

SAR Dog News

June 2008

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Vol. 2, No. 6

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, Peggy Ann Buchman, K-9 Geist

BOARD ELECTIONS

NSDA would like to announce the results of the recent election for the Board of Directors:

Region I: Cameron Daggett

Cameron is Chief of Police of Sun Valley Idaho. He is the unit leader for Blaine County K-9 SAR Unit under the Sheriff's SAR team

Region II: Sue Wolff

Sue is currently Editor of the NSDA Newsletter and Interim Treasurer for the organization. She is the Secretary-Treasurer for Tennessee Special Response Team-A, Inc.

Region III: Jacob Weaver

Jacob is a K-9 handler and Vice President of Dogs South K-9 Search and Rescue Inc. He has been a K-9 handler for the past eight years.

Cris Goodhue will join the Board for a two year term as the ninth member.

Jan Meyer has been appointed by President Dee Wild for a one year term to fill out the unexpired term of Lisa Higgins.

Further information on the newly elected Board members can be found on the website at www.n-sda.org

Election Participation

Voting participation in the Board election was:
Region 1 (western): 44% voter participation
Region 2 (central): 42% participation
Region 3 had one candidate; no voting necessary

Members of the NSDA are thanked for casting their votes for the new members of the Executive Board.

Lisa Higgins Steps Down From NSDA Executive Board

Much to the organization's regret, Lisa Higgins has to leave the NSDA Board of Directors. Lisa has been traveling extensively across the country teaching, searching and mentoring fellow canine handlers. Her time constraints have made it impossible for her to continue serving on the Board. She will continue as a member of the HRD Committee and will take on special projects. Her input has been invaluable to the Board.

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Carla Allen from Missouri and Leisa (Hochstetler) Arnold from Ohio have been selected as recipients of this year's NSDA conference scholarships. The donor of these scholarships selected them from numerous applications.

Carla has been in search and rescue for four years but has only been a dog handler for two. She has a German shepherd that was given to her because of her love of dogs and her desire to serve her community.

Carla is known for her positive and takes each task that life throws at her in stride. She never misses training and is specializing in cadaver work. Carla tries to volunteer for any "PR" activities and always gives 100% to search and rescue. She even donated the placenta from her youngest child as training material.

Carla has a great deal of support from her parents, friends, and the Scott County Search and Rescue K9 Unit in Sikeston, Missouri.

Leisa (Hochstetler) Arnold is known by most people associated with SAR. by the last name "Hochstetler" although Leisa married Sam Arnold in August of 2007. Leisa is the President of United K-9 Search and Rescue located in Sugarcreek, Ohio. She is the current the Vice-President of NASDN. and has served as an instructor for NASDN, NAPWDA and at other training conferences. Leisa has given of herself to the SAR community for years.

Leisa started in S.A.R. in 1997 with her first SAR dog, Asco, and is well versed in SAR. She conducts herself in a positive and professional manner which has promoted credibility and respect for SAR from individuals in the community and in law enforcement agencies.

Leisa is always prepared for a callout making herself available for SAR needs in many states. She did not think twice when she loaded K-9 Grizz and responded to work in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for three weeks. On another occasion, Leisa diverted from a seminar when she received a call from the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children requesting assistance.

Currently Leisa is training Logan as a cadaver dog since Grizz is nearing retirement age.

Information obtained from scholarship applications

STATUS

NSDA Standards are Progressing

The completed Avalanche Standard Criteria and the Avalanche Set Up and Briefing outline were sent to the Editing Committee this week. After editing, the Committee and Board will take one more look and it will be finalized for publication.

The Area Standard has completed the Peer Review and Beta testing processes. The results

are being compiled. The Committee will look at comments of those who tested, make any necessary changes and submit it to the Board for comment. If the Board approves, the standard will then be edited.

The first draft of the Trailing Standard has been reviewed by the Board and returned to the Committee with comments. Changes and additions will be incorporated into the document and it will be returned to the Board for review. If passed, it will then be ready to be sent to the larger Peer Review Committee.

The Disaster standard is in the process of Peer Review. The Committee will review the document and make comments. The revised document will then go to the Board for review. If approved, the standard will go to Beta testing.

The HRD standard is in the process of finishing the final draft and will be sent to the Board for comment.

