



CANINE SEARCH AND RECOVERY INC
NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter 2009

President's Message

We have some really good news for you.

2009 Seminar

CSAR is offering three trailing, three air scent and three cadaver classes at the 2009 seminar, October 4 – 10, Cantor Cave 4-H Camp, Jackson, Ohio. We have some great instructors. More information on classes, as well as Instructor Bios are later in the newsletter and can also be found on the CSAR website at www.csar.org

Check the CSAR website often as web dude Rick Myers is updating daily – well almost. You will also find membership application/ renewal and seminar registration forms. Please be sure to use the new mailing address:

CSAR
P. O. Box 1771
Athens, AL 35612

Member Discounts!!!

CSAR this year is able to offer its members very generous discounts for early registration. If you register and pay either by PayPal or regular mail (post mark) before July 20th, 2009 and pay in full you will receive \$50.00 off the regular \$280.00 registration fee. That is your registration fee will only be \$230.00. If you register after July 21st and before August 20th you will receive \$25.00 off the regular registration fee for \$255.00. Any registrations received after August 21st will be at the full seminar price of \$280.00. We are also offering our members the same rate for their spouse, family or companion who will not be bringing a dog but who may like to attend to observe and assist. As you know, CSAR is a fully volunteer organization and our instructors donate their time to teach classes. We always can use help at the seminar laying tracks or being a subject.

Don't worry. If you are a member and have already registered and paid in full. We will be issuing you a refund.

Please note – There is still time to become a CSAR member and take advantage of membership benefits.

Nominations for new officers and board members needed

Another benefit of being a CSAR member is that you can become an officer or board member of CSAR. This year, CSAR will be replacing all of its officers and board members. Officer positions are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. CSAR has 6 board members that can have duties such as membership chair, nominating committee, and award committee as examples. Each is a two year position with the possibility of one additional term (4 years total). Requirements are that you have attended at least one CSAR seminar and have been a member for at least 3 years. CSAR is a 503.1c non-profit organization whose main activity is producing a yearly seminar with high quality classes and instructors, at very low cost and with lots of good people and fun. Officers and Board members meet via a conference call at least quarterly. If you are interested in running for an officer or board position, please send email with a short bio before June 15th, 2009 to:

Geri Messina, mikafindem@aol.com
Ginger Branyon, gingerbyrd@surry.net
Rick Myers, sark9handler@gmail.com

See you in Ohio!
Elane Flower
CSAR President

2009 DUES ARE DUE!!

Canine Search and Recovery dues become due Jan 1 of each year. This is the case regardless of when you first joined CSAR.

Don't miss out on any of the great benefits related to being a CSAR member. Complete and send in your membership renewal application today.

Dues not paid by June 30, 2009 will be considered lapsed and you will not receive any further correspondence from CSAR or be eligible for CSAR member discounts.

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Becky Mooney

P. O. Box 13138

Sissonville, WV 25360

Sponsored By: Wanda Yeater

Wayne (Bud) Rogers

5601 CR 297

Hillsboro, AL 35673

Sponsored By: Darcy Harbaugh

Rod Gulling

P. O. Box 841

Boaz, AL 35957

Sponsored By: Larry Welker

Sandra Gulling

P. O. Box 841

Boaz, AL 35957

Sponsored By: Terri Slizewski

Donald Lysle

152 North Fields Circle

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Sponsored By: Nancy Culberson

Officers & Board Members

Contact Information

President:	Elane Flower 193 San Ildefonso Rd Los Alamos, NM 87544 505-661-7596 (H) NM 505-670-8283 (C) k9szl@cybermesa.com
Vice President:	Ginger Branyon 1914 Poplar Springs Rd Elkin, NC 29621 336-366-4668 757-749-4467 (M) Gingerbyrd@surry.net
Secretary:	Darcy Harbaugh 25768 Henry Clay Dr. Madison, AL 35756 256-771-6312 (H) 256-651-9462 (C) djandcompany@att.net
Treasurer:	Larry Welker 20203 Easter Ferry Rd. Athens, AL 35614 256-771-5799 (C) 256-509-5055 (H) lwelker@aol.com

