



RESCUE BEACON

NEWSLETTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF'S SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



RECENT EVENTS

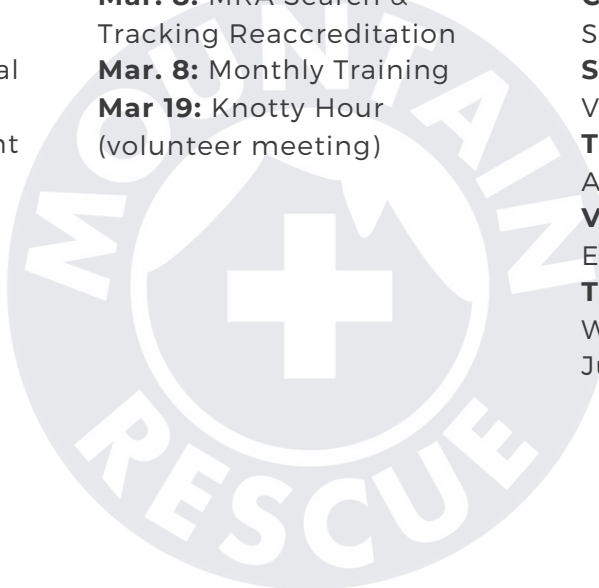
- Jan. 26:** SAR Applicant Tests & Interviews
- Feb. 1-2:** Overnight Medical Training
- Feb. 12 & 15:** SAR Applicant (duputies) Fitness Tests

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 8:** MRA Search & Tracking Reaccreditation
- Mar. 8:** Monthly Training
- Mar 19:** Knotty Hour (volunteer meeting)

BOARD

- Commander:** Sierra Rad
- Secretary:** Vanessa Wennstrom
- Treasurer:** Alex Mares
- Volunteer Coordinator:** Eric Fitzgerald
- Training Coordinators:** Wesley Hayward & Justin Kantor



In This Issue: Training Report; Team Member Spotlight; SAR in Action

OVERNIGHT TRAINING - FEB 1-2

Wilderness First Aid Training

Last weekend, our SAR team participated in an intensive Wilderness First Aid training at Big Creek in Big Sur, provided by Backcountry Medical Guides. Over the course of this overnight training on a stunning private reserve, 23 team members honed their backcountry medical skills, including patient assessment, wound care, splinting, and managing medical emergencies in remote environments. Through realistic scenarios, our team reinforced their ability to provide life-saving care when help is hours away. This hands-on training is a vital part of ensuring we're always prepared for the unpredictable challenges of search and rescue missions in rugged terrain.



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 MCSOSAR.COM.



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

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

I get paid to exercise, do cool stuff, learn new skills, and help people. It's a good gig.

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

Extra activities like SAR take time away from my family, making it challenging to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

Q: Anything else you would like to share?

I greatly appreciate all of our volunteers, who donate their time to help others. They are the real heroes of the MCSO SAR team.

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

IN THIS EDITION OF RESCUE BEACON, LET'S GET TO KNOW DEPUTY RICHARD GENG.

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

I was born and raised in Germany and moved to Monterey County in 2015. I enjoy the outdoors and staying active.

Q: Please tell us about your education and career.

I have a BA in Kinesiology and an AS in Criminal Justice. I worked as an EMT in Monterey County for two years before joining the Monterey County Sheriff's Office, where I have served for about seven years. During my time there, I have worked as a Records Specialist, a Deputy in Corrections, the Courts, and on Patrol. Currently, I am a Detective assigned to the Violent Crimes Unit. I have been a member of the SAR team for over four years.

Q: What inspired you to join MCSOSAR?

Being a member of the MCSO SAR team allows me to combine my passion for the outdoors with my experience as an EMT and my current role as a Deputy Sheriff.



SAR IN ACTION



JOIN US

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



CONTACT US:

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FOLLOW US:

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IG: [mcso_sar](https://instagram.com/mcso_sar)