



**March 8-10, 2013**

**Location:**

The Ohio Fire Academy  
8895 East Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

**Cost:**

OSARA Members: \$60  
Non Members: \$80  
Single Day: \$40/day

**Send Registration and  
payment to:**

Ohio Search and  
Rescue Association  
962 Patriot Square Dr  
Centerville, OH 45459

**Breakfast Provided:**

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

**Lunch Provided:**

Friday & Saturday

**Lodging:**

Days Inn & Suites  
2100 Brice Rd.  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068  
614-864-1280  
\$55/night double occupancy  
Room block release 02-21-13

La Quinta Inn & Suites  
2447 Brice Rd.  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068  
1-866-527-1498

Confirmation code:  
0550GRFFMN  
\$62/night double occupancy  
Room block release 2-15-13

# The Ohio Search and Rescue Association *presents*

# OH SAR 2013 Conference

*Topics Include:*

- **The Role of the A.G. Office in Missing Person Incidents**  
*Brent Currence-Manager, Missing Persons Unit, BCI*
- **Ohio Amber Committee Updates**  
*Captain Robert Jackson, OSP*
- **Ohio Child Abduction Response Team Updates**  
*Chief Gary Vest, Powell P.D.*
- **Search Theory for Searchers**  
*Don Cooper*
- **Ohio Incident Management Teams**  
*David Calderone*
- **Ohio CERT - Status and update**  
*Todd Barstow, State Coordinator*
- **Canine Physical Conditioning and Working Dog DNA Bank**  
*Cynthia Otto, DVM, Univ. of Pennsylvania*
- **Physical and Psychological Support of Extended Search Operations**  
*Don Scelza, ASRC*
- **Results of Effective Sweep Width Experiments**  
*Ken Chiacchia, ASRC*
- **Personal Stories and Accounts of Abduction**
- **Social Media: The usage and ethics in missing person cases**  
*Jonathan Blanton, Principal Attorney, Ohio A.G. Office*

**Plus**

- **Ohio Search and Rescue Association Meeting**
- **Viewing of Dogs of War: The Fight Back Home**  
Open to the public—There will be a \$5 charge for the movie.

visit [www.ohioSARassociation.org](http://www.ohioSARassociation.org) for more information

<b>Friday</b>	
0845-0900	Welcome/ Announcements
0900-1030	The Role of the A.G. Office in Missing Person Incidents- Brent Currence-Manager, Missing Persons Unit, BCI
1030-1100	BREAK
1100-1230	Ohio Amber Committee Updates - Captain Robert Jackson, OSP (30 minutes) Ohio Child Abduction Response Team Updates - Chief Gary Vest, Powell P.D. (30 Minutes)
1230-1330	LUNCH
1330-1530	Search Theory for Searchers - Don Cooper
1530-1600	BREAK
1600-1700	Ohio Incident Management Teams - David Calderone
1930	Documentary - Dogs of War: The Fight Back Home - Kristen Kiraly, Producer
<b>Saturday</b>	
0900-1030	Ohio CERT - Status and update - Todd Barstow, State Coordinator
1030-1100	BREAK
1100-1230	BREAKOUTS
	Canine Physical Conditioning and Working Dog DNA Bank - Cynthia Otto, DVM, Univ. of Pennsylvania
	Physical and Psychological Support of Extended Search Operations - Don Scelza, ASRC
	Results of Effective Sweep Width Experiments: What A Search Mananger Should Know - Ken Chiacchia,
1230-1330	LUNCH
1330-1530	Ohio Search and Rescue Association Meeting
1530-1600	BREAK
1600-1730	Repeat Breakouts
	Canine Physical Conditioning and Working Dog DNA Bank - Cynthia Otto, DVM, Univ. of Pennsylvania
	Physical and Psychological Support of Extended Search Operations - Don Scelza, ASRC
	Results of Effective Sweep Width Experiments: What A Search Mananger Should Know - Ken Chiacchia,
<b>Sunday</b>	
0845-0900	Raffle Drawings
0900-1000	Personal stories and accounts of abduction from 2 individuals
1000-1030	BREAK
1030-1200	Social Media: The usage and ethics in missing person cases - Jonathan Blanton, Principal Attorney, Ohio A.G. Office

