

*that others
may live*



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LCSTAR

Newsletter for Larimer County Search and Rescue, Inc.

Summer 2004

edited by: Jim Powers

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deed could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those timid souls who know neither victory or defeat. --Theodore Roosevelt

This has come to be known as the “Man in the Arena” speech by Teddy Roosevelt. It has had great meaning to me, and after reading it I hope it does to you. So often we are tempted to listen to those that don’t do anything but sit on the sidelines, complain, and give advice, who critically tell us how we could have done better. They really have never tried anything; never put themselves at risk of failure. But for those of us who passionately love to do, then these words may have a special place for you, too.



Horsetooth Mission, May 2004, fallen 18 y.o

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Followership

By Keith Schafer
March 15, 1998

Throughout our training and development as search and rescue leaders, an effort is made to teach us how to lead. Unfortunately, there is truth to the old saying that “in order to be a good leader you must be a good follower.” Followership is a much harder skill to develop over the long term. In our early days in search and rescue, we found it easy to follow because of the intimidation factor given to the more tenured member’s knowledge and position. As we developed our own self confidence and were given the opportunity to be a leader, we began to lose our ability to be a good follower.

The ability to keep quiet, maintain radio discipline and demonstrate a non-confrontational attitude is a skill more difficult to acquire than learning a safe highline system. It requires more self-control, patience and knowledge of search and rescue organization. It requires more experience. A good follower is not an unchallenging and brainless member of the Team, following like a sheep to slaughter. A good follower is able to present the information the leader needs and then is able to back away and let the leader assimilate the information into the overall plan. That is if the leader feels it is a necessary or a valid position to take. Don’t be a nag or create dissent in the ranks. We must remember that there is more than one way to conduct a safe and efficient operation. It may not be the way we may have conducted it, but, if we give it a chance, it will most likely have equal merits as “our way.” If you feel strongly about the issue, discuss it with the Team Leader after the mission. There’s always more to learn.

The only caveat is when an issue of safety is at hand. If a definite threat to the safety of the individual Team member, the Team or the patient (read *subject*, ed.) is seen, it is a follower’s responsibility to bring it to the quick attention of the Team Leader. If the Team Leader does not take action, then it may be necessary for the follower to remove themselves from the rescue/search and advise the Incident Commander. In 27 years of search and rescue, I have never observed a Team Leader not take action if a safety concern exists that can be corrected. By virtue of what we do, some operations can be dangerous, but through proper training and safety procedures, that threat can be reduced significantly. Courage should rarely be a consideration. With more skill, we require less courage.

When part of a Team, only one person has a need to be on the radio with other teams or the Command Post. A good follower will maintain radio discipline by staying off the radio unless specifically queried, internal communications are needed or when directed to communicate by the Team Leader. A follower does not need to know every detail of the mission. Make your traffic short and concise. Think before transmitting and always be aware that we are not the only ones on the frequency, any frequency.

Work harder at becoming a good follower. Give the leader the room and support necessary to make safe decisions. For those that are in a leadership role, give your followers a chance to voice their concerns and opinions. If there is time, explain why you disagree or agree with there position. If not, discuss it with them



after the mission. The image we present to the patient (read *subject*, ed.), family and friends, news media, other teams and one another goes far in developing our professional image.

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Don Davis suggested this six year old article to reinforce his discussion of Field Leadership, May 2, 2004. As I approach my fifth year on the team my observation is that we have no real problem with “followership”. As a mater-of-fact I see a team of chiefs that are more than willing to be Indians (is that a PC statement anymore?) However, it is always good to be reminded of something as important as this, and then perfect it. Editor

Speaking of leadership there are a couple of folks that should be recognized:

**Mr. Always in orange, ready to go, take the lead:
Scott Evans. (May, Horsetooth Mission)**



**Gloved to handle the hot Team Spirit Award,
Mr. BASART, 2003, Ron Alexander.**

Some of the exciting things your Executive Board has done or is working on:

Executive Board Notes:

1. \$2000 given by LCSAR to LCSO toward refurbishing the training room.
2. Dave Hake generously offered to do a map and compass course fundraiser to benefit LCSAR.
3. Discussion of the need for all team members to participate by donating to the new truck fund. The monies given by team members will be matched in a Challenge Grant, dollar for dollar.
4. Russ Buckley has asked team members to send ten letters to friends to ask for donations to benefit LCSAR's efforts at purchasing a new truck.
5. The team is requested to give their ideas for the Christmas Party roast/toast of members to Kathy Shepard.
6. A new G.P.S. unit has been put in truck 10, thanks to Brian Walsh's efforts.
7. Reminder: any mission page which says, "Respond Directly", (or words to that effect) this is a Code 3 response---that is for lights and siren for those that are eligible.
8. Brian has inventoried the O2 and Medical packs in both trucks and is in the process of updating outdated meds. He is also rethinking what needs to be in both trucks.
9. Thanks to Mike Erickson for his idea of an LCSAR_fun email list. This will be for anyone who wants to send/receive non-SAR related jokes, info, etc. Anyone on the team can opt to be on this list or not. Don Davis will get this set up and running.
10. Don Davis will also put a fact sheet on our website re: any Pro deals which have been extended to our team. It will include the specifics of how to use each one (they differ—some of them an individual can do directly while others have to be done as a group through the team).
11. The last EB meeting, June, was the semi-annual joint meeting with the ES staff. Our MOU with the county mandates that we meet at least twice a year. All four ES folks, the EB and most SAR managers were there to review how things were working.

