

NMSARC NEWSLETTER



A Publication of the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings fellow New Mexico Search & Rescue volunteers:

This year has seen a lot of changes and new directions for search and rescue in New Mexico.

A few of the major events from the last year:

1. **Andy Tingwall, NMSP Pilot:** I would be remiss if I didn't mention Andy. By now, everyone knows of his tragic passing on what has come to be known as the "606 Mission". While I only met Andy once (at last year's ESCAPE), I talked to him often during many missions. Knowing he was up in the sky—usually at night and with inclement weather all around—watching out and helping, was always a relief. He will be missed for a long, long time.
2. **SAR Review Board:** Many of you know the SAR Review Board is back in action after 6-7 years of inactivity. Getting it reinstated has been one of your board's big goals. You will be happy to know that you are being ably represented by **Gerry Runte**, the council's liaison on the Board. They have already had one meeting and the next is scheduled for January. (*Watch the nmsarc.org calendar for the exact date. It is an open meeting.*)
3. **James Newberry:** On August 6, after 7 1/2 years as New Mexico Search and Rescue Resource Officer, James resigned. Everyone in SAR knew James as a friendly fellow with a ready smile. In his place, temporarily, is **Inspector Michael Valverde**. In addition to his duties running the state police training academy, Inspector Valverde has stepped in as temporary Resource Officer until State Police can find a permanent replacement. I believe I speak for everyone in search and rescue when I say I hope it takes them a long, long time to find that permanent replacement. Everyone has been very impressed with Mike's "can-do" attitude. He is setting the bar very high for the next Resource Officer.

That's all for now. Be looking at our website (www.nmsarc.org) for information on next year's ESCAPE. (*To be held at Philmont Scout Ranch, April 30-May 2, 2010*).

And let us hear from you. We can only serve you well when we know what you want.

Gary Cascio
NMSARC Chair



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Remembering **ANDY TINGWALL**

At age 36, State Police Sgt. Andy Tingwall was still young when he died on June 9, doing what he did best—rescuing someone who was losing a battle for survival in New Mexico’s wilderness. His young age belied his experience—he was a 13-year veteran state police pilot. Andy had already logged 1,300 hours piloting state police helicopters on dozens of missions—many of them search and rescue-related.

A widely-known and valued member of New Mexico’s SAR community, Andy was known not just for his ability to navigate the “606” in adverse circumstances, but for his unassuming non-chalance and humility. One newspaper account described his “playful character...tough demeanor...(and) humble nature.”

On his final mission, few would have been surprised to learn that Andy walked in worsening weather to find the mission’s subject. Then he carried the hypothermic woman a mile back through an incoming snow storm and steep alpine terrain to the helicopter.

Posthumously awarded the NM State Police Medal of Valor, Tingwall would probably have responded as he did after single-handedly rescuing someone from a raging Albuquerque arroyo last year: “You’d do the same for me.”

The NM Search and Rescue Council wishes we could. But as State Police Chief Faron Segotta observed, “the clouds got (you)” instead.

We know you’ll fly high. *Godspeed.*

ESCAPE REPORT 2010

*ESCAPE 2010 is scheduled for April 30 – May 2, 2010. It will be held at **Philmont Scout Ranch** near Cimarron. Currently we are planning a mock search in conjunction with ESCAPE, on April 29th.*

*Please contact me with any ideas for training or suggestions that you think may improve ESCAPE next year. Contact information: **anthony.gaier@gmail.com** or **505-331-0601**.*

As ESCAPE grows closer I will be sending information out about ESCAPE on the NMSAR Forum. If you are not a member of the forum, I encourage you to join. To get information on joining the forum, go to www.nmes.org/forum.htm. If you would rather not join the forum and still would like to receive updates concerning ESCAPE, please email me at the email address above and state that you would like email updates for ESCAPE.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns, hope to see you-all at ESCAPE 2010!

Tony Gaier
ESCAPE 2010 Chair



NMSARC SAFETY TIP!

