowd and everybody else. The "elite" and the rest of the throng. But as one of the other EB members recently put it, "If we're 'elite' it's just because no one else is offering to do these jobs!" If we have inside jokes it's only because we spend so much time together attending to the details and hashing-out questions. We, your elected Board of Directors, make every effort to let the entire team know what we're working on in meetings, or what we could use more help with. All team members are invited to all team meetings----including those of the Training Committee, SAR Managers, Executive Board---the only exception is when a meeting involves certain disciplinary issues. The minutes of the EB meeting have always been available to all, and you're now receiving them via email. And maybe more to the point: in my 7years on the team it has been the rare occurrence when there was more than one name on the ballot for each position when our elections rolled around.

It seems to me to be about ownership. It's *your* team. Being part of LCSAR is both a privilege and a responsibility: In addition to getting the satisfaction which comes along with helping our mission subjects,

we are looked up to by the community, we get the camaraderie of our teammates, we receive certain perks on purchasing and renting gear, we get great training and experience. And we get to wear blaze orange shirts! Those are some of the privileges. Your responsibilities? First and foremost, of course, keep your skills current and respond to missions as much as you can. But also: voice your opinions, give us your ideas, come to us with possible solutions to something you see as a problem. Be a 'champion' (see Mike's article) Believe me, the "in" crowd would love to see some newcomers!!!

Thank you all.

Sarah

Food for Thought

An old Cherokee is teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight between two wolves."

"One is evil: he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego."

"The other is good: he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

"This same fight is going on inside you, and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

BASART 2003, on the ropes:



Left: Ken giving the BASARTs all they need to know to...

Right: Go over the edge safely.

Resulting in...



Yeah!!! I did it.

Great instructing and great participation by the BASARTs.



Well, I did it too!!!

Another view on our mission

By Sarah Babbitt, LCSAR President

At the recent RMRG recertification weekend, all of us present were given a generous and humbling surprise.

Our hosts on Saturday evening, while we hashed-out the day's events, were also hosting some personal friends of theirs---including the esteemed President of Namibia. Our host had explained to his honored guests who all these strange, polypropylene-clad people were, gathered in his basement, and upon hearing a bit about the MRA and SAR teams the President (I apologize, I never got his name) felt that he wanted to say a few words to us.

The packed room went silent as the small, very dark-skinned man entered. His presence was clearly a very strong yet peaceful one, and all eyes were on him as he began to speak. His voice was quiet, the message simple but powerful. He said he felt moved to speak with us because what we do is a clear manifestation of the phrase "Love your neighbor." We go out and help those in need. We don't choose our 'neighbor,' not deciding whether to go based on the 'importance' of the subject(s) but going because it's the right thing to do. The President was very moved by hearing about what we do, and wanted to thank us. He went on to say that he is also a doctor, and that he attempts to do his "small part" to love his neighbor by fighting HIV and AIDS in southern Africa (no small task, as we all know.) Then, as we were all taking this in, our visitor proceeded to sing a very simple, short song in thanks. It was haunting and lovely and powerful. He finished and departed, leaving a stunned and thankful room full of people. I know my eyes were not the only ones which were not dry at that point.

I wanted to share this with all of you, since he was not only speaking to the people present but to all the members of all the volunteer MRA teams. We all do SAR work for a variety of reasons, but I think that for all of us at least part of our motivation is that we try to do for others as we would like someone to do for us should we ever need it. That is 'loving your neighbor,' no doubt about it. Thank you all for being the loving and generous people that you are.

Champions 2003

I learned a nifty word at work a few years ago. I will use it here to describe those Team members that take on any process, project, issue, idea, or anything that requires efforts above and beyond the call of duty.

We have many of these “Champions” in LCSAR but we could always use a few more. Several of the Champions that we currently have are not only Champions but are “Veteran” Champions. I can’t speak for the others but I consider myself one of these and I enjoy the extra projects I am involved in. I hope I can continue to stay involved with them for many years. However... before it becomes a last minute effort, I would like someone to step up and begin training for their future role as Champion.

Many of us occasionally send out notes indicating that we would like to pass the torch on for one or more of our processes that we consider ourselves the owners. It happens every year with some members of the Executive Board. The response is typically underwhelming. Or someone will step up and then have to leave and we fall right back into the same spot.

Sometime it is our own fault because we are not pro-active about seeking a replacement. Short of calling everyone individually it is usually difficult to tell who might have an interest or a skill that would make others suited to the task.

Many of these tasks don’t require special skills but just some extra time and a little crossover-type training. Some of the jobs have **Job Descriptions** that are kinda handy for people to look at to see what the commitment really is. Brief descriptions for some of the jobs can be found in the Bylaws and Policies documents. A more detailed description, if one is available, will soon be available in the Team web pages.

Some of the tasks are once-a-year or even one-time tasks, but are major projects like managing the MRA Conference or Fair Parking. Some are less intensive like the Scottish Festival or the Estes Christmas Parade but are no less important to do well because they demonstrate our professionalism, or lack of the same if they are done poorly.

These tasks are also opportunities for us to develop or enhance important life skills like leadership, organization, commitment, patience, compassion or more technical skills like setting up a haul system or terrain association or stress management or system administration. And then being able to teach these skills to others. I have always gotten more out of a process than I have given to it and they continue to give rewards until they start to feel like a burden and that’s when you either change and adapt or you try to find a replacement.

I have several points to make and I will attempt to get to them now...

The Leaders and Champions on the Team need everyone’s help. While we never want to discourage your ideas and suggestions, they are only so many words unless you take

ownership of them and become their Champions. A recent excellent example of this is Natalie Ray. She came to the Executive Board with a fund-raising idea that involved old tennis balls and rescue rope and selling them as toys for dogs. What an excellent idea but still far from showing a profit. Natalie was prepared to step up. She arranged for the people and parts and made it happen. Now it has been transformed from a great idea to a successful project. Big difference. My point is, if you have come to someone on the Team with an idea and you are frustrated and upset because nothing has happened, at least half of the ownership for your ideas failure is yours.

We haven't always been good about explaining to you newer Members or our Applicants what being a member of LCSAR is all about. What are our expectations in addition to being good searchers and rescuers. Before I go too much further I need to acknowledge that if all you can truly give is the time it takes to be a good searcher or rescuer, then that is what we need above all else. But to be a professional organization that is fully functional in the SAR and the civic community then we need lots of people that can do more.

We all joined the Team to do SAR and your first priority should always be to learn and maintain your SAR skills. If you can do a little more then talk to someone. If you are already a Champion and need some help, send out a general note or make some calls to a few people you think might have potential but maybe are reluctant to step up.

And you Champions - get busy on those job descriptions. It's not fair to expect someone to take over if you can't show them all the juicy details of what the job is about. You'll save the next person the trouble of having to invent the job all over again and making all the same mistakes. See Jim Powers if you need an example. He has incorporated all the BASART Coordinator information on a CD that is now in the Team archives, and he had his successor working closely with him during his last year in the job. So Ron has no excuses, right? Well, maybe Jim forgot a few things but at least Ron doesn't have to start from scratch and he has a good foundation to build on for the data that he will turn over to the next person.

Thanks!