NASAR has awarded the 2004 Hal Foss Award to Cheryl Kennedy. Congratulations Cheryl!!! It is our understanding that our team is the only one that has had two winners. Previously Dave Bigelow had won this prestigious award.

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Day one participants, reaccreditation



Ready for Day 2

**And when it was over
there was not much
more we had to give!!**



Article from Russ Buckley, a portion of it was in the *Estes Park News*:

Warming House and Redfeather Snowshoes Generosity Helps Volunteers Save Lives

Every hour of the day, every day of the year, volunteers from Larimer County Search and Rescue (LCSAR) are prepared to jump in their vehicles and travel throughout Larimer County to find the missing and assist in retrieving the injured. Many of these searches and rescues take place in rugged, snow-covered mountainous terrain.

Thanks to the generosity of Dave and Phebe Novic of The Warming House Inc., volunteers involved in winter-time searches and rescues have received a wonderful gift. When the Novic's learned that LCSAR needed to replace worn-out snowshoes, they arranged for a donation of eight pair of shiny new Redfeather snowshoes.

The Warming House Inc., located at 790 Moraine Avenue in Estes Park has provided outdoor clothing and equipment to residents and visitors since 1982. The Novic's, avid outdoorsmen themselves, are always willing to share their knowledge and experience with their customers.

LCSAR thanks the Novics, The Warming House and Redfeather Snowshoes for their generous donation.

END

In case you have been hanging out on another planet, the LCSAR Team passed 75% of the MRA Reaccreditation test! On July 10th we have the opportunity to show that the area of concern that the evaluators had has been addressed. Some would say that we don't have issues with the techniques but suffered from test-itis. Test-itis is where there is room to debate what we did versus what was graded, or it could mean that our performance was test driven, doing what we thought the evaluators were looking for not what we usually do. Bottom line, does it matter? What is good about this is that it gives us a chance to sharpen skills that we really use in vertical rescue. Do the words *flexible-consistency mean anything?* The team member's reaction to not passing that section was as varied as the number of us that were able to participate. Not to worry, after July 10th we will have five years to debate about this before we do it again. For perspective I have included Roosevelt's *Man in the Arena*. (See page 1)

Larimer County Search and Rescue Mission Reports - 2004 Year to date - compiled by George Janson, Senior Mossback

Saturday 3 January 2004 - Poudre Canyon - SAR Manager page at 18:36 that LCSAR is on stand-by for a possible search, somewhere up the Poudre Canyon, for two overdue snowshoers who were expected home at 16:30. Dave Mosier is enroute to locate the vehicle. At 19:08 the page informed us that the snowshoers had returned home, and that Dave Mosier was returning to Fort Collins.

Friday 16 January 2004 - NW edge of Fort Collins - Report from SAR Manager Dave Hake - At 08:45 we received a direct response (non-emergency) page to an address on North Taft Hill Road, to assist with rescue of a horse (named Buddy), who had fallen into a steep-sided irrigation canal. I have pictures and some video of this and will play it at the next meeting. (Done! Ed.) It went very well and they got the right things out there: harness, "big" backhoe, and veterinarians and horse people from CSU. We just helped out where needed and tried to comfort the horse as much as we could. Later, we received this update: My name is Donna Christiansen and I live at the North Taft Hill address

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you responded to last Friday. I had made some calls regarding "Buddy", my Belgian Draft Horse. "Buddy" had fallen into our irrigation ditch (ice) and couldn't get up. While the Fire Department refused to respond, Dave Mosier responded to my call and along with other SAR staff, were on-site within a few minutes. Even though this was not a typical SAR situation, the team was very professional, helpful, and dedicated to helping "Buddy". He's still pretty exhausted, both mentally and physically, but he should be fine! Please relay this to everyone who helped Friday! When you get a chance, I'd love to see the pictures taken during the rescue. I wish I had video taped it because it was just like watching "Animal Planet" or "Animal Rescue". I want to thank everyone involved. I actually work at Dive Rescue International, and it makes me proud to be able to have contact with such a great staff! Thanks to everyone!!

Then, to top it off, that same week there was a request on the MRA lister from Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit for advice from any team who had done a horse rescue. Mark Sheets sent photos and a synopsis to George Gunn, one of their Operations Leaders. Here is his response: Wow, I didn't realize how many teams have gotten "horse calls". Having the folks at CSU to call on is convenient. I stopped in Fort Collins a year ago this time to visit a friend who is teaching at the vet school. (She is on the small animal side though). It was with Larimer County that my wife and I first learned mountain rescue in the 60's and we have been with it ever since. Thanks for the great pictures and advice for our crew that will be doing this one. Thanks for taking the time to help us out. I was surprised to get replies and encouragement from half a dozen teams that have had similar calls. I guess when you are known for good ropework in the back country it is logical that MRA teams would be asked to assist. We appreciate all the information and advice. The mission is scheduled for Monday, 28 January. The horse has been missing for a while and was recently located in an area with 5 feet of snow cover. It is an all day round trip by snow machine to feed and water it since it was located. The Army Guard is going to supply a Blackhawk for a "training mission". We have a storm front moving through so it will be Monday before the birds will be able to lift him out. We have borrowed an Anderson Equine Sling for the recovery. Our folks are learning how to fit it on some real horses this weekend (looks like a scaled up version of what we use for the SAR dogs). I will let the list know how this adventure goes. - Horse rescue update: Smokey and two of his pack stock buddies made a break from a hunting camp in October. The other two were quickly rounded up but Smokey eluded everyone. This tough 6 year old mustang had no background in snow and didn't move to lower elevation when the elk and deer did. He was trapped by the storms and when found by a group of extreme snowmobilers at over 8000', he was surviving by eating tree bark and snow. For several weeks people have been taking food to him by snowmobile, a two and one half hour ordeal. Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit was asked by the Idaho Humane Society to take on the rescue task because we had personnel who were trained in rope rescue and winter survival. When the Idaho Army National Guard agreed to accept the mission as a winter training, we stepped in and took over organizing the adventure which the Guard code named "Mobile Mustang". An Anderson Equine Sling was borrowed from The Humane Society of the US

