

# *Texas EquiSearch Quarterly Newsletter*

*February Of 2011*

*P. O. Box 395*

*Dickinson, Texas 77539*

*Office: (281) 309-9500*

*Fax: (281) 534-6719*

*[www.texasequisearch.org](http://www.texasequisearch.org)*



*Each of our newsletters contains information that might be of interest to our members ... such as a Search Tip, case summary of a few of our recent cases, special announcements, training schedules and a "Final Thought." The purpose of our newsletter is to keep you better informed on what's happening in our organization. Whether your resource is searching on foot, ATV, horse, boat or "Special Operations" ... you are a very important part of this organization. And we gratefully thank you for your tremendous efforts, and what you do to bring missing persons home to their worried families and friends.*

**Newsletter Search Tip:** The discovery and preservation of potential evidence is a very important part of any search. A small piece of located evidence such as a person's glasses, purse, wallet, watch or any other possession could lead you into a very specific area to search for a missing person. But it's equally, if not more important to preserve that evidence and not let it get contaminated or moved. If you ever locate any kind of potential evidence, no matter how big it is - or how insignificant it may seem ... do not touch or handle it under any circumstances. It could very well be connected to another crime or missing person. If you touch, handle or move any kind of evidence, it is very likely that the potential items can not be used in future court proceedings; and it could also result in the dismissal of charges against a suspect. So if you come across anything that appears out of place - or is of interest, notify your team leader immediately. They will then notify the Search Coordinator for further instructions. But never pick-up, touch or move any possible evidence – even if it doesn't seem to be related to the search you are on. DO NOT TOUCH.

Our newsletter contains brief summaries of a few of the many recent searches we have worked. Many details can not be revealed because some of the cases are still under investigation or they may have pending court trials, and we do not want to jeopardize any part of any law enforcement investigation or case. But we will attempt to keep you informed on what we can.

## Recent Case Summaries:

**Robert Woodard:** 84 year-old Robert Woodard disappeared from his home in Brazoria, Texas on the cold, drizzly morning of November 29<sup>th</sup> 2006 after walking about 890 feet to the roadside mailbox in front of his home. Robert had trouble walking since he had recently undergone knee replacement surgery on both of his legs and suffered from Diabetes & Alzheimer's. Robert was still walking with the help of a cane when he went missing. Family members, community volunteers and numerous law enforcement officers immediately began searching for Robert. Many searched for more than 24 hours without stopping. They enlisted the help of a DPS helicopter, bloodhounds from a nearby prison and dozens of searchers on horseback to search for Robert. Law enforcement contacted Texas EquuSearch the next morning and asked us to assist in the search. Naturally, we quickly responded. We were quickly informed of Robert's medical condition. Searchers had already combed through dozens of acres of surrounding properties even though Robert's family members said he couldn't walk far at all. Family members told LE that if Robert walked to the mailbox; they would normally have to drive to the mailbox and pick him up because he couldn't walk back. Searchers however combed through thick wooded areas, fields, went through abandoned homes and along streams & creeks looking for Robert. Investigators from the Brazoria County Sheriff's Department put in countless hours searching, following-up on leads and using any resource available to find Robert. The full-out search was suspended several days after Robert disappeared because every reasonable area that Robert could have possibly gone into had already been searched; especially considering reports that he couldn't walk far without assistance. But investigators never gave up and continued to follow up on any leads concerning Robert's disappearance. But nothing ever led to Robert's location. Sadly, Robert's remains were discovered on the morning of December 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. His remains were found under a tree by a hunter & his son. The remains were found about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from Robert's home; on the Nannie Stringfellow Wildlife Management Area. The discovery remains puzzling because law enforcement and other searchers were told that, even with the assistance of a cane, Robert had great difficulty walking ... and the Management Area is surrounded by a barbed-wire fence and a thick wall of heavy brush. So ... just how did Robert get there? Robert's funeral was held at the church near his home where he had been a long-time deacon and advisor. Robert's son, Gerald Woodard, said he was very grateful for everything Texas EquuSearch did to try and find his Dad.

