



# TERRESTRIAL RESCUE REPORT

International Commission for Alpine Rescue

Kommission für Bodenrettung/Commission pour le Sauvetage Terrestre/Commission for Terrestrial Rescue



## Stateline, Nevada, USA, 5-10 October 2014 (Lake Tahoe)

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**INTRODUCTION** The International Committee for Alpine Rescue (IKAR-CISA) met for its annual Congress in Stateline, Nevada, USA, 5-10 October 2014.

**Lake Tahoe** is a large [freshwater](#) lake in the [Sierra Nevada](#) of the United States. At a surface elevation of 6,225 ft (1,897 m), it is located along the border between [California](#) and [Nevada](#), west of [Carson City](#). Lake Tahoe is the largest [alpine lake](#) in North America. Its depth is 1,645 ft (501 m), making it the [deepest](#) in the United States after [Crater Lake](#) (1,945 ft (593 m)). Additionally, Lake Tahoe is the [sixth largest lake by volume](#) in the United States at 122,160,280 [acre-ft](#) (150,682,490 dam<sup>3</sup>), behind the five [Great Lakes](#).



The lake was formed about 2 million years ago and is a part of the [Lake Tahoe Basin](#) with the modern lake being shaped during the [ice ages](#). It is known for the clarity of its water and the panorama of surrounding mountains on all sides. The area surrounding the lake is also referred to as **Lake Tahoe**, or simply **Tahoe**. More than 75% of the lake's [watershed](#) is [national forest land](#), comprising the [Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit](#) of the [United States Forest Service](#).

Lake Tahoe is a major tourist attraction in both Nevada and California. It is home to a number of [ski resorts](#), summer outdoor recreation, and [tourist attractions](#). Snow and skiing are a significant part of the area's economy and reputation. Mountain and lake scenery are attractions throughout the year. The Nevada side also includes large casinos. Highways provide year-round access from [Reno](#), [Carson City](#), and [Sacramento](#). (Wikipedia)

The Congress was held at Harvey's Hotel and Resort in Stateline, Nevada and the Practical Day was held at Heavenly Mountain Resort in Nevada and South Lake Tahoe, California through the gracious sponsorship of Heavenly Mountain Resort and their parent company, Vail Resorts, Inc.

**The Congress:** Presenters from around the world were required to submit proposals and papers in advance, with a standard 20 minute presentation period followed by 10 minutes of questions. The theme of this year's congress was Multi-Casualty Incidents (MCI). This theme was reflected in the avalanche rescue and medical care themes of the Practical Day workshop on 5 October. In addition, was the fact that many incidents involving multiple casualties occur each year throughout the world.



Harvey's Resort and Casino

This year's congress drew more than 300 rescuers from nearly 30 countries. Representing the MRA at Lake Tahoe were Dr. Ken Zafren (Medical), Casey Ping (Air Rescue), Dale Atkins (Avalanche Rescue), Dan Hourihan (Terrestrial Rescue), Tom Wood (Terrestrial Rescue), Dr. Skeet Glatter (Medical) and Marc Beverly (Avalanche Rescue). Simultaneous translation was provided for all major sessions in English, French and German with the latest equipment and headphones, as well as sound proof booths for the translators.

Attendance of the U.S. delegates was made possible by support from **CMC Rescue**, **RECCO**, the **MRA** and a significant private donor wishing to remain anonymous. The U.S. MRA delegates are grateful to our sponsors for the long term support of this important international exchange.

Many delegates arrived in Stateline on the afternoon and evening of Sunday, October 5. A briefing and preparatory session was held on Sunday evening for the approximately 260 participants scheduled for the Monday sessions. A day of Avalanche Rescue and Medical workshops and exercises were held on Monday, October 6 and regular sessions began with a grand opening and welcome on Monday evening. Delegates were housed and fed at Harvey's Hotel and Resort and the general meetings were held in a first class conference hall at that location. There was a vendors exhibition with displays of outdoor and rescue equipment. (Hourihan)

### **Monday, October 6, Practical Day Sessions:**

The Practical Day was organized by the Avalanche Rescue and Medical commissions with the theme “Multi-Casualty Incidents in the Mountains”. It was held on Heavenly Mountain within the Heavenly Ski Resort in the vicinity of Tamarack Lodge at the top of the gondola. The use of the site, gondola and Tamarack Lodge were graciously donated by Heavenly Mountain Resort, a Vail, Inc. property.

