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Impromptu Rescue on Red Mountain Pass

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COVER PHOTO: Jack Brauer captured this image as rescuers uphaul the survivor of the story featured on page 2. You can barely see part of the crumpled wreck of the semi trailer down in the bottom of the gorge.

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Impromptu Rescue on Red Mountain Pass

By Jack Brauer

At 6:00 a.m. this morning, I met up with 12 friends in Ouray to head out for a day of cat-skiing in the mountains near Purgatory. Packed in four vehicles, we headed up Red Mountain Pass in the darkness and dumping snow. Several miles up the pass from Ouray, my friends in the lead truck noticed a set of tire tracks disappearing off the road into oblivion. Anybody who has ever driven the pass knows how scary steep and treacherous this road is – in places carved through sheer cliff mountainsides. A closer look down into the canyon revealed the dim glow of headlights in the bottom, about 400 feet below.

As luck would have it, about half the people in our crew are on the Ouray Mountain Rescue Team, and by the time I got out of our truck, my buddy Jeff was already harnessed up and rappelling off a truck hitch down into the gorge with his headlamp. Part way down, he stopped at a 50′ cliff and was able to yell down to the driver. Miraculously, and to our great relief, the driver responded back that he was OK.

Basically, as we learned in due time, this semi-truck driver was driving up the pass when another semi-truck came around an inside corner a little too wide. The outside driver gave him a bit too much room, and once the wheels fell off into the soft snow on the edge, it was too late and the truck slid off the road into the chasm below, launching off a 50′ cliff midway down. Somehow the semi flipped around and hit trailer first, which was probably an enormous stroke of good luck which may have saved the driver's life.

Although the truck was completely crumpled and the engine torn out, miraculously the driver survived with only minor injuries. And as further luck would have it, our caravan of Ouray Mountain Rescue Team members just happened to be passing by just a few minutes later. Unbelievable.

Perhaps the strangest thing to me is to imagine how the driver felt, after surviving the death ride of his life, stuck in the bottom of a steep snowy gorge in the middle of nowhere, in the midst of a full winter snowstorm, and then just a few minutes later a rescuer rappels down into the gorge asking if he's OK! So strange.

Anyhow, while Jeff and the others worked on getting down to the river to help the driver, calls were made to the rest of the rescue team and within minutes a whole array of rescue trucks, firemen, and an ambulance were on scene to help out. The firemen set up a flood light while the rescue team prepared to haul the driver out of the steep ravine on a stretcher (still unsure of possible injuries). It was pretty amazing to me how many people were up there so fast to help out. I'm not sure if they all sleep in their clothes or what, but it was definitely a cool thing to see.

In the picture (on the cover of this Meridian), you can barely see part of the crumpled wreck of the semi trailer down in the bottom of the gorge. Clint, Kevin, and Jeff hauled the driver up this couloir, but the truck itself had fallen off a much more treacherous section of cliffs left of the cover photo.

Once the driver was safely hauled up out of the snowy canyon and into the ambulance, we piled back into our cars/trucks and resumed our mission over the pass to go cat-skiing. We had only lost a few hours, and there was no hurry as the snowcat would be waiting for us in Purgatory (Durango Mountain Resort).

Little did we know that after 3 or 4 good runs, the snowcat would break down, stranding us four miles from the ski area. The Durango Mountain ski patrol finally came to our rescue, dragging us out with towropes behind their snowmobiles. Despite our immense disappointment, all we could do was just laugh at the random craziness of today.

As I write this, I kind of want to go to the corner pub for a beer and a sandwich, but I'm wondering if I'd be better off just staying home for the remainder of the evening. Who knows what else is in store on this cursed day?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *Jack Brauer is a mountain photographer based in Ouray, Colorado, in the rugged heart of the San Juan Mountains. You can view Jack's portfolio of images from Colorado and mountain ranges around the world at* ***www.WideRange.org****."*

Patient Monitoring During Litter Evacuation

By Tim Burdick MD
Stowe Mountain Rescue
MRA Medical Committee
Fellow Academy of Wilderness Medicine

"Stowe Mountain Rescue – please respond to Moss Glen Falls for a male hiker who has fallen 50 feet into the gorge. EMT on scene reports patient is awake with facial injuries and a femur fracture."

