



# Mountain Rescue Association Rocky Mountain Region

Winter Regional Meeting Minutes

13 December 2014, 1300

Alpine Rescue Team HQ 28812 Rainbow Hill Road Golden CO 80439

Minutes recorded by Brian Stuebe

## **Regular Member Region Teams Attending:**

- Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council (by phone), Alpine Rescue Team, Mountain Rescue Aspen Inc., Douglas County Search and Rescue, El Paso County Search and Rescue, Grand County Search and Rescue, Larimer County Search & Rescue, Inc., Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, Routt County Search and Rescue, Vail Mountain Rescue Group (arrived late), Western State Mountain Rescue Team (by phone)

## **Associate Member Region Teams Attending:**

- Chaffee County North Search and Rescue, Fremont Search & Rescue, Inc.

## **Guests Attending:**

- Crested Butte Search and Rescue, Inc. (by phone), Garfield County Search & Rescue, Inc.

## **Role call performed and a quorum was in attendance.**

## **Spring meeting minutes:**

Moved by Greg Foley to approve Spring minutes with Chad Edward's revisions. Seconded by Brian Stuebe. Approved by Greg Foley, Chad Edwards, Brian Stuebe and Allison Sheets.

## **Discussion on 2014 Reaccreditations:**

- Mentioned by Greg Foley that evaluated teams are supposed to get a certificate for passing the evaluations signed by Vice Chair and Lead Evaluator. Grand did not receive one. Paul Woodward has the certificates and indicated that he has sent them to the Vice Chair.
- Evaluation information has to get to National.
- Scott Sutton turned in paperwork for Western State to Steve Zuckerman but needs to find the information again.

## **Discussion on growing the region:**

- Associate members that have the intent to become regular members. (Park, Chaffee, Fremont)
- Fremont has requested to do it in two sections
- Option of doing some tests along with other teams tests to minimize evaluation resources.
- Some discussion of doing some partial tests. Discussion on how that would work if it is split over two calendar years. The five year schedule would start with the first test. The report that is turned into the National MRA lists the date for each test.
- From Paul Woodward, every team is in a 5 year slot. For example, Region policy should be: If Fremont starts in 2015, they will come again in 2020
- February or March works better for Albuquerque, looking to move up to 2016 from 2017. Priority to teams that are up at their 5 year limit first, then Albuquerque then Associate teams
- Discussion on schedule based on Chad Edward's notes. Last slide has a balanced schedule. This requires the region to schedule when Associate members come in.



## Mountain Rescue Association Rocky Mountain Region

- Chaffee is flexible as to when they come in at what year.
- Albuquerque does not believe that it would work well for Albuquerque and Atalaya to test together. They are OK staying with 2017 but want a reasonable evaluation crew. It has been light in the past.
- Members in attendance seem to be in favor with Albuquerque moving up to 2016
- 2015 is Alpine, Douglas and Routt
- Park has not submitted a full packet yet. Look to 2017 (request)
- Fremont in 2016
- Chaffee is looking towards 2017 (request)
- Garfield has completed their package (Vail sponsor). Monty Bell has it, they have not been voted as Associates yet. Garfield looking at 2018 (pending request)
- Need to get the correct number of evaluators to the testing teams. Also need evaluators.
- A working accreditation/reaccreditation schedule was worked out including Associate teams seeking Regular team status:
  - 2015: Alpine, Douglas, Routt
  - 2016: El Paso, Vail, Albuquerque (February or March), Fremont
  - 2017: Atalaya, Aspen, Park, Chaffee
  - 2018: RMRG, Summit, Garfield
  - 2019: Grand, Larimer, Western State

