

# WEST ELK MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY/ JANUARY ISSUE



Since I was on the road during the months of January and February in search of warmer climates with no white stuff on the ground, this months Newsletter will cover the months of February and March. It was a great six weeks on the road, but I'm glad to be home again and back into the swing of things.

## **February Meeting:**

According to our accurate and very reliable secretary Phil Volckhausen's minutes, the following was covered at the February meeting. Phil reports eight members were in attendance including a new member Matt Weaver. Board members absent were President Groll, and VP Sean Loubounty.

**Linda Kiser** provided the treasures report. Linda advised that the final reimbursement check from Gunnison County was received in the amount of \$394.82 from the State SAR Grant for 2003. The money was to reimburse the team for the purchase of the new high angle gear. Linda said all bills have been paid to date, and listed the current treasury balance at \$594.92. In addition annual dues were received from members Ron Peters, Lynette Roberts, Matt Weaver, and Kirby Norton in the amount of \$48.00 bringing the current balance to \$642.92. Linda also advised we were approved and received the Colorado State Sales Tax Exemption Certificate.

**Phil Volckhausen** reported that he had researched and received an Insurance quote to protect our gear and shed in case of loss. Phil said the quote was \$500.00 a year which was higher than the quote from Kevin Parks Insurance obtained by VP Labounty. No further action was taken on this matter pending a future vote by the membership to obtain insurance coverage.

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**Ron Peters** scheduled a training session for snow science at Ward Lake on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>. The training by Brent Mims was reported to be very informative however the member turnout was somewhat disappointing.

#### **New Business:**

Linda Kiser brought up the team should take advantage of a Wells Fargo grant money program. Linda said she would pick up the necessary forms.

Ron Peters brought up the issue of our sled trailer needing rewiring for the lights. Chris Johnson said he would be willing to take care of the repairs and was given the ok to obtain the necessary parts through NAPA Auto Parts.

Wesley Ewert reported the January avalanche training at McClure Pass was very successful and that everyone was able to have several sessions of using the Snow Beacons to practice locating buried victims. Also new member Elane Flower and her search dog Sizzle (Photo of both attached above) were present and added to the training success. **Special Note: Sizzle claims he did a much faster job at finding the buried victims without using a beacon.**

#### **March Meeting**

I was told several of the members this month were out enjoying the great outdoors on a cross country ski trip. The meeting was cut short this month due to the only members present being President Groll, Linda Kiser, Ron Peters, and Elane Flower. Several items were discussed but tabled for future action when more members were in attendance.

**President Larry Groll** reported that the State SAR Grant application for 2004 has been sent to JoAnn Stone for consideration. JoAnn indicated the grant request will not be acted upon until sometime in April. Hopefully we will receive some money again this year from the State Fund. Larry also reported that JoAnn is sending reimbursement forms to cover expenses for the last Search on the (LeRoy Harding) mission.

**Linda Kiser** provided the treasures report for March. Linda advised all bills have been paid and our current treasury balance is \$644.43. Not included in this balance was \$22.00 collected from Roberts Short Stop for sale of bumper stickers by Lynette Roberts and her employee's. This brings our treasury balance to \$666.43. **A special thanks to Lynette for her help in raising the money through sale of the bumper stickers.**

**Ron Peter's** brought up the previously cancelled CPR/Wilderness First Aid training. After some discussion a tentative date was set to reschedule the training for April 17<sup>th</sup> @ the ambulance barn. The training will be 8AM-5PM and will meet the American Heart Association requirements. A small fee of approximately \$5.00 will be required to cover the cost of the certification cards issued by the American Heart Association. Linda will be instructing the class and hopefully all members not currently certified will attend.

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#### **Other Important News:**

In the near future Elane Flower's will be putting together a search dog training at her home in Paonia for area dog teams. Elane has invited all SAR members to attend and join in the fun. Elane hopes to have dogs from Delta SAR, Cresta Butte SAR, and possibly other SAR teams. The exact training date is pending and will be announced at a later time.

Some people on the team seem to be getting older! The current rumor is that Ron Peter's is having his **50<sup>th</sup> birthday** this Saturday the 6th. A surprise party has been planned by his better half Pam at Pizza My Heart @ 4PM. All of the SAR team has been invited to attend and celebrate Ron's milestone of becoming a senior citizen.

In Ron's case he got a little older but in Sean and Joyce Labounty's case things have gotten younger. Sean and Joyce are the proud parents of a new baby girl known as Abby Labounty who arrived on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> at 6lbs 6oz's. Congratulations to Sean and Joyce and their new addition Abby.

#### **Next Meeting Date:**

April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Paonia ambulance barn @ 7PM. Hope to see you all there and bring along a new member.