Mountain Rescue Association
Rocky Mountain Region

Winter Regional Meeting Minutes
19 November 2016 1200, Boulder CO

Regular Member Region Teams Attending:
- Alpine Rescue Team, Douglas County Search and Rescue (via phone), El Paso County Search and Rescue (via phone), Grand County Search and Rescue, Mountain Rescue Aspen, Rocky Mountain Rescue Group, Summit County Rescue Group

Associate Member Region Teams Attending:
Fremont Search and Rescue

Meeting called to order at 12:07pm

Spring meeting minutes:
Greg Foley moved to approve the Spring, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Alison Sheets. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Rocky Mountain Region Website:
There was a discussion about the region website. There have been some issues with updating the website and accessing the data that is on the website.
- There is a need to update the teams and links on the website. Do we have the information needed to add Teton Mountain Rescue as an Associate to the website? Teton also needs to be added to the Google Group.
- The Directors need to be updated on the website
- Greg Foley would like somebody else to take ownership of the Google Group. He can remain as a backup but somebody else should be the manager of it.
- The National site was creating some of the issues with the website. Gerrit Padgham and Brian Stuebe were talking with them to resolve the issues.
- Paul Woodward has authorization to make changes to the editorial content based on the vote at the Rocky Mountain Region Spring, 2016 meeting.
- No motion needs to be made at this meeting.

Accreditation Exercise Policies:
Alison Sheets led a discussion about the region policies for Accreditations.
- High Angle Exercise vs. Scenario
  - Alison Sheets suggested some changes to the reaccreditation process. These changes involved changing the wording to make it less dependent on trying to create a realistic scenario and would provide more of an option to make it an exercise where skills would be demonstrated.

Evaluators can create issues for the team being tested when trying to create an elaborate scenario. The requirements for what needs to be demonstrated would be kept the same.

- o Brian Stuebe brought up the question of whether a third man pick-off should be added as a demonstrated skill if we make this change in addition to the litter load.
- o The consensus was that changing the requirements of what should be demonstrated was not what the desired change was about and that we should not change them at this time. The change is focused on making it acceptable to not create the scenario. It wouldn't change anything but not having the back story.
- o Greg Foley – it is really just semantics. If the team decided it was OK and they had the option to run directly from high angle to scree. That is more scenario driven. In that case you might want to make it more of a scenario type of thing. Thinks that it is just a matter of the Vice-chair providing direction.
- o Tim Hayden brought up a question about how many times the evaluators need to see the IC set up the command post. The exercise could be very clear and simple such as just getting a subject with one unusable limb flat on their back in a litter in a vertical environment.
- o Paul Woodward – we need to make is clear for 5 years from now. Should the policy have a disclaimer stating that it could be a realistic scenario or if the realistic scenario is not applicable then the skill needs to be demonstrated?
- o Pat Caulfield indicated that this would make it more difficult for the teams being tested to train. They won't know what style they are training for.
- o Scott Messina indicated that it should be an "exercise" or "scenario" for consistency but not both. Do we need to see the management in each category? We might have to readjust the worksheet if we remove the requirement to observe management for the High Angle scenario/exercise.
- o Paul Woodward – Should we make a change to the first statement, "The scenarios should be as realistic as possible" to make it more flexible by adding "if possible"?
- o Paul Woodward is willing to suggest some changes and have the Board vote on it.
- o Alison Sheets will provide some options to look at as well.
- o Scott Messina is in support of making this type of change apply to all of the scenarios.

- Medical Protocol
    - o Pat Caulfield brought up some concerns about medical protocols. He had some concerns about one of the medical scenarios in their recent accreditation exercise. The medical portion of the scenario changed in the

middle and got complex quickly. They have recently purchased some medical protocols to follow.

- o The evaluators need to make sure that the subjects stick to the approved scenario.
- o Alison – Consider adding or changing the policy to something along the lines of: "Any medical care provided consistent with team protocols should be considered acceptable to evaluation team. Evaluation team is allowed to ask details about protocols." This would be more of a reminder that the teams should be tested to their protocols. The evaluation team needs to make sure to know the protocols of the team being tested.
- o There is a lot of debate on protocols. Many things that have been approved in some places such as ICAR have not trickled down and may not have been adopted by the teams medical advisor.
- o Alison Sheets indicated that teams should be following their protocols and basic first aid.
- o Paul Woodward asked about what the evaluators should do if the team does not have written protocols.
- o There was no action taken on this topic.
- Avalanche Transceiver Target Size Requirements
  - o The issue of the size of the avalanche transceiver target was brought up. This had been discussed originally at the Spring meeting in regards to the new avalanche dummies.
  - o Slalom probing was discussed as well. It is an accepted probing procedure that some teams in the region have adopted but might be new to some of the evaluators.
  - o Using modern transceivers for targets was also discussed. The old analog beacons can make it more challenging. The tests should be consistent.
  - o Consider the following change:
    - ▪ Avalanche transceivers should be buried with a life sized dummy or with a board or pack at least 2' x 2' or similarly sized to provide a realistic probe targets
    - ▪ Slalom probing is an acceptable method for probing an avalanche victim.
    - ▪ Avalanche transceivers buried should be digital and not analog.
  - o Greg Foley indicated that the target should be a minimum of 4 square feet. So as long as it is 4 square feet it doesn't have to be 2' wide. This would meet the current numbers in the policy but would open it up to a shape other than 2' x 2'.
  - o The recommendation to change the requirement for target size from 2'x2' to 4 square feet.
  - o Paul Woodward indicated that the region should consider cleaning up all of the wording.

MRA Winter Meeting:

The MRA Winter meeting is coming up. Teams should send proxy votes if they will not have a representative there.