**Thomas Hartwell:** 25 year-old Thomas Hartwell left his home in New Orleans, Louisiana on December 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 to travel to Houston, Texas. Thomas had previously made plans to meet some friends and go to a Houston Rockets' basketball game. However, Thomas never showed up for the planned meeting with his friends and he did not have his cell phone with him. Family members were extremely concerned because Thomas has a history of heart problems, and has already undergone open-heart surgery. Thomas was last known to be driving his 1999 Jeep Cherokee. He had earlier expressed interest in exploring some of south Texas while visiting in the Sstate, but never gave any confirming remarks that he was going to actually do so. Texas EquuSearch member, Alan Vossler, flew his fixed-wing aircraft over all major highways; including hundreds of roadways or access roads between Houston and New Orleans while searching for Thomas. He was accompanied by Pat Brill and Paulie Kovach as observers to watch for Thomas' vehicle. But the team never found anything related to Thomas' disappearance. Investigators and family members started checking into the possibility of

Thomas being in northern Mexico. On January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, Thomas was finally able to contact his family from a hospital in Mexico; and let them know of the incident and where he was. He had apparently been assaulted – possibly while being carjacked near the Texas-Mexico border. He suffered many physical injuries, including a head injury. Thomas traveled with his parent's back to their home in another state. Thomas' vehicle has still not yet been found. Thomas has now recuperated fully from his injuries and is back working at his job. ***Thomas' mother, Jane Hartwell said she was so grateful for all of the compassion she and her husband, Davis received from the Texas EquuSearch staff. She said that even during the Christmas season, the Texas EquuSearch staff was always caring, willing & ready to help her and Davis at any time. She was very appreciative to Tim Miller for his gathering of resources to search for Thomas during his ordeal.***

**Jonathan Foster:** Texas EquuSearch received a very disturbing phone call on December 26<sup>th</sup> 2010; when the family of 12 year-old Jonathan Foster contacted Texas EquuSearch and told them that he had disappeared two days earlier in Houston, Texas, on December 24<sup>th</sup> 2010 (Christmas Eve). After obtaining a brief summation of the events surrounding Jonathan's disappearance, Search Coordinators Frank Black and Beth McClanahan immediately knew something was bad wrong and drove to meet with Jonathan's family. While at the family's home, Frank and Beth realized their suspicions were likely confirmed, so they made the call to Tim Miller; whom was actually on the highway enroute to another call in Louisiana. Frank explained to Tim that Jonathan's mother, Angela, received an emergency phone call from Jonathan at her job, but when she called him back, he did not answer. Angela arrived at the home a short time later and found that Jonathan was strangely gone. She also observed some things in the home that just didn't seem right or normal. Family members and friends started searching for Jonathan, but couldn't find him anywhere. After two days, they contacted Texas EquuSearch. After Tim learned of the alarming information we received regarding Jonathan's disappearance, he made a U-turn and headed back to Houston. A group of about six searchers were called out quickly to start a quick search for Jonathan in the immediate area he was last seen. They were looking for Jonathan, or anything that might tell us what happened to him. Searchers also looked for personal home security cameras that might have revealed something about the circumstances of his disappearance. But nothing was found. Early the next morning, a Command Post was established at the Garden Oaks Baptist Church and a full call out for searchers was activated. Ken DeFoor worked as police liaison and was to provide investigators with any information on our status, the search or any information we received. A team of investigators from the Houston Police Department's Missing Persons Division quickly arrived. They had already been working the case and gathering information and looking for any lead that might direct them to Jonathan's location. Searchers were first sent to the street where Jonathan was last seen and went door-to-door asking people if they had seen Jonathan. We did receive some information and it was quickly turned over to investigators. The teams searched a three block radius and went through yards, fields, abandoned homes and any other nearby areas or places that Jonathan could be, but he wasn't found. The search started expanding outward and going through woods, creeks, abandoned apartment complexes, buildings, etc. It was soon learned - that after meeting the state's specific criteria, an "Amber Alert" was issued on Jonathan. Soon afterward, more teams of investigators from the Homicide Division were converging on the area to help find Jonathan. The next day, the search was expanded even further outwards with many more TES searchers and community volunteers showing-up to look for Jonathan. But by mid-morning, we had received information that burned human remains had been found about 4.5 miles from where Jonathan had disappeared. The general

