

DAVE IS ALIVE!

Peterson found after three nights in the woods

June 23, 2003

By Troy Hooper

Aspen Daily News Staff Writer

hoop@aspendailynews.com

Aspen, Colorado

970-925-2220

(Appreciation extended to Kim Weber for distributing this article)

A longtime Aspen resident who went missing for three nights was found Sunday, hungry and dehydrated after getting lost in Aspen's backcountry.

The discovery followed days filled with anxiety for David Peterson's friends and family, who launched a massive search effort.

"David has been recovered. He is home safe recovering with family and will soon be 100 percent," his brother, Doug, who flew to Aspen from Texas on Saturday, said in a statement.

Peterson's ordeal began Thursday evening when he took a spur-of-the-moment bicycle ride and decided to spend some time in the wilderness by himself, according to family members. He got turned around and ended up temporarily disoriented in the remote wilderness of Richmond Ridge and Castle Creek Valley. He spent three nights without food or adequate water supply or gear, they said.

When Peterson, 46, failed to show up for work at a construction site Friday morning, a missing-persons report was filed with the Aspen Police Department and friends and family began combing Castle Creek Valley looking for signs of an accident or any other clues that might lead them to Peterson.

On Saturday, Mountain Rescue-Aspen searched steep sections of Castle Creek Valley as well as common trailheads, such as the ones at Sunnyside Trail and Shadow Mountain, according to Pitkin County Sheriff's Office supervisor Mario Strobl. Mountain Rescue resumed its search the next morning. It was called off at noon, a short time after it was determined Peterson was safe.

Peterson had managed to reach a mountaintop that gave him a view of a road, and he had to hike down into and up out of a steep canyon before reaching Richmond Ridge and making it to the top of the Silver Queen Gondola, according to his brother.

Once there, an Aspen Skiing Co. employee recognized him from a photograph

published in that day's newspaper and immediately notified authorities.

"When you hear about a missing-persons case in the news, it's usually accompanied by the frustrations of family and friends on the lack of immediate action by law enforcement," Doug Peterson said. "This is a testament to the relationships that David has nurtured over the past 20 years and further testament to the professionalism and dedication of Mountain Rescue, the sheriff's department and Aspen police.

"We had a very serious situation on our hands, and everyone responded way above and beyond in both professional and very personal ways," he said.

Word of Peterson's re-entry into civilization brought an abrupt end to the flurry of e-mails, phone calls and extensive grassroots networking that was under way after his friends and family grew concerned Friday.

"DAVE IS ALIVE!" beamed a Web site a friend of his from New Mexico set up to try to gather information to help with the search. Located at www.carnicom.com/dave1.htm, the site posted search updates, leads to his whereabouts, topographical maps and several photos.

An Aspen Police Department press release said that Peterson was taken to Aspen Valley Hospital for observation but that "he is healthy and safe." His brother said he was released later that day after about three hours of testing and replenishment of bodily fluids.

Peterson is employed at Aspen's nordic center in the winter and he works around the valley as a carpenter in the summer. He is also an outdoor-education instructor for the Aspen School District.

<http://www.aspendailynews.com/>

<http://www.aspendailynews.com/articles.cfm?id=2>

© 2002 Email.com. All rights reserved

CALL FOR ASPEN CO SEARCH PARTY: DAVE PETERSON

Clifford E Carnicom

Jun 21 2003

(36) Dave Peterson is alive. Information is very scant at this time. Michael Owsley has reported that Dave is in rough shape but that he is not in any further or immediate danger. Dave Peterson apparently has walked in by himself to Aspen from whatever circumstances have befallen him. Whatever events have transpired have apparently occurred on top of Aspen Mountain. More information will be provided as it becomes available. My gracious

