



RESCUE BEACON

NEWSLETTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF'S SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



RECENT EVENTS

- Jun. 18:** Knotty Hour (volunteer meeting)
- Jun 22:** SAR Mission
- Jul 2:** SAR Mission
- Jul. 4:** SAR at Monterey 4th of July Celebration
- Jul. 12:** Monthly Training/ Small Diameter Rope Rescue

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jul. 16:** Knotty Hour (volunteer meeting)
- Aug. 2:** Monthly Training/Medical
- Aug. 5:** SAR at Pacific Grove National Night Out

BOARD

- Commander:** Sierra Rad
- Secretary:** Joshua Lenzini
- Treasurer:** Alex Mares
- Volunteer Coordinator:** Rafael Mendez
- Training Coordinators:** Wesley Hayward & Justin Kantor

In This Issue: Training Update; Community Event; New Volunteer Swear-in; Team Member Spotlight; SAR in Action; Donor Recognition

TRAINING UPDATE

SMALL DIAMETER ROPE RESCUE



For our July team training, Monterey County SAR focused on small diameter (9mm) rope systems designed for backcountry rescue. Three of our volunteers—fresh off completing the Mountain Rescue Association’s Small Diameter Rope Rescue course in June—led the session, sharing best practices and practical techniques with the rest of the team.

The goal of this training was simple but critical: to build and refine lightweight, efficient rope rescue kits we can carry deep into the steep, rugged terrain of Monterey County, where every ounce matters. Whether responding to a lost hiker in Ventana or a technical rescue in Big Sur, our team needs to move fast and travel light.



We’re especially excited to begin integrating our new gear for small diameter rope systems, which were purchased thanks to generous donations. These tools are a major step forward in building more agile and adaptable rescue kits.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our community. Your donations help us train harder, respond faster, and save lives. And as always—we rely on your continued support to keep going.

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.



COMMUNITY PRESENCE: JULY 4TH PARADE



Monterey County SAR proudly participated in the Monterey 4th of July Parade, connecting with the community we serve and celebrating alongside our neighbors. It was a great opportunity to show our support and share who we are.

WELCOMING NEW TEAM MEMBERS



This month, Sheriff Tina Nieto officially swore in three new volunteers to the Monterey County Search and Rescue team. We're excited to welcome them to the team and look forward to their contributions in the field.

SUPPORT US

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



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

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://www.mcosar.com).

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

IN THIS EDITION OF RESCUE BEACON, LET'S GET TO KNOW VOLUNTEER JOSH BRYAN.

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

I've always enjoyed spending time outside. I grew up playing in the mountains of southern Utah and Nevada. I enjoy backpacking, rock climbing, skiing, kayaking, SCUBA diving, and most things in between as long as they get me active and outdoors. I also have a terrible sense of smell!

Q: Please tell us about your education and career.

I got my bachelor's degree in Spanish from Utah State University, where I also minored in pre-med and Portuguese. After graduating, I worked as an English teacher in China for two years before moving back to the US for grad school. I got my master's degree in international policy and development

specializing in conflict resolution and social justice from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey. Now I work remotely as a project manager and consultant for a homeless services company in Las Vegas! How do all those connect? I have no idea.



Q: What inspired you to join MCSOSAR?

I met a SAR volunteer from another county during a wilderness first responder course and learned more about what volunteering entails. I've always enjoyed recreating in the outdoors and loved the idea of using my skills and experience to give back to the community!

Q: What is the best thing about being a SAR volunteer or deputy assigned to SAR?

There are so many things that are great about being a SAR volunteer! The team training and camaraderie is definitely a highlight. I also love the feeling after finishing a tough mission.

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

It can be difficult to balance responding to call outs with the other demands on my time. Sometimes I really want to respond to a call, but can't because I have an important work meeting or some other commitment that I can't miss. I trust my teammates to get the job done, but I feel bad not being out there with them.

Q: Anything else you would like to share?

I'm grateful to be a member of the team and I'm fortunate to be able to learn from so many amazing and talented people!

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

SAR IN ACTION



Swearing in of new volunteers, July 9



SAR at July 4th Parade, Monterey



July Training - Small Diameter Rope Rescue



CONTACT US:

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FOLLOW US:

FB: facebook.com/mocosar
IG: mcso_sar

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



IN GRATITUDE

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE FAMILY OF KEVIN KNOPF FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS MADE IN HIS MEMORY. THEIR SUPPORT HELPS US CONTINUE OUR MISSION OF RESCUING AND ASSISTING THOSE IN NEED IN THE WILDERNESS. WE ARE HONORED TO BE PART OF PRESERVING KEVIN'S LEGACY AND DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE TRUST THEY'VE PLACED IN OUR TEAM.