

# THE RESCUER



July - December, 2002

Double Issue

Number 38

## New Drowning Information

by Slim Ray

This summer I had the good fortune to be invited to Amsterdam for the World Drowning Conference. The Dutch, who live in a low country that is prone to both sea and river flooding, have long been leaders in water rescue of all kinds. As one Dutch delegate said, “All the water in Europe ends up here.” We were fortunate to be able to hear some of the foremost experts in the field not only in rescue but in the mechanics of drowning and clinical treatment.

I’ll pass on to you the essentials of what I learned – there were no earth-shaking revelations but there were some new ideas that will change some of the things we as Rescue 3 instructors teach in our courses.

**Near-drowning (parking-lot drowning etc.):** The consensus of opinion from the specialists is that we should stop using these terms, which they felt were misleading and in any case not valid clinical terms. Their point is that you either drown or you don’t. If you do you’re dead and require no further treatment;

if you survive you may or may not have complications, according to how much water you aspirated and how long you were deprived of oxygen. These potential complications need to be monitored closely for 24-48 hours by an ALS facility.



**Oxygen deprivation (anoxia or hypoxia):** This was not a pretty presentation. We listened to a great deal of clinical language, saw charts and graphs, but the short version is that if your brain is deprived of oxygen for more than a couple of minutes, irreversible cell death occurs. Worse, it is generalized over the

entire brain and *cannot be reversed by re-oxygenation*. The extent of damage will naturally vary according to many factors (i.e. hypothermia slows it) but most of the docs felt that almost any deprivation caused some damage, even though it might not be apparent right away. Thus people who are revived with “no brain damage” probably have suffered some neurological deficit.

The concept of “Mammalian Diving Reflex” (MDS) seems pretty much to have been abandoned. Most of the clinicians agreed that the operative factor in retarding brain damage from anoxia was hypothermia, which reduces the brain’s need for oxygen. Children, who have small bodies with comparatively large surface areas, have an advantage here since they cool more quickly.

**Dry vs. wet drowning:** One study tried to determine the percentages of “dry” vs. “wet” drownings (i.e. whether the victim had aspirated water). His

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conclusion, after reviewing the literature, was that he could only find one case of “dry” drowning, and that was a “maybe.” So the old figures we’ve been putting out, that approximately 15% of drownings are dry, can’t be supported by clinical evidence. The doc’s opinion was that all drowning victims aspirate some water, although the amount varies. Since this is very difficult to measure, it’s still an open question how much.

What does this do for our teaching?

1. Stop using the terms “near drowning” and “parking lot drowning.”
2. Stop citing the figure that 15% of the drownings are “dry.”

Otherwise this is good for reference but does not change our present treatment protocols.

1. The concept of the golden hour is still a good one.
2. Immediate oxygen is a must. The faster someone gets it, the better – It will not reverse brain cell death but it will stop it.
3. Anyone who has been revived or who has aspirated *any* water goes to the emergency room, period. 🚑

## Rescue 3 IT Meeting Held in Elk Grove

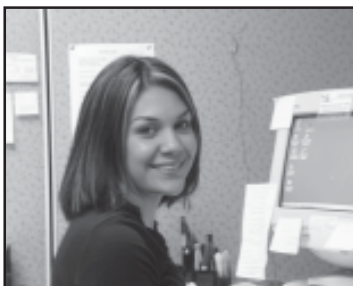
Rescue 3 hosted its first Instructor Trainers’ Conference on October 18-20 in Elk Grove, California. The purpose of this conference was to review Rescue 3’s current programs and to discuss the company’s mission and direction. Twenty-three



active Instructor Trainers (IT) attended, including participants from all areas of the US and Jan Gjeterud from Norway. The conference agenda included a wonderful array of

presentations on various issues, an open forum, and small discussion groups. When asked about the conference Training Coordinator Gaile Lane said, “The best part was definitely having all the ITs in one place. We rarely get to meet these guys face to face, so it was great getting to introduce them to the staff. It was also fun introducing them to other ITs and watching them get to know each other.” The conference was so productive that both Gaile and Mike hope to continue working with conference participants and are already planning to hold another conference in the future. 🚑

## Meet Our Talented People - Nina!



Nina is the newest addition to our staff and has already proven herself an invaluable part of our team. As the records coordinator she is responsible for all class paperwork. If you’re late turning it in or if it’s illegible or incomplete, you can count on her giving you a call. She also has the added responsibility of answering the phones and helping Debi.

