

NASDN GAZETTE

--North American Search Dog Network, May 2008--

2008 Fall Seminar

September 14-20, 2008
Camp Bob Marshall
Custer, South Dakota

This will be NASDN's first Seminar in South Dakota. The people there are working to make it one of our best. We are looking forward to a week of excellent training in a spectacular setting. The Custer area is home to a lot of interesting and historically significant places. Participants might want to plan a few extra days for some sight seeing.

Mark your calanders now. Registration forms and details will be posted on the NASDN website.

Photo of Camp Bob Marshall on page 4 of this newsletter.



Search and Rescue Canine Legal Update and Opinions

By Terry Fleck

Part 2

THE SAR CANINE INDUSTRY STANDARD

The canine industry standard is what the dog team will be held to. This industry standard is usually determined by national K-9 associations, such as NASAR (National Association for Search and Rescue) and NAPWDA (North American Police Work Dog Association).

NASDN will publish two regular editions of this newsletter yearly, plus occasional special editions. Members and non members are invited to submit articles, reviews and other items of interest. Please feel free to contribute.

-editor

2008 Elections

Elections will be held in the Fall of 2008. NASDN Secretary, Sue Hill will be sending out requests for nominations this summer. Please consider offering to serve.

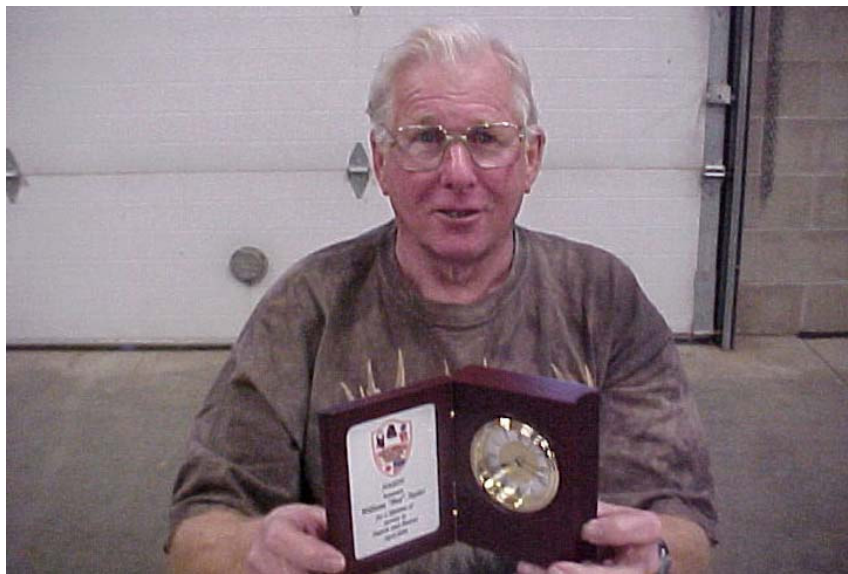


Photo by Marianne Morris

Red Taylor Receives Award

Anyone who has ever attended a NASDN Seminar has probably met Bill "Red" Taylor. Most have benefited from his gentle and supportive instruction. Red is one of NASDN's founding members. He is now an Honorary Member. His award reads, "NASDN honours William "Red" Taylor for a lifetime of service to Search and Rescue."

It may also be determined by actual SAR dog associations, such as WOLF (Wilderness Finders), CARDA (California Rescue Dog Association), etc. These smaller associations must at least meet the minimum standards are imposed by the national associations.

The standard may also be determined by a state agency, such as POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training). As an example, the State of Utah POST has a state SAR dog standard. The standard may also be determined by another state agency, such as OES (Office of Emergency Services). The state

of California has also released their state SAR dog standard through OES.

There has been recent talk about establishing a national “best practice standard” for all working canines. The Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detector Guidelines (SWGDOG) was recently formed to address this task.

The Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detector Guidelines (SWGDOG) is a forum aimed at addressing the broadly expressed need to improve the performance, reliability, and courtroom defensibility of detector dog teams. It is also charged with recommending best approaches to the use of detector dogs in conjunction with electronic detection devices, or so-called orthogonal detectors. Modeled after the successful precedent of a variety of other scientific working groups, SWGDOG aims to develop internationally recognized consensus-based best practice guidelines developed by a membership of respected scientists, practitioners, and policy makers representing diverse backgrounds within the detection community. SWGDOG guidelines will be made available to the public via the SWGDOG website at www.swgdog.org. SWGDOG is funded by the National Institute of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Transportation Security Administration.

SWGDOG Subcommittees

- Unification of terminology



Photo by Chuck Morris

It looks like January but this was April at Camp Ripley



Photo by Chris Bolstad

The water was open.

