



August 2005

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From the Chair....

Greetings SAR Folks!

As far as I know... no one got lost on the way home from ESCAPE... evidently the training is paying off!! Thanks again to everyone who attended and helped put on the show! It was a great opportunity for learning, refreshing, and fellowship.

I'd like to also thank **all of the folks** who helped with the **Mock Searches** in the **Valle Vidal**, and at **Ute Lake**. "Grass Root" trainings put on by regional teams exemplify your commitment to elevating SAR efforts and expertise. Your elected NMESC Board and Officers have dedicated themselves to these same efforts.... SEGUE...the NMESC Board can't help SAR Teams as much as we want to...unless **Teams** provide us with **some constructive feedback**. I will personally pledge that if it is within the means of your elected Board and Officers, we will help any way we can.

In that effort, **Co-Chairpersons** (that's right ...TWO PEOPLE) have been appointed to promote NMESC Trainings. They are **Matthew Corp** and **Jason Flesher**. One of the first items on the agenda for Matthew, Jason, and the Board, is preparing and outlining a procedure/protocol checklist of any requirements the NMESC would require before sponsoring or assisting with any trainings. This information will be posted on our website. (Thanks again to "**Web-folks**" **Mike Lowe and Dave Clark**).

NMESC Vice-Chair **Steve Crawford** has been appointed as our representative to the **SAR Review Board**.

The Board is already planning some exciting things for the next few months. Please stay attune to our website, **think about how you and your team can promote some training opportunities** in your locale, and remember that it is ok to stop and ask for directions! ☺

Dave Kenneke
Board Chair

ESCAPE 2005

Your New Mexico Emergency Services Council's annual ESCAPE had a new look for the year 2005.

First, the location. The Council made arrangements to hold ESCAPE 2005 at the Glorieta Conference Center just outside Santa Fe. This facility borders the Santa Fe National Forest and for events that need to be held in that type of setting the Trail Head is just a short walk from the conference center.

Second, housing and meals offered by the facility gave the participants a much larger variety than we have experienced in the past. Our Friday night, informal group dinner was a big success. Nothing planned, just a big social hour over desert and coffee.

Third was something we've not done before. This was the Special Skills Sessions that started on Friday morning with specialty groups having a day all for themselves; a full day for dogs, a full day for technical rescue and so forth. We had over 130 participants attend these Friday sessions. This way, those with special interests did their thing and were still be able to attend the shorter sessions of general SAR interest that were held on Saturday and Sunday morning. ESCAPE broke up at noon Sunday giving everyone ample time to get home at a reasonable hour.

Besides having the Santa Fe National Forest a few hundred yards from the main auditorium which can accommodate our whole group plus the vendors, we had real class room and athletic fields at our disposal.

All in all, the 230 or so participants enjoyed one of the best ESCAPEs ever, with several commenting that the structure this year gave everyone more of a chance to visit with old and new friends in a little more relaxed atmosphere.

Nothing definite on a location for ESCAPE 2006 yet but we are looking ahead and are trying to pin down locations for both 2006 and 2007. We are trying to locate a facility in the southern part of the state that could offer the amenities we enjoyed at Glorieta. Locations being considered are the campus at New Mexico Tech at Socorro and the Convention Center in Ruidoso. If anyone is aware of any other facility that might fit our needs please let one of the board members know.

Paul McClendon
ESCAPE Chair

TRAINING CORNER

BE SURE TO CHECK THE NMESC WEBSITE OFTEN FOR TRAINING UPDATES!!

Greetings to all,

First, I would like to welcome newly elected board member Jason Flesher as our new Training Co-chairman. I'm sure that with all of his training and experience related to SAR he will be a wonderful asset to our efforts. Welcome back!

This month, in an effort to spur support for future NMESC sponsored training events, I would like to take a moment to discuss some of our ideas on this topic.

We are currently looking at dividing the training opportunities up between the northern and southern portions of the state. Basically, our hope is that if there is a training event scheduled for the northern area, that a similar event will be scheduled in the south and visa versa. In this manner, SAR

responders from all corners of the state will have more opportunities to train with their neighbors and to get to know one another. Continuity in training is an important component in performing well together when called upon to respond to actual real-time SAR missions.

For some time now we have been considering the idea of having an established format or agenda for regular annual training events. These would include: winter skills training, SAR boot camp, helicopter training, K-9 training, tracking training, technical rescue training, caving, etc.

If there are any teams that would be interested in co-hosting one of these training events this year, please let us know. This is vitally important because the member teams of the NMESC are the NMESC. Without the support and participation of the membership, our objective of providing the best possible training opportunities is seriously compromised. So, as I said, if you know of any people that would be ideal instructors, any teams that would be willing to help facilitate, or any locations that would be ideal for these training events let me know.

Additionally, I would like to try to get some new blood involved as well. Basically, I think that it would be a good idea if we could get some of our long-time instructors and some of our up-and-coming instructors to work together on some of these projects. In this manner, as time goes on we will continue to have a solid list of top-notch instructors to call upon to facilitate various training courses in the future.

