

MERIDIAN

Spring 2017

The Quarterly Publication of the Mountain Rescue Association



mra.org

ICAR Air Delegation



Medcom - Insects

"Found" Book Review

Author Bree Lowen Interview



MOUNTAIN
RESCUE
ASSOCIATION

Spring 2017

President's Message	4
ICAR Air Rescue Commission	5
MedCom: Insect and Arthropod Repellents	10
2017 National Cave Rescue Commission Seminar	13
Book Review: Found—A Life in Mountain Rescue by Bree Loewen	11
Member Spotlight—Bree Loewen, Seattle Mountain Rescue	12
Podcast Review: The Sharp End	15
ITRS Call for Papers	16
Editor's Message	17
MRA Store	18

Cover caption: USCG Air Station Traverse City during a hoist training. Brian Edwards

MRA Leadership

President

Bryan Enberg
New Jersey Search and Rescue
president@mra.org

Vice President

Art Fortini
Sierra Madre Search and Rescue
vp@mra.org

Past President

Dave Clarke
Portland Mountain Rescue

Secretary/Treasurer

Antonio Arizo
Ventura County—East Valley SAR
aarizo@vcsar3.org

At-Large Member

Alison Sheets
Rocky Mountain Rescue
alisonsheets@usa.net

At-Large Member

Doug McCall
Seattle Mountain Rescue
dougmcCall@msn.com

Executive Secretary

Kayley Bell
kayley@kayley.com

Meridian Staff

Editor: Todd Lemein
Graphic Designer: Carolanne Powers

Submissions

Send to MeridianEditor@mra.org

Corporate correspondence

Mountain Rescue Association
PO Box 800868
San Diego, CA 92168-0868

Support those who support the MRA!



To learn more about our levels of sponsorship, click through to the [MRA Sponsor page](#).

President's Message Spring 2017

By Bryan Enberg, MRA president and New Jersey Search and Rescue

Welcome to the membership

I would like to welcome Naval Air Station Fallon's Longhorn Search and Rescue out of Churchill, Nevada on becoming an ex-officio member of the Mountain Rescue Association. Based on its proximity to California and because the team works regularly with teams in California, the Board voted to have this new team join the California Region. Welcome aboard!

MRA Spring Conference

I would like to congratulate [Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit](#) for their outstanding work as hosts of the 2017 MRA Spring Conference. Amanda Leader and her team organized and executed an exceptional program that covered a wide range of mountain rescue and general SAR topics ranging from working out of helicopters to working on horseback. I particularly appreciated the intense focus on risk management in all facets of SAR operations, fostering a risk-aware, everyone goes home culture in our membership that will enhance all of our rescue programs. MRA conferences are the premier mountain rescue training opportunities on this continent. Every member team should strive to have representation attend these conferences to ensure that their program stays current with operational best practices and procedures.

Upcoming events

Our future looks bright! We have commitments from our members to host the MRA Spring Conferences through 2021!

- 2018 - Rocky Mountain House
- 2019 - Portland Mountain Rescue
- 2020 - Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group
- 2021 - Larimer County Search and Rescue

MRA Officers Elections

A special thank you to Skeet Glatterer, for the outstanding work he has done for the organization as a Member-at-Large. He will continue to serve the MRA, with both the Medical Committee and the MRA Safety Committee. We had some fantastic candidates who were nominated for the open Secretary/Treasurer and Member at Large positions and thank you to all who stepped up to help guide the organization. Congratulations to our incoming officers, Doug McCall who moved from Secretary/Treasurer to fill the Member-at-Large position, Antonio Arizo who moves from Member-at-Large to Secretary/Treasurer, and Allison Sheets as Member-at-Large. Thank you for your continued commitment to the MRA!

ICAR Elections

The Board of the MRA has committed significant time and money to enhance our participation in the International Commission on Alpine Rescue with the goal of being able to share more

teachings with the MRA membership. As with the Officers elections, we had some amazingly qualified nominations. Congratulations to Oyvind Henningsen who will be our primary delegate to the Avalanche Commission and to Dr. Allison Sheets, as our primary delegate, and Dr. Ken Zafren, as our alternate delegate, to the Medical Commission.

The Face of the MRA

If you or your team is doing something, we want to share it! Post it to our Facebook or send us an article! Have a member of your team to be highlighted? Send us a name and we will do the interview! Using a cool new tactic or testing with a new piece of gear? Let us know! Have a cool mountain rescue photo? Send it our way! We want the Meridian to tell the story of your MRA!

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Meridian, yet another great benefit of MRA membership. Thank you, all, for your hard work, courage, commitment, and compassion.

Yours in service,

Bryan Enberg

President, Mountain Rescue Association

president@mra.org

Phone/Text 973-459-0635



ICAR Air Rescue Commission

By Charley Shimanski, MRA Primary Delegate to the Air Rescue Commission, Mountain Rescue Program Coordinator; Flight For Life Colorado

The Air-Rescue Commission of the International Committee for Alpine Rescue (ICAR) took place in Borovets, Bulgaria from October 19-22, 2016 and was attended by 43 delegates representing countries from both Europe and North America. The Air Rescue Commission was chaired by Patrick Fauchère (KWRO/OCVS, Switzerland). Charley Shimanski represented the MRA as the USA delegate.

The Air Rescue commission studies not only mountain rescue operations but also Helicopter Emergency Management system (HEMS) Operations. These include hospital-based helicopter programs.

Preconference - Wednesday, October 19

Air Rescue Commission Presentations

Helicopter longline avalanche rescue: The pre-conference on October 19th included a demonstration of a technique during which rescuers are inserted to an avalanche accident by longline, yet remain attached to the helicopter while it hovers overhead. The objective of this technique is to enable a rapid extrication of the rescuers from the scene in the event of a second avalanche. A few teams in Europe utilize this technique, which should largely be utilized by programs that can be airborne from their rescue base within minutes of an avalanche accident. This is a high risk technique, and the survivability of the subject(s) must be weighed against the risk of the operation. It is not a technique that should be utilized for all avalanche accidents, particularly those where there has been significant time between the accident and the rescuer insertion.

