

Search and Rescue busy

Matt Stensland
STEAMBOAT TODAY

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

A helicopter was used to find and rescue a hunter who got lost and hiked a couple miles into Wyoming on Monday.

Hunting season is well underway, which means it is a busy time of year for Routt County Search and Rescue.

On Monday alone, Search and Rescue was called three times to help hunters who got lost in the woods.

"If this keeps up, it will be particularly busy," Search and Rescue member Chad Bowdre said.

The searched involved one man from Colorado and two men from out of state.

The first call Monday came at 2:40 p.m. when a man in the area of the south fork of the Elk River called 911 because he got lost and could not find his way back to camp. The man had been relying on the GPS in his phone to navigate.

Bowdre said cellphone GPS technology cannot be relied on, because there often is not cell service in the



COURTESY PHOTO

Johnross Joseph Doyel flies the Steamboat-based air ambulance around Hahns Peak.

woods.

"An actual GPS unit is much more accurate and reliable," Bowdre said.

Rescuers were able to pinpoint the man's location by tracking his cellphone through 911. He was guided back toward camp and made it back about 15 minutes later.

At 5:15 p.m., rescuers were called to help another hunter lost in the Coulton Creek area. The man's hunting party had not seen him all day, and they were concerned, because he had called at 11 a.m. asking for

the camp coordinates.

Rescuers were on their way to search for the man when he made it back to camp on his own at about 7 p.m.

The most dramatic search and rescue mission began about an hour later when a man had not been seen since leaving camp at 6 a.m. in the Whiskey Park area. Rescuers were concerned, because he was in his late 70s and had a significant medical history.

Rescuers also learned the man did not have a GPS unit,

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Historian tells stories about author

Tom Ross
STEAMBOAT TODAY

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Colorado State Historian Patty Limerick offered no easy answers Monday to questions about the complex personality of Wallace Stegner, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer about the American West. However, Limerick succeeded in weaving humorous anecdotes into her talk at the Bud Werner Memorial Library, while confronting controversial aspects of Stegner's career.

"He was certainly a complex person, like everyone in the room," Limerick said.

And she promised by the end of the evening to discuss the greatest paradox on Stegner's resume — his decision to appropriate long passages from the correspondence of a late 19th century illustrator and writer Mary Hallock Foote in his prize-winning novel "Angle of Repose."

One Book Steamboat

It is the life of Hallock Foote that is the basis for "Angle of Repose," which is Bud Werner Memorial Library's selection for this

year's "One Book Steamboat." Though he acknowledged his reliance on the correspondence of others at the beginning of the book, Stegner did not specifically credit Hallock Foote, who is the book's protagonist.

Yet "Angle of Repose" is a beloved book, and members of Limerick's Steamboat Springs audience had read it more than once.

As well as novels, Stegner wrote nonfiction historical books such as "Beyond the Hundredth Meridian," his recounting of John Wesley Powell's first descent of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

Limerick observed that Stegner's bitterness about his father's treatment of Stegner's mother, which endured throughout his life, comes out in his fiction. At the same time, Limerick said, Stegner relished identifying a historic figure with a story to tell, a figure to whom he could "lend his current."

"He was a person who was enchanted by experiences well-captured by stories," she said of Stegner. "He was magnetized by those stories."

Limerick, who is also a professor of environmental studies

and history at the University of Colorado Boulder, and faculty director and chairperson of the board of CU's Center of the American West, considered Stegner a personal friend. She came to know Stegner when she was quite young and in awe of him.

Limerick shared some moments of self-deprecating humor stemming from their professional encounters.

Stegner had been persuaded to talk to a large audience of admirers from a stage in Boulder, and Limerick, eager to please, found a way to embarrass herself in front of all of them.

"Mr. Stegner gave a speech in front of 800 to 900 people in Boulder," Limerick recalled. "A good share of them had brought their home libraries with them to be signed."

Limerick decided it was her job to track down a cold beer for the author. Returning with the frosty beverage, Limerick realized because the author was essentially seated on the floor and signing people's books, it would be awkward to lean over and hand him the beer. Without really thinking it through, she got on one knee and proffered the beer with an extended arm.

"He looked a little puzzled at first," Limerick deadpanned. "Then, he kissed his fingers, put them on my forehead and said, 'Rise and sin no more.'"

Then, there is the matter of Stegner's decision to appropriate the words Hallock Foote in "Angle of Repose." He took that step, which still confounds academics, after consulting with one of Hallock Foote's three granddaughters to whom he expressed in writing a desire to use the life of Hallock Foote and her husband in his book, without really specifying how, Limerick explained.

"When you read a novel you pick it up and expect to read the words of the novelist," Limerick said. The notion that the novelist used the words of another, "seems a little like a violation of the social contract."

Yet, it was the cumulative work of Stegner that helped to batter down barriers to publishing for writers such as Norman Maclean, author of "A River Runs Through It," and "This House of Sky" by Ivan Doig.

And ironically, the controversy about "Angle of Repose" brought Hallock Foote to the attention of a new generation of admirers.

Helicopter, night vision goggles aid in search, rescue

Search continued from 5A

cellphone, map or compass. The man had the ability to make a campfire, but he did not have food, shelter or rain gear.

Search and Rescue asked Classic Air to help with the search with their helicopter, based out of Steamboat Springs. The company provides the service for free to Search and Rescue for as long as two hours.

Using night vision goggles, the helicopter crew spotted a person with a campfire about two miles north of the Wyoming border.

"The night vision goggles were a lifesaver," said Bowdre, who also works for Classic Air doing marketing.

The closest landing area was about a mile away from where they spotted the person. The helicopter dropped off the medical crew, who then hiked through the woods toward the man. The helicopter followed overhead to provide light, and they confirmed it was the man they were looking for.

The man was exhausted by that point, and they still had to hike back to the landing zone. The man was then flown out and returned to his

hunting party.

Bowdre said it was fortunate the helicopter crew found the man, because he

was well beyond the area Search and Rescue members would have covered during an initial search.

"If we didn't use the helicopter, we wouldn't have found him last night," Bowdre said.



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