--Mike Fink

Editor: Mike was very helpful and quick about getting me some important material for this newsletter, and I have to agree with him, Mike is a Champion. The following information will give us an idea about fund raising to support the team. This is a job that Mike has done for quite some time and done it well. As we get closer to the time when we need a new truck and other expensive equipment then fund raising becomes even more important. Thanks Mike for what you've done and continue to do!!! Now someone should step up and learn what Mike does so they can meet these wonderful people who support us and find some new ones.

Ways & Means 2003...

Ways & Means was the name that was given to the fund raising committee way back when we started actively soliciting donations. As I recall, team member Von Andrews and his wife put together the first process for this around 1985. Prior to this we had some various different activities that individual team members took upon themselves to bring in money and goods. In the early 80's we had a company help us with a concert at the Lincoln Center and then Don Davis applied for, and received, a brand new 4WD Toyota pickup. We've had a garage sale, help wait and bus tables at a restaurant, and we've gone directly to local businesses like Kodak and H-P and asked for help. The first donation we got may have been a 4WD full-sized Ford pickup that Kodak was retiring from their fleet.

We seem to have settled into what I feel works best for our team about 10 years ago. That is: 1)to have a list of donors who we send requests to every year; 2)to write grants to mostly local foundations when we have larger projects like replacing our pagers, buying computers, replacing a vehicle; and 3)to have a few fund raising events like Fair Parking and the Scottfest in Estes. Our list of donors was originally generated over the period of about 3 years when team member Jack Robinson would make phone calls to local businesses to see if they would consider sending a donation. When he identified someone who seemed interested, he would give me the information and I would send them a formal letter requesting support. I would actually send up to 3 letters to each person before I removed them from the list. We also add names to this list when people we have helped, or their friends and family, send us a donation. Lastly, this list contains our friends and families, at least for those of us who have taken the time to ask.

We try to avoid telephone solicitations to the general public because we all know how distasteful many people find that. However, we have found through our experiences with Jack Robinson that if you actually have a team member make these calls, and it is someone who can convey their passion for LCSAR, and can sincerely answer questions about us, we have a success ratio that is 4 times the national average. Since Jack has retired, we haven't found anyone else to fill this gap.

We have had pretty good success with grant writing and it continues to be an avenue that is open to us for our larger needs. I suspect one of our biggest challenges to date will be finding grant money to purchase a replacement for Larimer Truck 10, although I think of all the things we might ask for, this one of our most vital needs. We shouldn't have trouble convincing anyone of the importance. I should add though that because of most, if not all, of recent world events, money has become more scarce... and, there are a lot of good organizations and causes that are competing with us for the available dollars... and, many foundations are becoming more restrictive about what kinds of projects they want to support. Above all else, the way we are perceived in the community

is critical to our financial success. And, how do they know us? Through our missions, our PSARs, and any other media exposure that is given us or SAR.

We have included the list of recent donors in the newsletter to recognize them publicly for helping us and so you can see the results of our efforts. If you know any of these people, please tell them “thanks!”

Unlike many of the typical non-profits, we spend a lot of time training to do our job of searching and rescuing, we do a lot of public education activities, and finally we have the occasional mission that keeps us up all night. It is understandable to me that team members are reluctant to spend a lot of time doing fund raising. When I explain this to our donors, they agree but many don't realize this other commitment until I explain it, so help me get the word out and ask your friends and families to help us out. The motto of fund raisers is... “it never hurts to ask.”

--Mike Fink

Another Editors Note: due to number of donors I would have had to add two more pages to this newsletter so I have only included those who have given in 2003. I determined to forgo listing them this time. The next newsletter should be shorter and I may attempt to add the rest of the donor list from previous years at that time. This in no way diminishes how important the donors have been or how much they are appreciated!

Ghasvanian, Hamid and Cyndi
Geo-Seis Helicopters, Inc.
Stickler, Les and Evelyn
Scott, John R.
Sears Trostel Lumber
Widgren, Ralph E. or Faye
Colorado Mountain Club
Miller, Dorothy E.
Mosnik, David V. or Louise
JustGive
Poudre Valley Lions Club
Odell Brewing Co.
Richardson, Herman E.

Jehle, Joan H.
Fort Collins Area United Way
Yetter, Eldon and Genevieve
Larsen, Danial D.
World Reach, Inc.
Elks Lodge of Loveland, B
Lilyblade, Murdene
Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp
Ken's Muffler Shop
Linnik, Thomas J. and Delores
Schrader Oil
Grimes, Anne

BASART Coordinator:

NUMBERS

64 Number of BASART applicants for 2003

31 Number of applicants invited to BASART

24 Number of applicants who started BASART

22 Current number of BASARTs

50% Percentage of BASARTs who are female and percentage who are male

16 Number of BASARTs who live in Fort Collins

2 Number of BASARTs who live in Greeley

1 Number of BASARTs who live in Loveland, Laporte, Estes Park or Milliken

Missions:

LCSAR Mission Activity – 2003 year-to-date

compiled by George Janson, Senior Mossback

Sunday 19 January 2003 – Fort Collins – We begin this new year with an assist to FCPD for what would turn out to be a major event – the death of Lacy Miller. Short synopsis from Dave Hake, the duty SAR Manager: Most of you have heard what's happening from the news, so this is just a simple explanation of what we did and why we searched a second day. We were called in at 15:07 by the FCPD to get some dogs working the area where Lacy's car was found, three houses down from her home. We didn't get a direction of travel from that area but Jen and Chara were pulled to the west of the subdivision, towards the Pine Ridge area and up to the top of Pine Ridge with big alerts. So strong that we couldn't let it go at that. We put Estelle and Echo in the same area and she had alerts in the same areas, so we decided to get foot teams and more dogs for the next day to clear that area. We did clear the area most concentrated by dog alerts and the surrounding areas. At this time we have no other leads to go on and are waiting until more info is uncovered. It sounds like FCPD is treating it like a criminal investigation and have collected her car and items from the house. It's in their hands now. We will of course search areas if they feel we need to be brought in. Thanks for everyone who attended, and a special thanks to Jim Powers for his delivery service of hot food in the late hours of the first operational period!

Friday 24 January 2003 – Greyrock area – Another synopsis from duty SAR Manager Dave Hake: Thanks for the good response on tonight's mission. This was the first "wilderness" mission we've had in a while, so I'm assuming that's what brought everyone out ;-) Bill Young was L-1 but he's teaching the MLSO class in Denver in the morning so he asked me to take it. At 20:08 the report was, the RP came across some hikers walking down Greyrock trail with an 8 year old, 150 lb. German Shepherd that was exhausted and couldn't move anymore. The RP came down to Ted's place and called it in saying the group was at the Summit-Meadows trail junction (the lower one). 20:25 It sounded like the type of mission that would be stood down before we started up, so I decided to make it an hour response to the Cache like we would for a search. That would give ES some time to get to the trail head to see if any cars were still there. Kevin arrived at the trail head and there were still cars there so he decided to hike up to the intersection and see if they were there. We had 9 people respond to the cache and Steve Carr went direct to save some time because he lives up by Lory State Park. At 21:33 the group at the Cache just pulled out of the gate when Kevin came over the radio saying the party was nearing the bottom and to stand down SAR. Mark Sheets called me when I was getting ready to go and had a good suggestion for me to pick up a can of dog food for the dog. So I had dog food and dog biscuits ready. That's something to keep in mind next time, though I hope we don't have too many next times!

