



Minutes of the ICAR Avalanche Rescue Commission Conference, October 14 – 17, 2004 Zakopane, Poland

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomes 43 participants from 16 ICAR member countries to Zakopane and to the Avalanche Rescue Commission.

2. Information on procedures for papers, translation and presentation tools

The decision was made to translate into German, English and French.

3. List of participants and country delegates of the Avalanche Rescue Commission (contact person for questions and data of that country)

After a brief discussion the delegates to the Avalanche Rescue Commission were determined in writing. The Chairman has the list.

4. Minutes

The minutes from Scotland (Fall 03) and Diavolezza (Winter 04) were accepted. These can still be found on the ICAR web site under Avalanche Rescue Commission.

5. Strategy of ICAR; strategy and goals of the Avalanche Rescue Commission

5.1. Briefing on the planned survey for the participants and delegates during the ICAR Conference 04.

The briefing is held in front of the entire Delegate Assembly of ICAR.

5.2. Written survey on the strategy, goals and business language of the Avalanche Rescue Commission.

Of the 34 surveys handed out, 9 were returned to the Chairman by the end of the conference with comments and suggestions. Three more were promised. The results will be added to the evaluation upon receipt.

In summary, the following can be made note of:

- a) The tasks listed in the ICAR bylaws under 2.2., which apply to all commissions, were not questioned by anybody.
- b) The 10 proposed goals for the Avalanche Rescue Commission were all approved (with only 1 opposing vote for point 5). The 10 goals mentioned, as well as some complimenting suggestions, are listed in a separate document, which is enclosed with the minutes (Strategies and Goals for the ICAR Avalanche Rescue Commission starting 2005).

The individual proposals will be briefly discussed at the next conference and then voted on.

- c) All respondents mentioned the possibility to discuss exclusively in English. This would save an enormous amount of time. The question will be answered conclusively at the beginning of the next conference and the language(s) will be agreed upon.

6. Recommendations

After a thorough discussion and following revision, the two proposal drafts were accepted in a joint vote of the Avalanche and the Terrestrial Rescue Commissions with one opposing vote. The delegates of the ICAR countries did not have any objections during the Delegate Assembly.

The recommendations have the following titles:

- Recommendation REC L 0004 of the Avalanche Rescue Commission of October 16, 2004 Regarding Avalanche Search Training with Buried People
- Recommendation REC L 0003 of the Commission for Avalanche Rescue of October 16, 2004 Regarding the Marking of Locations on an Avalanche

Both recommendations can be found on the web page of the ICAR Avalanche Rescue Commission. An addendum to REC L 0003 was requested by France on October 22, 2004. The following comment should be added to the minutes (freely translated): "In France and in the Wallis (Switzerland), the locations of vague avalanche dog alerts are marked in orange".

7. Avalanche accident data collection / statistics

The new form for avalanche accident data collection was introduced and distributed. The data from most of the participating countries has already been gathered. The missing data will be requested from the delegates by the Chairman. The current data is available in tabular form in the Internet.

The poster and the paper titled "ICAR and its Role in Avalanche Rescue" that was co-authored Hans-Jürg Etter and Roland Meister, SLF, Davos, Switzerland and Dale Atkins, CAIC, Colorado, USA, and presented at the ISSW in Jackson Hole in September 04 was issued in writing (incl. an evaluation of all the avalanche fatalities in ICAR countries in the past 20 years).

8. Standards for (new) devices (radar, thermal imaging, etc.) to locate people who are not equipped with a transceiver.

This topic had to be tabled due to the lack of time and will initially be discussed in writing amongst the delegates of the Avalanche Rescue Commission.

9. Information on the Internet

The Chairman pointed out the newly developed ICAR web site, which includes all the topics being discussed in the Avalanche Rescue Commission. It is the most current information source for all members throughout the year.

10. Proposals for the commission and 11. Proposals for the Board

There were no proposals.

12. Call for papers 2005 (topic, submission of manuscript or PowerPoint slides)

The main topic of ICAR 2005 in Italy will be the "lost person report and the search for lost people".

The Chairman recommends that presentations be registered by the end of August 2005 in order to be taken into account for the conference. (Please submit registered presentations to the Chairman one week ahead of the conference so that the translators can preview them.)

13. Miscellaneous

13.1. In order to make the Avalanche Rescue Commission more productive throughout the year as well as during the conferences, the Chairman suggests that Dale Atkins from the Colorado Avalanche Information Center in Boulder be elected as Co-Chair. The suggestion is approved by acclamation. Dale Atkins thanks for the confidence and is willing to accept the task.

13.2. Dale Atkins speaks briefly about the paper and poster he presented at the ISSW in Jackson Hole. The title was: "Probing for Avalanche Victims". The paper was made available during the conference and can still be requested from Dale Atkins.

13.3. The interesting presentations shown during the joint sessions with the Terrestrial Rescue Commission and the lessons learned can be found on the ICAR web site.

Prior to adjourning, the Chairman thanks all the participants for their trust and active support.

The Chairman:

President of the Avalanche Rescue Commission
and recorder of the minutes
Hans-Jürg Etter

Davos, October 27, 2004