description of the burned remains was very similar to those of Jonathan's. Within a few hours, it became even clearer that the burned remains were probably those of Jonathan. The remains had been cold-heartedly dumped in a ditch like discarded trash. But a nearby company's surveillance camera captured the images of the person disposing of the remains and the description of the truck they were driving. The burned remains were soon positively identified as being those of missing 12 year-old Jonathan Foster. Houston Police Homicide investigators quickly tracked-down the owner of the truck, Mona Nelson. Police found several incriminating items of evidence at her home and she was soon arrested and charged with the brutal and senseless MURDER of the innocent 12 year-old boy. ***Jonathan's grandmother, Mary Gifford, said the she was happy for the quick response of Texas EquuSearch. She also said she was blessed for all that Texas EquuSearch did to help her and her family during that difficult time.***

All of the investigators working the Jonathan Foster case (from the beginning to the end) conducted a thorough and very professional investigation into Jonathan's disappearance. Many people involved in the search commented about how impressive they were. Many people witnessed that all officers displayed the highest degree of professionalism, compassion, teamwork, investigative skills and integrity while conducting their investigation. Each officer had a specific investigation assignment, and they all worked together with the precision of a fine watch. It wasn't their intention or goal ... but yes, they did impress a lot of people. These police officers compliment the remarkable investigative teams of the Houston Police Department.

**Brian Reed:** The family of 29 year-old Brian Reed contacted Texas EquuSearch on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2011 and asked for our help in finding him. Brian had drowned in the turbulent waters of the Mississippi River near New Orleans, Louisiana on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2011. Brian was the brother of Baltimore Ravens football player Ed Reed. Tim Miller drove to New Orleans, Louisiana that night and met with family members and law enforcement the next morning. Tim soon learned that Brian was Schizophrenic and during an episode of disillusion; dove into the river after running from police officers. Tim soon met with sonar specialist and divers from the Silveti Group. Upon entering the water and viewing the sonar, they were amazed at the immeasurable amount of debris strewn about the floor of the river from previous hurricanes. The debris made it particularly difficult to distinguish the difference between debris and a potential body. Reading and interpreting the sonar images would be almost impossible for most people. But this group of skilled individuals had only a slight slow down of distinguishing the difference between tons of hurricane debris - and a potential image of a body. Tim was soon joined by the experienced sonar team of Dennis & Tammy Watters. The river is 80 feet deep at its deepest point. The river is also known for being very treacherous because of its swift currents and undertow. Tim and the other searchers did key-in on a specific image that they say was Brian. The image was in about the same area that he disappeared from. Divers went into the water to retrieve the body, but had somehow, Brian's body dislodged from the debris and washed further downstream. The search started to again locate Brian's body. But within a short time, the search was temporarily suspended because of high winds and rain. The search resumed after a couple of hours and Brian's body was again located on sonar about 250 - 300 feet downstream from where he was seen on the previous image. Professional divers from the Pearl River, Louisiana-based Madcon Corporation responded to assist Texas EquuSearch in the recovery, and cautiously and delicately retrieved the body before it could be washed downstream again. Deputies from the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department were on constant watch over the week long recovery operations. They were of great support and help to the search and recovery teams, as well as Brian's family. Though Brian's family members and his

friends are deeply hurt by the loss of Brian, they are very thankful that he has been found. Tim Miller traveled back to New Orleans to attend Brian's funeral service. He said it was a very emotional service that touched everyone's heart. Tim has kept in close contact with Brian's family. Schizophrenia is not an illness that Brian wanted, or had asked for. It's just the same as someone having depression, phobias, Bi-Polar, compulsive disorders or any other mental illnesses. It's not known what causes these disorders, but they happen to millions of people – without any regard to a person's age, race or sex. This illness affects anyone, no matter who you are, how much money you make or where you live. It's an illness ... and everyone needs to understand that. No person should ever pass judgment on another person with mental illness.

To show his tremendous gratitude to Texas EquuSearch' for their never-fading efforts to find Brian, Ed Reed is sponsoring the VIP room at a fundraiser benefiting Texas EquuSearch on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Campbell Hall on the Pasadena, Texas Fairgrounds. For more information on this fundraiser, please see the "Fundraisers" section of this newsletter or visit our website at [www.texasequusearch.org](http://www.texasequusearch.org).