### Personal facts:

Nina is a 19-year-old student at Cosumnes River College and is currently working towards her general education degree. She likes to listen to music and watch local band performances, and loves to spend time with her family and friends.

Message to instructors: “Please return all of your class materials on time; it makes my life so much easier!” 🚑

## Rope Care- Part Two: Storage

Many experts and trained professionals have labored to design, manufacture and test your rescue ropes. However, despite all their hard work, how well your rope performs and lasts is ultimately up to how you use and care for it. In this installment of Rope Care, we've put together some simple instructions that will help you to maximize your rope's life.

First make sure that your rope is clean and dry before storage. Damp rope may mildew or mold which can weaken fibers. If your rope gets damp or wet, clean it if necessary then dry it away from direct sunlight. UV rays will also cause damage to the fibers. Be sure to remove all knots from the rope. Leaving knots in will cause damage to both the sheath and core. It may take a minute or two more when you're putting it away, but that extra time can make a huge difference in the rope's life expectancy (as well as yours!). Finally, protect your rope from damage while it is in storage. The recommended method is to store the rope in a rope bag. Bags not only provide protection, but also give you an easy way to identify, carry and deploy the rope. You can even use the empty bag for edge protection in a pinch! If a bag is not available, there are several methods of coiling ropes that will minimize potential damage.

Now that the rope is bagged or coiled, where should it go? In choosing a storage place, try and keep the following considerations in mind:

- Ropes love dark, dry places. As we said earlier UV and moisture both will damage fibers, and even indirect sunlight or slight moisture can cause damage to your rope over time.

- Keep your ropes in a cool place. If the temperature is higher than you would be comfortable

in, choose another place. Remember that in most areas summer temperatures in a vehicle can become extremely high in a very short period of time.

- Keep it up off the floor. Concrete is acidic and other types of flooring may have cleaners or waxes on them which will damage ropes. Also, ropes stored on a floor can be stepped on or damaged by items being dropped.

- Don't put them where they will be exposed to vehicle exhaust or batteries. Even flashlight and headlamp batteries give off dangerous fumes. Watch out for vapors from chlorine, gasoline, oil, alkalis, or any other strong chemical. All may cause significant yet invisible damage to fibers!



*Double ended rope bag - Just one example of the many types and styles*

Please remember, your ropes are an investment that if treated correctly can last for quite a long time. However, if treated badly they can be a disaster waiting to happen. While it may take a few extra minutes to care for your ropes correctly, those few minutes can make a huge difference, both in your ropes life and yours! 🗡️

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## When the Rains Came

### Los Angeles County Marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of its Multi-Agency Swiftwater Rescue Program



By Nancy J. Rigg

Adam Bischoff was 15-years old. Earl Higgins was 29. Joel Burchfield was 11. Gail Ortega was 18. Cary Dean Burlew

was 11. Jose Romero was 39. Robert Diaz, Jr. was only 2-years old. Young Woo Kang (39 years old) was visiting Los Angeles from Korea. CHP Officers Britt Irvine and Rick Stovall were doing what they always did, serving the public, trying to help motorists in trouble. John Henderson (33 years old) was a single father on a hike with his 9-year old son, Matthew. Griselda Gallo, 14, Dulce Castruita, 14, and her brother Raul Nahle, 17, were high school friends who clung to one another, arm in arm, during their last few moments on earth.

All perished in swirling, churning floodwaters in Southern California.

On February 17, 1980, my fiancé, Earl Higgins, and I witnessed two young boys riding their bicycles perilously close to the edge of the flood-swollen Los Angeles River. One boy fell into the deluge and cried out for help. Instinctively Earl made a heroic attempt to rescue him. The stark image of man and boy being swept downstream at about 35 miles-per-hour is something that will haunt me always. Earl's remains were not recovered until an agonizing 9-months later.

