

## General/Management Track

**Thursday, May 13**

**1330-1500**

**Workshop Gen/Mgt #1, General/Management SAR – Meeting Room 7**

**Wilderness Search and Rescue Training Simulations Using Google Earth**

*Dr. Don Ferguson, West Virginia SAR Council*

Wilderness search and rescue offers some very unique challenges that differ from conventional emergency response and require specialized training. Successful search operations require the correct resources, proper utilization of the resources and good management. However, as the majority of search and rescue teams throughout the United States (and the world) are staffed entirely by volunteers, maintaining proficiency in search management can be difficult and there is a significant need for additional focused training tools. This workshop utilizes a newly developed computer base training tool to focus on search management training through a series of search and rescue simulations utilizing Google Earth as the platform. Participants will have the opportunity to step into the role of search manager in order to gain valuable experience from real-life data. As participants move through each scenario, they will be given a series of clues and information, common forms for documentation, various resources and asked to perform a number of tasks. Once the tasks are complete, a link will take them to the next stage of the mission. Computer based training (CBT) has the advantage of allowing individuals to train at their convenience without the need for controllers (instructors) or other students being present.

**1530-1700**

**Workshop Gen/Mgt #2, General/Management SAR – Meeting Room 7**

**Success vs. Failure (It's Up to You)**

*Paul Falavolito, WOSAR*

This is a course whose target audience includes from the entry level SAR Technician to the Commander of the largest SAR Team. This lecture addresses some of the top reasons that can cause failure or momentum disruptions in organizational operations and the fix for those problems. This upbeat and informative class is sure to provide some great take home information for all who attend.

**Friday, May 14**

**0830-1000**

**Workshop Gen/Mgt #3, General/Management SAR – Meeting Room 7**

**SAR Unit Growth and Retention**

*Rob Brewer, Spokane County Explorer Search and Rescue*

Recruiting new members to your SAR unit is an ongoing effort. How do you manage this effort effectively? We will talk about using the ICS system, in particular, the planning cycle, in managing your recruiting efforts. How do we keep existing volunteers around? We will have a facilitated discussion to develop ideas to keep people around.

**1100-1200**

**Workshop Gen/Mgt #4, General/Management SAR – Meeting Room 7**

**Decisions For Heroes - Save More Lives with Web-Based SAR Analytics**

*Robin Blandford, Decisions for Heroes, Dublin 3, Ireland*

This presentation will go through a demonstration of how Irish and UK Search and Rescue teams are using new world-class web-based search and rescue software to perform analytics on their data to

determine preventative SAR campaigns, manage training records, and receive real-time alerting. Decisions For Heroes <http://www.decisionsforheroes.com> helps rescue teams save more lives.

### **1330-1500**

**Workshop Gen/Mgt #5, General/Management SAR – Meeting Room 7**

#### **Clue Awareness for Search Teams (CAST)**

*Rob Speiden and Greg Fuller*

This train-the-trainer formatted presentation is intended for everyone to take back and deliver to their teams. This training is designed to introduce everyone from a novice to the incident commander, with a level of understanding of how to effectively search for and manage clues. This presentation has been well presented to hundreds of professionals in the SAR community from Virginia to California. We will cover topics from the instructor's manual and take-home power point presentation. These include - defining clues, sign and tracks and the negative effects of searcher awareness. Additional subject areas include - ways to increase searcher awareness, using the senses on a search task, track trap information, optimizing the use of a flashlight and the effects of a clue on the expanding search area.

### **Saturday, May 15**

### **0830-1000**

**Workshop Gen/Mgt #6, General/Management SAR – Meeting Room 7**

#### **SAR Manager Toolkit Development Project**

*Rob Brewer, Spokane County Explorer Search and Rescue, Spokane, WA*

SAR unit leaders spend a great deal of time taking care of administrative tasks. From developing bylaws and standard operating procedures for a new unit to ongoing tasks like tracking training, often a lot of time is spent creating the forms and databases. In 2008, The National Association for Search and Rescue assigned the task of creating a repository of tools like these to volunteers in ground search and rescue. John Boburchuk in Pennsylvania did a lot of the work and he and Rob Brewer presented it at the 2009 National SAR Conference. However there remains much work to be done. This presentation will cover what has been done and provide participants with the tools to contribute to develop this repository into the Best Practices tools for managing SAR units.

### **1030-1130**

**Workshop Gen/Mgt #7, General/Management SAR – Meeting Room 7**

#### **GIS FOR WILDERNESS SEARCH AND RESCUE**

*Dr. Don Ferguson, West Virginia SAR Council, Morgantown, WV*

The objective of any search and rescue mission is to locate the missing subject and return them to a stable and safe environment. To do this, search managers must employ tactics that are efficient and do not pose unnecessary risk to rescue personnel. Modern search strategies involve the use of behavioral profiling, probability theory, terrain interpretation and resource management. Geographic information systems provide a platform to integrate these various elements into an effective tool for managing search operations. This workshop discusses the application of GIS to manage the search for a missing autistic youth in the Dolly Sods Wilderness area of West Virginia. Through this example, details are provided for segmenting the designated search area into probability regions based on statistical analysis and a behavioral profile of the missing subject. Integrating digital raster graphics, elevation datasets, developed an operational base map and aerial imagery with various shape files in order to further segment the probability regions into searchable areas. Attribute tables provided a database to track resources, clue logs and area coverage as well as performing basic probability estimates. Recommendations for the use of GIS during search operations focus on improving search efficiency and effectiveness, as well as reducing operational costs and response times with the goal of finding the missing subject as quickly as possible.

**1300-1500**

**Workshop Gen/Mgt #8, General/Management SAR – Meeting Room 7**

**The ICS Tool Box “Branch Tactical Planning”**

*Division Chief James Mason, Siloam Springs Fire Department, Siloam Springs, AR*

This presentation is based upon the concept that a SAR team is called to assist in another jurisdiction on an incident that has extended beyond the initial operation period. The requesting jurisdiction will remain responsible for all the incident activities, except for Search and Rescue, which will be assigned to the assisting SAR team. This presentation will cover - Statutory, jurisdictional and delegated authority, what is “Branch Tactical Planning” for a SAR Incident and when would “SAR Branch Tactical Planning” be used. We will also review SAR resource management, the SAR situation unit activities and what an organizational chart look would like that includes a “SAR Branch” and how “SAR Branch Tactical Planning” information would be included in an IAP.

**1530-1730**

**Workshop Gen/Mgt #9, General/Management SAR – Meeting Room 7**

**ATV Search Tactics**

*Robbie Houle, High Desert SAR, Wickenburg, AZ*

This presentation starts with the challenges we face in the field on SAR missions with regards to terrain, elements and the searching for signs/clues. The question is how we maintain focus of the mission while operating an ATV. Challenges are the fact the sign/clue will pass us by rapidly and the terrain is consistently changing. We’ll cover ATV safety, outfitting your ATV for field use - reference light placement, GPS and other accessories. We will also discuss the value of using an ATV in a mission and present examples for containment in the search area, rapid deployment and show that it is a great tool for the passive search mode, plus the many other benefits of ATV use in a SAR mission.