

SAR Dog News

April 2008

Published by the National Search Dog Alliance

Vol. 2, No. 4

The Voice of K-9 Search and Rescue @ n-sda.org

Founding members: K-9 Stryker, K-9 Thor, K-9 Beau, Eileen M. Nobles, Susan Bulanda, K-9 Roo, Leslie Godchaux, Brian R. Hendrickson, Continental Kennel Club, Inc., K-9 River, K-9 Persha, Jan Thompson, K-9 Cali



NSDA is Seeking Applicants for the Board

Persons interested in becoming members of the NSDA Board, please complete the application found at the end of the newsletter.

Although NSDA deals with all aspects of canine SAR, the organization operates like any other business or non-profit group. We need applicants who have personal knowledge of finance, marketing, advertising, public relations, publishing, secretarial skills and most of all, overall business and management experience. We are looking for people whose background tells us they can organize, delegate responsibility and oversee progress. The candidate should have a working knowledge of SAR dogs and canine SAR related issues.

This will be a “working board”. Each member is expected to take on responsibilities for some portion of the operation in order to keep our expenses to a minimum. The established Board attitude is one of openness and reaching out to our members for assistance with current projects. All Board positions are on a non-paid, volunteer basis which, according to our by-laws, run on two year terms.

Please be aware that our current Bylaws state that the term of office is for two years. It is our plan to add a ninth Director to the Board and increase terms to three years. This is necessary in order to be in compliance with the rest of our Bylaws which state that one third of our Directors will be elected each year.

In 2008 only, we will be adding a fourth candidate for a two year term in order to balance our re-election process. The winning fourth director will be determined by the highest ranking second place candidate from among all three regions.

If you would like to run for office, please complete the application found at the end of the newsletter, highlighting your non-canine expertise and your vision for the future of NSDA and send by May 1 to Art Wolff, Nominations Chair, at awolff1@leo.gov



Election Process

Only members in good standing as of April 15th are allowed to vote or run for Board positions.

The elections will be done by regions. Each region will have their own slate of nominees for the Board and will receive their own ballot with their slate of candidates from which to choose. The candidate in each region with the highest vote count will be placed on the Board. The fourth director will be selected from the highest ranking second place candidate from among all three regions.

Ballots will be mailed to voting members prior to May 15th. Members may cast their votes between May 15th and June 5th by mailing back their ballots. The winners and/or ties will be announced on June 15th. In the event of a tie, new ballots will be mailed to the voting membership of the affected region with the names of the runoff candidates and the date by which the ballot must be returned.

Directors shall be seated beginning with the commencement of New Business at the Quarterly Membership Meeting following the election and serve through Old Business at the Second Quarterly Membership Meeting two years hence.

Please see the application attached to the end of this newsletter and refer to the list of voting regions below to determine your region.

Region 1: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Pacific area.

Region 2: Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, Canada.

Region 3: Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Europe.

**Membership
Application Now
On-line**

Apply for NSDA membership now on our web page at www.n-sda.org.

There are three ways to pay membership dues: Pay Pal, credit card (there is a special button) and by checks using form at the end of this newsletter.



**Conference
Scholarship
Nominations
Deadline
Approaching**

The National Search Dog Alliance, working for the betterment of SAR, in conjunction with Alice Hanan in memory of K9 Stryker, will be offering two (2) scholarships to attend the NSDA Training Conference in September at Camp Atterbury in Indiana. The scholarships will include a one year membership in the NSDA, the cost of the conference and \$300.00 in travel expenses for each winning handler.

Readers are asked to nominate someone from their team or someone they know who is deserving of a scholarship to attend the NSDA Conference. The ideal candidate makes it to most training, most call outs, volunteers to organize activities, supports team members and fellow searchers and contributes to SAR in general but whose funds prevent them from attending training seminars. Submit the nominee's SAR history and circumstances in 750 words or less to Art Wolff at awolff1@leo.gov by May 1st.

Knowing others is wisdom; knowing yourself is enlightenment.

Lao Tzu

Conference Notes:



WE HAVE SHOWERS!

Efforts are being made to make shower stalls from PVC pipe and shower curtains for both the men's and women's shower

areas in the barracks.

NO DOG AT THE CONFERENCE?

Observers attending the conference courses without a dog would be permitted to attend classes, with meals included, for an entry fee of \$100. Please make a notation on your registration form that you are not bringing a canine.