How did the boy manage to survive when Earl did not? Where along the 30-mile stretch of river from Griffith Park to Long Beach did Earl succumb to the relentless power of the torrent? Why, why weren't rescuers able to save him? Even as I struggled to rebuild my life in the aftermath of a flood disaster that

killed more than 30 people in Los Angeles and caused millions of dollars worth of property damage, nothing seemed to quell these questions, which smoldered in the deepest part of my soul. It sprang to full fury every time there were news reports of someone else succumbing to relentless floodwaters.

In the early 1980's, when we endured several successive years of flooding, I counted the dead, wincing when the numbers climbed to more than a dozen one year and 16-18 the next. With only a few exceptions, everyone who was swept away perished. It seemed that there were no happy endings.

The concerns I expressed to politicians fell on deaf ears and eventually dried up when a lengthy drought set in. "The rains will come again," I wrote with a renewed sense of alarm in December of 1991. "How many more lives will be lost?" In February 1992, the rains did come again. A series of powerful storms pummeled the Southland, wreaking havoc from Ventura County to San Diego, killing nearly a dozen people.

The death of one young man was especially painful, coming as it did just a few days before the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earl Higgins's death. 15-year old Adam Bischoff, who had grown up during the blistering drought of the late 1980s, failed to recognize the danger when floodwaters filled an arroyo near his home. The surge was mesmerizing, and like other children before him, Adam was drawn to it. And like other children before him, somehow Adam slipped into the torrent and was helplessly swept for miles downstream past rescuers who had neither the training nor equipment needed to perform a safe and effective "swiftwater rescue." Adam drowned on February 12<sup>th</sup>. His remains were recovered the next morning when the deluge finally receded.

Adam Bischoff's death mobilized our community in a way that no earlier tragedy had. Political leaders, who finally emerged from the fog of their risk management denial with pained and bewildered looks on their faces, suddenly wanted to know why local emergency responders were so ill prepared to handle inland water rescues. Thankfully, a handful of visionary water rescue specialists, including county lifeguards, City and County firefighters, and rescue paramedics from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, had been quietly working for years to improve swiftwater rescue capabilities within their own agencies. It was only when the Los Angeles City Council and County Board of Supervisors got behind them, that efforts to standardize and coordinate swiftwater rescue training, fund the purchase of much-needed equipment, and develop a proper flood safety education program were realized.

Flooding is the leading cause of weather-related death not just nationwide, but worldwide. On average, 20,000-30,000 victims perish in floods worldwide, with an estimated 300-500 deaths annually in the United States. Because no federal agency has consistently tracked death statistics in floods and incidents involving swiftwater, and since criteria state-to-state for judging what constitutes a "flood related death" is haphazard at best, these estimates are the result of my own determination to track the numbers. One undeniable factor in the high death rate worldwide is the general lack of swiftwater rescue training and equipment for rescue personnel. They often struggle, on the spur of the moment, to "do the best they can," with tragic results.

In 1992 no one realized what a landmark our "swiftwater rescue revolution" in Los Angeles would represent. Over the past decade, Los Angeles has developed the most comprehensive multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional swiftwater rescue and flood safety education program in the world. Under the leadership of the Los Angeles Multi-Agency Swiftwater Rescue Committee, with representatives from 18 fire-rescue, law enforcement, and other government agencies, more than 7,500 fire-rescue, law enforcement, and lifeguard personnel have received swiftwater rescue

training. Several hundred swiftwater rescuers who have advanced training serve on more than a dozen ground-based and helicopter swiftwater rescue teams that are pre-deployed to key locations throughout the county during times of high flooding risk.

We average more than 100 swiftwater rescue calls per year when the rains come. Even with the widespread use of the flood safety education video, "No Way Out", which features the cautionary tale of Adam Bischoff's death, children still manage to get swept away. Motorists, who are unwary of the dangers posed by flooded streets and low water crossings, end up getting stranded in quickly rising floodwaters. But thanks to the dedication of swiftwater rescuers throughout Los Angeles County, there are now more happy endings than sad ones.

