

NMSARC NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011



Fall 2011 Highlighted Team

Bernalillo County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Search and Rescue Team

The Bernalillo County ARES/SAR Team consists of licensed amateur radio operators who provide communications support from their home stations for SAR missions in the Albuquerque area (NMSP District 5) and for Albuquerque-based teams deployed on missions elsewhere in the state. The team performs an extended dispatch function and is responsible for calling out resources requested by the incident commander and directing them to incident base. The team maintains communications with incident base, and occasionally with field teams, throughout a mission, and assists with needs such as providing weather forecasts and obtaining fresh command staff and additional resources for missions that extend into multiple operational periods.



Message from the NMSARC Chair

Greetings NMSAR Volunteers,

This year's hunting season has been a slow one for our search and rescue volunteers. However, SAR is one business where it is good to have no business. While it has been a slow season out in the field, your Council Board has been busy working on several important tasks.

ESCAPE 2012 was originally set and BOOKED at The Glorieta Conference Center. However, Glorieta has canceled most of its contracts, and reduced its operations; see the article below. This left the Board scrambling to find a new, suitable location for next year's ESCAPE. Having limited options statewide, and running out time, we were able to secure the beautiful Buffalo Thunder Resort, in Pojoaque, NM. The resort is the perfect place to host our conference. This will be by far the best ESCAPE ever! So, mark your calendars for May 4th-6th, 2012, and be prepared to attend this impressive event. For more information, visit our website (nmsarc.org), or contact our ESCAPE chair, John Gallegos (escape@nmsarc.org).

Unfortunately, we regret to announce that Gerry Runte, will be unable to continue serving on the Council Board. His guidance and experience will be missed. We would like to thank Gerry for all of his selfless work and the dedication he invested in ensuring a successful Council. Subsequently, the Board has elected Eric Hjelmfelt as our new Vice Chair/Vice President. Gerry's absence leaves a vacancy on the Board of Directors. We are actively seeking a motivated, qualified volunteer to fill this position. The Board is also seeking nominations for all three Board positions that will be up for election during our general meeting at this upcoming ESCAPE. Please send your nominations to chair@nmsarc.org.

The Board has also been hard at work continuing with our commitment in helping provide a number of high quality trainings for our members. Future trainings include Utilization of Specialized Resources, Winter Skills, Avalanche Awareness, A Mock Search (Philmont Scout Ranch), Navigation, Riverbank Search Techniques, Riggers Field Day and SAR Leadership. There will also be several opportunities to attend ICS Training, ham radio license classes and exams, and numerous trainings held by member teams. Please check the calendar on the NMSARC website for a schedule of all training opportunities.

We have also been vigilant in our attempts in having the SAR Review Board reconvened. The State has begun accepting applications for the vacant Review Board positions, and we hope to see progress in the very near future.

The end of the year brings with it holidays, family and friends, and the renewal of membership to the Council. The 2012 Membership Packets can be found at <http://nmsarc.org/membership/membership.html>. Teams can also expect to receive a packet via mail and e-mail in the upcoming weeks.

I would like to remind you that the NMSARC Board works for YOU, our members! Is there something you would like for the Council to accomplish? Does your team need training or guidance? Please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to ensure the most successful and professional search and rescue organization possible.

And, as always, THANK YOU for all that you do! Your commitment "So that others may live," is appreciated all around!

Safe Searching,

Brian Hamilton
Chair, NMSARC

From the Desk Bob Rodgers, NMSAR Resource Officer (RO)

The RO issued the following statement on Nov. 8, 2011: "NMSAR Field Certifications will not be held until further notice to allow this office to evaluate the current program and repair inconsistencies in the program."

NMSARC Welcomes a New SAR Team

We are pleased to welcome a new team to the Council. Three Rivers Search and Rescue is located in the Farmington/Bloomfield area. Three Rivers SAR includes Ground, Horse, and ATV resources.

