

Dog Talk

The official **unofficial** newsletter for FEMA dog handlers

October 2007

Volume 10 / Number 4

In this issue:

- Web Woofs
- Disaster Canine Combat Challenge
- Classified Section- **NEW**
- Task Force Rotation

With no testing in July- September and everyone busy training the Disaster Canine Combat Challenge has been featured in this edition of DogTalk- thanks to Sam and Sonja.

Web Woofs

From our US&R Veterinary Group

<http://usarveterinarygroup.org/vaccination.htm>

K-9 FIRST AID

[Click here: k9first aid](#)

Information on pet poisonings.

http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=pro_apcc_poisonsafe



Dog Talk

SPECIAL FEATURE

Disaster Canine Combat Challenge

July 20-22 Baltimore Maryland

On the weekend of July 20th – 22nd Search & Rescue Assist, Inc. and Hydrolyte held the first ever **Disaster Canine Combat Challenge**. All Task Forces were invited to send a participant with the potential opportunity to send two. Fourteen handlers stepped up and accepted our challenge to strut their stuff! We had a very well rounded representation with teams from California, Washington, Nevada, Ohio, Colorado, Virginia, Maryland, Florida, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Someone up there must love us because instead of the normal upper 90's with high humidity we had 80's and low humidity. Very unexpected but I don't think anyone complained!

The first day saw all handlers participating in Obedience, Dexterity, Rubble and Area Searching. The second day saw the top 50% go on to a realistic, scenario-based search.

We used the International Rescue Organization's obedience routine which is also part of a Schutzhund obedience routine. The handler was responsible for performing the pattern correctly without guidance from the judge. While this was the challenge that worried handlers the most, no one died during this portion of the weekend. All teams started with 50 points.



Next all teams went on to the Dexterity Challenge. This is the international term for agility. All teams started this event with 50 points. We incorporated the help of some very demented handlers to think of some really fun combinations and it was a huge success. The dog started out by climbing into a large corrugated metal pipe (at ground level) that led up to a 10 - 12" platform. From there the dog had to climb down a chain link panel onto another platform and then climb down a wooden ladder.



2 started with a raised wooden horizontal prop used to access a large spool which held a kiddie pool full of water. The dog had to go through the pool onto another platform and then jump down into a crawl box. #3 included a 10' high tire climb onto a wooden swinging bridge to another platform. #4 incorporated a see-saw which landed in the middle of a horizontal prop-and the dog had to go left on that prop. #5, the last challenge was a large black plastic pipe which was hanging from scaffolding by rope. The dog had to jump into the pipe from the ground, go through to a platform and then cross a 15' round rung aluminium ladder set horizontally.



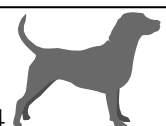
From there all teams went to full access rubble search where anything was game and they had 10 minutes to search. Teams started this with 100 points.



Next each team went to our "Tornado" scenario. All teams started with 100 points and had 20 minutes to conduct an open area search. We used a "leap frog" access, so the judges could see direction and control as well as handler strategy.



By the end of day one, we were all hot, tired and thirsty but everyone, no matter what their standing, was enthusiastic and ready to see what was in store for the seven handlers (top 50%) that made it to day two! We all met at the fire hall for drinks, debrief, food and some great conversation!



Sunday consisted of just one challenge worth 300 points:
EQ - Main Street Scenario –Full Access – 40 Minutes

This scenario consists of all areas within the banner tape to the fence and ending at drop off area.

This EQ, Magnitude 7.2 occurred at 0730 on Friday morning. The search area consists of 3 structures; a new apartment building, a storage company and a lumber yard.

- Hailing has been done, and surface victims removed.
- Structural Spec grant full access, with caution, any areas off limits will be taped off
- HazMat is clear
- Debrief your findings to the Escort Judge

The July heat made efficient strategy critically important. The search area consisted of 2 rubble piles, a couple city buses and a large pallet pile as well as all the area in between. A viewing stand was built right in the middle of the area so everyone had a bird's eye view of this challenge!

Everyone was challenged but more importantly everyone who attended learned a lot!



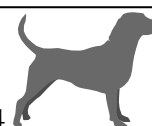
The event received a tremendous amount of positive feedback. The weekend was a huge success and I owe a debt of gratitude to the *MANY, MANY* volunteers to spent so much time carefully planning every detail and then came out for the weekend to make sure everything went as smoothly as possible. Handlers from several Wilderness Response teams as well as our friends and relatives were instrumental in making this happen.

In addition, I want to extend a special Thank You to the following:

Harry "Chip" Bullen owns the Belle Grove Corporation and the site on which Linthicum sits. Chip has been a very best friend to the K9 Community. His generosity and support MADE Linthicum a reality. I can guarantee he had no idea what was in store years ago when he said, "Sure, we can build a rubble pile."