Christopher Wieting was 4. Robert Johnson was 8. Edward Wieting was 27. All three were swept down the Pacoima Wash in March 1995. Jason Bastain was 7, when he fell into the wash in April 1995. LAPD Officer Mike Grasso and an unidentified 20-year attempted to rescue him. The force of the floodwaters immediately overwhelmed them all. In all, 17 people were swept down the Pacoima Wash that spring.


In January 1997, Mark Zarbis and Jose Nunez took a wild ride on a 45,000-pound, fully loaded cement truck that hurtled down the Los Angeles River like a child's toy.

It was during the 1997-98 winter storm season that El Nino conditions spawned torrential downpours. On one particularly rainy night in January, there were 32 calls for swiftwater rescue in Santa Clarita alone. In March of 1998, 13-year old Megan Cole tried to grab her 14-year old friend, Jennifer Simpson, when Jennifer fell into Bull Creek. Both girls helplessly traveled more than five miles downstream.

On April 17, 2000, 14-year old Abel Flores and 15-year old Daniel Rivera were swept down Little Dalton Wash towards certain death.

But unlike Adam Bischoff, Earl Higgins, and countless other victims, all were rescued by Los Angeles City and County swiftwater rescue teams. Over the past

decade, although there have been fatalities in local floodwaters, not a single death has been compounded by the lack of swiftwater rescue training and equipment.

Thanks to our pioneering swiftwater rescue program, those who find themselves at the mercy of powerful floodwaters now have a fighting chance to survive. 

“When the Rains Came”, guest editorial, *Los Angeles Daily News*, February 17, 2002.  
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## Klamath Sheriff Hails High-tech Gear

*By Barney Lerten, bend.com and the Bend (Oregon) Bugle*

October 8 - High-tech gear that helped locate three drowning victims at the bottom of Crescent and Odell Lakes over the weekend is “an incredible resource,” Klamath County Sheriff Tim Evenger said Tuesday, vowing to make sure his colleagues around the state are aware of the tool’s availability and usefulness.

“I would say it’s an incredible resource, and for some of these families it’s a godsend to be able to put a closure to their loved one’s drowning,” Evenger said after the side-scan sonar-equipped boat brought in by Gene and Sandy Ralston of Kuna, Idaho, found the three victims in three days of looking.

“Quite frankly, it’s also brought a lot of piece of mind to residents who use the lake,” Evenger said. And the sheriff said while there’s closure for all involved, there’s a direct financial benefit as well to the families of some victims.

When a body isn’t recovered, “the death investigation is left open, and a lot of times, families are not able to get benefits associated with the person until the death certificate is issued,” Evenger said.

Two of the bodies already have been recovered from the murky depths, and a third such operation is planned later this week with the aid of another high-tech device: a remote-operated, camera-equipped underwater vehicle, being brought in from Colorado to better pinpoint where divers need to go.

On Friday, working on Odell Lake, Ralston and his sonar-equipped boat, the *Sandy Jean*, found the body of Gerald Peck, 38, of Riddle, on the lake’s floor, about 160 feet below the surface. Peck drowned on June 27 of this year, Evenger said, while out on the lake in his 16-foot fiberglass fishing boat with a modified transom, outriggers and other fishing gear. “He had the transom into the wind, started taking water out of the back and the boat sank,” the sheriff said.

Moving to Crescent Lake on Saturday, Ralston found the body of Harley Olsen, 20, of Eugene, one of three people in a canoe that capsized on the lake in June 2001. Ralston’s effort to narrow the search area was aided by John Kent of Bend, who was fishing on the lake that day and rescued two teenagers from the overturned canoe, but was unable to find Olsen despite hours of looking with his “fish finder” device.

Then, on Sunday, Ralston found the body of Robert Hunt, 19, also of Eugene, another canoeist who drowned on Crescent Lake in September 2000. Peck’s body was recovered by Klamath County Sheriff’s Dive Team members on Saturday and Olson’s body was recovered Sunday, but it was taking some extra time to work out the logistics for recovery of Hunt’s body from about 180 feet down, Evenger said.

