

Minutes: New Mexico Search and Rescue Council

Board meeting 10/8/2011, Las Cruces

Prepared by Eric Hjelmfelt

Present: Brian Hamilton, Joe San Filippo, Nate Lay, Bob Cort, Tom Bemis, John Gallegos, Eric Hjelmfelt.

Absent: Pat Seiser, Gerry Runte, Cindy Oliver, Larry Zentner.

I. Meeting called to order at 18:03 by Brian

II. Minutes from last meeting

... were reviewed and approved via email.

III. Chair Report (Brian) on meeting with Bob Rogers

SAR Review Board has not yet reformed, and they believe that it is out of hands of the State Police, and awaiting action by Boards and Commissions. They have sent out a call for applicants, so there is some, slow progress.

Some believe that legally the SRB should be able to continue meeting with existing members, as their terms do not actually expire until they have been replaced. The SP believe differently, hence not meetings.

Brian intends to keep pressing, as this is important to our members and member teams.

Decisions about State reimbursement for ESCAPE/Missions, are entirely up to the Resource Officer. We do not expect to have reimbursement for ESCAPE this year.

The RO says that policies on Command & General Staff qualification and certification are still under development.

In November, Tom and Brian and other FCs and ACs will meet with RO concerning a 5-year plan for New Mexico SAR.

CoSAR cards as a voluntary fundraiser was discussed. Maybe push through Legislator. Joe will research this possibility, with help from John.

Brian wants us to be more visible and to focus on training. Wants deadlines and commitments for what we agree to. More communication.

IV. Treasurers Report: (Bob)

Total balance of all accounts was \$31,916.91, with \$19,288.91 in the ESCAPE account.

Bob compiled cash-flow statements for all accounts to help with planning.

Motion to approve by John, seconded by Nate, passed unanimously.

V. Committee Reports

V. (A) ESCAPE Report (John)

Glorieta went out of business and will be refunding our deposit. We are watching to see if the refund check actually clears. (Hasn't yet.) Puts us in a huge bind.

Current best offer is from Buffalo Thunder, same price as we were offered from Ghost Ranch, but with more modern facilities and much more room. He estimated our registration fee would have to be around \$115 per person. John and Gerry worked out a detailed budget. John listed a variety of cost-saving ideas to help control the total cost. It is an excellent venue, but more expensive than where we have been in the past. Unfortunately, at this late date, just about everywhere is already booked.

Joe moved to accept the Buffalo Thunder proposal, seconded by Nate. Passed unanimously. John will follow up with final negotiations and is authorized to sign a contract.

Bob moved to set the early-registration member fee at \$110, nonmember \$125, and the late fees at \$125/\$140. Seconded by Joe, passed unanimously, after much discussion, with the understanding that the savings from previous ESCAPEs will need to subsidize the 2012 one.

V. (B) Training Report (Eric and Brian)

Cibola SAR is leading 3 basic trainings for us this fall, that they have opened up to the statewide SAR community. All are listed on our calendar.

Brian also put on the calendar several ICS 300 opportunities.

Brian is organizing a multidisciplinary training for IB staff and field teams to learn how to work with differing kinds of resources, such as dogs, ATVs, the Dive Team, etc. It will be the first weekend in December in Albuquerque.

Eric is organizing an avalanche safety and beacon transponder class, hosted by Santa Fe SAR. It is expected to be the third weekend in December.

Nate is organizing a smaller mock search in Philmont in January, for area teams.

Tom is organizing a "Rigorous" field day, practicing rigging and high-angle scenarios, for next spring in Carlsbad.

We really appreciate what Cibola SAR has done, and we want to encourage teams to occasionally open up their monthly trainings to the wider NMSAR community.

V. (C) Membership Report (Brian)

A newly formed mounted SAR team in Farmington has joined the Council. Brian and Supra will be visiting them in a few weeks to run a basic SAR skills and expectations workshop.

Membership packets are ready to go out.

Website is updated to reflect just our teams, so it will no longer list other state resources.

V. (D) Newsletter Report (Joe)

Next issue will be out by the end of November.

John thought of adding “spotlight teams” to be featured in each month’s website and newsletter.

In parallel, Joe wants to add regular to team highlights, to profile one or two teams every issue. Board members are to contact their liaison teams for input.

Eric will provide a Trainings list, Brian, a note from President, and Joe expects from the Board other articles.

V. (E) Training Directory (Nate)

Still not gone anywhere.

Nate is going to begin seriously recruiting to populate it.

John sent ESCAPE list as a starter for seeding the directory.

V. (F) Website Report (Brian)

John found lots of issues, which Dick Wagner quickly fixed.

Bob moved that we pay for Dick to put two maps on the website for

1. geographically, where are all our teams.
2. geographically, where are the useful repeaters.

Seconded by Eric, approved unanimously.

V. (G) SAR Review Board Update (Brian)

(Already covered in section III.)

V. (H) Mapping Program (Tom)

Nothing much has changed.

Tom would like to see, on our website, data files for overlay on computer mapping programs. Examples include land ownership categories, repeater coverage, all the highway mile markers, burn areas.

We discussed other things to put in the resource page of our website. SAR overlays and training materials will be first.

VI. Old Business

VI. (A) License Plate (Brian, for Gerry)

Has been submitted and no initial objections were raised. We have preliminary approval, and are working through the process.

VI. (B) FaceBook Page (Brian)

Page is live and ready.

The NMSARC FaceBook page is for our official communications

The NMSAR FaceBook page is a friend, and we often cross-post to both. It is more for discussions and ideas, and materials that seem to be of interest to the NMSAR community.

VI. (C) ID Badges (Brian, for Larry)

We discussed this idea last meeting, and Larry volunteered to follow up on it.

It turns out that Rogers is already working on it, so we are shelving our effort.

VI. (D) NMSARC Cross-Band Repeater (Tom)

The prototype is together in its final form and functioning well, a few more tweaks and we will be ready for roll-out.

The State is pursuing funding sources to place one in each district.

VII. New Business

VII. (A) Goals and Directions for the Year ahead (Brian)

We need to get more visible, and promote more what we have been doing.

We need better follow through. We need to set aside the distractions of what is going on, or not going on, in Santa Fe.

VII. (B) Board Member Recruitment (Brian)

Gerry resigned from the Board, for Personal and work commitments, so we need to replace him. By our bylaws, the Board will fill the vacancy by a vote of at least 7 of the remaining members. This will be conducted via email, before the next meeting.

Pat has missed two meetings, so if she misses a third, she will be replaced. (Later: She apologized for missing the meeting, and promises to be at the next one.)

Gerry was Vice President, so the position needs to be refilled, and probably shouldn't be someone totally new. Eric nominated himself to be VP, seconded by John. Passed unanimously.

Eric proposed we look into forming a state All-Stars elite SAR team that could go anywhere, even into neighboring states or Mexico. This would be modeled after one in Ontario. He will bring this up on the forum and on FaceBook, to see if there is any interest.

Eric suggested we form (re-form) a Hug-A-Tree safety outreach, statewide, to teach elementary school aged children what to do if they are lost in the wilderness. This is a program developed by NASAR that has been around for several years. He proposed we buy a DVD of Hug-A-Tree to investigate (\$30).
Approved without objection.

VIII. Next Meeting.

Next meeting Jan 14th in Albuquerque.10:00am. Location TBD.

Motion to adjourn from Joe, seconded by Nate, passed unanimously at 22:00.