

ARIZONA SAR CONFERENCE 2015

May 1-3, 2015

Salvation Army Camp, Heber, AZ

As of 013015

K9 Track Schedule

You must show proof of affiliation with a government agency to attend this conference.

Fieldwork class sizes are limited so make sure to reserve your spot as soon as the pre-registration packets are out. Classes will be filled on a 1st come 1st served basis.

T-shirts will be available at the conference (\$15.00 short sleeve & \$20.00 long sleeve).

REGISTRATION BEGINS THURSDAY APRIL 30 AT 1400 HRS.

Friday, May 1st

0800-1200: **Beg/Intermediate HRD fieldwork**¹- Ben Alexander Texas Search & Rescue
0800-1200: **Beg/Intermediate Tracking fieldwork**¹- Jen Blanton Texas Search & Rescue
0800-1200: **Advanced Area fieldwork**¹- Stacie Burkhardt MAT+SAR K9 Alaska

1200-1300: LUNCH

The following classes are continuation of am classes:

1300-1700: **Beg/Intermediate HRD fieldwork**¹- Ben Alexander Texas Search & Rescue
1300-1700: **Beg/Intermediate Tracking fieldwork**¹- Jen Blanton Texas Search & Rescue
1300-1700: **Advanced Area fieldwork**¹- Stacie Burkhardt MAT+SAR K9 Alaska

1800-2000: DINNER

Saturday, May 2nd

0800-1200: **Advanced HRD fieldwork**¹- Ben Alexander Texas Search & Rescue
0800-1200: **Advanced Tracking fieldwork**¹- Jen Blanton Texas Search & Rescue
0800-1200: **Beg/Intermediate Area fieldwork**¹- Stacie Burkhardt MAT+SAR K9 Alaska

1200-1300: LUNCH

The following classes are continuation of am classes:

1300-1700: **Adv HRD fieldwork**¹- Ben Alexander Texas Search & Rescue
1300-1700: **Advanced Tracking fieldwork**¹- Jen Blanton Texas Search & Rescue
1300-1700: **Beg/Intermediate Area fieldwork**¹- Stacie Burkhardt MAT+SAR K9 Alaska

1800-2100: DINNER / AWARDS / RAFFLE

Sunday, May 3rd

0800-1200: **AKC CGC**- Cindy McArthur & Diane Christian Coconino County Sheriff's SAR K9 Team Flagstaff, AZ

¹This is an 8-hour, 1-day class limited to 10 students.

2015 AZSAR K9 Track

Instructor Bios

Michael Ben Alexander currently serves as a member of the NASAR K9 Committee and the subcommittee chair for credentialing criteria. He is a NASAR SARTECH II Evaluator, a K9 HRD SARTECH and Area Search III Lead Evaluator, Area II Evaluator, and certified as a SARTECH II, K9 SARTECH II Wilderness Area, K9 SARTECH HRD Land, and K9 SARTECH Disaster HRD. Ben has also certified dogs with NAPWDA, NNDDA, and TASK. Ben is currently a PhD candidate in the department of Soil Science at Texas A&M University studying the post burial interval, grave soil, and interactions with HRD dogs and the environment. Ben's Master Thesis research was on search dog performance factors. Ben began training search dogs in Sept. 2000, and currently fields one certified operational dog and has two dogs in training. He trained his first dog at the age of 8 for obedience with the local kennel club and has never stopped. Ben has served as an instructor for area search, HRD land and HRD water at several seminars, including the NASAR national pre-conference workshop in Tunica MS 2010. He organized and was an assistant instructor at the first Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State (FACTS) March 2013 and now serves as the K9 training coordinator. He has presented several classroom workshops at NASAR national conferences and at FACTS on HRD dogs, mission strategies, and training and selection of search dogs (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013). Ben is also employed with Dogs for Conservation as a trainer, assisting with the training of detector dogs for locating endangered species of both plants and animals.

Jennifer Blanton began her involvement in search and rescue in 2002. She co-founded Cen-Tex Search and Rescue in November 2002. She was a member of Special K9's Search and Recovery from November 2003 to October 2006. Her first K-9 Aspen (Rottweiler) was certified with Cen-Tex Search and Rescue, Special K-9s, TASK, NASAR, and NNDDA in Human Remains Detection. She participated in many searches including recovery efforts post Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Ike in 2008. K9 Wink (border collie) certified in 2008 with NNDDA for HRD, in 2009 with NASAR for HRD Land, and in 2010 with NASAR for Disaster Responder HRD and Trailing, and with NNDDA for HRD in 2011, NASAR Area 2 in 2012, NASAR NASDN Trailing Basic and Advanced 2012, NASAR HRD Land other 2013. K9 Twist (border collie) certified in 2011 with NNDDA for HRD, 2013 NASAR HRD Land other, 2013 NASAR Area 2, 2014 NASDN Trailing Basic. She also currently has a Dutch shepherd/GSD mix and a border collie puppy in training.

