

RGVGRC News

September 2011



NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

SUNDAY- 1:30 PM

LOCATION: HOFFMAN PARK

We will be discussing our upcoming events;

Flying Star On the Petio—10/12/2011 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Octoberfest—10/16/2011

Doggie Dash & Dawdle—11/6/11

Please plan on attending this important meeting.



Yard Sale held on Sept. 10th was a bid success! We made \$242.50 as well as cleaned out our garages... Way to go to all of you who donated to the cause and came out to work! Thank You! Thank You!!!! Also, we would like to thank Anne & Mark for the use of their Sign Shop for our big sale!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

“Katie” Nichols—Sept 5th

“Sagebrush” Bosworth—Sept 9th

Phillip Uzdawinis—Sept 12th

Linda Waterman—Sept 16th

Patricia Williams—Sept 20th



A Tribute to 9/11 Search and Rescue Dogs

It was the largest deployment of search dogs in U.S. history and possibly the single greatest example of inter-species cooperation in the history of human disasters.

More than 350 dogs lent their snouts to 9/11 search-and-rescue (SAR) efforts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Approximately 100 were deployed by FEMA, and the remaining 250 included SAR dogs from around the country, NY police dogs, security dogs and volunteers who rushed to the scene as soon as it happened.

None of the SAR dogs died, but 1 NYPD dog lost his life: Sirius, the resident bomb-sniffing dog at the World Trade Center's Port Authority K-9 Unit.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Officer David Lim was in the basement of World Trade Center Tower One with his explosive detection dog, Sirius. Following the impact of the passenger jet, Lim received a call informing him that an explosion had occurred somewhere on one of the upper floors of the building. Before responding to the call, Lim put Sirius, a yellow Lab, into his kennel, saying You stay there. Ill be back for you. It was the last thing Lim would ever say to his canine partner. Lim was later rescued, but the body of Sirius, and his metal bowl, weren't recovered for another 4 months.

Today, only a handful of 9/11 dogs are still alive. I've put together a few photos of the dogs, but first, let me introduce Bretange (pronounced Brittany), a 13 year old Golden whose first mission as a rescue dog was the 9/11 disaster at Ground Zero, after a year of training to find survivors in concrete rubble. She and her handler, Denise Corliss, are search and rescue volunteers for FEMA.



At Ground Zero, Bretange clambered up ladders to get on top of the huge debris piles, padded across broken glass and twisted steel beams, wiggled into small spaces and crawled into dark holes, all the while sniffing through mounds of pulverized concrete searching for clues that would lead her to survivors. Like all the rescue dogs, she worked without a leash or a collar. The dogs also didn't wear protective booties, despite the crushed glass everywhere — they needed their claws for traction. Every night, she was given a decontamination bath. Her eyes, ears and mouth were rinsed out, and her abraded paw pads gently cleaned.

“It was her first mission, but she worked it like a pro. She didn't get cut up or fall or get hurt,” said Corliss. But Bretagne had a couple of near misses. One day, sniffing along an elevated steel beam, she lost her footing. “It was real wet because the fires were still smoldering and the water spray was everywhere,” Corliss recalled. “She just kind of slipped, but she used her paws to pull herself back up and kept on going. That was the only time I was a little unsettled.”

Bretange was also a magnet for distraught firefighters searching the site for fallen comrades. “A lot of times, firefighters would come by and pet her, talk to her and tell her stories,” said Corliss. One firefighter bonded so closely with Bretagne that he recognized her years later at a 9/11 memorial.

The gregarious golden retriever has seen several national disasters since 9/11—she responded to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, going into flooded areas to find those unable to evacuate. She's retired now, but has a hard time accepting it, said Corliss.

More Unsung Heroes of 9/11



We will never forget all of those who were lost during this horrible attack on America but we will always be grateful for those who sacrificed some much to save others. We truly have a wonderful breed!