Accident/Incident Reviews

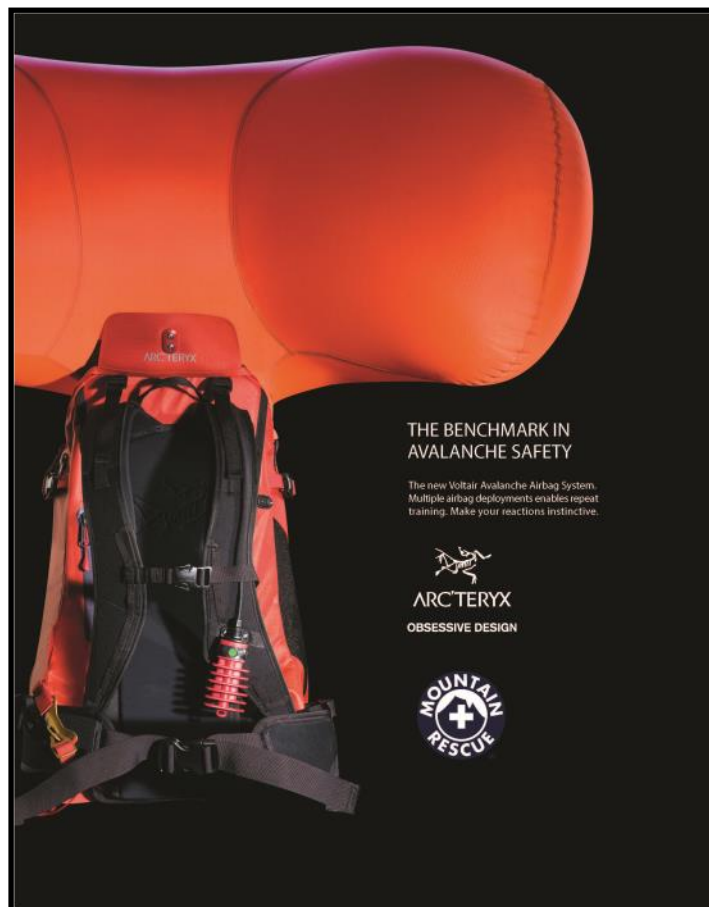
As usual, the Air Rescue Commission began its work with a review of accidents and incidents worldwide. Some of the presentations with key lessons learned are detailed below.

Blade Strike on a Lama (Switzerland): While in a nose-in hover, two passengers exited the aircraft. The helicopter then went into ground resonance (common with a Lama). The pilot repositioned the aircraft. When the third passenger was exiting, the aircraft experienced a blade strike on the left side, the pilot pulled the collective, but ten metres below, the aircraft hit the ground and rolled over on its side. There were no injuries.

Drone Incident (Switzerland): While preparing for take-off during a Human External Cargo (HEC) mission, a pilot of an EC 135 helicopter noticed a drone passing 15 metres over top of the helicopter. There was no contact, but this was determined to be a close call. The aircraft continued the mission. The operator of the drone was never located.



Air rescue. Adam Ward



Drone Incidents (Austria): A total of 10 incidents between drones and helicopters was reported during 2016, including one at night in a controlled airspace. All were close calls, but no contact was made. It was reported that EASA will be introducing prototype recommendations governing drone use.

Paraglider Incident (Switzerland): An AW 109 inadvertently came in close proximity to a paraglider on a final approach. This resulted in a partial collapse of the paraglider's canopy on one side. There was no impact on the helicopter.

Bell 429 Helicopter Crash (Slovakia): During a night time HEM mission in north Slovakia the pilot landed to pick up a patient at a small landing zone on a ridge top (below tree line). The patient (with a broken leg) was loaded on board and the aircraft departed. After takeoff, approximately 30-45 seconds into flight, the aircraft hit terrain and exploded. The crew of three and the patient all died. The flight data recorder was destroyed. The weather was reported as good and the pilot was wearing NVG. The cause of the crash remains unknown.

Close Call with Rope Coming Close to Tail Rotor (Norway): An AW 139 was conducting a hoist operation off of a small boat. During the operation the tag-line was released and was not held down. The tagline flew up by itself in close proximity to the tail rotor. The hoist operator reported seeing the line hit the horizontal stabilizer and responded by cutting the cable. There were no injuries.

Landing in Snow Incident (France): An EC 145 was unloading rescuers while landed on snow at a ski resort. The snow collapsed below the skid resulting in the tail bumper contacting the snow. There were no injuries or damage to the aircraft.

Super Puma Crash (Switzerland): An Army Super Puma crashed shortly after take-off. After dropping off passengers the aircraft departed and just after take-off made contact with an overhead cable. The two pilots on board were killed and one crewmember in the back was seriously injured.