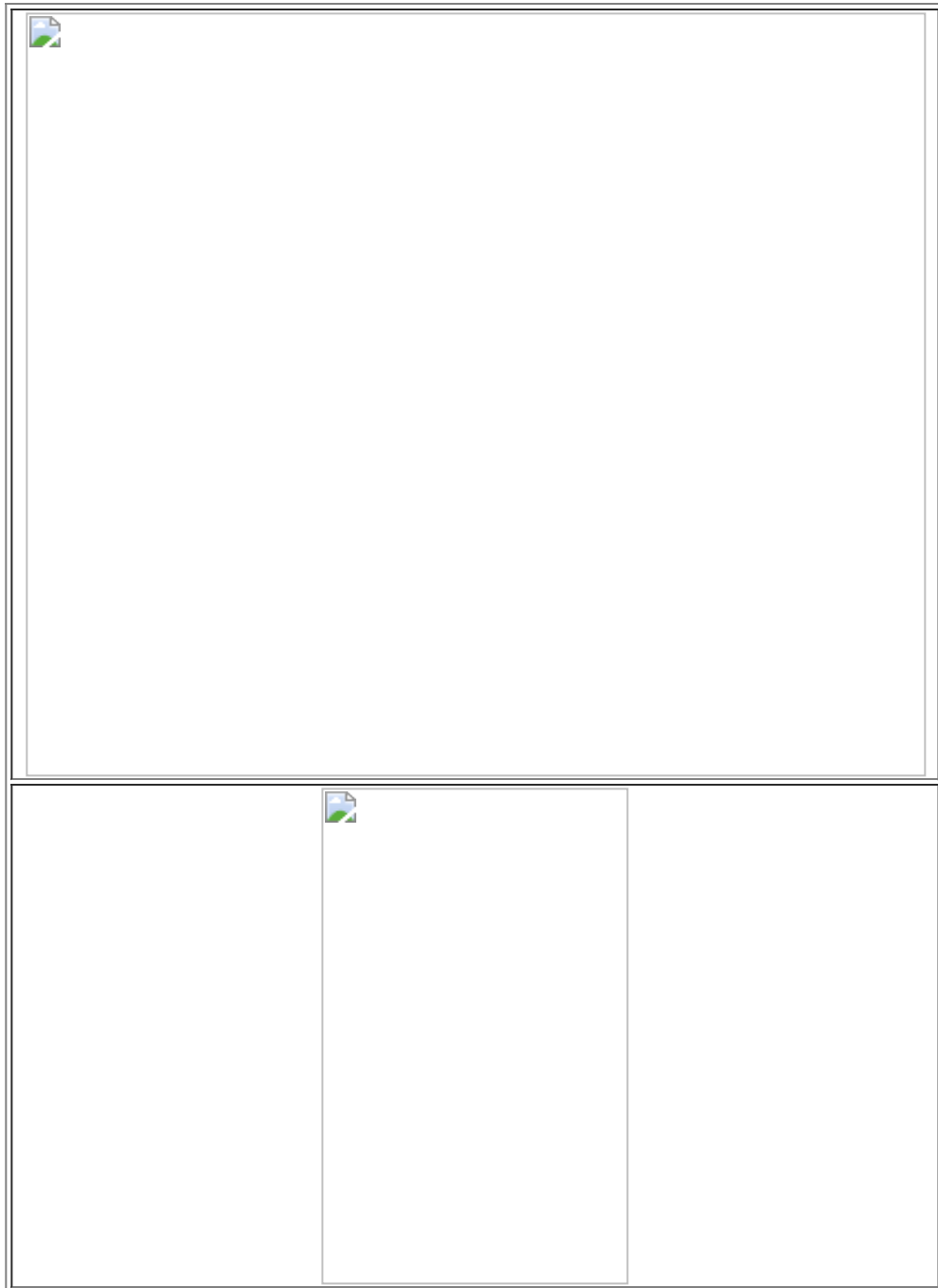
thanks to all people that have contributed to Dave's recovery. Many, many folks have contributed to this success. We all have cause to celebrate. CEC 1100 062203

ALL INFORMATION AND POTENTIAL LEADS ARE LISTED BELOW THE MAPS

Dave Peterson of Aspen CO is reported missing as of yesterday. He frequently exercises outdoors in the morning before work and odds are that he should be within a half hour of Aspen. Police dept. stated last night that they would not call S&R out until they know more about where he is. S&R should be mobilized as of dawn this morning.