### High angle scenario discussion:

- Report of committee presented by Greg Foley. See attached report attached to these minutes.
- The committee got a lot of varied input from the region and nation (other regions)
- Pretty much anything reasonable that we choose would be within other regional guidelines.
- There are 13 guidelines from national, three that apply are below:
  - Ability to assess and transport
  - mid face medical
  - vertical litter skills
- Questions during discussion:
  - question about when you would have to do a knot pass, same wording that Greg had is on the low angle
  - Similar question about uphaul
    - Greg believes that the evaluation team has the discretion
  - Moving a litter over high angle terrain is required but does not require the patient load. The subject should be in the litter.
  - Are there any baseline skills on bullet five, these are addressed above such as knot passes
  - Should we continue pick-offs (Tim Hayden), it is not part of the national requirements
  - Provide guidelines on the wall - e.g. have one unusable limb, get them in a litter, secured and comfortable. Don't have to worry about O2, vacuum splint, etc.. Needs to be documented in the guidelines.
    - Scenario will only have one mid-wall patient on high-angle, and it will require a litter load from a rock face. No other subjects or role-players will be on the face
    - patient assessment and treatment per team protocols
    - must demonstrate mid-face litter loading
    - Must show litter team movement over high-angle terrain
    - During A/R must show a) lowering b) raising c) knot pass
  - Greg will draft guidelines, they will be presented to the region to get comments and consensus and then will vote on the guidelines.



## Mountain Rescue Association Rocky Mountain Region

- Other changes to guidelines are in process in other areas. Everything will be adopted at once if acceptable. Puts in more checks and balances.

### **MRA Mission Stats Discussion:**

- Led by Dave Christenson
- ESRI system
- Encourage folks to use it
- Encourage folks to define locations.
  - RMRG uses trailhead location
- Dave will get the region list of people who are responsible for filling it out
- Is there a method for making suggestions for a second round. Some definitions are not clear.
- Primary to the mission vs. being secondary team on the mission
- We want to be able to enter data once and then generate the appropriate form.
- Issues with durations and operational periods

### **2015 A/R Schedule:**

- 18-19 April Douglas
- 2-3 May Alpine
- 16-17 May Routt County

### **AMRC Request to Move A/R from 2017 to 2016:**

- Approved by region consensus

### **Status of Associate members:**

- Fremont - requested dates on 2016
- Chaffee - pending (2017)
- Park - requesting 2016
- Garfield - Discussion/Vote on associate membership pending paperwork application (Vail sponsor)

**Moved by Chad Edwards that Garfield Mountain rescue be accepted by the region as an associate member to be presented to the national MRA for acceptance as an associate member. Seconded by Alison Sheets. Passed with 8 affirmative votes (Alpine, Fremont, RMRG, Douglas, Routt, El Paso, Grand, Aspen) and one abstention from Larimer.**

- Crested Butte - Discussion/Vote on reinstatement pending response to MRA offer for returning as Associate member. Crested Butte stepped down from full member to associate, then failure to pay dues and were dropped completely.

**Motion by Greg Foley, that the region accept the Crested Butte as Associate member as long as they meet the MRA requirements. Seconded by Chad Edwards. Passed with 11 yes votes (Alpine, Fremont, RMRG, Douglas, Routt, El Paso, Grand, Aspen, Western, Larimer, Albuquerque)**

- Mesa, no action., multiple teams, ground team might want to be an associate
- Teton, emails but no action
- La Plata, no action
- Mineral, emails with Sheriff no action



## Mountain Rescue Association Rocky Mountain Region

- Castle Rock FD - email and telephone conversations, unlikely. Chad had a conversation with them and no further contact.
- No other teams have interest at this time

### Reminders:

- Stats, dues, rosters
- Associates do not have to pay the region \$100
- Make sure national dues are paid to be able to vote at the MRA meeting