Over the past few years, Stowe Mountain Rescue (SMR) has increased the aggressiveness of our prehospital medical care. We are routinely administering intravenous fentanyl and/or oral narcotics. Although these medications have great benefits, there is a risk of excessive sedation and respiratory depression. We needed a way to monitor the patient. Our requirements:

1. continuous monitoring without having to stop every few minutes and unpackage the patient
2. visible display not obscured by patient packaging
3. effective in cold environments
4. affordable on a limited team budget, and
5. portable

Our first decision point: which vital sign parameters to monitor? Ideally, we would monitor all: blood pressure (BP), heart rate (HR), respiratory rate (RR), oxygen saturation (O2 sat), end-tidal carbon dioxide (ETCO2), and perhaps temperature (T). Although there is one portable monitor on the market that will measure many of these including ETCO2, it was cost-prohibitive. We agreed that a standard pulse-oximeter (HR and O2 sat) would be acceptable. Our decision was based on these clinical principles:

1. Heart rate is an earlier predictor of hypovolemic shock than is blood pressure.
2. Fentanyl is significantly less likely to decrease blood pressure than other narcotics (i.e. morphine), so we could check BP before medicating the patient and periodically thereafter, not continuously.
3. Adequate oxygenation (O2 sat) indicates that the respiratory rate is not dangerously low.
4. ET CO2 could be assessed with a colorimetric detector to confirm endotracheal tube placement in the rare case of intubation. (I would still like to have ET CO2 even for measuring respiratory rate.)

Once we had decided to purchase a pulse oximeter, there were two basic categories. The first type of monitor is self-contained as a small unit (2" x 2" x2") which fits on the end of the finger. The display (showing HR and O2 sat) is located on the finger probe. There is a single, small battery also in the probe. The alternative is a larger unit (2" x 4" x 9") with a probe connected via a 20" cable. Although it is slightly bulkier to carry, the larger unit has many advantages. First, the larger unit runs on AA batteries (two lithium AA provide long use even in cold environments). Second, the cable means that we can leave the probe inside the hypothermia wrap (taped to a finger inside a mitten with a hot pack) and place the monitor display on the outside of the wrap where we can see it continuously. (A cold finger is vasoconstricted; the diminished pulse cannot be detected by the probe and the meter does not function.)

The pulse oximeter, displaying heart rate and oxygen saturation, is easily visible to rescuers. The measurement probe is taped to a finger and kept warm inside the patient packaging. Photo by Stowe Mountain Rescue

The larger monitor also has one key safety feature not seen on some smaller models: the display indicates if the pulse is not being detected adequately, warning the rescuer that the O2 sat is not reliable. This is very helpful in colder rescues.

We looked at two models of these oximeters with cable probes. One had a bunch of options for alarms, including beeps if HR or O2 sat were outside user-

defined parameters. However, the unit was hard to use with gloves, had six buttons, and the display could be "stuck" on the alarm set-up window. (Yes, the difficulty of using it was really user error, but simplicity is paramount in the field.) The oximeter which we selected is either on or off. When it is on, it always shows HR and O2 sat. Even the riggers on our team can use it!

We have now used our pulse oximeter on several rescues. Our multitrauma patient needed large doses of fentanyl which I would not have felt safe administering without some way to assess him in the litter. We used it again most recently for a patient, just below treeline, with a femur fracture. The monitor worked well all night, giving me beat-by-beat reassurance. The way I see it, the pulse oximeter is my "gateway" monitor – now that the team has seen the benefits, I can ask for the unit with ET CO2 and BP monitoring in FY2010! It's a bit heavier, but I've got several stronger hikers to help with the load!

Questions or comments? Please feel free to email me at **Tim.Burdick@alum.dartmouth.org** (please put MRA in the subject line).

SPOT Personal Emergency Locators

By William Laxson, MRA Communications Committee Chair

Over the past decade, advances in communications technology, micro miniaturization of electronic components, and inexpensive mass production techniques have converged to bring to market an ever expanding set of gadgets that can be used by the public to summon emergency help. These devices as a group are being called PERSONAL EMERGENCY LOCATORS.

Sometimes new technology out runs societies ability to understand, manage and work with it. Early problems transferring information from geo-location enabled cell phones to rescue teams are becoming less frequent as the rules and methods for transferring position data to SAR teams become defined and refined.

The recent mass availability of satellite based devices such as the SPOT system have once again raised a new set of position information transfer problems that need to be worked out.