in Denver and flown to Boise free of charge by Frontier Airlines. We assembled the sling and found some parts missing. One of our members with phone consultation and advice from the sling's creator, went to Home Depot and rounded up substitute parts. On Sunday our six person team practiced assembling the sling and fitting it on a live horse. On Monday they were in the air. The Guard flew via Twin Falls where they picked up the volunteer vet and headed into the mountains. A ground team preceded our group on snowmobiles and prepared the area by digging a trench about five feet deep into which the horse was led. That made control of the animal and placing the sling much easier. Two Blackhawks were used so that the team could rig the horse and then scramble in to the air and beat the horse to the LZ to unrig it. Horse and team are doing fine despite the sandblasting from rotor wash. Next time we will use a longer lift cable (this one was 100 ft.). Pictures at: <http://myweb.cableone.net/ritzenthaler/SAR01262004/index.html>

Monday 26 January 2004 - Round Mountain - Report from George Janson, Operations Chief: SAR Manager paged at 18:00 to call Justin Whitesell regarding a 17 year old male hiker lost on Round Mountain. Mike had called 911/Dispatch to report that he was lost. Justin talked to him once, due to the cell phone batteries getting low (sound familiar?), and Mike said he had reached the summit, then after hiking about 25 minutes down the trail, decided to bushwhack his way back to his vehicle -- and promptly became disoriented. He had no gear, other than the cell phone, and was wearing blue jeans, dark blue sweatshirt, and sneakers. Both Dispatch and Justin told Mike to stay where he was. Justin and I decided that 8-10 searchers would be enough, as we expected he'd not be too far off trail. 17 members responded, from 42 total that had called in -- excellent response and call-in! Having only 2 Search Leaders, I decided on using two large teams -- Scott Evans leading a group of 10 to go to the sharp right turn, just past mile 3 on the trail, and then fan out eastward; and Sarah Brauer leading a group of 6 to go all the way to the summit, fanning out on both sides of the trail at the spot where Scott and his team headed east; with Becca staying in base to assist. It took about 10 minutes for everyone to grab their gear, radios and maps from Truck 10, and get the briefing. Scott and his team began using attraction as they walked away from the briefing area, and three minutes later radioed back that they had located the subject. Talking with Mike afterward -- he was getting cold because he was lightly dressed, and decided to keep walking to stay warm. When he left the trail, he had not yet reached the rocky area with the narrow trail segment, which is about mile 2.5. He followed the edge of the snow along the drainage, as it was visible, glowing in the light from the Moon and stars, and he could hear and occasionally see traffic on the highway. When he hit a very wide trail (the Nature Trail), he turned right, and shortly after heard Scott's horn, then encountered the team. He wasn't able to interpret the map very well, so we surmise he left the trail heading west at or near mile 3, and came down the drainage just west of the trail. Thanks everyone for the great turn-out, especially to those of you who had just come from the avalanche practice at Cameron Pass.

Saturday 14 February 2004 - Meadows Trail - At 16:16 came the page for a direct response to the Cameron Pass/Long Draw area, for a female

cross country skier with a possible broken ankle. Fortunately, members of Diamond Peaks Ski Patrol were in the area and responded to the scene, which was on the Meadows Trail below Long Draw Road. DPSP (and LCSAR) member Eric Foster notified dispatch that the injury was to the knee, the subject was out of the field, and was being transported to PVH via private vehicle. LCSAR response was stood down at 16:43.

Wednesday 18 February 2004 - Horsetooth area - Report from Bill Young, Operations Chief: With 28 minutes to go on my duty, Ocean-3 paged for SAR Manager to call him about a lost subject at Horsetooth (page was 18:32). A 21 yoa male was overdue from hiking to the "A" behind the stadium. I called Mark Sheets on the radio as he was next on duty. He was at the cache, I was at College and Laurel, I told Mark I would start the search and go to Cty Rd 42c (south side of the stadium) and meet O3. I had Mark brief any members that were at the Cache and bring those folks to staging. No page was sent at this point as we enough people at the cache. It took O3 10 to 15 minutes to find the RP and get more info. I tasked teams to check exit points from the area and assigned a tracking team and trailing dog (no scent article as the subject's home is in Rist Canyon - had Sam-1 headed there - Dan tried the car seat for scent). Subject was a "mountain man" according to RP, had also consumed a 6-pack before leaving. About 19:30 dispatch got a call from a friend of the subject saying the subject had called him from "Old Town"! O3 waited a few minutes to confirm this and then stood the search down (page at 19:45).