The very strong support from our Veterinarians and Vet Tech staff The peace of mind knowing you were there was apparent to all!

Chief David Stokes with the Anne Arundel County Fire Department (my employer). Chief Stokes supported this event by sending us the Collapse Team as well as an Advanced Life Support Unit for the entire weekend. The personnel on those units worked hand in hand with the judges and support staff to make sure we were all safe. Two very long days!



The Anne Arundel County Alarmers who sent a Canteen unit for the entire weekend. They kept us well hydrated and fed with constant smiles all weekend long. These are very special folks who respond to extended working incidents in the region and keep us all well taken care of.

The Maryland City VFD who donated the use of their banquet hall, fed us great, home cooked meals and supported our every need.

Our fine cadre of Judges Thank you to Sonja Heritage, Garrett Dyer, Elizabeth Kreitler, Athena Robbins, Bob Deeds and Pete Sellas for being fair, disciplined and a pleasure to work with!

I could write pages and pages thanking the so many people who made this a success. Everyone from our special photographers, our handler escorts and staging personnel. I just cannot thank everyone enough.

ALL handlers and K9 were impressive to watch! After careful review the results were as follows:



**Tom Carney and
K9 Gypsy -1st
runner up**

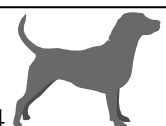


**Kent Olson
and his K9
Chase were
champs**



**Sharon Grant
and K9 Jed – 2nd
runner up**

. We hope that we will have the sponsors lined up soon for the second Disaster Canine Combat Challenge! Until then, be safe!



CLASSIFIEDS

The Classifieds Section has been added to support FEMA handlers who manufacture, or are agents for search dog training equipment and accessories. It will be restricted to one page/edition on a first-in, first-served basis at the discretion of the Editor

Performance Designs:

Custom fabricated crates and storage solutions. Maximize space and versatility. Welded steel construction will keep even the most intense K9 contained! References and pictures available.

Soon we'll be offering fire hose tugs! Stay tuned as we ramp up sewing operations!

Call or email Sam Balsam -
PerformDesigns@aol.com 301.748.9082



HydroLyte:

Protect your partner from dehydration. Electrolyte replacement mix will actually help protect your K9 at a cellular level. SAR Discount! Remember dehydration can occur just as readily in the cold weather. Any questions or looking for a sample pack? Contact Sam Balsam via email at SamBalsam.hydrolyte@gmail.com
www.Hydrolyte.com

Wolfpack Gear

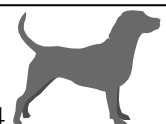
Handlers know how hard it is to find acceptable USAR Web Gear that is:

- 1) not bulky, since we actually wear ours in the field
- 2) adaptable to smaller framed personnel
- 3) able to carry large amounts of water, our primary cargo
- 4) comfortable and well made (life-time warranty)

If you or your team are looking for web gear, please call me or send an email and I will be happy to send you information on this product line and the configuration we put together for USAR canine handlers. I have negotiated a special package price with Wolfpack Gear. Therefore, make sure to contact me first. Wolfpack Gear carries a full line of USAR web gear to suit every position, so please check them out *before* committing to another company at www.wolfpackgear.com. You will be very happy you did.

See you on the next one,
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Please forward any news, scheduled events, letters to the editor, or other info you want disseminated via **DOGTALK**, the underground canine newsletter to Anne McCurdy: amccurdy@clarian.org



NATIONAL URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE RESPONSE SYSTEM 2008 ROTATION MODEL										
IST	REGION	1ST Rotation	2ND Rotation	3RD Rotation	4TH Rotation	5TH Rotation	6TH Rotation	7TH Rotation	8TH Rotation	9TH Rotation
JAN	W	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4
	C	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1
	E	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1
FEB	W	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1
	C	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1
	E	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1
MAR	W	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8
	C	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1
	E	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2
APR	W	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3
	C	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1
	E	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1
MAY	W	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1
	C	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1
	E	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1
JUN	W	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6
	C	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1
	E	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1
JUL	W	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2
	C	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1
	E	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2
AUG	W	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7
	C	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1
	E	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1
SEP	W	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5
	C	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1
	E	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1
OCT	W	CA-TF1	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4
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	E	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1
NOV	W	CA-TF8	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1
	C	NM-TF1	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1
	E	VA-TF2	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1
DEC	W	CA-TF3	WA-TF1	CA-TF6	CA-TF2	CA-TF7	CA-TF5	CA-TF4	CA-TF1	CA-TF8
	C	NE-TF1	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1
	E	MA-TF1	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2
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	C	NV-TF1	IN-TF1	MO-TF1	TX-TF1	UT-TF1	AZ-TF1	TN-TF1	CO-TF1	NM-TF1
	E	VA-TF1	MD-TF1	FL-TF2	OH-TF1	NY-TF1	FL-TF1	PA-TF1	VA-TF2	MA-TF1