### **Don Scelza, MS, EMT-P**

Don has been involved in Search and Rescue & EMS for over 20 years. He is currently working as a paramedic just north of Pittsburgh, PA. Don is very active in Search and Rescue activities. He holds dual positions as a Rescue Specialist and a Medical Specialist on PA Strike Team 1, the largest of the Pennsylvania in-state USAR teams. In addition to urban search and rescue, Don is active in wilderness search and rescue. He is one of three Search Managers in the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference. Don is a member of the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG) in Pittsburgh. He is a member of the AMRG Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) team and is a team evaluator for the MRA. Don does a great deal of teaching. He, along with two partners, operates CDS Outdoor School, Inc., providing medical classes from wilderness first aid to classes for medical command physicians and numerous classes in wilderness search and rescue. Don also teaches for the Eastern Region National Cave Rescue Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy.

### **Physical and Psychological Support of Extended Search Operations-**

Extended operations (multiday searches, disasters) take both a physical and emotional toll on those who respond. Long work shifts, lack of equipment, lack of physical comforts and the burden of the enormity of the event all wear on the rescuer and reduce her ability to function and the level of proficiency required. This talk will look at the physical and emotional aspects of responding to these events. The talk will cover common issues and will suggest a number of actions that can be taken by the incident command staff and by the individual rescuer.

Learning Objectives: At the end of this lecture the listener will be able to describe the:

- Physical aspects that affect rescuer performance in extended operations
- Emotional aspects that affect rescuer performance in extended operations
- Actions that the command staff can take to help rescuers handle the emotional and physical aspects of response
- Actions that can be taken by individual rescuers to maintain performance

#### **CDS Outdoor School, Inc**

220 Old Rt. 8 South; Valencia PA, 16059

Toll Free: (877) 392-5745

Direct: (724) 316-5298

info@cdsoutdoor.com

www.cdsoutdoor.com



### **Donald C. Cooper, Ph.D., CFO, MIFirE, OFE, EMT-P**

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

**About the Presenter:** Dr. Cooper earned an MBA and PhD in Business Administration from the University of California, and attended the University of Akron and Kent State University.

From April 2007 to June of 2012, Donald Cooper has served as Chief Deputy Ohio State Fire Marshal—which included two years serving also as Interim State Fire Marshal—and has served in the career fire-rescue-EMS service since 1980. Dr. Cooper has authored several books relating to Search and Rescue, Mantracking, and Managing Search Operations; has contributed to research projects sponsored by the National Search and Rescue Committee and funded by the Department of Defense (DoD) and NASA.

### **Search Theory for Searchers-**

Land searchers gather information and make observations from which search planners and managers make important decisions regarding where and how to deploy various types of search resources. This program will (1) discuss the fundamentals of search theory from a searcher's perspective, and (2) communicate what search planners and managers need from field searchers to properly apply the principles of search theory.

## David Calderone

Coordinator of the State IMT for Ohio



**About the Presenter:** David Calderone currently serves as a township trustee in Coventry Township, Summit County, Ohio. He recently retired after 36 years in the fire service, 20 of those as a fire chief. He is part owner of CalTek, LLC, which provides training & consulting in emergency management. He also serves as coordinator the State IMT for Ohio. Calderone has degrees in business management & emergency management.

Calderone has deployed to St. Bernard Parish (Katrina) in 2005 and, in Ohio, he also deployed with the State IMT to the Finley floods, the Ottawa Floods and the Painesville train derailment. Recently, Calderone led the State IMT on an EMAC deployment in August of 2011 to New York in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Irene. David is certified through DHS/EMI to teach most of the command & general staff position-specific courses.

He can be reached at [calderone@coventrytownship.com](mailto:calderone@coventrytownship.com) or [calderone@caltek.biz](mailto:calderone@caltek.biz)

### Ohio Incident Management Teams -

Incident Management Teams (IMT's) can enhance the efforts of a CART. David Calderone, coordinator for the Ohio State Incident Management Team, will provide a basic overview of IMT's that will include defining the role & purpose of an IMT, outlining their capabilities (including what IMT's will not do), and discussing the process for activating an IMT.

