

SAR Dog Track

Wednesday, May 27
1900-2100

SIG #1 – The SAR dog-handler team and Science: A new day dawning?

Dr. Larry Myers

The biological and behavioral basis for the effectiveness of the dog in detection will be briefly presented. The study of HRD dog-handler teams performed in *People v. Zapata* will be described and results presented. The preliminary results of tests of reliability of dog-handler teams from various disciplines will be presented along with an analysis of factors associated with high and low reliability. The proposed design for testing reliability of tracking and trailing dogs will be presented and input from the membership will be sought.

Thursday, May 28

1330-1500

Workshop K9 #1, SAR Dog SAR - Grand Ballroom, Salon D

Canine Disaster Response in the US

Teresa MacPherson, Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association

This presentation will focus on the various agencies involved in Canine Disaster Response. In recent years, this topic has generated much needed awareness and attention. Federal Urban Search and Rescue (FEMA US&R), State Urban Search and Rescue (SUSAR) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) are all major players and a part of the discussion.

These agencies are actively setting guidelines and best practices for training, testing and maintaining quality disaster search canine teams for Federal, State and local response. This presentation will provide insight as to the current status of Canine Disaster Response.

1530-1700

Workshop K9 #2, SAR Dog SAR – Grand Ballroom, Salon D

Canine Code of Conduct: One Year Later

Robin Habeger, STAR 1 Search and Rescue (IA)

During the NASAR 2008 Conference, canine handlers met to collaborate and develop a Code of Conduct. This year we are asking those present that participated in that process to return and be prepared to discuss the results of those efforts. Additionally, even if you did not attend previously, you are welcome to attend this year's session, provide input and listen to the results of last year. This year's focus will be to determine if revision is necessary and how we may be able to further push professionalism and ethics in our chosen volunteer profession.

Friday, May 30

0830-1000

Workshop K9 #3 SAR Dog SAR – Grand Ballroom, Salon D

Training Tracking/Trailing Canines

Robert J. Noziska, Border Search Trauma and Rescue (BORSTAR)

Workshops K9 #3 – 5 are a full day of training focusing on problem-solving for canines at all levels. Each portion of classroom training will build upon the previous session, followed with field work by the participants and their canine partners.

Importance of a Ritual - This session will focus on problems encountered at the start of a track and methods used to get a controlled, confident start from your canine partner.

1100-1200

Workshop K9 #4 SAR Dog SAR – Grand Ballroom, Salon D

Training Tracking/Trailing Canines

Robert J. Noziska, Border Search Trauma and Rescue (BORSTAR)

Voice Tones and Leash Control (Keeping your dog on trail) - This session will focus on the correct tones to keep your dog on trail and engaged. In addition, it will focus on the proper communication between you and your dog while working on leash.

1330-1500

Workshop K9 #5 SAR Dog SAR – Grand Ballroom, Salon D

Training Tracking/Trailing Canines

Robert J. Noziska, Border Search Trauma and Rescue (BORSTAR)

Field Work and Problem Solving - These sessions will be used to assist handlers with any questions or problems they are encountering with their canine partners. In addition, the canines will be evaluated and a training curriculum will be suggested to assist them in reaching their goals.

Evening Session

1900-2100

Workshop SIG #7 – Grand Ballroom, Salon B

Cadaver Dogs in Archaeological Survey: Review of a 5 year study.

Paul Martin, Washington County Sheriff's Department

John M. Sullivan, Bureau of Land Management

A missing persons case led to a group of Indian Mounds in the south part of Washington County, Mississippi. No signs of recent activity were detected but the cadaver dog used to search the area did have noticeable body language changes. In cooperation with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, canine handler Paul Martin and archaeologist John Sullivan began questioning the potential of using cadaver dogs to locate historical and prehistorical human remains. Over the course of five plus years they have sought answers on human decomposition, the human decomposition scent spectrum, and movement of scent in varying soil types and varying environmental conditions. They have also worked with canines and handlers from across the country in what has become known as the Annual Human Remains Specialized K-9 Training Invitational utilizing known historical and prehistorical burials. Together with canine handler Lisa Higgins they have developed techniques and an understanding of the complex issues in approaching ! the use of cadaver dogs in archaeological survey.

Saturday, May 30

0830-1000

Workshop K9 #6, SAR Dog SAR – Grand Ballroom, Salon D

Choosing Your Next SAR Dog

Mike Wiederhold, Sonoran Search and Rescue

While this is a cadaver dog workshop, this information applies to all disciplines of SAR. We will be looking at pros and cons of choosing a young adult versus a puppy, different breeds, buying from a breeder versus getting a dog from the pound and the different evaluation programs out there and their underlying themes. Finally we will recognize the rewards system, the different types of reward systems and the pros and cons of each.

1030-1130

Workshop K9 #7, SAR Dog SAR – Grand Ballroom, Salon D

Training the Final Response and Imprinting Odor

Mike Wiederhold, Sonoran Search and Rescue

Continuing from Workshop K9 #6, we will use the reward system to train/shape the final response. The workshop will then go through the step by step process of creating a solid final response and eliminating false responses and handler cues.

1300-1730

Workshop K9 #8 SAR Dog SAR – Grand Ballroom, Salon D

Training the Final Response (Cont.) & Problem Solving

Mike Wiederhold, Sonoran Search and Rescue

Continuing with Workshops K9 #6 & 7, we will work to improve the reward systems and continue working on improving the final response. We will also show how to use helpers and their role in the training process. We will address any specific issue or problems handlers might be having.