

# SAR Dog News

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## Membership

We would like to thank Peggy Buchman of Illinois for taking charge of our membership drive. We now have an application form, a system to issue membership cards and a method of tracking renewal dates. We are now offering the following types of membership:

Introductory - \$25.00 per year.

Founding Member - \$1,000. Five hundred dollars will go towards a life membership and the remaining \$500 will go into a special account designated by the member. The three categories are: education, research or unrestricted use.

A Lifetime Membership will be available for \$500.00.

Regular membership will be available in the fall of 2007. At that time all new members will be charged \$60.00 per year. If new applicants are already a member of another SAR organization, they will get a \$20.00 discount.

For those who like to collect SAR memorabilia, the initial cards may become collector items because they will not have a logo. Once the Public Relations committee has designed a logo, all membership cards will have the logo and look like other SAR cards. So be ready to join early and get a collectable membership card.

Please see the attachment to this email for a membership application form and instructions.

## Matching Donor

An anonymous donor has offered to contribute \$500.00 for unrestricted use for each of the first ten Founding Members who join. Eventually, Founding Members may have their name or the name of their SAR canine companion on the side margin of our letterhead.

## Jennifer Massey Joins Board of Directors

Jennifer has been involved in SAR since 1993 and has certified canines in human remains, disaster, wilderness and water search. She has been a member of Virginia Task Force One since 1999 and currently works Ulysses, a FEMA Type I certified GSD. She has been deployed with VATF1 to four major hurricanes. Jennifer has been a FEMA Canine evaluator since June 2005 as well as a FEMA Instructor since 2004.

She is also a member of Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Assn. Since joining VSRDA in 1993 she has attended numerous wilderness, water and HRD searches. Jennifer serves on the B.O.D of both VSRDA and the American Rescue Dog Assn. and is currently an

instructor and trainer for VSRDA, an evaluator, instructor and mentor for ARDA as well as an air scent and HRD evaluator for the commonwealth of Virginia. She is a member of INSARAG Search Dog Technical Working Group which has been tasked with creating an international canine disaster standard.

## Contest Vote

The last newsletter offered a contest to rename the last section of this newsletter. It is up to you to choose the winner. Please send your vote to [snelling@olypen.com](mailto:snelling@olypen.com).

The following names were submitted.

Readers Speak!  
Nose News  
Dog Tales  
Wags & Brags  
The Dog Reader  
Yip Yap  
Geblaut!  
Dog Tales & SAR Reports

Our thanks go to everyone that submitted an entry.

## Art Wolff Joins Advisory Board

Art Wolff is a career law enforcement officer with 29 years law enforcement experience and 30 year's experience within SAR. He began his SAR career as a founding member of Tri-County SAR in the South Florida area in the mid 1970's. In the early 1980's he helped co-found Florida

Special Response Team, a 501.c.3 search and rescue organization. When he retired from his first law enforcement career he relocated to Tennessee and founded Tennessee Special Response Team.

Art has been a supervisor within law enforcement at the patrol, CID and Canine Unit levels. He is currently with a Tennessee Sheriff's Department and is the Department Canine Unit Trainer and Supervisor. He also spent 10 years on FEMA FL TFII as a Search Manager, Canine Search Specialist and trainer as well as Technical Search Specialist. He has responded to over 20 state, national and international disaster situations through FEMA, DOS and FLSRT.

He has trained and certified dogs through a number of different law enforcement and civilian organizations. He has trained, certified and worked Explosives, Narcotics, Patrol utility, Tracking/Trailing: apprehension and non apprehension, passive area search, Human Remains Detection on both land and water, and disaster: both live find and HRD. He has also assisted in creating and writing National Standards and testing criteria for Search and Rescue Canine Teams.

## **Mission Statement Revision**

We received several good suggestions on how to improve our Mission Statement. We have incorporated two of these suggestions in our revision. Our intention is to keep our mission as broad as possible in order not to exclude those we may be able to assist. We felt some of the suggestions

were better suited for our Policies and Procedures document and will revisit those suggestions as that document progresses. Therefore the NSDA Mission Statement will be as follows:

"The National Search Dog Alliance is a not-for-profit membership organization whose mission is to provide education, certifications and a voice in the future of search and rescue canines. The organization supports the efforts of all search and rescue personnel as they enhance their knowledge and capabilities in the field of search and rescue canines.

