

Minutes of the Dog-Handlers Sub-Commission Meeting

20171019-DOG Soldeu, Andorra

Practical Workshop at the Pre-Convention Day on October 18th, 2017:

With a great pleasure we could welcome the attendees at our batch number 5. The dog handler team from Andorra, consist of 8 dog-handlers, are showing the visitors, the terrain search, even the terrain is rough.

Especially to mention is that the dog handlers from Andorra are working only with male dogs. They really highlighted the unbelievable skills of a dog in a rough terrain.



Meeting Soldeu / Andorra on October 19th, 2017
Time: 8.00 am until 5.30 pm

Lead: Meier Marcel, Alpine Rescue Switzerland
Attendees: 38 dog handlers from 18 countries

Agenda items:

1. Address list / Introduction of the participants
2. Minutes Meeting Borovets 2016
3. Introduction of the new members
4. Presentations
5. Introduction of the dog handlers from Andorra
6. Workshop for avalanche dog search 2018
7. Prevention for rescue dogs
8. Various

1) Address list / Introduction of the participants:

All the participants are filling out the address list and are giving a short introduction.

2) Minutes Meeting Borovets 2016:

The meeting record from Borovets is approved with one voice.

3) Introduction of the new members:

All the new participants of the sub commission dog are giving a short introduction of their organization.

The new participants are:

- Ireland
- Poland
- Romania
- France

4) Presentations:

4.1 Seppolo Lederhaas is presenting:

- The localization by mobile phone will be much more important in the future as at the moment to find a missing people.

The presentation is having the following main topic:

- The wave propagation or rather the shadowing through the mountains in the alpine area. The speaker did a great job in showing them all the technical possibilities, which are available.

4.2 Meier Marcel is presenting the following topics:

- Two missing people at the Ruosalp, Switzerland
Two construction workers have been buried by enormous rock masses while they have expand an alp path.
The construction workers have expand an alp path as two of them are buried by enormous rock masses.
The third construction worker was easily injured but not buried.
One dog handler was able to localize the two missing construction workers
Due the high risk, the missing construction workers couldn't be released out of the rock masses. In a first step the whole rocky area needs to secure for the rescuers.

4.3 ➤ Missing people in Untersihl, Switzerland
A 86 year old person contacted the police on 21st March 2017.
Because of a good organization between the area search and the air search, the person could be found. He was alive and was brought to the hospital.

4.4 ➤ Missing person at the Timpel, Switzerland
A 82 year old person, with some medical problems couldn't be found alive. The search duration was 10 hours.

4.5 ➤ Avalanche disaster at the Forstberg, Switzerland
Two people are caught in an huge avalanche. One of them wasn't buried.
The second person was buried by the avalanche.
The person was found alive within 40 minutes in a deep of 2 meters.
Unfortunately he passed away 4 days later in the hospital.

4.6 ➤ Avalanche at the Schneebigler Nock, Südtirol
Matthias Hofer is speaking about the dramatical avalanche disaster at the Schneebigler Nock.
There have been 26 people at the summit. 6 of them have died in the avalanche.

4.7 ➤ Dogs in mountain service in Czech republic
Josef Hepnar is showing a case study of a missing people, which was very impressive.

4.8 ➤ The access to an accident, while having difficult conditions:
Knut Skar from the Norway rescue dog team is having a short presentation regarding exceptional weather conditions and heavy snowfalls.
There was no access by snowmobile or by snow groomer, the only way to reach the accident area was by train.

5) Introduction of the dog handlers from Andorra:

- Adran Miguel is explaining and presenting the organization of GRC Canine Rescue Group.
 - ◆ Organization chart
 - ◆ Terrain search
 - ◆ Rubble search
 - ◆ Education for: - dog
- dog handler

All the dog handlers are actually professional firefighters, which are having a further education in rescue dogs.

It's a tight organization with a great technical and professional education program. That's a big honor for the dog-handlers.



6) Workshop for the avalanche dogs search 2018:

- As agreed by the Congresses in Borovets 2016 the next Workshop for the avalanche dogs is planned in Slovakia. Unfortunately there was no participant from Slovakia in Andorra. In this case the dog handlers from the Guardia di Finanza Italia, Passo Rolle, have agreed to organize the workshop for next year. The workshop will be from 3rd to 7th April 2018. This has been approved by one voice.

7) Prevention for rescue dogs:

- A work group was dealing with the topic „prevention for rescue dogs“ and had afterwards a short presentation. On the occasion of the next congress in Zakopane some further steps will be developed.

8) Various:

- 8.1 As a new and first Vice –President of the search and rescue dogs Norway, Knut Skar was elected. Congratulation Knut!
- 8.2 Cooperation with the management board:
The chairman of the sub commission dogs will discuss some further steps, on occasion of the next management board meeting in January 2018.

8.3 Marcel Meier is requesting from the members the following:

- Hard work in common
- Acquire new members for the sub commission
- Give lectures

8.4 Workshop, Friday, 20th October 2017

On time, at 8 am, we could go up with the chairlift to the mountain station.

From 08.15 am until lunch time a lot of practical details in the dog education were presented and also discussed. We had so many great talks and inputs.



At the end Marcel Meier would like to say „thank you“ to all the participants for the great and active work. He wishes them all a further successful congress.

8840 Einsiedeln, Switzerland / October 31st, 2017

Marcel Meier