

MERIDIAN

January 2010

The Quarterly Publication of the Mountain Rescue Association



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Billing for Search and Rescue

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COVER PHOTO: Hood River Crag Rats
Stefan Gumperlein, Brain Hukari, and Mark Wiltz (out of frame) make their way up the west flanks of Mt Hood searching for missing climbers. December 14th, 2009. Photo by Richard Hallman, RN CEN.
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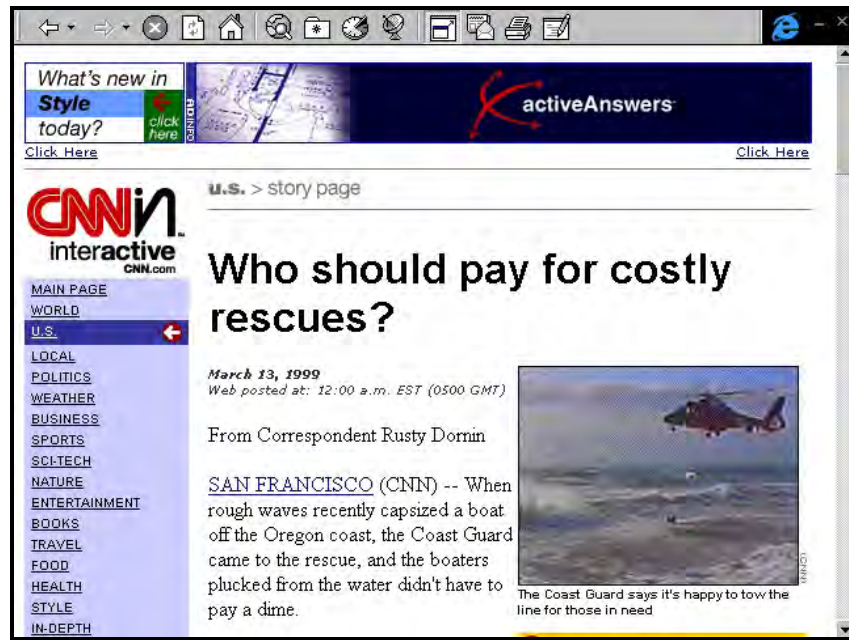
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BILLING FOR SAR; WILL WE EVER MAKE THE PUBLIC UNDERSTAND?

By Howard M. Paul
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The issue of local, state or the federal government billing victims when SAR units save their life goes back decades. Because it had become an issue then, the Colorado Search and Rescue Board took a position on the topic in 1987, led by MRA Legal Counsel and then-CSR Board President David Thorson and CSR Board Public Affairs Manager and soon-to-become MRA President Hunter Holloway (<http://www.coloradosarboard.org/csr-board-sarfees.asp>).

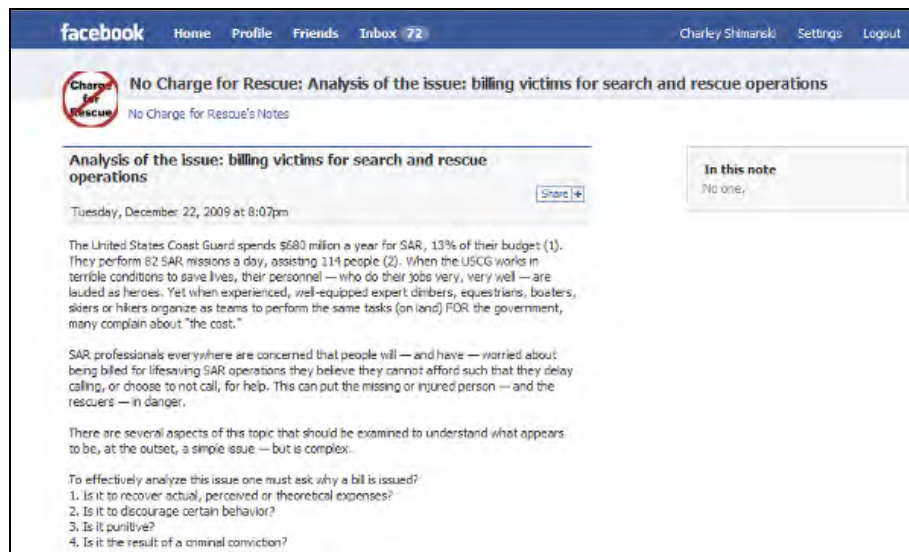
Today the public's perception is anchored at three points: not understanding the actual costs, distressed government budgets and anger against some of those we help. Often these points are worsened by unwitting comments by someone that does not understand the unintended consequence of allowing the public to expect an insurmountable bill from "someone" if they call SAR, which is to delay calling for, refusing to call for or not accepting help (<http://www.coloradosarboard.org/csr-board-documents/Refusing%20SAR%20Help.pdf>):

- In 1990, Colorado's state agency that sold hunting and fishing licenses was given a new tool to get others into the state's "SAR Fund" that reimburses sheriffs and teams for SAR costs, the "Hikers Certificate" (<http://www.coloradosarboard.org/csr-board-documents/CORSAR%20Card%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>). Since the Colorado Division of Wildlife's expertise is management of elk herds – not advertising – they just told the public that this card was "insurance," without which the sheriff would bill them. It did not matter that Colorado sheriffs did not even have the authority to do so – they knew of no other way to promote it.
- In 1996, Motorola ran an ad for its "Sport Radio" in Popular Science that read, "You can't find a decent rescue for under \$100,000 these days." They changed it, while claiming the figure came from a 1993 Christian Science Monitor article about a week-long mission at Yosemite National Park.
- In a notorious 2009 case, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department fined a then-17 year-old Eagle Scout more than \$25,000 for a three-day search. Seems he sprained his ankle and chose to go cross-country as a shorter route back, but was stopped by a stream swollen with spring run-off. A NH Fish and Game official decided he was negligent for "leaving a marked trail."

In an "Analysis of the Issue" I wrote for news reporters and producers, I pose four questions with the hope it will lead them to ask the right questions of government officials:

To effectively analyze this issue one must ask why a bill is issued.

1. Is it to recover actual, perceived or theoretical expenses?
2. Is it to discourage certain behavior?
3. Is it punitive?
4. Is it the result of a criminal conviction?



