



March 2005

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From the Chair....

Greetings SAR Responders;

Well, time has flown by once again; it's almost time for another ESCAPE! As you may know, our conference will be held this year at the Glorieta Conference Center, just east of Santa Fe, along Interstate 25. The ESCAPE committee is busy putting together some more great classes, so I hope you will plan and be able to attend.

This year, we will have three of the current Board members running for re-election, as well as two vacancies. So if you would like to run for a position on the Board, you can contact any of the current Board members for requirements. I will also be sending out information on the SAR Forum with the requirements.

This year brings an end to my tenure on the Board of Directors. I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve over the last 4 years, and I want to personally thank each of the Board members that I have served with on the Board. I like to think that, over the last 4 years, the Board of Directors has made some great strides in improving this Council. I feel that the Board will continue doing good things, and I ask that each of you please support and help the Board if you are asked to do so. They are working for you, the SAR community.

And as always, "I'm pullin' for you. We're all in this together!"

Mike Lowe
Board Chair

ESCAPE 2005

Your New Mexico Emergency Services Council's annual ESCAPE will have a new look for the year 2005. Mark the dates, May 13, 14 and 15, 2005

First, the location. The Council has made arrangements to hold ESCAPE 2005 at the Glorieta Conference Center just outside Santa Fe. This facility borders the Santa Fe National Forest and events that need to be held in that type of setting the Trail Head is just a short walk from the conference center. Also we had been asked to try to find a more central location. With this more central location and the fact that all sessions are planned to be over by noon Sunday everyone should be able to be back home at a reasonable hour.

Second, the housing.. Glorieta has all types of housing available from tent spaces with showers for about \$2.00 per night to Holiday Inn type motel room in the \$50.00 per night range with a number of options in between. They have full service RV sites at \$20.00 per night. We suggest that you go to their web site, www.glorieta.com, to get a better idea. Glorietta has no T-V and is a no smoking and no alcohol facility.

Third, the food! Glorieta has a large complete dining cafeteria with two food lines, a large salad bar. They usually have about 3 choices of entrees. Having been involved in a number of search missions where we utilized their cafeteria I can vouch for the food. Another PLUS...it is all you can eat.

*GLORIETA ACCOMMODATIONS

ACCOMMODATIONS	RATES
Hotel-1 double bed, 1 twin bed or 2 queen beds and private bath sleeps 3 or 4	\$49.95 per night
Kitchenette-1 queen bed, stove, refrigerator, microwave and private bath sleeps 2	\$59.95 per night
Western Town Apartment-1 queen, hide-a-bed, 2 twins, stove, refrigerator and private bath sleeps 6	\$39.95 per night
Dorm	\$20.00 per night single, \$15.00p/p double, \$13.00 p/p multiple occupancy (Must provide own linens)
RV Site	\$20.00 per site per night
Tent Site	\$ 2.00 per person per night
Rustic Cabins	\$ 4.00 per person per night
Meals	
Breakfast	\$ 7.95 - served from 7:00 to 8:00
Lunch	\$ 8.95 - served from 12:00 to 13:00
Dinner	\$10.50 - served from 17:30 to 18:30
Meal Package	\$24.50 per day

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* Information taken from Glorieta's web site

K-9 Requirements and Protocol for ESCAPE 2005

Only SAR dogs will be permitted at ESCAPE. It is a privilege (not a right) to bring your SAR dog to ESCAPE. Individuals and/or their SAR dogs not adhering to K-9 requirements and protocol will effectively destroy this privilege for all SAR dogs. The definition of a SAR dog is a dog that is specifically trained (or in training) to find lost, missing or deceased individuals.

1. The SAR Dog handler must be a member of a recognized SAR team
2. Dogs must be under the handlers control at all times and are the sole responsibility of the handler.
3. Dogs must wear appropriate ID vests when while attending the training.
4. Dogs must be on lead at all times.
5. Dogs will be allowed in the Auditorium and the class rooms.
6. Dogs will not be allowed in the Dining Hall.
7. Dogs must not show aggression to other dogs or people. Any dog that bites or attempts to bite a human will be asked to leave immediately. If a serious problem develops with dog aggression, leads to disruption and is persistent, the dog(s) will be asked to leave.
8. Handlers must clean up after their dogs in any public accessed area.
7. Owners will be asked to sign a responsibility form regarding their dogs.

Glorieta Management Policy

Registrants with dogs will not be permitted in the Motel Rooms.

Garden Apartments will be reserved for those bringing SAR dogs. Please specify Garden Apartments when making housing reservations

There will be no restrictions on dogs in the RV park or tent camping.

ESCAPE 2005

Friday, May 13th

K-9 Human Remains Detection

Instructor Adela Morris, Institute of Canine Forensics, California, USA

<http://www.k9forensic.org/>

This 1/2 day class is limited to 10 participants. We are extremely fortunate to have Adela Morris available to instruct at this year's ESCAPE. Adela is one of the principals and co-founders of the Institute of Canine Forensics. ICF is a non-profit organization in Northern California for the advancement of research and education of Forensic Evidence and Human Remains Detection Dog teams.