Wednesday 24 March 2004 - Glacier View area - 07:00 paged with stand-by for search in Sheep Mountain area where a missing 12 year old male was last seen at about 06:25 riding his bicycle. At 12:07 the stand down, as the subject was located in Glacier View subdivision, and was OK.

Thursday 25 March 2004 - South Dakota - Report from Mike Fink, SARDOC Dispatcher on duty: At 13:16 a page from Cheryl Kennedy through LCSO dispatch. She was called direct by Dan Crazy Thunder of the Pine Ridge Police Department and Rapid City SAR. They have been looking for a 45 yoa female who was last seen on March 17th. She was reported missing on the 18th and they located her car which they are presuming to be her last known location. The search area is supposedly 150 square miles and is mostly plowed farmlands on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. It has been dusty and windy there most of the time. 70 degree daytime temperature and 40 degrees at night. Three local evidence dogs searched from the vehicle and all seemed to show strong interest in a reservoir about 5 miles away. The reservoir size is 1/2 mile by 100 yards. They brought a diver in a he feels the reservoir is clear. Various other types of foot searching has been going on. They feel they have covered about 25 square miles of the search area and would like to involve SARDOC on Friday and Saturday if possible. Food and lodging would be provided but nothing could be done about transportation. Searching will begin at 08:00 on these days and staging will be at the city of Pine Ridge Police Department. Cheryl suggested I contact teams with cadaver experience. I called Marcia McMahon to let her know what was going on. Marcia wanted to call Pine Ridge and get more information and she would call me back with her

recommendations. At about 13:50 I started calling the list of people with cadaver experience. Everyone was busy or otherwise committed, so Marcia suggested I go ahead and call the rest of the Larimer people since they were the closest (still about a 6-hour drive). Natalie Ray was able to go and she arranged for support person Mike Erickson to go with her. They would be going for Saturday, probably leaving Friday evening and returning Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Marcia may have some additional info to share and I'm sure Natalie and Mike will have a story or two to tell. Marcia called me last night (Friday) to say that she, and Dennis McLaughlin, and Ina Bernard as support, would be heading to the Bent County, John Martin Reservoir area to help search for the missing boy that has been in our local news. Dennis and Marcia returned to John Martin Reservoir on 31 March to try for an even finer pinpoint within the search area. The water is completely cloudy, and Dive Rescue International flew in a side-scan sonar unit.

Thursday 25 March 2004 - Round Mountain - SAR Manager page at 15:27 to call Dave Mosier regarding a search for overdue horseback riders at Round Mountain. Stand down page came at 15:39 advising that the subjects were safely back at home.

Thursday 25 March 2004 - Riverbend Ponds - Report from Mark Sheets, Operations Chief: At 18:04 paged for a missing 6 yoa child at Riverbend Ponds, south of Mulberry on Timberline. Missing kid is Seth, 4'-02", 55lbs, blonde hair, blue jeans, green shirt. At 18:13 the page for trailing and water dogs to respond. Then at 18:23 the stand down, as the subject had been located and was OK. The Deputies called for ES, SAR and Dive to respond due to possibility subject could be in the water. Shortly after Dive and SAR arrive, a Deputy indicates the boy was found "walking home against the parents wishes (and knowledge)". 25 members were responding.

Saturday 3 April 2004 - Allenspark area - Report from SARDOC Dispatcher Julie L.S. Weibler: Synopsis of mission for Boulder County: Page at 09:08 for SARDOC to call Marcie or Dave at ICP with Boulder regarding a missing subject in the Allenspark area. LCSAR's MRA reaccreditation testing is this weekend. When I saw that Bill Young was dispatcher and I knew that he was doing Ops for the search scenario, I tried to call and page him to see if he wanted me to do the dispatch. Right after I paged him, George Janson called me to see if I would handle this dispatch. George told me that they were enroute up the Poudre, but Dan Fanning and Jaynie Zmijewski would be available to go to the search if needed. I called Larimer dispatch and let them know that I was taking the call to Boulder County. 09:25 I called Boulder County and spoke with Marcie. I got very basic information and that trailing dogs were wanted. At that point I called George back so we could at least get the dogs turned around and headed to Boulder County while I got more information. Some of this I ended up doing with one phone at each ear, so it got a bit chaotic! 09:30 George called to say that Dan and Jaynie were responding. Spoke more with Marcie and they would also like two air scent teams if possible. Subject is 21-year-old male from Iowa. He and a friend, also from Iowa, had been walking around the Allenspark area searching for antlers and got separated on Friday afternoon. Heavy snows came in and it had snowed 8-10 inches. Front

Range Rescue Dogs had been out with air scent teams from 22:00 until 03:00, with no alerts and no clues found. This morning they had 3 foot teams and 2 snowmobile teams out. They were in the process of contacting RMNP for assistance as well. George wanted to know if we needed to break free a couple of more people from the reaccreditation for navigators or if Boulder would provide them. Marcie said they could provide them, but they were a bit short-handed themselves and outside navigators would help if we could provide them. George was unable to make contact with Allen Weaver regarding availability for air scent, so I worked on getting resources that did not attend the reaccreditation (Natalie) and from Park County. I called Marcia first. She was not available (Yeti ill), but would contact Don and Roger and have them call me back if they were available. Called Natalie and she was available. Estelle was available as support. Let George know that Natalie and Estelle could respond, and he added that Robin Anderson and Mike Erickson would be responding as support for Jaynie and Dan, but were further up the canyon and would be a while before catching up with Dan and Jayne. 10:05 Don Morrison was available, but not until noon, with estimated arrival at Allenspark at 14:00. He would take a support person with him. He gave me several phone numbers to try if the mission was stood down. 10:12 Called Boulder County to let them know they had 2 trailing and 2 air scent teams responding, with first arrivals (complete teams) around noon and then additional around 14:00. Marcia called me back to let me know that she and Roger could be available Sunday. 13:45 Marcie called from Boulder to state that subject had been found by a ranger a long distance from the search area. Subject had walked a long ways. Subject was alive. I had LCSAR paged and called all other resources to stand them down.

