



# RESCUE BEACON

## NEWSLETTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



### RECENT EVENTS

- June 19:** Knotty Hour (volunteer meeting)
- July 3:** SAR Mission
- July 4:** 2024 Monterey 4th of July Parade
- July 6:** Monthly Training - Canyoneering Techniques and SAR Mission



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 17:** Knotty Hour (volunteer meeting)
- July 31:** CHP Ground School; Part I of Helicopter Rescue Technician (HRT)
- August 3:** Monthly Training - Medical



### BOARD

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

**In This Issue:** Mission Report; July Training; Team Member Spotlight

# MISSION REPORT, JUNE 16-JULY 15

## Missing Person at Risk, July 3:

Monterey SAR was dispatched to look for a missing person in Pebble Beach. SAR utilized a ground and drone team to search the area. The subject was located the following day.



**Recovery, July 6:** Monterey County Dive Team requested SAR to assist with performing a high angle recovery of a missing subject located in the area of Carmel Highlands.

## JULY 6 TRAINING

On July 6, SAR team members attended their monthly training. This month's session included two components: a traditional rope rescue training at Hurricane Point and an exciting new addition—an introduction to canyoneering.

Canyoneering techniques and equipment are highly useful in search and rescue (SAR) operations, especially in rugged and remote environments, which is where our team operates most of the time. The application in SAR operations include:

- Vertical Rescues: In mountainous or canyon terrains where victims may be stranded on cliffs or in deep ravines.
- Swiftwater Rescues: In canyons with rivers or flash floods, swiftwater rescue skills are essential.
- Remote Area Access: Canyoneering skills enable SAR teams to reach and extricate victims from difficult-to-access areas.
- Multi-Discipline Integration: Combining canyoneering techniques with other SAR disciplines (e.g., alpine rescue, technical rope rescue) for a comprehensive response.

By incorporating canyoneering techniques and equipment, SAR teams can enhance their capabilities to perform complex and challenging rescues in rugged environments effectively.

# 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 operates in partnership with the Sheriff's Advisory Council (SAC) as a nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization. SAR team members support 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 composed of sworn deputies and unpaid volunteers operating on a very limited budget depending on occasional grants and donations to maintain operational efficiency.



Canyoneering Training - Rappelling Down Waterfalls

# SUPPORT US

*Give a little, help a lot  
So That Others May Live*

The Monterey County SAR Team in partnership with SAC is a nonprofit, charitable organization that receives a limited allocation each year from the Sheriff's Office to help offset the cost of equipment, uniforms, and training. The great majority of our operational budget is funded directly by the volunteer unit from donations, grants, and fundraising efforts. Our volunteers are unpaid and must purchase the personal gear they need themselves. We have a substantial and ongoing need to replace team 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 [MCOSAR.COM](https://mcosar.com).



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

**Q: What is the best thing about being a SAR volunteer?**

Pushing my abilities (physically and mentally) have enabled me to handle stress in my life much better.

**Q: What are the challenges you face as a volunteer or deputy in this role?**

Being as mobile as I am with as much seetime, it is difficult to engage as much as I would like. When I am in town, I try and make it.

# JOIN US

*The Monterey County SAR Team is always looking for qualified new recruits. If you feel that you have what it takes to join the team, visit our website to for more information: [mcosar.com/apply](https://mcosar.com/apply)*

# TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

IN THIS EDITION OF RESCUE BEACON, LET'S GET TO KNOW VOLUNTEER AND BOARD MEMBER JUSTIN KANTOR.

**Q: Please tell us a little about yourself and your family.**

I am a merchant marine with MBARI working as a marine engineer aboard the new R/V David Packard. I have lived in the Monterey Bay area since 2008 and have a background as a dive instructor and marine science instruction. Just myself and my partner (no kids) but we do have plenty of pets.

**Q: Please tell us about your education and career.**

I have a B.S. in Zoology, dive instructor tickets through NAUI/SSI/PADI, Divers Alert Network instructor and some other things. At work I am mainly responsible for helping to keep our vessel moving through the ocean with its HVAC, generators, ballast, propulsion systems and crane working properly.

**Q: What inspired you to join MCSOSAR?**

A long time friend recruited me by showing many videos and photos of the amazing experiences that MCSO volunteers get an opportunity to do.



# SAR IN ACTION



July Training: Canyoneering



SAR, SAC & SEAT members joined to participate in the 4th of July Parade.



SAR Missions June 16-July 15



## CONTACT US:

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## FOLLOW US:

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