

North Florida



Search & Rescue, Inc.

A Section 501 (c)(3) Corporation

NEWSLETTER

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NORTH FLORIDA SEARCH & RESCUE DOGS AND THEIR HANDLERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATION

Four members of North Florida Search & Rescue were tested and certified during the month of August. Handler Al Dodds and K9 Tess; Handler Ally Walker and K9 Pearl; Handler Kim Dyson and K9 Molly; and Handler Anyce Fox and K9 Mosby received certification in the following:

Al Dodds and K9 Tess –Human Remains Detection in Wilderness, Basic Level

Ally Walker and K9 Pearl – Wilderness Air Scent, Basic Level

Kim Dyson and K9 Molly – Human Remains Detection in Wilderness, Basic Level; Air Scent Urban Search and Rescue Disaster, Basic Level; and Human Remains Detection in Water, Basic Level.

Anyce Fox and K9 Mosby – Human Remains Detection in Wilderness, Basic Level; Air Scent Urban Search and Rescue Disaster, Basic Level; Human Remains Detection in Water, Intermediate Level

Independent certification was conducted by Southern K-9 Search & Rescue Training Center.

NFSAR TEAMS ATTEND ADDITIONAL TRAINING IN GEORGIA

In the early hours of August 21st three handlers and their K9s, with hot coffee in hand, embarked on a ninety-minute drive into the Georgia back country. They traveled at the invitation of Angie Batten of Dogs South, Inc., another volunteer canine SAR group, to participate in two days of training with teams from all over Georgia and Florida. Opportunities in water and land cadaver as well as live air scent and trailing were available. Teams exchanged training techniques, experiences and valuable tales of past searches.

Daybreak Saturday started at a local park for work in water cadaver. The day was cool and overcast, perfect for working dogs and handlers alike. Two scenarios were set up for the dogs. A buoy worked by an aid on land and a static problem off the shore. It was the first time in many months that a NFSAR team was able to work a realistic water scenario. Angie drove the boat as the dogs searched for “fred” and gave valuable feedback to handlers.

Saturday afternoon was filled with trailing opportunities. The park afforded long searches and scent discrimination work. There were many potential victims and a diverse terrain for the dogs to work in. Experienced handlers from Dogs South walked with the handlers and gave advice and constructive criticism during the search. These more experienced handlers

helped the less experienced handlers “read” and trust their dog.

Sunday was filled with more opportunities to work problems in land cadaver and live searches. The live searches were conducted over a 50-acre area and presented the dogs with a true aged trail to work. The land cadaver opportunities allowed the dogs to be exposed to different subtle material like 30-year-old teeth and scratch boxes.

The weekend ended with congratulations to Angie and Dogs South for a job well done. Many contacts were made for future training opportunities as well as possible support in callouts with other teams statewide. We were able to represent NFSAR as a new and upcoming organization eager to learn and lend a helping hand with future callouts.

With the conclusion of the weekend each of the handlers and canines, unknown to them, were being evaluated for their basic certifications. See the related article for that information.

WHERE TO SEE US

Florida Cracker Days, October 16-17, 2004.

The team will have a booth so come visit the dogs and their handlers.

K9 AND HANDLER TEAM OF THE QUARTER

Amy Deans and K-9 Tai are our team of the quarter. Tai is 6 years old, and one of the oldest dogs in the group. At 64 lbs, she is considered very fit by her vet. Although Silke has known and trained Tai for over 4 years, she originally questioned Tai's age and her drive. But, we soon found out that Tai has a high drive and is highly motivated by food. (Will work for carrots!). Her barking capability has proven to be well -- let's say she can bark for a VERY long time, non-stop. This is a very good trait if your dog must bark until the handler arrives when a victim is found.

Amy has had Labs in the past, and from that same breeder picked Tai. She read that Labrador Retrievers are the “the dog who can do it all”. Their outgoing personalities, intelligence and willingness to please make them excellent service dogs, including search and rescue. Amy and her family originally picked Tai as their pet, but it became obvious very early that she was capable of much more than being a pet. But, Amy was never sure what direction to take with her. Therapy Dog was out...she was just a little too.... exuberant, shall we say.

So when Silke first mentioned Search and Rescue, they were hooked. “Now, just 9 months later,” Amy says, “we have found very good new friends, K-9 and human, and are still excited about all of this. MY only regret is that I have to work a full time job, and can't get as much training time is, as I would like. Tai's regret? She has none.... she just does what she is asked at any moment and is always.... READY TO GO!!!! “



Amy Deans and K-9 Tai

DOG'S COMMENDMENTS

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you will be painful for me. Remember that **before** you get me.
2. Give me time to understand what you want from me
3. Place your trust in me; it is crucial to my well being.

4. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, entertainment and friends. I have only you.
5. Talk to me sometimes. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I'll never forget.
7. Please don't hit me. I can't hit back, but I can bite and scratch and I really don't want to do that.
8. Before you scold me for being uncooperative, obstinate or lazy, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right foods or I've been out in the sun too long or my hearing is getting old and weak.
9. Take care of me when I get old. You will get old too.
10. Go with me on difficult journeys. Never say "I can't bear to watch, or let it happen in my absence." Everything is easier for me if you are there. And always remember, ***I LOVE YOU.***