Saturday 10 April 2004 - Albany County, Wyoming - Report from Mike Fink, ITC: Got a SAR page this afternoon from dispatch indicating Albany County wanted the SAR Dogs person to call them. Talked to Sgt. Hicks who indicated they found a vehicle on Thursday evening between Tie Siding and Laramie on Hwy 287 that they have been unable to locate the owner. They have had foot teams scouring the immediate area and have found nothing. He did not seem real certain as to what he should be asking for but I felt it was reasonable to send some dog teams in that could maybe determine if he had in fact walked away from the vehicle or if he got a ride out. Natalie & Falcon with Mike Erickson as support, Kathy Shepherd & Ember with Robin Anderson, and Dan Fanning & Bear with Darrell Turman responded and were all in route by approximately 15:00. From Dan Fanning: "The maps provided by Albany County ICP were a photocopy of the Gazetteer. If anyone has software or quads of the search area I would recommend getting them to those going tomorrow." From Mike Fink on Sunday 11 April - LCSAR has sent 11 people to an area 7 miles east of Tie Siding, Wyoming this morning to continue the search for a missing 38 year-old man who's vehicle was discovered early Thursday morning. Several pieces of information are causing officials to highly suspect suicide. My understanding is that the dogs we sent yesterday had some good alerts east of the last known point and teams will be searching high probability areas. A large part of the area near the last known point has been described and "trampled to death" and therefore tracking was not felt to be a viable option. A special thanks to the following Team members who went today, Easter

Sunday: Don Davis, Sarah Brauer, Liz Caldwell, Ken & JoAnne Klein, Robin Anderson, Jayne Zmijewski & Lakotah, Jose Negron, Sarah Babbitt with truck L-11, Brian Walsh, and Tom Chapel. Thanks also to everyone else who called with their availability. It is unknown at this point if any additional searching will be needed in the days to follow. On Sunday 9 May 2004, Albany County Deputy Neil Mathison sent us e-mail, saying: We located (or a fisherman located) the missing person from Fort Collins (Derezinski). At this time cause of death appears to be exposure / hypothermia. We are still awaiting some lab and autopsy results. He was in the Pole Hill area, about 15 miles to the North of the original search area. Then on Sunday 16 May, this update from ACSO Sergeant Ron DeMello: I hope by now you heard the news about Mr. Derezinski. His body was found on Forest Service road 701J by two fishermen. It appears he walked over 17 miles from his vehicle to get to where they found him. His body was intact and no signs of foul play have been found at this point. He was a very motivated walker to say the least. Just for a point of reference, he was found North East of his vehicle. He would have had to have crossed old Hwy 30, the Interstate, all of the Vedauwoo area, and Hwy 210. From there he would have walked another 3.5 miles North. He was just a little outside our search area. Thanks again for all of your help.

Thursday 6 May 2004 - Combat Rock - Report from George Janson, Operations Chief: Direct response page at 16:30 to Combat Rock for two climbers who had fallen 100 feet, and were both unconscious. At 16:41 came the stand down page, indicating that the subject had been found. Uh, say what? Fortunately, radio traffic with Loveland Fire Department, who had personnel on scene, clarified that only one climber was slightly injured, and that no technical evacuation was needed. 17 members were responding, which might not have been enough for a technical evacuation of two unconscious subjects, though we would have had Loveland Fire personnel on scene, and I suspect that had the response continued, more members would have responded within the hour. I talked to Kevin Johnston a few days later, but he had not made contact with anyone from Loveland Fire, so he had no other details about how the Combat Rock incident was called in, or the actual extent of injuries.

Monday 10 May 2004 - Horsetooth Rock - Reported by George Janson, on-duty SAR Manager: Paged at 18:28 to be on standby, as Ocean-5 was responding to Horsetooth Rock on a report of a suicidal subject. After the stand down from the earlier Combat Rock response, I had taken the back roads back to town, and was at Horsetooth Reservoir, taking pictures when this page came out, so I wandered over to see if I could be of any help. I spent much time talking with the parents of Joe, the subject. Joe, now 29, is the same person that Sam-17 talked down from Horsetooth Rock a year and a day ago. His parents told those of us at base that Joe (unknown to them until recently) had stopped taking his medications (for schizophrenia and depression) a few weeks ago, which is why his despondency had returned. Joe lives on his own, though near his parents. LCSO had several negotiators and other personnel at the base of the rock, and were in voice and visual contact with Joe. Since there were adequate resources at the base of the rock, the additional PFA and PVH personnel and myself departed at about 20:00, leaving the

Parks rangers with the parents. At about 22:30 I heard Ocean-5 clear from the scene and I suspected the negotiators had successfully talked Joe down from the rock - again. His parents told me earlier in the evening that they expected Joe would be sent to a mental health rehabilitation facility in Pueblo, as it has a well respected and effective program.

