

Agenda: New Mexico Search and Rescue Council
Saturday, February 19, 2011
Socorro, NM

Present: Tom Bemis, Eric Hjelmfelt , Bob Cort, Nate Lay, Pat Seiser, John Gallegos, David Laughlin, Cindy Oliver, Phyllis Wright, Gerry Runte, Brian Hamilton

Absent:

I. Call to Order: Phyllis called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM

II. Minutes from last meeting: Bob moves to approve last meeting's minutes. 2nd by Nate. Unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report: There is \$16276.03 in ESCAPE account; ING Direct account has \$5278.52; NMESC account has \$1915.66; Savings has \$1808.87. Nate moves to accept Treasurer's report. 2nd by Tom. Unanimously approved.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Training Reports:** Philmont training was successful.. There were 25 participants. Responses and feedback were largely positive; one suggestion was to spend more time to get to know other participants. Other feedback stated it would be helpful to have more hand-on practice. Unfortunately, there was not very much snow at the time of the training. Upcoming trainings include a Navigation Training March 12th in Las Cruces, Riverbank Training April 16th in Albuquerque, and ESCAPE in May. In August there will be a large mock search in ABQ. Brian in working with Tony Gaier from Cibola SAR on this mock search. This training will involve all aspects of search including technical, K9s, etc, plus practice in the changing of an Operational Period. In the future there will be training on plant identification. There is discussion of a potential Field Certification Trainings prior to some of the exam opportunities.

***It is suggested that each Committee Chair compile a folder of information that can be passed to the next Chair.

- B. ESCAPE Report:** The Keynote Speaker at ESCAPE is Secretary Gordon E. Eden, Secretary of the Department of Public Safety in New Mexico. There is a horse policy in place now for ESCAPE. John shared the following ESCAPE forms for approval: Registration, Horse policy/requirements, Canine policy/requirements, Training Schedule, Track leads, Invitations for the Governor, Suzanna Martinez, Mike Valverde, Resource Officer, and the new State Police Chief. We are still seeking sponsors and vendors. John is asking each Board member

to ask local businesses to donate food, supplies and contribution to the silent auction. We are also looking for a radio vendor. Nate will contact all previous sponsors from ESCAPE to ask for assistance. Brian volunteered to check with National Guard to get a climbing wall for ESCAPE. There will be a need to buy a plaque for the Ralph Dawdy award. A lunch and dinner will be provided at ESCAPE—details are still in the planning stages. A mission number and IC and all SC positions have been assigned. Phyllis asks each Board member to please contact Liaison teams and invite them personally to ESCAPE. Phyllis will invite other state agencies, including BLM, Park Service, Forest Service, CAP, EMS, Mountain Rescue Association, etc. Press releases are ready, and Pat will send them in timely manner.

- C. Membership Report:** 22 teams have renewed their membership out of 41 teams. Mailings were delayed by the expectation that teams would respond to the electronic application package. Brian has now mailed explanations and packages to teams that have not completed their applications. He plans to follow up with phone calls. After that time, the Board will be asked to contact their Liaison teams to encourage them to submit their renewals.
- D. Newsletter / Public Relations:** Pat has completed the Newsletter, and it is on the website. A quarterly newsletter is the goal. The next Newsletter will be published at the end of March. Pat encourages people to send photos for the newsletter. Training page is popular and will be continued.
- E. Training Directory:** David will send out invitations for members to volunteer as trainers via the training directory. We will advertise it in the newsletter and at ESCAPE.
- F. Website:** Pat has volunteered to be responsible to make sure that all names, documents, etc. are consistent with names on the website. It is proposed that acronyms that are used for search and rescue be defined on the web.
- G. Fundraising: Progress Reports:** Nate reports that he is following up on door prizes and is still working to find ways to raise funds for the Council. The board will give him suggestions for possible sponsors in their communities.
- H. Field Certification Report:** There was discussion about having a six hour training offered a few times a year prior to Field Certification Exams. This may help with new teams, especially. The program for

providing Field Certification Exams is very aggressive and continues to offer opportunities. We have 12-15 new evaluators.

- I. **SAR Review Board/Future:** There has not been a meeting since December, 2010. We have plans to contact the Governor's office to request
- J. **Mapping:** Maps are being ordered. The maps of are high quality. We do not have a current figure on the number of maps printed.

VI. Old Business

A. **Searcher Typing:** Phyllis will email more information on this.

B. **Meeting with Secretary Eden:** Gary Casio, Brian Fuller, Mike Valverde and Phyllis Wright met with Secretary Eden. They talked to him about SAR and SAR's relationship with DPS. They asked that the SAR community provide input in the hiring of a new Resource Officer. There will be a forum on Friday night at ESCAPE to talk about Secretary Eden's thoughts on Urban SAR.

C. **Urban SAR:** Grant \$ is available.

VII. New Business

A. **United World College:** Field Certification was cancelled until issues concerning ID numbers can be reconciled.

B. **State Trainings and Qualifications:** Summarized on NMSARC website.

C. **ESCAPE Instructor Stipends:** No changes.

D. **Ralph Dawdy Award:** Please think of nominees for this award and get them to Phyllis.

E. **New Board Members:** There will be 2 positions opened for nominations for the board this spring. Cindy will put a note on the forum and put together a ballot.

F. **Silent Auction:** Each member, please donate 2 items for the auction.

Next Board Meeting: The next board meeting will be at the convention center in Ruidoso on April 9th at 1:00pm.

VII. Adjourn: Tom moves to adjourn meeting. 2nd by Pat. Unanimously approved.