

Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue
Meeting Minutes: Tuesday January 17, 2017
Location: Alamosa County Sheriff's Office

The monthly meeting of the Alamosa Volunteer Search and Rescue Organization (AVSAR) was held on Tuesday, January 17, 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, and Mérida Zerbi.

Team Members Present: Helina Alvarez, Chris Lavery, Darrell Elder, Sean Messersmith, Francis Song, Gunnar Tokar, Gary Walker and Clifford Wagner.

Board Absent: Don Thompson.

Guests Present: Colten Williams and Michelle Surface.

Call to Order: Suzi Hopper called the meeting to order at 18:10 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: Colten Williams is present. He works for Kristi Mountain Sports and is interested in joining the team. Also present is Michelle Surface who has medical training and a specialized truck and may be interested in assisting the team.

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

Treasurer's Report: There was no treasurer's report as Don Thompson was absent. The report on the AVSAR website will be updated after the newest report is received.

Correspondence: Suzi Hopper received an email from CSRB regarding moulage training (simulation of wounds/treatment). Josh Hudson attended the training.

Committee Reports: The Medical Committee will be in charge of the next training session, which is the Cold Challenge.

Announcements:

- 1) Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training is scheduled for March 3-5, 2017 at Adams State University. The team has access to five (5) slots in the class and at least four (4) of the slots will be paid for. Usually, payment for the 5th spot is the responsibility of AVSAR. Brief discussion of how team members would be selected to fill the slots was

- held.
- 2) SUDS for SAR has been scheduled for August 19, 2017, in coordination with Scott from SLV Brewery. The stage has been rented. Pro teams have been contacted for auction items.

Old Business:

1. HATS: The manufacturer of the black hats has confirmed they are being re-done with the requested changes to the graphics.
2. TECHNOLOGY: Francis Song discussed an opportunity for the team to purchase a laptop for \$200. It is a ToughBook offered by Arapahoe County and runs on Windows XP. The \$200 cost covers the installation of the basic programs the computer will need to be useful to the team. A power cord will need to be purchased; estimated cost ~\$20-\$30. Francis also recommends installation of the free mapping program MARPLOT because it can run without a Wi-Fi connection. Link: <https://www.epa.gov/comeo/marplot-software> . Francis will let the team know what opportunities for MARPLOT are available. Cliff Wagner motioned to authorize AVSAR to spend up to \$250 for the purchase of the computer and associated items necessary to make it functional for the team's purposes. The motion was seconded by Chris Lavery. The motion passed unanimously.
3. MEDICAL COMMITTEE: An anonymous donor provided the team with a box of medical supplies. The Medical Committee will review the supplies and make recommendations for their use.

New Business:

1. RIG STORAGE: The county land and building where the Rig is usually stored has been sold, so the Rig is temporarily being stored in the parking lot of the Alamosa County Sheriff's Office. Suzi Hopper is working to see if it is possible to secure a covered spot in the county yard. If the county is unable to accommodate that request the team may need to look for a portable carport. An email will be sent to team members if the Rig is moved.
2. PER DIEM TRAINING EXPENSES: The team discussed the per diem meal and mileage expenses in light of the goal of sending more team members to out-of-valley trainings. The IRS volunteer rate for mileage is 14¢ per mile, which is appropriate for the team to adopt. Suzi Hopper proposes that meal expenses be set as follows: Breakfast: \$10; Lunch: \$15; and Dinner: \$20. Chris Lavery moved to adopt the above stated per diem rates for mileage and meals. The motion was seconded by Clifford Wagner. The motion passed unanimously.
3. AVALANCHE TRAINING: Suzi Hopper has spoken with Cory at Wolf Creek Ski Patrol and confirmed the team can join them for Avalanche Training. The team will be

notified when a training date has been decided, so a separate date for beacon training will not be necessary. The team Rig can be taken to the training if desired.

4. **ROPE TRAINING:** Suzi Hopper was notified of a training opportunity through a company other than Rigging For Rescue. After consulting with Alpine Rescue Team, the opportunity was declined, based on concerns about having some team members trained in one technique and other team members in a different technique. The next Rigging For Rescue training opportunity will be in April 2018. A request for funds for that training will be included in the team's 2017 DOLA grant, which is due in April 2017. Priority for the two (2) training slots being requested will be given to team field technicians. If team members are not available the slots can be transferred to another Colorado SAR team.
5. **CREDENTIAL BADGES:** Francis Song updated the team on the new QR badge/Salamander System being offered by the State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Transition to the QR "credential" badge (versus a plain ID badge) is not mandatory for AVSAR but emergency management teams in the San Luis Valley have invested in the required equipment and there are several benefits, including: scannable IDs for incident check in/out, quick access to each team member's certifications and qualifications and they are easily voided if an individual becomes inactive. The only cost to the team is the plastic card for each member. Francis Song can assist with programming the credential information that will be contained in each team member's QR code (after confirmation of qualifications by the AVSAR Board). Francis Song suggests the team not take action on this item right away so that kinks associated with any new system can be worked out first.
6. **HORSE TEAM:** Gary Walker will start training for team members interested in a Horse Team in April 2017. If the Horse Team is ready then AVSAR will look at having them participate in the Alamosa Round-Up parade in June 2017.

After Meeting Training: Suzi Hopper and Chris Lavery conducted a Radio Communications training with the VHF radios.

Next Training: Saturday, January 28, 2017, at 0900 hours MDT, the team will conduct a Cold Challenge training session. Meet in the parking lot at the Alamosa Sheriff's Office.
*NOTE: This training was later changed to Sunday, January 29, 2017, and the change was communicated to team members via email.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 1800 MDT at Alamosa Sheriff's Office classroom.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 19:50 hours MDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Mérida Zerbi
AVSAR Executive Secretary