Rocky Mountain Region Dues:

The Rocky Mountain Region dues are waived for 2017. The region has exceeded the threshold to require dues.

Fremont County Extension:

By the policy, Fremont needs to complete their accreditation by 31 December 2016. They are scheduled to retake the Avalanche test in December but there is a concern that there will not be enough snow. The evaluators would like around 1' of snow for the test. The vote to move Fremont County SAR to regular membership will not happen until June 2017. Pat Caulfied asked whether they would be considered an Associate Team for dues purposes. Since membership changes occur at the June meeting it was decided that they would be an Associate member when turning in dues as the beginning of the year.

Greg Foley moved to extend the avalanche scenario deadline for Fremont County to March 31st, 2017. The motion was seconded by Tony Trumbly and the motion passed unanimously.

Teton County SAR:

The discussion centered on whether Teton County SAR should be a part of the Intermountain Region instead of the Rocky Mountain Region. This might work out better for them based on geography. Paul Woodward asked whether we should consider changing the geography that the Rocky Mountain Region covers or consider this on a team by team basis. Alison Sheets will approach the Intermountain Region and Teton County SAR to see what they want to do and to find the best approach for all parties.

Coordinate System Standardization:

Mitch Painovich started a discussion on the datums and coordinate system formats. This can be a concern with mutual aid missions. If we could determine a standard across the region it would make it easier to communicate. There was a lot of discussion on this issue but no action was taken. Paul Woodward offered to share a document that was created by Loren Pfau for the Alpine Rescue Team that lists the datum and coordinates system that is expected from the various agencies that Alpine deals with.

Reaccreditation Dates:

The reaccreditation schedule was discussed. The following chart from Greg Foley lists the current, five year schedule.

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Rocky Mountain Region

Team Name	Membership Status	Renewal Date	Scheduled Exercise
Fremont Search and Rescue	Associate	NA	11-Dec-16
Atalaya Search and Rescue	Regular	2017	7/8-Apr-17
Mountain Rescue Aspen	Regular	2017	3/4-Jun-17
Chaffee County SAR - North	Associate	NA	6/7-May-17
Park County Search and Rescue	Associate	NA	2018
Rocky Mountain Rescue Group	Regular	2018	2018
Summit County Rescue Group	Regular	2018	2018
Garfield County Search and Rescue	Associate	NA	2018
Western Mountain Rescue Team	Regular	2019	2019
Grand County Search and Rescue	Regular	2019	2019
Larimer County Search and Rescue	Regular	2019	2019
Alpine Rescue Team	Regular	2020	2020
Douglas County Search and Rescue	Regular	2020	2020
Albuquerque Mountain Rescue Council	Regular	2017	2021
El Paso County Search and Rescue	Regular	2016	2021
Vail Mountain Rescue Group	Regular	2016	2021
Crested Butte Search and Rescue	Associate	NA	NA
Teton County Search and Rescue	Associate	NA	NA
El Dorado Canyon State Park	Non-Accredited Ex-Officio	NA	NA
Grand Teton National Park Rescue Team	Non-Accredited Ex-Officio	NA	NA
Rocky Mountain National Park Rescue Team	Non-Accredited Ex-Officio	NA	NA

NOTE: The Atalaya Search and Rescue reaccreditation exercise will be on 8/9 April 2017 not 7/8 April as indicated above.

Greg Foley indicated that he had received letters from Aspen and Atalaya for their accreditations already. He has not received a letter from Chaffe at this time. Chaffee is considering a partial accreditation in snow and search. They will need to do a tabletop as well. We should not need two full days if they are going to do a partial accreditation. Paul Woodward asked whether they would want to go through the high angle exercise just to see what it was like. Greg indicated that he had provided the options to them but they did not feel like they were ready for the high angle. Greg suggests that the new Vice Chair for the region assign them a lead evaluator as early as possible. Pat Caulfield recommended that the pre-test be emphasized as a critical step. Paul Woodward asked whether we need to update the approved evaluators list now or wait until after the Fremont Avalanche test. It was felt that there was no reason to update the evaluator list until after the Fremont Avalanche test. Park County opted to put off their accreditation for a year. There is room in 2018 so this should not be a problem.

2017 Region Board Member Election:

The Rocky Mountain Region elections were held.

- 2017 Region Board Member Election
  - Vice Chair –
    - Scott Messina was nominated by Paul Woodward from the floor.
    - Scott Messina was elected as the Vice Chair unanimously
  - Secretary/Treasurer
    - Greg would recommend that we do a search on the list server.
    - Paul Woodward was nominated from the floor. He is willing to resign on January 1st if somebody else steps up.
    - Paul Woodward was elected as the Secretary/Treasurer unanimously
  - DAL
    - Tony Trumbly was nominated prior to the meeting
    - Tony Trumbly was elected as a Director at Large unanimously
  - DAL
    - Dale Wang was nominated prior to the meeting.
    - Dale Wang was elected as a Director at Large unanimously.

Meeting closed at 13:53

Attendees:

Name	Team
Brian Stuebe	Alpine Rescue Team
Pat Caulfield	Fremont County SAR
Mitch Painovich	Summit County Rescue Group
Scott Messina	Aspen
Greg Foley	Grand County Search and Rescue
Cris Bennet	Rocky Mountain Rescue Group
Debbie Kelley	Aspen
Paul Woodward	Alpine Rescue Team
Tony Trumbly (via phone)	Alpine Rescue Team
Tim Hayden (via phone)	El Paso County
Alison Sheets	Rocky Mountain Rescue Group
Bruce Fosdick (via phone)	Douglas County Search and Rescue
Dale Wang	Rocky Mountain Rescue Group