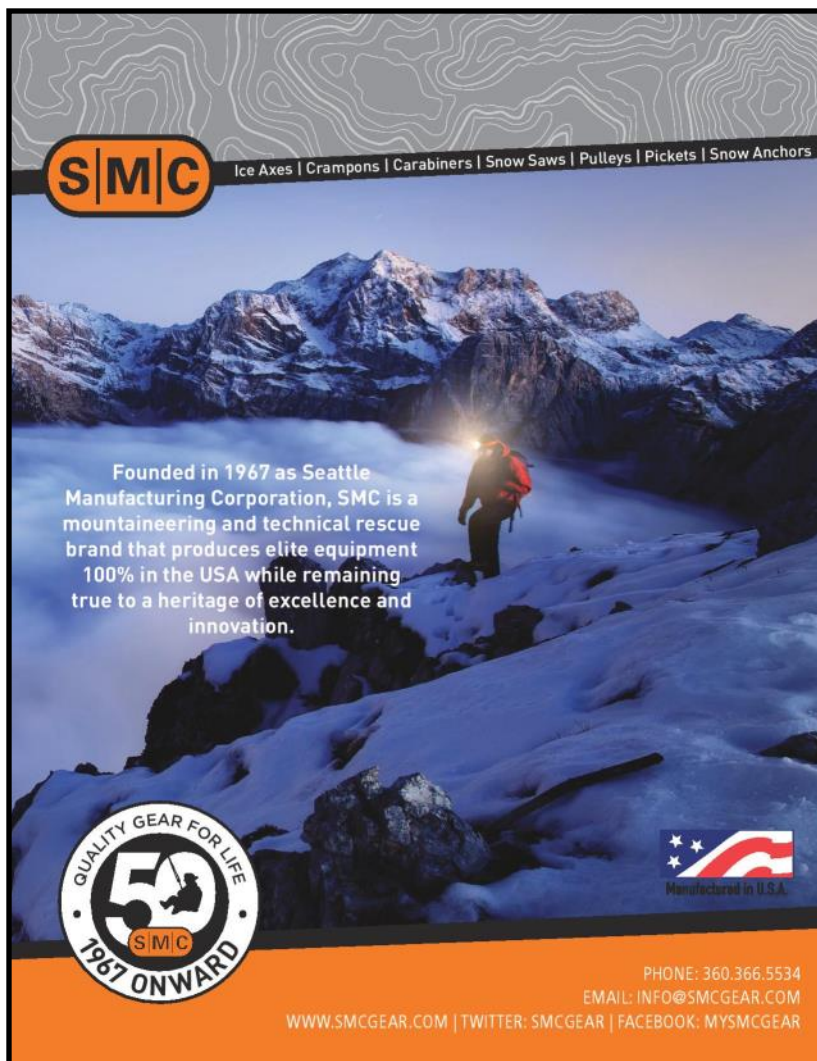
United States - Honolulu Fire Department Short Haul Accident: September 2, 2016, Honolulu, Hawaii—Assisting a hiker with a medical emergency, rescuers loaded the patient into a rescue basket.

The basket contacted a utility pole, causing the firefighter to fall 30 feet. The patient remained in the basket and was transported to a landing zone.

The fall left firefighter with broken bones, cracked ribs, internal injuries, and he felt a jolt of electricity.

HFD has hired a helicopter training instructor for next three months. Instructor is a retired flight instructor with the Honolulu Police Department.

United States - King County Washington: July 17, 2016, Mount Adams, Washington—The King County



S/M/C Ice Axes | Crampons | Carabiners | Snow Saws | Pulleys | Pickets | Snow Anchors

Founded in 1967 as Seattle Manufacturing Corporation, SMC is a mountaineering and technical rescue brand that produces elite equipment 100% in the USA while remaining true to a heritage of excellence and innovation.

QUALITY GEAR FOR LIFE
50
SMC
1967 ONWARD

PHONE: 360.366.5534
EMAIL: INFO@SMCGEAR.COM
WWW.SMCGEAR.COM | TWITTER: SMCGEAR | FACEBOOK: MYSMCGEAR



Paragliders are operating in helicopter airspace at a growing rate, in Europe especially.



Firefighter falling from Rescue Basket during short haul operation in Hawaii.



The wreckage was heavily fragmented with only the aft fuselage being generally recognizable.

Sheriff's helicopter was performing a flight to insert two SAR personnel onto Mt. Adams. Pilot executed a reconnaissance approach from the north to south and expected a slight head wind.

However, as he was using too much left pedal, he decided to abort the approach and execute a second approach from south to north. On the second approach, below effective transitional lift, at an altitude of about 100 feet above ground level, and pointed towards the mountain, the helicopter yawed to the right and then accelerated into a fast right hand spin.

Both pilots immediately recognized the loss of tail rotor effectiveness. The pilot pushed in full left pedal and attempted to fly the helicopter away from terrain.

After one and a half spins, the helicopter impacted the ground, bounced back into the air, and continued with a straight and level flight away from the mountain.



Damage to the King County Sheriff's helicopter sustained during contact with the ground. Pallets were arranged at a local airport to allow for a safe landing with damaged skid.

Firefighters arranged wooden pallets to balance the damaged helicopter on landing.

United States - Delaware State Police:

July 11, 2016, Georgetown, Delaware—The Delaware State Police aviation unit was conducting monthly external hoist operations training with the Delaware Air Rescue Team.

The three-person team consisted of a rescue specialist, a system operator, and a safety officer.

The team members rotated positions. The accident flight was the seventh iteration, and the first flight where the fatally injured crewmember was system operator.

On the rotation during which the accident occurred, the restraints were checked and verified secure. The helicopter lifted off the ground, moved to the

**It Runs
It Rides
It Climbs**

(It Disappears)
Patagonia's Houdini® Jacket
patagonia.com/opportunist

patagonia

practice area, and then the system operator requested and was granted permission to move to the helicopter skid. The system operator stepped onto the skid, and then fell from the helicopter. He was treated at the scene and transported to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

United States – Lone Survivor Signals Rescuers; Native Air Ambulance: December 14, 2015, Apache Junction, Arizona—The helicopter crashed in the rugged, snow-covered terrain in the Superstition Mountains.

Evening flight in fog and cold weather could be factors that led to an "unintended flight into ground" crash.

Pilot David Schneider, 51 and flight nurse Chad Frary, 38, died. Medic Derek Boehm was critically injured. Boehm attempted lifesaving measures on one of the victims who showed signs of life, but was unsuccessful.

Boehm signaled rescue teams using a flashlight. The crash area was difficult to reach - a military helicopter rescued the survivor.