SPOT personal emergency locators were introduce in 2008 by SPOT, LLC, a subsidiary of Globalstar Inc., operator of the ill-fated Globalstar voice and low-speed data worldwide satellite system. Over a million units are rumored to have been sold worldwide, giving Globalstar a recurring income stream that eclipses their revenues from the still un-reliable and costly satellite phone service.

The SPOT technology uses a GPS receiver to collect position information that is sent over a transmit only channel to the Globalstar satellite constellation. It appears to be working well, and hundreds of "saves" have been credited to the system in the US alone. And the public seems to be using the system responsibly so far.

Several recurring problems have been seen by Mountain Rescue Teams responding to a SPOT emergency alert:

1. The subject continues to move after sending an emergency 911 request signal, confounding responders who travel to and arrive at the original distress point hours later. When placed in the emergency 911 mode, a SPOT unit continues to send GPS coordinates every 5 minutes till it is turned off. But currently, there is no automatic or easy way for the updated position information to be disturbed directly to the responding SAR team. The IERCC (International Emergency Response Coordination Center) of GEOS (where SPOT 911 calls are routed) must be repeatedly called to obtain updated position reports, and this information sent to the responding team in the field.

2. Position reports from SPOT that are not 911 related can be automatically relayed via email or SMS to up to 100 users on each SPOT

account. It has been suggested to SPOT that a small modification to their existing web site software could allow the IERCC to automatically forward position reports from a 911 call to any email or SMS number. Hopefully the SAR community will see traction on this issue by the end of 2009.

3. Another issue that SAR teams need to keep in mind, particularly when responding on foot, is the possibility that the GPS coordinates supplied by the SPOT unit might be somewhat inaccurate. The GPS system works so well for most of us most of the time that it is easy to assume that it is infallible. GPS coordinates can be inaccurate for a number of reasons, but the largest errors occur due to satellite triangulation issues. When GPS receivers are used in deep valleys, or where foliage obstructs the signals, or on the sides of steep mountains, fewer satellites can be seen, reducing the accuracy. Even if the minimum number of satellites can be seen to calculate a position, the relative angles to the satellites is important if accuracy is to be maintained. When one hemisphere of satellites is blocked by one or more mountains, the remaining satellites in view may all be in the same direction, resulting in a geometric dilution of precision.

Initial position report errors put one climber's emergency call on the opposite side of the mountain he had fallen on earlier this year in Colorado. SAR teams should collect continuous position reports from the IERCC and compare them for consistency.

The success of the SPOT system has not gone unnoticed by other satellite system operators, who are developing a dizzying array of competitive offerings that will duplicate and extend the SPOT service by augmenting it with more features, including transmit only and both-way text messaging service. SAR teams may end up having to manage multiple protocols for getting information from many different competing systems.

One advanced second-generation system introduced this summer that showcases the possibilities for the technology is the hand held Solara Field Tracker 2100. This unit uses the competing Iridium satellite system, giving it wider worldwide coverage (Globalstar cannot cover the entire earth due to it's choice of satellite orbital inclination of only 55o). The Field Tracker 2100 is not priced for or designed for mass public consumption, but expect the same two-way messaging features to migrate into consumer versions of the SPOT over time. A functionally similar unit is marketed by GEOS itself, the GEOS Magnum Pulse.

SOLARA FIELD TRACKER 2100

I would be interested in hearing about the problems and successes of SAR teams when responding to PLB's and SPOT emergency alerts.

MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS

Last June, the MRA Board of Directors elected two new members. Jim Frank was elected to Member-at-Large, and John Chang was elected to serve as MRA Secretary/Treasurer.

JIM FRANK, MRA MEMBER-AT-LARGE
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE

Jim Frank

Jim Frank's introduction to search & rescue began as a climbing and rappelling coach for the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's SAR Team in 1970 while an Aeronautical Engineering student. Jim joined the

Los Padres Search & Rescue Team in 1976. He served over 25 years on the team's board of directors and a two-year then later a six-year term as President. During the latter term he helped guide the merger of the county teams into Santa Barbara County Search & Rescue.

Jim is an Incident Commander, EMT-1, OEC, and has held qualifications in SRT and WEMT. He is also an Auxiliary Member of the Mt. Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol and an Apprentice member of the California Rescue Dog Association. In 2005, the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department presented Jim with their Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the department's search & rescue program.