Sunday 9 May 2004 - Forks State Wildlife Area - Reported by Operations Chief George Janson: Well, we've found another site that needs to be added to our locator list -- Forks State Wildlife Area -- last I'd been there it was just a picnic area. Subject Travis, 19 years old, had gone hiking up to the top of the cliff face there, and was last seen either at the tall pine tree at the crest of the cliff, or walking in the forest east toward the cliff area. A large group of family members from Gilcrest (Weld County) had come to the canyon to hike and then go to a picnic area farther up the Glen Haven road for Mother's Day celebration. Seems this family goes hiking often on the ridge of this Wildlife Area, though there was disagreement about whether or not Travis was familiar with the area. Apparently, not all the family was there when Travis went missing (last seen about 16:30), so a third-party individual was asked to go to the Stage Stop restaurant and call 911 to report Travis missing -- then this RP left the area. While we were en-route, two members of the Big Thompson Volunteer Fire Dept., Georgia (who was on one of our Monastery Rock evacs) and Bill (also with their tech rock team), responded to offer assistance. Georgia and one of the aunts were using binoculars to scan the cliff area, and simultaneously saw a rock come flying out from the cliff face, followed by a tree moving it's branches -- there was no wind at the time. The family interpreted this to mean that Travis had fallen into a gully below the lip of the cliff, and this was his way of letting them know he was injured. The dad, Calvin, had gone back up the social trail that runs along the west edge of the rock band, to start searching for his son -- so now we had the potential for another missing person. I arrived shortly after these events, so this freed Kevin to go find a better vantage point to scope out the suspect drainage while I worked with the family. Calvin's brothers, Robin and Chad, also wanted to begin searching along the slope, though I was able to convince them to wait until we had Team members here to accompany them, so I would have some radio contact to talk with them. In the meantime, Calvin came back down the slope, and agreed to stay put pending the Team's arrival. Fortunately a couple members, Dave Frank and Jose Negron, had asked to respond direct, to which I said OK. When Dave arrived, I teamed him up with Bill (BTVFD) and Travis' uncles Robin and Chad, made sure they had rope and tech gear, and sent them to scour the cliff face. The uncles went along to get them to the correct access area along the rock band. Jose arrived shortly, so I put him with Georgia to act as spotters to guide Dave's team into position. (Georgia and Bill only had FRS radios.) We were losing daylight, and I wanted Dave's team to have as much light as possible to move around that rubbly rock face. By now other Team members were arriving. Dave Hake immediately went to work locating usable tracks, and found out that Travis had been dropped off at the far east end of the parking area -- right where Kevin, myself, Truck 10 and a couple other vehicles had driven through -- arrgh! It thus gave us a different path for Travis to the rock band, and Dave was

able to locate some tracks he suspected would be Travis'. We also put Dan and Bear, with Anissa, on this trail, though this bit of exertion aggravated Dan's malaise, and he had to depart. Meantime, I got the other members assigned to the three search segments that Kevin and I had identified. As a precaution, I tasked the tech-capable members to the segments on either side of the rock band, to have them more readily available in case Dave Frank's team did find Travis injured in the cliff area. Scott Evans and Dave Egley went up the social trail, to search the north-facing forest area of the ridge. They ultimately found some very fresh tracks, and followed them, trending southwest toward the toe of the ridge, which we later learned was the typical route this family takes to come down. Jaynie, with Robin Anderson, followed Lakotah up the social trail to the cliff band, though as it was getting dark by then, Jaynie pulled Lakotah away from the cliff area for fear of her falling. This put Lakotah into a foul mood -- ask Jaynie about the seat cover! -- however, when Travis was ultimately found and back with his family, Lakotah was able to complete her find. Next out were Liz, Becky, Tara and Christine to the south-facing forest area of the ridge, accessed from the CDOT area located on the left on Hwy 34 just past the Y intersection. For the final search segment, the bowl to the east of the rock band, Sarah Babbitt, Mac, Tom and Jeff were assigned. Amy stayed in base as the family liaison. After it became too dark to continue tracking, Dave Hake and Anissa teamed up to search the lower area of the ridge around to the toe, below the route Scott and Dave E. were taking. When it became too dark to safely continue searching the cliff face, Dave took his team southward along the ridgeline. One problem encountered by the search teams was that sound did not carry well in this terrain -- even the horns were muted. [We also had problems with radios -- more on this later.] Some time later, Dave radioed that he had voice contact with Travis, and minutes later had located him. Had they not encountered Travis, both Liz's and Sarah's teams were converging on that area also. As it turned out, Travis had walked over the ridge to the river in the vicinity of the CDOT facility, and was walking back the way he came when night fell, and he had to walk a lot slower -- he had no gear or water, was wearing a sleeveless t-shirt, jeans and construction-type boots. After getting Travis, as well as the others of his team rested and hydrated, Dave and the group headed back to the parking lot. A happy ending to a Mother's Day! And, to top it off, we were fed dinner! Peg and Mike, owners of the "Brand New Dead Things" store (adjacent to the Stage Stop restaurant) provided cold cuts and cheese tray, along with hot home-made soups (one beef, one chicken) and hot cider and coffee. So when you next drive through Drake, stop in to meet them and say 'Thanks' -- and view some of their eclectic items for sale. Radios -- a reminder to all -- now that we are using clamshells and alkaline AA batteries for the King radios -- please take only the one clamshell that you attach to the radio -- your 'spare' is the plastic baggie with the 9-pack of alkaline AA batteries (and please remember to return it if not used). Enough searchers took two clamshells (as is our prior habit) that we could not field the last few King radios. Mark already has another order in for more AA batteries. Thanks to ITC Jim Mines, all who responded, and all who were on reserve for second ops. Our SAR season is upon us ... Mark Sheets adds that Chad, Travis' uncle,

thanked the SAR team for coming out and looking for Travis. Chad is a colleague of mine in the Engineering group I work for at Celestica. He was able to explain to our boss how valuable SAR is (which helps).