That 1,100 word paper (found at <http://tinyurl.com/ygc6t2o>) answers each. The “No Charge for Rescue” Facebook page where it is located is rife with information, news stories, data and other tools to advance the position that billing for SAR is “a dangerous practice that should be avoided” – as NASAR President Dan Hourihan said when NASAR announced its position in early 2009 (<http://www.nasar.org/nasar/news.php?id=316>). For example, “We have for years stated that SAR missions flown by the National Guard are “paid out of the training budget.” We can simplify that, with a new phrase by National Geographic Adventure columnist Laurence Gonzales, “*With or without an actual rescue mission, the helicopters will fly...*” So what are the flying-training requirements? From Colorado National Guard HQ: All helo pilots must fly once every 60 days; Blackhawk pilots... must fly 48 hours in six months and Chinook pilots must fly 45 hours in six months.”

The issue is raised locally by the news media when a high profile or lengthy mission occurs. It’s easy because the subject is controversial, and in today’s economy the news media gravitates towards easy. A local story like a Mt. Hood search quickly reaches the national press because of past history. At that point the national organizations can, and do, help address the subject. The national press also gets its leads from each other, and the local press from the national. In very short order last spring, MRA President Charley Shimanski and/or I were contacted by Time, ABC News and USA Today. A more recent cluster of press inquires came from Newsweek, Outside and National Geographic Adventure, The Wall Street Journal and, locally, The Denver Post.

In general, “new” media such as blogs have been helpful. Without crushing deadlines those writers have more time for a dispassionate commentary. The SAR community has been successful in getting its position to outlets such as National Parks Traveler.

The advent of public “comments” pages of online websites of newspapers and television, and interactive blogs, has been helpful – in learning the perspective of those who advocate billing. Story comments are commonly inflammatory, from a very vocal minority. Of late, that loud – sometimes caustic – portion outnumbers those that oppose billing by about eight to one. When 87% of the comments they read are negative, many will make the mistake of assuming that it represents 87% of the public – but it actually only represents 87% of those commenting (which could be an infinitesimally tiny portion of the public). Most have not commented and silence usually means agreement.

In the last year, online commentators have said:

- Mountain climbing is an exercise in self gratification— it provides the climbers with an adrenaline rush that must be amazing. It does nothing for society...
- If people are going to take unreasonable risks, why should other individuals try to rescue them?
- I get so annoyed about these mountain climbers taking such stupid risks I don't care how experienced you are, obviously not that smart to get yourself into a dangerous situation
- I personally think that there should be a fine imposed when the situation could have easily been avoided if the person had only used some common sense...It is not the responsibility of taxpayers to pay for the poor choices of others.

MRA President Charley Shimanski recently talked to someone – not a reporter – who called him out of the blue to criticize the MRA's position. Charley asked him "how many of the people SAR teams help did he think were "irresponsible risk takers?" The caller said one-half! That is the public perception we face. It should not surprise us that many believe that "stupid, selfish people that impose upon others comprise" are our "customers." Most SAR incidents that reach the threshold of national news media attention (e.g. Mt. Hood) do so because they feature "adverse" locations, conditions or recreation most people do not partake in – hiking ranks fifth in popularity behind fishing; car, backyard and RV camping; running and jogging; and biking.

Recently we have made some headway on the issue. I have a Peanuts cartoon in which Snoopy muses, "You can accomplish a lot once you get the sympathy of the press." The national news media now know who to go to when they cover the issue. As media new to us report on the topic, we go to them before they come to us, supplying position statements, data and examples. When the New Hampshire story broke, NASAR and the MRA flooded the New Hampshire press with information. Much of the same material supported a successful 2009 effort to convince the City of Golden, Colorado, to cease billing for rescues of recreationalists by its fire department (<http://tinyurl.com/yzgx8cf>).



THIS PAPER, PREPARED BY ALPINE RESCUE TEAM, ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF CHARGING FOR RESCUE AND HELPED A LOCAL CITY COUNCIL CHANGE THEIR LAWS PERTAINING TO RESCUE COST RECOVERY. ([HTTP://ALPINERESCUETEAM.ORG/PDFS/GOLDEN%20-%20No%20CHARGE%20FOR%20RESCUE%20FINAL%20.PDF](http://ALPINERESCUETEAM.ORG/PDFS/GOLDEN%20-%20No%20CHARGE%20FOR%20RESCUE%20FINAL%20.PDF))

We're beginning to make the public understand.

What can you and your team do to help? Make responsible, non-inflammatory remarks in blog and news commentary sections that help further educate the public; direct media inquiries to the team's PIO or to the MRA or NASAR; invite friends to join the "No Charge for Rescue" Facebook page; help educate the general public when the issue comes up at cocktail parties and, if you've not already done so, add a dispassionate position statement to the team's website, along with supporting information.

About the Author:

Howard Paul is a 20+ year member of Alpine Rescue Team, Evergreen, Colorado. He was the founding editor of the MRA *Rescue Forum*, the MRA's first journal. He is the public affairs manager and a past president of the Colorado SAR Board, the state's organization of SAR teams. He is also a member of the board of directors of, and Public Information Officer for the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR). He works as executive director of the EMS Association of Colorado.

DARYL MILLER – MRA’S NEWEST HONORARY MEMBER

By Mike Gauthier; Former Chief Climbing Ranger, Mt. Rainier National Park

At Timberline on Mount Hood last June, U.S. Park Ranger Daryl Miller joined an elite group of the North American rescue community in becoming one of only three people (Butch Farabee and Jed Williamson are the others) honored for a Life Time Achievement Award from the Mountain Rescue Association. To get there indicates a tremendous commitment to public service, promoting safe climbing and rescue practices, and a proven ability to perform well again and again in searches and rescues in the Alaska Range and on Mount McKinley, North America’s highest peak. But before I tell some of Daryl Miller’s story, let’s lay out a few of his notable achievements:

- The Department of the Interior awarded him the *Medal of Valor* for a technical rescue at 19,800 feet on Mount McKinley in 1991;
- Daryl performed the highest helicopter short haul (14,200 feet to 20,320 feet on Mt. McKinley) in 1993;
- In winter and spring of 1995, he and Mark Stasik completed the first winter circumnavigation of Mount McKinley and Mount Foraker on foot;
- He is the first North American to receive the International Alpine Targa D’Argento Solidarity Award (presented by Italy’s president);
- He has worked closely with the US military, Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Mountain Rescue Group, Parks Canada and the local Alaskan Pilots to coordinate rescue efforts throughout Alaska;
- At 49 years old, he entered the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and finished with top honors in fitness;

In all, Daryl Miller has been a part of over 200 rescues in the Alaska Range, as well as over 50 other emergency incidents from aircraft crashes and searches for lost hunters, to river rescue and flood response.