**Dora Edmondson:** Texas EquuSearch received an urgent call for help from the family of 87 year-old Houston resident, Dora Edmondson on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2011. Family members said Dora went missing after going to a bank a few miles from her home. She was again later seen driving alone in the neighborhood very near where she attends church. At that point, it appeared she was probably driving to her home several blocks away. However, she wasn't seen again and never made it to her home. Dora's family drove most of the day and night looking for her, but couldn't find her anywhere. Dora had not seen a doctor in quite some time, but was healthy in all appearances. But she had experienced some periods of confusion and memory loss in recent weeks. In fact, she had very recently got lost or confused while driving and couldn't remember how to get home. But she was able to eventually find her way home after an extended period of time. This time though, no one could find her and poor weather conditions of rain and cold temperatures were setting in. Search Coordinators Beth McClanahan and Joseph Hopkins established a Command Post at Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, which is Dora's church. A call-out was issued, and a search by a Texas EquuSearch team began early the next morning. While searchers combed through the streets searching for Dora, Houston Police Missing Person's investigators were aggressively checking hospitals, shelters, jails and alerting all area law enforcement officers & agencies of her disappearance, and asked them to be watching for her. Investigators tried very hard to get a "Silver Alert" issued and were successful in their attempts. By late evening, TES searchers and other volunteers had covered almost every street of approximately thirty square miles in a six-hour period. After speaking with family members, everyone agreed that Dora was probably not anywhere in the area, and that the search will be suspended and allow the "Silver Alert" to work. Sadly, a worker for the Harris County Flood Control District found Dora's vehicle in a flood control ditch the next morning (01-10-11) as he was monitoring water levels in a canal. Investigators quickly found Dora's body a short distance downstream. Family members have said her death appears to be an accident. The accident site was approximately 18 miles from where she was last seen near her church. There is absolutely no information that investigators or searchers received that would make them search in that particular area.

**Jessie Washington:** The Missouri City, Texas Police Department contacted our office on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2011 and asked for our immediate help in the search for 73 year-old Jessie Washington. Jessie had disappeared about 9:00 p.m. on the previous evening after getting

confused in a strange neighborhood. Jessie had been in Spring, Texas the previous day moving furniture before he was to head back to his home in Marshall, Texas. But somehow he got confused and ended up in Missouri City, Texas. We learned Jessie was a Diabetic and had high blood-pressure. The weather was cold and rainy, so there were definite concerns for Jessie's safety. A "Critical Search Alert" was quickly activated and searchers began showing up soon afterward. We learned that Jessie's wife and grandchildren remained in Jessie's truck after he walked away in an apparent attempt to find gasoline. However, it was later learned that the truck did have fuel, and that he also had some gasoline in a can in the rear of the truck. A couple of days later, a family member informed investigators that Jessie did have the early stages of Alzheimer's. Searchers concentrated in the area Jessie was last confirmed to have been seen - in the northeastern section of the subdivision. Some of the area had already been cleared by heavy equipment to build homes. And they had also been searched by the police department's ATV team. But there were still dozens of acres of land that was weeded, brushy and had thick briar patches. Much of it was very difficult to get through, but we also knew that many times, these types of obstacles will not stop a person that might have Alzheimer's or Dementia. There were also miles of creeks and drainage ditches that Jessie could have possibly slipped into. One large swamp was not able to be searched because of the potential danger to our searchers. Fortunately, it was a greater distance away and was a lower priority than the area where he was last seen. The area where Jessie was last seen had numerous lakes and canals. The Houston Police Department sent a helicopter into the area to search for Jessie, but they were unable to locate him. Gene Robinson brought his air drone in to search the area, but was unable to see anything that might be related to Jessie. Beery Miller of the "Wing Nuts" parasail team also flew the area without spotting anything significant. Texas EquuSearch member and sonar specialist John White, and the Richmond Fire Department brought in side-scan sonar to search the lakes and numerous canals. The Richmond Fire Department searched the northern half of the lakes & canals in the subdivision; while John White and Gary Spears searched the southern half of the subdivision with sonar. The fire department did not receive any images that might be that of Jessie. But John's sonar did hit on several images that had the appearance of human form. The image was observed about 2/10 of a mile west of where Jessie was last seen. And the area where the image was received had street access because of a vacant lot very close by that led to the waters edge. Divers from the Missouri City Police Department were called in, but they were unable to locate anything. The search for Jessie was suspended on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2011 because all reasonable areas of interest had been searched without locating Jessie. Some thick brushy areas were even searched 2 or three times to ensure that Jessie wasn't there. On the morning of January 31<sup>st</sup> 2011, the Search Coordinator was informed by the Missouri City Police Department that Jessie's body had been recovered from the lake. Jessie's body was found about 100 yards southwest of where John White had locked-in on the possible image of Jessie. It's a very good probability that John's images were those of Jessie, and the powerful winds pushed him towards the center of the lake where he had surfaced. Thank you to all of the searchers who responded to search for Jessie in an attempt to bring him home safe. Jessie's family has expressed that gratitude for your efforts.

