



## Mountain Rescue Association - Rocky Mountain Region

### 2014 MRA Winter Business Meeting Report

#### The Rocky Mountain Region Officers for 2014 are:

Regional Chair	Chad Edwards, El Paso County SAR <a href="mailto:R29@epcsar.org">R29@epcsar.org</a>
Regional Vice-Chair	Steve Zuckerman, Vail Mountain Rescue Group <a href="mailto:zman@vail.net">zman@vail.net</a>
Secretary/Treasurer	Brian Stuebe, Alpine Rescue Team <a href="mailto:bstuebe@gmail.com">bstuebe@gmail.com</a>
Director at Large	Greg Foley, Grand County SAR <a href="mailto:gfoley@columbine.com">gfoley@columbine.com</a>
Director at Large	Alison Sheets, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group <a href="mailto:alisonsheets@usa.net">alisonsheets@usa.net</a>

#### Accreditations and Reaccreditations:

Two reaccreditations were successfully completed in 2013, both teams successfully completed avalanche, winter rescue, high angle, scree evacuation, and search reaccreditation exercises:

Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, CO, 4-5 May 2013  
Summit County Rescue Group, CO, 11-12 May 2013

Three reaccreditations, in all five scenario areas, are scheduled for 2014:

Western State Mountain Rescue Team, CO, 12-13 Apr 2014  
Larimer County Search and Rescue, CO, 26-27 Apr 2014  
Grand County Search and Rescue, CO, 17-18 May 2014

#### Region Growth:

Chaffee County North Search and Rescue, CO successfully became an Associate Member of the MRA and Rocky Mountain Region in 2013.

Two more teams, Fremont County Search and Rescue, CO and Garfield County Search and Rescue, CO are actively moving towards becoming MRA members in 2014.



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### Colorado Flooding:

Colorado was hit extremely hard in 2013 with severe flooding. While several counties were affected, Boulder and Larimer Counties were hit hard and had MRA teams provide significant support. Final reports from these counties and the federal IMTs are still pending. The initially reported effort by MRA teams is capture below:

Boulder County: 3,602.18 total SAR hours with the following MRA teams supporting: Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, Alpine Rescue Team, Mountain Rescue Aspen, Douglas County SAR, Summit County Rescue Group, Vail Mountain Rescue Group, Western State Mountain Rescue Team, and several other assorted teams.

<http://www.mra.org/images/stories/meridian/Meridian13Fall.pdf>

Larimer County: 1,401 total SAR hours from over 60 members of Larimer County Search and Rescue. Neither Larimer County nor Federal IMTs requested support from other MRA teams or the CSRB.

### Notes of Interest:

The Rocky Mountain Region' has agreed to support a proposal for a joint 2015 MRA, NASAR, and CSRB conference in Colorado. The Region would act as the MRA's host region for the event and assist in pre-conference activities and instruction.

Dan Lack (Rocky Mountain Rescue Group), the 2012-2013 Region Chair, has moved back to Brisbane, Australia to attend Medical School. Dan remains in contact with the Region.

The Alpine Rescue Team, CO has proposed, and has provisional support from many interested partners, to build and establishing a Colorado Mountain Rescue History Center. This center would be dedicated to the history and future of mountain rescue in the Colorado Rockies. Many historical documents, equipment, and photographs are stored throughout the state and it is time to attempt to bring those items together to preserve this unique history before they are lost to time.



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### Challenges:

The Rocky Mountain Region's membership is growing and with that growth there will be pressure on our accreditation and reaccreditation program.

Region discussion is ongoing as to how we conduct accreditation and reaccreditations. We are looking at validation for all teams while maintaining the high standards of our program.

Responding to the floods and fires in Colorado have helped us identify issues and concerns in how mountain and wilderness SAR is understood and integrated into Type 1 and 2 IMTs. Rocky Mountain Rescue, Alpine Rescue Team, and El Paso County SAR are all looking at ways to mitigate this concern.

Operational tempo appears to be on the rise, with El Paso County SAR and Rocky Mountain Rescue Group both posting record years in mission numbers and hours.