Tuesday 11 May 2004 - Greyrock area - SAR Manager page at 21:01 to call Ocean-3 regarding a lost hiker, who has medical issues, at Greyrock. Kelly, a 21 year old male, was last seen by friends and family on the trail at approximately 20:00. 18 members responded. At 07:30 Wednesday morning, Doug Grimm made visual and voice contact with Kelly, who had crossed Seaman Reservoir and was heading to a house in Bonner Peak Estates that is visible from that end of the reservoir. We used the pontoon boat from the Gateway Park ranger station to bring Kelly across the reservoir. He was wearing only a t-shirt, shorts and sneakers, was cold and wet but otherwise in good health. He had started a fire during the night to keep warm but did not have food or water. Mark Sheets has a picture of the subject when he was reunited with his mother.

The subject did not leave the warm car due to hypothermia concerns, so Mom just hugged him through the window. Look at the grin on Doug's face :-). The look on the subject's face is pretty good also. We need to do more "Action" and "Find" photos to supplement the mission reports in our newsletters.

(If you have Action/Find photos please get them to me for your LCSTAR newsletter, ed.)

Saturday 15 May 2004 - Horsetooth Rock - Direct response to report of a fallen hiker in the gap on Horsetooth Rock. The Coloradoan newspaper had a nice write-up about this difficult rescue.

Monday 24 May 2004 - Loveland - SAR Manager page at 21:20 to call Ocean-3 reference a missing 72 yoa female with severe dementia who left her residence in Loveland about 15 minutes ago. Stand down at 21:34 as the missing woman had been located by family members.

Tuesday 25 May 2004 - Fort Collins - 17:24 direct response to residence on North Frey Street for missing 3 yoa male. Stood down at 17:40 after he had been located by family members and the LCSO deputies who were with them at the time.

Wednesday 26 May 2004 - Rio Blanco County - SARDOC page at 18:18 to call Rio Blanco County Sheriff reference needing dogs to search for a missing girl. Stand down page at 19:58, as the girl was located and is OK.

New Truck Fund Makes Progress

LCSAR is in the midst of their fund raising efforts to replace their aging 18 year old search and rescue vehicle. Off-road mountain search and rescue vehicles are costly. We must raise \$150,000 to realize this

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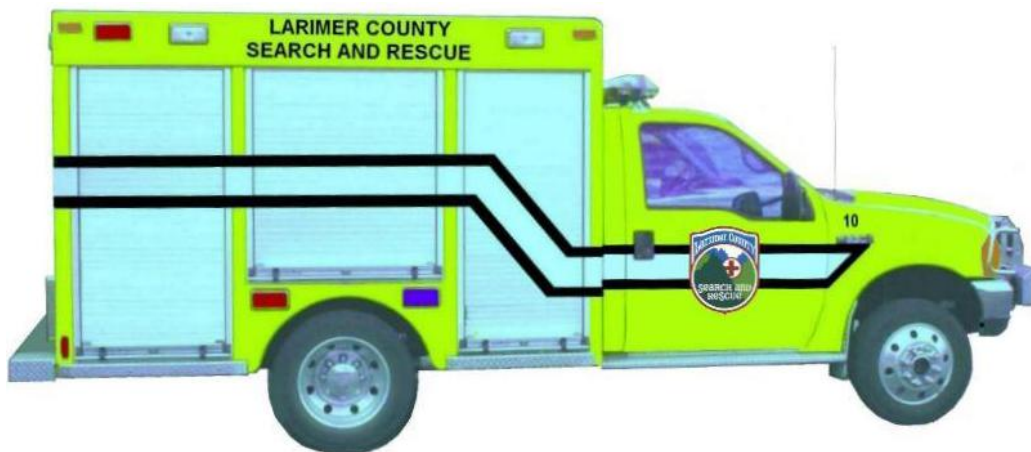
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dream. All of LCSAR's operating funds depend on donations, fund raising events, gift-in-kind and grants. We receive no government funding. Specific major capital projects, such as the new truck project must be funded from philanthropic gifts from individuals, businesses, foundations and trusts. Where do we stand as of June 15, 2004 in funding this project? We have:

- A significant amount from the LCSAR reserve fund. The exact amount to be voted on at the July EB meeting.
- A \$10,000 challenge grant from an anonymous donor
- A \$500 grant from the Sutherland Family Foundation
- \$3,268.00 donated by team members
- \$2,313.58 donated by various community members.
- A number of other grant proposals have been submitted

The Executive Board is still working toward calculating how much of the Team's savings can be put toward our goal of purchasing our new truck to better meet our "Mission to the Community". It will be a substantial amount, to be sure. Russ Buckley

This is Mark's picture created to give us a realistic depiction of our new truck.