### Pressure on divers leaves ‘road-map scars’ for days

Add in the altitude, and the body is at an equivalent depth of 220 feet, the sheriff said. “The divers are going to use a special gas mix – three gases mixed together in their tank,” Evenger said. “We’re still assessing it.” The remote-operated vehicle (ROV) is likely to be put in the water Wednesday or Thursday to better define the body’s location, the sheriff said.

“Until last year, we didn’t have at the sheriff’s office even a camera to look” for underwater objects, Evenger said. “We used a lot of resources to find them first. The problem with a diver, at that depth, is the pressure is so great, the diver receives such a squeeze ... (they have) ‘road-mapping’ scars for several days. You need to be able to put the diver down on the place you know where they are at. You can’t send them down just to look around, only to recover (the body).”

Evenger said Ralston contacted him by e-mail in early July, offering his services later in the year. “After we exhausted a couple more rounds *camera* searches, we abandoned that (and) contacted him,” scheduling the October visit, the sheriff said.

“The divers, that’s what they do,” he said. “They would much rather be on a rescue mission than a recovery mission, but as a secondary duty, they do recover (bodies).”

Evenger said of Ralston’s services, “Absolutely, it’s money well spent. The unfortunate part is, we’ve had three ... drownings in similar locations, a couple in similar circumstances. I don’t know if in the future I’d wait to have three” before calling in such a device for locating them.

“Certainly, it’s a tool we’re going to share with other sheriff’s offices across the state, let them know it’s available, and what the capabilities are,” the sheriff said. “I believe there are only three similar devices in the Northwest. Obviously, the operator is the most key component, and Mr. Ralston sure has a knack for reading the data off the (computer) screen.”

Evenger said a black and white infrared camera would be dropped down the anchor and marker lines to look for Hunt’s remains, but Monday’s try was unsuccessful due to high winds. The sheriff said he’s also “pretty excited about” use of the remote-operated submersible to help in future efforts, and that Ralston will help train a dive team member how to operate that device, as he has some knowledge about it.

On Saturday, Olsen’s body was found 166 feet below the surface of Crescent Lake. Kent was pleased to be

able to help once again by recounting where he had been on the lake, thus narrowing the field of search for the body.

“We’re three for three (on the weekend),” Ralston said. “John (Kent) got us within 150 feet” of where Olson’s body was found. “The other (earlier drowning) was at night, with no witnesses other than the survivor” - coincidentally, with a last name of Harley.



*Gene Ralston of Kuna, Idaho, watches computer monitor where first image of Crescent Lake drowning victim appeared on lake’s floor Saturday*

Kent, a school bus driver, had been fishing for kokanee when he set off across the choppy, windswept lake that June day last year. After the 16-foot canoe overturned about 500 yards offshore, near the Crescent Lake Campground, he was able to get Chris Conklin, 15, and Mariah Schneider, 17, into his boat. But despite spending several hours using his boat’s sonar “fish finder,” crisscrossing the water, he wasn’t able to find the missing man in the cold, deep lake, nor could divers or marine patrols in the days that followed.

Ralston, an environmental consultant, offers law enforcement and search and rescue personnel the assistance of his side-scan sonar system (<http://gralston1.home.mindspring.com/>), for expenses. He explains on his Website how traditional searches with divers, underwater cameras and even remote-operated vehicles (ROVs) can be made more difficult, even dangerous, by a lack of exact location and the water’s visibility, current and underwater obstructions. He helped retrieve a drowning victim

for the first time in early 1999 and has been working across the West since, with more finds each year.

The sonar system uses the same sort of medical ultrasound technology that expectant parents are familiar with, in their first view of babies, still inside the womb. Recent dramatic increases in the technology have led to much higher resolution, making it possible to use the sonar gear to find drowning victims, Ralston said.