Jim is the founder and chairman of the board of CMC Rescue, Inc. where for over 30 years he has been involved with product design, training, and technical writing as well as the usual duties of a small business owner. He serves the rescue community as a member of the ASTM F-32 Committee on Search & Rescue, ANSI-ASSE Z359 Committee on Fall Protection, NFPA 1670 on Technical Rescue Operations and NFPA 1983 on Life Safety Rope & Equipment.

JOHN CHANG, MRA SECRETARY/TREASURER
BAY AREA MOUNTAIN RESCUE UNIT

John Chang

Growing up in the flat topography of the Midwest, John Chang's early training for the mountains is waiting for the late school buses in blizzards and minus 40 degree wind chills. John began his SAR activities in the winter of 1995 when he joined the Upper Valley Wilderness Response Team under the auspice of the Dartmouth Medical School serving the SAR needs of Vermont and New Hampshire. He achieved the level of NREMT/WEMT and elected as the Team Leader for 1998-1999. In 1999 he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area and joined the Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit (BAMRU).

John has served BAMRU in several capacities including Unit Leader for three terms and has been a Board of Member and Operations Leader since 2002. He currently holds the Executive Officer role for BAMRU. John has also been the California Region Vice Chairman since 2007, and was recently elected to serve as the Region's Chair.

In addition to BAMRU and CRMRA, John is actively involved with the Bay Area Search and Rescue Council and affiliated with the San Francisco Paramedic Association. He is active in leading and teaching various topics in SAR with particular emphasis on technical rope rescue. He is an active mountaineer with experience in the White and Green Mountains of the New England States, Sierra Nevada of California, and Northern Cascades of the Pacific Northwest.

John also enjoys tramping off the beaten paths domestically and internationally whether through the alleyways of urban jungles or scree fields somewhere 'out there'. Professionally he holds a doctorate in electrical engineering with emphasis on biomedical engineering. His efforts include the development of advanced technologies for trauma medicine. One such example is the creation of a non-invasive pneumothorax detector for in-field assessments based upon the ultrawideband electromagnetic technology.

LAND SAR WORKING GROUP

Quick notes on the FEMA NIMS NIC Land SAR Working Group conference call held this morning.
By Mike Vorachek

The FEMA NIMS NIC Land SAR Working Group conference call was chaired by MRA Past President Tim Kovacs. Most of the Working Group (WG) members were on the call.

The WG will be meeting 29-30 October in Herndon, Virginia to receive a series of briefings and discuss the ongoing actions. Action items are expected to include:

1. finalizing the recommended changes to the SAR Resource Type and Responder Credentialing documents;

2. building a 3 year Work Plan; development of SAR Job Task Aids and Position Task Books; and
3. providing SAR specific addendum related information for other "All Hazard" documents.

Since the WG has not formally met for some time, much of the future work is still up in the air, but these are some of the items that were discussed. (Tim and I have made arrangements to attend and will have our expenses funded by FEMA, so it does not appear that any of our MRA budget will have to be applied to this meeting.)

The current suite of documents that the WG had updated has not gone out for public comment. What is currently posted on the FEMA web site reflects some of the original work on resource types and does not reflect the current draft documents prepared by the WG. I think the WG would like to see some form of document such as a NIMS Alert be issued that addresses some of the changes or at least reflects the fact that changes are being proposed.

There are two other projects that are going to be of interest to MRA. One is the development of Task Capabilities Lists for Mountain and Land SAR. I understand these lists to be a broad based description of what a team is expected to be able to undertake when called upon to respond. We will also be working on a Recommended Equipment List for each of the two types of teams. This should encompass both team and individual equipment, to include materials and equipment that might be needed for logistical support at a Staging Area or Camp.

One topic that I would like to throw out for the Officers, and possibly the Board, to consider is encouraging individual MRA team personnel to volunteer to step up for local credentialing in some of the All Hazard Incident Management positions such as Branch Director or Division/Group Supervisor. By getting our "more tenured" folks to step up to the qualification process for those type of positions, we will be able to bring key players to a national event that are vetted in SAR and can represent the various teams that are the SAR resources in the Command and General Staff activities at the Incident Command Post. I think by providing SAR specific performance criteria in a SAR addendum to the Position Task Book for these staff positions, we will be able to influence the background of the persons who are planning and directing field SAR operations. If MRA had a list of the individuals who were credentialed for staff positions, it might be something that we could provide the National Park Service to help them staff major incidents. Just something to think about.