ESCAPE 2012 Update – **CHANGE OF VENUE**

The Bad News

After working out details, signing the contract, and paying the deposit to the Glorieta Conference Center we received notification in September that the establishment was transitioning to a reduced operations mode, meaning they were canceling all contracts. Here is the statement issued at Glorieta's fall trustee meeting.

Fall Trustee Meeting, September 2011 Statement on Glorieta Conference Center

On Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2011, the trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources approved a recommendation to reduce operations at Glorieta Conference Center (Glorieta, N.M.). Effective Nov. 1, 2011, the center, will offer only summer events for student groups. Centrifuge Camps and Collegiate Week will continue as usual. Follow this link for more information: <http://glorietaconferencecenter.org/statement>

This turn of events left the NMSARC with the daunting task of finding another suitable location virtually at the last minute (There is a lot of competition for conference sites in New Mexico, especially when one of them suddenly cancels all commitments!). All of the secondary sites we had considered prior to deciding on Glorieta had been booked by the time we received the cancellation notice from Glorieta. As a result, the NMSARC scoured the state looking for a location that could serve our purposes. We prefer a Northern location for 2012, we need it to be large enough to serve our classroom and assembly needs, and we want a facility that can keep us together for meals and lodging, since we believe camaraderie and networking are just as important as first-rate SAR education.

THE GOOD NEWS

ESCAPE 2012 will be held in Pojoaque, New Mexico

May 4-6, 2012 at the

Beautiful and Amazing Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino



The Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino has extended its hand to us with great warmth and an impressive venue. We are confident that we have raised the bar for ESCAPE yet again.

The Financial Reality

The last thing the board wants to do is hit you with surprises later so we'll keep you informed. The fact is that the Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino is more expensive than the Glorieta Conference center. To

help offset this, we participated in some aggressive negotiations with Buffalo Thunder and they have agreed to reduce NMSARC's required minimum commitment for food, beverages, and rooms. In addition, at the NMSARC October 2011 board meeting, the board unanimously decided to help subsidize the cost of ESCAPE from the profits made over the last couple of years. Our goal is to make ESCAPE affordable and informative. We will work hard to find new sponsors for ESCAPE to reduce costs as much as possible, but as it stands now, the fee per person will be about \$110. This is still a great deal for 3 days of instruction and 3 catered meals. **We are doing our best and working to have the fee further reduced by the time registration forms are posted in January.** We encourage you to ask your employers to help sponsor the event. (You may be surprised at how willing an employer will be when they know their donation goes to NM Search and Rescue). Also remember that the SAR Resource Officer has announced that ESCAPE 2012 will not receive a mission number so fuel expenses will not be reimbursed.

So mark your calendars now. ESCAPE 2012 promises to be an impressive conference. Highlights and features so far include:

- 1. Key Note Speaker Secretary Gordon E. Eden, Jr**
- 2. Qualified Search and Rescue Instructors and longer classroom sessions**
- 3. Five-Star accommodations and amenities**
- 4. Two impressive catered banquet style buffets**
- 5. One extravagant sit down plated dinner**
- 6. And Much, Much, More!!!**

Your comments are welcome. We will see you at ESCAPE 2012.

Visit www.nmsarc.org and click on the ESCAPE tab for continuously updated information.

Visit <http://www.buffalothunderresort.com/index.cfm> for information on the Buffalo Thunder Resort, Spa, and Casino.

NMSARC Board/Team Liaisons

The Board of Directors decided during its June 2011 meeting, that in order to grow we will try to encourage more teams to join the Council and to improve our interaction with individual teams. In order to do this, we are using the list of teams that are recognized by the State Resource Officer. We have taken the list from the Resource Directory, and assigned a Board member to act as liaison to each team. As your personal point of contact your team liaison can answer questions about the council internal administration, general SAR management, and interface with the

NM SAR Resource Office. Our goal is to ensure all teams have routine contact with the council and that the council is aware of your concerns and appreciations.