Motel Update

Conference attendees may want to make reservations ASAP! Motels are filling up fast. More accommodations are being researched and will be announced in future newsletters.

2009 NSDA Conference

Even though NSDA has not yet had the first conference, plans are being made for the second annual one which will be held in the western states. If anyone is interested in spearheading this conference, please contact Norma at snelling@olypen.com with ideas.

Area Standard Beta Tests

Less than 24 hours after sending out a notice to NSDA members, 27 teams from around the country responded. NSDA would like to extend thanks to our members who gave such an overwhelming response to a request for teams to test our Area test standard. Beta tests are now underway.



Team Resource List

Thanks to all those who responded after the request in the last newsletter. The teams and organizations (not individuals) will be listed by state and it will include their disciplines offered and contact information.

The determination has yet to be made if this will be available as an asset for members only or if it will be published for the general canine public. If you have thoughts on how to use this list for the maximum good of the canine community, please send an email to Norma at snelling@olypen.com.

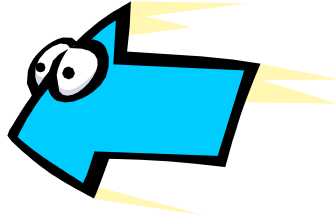
Many teams from across the country are still missing. If you have not yet submitted your information, please send it to Bev Peabody at workink9@comcast.net.

Information requested is:

1. Name of organization
2. State or County affiliation
3. Number of teams in the organization
4. Type of disciplines offered (wilderness, cadaver, water, avalanche, trailing, disaster)
5. Website address
6. Contact person

A resource list of individuals will be compiled in the future of those dog teams that have taken and passed the NSDA certification standards.

National Service Dog Eye Exam Day



NSDA is proud to be a sponsoring organization endorsing National Service Dog Eye Exam Day. NSDA believes that it is vital to keep our canines as healthy as possible. Therefore the organization has endorsed this worthwhile endeavor providing free eye exams to working canines.

The first American College Of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) National Service Dog Eye Exam Day will provide a free screening eye exam to Service Dog groups including: guide dogs, handicapped assistance dogs, detection dogs and **search and rescue dogs**.

Dogs must be active 'working dogs' that were nationally, regionally or locally certified by a formal training program or organization to qualify. *Essentially the dogs need to have some sort of certification and/or training paperwork to prove their status as a working Service Dog to participate in this year's program.*

Over 140 of AVCO Diplomates have chosen to participate in this program. They will be providing the eye screening exam at no cost to qualified Service Dogs.

In order to participate, register the animal by May 1st via an online registration form at <http://acvoeyeexam.org/dog/dogframe.html>

After registering, the website will provide a list of veterinary ophthalmologists available in every state. After making a selection, the owner/handler must call the participating

ophthalmologist's office directly for an appointment. When the dog's eye examination is complete, the veterinary ophthalmologist will provide a copy of the examination form and information.

The owner/handler will need to contact their primary care veterinarian to make an appointment for a blood draw and labs in order to obtain the Pet Wellness Report. The Pet Wellness Report will be offered complimentary through the owner/handler's primary care veterinarian during the month of June. (More instructions for this process included on registration page.)

For more information, see the website:

<http://acvoeyeexam.org/dog/dogframe.html>

TRAINING

Abbreviated information of upcoming schools and conferences will be listed in each newsletter. If you know of one and/or are sponsoring one, please let us know at newsletter@n-sda.org so it can be included.

NSDA provides this list for your convenience.

May 8 – 12; Jeff Finlay Mantrailing and HRD Seminar along with Joel Hardin Mantracking Seminar. near Cody, Wyoming; contact K.T. Irwin at leonberg.bresnan.net for more information or go to nwk9sar.com.