## **RCMP**

**The following article is submitted by RCMP Inspector, Lawrence d Aimoe, Officer in Charge of the Police Dog Services Training Centre in Innisfail, Alberta.**

"The Qualities of a Good Dog Handler"

A good dog handler is patient. He understands that training takes time and is willing to spend time. He is intelligent, and he thinks clearly about what effect his actions will have upon the dog. Also, he has "feeling", an accurate intuition for what makes dogs do the things that they do. He is decisive-fast handed and effective in all that he does. He is not dogmatic, but flexible-always ready to re-examine his beliefs and methods and adapt them to the particular nature and endowment of his pupil.

A good dog handler is emotionally disciplined and has an even disposition. He is not prone to temper tantrums and can administer both praise and punishment appropriately. When he

physically punishes the animal, he does so impartially – he punishes as the result of a thoughtful decision to use force in order to get results, rather than from wrath and the desire to relieve some of his frustration by taking vengeance upon the dog.

A good dog handler has integrity, in the sense that he is his own person and does not depend upon his dog's behavior or performance to give him a sense of worth, identity or importance.

A good dog handler has a worldly understanding of his pupil and knows it for a dog and only a dog. He realizes that the animal does things for its own reasons and does not necessarily live its whole life in order to please its dog handler. He accepts that sometimes his dog will be less than completely brave, that the animal has no sense of fair play or honesty, that it does nothing for spite and that its basic nature is that of an opportunistic predator.

A good dog handler has the capacity to self-examine. When his dog makes a mistake or does not understand an exercise, he asks himself, "Where am I at fault?"

Finally, a good dog handler respects his dog not just as an asset or possession, or as a way of gaining recognition by winning trophies, but as a living, breathing and utterly unique product of nature. After all, each and every dog is an event of biology that will never happen again.

## **Robert Koester Joins Advisory Board**

Robert has acted as a consultant on topics of Search & Rescue/

Emergency Mgmt., training, research and statistical analysis and development of performance measures. He is an expert witness in Search & Rescue response cases. He was the principal investigator in a collaborative research project analyzing Alzheimer's and related disorders of critical wanderers.

Robert has published scientific, medical and Search & Rescue texts. He developed the course, Virginia IC-Ground training program, Wilderness First-Aid program and Search Ops for Staff program. He has contracted to the National Park Service to develop a Search & Rescue field guide and is the creator of an International SAR Incident Database involving over 50,000 incidents. Robert delivers lectures and workshops on an international level in seven different countries.

He has served as a State SAR coordinator, Satellite Disaster Field Office manager, Operations Officer and Disaster Recovery Center Manager during disaster activations. He is a Type I Incident Commander, serving on more than 60 multi-organization emergency incidents. Robert is an Instructor Specialist for FEMA and teaches numerous courses for the Virginia Dept of Emergency Mgmt.

## **Susan Bulanda on Advisory Board**

Susan has over 20 years of field experience as a dog handler and as an Incident Commander. By High School she was getting paid to train dogs and received local recognition as a dog trainer by 1961. Prior to getting involved in SAR, she tried a

number of dog activities including personal protection, drug detection, bird dog work and dog sledding to name a few. She trained the first mold detection dogs and holds a patent for their training and use.

Susan earned her undergraduate degree in education and psychology and her masters from Monmouth University in education and behavioral sciences. Susan developed a pilot for Kutztown U. for students who want to become a dog trainer and teaches most of the core courses. She is developing a second program for students wanting to become a canine behaviorist. She has written two books about SAR, "Ready! The Training of the Search and Rescue Dog" and "Ready to Serve, Ready to Save: Strategies of Real Search and Rescue Missions".

In the mid 1980's she and her husband, Larry got involved in SAR. They formed and ran two SAR dog units, the last being the Phoenixville Fire Dept Canine Unit. Susan has taken several courses including Managing Search Operations, Domestic Terrorism, Basic Cadaver Search and Water Rescue.