If it had to do with rescue and emergency services in Denali National Park and Preserve, Daryl Miller got the call for nearly two decades.

ABOUT DARYL MILLER RODEO CLOWN/RANGER

By Mike Gauthier; Former Chief Climbing Ranger, Mt. Rainier National Park

During the winter of 1992, my friend Keith Nicholson landed a climbing ranger internship on Mount McKinley with the National Park Service (NPS). The previous summer, he had worked on Mount Rainier and we ended up sharing an apartment in Seattle while dreaming about our next climbing trip. Eager for more, Keith moved out and made his way to Talkeetna, Alaska, where I would begin to hear stories about this park ranger he met named Daryl Miller.

As it turned out, the spring of 1992 was a particularly bad year for climbers in the Alaska Range. It seemed that every week or so, another rescue or recovery operation was narrated in the national headlines. In all, 13 climbers died and many others had close calls with frostbite, blizzards, storms, altitude sickness and long falls on steep hard ice.

Keith would phone regularly and describe dramatic mountain rescues under horrendous arctic conditions – Daryl was always involved. Whether on the glacier, in the helicopter or managing the operation, Daryl Miller solidified his status as a climber and talented mountain rescuer on Mount McKinley that year. But looking back at his life before 1992, this should have come as no surprise.

Daryl Miller’s route to Denali reads like an adventure novel. A prank gone awry bumped him out of high school with an ultimatum from dad: “*Go to high school or join the Marines.*” So from that Marine Corps crucible, Daryl learned to harness his zeal and courage with discipline and humility. It was the sixties and he landed in Vietnam, twice, where he saw combat firsthand. But there were other assignments. For a while, he helped load and transport wounded and dead soldiers. And later in the U.S., he served with a special military contingent that escorted the bodies of deceased soldiers home. Tough, emotionally challenging assignments, yet through it all, Daryl maintained his positive outlook and robust love for life.

Along the way were a number of sidebars (some slightly comedic) that helped to balance the intensity and further accentuate Daryl’s unique and enduring charm. For example, while stationed at the Marine Corp Recruit Depot on Parris Island, he worked part

time with a traveling cage fighting show that pitted men against chimpanzees. The deal was simple, "town toughs" and bullies were offered \$100 for every second they could hold a chimp to the ground; each audience member paid a buck to watch. Of course no one ever won the \$100, as Daryl snickers and recalls the action, "Yeah, I watched Congo, Butch and Joe beat up a lot of Marines, and the manly bullies from around the different towns "



NO FOOLIN' – RETIRED DENALI NATIONAL PARK SOUTH DISTRICT CHIEF RANGER DARYL MILLER DURING HIS RODEO CLOWN DAYS.

Eventually though, Daryl returned to the west fueled by his strong desire to pursue an adventurous life on the land. He tried his hand at dodging rodeo bulls to save cowboys in Montana but found it safer to climb mountains which he did from Alaska to Argentina. For work, he sharpened his leadership skills as a NOLS Mountaineering Instructor until he landed a prestigious position as the Outdoor Program Field Director for Colorado State University. But even that did not satisfy Daryl's wanderlust and after a few years, he moved on to guide Mount McKinley (which he admits he didn't like) and then onto living out of a T-Pee in the Utah desert. It wasn't until 1991 that the NPS finally lured him to Alaska as a climbing ranger, with a promise from the District Ranger that he wouldn't be stuck in the office.

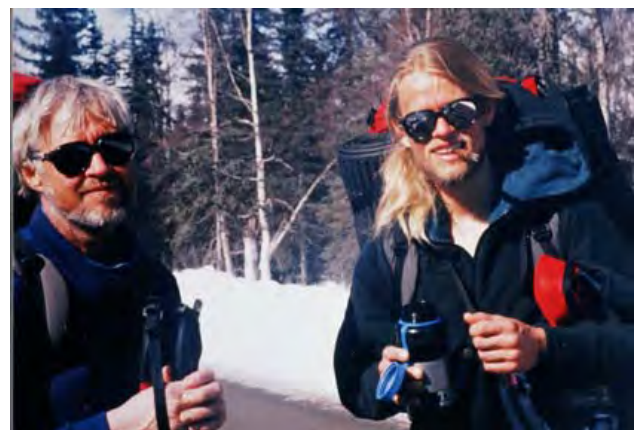
This was not the typical trajectory of a park ranger, yet it was those experiences that prepared Daryl so

well to lead the climbing rangers on Mount McKinley. And in the business of 'rangering', it was arguably one of the best jobs in the NPS. From that demanding 1992 rescue season onward, Daryl Miller's name became synonymous with high-altitude mountaineering rescues in North America.

Throughout the 90's, I would see Daryl on my climbing trips to the Alaska Range. From a climber's perspective, he was a trusted voice with firsthand experience about the harshness of the Alaska Range. He personalized the face of the Park Service and attracted famous climbers like Alex Lowe and John Roskelley to his mountaineering patrols.

His reputation as a rescuer was already legendary, but it was his kindness and generosity that connected so many people to him. At the time, Daryl lived in a little red house on 2nd street which became a famous haunt for Alaskan climbers. On sunny days, mountaineering luminaries could be found drinking beer and barbequing in his yard because with Daryl, dirt-baggers always had a place to crash. On one occasion when the weather had been poor in Talkeetna for days, he counted 35 climbers accumulated at his place waiting for flights into the mountains.

And for those close to Daryl in the NPS, he was the rudder that guided the South District of Denali. Each day, he'd set the operational tone by arriving early and preparing the office for the daily activity. His warm personality and charm coupled with Marine Corps discipline left a legacy of firm patience and understanding for those fortunate enough to work with him, which is what a young and ambitious Keith found in 1992.



DARYL MILLER AND MARK STASIK AFTER THEY COMPLETED THE FIRST WINTER CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF MT. MCKINLEY AND MT. FORAKER MASSIFS ON FOOT.