## Brent Currence

Director, Ohio Missing Persons Unit- Bureau of Criminal investigation- Special Operations

**About the Presenter:** Brent Currence retired in 2003 as a Sergeant from Ohio State Highway Patrol. During his career, he served at the Lancaster and Granville Patrol Posts. He was also a certified Police Instructor and has taught at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy and other Academies for 7 years. Mr. Currence also served three years with the Telecommunications Section as the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) Security Officer where he conducted computer investigations and provided training to LEADS users.

Mr. Currence is now the Director for the Ohio Missing Persons Unit with the Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's Office, Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is responsible for overseeing its operations as the central repository to coordinate and improve the information on missing persons. The Missing Persons Unit also assists local law enforcement by providing investigative tools, investigative assistance and issuing alerts to help locate and recover missing persons. He also represents the Ohio Attorney General's Office on the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee and serves as the Chair for the Inter-State Enforcement Agencies to Recover Children, (I-SEARCH), The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Financial Coalition Against Child Porn workgroup and Counting Missing Children workgroup, the NAMUS Workgroup, and serves on the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Human Trafficking Coalition, the Ohio Attorney General's Trafficking In Persons Study Commission and the Central Ohio Child Abduction Response Team.

## Todd Barstow

Ohio Citizen Corp and CERT State Co-coordinator

Will discuss the role of CERT teams in Ohio, CERT funding sources and CERT goals.

**Dr. Cynthia M. Otto**

University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine

**About the Presenter:** Dr. Otto, a 1986 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, received her small animal internal medicine residency and PhD training from the University of Georgia. She is currently a tenured associate professor of Critical Care at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, where she is active in clinical care, research and teaching. She is a board certified specialist in veterinary emergency and critical care and serves as an attending veterinarian in the Ryan Veterinary Hospital Emergency Service. Dr. Otto has been involved in disaster medicine as an active member of the Pennsylvania Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 since 1994 (including deployments to Hurricane Floyd and 9/11) and the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team-2 since 1999 (deploying to Hurricane Katrina). She is the founding director of the Penn Vet Working Dog Center which opened its training facility on September 11, 2012. She has been monitoring the health and behavior of Urban Search and Rescue canines since October of 2001, through an AKC-CHF funded grant (now in its third renewal). She has established the AKC-CAR Detection Dog DNA bank. She is active in educating search dog handlers and members of the working dog community in canine care. She was named Pennsylvania's 2002 "Veterinarian of the Year" and received an Alumni Recognition Award in 2006 and the OSU Distinguished Alumna Award in 2008 from the Ohio State University. She is involved in dog sports (flyball, agility, and tricks), and pet therapy, with her rescued Bichon mix, Dolce.

**Canine Physical Conditioning and Working Dog DNA Bank-**

What makes a great search dog? It is a combination of the genetic potential, the training and the physical conditioning. At the Penn Vet Working Dog Center we are exploring the genetics of successful search by developing the AKC-CAR Detection Dog DNA Bank. This long term project will help identify the genetic fingerprint associated with the complex behavior of search dogs. This information will have the potential to aid in the selection of dogs for search work.

Most search dog training focuses on the actual search and does not address the physical conditioning of the dog. We are implementing a series of exercises to improve the strength and coordination of detection dogs with the aim of improving their fitness and confidence and reducing the risk of injury.

**Gary Vest**

Chief of Powell Police Department

**About the Presenter:** The chief of police of the Powell, Ohio, Police Department, a position that he has held since May 1996. Chief Vest has served in the law enforcement profession for over 38 years, including four years in the U.S. Air Force Security Police. Past president of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.

**Jonathan Blanton**

Ohio Attorney General's Office

**About the Presenter:** Currently Mr. Blanton is the principal assistant attorney general in the Consumer Protection Section of the Ohio Attorney General's Office. He did his undergraduate work at Ohio University and earned his law degree from the University of Kentucky. He served as Jackson County's Prosecuting Attorney for the past decade.