Sunday 26 January 2003 – Montgomery Pass – Paged at 16:24 with report of missing female snowshoer in Montgomery Pass area. Stood down about an hour later, before any members left home, as the snowshoer had been found by her companions and she was OK.

Saturday 8 February 2003 – Fort Collins – Paged at 06:17 for trailing dog, handler and support to search for a missing 91 year old male. Julie Weibler and Zephyr arrived on scene just as FCPD had located the subject, who was cold but otherwise OK, and was being transported to PVH for a check-up. LCSAR response was then stood down.

Wednesday 12 February 2003 – Scottsbluff, NE – Information from William Young, the duty SAR Manager: The page today at 09:18 was from an investigator with the Scottsbluff, Nebraska Police Department. They had a missing teenager (found this noon, dead) and a suspect and his vehicle. What they wanted was scent discriminating dogs to help see if the teenager had been in that vehicle. Cheryl and Julie went this afternoon to help. Additional information from Julie Weibler, one of the dog handlers who went on this incident: Cheryl and I responded Wednesday afternoon to Scottsbluff PD. They wanted us to do some scent discrimination to verify or exclude the presence of scent at different locations. They were also looking for evidence. During the evidence search, a train carrying coal derailed in downtown Scottsbluff

Thursday afternoon. The dogs were diverted to the train accident to see if they could help locate one of the train employees seen jumping off the train who was then buried by the wreck debris. Both dogs alerted in one void and Apache alerted at another location where the train cars were stacked into the air like pick-up sticks. Zephyr would not search that area (unknown if this was an aversion behavior due to him just finishing searching the site where the teenage girl's body had been found). The employee's body was found at the location of the pick-up sticks. Incident # is 18 for the murder investigation and 19 for the train derailment. Here is a web site for further information on the Scottsbluff search:

<http://www.suntelegraph.com/articles/neighbors.shtml>

Saturday 15 February 2003 10:07 – Texas – The next **major** incident we became involved with – the search for debris from the in-flight break-up of the shuttle Columbia, during its descent to Cape Canaveral, Florida. This search, coordinated by FEMA, went on until the end of April. They are looking for Search Leaders who are capable of managing crews of 200 fire fighters in a grid search. They are putting in 12 to 14 hours a day and searching through pastures that have lots of sage brush and cactus. They are finding lots of debris so it's not like you walk for miles and only find one small piece. Sections that need to be covered in a day are 2 miles by 2 miles so there will be a lot of walking and it's been very wet. Carharts are preferred to GoreTex because the vegetation is shredding the GoreTex. Temperatures have been freezing and below. Here is a web page that gives status information:

<http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/sacc/news.htm> In conjunction with other Colorado teams, tasked by CSRB, we sent members Sarah Brauer, Dan O'Sullivan, James Mackler, Ken Klein and JoAnne Klein down for 9-day stints at various times. [Also, two weeks before we sent Dan and Sarah, Mark Sheets was requested to be a Plans Section Chief for the Texas mission. However, due to job constraints he could not go.] Here is a first-hand account from Dan O'Sullivan: After two weeks of my absence I have begun the process of catching up on all missed exams and other work (one exam finished, only five more to go, a 3-page paper, and a test). No matter, it was all well worth it. Short notice makes things all the more fun. I received the page when everyone else did on that Saturday, said I could go on Sunday, got it cleared with my professors on Monday, and was just in time making the flight Tuesday morning with Sarah. You know you're lucky when after a short sprint across the terminal you hear the person at the gate say "Wait, we have two more". Three hours later we were in Houston. Only Sarah, Kelly (RMRG), and I had made the flight; Herb (ART), and Kevin (EPCSAR) would join us later in Lufkin. Once in Houston we were picked up at the Airport and then driven to the TICC (Texas Incident Command Center) in Lufkin, and dropped off to wait for the rental vehicles, where we were later picked up and dropped off at the rental agency to pick up the rental vehicles. It was here that we met Tom from a USAR group out of Washington, who took us over to the EOC where we met Shawn, the person from FEMA who had asked for people from the SAR community. It wasn't until then that we got a clear picture of what we were going to be doing. It was also at the EOC when we met Herb from the Alpine Rescue team, and Kevin Klaussen from El Paso county SAR. We were given phones, GPS, and two satellite phones, which never did work. From there we went out to eat, then to the Hotel to get some sleep before a morning which came all too soon. At 04:30 we were headed out to Nacogdoches, where we had breakfast, then made the 06:00 briefing. This was to show us what to expect once we were to get to Palestine. From here the group went to a local store to get Carharts, since heavy cotton does protect well from the nasty thorns that are everywhere in the woods, which would have obliterated the lightweight, quick drying synthetic pants which were the only things I brought. After that, we headed on our way to Palestine (pronounced Palesteeene), stopping to see two crews that were involved in the search along the way. From then until late Thursday, we were at the first ICP, which was a muddy fairgrounds area, where vehicles were stuck, and the people were drenched. (It was here that I learned that Gore-Tex isn't permanently waterproof.) By Friday, the ICP had moved to a dry warehouse and we began training the crews the next day. In about five hours Sarah, Herb, Kevin and I trained around 800 crew members, and were 'ready' to go out in the field around noon. It was here that things were quite interesting, when group leaders don't feel like listening to the advice of the "technical experts" and go on ahead with the idea that it would be best to do one long line search. (Simply imagine 9 crews of 20 people, trying to do one big sweep, with ten foot spacing.) While the search was being done, I had been assigned to scout a creek, and see if the crews could manage to get across it somewhere. This creek was barely a trickle and would not be a problem, but some of the thorny vines would prove to be quite vicious. (First real find was a whole tile in a field where the trickle dried up.) Sunday the strike team leaders organized the search patterns much better, after the previous experience, and had a rather successful day. However, for the first part of the day there was some confusion as to where the real search grid was, and the teams

spent 4 or 5 hours searching outside the assigned area. All the while, I'm scouting again looking for a way to cross a creek. This would prove to be impossible in the area where we were because what on the map as a small creek was in actuality a flooded creek that was about a 1/4 mile across. (Later I was informed it was prime alligator habitat – so that's what those tracks were!) The rest of the day I spent with the guys from NASA. I took them to a piece I came across while scouting, and went with them to mark GPS locations of some debris a local couple had found on their property. Monday, the lack of sleep and long days began to catch up with me, and I caught some flu like bug. I was only able to be out in the field half a day making sure this team followed the correct latitude line. The other half was spent dozing uncomfortably in the truck. The following day, my group didn't even get a chance to be fielded after we changed drop points at least twice. I guess concerns about the cold temperatures, and ice were just too much, so we were called back to the ICP. That evening was when I was demobilized, and drove back to Lufkin with Herb to return our phones and GPS's. (Special thanks to 24 hour Wal-Mart's that sell Nyquil.) The next morning we dropped the vehicles off at the TICC, and were taken to the airport. Nothing was particularly eventful or interesting about the trip home, and doesn't warrant any description, although a special thanks to my loving sister who was kind enough to pick me up from the airport. Also I would like to thank Don Davis for his help in coordinating this, and teaching me a little more about being a search leader, and George Janson who helped as well, in addition to letting me use his big duffel, in place of my backpack with a bunch of stuff lashed to it. Thanks again for this opportunity – I enjoyed it very much.

