

Spring 2007

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From the Chair....

Greetings SAR Responders!

I hope this letter finds all of you in good health, and anxiously awaiting May 4th, 5th and 6th ! ESCAPE 2007 is just around the corner. It has the makings of being one of the best Conferences ever!! (AND I MEAN EVER!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ☺)

The Conference Chair Sue Williams, and the rest of the board have been diligent in preparing for this event, with some great classes, instructors, and attention to detail. The NMESC Board is very excited about hosting ESCAPE at a new location this year, and look forward to enjoying the opportunities that await us all in Ruidoso!

We have received some superb nominations for the upcoming NMESC election, with the list of candidates bringing a broad and impressive range of skills to the slate. (Please make sure your Team is up to date with NMESC Dues so you are eligible to vote on new Board Members At ESCAPE, and get your registration in early)!

Yours in Service,
 Dave Kenneke, President, NMESC

Atalaya SAR Receives MRA Accreditation

Everyone...please give a round of high fives and congratulations to Atalaya SAR for passing their Mountain Rescue Association accreditation, unanimously!

The Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper recently published a nice article about Atalaya SAR and their preparation for the MRA certification.

Below are excerpts from the story.

“MRA certification is quite a challenge,” said Bill Donahue, one of Atalaya’s founders and director of laboratories at St. John’s College. “It was something we thought about doing from the time we formed Atalaya.” The team has been training intensely over the past several months to prepare for the certification tests given by the Mountain Rescue Association.

The Mountain Rescue Association was founded in 1958 in Mount Hood, OR. Among the group’s founders were the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division, and the National Park Service, the National Ski Patrol, and Oregon’s Hood River Crag Rats. The MRA has accredited 80 teams around the U.S., Canada, and the United Kingdom. Teams must be re-accredited every five years.

Scott Messina, chairman of the Rocky Mountain region of the MRA, said he and other evaluators would determine whether Atalaya Search and Rescue passed the tests by measuring how well it managed its mission, whether it used its equipment properly and if it used consistent techniques, among other criteria. The Atalaya team took five tests, judged by highly experienced Colorado mountaineers:

1. High-angle rescue
2. Low-angle rescue or scree rescue
3. Basic search
4. Winter technical rescue
5. Avalanche search and rescue

Atalaya volunteers average 30-40 hours a month of training and search missions. In the last couple of months, the team put in more than double the time to prepare for the MRA certification. “This has required a lot of extra work,” said Reed Shelton, Atalaya’s President and a captain and paramedic with the Santa Fe County Fire Department.

Shelton continued, “People may wonder why we would want to be scrutinized so closely by our peers. The motivation for us was to make sure we’re up to speed and increase the overall effectiveness of our team. It’s a huge motivator.”

The MRA testers are looking at a team’s ability to work together, plan and carry out an efficient search. Atalaya members have had to shift their easy going style to prepare. “We’ve had to work at being more explicit about how exercises get done,” Donahue said. “When you have several people hanging over a 300-foot cliff, there’s no room for vagueness. It means (team leaders) being willing to give orders and others being willing to follow them.”

Atalaya team members say they're willing to commit time to training for search missions in part because they enjoy practicing their skills, from climbing to back country skiing.

"We not only train and do these missions together, we also play together," Shelton said. "A lot of us are back-country skiers. We rely on each other. We're building a really good group of back-country buddies. I think that's what keeps a lot of people volunteering. We may not get a lot of avalanches, but it let's them build their skills because they like playing in the back country."

The team also feels volunteering with search and rescue is a way of giving back to the outdoor community. "We just enjoy the opportunity to help people out who are doing things just like what we love to do, climbing, hiking, mountain biking, and something goes wrong." Shelton said. "We've developed a set of skills we like to offer."

With permission from the New Mexican. Special thanks to writers Staci Matlock and Natalie Storey

Steve Van Kouteren

Back by popular demand is Jason Fletcher's.....

The Art of Creative Fundraising

We all know the old generic form of fundraising, from soliciting businesses, raffles to bake sales. But how can we find the big bucks and not the nickel and dimes that we always seem to end up with?