The day involved six specific topic stations: three avalanche rescue based and three medical emergency based. Participants were divided in to six groups organized for German, French and English speakers and rotated with their group through all six stations. A total of more than 260 attendees participated in the day. Support personnel were provided by Douglas County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue (DCSAR), which is an MRA team, and Heavenly Mountain Resort.



The three avalanche rescue stations were: 1.) Probing Strategies 2.) Recco Search Strategies and 3.) Use of Avalanche Beacons. The beacon station had several different commercial beacon manufacturers providing their latest beacon developments.



The three medical stations were: 1.) Management of Multiple Casualties 2.) Hypothermia Field Treatment and 3.) Avalanche Triage Strategy and the Use of the ICAR Medical Check List. . Again, each station discussed and provided hands-on instruction in the latest protocols and developments in the various topics. The multi-casualty scenario was based on a chairlift accident that resulted in multiple casualties, their field treatment and evacuation to a medical facility. The hypothermia station induced a mild/moderate hypothermia state on volunteers and used various field treatment techniques to stabilize and re-warm the subjects. It carried on the research done by the station coordinator, Dr. Doug Brown, Canada. The avalanche triage station focused on the use of the newly

developed ICAR Medical Check List, which guides the user through the triage decision making process in a multi-casualty incident.

Comment: The Practical Day was a great success due, in large part, to the efforts of Dominique Letang, France, and Fidel Elsensohn, Austria, Presidents of the Avalanche Rescue and Medical Commissions, respectively. Their leadership was instrumental, but the tireless organizational efforts of Manuel Genswein, Switzerland, is what truly made this day a very beneficial and educational day for all involved. (Hourihan)

The video including action from this demonstration will be posted to:

<http://topographmedia.com/>

It will be active and updated to this report as a link when available.

## **Tuesday, October 7, 2014**

The Terrestrial Rescue Commission met for its opening session. Terrestrial Rescue Commission President Gebhard Barbisch made opening comments and thanked the MRA organizers. After a warm welcome to the United States by MRA President Dave Clarke, the Terrestrial Commission got right down to business.

### **Terrestrial Rescue Commission Issues:**

The minutes from last year's meeting in Bol, Croatia were read and approved.

The first topic of discussion dealt with the recurring topic of avalanche transceivers used in the summer months. Though there was not much interest in making it a requirement for mountain rescuers to carry transceivers year round, it was decided that this topic needed to remain on the agenda. Additionally, The training of commercial guides for canyoneering (REC B 0003, September 25, 1999) was briefly discussed.

ICAR Terrestrial Vice President Kirk Mauthner presented data gathered from recent testing he performed on knots used to join two ropes. The goal of these tests was to come up with an ICAR recommendation for the best rope-joining knots (in reference to REC B 0004, June 24, 2000) used in the mountain rescue environment. Using a beginning rope strength of 39.2kN, Mauthner tested several joining knots by applying a slow pull to both ends of the rope and recording the strength retention of the knotted ropes. The following knots were tested:



Gebhard Barbisch

Double Fisherman's 21.6kN (strongest)  
 Figure 8 Bend 20kN  
 Double Sheet Bend (no safeties) 14.8kN  
 Flat Overhand Knot 12.2kN (weakest)

Based on the results of these tests, it was recommended that the Double Fisherman's knot or the Figure 8 Bend be used to join two ropes together. Mauthner concluded that whatever knot is used to join two ropes, the joined ropes should retain at least 15kN of their original breaking strength.

All existing Terrestrial Rescue recommendations and standards were reviewed and reaffirmed (see below). This was a valuable exercise, as many of these recommendations have been on the books for years and, in their reaffirming, validates the conservative approach undertaken by IKAR regarding their development.

Some editorial changes were made to existing ICAR documents. The word "both" was added to the *Winter Rescue Equipment* document (REC B 0008 June 24, 2000, revised Chamonix 2000) in regards to toboggan use. In the *Systems in Mountain Rescue* document (REC B0009, October 9, 2010), the word "he" was replaced by "they are".