Tuesday 18 February 2003 – Loveland Basin Ski Area – Paged at 10:41 to assist Alpine Rescue Team with search for subject missing in an avalanche at Dry Gulch, near Loveland Basin Ski Area. Due to lateness of request, and drive/ski time into the search area, our members were requested to arrive at ICP at 04:00 Wednesday morning. However, the subject's body was recovered later in the afternoon, and our response was stood down.

Sunday 23 February 2003 – Allenspark – Paged at 22:22 with request to assist to Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, as reported by Dave Hake, duty SAR Manager: If you didn't get the page Monday morning, the subjects were located at 01:30 while our team members were getting ready for the field. They were fine and had built a fire. We were put on standby until they were loaded up on snow machines and on their way out. I don't have many details about why they were overdue but I know that it was a father and 9 year old boy out for a hike that didn't show up at 16:00 like they were supposed to. Another person went out looking for them. 7 of us responded: Scott Heffernan, Tate Hickox, Ken Klein, Jen and James Mackler and Chara, Andy Donelson, Amy Ho as ITC and myself. Thanks everyone for your response. 7News info at: <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/1998849/detail.html>

BOULDER COUNTY, CO – Rescuers worked in subzero weather Sunday night searching for two missing men and a 9-year-old boy in Boulder County. The trio failed to return from a Sunday afternoon hike in Allenspark, CO, which is about 7 miles south of Estes Park off Highway 7. The three were found safe early Monday morning just west of South Sheep Mountain. Authorities said that they had built a campfire to stay warm. A Boulder County Sheriff's Department spokesman said the wife of one of the missing men called authorities to report the people missing because they were due back by 4 p.m. but had not returned.

Thursday 27 February 2003 – Fort Collins – Paged at 19:36 for another urban-fringe search, reported by William Young, duty SAR Manager: Dave Mosier and I decided to have a direct response of the Team because of weather and lots of unknowns about the situation. (The page should have said non-emergency response.) What they had was a truck that was reported abandoned on La Eda Lane west of Shields north of Trilby. The door was open, keys in it, no mechanical problems and the seat belt cut. Dispatch called the address from the license plate, a 25 year old male was supposed to be on his way to a doctor's appointment in Fort Collins. While the SO started the investigation, the Sergeant wanted our help looking in the many fields in the area. The Sergeant and I agreed to stage at Gulley's (yes, it was small but it was out of the mass of cars near the LKP). I stopped at the subject's truck to get scent articles, then came over to the staging area to brief team members and give assignments. As we were doing that the SO's K-9 found the subject along the railroad tracks. They said he probably would not have made it through the night. When returning the scent articles, I did have a chance to tell the K-9 handler good job. I do not know what happened to the subject to cause him to leave his truck.

Sunday 9 March 2003 17:48 – Greyrock – Reported by Mark Sheets, duty SAR Manager: Sunday evening the call started with 2 teenaged girls calling the Sheriff, stating that they were on Meadows trail at Greyrock but fearing on-setting darkness would lose their way. Dave Mosier from E.S. responded and started up the trail to try to locate them and save SAR from having to respond. Dave intercepted one of the teenager's fathers (who had learned from the teenager by cell phone that they were in the predicament) who decided to drive up to the parking lot and go in to find them. Dave convinced him to stay the first intersection and act as trail block should these teenagers come down on their own. Upon arrival, things took on a different shape. At the trailhead, I met with an adult female (Debbie) who had two females aged 10 & 11 with her. She said the original party consisted of Debbie, the two young girls, two teenaged girls and one of the teenager's father, (Doug). They all started hiking around 12:30 Sunday afternoon. The teenagers were much faster than the 10 & 11 year old girls and wanted to go ahead and summit Greyrock. They agreed to let them go on and they would meet in the meadow below Greyrock. As the day progressed, the entire group eventually all summited but when they went to meet in the meadow the teenagers were not there (in the immediate area anyway). Debbie and Doug decided that they should run both trails back down so that all trails were covered. Debbie, along with the 10 & 11 year old females, took the Summit Trail back down, never seeing the girls. They passed others on the way up, asking if they saw the teenagers and they had not. Around 20:15, Dave Mosier found the girls, on the trail right where the dispatcher had told them to stay and wait for help. So by 20:15, all parties were accounted for and OK except for Doug. The search went into the night and the next day. We decided to not search areas east of the Summit Trail (in other words, the Wintersteen trail) because Doug's agreement with Debbie was that he would clear the Meadows Trail. The teenagers were out of the field by 22:00 but the search continued for Doug. Debbie reported Doug to be wearing Tan shorts, a layered jacket (polar fleece of sorts), a windbreaker, hiking boots and a back pack with some food and water only. She also indicated that Doug is fairly well versed with Greyrock as he has done it numerous times. She also said the he has a good sense of direction and would know that if lost, he would simply need to travel south to get to Highway-14. The second Operational Period started at 07:00 on Monday. We ordered a helicopter from AFRCC and Buckley ANG responded with a Blackhawk with only pilot and co-pilot. Jaynie Zmijewski got to go as observer. Meanwhile, Don Davis takes over as SAR Manger and I being in bad shape from lack of sleep, decide to lay down for some rest before returning to town. At around 10:58, dispatch calls to advise that Doug was on the phone and had walked out and driven back to town. In the beginning, Doug's mini-van was in the Greyrock parking lot, at the extreme east end. Our command post was set up at the extreme west end, with the trailer and truck parking running east-west as to be totally obvious to anyone crossing the bridge at the trail head that we were "On Scene", conducting an operation. I would have never thought that we need to secure a subject's vehicle from them being able to simply drive away from our command post. In the future, I will probably park a car in front of the subject's vehicle, precluding them from leaving without a face to face with SAR or the Sheriff. Additional information from Don Davis, who later talked to Doug, the missing person: When Doug split up with the group to find the missing teenage girls, it was near the base of Greyrock before the upper junction of the Greyrock Trail and the Meadows Trail. The plan was that he was going to go down the Meadows Trail and Debbie, the Reporting Party, was going to go down the Greyrock Trail, hoping that one of them would find the girls. Doug got confused and lost the trail before he got to the Meadows Trail junction and went east in the direction of the Wintersteen Trail. The terrain led him in this direction. From there he ended up in the drainage to the east of the Greyrock Trail. When Doug realized that he was lost he panicked (his word). He was worried about the girls and realized he was not in a position to help them since he was lost. He stated that his panic shocked him back to reality. When it started to get dark he decided to stay put. The drainage is very rugged and full of brush and is difficult to travel through. There was a little bit of water trickling down the drainage. Since he had shorts on, his legs became very scratched up. He was dressed in a tan soft brimmed hat, gloves (which were torn up by the brush), hiking shorts, black sweatshirt, dark blue windbreaker, scarf, and hiking boots. The equipment he had was a pack, 2 liters of water, food, Swiss army knife, and sunscreen. When he made it back to the parking lot he still had some food and water left. For shelter he found an area that had lots of pine needles on the ground. He covered his legs from the feet to his torso with about six inches of pine needles. His upper torso was covered with the clothing he had on. He covered his face with the scarf and breathed through it. He stated that this helped him feel warmer. He also used muscle energy to keep warm by tensing his muscles. He stated that he felt cold all night and was afraid to go to sleep. He said the thought crossed his mind that SAR was out looking for him and the girls. At dawn he got up and started back down the drainage knowing that he was going south and that it would eventually lead to the Poudre