Board of Directors

Geri Messina P.O. Box 3385 Chino Valley, AZ 86323 928-636-3738 (H) 928-607-7053 (C) mikafindem@aol.com	Terri Slizewski P. O. Box 2911 Decatur, AL 35602 256-227-0992 (C) 256-351-9046 (H) tjs1963@aol.com
Lois Rustin 8832 E. Kalil Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85260 480-860-0652	Linda R. Uihlein PO Box 248 Free Union, VA 22940 434-979-7257 (W) 434-973-6015 (O) lilowl@mindspring.com
Rick Myers 23 Red Mill Ct St. Peters, MO 63376 636-244-2543 (H) 314-769-4522 (C)	Mike Byrd 2650 Harrison Rd. Johnstown, OH 43031 740-927-8822 byrdshounddog@ netzero.net
Membership Chair: Terri Slizewski	Webmaster: Rick Myers
Nominating Chair: Geri Messina	VA Registered Agent: Linda Uihlein
Seminar Committee: Ginger Branyon Mike Byrd, 2009 Host	

Carolyn M. Knapp

A Memorial

By Darcy Harbaugh

Carolyn Knapp passed away earlier this year, and it was a significant blow to many people who knew her and to CSAR as well. I met Carolyn in 1997 at my first CSAR seminar. I was, like many who come to CSAR, a brand new handler at my first seminar. I was elated at the end of it and have become a regular at CSAR seminars since. I came to know Carolyn through CSAR, both attending seminars, hosting seminars, being on the board and a variety of other ways. When she passed away, I sent an email to my teams internal list notifying them of her passing (many of them knew her as well) and giving a small memorial about her. Over the course of several days, the same types of emails came out from all kinds of people on all kinds of other lists. What amazed me in reading them was how so many people shared the exact same impressions of Carolyn.

People's first remembrance of Carolyn was truly as a mentor. She helped new handlers, she helped old handlers. She helped new people learn the ropes, she helped old handlers perfect their skills. She helped new handlers "fit in", and old handlers "be patient". While many people would roll their eyes at a brand new unskilled handler at a seminar, Carolyn could be seen sitting down with them at lunch or dinner and giving them as much advice as they could process. She was always kind and considerate and spent as much time with these new people as she did visiting old friends. It was amazing how many people were affected by her mentoring skills and the time she took to help them.

Carolyn was a teacher. Carolyn taught at almost all of the CSAR seminars and a myriad of seminars in between. The last 3 years of CSAR she was battling cancer, but she was always there and she was always teaching, no matter how difficult it may have been for her. She enjoyed these days I think. She liked to talk and watch dogs work. She liked to give advice and watch it followed and I think she really like to watch teams progress, both from a handler and dog standpoint. She liked answering locals who questioned "what are you guys doing?" and figuring out local places to take her classes to challenge and excite them. Since I am an airscent handler instead of a trailing one, my one regret is that I never actually got to attend a class with Carolyn as an instructor. It would have been a great experience.

Carolyn was a leader. This became very apparent with CSAR after her passing. Carolyn was such an integral part of the CSAR organization and was often recognized that way, but I don't think most people truly understood how much work she did as an individual for CSAR, regardless of what position she might have held. Since its inception, Carolyn singlehandedly dealt with membership – and I suspect could put a face to every name on her list. She was treasurer for many years and was still treasurer at the end. She organized and put out the newsletter. She organized the seminar, and in many years was probably the main driver behind getting the seminar done, whether in Missouri or not. She handled registration, t-shirts, special requests, instructors, people flying in, where to put people, mad people, happy people and everything in between. It turns out it takes a lot of people working together to accomplish those same tasks without Carolyn to just do them.

Carolyn loved Bloodhounds. 'Nuff said.

