

Minutes Dog-Handler Workshop

20180410-DOG Passo Rolle, Trentino, Italy

Monday April 9th, 2018

The following workshop leaders meet at 17:30 for an initial meeting:

Guardia di Finanza (GdF): Major Alessandro Alberioli
Valter Levi, Dogs responsible
ICAR Sub-Commission Dog-Handlers: Marcel Meier, President (minutes)

Topics:

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|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| - Work fields | 5 fields are prepared |
| - Participants | 51 dog-handlers will attend |
| - Catering | Barracks of the GdF |
| - Accommodation | Barracks of the GdF |
| - Dog accommodation | Cars of the attendees |
| - Staff | 14 dog-handlers available for the preparation |
| - Snow cats | 2 snow cats available |
| - Workshop goals | Marcel Meier announces the goals <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Exchange of experienceo No biteso Dog waste is to be picked up |
| - Workshop program | was delivered in advance to each participant |

Tuesday April 10th, 2018

Weather	all day cloudy, foggy
Breakfast	07:00
Preparing the fields	09:00 - 13:00
Lunch	13:00 - 14:00
Working with the dogs	14:00 - 17:00
Return from the fields	15:30 - 17:15
Debriefing	17:30
Debriefing for instructors	18:00
Dinner	19:00

Thanks to the great support of GdF all fields are well prepared. In the afternoon we work with specially buried pipes (cylinders).

There are 51 attendees from 22 organizations and 15 countries. Unexcused absent is Roby Gray of the Lake District.

The first joint debriefing includes:

- Alessandro Alberioli introduces the GDF with a film
- Marcel Meier presents the Swiss Army video "Avalanche Dogs in Switzerland since 1943"
- Marcel Meier announces the workshop goals and assigns the attendees into 4 groups for the first workshop day

The debriefing for the instructors includes a résumé of all the work done during the day.

Wednesday April 11th, 2018

Weather	sunny in the morning, cloudy in the afternoon
Breakfast	07:00
Briefing	08:00
Work in the fields	09:00 - 13:00
Lunch	13:00 - 14:00
Work in the fields	14:00 - 17:00
Return from the fields, feeding the dogs	17:00 - 17:30
Debriefing	17:30
Debriefing for Instructors	18:00
Dinner	19:00

Each dog-handler completes at least two exercises. The exercise procedure can be determined by each dog-handler. We see different ways of working and accordingly the indications on the buried persons. Interestingly, some countries do not search for items. All participants are very satisfied with the first day.

The day is being reviewed upon the debriefing. The debriefing for the instructors serves as a review of the day and as an outlook to the next day.

Thursday April 12th, 2018

Weather	sunny in the morning, cloudy in the afternoon
Breakfast	07:00
Briefing	08:00
Work in the fields	09:00 - 13:00
Lunch	13:00 - 14:00
Work in the fields	14:00 - 17:00
Return from the fields, feeding the dogs	17:00 - 17:30
Debriefing, Presentation Prof. Diverio	17:30
Debriefing for Instructors	18:30
Dinner	19:00

Today the work groups are reorganized, while the instructors stay in their fields. In addition, a new search field is created. In this field, Marcel Meier works with the young dogs in the four phase system. Once again we see very nice work of each individual dog-handler team.

Upon the debriefing the day is reviewed. Although there was real dog weather today, everyone is very satisfied.

Professor Silvana Diverio presents a very interesting lecture with the following topics:

- How is the dog-handler's stress transmitted to the dog's work?
- What influence does the relationship dog/dog-handler have on the dog?
- How do dog-handlers and dogs work after a performance march gaining 300 meters in altitude?
- How deep can the dog smell?

All participants eagerly listen to the excellent presentation. Professor Silvana Diverio is very good in conveying the different topics.

The debriefing for the instructors serves as a review of the day and preparation for the next day.

With good camaraderie, the day ends with music and singing.

Friday April 13th, 2018

Weather	sunny in the morning, snowfall in the afternoon
Breakfast	07:00
Briefing	08:00
Work in the fields	09:00 - 13:00
Lunch	13:00 - 14:00
Work in the fields	14:00 - 17:00
Return from the fields, feeding the dogs	17:00 - 17:30
Debriefing	17:30
Debriefing for Instructors	18:30
Dinner	19:30

Also on this day intense work takes place on the various fields. All the dog-handlers conclude the workshop with positive work.

In the evening we have the honor of welcoming Colonel Stefano Murari of the GdF. He thanks all attendees and hands over a certificate to each participant and each instructor.

Marcel Meier thanks the GdF for hosting and organizing this workshop. As a tribute he hands over a small present to Colonel Stefano Murari, Alessandro Alberioli and Valter Levi. Marcel Meier thanks all attendees for their presence and expects many lectures being presented upon the next ICAR convention in October. He wishes all attendees safe travel back home and looks forward seeing them again at the next meeting upon ICAR 2018 in Chamonix, France.

Saturday April 14th, 2018

Enriched with a wealth of new experiences everyone returns home.