Plenary Session Presentations

There were many informative presentations during the Air Rescue Commission, as well as during joint meetings with the Terrestrial Rescue Commission. Some of these are highlighted below.

"Le Lezard" Standard Operating Procedures—By Emmanuel Chavanne (French Gendarmerie).

The Petzl Lizard (aka "Le Lezard") is a lanyard that creates an interface between the rescuer, helicopter and the anchor. The attachment to the anchor is automatically releasable (when the lanyard is attached to both the anchor and the helicopter) in a situation where the helicopter must fly.

The discussion revolved around the French Gendarmerie use of and standard operating procedures (SOP's) for the relatively new Lizard. The Gendarmerie took six months of testing to create the SOP's. There were some small changes made from the Petzl user manual in order to accommodate some specific needs.

The Gendarmerie currently train with the Lizard every four months. Emmanuel showed video of the Lizard in action. He emphasized that the Lizard required significant user training.

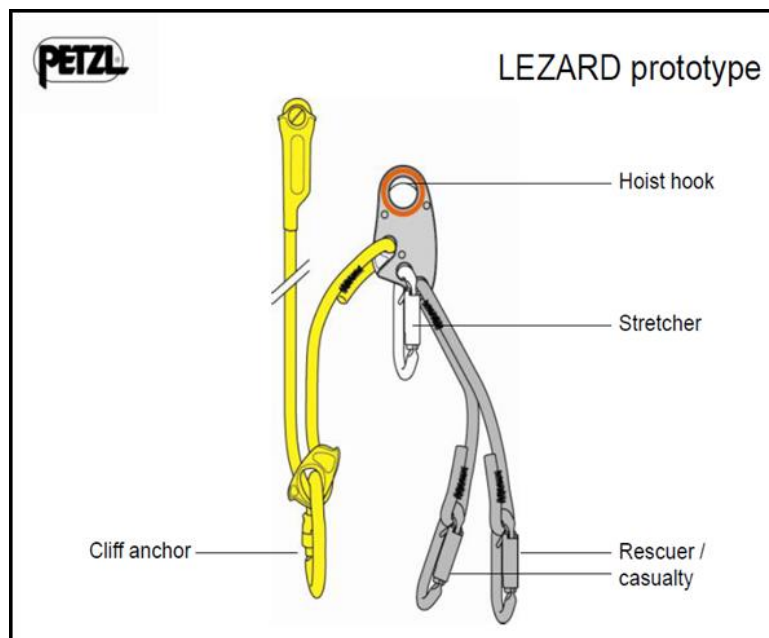
The French Gendarmerie, Sweden Police and Air-Glaciers in Switzerland currently are the only groups using the Lizard.

ORTOVOX Emergency Card (NOTFALLKARTE) - By Dieter Kotlaba (Ortovox).

ORTOVOX is working on an information card with emergency information that can be integrated into all backpacks.



A paramedic survivor of this accident attempted lifesaving measures on one of the victims who showed signs of life, but was unsuccessful.



Do you know where to find the MRA?



<https://www.facebook.com/MountainRescueAssociation>



<http://twitter.com/MtRescueassoc>



<http://mtrescueassoc.blogspot.com>

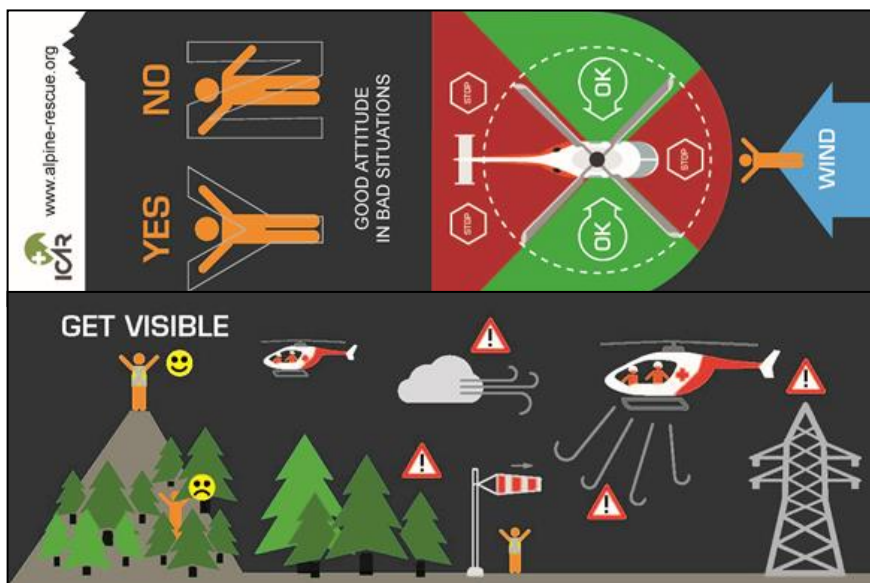
The card includes critical information:

1. Emergency phone number for each country (e.g. 9-1-1)
2. In case of emergency numbers for yourself (ICE)
3. Medical and medicine information
4. Emergency contact info for your friends

ICAR Safety Card

The ICAR Air Rescue Commission has developed its own Safety Card to educate the public in helicopter operations. Rescue teams can add their own logo. Idea may be to push the card into clothes, bags, mountain gear, etc. ICAR will NOT make printed versions available.

One Commission member suggested that ICAR create a card for drones education.



ICAR Proposed Safety Card

Possible Topics for 2017 ICAR Conference

The 2017 ICAR Congress will be held October 18-22 in Andorra. The Air Rescue Commission is considering the following topics.

- Wingsuit flying and BASE Jumping
- Slack lines
- Big wall Rescue
- Drones (continuation)

If you have any questions or thoughts about the Air Rescue Commission, please contact your MRA delegates.