Thematic topics for the 2015 ICAR-CISA Congress in Killarney, Ireland were discussed. It was decided that "Human Factors in Mountain Rescue" would be the main focus for the Terrestrial Commission practical day and for the presentations that follow. ICAR delegates were encouraged to solicit their rescue organizations as well as manufacturers for input on this topic.

Comment: You can find a list of existing IKAR Recommendations and Standards at the publicly accessible website at [www.ikar-cisa.org](http://www.ikar-cisa.org). IKAR is facing some of the same issues as the MRA in terms of standards and increased government regulation. Most IKAR countries rely primarily on volunteer teams, with the exception of the professional mountain police in France.

### **Preparing Climbing Rangers for Rescue on Mt Rainier:** Stefan Lofgren, MRA, USA

Veteran Lead Climbing Ranger Stefan Lofgren discussed the challenges, growing pains and lessons learned from more than two decades of experience with the Mt Rainier Climbing Ranger Training Program. At 14,409' (4,392 m), Washington state's Mt Rainier is one of America's busiest mountaineering destinations. Lofgren stated that in the past, seasonal climbing rangers had a difficult time improving and retaining their mountaineering and rescue skills from season to season based on the park's policies for seasonal employees and the limited options for continuing education. Lofgren admitted it's been a bumpy road at times for a ranger training program that suffered the tragic loss of two of rangers in the line of duty (Sean Ryan and Nick Hall). Lofgren questioned the organizational culture, traditions and values that led to these tragedies and contributed to many near misses. Digging deeper, he cited a lack of leadership, inadequate communication, sub-standard training, insufficient career experience and poor mountaineering practices within the program. But perhaps worst of all, Lofgren said, rangers had normalized the risks to which they were routinely exposed.

Once these deficiencies were identified, the Park Service worked to improve the rangers' core skills by outsourcing training, testing rangers' competencies and providing better documentation



for these efforts. But most importantly, Lofgren said that rangers learned to better evaluate risk factors during rescues based on the following criteria: Planning, Leadership, Equipment, Training, Team, Communications, Conditions and Complexity.

This new way of looking at their jobs also included implementation of the GAR model for risk assessment (Green, Amber and Red). Lofgren estimated that the Mt Rainier rangers now have about 500 examples of incidents where the GAR model was implemented. The addition of more skilled rangers and the presence of operational leadership on the mountain led to improvement in all the ranger's core competencies (Medical, Avalanche, Aviation and Technical Rope skills).

By revising their training program and lengthening climbing ranger seasonal rotations, Lofgren said that the climbing rangers on the mountain are now more safety conscious, more professional and better prepared for the emergencies and rescues that accompany a busy climbing season. Lofgren said by inviting external critique, providing more relevant training, requiring testing and certification in applicable skills and acknowledging the flaws found within our organizational culture, as rescuers we can better serve those who need rescued and also better protect our rescuers.

Lofgren finished his presentation with the admonition that all rescuers should "seek and destroy" risk normalization if they want to conduct business safely in the backcountry. (Wood)

**Virtual Search Planning:** Paul Burke, MRA, USA



Discussing a new way of executing remote search planning, Paul Burke outlined how Virtual Search Planning (VSP) can aid search managers.

"Chaos is a common component of the initial search operation," Burke said. In contrast, VSP can be handled remotely, away from the hustle and bustle of an active command post. By examining known and verified facts, applying statistical data, weather models, technical data (cell data and forensics).

Utilizing layered virtual imaging and building a logical search plan, VSP can be an effective tool that helps searchers objectively determine the areas with the highest statistical probability for a find.

Citing the successful find of 16 year old Shane McNeil near the Hoover Dam in September 2010, Burke said VSP had been used to accurately predict where the deceased McNeil would likely be found. By combining a subject profile, establishing a search area, plotting cell forensics, conducting virtual flight path simulations on Google Earth, calculating paths of least resistance and not succumbing to hunches or gut feelings, Burke said VSP can even be used for unresolved missing person cases that involve the search of a likely area.

