



RESCUE BEACON

NEWSLETTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF'S SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



RECENT EVENTS

- Nov. 20:** Knotty Hour (Monthly Volunteer Meeting)
- Nov 24:** Pack Test & Interviews for Applicants
- Dec. 2:** SAR Mission - Recovery
- Dec. 14:** Monthly Training (Ropes)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 11:** Monthly Training & Annual SAR Team Appreciation Event
- Jan 15:** 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; New Equipment; Team Member Spotlight; SAR in Action

DECEMBER 14 TRAINING

On Saturday, the Monterey County Search and Rescue team held its monthly training under challenging conditions caused by inclement weather, including heavy rain, high winds, and a power outage. Undeterred, the team adapted by focusing on indoor skills review, emphasizing medical training. Members refreshed their knowledge of patient assessment, packaging, and splinting techniques, ensuring that essential skills were sharp and ready for deployment in the field.

As the weather improved in the afternoon, training moved outdoors to focus on rope systems and our newly acquired equipment, the CMC Captos. Team members practiced building and operating dual tension systems, mastering the transition between lowering and raising operations. This hands-on session was invaluable in familiarizing the team with the new gear and reinforcing the critical coordination required in technical rescues. The day's activities highlighted the team's commitment to adaptability and preparedness, regardless of the conditions.



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 MCOSAR.COM.



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

NEW GEAR, LIGHTER RESCUES: EXPANDING OUR CAPABILITIES

We are excited to share that our team has recently acquired new equipment, including CMC Captos, CMC Azteks, and two 9mm ropes, to build lighter-weight backcountry rescue kits. This marks the first time our team will utilize 9mm ropes, allowing us to expand our capabilities for more efficient backcountry operations.

These additions were made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and the grants we have received. With this equipment, we are better equipped to respond to emergencies in challenging terrains while reducing the burden on our team members. Thank you for supporting our mission and helping us enhance the safety and efficiency of our rescues!



The CMC Capto is a versatile carabiner with built-in rope management features, ideal for streamlining rescue systems. The CMC Aztek is a compact, multipurpose pulley system used for creating mechanical advantage and managing loads efficiently during rescues.

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 VOLUNTEER JOSH LENZINI.

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

Avid sports and outdoors fan. Family likes to travel and see new places. Lived and traveled all over the world.

Q: Please tell us about your education and career.

Big-data analytics laboratory director as a DoD civilian here in Monterey. Retired Army after 22 years service around the world including Asia, Europe, Africa and U.S. Earned B.S. and M.S. in engineering and M.S. in strategic studies from National Defense University.

Q: What inspired you to join MCSOSAR?

I volunteered for SAR while living in Virginia and really liked helping the local community.

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

Serving the local community and having that immediate feedback when helping others.

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

Managing your professional schedule with SAR scheduled events and call-outs.

Q: Anything else you would like to share?

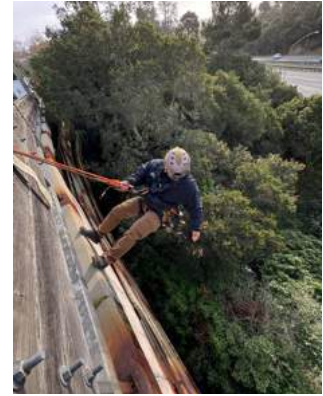
SAR personnel are very helpful and supportive to each other and selflessly serve the community; I'm honored to join the team!

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



CONTACT US:

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mcosar.com

FOLLOW US:

FB: facebook.com/mocosar
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