

Workshop K9 #1, SAR Dog – Lakeshore Ballroom, Salon I

Development of Best Practice Guidelines for Detector Dogs and their Optimal Combination with Instrumental Detection

Dr. Kenneth G. Furton, International Forensic Research Institute at Florida International University

This presentation discusses the current progress and future plans of the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal detector Guidelines (SWGDOG). SWGDOG is a partnership of local, state, federal and international agencies including law enforcement and first responders. Modeled after the successful precedent of a variety of other scientific working groups, SWGDOG is developing consensus-based best practice guidelines developed by 55 regular members including scientists, practitioners, and policy makers, as well as, guest members and the critical input from the greater community.

The SWGDOG process takes approximately 6 months to develop each guideline with general meetings convening biannually to produce the initial set of guidelines and at least biennially afterwards to continuously update them. SWGDOG guidelines are made available for public comment during the development process and final guidelines made available at www.swgdog.org.

The SWGDOG subcommittees as they currently stand are: Unification of terminology; General guidelines for training, certification, and documentation; Selection of serviceable dogs and replacement systems; Kenneling, keeping, and health care; Selection of handlers and instructors; Presentation of evidence in court; Research and technology; Substance detector dogs (Agriculture, Arson, Chem./Bio, Drugs, Explosives, Human remains, Other/Misc.); and, Scent dogs (Scent identification, Search and Rescue, Trailing dogs, Tracking dogs).

Workshop K9 #2, SAR Dog – Lakeshore Ballroom, Salon I

K-9 Search Team Deployment and Practical Search Sector Strategy

Al Banthem, Chesapeake Search Dogs

Due to the staggered nature of team arrival at a search scene, K-9 team deployment, particularly in the initial phase of a search, tends to be haphazard. Many refer to this as ‘the cattle call’, tasking teams with whatever is next on the list with little regard for individual capabilities. This often results in a slower but methodical team being assigned a larger open area leaving a fast wide ranging team detailing out buildings or a cluster of residences. A K-9 team leader, much like a professional sports coach, must establish control over their assets, as quickly as possible. They must then assign tasks handed down by command using their comprehensive knowledge of the individual Handler and K-9 capabilities. Accomplishing this and matching the resources to the task will be the first part of our presentation. The second part will cover the individual K-9 handler’s strategy for searching their assigned sector. We will discuss the formulation of micro-strategies and efficiency issues that take into account more than how the weather and conditions affect the transference of scent. Considerations would include minimizing the teams fatigue factor through economy of motion and energy management.

Workshop K9 #3, SAR Dog – Lakeshore Ballroom, Salon I
A Whole New Ball Game; Issues Raised During the Katrina/Rita Recovery Operation

Ruel Douvillier, New Orleans Fire Department

Gary Simon, New Orleans Fire Department

This presentation will cover a user's view of canine search issues raised during the Katrina/Rita recovery operations. It will consist of a short recap of the operation itself, a description of concerns raised by the operation, and proposals for dealing with those concerns. The concerns raised will include, but not be limited to, long, arduous working conditions; an overabundance of scent and distracters; loss of capability as teams worked long periods without training; inability to verify (and therefore reward) alerts; and a lack of published, verifiable standards with which to make educated EMAC requests. Proposed solutions will include, creating an NFPA-style national standard producing organization, developing a standardized training criteria for canine disaster cadaver searches, creating a user/canine team interface standard operating guideline that would facilitate canine team integration into an operation, delineating a standard work/rest schedule, and outlining a continuous work/training schedule to maintain proficiency.

Workshop K9 #4, SAR Dog – Lakeshore Ballroom, Salon I
Working with Wind: Understanding Wind Movement and its impact on Canine Search Strategy

Catherine Louis, Wake Canine SAR

Jeff Orrock, National Weather Service

Once human scent (bacteria laden rafts) is introduced into the environment, it is affected by wind, temperature and humidity. Having a deeper understanding of what creates air movement - temperature differences, pressure gradients, atmospheric stability and the resulting scent plume patterns will help both search planning teams as well as canine handlers improve their effectiveness in the field. Using weather conditions to anticipate the behavior of scent allows search teams and handlers to operate in a more effective manner better utilizing time and resources.

This course was developed as a partnership between North Carolina SAR and the National Weather Service with the goal of providing both responding search teams and Incident Command with key planning information to use in initial and ongoing search strategies. The partnership also educates National Weather Service forecasters in the role and importance of past and forecast weather information in search planning and operations enhancing future coordination.