Ralston's sonar "transducer" is housed in a towfish, towed through the water, 10 to 20 feet above the bottom. The reflected acoustic returns are processed into an image, similar to an aerial photo, that is viewed real-time on a computer monitor on the boat. Typically, it can search a swath 60 to 120 feet wide, at about 2 miles per hour. A global positioning system (GPS) is used to guide the boat along a predetermined grid and to mark any found objects.

### Idaho man has busy year helping retrieve drowning victims

Ralston learned of the Crescent Lake drowning from bend.com and offered his services, if and when desired.

Ralston said of Kent, "He's a cool guy. That's why we were so happy he could come along."

"Here on Crescent (Lake), it's been gorgeous, awesome," Ralston said Sunday. "We had some windy days on Odell (Lake)."

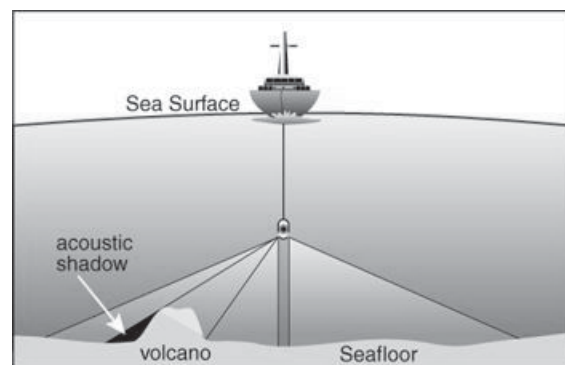
This year's 12 retrievals included four homicide victims in California, located at the request of the FBI at the bottom of New Melones Lake, northwest of Yosemite National Park, Ralston said. "It was a Russian Mafia kidnapping scheme," he recalled. "Two (victims) were in 325 feet of water and the other two were at 220 feet."

Also on the boat over the weekend was Capt. Conrad Caillouette of the Klamath County Sheriff's Dive Rescue Team, who was quite impressed with the system employed by Ralston.

"This technology that he uses is just fantastic,"

Caillouette said. "It's a step in things. He locates it, we use surface-supplied air to go down and bring these people to the surface. His finding technology is far superior to whatever's around here, and I like to think our diving technology is superior. The one he dropped us on this morning was 4 1/2 to 5 feet away from the bottom line – that's how close."

The divers now use lights and their own high-tech gear, but at the depths they work at, it's still a challenge to do the job, he explained.



*Diagram on Ralston's Website shows how side-scan sonar finds underwater objects*

"There's a big helmet that goes over our head, and an infrared camera that goes on top of that," linked to the boat above, Caillouette explained, noting that sometimes, the boat operators see the object on the camera's image before the divers do.

"It's just incredible," the SAR captain said, as the device and what it can find brings closure – not just for friends and family of the victims, but the searchers as well. "We've spent weeks and weeks and weeks looking – and now we're getting answers," he said. "One body took an hour or two, the second even less. ... It's picked up the morale of everybody. There's hours and hours of getting out there and looking and looking – it's tough."

Ralston admitted that while he's typically paid just for expenses, "It'd be nice to make a little money at it." He said he has two more bodies to look for in

California and Nevada, once the visit to Oregon is over.

## Bend man helps in high-tech recovery effort

Kent, a bend.com member, shared his recollections of Saturday's trip on the lake with bend.com. Here are some excerpts:

"Using grid coordinates provided by Klamath County SAR, we headed out to what was supposed to be the drowning location. A bit of confusion ensued because there are two drowning victims out in the lake."

"After convincing the SAR deputies that ... Harley was closer to the campground than where we were headed, we searched for the cabin where the survivors from my rescue were taken to recover," he wrote.

"The lake is down 38 feet from June 2001, and the shoreline without docks looked different to me, (so) I had a difficult time locating the cabin," Kent wrote. "(Caillouette) radioed shore to have other SAR members walk out from the cabin. First it was cabin No. 42, then they decided it was No. 28, and then they concluded it was #8 after reading their incident reports. ... They wanted to bring me ashore and look for the cabin, but since I had never driven to the cabin from the road, I told them I didn't have a clue as to which driveway to go down. Finally, a SAR member walked out from the correct cabin on the shoreline and we began our search."