<p>Brian Hamilton chair@nmsarc.org AMRC Cibola SAR NM Mounted SAR EEA Ultra-Light, Chapter 118-Route 66 Flyers Atalaya SAR Three Rivers SAR Northern Snow-Drift Breakers SAR Santa Fe County Sheriff's Posse Herb Kincey</p> <p>Cindy Oliver secretary@nmsarc.org Sandia Search Dogs Pajarito Ski Patrol and K9 SAR K9 SAR, Dolores, CO Amarillo Alliance of Search K9's Mountain Canine Corp</p> <p>Robert Cort treasurer@nmsarc.org Dona Ana County SAR Luna County SAR Grant County SAR</p> <p>Tom Bemis mapping@nmsarc.org Chaves County Off-Road SAR</p> <p>Patricia Seiser nmsarnews@nmsarc.org Eddy County SAR</p>	<p>John Gallegos escape@nmsarc.org Organ Mountain Technical Rescue Squad D-4 SAR Support Alamogordo SAR White Mountain SAR</p> <p>Eric Hjelmfelt pio@nmsarc.org Santa Fe ARES Los Alamos Amateur Radio Club Los Alamos Auxiliary Fire Brigade Rocky Mountain SAR Sangre De Cristo SAR Del Norte, Inc.</p> <p>Joe San Filippo joe.sanfilippo@nmsar.org Mesilla Valley SAR Socorro SAR Sierra County Sheriff's Posse Catron County SAR</p> <p>Larry Zentner training@nmsarc.org Civil Air Patrol, NM Wing NM SAR Support Team Bernalillo County ARES McKinley County SAR United SAR of Montezuma</p> <p>Nate Lay training_directory@nmsarc.org Philsar Angel Fire SAR Taos SAR San Miguel SAR</p>
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NMSARC Board – Team Liaisons

NMSAR License Plate Update

We are very pleased to announce that the New Mexico SAR license plate is much closer to becoming a reality! The final design shown below was approved by the New Mexico DMV and a test run of six plates has been produced to confirm manufacturability of the design. The DMV now has to write new data into its system to initiate a final application process so the plate can be approved for distribution to the public. We will keep you posted as to when the new plates are available, and the cost (part of which flows back to NMSARC!). Watch the NMSAR e-mail forum and www.nmsarc.org website.



New Ham Radio Repeater Map

You can now find our new New Mexico ham Repeater map on the NMSARC website under the Resources link. The direct link is: <http://nmsarc.org/resources/repeaters.html>. In addition to operating frequencies the interactive map includes repeater locations (address if applicable and GPS coordinates) and general comments regarding coverage and usage. The map is a work in progress so please send any corrections or additions to Gary Cascio (gary.cascio@nmsar.org) or Ralph Milnes (ralphmilnes@gmail.com).

Training Schedule and Training News from the NMSAR Resource Officer

Upcoming Training Snapshot from the NMSARC Calendar

Please check the Calendar link (www.nmsarc.org) frequently for updates as well as for contact information and other important event details.

Nov. 28, 29, 30	ICS 300 Opportunity	Clovis
Dec. 1, 2	ICS 400 Opportunity	Clovis
Dec. 3	Utilization of Special Resources	Albuquerque
Dec. 10	Day Search Techniques	Albuquerque

Training News

New FC/SC Table Top Exercise training is currently in the planning phase. This one day training will consist of FCs and SCs looking at past missions and developing mission objectives and plans to solve the scenarios. Objectives include enhancement of knowledge and improvement of skills for ICS personnel, and SAR mission analysis to develop lessons learned for future missions.