Class is limited to 10 intermediate/advanced K-9's trained specially for human remains (cadaver) detection. Cost is \$25.00 for registrants of NMESC member teams, \$30.00 for

registrants of non-NMESC teams. (See www.nmesc.org membership)

To attend, provide the following information and mail it to me at the address below with your enclosed registration fee.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Canine:

Name: Breed: Age: Sex:

Brief description of your K-9's HRD/cadaver experience

Mail to: Elane Flower, 193 San Ildefonso Rd., Los Alamos, NM 87544

You must enclose your check for class.

Registration will be filled "first come" basis upon receiving your application and check. We will accept 2 or 3 applicants on a wait list. Late registrants will have their check and applications returned.

Adela will be communicating by email with registered participants prior the training. So be sure to have your correct email address on your application.

If you have any questions feel free to email me at K9szl@cybermesa.com, or call me at 670-8283.

regards,

Elane Flower

NMESC

Pajarito Mountain Ski Patrol & K-9 SAR

Ralph Dawdy Award

Each year the New Mexico Emergency Services Council awards the Ralph Dawdy Award to an outstanding and deserving SAR volunteer. The following is information for nominating a New Mexico SAR volunteer for this award

Criteria for Nominations for the 2005 RALPH DAWDY MEMORIAL AWARD

1. One nomination per team or group.
2. Deadline is April 15, 2005

3. May not have previously received this award.
4. Must have at least 5 service years in Search and Rescue.
5. Current NMESC Board Members not eligible

Please provide a one-page summary that describes the unique qualities of ethics, values and service that your nominee has demonstrated as a volunteer member of Search and Rescue.

Your summary should include the number of year's service in New Mexico Search and Rescue, approximate number of missions, trainings that the nominee has participated in and/or has coordinated, officially held positions in the SAR community, and examples of exemplary SAR skills or outstanding community service.

You may also provide any other SAR relevant information that you believe that will distinguish your nominee.

Send Nominations to:
Mike Lowe, Chair NMESC
P. O. Box 596
Tularosa, NM 88352-0569

MEET THE TEAMS

Every issue, we will introduce teams from around the state. Be sure to get a write up on YOUR TEAM to your NMESC representative TODAY!!! This issue we will feature La Cueva Volunteer Fire Department.

La Cueva Volunteer Fire Department

Meet NMESC member team La Cueva VFD SAR

The Jemez Mountains may conjure cowboys, sheep herders, loggers, miners, gangsters, movies stars, and of course the Valle Grande but it is also home to one of NM's largest Volunteer Fire Departments (VFD) with over 80 volunteers in wild land, and structural fire fighting, emergency medical response, hazardous materials, communication operations, extrication, public information and Search and Rescue. La Cueva fire district is located in Sandoval County in the Jemez Mountains. The district includes La Cueva, Fenton Lake, and areas of Cochiti Mesa with thousands of miles of dirt roads, the Jemez National Forest Recreation Area and the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

La Cueva VFD has currently has 15 SAR members. One of La Cueva's future goals is to increase their presence in the Search and Rescue community. And this is good. For one thing no one knows the Jemez Mountains and surrounding areas as well as those who live there. With their fire fighting and medical backgrounds they bring excellent skills to SAR and they are uniquely positioned to respond to searches in those "hard to get to areas". Plus they have a lot of "neat" toys including ATV's and snowmobiles. Last year they elected Jaret McDonald as SAR

Officer. Jaret, a LANL employee who owns JS Outdoors is rallying his SAR members. Several received their Amateur Radio licenses at the recent Santa Fe Ham class, participated in the Avalanche Training and Mock Rescue including supplying snowmobiles and instruction, and currently preparing for PACE and planning to attend this years ESCAPE at Glorietta. La Cueva VFD SAR holds their general meetings the 1st Wednesday of every month at Station 1, 122 Twisted Juniper Road, La Cueva, NM. Come say hello to Chief Lee Taylor. They welcome new members and visitors. They are also interested in joint training with other SAR teams.

La Cueva VFD SAR is listed in the NM resource directory, but Jaret has assured me that they are willing to travel more than “30 miles”. You can reach Jaret at: home: 672-3375, pager: 996-1192, cell: 660-4295. Email: jaretm@lanl.gov. If you can't reach Jaret because he is “helping” someone shoot that elk contact Sabine Shurter at 829-3000 or 470-0506 email at: sshurter@sulphurcanyon.com, sabine@tektrail.com.

Read more about La Cueva at www.sulphurcanyon.com/lcvfd

Elane Flower
NMESC Membership Chair

TRAINING CORNER

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

Winter Preparedness for SAR Responders

Hey there everybody! Hope that the winter has treated your teams well. I don't know about everyone else, but I have found that unless you live near a popular winter recreation area there is often a lack of missions during the winter months. It's cold outside, and the team may be feeling just a little bit complacent. While this may not apply to all teams, I'm sure that some folks can identify with this situation.