I know many of us will miss seeing her this year in Ohio. I know it will be on my mind much of the seminar, and I expect every time someone asks "How do we do this??" we will all be reminded of how much she did for this organization. But the best thing we can do is proceed on with her spirit and the spirit of CSAR and its seminars. **Mentor, Teach, Lead.**

Carolyn's Obituary

Carolyn M. Knapp, 52, of Palmyra, Mo., died at 6:52 A. M. Wednesday at University Hospital and Clinics in Columbia, Mo. Carolyn was born August 28, 1956 in Iowa City, Iowa to David and Doris White Knapp. She is survived by her companion of 15 years, Larry Copenhaver of Palmyra; daughter, Randi Pults of Palmyra; grandson, Wyatt Pults, father, David Knapp of Cedar Rapids, Ia.; brother, Darrel (Nancy) Knapp of Shawnee, Ks.; uncles, Marvin White and Leroy Strate, both of Palmyra; and several nieces. She was preceded in death by her mother. Carolyn was co-founder and treasurer of Canine Search and Recovery, Inc., and was a member of Citizens Emergency Response Team (C E R T), and S A R C O M Search and Rescue of Missouri. She has been a search and rescue instructor and handler for 30 years, had taught overseas, and was last years recipient of the Bill Tolhurst Award for her outstanding contributions to K-9 Search and Rescue. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A. M. Saturday at the Lewis Brothers Funeral Chapel in Palmyra. Rev. Dewayne Larensen will officiate. Interment will be in the Greenwood Cemetery in Palmyra, Mo. Visitation will be from 5:30 - 7:30 P. M. Friday at the Lewis Brothers Funeral Chapel. Memorial contributions may be made to Canine Search and Recovery, Inc. PO Box 1771, Athens, AL 35612-1771.



CANINE SEARCH AND RECOVERY

2009 SEMINAR

October 4th – 9th, 2009

Canter's Cave 4-H Camp – Jackson, OH

Cost: \$280.00 for *CSAR members* (memb. dues must be paid by July 1st)
*** See the attached Application for Early Bird Specials !! ***
\$330.00 for *non-members*
(\$100.00 minimum deposit due by September 15th)

Fees Include: Lodging at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp. Meals from Sunday evening to Friday morning breakfast. Fees are all inclusive and cannot be broken down for those wishing to dine or lodge offsite or wishing to only attend part of the seminar.

Lodging: Lodging will be in bunkhouse style cabins housing multiple individuals.

Training: Training will be offered in the following venues:
Mantrailing, Air Scent, Land Cadaver, Water Cadaver.

Training will be available for all levels of proficiency of both canine and handlers from young puppies and beginning trainers to the experienced canine team.

Instructors: Trailing:
Beginning – Bob & Sharon Naskrent, IL
Intermediate – Corbin Hodges, TX
Advanced – Mark Holmes, TX
Urban – Kim Burnett & Lee Weatherall, AR

Airscent:
Beginning – Janet Geist, AL
Intermediate – Darcy Harbaugh, AL
Advanced – Denver Holder, NC

Cadaver:
Beginning – Janet Anagnos, IL & Dennis Schenk, WI
Advanced – Pat Horn, MO
Water – Cindy O'Hagen Corcoran, DE

Continued on next page

Instructors and classes may be added, removed, or substituted as the need arises.

Canines:

CAMP RULES – Canines are allowed in cabins, but must be crated at all times. No canine allowed in dining hall at any time. Canines must be on leash at all times except when working an off-lead problem in a class setting, under an instructor’s directive. Proof of current vaccinations must be presented at time of check in.

Handlers are responsible for cleaning up after their canine at all times. Handler must provide crate, food, etc. for canine. No crates or food will be available at the seminar site.

***IMPORTANT REMINDERS!!
CHECK-IN TIME 12:00 PM – SUNDAY, 10/4/09***

What do I need to Bring? Dog crate, dog food & bowls, harness, collar, lead, other canine working gear. Linens, sleeping bag, pillows, towels & personal toiletries. Clothing Needed to work in the venue you choose.

Articles for Thursday night auction. May be breed specific, search Specific, or general purpose items.



CSAR 2009 Fall Seminar
Canter's Cave 4-H Camp, Jackson, Ohio
October 4-9, 2009 www.csar.org

Participant's Registration (Please Print):

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please send me an email confirmation of my registration.

Canine's Registration:

Dog's Name: _____ Breed: _____

Age: _____ Specialty: _____

All dogs from out of state are required to have a canine health certificate with them. The certificate must be presented as part of check in at the seminar. We strongly recommend heartworm, flea, and tick protection for your canine.