**THIS IS A CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE SEARCH PARTY
IN ASPEN COLORADO.**

MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS ON THIS PAGE



Dave Peterson

**TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS OF ASPEN, COLORADO MADE AVAILABLE:
CLICK TO ENLARGE AND PRINT OUT**

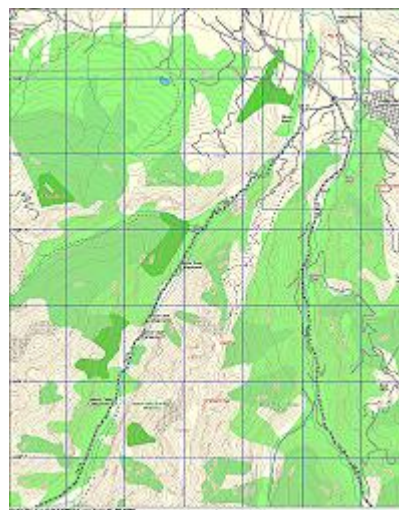


[Aspen Vicinity Map](#)



[South of Aspen](#)

**From my knowledge of Dave's activities,
I would consider this to be a primary search region. CEC**



[Extension of Castle Creek Rd to SW](#)

Additional Information and Notes:

(1) Please send any information or responses to cec102@usa.com

(2) Message to Mary Suma of KDNK radio from CE Carnicom, 06/21/03 approx. 1000:

"Thank you for responding - you are the first media person to help. I will tell you what I know to get things going. Dave is a very good friend of mine and is apparently well known within Aspen in the ski and athletic circles. I am in contact with the police dept. as of last night and have become more distraught as time passes with the response of not calling out search and rescue until more is known. We know enough. Dave did not show up for work yesterday morning. We have already lost 24 hrs. now. His boss filled out a missing persons report but actions did not start until last night. Adam Crider (sp) of Aspen police is on the case. He commonly exercises in AM prior to work - apparently he may have been out on a mountain bike. Video was left running in his house, so along with work schedule we have no reason to expect that he would be gone long. He is of slender build, about 5'10", and in good athletic condition. He is in his mid 40s. He is a resident of Aspen. Hope this gives enough to get started. Question - where is Search and Rescue on this? They should have been moving last night."

(3) Mary Suma of KDNK (mary@kdnk.org) has stated that announcements of Dave Peterson as a missing person in Aspen CO will begin on the radio today. (06/21/03). Much appreciation is extended to Mary for the effort that she has made and continues to make on Dave's behalf. She has assumed an active and public role in assisting with the search for Dave.

(4) Recommend that a community search effort be spearheaded immediately by Aspen citizens.

(5) Message forwarded from Kim Weber:

Thank you, Julie!

To:

Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2003 12:43 PM

Subject: APD: MOUNT A SEARCH FOR Dave Petersen ASAP!

Dave Petersen is my friend, and I want/expect/direct your official capacity to LOOK FOR HIM! No, he's not a millionaire, but he has more class than most folks, and he would be helping to look for you, if you were missing!

Get cracking, APD!

Julie Kay Smithson

London, Ohio

<http://www.PropertyRightsResearch.org>

(6) Make any requests for the posting of specific map locations to cec102@usa.com

(7) With regard to a community search effort, I would anticipate that Dave would be within 45 minutes of Aspen proper. He may have been on a mountain bike. He is known to exercise outdoors before work. All bikers, hikers, equestrian folks, motorbikes, etc. are requested to be searching in an organized fashion in the Aspen area. With my knowledge of Dave's activities, there may be a preference for the trails or roads on the south side of Aspen, as he is not reluctant to go uphill. Detailed searches on sides of roads and trails should also be taking place. If any one assumes direction of community search effort, please contact me at cec102@usa.com to keep the community posted as to progress. An assessment of the video left running at his residence suggests the possibility that Dave may have gone out on Thursday evening, June 19 instead of the next Friday morning, June 20. If this is the case, Dave may have been out for two nights already. Dave was expected to go to community concert on eve of Thurs June 19 but no confirmation of his presence there has been established. The Aspen community must become involved in this search immediately. CEC

(8) Recommend that Aspen citizen(s) create a poster of this page and get it on the poles of the Aspen streets as soon as possible. CEC.

(9) A justification for the delay of search and rescue activities by any search and rescue organization does not exist. CEC.

(10) Information to be forwarded to police dept. of Aspen via Kim Weber:

**Please get this info to police chief that is requesting info: All info that I have available is at:
<http://www.carnicom.com.dave1.htm>**

Also suggest S&R get going uphill and south as soon as possible - I have seen him take this route and it is what is most logical under the circumstances. Every mountain biker, motorbiker, hiker, and equestrian folk should be out there on this one, and the sooner the better. There is the possibility that he has been out two nights already.

Start with any mountain bike trail or road that heads up and south and make sure the sides of the road are checked in detail. Folks should be out on the ground today - you are losing time, and you may have lost two days already in a few hours.