LCSAR's New Truck
By Mark Sheets

Well it looks like it is finally going to happen. LCSAR is going to replace our primary Rescue Truck, aka "Larimer Truck Ten".

How It Came About:

This was a long, arduous task that began back in January-2003 by the formation of a "Truck Committee". The committee involved a cross-section of team members but was limited in size because it wouldn't be a committee if too many people were involved. Limiting the size was not intended to leave anyone out, but to make sure a final goal is attained. The primary goal of the committee was to evaluate what works well with our current truck and what could be improved upon. Then they were tasked to go out and find the truck that will have the features we want in our new Rescue Truck.

Finally, the Executive Board and SAR Managers decided which truck to buy in the first week in May. The decision was to purchase from SVI Trucks, located in Loveland, CO. Here is a link to their website: <http://www.svitricks.com/>. SVI is known for building an exceptional quality vehicle and being local was a huge attribute and indeed, did have bearing on the final decision.

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Believe it or not, Truck Ten is 17 years old. It has recently plagued us with some heavy expenses. Although it has served us pretty well, it wasn't without some "less than desirable traits".

Here are just some of the features that our new SVI truck is slated to have:

- Ford F-550 chassis "Ambulance Package" with a 6.0 Triton Diesel engine
- Four-Wheel Drive with Dual rear wheels
- 8x10 Aluminum Box (40% more storage space than our current truck)
- Roll-Up doors that do not hamper access to the equipment (and no more "whacking" your head on an open door)
- 8-KW Generator that generate 115/240 VAC and 12/24 VDC

- Scene Lighting around the truck as well as a light tower that will light up a whole hillside for night rescues or searches.

There are many other options this truck will have but I primarily wanted to mention those that are a departure from our current Truck.

What Now?

We must now raise the money for this truck. Although we are well on our way thanks to our previous Executive Boards "saving" money in anticipation of replacing our vehicles, we definitely face a huge challenge with fundraising. I believe this team is up to the challenge. Aren't we? I would like to encourage all members to get involved with the various fundraising events that will be happening. I truly believe everyone will feel proud to know that their hard work in raising the money went into the new truck. I know I am pumped to make this happen.

Ordering The New Truck

Once the money has been raised, we will be placing an order with SVI. When this happens, anyone will be able to monitor the progress of our truck through the construction stage by going to SVI's website and clicking on our project. SVI publishes construction updates along with photos and explanations. Our target to place the order is Winter of 2004.

The photo supplied is a rendition of what this truck will look like. It is actually an SVI truck that was sold to Inter-Canyon Fire Department in Morrison, CO. I simply changed the color from Red to LaFrance Yellow and added our LCSAR logo on the door.

Lastly, I want to thank the Truck Committee, those people who aided with input and the SAR Managers and Executive Board for hanging in their and clearing this hurdle. I especially want to thank Russ Buckley for taking on the task of fundraising for our new truck but it doesn't stop with Russ. Everyone is needed to pitch in and help raise funds to make this happen. So in advance, let me say Thank You to all of you for getting excited and making the fundraising possible.

-M.



M & M

(search dog in the making
Mike and Merlin)



In my quest to find inspiring pictures of our fearless leader I took this at a pre-accreditation practice.

Sarah looks focused!?! Are we working her too hard?



If you haven't been following the adventures of James Mackler, WO1, that he describes in his almost daily emails, you have been missing a great story. James has been very forthcoming in his account of becoming a Warrant Officer, taking written tests, and most of all, learning to fly helicopters. We know James thrives on being challenged, and this time he has found something that physically and mentally does just that.

Way to go James!

LCSAR Donations

Loveland Mountain Club: 9 years of donations
Kens Muffler Shop: 8 years of donations
Geo-Seis Helicopters, Inc.: 8 years of donations
Bill Lacock, Insurance and Financial Services Agent: 4 years of donations
Thomas J. Brewer, D.D.S.,P.C.: 2 years of donations
Jax Outdoor Gear: 5 years of donations
Donna Govan former member: 2 years of donations
Vicky Jordan former member: first year of donating
Tim and Sherry Gaines: 9 years of donations
John and Gwendolyn Scott: 5 years of donations
Mrs. James Doyle: 5 years of donations
Rex and Pamela Cue: 3 years of donations
Ms. Evelyn Stickler: 7 years of donations
Wayne F. Scott: 2 years of donations
David and Louise Mosnik: 5 years of donations

TEAM-LCSAR
By Mark Sheets – Field Coordinator

Webster’s definition of “Team” is...“A number of persons associated together in work or activity: as, a group on one side”.

Our team is challenged every time we go on a mission. We are hopefully challenged during our practices and everyone would agree that we were definitely challenged during our past MRA re-accreditation.

Now we have another chance to meet the challenge. July 10th is our “re-test” and we need a whole team to pull this off. Please plan to attend and contribute to the best of your ability. The team needs everyone who can possibly attend, regardless of your skill level. We need to pass this challenge. After that, it is all down-hill from there. Let’s get pumped up for our re-test and show our abilities to the rest of MRA.

I would be proud to be rescued any time by LCSAR. Oh wait, they already did - once. See I wasn’t kidding. But seriously, I know we can pull this off but it will take the Team. I hope you all will be there for your fellow team members.

Here’s wishing the team “good skills” as luck should not be counted on.



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**That others
may live**