May 28-31; Handler Instruction and Training Seminar (HITS), Denver, CO. For more info, see www.PoliceK9Magazine.com

September 18 – 21, NSDA CONFERENCE; Columbus, Indiana

September 19-21; Dog Meet, presented by Intermountain Search Dogs, Spokane WA. Location: Camp Reed north of Spokane, Washington. For more information, contact Julie Wilson at DM2008@live.com

Book Review
By
Susan Bulanda



Tracking for Search and Rescue Dogs: A Practical Manual for Novice and Advanced Handlers by Boguslaw P. Gorny, published by Detselig Enterprises Ltd. Calgary, Alberta, Canada (www.temerondetselig.com, temeron@telusplanet.net), ISBN 1-55059-242-4, 88 pages, hard cover, \$25.95

About the Author: Boguslaw Gorny is a biologist with The Canadian Centre for Behavioural Neuroscience at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta. He has been a dog trainer from 1974 and in 1990 established the Dog Training Centre in Lethbridge where he trains dog for obedience, tracking, protection, arson and chemical detection. In 1992 he formed the first Search and Rescue dog group in southern Alberta, LASARDA (Lthbridge Area Search And Rescue Dog Association). He is also a member and certified handler of the RCMP Civilian Search Dog Association in Alberta. He is also a member of the Search and Rescue Dog Group STORAT in Poland.

His book is one of the best books that I have read on tracking dog training. Although Gorny's scientific background is evident, the book is written in a manner that is detailed yet easy to follow. Gorny covers all types of training, such as the use of food on a track, the natural method, by force, retrieve methods, and then he gives his choice. I feel that by explaining all of the methods, the reader will have a better understanding of what types of training other people have used and why. Gorny also explains how to: select a dog, motivate the dog, and the biology of the dog's nose. He also gives a detailed explanation of terms, scent theory, how to start puppies or older dogs. He details how to handle scent, how to handle the leash, how to lay tracks, what to do if the dog loses the track and much more. This book takes the reader from the

very beginning to advanced levels of tracking. Gorny also explains how to train the track layer, an aspect of tracking that is often overlooked.

This is a small book packed with information. A real must for the SAR dog trainer. Although the book is written for scent specific dogs, the scent theories and training methods can be applied to non-scent specific dogs as well. What I especially like about the book is that it is a quick read, but every sentence has information for the reader.

Read Dog Books for Fun and Help NSDA

The NSDA Editing Committee is looking for people with the time to read. Occasionally the organization is offered books to review. Members of this committee would read the book, write a review for the newsletter – in a timely manner – and then get to keep the book. If you are interested in this type of project, please contact Sue Bulanda at susanb21@juno.com.



Gear up for summer for your dog. Have a water bottle, animal safe sunblock and portable bowl for those leisurely summer walks in the park. For boat rides, a life jacket may be in order depending on the dog's health and age.

Tragedy on the Highway enroute to a search

Date: Sun, 30 Mar 2008 00:50:38 EDT

Along a back road highway enroute to the Incident Command Post, a searcher came across a Jeep Cherokee that had been blown off the road by a 60 mph gust of wind. The Jeep had been blown onto the dirt siding and had overturned.

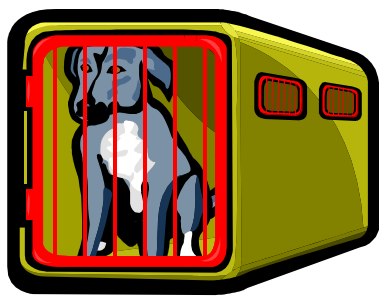
One passenger was ejected. It was the owner's canine that, unfortunately, was deceased.

Rick Strasser, Canine Technician and Paramedic, Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, was the



searcher who found this accident. He says, regarding that crash, "The reason I am bringing this up,

is the fact that when I worked in Barstow with the fire department, this was a common occurrence along I-15. Like small children, who are required by law to be "harnessed" into the vehicle, some of our members do not crate our canines in the vehicle while traveling. If you happen to be one of these individuals, and I am guilty of this sometimes myself, I would highly recommend that you reconsider crating or some sort of restraining device for your canine. Like a non restrained child, our canines do bounce around in a vehicle, in any form of accident, and the canine could be injured or killed."



IDITAROD SLED DOG INJURED BY SNOWMOBILE

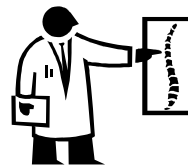
Zorro, the main dog in back-to-back Iditarod winner Lance Mackey's kennel, was injured in late March when a snowmobile's runner impaled him. Mackey was in third place in the All Alaska Sweepstakes race and closing on the finish line when two snowmobiles doing 70 mph came up behind his team and rear-ended his sled. Mackey was 15 miles from the finish line.



Mackey jumped to the side and the snowmobile's runner impaled his sled bag where he was carrying Zorro. Zorro had spent the last 70 miles of a 408 mile race resting. He was hit in the chest by a snowmobile ski and pinned under the machine. Several dogs received lesser injuries.