CONFERENCE INSTRUCTORS

Area

- **Janet Wilts – Beginner**
- **Debbie Palman - Advanced**



Deborah Palman has served as a Maine Game Warden for thirty years and police K-9 and SAR dog handler for twenty-eight years. She is a state certified K-9 trainer and has served as Training Director for Maine Search and Rescue Dogs since 1984. Her dogs work in tracking, criminal apprehension, air scent SAR, water and cadaver search. She has been on hundreds of searches and had numerous live and dead finds. As a member of a user agency who often directs searches and a member of a SAR dog organization, she has a comprehensive view of search and rescue.

Janet Wilts is a Law Enforcement Specialist at Grand Teton National Park. Janet has worked in search and rescue for over thirty years including technical rescue and swift water rescue. Janet has been training dogs since 1988 and has participated on search and rescue teams since 1979. Since 1988, she has trained five of her own search dogs and three of her own drug dogs. She has taught seminars in many western states including MT, AZ, TX, CA, UT, WY, SD, ID OR and Colorado. Topics of these seminars have included Area; Tracking; Cadaver; HRD; Scent Theory; GPS and Mapping; and Rappelling with K-9's. She is a certified NPCA (National Police Canine Association) detection dog evaluator and has worked as a drug dog K9 handler for eight years. Her current search dog is certified in wilderness area, trailing, cadaver/HRD, evidence/article, avalanche, water and narcotics detection.

Disaster

- **Teresa MacPherson**
- **Jennifer Massey**

Jennifer Massey has been involved in Search and Rescue since 1993. She has certified canines in human remains, disaster, wilderness and water recovery and has responded to numerous searches. She has been a member of Virginia Task Force 1 since 1999 and has certified two FEMA Type I canines. Jennifer is an instructor trainer for Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association as well as an instructor and mentor for American Rescue Dog Association. She serves as President of ARDA and was on the Board of Directors for National Search Dog Alliance.

Teresa MacPherson has been involved in SAR since 1990. She has certified multiple dogs in wilderness, disaster, human remains recovery and water search. Teresa and her partners have responded to hundreds of searches, including many disaster missions. Aside from training and searching, Teresa evaluates and instructs on local, state, national and international levels.

Her international travels include Turkey, the United Kingdom and Brazil.

HRD

- **John Snow - Advanced**
- **Kathy Holbert - Beginner**

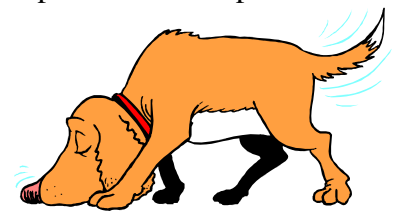
John Snow has twenty-five plus years in Law Enforcement, with the last twenty serving with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He has been their head K-9 trainer for the past fifteen of those years. John has helped to establish resource K-9 programs in six other states for Wildlife officers. He trains in narcotics, HRD (both land and water) as well as patrol (apprehension) work. He also does work for LE and the military in land navigation, man trailing, booby traps, etc.

Kathy Holbert has been involved with working dogs in military, law enforcement and search and rescue for twenty years. She is both a LETS (Law Enforcement Training Specialists) and a West Virginia Fire School Instructor. Kathy is a founding member of the Barbour County Tactical Search and Recovery Teams and its law enforcement branch, the Mountaineer Area Working Dog Association. She has also served as an Assistant Instructor for Andy Rebmann, has trained two cadaver dogs in her career and is working on a third.

Track/Trail

- **Robert Noziska - Advanced**
- **Peggy Ann Buchmann - Beginner**

Robert Noziska currently is an Operator for Headquarters/Special Operations Group for the United States Border Patrol. For the past ten years, Agent Noziska has been assigned to the special operations unit known as BORSTAR (Border Search Trauma and Rescue). He assisted in founding and implementing the BORSTAR Canine Program for the United States Border Patrol in



2001. Agent Noziska is a Master Trainer for North American Police Work Dog Association. He has given presentations on numerous canine topics nationally strengthening existing SAR K-9 Teams.

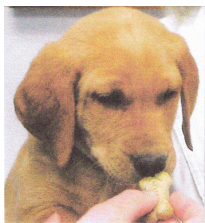
Peggy Ann Buchman is a long time dog handler, working with many breeds in conformation and obedience. She has been involved in Search and Rescue since 1998 and has dogs certified in a variety of disciplines by NASDN and NASAR. Peggy is a founding member of Crossroads Search and Rescue of Illinois, an urban trailing team. She and her current GSD, Dohai Kibo have been doing urban trailing since 2001. She has worked with many groups helping handler teams learn how to work with their dogs to become reliable trailing dogs. Peggy and her husband, Brian Hendrickson are both active handlers.