Later that summer after the rescues were over and the high camps put away, Keith and Daryl embarked on an extended backcountry patrol east of the park. It was mid-September and after a few days, the weather turned remarkably fierce. Overnight, the temperature plummeted and it snowed over 5 feet. This seriously complicated their intended route and soaked the pair to the bone. For the next few days, Keith questioned if they should call for a help because they were moving so slowly without snowshoes, but Daryl wouldn't go for it. As long as they could move and had supplies, they were going to walk out on their own. In the end, Keith credited Daryl with saving his life and getting him out of the mountains, but Daryl brushed off the compliment.

And there, is Daryl. He eagerly shares his natural strengths, ambition and talents, and that often empowered and encouraged others to carry on and succeed. Leadership and strength, coupled with humility and kindness - virtues respected around the globe and part of why the Mountain Rescue Association chose him for such an honorable distinction.

For all of your hard work and contributions to mountain climbers, rescuers and the National Park Service, but mostly for your enduring spirit and friendship, we thank you very much Daryl Miller. We thank you for leading the way and for unselfishly providing safety for so many others and for being our friend.

There are many stories about Daryl on the web and in books, and below are two excellent chronicles about his adventures. If you're in Anchorage, look for Daryl at the Bird Learning and Treatment Center where he volunteers and cares for injured and stranded birds and animals.

An Alaska life lived large, by Craig Medred for the Anchorage Daily News - <http://www.adn.com/outdoors/story/683375.html>

The Man and the Mountain, by Andy Hall for Alaska Magazine (page 22 on) - <http://www.onlinedigitalpubs.com/publication/?i=16542>

IKAR IN ZERMATT

By Ken Phillips; Grand Canyon National Park

The International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR or IKAR), which was established in 1948,

represents 30 national mountain rescue organizations from Europe and North America. The 2009 IKAR Congress was held September 23-26 in Zermatt, Switzerland.

Delegates representing the MRA included Dan Hourihan (Terrestrial Rescue Commission) Ken Zafren (Alpine Medicine Commission), Tim Kovacs (Air Rescue Commission) and Dale Atkins (Avalanche Rescue Commission). Here are some highlights which are published in the most recent IKAR Reports available on the MRA website. (go to <http://www.mra.org/drupal2/content/ikar-reports>)



A EUROCOPTER EC-145 IN THE SKIES ABOVE ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND

Air Rescue Commission

- During a helicopter short-haul rescue this past summer near Zermatt, Switzerland, a mountain guide's rope became entangled on a backpack in the rescue load and he fell to his death.
- In New Mexico, a State Police Agusta A109E helicopter crashed and killed three during the attempted rescue of an uninjured hiker in the mountains near Santa Fe.
- A US Forest Service Firefighter died in California, when he fell 200 feet during a proficiency heli-rappel training session.
- Four soldiers died in August when a Black Hawk crashed just below the summit of Mount Massive (14,421 feet) in Colorado during a high altitude training mission.
- During a July helicopter short-haul training session at Grand Teton National Park an inadvertent cargo hook release occurred in flight with a human load, which was held by the backup anchor system.
- The National Transportation Safety Board released new safety recommendations during 2009 for Helicopter EMS (HEMS) operations,

which affect both commercial and public aircraft operators.

- Eurocopter presented information on the EC175 helicopter, which is a new medium duty helicopter model they are unveiling and due for certification in 2011.

Terrestrial Rescue Commission

- Observing some ineffective techniques in practice, the Bergwacht Bayern (Germany) has developed technical standards for chairlift and gondola rescue.
- The integration of Dyneema ropes into rescue systems is receiving increased analysis by many European teams. Dyneema, which has superior strength to weight ratio, can not be employed with knots or any risk of shock load. Tyrolean Mountain Rescue reviewed results of their Dyneema rope testing mountain rescue.
- Swiss Mountain Rescue personnel introduced a printed rescue job aid which contains a checklist and risk assessment for field rescuers.
- Dan Hourihan (USA) described how assigning probability of detection (POD) values in mountainous terrain search efforts needs to be performed in a consistent and conservative manner in order to develop meaningful planning data.
- Beal Ropes presented information on the *Uni Core* process of their new 10.5mm semi-static rescue rope, which has a sheath bonded to the core.
- An overview of Swiss mountain rescue stations described the extensive preplanning efforts that occur in advance to permit 5-10 rescuers to be on an accident site within 20 minutes of notification.

Alpine Medicine Commission

The IKAR Alpine Medicine Commission (MEDCOM) regularly develops guidelines for the medical aspects of mountain rescue. Past guidelines that have been very influential worldwide include a recommendation for the use of vacuum mattresses in mountain rescue and an algorithm for medical treatment of avalanche victims. All of the guidelines are freely available as downloadable PDF files on the IKAR web site.

In 2009 the IKAR MEDCOM conducted the second Specialty Course in Mountain Emergency Medicine in Kathmandu, Nepal in cooperation with the Himalayan Rescue Association. This effort included donating \$15,000 worth of teaching materials, medical kits and rescue equipment.

Recently published papers of the MEDCOM include;

- Fluid management in traumatic shock; a practical approach for mountain rescue.
- Eye problems in mountain and remote areas: prevention and onsite treatment.
- Current status of medical training in mountain rescue in America and Europe.
- Recommended Standards in Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) in Mountain Rescue (*Currently In Draft*)

Avalanche Rescue Commission

Field demonstrations and technical presentations were provided on the following;

- Avalanche transceivers from Backcountry Access (new three-antenna transceiver), Barryvox (Pulse), Ortovox (S1), Nic-Impex (ARVA beacons) and Pieps (DSP).
- Tips for the initial medical care and treatment of buried avalanche victims.
- ABS, which manufactures avalanche airbags, developed a new wireless activation system to permit others in a group to activate another member's airbag.
- Hepkie ResQU demonstrated a GSM mobile phone locating system, which can be employed in wilderness (including avalanche) and urban SAR, with a range of 6 km.
- Daisy Bell, manufactures a remote avalanche explosive system employing a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen that can be fix mounted or suspended from a helicopter.
- Avalanche accident summaries from member countries provided a review of specific case reports along with lessons learned.
- Discussion on the electromagnetic incompatibility of some handheld radios causing them to turn off or on certain avalanche beacons.
- Update on a glossary of standardized snow and avalanche related terminology containing 1700 entries, which is being updated and made available on the IKAR website.
- The commission formally adopted recommendations based on the Canadian Avalanche Association's survey of IKAR countries on the best practices relating to avalanche safety and accident prevention.
- Recommendations on determining the optimal search strip width for a rescuer with an avalanche transceiver, which is a balance between chances of survival and probability of detection.
- A recent Italian skier safety law, which requires "free riders" venturing off piste to carry probe, shovel and an "electronic device", has created

the unintended consequence of delaying calls for help from individuals unwilling to be involved in a potential legal action.