The driver who hit Mackey helped him right his team, then continued on his way. Mackey continued the race but did not know that Zorro was severely injured. After he got some rest, Mackey could see that Zorro was not well and called the race veterinarian.

Dr. Denny Albert, lead veterinarian for the All Alaska Sweepstakes, was quoted in the Seattle Times as saying that Zorro was lying on his side and was "shocky". He was given pain medications and fluids which stabilized him for a flight to Anchorage. There tests determined he had suffered spinal trauma. The dog also had three broken ribs, internal bleeding as well as not being able to stand or use his back legs.



Zorro was flown to Seattle for tests. There he saw a veterinary neurologist and had an MRI. Before the MRI, specialists gave the dog a 50-50

chance. Zorro's Veterinarian Kobi Johnson worried the dog's back legs were paralyzed because Zorro couldn't stand on his own. An MRI revealed that Zorro has four broken ribs and severe bruising to his spinal cord but he won't need surgery.

Zorro has been with Mackey since birth and has competed in seven Iditarod races and four Yukon Quest races — winning two Iditarods and all four Yukon Quest competitions since Mackey's first race in 2001. The dog's also passed on plenty of his winning genes, siring nearly half of the 80 animals in Mackey's kennel.

Mackey's website gave this update on April 8, 2008: Although weak and confined to a kennel, Zorro is happy to be back home amongst his kennel mates. Lance explains "his brain says I want to be back outdoors playing with the rest of the sled dogs, but his physical body says, not yet'.

"Zorro has been wagging his tail and tilting his head to the sky recognizing familiar smells and sounds. We are all glad to see him home. The doctors say he must stay calm, no running, jumping or breeding for this stud for at least 4 months," says Lance.

For up dates, See:

<http://www.mackeycomebackkennel.com/> Zorro Update

Information obtained from *the Seattle Times* and the Mackey website

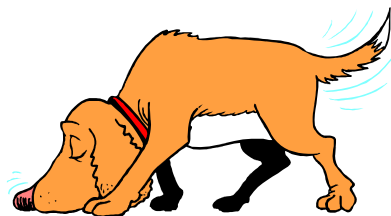
YIP YAP

Air your Opinion/Experiences
By Dana Kirsch Ray

Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are one of many and not necessarily those of NSDA.

Urban Trailing is hard.

I started my current puppy on tracking at a young age on short hot-dog trails until he could match the correct person's.



scent and work out a line-up.

But I don't have a bloodhound And this dog is very doggie. What I mean is, he's extremely easy to distract. Bloodhounds by nature are very introverted and not bothered by the approach of a baby stroller or a passing yap-yap out on the extreme end of its owner's flexi.

At a year, this dog was solid on wilderness trails: aged trails, cross trails, lineups, hard corners, abandoned buildings, the works. Critters are not a problem. It's the distractions unique to the urban environment that are hard for this dog. Clearly the scent conditions are different. In the wilderness environment, he's solid on dirt, sand, asphalt, even concrete trails. But add to that mix a skateboarder or a border collie with a frisbee and we're sunk.



Just the other night, he discovered a bronze statue of six children doing handstands, cartwheels and otherwise playing. This statue ruined his concentration, and really freaked him out. We lost 10 minutes just facing that fear and becoming comfortable enough to sniff the inanimate object. If he was a bloodhound or otherwise introverted and not easily distracted, this would have been a non-event.

So we're solid on wilderness and at one year of age, we started doing urban. What I've come to realize is that not only is urban specifically difficult for the doggie dog but it can actually damage his confidence enough to impact his wilderness trailing. Here's how.

1. In the urban environment, he gets many more corrections, per mile, than in the wilderness setting. He

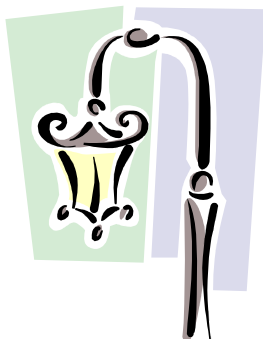
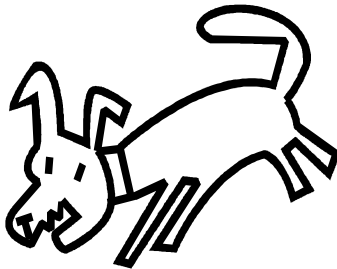
gets corrections for licking cat pee. He gets corrections for locking eyes with other passing dogs. He gets corrections for eating hamburger wrappers in the gutter.

