

SAR Responder

Special Interest Articles:

- Bringing Joy to Others During the Holidays

Individual Highlights:

Training Recap	2
Donor Spotlight	3
Community Events	4
Upcoming Events	5

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

SAR Recap

December was another quiet month for our team. With no snow in the mountains, people have been able to hike as if it were still fall. We are ready and waiting in case the next big storm catches people off guard. On January 2, 2012 we got our first callout in a few months! An adult walked

away from a group home, unable to be found by the home staff. Deputies and volunteers quickly converged on the area and used mantracking skills to locate his footprint, following his direction of travel. While we were hot on his trail, we received a call from a resident that a strange

man was in his yard. The description matched and within minutes, we had found our victim and had him transported to the hospital for mild hypothermia and diabetic related issues. A great ending to the first SAR of the year!

Bringing Joy to Others During the Holidays

Every year, our SAR team uses the many resources we have amongst ourselves to help out one or more needy families during the holidays. This year we are happy to find three families that could use a little help from Santa's elves. After finding out what each family needed most, team members quickly began donating toys, furniture,

clothing, gift cards and cash to help these less fortunate families have a better holiday season. On Christmas Eve, we were able to enlist the help of Santa himself, along with several SAR elves and our SAR Lieutenant to deliver the many gifts we had accumulated to these needy families.

We may donate hundreds of hours and dollars every year for SAR missions,

but helping out these families is just as important to us, even if it is just to see the twinkle in a child's eyes or the look of gratitude on a parent's face. We hope these families and all of you had a happy holiday season!

Training Recap



Our December training was held at Scout Island and was a classroom affair. We reviewed the Incident Command System, which involves how SAR or any major event is managed. Understanding ICS is a mandatory requirement of each SAR volunteer, with

a test at the end of the course and a certificate of completion upon passing. Along with ICS, we reviewed the many different forms that are used in a SAR and when they would be required. We wrapped up the

training with a presentation provided by Yosemite Search and Rescue with photos and SAR recaps of what they have done on the many rescues they have each month.



Donor Spotlight

December was an incredible month for donations to our team and we are very grateful for all the community support we receive!

The month started with the Auberry Intermountain Rotary presenting us with a grant for \$1000. Rotary gives out about 200 grants a year, so we were very fortunate to be one of the selected organizations. Intermountain Rotary services a foothill and mountain area that we frequently train in and also have SAR missions in. We are very thankful for their support in helping us fund some much needed technical equipment and the costs associated with getting some of our instructors certified.

In December, we also received the proceeds from our Panda Express fundraiser that was held on November 11th. Panda Express hosts fundraisers for many nonprofit organizations and donates 20% back to the cause. We are very thankful for Panda and their program!

Last month, we got word from State Farm on the Company Grant we had applied for. Every year, State Farm gives out grants to organizations focused on safety, education and community. Our friends at State Farm

provided us with an extremely generous grant of \$5,000 to help outfit our team with some much needed new year. We are very thankful for our dear friends at State Farm!

We were also fortunate to receive a donation from Litera Corp. for our Haiti Fund. The Haiti Fund is a fund we have set up to help one of our board members who is going on a medical mission with other medical staff in the state to assist the people of Haiti who are still recovering from the aftermath of the earthquake that devastated the area in January of 2010. We were very excited when Litera Corp., a global company, wanted to assist us in this cause. Board member Nick Kohli is scheduled to leave for Haiti later this month and is still looking for additional funding to pay for the expensive cost of medications and medical gear that the medical team will need in order to carry out their mission. We wish them the best of luck and are thankful to be of assistance!

We are very thankful for all our donors, whether the donation is money, time or opportunities. Thank you all, for without you, we would not be able to serve our community!

“The San Joaquin can be a violent river on high water years and we have had swiftwater rescues in it.”

Community Events

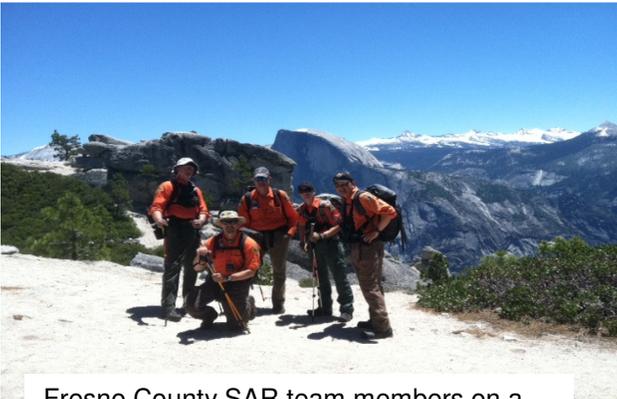
On December 3rd, several members assisted at a San Joaquin Conservancy event. We brought out some of our SAR toys for guests to see and told them about what we do. It was a great chance to mingle with folks who are dedicated to preserving the San Joaquin and the nature around it. The San Joaquin can be a violent river on high water years and we have had swiftwater rescues in it. The event gave us a chance to talk to the

people who enjoy recreating in and around it and suggest ways of making their outings safer.

In addition to this event, many members attended the SAR Posse fundraiser dinner the same night. It is always nice to talk to fellow SAR folk, even if these particular folk get to ride around on horseback. Many members donated raffle items and spent lots of money to win other

raffle items. The whole team is very thankful for the support and look forward to working with the Posse in the future.

SAR Photos



Fresno County SAR team members on a mutual aid search in Yosemite, summer 2011



Fresno County SAR instructor, Nathan demonstrating usage of a Figure 8 device

**Fresno County SAR
Mountaineering Team**

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Upcoming Events

January 4th- Board meeting 6pm, General meeting 7pm at the Farm Bureau

January 12th and 13th- Interviews for new SAR candidates

January 14th- Cleanup day at Lost Lake County Park

January 17th and 18th – SAR Coordinators Meeting in Sacramento

January 21st- Monthly training at Scout Island 9am

January 29th through 31st- Winter Special Olympics at China Peak

January 30th – February 3rd – Winter Direction and Control SAR Management Class at Mammoth Mountain

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.

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.

Our team members are

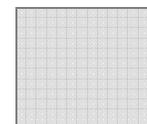
We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.fresnosar.org

Find us on Facebook!

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