USA Terrestrial Commission Alternate Delegate Dr. Alison Sheets (center) during a simulation of the fixed longline avalanche rescue technique.



MedCom: Insect and Arthropod Repellents

By Thomas Gilder, MS4, Van Wall, DO, Timothy Hurtado, DO, FACEP.

For thousands of years, insect and arthropod bites have been at the very least a nuisance and at most a cause of illness and death. Certain species of mosquitoes can transmit malaria, yellow fever, West Nile virus, and other diseases. Tick-borne illnesses include Lyme disease, Babesiosis, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Insects and arthropods around the world can carry diseases endemic to their regions.

Vaccinations or medications are important prophylactic measures for some diseases. For others, preventing the occurrence of the bite is the preferred approach. The use of fragrant oils and plant scents have been described for centuries. In modern times, synthetic insect repellents have been developed and have been shown to offer the most effective bite prevention.

DEET (N,N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) was developed in 1946 for use by the U.S. Army. It works by forming a vapor barrier over the skin or clothing where it is applied. This vapor barrier is noxious to insects and arthropods. DEET is available commercially in a variety of strengths. Concentrations between 10-35% are generally considered effective when used according to manufacturer's recommendations. Rarely, direct ingestion or prolonged use with higher concentrations may be toxic. DEET is an effective solvent and may dissolve plastics, synthetic fabrics and painted or varnished surfaces. This may effect rescue equipment.

Picaridin, (also known as Icaridin) is a synthetic compound developed in the 1980s. It is used similarly to DEET. It is thought to work by inhibiting mosquitos from sensing their prey. When this product is used in equivalent concentrations to DEET, it is as effective with potentially fewer side effects.

Permethrin was developed in the 1970s as a long-lasting alternative to DEET that can be incorporated into materials for ongoing protection. Its structure allows it to be embedded in cloth. Permethrin can frequently be purchased pre-embedded in clothes, hats, tents, mosquito nets, etc. It may be applied to these materials after market as well. Protection is reduced with repeated laundering.

Other repellent agents include natural volatiles, such as citronella, lemon, or eucalyptus oils. Advocates claim that the natural source and reduced potential for toxicity to the user and the environment are advantages. Natural volatiles require higher concentrations than DEET or permethrin and are shorter acting. Although they may be useful against mosquitoes, biting flies, and gnats, they are less effective against ticks. Overall they are not as effective as synthetic repellents. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not recommend pure natural volatiles for use as insect repellents.

In summary, routine use of preventive measures against arthropod bites is strongly encouraged. A variety of repellent options currently exist to fulfill individual requirements and preferences. Adherence to product labeling is important for maximum effectiveness.

Further reading: Protection against Mosquitoes, Ticks, & Other Arthropods. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2016/the-pre-travel-consultation/protection-against-mosquitoes-ticks-other-arthropods>.

MADE IN USA

enForcer

Take the guesswork out of your rigging with the lightweight and compact load cell designed for use in both training and the real world.

For detailed information, visit www.rockexotica.com/enforcer

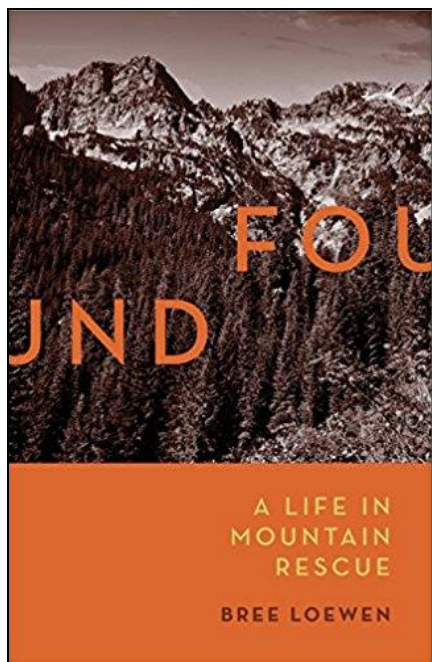
- Monitor and Record forces up to 20 kN
- Compact & Ultra Portable—weighs just 14oz with batteries
- Communicates wirelessly via Bluetooth to the enForcer iPhone app*

Download graph or CSV file to analyze data

*App sold separately For use with iPhone 4S or newer

Case Included

WWW.ROCKEXOTICA.COM



Book Review: Found—A Life in Mountain Rescue by Bree Loewen

Reviewed by Fran Sharp, Tacoma Mountain Rescue, MRA President 2006-2008

Let's see... a book about a friend's experiences in mountain rescue; that includes mutual friends and team members I work with regularly; in the mountains I love – yes, I'm hooked. However, this is not just a narrative that reels out the excitement of mountain rescue stories nor elevates the rescue members to new levels of courageous bravado. Bree digs deeper into her own personal reasons for getting up in the middle of the night to slog around in the rain and help someone she does not know. And, she shares them openly and freely with her readers.

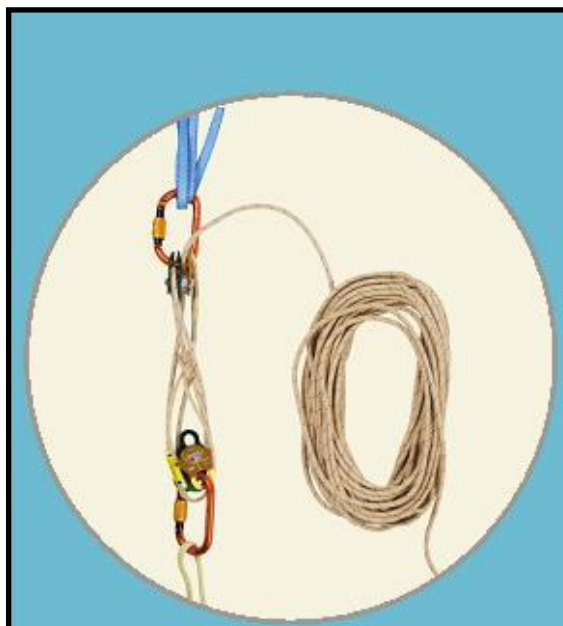
Bree has a terrific way of weaving the intensity of the rescue experience with the comic relief of anecdotes about her teammates and family. Like all of us who do mountain rescue, her stories reflect our lives; blending our passions for missions with our day-to-day realities. And, trying to achieve the perfect, yet truly unachievable, balance between the two. With honesty seldom shared to outsiders,

she opens both her personal and mountain rescue life, with all its ups and downs, challenges and failures and pulls us in.

