

NMSARC NEWSLETTER



A Publication of the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council

Letter From the NM Search and Rescue Council Chair – Phyllis Wright



Dear New Mexico Search and Rescue,

I am honored to serve this year as your Council Chair. We have a number of initiatives in the works, and I'd like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date. The Council is hard at work this season.

In Response to SAR Review Board requests:

NMSARC Communications and Field Certification committees are readying their reports for the SAR Review Board in response to the SAR Review Board request that NMSARC recommend options for improving statewide radio repeater capability and developing a means by which all searchers achieve a minimum standard of training.

Tom Bemis, Council Vice-Chair, will share his Communications Committee's report this month.

Since ESCAPE 2009, we've had seven Field Certification opportunities on the calendar and taken the exam to several individual teams, as well as bringing 13 new evaluators on board. As we congratulate our newly certified searchers, we would also like to invite all teams and individual searchers interested in the Field Certification process contact our PACE representative, John Gallegos at JohnandPaulaG@msn.com.

In Terms of NMSARC's Broader Vision:

The NMSARC intends to strengthen its commitment to excellence through training, and support New Mexico's reputation as the best wilderness SAR community in the nation. Your Council liaisons are eager to work with your teams toward the goals that NM SAR will become more visible, that our efforts will be recognized in the community at large, that our relationships with the media will result in greater accuracy in reporting of missions, and that we will develop an efficient working relationship with all levels of government. Look for further communication on the SAR forum.

Statewide Trainings are Underway!

NMSARC is focusing lots of energy on training this season in accordance with the vision that NM SAR be acknowledged for its expertise, preparedness, and experience in wilderness SAR.



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Members from six NMSARC teams met in the Bosque del Apache on Sunday, September 19, to practice and refine their search skills. We spent 2.5 hours in the classroom and 2.5 in the field, learned lots, and had a great time. Many thanks to Mesilla Valley and Socorro SAR for their help!

The five upcoming trainings below have been designed in response to your requests! Thanks for being in touch and letting us know how we can support your expertise.

- A) **City of Rocks full scale Mock Search** on October 16, cosponsored by Grant County Search and Rescue, New Mexico Search and Rescue Council, NM State Police Search and Rescue, and New Mexico State Parks. Contact Brian Fuller, Grant County SAR, for more info and rsvps: bfuller@fullernm.com.
- B) **Communications Unit Leader Training** on October 23 & 24 in the Nurses' Quarters at Ft. Stanton State Monument, located between Lincoln and Capitan, NM. ICS-200 is required. Contact Tom Bemis, NMSARC Vice-President and Communications Committee Chair, at boomer.bemis@gmail.com.
- C) A second **NMSARC search techniques training** in Albuquerque on November 13. Contact Brian Hamilton, NMSARC Training Co-Chair, for more info and RSVP: us_trident1@msn.com.
- D) **NMSARC Winter Gear Essentials** in Santa Fe on December 4 in Santa Fe. Contact Eric Helmfelt, NMSARC Training Co-Chair, for more info and rsvps: eeh@altair.com.
- E) **NMSARC's Winter Training** at Philmont on Saturday and Sunday, January 29-30. For more info or rsvps, contact Eric Helmfelt, NMSARC Training Co-Chair, at eeh@altair.com or NMSARC board member Nate Lay, Philmont SAR at nate.lay@scouting.org.

Training Resource Directory is about to be launched!

We're close to agreement on the format for the new directory, so you'll be hearing soon from Board member David MacLauchlan asking if you're interested in serving as a resource.

SAR Forum works!

One of the easiest ways to stay in touch is through the SAR forum. If you're not a member, go to www.nmsac.org and click on Stay in Touch in the Membership section. Let's share our news via the forum!

Let's collect our voices and stay united through New Mexico Search and Rescue Council! Hope we hear from you soon!

Looking forward to a great year!

Phyllis Wright
NMSARC Chair

Tom Bemis,
Area Commander for New Mexico Search and Rescue, receives 30 year service award from John Benjamin, Superintendent, Carlsbad Caverns National Park. The award was made during the October 2010 NMSAR Council meeting, held in Carlsbad, New Mexico.





New Mexico State Police
Search and Rescue



City of Rocks State Park

MOCK SAR

When: Saturday October 16, 2010. 0900 to 1700 (IC Staff 0830)

Location: City of Rocks State Park, Hwy 61, Faywood, NM

Resources: IC Staff, IB Support, Ground Pounders, Trackers, K-9, and Horse (Sorry, no ATVs)

Search Information: For this full scale mock search, a state SAR training mission number has been issued (no reimbursements). The search area will include diverse conditions for all skill levels of SAR responders. New Mexico State Parks is interested in learning how New Mexico SAR works, as well as how they can assist during a SAR mission. This training mission will also be used as public outdoor education opportunity for the visitors at the park.