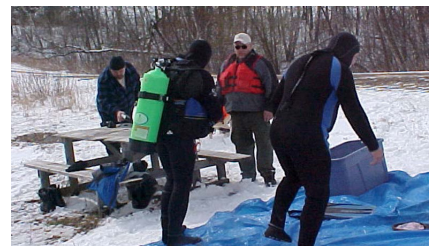


Photo by Chuck Morris

The divers were willing.



Photo by Chris Bolstad

Sue and JJ are from Texas.



Photo by Chuck Morris

Mantrailers lit a fire.



Photos by Brad Dutson

Roger McGrath and K9 Mikey were among the teams that passed their Evaluations. Everyone kept a great attitude about the spring storm.

- Protocols and documentation for minimum training, certification, and maintenance standards (Substances, scent)
- Selection of serviceable dogs and replacement systems
- Kenneling, keeping, and health care
- Selection and training of handlers and instructors
- Procedures on presenting evidence in court
- Research and technology
- Substance detector dogs (Agriculture, Arson, Chem. / Bio., Drugs, Explosives, Human Remains, other / misc.)
- Scent dogs (Scent Identification, Search and Rescue, Trailing Dogs, Tracking Dogs)

The initial phase of SWGDOG will last two years, beginning mid-year 2005. Draft best practices guidelines emanating from each of the subcommittees will be available for public comment on the SWGDOG website.



Book Review:

By Judith Philipps Otto

Badge on My Collar: A Chronicle of Courageous Canines

Marilyn Jeffers Walton has previously authored a number of books for children, and one is tempted to say that her roots are showing in the current tome, “Badge on My Collar: A Chronicle of Courageous Canines.”

But while her style is somewhat simplistic, and occasional typographical errors distract the reader, it is hard to be critical of the author’s attention to the professional dedication, the personal devotion, and the details of how and why scenting dogs work.

While the experienced canine handler may balk at occasional passages which seem to credit the dog’s keen powers of observation rather than his scenting ability, who wants to split hairs over such a point? It is enough to see their capabilities and accomplishments recognized and applauded in such a book—long overdue.

“Badge on My Collar” is an anthology of stories about dogs who have served competently, loyally, and even heroically beside their human partners in law enforcement, the military, and civilian SAR, doing their jobs under challenging and often hazardous conditions.

The tales—of bomb and drug dogs, live search and cadaver dogs—of hunters, enforcers, searchers, and pursuers—were clearly penned by a devoted fan and admirer who has done her homework well, for the most part, conveying not only the laudable deeds of her canine subjects, but also their unique personalities, including a few flaws and failings.

Walton recognizes the complex characters that lie beneath the public, one-dimensional faces of “hero”

dogs who protect and save lives, win competitive trophies, and interact with the public at official functions.

She introduces us to each dog in a series of appealing biographies that run the gamut from playful clown to angst-ridden candidate unable to survive the psychological stresses of the job; from intimidating giant with stainless steel fangs to 11” tall Chihuahua mix; from dogs whose pranks include driving patrol cars and demolishing furniture, to homeless, abused and unwanted dogs rescued to rise above their adverse beginnings and ultimately display the courageous character and steadfast heart of a true hero.

As dog handlers, it is perhaps easier for us than most to share the pride in the shining skills of an exceptional partner, and to share the grief of deep loss when their lives of service are cut short. If Walton’s descriptions of ceremonies honoring the passing of K-9s lost in the line of duty seem overlong, who can understand the need to give their memories a few more precious seconds of respect and regret than we?

Walton writes so obviously from the heart in expressing her admiration for the animals she profiles with depth and sensitivity, that we who have ourselves experienced such partnerships—and such losses—would be hardened cynics, indeed, to resist the emotional tugs which draw us to embrace and wholeheartedly enjoy her book and its unforgettable subjects.



Fall 2008 Seminar in Custer, South Dakota

Excellent training in a beautiful location. Please plan to attend.

Details and registrations forms will be posted at www.nasdn.org



Here is as much of the group as we could round up for a final photo at Camp Ripley.

A few of the comments sent in by participants at the Camp Ripley Mini Seminar.

I want to thank you and the rest of the crew for an outstanding spring? seminar. The instructors were terrific and I enjoyed meeting all those unique personalities.

Mikey started his mantrailing slow but all of the sudden he got it.

With the help of our instructors, he (and I) had an epiphany and it all fell into place. After that there was no holding him back - I am absolutely thrilled with our improved performance.

Driven snow giving us visual corroboration of scent flow, high energy meals at the dining hall - wow! we had it all.

-Roger McGrath

Thanks for the great seminar in Camp Frigid (oops Ripley). Dext and I had a great time and learned a lot.

-Karen Stapleton

More Information at www.nasdn.org

Copyrights are retained by the original authors.

Articles and letters to the editor may be sent to JB30343@navix.net