

SAR Responder

March 2012

Volume 2, Issue 3

An all-volunteer, non-profit 501 (c) (3), formed so that others may live.

Special Interest Articles:

- Board Elections

SAR Recap

February proved to be yet another very quiet month for Fresno County Search and Rescue. The silence of our radios gave us time to reflect on SAR missions we had around this very time last year.

Remembering those we have saved and those we could not drives us to train harder, both for performing rescues and for educating the public on safe recreation in our beautiful county.

We are very happy that people have been recreating safely so far this year. Even so, we are ready and waiting for our next callout.



Beneath Kaiser Peak with great sight lines to the east

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Board Elections

It is that time of year again to elect the board for Fresno County SAR Mountaineering Team!

Nominations started in March and will conclude at the April meeting.

Members should start thinking about whom they would like to nominate and have those nominations ready by the next meeting.

Voting will take place at the May meeting, therefore, attendance to the May meeting is extremely important!

The board of directors consists of the team leader, the training officer, the secretary, the treasurer and the member-at-large. The current board and the future board look forward to working together during

the transition to continue the growth and development of our expanding team.



Training Recap



A snowcat, snowmobiles and other fun, yet very useful toys!

February was our annual Fresno County Sheriff's Department Winter SAR Event, hosted by the sheriff's department.

During this huge three-day training, we were able to train side by side with the deputies that work on real search and rescue calls with us.

Our volunteer team also got a chance to work with all the search and rescue equipment that the sheriff's department has, such as the snowcat, snowmobiles and other fun, yet very useful toys.

The first two days of training were dedicated to a mock search in which teams were deployed to search for two deputies acting as missing subjects.

Command post quickly established teams and deployed them to different parts of the search area via snowcat or jeep. There were also snowmobile teams. We had a second mock search occur during the first, which is not an uncommon occurrence. Teams who were diverted performed well and both sets of missing subjects were located in a timely

manner. The third day of training included station training to review avalanche safety, shelter building, snow machine operation and several other vital aspects of winter search and rescue.

All members were challenged by the tasks put before them and had a great time strengthening existing skills while learning new ones. We thank the Sheriff's Department for putting on such a wonderful training and look forward to Summer SAR!

And More training!

February also provided a chance for some of our members to attend the annual Winter Direction and Control course. The course, hosted by CalEMA, is a 40-hour course that trains SAR professionals in the art of winter search management.

This year's event was hosted by Mono County at Mammoth Mountain. Members of both our volunteer team and the

Sheriff's Department attended this training, bringing back lots of important information on how to better manage winter search operations which are drastically different from summer search operations.

Overall, the attendees had a wonderful time and enjoyed sharing their new knowledge with the rest of the team. Thank you CalEMA for hosting such a wonderful event.



Member Rich Barnes at the Winter Direction and Control Course in Mammoth

Donor Spotlight

This month's donor spotlight is on our friends at Avakian Insurance Services, Inc. Started 30 years ago, Avakian Insurance Services, Inc. is a family run business handling all types of insurance including home, auto, farm, commercial, health and life insurance. Bill Avakian is a very active member of our Search and Rescue team, a team that his family has grown to consider part of their own. So much so, that Avakian Insurance Services, Inc has made a commitment to donate to the SAR team 50% of commission of business done with SAR team members, Sheriff and County employees, and all their friends and family. In addition to this, they have committed to continually donate the renewal commission to the team as well. If you or anyone you know is in the market for insurance, please consider the wonderful people at Avakian Insurance Services, Inc. Not only do they provide excellent customer service, they support our community through their generous contributions. We thank Avakian Insurance Services, Inc for their continued support of our team!



Community Events

On February 25, the Fresno County SAR team participated in the Fresno Monster's Hockey Military and Public Safety night. The Sheriff's Department brought out several SAR vehicles for the public to see. Our volunteer jeep unit also brought some of their rescue jeeps.

We had a large turnout as well, with volunteers eagerly talking to the public about what we do and handing out stickers to the kids who were in awe over the SAR vehicles and especially one of our SAR dogs, Max.

During the game, the Fresno Monster's mascot even came to sit with all of us, proudly donning our orange SAR shirts. Overall, it was a great event and we thank the Monsters for letting us attend!



Members of Fresno County SAR at the Fresno Monsters Hockey Military and Public Safety night

"The kids were in awe over the SAR vehicles and especially one of our SAR dogs, Max."



**Fresno County SAR
Mountaineering Team**

P.O. Box 7
Fresno, CA 93707

E-MAIL:
board@fresnosar.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.fresnosar.org

Find us on Facebook!

Upcoming Events

March 17th- Monthly SAR training – Mock Technical Rescue at Scout Island

March 31st- Fitness hike at San Joaquin River Gorge

April 4th- Monthly team meeting, 7 pm at Farm Bureau (Board Nominations will be taken)

March 26th-30th – SAR recruit interviews

April 4th- Monthly board meeting, 6 pm at Farm Bureau

About Our Organization...

The Fresno County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Mountaineering Team was formed as an auxiliary unit of the Fresno County Sheriff's Office in 1982. We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization of diversified volunteers, formed to augment the Fresno County Sheriff's Office during search and rescue operations in Fresno County and throughout the state of California.

Our team members are trained in various search and rescue disciplines including: orienteering, tracking, wilderness / winter survival, first aid / CPR, swift water and high angle rescue, helicopter safety, search techniques and search management. These skills facilitate our ability to respond to a variety of urban and wilderness emergencies.

During 2011, SAR team members donated

thousands of service hours participating in Search and Rescue Operations in Fresno, Madera, Tulare and San Luis Obispo Counties, as well as Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks. In addition to SAR missions and monthly training, members also donated hundreds service hours to other non-profit organizations in our area and sponsored events to promote safety in the outdoors.

FCSSARMT
P.O. Box 7
Fresno, CA 93707

**COMPANY NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, ST 22134**

