



## Mountain Rescue Association Rocky Mountain Region

### 2009 Winter Meeting Minutes

Frisco, Colorado, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

18:15: Meeting called to order

Roll Call: Alpine, El Paso, Grand, Larimer, RMR, Routt, Western, Summit

Previous minutes: minutes from summer meeting accepted as written

Treasurer:

- ~\$40 available in account. Solosky asked if the region should pursue additional funds for miscellaneous items, which are mostly A/R exercise associated.
- Woody will make an inventory of miscellaneous reaccreditation materials to see what needs purchasing. Will then get bids and provide this to the board.

Regional Chair:

- Requests that team reps ensure that either team attendance or proxy votes for each Rocky Mountain Regional Team be represented at each national meeting.
- Crested Butte has not paid MRA dues. Chip Lamar from Western State will follow up with Crested Butte and get them in touch with the current Rocky Mountain Regional Vice Chair to deal with this issue.
- There is some concern that regional teams are not receiving regional MRA communications (Regional MRA List Server) effectively. The Regional Chairperson has a spreadsheet with team contact names; however it would be good to ensure that all are receiving communications. It is recommended that every regional team insure that members of their current Board of Directors are included in the regional list server. Solosky will talk to Don Davis about getting names of everyone currently on the list server to ensure each team is represented.

A/R Scenarios

- A/R regional policies:
  - Pat Paulsen made the motion to accept policy changes for accreditation as written in document provided to the board.



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- Discussion: The goal of the changes is to clarify the scheduling procedure for A/R exercises and too define the requirements for being a Lead Evaluator mentor.
- Troy Nelson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  
- A/R Scenario Guidelines:
  - Discussion: prior to a motion being made there was discussion concerning the size of the avalanche debris area of 2400 square meters as proposed. It was agreed that the size should be increased to 3200 square meters.
  - Pat Paulsen made a motion to accept the newly proposed A/R Scenario Guidelines with the amended size of the avalanche debris area of 3200 square meters..
  - Troy Nelson seconded.
  - Motion passed unanimously.
  
- A/R Worksheet – Avalanche:
  - Suggested amendments provided to board by Dale Atkins.
  - Tweaks to the skills section of the avalanche worksheet to be made by Troy Nelson, Dale Atkins, Scott Messina and Pat Paulsen by 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.
  - Woody will update original document when completed.

### National MRA Report – Shimanski

- Priority 1 of the 16 Priorities from National MRA: A/R assessment & review
  - Re-accreditation is vastly different across regions.
  - A taskforce has been established to decide on 'core competencies' for accreditations/re-accreditations, and make an assessment of all regions and suggestions for any changes.
  - Not a lot has been done on this since the report given at the summer national MRA meeting. Steve Chappell to talk with Chris Ruch to determine the status and need (if any) for others in the taskforce to take on more of an active role in pushing it along. Chappell to put together a starting point document with other Rocky MRA members on the taskforce and submit this to the board to then submit to the taskforce.
  - The Rocky Mountain Region of the MRA agrees, A/R reform is essential for a vital national organization.



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- Charging for Rescue:
  - The New Hampshire case of charging a lost hiker over \$25,000.00 for the rescue of a 18 year old eagle scout continues to gain media attention. Positions of the MRA and other organizations of actively opposing charging for rescue is helping in spreading the word at a national level that this is not a good practice. The recent City Council decision concerning the issue of charging for rescue in Golden Colorado has been used as a model of what can be done to eliminate charging someone who is having a bad day in the mountains.
  
- State Senate Bill:
  - The recent bill that now allows fire departments to charge for 'extrication, rescue or rescuer safety service' will see a clarification amendment bill in 2010 introduced by one of the two original authors of the bill. The amendment will introduce 'highway crashes' or similar language to specify the type of incidents that can be used by fire departments to charge.
  - CO SAR teams need to contact their local representatives to support this bill change.
  - The Rocky Mountain Region must maintain a common voice on this issue.
  
- New Mexico SAR:
  - An incident in July on a rescue in New Mexico resulted in a member of an MRA team being banned from SAR by the chief of state police. As a result of this, a number of experienced SAR members have left this regional team. In discussions with both Albuquerque and Atalaya SAR, they have expressed that The Rocky Mountain Region has informed New Mexico that if people are needed, they can call on the Colorado MRA teams for assistance.
  - Actions are being taken to resolve the issue at hand.

### By-Law Review – Woody

- Potential tweaks in region bylaws possible.
- Greg Foley, George Jansen and Woody have been tasked by the BOD's to review and make recommendations to the region for any potential changes to the By-laws.



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### Board of Directors Term Limits – Greg Foley

- 2 Year term limit ok, but a positive change would be a 2 year commitment rather than 1 for the Chair and vice chair and have there elections offset by 1 year.
- Bylaw review committee will focus on this issue. Suggestions to be drafted and presented to the spring meeting.

### Social Media – Summit

- Summit has established a Facebook, Twitter and blog presence online. The model that Summit is using was made available to the Board. Summit is willing to provide experiences and lessons learned and other documentation to the region, if teams are interested.

### 2010 A/R Schedule – Alperti

- Schedule is set and is available on the regions website. PDF is correct.
- Summit CO SAR has agreed to move up one year from 2014 to 2013 for their next A/R exercise to help spread out the A/R exercises. Summits offer has been received in writing by the board and is now recorded on the Rocky Mountain Regional A/R schedule. It is recommended by the current Vice Chairperson that one of the four teams taking the A/R exercise in 2010 agree to move up to 2014 for their next re-accreditation. Alpine, Douglas, Grand and Routt will make a decision about this after the current years A/R exercises.

### Elections

- Motion by Troy Nelson to accept the nominations for BOD positions as provided to the board. Seconded by Slivka. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Region Chair: Rich Solosky (Alpine)
  - Vice Chair: Pat Paulsen (El Paso)
  - Secretary/Treasurer: Dan Lack (RMR)
  - Director at Large: Troy Nelson (Grand)
  - Director at Large: Steve Zuckerman (Vail)

20:55: Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Dan Lack. 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009