(11) As of 1515 on 062103 there is still no report that Aspen Mountain Rescue has involved themselves in this case. I will continue to request that this organization mobilize immediately using all information that is available to them to conduct the search. The latest report received continues to affirm that Search and Rescue will not engage until they have more information available on Dave Peterson's location.

(12) Additional information made available by Kim Weber on the message board attached to www.carnicom.com:

PLEASE WRITE TO THE INDIVIDUALS ABOVE (MEDIA & ASPEN POLICE DEPT.) AND ASK FOR ASSISTANCE IN MOUNTING A SEARCH AND RESCUE.

**jbaker@koaa.com
rcarroll@aspendailynews.com
apd@ci.aspen.co.us
richardp@ci.aspen.co.us
askkbdi@kbdi.pbs.org
krmj@rmpbs.org
ktsc@rmpbs.org
PClements@kxrm.com
info@kxrm.com
sweuve@kktv11news.com
action@kktv11news.com
krdonews@krdotv.com
d.rose@krdotv.com
caubrey@koaa.com
satellite@koaa.com
mail@aspentimes.com**

IF YOU ARE FROM THE ASPEN AREA, PLEASE PRINT OUT

www.carnicom.com/dave1.htm AND POST AROUND TOWN AND/OR ASSIST IN A SEARCH AND RESCUE.

If you have any information on the whereabouts of Dave Peterson, please contact:

Clifford Carnicom Email: cec102@usa.com

and/or

Aspen Police Department, 506 E Main St Ste 102, Aspen, Colorado 81611 -- Phone: 970-920-5400 --

Fax: 970-920-5409 -- Email: apd@ci.aspen.co.us

(13) The last telephone call where Dave spoke apparently occurred at approximately 7pm on Thurs Jun 19. There is no known contact with Dave by anyone since that time. CEC

(14) Dave apparently made a casual remark about the possibility of taking a recently borrowed mountain bike toward Ashcroft. This comment should at least be taken into account by those planning or conducting any search operations. The weather and timing of such a trip (or a partial trip) should also be considered, as any action would apparently have taken place after 7pm on Thur Jun 19. The fact that the television was still on when Dave's apartment was investigated should also be considered. It appears to be an increasing possibility that Dave has been missing since the evening of Thur Jun 19 after 7pm. CEC

(15) There appears to be a pattern of less than active and aggressive action by both the police department and search and rescue organization within Aspen. Time will bear out or refute this observation, as limited facts and circumstances are available. If stated actions of these agencies are relayed to me at cec102@usa.com, I will make this information available to the public. It is stated that a press release by the police department has been made. I call upon Aspen citizens to begin this search immediately on a broad-based community level. CEC

(16) Individuals with paranormal abilities are welcome to send any information to [cec102@usa](mailto:cec102@usa.com), and it will be considered as a viable source to be evaluated..CEC

(17) As long as the borrowed mountain bicycle remains unrecovered, the likelihood of an accident in the mountainous areas adjacent to Aspen (especially in the southern direction) should receive elevated consideration in any search efforts. CEC

(18) An email forwarded by Kim Weber at 1830 062103:

Subj: Colorado Man Missing - Need Help urgently. Circulate and help all you can. 062103 -

Date: 6/21/03 7:14:24 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From: c.e.lovell@worldnet.att.net
(Clarence Lovell)**

To: jsmit10695@aol.com

CC: c.e.lovell@worldnet.att.net

(Lovell - CO, Clarence), apd@ci.aspen.co.us, office@cssa.org (Aime Rathburn), ari@co-freedom.com. (Armstrong - CFR editor, Ari), exdir@rmgo.org (Dudley Brown, RMGO ex. dir.), sas4liberty@earthlink.net (Rehg - SAS N,CO, Sue/Dick), IndependenceInstitute@i2i.org (Jon Caldara)

062103 URGENT - copied and circulated to all my personal Colorado contacts as well as Rocky Mtn. Gun Owners, CO Second Amendment Sisters, NRA and state association members and Colorado Libertarians and Jon Caldara at Independence Institute. Please promptly circulate widely. If you learn the whereabouts of Dave Petersen, please notify the Aspen police: Aspen Police Department, 506 E Main St Ste 102, Aspen, Colorado 81611 -- Phone:970-920-5400 -- Fax:970-920-5409 -- Email: apd@ci.aspen.co.us Clifford E Carnicom(cec102@usa.com) Also notify our good friend Julie Smithson at jsmit10695@aol.com,

If any problem, also please notify me at c.e.lovell@worldnet.att.net, .Thanks,

Clarence Lovell, Denver (Lakewood) CO.