HERNANDEZ AWARD

By Art Wolff

Curt Engle of California is the recipient of the first NSDA/Hernandez Sponsorship. He was chosen from a list of very qualified applicants.

Curt is already an experienced handler who, like many of us, was faced with the pending retirement of his current working canine partner. He searched long and hard for that right combination of drive, temperament, sociability, and all of the other traits that we look for in a



working dog. He has selected "Chance" to be his new canine partner in training. While the dog is a bit young at this stage, there are high hopes for his future.

One thing that Curt recently wrote regarding the new pup's name stands out in my mind, "Chance as in giving the lost person a second Chance". We are all involved in search and rescue to help, to give those who are lost, who have become the victims of both natural and man made disasters and others who need our services a better chance.

September 11, 2001, is an example of the need for a second chance. On that date, the United States of America was attacked by foreign aggressors. Over 2,900 people were killed in the World Trade Center in New York City. One of those killed was Glenn Thompson, husband of Kai Thompson Hernandez.

Kai watched as searchers worked tirelessly for weeks on end. She was especially touched by the working canines and their handlers. This inspired her to do what she could to help further the work of these Search and Rescue specialists.

Since that time, Kai Thompson Hernandez has assisted the canine community by supporting the purchase of dogs specifically for Search and Rescue. In 2007 she teamed up with the National Search Dog Alliance. Together the NSDA and Mrs. Hernandez created the Hernandez SAR Dog Sponsorship.

We hope to continue this sponsorship for the 2008/2009 year. Watch the web site and newsletter for information.

That We Shall NEVER Forget 9/11/2001

"That Others May Live" (Credit: USAF PARARESCUE Motto)

Art Wolff has thirty years experience in SAR and Law Enforcement. He was instrumental in establishing the Hernandez Award.

THANK A WOUNDED VET

Help wounded soldiers and their families by:

- Donating funds for a rental car or hotel to a family visiting a soldier in rehab at Walter Reed or Bethesda Naval Hospital:
www.yellowribbonfund.org
- Giving a laptop so that recuperating vets can keep in touch with family
www.lapropsforthewounded.com
- Showing appreciation in other ways
www.thethankyoufoundation.org

Searching For Lost Children with Disabilities

By Linda Holland

It's 3:00 a.m. and the phone is ringing. No, it's not someone calling about the economy. It's worse. It's a lost child search.

Of course, we are concerned about every lost person we look for but a lost child brings out our natural instincts to protect the young. Now, to add to your anxiety, it's a special needs child that is lost.



What do we mean by special needs child? A child with a disability or disorder? A child with a handicap? You may say, "What difference does that make?" Knowing a little about different disabilities and how they affect behavior will help you plan and conduct your search.

The SAR team member in charge of the Lost Person Questionnaire needs to find out as much information as possible about the disability. Knowing what type of disability will help you determine the behavior of the child. Knowing the behavior will help you search more effectively and in areas of higher probability.

Some families are reluctant to discuss their child's disability. There are tactful ways to ask parents if a child has a disorder or disability that may affect their behavior while reassuring them that the information will only be used to help find the child. You may ask: Does your child do well in school? Are they making good grades? Do they get along with their teachers and peers? Are they taking medicine on a daily basis? If so, what are they taking? What is it for?

If the parents state that the child has a learning disability, try to find out what type. Often parents will use the term "learning disabilities" in the place of mental retardation.



If the parents say the child is "slow", try to find out how "slow". Do they act appropriately for their age or are they functioning several years younger than their current age. If these questions are not on your questionnaire, you should suggest they be added.

Not every handicapped child will respond in exactly the same way as not every non-handicapped child will react in the same way. Most children are attracted to water. Some like dogs. Some are terrified of dogs. Different disabilities have different characteristics that you need to know before you begin your search.

Autism is a disorder that is becoming more common. Many people may think that it is just now being diagnosed correctly when in actuality more children are becoming affected. One out of every 150 children will be diagnosed with Autism which is a part of a spectrum of disorders. Children with Autism can be mildly affected and function in an age appropriate manner with few symptoms or they can be so severely affected that full time placement in a special setting is necessary. Most children with Autism fall somewhere in-between these extremes.