Another topic I would like to touch on briefly is the PACE Certification. For those teams or individuals that have been considering getting some folks certified, I would certainly recommend it. It's a great opportunity for a couple of reasons. It helps to establish a level of continuity and a level of camaraderie among SAR responders from all over the state. It further enables people to work together more effectively by providing a basic standard of proficiency toward which all newcomers to SAR should strive and from where all old-timers in SAR should move forward. It's a valuable reference from which a more proficient and consistent New Mexico SAR community can grow and flourish. If you have any questions related to the PACE field certification system contact board member Gail Zimmerman or one of our many PACE evaluators around the state such as myself. We would be delighted to help your team members get certified!

Matthew W. Corp
NMESC Training Co-Chair

UTE LAKE K9 TRAINING

On Friday, August 5, 2005, Amarillo-based Panhandle Search and Rescue began its first annual Ute Lake K9 Seminar at Logan, New Mexico. Those in attendance hailed from Dewey, Arizona; College Station, San Antonio, and Houston, Texas; St. Louis, Missouri; and our New Mexico members from Los Alamos, Taos, and Mimbres.

Instructors were Grady Jarvis, HRD, from Tonkowa, Oklahoma, Susan Martinez, Airscent, from Houston, Texas, and Marta Brown, Airscent, PANSAR team leader from Amarillo, Texas.

HRD dogs were first evaluated as to alerts and level of training needed and then worked on land and water problems, including water searches from shoreline and boat. Airscenting class evaluated for the level of training of K-9 and handlers, working on alerts, motivation, bark alert or refind. Advanced K-9 worked area search problems.

Friday night offered a hamburger cookout accompanied by a presentation on Crime Scene Preservation, by Sgt. Eugene Bess, Santa Rosa office of NMSP.

Saturday lunch included an auction. Later in the afternoon, Dr. Andrea Cecur of Umbarger, Texas, gave a demonstration on K9 sports injury massage therapy. David Babb, TBZ Electric Inc., of Logan, also demonstrated two underwater cameras and reviewed how they were used to pinpoint the location of a drowning victim at Ute Lake after being given a specific area to search which had been narrowed down by dog teams.

Saturday evening we had barbeque brisket dinner complete. A Powerpoint presentation of Canine Ethogram for Search Dogs by Susan Martinez explained the different body language signs dogs offer when in scent. Susan also had a video showing her airscent horse. The evening ended with Bob Lathrop's presentation of Using Local Resources, which explained the four types and their value to SAR responders.

Sunday's Mock Search was very successful. Bob Lathrop served as Area Commander, Gail Zimmerman filled in as Incident Commander, and Sue Felser served as Operations Section Chief. The Search scenario was a boat had banked that the previous day's observers had spotted containing two men fishing. Only one man had been seen walking up and over the hill. A description of the man was given to the Incident Commander by a family member, and his vehicle was identified by a state park ranger and the missing person's wife who later arrived on scene. A scent-specific dog was scented on the vehicle. The mock drowning victim was located in the water using HRD dog teams on shoreline and on a boat, and marking areas of interest from each dog on a map. The live victim was located and returned to his family to the credit of several airscent dog/handler teams, most of whom were from out of state. Since many of the search teams were from areas where ICS is not used, perhaps they took something back with them to their teams that will help them on future searches.

If that was accomplished, then our seminar was a huge success!

Tamy Willard

CONVERTING NAD27 TO WGS83/84

The maps that USGS are now publishing use the WGS83/84 datum. Older maps use NAD27. What is the practical difference for SAR use? It turns out to be quite simple.

To convert from NAD27 to NAD83/WGS84, do this:

- 1) add 200 meters to the north coordinate
- 2) subtract 50 meters from the east coordinate.

Another way to think of it is:

- 1) go up 200 meters
- 2) go left 50 meters.

When converting from NAD84/WGS84 to NAD27 you would need to do the opposite.

Bob Cowan

WEB INFORMATION

There are many sources of information for NM SAR volunteers.

The NMSAR forum site is a listserv that you can post announcements, info et al to the SAR community. You must register for this service. It is no cost and anything that is posted to this listserv will automatically send to you. Here is the way to get on the new NMSAR-FORUM, go to:

http://lyris.nmt.edu/read/all_forums

then at the bottom left click "show more", and then scroll down to NMSAR-FORUM, then go to the right side and click "subscribe"

If there is a problem, you can always drop a note to William Colburn.

Schlake@nmt.edu

<http://lyris.nmt.edu>

2005 NMESC Board

Dave Kenneke, Chair

Steve Crawford,

Paul McClendon, Membership Chair and ESCAPE Chair

Sue Williams, Secretary, PIO Officer

Elane Flower, Treasurer

Eddie Baldwin

Matthew Corp, Training Co-Chair

Jason Flesher, Training Co-Chair

Jerry Englehart

David Simmonson

Gail Zimmerman

Any member can be contacted by email through the NMESC website.