2012 – 2013 Tentative Schedule

March 24 & 25, 2012	Air Operations Branch Director	Location TBA
March 3 & 4, 2012	Section Chief Course – North	Location TBA
June 9 & 10, 2012	NMSAR Summer Training -	
June 9: PIO		
June 9: SAFETY		
June 9: FTL		
June 9: COMM Unit Leader		
June 10: Field Exercise, including possible mock mission		
October 22 & 23, 2012	Section Chief Course – South	Carlsbad
November 9, 10 & 11, 2012	Search Management System, FC School part 1	Santa Fe
November 17 & 18, 2012	NMSAR Field Coordinator School part 2	Santa Fe
March 9 & 10 2013	Section Chief Course – North	Location TBA
March 23 & 24, 2013	Air Operations Branch Director	Location TBA

June 15 & 16, 2013 June 15: PIO June 15: SAFETY June 15: FTL June 15: COMM Unit Leader June 16: Field exercises, including possible mock mission	NMSAR Summer Training	Location TBA
October 22 & 23, 2013	Section Chief Course – South	Carlsbad
November 8, 9 & 10 2013	Search Management System, FC School, part 1	Santa Fe
November 16 & 17 2013	NMSAR Field Coordinator School, part 2	Santa Fe

Contact Bob Rodgers for additional information of any of these training opportunities.

SAR Resource Officer
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505-827-9228 - Office
505-690-8452
Robert.Rodgers@state.nm.us

Five-Year Planning

Brian Hamilton
President, NMSARC

The New Mexico Search and Rescue Resource Office has arranged a meeting with the purpose of beginning the process of developing a 5 year plan for NM Search and Rescue. This meeting will include 19 search and rescue personnel from throughout the state, and consists of Area Commanders, Field Coordinators, SAR Review Board Nominees, PACE Chairman, NMSARC representatives, and the Resource Officer. This session will be to begin the process of developing long range goals for New Mexico SAR. Main topics will include SAR Operations, SAR Operation Management, Administration, Equipment, Training, Certification and other topics as needed.

For your New Mexico Search and Rescue Council to properly represent and communicate your ideas, needs and desires for the future of NMSAR, we need to hear from you. How do you feel about the topics of SAR Operations, SAR Operation Management, Administration, Equipment, Training, and Certification? What ideas do you have? What would you like to see changed/improved?

The date set for this meeting is November 18th, 2011. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any other Board member regarding the issue. We want to fairly represent the teams and be the voice of the New Mexico Search and Rescue volunteers.

Thank you for all that you do!

Social Media and SAR

Eric Hjelmfelt

Social media, in its many forms, has become a familiar and accepted element of modern life. Tools such as FaceBook, Twitter, LinkedIn, FourSquare, Google+, Tumblr, and numerous blogs and websites provide new environments for traditional conversations, as well as for new kinds of social interactions. Each comes with its own unique conventions and practices, adapting to the nature of the tool itself and the community that uses it.

During SAR missions, the most obvious place where we need to be aware of social media is as part of the investigation. Take a careful look at the simulated FaceBook page below. What if Carrie Lovato returned from her business trip Monday evening and found her husband had not returned? To try to figure out what the subject might have intended, we interview whatever family and friends we can reach. A standard question needs to be: "Did the subject use FaceBook or Twitter, or anything like that, that might tell us where he was going?" Always ask the subject's friends or family to check the likely places.

In this case, the subject did say on FaceBook what he intended, but that won't always be the case. On FaceBook and Google+ you have another option. You can have a friend of the subject "post to his wall" a question, asking the rest of his friends if he had discussed with any of them what his plans might have been.

There might even be a few places where FourSquare checkins might tell you something useful. Did the subject checkin at a ski rental shop or a hunting supply store? He might have asked them for suggestions or directions. They might remember the clothes he was wearing or which gear he rented or purchased. Did he checkin at a bar or a movie theater at the time the Reporting Party thought he was out hiking?

In Colorado, there is an active community of blogs where people share information about trails and conditions of the 14ers and interesting 13ers. ICs there now first look to those blogs for clues, before they leave home. Are you aware of any such communities existent in your area? In between missions, perhaps you should be a regular participant in those communities' conversations. If yours is a familiar voice, there, they will know you, and you will know who, among them, is experienced or reckless. If several people are raving about a different route up a cliff face, you can expect more novices to try it out. This summer, a new

trail opened on Wheeler Peak, less erosion-prone, but a bit longer. If you are an "influencer," you can steer people toward those better trails. Look at sites like Summit Post, for ideas.