Dean Ross, Emergency Services Director for the National Park Service provided an update on some of the national initiatives he has been involved with on behalf of the Department of Interior. DOI has developed an *Administratively Determined Pay Plan* for "All Hazard" events. This uses a system such as what is in place for wildland fire operations to pay salaries and expenses for responders called in for federal events, and can be applied for major SAR operations for which they are responsible.

Dean also noted that the National Search and Rescue Committee is distributing a draft of the Emergency Support Function 9 (Search and Rescue) that recognizes the role of the state government as the primary coordinator of SAR activities within their boundaries. NSARC is also close to distributing the Catastrophic and Inland SAR Plans for public comment. During the last 14 months, there have been no federal standards related to SAR published in the Federal Register. The one exception is the release of 23 CFR 634, Worker Visibility, which addresses high-visibility safety apparel. There is an expectation that SAR responders would wear some form of high visibility apparel when responding under the context of the federal SAR plans or during a federally managed response.

I will provide a more detailed conference report on our Herndon meeting. Since we have not had a lot of action as a Working Group, I felt it was worth a quick update to let the MRA leadership know we are still at it.

MRA History Video

In case you were in a cave for the last few months, you might not have heard about the exciting video that chronicles the formation of the MRA.

"Mountains Don't Care, But We Do" (same name as the book about MRA as well) is an exciting 27-minute video developed by Topograph Media.

The 27 minute video features Dee Molenaar, Jim Whittaker, Wolf Bauer, Dick Pooley and other key individuals involved in the early history of mountain rescue in the Pacific Northwest. It traces the development of mountain rescue teams in Washington and Oregon including the first major operation on Mount McKinley in 1960. The video closes with a look at mountain rescue today, as well as some answers to the question: What motivates mountain rescuers?

Special Features in the DVD include selected interviews with the pioneers of mountain rescue in the Pacific Northwest, and slides of the founding meeting of the Mountain Rescue Association at Mount Hood in 1959. Extended interview footage includes Jim Whittaker, Wolf Bauer and Dick Pooley.

The DVD was produced by Topograph Media, **www.topographmedia.com**, © 2009. A complimentary copy has been sent to every MRA team, and you can watch a preview of the video by going to http://vimeo.com/5578229.

The DVD is distributed by the MRA. To purchase YOUR copy of this amazing historic retrospective, go to **www.mra.org/about/dvd.php**

ALEX GIRARD PONDERS HIS LEGAL OPTIONS AT KICKING HORSE, BC, CANADA. (PHOTO BY RYAN CREARY)

BLAME CANADA?

One skier's lawsuit sidelines search-and-rescue teams in BC.
by Kelly Bastone

On February 15, 2009, Gilles Blackburn and his wife, Marie-Josée Fortin, got lost beyond the gates at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort near Golden, BC. Two days later, backcountry skiers reported seeing SOS signs stamped into the snow. Other skiers reported the same thing on the 21st. Nine days after they left the resort, a search-and-rescue team started looking for them. By then, Fortin, 44, had died of hypothermia, and Blackburn, 51, suffered frostbite. Now Blackburn is suing the Golden and District SAR, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and Kicking Horse Mountain Resort for negligence in conducting a timely search.

Ski resorts get sued all the time. But Blackburn's suit has wreaked havoc on area search-and-rescue groups. The Golden SAR team discontinued service for one month. "We need assurance that SAR societies have legal protection," says Kyle Hale, manager for the Golden and District SAR. Rescue teams are adamant that the Canadian provinces—rather than the teams' own insurance policies—should provide liability protection. Otherwise, they maintain, volunteers assume unreasonable risk. "We've actually seen people resigning," says Peter Reid, president of the Kimberley, BC, SAR, which suspended activity for nine days following news of the lawsuit. "The threat of legal liability makes it more difficult for us to convince recruits that it's worth spending time away from their families, risking their safety, and making themselves legally vulnerable."

Blackburn's suit has also ignited a public debate over the personal liability of backcountry skiers. Canadian newspaper columnists decried his risky behavior and accused him of playing the blame game with the Golden SAR and RCMP. Across Canada, Blackburn is being painted by the media as careless and overly litigious.

In the United States, where 90 percent of SAR operations are performed by volunteers, state and federal laws protect individual rescuers "except in cases of gross negligence," says Howard Paul, spokesman for the U.S.'s National Association for Search and Rescue. But in Canada, "It will be precedent-setting," says Hale, who hopes the case will urge skiers to be prepared for the backcountry. "You need to be ready to effect your own rescue."