"Gene has two computers on board, one a laptop used for sophisticated mapping and GPS location and one in a topless cooler under his steering wheel," Kent said. "He also has a separate GPS unit and the biggest fish finder I have ever seen. Radios, sensors, wires, LCD displays, winch control, leg strap-on mouse pad, stored keyboard, power converter, power strips fill his two-person cabin. ... A generator sits up front with its cable winch and 'fish'. The winch spool holds 1000 feet of Kevlar-reinforced cable and Gene's wife states they don't think they will ever use it all."


"We begin the search by defining the outer limits, the points that I think are well outside the rescue location.

(It) turns out this is a rectangle 2,000 feet long and 1,000 feet wide. His laptop records all of this information and sets up a grid search with a series of 21 points on each side of the center starting point. The job of the first mate is to keep the boat online to the same point on the other side of the rectangle while Gene fiddles with the 'gain' and elevation controls of the side-scan (sonar) receiver 'fish'."

"On the first pass down the middle, Gene says this lake is very 'sterile,' meaning not too many objects on the lake floor. His display looks much like looking at black and white photos of the moon, except his display colors are shades of orange and yellow, depending on his 'gain' settings. Pointing out things like where possibly a boat anchor was drug along the lake bottom and pockets where items have dropped into the lake, Gene states that the bottom is quite possibly muddy. Since he is using sound beams, he can't determine the clarity of the water down there, but his side-scan (sonar) can see very clearly."

"On the first pass, Gene records a couple of possible hits by hitting F5 on his laptop. These can then be studied at a later time and precisely located again if needed," Kent wrote.

"Turing around for the second pass, Gene is using the other channel of his (sonar) and explains he likes to work uphill, toward the shore. Gene settles in and takes a big sigh, gets comfortable and says, 'This can be quite boring.' Approaching the midpoint of the search pattern, suddenly Gene cries out: 'We found Harley!' Excitement, jubilation and congratulations are passed all around."

"Not sensing the gravity of the moment, I am a casual bystander who does my best to share the incredible find," Kent added. "Second pass and less than 30 minutes into the search, Gene and machine find a body that has been interned 166 feet down in the lake for (16) months. A body that was lost in a canoe accident that happened on a day when the lake should have been left alone to its high, white-capped waves." 

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# RESCUE 3 INTERNATIONAL

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## Surfin' the Web



- Global warming - is it fact or fiction? This site presents a wide variety of government information on this problem in an understandable way. <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/index.html>
- Frustrated on hearing that every department but yours got a USFA grant this year? Here are "how to" tips from grant writers who actually got the grants! <http://www.firehouse.com/funding/fireact/2002/0905.html>
- Not a fire agency but still need to pursue a grant? Try these sites:  
[www.fedmoney.com](http://www.fedmoney.com) [www.officer.com/resource.htm](http://www.officer.com/resource.htm)  
[www.ncjrs.org/fedgrant.html](http://www.ncjrs.org/fedgrant.html) [aspe.hhs.gov/cfda/p16577.htm](http://aspe.hhs.gov/cfda/p16577.htm)

## Calendar

- November 14-17, 2002. *ICISF Conference*, West Palm Beach, FL. Conference on Critical Incident Stress. To register call Stephanie Dill, 561-227-5186. For other dates and locations, visit [www.icisf.org](http://www.icisf.org)
- November 24-27, 2002. *Texas EMS Conference*, Austin, TX. Earn up to 15 CE hours from top notch instructors. Call 512-834-6748 for more information.
- February 18-20, 2003. *Firehouse Exposition and Conference*. San Diego, CA. The fire service industry's leading resources for equipment, training and education are all under one roof. [www.firehouseworld.com](http://www.firehouseworld.com) or call 800-827-8009.
- December 7-8, 2002. *Grant Writing Seminar*, San Diego, CA. Offered by the National Volunteer Fire Council. (Other dates and locations available.) 1-888-ASK-NVFC (275-6832) or visit <http://www.nvfc.org/calendar.html>