While telling the story of a mission on Mt. Rainier, Bree hit on the head a feeling all SAR members live with yet rarely acknowledge.

"They tell me good-naturedly that I'm smart enough that I should really be doing something important with my life. But at the same time, the only reason I know them is because they sacrifice sleep to go help carry injured people out of the woods for free, too, and they're amazing at it. Its like a secret life of compassion and altruism that no can bring themselves to admit to. Funny. But I love working with folks who really care about other people, who put their whole selves out there even if it's a secret..."

Part of us does live in a secret world, where the strength of our camaraderie and confidence in our teams, is stronger than the ropes we use for climbing. Where our desire to use our skills to help another human in need, with no explanation or judgment, is stronger than our desire for sleep, not missing work or a "normal" life. Bree just helps us admit it.



Sterling Pico™ Crevasse Rescue Kit

Designed for glacier travel, this 4:1 pulley system allows for quick rescue in the event of a fall into a crevasse.

Our Pico Double Pulleys weigh only 3.3 oz. each and are rated for 30kN. They combine with our 6mm TRC cord and 5mm TRC Prusik to form a kit that provides an ultra-compact mechanical advantage setup.

Visit sterlingrope.com for full specs.



Made in U.S.A. with
U.S. and Globally-
Sourced Material.



Member Spotlight—Bree Loewen, Seattle Mountain Rescue

Interviewed by Todd Lemein. The conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

Bree Loewen has been a climbing ranger on Mount Rainier, an EMT in Seattle, and a contributor to Climbing and Alpinist magazines. As a current volunteer with Seattle Mountain Rescue, Bree has been on more than 100 rescues in the past three years—and countless more over her career. She is the author of two books: "Pickets and Dead Men" and the just released "Found – A Life in Mountain Rescue."



Selfie photobomb with the crew. Bree Loewen

First up, were you serious when you said you really like skiing ice? I've not heard this before and it made me laugh.

I really do like skiing ice. I learned to ski at Alpentel, WA which has some amazing icy moguls. Now I find that even when I'm skiing powder, I still tense up when I fall over - it feels disconcerting when it doesn't hurt. Skiing ice feels comfortable. Or comfortably uncomfortable. Plus it's fast and effortless and I suppose you just get better at what you do all the time.

What brought you to Seattle Mountain Rescue (SMR)? You frequently mentioned differences in perception of the amateur vs. professional rescuer and you've had experiences with both. For the amount of work that you are involved with SMR I find it hard to not consider you a professional (or your teammates).

I really appreciate the fact that SMR is an all-volunteer organization. I think that if you're injured in the mountains, you're pretty stoked if anyone comes to rescue you no matter who it is. But if all your friends bail on work, and beat themselves up all night to carry you out in their arms, that's like, not something you could ever get for any amount of money. That's love, and taking being supportive to another level. That's what we're able to bring right now.

There was a really great guy who was a part of the local climbing community who died in an avalanche a few weeks ago. It was such an honor to be there as a friend, not as a professional sweeping in to clean it up. We were able to say a few words, do the recovery like we'd want it done. When we carry out a dead climber or skier, it's a spectacle just from the sheer number of winding lights in the dark. I think it really hits at the heart of what climbing culture means. It rocks your world a little bit, but it's a beautiful ritual.

Being a volunteer we surround ourselves with people that want to help, and I imagine a professional setting might work against that in some cases but maybe that is being a bit harsh (or egotistical from the point of view of the amateur).

I guess, for me the professionalism debate comes down to two things. First, I don't think you can pay people to care. I worry that we might attract a different type of folks if we got paid. I know money and caring aren't mutually exclusive, but someone once told me that it's never a good idea to do what you love for money. So, maybe I'm just scared to go there. Second, we're so enriched by the skill sets that our volunteers bring with them from their day jobs. Being a physician or an engineer or running a company - those things give a depth of knowledge in applicable subject matter and interpersonal skills that just doing SAR alone would never provide. Sometimes when you really need to think outside the box, it's great to pull out a guy who teaches physics, and a mechanical engineer and a badass climber and be like, "alright, we've never seen this kind of situation before, how do we make this possible?"



Seattle Mountain Rescue at the Washington Mountain Rescue Association Avalanche reaccreditation. Doug Saunders

Do you have any insight as to why high volume mission areas don't have professional and full time SAR? Do you see a future in which high volume areas might establish a professional SAR operation?

I think your question about whether SAR will go paid here (Washington State) is a legitimate question. Seattle is the fastest growing city in the United States. Seattle Mountain Rescue has had a 6% increase in calls last year, and a 36% increase in the past five years. We had 165 rescues in 2016, which is a lot for our 48 field-qualified members to take on. It means we've got mad skills, but it's also delicate to balance with also having to take on an actual full-time career and manage the activities of daily living. Right now though, we're still rocking it.

You give an amazing perspective on being a mother, wife, friend, job hunter, and volunteer. I don't really know if I have a question there but people should read your book and be amazed.

Ha! Thanks. :) I think these are the days that I'm going to remember when I'm old. I just hope they don't give me nightmares.

You have written two books now - does this mean you have a job?

