

# NASDN GAZETTE

--North American Search Dog Network, December 2006--

## Dues are Due

It's that time of year again. NASDN dues are due on January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2007. Members have a grace period until March 1<sup>st</sup> but it's helpful if people don't wait until the last minute. Write your check. Put it in the mail. Sleep better knowing there's one less thing you need to remember to do. Dues are \$35.00 US. Renewal forms are available on the website.

## 2007 Spring Mini Seminar

Plans are taking shape for the mini seminar, April 27 - 30. The seminar will be held at Camp Ripley, an Army National Guard Camp in central Minnesota. This is NASDN's first visit to Camp Ripley but it appears to be a fantastic location. We will have access to lots of land with varied terrain, a classroom and what looks like excellent housing. Evaluations under NASDN's recently revised Standards will be available to full members. Probationary members and non members will be welcome to take the tests for training purposes.

The \$100 fee will include rooms. Meals will be available at the Camp or at local restaurants. Details and registration forms are available at [www.nasdn.org](http://www.nasdn.org)

Early registration makes it easier for NASDN to plan. Better planning makes a better seminar. People who register before Feb. first will get a 15% discount.

NASDN will publish two regular editions of this newsletter yearly, plus occasional special editions. Members and non members are invited to submit articles, reviews and other items of interest. Please feel free to contribute.

-editor

## Bob Perry Goes to Nebraska

By Sandra Perry

You wouldn't believe what this old sled dog got to do April 6 - 13 in Omaha, Nebraska for the locally forming Eastern Interior Search and Rescue canine group. My mom, Sandra Perry, and I went to a five day canine search and rescue seminar on tracking victims by scent. I got placed with the other intermediate level police dogs and blood hounds. We worked hard, nine to five, with at least four searches each day, regardless of the weather.

What I thought was a real hoot was I got to ride free on the plane, but Mom had to pay! It was amazing how professional I needed to be, not only at the classes, but just to get there: planes, busses, restaurants, airports. I had to constantly be on alert and think - revolving doors; eating in a restaurant with Mom; following scents of various victims in fields,

cities, buildings, hills and woods. Good ol' Mom. She kept thanking God, tearfully, each time I scored high in finding my victims. Good-bye sled dog - hello search and rescue dog. We've got a new Career!

Sandra Perry and Her dog Bob traveled from Tok, Alaska to attend their first NASDN seminar in the Spring of 2006.

## National Incident Management System (NIMS)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's NIMS' SAR Working Group has released a draft of their proposed "NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONDER CREDENTIALING SYSTEM". If you work your dog in the U.S., this document will likely have some affect on the way you provide services to your community. You are strongly encouraged to take a look. The document can be found at: [http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/sar\\_jobtitle\\_111806.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/sar_jobtitle_111806.pdf)

The DHS website invites your comments saying,

"the NIC welcomes your participation into our stakeholder review group. As a stakeholder, you will receive updates on working groups' progress and will be able to review draft documents under development. If you would like to participate as a stakeholder, please contact the NIC at 202.646.3850 or by e-mail at: [nims-integration-center@dhs.gov](mailto:nims-integration-center@dhs.gov)."

## **Heat Stress, Part II**

By John Beck

I know December might seem like an odd time to talk about Heat Stress. I thought I'd write this product review as a follow-up to the excellent article Deb Stanton wrote for last summer's edition.

My Yellow Lab Iva is sensitive to heat. Last June I bought her a ChillyDog Cool Vest from Glacier Tek, Inc., [www.coolvest.com](http://www.coolvest.com). There were some minor problems with processing my order through their website which gave me a chance to visit with Ray Booska and Jennifer Scherer from Glacier Tek. They both provided excellent customer service and once the website issues were straightened out, my order was processed quickly.

The ChillyDog has three components. A nylon vest and two inserts that are filled with a material that freezes at about 59°F. The idea is that it takes significant energy (heat) to change the phase of the filling from solid to liquid. The vest stays at a comfortable temperature while it's absorbing excess body heat.

The nylon portion of the vest is very well constructed. It is designed to be easy to put on and take off. A job well done. The thermal inserts look like vinyl bags filled with chicken fat. Mine have held up so far but I suspect that one drop on to rough concrete when in

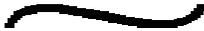
their frozen state would cause a leak. At almost a hundred bucks for a replacement set this could be an issue!

The ChillyDog only comes in one size. This is a bit of a problem. Iva is small for a lab, 43 pounds. The vest, with it's straps pulled all the way in, is a marginal fit. Iva can still work while wearing it but it does impede her mobility slightly. I tried it on one of my larger dogs and he ran like he was wearing nothing. It would be great if Glacier Tek recognized that 40-50 pounds is a pretty common size for Detector Dogs.

Last summer I started running some tests on the ChillyDog. I gave Iva a specific amount of exercise at the same temperature with and without the vest. I monitored her body temperature using a non contact infrared thermometer pointed into her ear. Unfortunately, the tests I ran were only 15 min. in duration. I did five days worth without the vest and then repeated on five days with similar weather, with the vest. What I discovered was that the vest didn't start to make an observable difference until the end of the exercise period. Even then, my thermometer wasn't accurate enough to

collect meaningful data. I suspect that if I had made measurements over an hour, I would have seen some measurable help from the vest. Maybe a project for next summer.

The price of the ChillyDog has been lowered to \$129 plus shipping. For teams that have to work in hot weather, with dogs in the 50-100 pound range, the ChillyDog might be worth a look.



## **CANADIAN EMBASSY ENTRANCE QUIZ**

By Dawn Sword

These are the answers to the quiz in last Summer's newsletter.

### **ANSWERS:**

- (a) close fitting wool hat/beanie
- (b) dinner napkin
- (c) kilometres/miles
- (d) 2 sugars and 2 creams in coffee or tea
- (e) fries
- (f) case of beer
- (g) fries/melted cheese/gravy combination
- (h) afternoon
- (i) rum unique to the province of Newfoundland
- (j) hot tea
- (k) Ottawa, Ontario
- (l) Stephen Harper

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