River. He did see the helicopter but had no way to signal it and he didn't think they could see him due to the terrain. (I believe he saw the helicopter when it flew over looking for Incident Base and the helispot.) He came out east of the parking lot at the old Greyrock Lodge. He crossed a bridge there to get to the road. He stated that it had a load limit of 7 tons. He was relieved that he got to the road and was worried about the two missing teenagers. His focus was to get to a phone and find out where the girls were. As he approached the parking lot from the east he could see his van. He stated that he did not see Incident Base. Truck 10 is what he would have seen first. He did see Debbie's car parked next to his, but when he looked in he did not recognize anything in it and thought it was someone else's. At this time the parking lot was full of cars from SAR personnel and hikers. He did state that when he got to his van he was very tired and cold. He then drove back to town and went to Debbie's house to see if the girls were OK. This is when he called SO Dispatch.

Monday 10 March 2003 – Lory State Park – Direct [non-emergency] response page at 15:12 for carryout of injured female hiker. Stand down page at 15:29, as the subject was now at the trailhead.

Wednesday 19 March 2003 06:53, then through Sunday 23 March 2003 – Fort Collins – On stand-by, with staging of 4WD vehicles with chains on all four tires, at the EOC during the blizzard, for welfare checks on people stranded by the snowstorm, until the roads are plowed out. Two members, Dave Hake and Ron Alexander, made it to the EOC on Wednesday, and were actually tasked to assist other LCSO deputies with locating and retrieving citizens stuck on unplowed County roads on the outskirts of town.

Thursday 20 March 2003 – RMNP – Paged at 08:16 for stand-by for assist to RMNP for nine college students, backcountry hikers who were overdue, and who did not have over-snow travel gear for the 80-100 inches that fell during the Front Range blizzard. No LCSAR members responded, as the subjects were located by helicopter shortly after we had been contacted by RMNP dispatch. From Mark Magnuson, the RMNP Ranger in charge of their SAR operations: "Yes, I was in the helicopter and spotted the Iowa State group. We had a team of sixteen heading in on skis or snowshoes – the going was very slow. We dropped nine pair of snowshoes from the helicopter to assist the group with getting out. They had been moving ½ mile a day as they had no flotation with them. They had gone into Sky Pond on Sunday, intending to climb Taylor Peak on Monday. Then the storm came in. They were actually fairly well equipped (other than no flotation) and were a strong group of lads." And additional information from the news media: Hikers OK after spending blizzard on mountainside [By Pamela Dickman Reporter-Herald Staff Writer] As temperatures dipped to the teens and 8 feet of fresh snow piled up in Rocky Mountain National Park, a group from Iowa State University survived the elements this week. The nine men - the oldest in his late 20s - were on a college-affiliated camping trip in Rocky Mountain National Park, which closed Tuesday and Wednesday because of the storm that buried Colorado. "They had been in the backcountry since Sunday," said Kyle Patterson, park spokeswoman. As the men set out Sunday, they met another person on the trail, Patterson said. That person worried about the group and alerted park officials that the students were in the park and due back Wednesday afternoon, she said. They did not arrive. So, searchers from the National Park Service and Colorado Mountain School set out on foot at 7:30 a.m. Thursday. A team also began searching in a helicopter. They looked in the area where the group planned to be. "They weren't lost," Patterson said. "They were overdue." About 10:20 a.m. Thursday, rescuers spotted the group in an area called The Loch, which sits at an elevation of 10,180 feet. It is 2.7 miles from the Glacier Gorge trailhead. "We spotted them from the helicopter," Patterson said. "We dropped a radio to them. All nine of them are together. They're OK. They're hungry and cold, and one of them may have frost nip." The helicopter landed 100 yards from the group and sank to its belly in the snow, Patterson said. About 30 minutes later, the ground searchers met up with the group from the college. Officials decided to drop snowshoes to the men so they could hike out along the path the searchers made on the way in. With the snowshoes, the men were able to walk the 2.7 miles to where their vehicle was parked. None needed medical treatment, Patterson said. The men were properly equipped for winter camping, except they did not have snowshoes or skis, she said. Officials considered avalanche danger when deciding whether to fly the group out or have them walk out on snowshoes. Also, there was concern about the safety of bringing a helicopter in and out of the area in the winter conditions, Patterson said. Patterson said there were "extreme avalanche conditions" in the park Thursday. Such conditions also existed elsewhere in the county. The Larimer County Sheriff's Office warned of extreme avalanche danger in the foothills because of the amount of snow and the moisture in that snow.

Saturday 22 March 2003 – Glacier View – Direct response page at 02:20 for rescue at Glacier View gate 6. The subject had surgery a few days ago and was experiencing chest pains. His home was 1¼ mile in on unplowed road, and the road grader got stuck trying to plow the access road, so ES's snowcat and LCSAR were requested to bring the subject to the ambulance. The plan was to use the snowcat to carry him out, yet have LCSAR for backup in case the snowcat couldn't make it in or out. We had a great response – 12 of us responded and some rode the snowcat up to the house to help load the patient.

Saturday 22 March 2003 – more members tasked for Columbia debris recovery mission in Texas – James Mackler responds, and later Ken and JoAnne Klein respond. Anne Carpenter and Jamie Baker were on stand-by, but were not assigned.

Tuesday 25 March 2003 – Hourglass Reservoir – Direct response page at 19:26 for subject having chest pains, needing over-snow evac to road. Dave Hake, duty SAR Manager, takes up the tale: The 44 year old male, who works for the Greeley Ditch company, along with another employee, were on their way up for their every other day check on the reservoir. They ended up getting their snow mobiles stuck and walked about 2 miles when Doug (the 44 year old) started complaining about his arm hurting. Then he went down and experienced chest pains. This was about 18:00. They finally made it to a cabin in the area and called for help. The snowcat was dispatched and we were called for back up in case the snowcat couldn't make it to the patient. A few of us arrived before the snowcat and started getting the sled ready, but before we got in the field the snowcat arrived, so we put the sled atop it and take a few LCSAR members in with the snowcat. The rest of us stood by to see if the snowcat was going to make it. About an hour later they brought the patient out. Then, since the ambulance couldn't make it up Pingree Park road, we transferred the patient into Truck 11 and drove him down to Highway 14 to meet up with the ambulance. Throughout the transport (both in the snowcat and in Truck 11) his pain and chest pain went up and down along with vomiting. We transferred him to the ambulance at midnight and debriefed. We had 11 members respond, possibly enough to pull a sled in 3 miles and bring the subject out if the snowcat could not do it! Thanks for the good turnout and we'll see you on the next one. There are still many places with roads not plowed out so we may have many of these to come.