REMEMBER! Protecting yourself from the sun's harmful rays isn't just for when you're in the field...it's equally important for those at Incident Base too!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

JOE BIGLEY



Joe's involvement in SAR began in SW Colorado in 2004 with Colorado Mountain Search and Rescue (MSAR)—first as a team member, then as a team leader. His career in SAR expanded when I became the interim Director of Emergency Management for Archuleta County, CO. He has served with the Archuleta County

Incident Management Group, New Mexico SAR and Colorado MSAR.

Joe is currently a FC in New Mexico's District 7, as well as Ops and Logs Section Chief and Safety Officer. He has participated in more than 70 missions overall. He works full-time as an EMT for the Upper San Juan Health Services District and has a Wilderness EMT certification.

TOM BEMIS

Tom Bemis is a native of Carlsbad and has been an active caver since 1970. He became involved in search and rescue while attending NMSU in Las Cruces, going on his first rescue mission (a stranded climber) in 1975. He went to work for the National Park Service in 1979, retiring in August of this year. He served on the park SAR team for approximately 20 of those years and served as park SAR coordinator for the last decade. He is a national instructor for the National Cave Rescue Commission, as well as Area Commander for NM SAR, and Training Coordinator for Eddy County Search and Rescue.



GERRY RUNTE



Gerry moved to New Mexico in 2005 with his wife and two children. He holds a Master's Degree in Nuclear Engineering from Penn State University. He joined Santa Fe Search and Rescue in 2006 and has been secretary for that organization since 2008. He brings over 30 years experience and demonstrated expertise in

the energy industry. Gerry is currently General Manager, Clean Energy Business Unit for ARES Corporation. He is also Vice President of ARES Blue Sun Development, a joint venture that is constructing a biodiesel plant in Clovis, NM.

JOHN GALLEGOS

John Gallegos is the Co-Captain of the Organ Mountain Technical Rescue Squad located in Las Cruces, New Mexico. John joined OMTRS in 2002 and has been very active in team missions, trainings, meetings, and community events. He is an avid mountaineer and high altitude specialist having summited mountains such as Cerro de Aconcagua (at 22,841 feet) in South America, Pico de Orazaba (18,490 feet) near Mexico City, Kilimanjaro, Western Breach Wall (19,341 feet) in Africa, and numerous 14,000 foot summits in the lower US. John has been a technical track instructor at ESCAPE since 2005. A registered pharmacist, he is certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, a ham radio operator, and Operations Section Chief for District 4.



Sign up for the new SAR forum today!

The NMSARC board has created a new online forum for the exclusive use of New Mexico Search and Rescue Council members.

Simply visit: <http://groups.google.com/group/nmsar-forum> and sign up today.

You will be asked for your team affiliation. If you have a gmail account, you're half way there. If not you will need to create a Google Group account. That's all there is to it.

REPORT FROM DESERT GROUND & SURVIVAL TRAINING

There were over sixty searchers collected in the Uvas Mountains August 22 - 23 for NMSARC's Desert Ground and Survival Training! Thanks to everyone from all over the state who attended and made the event a great success!

The remarkable number of sessions our instructors provided allowed small and balanced classes in which both experts and novices had the opportunity to build their skills. A big shout-out to instructors and participants of the field sessions: Survival, Tracking, GPS, and Line Searching, who braved hours of sun, crazy wind, and a little rain.

Not that the stationary sessions were immune to mother nature! Everyone was happy to have shade for those rotations—until about 1700 when that cold wind came up with such intensity there was a scramble to dismantle the shade or watch it blow away!

The folks who hadn't planned to camp got out just in time as the campers among us watched the flames on the giant grill try to reach high enough against the wind to grill our dinners! It took a while to eat, but it was fun, and we stayed close to the original schedule and jumped into the night line search at dusk.

We encountered one of the three rattle snakes of the weekend on the line search and walked away toward the deep sharp-sided arroyo, a little more conscious of the dark!