Emergency Contact:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ Pager: _____

Please pick the top three classes you are interested in attending, by placing a 1, 2, or 3 on the slot. We will make every effort to put you in your first choice, but if the class fills before your registration arrives, we will fill appropriately. We ask that you stay in one venue for the entire seminar.

Tracking / Trailing	_____	Beginner	_____	Intermediate	_____	Advanced
Air Scent	_____	Beginner	_____	Intermediate	_____	Advanced
Land Cadaver (HRD)	_____	Beginner	_____	Advanced		
Water Cadaver (HRD)	_____					
Urban Tracking / Trailing	_____					

This year's fee schedule:

CSAR Member or applied by July 1, 2009 and paid in full by mail or PayPal by July 20, 2009 -- \$50.00 discount ---- \$230.00

CSAR Member or applied by July 1, 2009 and paid in full by mail or PayPal after July 21, 2009 and before August 20, 2009 -- \$25.00 discount ---- \$255.00

**Any registrations postmarked after August 21, 2009 will pay the full seminar price of \$280.00 for members and \$330.00 for non-members.

**Any registrations send with the minimum \$100.00 deposit will be assessed the full seminar fee.

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All seminar applications must be postmarked by September 15, 2009.

_____ I have decided to save \$50.00 and have enclosed or sent via PayPal \$230.00.

_____ I have decided to save \$25.00 and have enclosed or sent via PayPal \$255.00.

_____ I have enclosed the member's full seminar fee of \$280.00.

_____ I am not a CSAR member and have enclosed \$330.00.

_____ I have enclosed a \$100.00 deposit to hold my position, with full payment due upon arrival at the seminar. (Members -- \$180.00 and non members -- \$230.00)

Note: Deposits are non refundable, except in extreme circumstances and with board concurrence and approval. There will be a \$25.00 fee assessed for any returned checks.

Room and Board:

_____ I would like to share a cabin / room with _____

_____ I have special diet requirements. Please specify: _____
(We will try to accommodate all special dietary requirements, but can make no guarantee of such)

_____ I will need a ride from the **Columbus** or **Cincinnati** airport (please circle one).

Mail completed application to:

CSAR 2009 Seminar
CSAR
PO Box 1771
Athens, AL 35612-6771



CSAR 2009 Fall Seminar
Canter's Cave 4-H Camp, Jackson, Ohio
October 4-9, 2009 www.csar.org

Instructor Biographies:

Janet Anagnos – Beginning Cadaver

Since 1972 Janet has worked in animal-related professions. She has been a Vet Tech and worked in an animal lab. She is a member of IL-WIS SAR team, CSAR and NASAR. She has been trained in and works both scent-specific trailing and cadaver dogs. She has participated in numerous searches and attended over 550 hours of seminar classes. She has had training in HAZMAT, Basic Management. Janet was also a 2000 recipient of the CSAR Buddy Thurston Award.

Kim Burnett – Urban Trailing

Kim began working as a backup member to another Bloodhound handler in 1994. In December 1996, she began handling her own bloodhounds. Kim currently works as a full time accountant in Russellville, Arkansas. She has been with the Pope County K-9 Unit since 2001 and was a founding member of the Arkansas Alliance for Bloodhound Search Specialists, which was formed in 2005. Kim holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Arkansas Tech University and a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling for the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and a Bachelor's in Accounting from Arkansas Tech University. Kim also has held her Private Pilot's certificate since 1998. In 2002, she completed a First Responder course and in 2003 completed the Part Time II law enforcement training course. She attends refresher courses on a regular basis. Kim Worked as a veterinary technician for 8 years in Clarksville, Arkansas. She has also taught individual obedience classes since 1990. In addition, Kim has worked with Border Collies on her family's farm which are used to work the cattle. Animal therapy programs are another area in which Kim has been active since 1992.

