

New Mexico Search and Rescue Council
Agenda
Saturday, August 21, 2010

In attendance: Phyllis Wright, Cindy Oliver, Tom Bemis, Robert Cort, Eric Hjelmfelt, John Gallegos, Nate Lay, Pat Seiser, David MacLauchlan

Absent: Gerry Runte, Brian Hamilton

I. Call to Order: Phyllis calls to order, 4:15pm. Introductions done—new board member, David MacLauchlan

II. Minutes from last meeting: Minutes approved.

III. Treasurer's Report: Paid bill owed Philmont for 2010 ESCAPE and also paid a down payment to next ESCAPE in Ruidoso. See attached report. Motion to accept treasurer's report made by Eric, John 2nd, approved unanimously.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Training: when; where; advertising: Eric reports **1.** Brian Fuller is going to lead a mock search training at City of Rocks State Park. The training will be October 16th. **2.** In late November/December planning to schedule a “winter” pack check with discussion and training on what gear is needed, etc. **3.** Search strategy workshop scheduled in Socorro area in September. **4.** Instructors lined up for team leader training in Jan/Feb, 2011 in ABQ. However, State SAR is also scheduling a team leader training early in 2011. **5.** Traditional winter training needs to be scheduled—proposed to have winter training at Philmont SR. Maybe couple the above mentioned “winter” gear/pack check training with the Philmont training. Proposed having the winter training for a day and half to help with those coming from a long distance. Nate will look into possible dates.

To plan trainings more efficiently, it would help Eric to have a co-chair or to delegate responsibilities to members closer to the training areas. Brian is willing to help with trainings.

David reports that CAP has various trainings they offer that we may use with the NMSAR community. He is trying to figure out which trainings may be appropriate. Phyllis thinks the best connection with CAP is to tap into what they may offer. She continues to say we ramp up our own trainings for SAR members to establish our commitment to the SAR community and SAR Board. Tom reports on different levels of training through the SAR community for members and management levels. David says that there are classes offered by CAP that he wants to be opened to the SAR community. John proposes to put the CAP schedule on the Forum and members can then choose if they might want to take a class from CAP. Pat thinks it might be useful to offer an introduction class on how to use CAP during a search and better understand CAP. We will continue to discuss possible trainings to help SAR community understand specialty SAR teams (high angle rescue, caving, SAR dogs).

It was proposed to post trainings open to the SAR community, but not necessarily being put on by NMSARC. These are non commercial trainings only. We will continue to think about this

NMTF1 would like to support wilderness SAR according to bureau manager. We will look carefully at the options they have to offer. Phyllis will report back from another meeting about this issue. We are wilderness SAR and want to keep that our mission and focus, following state SAR act and bylaws.

B. ESCAPE: Schedule: (2011) John signed contract with Ruidoso. 35 rooms blocked off with special rate. Wavier for animals and dogs. Full use of facility for ESCAPE. John had made an agenda for what we need to get done. New website link for ESCAPE from main website. Also has contract from Ghost Ranch, which is \$49000 that covers room and board as well as the facility, but contract needs to be re-written since those attending will be paying room and board separate. New and improved ESCAPE includes putting out forum messages with new and exciting classes looking for specialty SAR. Medical and technical tracks are already on underway. Still looking for a head liner. Maybe John Krakauer, head of PMI, or head of Patagonia. Start looking for door prizes.

C. Membership: website updates; plans for autumn drive: Brian ill. Phyllis reported that the web site is updated and with links to member teams. Priority is for membership drive for January 31st.

D. Newsletter/Public Relations: pending newsletter/schedule: Pat—will begin to address newsletter. Submit to her interesting missions or what is happening in community. Put new board member bios in this newsletter. Also, will put in liaison assignments.

E. Mapping: how are we doing?: Bob Cowan. Tom reports that he has done 10 maps with 35 in the works

F. Website: how are we doing? NMSAR is the owner, web master is, Dick Wagner, Bob and Tom (maybe Eric) will work on the forum as managers. It was proposed to redesign the link to join the forum to make it clearer and easier from the web page how to join the forum.