In general, children with Autism have unusual responses to sensory experience and have deficits in language and social skills. What does this mean to you? Autistic children:

- Will not answer you when you call their name
- May attempt to hide from you and your whistle
- Become upset in noisy situations and will withdraw
- May be frightened of your dog, especially if it barks or runs at them

- May not speak to you once they are found or answer your questions
- May attempt to run away from you before and after they are found

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) affects the ability of the brain to process incoming information quickly. A child with ADHD will most likely not stop moving after becoming lost. And they will move quickly! This is the child that is found the next morning seven miles from point last scene. ADHD children:

- Will keep moving
- Will answer you unless they are afraid of being in trouble Will be attracted to noise and light
- Will be attracted to your dog

Children with mental retardation have intellectual deficit that range from mild to severe. Down syndrome is one example of a condition that causes mental retardation. These are the children who will be functioning several years below their actual age. Children with mental retardation:

- Will usually stop after becoming lost
- May hide or find a sheltering place
- May not answer you depending on the severity of the handicap
- May be frightened of your dog and noise
- Will probably not realize you are looking for them
- Will respond to you after being found

Bipolar Disorder was once called manic-depressive disorder. Although Bipolar Disorder was once only diagnosed in adults, it is now frequently being diagnosed in children. Some symptoms of this disorder are hyperactively or depression with withdrawal. Children with Bipolar Disorder:

- Are very impulsive and are sometimes thrill seekers
- May keep moving when lost or find a place to hide
- Will be worried about being in trouble and not respond to your call
- Will usually be attracted to lights, sounds and your dog



These are only a few of the disabilities and disorders in children. Remember each child is unique. Some disabilities will affect how children react in a stressful situation. Just as it is important to understand disorders in adults such as Alzheimer's, it is important for SAR personnel to have a working knowledge of disorders in children. The more information we have about disorders and disabilities, the better our chances of finding the child.

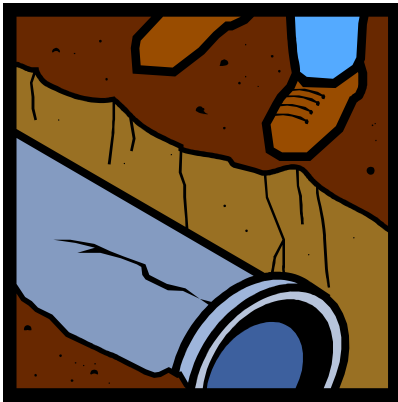
Linda Holland has a Master's Degree in Special Education with 27 years as a special education teacher. She has been a volunteer K-9 handler with Franklin Co. SAR, Arkansas, for six years.

Network Committee News

The Network Committee is preparing a rehearsal of the First Episode of the POD Cast Program. This will be presented to the Executive and Advisory Boards.

After a successful run through, all newsletter recipients will start receiving the times and dates of scheduled programs. Being a POD Cast, an internet address will be sent in order to listen to the program as it was recorded live.

The show will premiere within the next two weeks. Stay tuned!!



Is your training in a rut? Do you repeat the same scenario week after week? Are you and your K-9 bored?

Add spice to your team's training. Trade scenarios. Provide training setups. Share problems within disciplines. Share innovative and safe ways of presenting HR.

The NSDA newsletter is looking for creative ways of training to share with all the readers. Send your ideas and contributions to Sue Wolff at srt1530@starband.net.

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.

June 21-23, 2008. Steve White HITT Trailing Seminar. \$175 for 3 days for LE/SAR K-9's.
<http://www.pawsoflife.org/WhiteSeminar.html>

June 27, 28, 29; Tracking/Trailing Seminar; Sponsored by Barbour County Tactical Search and Recovery Teams, Philippi, West Virginia. Details at www.bctsr.com

September 18 – 21, NSDA CONFERENCE; Columbus, Indiana. Details at www.n-sda.org

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

FUND RAISER

Denis Howard collapsed on April 14 and has been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer caused by a malignant tumor. Both Denis and Gloria, his wife of 28 years, have left their jobs in an effort to prolong Denis' life. Gloria has given generously of herself to search and rescue. It is now time for the SAR community to take care of one of its own. The following are fundraisers for Denis:

LISA HIGGINS WATER CLASS, JULY 5 - JULY 6, 2008; St Cloud, FL. The class size will be limited to 14 working canines and 10 observers. The cost of the class for working participants is \$150 and observers \$75 for both days. For more information, contact Pat Totillo at K9saroc@cfl.rr.com

MARK HOLMES TRAILING/TRACKING SUMMER SEMINAR - DATE TBA
Place - St. Louis, MO
For more information, contact Jan Meyer at Jan.L.Meyer@USBank.Com

If you would like to read Gloria's journal and/or contribute to them, see the website below:
<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/denishoward>

←—————→
If a dog were the teacher, you would learn stuff like:

- Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.
- Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

K-9s in Iraq

Marines on the al Asad Airbase northwest of Baghdad say theirs is the most coveted job in the military. The K-9 teams on this base are a mainstay in Iraq's Sunni (Muslim) Anbar province.