(Courtesy Skiing magazine printed in the October 2009 issue)

JOHN EVANS
7TH APRIL 1955 TO 28TH APRIL 2009

JOHN EVANS; – RESCUER, CLIMBER, AND FRIEND

By Charley Shimanski

If you ever had the good fortune to meet Denali Ranger John Evans, then you know what I mean when you say "you will never forget John Evans."

The mountaineering and rescue community lost a dear friend when John died while climbing in Snowdonia, North Wales in April.

John had just completed a successful climb in the Llanberis pass with his partner Lynne when he slipped and fell 100 feet. Rescuers and his team made extensive efforts to save his life Tuesday night, but were unsuccessful.

In the early 1970's John became a full team member of the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team, and it was through the team he was first introduced to the US Air Force "Para Jumpers" (PJ's). These are the airborne rescue troops who are trained to be dropped behind enemy lines to extract downed aircrew.

In the early 1980's, John joined the Para Rescue squadron of the US Air Force, and travelled the world with them for 12 years. And it was through this group of troops he was introduced to the big mountains in Alaska.

John became a member of the elite high altitude mountain rescue team on Mount McKinley, where he served for many years.

John would spend six months of the year in Alaska, much of it up at the high altitude mountain ranger rescue camp at 14,000 feet. During his years in Alaska, he summited the mountain 14 times.

He would then return to his home in Capel Curig, North Wales, and continue his duties with the Ogwen team, and working as a local mountain guide.

Between travelling to Alaska each year, and returning to North Wales, John gave 36 years of service to the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team in North Wales.

John Evans leaves behind his partner Lynne, his son David, 22 and daughter Rhiannon, 18. John's ashes will be released back to the mountain he loved, Tryfan.

Tears were shed across all corners of the world at the news of John's death.

(With thanks to the contributions of Derek Keegan of the Dublin & Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team)

SAR 2010 CONFERENCE IN ABERDEEN SCOTLAND

Building on the success of their 2009 conference in Washington D.C., the Shephard Group is holding its annual Search and Rescue Conference, SAR 2010, in Aberdeen, Scotland on April 21 and 22, 2010. Shephard is renowned for presenting the most comprehensive SAR Exhibitions and Conferences in the world

With ever-increasing advances in technology, the world has become a much smaller place. Although search and rescue has become increasingly sophisticated, the exploration for improved equipment and communications still continues.

Faster helicopters with greater endurance are attracting much attention around the globe. Countries that once were on the edges of the global SAR map are now becoming firmly established SAR organizations.

MRA members will receive a discounted rate to attend SAR 2009 of $391 (usual rate $699 per delegate). For more information, go to

HTTP://WWW.SHEPHARD.CO.UK/EVENTS/44/SEARCH-AND-RESCUE-2010/

BACK TO ALASKA! THE MRA 2010 CONFERENCE

June 17-20, 2010

The members of Juneau Mountain Rescue are putting together plans for the MRA Spring Conference June 17th- 20th in Juneau Alaska. Come experience the beauty of Southeast Alaska. In June there is sun light 20 hours a day. Juneau is located in the Tongass National Forest. The largest intact temperate rain forest in the world, so bring your rain gear, but hope for sunshine.

There will be classroom and general sessions on Thursday, a helicopter supported glacier day on Friday and more field events on Saturday. Bring your rain gear, mountaineering boots, helmet ice axe and crampons.

THE ALASKA STATE TROOPERS "HELO-1" HELICOPTER POISED NEAR A JUNEAU MOUNTAIN RESCUE EXERCISE. PHOTO BY JUNEAU MOUNTAIN RESCUE

The Friday glacier day will feature ice climbing, crevasse rescue and glacier trekking. We are currently looking for presenters for the conference. Those interested in presenting contact either Steve Lewis or Doug Wessen.

Hotel accommodations and flight reservations through Alaska Airlines are available on our website.

For more, go to **MRA 2010 Spring Conference Page**.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

A Letter recently received by an MRA Team

Just wanted to let your rescue team know we appreciated their recovery of our brother's body on September 16th in Custer County for Jimmy Keiler. It has been a sad time for us, but I represent our family in saying 'THANK' YOU.

We know it was a difficult search & hard work to get in and out of that area. Please let the individuals of that team themselves know we asked God to bless them for their efforts!

Sincerely, The Keiler Family

MOUNTAIN
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The Mountain Rescue Association is an organization dedicated to saving lives through rescue and mountain safety education

www.mra.org