Cindy O'Hagen Corcoran – Water Cadaver

Biography information was not available at time of publishing. Please check the CSAR website later for Cindy's biography information. (<http://www.csar.org>)

Janet Geist – Beginning Airscent

Janet Geist is a member of the North Alabama Search dog Association. She has been training live airscent and cadaver work since 1996, and is currently running her second dog, Chaos, a Belgian Malinois, in airscent and training for HRD. She and her retired dog Jester were a NASAR Canine Sarteck III-Airscent and HRD team. Janet and Chaos are a NASAR Canine Sarteck II-Airscent team. Janet is also a NASAR evaluator for live and HRD. She is an avid hiker and outdoor person and enjoys combining that with her love of working dogs. She has a background as a dog obedience trainer and instructor. Janet has taught at previous CSAR seminars, and enjoys working with beginner dogs (and handlers).

Darcy Harbaugh – Intermediate Airscent

Darcy is a member of the North Alabama Search Dog Association. She is currently running two dogs, her older lab Scully, retired from live and working HRD and her younger lab Rogue, operational in live and training in HRD. Both Rogue and Scully are NASAR Canine SarTech II – Airscent dogs and Scully is a NASAR HRD dog. Darcy is a NASAR Evaluator for both live and HRD and previously served as the Eastern Canine Field Projects Coordinator for NASAR. She has also previously served CSAR as Secretary and has been a member of the organization for about 12 years. She has also been an instructor or participant at many of the CSAR seminars, and looks forward to them every year.

Biographies continued on next page

Corbin Hodge – Intermediate Trailing

Corbin is a K-9 handler / trainer for East Texas Search and Rescue and Texas Bloodhound Search and Rescue. Corbin has worked major cases including federal escapees, homicides, various criminal cases, as well as lost and missing persons. Corbin's current canine partner 'Jersey' is a 5-year old female Bloodhound trained in mantrailing. Involved in many high profile cases throughout Texas, Corbin has assisted the FBI, US Marshall's Office, Texas Rangers, United States Parks Service, and other Federal, State, County and Local law enforcement agencies. Corbin has taught at numerous canine mantrailing seminars throughout the United States.

Denver Holder – Advanced Airscent

Denver works for an hourly training facilitator for Blue Ridge Paper in Canton, NC. He is also a member of the Emergency Response Team at the mill, responding as both a firefighter and on HAZMAT incidents. Denver works part-time as a hot shot crewman with the NC Forest Service.

Denver has been member of NCSARDA since 1983 and has served as president of the organization since 1984. During his service with NCSARDA, Denver has worked mantrailing, air scenting and cadaver dogs. He has participated in over 1100 SAR missions. He has been on searches in North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia, Missouri, Alabama and Georgia. He has instructed at SAR seminars in NC, OH, AL, MS, GA, VA and TN. Denver has served as an officer in the following organizations: Western NC Association of Rescue Squads, NC SAR Advisory Council, North American Search Dog Network, CSAR, Center Pigeon Fire Dept. and Daniel Boone Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

In addition to dog training classes, Denver instructs: OSHA training classes at several area factories, CPR and First Aid for the AHA, Land Navigation, GPS, NIMS I-100 – I-400, Visual Tracking, Managing Search Ops, SAR Fundamentals, Wilderness Survival, Facilitation Train-the-Trainer, and is a presenter for both "Lost in the Woods" and "Hug-a-Tree and Survive" programs.

Mark Holmes – Advanced Trailing

A 24-year police officer currently assigned as a Detective in the Criminal Investigations Division for the past 12 years. Prior to his current assignment, Mark was a Field Training Officer for eight years. He is a member of SWAT and is also a firearms instructor and a police academy instructor. Mark also holds the Master Peace Officer Certification from the State of Texas. Mark is a K-9 handler / trainer for the City of Port Arthur, Texas Police Department. Involved in many high-profile cases throughout the United States, Mark has worked major cases assisting the FBI, US Marshall's Office, Texas Rangers, and other federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies. As a canine handler, he has also been called upon to assist the US State Department, the US Consulates Office and the Mexican Consulates Office. Mark has assisted on numerous federal and state prison escapes.

Mark is the recipient of the 2002 Sophia Silva Award given for excellence in canine mantrailing, which led to the saving of a human life. Mark is a nationally recognized canine mantrailing instructor and founded and is the president of both Texas Bloodhound Search and Rescue and the United States Mantrailing Association. Mark instructs canine mantrailing courses throughout the United States and has authored / co-authored numerous training articles relating to canine mantrailing and scent-specific canine training.

