



August 2006

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From the Chair....

Greetings SAR Responders,

Wow! Here we are in the middle of summer, and it seems like ESCAPE '06 just happened last week! As I reported last year, the training must be paying off, as no one got lost on the way home! ESCAPE '06 was truly a well organized, and superb training opportunity for SAR responders at all levels. I want to thank everyone who attended, and especially thank all the volunteers who made it happen - with a big round of applause for Paul and Linda McClendon.

Please take pen in hand, and mark your calendars now for ESCAPE '07. It will be May 4, 5, and 6 in Ruidoso. The '07 Committee is already making plans for another great conference. (Sue and her committee have some new twists for this one!)

The NMESC Board met on July 8th for a transitional meeting, as retiring and newly elected members "passed the baton" or acquired new duties. If you have the opportunity please thank the following members who fulfilled their duties to the NMESC Board in Service to citizens of New Mexico; Eddie Baldwin, 4 years, Matthew Corp, 2 years, Jerry Englehart, 4 years, and Paul McClendon, 4 years.

The new Board boasts great strength, energy, and a wealth of talent through the cooperation of returning and newly elected members. The 2006-07 NMESC Board and Officers are:

- Dave Kenneke, Chair
- Steve Crawford, Vice-chair
- Don Stone, Secretary
- Elane Flower-Maudlin, Treasurer
- Ross Holbrook, Training Chair
- Gail Zimmerman, Membership and PACE Chair
- Robert Valdez, Fundraising Chair
- Sue Williams, ESCAPE '07 Chair

Steve Van Kouteren, Newsletter Chair
David Simonson, Webmaster
Jason Flesher, (assignment pending)

The new "Board" has some exciting ideas, and I sincerely pledge "There are great things in store for New Mexico SAR Responders this next year."

Thanks for all the great things you folks do to support SAR in New Mexico.

Dave Kenneke
Board Chair

ESCAPE 2006

ESCAPE 2006 was a very successful event, even though overall attendance was down. Our Friday Special Skills attendance was greater than last year, which made the total number of instruction hours similar to ESCAPE 2005. Registration fees were also down, but we were able to cover all of our expenses and make a profit.

In retrospect, several things may have contributed to the lower attendance this year, some of which are beyond our control. The lack of search activity does not help keep enthusiasm up. The lack of snow followed by forest closures, kept folks out of the woods.

One item in our control and that may have contributed to a lower turnout was the SAR BOOT CAMP. The boot camp, which was originally scheduled for November 2005, and kept getting postponed, was finally held in early March 2006; only two months before ESCAPE. Jerry Englehart, the Chair of the boot camp, organized a session that attracted nearly 60 people. Looking back, we need to have a super event such as the boot camp in the fall.

In regard to this year's "profit," we decided to apply for additional radio frequencies to be used for both trainings and missions. With more teams getting radios, the good old 155.160 is sometimes a bit crowded. Look for more information on this in coming weeks.

Let's take a look at some highlights of ESCAPE 2006.

Lette Birn, of Mountain Canine Corps and a member of the New Mexico Task Force I, and her dog participated in the recovery efforts at the Pentagon disaster as well as hurricane Katrina. Her talk Friday evening after dinner gave us all an honest view of the efforts at these events.

On Saturday afternoon, Dr. William "DOC" Forgey, author of the book, ***Wilderness Medicine, Beyond First Aid***, gave a special presentation on Wilderness medicine. As was expected, his training seminar had the highest attendance. Dr. Forgey provided free CDs of the book to all that attended.

Our guest Speaker for Saturday evening was a friend of Dr. Forgey; Dave Scott author of the book ***Paradise Lost***. Dave and a friend spent a year in a very isolated cabin in the far north Canadian woods approximately 125 miles from the nearest neighbor.

The Ralph Dawdy SAR Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Beck Atkinson of Angel Fire SAR. Beck is a Field Coordinator and Area Commander at the State level, as well as a driving force in training, especially for rookie SAR folks. Beck developed the format for our SAR Boot Camps.

In closing I must give credit where credit is due. If not for the efforts of my committee, we would not have had successful ESCAPEs in 2005 and 2006. My committee consists of Stock Colt, Steve Crawford, Dave Kenneke, Linda McClendon, James Newberry, Sue Williams and Barbara Zabriskie. Everyone did their jobs with great enthusiasm. Never once did I have to “herd cats.”

Thanks Committee for a job well done.

Paul McClendon
ESCAPE Chair

ESCAPE 2007

Here we come Ruidoso!! As I'm sure that most of you are aware, ESCAPE 2007 will be held at the Convention Center in Ruidoso. We're excited about the change of venue and hope that you all share our enthusiasm! There will be a few new ideas that we're going to be trying out; a sac lunch for Saturday, a cook out Saturday night and.....well you'll just have to come and see!!

While all the details are being worked out, please let me know if there is anything you'd like to see, train or do at E '07. Always wanted to teach a class? Let me know! Have someone you really want to see teach a class? Let me know! Together we can make E '07 an event to remember!

Thanks for your support!

Sue Williams

NM SAR FIELD CERTIFICATION STUDY GUIDE UPDATE

As announced at ESCAPE 06, the NM SAR Field Certification Study Guide (formerly known as the PACE Study Guide) has been updated and has gone to the NM SAR Resource Officer for approval. Many people have contributed to the revision and many hours have been spent ensuring the information is up to date and clearly presented. The revised Study Guide has been expanded and contains more information. The Study Guide still contains the basic information a SAR volunteer needs to go into the field, survive for 24 hours, and complete his or her search/rescue assignment.

The next step is to revise the test questions. After the Study Guide is approved and the test questions updated, the Study Guide will be posted on the NMESC website and a notification will go out to the SAR community (via the nmsar-forum e-mail list). A date will be set to discontinue use of the 1997 Study Guide. From that point on, the new 2006 Study Guide will be used for all Field Certification sessions. A tentative date for this switch over is November 30. This date, of course, is dependent upon State approval, test question revision, and final approval and posting/printing of the Study Guide.

A big thank you goes out to all those involved in the effort!

Gail Zimmerman (PACE Chair)

TRAINING CORNER

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

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. There is no cost and anything that is posted to this listserv will automatically be sent to you. To get on the new NMSAR-FORUM, go to:

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

Go to the bottom left and click “show more,” then scroll down to NMSAR-FORUM and go to the right side and click “subscribe.”

If there is a problem, please contact William Colburn at Schlake@nmt.edu

2006 NMESC Board

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Any board member can be contacted by email through the NMESC website (www.nmesc.org).