This condition of complacency can be dangerous territory for SAR Responders and SAR teams alike. During the slow months membership tends to drop off and people seem to get distracted by the everyday dramas of life. This is the point in which training can be the most beneficial for your team. It not only increases team cohesiveness, but it will also increase your teams level of proficiency in the field should you be called upon to respond to a winter mission.

I have found that when our team has been called out for missions, the conditions are seldom, if ever, ideal. Whether it be rough terrain, nighttime, rain or snow, or just a long arduous trek, it is imperative that we stay vigilant. The winter months provide an excellent opportunity for teams to accomplish a number of things.

First, it's a good time to bone up on essential SAR field skills such as land navigation, tracking, communications, etc. A wonderful opportunity for newer members to prepare for the PACE certification. Second, it's the perfect chance to be creative with team trainings. Try planning a nighttime training session, or a winter survival and preparedness session, or maybe a foul weather training. These types of trainings allow responders to “train like they fight.” In other words, in many cases mission conditions are far less than perfect. Teams should take the opportunity to learn how to cope with adverse conditions during training exercises so that they are able to respond effectively on actual missions. Sure hikes and other enjoyable activities increase team unity, but I have found that nothing brings a group together quite like surmounting real obstacles and meeting real challenges together. This breeds trust and camaraderie like nothing else.

Also, winter trainings are a great time to get together to train with other SAR teams. On missions it is not uncommon for a number of teams to be called to respond. In many cases SAR responders from different teams are asked to work together during missions. If this seems to be the case, get together with a nearby team and try to plan a joint training session. Share your SAR education and experience with others. The results will be evident when you are called upon to respond to missions together in the future.

Winter skills training in the North

This winter, an advanced winters skills training was scheduled to take place at Philmont Scout Ranch. Due to extenuating circumstances beyond our control, this training has been cancelled until further notice.

Winter Skills Training in the South

In an effort to provide continuity of training between the northern and southern portions of the state, a winter skills field training has been scheduled in the south. This training was initially expected to take place in mid-March; however, coordination of this event has proved to be a formidable task. Weather conditions and accommodations have been a defining factor.

Despite a number of setbacks, a winter skills training and mock search is anticipated to take place at Sierra Blanca near Ruidoso between now and ESCAPE in May. The snow pack on this mountain usually lasts well into April. In addition, this is a high altitude training location and will provide an excellent opportunity for SAR Responders to experience what it's like to respond to an incident at 12,000 feet.

So, be prepared. Keep your winter gear and clothing in good working order. You may need it before the season is over. Stay tuned for further updates on this event. Information will be posted on the NMESC website under "training."

Well, that's it for now. Stay focused and stay fit!

Matthew W. Corp
NMESC Training Chair

RECENT TRAININGS

AVALANCHE AWARENESS TRAINING

January 21- 22, 2005

Friday and Saturday saw the Avalanche Awareness Training held at the Pajarito Mountain Ski Area, Los Alamos, New Mexico. This event was hosted by the Pajarito Mountain Ski Patrol and K-9 SAR and was sanctioned by The New Mexico Emergency Services Council and the New Mexico State Police SAR Resource Office. There were over 50 registrants from 11 SAR teams and agencies from Northern New Mexico.

Teams represented were Pajarito Mountain Ski Patrol and K-9 SAR., Mountain Canine Corps, La Cueva Volunteer Fire Dept., Sangre de Cristo SAR, Taos Search and Rescue, Los Alamos Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Angel Fire Search and Rescue, Santa Fe Search and Rescue, Atalaya Search and Rescue, Sandia Search Dogs and the U. S. Forest Service, Espanola District.

The lead instructor for the training was Sue Purvis of the American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education. Sue is also a member of the Crested Butte, Colorado Canine Search Team. The training held on the slopes of the ski area was culminated by a mock avalanche

rescue/search at the Pajarito Mountain Ski Area on Saturday afternoon a fine dinner and avalanche documentary films that evening.

It is hard to start and stop with the "attaboys-atta gals" but besides Sue Purvis much of the success of the event should go to Elaine Flower of Pajarito Mountain Ski Patrol and K-9 SAR who coordinated the event. Steve Crawford of Santa Fe SAR was the Incident Commander for the session. Both are Directors of the New Mexico Emergency Services Council. A big thanks also needs to go the Pajarito Mountain Ski Area and its President, Peter Dickson. Peter is also a NMSP SAR Field Coordinator from Districts 1 and 5. Beck Atkinson, from Angel Fire volunteered to come down from Angel Fire to serve as the Area Commander for training.

And last but not least we need to thank the financial sponsors for the event, Los Alamos National Bank, Pajarito Mountain Ski Area and the New Mexico Emergency Services Council.

1-23-05

WEB INFORMATION

There are TWO sources of information for NM SAR volunteers.
The TWO forum sites are:

1. This 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.

<http://lyris.nmt.edu>

2. This is the web address for the New Mexico Emergency Services Council. The Forum bulletin board is just part of the service to which you have access. This a good place to have discussions about issues that need to be addressed by the SAR community, as well as guidelines and new information that you'd like feedback on.

<http://www.nmesc.org>