Biographies continued on next page

Pat Horn – Advance Cadaver

Paid professional firefighter with the Spanish Lake Fire Protection District since 1988
Acting Captain in charge of Water Rescue Operations
Rescue Boat Operator
Swift Water Technician
Hazard Materials Technician
Canine Search Specialist
Instructor for MU Fire and Rescue Training Institute
Instructor for Missouri Emergency Training Specialists
Instructor for FBI Forensic Archeology Training
Instructed at both St Louis County Police and Fire Academy

Since 1995 Pat has been the Team Founder and Leader of Missouri Region ‘C’ Technical Rescue Team K9 Division. He has studied and trained at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA where he got his first dog, Jetta. He has also trained under Andy Rebmann, Bill Dotson, Shirley Hammond and many others to help him implement K9 search criteria and requirements for maximum competence. Due to the capabilities and accomplishments of the team, it is the only team in the area to be utilized by the FBI Evidence Recovery Team and has been recognized and has been recognized as such with an “Exceptional Service in the Public Interest Award” presented by FBI Director Louis Freh. Furthermore, at the inception of the St Louis Metropolitan Heavy Rescue Strike Force the K9 team was invited to be the ‘Search Element’ for all 5 divisions of the Strike Force.

Pat has received such recognitions as Firefighter of the Year through Firefighter Local 2665, Camp Counselor of the Year at Missouri Children’s Burn Camp, and a Resolution Award from the Missouri House of Representatives.

Bob Naskrent – Beginning Trailing

Biography information was not available at time of publishing. Please check the CSAR website later for Bob’s biography information. (<http://www.csar.org>)

Sharon Naskrent – Beginning Trailing

Biography information was not available at time of publishing. Please check the CSAR website later for Sharon’s biography information. (<http://www.csar.org>)

Dennis Schenk – Beginning Cadaver

Dennis Schenk has been a member of Illinois Wisconsin Search and Rescue Dogs for over 13 years. He works both scent specific trailing and land /water cadaver dogs. He is now training and handling his second dog. His current dog, Beck, is NASAR (National Association of Search and Rescue) HRD certified, L.E.T.S. (Law Enforcement Training Specialist, International) cadaver certified and is past NNDDA (National Narcotics & Detection Dog Association) HRD certified. He has participated in well over 150 searches and has attended in excess of 1200 hours of seminar classes. He has instructed CSR’s beginning cadaver seminar for 7 years. He is a CSR and NASAR member. He has been a past CSR board member. He is a current board member and past Vice President of the Portage County Humane Society. He presently resides just outside of Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Biographies continued on next page

Lee Weatherall – Urban Trailing

Unit Leader / Handler

K-9 Duke – Red 8 1/2 yr old Bloodhound

Lee is a founding member of the alliance and has been with the Pope County K-9 Unit since 2000. He has been training and handling bloodhounds for search and rescue since 1999. Lee is a paramedic / firefighter with the Russellville Fire Department. Some of his certifications include: HAZMAT at the operational level, high angle rope rescue, confined space rescue, swift water rescue, and auto extraction. He also completed the Part Time II training in 2003 and is currently a Reserve Deputy with Pope County Sheriff's Office. Lee has attended the following seminars:

2nd Annual Search Dog Training Weekend, Hagarville, AR - Spring 2001

TASK Fall Seminar, Jacksboro, TX - Fall 2001

3rd Annual Search Dog Training Weekend, Hagarville, AR - Spring 2002

NBTI Shawnee Search Dog Seminar, Dixon Springs State Park, IL - Fall 2002

4th Annual Search Dog Training Weekend, Scottsville, AR - Spring 2003

TASK Fall Seminar, Jacksboro, TX - Fall 2003

5th Annual Search Dog Training Weekend, Scottsville, AR - Spring 2004

TASK Fall Seminar, Jacksboro, TX - Fall 2004

6th Annual Search Dog Training Weekend, Scottsville, AR - Spring 2005

7th Annual Search Dog Training Weekend, Scottsville, AR - Spring 2006

8th Annual Search Dog Training Weekend, Scottsville, AR - Spring 2007

CSAR Financial Update !

