Canine Finds
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Join us at the 2013 National Search and Rescue Conference, May 29 through June 1st at the Sheraton Convention Center, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Click here for more information.
Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families of the three killed and 100 people injured during the recent bombings at the Boston Marathon finish line. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

From the Canine Committee Chair

Dear NASAR SAR Dog Community,

Spring seems to be coming very slowly this year but I am looking forward to its arrival and the training and opportunities it brings. I am particularly looking forward to the NASAR conference this year in Myrtle Beach. We have some amazing speakers this year along with a great preconference workshop scheduled. Kathy Holbert will be teaching a two day workshop on “Working the Trailing Canine”. She will also be presenting two sessions at the NASAR conference. One session will be about selecting an appropriate canine partner and the other will talk about her work in Iraq and Afghanistan with K-9 Strega. We have been trying for several years to get representatives from the FBI’s canine program for the conference canine track and this year we were successful. I am delighted to announce that Rex Stockham, FBI Canine Program Manager and Craig Schultz, FBI Forensic Canine Operations Specialist will both teach several sessions at this year’s conference. Sue Stejskal who authored “Death, Decomposition, and Detector Dogs: from science to scene” is also teaching several sessions. These are just some of the individuals speaking in the canine track this year and I feel we have managed to provide conference attendees the opportunity to learn from some of the premiere dog people in the country. I wish the best for everyone this season of workshops, seminars, and training opportunities and hope to see you in Myrtle Beach.

Ann Christensen
NASAR Canine Committee Chair

April is Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month
In a ceremony held April 5, 2013 at FBI Headquarters, Washington, DC, Director Robert S. Mueller III recognized the recipients of the 2012 Director’s Community Leadership Award. Southwest Panhandle Search and Rescue (SWPANSAR) nominated by the Mobile, Alabama FBI Division, was one of the 60 recipients. Co-founders Jen Morgan and Nancy Locke accepted the award on behalf of their team.

During their stay in Washington, Jen and Nancy were also able to tour the FBI K9 training center and Jen was asked to return and train with them. “This is quite the honor” says Jen. They also visited the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and met with Team Adam.

In addition, SWPANSAR developed the Morgan’s Vision program, in which members educate staff at nursing homes and assisted living facilities on how to respond if an Alzheimer’s patient or resident goes missing. SWPANSAR provides training on missing person behavior, facility lock-down procedures, and how to contain a missing person’s room in order to preserve fresh scent articles. The program operates in facilities throughout the Mobile, Alabama and Pensacola, Florida areas.

The organization is also a proud sponsor of the Watch, Whistle, and Wait program, which teaches children what to do if they get lost in the wilderness. Dogs are used in the program to help children learn how to safely approach a strange dog and what to do if they encounter a vicious animal. SWPANSAR has presented the program to more than 1,000 children in the Santa Rosa, Florida area.

Throughout the year, dedicated and selfless individuals and organizations make extraordinary contributions to their communities across the United States. The FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award recipients come from different backgrounds, different professional fields, and different parts of the country, and the issues they choose to focus on vary greatly. But they all have the same motivation—a desire to reach out to those in need and make their communities a safer place to live.

According to FBI Director Mueller, these leaders have demonstrated outstanding contributions to their local communities through service. The FBI is grateful for the work of each of these individuals and organizations on behalf of their communities.

Southwest Panhandle Search and Rescue
Receives 2012 FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award

Jen Morgan and Nancy Locke from Southwest Panhandle Search and Rescue receive the 2012 FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award from Director Robert Mueller III.
NASAR's Canine Committee has put together a Regional Workshop, May 1-5, 2013 in Flagstaff AZ. The workshop will include two 8 hour fieldwork classes for Area/Air Scent and HRD.

The following NASAR Certifications will be offered at a discounted $35 rate:
- HRD Land (other)
- HRD Land IV
- HRD Land III
- Canine SARTECH Area Search III
- Canine SARTECH Area Search II

Packet containing all required NASAR documents to should have already been sent to Cindy McArthur at mcfuzzykids@msn.com. If you have questions please call 928-308-0948.

Certification fees are at a reduced rate of $35 per test taken and will be collected at the event, please bring a check or money order made payable to NASAR.

Workshop is being sponsored by:
CCSSAR K9 Team
Flagstaff, AZ

Accomodations: Quality Inn, 2500 East Lucky Lane, Flagstaff, AZ (928) 226-7111.

Course Descriptions

Area/Air Scent Course
Instructor: Bryce Berry
This course will utilize classroom instruction and discussion on scent theory with different terrain, temperature and wind patterns. During field practicals the topics covered will be: short runaways, K9 behavior changes, Clicker, Treat, Toy and or praise/play reward systems. There will also be discussion around training to build endurance for long searches. See Bryce’s bio on following page.