No! To date, I haven't made any money in royalties. So maybe actually Yes! It is a job, it's just another one that I do for free.

Follow up, how's nursing school? Done? Job found?

I'm roughly two-thirds of the way done with nursing school. My book launch events start the week before finals. It turns out that writing and promoting a book while in nursing school, having a family, doing enough climbing to stay a climber, and responding to rescues with SMR may have been a bit ambitious. I'm stoked I have the opportunity to do all of it though, and I love being able to talk about what SMR does. I'm kinda tired. But I'm stoked.

I have a hard time describing the tone of the book but want to say that it is solemn, or that there is an overarching theme of mortality, or death as part of life and commonplace.

Well, yeah, that's true. How about bringing tenderness and deadpan humor, (and a dozen friends) into the worst day of someone's life?

There was a story in Found where you had to take pictures of a body and it reminded me of a similar experience I had. Have you ever heard from the medical examiner about the pictures that are taken? I always wondered if there was someone who reviewed the files and thought "what was this person doing, why are the pictures being taken like this?"

In our case I provide photos, but then we usually go over the body together and so I can answer any questions they have, and during that time, I get a pretty good feel for what sorts of things they want to see and learn about. I've taught them a lot about climbing equipment and technique over the years.

It's still a learning process though. I once got a call back from a medical examiner asking about why someone who had jumped off a cliff lungs were full of water. I think my biggest take-away is not to just photograph the person, but to photograph the sky, and the ground, and everything you can see in every direction.

Does SMR really dry all their mission gear in the back of the truck?

Yes. We've never had a home. We have two trucks but no permanent parking spaces for them - the Forest Service or the Fire Department or the City will let us park somewhere for a while, and then they ask us to leave so they can get their parking back. It makes it really hard to find space for training and meetings and, yeah, to dry our gear out. We've got a space heater and a dehumidifier in the back of our truck and we do the best we can. Seattle's property prices are astronomical though, so this is going to be the plan for a while. After a really big technical rescue that would overwhelm the dehumidifier, one of our members

Simplify / The MPD™ ROPE RESCUE / Makes Your Job Easier

CMC Rescue's Multi-Purpose Device (MPD) quickly and easily transitions from lowering to raising on main and belay systems.

- Replaces 8 Pieces of Equipment
- Streamlines Rigging and Training
- Unique Patented Design
- Increases Safety
- Saves Time



844-220-6506 | cmcrescue.com
TESTED. PROVEN. TRUSTED.

UL Classified to
NFPA 1983 – General Use



will just take all the gear home, sort and clean everything, and dry it out. But that means that if there's another rescue, that person had better darn well show up.

I feel like, as climbers, we all know how to live out of a car. Maybe that's actually more of our comfort zone than the idea of being property owners. But it rains a heck of a lot here, and the trucks start to smell like wet dog by late spring. Getting a building is certainly a long-term goal.

Tell us a bit about the raise on Guye Peak. How scary (or not) was finding the core shot on the rope? Could you see it happening during the haul or did it catch the team off guard.

It was a four and a half hour raise. We'd done a fixed and focused anchor extension using a climbing rope. It was aligned perfectly, but it must have been an incredibly slight shift forward and back with each pull, so over the course of hauling 6,000 feet of rope, it was enough to cause significant sheath damage on one of our six anchor legs, even with edge protection. It was a big learning experience for me to check to see if gear is wearing out over the course of a single operation. I think maybe stopping to touch everything from the anchor to the point where the rope goes over the edge just to ensure everything is okay every hour or so may be a good idea.

Was it scary to find the core shot? I think that there is no other time of my life that I would have tried to do that rescue at all. I had a really qualified, incredibly physically strong crew, and we had over a hundred years of experience between us. But no matter what, I think what we do is dangerous. Saying that we're going to do something like that is accepting a lot of risk - even just from objective hazard. We did everything we could think of to mitigate our risk, and we thought of a lot of stuff, but I think at a certain point you have to call it as it is. Nobody can think of everything. Our anchor was still solid, but when we saw the core shot, we were like, "Well damn. There's another knowledge point for next time."

Do you have any advice/thoughts/suggestions for parents working in SAR?

I don't have any great advice for parents in SAR. My kid is eight years old. Maybe when she's grown up she'll be able to tell me what a better balance would have looked like. Right now I'm just in the thick of it. If anyone out there has advice for me, send it my way!

Any recent recreating trips that were exciting/pleasant in the non-death defying sense?

No! I'm still up to my eyeballs in nursing school. I went cragging in Leavenworth last weekend with some of the SMR crew, but, (and perhaps it was inevitable) we ran into Chelan Mountain Rescue helping some lady with a broken ankle, so we ended up doing that instead of sitting around the campfire swapping stories like we'd intended.

Anyhow, today is Saturday, so there will be a rescue and I'll probably go on that. If there's not, then I'll go hiking tonight once the trails clear out around 9pm. I have big climbing plans for this summer though...

Thank you very much for your leadership and time spent helping others and sharing your stories and experiences with the community. I hope the sunshine is coming out up there like it is here in Oregon.