Stacie Burkhardt

2009 – Present K9 Handler / K9 Lead

K9 Training Committee and Membership Chair
MAT+SAR K9, Matanuska Valley, AK

1999 - 2009

K9 Handler
K9 Training Committee and Membership Chair,
King County Search Dogs (KCSD), WA

Stacie began her K9 Search and Rescue obsession with King County Search Dogs (KCSD) in WA state in 1999. She has certified with her K9 partners in wilderness air scent, land and water cadaver, avalanche and evidence search throughout the years since. While living in WA, Stacie deployed on hundreds of searches for the King County Sheriff and neighboring counties, numerous searches out of state, and several FBI cases. Stacie moved to Alaska in 2009 and founded the MAT+SAR K9 search and rescue team, responding to searches in all corners of the state. Stacie enjoys sharing her experiences with K9 teams throughout Alaska and in the lower 48 by instructing yearly K9 search workshops in Land and Water cadaver, Avalanche and Air scent search. Stacie is Alaska's first National Search Dog Alliance (NSDA) Principal Evaluator in Area, Land and Water HRD, and Avalanche search.

Diane Christian has resided in Northern Arizona since 1980 where she retired from law enforcement as a detective sergeant in 2004. In 1992 she obtained her first Bloodhound, Nitro, and trained her in tracking and HR detection work. Prior to losing Nitro to cancer Diane obtained another Bloodhound, Rajah, which she trained in tracking. Diane traveled nationwide with both Nitro and Rajah attending training seminars and in getting them certified in tracking. Toward the end of her law enforcement career Diane switched gears and partnered up with Kai, a Belgian Malinois/Shepard mix and a very high energy Czechoslovakian Shepherd named Axis. Kai was trained in Bomb detection and police protection. Axis was trained for bomb detection and trailing. Diane attended Adlerhorst Training Facility in Riverside, California for over 6 months. After retirement she started her new career as an elementary school teacher in a small rural school and joined Search and Rescue. Since joining Search and Rescue Diane has trained two additional canines. The first canine, Koda, developed seizure problems and was retired. The second canine is Tank, a Bloodhound/Lab she rescued from a shelter in Los Angeles. During the summer of 2012 Tank achieved his NASAR Canine Sarteck I and II Trailing certifications. Diane taught the trailing course and co-taught a Scent Dynamic course during the 2012 New Mexico State SAR Conference. Diane is a NASAR Canine SARTECH Trailing Lead Evaluator for all levels.

Cindy McArthur, a professional dog trainer since 1977, holds a Master of Education degree from the University of Arizona. She began her SAR career in 2000 as a dog handler with the Yavapai County Sheriff's Response Team Search Dog Unit, where she held the offices of Canine Evaluator, Training Coordinator and eventually Strike Team Leader. In 2005 her two eldest dogs, Nitro and Levi, jointly received the Association of Pet Dog Trainers' *SAR Dog of the Year* award. Since 2006 she has been a certified Wilderness First Responder, and in 2007 she was inducted into the Yavapai County Sheriff's Search Management Unit. In 2008 she earned her NASAR SARTECH II certification and currently holds SARTECH II Evaluator status. In 2009 Cindy and her youngest dog, Inspector Gadget, were the recipients of NASAR's Peter A. Chaney Canine Handler Scholarship. In late 2009 she moved to Flagstaff, AZ and joined the Coconino County Sheriff's SAR Canine Unit. She is currently the K9 Team Leader and K9 Evaluator. In 2011 she also became a distant member of the K-9 Search & Rescue, Inc in Dolores, Colorado and their AZ Division Supervisor. In 2012 she was awarded Member of the Year by Coconino County Sheriff's SAR. Cindy instructed an Area fieldwork course and co-taught a Scent Dynamics course during the 2012 New Mexico State SAR Conference Her dog Nitro was posthumously awarded the NASAR 2012 K9 of the Year. She currently owns and handles (2) Golden Retrievers, MacGyver a NASAR certified dual purpose Area/HRD K9 and Stretch Armstrong a dual purpose Area/HRD K9 in training. Cindy is a NASAR Canine SARTECH Lead Evaluator for Area I, II & III and HRD Land OTHER, III & IV and an AKC CGC Evaluator. Cindy is an instructor for SDONA (Search Dog Organization of North America).

