

Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue
Meeting Minutes: Tuesday August 22, 2017
Location: Alamosa County Sheriff's Office

The monthly meeting of the Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue Organization (AVSAR) was held on Tuesday, August 22, 2017 at 1800 hours Mountain Daylight Time (MDT). It was held in the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office classroom.

Board Members Present: Suzi Hopper, Rob Mabry, Bruce Morrison, Don Thompson and Mérida Zerbi.

Team Members Present: Morgan Barnes, Stephen Cline, Kraig Fairhurst, Clifford Wagner, Levi Wilner and Crystal Wilson.

Board Absent: None.

Guests Present: Kenna Gonzales, Kellie Hill, Nicole Matthews, Robin McClure, Wren Osborne, Patrick T. Rheume, and Alex Winch.

Pre-Meeting Training: Patrick Rheume, M.S., of the San Luis Valley Critical Incident Team, gave a presentation on Critical Incident Stress Management.

Call to Order: Suzi Hopper called the meeting to order at 1926 MDT. Mérida Zerbi recorded the minutes. A quorum of members were present and the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with business.

Introduction of Guests and New Members: The team was joined by six new potential members. Kellie Hill, Wren Osborne and Alex Winch are AmeriCorps volunteers assigned to San Luis Valley locations. Robin McClure is the wife of long-time member, Morgan Barnes, and is beginning to train a search and rescue dog. Nicole Matthews recently moved back to the valley and is working towards her CNA license. Kenna Gonzales is a deputy with the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office. Kenna already turned in her application and her background check is clear, so she was accepted as a probationary team member.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: The July minutes have been emailed to team members and are available online at the AVSAR website. Kraig Fairhurst moved to accept the July minutes and Crystal Wilson seconded the motion. The vote to accept the July minutes was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Don Thompson stated that most, but not all, of the SUDS 4 SAR fundraising money had been deposited and that additional auction payments were still trickling in. Don also reported the team had received approximately 20 donations made in memory of Barney Cruz and read a letter of thanks to the team that was included with one of

the donations. Don will updated the annual profit and loss statement, which will be posted on the AVSAR website.

Don indicated he had brought the written motion to change Article 6 §4 of the Bylaws regarding check signatures that was discussed at the July meeting. Suzi Hopper noted that the motion had also been emailed to team members on August 7th and read the motion aloud. The motion changes the current practice, which requires the signatures of two executive board members on every check, to instead require only one signature by an member of the executive board on every check on the condition that a check requested by one executive board member must be signed by a different executive board member. Don Thompson moved to approve the written motion and Levi Wilner seconded the motion. The vote to approve the written motion passed unanimously.

Clifford Wagner moved to change the correlated language in Section 5B of the Official Policies and Procedures. Clifford moved to change the language in Section 5B to match the new language in Article 6 §4 of the Bylaws and Don Thompson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence: See Treasurer's Report.

Committee Reports: SUDS 4 SAR Committee: Suzi Hopper related the results of the event fundraising, noting that the numbers would be finalized soon. Still to be tallied were the most recent auction payments, a new \$500 donation and the merchandise sales. The beer tent and donation jar totals were both higher than last year and the team sold eight CORSAR cards. The auction booth did not do as well as last year but only one item didn't sell – a computer repair certificate. Suzi noted two options for handling the non-sale: 1) allowing team members to bid on it tonight; or 2) allowing the team to keep it for use on the team's laptop that is used in the field. A call for interest in individually bidding on the certificate had no responses. Kraig Fairhurst moved to keep the certificate to use in the upkeep of the team laptop and Mérida Zerbi seconded the motion. The vote to apply the certificate to the team's needs passed unanimously.

The team discussed ways to improve based on feedback from the crowd at the event. Suzi Hopper noted we've been so focused on social media and in-person promotion that we forgot to post the event flyer on the AVSAR website. Crystal Wilson described how many sales the beer tent had to turn away because we lacked the ability to accept credit card sales. Credit card processing options were discussed. Facebook has a donation function that could be turned on but team members had questions about processing fees and fraud protection. A PayPal button has been used on the AVASAR website and could be an option for processing credit cards. Crystal offered to donate her Square credit card reader, described the advantages of the Square system, and offered to help the team set up a Square account. Suzi asked Crystal to take the lead in figuring out the best option for next year's fundraiser.