More than four dozen handler/K-9 teams are working in the province. The dogs are trained to attack and subdue detainees and track insurgents. The dogs are also used to detect explosives, either on or off a leash and as much as 500 feet from their handlers.

A quote in the original newspaper article said: *"Nobody had ever utilized dogs in a real combat offensive since Vietnam," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Evans, of the Provost Marshals Office at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, based at Twenty Nine Palms, Calif. "A lot of the knowledge and a lot of the know-how has slipped away through time so we really had to reinvent the application of our jobs on the fly." Sgt. Evans trains dogs and handlers at al Asad.*

Since the beginning of the war, two handlers from the kennel were killed in action. Four dogs and seven handlers have been wounded.

In addition to Belgian malinois, there are German shepherds and Labrador retrievers at the al Asad kennel. German shepherds and Belgian malinois are used primarily as attack dogs while the Labs are used to detect explosives.

The Department of Defense buys the dogs when they are 18 months old from breeders in Germany, Holland, the Czech Republic and other locations in Europe. They cost \$3,000 to \$7,000 each. The dogs are flown to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, where they train with their handlers for three months before being deployed.

source: article by Raviya H. Ismail; McClatchy Newspapers

WAR DOG MEMORIALS

March Field Air Museum, March Air Force Base, Riverside, California and Sacrifice Field in front of the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia are the locations of identical war dog memorials commemorating the dogs and handlers who served in Vietnam.

The website (<http://www.war-dogs.com>) describes the memorial vividly. *The War Dog Memorial is a depiction of a soldier and his dog emerging into the environment of combat. Both man and dog possess a tense feeling of anxiety as they look into the fields of impending danger. Comradeship, protection, sacrifice and love between man and dog.*

The memorials were built entirely with private funds. The website also states: *The War Dog Memorial not only serves to commemorate the courageous acts of heroism performed by these war dogs but also to recognize all dogs that ever served in battle, not just in Vietnam. It also shows that the American people can honor valiant war dogs that fought for their freedom without any assistance from any government entity.*



HELP!!!

Help the organization break 1,000 newsletter subscribers

SAR Dog News has 943 subscribers.

Only 57 subscribers needed!!

Tell your team members. Tell your co-workers. Tell your family.

Put us over the top. HELP NSDA TODAY!!

<http://www.n-sda.org>



needed most is to rock the dog's world by attending some parade or joining a crowded street scene.



Conferences are an easy way to start. Yes, the price of gas is soaring. Yes the cost of airfare is ridiculous. But a good conference can broaden you and your dog in unimaginable ways, ways that you can take back to your local weekly gathering.

Go with an open mind and you will find you get ten times back what you put into it.

Go forth and do something drastic!

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.

Get out there.

We all know the importance of puppy socialization. Exposure to varied weather conditions, different kinds of human spaces, a variety of animal smells and more.

How's your handler socialization? How often do you 'get out there' and broaden your horizons? An important part of SAR is traveling, networking, learning from others, growing and sharing.

Don't be afraid to participate in parades, stand in front of the recruiting booth and attend large social gatherings with crowds. If you are afraid about how your dog's manners will be viewed by others, get out there and practice them. Sometimes what is

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 srt1530@starband.net
- Cameron Daggett camdaggett@cox.net
- Jacob Weaver jacobweaver@bellsouth.net
- Cris Goodhue bccgoodhue@blackfoot.net
- Jan Meyer Jan.L.Meyer@USBank.com

Advisory Board--

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



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	
<hr/>		
Meals included in registration: 2 lunches & 3 dinners		
Non attendees: # of persons _____ x \$35.00		\$
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Barracks on Base: Bunk beds, no bedding, dogs in crates		
3 nights @ \$15.00/ night = \$45.00		\$
<hr/>		
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>
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