



RESCUE ME

"That others may learn"

Summer 1 / 2000

Volume 1, Issue 6

Changes At GPSAR

The summer of 2000 brings about many changes at GPSAR. The first and most important is the sudden resignation of Chief Labov. Chief Labov was with the team for over 4 years. The team wishes him all the best in future endeavours.

Asst. Chief TJ Wallace will take over until a new Chief can be elected.

We'll be rewriting our bylaws to bring them up to date. While they

are fine at the core they need to be brought into the 21st. century.

GPSAR looks forward to continuing to improve, learn and add to it's 21 years of experience in the Search and Rescue field in the tri-state area.

More than likely this is the last paper newsletter we'll be sending out. In order to cut expenses, save time, produce a better product quicker, and maybe save a few

Blue Marsh Water Safety Festival

GPSAR attended the water safety festival at Blue Marsh for the 11th year in a row. Lt. Ferron is a member of the planning committee for the festival.

GPSAR, along with other groups such as the Army Corp of Engineers, US Coast Guard, Reading Dive Rescue Team and many others assisted in the community education of the children attending.

The water safety festival is of special interest

to our water safety team, lead by Lt. Ferron. The water safety team currently has 8 members and trains at local waterways during the warmer months. If interested contact water@gpsar.org.

With the high activity season for water coming up remember to practice diligence and safety when on the waterways in any capacity. The life you save may be your own.

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| <i>Changes At GPSAR, Blue Marsh, How can you help?</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Changes At GPSAR, FRS Radio Review</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>Training & Details & Meetings, Canine</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>Medical - Heat Related Emergencies</i> | <i>4</i> |

Changes At GPSAR *(continued from page 1)*

trees in the process we're going digital.

Please send the email address where you want upcoming newsletters sent to to newsletter@gpsar.org.

We hope that you will let us know what you think of the new format and contents.

If for some reason you cannot get the newsletter in paper format please contact us and let us know and we will try to accommodate your request.

Let's make 2000 the year to move forward and not dwell on the past. The tri-state area has the potential to have a powerful and diverse mix of SAR teams and member skills. If we all work together it will benefit all involved...especially the victim.



FRS Radio Review

Some team members have looked into FRS radios for inter-task communications on a search. Recent testing of 4 brands of radios came back with good results all the way around. While they would never replace our team radios they are certainly a good task communication and training tool.

Here is a little information for people considering them as an option.

The Family Radio Service is a service developed for use by the general public at large. This service is not intended as a "hobby" service; and currently, usage reports indicate this is a typical trend. Users of FRS typically wish only to communicate with others of their own group.

Some FRS facts:

WARNING: You may ONLY use FRS radios in the United States and Canada only!

You do not need a license, or pay any type of "user fees" or subscriptions. You simply purchase a radio, and batteries, and then you may immediately use the radio.

An FRS radio can cost anywhere between about \$40 to

\$130, depending on features and capabilities. Accessories and other components vary in price.

Also, many manufacturers advertise "privacy codes" on their radios. This is misleading. ALL transmissions may be listened to by other FRS users, or those people with scanners. All these "codes" do is keep YOUR radio from hearing people who you do not wish to hear. They are a sort of "filter", not a "scrambler".

Many people equate radio power output with performance. This is essentially the wrong attitude to approach. Reviews of equipment generally show equal performance, regardless of power output. You can for most purposes assume you will get .75 mile minimum effective range. As a rule of thumb most VHF radios get about 1 mile per watt line of sight.

All FRS units are compatible with one another in basic operation. Radios with CTCSS tones all use essentially the same tones. These tones are just in a different order. The owners manuals have the tone frequencies to help determine CTCSS tones for different radios. Other features may or may not be cross-compatible; but all radios can operate with each other in basic operation.