Attendance of the U.S. delegates was made possible by the very generous support from **CMC Rescue**, **Goodrich Corp.**, and **RECCO**, as well as funding by the MRA

MAKING THE NARROWBAND TRANSITION

How to Move Your MSAR Radio System to Narrowband

By William Laxson, MRA Communications Committee Chair

MRA teams are gearing up to modify their FCC transmitter licenses to add narrow band modulation in preparation for the Jan 1, 2012 deadline. This is a good time to review the basics of how to modify your team FCC transmitter license.

The FCC's spectrum refarming initiative is a process to double the number of available frequencies in the land mobile radio industry. It does so by cutting in half the amount of spectrum used by each transmitter. The changes only affect equipment and licensees operating under Part 90 of the FCC rules. However, the changes probably cover 98% of the self-licensed radio systems used by MSAR teams.

The changes will be somewhat disruptive and potentially costly if the older hand-me-down radio equipment used by many teams has to be replaced. However there are offsetting advantages for teams that operate in parts of the country where radio channels are congested. They may benefit from the availability of new frequencies that are not heavily used by others yet.

And I predict that even more frequencies will become available as businesses that used to rely heavily on two-way radio systems to abandon them and move to the less expensive cellular infrastructure. Since license terms are 10 years, it takes time for unused frequencies to flush out of the system. However, the narrowband deadline on January 1, 2012 will flush unused licenses that have not been modified. I remain hopeful that MSAR users in all but the busiest large metropolitan areas will have ready access to multiple clear channels.

Planning For Change

As you plan your team's transition to narrow band, you should review your use of radios and prepare an updated radio communications plan. Do you have enough different frequencies and radios? Do you have a team license that covers the MRA nation wide channel 155.160 MHz (WPUA365)? If replacing older radios how many channels will they need to meet your communication requirements for the next 10 years? Has your team's area of response grown since your first license was obtained? If you use permanent base stations at any locations, are they properly identified on your license? You are going to pay some money to a frequency coordinator just to have the new narrowband modulation emission designator added, so this is a good time to see what other changes can be leveraged onto your license at the same time under the charge.

Universal Licensing System (ULS)

As recently as four months ago, the FCC was still requiring applicants adding the narrow band emission designator to their license to go through frequency coordination (yes, this costs money). You will manage the license modification through the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS). Many teams are already set up to use the ULS, but a brief description of the process is presented below for those that are new to the ULS.

Caution: There is speculation that large numbers of applicants will wait till the last minute, swamping the frequency coordinators ability to process modification in time when the deadline approaches. Don't put this off. The cost only gets higher each passing year!

In order to access the ULS you must be registered with the FCC. Registration requires a tax ID so that the government can be sure it is not granting licenses to entities that owe it money.

FCC CORES System

You start your journey at the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES). Here you enter personal data and receive your FCC registration number (FRN). The form can be found at:

<https://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/coreWeb/publicHome.do>

Applicants FRN

Each application and/or license must be associated with a single FRN. However you can hold multiple FRN's. If you have a legacy license that has never been associated with an FRN, you will need to make

that association after receiving your FRN in order to manage that license.

Once you have your FRN, you can access all of the functions of the ULS system found at:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

You will be modifying your license by filling out FCC form 601 plus subsections B, D and H, to add a new emission designator of type 11K2F3E (11,200 Hz occupied bandwidth, frequency modulated carrier containing single analog telephony transmission). Your existing emission designator is probably 20K0F3E.

Review the FCC Part 90 regulations and look up your frequency (90.20 if in the public safety pool, 90.35 if in the business industrial pool). The last column in the table lists the type of frequency coordinator you need to work with (and pay). If none is listed, any coordinator can do the work for you. FCC rules can be found at http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Documents/cfr/1998/47cfr90.pdf

Most frequency coordinators use on-line filing and payment forms similar to the FCC's that you fill out to initiate your frequency coordination. As each frequency coordinator works differently, I will just note here that all you need to do is let them know what you are trying to accomplish and they will step you through their process.

Applying For New Frequencies

Should you wish to apply for additional frequencies (put them on the same license using the modification process) at the same time, the process is very similar. You can do your own research and select a channel you think will work best for the area you operate in, or you can let the frequency coordinator review your requirements and recommend the best channel. Note that there are channels in the Business Industrial frequency pool that can be licensed without the services of a frequency coordinator. These are channels reserved for use only on an itinerant basis (which certainly describes the radio operations of most MSAR teams I know). Search for frequencies marked with Limitation 10 (for example: 151.625 MHz). Every team should have one of these frequencies in their channel plan licensed for statewide (or even multi-state if working across state borders) use.

License Fees

The FCC collects license fees at a level that funds the operation of the FCC's regulatory and licensing programs. Since fees for new licenses are collected

for 10 years at a time (the duration of the license) they can seem quite expensive. The modification fee per call sign is \$60 versus a new license fee in 2009 of \$400.

FCC Remittance Advice Form 159 is used to pay your license fees. Beginning late last year, you must use the new FCC Fee Filer web site to fill out and prepare Form 159. It can be found at:

<http://www.fcc.gov/fees/feefiler.html>

This site allows you to pay your fees by credit card, wire transfer, bank transfer, or by mail with a check (include the printed advice slip the site will print for you). If your team holds a letter from the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, the FCC will waive this regulatory fee. You must submit a copy of your IRS letter of determination with your application via an upload process explained in the application notes.

Notice of Completed Construction

Any time you modify your license, you must file a notice with the FCC when you have completed "construction" of the technical changes you made. Whether or not you have actually programmed your radios with narrow band, you should file a completion notice as if you had by submitting Form 601 Schedule K within one year.

