



RESCUE BEACON

NEWSLETTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF'S SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



RECENT EVENTS

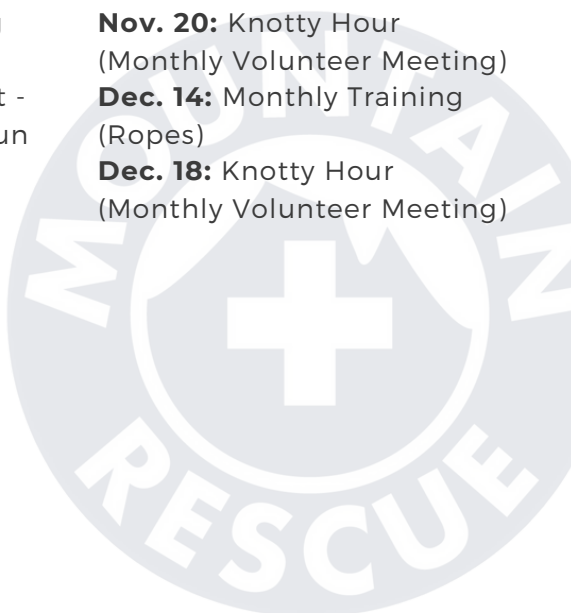
- Oct. 20:** CHP HRT Training Part II
- Oct. 26:** Community Event - Cal Fire Annual Zombie Run
- Nov. 9:** Monthly Training (Tracking & ICM)
- Nov. 10:** SAR Mission

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 20:** Knotty Hour (Monthly Volunteer Meeting)
- Dec. 14:** Monthly Training (Ropes)
- Dec. 18:** Knotty Hour (Monthly Volunteer Meeting)

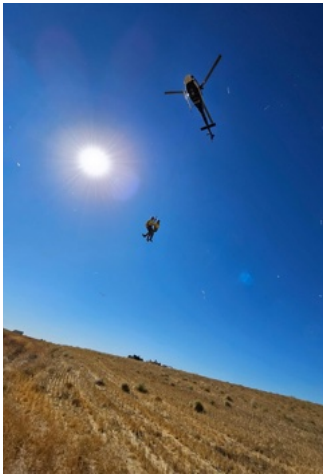
BOARD

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



In This Issue: Training Update; Community Event; Team Member Spotlight; SAR in Action

OCTOBER 20 TRAINING - HRT



On October 20th, another group of volunteers from our team successfully completed the Air Operations component of the Helicopter Rescue Technician (HRT) training, an outstanding program offered by the CHP Coastal Division. Each participant gained valuable hands-on experience with hoist operations and earned certification as Helicopter Rescue Technicians.

NOVEMBER 9 TRAINING - TRACKING AND SEARCH MANAGEMENT

Last weekend, our team participated in a comprehensive training focused on search management and tracking. The course covered essential topics such as tracking techniques, understanding lost person behavior, and provided a refresher on using SARTopo, a key tool in search and rescue operations. Participants honed their skills in tracking individuals and interpreting clues, while also revisiting strategies for managing search efforts effectively. This hands-on training reinforced the importance of precision, decision-making, and teamwork in the critical moments of a search operation. A special thank you to Santa Lucia Preserve for graciously hosting this training every year, providing us with a great environment to enhance our skills and readiness.



ABOUT US

The Monterey County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) Team was established in 1963, with a volunteer unit formed in 1989 to assist the Sheriff's Office. Operating as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in partnership with the Sheriff's Advisory Council (SAC), the SAR team provides trained personnel and specialized equipment to support the recovery of sick, injured, lost, or deceased individuals across Monterey County. The team is a full member of the Mountain Rescue Association and is recognized as a Type I elite rescue unit. Comprised of both sworn deputies and dedicated volunteers, the Monterey SAR Team operates on a limited budget, relying on grants and donations to maintain its critical operations.



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 MCO.SAR.COM.



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

OCTOBER 26 COMMUNITY EVENT - ZOMBIE RUN

The Monterey County Search and Rescue (SAR) team joined the excitement at the 10th Annual Pebble Beach Zombie Race, hosted by Cal Fire. Our team provided course patrols on e-mountain bikes, offering support to runners along the scenic, hilly 5K Zombie Crawl and the family-friendly 2K Survivor Stroll. SAR volunteers administered first aid to a runner who slipped, ensuring everyone had a safe experience. At our booth, we connected with the community, sharing insights on personal safety and preparedness in a light-hearted, engaging setting that emphasized emergency readiness for all ages.



OUR LIFESAVING PARTNERS: DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our generous donors and supporters. Your contributions enable the Monterey County Search and Rescue team to continue our vital work, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community. Your support is a lifeline to those in need, and we couldn't do it without you.



Union Pacific Community Ties
Giving Program



The Rocky Talkie
Search & Rescue Awards



TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

IN THIS EDITION OF RESCUE BEACON, LET'S GET TO KNOW DEPUTY JESSE BURKLEO.

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

I grew up in North Monterey County and have been an outdoorsmen my whole life. I served six years on active duty in the Marine Corps with five years stationed abroad at worldwide duty stations and embassy security assignments. After the military, I “studied” to be a mountain guide in Alaska, Spain, and Chile, in the Patagonia region. This is where I gained extensive experience in backcountry travel, mountaineering, backcountry skiing, climbing, and technical rope skills.

Q: What inspired you to join MCSOSAR?

I heard about the Search and Rescue Team from a high school friend who was a Deputy Sheriff on the team and told me tales of the excitement, danger and camaraderie that he experienced on the team. I knew that my training and experience had prepared me to be an asset to the team and the community it served. I had to join! Shortly after starting with the Monterey County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff, I was selected for the team in early 2020.

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

The camaraderie, the self-confidence built through technical ability, leadership, helping others in need and building up my teammates' skills are all fulfilling aspects of being on the SAR Team, but the BEST thing is saving a life. When you know that your dedication, fitness and technical skill, and that of your team, culminate to saving someone with life threatening injuries or in a life threatening situation, that is the BEST thing about SAR.

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

The time that it sometimes takes away from other aspects of my life. We never know when THE call is going to come out. The call when someone's life depends on you showing up, dialed in, ready to work. It's challenging to always be ready for that call.

JOIN US

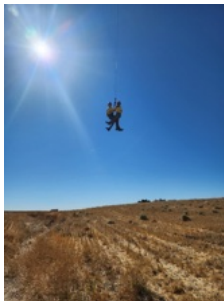
The Monterey County SAR Team is always looking for qualified new recruits. If you feel that you have what it takes to join the team, visit our website to for more information:
mcosar.com/apply



SAR IN ACTION



Community Event - Annual Cal Fire Zombie Run



CHP HRT Training



Tracking and Search Management Training



CONTACT US:

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mcosar.com

FOLLOW US:

FB: facebook.com/mocosar
IG: mcso_sar