

APRIL 1986

THE ALPINE VOLUNTEER



PARAPROFESSIONALS SAVING LIVES SINCE 1959



Louie Higgins (L), Russ Doley (C), Mike Enovak (R) and Claude Rains practice scree evac while testing new brake tubes at Little Cub, 3-23-86. 22 evacs were run, including 6 vertical ones. -photograph by H.M. Paul-

EARNING THE MRA PATCH

Through Alpine, we're all members of the national Mountain Rescue Association. Our blue and white patch tells people - agencies, victims and other rescuers - that we're qualified to do the job!

The MRA was set up in the late 50s, primarily in the Pacific Northwest but with the input of Rocky Mountain Rescue Group. It was chartered in 1960 and Alpine joined that year, the same year Alpine Incorporated.

The latest MRA membership list shows there are 41 teams which hold full membership in the MRA, another 3 who are associate members, and 13 exoficio members (mostly National Parks).

In Colorado, full membership has been earned by Alpine, Aspen, El Paso, Larimer, Rocky Mountain, Summit and Vail. Western State College MRT and Grand County SAR recently became associates (enroute to full membership), and Rocky Mountain National Park is an exoficio member. Ouray was a member for years but had some troubles a couple of years back. They have been rebuilding and are expected to reapply soon. LaPlata also has expressed interest in earning the patch.

The MRA is broken down in regions. Ours is the Rocky Mountain Region, with teams in Colorado and New Mexico. The only regional team outside Colorado is Albuquerque...a real fine bunch of people. The region would like additional teams in Wyoming and Utah, and possibly Montana. Until recently, our own Tom Fiore was secretary of the national and chairman of the Rocky Mountain region. Tom's backed off a bit and Tim Cochrane of Vail has become chairman of the region.

Very soon, Alpine - and the other regional teams - will have to recertify to maintain their membership. It's a phenomenon that occurs about every five years. There'll be a meeting in Vail, in April, to set up the procedures and the requirements. On the last recertification, new members pulled it off for Alpine with only a bit of guidance from the long-timers. ("Long-timers" sounds better than "Old Timers.") In the past, the testing team had to pull off a relatively complex rescue and evacuation. It was witnessed by two senior members each from three other MRA teams. Search management and efficiency was passed over lightly because the teams worked together on real missions frequently... and knew each others capabilities well. That might change this year, because there have been relatively few large, multi-unit missions in recent years.

The regional MRA also plays a role in the CSRB. Since Colorado has no minimum performance standards for search and rescue teams, CSRB members have been urged to adopt the MRA standards, tailored to their own environment and mission load. (It generally is not necessary for a plains team to master vertical evacs, although very handy in removing an auto accident victim from a deep gully.) Much of the CSRB training around the state is conducted by MRA members.

- Hunter Holloway -

PRISM

FROM CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING TO SHACK-RAISING

Where is Alpine relative to building a new Shack? Our goal seems to be elusive of late. What is needed now is a little behind-the-scenes long-range planning. The total effort has to be a broad-based, multidisciplinary one. The talent exists. It includes Team members who are contractors, builders, architects, business executives, students, computer programmers, scientists, communicators, managers & supervisors, entrepreneurs, educators, technicians, engineers, retailers, maintenance & repair specialists, bankers, media experts, craftspersons, and lots of other professionals and skilled labor types. There is not a single member who could not contribute to this effort in some meaningful way.

The new Shack can be build in one of two ways: 1) in a crisis mode where the situation becomes desperate enough to force people into action, or 2) in a deliberate, logical mode where milestones, objectives and prerequisites are realistically drawn up. These might include the following:

- resolution by the Board establishing reasonable priorities and "biting the bullet" on spending
- energetic fund-raising that includes: mass mailings of brochure having return form; a professional grant-writer working on commission; several well-planned charitable benefits
- community involvement
- a committee of "movers & shakers" to keep effort on track
- support from an ACTIVE Financial Advisory Committee; this group should be soliciting funds & making contacts
- donation of land, perhaps accomplished by advertisement or solicitation by no-fee realtor(s)
- contact with Building Trades Programs at local high schools, possibly leading to a contract as their yearly project
- file legal documents: zoning, well permit & drilling, etc.
- PUBLICITY! public service announcements, published articles, contact all service clubs (Elks, Kiwanis, etc.)
- meeting with selected Clear Creek "politicians & friends"
- at least \$50,000 in the bank to buy some building materials
- donation of some building supplies & possibly some services
- an old-fashioned barn-raising with hierarchy of supervisors, hammerers & cutters, haulers, food preparers, etc.
- a low mortgage rate

Insert "hard work" between every other item in this list. People thrive on accomplishment and enjoy being associated with a winning, worthwhile cause. A facility as illustrated by Rich Willhardt in this issue is worth about \$200,000 and could be built for \$100,000-150,000 with enough volunteer help. Rich's plans are just an example -- something to shoot at, discuss, stimulate thinking, and then change.

Having been through a similar barn-raising a year ago, I can say it was both educational and FUN. Bankers and housewives worked feverish side-by-side and built an ambulance barn in two days (excluding drywall & utilities). If Alpine wants it to happen bad enough, it will happen. But the dream will become reality only when a "critical mass" of optimistic attitude and positive thinking make at least 3 or 4 of the items above materialize.

EDITORIAL