That's what this article will feature, new ideas and approaches that have been proven to work. Before I can give my trade secrets away, you need to know if you and your members are willing to commit to the process and expand the capabilities of the team. If you can answer yes to these six questions, you are on your way to bringing in the money.

- Question 1: Does your team have a fundraising chair?
- Question 2: Does your Fundraising Chair know how to lookup RFP's (Request For Proposal) and write strong proposals for grants?
- Question 3: Does your team provide community trainings or are they willing to do so?
- Question 4: Is your team willing to take on minors 16 to 20 years old?
- Question 5: If you are willing to accept minors but your team insurance will not cover minors, would your team be willing to start an Explorer Post? Scouts will cover the insurance for minors from the age of 14-20. SAR is considered an Explorer Post function. Hmmmmm.
- Question 6: Is your whole team willing to take FEMA's NIMS 700 and 800 online test? This has nothing to do with FEMA's idea of typing wilderness teams, it's just about the money.

For the sake of keeping the column short and simple, I will give you a creative fundraising idea and the resources for that idea that has worked for my team in each newsletter.

Here is an easy idea that does not require much work. To start the process I highly recommend getting your team their NIMS 700 & 800 test out of the way. Through FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, the more certified emergency members from individual counties and teams will help raise federal monies for the county and in turn down to your team. This has nothing to do with FEMA's idea of typing wilderness teams, just strictly about how we can tap into the Homeland Security money. To start the process for NIMS 700 & 800 go to the following website, <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/index.shtm>

Next, if you have not already, form a close relationship with your county Office of Emergency Management or Services (OEM) (OES). The county receives state and federal funds for emergency preparedness and training. Our team has setup a close relationship with the county and provides trainings such as ICS, basic rope rescue skills for the fire departments, wilderness safety workshops and CERT trainings.

By forming a CERT training team within the SAR team, we have raised nearly \$60,000 this year for the CERT program which includes money for equipment, stipends for trainers and supplies for the CERT trainees. We have received monies from federal, state and county to provide trainings and all we have to do for the money is certify three community CERT teams within the county for the first year. We have already exceeded and provided training for six communities because our trainers really enjoy doing the trainings.

Here's how to do it:

1. Identify team members who are interested in becoming trainers.
2. Have them go through a trainer of training course. It is a 20 hour course and you will also have your first CERT team trained.
3. The Department of Homeland Security has mini grants that help fund the CERT training team and supplies for the trainees. Also, we have tapped into state and county prevention monies using CERT as an alternative substance abuse prevention program. We never have to talk about prevention, just provide a positive alternative.
4. We partnered with the neighborhood association who has eleven associations in our town to provide training for at least six of them. We are also working with tribal governments to provide training to develop CERT teams in remote locations. These are just two of many ways to find already established groups willing to form a CERT team.

As stated earlier, just for CERT, we have raised nearly \$60K for 2006. For our SAR program as a whole, we have raised over \$180,000 and have a grant in for \$500K for three years, which we will hear if we are awarded in the next few months. The money is out there, you just have to have a good proposal writer, a dedicated group of people within the team that are willing to help the team integrate deeper into the community. You do this and many doors will open up for you by simply providing community training from self preparedness in the wilderness and urban setting, ICS, basic rescue skills to CERT.

Next issue we will discuss another alternative way to raising money by incorporating youth on the team. If you have any questions or need creative ideas for equipment, feel free to contact me at

jflesher@niylp.org .
Jason Flesher
Sacred Mountain SAR

Training Corner: ESCAPE 2007

ESCAPE 2007 (May 4, 5 and 6, 2007) is just around the corner. The conference is at the Convention Center in Ruidoso. We're excited about the change of venue and hope that you all share our enthusiasm!

This year the format for ESCAPE will be slightly different. By registering for the conference, you will automatically be receiving tickets for a box lunch and cookout on Saturday, May 5. Since we will be ordering meals, **EARLY REGISTRATION IS SUGGESTED!** Please return the registration form by April 20, 2007.

Lodging

Don't forget to make reservations for your room at the Lodge at Sierra Blanca (next to the Convention Center). The Lodge held a block of rooms for us through April 3, 2007. If you call now, you may be able to qualify for the great rates.