Dave Petersen of Aspen, Colorado, is missing. You are receiving this because you either live in Colorado or likely know folks that do. Please, this is very important!

(20) Email received at 1848 062103 that indicates Mountain Rescue of Aspen has now become involved in the search.

Clifford,

I just heard from Mtn. Rescue, Hugh Zuker, 970-544-9595, they have been handed the effort to find Dave. They are gathering facts.

Michael M. Owsley

(21) There is increasing evidence that the use of a bicycle may be involved with Dave's disappearance. The owner of the bicycle, Jerry Begley(sp) has stated that Dave indicated a desire to take a trip to the Ashcroft, Castle Creek, Annies area. The bicycle is stated to be a "GT Green". The bicycle was loaned to Dave on either Wed Jun 18 or Thu Jun 19. Searches in that direction are again requested, with special efforts to be made on the sides of any roads or trails in that direction.

(22) EMAIL RECEIVED AT 2024 ON 062103:

URGENT LEAD TO INVESTIGATE. PLEASE DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO ASPEN P.D. AND MOUNTAIN RESCUE:

On the Aspen vicinity map there is a road s/w of Aspen. on one spot of the map there is printed CR 13 & CR 13 again side by side. In that particular square on the map with these two indicators, would be a good spot to look. I don't think you can see him from the road but look for the marks made when he skidded off the road.

Good luck, Jack.

(23) Two parties, including the Sheriff's department, are known to be investigating the location (Castle Creek Rd.) referenced with the email recently received. Darkness has set, and conditions for search are now unfavorable. The veracity of the emailed information is unknown at this time.CEC

(24) Additional email received at 2022 on 062103:

Look further off the map past the SW corner shown along the road which is shown. My dowser has successfully found people before. No harm done in opening your options.

(26) An article in the Aspen Daily News has appeared at the following location:

<http://www.aspendailynews.com/articles.cfm?id=3>

(27) Email received at 2330 on 062103:

Timothy Mark Kaufman

I will put out the word in my circle. By the way The Aspen Daily News has a story on the web about Dave. <http://www.aspendailynews.com/> I don't know why the people are being directed to the Aspen Police Department, The Pitkin County Sheriff is in charge of the Search and Rescue here. The non-emergency telephone number for the Pitkin County Sheriff is (970) 920-5300 the after hours non-emergency # is (970) 920-5310 I don't know him, but my prayers are with you and him.

Sincerely,

Tim Kaufman (I was born and raised in this area, 30+ years here)

(28) If anyone cited on this log desires to have their name and/or email address removed from this page, please notify me at cec102@usa.com

(29) Email received at 0825 on 062203:

Dear Clifford,

Thank you for spearheading the search for David Peterson. He is a special person. I phoned and emailed the Aspen PD as soon as I got Kim's first email to express my concern, and they said they had been getting a lot of calls about him. I'm praying for him and his soon, safe return.

Love,

Sue Miller 'looooookinup'

(30) Email received at 0825 on 062203:

Clifford:

I got a "rocking horse" sign that I can't place anywhere else. If all else fails, It may refer to the current location of Dave Peterson.

Max, Sr.

(31) Email received at 0825 on 062203:

My guess is also that he has had a biking or other accident. It's all too easy in that terrain. He could hang on as long as anybody, if hanging on was possible at all. That's what I am hoping, like everybody else. But this notorious 48 hour waiting period, under the circumstances, is criminally inappropriate, to say the least. While everyone recognizes that there can be times when a wait is rational, there are many times when it is very obviously a matter of life and death NOT to wait. So as often happens: the law is a huge problem.

(32) An email received at 0825 on 062203 emphasizes a concern that I am also aware of, and this involves a past action by a third party that resulted in the destruction of Dave's prior residence by smoke damage from fire. A lawsuit is potentially involved because of the repeated and sustained failure of the company to pay for the claim that has been made. It is to be stated that it is only prudent that Dave's location, as it is determined, must also be regarded potentially as a criminal scene. This is the case even if on the surface or with first impressions it appears that an accident may have occurred. It is our hope that Dave's recovery will make this consideration moot, but it is not to be dismissed. This aspect of any investigation is to be considered in depth. This comment applies to any investigation or search conducted by any law enforcement or search and rescue organization.