Lots of us followed the line search with Kirk's night tracking class and were still having fun with our green lights when it started to rain and we went back to base to watch OMTRS juggle their beautiful glowing, florescent clubs.

The weekend offered lots of variety, lots of weather shift, too; lots of practice; lots of learning—and that includes lots of great conversation among old friends and new;

lots of fun; and lots of opportunity (when the clouds cleared) to look at the stars and watch the sunrise and be incredibly glad to share our commitment to SAR.

A special thanks to our instructors from Mesilla Valley SAR and Organ Mountain Technical Rescue Squad! Look at the time those folks invested:

Sarah Aragon, from OMTRS, four 50 minute rotations of Venom in the Desert--Animals, Plants, and Treatment;

Gene Cunnar, MVSAR, and NM's EMT Instructor of the Year, five 50 minute rotations of Water and Heat Emergencies;

Kirk Kirkpatrick, MVSAR, five 100 minute rotations of Tracking a Subject;

Stephen Pieroni, MVSAR, & Bruce Garner, OMTRS, five 100 minute rotations of GPS Practice;

Ned Tutor, from MVSAR, four 100 minutes rotations of Survival: Desert Shelters, Trapping, Fire, Signals;

Vic Villalobos, from MVSAR, six rotations of Desert Gear and Clothing;

Sue Williams & Bob Almond, OMTRS, four rotations of Field Knots;

Zach Libbin, from OMTRS, five 100 minute rotations of Reading Desert Terrain for Water Sources & Water Filtering, despite our drought and bone dry cattle tanks for miles around.

Phyllis Wright, from MVSAR, two rotations of Line Search Practice and a four hour hike to three petroglyph sites.

It was a great weekend and a pleasure to see everybody! **Hope you're marking your calendars for ESCAPE (April 30—May 2)**. In the meantime, keep watching for additional trainings from NMSARC!

Thanks for being there—and/or see you next time!

PHYLLIS WRIGHT
Membership Chair
Training Chair



New Mexico Emergency Services Council 2009-2010 Board of Directors Roster

Name/Address	Board Position	E-mail Address
Gary Cascio <i>Santa Fe Search and Rescue Group</i>	Chairperson/President Web Liaison	gcascio@nmsarc.org
Tom Bemis <i>Eddy County SAR</i>	Vice Chairperson/Vice President Mapping Program Liason	tbemis@nmsarc.org
Brian Fuller <i>Grant County SAR</i>	Secretary	bfuller@nmsarc.org
Richard Swartz <i>Mesilla Valley SAR</i>	Treasurer	rswartz@nmsarc.org
Phyllis Wright <i>Mesilla Valley SAR</i>	Membership Chair Training Chair	pwright@nmsarc.org
Dave Baldridge <i>Sandia Search Dogs</i>	Newsletter/PIO	dbaldridge@nmsarc.org
Tony Gaier <i>Cibola Search and Rescue</i>	ESCAPE 2010 Chair	tgaier@nmsarc.org
John Gallegos <i>Cibola/McKinley County ARES</i>	P.A.C.E. Liaison	jgallegos@nmsarc.org
Joe Bigley <i>Colorado Mounted Patrol</i>	Fundraising Chair	jbigley@nmsarc.org
Gerry Runte <i>Santa Fe Search and Rescue Group</i>	SAR Review Board Liaison	grunte@nmsarc.org
Inspector Mike Valverde	SAR Resource Officer (Temp)	michael.valverde@ state.nm.us

2010 NMSARC Winter Skills Training

Description: The training is set for the afternoon of Jan. 8th through the 10th. Friday will be check-in and some classroom training, Saturday four training tracks: snowshoe, ski, snowmobile and management. Sunday will be a mock search. Training will take place near the **Santa Fe Ski Area** and will all be conducted above 10,300 up to 12,000+. It will not be a beginner class for those in the field. Most activities will be in the National Forest and Wilderness Area near the Santa Fe Ski Basin on Saturday and Sunday. Mark your calendars now and we'll keep you updated on any changes and the registration procedure. **Date:** Friday, January 8, 2010