Find here just a couple quick notes from your Interim Treasurer.

First, know that your organization remains financially sound. Our finances and records were carefully executed and maintained by Carolyn. That has allowed us to come on-line quickly this year with what is going to be just a great seminar. As Elane, our President, has published and restated in this newsletter, CSAR's membership will reap the benefit of actively participating each year in what I think is the best valued week of instruction, networking, and camaraderie that any search dog handler could ever expect from a seminar/training event. The discounted rates represent a 'thank you' from the Officers/Board and a tribute to Carolyn, the lady who contributed so much to making all of the CSAR seminars exceptional.

Second, pulling records to a location where I can manage them remains somewhat of a time/geographic challenge. We're making progress, but there was a gap between Carolyn's daily attention to details and the point where she became unable to keep the records as completely as she was known to keep them. So, if you have a check that hasn't cleared the bank yet but you know the 'check was in the mail', please give us a couple more weeks to make sure we have collected all paperwork/checks and I get them into the system. I personally have an 'unaccounted for check' outstanding, so I suspect we just don't have quite everything yet. I will announce to the membership, via multiple avenues, when we think we have all the records accounted for and deposited – at that point, if your check still has not cleared, you will have to cancel that transaction and then submit to us another check.

Third, and finally, do not hesitate to contact me or any Officer/Board Member if you have a financial issue you need to have dealt with.

Ramblings from Rick

As we begin our quest to bring about a new CSAR, the one without Carolyn's guidance, time and energies, I have become aware of just how much she really did for this group. I don't think the average member has any idea of the time that was invested into CSAR by this wonderful person. As I take over the Yahoo group and the website, it amazes me how many places and pages I see her name and address as the contact person for CSAR.

I also know after assisting with this newsletter, that CSAR invests heavily into the mailing of these to each of us once a quarter. I did some preliminary costing this morning as we were looking at putting this issue to bed, and pending the cost of the postage after the new postal increase, each issue of the newsletter costs CSAR about \$500.00 to print and mail, not counting the additional hours of putting it all together and getting together with people across the country to try and coordinate information. This amounts to around \$2000.00 for the newsletter for the year, and about the same to mail out the membership roster each year. (And my compliments to Terri, our new membership chair, for stepping up to the plate and getting this put together and in the mail!)

While we can't cut the hours appreciably, we can reduce our costs. I am in the process of totally reworking the web site, and making it much more user-friendly, as well as having more information available on it for you, the members. One way that we can reduce these costs in a drastic way is to place the newsletter on the web site in the members-only area (that currently doesn't have anything to speak of in it). It can also be bulk emailed to those that want it, and you have it in 30 seconds instead of 3-5 days. I was on the pilot program from Carolyn that tried out the e-newsletter, and was very impressed with it. I got it instantly, I got it in color and with pictures that could be recognized, and I had no damage from the postal service. As an Adobe PDF file, the newsletter is not large, so the download is short, even on a dial-up ISP. It is also readable on every computer with a free Adobe Reader download.

My goal and wish is to move as many of you as possible to the electronic version, and maybe the monies saved will help the board be able to offer discounts at future seminars as well as this one. There is no reason that our printing and mailing costs for the newsletter as well as the membership roster cannot be cut by 75%. My goal is 100%, but I realize that some of you may not have ready access to the internet.

The members-only page can be used for much more than we currently use it for. By revamping the site, we can put what YOU want to see on it. The whole purpose of the website and the Yahoo group is to benefit the members to the maximum that we, as members and the board, can possibly do.

I would appreciate any feedback that you would care to send, as well as ideas or concerns. You can reach me at the website at csar@csar.org, or if you would like to banter ideas about, you can send email to the Yahoo group, csark9@yahoogroups.com. If you are not a member of the Yahoo group, and need assistance, please let me know. My personal email is sark9handler@gmail.com.

Thanks for all that you all do to make CSAR a vibrant and viable group, and let's do our best to make it even better in Carolyn's memory!

Rick Myers

Interim Board Member, Webmaster, and Yahoo Group moderator