Burke said that of the 23 cases where VSP was used, 19 of the cases were solved, resulting in a success rate of 80%. (Wood)

## **Accident of a Rescuer in Action: Theo Maurer, ARS, Switzerland**

Swiss mountain rescuer Theo Maurer, with ARS, presented a case study of a routine search that resulted in the death of a solo searcher.

Even what seems to be benign searches on established trails should be carried out by at least a two-person team, he said. This will ensure that if an accident or unforeseen medical emergency occurs, there is a greater chance for immediate help to arrive if another rescuer is present.

Maurer noted that even seemingly low-risk mountain incidents like a straightforward search can still pose a threat to rescuer safety. Also he encouraged rescue leadership to ensure that their team members and team assets are well-protected by insurance in the event of an accident during a search or rescue. He said that insurance should also be considered for the benefit of the surviving dependents of rescuers. (Wood)

## **Wednesday, October 8, 2014**

### **Snowmobiling in Sweden in 2014-Trends, Attitudes to Risk & Knowledge About Avalanches:**

Per Olov Wikberg, Peter Palmgren, Stefan Martenon, Daniel Nordlund, Swedish Mountain Safety Council, Sweden



Drawing from both statistical data and snowmobiler feedback, the presenters offered up some interesting conclusions about snowmobiler trends and user risk assessments over a ten year period (2005-2014) in Sweden.

With roughly 100 snowmobiler fatalities resulting from more than 1,300 reported accidents in Sweden from 2005-2014, the need for increased snowmobiler safety is paramount, they said. Though only two of the fatalities were avalanche related (compared to nearly 20% of reported fatalities in nearby Norway), the Swedish Mountain Safety Council and the Swedish National Snowmobile Council noted that there were many near misses for snowmobilers in avalanche terrain.

Of all reported accidents, nearly half were alcohol related, and many of the fatalities involved were the result of drowning after snowmobiles had fallen through the ice on frozen lakes. As a way to get more information from snowmobilers, survey ads were placed in popular snowmobiling magazines

and on social media. The information gathered from these surveys is being used to better tailor snowmobiler safety programs to the recreational, back country snowmobiler. Of the more than 3,000 snowmobilers who responded to the survey, 20% admitted that they had been caught in avalanches (though only 1% admitted to being buried). In terms of safety gear, 14% said they carried avalanche transceivers and probes, though 34% said that they ride in avalanche terrain. About 74% carried shovels, and 94% said they wear helmets. Not surprisingly, 98% have their cell phones with them while riding.

Based on the survey results, it was concluded that more ill-equipped snowmobile riders are riding through back country avalanche terrain than previously thought, and that more effort should be made to warn Swedish snowmobilers of avalanche danger and encourage them to carry avalanche gear.

(Wood)

## Multi-Victim Rescue on Mont-Ruan: Pascal Strappazon, Stephane Marcellin, GMSP Haute-Savoie, France



This presentation focused on a complicated Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) resulting from a serac fall that occurred on Mont Ruan (3,057m) in France on August 30, 2009. The summit of the mountain is in Switzerland, 200 meters from the French border.

Mont Ruan, located in the Chablais Alps above Lake Emosson in the Swiss canton of Valais, was the scene of a dramatic rescue attempt involving six hikers who were injured or trapped when a massive serac (giant column of glacial ice) collapsed above them. Arriving on scene via helicopter a short time after the initial report of the incident, a Dragon 74 helicopter with a civilian rescue unit was first on scene.

Carrying only two rescuers and one doctor, the team worked to triage the injured and find those who were trapped by the falling ice and snow. Working under the constant threat of more seracs falling onto them as the day warmed, rescuers also were hampered by poor communications with nearby command and medical facilities. The first two patients had only minor injuries, and they were escorted to a safe area while the rescuers continued their efforts. The third victim was located with a broken leg, and quickly medivaced to a nearby hospital. When additional rescuers arrived, they used ice picks, axes and even chainsaws to free the trapped patients. When all was said and done, two hikers were killed by the serac fall.