You can operate your system either wide band or narrow band as you wish till January 1, 2012, although radios not programmed similarly will not work well together. On January 1, 2012 the FCC will modify your license automatically to remove the old legacy 20K0F3E emission designator. If you have not modified your license by adding the narrow band designator by this date, your license will be automatically canceled!

Radio System Transition Plan

Once you have a modified license, you need to transition your radio system to narrow band. Since the new modulation scheme does not play well with the old one, having a mixture of old and new radios in your system at the same time is very undesirable.

But what if you have changed, but still need to intercommunicate with a team still using wide band? The best solution to this dilemma is to duplicate all of your team frequencies in each of your radios. Program one set for legacy wide-band operation and a duplicate set for narrow band operation. Hopefully you are using modern synthesized radios with at least 16 channels. Now if you need to occasionally interoperate with old wideband radios (stragglers in your own team or with other teams) you have that option.

If you find yourself using mixed mode radios on a mission, the table below summarizes how the radios will interact:

From	To	Result
Wide Band	Narrow Band	<p><i>When there is no audio, a normal quiet carrier will be heard. During speech, signal will distort badly and sound noisy.</i></p> <p>Try: Tx operator should speak softer, hold mike away from mouth.</p> <p><i>Receiving radio may squelch off during voice peaks.</i></p> <p>Try: If receiver has an adjustable squelch, open the squelch.</p>
Narrow Band	Wide Band	<p><i>Receiver sensitivity minimally affected; Audio will sound weak, as if transmitting station was holding microphone far from lips.</i></p> <p>Try: Turn Rx volume up as high as possible.</p> <p><i>Rarely, if tone coded squelch used, receiver will fail to unsquelch.</i></p> <p>Try: Place Rx in MONITOR mode.</p>

Member teams with any questions on licensing or use of their two-way radio systems may contact me at wloxson@gmail.com.



SPOT RECALL

The manufacturers of the SPOT Personal Locator Beacon have issued a recall, under the name of "Voluntary Return Program"

The message on their web site is as follows:

Spot LLC is dedicated to providing the highest quality and best performance products to our customers, therefore, Spot LLC will be conducting a voluntary return on any new model SPOT Satellite GPS Messenger™ (SPOT 2) purchased since October 1, 2009. During recent testing, we discovered that

some of the new SPOT 2 devices might not meet battery and messaging operating specifications.

Affected Units

To see if your SPOT-2 unit is affected by this issue, please do the following:

- If you **have activated** your SPOT-2 unit, login to your account at <https://login.findmespot.com>, click on the My GPS Locations tab and a message will display indicating if you have an affected SPOT-2 unit.
- If you **have not activated** your SPOT-2 unit, do not activate. We highly recommend you return your product for replacement at your earliest convenience.
- **The Exchange Process**
- Replacement units are anticipated to be available in early 2010. More details to follow.
- If you exchange your eligible unit, you will also receive 1 additional month of your current SPOT service plan and associated services.
- Once exchanged, you will receive your replacement SPOT-2 unit.
- Please follow this process to receive your return shipping materials (when using supplied materials, postage will be paid by SPOT LLC). These will be sent you upon completion of the form.

Important notes

This does not affect SPOT Satellite Personal Tracker (SPOT-1) nor is it an upgrade program to transition from SPOT Satellite Personal Tracker (SPOT-1) to the SPOT Satellite GPS Messenger (SPOT-2).

For more questions

Please call toll-free 1 (866) 727-7733

Email: SPOTexchange@findmespot.com



2010 NASAR CONFERENCE

The Board of Directors of the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) is pleased to announce the 38th Annual National Search and Rescue

Conference will be May 13-15 in Tunica, Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Homeland Security is the hosting agency and is excited to bring the Annual Conference to the area.

Exhibitor and lodging information has been posted on the NASAR web site. The room rate is \$65 per night plus tax. Check the [conference website](#) for pre-conference workshops and track workshop details. Pre-conference workshops will be held May 11-12, 2010.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO PEAK RESCUE

Peak Rescue Institute has a limited number of scholarships available for its upcoming Rescue Technician and Rescue Specialist workshops in Joshua Tree on October 4-10.

As a non-profit, educational organization that primarily teaches rope rescue, Peak Rescue Institute has been the beneficiary of many corporations and individuals who share our commitment to training those who work and volunteer in the rescue community.

As such, they are able to offer scholarships to individual students for their Joshua Tree courses and to teams and other organizations for training at their locations. The dates of the upcoming Joshua Tree course are October 4-10. More information about Peak can be found at www.peakrescue.org.

The Individual Scholarship Application is for a student wishing to attend a course. Individual applications are due each year on Feb 15th for the course during the following October.

The Organizational Scholarship Application is for a training officer or team leader to request a spot for a person or persons to attend a class. If a spot is granted, the specific student will be agreed upon by the agency and Peak well in advance of the course.

For the October course, this application is due on the prior Feb 15th. For regional contract courses, applications are due at an agreed-upon date.



MRA FIRST PRESIDENT DICK POOLEY LEADS AN MRA HONOR GUARD PROCESSION AT THE 2009 50TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

MRA HONOR GUARD

Honorary "1st" Commander of the Honor Guard: First MRA President Dick Pooley
By Tim Kovacs
MRA Honor Guard

At the celebration of the 50th anniversary of our first official conference in 1959 on Mt Hood (our beginnings are traced to as early as 1956 or 1957 when meetings were held with the Mountain Rescue Council-Seattle, the American Alpine Club and the National Park Service), we had a terrific surprise from first President Dick Pooley. But first, a little foreshadowing.

At the grand reunion-and first union in some cases-of all possible past Presidents and Founders or their survivors in June 2001 at Snoqualmie, WA, President Pooley offered to march in with the Honor Guard at its first MRA appearance.

Dick had provided myself and co-founder Dave Moore with critical information about the early dress of the MR people in those days. Along with Matie Daiber and other Pacific Northwest rescue mountaineers – as well as the keen eye of my daughter Caiti- Dick helped us design the Honor Guard uniform. Dick rehabbed and donated one his old Austrian ice axes to the Guard to protect "the colors". We have 6 other axes we use, but Dick's is the most coveted axe to carry in any event we do. He

never “joined” the Honor Guard, but he is considered a charter member. He is family.

