

**New Mexico Search and Rescue Council  
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting  
June 5, 2010**

The meeting was held at the Tijeras Ranger Station Conference, Tijeras, NM

Attending: Dave Baldrige, Tom Bemis, Robert Cort, Brian Fuller, Tony Gaier, John Gallegos, Brian Hamilton, Eric Hjelmfelt, Nate Lay, Cindy Oliver, Patricia Seiser, Richard Swartz and Phyllis Wright. Absent: Joe Bigley, Gary Cascio, and Gerry Runte

- I.**     **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Tom Bemis at 10:05.
  
- II.**     **Introduction:** Introductions were made by all the board members.
  
- III.**    **Minutes from Last Meeting:** The minutes of the April 10, 2010, Board Meeting had been approved by e-mail on May 5, 2010.
  
- IV.**    **Treasurer's Report:** The current account balances are (ESCAPE account \$30,476<sup>74</sup>, ING Direct \$5,245.<sup>12</sup>, Checking \$1,843.<sup>28</sup>, Savings \$3,308.<sup>04</sup>). Philmont has not sent a final bill for ESCAPE which is approximately \$13,000. The report includes a list of transactions since ESCAPE. Motion to accept treasurer's report made by Tony, Phyllis Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved unanimously.
  
- V.**     **Committee Reports**
  - A. Training:** Phyllis discussed the water clinic that occurred at Caballo Lake. There were ten (10) K9s from three (3) member teams. There were eight (8) NMSP divers present for the training. Part of the training was on the lake and the other occurred on parts of the river. Media coverage of the event was done by the El Paso TV station. The cave rescue training will be held June 19 and 20 at Fort Stanton. Tom discussed the events and training that will be occurring through the weekend. Approximately 30 people have signed up and will be attending. There is a \$35 fee for participants. The training will be open to all people interested in cave rescue. Phyllis has been working with the BLM for summer training for August near Socorro.
  
  - B. ESCAPE:** (2010) Tony reported that there were a couple of no shows for ESCAPE. The board discussed reimbursement requests by these people. It was agreed to put a disclaimer on next year's registration form. NMSARC still needs to pay for food and lodging for the people who did not show. It appears that ESCAPE will be positive by about \$900. \$477 was made in fundraising and \$927 was made in merchandise sales. The bills for the merchandise purchased from Cafepress have not been submitted. So far Tony has only received positive feedback. Attendance was approximately 150 people. Robert Cort made a motion to not reimburse any no-shows for ESCAPE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat, approved unanimously.
  
  - C. Membership:** Phyllis reported that there have not been any changes in the number of team members. The changes to the web page listing member teams are easier to designate as well as make updates. New team liaison assignments will be made soon.

- D. Newsletter / Public Relations:** Dave tried to get newsletters out twice a year in the spring and fall. Dave said that Gary did an excellent job in the graphical design and layout of the newsletter and hopes he can continue to assist. Dave discussed how to implement the speaker's bureau. Currently the speaker's bureau application is only on the website and has not been promoted any other way. Dave discussed the SAR news forum and said that it would not be utilized by the press as a research tool and discussion board. It was discussed how to release information to the press during missions. Dave feels developing a form for missions and emailing out during the missions would aid in press releases.
- E. Mapping Program:** Repairs to the printer were done recently and cost \$527.73. The account balance is currently \$2,919.96.
- F. Website:** Nothing new to report. Gary has agreed to continue assisting with the webpage.
- G. Fundraising:** Nothing to report
- H. P.A.C.E.:** There will be a field certification exam in Roswell in June. The Area Commanders would like to see more exams across the state. Frank Mulholland has been cautious about the word *certification* in the title of **Field Certification** and its implications to liability to the state". He has been working closely with inspector Valverde on this issue. Meanwhile, John Gallegos will contact the teams directly and thru the forum to offer trainings as needed. He will also suggest a more visible "advertisement" on the NMSARC website offering Field Certification exams. NMSARC sells the additional Field Certification patches for \$5. The State still owes the council 44 patches for field certification that was conducted at ESCAPE 2009.
- I. SAR Review Board:** The following report was submitted via email by Gerry Runte: The board reached a consensus on recommendations on the 606 mission yesterday (after about 40 hours of meetings and conference calls). The board will reconvene in public session on the 24th where we formally vote to adopt the recommendations. At that time the program recommendations will be made public and they will be broadly disseminated. There will be several personnel recommendations, but those will remain confidential.