When rescuers returned to the scene the following day, they discovered that the entire scene where the rescues had taken place was completely buried by the seracs that fell after they left the scene. This prompted many to debate the risks undertaken by the rescuers as they worked to free the final two fatalities. (Wood)

## How Uepaa! Quickens Your Rescue Mission: Mathias Hausmann, Dominic Bestler, Switzerland

Exploring a new way that smartphone technology could benefit mountain rescuers, this presentation explained how Uepaa! had created a smartphone app that would transmit a distress call from a lost or injured Uepaa! user even if they had no service available from their carrier.

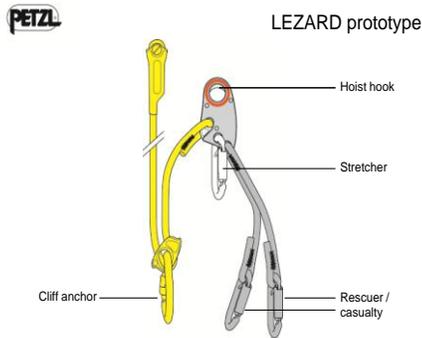
The Uepaa! Application, currently being used in Switzerland (and on a limited basis in the UK), has about 50,000 subscribers. Used by outdoor enthusiasts who may find themselves in a jam where no cell service is available, this app seeks out the nearest cell phone (via technology similar to wi-fi) with the Uepaa! application to “multi-hop” a distress call until it discovers a phone with a signal. Then the phone with a signal transmits the last known position of the original distress call, time of last known position, emergency contact info and even a description of the distressed or lost user.



The app also alerts the user where they last had a signal, and offers a backtracking feature. The basic app is free to the end user, but there is a subscription fee for most of the app's more useful and advanced functions. Uepaa! offers the more advanced functions free of charge to professional SAR, thereby helping speed up searches for Uepaa! subscribers.

Within five days of the app's launch, it boasted its first successful use when a paraglider used the app to get SAR to his location after an emergency landing. Though only available in Switzerland and the UK at present, more countries are being explored as potential users of this app. This link explains all the features of the app: <https://www.uepaa.ch/#!/app> (Wood)

### Le Lezard: Guilome Oudot, Petzl, France



First introduced at last year's ICAR-CISA Congress in Croatia, Petzl formally introduced Le Lezard to North America. A rescue tool for helicopter-based high angle, mid-wall rescues, Le Lezard is a new device that allows the helicopter-suspended rescuer to safely attach to a fixed anchor point on the wall as well as the injured mid-wall climber. If the helicopter experiences a sudden gain in altitude (from turbulence for example), the upward force on Le Lezard will release the lanyard attached to the fixed anchor while the rescuer and climber remain safely attached to the hoist line. This virtually eliminates the dangers associated with attaching a helicopter hoist line to a fixed anchor for those few crucial

seconds that the rescuer and patient must transfer from their mid wall anchor to the helicopter hoist line.

Like the lizard that the product is named for, Le Lezard loses its "tail" to protect the rescuer and climber that remain attached to the helicopter hoist line. Representatives from PGHM in Chamonix were on hand to speak about their experiences over the last few years testing out Le Lezard in the Alps with input from Petzl's engineering team.

Though it is not yet commercially available, Petzl strongly recommends that, when it hits the helicopter/mountain rescue market, users get trained and certified in Le Lezard's safe operation. Also discussed was a similar Petzl product called the Iguane, which will be used for helicopter-based ground drop-offs and body recoveries. (Wood)



### High Risk Avalanche Search: Alf Peter Kahrs, Dan Halvorsen, Norway



When called to perform avalanche rescues, the pressure from family members and the media sometimes forces rescuers to search at great risk to their own personal safety. In Norway, some recent avalanche rescues have forced rescuers there to reassess the way they handle avalanche calls where the danger of subsequent avalanches

poses a real threat to rescuer safety. Kahrs and Halvorsen stressed the importance of a “Plan B” when avalanche danger is high for rescuers. Citing an example from 2014 when four skiers were caught in an avalanche that was deemed too hazardous for a prompt rescuer response, and a 2013 avalanche that buried three that the police deemed “too dangerous” for rescuers to respond, they presented a potential “Plan B” that Norwegian rescuers have devised.