Training & Details & Meetings

June 2000

11th 11:00a - 5:00p Blue Marsh Water Safety Festival
28th 7:00p - 9:00p General Meeting / Training

July 2000

4th 3:00p - 6:00p July 4th parade detail
8th 9:00a - 5:00p CISM part 2
22nd 9:00a - 5:00p CISM part 2
28th 7:00p - 9:00p General Meeting / Training

- * Canine training on Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings. Contact barksar@aol.com
- * Equine certifications / trainings by appointment. Contact czrider19@aol.com

This list is by no means complete and more up to date info can be found on the web calendar.

Tales from the Nose - GPSAR K9 Unit



It is well known that a dog's nose is much better than that of a human at detecting small amounts of odor or scent. Human scent is very complicated and unique to the individual. Humans constantly shed very small particles of dead skin

called rafts.

Bacteria acting on these skin cells as well as residues and body secretions produce the scent. The individual's heredity, diet, emotion, metabolism and environment further define the scent. In addition the use of soaps, perfumes and clothing add to the mixture. The rafts are carried away from the body by air and wind currents. The rafts are dispersed downwind in a conelike shape or scent cone. The scent is concentrated at the source (the person) and widens, as the distance from the person becomes greater. The trained search and rescue dog is trained to find the source of this scent. Handlers must be aware of the many factors affecting the scent to maximize their partner's effectiveness in completing the search task. The terrain and environmental conditions of the search area further affect the dispersion of the scent and complicates the search task.

In the next issue: Terrain and other Special

Conditions in the Field

K9 FAQ:

Can dogs find a person who has crossed a stream?

The interaction of moving water and the air above it will create currents. These currents carry rafts down stream and may be deposited on the bank. The dog is most likely to react downstream of the actual crossing or location of the person. The distance downstream can be significant if the water is fast moving. A person who has crossed or is along side a narrow slow moving stream will leave a well-defined scent pattern. The experienced dog will easily detect this pattern.

References

American Rescue Dog Association, Search and Rescue Dogs Training Methods, Maxwell Publishing, 1991
Button, Practical Scent Dog Training, Alpine Publications, 1990
Syrotuck, Scent and The Scenting Dog, Arner Publications, 1980

GPSAR



Greater Philadelphia Search And Rescue
PO Box 11272
Elkins Park, PA 19027
www.gpsar.org

Mailing
Address
Goes
Here

Medical - Heat Related Emergencies

There are three types of heat emergencies you may be required to treat.

1. HEAT STROKE

This is the most serious type of heat emergency. It is LIFE-THREATENING and requires IMMEDIATE and AGGRESSIVE treatment!

Heat stroke occurs when the body's heat regulating mechanism fails. The body temperature rises so high that brain damage --and death-- may result unless the body is cooled quickly.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

The victim's skin is HOT, RED and usually DRY. Pupils are very small. The body temperature is VERY HIGH, sometimes as high as 105 degrees.

FIRST AID

Remember, Heat Stroke is a life-threatening emergency and requires prompt action! Summon professional help. Get the victim into a cool place. COOL THE VICTIM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IN ANY MANNER! Place the victim into a bathtub of cool water, wrap in wet sheets, place in an air conditioned room.

Do not give victim anything by mouth. Treat for shock.

2. HEAT EXHAUSTION

Heat exhaustion is less dangerous than heat stroke. It is caused by fluid loss which in turn causes blood flow to decrease in vital organs, resulting in a form of shock.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

COOL, PALE AND MOIST skin, heavy sweating, dilated pupils (wide), headache, nausea, dizziness and vomiting. Body temperature will be near normal.

FIRST AID

Get the victim out of the heat and into a cool place. Place in the shock position, lying on the back with feet raised. Remove or loosen clothing. Cool by fanning or applying cold packs or wet towels or sheets. If conscious, give water to drink every 15 minutes.

3. HEAT CRAMPS

Heat cramps are muscular pain and spasms due to heavy exertion. They usually involve the abdominal muscles or legs. It is generally thought this condition is caused by loss of water and salt through sweating.

FIRST AID

Get victim to a cool place. If they can tolerate it, give one-half glass of water every 15 minutes. Heat cramps can usually be avoided by increasing fluid intake when active in hot weather.