(33) Email received at 0825 on 062203:

Dear Cliff, I am so sorry to hear about Dave being missing. I have been "working" on the second map that was publicized, (South of Aspen)...and have come across an area that has a "pull" to it....at the very bottom and a little to the right of center, where it has the 2 white areas that almost look like bird wings and part of bird...white area. I will go to sleep and "work some more" on the location and the picture of Dave. Hopefully, something useful will come to the fore....but, cannot be very sure yet, at this point. I hope you understand such and some of the processes that will have to come into play... Will definitely let you know immediately if such occurs!! I pray that it does! Usually, Psi events like such "just happen, unplanned", and I have never tried to "make" such happen but am going to try my best and Creator willing, "something" may take place. The spot on the map could just as easily be valuables of some kind attracting that "pull/vibration"...but hopefully, in this case, it will be the presence of this person, a person worth more than gold to be sure! Blessings and will get back to you! Am hoping and praying for the best. Love, Joanne/majicalien

(34) Email received at 0825 on 062203:

Hello, I have been sharing information regarding Dave Peterson since my last email to you. A friend gave me the link to Aspen Search and Rescue: <http://www.mountainrescueaspen.org/> I will now prepare to join the physical search in the morning. I will let you know if I get any information. God bless you and to Dave and his family.

Sincerely,

Tim

Timothy Mark Kaufman

(35) Mary Suma of KDNK (mary@kdnk.org) has reported at 0930 that Mountain Rescue of Aspen is on the ground as of today, Sun, June 21. There is now the strong possibility that Dave has been out in the field for three nights at the time that the organized search is known to commence on the ground. My opinion on this delay has been stated directly to Mountain Rescue by fax, phone and on this site on the morning of Sat June 20, and to Aspen PD near midnight of Fri June 19/20.. Thank you very much Mary for this information - I am sorry that I missed your call. There appears to be increasing participation in the search by the Aspen community. CEC

(36) Email received at 0825 on 062203:

Hi Cliff,

On the whereabouts of David I received some psychic impressions that...

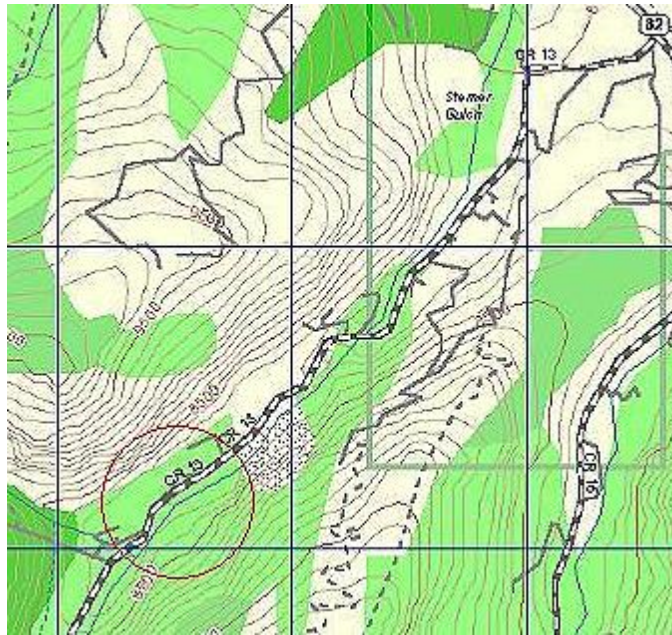
#1 He was 'taken'.

#2 He was the riding a bike along an embankment and he was avoiding being ran off the road/trail and he went over the side. (Probably by whomever took and released him)

#3 He will be 'found' shortly.

These are just impressions, I 'see' things sometimes and hopefully this will help. I have attached a picture with an area circled in red that might be a place for you to look. I also got the name Earl as in a middle name. Good Luck to you...please, if you have time let me know if any this pans out.

Sincerely, Jared



(36) Dave Peterson is alive. Information is very scant at this time. Michael Owsley has reported that Dave is in rough shape but that he is not in any further or immediate danger. Dave Peterson apparently has walked in by himself to Aspen from whatever circumstances have befallen him. Whatever events have transpired have apparently occurred on top of Aspen Mountain. More information will be provided as it becomes available. My gracious thanks to all people that have contributed to Dave's recovery. Many, many folks have contributed to this success. We all have cause to celebrate. CEC 1100 062203

[Back to Aerosol Operations Main Page](#)