HRD Course
Instructors: Ben Alexander and Tiffanie Turner
This course will utilize classroom instruction and discussion on reward systems and their importance to your dog’s overall performance. The instructors plan to focus on common areas of need such as reinforcement system foundation work, building commitment to odor and striving for a more solid final response. The course objectives will be individualized for each K9 team with the goal being improved overall performance. See Ben and Tiffanie’s bios on the following page.
Ben Alexander - B.S. Animal Science 1987, M.S. Animal Science 2009. Ben currently serves as a member of the NASAR K9 Committee and is a NASAR SARTECH II Evaluator, a K9 HRD SARTECH Lead Evaluator, and certified as a SARTECH II, K9 SARTECH II Wilderness Area, K9 SARTECH HRD Land, and K9 SARTECH Disaster HRD. Ben has also certified dogs with NAPWDA, NNDDA, and TASK. Ben is currently a PhD candidate in the department of Soil Science at Texas A&M University studying the post burial interval, grave soil, and interactions with HRD dogs and the environment. Ben's Master Thesis research was on search dog performance factors. Ben began training search dogs in Sept. 2000, and currently fields two certified operational dogs and has two dogs in training. Ben has served as an instructor for area search, HRD land and HRD water at several seminars, the NASAR national pre-conference workshop Tunica MS 2010, and has presented several classroom workshops at NASAR national conferences on training and selection of search dogs (2009, 2010, 2012). Ben is also employed with Dogs for Conservation as a trainer, assisting with the training of detector dogs for locating endangered species of both plants and animals.

Bryce Berry - Currently a member of the Cache County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue Unit. Bryce has participated in training and certifications with Utah Search Dog Association and for several years Bryce and K9 Sandy were members of Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs. Bryce has been a SAR geek for over 45 years, beginning as a Chinook Fire and Rescue member at a young age in Canada in 1968. His experience with working K9s began about 20 years ago with his current SAR K9 Sandy being the best. “Well, ok, maybe it was I that got better” says Bryce. They started certifications with Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs where they certified top level in Area, Water, Tracking and Avalanche. NASAR certifications started in Montana for Area, HRD in Hailey Idaho and Avalanche in SunValley Idaho. Bryce and K9 Sandy are currently certified NASAR Area 3,2, and 1, HRD and Avalanche. Bryce is a Lead Evaluator for SARTECH II. Bryce does a lot of training and safety K9 demos in the community including Cub and Scout Groups, Schools, Clubs and Community events. They teach a slightly modified NASAR Hug-A-Tree program using the video from NASAR and always end with a K9 demo which kids especially love. Bryce teaches and provides avalanche search K9 seminars as well as basic change of behavior classes. In classes they spend a lot of time learning about change of behavior using toys and treats and praise as reward and mix it up. Through the years Bryce has participated in over 100 incidents. Many high profile. “We continue to learn” say Bryce.

Tiffanie Turner - B.S. Biomedical Science 2007. Tiffanie began in search and recovery in 2004 and is currently a NASAR SARTECH II, K9 SARTECH HRD Land and a K9 Handler with Cen-Tex Search and Rescue. Tiffanie’s first SAR dog Fanta was awarded the honor of the 2010 NASAR K9 of the Year for her efforts in drowning recoveries. Tiffanie currently has two operational search dogs and has certified with NNDDA, NAPWDA, and NASAR. Tiffanie has many years of practical canine handling experience and behavioral modification expertise. Tiffanie has assisted and taught obedience classes and serves as her current teams problem solving training consultant. Tiffanie has served as an instructor for several land and water recovery seminars and at the NASAR 2010 preconference workshop. Tiffanie has also presented at the NASAR national conference on training methods (2010, 2012). Tiffanie is a member of CTSARCAM, Montgomery County SAR, Global Personnel Recovery Specialists, AMK9 Domestic Response Team, and The National Narcotics Detector Dog Association. Significant missions include hurricane Ike recovery efforts, multiple drowning recoveries, and homicides. Tiffanie currently serves as the head trainer at Dogs for Conservation, an organization training detector dogs to locate endangered species, both plant and animal.
Workshop will focus on the following topics:

- The right dog for the job
- Trailing scent theory for urban/hard surface work
- Equipment considerations
- K9 and handler conditioning
- First Aid considerations
- Reading the dog
- Scent Discrimination
- Scenario based training
- Foundation training

 Handlers need to bring the following equipment:

- Trailing lead - 15 to 20 feet (If an experienced handler and have longer, bring it)
- Good gloves
- Trailing harness that distributes the weight of the handler equally, without choking or pulling up into the armpits. Can be leather or high quality webbing
- High value reward--either toys or food
- Small backpack, fanny pack, or system for carry water (camelback) and some basic first aid gear
- Good shoes for hard pounding work on hard top

Instructor:

Kathy Holbert has over 20 years of experience training and handling working dogs. She began handling explosive, narcotics and patrol K-9s while working law enforcement and security in the Navy. Kathy has been active in canine search and rescue since leaving the Navy and has trained and handled multiple successful K-9 partners.

Kathy currently owns and operates Chiodo Kennels which is a boarding and training facility for working canines. Kathy has taught numerous seminars to law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and civilians in the U.S. and internationally. She is a recognized expert on both trailing and cadaver dogs.

In 2009 Kathy was deployed to Iraq as a civilian contractor where she and her K-9 Strega had several successful recoveries for the military.

Kathy is a Lead Evaluator for NASAR, a Master Trainer and Team Certification Official for Law Enforcement Training Specialists (LETS), and a Certification Officer for Law Enforcement/Security and Search and Rescue with Mountaineer Working Dog Association.