

**Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue**  
**Meeting Minutes: Tuesday February 21, 2017**  
**Location: Alamosa County Sheriff's Office**

The monthly meeting of the Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue Organization (AVSAR) was held on Tuesday, February 21, 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:** Joshua Hudson, Mark Martinez, Francis Song, Gary Walker, Clifford Wagner, Adelaide Whitehead and Levi Wilner.

**Board Absent:** None.

**Guests Present:** None.

**Call to Order:** Suzi Hopper called the meeting to order at 1805 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:** None.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** The January minutes have been emailed to team members and will be available online at the AVSAR website. There were no objections to the January minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don Thompson provided a printed and verbal Treasurer's Report. The printed report will be available online at the AVSAR website.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Committee Reports:** None.

**Announcements:**

- 1) No further details have been received about Avalanche Training with the Ski Patrol.

**Old Business:**

1. RIG STORAGE: The Rig has been moved to the locked yard of the Alamosa County Shop. Suzi Hopper will continue discussions with the Sheriff about another spot that could provide a power outlet or some sort of cover. Dennis Hopper has located a local

vender who could provide a carport that would fit the 8'(h) Rig, at a cost of \$1600, and which has dimensions of 18'(w) x 26'(l) x 10' (h). Cliff Wagner moved to approve the purchase of the above described carport if a more protective or powered storage location is not presented. The motion was seconded by Joshua Hudson. The motion passed unanimously.

2. BATTERIES: Suzi Hopper clarified that batteries for electronics kept in the Rig are stored in the radio bag located under Suzi's desk.
3. SNOWCAT: Suzi Hopper has been informed that the SnowCat the team had been hoping to receive as a donation is no longer available. The team was disappointed at the loss of such a potentially valuable SAR asset, but recognized that the donation inquiry was never a final agreement.
4. ROPE TRAINING: Suzi Hopper confirmed the next Rigging For Rescue training opportunity will be the last week of April 2018. Discussion was held regarding applying for two spots versus four spots in the 2017 DOLA grant, which is due in April 2017. There would have to be extraordinary commitment to justify requesting more than two spots because the team would be responsible for ensuring any unfilled spots were transferred to another Colorado SAR team.
5. DOLA GRANT: Suzi Hopper invited suggestions for other gear that might qualify for DOLA funding that hasn't previously been discussed. Mérida Zerbi noted that the team has only one large 540 Rescue Belay; which is a critical component in the team's rescue rope system and is also used frequently for training. At an estimated cost of \$500, it might be a good practice to have a back-up available, but the team should probably get input from Morgan and/or Andrew. If the team decides to request it in the 2017 DOLA grant it will have 2<sup>nd</sup> tier priority to the Rigging for Rescue request.
6. RADIOS: Suzi Hopper spoke to the radio tech about the squelch issues that arose during the last radio training session. The squelch issue may have been related to being in a building or a specific channel being used. The team confirms one radio unit had continued squelch issues during the 02-16-2017 Sand Dunes missions. Suzi will continue to work with the radio tech to solve the issue.

### **New Business:**

1. GPS: Suzi Hopper indicated that the team's GPS units were returned by Sand Dunes rangers – who were eventually able to download data off of them from the 02-16-2007 Sand Dunes Mission. The team discussed the issues encountered with GPS during the mission (batteries, knowledge, software compatibility) and whether to adopt a policy of assigning one GPS unit to a team member with a training checklist to be completed before it is returned.
  - a. UPDATE: At the Navigation training session on Sunday, February 26, 2017, the team members present agreed there was a need to replace the four (4) older

Garmin Legend H units. The four (4) e-Trex 20 units are still adequate for the team's purposes. Suzi Hopper will research the purchase price of four (4) new e-Trex 30 (or similar) units. Mérida Zerbi will research outdoor recreation groups aimed at children that would benefit from the donation of the older units being replaced.

2. CALENDAR:

- a. A request to modify the Training Calendar was discussed. The team members present prefer Sundays for training sessions. Suzi Hopper will email the full team to see if Sundays work. If so, then all trainings currently scheduled for Saturday will be changed to the Sunday of the same weekend.
    - UPDATE: At the Navigation training session on Sunday, February 26, 2017, the team members present discussed that one exception should be made to the Sunday switch for the Blanca conditioning hike – which should remain set for Saturday, June 3, at 0430 AM
  - b. Gary Walker and Mérida Zerbi will consider dates for a horse training calendar and report back to the team.
3. FFL: After discussing what date to request for Flight for Life training, Suzi Hopper will place a request for Sunday, May 7, 2017. Mérida Zerbi will ask the coordinator Rio Grande SAR Team to try and schedule their FFL training for a Saturday so that any Alamosa members with Sunday conflicts could attend.
  4. WFA: The team members selected and confirmed for Wilderness First Aid training on March 3-5, 2017, at Adam's State University, are: Helina Alvarez, Joshua Hudson, Francis Song, Bruce Morrison and Gary Walker.

**After Meeting Training:** Mérida Zerbi conducted an in-house knots training. The training session concluded at 2000 hours MDT.

**Next Training:** Sunday, February 26, 2017, at 0900 hours MDT, the team will conduct a Navigation training session. Meet in the classroom at the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 1800 MDT at Alamosa County Sheriff's Office classroom.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 1907 hours MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Mérida Zerbi  
**AVSAR Executive Secretary**

