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Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PRESS RELEASE

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets
From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer
Date: December 16, 2013
RE: Annual Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team Awards Dinner

**Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team
Annual Awards Dinner
2013**

The Mono County Sheriff Search and Rescue Team is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to saving lives. They do searches and rescues at any time, in any weather, for as long as it takes, for free.

Each year, the Team honors members for their individual excellence and public service.

The Team's highest honor, election to status as a Lifetime Member, is only rarely conferred by the Team to a Rescue Member who has made unusual, faithful, and regular contributions to the Team and to the welfare of victims over a significant number of years.

Steve Case received this high honor at the Team's annual awards dinner on December 14, 2013.

Steve joined the Team in 1992, and has the longest tenure of any current member. Since 1995, records show that Steve has participated in 175 search or rescue missions, 161 trainings, and 175 meetings, for a total of 508 Team events. This is an enormous voluntary commitment of time and talent to the County and the Team.

Steve Case has faithfully served the Team in a wide variety of roles, including Board member and as trainer for new members. He is very versatile and dependable, and has consistently been eager to accept difficult field assignments in any weather.

Two awards are given by the Team each year to honor members who have excelled.

The team's primary honor for achievement is the **Pete Schoerner Rescue Member of the Year** award. The award is named in memory of a beloved teammate who was killed in an ice climbing accident in 1996.

The Pete Schoerner Rescue Member of the Year for 2013 is **Heidi Vetter**. Heidi serves the Team as a member of the Board of Directors and as an Operations Leader. She participated in 35 Team events in 2013. Since 2008, Heidi has served the Team and Mono County on 177 Team events, including 48 rescues and searches. She has a wide variety of leading and organizing skills, and is a key player in everything the Team does.

New members in training are called Candidate Members, and must undergo training, practice, and testing in eighteen skill categories before being considered for advancement to Rescue Member. Examples of these skills include first aid and victim care, tracking, technical rescue, mountain navigation, helicopter operations, and skill with electronic aids such as computers, radios, avalanche transceivers, and GPS receivers. Completion of all requirements takes a lot of dedication and faithfulness over a period that is typically a year or more.

The team honors one candidate member each year with the **Rick Mosher Candidate Member of the Year Award**. Rick Mosher is the only team member to have died in the line of duty and was killed while searching in a small airplane that crashed during an operation on August 15, 1979.

This year the team selected **Glenn Goryl** as the **Rick Mosher Candidate Member of the Year**. Glenn has been very active and faithful in his training and rescue operations, and has devoted a lot of personal time to Team projects and public awareness. He completed all his training requirements for Rescue Member in less than the minimum time. Since beginning his training in April of 2013, he has participated in 53 Team events and 19 rescues and searches.

The 2013 honorees were presented with laser engraved plaques at an awards dinner in the Team's new building.

Reported by: Jennifer M. Hansen, Public Information Officer

The law requires that arrest information be made available to the public. This publication may contain suspect information about individuals booked by the Mono County Sheriff's Department recently. Names of juveniles (under 18 years of age) are not public. Suspect information and ongoing investigation details are also withheld. Since most cases have yet to be adjudicated, all charges should be considered allegations. For questions/concerns regarding any information contained in this publication, contact Undersheriff Robert Weber at (760) 932-7549.