



RESCUE BEACON

NEWSLETTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



RECENT EVENTS

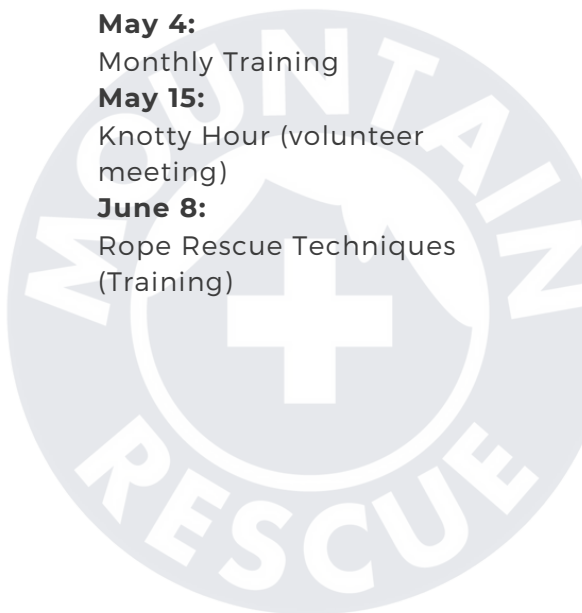
- April 7:**
MRA Snow & Ice Recertification
- April 13:**
Basic Ropes Training
- April 17:**
New volunteer swearing ceremony
- April 17:**
SAR academy started for new volunteers
- April 19-21:**
Sea Otter Classic

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 4:**
Monthly Training
- May 15:**
Knotty Hour (volunteer meeting)
- June 8:**
Rope Rescue Techniques (Training)

BOARD

- Commander:**
Alain Claudel
- Secretary:**
Vanessa Wennstrom
- Treasurer:**
Scot Smythe
- Volunteer & Social Media Coordinator:**
Sierra Rad
- Training Coordinators:**
Wesley Hayward & Justin Kantor





ABOUT US

The Monterey County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was created in 1963. The volunteer unit was established in 1989 to assist the sheriff's office. Monterey county SAR team is a nonprofit organization that supports the sheriff's office by providing trained personnel and equipment to aid in the recovery of sick, injured, lost or deceased persons in all areas of the County of Monterey. The Monterey SAR team is a full member of the Mountain Rescue Association as a Type I elite rescue unit. The Monterey SAR Team is entirely self supporting, and receives no financial assistance except occasional grants and donations.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION SNOW & ICE RECERTIFICATION

On April 7, Monterey County SAR Team attended and passed our Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) recertification test in snow and ice rescue. This is a test of avalanche rescue skills, technical rope skills using snow anchors to rescue a victim, and patient assessment and medical care.

The purpose of the recertification is to maintain our status as a team accredited by MRA. Every year, our team recertifies in one of three disciplines required by the MRA: Snow and Ice Rescue, Technical Rope Rescue and Search Management and Tracking.

We appreciate the support of all the teams who organized this recertification, and provided evaluators and victims, including Marin, Bay Area Mountain Rescue Unit, Nevada County SAR, Washoe County Hasty Team, Contra Costa, and Placer Counties.

TYPICAL MISSIONS

- Wilderness searches for missing or injured hikers.
- Body recoveries of various types.
- Mutual aid searches.
- Urban searches for Alzheimer's patients or lost children.
- Evidence searches for law enforcement.
- Searches for downed aircraft.
- Swiftwater rescues.
- Rescues or recoveries resulting from vehicles driving off cliffs.

SUPPORT US

**Give a little, help a lot
So that others may live**

The Monterey County SAR Team is a nonprofit, charitable organization that receives a modest allowance each year from the Sheriff's Office to help offset the cost of equipment, uniforms, and training. But the great majority of our operational budget is funded directly by the volunteer unit from donations and fundraising efforts. We have a substantial and ongoing need to replace equipment and to seek professional training in the many disciplines needed to be a proficient SAR unit. You can support us by donating online at [MCO SAR.COM](https://mcosar.com).

**501(C)(3)
EIN: 77-0118273**

CONTACT US:

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FOLLOW US:

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SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

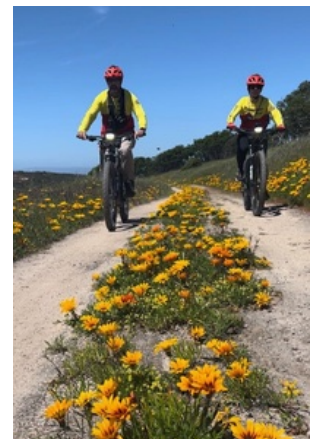
On April 17, Sheriff Tina Nieto paid us a visit to swear in nine new recruits prior to their first session of SAR Academy. The addition of these new volunteers will give the team a much needed boost in numbers. We welcome our new volunteers and thank them for making the commitment to serve our community.

SAR Academy is a training program for new volunteers. At the completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Function safely during SAR operations
- Verbalize understanding of the operation of a search
- Verbalize understanding of the operation of rescue/recovery
- Demonstrate first aid and patient packaging
- Be familiar with the operation of the rescue truck
- Verbalize understanding of the resources available to SAR

SEA OTTER CLASSIC

In addition to search & rescue missions, Monterey County SAR team participates in various community events to provide support. This month, the team participated in the 2024 Sea Otter Classic at WeatherTech Raceway, Laguna Seca. We activated our new Bike Unit (Specialized E-Mountain Bikes) to provide PSAR (Preventative Search and Rescue) and support to the Sheriff's Department.



APRIL IN PICTURES



Snow & Ice Recertification



Basic Ropes Training & Equipment maintenance



New Recruits Sworn In



2024 Sea Otter Classic
PSAR (Preventative SAR)