

From: Eric Hjelmfelt <eeh@altair.com>
Date: April 13, 2010 4:20:32 PM MDT
To: Gary Cascio <design@latenitegrafix.com>
Subject: **NMSARC nomination**

NMSARC Board members,

I wish to submit my name for consideration for the next term of the New Mexico Search and Rescue Council Board.

I have been actively involved with Santa Fe Search and Rescue for three years, almost exclusively as a ground pounder. During that time, I have benefitted from extensive training opportunities, both those sponsored by the team, and those sponsored by the state organization. Since Santa Fe SAR conducts some form of training twice a month, I can attest to the diversity of skills that contribute to successful search and rescue operations. I have lost count of the number of missions that I responded for, but they include some of the most visible and controversial ones, such as the Encino lost baby, the small plane near the Sandia electronics cluster, and last year's Rio Grande search and the 606 mission, where I was on team 1, already in the field, when the crash happened.

I have hiked and camped extensively around the northern portion of the state. My background includes five years volunteering with the Missouri Red Cross, helping with disaster relief, mostly assisting paramedics. Also, I was, a long time ago, an Eagle Scout. I became field certified at the 2007 ESCAPE.

Currently, I am a computer programmer, working for a high-tech engineering firm based in Detroit for the last 17 years. I work from home with very flexible hours.

Why I want to join the NMSAR Council is to contribute to the educational and coordination responsibilities. I have worked alongside teams from all over the northern part of the state, as well as police, National Guard, and volunteer fire personnel, and can see that many teams are not nearly as well-trained or equipped as they should be to safely go out into a blizzard or up a scree slope searching for or retrieving a subject. There are things the SARC can do to improve that. I see that many teams are suffering from a loss of interest, because there are long dry spells with no missions in their area. Besides training, better coordination with the state and local police might help with that enthusiasm, as well as presentations at schools,

churches, and community groups.

What I would bring to the board are my organizational, writing, and computer skills, and teaching experience in a variety of contexts. I am comfortable with public speaking and with the advocacy roles of meeting with politicians and their staffs, and analyzing and commenting on proposed legislation.

Thank you for your consideration ...

Eric Hjelmfelt (eeh@altair.com)