Friday 28 March 2003 – Greyrock (south!) – Direct response page at 19:25 for evac of injured hiker. Once again, Dave Hake, duty SAR Manager, tells the story: Well, it was Friday night after a long week. I was looking forward to a nice quiet evening – home made enchiladas – watching a video with Shannon and the kids. The meal was on the table and I was just getting ready to sit down and ... beep beep beep!!! SAR TEAM - RESPOND EMERGENCY TO GREYROCK FOR A CARRYOUT – FEMALE WITH POSSIBLE ANKLE INJURY ABOUT 30 MINUTES UP THE TRAIL FROM THE TRAIL HEAD – MEDICAL IN ROUTE – 19:25 Well this kind of messed up my plans, but looking at the page, I thought this will be a stand down for sure. Once Ocean 3 gets on scene, he'll find out the subjects are already down ... right? Well, the closer we got to Greyrock the more we found out. It seems that the subjects didn't actually know where Greyrock was, because they were not on the Greyrock trail that heads north out of the parking lot, they were 30 minutes to the SOUTH of the parking lot!!! (Which is actually private property.) That's why so many pages went out for more resources. North facing slope, snow, steep!! You do the math ;-) This was not going to be a text book trail carry by any means. To make a long story short, the subject fell about 40 feet off a cliff and was lucky to be alive. She did have an ankle wound, likely fractured, and maybe some cracked ribs. We pulled the sled up the steep hill about 400 to 500 feet elevation gain and ¼ of a mile back in. The snow was so hard I wished I would have brought my crampons. We got the sled to her and loaded her up. The paramedics had gone up before us and had stabilized her wounds. We lowered her down a different route then we took up because that route in was very Nasty to say the least. A good route was found to evac her out and it was three 300 foot rope lowers to get her down to the road. We used everything in the book. A rescue-8 to get it started on a small little 75 foot lower to a better platform, then a brake rack on a solid anchor, then tree wraps to speed things up on lower angles. We drug the sled at times, we did a caterpillar, we carried it, you name it. 19:30 call out and I'm back home at 00:30 – what a great way to spend a Friday night! Great turnout (17 members) and everyone did a great job. Thanks, Steve Carr, for taking the Rescue Leader role, you did a great job. Side note: just because the mission sounds like it will be easy, always prepare for the mission that could be called after the easy one is over, because it could be anything! This way you are always prepared for anything. And some additional insight

from member Dan O'Sullivan: After speaking today with my friend Megan (one of the reporting parties), I wanted to let you know more about the Greyrock mission. First of all, Liz is doing fine (although still tired and in minor pain) after two surgeries and some hardware in her wrist, along with a few bruised ribs, and a severely sprained ankle. According to Megan, the group had gone out with the intention of hiking the Greyrock trail with a friend who had come in from out of state. At the parking lot they only noticed tracks leading up the slope to the south, which they followed, initially thinking that the rocks up high (where Liz fell) were Greyrock. After getting there the guys began fooling around and bouldering up high, while Liz was simply walking around on the tops of the formations when she lost her balance. At the time of the fall, Megan and Kim (the friend from out of town) had already gone back down to the car when they heard the screams, and only thought it was the guys still screwing around. Even Megan does not know why they drove all the way out the canyon to call for help. As for the male reporting parties, I am told that they were only acquaintances met through their church. Just thought you'd like to know a little more on how Liz was doing, and some of the reasoning for the unusual aspects of the mission.

Wednesday 2 April 2003 – Fort Collins – Paged at 04:05 for search for 11 year old who might have been in an MVA – dad (under the influence and disoriented) hiked through mud to a residence – ultimately, 11 year old was found in Longmont, and had not been in the vehicle. Dave Hake, duty SAR Manager, with his synopsis titled “That was different” This is a little info on this mornings ... search, puzzle, what ever you want to call it. The deputies picked up a man who was trying to get into a house on Ideal Lane at 02:30 this morning. This is about ¼ mile North of the bypass off of Taft Hill, so it's a little in the rural area. He was on something and very strung out. While in transit to the hospital the deputy got a story out of the man that was very confusing but part of it was that he wrecked his jeep and when asked if anyone else was in it he mentioned his 11 year old son. When asked if he was ok, the man said he wasn't moving. So, that's why we were called out – to see if we could back track this guy to find a vehicle and see if in fact his son was in it. Dave M. wanted a trailing dog, but talking with Dan Fanning and Jen Mackler convinced him it was not a good idea to get a dog to work backwards, since all training is to get them to go forward. Allen W. ended up saying he would at least respond and see what his dog would do, and I told Dave M. that I would get out to see if we could get a track and maybe that would give us direction and an area that we could work a dog in. Doug Grimm saw that I was going out and looking for tracks so he came out too. We found the man's tracks, which came across a field, and Doug and I were working them backwards while Allen went to get ahead of us on the road with Rosie. At this time we received information that the man's son was still at a foster home in Longmont and was fine. Evidently the boy has been in foster care for a while and that lead was being checked while we were in route.

Wednesday 9 April 2003 – Horsetooth Rock – Direct response page at 16:20 for evac of 20 year old fallen climber (female) – solo climber fell, moans were heard by hikers some time later – still in hospital, and making very slow recovery. This time, Mark Sheets, duty SAR Manager, give the story: 16:20 SAR GRP – 20 YOA FEMALE UNCONSCIOUS, DIFFICULTY BREATHING, INJURIES TO HEAD NECK BACK ARM AND LEG – ALONE ON EAST SIDE OF RIGHT TOOTH AT HORSETOOTH ROCK – MEET AMBULANCE AT PARKING LOT – CHOPPER HAS BEEN CALLED. This was obviously an EMERGENCY RESPONSE. I seemed to be ahead of all other SAR units as I was just leaving work when the page came out. I drove to the top of Horsetooth Mountain and arrived just after Kevin Johnston did. I grabbed my rescue pack and headed up. 6 PFA firemen and 1 PVH paramedic were ahead of me by about 4 minutes. This required some searching as the 20 YOA female had been free-climbing by herself and fell off the East Face of the Tooth, estimating 40-65 feet. Some hikers in the area thought the moans were a bird but upon further checking, they found the severely injured female at the base of the rock. (The initial report did not clarify that she was at the base so while en route, I asked dispatch to notify SAR that in may require artificial anchors, and appropriate personnel needed to respond.) After a brief search, the PFA group located the patient by hearing her moans. She was lying next to the only tree at the base, so I set up a brake on that tree while PFA packaged and stabilized the patient. I lowered (with the help of citizens, hiking the area) the litter on about a 125' scree to a flatter area where a trail carry started. This is the area of fairly flat granite that is crumbly. By the time the scree was finished, more SAR personnel had arrived at the scene and jumped into the trail carry. I broke down the anchor and bagged PFA's 300' rope we used on the scree. The subject was loaded into a truck at the top of the mountain and transported to the trail head, where the AirLife helicopter was waiting. She was transported to PVH via aircraft at 18:25. MEDICAL IMPRESSIONS: She had a severe head injury (thinking Basilar Skull Fracture) and was in serious