It is hoped that presenting at the NASAR conference will not only disseminate much needed information addressing search planning and operations based on local weather, but will also encourage SAR teams from other states to form similar working partnerships with their own local National Weather Services offices.

Workshop K9 #5A, SAR Dog – Lakeshore Ballroom, Salon I

Behavioral Olfactometry: A Technique to More Objectively Evaluate Your Dog's Sense of Smell

Dr. Larry Myers, Auburn University

This workshop will describe and discuss the technique of behavioral olfactometry, its uses, and its interpretation. Participants will have limited opportunity to evaluate their own dog on site.

Workshop K9 #5B, SAR Dog – Olmstead

The Clicker Savvy Dog

Sue Lavoie, Positive Puppy Dog Training

This 4 hour hands on training class will introduce you and your K9 to the art and science of clicker training. The class will focus on training indications, directionals, emergency downs, and more, using clicker training. The class includes PowerPoint presentation, demonstration and actual hands on work. The majority of the class will be spent working with the dogs and handlers.

Workshop K9 #5C, SAR Dog – Lakeshore Ballroom, Salon III

Selecting Your K-9 Partner

Robert J. Noziska, U.S. Border Patrol

This workshop will focus on the ways the United States Border Patrol Search and Rescue Team selects their canine partners. An emphasis will be placed on increasing participants' knowledge of the importance of Drives and Character traits when selecting K-9 partners. Participants will be encouraged to bring their current K-9 partners, or their possible partners, for testing and training suggestions.

Workshop K9 #7A, SAR Dog – Olmstead

TBA

Jonni Joyce

Workshop K9 #7B, SAR Dog – Lakeshore Ballroom, Salon I

Blood Borne Pathogens – What Search and Rescue Workers Need to Know

Mary Margret Crestani, North Alabama Search Dog Association

This presentation will provide the attendee with information about blood borne diseases, and will focus on those diseases which may be encountered in a search and rescue environment. Information about transmission and prevention will be reviewed, as well as what to do should the rescuer believe they have been exposed. There will be time for questions and answers.

Workshop K9 #8, SAR Dog – Lakeshore Ballroom, Salon I

Search Dog Selection/Early Imprinting and Training

Bob Langendoen, New Jersey Search and Rescue

This session will be an overview of the dog selection, early socialization and imprint training that will provide the fundamental basis for a search and rescue training program.

This session will be of interest to Service K-9 and SAR handlers, breeders and trainers. Also, to any individual generally interested in what it takes to make a good search and rescue dog. Of search dogs there are three (3) primary functions to be considered in this presentation: tracking, trailing and air scenting.

This exciting seminar offers Search and Rescue Dog/Handlers and Teams a chance to learn while exchanging information and experiences. With sections on specific skills and interests, this unique seminar allows a customized approach to learning. The course covers basic through advanced techniques as well as problem solving. It can be tailored for Search and Rescue handlers to enhance their own performance and their dogs from the ground up. Classroom topics have been and can be demonstrated with direct field work to help shape the behaviors that define search dog and handler teams

Participants will form a strong foundation with specific goals and the right attitude to train and motivate themselves and other team members. Whether you are new to SAR and are forming a team or have been in it for a number of years you won't want to miss this learning opportunity.

Workshop K9 #9, SAR Dog – Lakeshore Ballroom, Salon I

Canine Injury Awareness and Prevention

Bill Lang, Metro Atlanta Fire Department

Canines have time and again proven how invaluable they are in the field of emergency services. As the uses for canines increase in the field, so must the importance be placed on canine wellness and injury prevention. We owe it to our partners in the field to be vigilant in keeping their health a top priority.

This program will introduce the audience to several different work areas where canines have been associated over the years. In further exploring the work of canines, discussion will be devoted to injuries and illnesses that are commonly found with working canines. Several different field cases will be presented to give the audience a better understanding of what ailments are present in working canines. With a good understanding of potential concerns facing our four-legged partners established, focus will move to the practices of injury prevention. There, several recommendations will be made, giving the canine's partner an understanding of injury prevention practices. At this point in the presentation, discussion will be directed towards the later years of the working canine and when retirement should be a consideration. Further, options for the working canine's handler will be presented with a goal of easing the transition of the canine into retirement and, most likely, the introduction of a new canine to the pack.

Workshop K9 #10, SAR Dog – Lakeshore Ballroom, Salon I

Forensic use of the dog: Possibilities and Pitfalls

Dr. Larry Myers, Auburn University

This presentation will discuss the tried-and-true uses of the trained dog in forensics as well as some more novel uses. Training, maintenance, testing, and documentation required will be discussed. Use of devices to assist such use will be discussed.