FIELDWORK COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AKC CGC Evaluation- Cindy McArthur & Diane Christian

Please remember if your dog eliminates during the test he/she will be disqualified so take time to accomplish this before coming into the testing area. Your dog must have a leash and collar (buckle, martingale or slip only) on during the test. No harsh corrections or food are allowed in the testing area. Remember to encourage and praise your dog, you should be having fun together!

The AKC CGC includes the following items:

Item 1: Accepting a friendly stranger

Evaluator will approach and speak to handler with dog in sit position. (Dog is in control with loose leash without excessive corrections)

Item 2: Sitting politely for petting

Evaluator says "May I pet your dog" and pets dog lightly. (Dog may stand up but not lunge, jump or shy away leash must be kept loose)

Item 3: Appearance and grooming

Handler supplies dog's brush/comb; evaluator softly grooms dog, lightly examines ears and each front foot is gently picked up. (Some squirming is ok but not struggling and pulling away)

Item 4: Out for a walk

Evaluator calls for right turn, left turn, about turn and 2 stops. Handler may command, talk to and praise dog throughout test. (Loose leash required but dog need not be perfectly aligned, dog must be attentive to handler)

Item 5: Walking through a crowd

Handler and dog walk around and pass close to at least 3 people and possibly one well-mannered dog. (Dog may show some interest but must continue to walk with handler with loose leash, handler may encourage and praise dog)

Item 6: Sit and Down on command/Staying in place

Prior to test 20 foot leash provided by evaluator will be attached to dog. Dog needs to 1) sit on command and 2) down on command then 3) stay in a sit OR down position. Handler will be instructed to command stay and leave dog in either down or sit position, walk to the end of the 20 foot leash then return to dog and wait to hear the evaluator's instruction to release the dog. (Handler may use more than one command but not force the dog into position)

Item 7: Coming when called

When the evaluator instructs to do so, Handler will walk 10 feet from the dog, turn to face the dog and will call the dog, the test is complete when the dog comes to the handler. Handler will then reattach the dog's leash. (If the dog follows the handler the evaluator may distract it so the handler can get 10 feet away, handler may call dog 2 or 3 times and use encouragement but dog must come on it's own without use of attached 20 foot leash to pass the test)

Item 8: Reaction to another dog

Two handlers approach each other with their dogs from about 15 feet away, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on. (Dog should show no more than casual interest in the distraction dog and must stay back from the other dog/handler, as the handler leaves the dog must not turn around to pull towards the other dog)

Item 9: Reaction to distractions

Dog will demonstrate confidence when faced with common distractions, one visual (jogger) and one sound (pan being dropped or hit). (Dog may show casual interest or appear slightly startled but must not panic, handler may reassure dog during distractions)

Item 10: Supervised Separation

Evaluator will hold the leash of the dog while owner goes out of sight for 3 minutes. Evaluator may talk to and pet the dog but will refrain from giving excessive attention or playing with the dog. (Dog does not have to stay in position, but must not continually bark, whine, pace, show signs of agitation, extreme stress or pull on it's leash trying to get away)

AREA Fieldwork- Stacie Burkhardt

Day 1 – Advanced Teams

This class will challenge the more advanced area search teams by working more complex search scenarios. Fieldwork will cover application of scent theories, formulation of search strategies, and proofing K9 teams in various scenarios. Class will provide the opportunity to work on problem areas in preparation for certification evaluations.

Day 2 – Beginner/intermediate Teams

This class will cover the fundamental steps in training area search and how to develop a reliable find, alert, and re-find. Teams will focus on the K9's natural alerts, building a trusting relationship between K9 and handler, and solidifying subject loyalty through an effective reward system. Class will be tailored to each team and training focused on any problem areas.

HRD Fieldwork- Ben Alexander

Day 1 Beginner/Intermediate

Beginner and intermediate dogs will be introduced to novel HR odors. Focus will be on developing the reward system, focus, and commitment to odor. Discussions of trained final responses and methods for sharpening the final response will be reviewed. Final response training will be conducted with appropriate dogs.

Day 2 Advanced

Dogs in advanced classes should be certified at least at a local level and have an independent final trained response at odor. Problems to challenge both the handler and the dog will be available to work. Focus will be on discrimination of target odor from distractions (human scent, animal decomp, food, etc), working blinds, double blinds, and reading dogs in negative areas. Any necessary remedial training will be addressed at the end of the day with commitment to odor and final trained response motivation drills.

TRAILING FIELDWORK- Jen Blanton

Work on any problems/issues plus:

Day 1 Beg/Intermediate

Starts

Motivation/rewards

Reading dog

Handling dog

Day 2 Advanced

Reading dog

ID's

Contaminated articles

No scent indication (Negative)

Handler/dog needs