condition. Other than typical tissue injuries from falls, I saw no obvious deformities of appendages or the C-spine. I was only able to visually assess the patient while setting up the brake next to her. It was not known how long she had been lying there before help could be summoned. The hikers had to hike down to call for help and they left her alone where she was discovered. She had been climbing by herself. Thanks to all who responded! This one had the potential to be much more technically challenging, like many others in that same area have been. Update from Sarah Babbitt: My yoga instructor is a relative of the girl who fell at Horsetooth a few weeks ago, and was talking about her today (I did not even ask, she just started talking about her, and she didn't know I am part of the SAR team until after she mentioned her). I think she said her name is Kaisa. She has apparently had surgery to remove the damaged part of her right brain – occipital area – and is not yet speaking but is moving more purposefully. Just yesterday she gave her mom a hug, and made a nasty face when someone blocked her trachea tube to check on her breathing (she is breathing on her own quite a bit, though not totally). With help she walked from her bed to the sink across the room. It is likely she will be moving to Craig Hospital soon so she can start more aggressive rehabilitation. I let her know that there are quite a few people on the SAR team who will be very happy to hear how she's doing, and asked that she extend the good wishes of the team to Kaisa and her family. She thanked us very much for our help in saving her and carrying her out. Just wanted to pass along the good news! Great job, everybody! And from Dan O'Sullivan (this seems to be his year for knowing our subjects): Yes, her name is Kaisa, and she was a student in my psychology class. I am so very relieved to hear of her continued progress. Hopefully in the future people I know (outside of SAR) won't be as involved with rescue missions ...

Tuesday 15 April 2003 – Chasm Meadow – Request, via Regional MRA e-mail, for assist to RMNP in recovering equipment from their gear cache at Chasm Meadow, below Longs Peak, which had been destroyed by an avalanche during the big snowstorm. From Mark Magnuson: WANTED ... 10 to 12 strong backs carrying steel shovels, weather permitting, Sunday April 20, 07:00 hours at Longs Peak Trailhead to assist in locating and digging out equipment from avalanche debris at Chasm Meadow. Bring a strong back, good attitude and energy, steel shovel (i.e. grain scoop style is best), transceiver, probe poles, flotation (although it's likely they won't be needed), ski poles, lots of sunscreen, personal gear. Some folks may wish to bring an ice axe for crossing the steep slope between Chasm Junction and Chasm Meadow, although there's a pretty good boot track across it right now ... personal decision (crampons were needed last week). A large volume pack with extra space may be useful, to assist in packing out gear that is salvaged. Superb scenery, good exercise (cheaper than your health club), decent company?, solar toilet with a million dollar view (paper not provided ... what can I say, it's a government facility), and perhaps some beverage waiting at the trailhead upon return. Thought I would take you guys up on your offer to assist! Let me know if you can pull anything together. We'll keep an eye on the weather and see what unfolds. [Unfortunately, this was during our BASART training program, and no one was available to assist.]

Tuesday 22 April 2003 – South Boulder Creek trailhead – Paged at 20:08 with request to assist RMRG with search for reported suicidal 47 year old male – car was found on the 19th, and RMRG needed more help over the next days. Ken Klein, Sarah Brauer, Eric Ackerman and Estelle Purvis and Echo responded for 07:00 briefing at the ICP the next morning.

Sunday 27 April 2003 – Greyrock – Paged at 17:44 for search for male hiker who inadvertently traversed the Wintersteen trail. Dave Hake, duty SAR Manager: The subject didn't want to hike to the top of the rock with his group, so he stayed down from the summit trail and somehow he ended up on the Wintersteen trail, or at least that direction, because he eventually hiked into Gateway Park and contacted the ranger there, who arranged a ride home for him. The ranger then came up to Greyrock trail head to ask if we were looking for a male hiker. That's when the stand down came out. However, on the way back to the cache, Don Griffith called us and said to stand by because we may be heading down to Loveland to help with a fallen climber call that Loveland Fire is working on. Eventually we were paged out ...

Sunday 27 April 2003 – Monastery Rock – At 20:25, direct emergency response to Monastery Rock for rescue of fallen climber – assist to Loveland and Canyon Volunteer Fire Departments – long night. Dave Hake continues: The climber fell at Monastery Rock (not Combat rock as we all thought) around 16:30, breaking her tib-fib on the right side. The climber's trail to this rock climbing area is off of Storm Mt.

Drive, and it's a steep drop down into a drainage then back up the other side to the rock. Her climbing partners built a makeshift litter out of rope and logs, splinted the fracture with branches and wrapped it, then started carrying her out the same way they walked in. Loveland Fire and the Paramedics arrived on scene and packaged her in a litter. They wanted to fly her out, but the pilot could not land close enough to be of help. They had enough resources to essentially caterpillar her down the trail until they came to the bottom of a drainage. That's when we arrived on scene and discussed strategy with Loveland Fire's rope crews. They had planned on doing the same caterpillar technique up the other side of the drainage on the trail, which had some steep sections. We evaluated doing a haul system and decided, because of the zigzagging on this route out, it would take more time to set up haul systems. Instead, we continued what they had planned, except adding in a belay rope every so often on the steeper sections. They turned the rescue over to us and we were in charge of setting up the belay anchors ... all 10 of them! Then everyone started getting in line and we caterpillared her all the way up the trail (1/3 mile??), reaching the ambulance around 23:30. Everyone worked well with each other and the system seemed to work. I would like to take a look at the area in the daylight to see what alternatives there were, if any, since the Monastery is becoming a popular climbing area, and something tells me we'll be back! A reminder, when in Rome do as the Romans do. Loveland Fire likes to see bulk! They use 1/2" ropes and wrap three pull two on webbing anchors, and use 1/2" ropes for other anchor situations. In this case, the only weight the belay had was the litter and patient, who was only 130 lbs., and maybe a fire fighter or two hanging on the litter if someone lost footing and fell. Given this, anything we put in was sufficient, but it doesn't hurt to throw an extra wrap around the tree if we can make everyone feel better. Thanks everyone for turning out; we had 18 respond, and I think Loveland Fire had 26.