The "social" element of social media can be helpful to us in other ways. New Mexico is so large, geographically, that it is very difficult for our SAR community to get together informally. Such gatherings, though, are essential venues for us to share experiences and techniques and new ideas for gear or clothing. Our annual ESCAPE conference is the primary way we do that today, but the internet knows nothing about distances. A person in Taos can interact with someone in Carlsbad as easily as with someone in Angel Fire. Through these tools we can build a social community that is stronger, more unified, better informed, and more cohesive than was ever before possible.

The most important venue for us to do this is our Google Group: NMSAR-forum. If you are not a part of that conversation, then you are missing out on the latest news and opportunities, and we are missing out on your insights and contributions. You can configure that tool to either send you an e-mail once a day when there are new posts or you can have it send you an e-mail immediately when anything happens. The former is better if you are not really an e-mail person, but the latter is necessary if you want to carry on any kind of conversation.

Closely related to that are the two New Mexico SAR-related FaceBook pages. NMSAR is the community conversation page, and would be perfect for sharing news and ideas or asking general questions. NMSARC is the Council's page, and is reserved for official announcements and press releases, so I suggest the former for most uses.

Lastly, I maintain a Twitter account, @NMSARC. Through it I regularly interact with a number of city and county Emergency Managers, and with SAR teams and individuals worldwide. I learn a lot from them, and sometimes I can contribute. One example is that, from NASAR, I heard about the Hug-a-Tree program for elementary school wilderness safety education. Now, I am looking into bringing it (back) to New Mexico, lead by the Council. Another example is to look at @SARGlobal1, which is an elite Canadian SAR team that will deploy anywhere in their home province or surrounding provinces -- what we might call a Type I resource. Perhaps we should form something like that, which could go into Colorado, Arizona, or Texas as needed. The idea is interesting, and, without Twitter, it would have never occurred to me.

Another use of the Twitter is something similar to HAM radio DXing (long-distance communication). I have made contact with SAR teams in England, Scotland, Canada, France, Italy, Greece, Croatia, Peru, Columbia, and Australia, as well as all over the United States. It is very convenient: when I see a tweet in, say, Croatian, I can hit a button, and the computer will usually be able to translate it into English for me. When the British ICS test site went down, a team in South Wales asked me for a pointer to our FEMA site, so they could continue their education. It is amazing how SAR is, really, becoming a global village.

The rise of social media has changed everyday life in many unexpected ways, so it is no surprise that it would affect the practice of Search and Rescue. It is up to us to figure out how to use this new set of tools.



Sam Lovato

Looking for ideas. Saturday is my 30th B-day, and Carrie will be gone on a business trip. My plan is to solo camp somewhere and get up in time for a spectacular sunrise. Where should I go to celebrate a third of a lifetime?

Like · Comment · Wednesday at 7:24pm · ✨

👍 3 people like this.



Cam Cowan Have you been to Hermit's Peak? From the top, you can see all the way to Texas.

Wednesday at 7:44pm · Like



John Parker There are couple of nice spots on Raven's Ridge.

Wednesday at 7:44pm · Like



Carrie Lovato You be safe. We want you around for the remaining two thirds.

Wednesday at 8:30pm · Like



Tomas Vigil Lake Kath is good. Can't beat the top of SF Baldy for a 360 deg view.

Wednesday at 9:05pm · Like



Trey Lovato Pecos Baldy Lake, and then either E Pecos Baldy or Trailrider's Wall for the sunrise. Last time I was there, I saw hundreds of elk in the early morning.

Wednesday at 9:06pm · Like



Sam Lovato Thanks for the ideas everybody. I decided on Kath & Baldy. I'll try out my new headlamp. Should be posting pics Sat PM.

Thursday at 7:21pm · Like



Trey Lovato Have fun. Look forward to seeing them.

Thursday at 9:00pm · Like



Trey Lovato Waiting for pics.

Saturday at 7:34pm · Like



Trey Lovato Bro?

Sunday at 3:05pm · Like

Write a comment...

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