In a nutshell, the first rescuer is flown into the avalanche site via long line and deposited on the debris field while the helicopter hovers above. The rescuer, equipped with a transceiver, probe and shovel, does his or her hasty search while remaining attached to the low-stretch (not static) long line rope. At the first sign of trouble, the helicopter lifts the rescuer off the debris field, and out of the path of an oncoming avalanche. The 40 meter length of rope allows the rescuer to keep 10 meters of slack rope on the ground while the helicopter hovers 30 meters above. The 10 meters of slack rope both allows the rescuer to move about freely on the slope and gives the pilot room to navigate potential turbulence without impacting the rescuer below.

Though this was acknowledged to be a risky approach, it was one that Kahrs and Halvorsen felt, with proper training and planning, might be a safer option than putting additional rescuers at risk of burial during the early stages of an avalanche rescue. (Wood)

Comment: The danger of response into active avalanche terrain cannot be overstated. In December, 2009, four Italian mountain rescuers were killed when their team of seven were hit by an avalanche from above while searching for two snowshoers previously hit by an avalanche. This occurred in the Val Lasties region of the Dolomites east of Bolzano. (Hourihan)

**Multi Victim Rescue Organization:** Pascal Strappazon, Stephane Marcellin, GMSP, France

This presentation examined what many mountain rescuers consider the most challenging scenario of all...the Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) in the back country.

Given the geographically remote locations of the mountains, the limited number of available resources, communication pitfalls and the challenges that always accompany a multi-agency disaster response, the MCI presents a unique set of challenges to those attempting to effectively manage these rare and often chaotic missions.

Basing their presentation on actual MCI trainings, Strappazon and Marcellin stressed the importance of clearly defined leadership for medical and logistical roles. Beginning with the initial site safety survey, they detailed a triage system used to rapidly assess the victims. Using state of the art technology, the initial medical responders assigned a coded chip that contained the patient’s vitals and other important medical information to each casualty. These chips can be updated or downloaded onto tablets kept at a modular medical post that could be brought on scene and set up to temporarily treat the wounded.



The patients are then assigned color-coded cards as part of the triage process. GREEN patients are considered ambulatory (GREEN patients should be considered potential candidates for psychological first aid to reduce their risk of going into shock). YELLOW patients are not as high a priority as RED patients, but are too seriously injured to be treated as GREEN (may not be ambulatory). RED patients are not ambulatory, could be conscious or unconscious, and are considered highest priority. BLACK tags are assigned to the deceased.

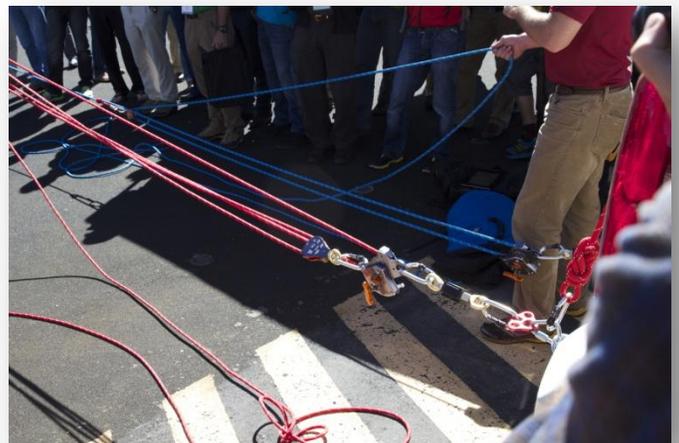
The modular medical post that was used for the MCI training depicted in the presentation took roughly half an hour to set up, and its use greatly improved the conditions under which Yellow and Red patients were first treated. The presenters acknowledged the fickle nature of the chip readers, and admitted that this sometimes made it difficult to upload the data to the tablets at the medical post. By using the chips instead of hand-written notes that can be easily lost or difficult to read, better care for the patients can happen until they reach more advanced medical care away from the incident. (Wood)

### **Wednesday, October 8, Vendor Sessions**

At the lunch break, ICAR-CISA vendors set up portable high directional anchors to showcase a variety of cutting-edge products of interest to mountain rescuers. Setup atop the nearby Harvey's parking structure, CMC, Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI), Cascade Rescue and Tyromont provided the 2014 ICAR Congress attendees with the opportunity to see some of the latest and greatest rescue equipment innovations in action.



