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## SAR Spotlight Forum: Searching the Searcher Cube

Searching the Searcher Cube: This month's SAR Spotlight Forum explores a way to approach searcher training. Discover a way to maximize both efficiency and coverage and thus probability of detection (POD) for ground Searchers in the field. Learn about human vision and detection, plus how to correct commonly observed ground searcher errors. Click this link to access the SAR Spotlight Forum article presented by Emergency Response International:

[http://www.eri-online.com/SAR\\_SPOTLIGHT\\_FORUM.html](http://www.eri-online.com/SAR_SPOTLIGHT_FORUM.html)

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## In Memoriam: Dave Moore, Past President of Mountain Rescue Association/US

We would like to share with our readers the news that Dave Moore has died. Dave Moore was Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) President from 1970-1972 and co-founder and co-commander of the MRA Honor Guard. He served as Captain of the Alpine Rescue Team of Evergreen, Colorado, and was a Sergeant Major in the US Army, 10th Mountain Division.

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## New Titles at dbS Productions

We are pleased to now carry two additional classic books in search and rescue: *Analysis of Lost Person Behavior* by William Syrotuck and *Lost Person Behaviour* compiled and edited by Kenneth Hill. These two books together form the basis of lost person behavior research and are essential texts for search managers to inform their strategy, tactics and planning. Add to these books *Lost Person Behavior* by Robert Koester, which provides the most current statistics and profiles of 41 subject categories, and you have a trilogy of books that serve as the ultimate guide for any SAR mission. Find these books and others—from tracking to management to fatigue—in our new 2010 catalog (feel free to request one in print and/or email) and at [www.dbs-sar.com](http://www.dbs-sar.com).

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## **To Charge for Search & Rescue? The Debate Continues ...**

Most likely all of us have read articles and discussed this issue among friends and colleagues. The issue is still going strong, with articles being published in both mainstream national magazines such as National Geographic Adventure (see below) and your local newspaper. We have found two recent articles worthy of sharing, one for its clarity and even-handed view, and which lands on the side of not charging (along with, we suspect, most of our readers), and one for its disturbing view of folks who love the outdoors and its primary concern: how to make money.

In an article by Laurence Gonzales for National Geographic Adventure, the issue of whether people should be charged for search and rescue missions on their behalf is thoughtfully considered, with statistics to boot. This article clearly reveals the heart of the issue: people want to be out in the wilderness, will do extreme things (prepared or, unfortunately, unprepared), and if something happens to them there are volunteers and others who want to look for them. The costs are typically relatively low in the grand scheme of things. And as the writer says, if parks plan to charge rescue fees, people will just as well go someplace else. And that would be a shame.

[http://ngadventure.typepad.com/blog/deep\\_survival/](http://ngadventure.typepad.com/blog/deep_survival/)

For a view on the other side of the debate, the following article explores how insurance companies can stand to profit from people having to pay for search and rescue. The author is cynical about people who require search and rescue missions on their behalf—assuming that people who get lost or become at risk in the wilderness end up that way because they are stupid and willingly take risks and thereby willingly put other people at risk. He does not mention that people get lost or become at risk for other reasons, such as simple mistakes along a trail or sustaining an injury.

And he is cynical about SAR volunteers, whose concern is not about how stupid a lost hiker was, but instead truly is about finding a person in trouble and bringing them to safety, so “that others may live.”

<http://www.claimsmag.com/Issues/2010/FEBRUARY-2010/Pages/SearchandRescue-Operations.aspx?page=1>

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## **Blog Illuminates Stories of Mountain Accidents and Rescues**

This blog is a collection of stories from around the world about outdoor adventures that somehow go wrong. The reason for the misfortune is usually a simple mistake, highlighting the issue raised in the articles above—essentially, people are drawn to the wilderness, will go there regardless of the extreme conditions, and make simple mistakes, experience gear failure or become injured, and thus become lost, stranded, and even die. Intended to inform potential hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts about other people’s mistakes, this blog provides interesting stories, although often tragic (especially this time of year, as avalanches claim the lives of climbers, skiers, etc) so that we might learn from them; and, in the more uplifting outcomes, take inspiration for their efforts to overcome a perilous predicament.