Entrance Fees: NM State Parks has waived the day-use fee for all SAR responders working on the training mission. However, if you wish to camp at the park, the standard camping fees will apply.

Park Information: Formed of volcanic ash welded together 35 million years ago and sculpted by wind and water into rows of monolithic blocks, these incredible rock formations give City of Rocks its name. Hiking trails, a botanical garden and a public night sky observatory add to this unique destination. Through property acquisition and donations, the park has expanded to over 2,500 acres, which now includes nearby Table Mountain. (www.nmparks.com)



Other: Please RSVP by October 9, with your name, team affiliation, and resource type. For any other questions or to RSVP, send an email to Brian Fuller - bfuller@nmsarc.org

Introducing our new RO!

A note from Peter Olson, NM SAR Resource Officer

When the Search and Rescue Resource Officer job was filed this summer, I jumped at the chance to apply.

I have been a very active outdoor enthusiast for all my life. I felt that my love for the mountains and wild places and need to be able to do something meaningful in life would be a perfect fit for this job.

Growing up in Minnesota and Ethiopia gave me lots of opportunity to spend hours and days roaming through the woods and mountains. But it wasn't until college when I started to gain technical expertise to help satisfy my urge to climb up mountains and then ski down them.

I spent a few summers working as a professional guide in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and leading trips to all parts of the country during college. Then in the early 90's I moved to Santa Fe. I have become an avid, maybe even rabid telemark skier. I have competed in the 24 Hours of Moab mountain bike race 6 or 8 times and run the Imogene Pass Run from Ouray to



Telluride 5 or 6 times. I enjoy running, skiing, mountain biking, playing hockey, rock, ice and mountain climbing and am a coach for a high school cross country team and several youth hockey teams.

I look forward to the challenge of the job. Search and Rescue is a very important function and I am honored to have the position of Resource Officer and look forward to working hard to provide the best service possible.

Editor's Note: Some of you will remember meeting Peter last year when he taught the Public Information Officer course.

Field Certification in New Mexico

Do I need to get Field Certified?

Based on some recent events, the SAR Review Board has made several recommendations to improve safety and training for New Mexico Search and Rescue Volunteers.

One of the recommendations includes having New Mexico Search and Rescue Volunteers be Field Certified before they participate on official missions in the field. One thing was emphasized; the state will not require and will not enforce field certification as a pre-requisite to participation in these missions. The state has tasked the Search and Rescue Council to develop strategies to “encourage” NM Search and Rescue volunteers to get Field Certified by helping them develop team policies on Field Certifications for its members, develop suggestions on and provide training in mission preparedness, provide many more opportunities for exams, and to educate the team members on the benefits for themselves, their team, and to the FC as valuable assets while on a mission. The goal of the committee is safety and training of the volunteer. This will lead to increased professionalism of those volunteers in the field and to the overall success of the mission.

As you may have noticed, the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council has more than quadrupled its Field Certification opportunities. We have held exams in several locations around the state and have many more already planned. In addition to the Field Certification Exam opportunities, there are several trainings and mock missions planned to give training and real mission-like experience to all who attend. Visit the New Mexico Search and Rescue website at www.nmsarc.org for the most up to date information on times and locations.

So now let’s answer the question from above; “Should I get Field Certified”?

From the States point of view, “Heck yeah”!

From the Field Coordinators point of view; “I see that patch and I know that you will help me accomplish my mission objectives”.

From the Operations Section Chief point of view; “I know that you will understand your assignment, have the ability to accomplish your assignment, have the ability to return back to base camp and tell me about your assignment, and do all this safely and professionally”.

From the Team Leaders point of view; “I am responsible for this team. I am very happy you are Field Certified. You have just made this team better. Let’s go out there and do our job”.

From the team members point of view; “I have the basic skills necessary, I have all the basic equipment needed, and I have the knowledge required to do my job. Boy I am happy I got Field Certified and became a great asset rather than a potential liability. I should make sure everyone gets this training. It was fun! Now, wouldn’t it be awesome if I found little Johnny”?