CMC ([www.cmcrecue.com](http://www.cmcrecue.com)) set up the Arizona Vortex portable high directional anchor to facilitate a lowering over an edge with the MPD on a twin-tensioned lowering system. Forces for the raise and lower were closely monitored using the CMC/Rock Exotica Enforcer load cell.





Continuing the portable high directional theme, Tyromont ([www.tyromont.com](http://www.tyromont.com)) used their carbon fiber bipod to facilitate the raise and lower of their Helicopter Rescue Bag up and over the edge of the parking garage wall.

PMI ([www.pmirope.com](http://www.pmirope.com)) demonstrated a deflection line raising and lowering system using the SMC/Skedco/PMI TerrAdaptor portable high directional anchor system. PMI and SMC staff utilized the mechanized Harken PowerSeat on PMI's Extreme Pro rope for the raise and lower of the Cascade Rescue two-piece titanium litter.



**Summary:** This year's IKAR Congress provided many demonstrations of rescue technique, as well as new equipment and devices. These have been excellently reviewed in the video referred to earlier in this report produced by Topograph Media, you are encouraged to view it.

On Wednesday, October 8, a joint Terrestrial Rescue and Avalanche Rescue Commission meeting was held with presentations focusing on both specialties. The presentations by the Terrestrial Commission are included in this report and those specific to Avalanche can be found in the Avalanche Rescue Commission report posted on the MRA website at [www.mra.org](http://www.mra.org).

### **Delegates' Meeting, Thursday, October 9**

IKAR President Gerold Biner invited each of the Commission Chairs to summarize the activities of their commission during the 2014 Lake Tahoe congress (see individual Commission reports on the MRA website at <http://www.mra.org/index.php/training/ikar-reports>). Additionally, he cited the various accomplishments of the individual commissions, as reported in the MRA delegate commission reports. A complete copy of the minutes of the Delegates' meeting can be found at: <http://www.ikar-cisa.org/eXtraEngine3/WebObjects/eXtraEngine3.woa/wa/menu?id=248&lang=en>.

In addition to the information contained in the Delegates' Meeting minutes referenced above, of particular note is the following:

- IKAR President Gerold Biner stepped down due to increased responsibilities as CEO of Air Zermatt and was awarded, by Delegate vote, an Honorary Membership for his many contributions and dedication to IKAR-CISA.
- Franz Stampfli, Switzerland, elected as the new IKAR-CISA President.
- Dan Hourihan, MRA, USA, elected as Assessor (Member-at-Large) to Managing Committee.

- The funding for translators eliminated from the 2015 IKAR-CISA budget. All business will be conducted in English.
- There is a new IKAR-CISA logo (see page 1, this report), which uses the acronym ICAR, website, domain name <http://www.alpine-rescue.org/> and mission statement:

**ICAR provides a platform for mountain rescue and related organizations to disseminate knowledge with the prime goal of improving mountain rescue services and their safety. It is an independent, worldwide organization that respects its members and promotes international cooperation.**

The entire purpose and goals of ICAR can be found at:

[www.ikar-cisa.org/eXtraEngine3/WebObjects/eXtraEngine3.woa/wa/article?id=518&rubricid=238&menuid=425&back=mp&lang=en](http://www.ikar-cisa.org/eXtraEngine3/WebObjects/eXtraEngine3.woa/wa/article?id=518&rubricid=238&menuid=425&back=mp&lang=en)

The new website is in the process of being completed and will be operational in late 2014 or early 2015. In the meantime, continue to use [www.ikar-cisa.org](http://www.ikar-cisa.org) .

The 2015 IKAR Congress will be held October 13-18 in Killarney, Ireland and marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Irish Mountain Rescue Association (IMRA). There will be a Practical Day of field presentations coordinated by the Terrestrial Rescue Commission. The overall theme of the Practical Day will be “Human Factors in Mountain Rescue”. The theme of the Congress will be “Decision Making and Human Factors”. The IKAR flag was officially transferred from the MRA hosts in the USA to the Irish delegation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Hourihan, MRA  
Tom Wood, MRA  
U.S. IKAR Terrestrial Commission Delegates