## **Committees Forming**

We are still need subscribers to be part of the following committees

- Education Committee
- Management Advisory/  
Legal
- Fund Raising/ Public  
Relations
- Policy and Procedures
- Law enforcement
- 2008 Conference
- Air Scent
- Tracking/Trailing
- Land Cadaver

Water  
Avalanche  
Disaster Responder &  
Disaster HRD

For each of these committees we are looking for individuals who have proven experience in the field in question. A board member may be on a committee and will serve as a liaison to the Board but will not be the chairperson. We want the chairperson to be well qualified in the field. Please e-mail Norma Snelling at [snelling@olympen.com](mailto:snelling@olympen.com) with a short bio if you are interested in serving on one of these committees.

## **California's AB 1634**

In an effort to keep our readers informed, we pass on the following for your decision.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

"This bill would prohibit any person from owning or possessing any cat or dog over the age of 4 months that has not been spayed or neutered, unless that person possesses an intact permit, as defined. The bill would establish an intact permit fee . . . . ."

You may read the entire bill at [www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ab\\_1601-1650/ab\\_1634\\_bill\\_20070509\\_amended\\_asm\\_v95](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/asm/ab_1601-1650/ab_1634_bill_20070509_amended_asm_v95)

## **Research**

Everyone knows that dog handlers are opinionated. We would like to take some theories and turn them into fact. We will be turning to you for suggestions on topics that you believe are worthy of study. After each of our committees has established their standards and criteria, we will ask them to suggest an area of concern for their subject matter.

How can we use a collar GPS to study area search dogs as they work scent? Is there a more accurate way to establish POD? Why will an inexperienced tracking dog refuse to follow the trail of races of people to which they have not been exposed? Why will they not pick up the trail of people with certain mental disorders? What can we truly say about scent vs. crush?

Be thinking about your questions for our Research Committee or join the committee and develop a project.

## Questions and Answers

In our next newsletter we hope to have our Question and Answer column up and running. If you have a question you would like to submit, you may include your email address and request the opinion of our staff member. Depending upon volume, questions will be selected to be answered. Any member is welcome to send their opinion directly to the person asking.

## Your Forum

We want this to be your newsletter. Do you have an announcement (non-commercial) of general interest? Do you have suggestions for research topics? What about upcoming seminars? Conferences? Etc.?

## Dog Whispers

The column called Dog Whispers is devoted to interesting things that you

may have heard that you would like to pass along. This would include what other organizations might be doing, some new tidbit about dog behavior or some training tip. Item carried under Dog Whispers is the view point of the contributor and may or may not reflect the opinion of NSDA. All item submitted must be signed and you need to be willing to have your name associated with your submittal.

## Canine Seminar

Canine Search & Recovery, Inc will be holding its 2007 Seminar at Camp Rockmont near Black Mountain, NC Sept 23 to 28, 2007. North Carolina Search & Rescue Dog Assn is the host.

Beginning and Advanced training classes will be offered in air scent, cadaver and water cadaver. Beginning to advanced in trailing and urban. In addition, evening classes are being planned on cult recognition, homeland security and wilderness survival. A CGC test will be offered during the week.

Whether you are a new handler with a new dog or have many years and missions under your belt, there will be something at this seminar for you. Instructors from across the US will work with you and your canine partner to make you the team you dream of being, using their past experience to improve your skills and future as a K9 Handler.

For more information, including instructors, classes and seminar application, visit the Canine Search and Recovery web site at [www.csar.org](http://www.csar.org) or contact Carolyn Knapp at [cknapp@nemonet.com](mailto:cknapp@nemonet.com).

## Your Board:

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If you know of someone that has not received our newsletter, please have them contact [srt1530@starband.net](mailto:srt1530@starband.net)

## NEW DOG BREEDS!

Collie + Lhasa Apso  
Collapso, a dog that folds up for easy transport

Pointer + Setter  
Poinsetter, a traditional Christmas pet

Great Pyrenees + Dachshund  
Pyradachs, a puzzling breed

Pekingnese + Lhasa Apso  
Peekasso, an abstract dog

Labrador Retriever + Curly  
Coated Retriever

Lab Coat Retriever, the choice of research scientists

Newfoundland + Basset Hound  
Newfound Asset Hound, a dog for financial advisors

Terrier + Bulldog  
Terribull, a dog that makes awful mistakes

Bloodhound + Labrador  
Blabador, a dog that barks incessantly

Malamute + Pointer  
Moot Point, owned by.... oh, well, it doesn't matter anyway

Deerhound + Terrier  
Derriere, a dog that's true to the  
end