### Election:

Greg Foley for Vice Chair

Tim Hayden for Director at Large

Alison Sheets for Director at Large

Brian Stuebe for Secretary/Treasurer

**Bruce moves to adjourn, Tim Hayden seconded.**

### Attendees:

Name	Team
Chad Edwards	El Paso
Brian Stuebe	Alpine
Michael Boatwrieth	Routt
John Lee	Larimer
Forrest Borre	Fremont
Craig Jordan	Fremont
Kevin Rivord	Fremont
Paul Woodward	Alpine
Scott Messina	Aspen
Debbie Kelly	Aspen
Alison Sheets	RMRG
Dave Christenson	RMRG
Hans Albrecht	Chaffee
Don Smith	Chaffee
Joe Weinmeister	Chaffee
Tome Ice	Garfield
Tim Smith	Grand
Scott Sutton	Vail
Paul Ashton	Douglas
Bruce Fosdick	Douglas
Tim Hayden	El Paso
Russell Giesey	Larimer



## Mountain Rescue Association Rocky Mountain Region



## Mountain Rescue Association Rocky Mountain Region

High Angle A/R Committee Report      12/9/2014

Current High Angle Scenario Guidelines:

### Technical Rock – High Angle

- Teams should expect to evacuate by litter no more than one (1) injured subject from a rock face.
- Teams should expect that during or after the high angle technical rock evacuation, the evaluation team may require the team to perform a knot pass (even if the team normally uses a brake tube).
- Teams should expect that during or after the high angle technical rock technical evacuation, the evaluation team may require the team to change from a lowering to a raising so that these skills can be observed

As Committee Chair, trying to summarize all of the committee opinions as well as incorporate comments from individuals both from the Rocky MRA and other Regions and then formulate a plan of action (or inaction) is has been challenging. This is a complex topic that has been somewhat controversial within the Region for many years.

Here is a bullet list which I believe meets with a consensus agreement within the Committee:

- The Rocky MRA can reasonably set the bar wherever we think is appropriate re: A/R guidelines and be within the requirements of the national MRA.
- Moving a litter over high angle technical terrain is a key skill that needs to be evaluated. This skill is more fundamental than actually loading a subject into the litter.
- Many Region (and National) Teams have never performed a mid-face load on an actual mission.
- Requiring a mid-face load is advocated by several Region teams.
- Some greater control over scenario complexity, allowing Teams to demonstrate baseline skills, is needed.
- Scenario safety needs to be emphasized. Demonstration of skill sets is the primary objective.
- Other technical rescue skills (pick-off, highline), while important, are not within the scope of our current testing procedure.



## Mountain Rescue Association Rocky Mountain Region



## Mountain Rescue Association Rocky Mountain Region

- Forcing a mid-face load due to patient condition (ie: spinal injury) is inappropriate given current spinal immobilization considerations. The testing team should be informed that they are expected to evacuate by litter just as they are informed that they need to demonstrate an uphaul or knot pass.

Suggested non-inclusive action items:

- Reemphasize the requirement that the Lead Evaluator review all scenarios prior to the actual exercises. Our LE's have the ability to control scenario overkill. Lead Evaluator workgroup session?
- Enforce the requirement that all scenarios should be documented and there should be enough copies for all members of the Evaluation Team prior to the exercise. Peer review of the scenarios prior to the exercise should be a critical stop gap against an overzealous Scenario Lead or a lax LE regarding skills to be demonstrated or safety considerations. A standard form is available, but seldom used.
- Encourage Scenario Leads to consider alternate scenarios which allow a team to evaluate, improvise and overcome a rescue situation. This could include rescue from the top of a cliff requiring an edge transition, rescue from a ledge or an uphaul.
- Add to the AR Guidelines an additional bullet point: "Teams should expect that during the HA scenarios, a second or third non-injured party may be part of the scenario to make the scenario more realistic. These parties will not require technical evacuation."
- Add to the AR Guidelines an additional bullet point: "If in the previous testing sequence a team demonstrated high angle proficiency, the team may elect to perform a highline, guiding line or pick off evacuation of an injured subject with the approval of the Lead Evaluator."
- Cultivate a Regional learning experience by allowing teams to demonstrate peripheral skills.

Greg Foley

For the committee:

Alison Sheets - RMRG  
Greg Foley - Grand  
Bob Feroldi - Alpine  
Peter Mangum - Aspen  
Tim Hayden - El Paso  
Andy Simmons - Albuquerque