<http://www.hikerhell.com/>

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## **Free New Generation USGS Digital US Topo Maps Available**

Upgraded (from beta map) content and improved contours and hydrography features, and technical functions such as data layers, are now all rolled into one with the new digital US Topo Maps based on the USGS National Map. Other advantages to using the digital maps are the ability to turn data layers off and on, zoom in, printed to scale or used on-screen, compatibility with Google Maps, and choice of reference systems. Plus, the maps are free.

<http://nationalmap.gov/ustopo/>

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## **Tracking Technology Assists People with Alzheimer’s and Caregivers**

Caregivers can now monitor – via computer – the path their person with Alzheimer’s is walking or driving. A program of the Alzheimer’s Association, called Comfort Zone, uses a Web application and a tracking device to alert the person with Alzheimer’s and/or a caregiver when the person has moved beyond an established area. This program is intended to assist caregivers in preventing a person with Alzheimer’s from wandering and

getting lost, and could play an important role in locating them in a timely manner if they do.

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20091117/NEWS/911175013/1023/LIFE?p=1&tc=pg>

<http://www.alz.org/comfortzone/index.asp>

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### **New Training Academy SAR K9 Handlers**

Online courses for dog handlers are now available through the Working K9 Handler Academy, a partnership program of Paws of Life and Iowa State University Extension. Handlers from a variety of backgrounds are encouraged to participate: SAR, law enforcement, competitive protection sports and anyone simply interested. The Web site is linked to Paws of Life, which provides a library of articles and many other resources for handlers, canine placement and training.

<http://www.k9handleracademy.com/>

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### **Travel Tips for Flying with a SAR Dog**

Thorough, sage (and humorous) advice on how to travel on an airplane with a SAR dog in this month's edition of the National Search Dog Alliance newsletter (page 4).

[http://www.n-sda.org/files/newsletter\\_files/01-10.pdf](http://www.n-sda.org/files/newsletter_files/01-10.pdf)

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### **Social Networking for SAR**

**Trackers**—Connect with your people to keep learning about tracking, new resources (for example, Rob Speiden's excellent book *Foundations for Awareness, Signcutting and Tracking*, available at [www.dbs-sar.com](http://www.dbs-sar.com)), and training courses, and of course, make some virtual friends.

<http://www.trackersconnect.com/home.html>

**Anyone**—New-ish Web sites for general SAR enthusiasts that provide a forum for discussion, promoting education/training, news, gear reviews, connecting with colleagues.

<http://www.sarworld.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=1>  
<http://www.sarresponder.com/>

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### **SPOT Offers Exchange of Faulty SPOT 2 Units**

SPOT LLC has discovered that some of the new SPOT 2 units are not meeting certain operational specifications. Thus, they are willing to exchange those units for new ones. To find out whether your particular unit is eligible for the exchange go to

<http://findmespot.com/exchange/>

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### **New Lead-Time Guidelines for Hurricane Watch and Warning**

In order to give emergency managers and citizens more time to prepare for tropical storms and hurricanes, the NOAA has increased the amount of time to notify the public about a storm's onset by 12 hours. Warnings will be issued within 36 hours of the storm affecting a specific area. Watches will be issued within 48 hours. Changes are the result of improved technology in tracking the progress of a storm.

[http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100105\\_nhc.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100105_nhc.html)

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**SAR Conference Calendar 2010 - Submit Your Conference Info!**

Our next issue of SARNews will be devoted to the SAR Conference Calendar. This calendar includes SAR conferences anywhere in the world. Key data to include: name, date, location, Web site, contacts, course topics and highlights. Please submit your information to [info@dbs-sar.com](mailto:info@dbs-sar.com) by March 1.