Monday 28 April 2003 – Glacier View gates 1 and 16 – Paged at 19:44 to search for 11 year old who'd gotten mad at his dad and stormed out of house – he was eluding searchers, and eventually gave up several hours later as the night became chill. This time it's George Janson, as acting SAR Manager, (as Don Davis was still some distance away): At about 18:30 Monday night, 11 year old Timothy, who takes medication for hyperactivity and who was recently diagnosed with bipolar disorder, got upset while playing with his Gameboy, then got mad at his dad, Brett, and ran out of the house. He had run away once before, but it was in summer, and during the daytime, and he eventually came back after a few hours. The family lives in rural Glacier View, along the road from Gate 1 entrance (where the big sign for Cottonwood Hollow Restaurant is located). Kathy Shepard is a friend of the family, and dad is a member of the Glacier View Volunteer Fire Department. The parents called Kathy, and activated the GVVFD to start looking for Timothy, driving along the maze of roads within their segment of the greater Glacier View subdivisions. Meanwhile, Kathy Shepherd had already preserved the area of the point last seen, and properly preserved a footprint which she knew to be correct, because Timothy's father Brett told her it was Timothy's foot print. GVVFD searched for about 45 minutes, then at about 19:30 called Dispatch to request LCSAR's assistance. From Kevin, the LCSO has a policy that missing children 12 years of age and younger are considered high priority incidents, which is why we had the direct response. Dave Hake and Doug Grimm responded very quickly to establish a direction of travel before the area was trampled by too many feet. However, the instructions about which house was Timothy's were not clearly communicated, which resulted in a delay in Dave and Doug getting started on the correct set of tracks. Unfortunately, Kathy was unsuccessful in contacting us by radio at the ICP, as she had pictures, the physical description, scent articles, and directions to the house (plus someone to lead us to the house). Also responding, as per that LCSO policy, was an Investigator (I25), who borrowed a portable thermal imager from PFA before heading to the ICP. As I25 was driving down Eiger Drive, just past the junction with Eiger Court he saw a young boy wearing a red shirt pop out of the culvert and go running up the slope. Tate Hickox happened to be following behind I25, and while he didn't see the boy run up the slope (I25's vehicle was blocking the view), Tate remarked that he did not see the boy run across the road. Thus, while the bulk of us were responding, the PLS shifted from the boy's home to about a mile farther away. This created some confusion, as those already on scene (including the GVVFD) moved back north, toward Red Feather Road, which was the direction from which the rest of us were arriving. While this was happening, I25 was scanning the slope with the thermal imager, and Tate was scanning with his eyeballs. Scott Evans was on scene shortly after, so Kevin assigned Scott and Tate as the thermal scanner team. I25 gave them basic operating instructions, and they started out. Dave and Doug quickly relocated, flagged off the new LSP, and began tracking into the grass up the slope. By now, I was on scene, with a caravan of other Team members streaming in, each chomping at the bit for assignments. Kudos to the Team members who got the trailer set up so quickly, which went in

service at about 21:30. Fortunately, Kevin had obtained a large number of maps of that area of Glacier View, so we had something more relevant than an outdated topo map to give to the search teams. Knowing that L1 Don was still some distance away, I took the role of Operations. Timothy's dad was at the trailer when we did the briefing, so he was able to answer other questions from the Team members. As assignments were given out, and teams began walking away from the trailer, one of the GVVFD members called out to us -- we looked in that direction, to see Timothy being hugged by his dad! This was at about 22:00 hours. While we were getting organized, Timothy had worked his way farther north, and tiring of the game, and likely getting chill, he ran out from his hiding place straight into the body of someone he recognized, Greg, the leader of GVVFD (call sign Glacier 1). Timothy and dad had a tearful reunion as everyone else let out a cheer of relief. I talked briefly with Timothy, and he said one thing that scared him back toward the searchers was encountering a mountain lion while he was on the other side of the road, which is National Forest land. In all, we had 23 members and 3 dogs involved with this effort -- an excellent response. As I was leaving, Dave and Doug were still at it, backtracking Timothy to gain more tracking practice and insight into the movements of a person intent on evading the searchers. Observations: How to search for a young child who is hiding from us? Will they respond to their name, or just stay silent and hidden? Would they respond to softer voices, especially those of females, rather than the gruff-sounding tones when we call out in a projecting voice? Will headlamps be an attraction or a marker of the team location for the child to avoid? Could we see movement 'better' using the ambient light than the bouncing spot of the headlamp, especially since the child will stay outside the beam of light? As we discussed in the briefing, each search team would have to make those decisions once they were in the field, and adjust their search tactics accordingly.

Monday 5 May 2003 – Horsetooth Mountain Park – Paged at 07:40 to search for suicidal subject. Dave Hake, duty SAR Manager, with the synopsis: The lesson learned today should be always think you are looking for a live subject when the information given to you is that the subject is suicidal. The duty SAR Manager was notified to call dispatch regarding a missing subject who is possibly suicidal. I contacted dispatch and then Ocean 5 (Justin Whitesell) and he was going to go to Horsetooth Mountain Park where the subject's car was located. He wanted us on standby until he confirmed the situation. I decided to follow him up to help secure the vehicle and get things organized if a search took off. The parents were on scene at the trail head, and all the information lead us to believe we would find him at the bottom of Horsetooth rock. We decided to send a hasty team (Scott Evans and Tate Hickox) up to the rock to search along the base of the west side and with some rope gear to rappel off the top a ways to see if they could see anything. We also wanted teams to use attraction, because you just never know, he might still be thinking about it. The Parks unit on scene drove team one up the service road close to the base of Horsetooth rock, and Scott used his horn for attraction, and got a reply right away. They followed up on the voice and it was our subject at the very top of Horsetooth rock, waiting to jump off the west side. The Victim's Advocate who was on scene for the parents was taken up to team one's location to see if she could talk him down, because it was obvious that he didn't want to come down, and was getting very agitated at times. It was decided to hold everyone back out of sight and leave only a couple people trying to talk him down. A negotiator was called in and SO Deputies arriving on scene were driven up to second staging near the base of the rock. In all we had 5 negotiators at second staging with several Deputies. The incident was basically turned over to ES and SO, and we were transporting resources and helping in gathering information from the family and his counselors. Team two (Andy Donelson and Dan O'Sullivan) were re-routed from an assignment of looking at Horsetooth Falls area to the second staging. Jen Mackler drove up to second staging area with the parents to transport the subject's dog that he loved, as it was thought that he might change his mind once the dog was introduced to the scene. The parents were held back at second staging, where Jen acted as a Victim's Advocate and gathered more information. We were on stand by for what we hoped wouldn't happen, him jumping. Several hours of negotiations paid off, and his counselor succeeded in talking him off the rock. Thanks everyone for the response, it was a good turnout for a Monday morning and a possible suicidal. 13 in all on scene and a few others we stood down in route, unless something drastic happened and then we would have paged again for more personnel.

Monday 5 May 2003 – Lonetree Reservoir – Paged at 16:06 to search for missing 18 year old female, another despondent individual. Once again, Dave Hake, duty SAR Manager: Yet another lesson learned today – you just never now when you will find your next subject. The search for the missing 18 year old started with a page from Dispatch to call ES. She had been missing since 22:30 last night when she

stormed out of her Grandparent's house, where she was staying, after a big fight. She hadn't been seen since and deputies were called and had been searching the area all day and trying to come up with other places she might have gone to. I decided to get the team activated, especially dogs and trackers, to see if we could get a direction of travel. Since it's some what of a rural area, it wouldn't hurt to have foot searchers looking too. When Jim Mines received the page, he called in asking if the girl was Asian, because he was on duty last night for the Loveland PD when he responded to a call from a citizen who had picked up an 18 year old girl by Mariana Buttes (near Lonetree Reservoir) around midnight. He couldn't get her to give him her name and she was very upset and not wanting to talk to anyone. He decided to take her into McKee Medical Center to get evaluated and left it at that. I called dispatch to find out more about the subject, and she was Asian, and so I had Jim Mines call dispatch direct to make sure they had all the info he had. Dispatch checked it out and it was her. So, "you never know when you will find your next subject". That has to do a real number on the average search times now, won't it, George? ;-)

The search time from call out was negative 17 hours!! Good work Jim!

Year-to-date incidents total for 2003 = 26
comparable span for 2002 = 19 and 2001 = 12



LCSTAR

Larimer County Search and Rescue, Inc.
1303 N Shields St, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524