## **VI. Old Business**

- A. Toss Bag:** There is contention that dropping items from a helicopter will not be approved. On a motion by Phyllis, Tony 2<sup>nd</sup>, the toss bag program has been terminated.
- B. Radio Project:** Tom has gathered information on portable repeaters. There are concerns for the new narrow banding that will be coming up. Trans-peaters could be used with portable handheld radios. Currently some teams already own portable repeaters. Determining the locations of these will assist the council in determining the purchase and deployment location of new repeaters. The data radio project that Dave Clark proposed would be used for communications to the outside world. Tom has brought some radios and repeaters to the meeting and will have them to show after the meeting. Larry Zetner talked about the State Interoperability radio network

that is being setup. Additional radio frequencies could be added so it is programmed in and provides more flexibility.

## **VII. New Business**

- A. Insurance on Trainings:** Dave reported that he found out that on missions there is no liability coverage for the SAR team. Dave said that a team can get liability coverage for approximately \$750.
- B. PACE Requirement for teams in the field:** Currently the state is leery about requiring all SAR members being field certified. There was discussion that the council is not a regulatory group and should not require it. The council should however promote field certification exams and assist in the scheduling of exams. There are a number of companies that are willing to provide pro-deals to help purchase the gear with a savings. These pro-deals can assist new SAR members in the acquisition of equipment and gear. Some teams already require members to be field certified within a set time frame. NMSARC needs to promote field certification to the teams and encourage them to promote it to their team members.
- C. 2010-2011 Budget:** The approved 2010-2011 budget was distributed and discussed. There was a discussion on the line items on the budget
- D. ESCAPE 2011:** The date for ESCAPE in Ruidoso is set for May 13, 14 and 15, 2011. Phyllis investigated Bonita camp, and Inn of the Mountain Gods. The city of Ruidoso has given a discount for the room rental plus all the AV equipment is being donated. The breaks must be used thru the convention center. Approved caterers can only be used in the convention center. The fees for the entire facility will be approximately \$4,500. ESCAPE 2012 at Ghost Ranch is penciled in for May 4, 5 and 6 2012. John will check when the final notice has to be provided. More information will be distributed to the board members for further discussion with the approximate cost of the facility. Phyllis made a motion to sign contract for Ruidoso, 2<sup>nd</sup> Robert, approved unanimously.
- E. Board Elections:**
- i. Chair: Pat nominated Phyllis and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John.
  - ii. Vice-Chair: John nominated Tom, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat.
  - iii. Treasurer: John nominated Robert, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Phyllis.
  - iv. Secretary: Phyllis nominated Cindy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat.
  - v. Pat moved to close nomination. 2<sup>nd</sup> Phyllis. Richard 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pat made a motion to elect by acclamation Richard 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved unanimously.
  - vi. Committee Chairs: The following people have volunteered for these committees
    1. Training: Eric Hjelmfelt
    2. ESCAPE: John Gallegos
    3. Membership: Brian Hamilton
    4. Newsletter / PIO: Pat Seiser
    5. Mapping: Tom Bemis
    6. Website: Gary Cascio
    7. Fundraising: Joe Bigley / Nate Lay
    8. PACE: John Gallegos

9. SAR Review Board: Gerry Runte.

- F. **Retirees meeting with new board members:** People will meet after the meeting to go over the responsibilities and turn over any files.
- G. **NMSARC board meeting locations and schedule:** The next meeting will be August 21, 2010. Location to be determined.
- H. **Colorado mounted SAR:** Due to his absences at the last three board meetings, Phyllis will send Joe Bigley a letter regarding his attendance at meetings and to see if he still wants to remain on the board.

**VIII.** **Adjourn:** On a motion by Pat (2<sup>nd</sup> Nate), the meeting was adjourned at 12:35.

Submitted by:

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Brian Fuller, Secretary