**Kenneth B. Chiacchia, PhD, WEMT**

Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group / Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference

**About the Presenter:** Ken has been an operational SAR dog handler since he first certified with Search Dogs Northeast of Antrim, NH, in 1992. Since joining Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group of Pittsburgh in 1994, he has served in several operational capacities, including air scent dog handler (currently with GSD partner Sophia), field team leader, rescue specialist, wilderness EMT, and various search management functions. He is currently AMRG's training officer, communications officer, and Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference delegate. He has also been AMRG's Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council representative, operations officer, and executive director.

Ken has responded to searches in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, and elsewhere. A professional science writer, Ken has written a number of articles on SAR dogs. With his teammates, he is currently conducting studies to determine how weather and other environmental issues affect both human and canine searchers. His first paper on this work appeared in *Wilderness & Environmental Medicine* in September 2010.

**Results of Effective Sweep Width Experiments-**

When it comes to accurately gauging search efforts, SAR is at a crossroads. The effective sweep width (ESW) method produces far more accurate PODs than field searchers can estimate; but it has not yet gained wide use. There are a number of reasons for this, including:

1. libraries of local sweep widths are not available in most areas of the country
2. the tools (hardware and software) for integrating this information into search management aren't yet widespread
3. no means has existed for determining ESW values for air scent dog teams, a major resource in many areas

We have undertaken a series of sweep-width experiments to create a library of ESW values that allows an apples-to-apples comparison of different search methods for the Allegheny Plateau. While it isn't clear to what extent our findings are directly applicable to similar environments elsewhere in the country, it is clear that our methods are exportable and could be used to create local ESW libraries. In addition, our results suggest what conditions favor the human and dog search resources, and may point the way toward using these modalities in a more complementary fashion that leverages each one's strengths while minimizing weaknesses.

**Captain Rob Jackson**

Ohio State Highway Patrol

**About the Presenter:** Captain Jackson is a 23-year veteran of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and is currently the commander of the Technology & Communication Services Section. Captain Jackson is also the Chairman of the Ohio AMBER Alert Steering Committee.

**Ohio Amber Committee Updates**

This presentation will give an overview of the Ohio AMBER Alert program, including AMBER Alerts, Endangered Missing Child Alerts, Endangered Missing Adult Alerts, and Blue Alerts and discuss how a variety of search and rescue approaches are needed in each situation.

## **Kristen Kiraly**

**About the Presenter:** Kristen Kiraly is an independent documentary filmmaker based in New York City. "Dogs of War: The Fight Back Home" stems from her passion for animals and concern over the effects that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to have on our country and our troops (the two as well as the four-legged variety). This film is Kristen's first solo documentary endeavor. She has previously worked on stories for CNN, NBC and NYC Television. Kristen holds a dual BA degree from Colgate University and an MA in News and Documentary Journalism from New York University.

## **Dogs of War: The Fight Back Home-**

"Dogs of War: The Fight Back Home" looks at post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in military working dogs. Until recently, PTSD was neither acknowledged nor diagnosed in these heroic dogs returning from war. With 2,700 military working dogs stationed worldwide and 700 in war zones, the proportion of dogs currently diagnosed with PTSD is approximately 5%, a figure that is expected to rise in the coming years.

Producer Kristen Kiraly has traveled the country visiting military bases and meeting with Congressmen, U.S. Veterans, dog handlers, trainers, and veterinarians, as well as the leading authority on canine PTSD, Dr. Walter Burghardt at Lackland Air Force Base. This documentary will introduce you to many of these incredibly talented military working dogs while focusing on the story of 12-year-old retired Navy military working dog Brix D141. Following ten years of dedicated service, including a tour of duty in Iraq, Brix was retired due to his PTSD.

While Brix and all military working dogs risk their lives protecting our troops and country, they are officially classified as "equipment." This documentary looks at the current Congressional efforts to pass the "Canine Members of the Armed Forces Act," which would reclassify these war heroes from "equipment" to K9 service members, providing them with recognition for outstanding service and medical benefits upon retirement.

"Dogs of War: The Fight Back Home" aims to bring public awareness to the status and role of military working dogs, while providing an in-depth and personal look at the psychological scars they must cope with post-war.