For that first appearance in 2001 Dick pulled out his own black knickers from “back in the day” – Carolyn his wife gave them a quick stitch repair for the occasion-, his Crag Rats buffalo shirt (which darn near became our HG shirt but was sadly just too busy for the patches and silverware), his “tam” and his knickers socks and boots, he strutted in with us while we tried to keep our composure and marching step. The venue, the pipes and drums, the snow outside the windows, the tight quarters in there. A very “non-ceremony” audience of MRA peers with eyes wide, mouths open, (some with hands over their ears), some wondering what the devil happened to their MRA. Past Presidents making up after years. I mean, how often do you get to have an experience like that?

Well back to June 2009. Dick and I had only a little time to talk before Hood, and this is 9 years later, so him marching with us never came up. Dick showed up, contacted me, and said he had his gear ready to go. I was giddy like a, well you know. I get like that sometimes. Really I do have a soft side.



DICK POOLEY, JIM WHITTAKER AND DEE MOLENAAR AT THE 2009 MEETING AT MT. HOOD. PHOTO BY DIANNE ROBERTS.

For those who would march with us in uniform, Dave Moore at a very respectable 83 is the only one even close to someone as tenured as Dick, who at Hood this past June was closer to 90 than 89! I am the next oldest on our HG at a mere childlike 50 years old. It was tough and go on health for Dave but he made it, and now we had Dick Pooley to add to it! Dick Pooley! The Crag Rats! The first and oldest rescue team in the U.S of A! And Dave Moore! 10th Mountain Division! President from 1970-1972! A guy who had his first cardiac arrest at 6 years old! These guys make you ashamed to complain about anything short of a bilateral limb amputation –

avulsion style. Don't even get me started on studs like Wolf Bauer and others, like the panel PMR put up on the stage that night, but back to the honor guard connection...

This is simply old school kind of stuff. These gentlemen give us a connection to the bold past that gave us our start in mountain rescue “back in the day”. Their sense of community, commitment, integrity and family – without the loudness, domineering and ego - is mentoring at its best.

Oh they'll tell you they each had their times they wish they could take back. Don't we all? But this group of MRA in the Honor Guard is humbled and proud to be able to march with them.

Saturday night at Mt Hood, we'd had a little speak amongst us. We figured with what Dick has given us in the Honor Guard, marching in with us that first time at Snoqualmie, with all those past presidents and founders and their families and survivors there, and then again at the 50th this past June, well, we better just make him an official member. We better just make him our Honorary First Commander of the Honor Guard.

We had a stealth plan for a presentation to Dave Moore, too, but more on that another time, perhaps. I didn't have time to get a certificate made for Dick at that point – I did later - but I did have something that just seemed right to give him. I had an MRA Challenge coin. A special one. The first one. MRA challenge coin project leader and recently retired Lt Colonel US Army Mike Vorachek brought to fruition the coin for the MRA based on a couple of us suggesting it for a few years. I stirred it up again and Mike jumped ahead of me to lead the project. Well the Colonel delivered a beautiful result. And he presented me with the first ever MRA Challenge Coin. He'd had it engraved with “HG CDR”.

So on Saturday night in front of the crowd, with permission from hosts Dave Clarke and Rocky Henderson to interject our own little event into an already jam packed, savagely fun weekend, we stood in formation, at attention, gave a salute, and presented Richard R. “Dick” Pooley with the title of Honorary “First Commander of the Honor Guard”. We presented him with the first ever made MRA Challenge Coin, the one with “HG CDR” engraved on it. We asked Commander Pooley to “give the order” to dismiss his Honor Guardians.

Sound like a lot of pomp, circumstance and girlie stuff? Go ahead if you want. You know how many awards and presentations go out to people “just

because"? Dick earned this, he deserves this. It was our honor.

Dick, you have marched with us but twice, but you have given us some of the best memories, and you have truly "honored" us with your help and support.

Thank you Commander.



MRA HONOR GUARD MEMBERS BRYAN ENBERG AND MIKE VORACHEK ACCEPT A DONATION TO THE HONOR GUARD FROM CAMRA'S ROGER YENSEN

CAMRA PRESENTS DONATION TO MRA HONOR GUARD

The Central Arizona Mountain Rescue Association (CAMRA) presented a \$1000 donation to the MRA Honor Guard during the winter business meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah on January 10, 2010. MRA Honor Guard members Bryan Enberg and Mike Vorachek accepted the donation from Roger Yensen, MRA Delegate from CAMRA.

Yensen reported that \$500 of the gift was originally donated to CAMRA back in summer 2009 by the family of Paul Blubaum who passed on May 8, 2009. The family was moved by the presence of the MRA Honor Guard at Blubaum's services and professionalism in which they paid respects, but also aware of the longstanding relationships Blubaum maintained with CAMRA, even in his final years. Paul Blubaum, Sheriff of Maricopa County from 1973 to 1976, originally asked the Central Arizona Mountain Rescue Association to serve the citizens of Maricopa County as the Sheriff's official Technical Rescue Team, who accepted the invitation having been performing those same services since

incorporating as a non-profit 501c(3) and becoming a fully accredited MRA unit in 1969.

The original donation of \$500 by the Blubaum family was really a surprise to the CAMRA Board of Directors, who unanimously agreed the entire donation should be passed on to MRA Honor Guard. Although there are several long-standing members of CAMRA that continue to serve as MRA Honor Guard members, the Blubaum donation sparked excitement around the invaluable services the MRA Honor Guard provides among several of the newer members of the CAMRA Board of Directors, the result of which was a matching donation of \$500. It is the hopes of the CAMRA Board of Directors that the matching \$500 donation will enact a friendly challenge among other MRA teams to more formally support the MRA Honor Guard through annual financial contributions.

TEAMS URGED TO PROMOTE "MOUNTAINS DON'T CARE" DVD

MRA teams are encouraged to provide private screenings in their own communities, and to contact their local public television or public access cable television stations to promote a screening on local TV.

The film is a stunning recap of the history of the MRA, going back to its formative years in the late 1950's. The DVD also includes two other special historical films as additional features.