- In the urban environment, I am yanking on his leash more and forcing him to take the trail I want him to take. This is primarily to keep him out of the street and confined to the sidewalk. This is also done to navigate past crowds and past yappie dogs who are not under control.

I have come to understand that forcing him to "stay on the sidewalk" is really not always where the scent trail is. But, for safety, I have to keep him out of the street and away from passing cars. This has created conflict within him wherein he wants to go to the scent trail but I am keeping him on the sidewalk and preventing him from exploring the scent surroundings to his fullest satisfaction. This, as it turns out, is extremely dangerous to a dog's confidence. If you have a weak, insecure, or distractible dog, don't do urban trails until:

- Your dog will not be fooled by you tugging on his leash trying to lead him astray.
- Your dog will actively and forcefully commit to his decisions.
- Your dog lives and breathes for trailing and trailing alone.

The intermediate course is the empty, nighttime, suburban streets. This focuses the dog on the pavement and on making decisions at intersections without



any distractions or any other interesting events.

Look for wide, deserted neighborhoods where it's ok for you to walk down the middle of the road. Try to lure your dog to the "wrong side" of the street and praise him for overriding you and staying committed to the scent trail that he has picked.



Finally, don't do blind trails. Just don't do them until your dog is so strong and committed that you're practically doing the blind trail just because he wants to move so much faster that you can't keep up navigating your position in your head. When you can lose track in your mind of where you are and where your trail layer said the trail is, then you're ready!

Go out there and stay safe!

YOUR BOARDS

Executive Board--

Dee Wild, President dwild1@bellsouth.net
 Norma Snelling, Vice-President snelling@olypen.com
 Sherry Scruggs, Secretary k-9tracer@cox.net
 Sue Wolff, Treasurer srt1530@starband.net
 Terry Crooks tcrooks@frontiernet.net
 Lisa Higgins dlhiggy@bellsouth.net
 Jennifer Massey jmassey@vsrda.org
 Scott Robbins: sredbirds@bendbroadband.com

Advisory Board--

- Susan Bulanda
- Cheryl Kennedy
- Marcia Koenig
- Robert Koester
- Dr. Lawrence Meyers
- Carol Ann Namur
- Robert Noziska
- Renee Speltz
- A. E. Wolff



Application for Election to the Board of Directors

Candidate's Name:

Physical address:

Mailing address if different from above:

Phone number: Day time:

Night time:

E-mail address:

NSDA voting region: _____

NSDA membership number (MUST be member by April 15, 2008):

ATTACH Photograph: in jpg format for inclusion on the NSDA website

ATTACH Candidate Bio: 750 words or less highlighting your **non-canine** expertise as well as your vision for the future of NSDA. This will be posted on the NSDA website

COMPLETE this form and send by May 1, 2008 with both attachments listed above to Art Wolff, Nominations Chairperson, awolff1@leo.gov.



REGISTRATION FORM
National Search Dog Alliance
Inaugural Conference
 September 18-21, 2008
 Camp Atterbury, Indiana

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
E-mail Address:	Phone:	
Affiliation:		
Canine Name:	Breed:	

Attendance: Registration.....	\$175.00	\$
Late registration Aug 20 – Sept 10	\$200.00	
Meals included in registration: 2 lunches & 3 dinners		
Non attendees: # of persons _____ x \$35.00		\$
Barracks on Base: Bunk beds, no bedding, dogs in crates		
3 nights @ \$15.00/ night = \$45.00		\$
Total Enclosed:		\$

Mail completed registration forms with payment to
National Search Dog Alliance
 1302 Waugh Drive, #121
 Houston, TX 77019

CHECK YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Scent (Beginning) | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Scent (Advanced) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trailing (Beginning) | <input type="checkbox"/> Trailing (Advanced) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Remains Detection | <input type="checkbox"/> Disaster |

<p>Cancellations received after August 20, 2008 will be granted at 50%. There will be no refunds for cancellations received after September 15, 2008 or if you do not attend the conference. Checks returned by the bank for insufficient funds will be assessed a \$20.00 fee.</p>
--