Looking up at Mount Garfield prior to climbing 10 pitches for a body recovery of a fellow climber. Bree Loewen



Podcast Review: The Sharp End

By Tyler Deboodt, Corvallis Mountain Rescue

The Sharp End Podcast is hosted by Ashley Saupe and produced in cooperation with the American Alpine Club's Accidents in North American Climbing. Each month, an accident is described either from the point of view of the climbers and/or the rescuers involved in the rescue or accident. Each episode follows an interview format and details the events that led up to the accident, the outcome, and lessons learned from that particular situation. Most episodes focus on the climber that was involved in the accident, but there are many which are either described by rescue personnel or directly involve the rescue effort. The most recent episode, "A Rescuer Needs a Rescue (Episode 14)," is directly applicable to those of us involved in mountain rescue. The episode details the events that led to a rescuer from a Colorado SAR team being caught and injured in an avalanche during a search for a lost skier and snowboarder. Other episodes that may be of interest to the MRA community include "A Snake Dike Tragedy (Episode 11)" which interviews a Yosemite climbing ranger responding to an accident, "Dave Weber (Episode 4)," in which Dave Weber, a Denali ranger is interviewed on an event on the Ruth Glacier, and "Rescue in the Palisades (Episode 3)." Episode 3 is unique in that the subject of the accident recorded large portions of the event and subsequent rescue. In general, the podcast provides details and events leading up to an accident that we typically do not hear as rescuers. Episodes in which rescue personnel are not interviewed or in which a rescue team is not involved are still interesting for the examination of the events and the insight into the climbing decisions that were made. Each episode is around 25 minutes and worth a listen to gain insight on the details and lessons learned from each accident. Episodes can be found at The Sharp End Website <https://americanalpineclub.org/sharp-end-podcast/> or through your preferred podcast app of choice.



The beauty of our new rope may only be skin deep, but its strength goes to the core

PMI® Hudson Classic Pro with Unicore®
KEY FEATURES:
Unicore® technology, 100% nylon sheath, 100% nylon 6,6 core, compliant with NFPA 1983, ANSI Z359, and CI 1801, MBS: 42.5 kN (9555 lbf), Sheath Slippage: <0.1%

PMI® Extreme Pro™
KEY FEATURES:
Unicore® technology, 100% Polyester sheath, 100% nylon 6,6 core, compliant with NFPA 1983, ANSI Z359, and CI 1801, MBS: 37.6 kN (8452 lbf), Sheath Slippage: <0.1%

Abseillon USA maintaining the Skywalk at Grand Canyon, AZ Hualapai Indian Reservation

PMIROPE.COM ^ 1-800-282-ROPE

FACEBOOK.COM/PIGEONMOUNTAIN

@PMIROPE

@PIGEONMOUNTAIN



ITRS
Call for papers
Deadline, August 4th

November 2nd – 5th, 2017
 Denver, CO

[Learn More](#)

CMC RESCUE PMI

It is time to submit your presenter proposals for the **2017 International Technical Rescue Symposium**! This year's event is occurring November 2-5, in Denver, Colorado. Details can be found at <http://itrsonline.org/>.

Please consider sharing your latest research, experiences, and testing with others – just like you - in the rescue field. If you know someone willing to present a topic that the ITRS community would enjoy, please share this information with them now. ITRS is gathering persons from across the spectrum of rescue disciplines to share theoretical and practical news and views on:

- Controversial Issues
- New Equipment
- New Developments in Gear Technology
- Research and Testing Results
- Technique and Systems Discussions
- Medical Considerations in Rescue
- Analysis of High Angle Accidents
- Developments in Helicopter Rescue
- Swiftwater Rescue topics

ITRS 2017 Presentations Proposals

Anyone interested in presenting at ITRS 2017 can access the required Presenter Forms at <http://itrsonline.org/presenter-info/> or request it by email at program@itrsonline.org. The deadline for submitting a presentation proposal is **August 4, 2017**. Once the completed paperwork has been received, the ITRS Program Committee will review and respond to proposals by September 1. Final Proceedings Papers (2-8 pages total in length) will be due by **October 1, 2017**.

ITRS 2017 Presentation Awards

To encourage and reward excellence in presentations, the Symposium offers a "Presenter Award" program. The program is intended to award and acknowledge presenters who give presentations which reflect experience in facts and data (rather than opinion or conclusion); choice of topic (applicable to field work); and state of the art technical rescue. After the final presentation, attendees will have opportunity to vote on the presentations based on seven categories, with one award going to each category. Each winner will receive a \$200 honorarium.

ITRS 2017 Poster Sessions

This is a great opportunity we are offering to allow you to share your technical rescue material in a more personal, conversational setting. Go to <http://itrsonline.org/> to get the guidelines for poster presentations.

Limited Enrollment

In order to encourage the informal free flow of information involving all participants, enrollment has been limited to 150 persons. If necessary, a waiting list will be available.

ITRS Sponsors

The International Technical Rescue Symposium is presented jointly by Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI), Inc. and CMC Rescue, Inc.

ITRS 2017 is co-sponsored by the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA), National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR), Society of Professional Rope Access Technicians (SPRAT), National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) of the National Speleological Society, and the Helicopter Rescue & Response Association (HRRRA).

Thank you for your consideration in presenting your topic at the International Technical Rescue Symposium in 2017. We look forward to your participation and for contributing to the ITRS community!

Editor's Note

Hello Rescuers,

I hope you all have had a great time at the MRA conference and I wish I could have been there to meet you and soak up all the knowledge and information that was presented. We have highlighted a great book by Bree Loewen in this issue but I would just like to say thank you to all of our members who put forth an extraordinary amount of time and effort to help others. It is appreciated. Thank you as always to MedCom and ICAR members who work to keep us informed about the latest information in their fields. Here's to the end of a great spring and the beginning of a great summer.

Todd Lemein

MRA Meridian Editor



NEVER ALONE.

Photo: Fredrik Marmaster Photography Rider: Matt Swenson

BC Link
Group Communication

Remote/accessible Smart Mic, long-lasting battery, and compatibility with all FRS/GMRS radios.

Apply for a pro account here: backcountryaccess.com/pro.
Enter promo code: MRA2015

bca The most trusted name in backcountry safety.

WHERE'S ANDY?
HE WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME.

I FLATTED AND MY FRIENDS
DON'T KNOW TO WAIT UP.

Show your support of your team!

Outfit yourself with goods from the MRA store.

Log on to the MRA website, and place your order!

[SHOP HERE \(Members Only\)!](#)