Lodge at Sierra Blanca, Ruidoso, NM, 866-211-7727 or 505-258-5500.

Rates: \$69/night for 2 queen beds
 \$79/night for 1 king and a pullout
 \$89/night for 1 bedroom suites

There are numerous other hotels, motels and other lodging resources in the area that can be located on the City of Ruidoso website:

- <http://www.ruidoso.net/visitors/lodging.html>

Ponderosa Cabins: offering ESCAPE attendees a 20% discount. Call 800-257-5865 or visit:

- <http://www.ponderosacabins.net/>

If you're interested in camping (tent or RV) you might want to check out these sites:


- <http://www.ruidoso.net/visitors/more.html?categoryID=14>
- http://www.ruidosonow.com/lodging_dir_cat.asp

Dogs

Each dog handler must agree to abide by the policies set by the NMESC by signing in the appropriate space on the registration form. A complete copy of the canine policy is available on the NMESC website.

Below is the near-final schedule for the three day event.

Friday, May 4


	Basic	Technical	Advanced	Medical	Radio	K-9	Management
0800 to 1000	*****	Registration	*****	*****	Flam 9AM Start	*****	*****
1000 to 1200	Gear & Clothing Zimmerman	Equipment & Safety Kellams	Winter Skills Gurnari	Patient Assessment	Ham Tech Class Boedeker	NM K9 Team Cadaver Flower	*****
1200-1300	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1300 to 1430	Field Exercises POD Flesler	Litter Rigging & Pt. Packaging Viramomtes	Winter Skills (cont.)	Patient Assessment (cont.)	Ham Tech Class Boedeker (cont.)	K9 Cadaver Flower (cont.)	New Mission Forms Newberry
1500 to 1630	*****	Picket & Anchor Systems Flesher	Desert Skills Gurnari	Hands on Assessment skills	Ham Tech Class Boedeker (cont.)	K9 Field Work Flower	New Mission Forms Newberry (cont.)
1700	Conference	Registration	Closes	For	The	Evening	

Saturday, May 5

Don't forget about Saturday's box lunch and the evening cook out!

	Basic	Helicopter/ ARCHER	Technical	Medical	Radio	K-9	Management
0630 to 0800	Registration	Opens	Drink	Coffee	Meet	Friends	Talk
0800 to 1000	Meeting	Hall	*****	Meeting	*****	Welcome	*****
1030 to 1200	Map & Compass Navigation Lathrop	ARCHER system Cap Friel	Allots a Knots! Williams	Treating Lightening Related Injuries	Ham Review Boedecker	Part 1. Being a Subject Part 2. Problems for the air scent, cadaver and tracking dogs	Working with Volunteers Newberry
1200 -1300	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1300 to 1430	Nav. Field Exercise	NM606 NMNG Black Hawk	Belays & Rigging Mechanical Advantage Systems	Environment- al Medical Awareness	Ham Exam Boedecker	Part 2. Field Exercises Oliver, Brunish, Flower	
1500 to 1630	ICS 100 Zimmerman	Landing Zone Safety raining	(continued) Gallegos, Murphy, Almond	Field trauma- current trends and treatments	Cont.		Thinking Outside the Box Fundraising Flesher
1630 to ?	Dinner	Cookout	Socialize	Network	Laugh	Have	Fun!

Sunday Schedule

	<u>Basic</u>	<u>Technical</u>	<u>Advanced</u>	<u>Medical</u>	<u>K-9</u>
0630 to 0300	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
0800 to 0930	Field Certification Exam Zimmerman	Putting It All Together Viramontes	Predator Abductions. Tactics for SAR Teams Flesher	Case Studies: Let's Practice the Real Thing	
1000 to 1130	Field Certification (cont.)	Safety Factor & System Analysis Viramontes	Predator Abduction Tactics Cont. Flesher	Case Studies (cont.)	K9 Physical Therapy Holbrook
1200	Conference	Closed	THANKS!	Safe	Travels

Sue Williams

200-2007 NMESC Board

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