If you are interested in a Field Certification Class for your team or for your area, please contact any one of the following individuals for more information and scheduling:

Peter Olson, New Mexico SAR Resource Officer, at peter.olson@state.nm.us

Frank Mulholland, New Mexico Field Certification Chair, at fmulholl@cybermesa.com

John Gallegos, New Mexico Search and Rescue Council – Field Certification Representative, at jgallegos@nmsarc.org

John Gallegos
Field Certification Representative



The Powered Paraglider in Search and Rescue

Bringing a New Resource to the SAR Community



EAA Ultra-Light Chapter 118, the Route 66 Flyers, is a new team that brings a unique capability to our SAR community. The pilots fly an unconventional aircraft known as a powered paraglider. A small backpack motor unit worn by the pilot provides the power attached to an elliptical, parachute like, wing. The pilot lays out the wing behind him on the ground, powers up the motor, runs briskly into the wind and is takes-off in a few yards. They can be easily transported in a trunk of a car to any location. Pilots can launch from a small patch of unimproved terrain and land in a similarly small area. Powered paragliders (PPGs) can be flown with a great deal of control to such an extent that they can be flown inside arroyos. With this

capability, PPGs can also fly close to tree lines to get a look under tree branches. They can fly in formation to search over large areas. They can fly for about 2 hours at 25 miles per hour on less than a few gallons of fuel. PPGs can glide over fence lines and over terrain not easily covered by ground units. They can skim just above the surface slowly enough to check for small items and even footprints.

Our team has been using a team approach when conducting searches. They fly in formations of two or three to view the same area from different sight angles to more effectively scan the terrain for a search subject. One member of the team flies higher than the rest in order to maintain navigation path integrity and radio contact with the incident command post.

Our team can also be employed as a SAR resource in a supply mission. Some of our team members have machines capable of carrying an additional 100 pounds of needed items like, water, food, medical supplies and equipment, into ground teams far from the CP.

These flying machines do have some limitations. PPGs cannot fly in winds over 15 MPH. They cannot fly in mountainous nor heavily forested terrain. PPGs are best flown in the early morning hours and late afternoon

The Route 66 Flyers looks forward to working with other SAR teams and law enforcement agencies in order to conduct multi-team exercises.

Ed Poccia
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Orienteering Field Training Orienteering training meet.

Beginner White course, multiple advanced beginner Yellow courses, and an intermediate Orange course; advanced courses if there is sufficient interest and volunteer help in advance. Coaching is free. New Mexico Orienteers is hosting a special training event in the Sandia Ranger District of Cibola National Forest.



Groups and individuals are welcome, so even if your SAR team does not put this event on its team training schedule, team members (and families too) are welcome to come learn field navigation with NMO.

Advance registration is not necessary but is VERY HELPFUL to ensure that enough course maps and other materials are printed ahead of time. New course maps are prepared for every event.

For details please see www.nm-orienteers.org or contact Una Smith (una.smith@att.net).

Location: Albuquerque
Date: Saturday, November 20, 2010
Time: 9:00am-2:00pm MST
Duration: 5 hours
www.nm-orienteers.org

A graphic for a winter skills training retreat. It features a blue background with white snowflake patterns and wavy lines. The text is in purple and white.

**Philmont Scout
Ranch, Cimarron**

**Winter Skills
Training Retreat**

**January 29 & 30,
2011**

**Contact Nate Lay for
more information.**

New Mexico Search & Rescue Council 2009-2010 Board of Directors Roster

Name/Address	Board Position	E-mail Address
Phyllis Wright <i>Mesilla Valley SAR</i>	Chair/President	pwright@nmsarc.org
Tom Bemis <i>Eddy County SAR</i>	Vice Chair/Vice President Mapping Program Liaison	tbemis@nmsarc.org
Cindy Oliver <i>Sandia Search Dogs</i>	Secretary	coliver@nmsarc.org
Robert Cort <i>Sandia Search Dogs</i>	Treasurer	rcort@nmsarc.org
Brian Hamilton <i>Cibola/McKinley County ARES</i>	Membership Chair	bhamilton@nmsarc.org
John Gallegos <i>Organ Mountain Technical Rescue Squad</i>	Field Certification Representative ESCAPE Chair	jgallegos@nmsarc.org
Eric Hjelmfelt <i>Santa Fe Search and Rescue Group</i>	Training Chair	ehjelmfelt@nmsarc.org
Pat Seiser <i>Eddy County SAR</i>	Newsletter Editor Media Liaison	pseiser@nmsarc.org
Gerry Runte <i>Santa Fe Search and Rescue Group</i>	SAR Review Board Liaison Newsletter	grunte@nmsarc.org
Nate Lay <i>Philmont SAR</i>	Fundraising Chair	nlay@nmsarc.org
David McLauchlan <i>Civil Air Patrol</i>	Training Directory	djmaclauchlan@nmsarc.org
Peter Olson	SAR Resource Officer	peter.olson@state.nm.us

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.