G. Fundraising: plans; ideas: Nate is working toward fundraising and is asking for ideas/suggestions. He will gather ideas for ESCAPE for sponsors. John will make a list of assignments of who to contact for ESCAPE. Look also for cash donations from commercial stores such as Walmart, Smiths, etc. John will put together a script and forward this to us for how to ask for donations.

H. P.A.C.E.: Scheduled Field Certification: Mike V. says to start scheduling more field cert tests. 9/11 in Las Cruces scheduled, 10/23 in Datil, NM. JoAnn Sprenger wants one in Las Vegas, NM—pending. It was proposed to schedule one before Section Chief class in Las Cruces the evening of 10/8--pending. Looking into exception for LED head lamps/flashlight and not needing a replacement light bulb in Field Cert Guide. Changing the wording is a big difficult. John stated that it has been an unwritten rule that says you can't evaluate members of your own team—it has been changed that you now can evaluate your own team members. These changes need to be approved by Mike V. before we can confirm and implement these changes.

I. SAR Review Board: report: Gerry absent. Sent along a report—see attached.

V. Old Business

A. Comms Committee positions and progress: Council is purchasing cross band repeater with spare UHF radio for ICs and air band radio to monitor 123.1. Approximately \$1400 for one repeater. NMTF1 is dropping more repeaters. Can we use these? Tom working for state repeaters. We are expected to represent the SAR community with the comms and improving this area and providing a plan to cover each district. Mike V is possibly looking for repeaters through FEMA for State Police SAR separate from NMTF1. Tom working with Mike to make sure most efficient purchase happens. Probably funding would be quicker through the Council. Motion made by John that funds be appropriated, not to exceed \$1500 to buy cross band repeater, Pat 2nd, passed unanimously.

B. Field Certification Committee progress and plans: Separate committee to articulate how to get more certification (field cert, ICS100, 200). We are implementing an aggressive plan to provide more opportunities to take the test. The state cannot mandate field certification. Strategically encourage that all field teams be certified to be stronger SAR members by providing more opportunities to take test. John will provide an article about why field certification is important to put in the newsletter. Want searchers to be a valuable asset in the field to keep us and others safe in the field. Team leaders can look at searchers and help make decisions as to if they may become a liability in the field or are adequately prepared. Field safety officers may also be handy to help with this issue for safety. There was some discussion about possible making Field Certification mandatory in order to participate in NMSARC sponsored trainings. Do discussion was made.

VI. New Business:

A. Board member responsibilities/responses/schedules: Officer/committee responsibilities are on the web site as are synopsis of responsibilities. If you have questions, please call Phyllis for clarification. Each member please design a schedule of what is to be done for committee chairs. Please delegate as appropriate. Take initiative, communicate schedules to Phyllis. David's new assignment is to put together a training directory of the expertise of our SAR members as a resource for our SAR community.

B. Gerry's initiative: NMSARC is to step up and be the voice for SAR community and working toward setting goals. Represent SAR community to State Police and public as a unified, well organized group that saves lives. Be aware of SAR act and bylaws and stay within those boundaries, also. Pat agrees to focus on the media and develop more PR to promote our SAR community. Develop more personal contacts in the community to promote/present ourselves. Work closely with the media. We will continue to work on Section 2 C and G. Phyllis will write a public statement to SAR community that we will continue to serve and represent, etc.

C. St. John's donation: St John's no longer exists. There is left over equipment that they are donating. We will store the gear until it is decided how to give out donated gear. Litters, wheels, back board, air splints, etc. This item will be tabled until next meeting.

D. Liaison communication: Please find your teams and communicate with them. The purpose is to be in touch with member teams, telling them that can we provide field certification exams, training, and that we are willing to go to one of their meetings. In addition, let them know we want to represent their voice and we are here to support them. Answer questions, provide information. Suggest they send pictures of searches, trainings, etc. Field Cert is priority for teams at this point

E. MNSARC Board member public interaction: Make sure all board forum emails are confidential.

F. Next board meeting date and location: October 2nd, 2010. Carlsbad, NM. 10:00am.

VII. Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Oliver, Secretary, NMSARC