Announcements:

1. RECOVERY PROTOCOL TRAINING: Suzi Hopper stated she had spoken to Deputy Coroner Harry Alejo about coming to speak to the team about the on-scene protocol and expectations for recovery missions. Suzi suggested a special meeting be held so that all new members could be trained right away. The team discussed having the meeting on Tuesday or Wednesday evening next week. Suzi will confer with Harry and email the date and time to the team.

Old Business:

1. EMAIL/ON-LINE VOTING: Suzi Hopper indicated she had brought the written motion, discussed at the July meeting, to formally add a §9 to Article 6 of the Bylaws which would allow the team to make financial decisions by voting via email or on-line poll vote with the results tally to be included in the next treasurer's report. Further discussion was held as to how records of the vote would be kept, the need to add language to define the quorum for an email or on-line vote as those who respond within the set deadline, and on-line poll sites like Doodle and SurveyMonkey. Clifford Wagner moved to table the written motion until the next monthly meeting so the poll sites could be researched and proposed additions to the language of the written motion could be submitted. Levi Wilner seconded the motion. The vote to table the written motion until the September meeting passed unanimously.
2. MISSION PROTOCOL: Suzi Hopper related that there had been some deviation from protocol on the last mission. She reminded the team not to change call signs during the mission and reviewed the terminology our team uses on the radio. The team discussed a code word for sensitive situations and what it would convey. It was determined that the IC will make a code word determination on a mission by mission basis. The team also discussed the necessary gear for ground team members during missions on the Blanca Massif, as well as the distribution of team gear between ground teams and 4x4 teams.

New Business:

1. PRO-DEAL: Stephen Cline stated that he had spoken to Scarpa and the company was willing to do individual pro-deals for AVSAR team members upon presentation of a letter from the executive board confirming membership. Stephen reported that ordering through the company on an individual basis resulted in a savings on shipping, as compared to ordering Scarpa gear through the Pro-Motive website.
2. MISSION CONTACTS: As reported by Suzi Hopper:
 - a. August 12, 2017: The AVSAR Sheriff Liaison, Deputy Chris Lavery, was contacted by Dispatch about a suicidal female at Zapata Falls. President Suzi Hopper determined the it was not appropriate for AVSAR to respond due to

the potential presence of a weapon and the lack of any mental health specialists on the team. The subject was located by another agency and brought down safely.

- b. August 15, 2017: Saguache SAR reached out for assistance on a technical rope rescue near the Prow, however Custer County was able to send a team already on standby to assist via FFL. The Custer County and Saguache SAR teams conducted two technical rope lowers and hike the subjects out safely.
 - c. August 16, 2017: CSRFB reached out for assistance on a cold search in Gunnison County to be held on Saturday, August 19, 2017. The team was unable to commit due to the conflict with the annual fundraiser.
3. RIG MAINTENANCE: Clifford Wagner related that the oil in the rig was dark and needed to be changed. Bruce Morrison will complete the maintenance as soon as his work schedule will allow. The team discussed the continuing issues with certain lights on the rig. Arrangements will be made for the relay and the batteries to be checked.
 4. ROPES TRAINING: The team discussed the scheduling of the fall rope trainings for low-angle and high-angle missions. Morgan Barnes agreed to conduct the trainings. Many of the new members have work obligations on Saturdays, so the trainings will be set on Sundays. Suzi and Morgan will select the dates for the trainings and email the team. Due to having a low angle training prior to our scheduled rope review at September's meeting, the after meeting training will not be needed.

After Meeting Training: There was no after meeting training.

Next Trainings: Suzi Hopper will email the team once dates are selected for low-angle and high-angle ropes training. UPDATE: Low-Angle Rope training will take place at Bishop's Rock at 0900 hours MDT on September 24, 2017. High-Angle Rope training will take place at Bishop's Rock at 0900 hours MDT on October 1, 2017.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 26, 2017, at 1800 MDT at Alamosa County Sheriff's Office classroom. UPDATE: Meeting will take place, if time allows, after our speaker Kevin Wright, author and former AVSAR President, speaks to team.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned, after training, at 20:43 hours MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Mérida Zerbi
AVSAR Executive Secretary

