



Minutes from the ICAR dog subcommision's Workshop at Walchen / Lizum





Day 1

Everyone had to meet in the parking lot by the road up to the camp, this one was 600 metres below where we were supposed to be. Those who were going to drive up had to have 4-wheel drive and snow chains on the car. We others were stacked into a large maxi taxi with the same equipment. After climbing a narrow and winding road up, the flat valley looked out and saw the camp bathed in sun and white snow surrounded by high pointed mountains.

Meeting Wednesday, March 13, by attendance.

Marcel welcomed everyone and gave the word to Stefan, who is the leader of the Austrian Rescue Service. He opened by welcoming us, the last time we had a workshop in Austria was in 2014 so he hoped this workshop would be as successful as in 2014.

Manni took over, he has organized most things in connection with this Workshop, he is the leader of the rescue dogs in Tyrol. The military camp is located more than 2000 m over sea level, it is a military training camp, the highest in Europe. The rescue organization of Austria has a very good communication with the military, and they get rooms with food here very cheaply. He informed that tomorrow, there will arrive 38 doghandlers from Austria for their local training and certification tests.

Manni informed about the area, took a part about safety, here shooting takes place with live ammo, so nobody must move outside the clarified area without having permission from Manni.

At last Reinhard - leader of the dog group. I also welcomed us and hoped we would have some nice days.

Then Marcel took practical information

- 06.00 Breakfast
- 07.00 Take care of the dogs
- 08.00 Obedience by Reinhard
- 08.45 Start with the workshop with test of S/M equipment
- 11.30 Lunch
- 16.30 Dinner
- 18 00 Meeting

We have 5 fields that are partially worked up with graves, we will make some new holes during the week, and it is important that all participants contribute.

Then everybody introduced themselves



Day 2

We started with a simple search with one figurant for all participants except those who was not at that level (young and unexperienced). This was to see a little bit of what level the different ones were at. From this, they were all divided into 3 teams, one for newly begun/young dogs and two teams with approved dog teams.

Marcel and Marco led the youngsters, Reinhard and Knut took the one approval team, Manni and Michael the second one.

Our group started with figurant work, there was very good figurants in the groups, this was a good help for most of the dog teams.

In the evening, we had a round among the participants about the day's work, everyone was mostly satisfied, some had seen things they had to work on. The focus of the day was motivation and the exchange of training methods.

We discussed about the importance of figurant work and the indication of the dogs, it was decided to continue in the same groups the whole course but we change fields every day.

Marcel will present his 4 hole technology Everyone is invited to take a trip to take a look at the system.

Whatever training methods hosted, the work with the dogs was very similar, but there are some differences in level of indication.

Day 3

Reinhard's group first had an transceiver search in the field, without a dog and a regular search afterwards, both with unknown figurant location. In general, both markup and search were good. We dug another grave straight into the avalanche tongue, several of the dogs had some problems to jump down into the grave. Important to make different types of graves so the dogs are familiar also with graves straight down.

In the evening, we had a round among the participants about the day, everyone was satisfied.

We saw a video from Romania about Salvamont's work in avalanches.

Sweden was supposed to have a presentation about Fjellredningen and their work, but unfortunately the flash drive was destroyed so they couldn't show this.



Day 4

The young dog group had a final search with an unknown fig. the first time without seeing the fig bentering the grave.

The other two groups had tasks with transceiver searches at the same time as they searched with dogs. Here it was a little different from what experience they have with the use of transceiver.

After lunch it was voluntary what they wanted to do, several used the chance of a fantastic Italian figurant to get a good ending of the workshop.

Marcel thanked Manni and Reinhard for good cooperation. It has been easy to work with them up to and during the workshop. They both got a pocket knife from the 75th anniversary of the Swiss rescue dogs.

This was a fantastic place to haul such courses, the terrain was good, good assistance in making fields with pist machine, good accommodation facilities and good food for a small cost. Marcel thanked and for the efforts of the participants, wished everyone a good trip home and gave some good advice along the way.

Reinhard and Manni thanked everybody for good work during the workshop and hoped that everyone brought home some lessons Everyone received the Austrian dog handler medal as a gift and every country got a stone plaque of the saint for the rescue service, St Bernard