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/>



SKI & MOUNTAIN TRAUMA CONFERENCE SUMMARY

By Mike Vorachek

Several MRA members attended the 2009 Ski and Mountain Trauma Conference in Sun Valley in November, 2009. There was a tremendous amount of information presented in both the pre-hospital and hospital provider presentations. Pre-conference presentations were provided for field responders. A

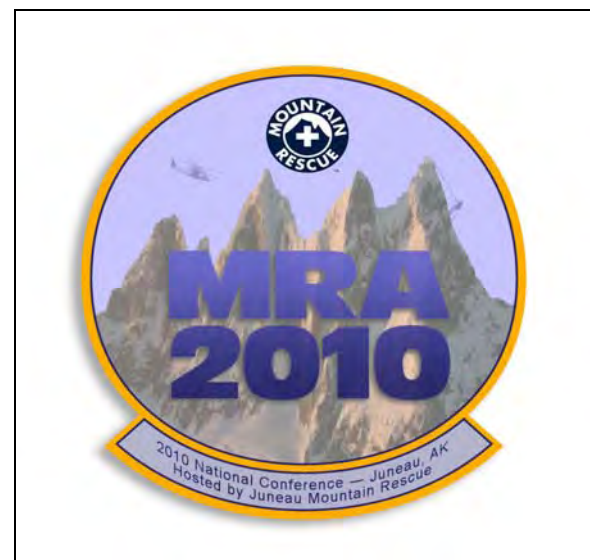
number of presentations dealt with a broad range of both pre-hospital and ER trauma topics.

An unbelievable presentation involved the wilderness rescue of Matt Potratz. He was buried in an avalanche in the mountains outside of McCall, ID. An expert snowmobiler who has made several videos on backcountry riding, he was caught and buried in an avalanche. Rescued by the riders with his group, he was severely injured and spent over 100 days in the hospital. His message of "***Never Give Up***" to SAR, field EMS, and hospital personnel was profound. In discussing his situation with him one-on-one later in the day, he related how difficult the rescue must have been for the EMS crews.

On a lighter note, a series of cold weather related topics were provided by the Keynote Speaker. *Keep Your Head Up: Cold Water Immersion* was presented by Gordon Giesbrecht, PhD. For those of you not familiar with "Dr. Popsicle", you need to look at his web site at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/kinrec/research/people/giesbrecht.html>. He is a true expert on survival in cold weather environments and has published a text and numerous presentations of the effects of cold weather on the human body.

Stay tuned for information on the 2010 Conference which will be held at the Sun Valley Resort in November.

BACK TO ALASKA! THE MRA 2010 CONFERENCE



June 17-20, 2010

The members of Juneau Mountain Rescue have been eagerly planning for the up coming MRA conference

June 17-20 in the capital of Alaska. We are finalizing contracts with local vendors and caterers to provide a sample of the finest Alaska cuisine and our local favorite beverage from the Alaskan Brewery.

Pre-conference events in Managing the Lost Person and Wilderness Medicine with RMI are being worked out. More information about these activities will be available in the near future.



RESCUE EXERCISE ON THE JUNEAU ICE FIELDS. PHOTO BY JUNEAU MOUNTAIN RESCUE

The conference will begin Thursday the 17th with speakers and classroom sessions at Centennial Hall in downtown Juneau.

Registration will begin Wednesday evening and Thursday morning at Centennial Hall. Events will also be held at the Mt. Roberts Tramway <http://www.goldbelttours.com/> that rises from sea level to the 1800 foot sub-alpine with views of Juneau and the Coast Mountains.

Friday the 18th will be glacier day on the world famous Mendenhall Glacier. We have negotiated with two local helicopter tour companies (TEMSCO

Helicopters and Nothstar Trekking) for a short flight seeing and transportation to the glacier. While on the glacier opportunities will be available for top roped ice climbing, traversing the glacier and crevasse rescue. There will also be a hike off option through the rainforest for those interested. Bring your crampons and appropriate boots, helmets harness and other items for this event.

Saturday the 19th will be filled with a variety of field sessions around the Juneau area and ending with the banquet that evening at Centennial Hall. Sunday the 20th the conference will end with the MRA business meeting.

Remember that Juneau is located in the Tongass National Forest the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world. So while we are hoping for sunshine during the longest days of the year bring your raingear.

On-line registration will be available in mid-February at the JMR website, Google Juneau Mountain Rescue or

<http://www1.clubrunner.ca/CRGeneric/CPrg/Home/homeD.asp?cid=100644> for registration information.

Some MRA members will be traveling to Juneau on board the Alaska Marine Highway the same ferry system that leaves from Bellingham, WA near Seattle. This travel option will allow members to travel to Juneau via the inside passage of Southeast Alaska. Schedules and travel information can be found at www.FerryAlaska.com.

To see a slide show, go [here](#).



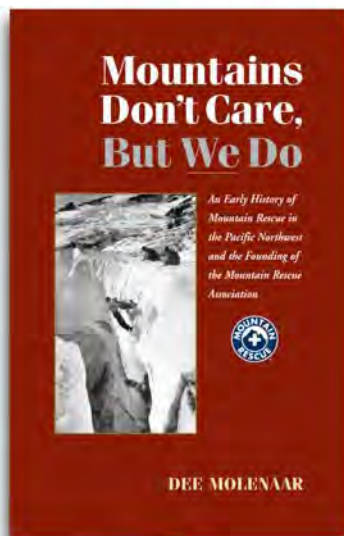
JUNEAU, ALASKA

See you in Juneau!!!

Mountains Don't Care, But We Do

An Early History of Mountain Rescue in the Pacific Northwest and the Founding of the Mountain Rescue Association

By Dee Molenaar



Dee Molenaar, author of *The Challenge of Rainier*, has written fascinating accounts of the legendary mountain rescues and recoveries in the Pacific Northwest. In telling these tales of triumph and tragedy, he has also traced the formation and evolution of the mountain rescue groups that carried out these missions.

"The old master has done it again, pulling from personal experience and scholarly research, a vital and vibrant history of mountain rescue in the Pacific Northwest to celebrate the Mountain Rescue Association's 50th anniversary."

Tom Hornbein

"Mountains Don't Care, But We Do, by Dee Molenaar, is a must read for those who enjoy high adventure and want to know the history of the Mountain Rescue Association."

Jim Whittaker

"Mountains Don't Care, But We Do, is a modest way of saying 'thank you' to the hundreds of mountain rescue volunteers who have come before us. We hope that they would be as proud of today's groups as we are of them."

Charley Shimanski, President
Mountain Rescue Association

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