

TOWNS



DOSHER FOUNDATION AWARDS \$3,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO BCC STUDENTS | PAGE C2

BSAR receives AKC Reunite training grant

Funds will help fund similar training at BSAR local training sites



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BSAR HRD specialist Brian Anderson and K9 Champ train to find HRD underwater. Champ will indicate to Brian when he detects scent of human remains.

AKC Reunite has awarded Brunswick Search and Rescue (BSAR) a Canine Support and Relief Fund grant for training its K9s in human remains detection (HRD).

Ten of the BSAR K9s are currently employed for finding HRD on land, buried, or under water. These teams of K9 and handler are utilized when called upon by emergency managers and law enforcement to assist in locating

remains of victims of death by exposure or suicide, drowning victims, and to assist in homicide investigations.

The dogs must be trained at specialized facilities to be

able to discriminate between human remains at many stages of decomposition and those of animal remains. Searches are often performed in wilderness

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K9 Eero and handler Nadine train with remains hidden in a barn under hay bales.

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areas where the K9 must cover vast areas in its search and the handler must carefully watch the K9 partner to recognize changes in behavior as it nears the source of the human scent.

These funds will send K9/handler teams to weeklong field-based training seminars and will also help fund similar training at BSAR local training sites. These amazing animals have located 200-year-old grave sites, enabled divers to safely recover drowning victims, and have been used to determine direction of travel in homicide cases.

The AKC Reunite program is a major provider for identification microchips that are placed under the skin of a dog so that it can easily be scanned at a shelter or veterinarian's office to obtain owner information. In 2022, AKC Reunite registered more than 600,000 pets in its ID/microchip program and reunited over 29,000 lost pets with their owners. The AKC Reunite Canine Support and Relief Fund has provided over \$9M since 2002 for disaster preparedness and relief causes that impact pets and for training K9 Search and Rescue teams. BSAR is honored to have been funded by this program for the past four years.

BSAR HRD specialist Brian Anderson has years of experience working with his English Springer Spaniel, Champ, who is certified in both



Photo contributed

Handler Laura and K9 Allons-Y prepare to search for HRD suspended 12 feet underwater.



Photo contributed

Handler Ken and K9 Marcus searching for HRD. The depth, current, temperature, wind and many other factors determine where scents will surface in relation to the location of the body and all these factors must be accounted for once the K9 indicates scent is present.

wilderness air scent and HRD. "We are very grateful to AKC Reunite for this most recent in a series of training awards," Brian said. "Our search and rescue skills are learned by repetition and consistent attention to detail. Dogs and handlers must be able to deliver top quality SAR behavior during stressful emergency conditions."

BSAR has participated in over 350 callouts in NC, SC, and adjacent states since its inception in 1999. Missions have included locating missing

children, walk-away Alzheimer's and dementia patients, finding suicidal individuals, homicide victims, recovering drowning victims, and a range of other missing persons ranging from 2 years old to 90. BSAR also provides training for over 500 children yearly on outdoors safety and what to do should they become lost.

For more information about BSAR or to send a donation, contact Chief Doug Dawson at BSA-Rchief@gmail.com or go to BrunswickSAR.org or its Facebook page.