## **Reminders**

- Confidentiality of information is essential on any missing person case. If you should somehow learn of some confidential information, do not relay that information to anyone else, regardless of who they are. Confidentiality of information is a necessity for law enforcement to conduct a thorough and successful investigation. If that information was to get out, it could jeopardize the case greatly.

- No Texas EquuSearch member or non-member volunteer is ever to discuss or provide to anyone information concerning a Texas EquuSearch case. Information on any missing persons case is CONFIDENTIAL, and shall not be discussed verbally or provided in any part, in any way, shape, manner or form. No exceptions. This includes by the use of any and all communicating devices.
- Absolutely no photographs whatsoever shall be taken on any active search unless you have the explicit verbal permission of the Search Coordinator. This mean all cameras, including any type of processed from a communication/camera devise.
- The Command Post Mapping & Planning room or area is a very busy place and has a lot of confidential information being discussed there. The only persons allowed in this room or area are persons that have been assigned to work there. NO PERSON is to enter the room or area without first being requested.

- If you should get a call-out on your phone and didn't understand or receive the complete message, you can call **1-877-698-3261** ... and press 1 to hear the latest call-out message. You will be prompted to enter the phone number you currently have listed on our call-out roster. The message will then be played back to you. When a search call-out is activated, the call-out information will also be posted on the website as soon as possible.

### **POLICY REGARDING UNAUTHORIZED SEARCHES AND/OR DUAL MEMBERSHIP**

Texas EquuSearch ("TES") is a nationally recognized and respected, search and recovery organization. Membership in TES is an honor and a privilege.

TES may authorize "mutual aid" to assist law enforcement, governmental agencies or other search organizations upon request by such agencies or families. Individual TES members are prohibited from acting on behalf of TES, or as an independent searcher on an unauthorized search. **DO NOT SEARCH, OR ORGANIZE A SEARCH - UNLESS YOU HAVE EXPLICIT VERBAL PERMISSION FROM TIM MILLER AND THE ASSIGNED SEARCH COORDINATOR ON THE CASE. NO EXCEPTIONS**

TES members are not allowed to hold dual memberships in other search and recovery organizations. This does not include CERT or fire departments, etc.

An unauthorized search constitutes a liability due to unauthorized use of the TES logo, as well as potential litigation brought against participating teams. Additionally, unauthorized searches tie up valuable resources.

We are proud of the dedication of TES members and ask for your continued support.

## **Special Announcements:**

**Gene Kelton:** We were very saddened to learn that avid Texas EquuSearch supporter, and successful Houston area singer & songwriter, “Mean Gene Kelton” was killed in a head-on collision with a school bus about 8:45 p.m. on Tuesday – December 28<sup>th</sup> 2011. He was driving on FM 2100 in Crosby, Texas when the accident occurred. The bus had 11 people on board, but none of the school bus passengers suffered serious or life-threatening injuries. Gene raised money for Texas EquuSearch many times over the years. Gene’s death is a great loss to Texas EquuSearch, the Texas Music industry, his large group of friends ... and mainly, his loving family. We will miss you Gene.

**You Asked:** *Searchers frequently ask if law enforcement has done this - or if they have done that during their investigation?* First of all, law enforcement does not answer to us. But you can be assured that the investigators are doing everything humanly possible in an attempt to find the missing person and take them back to their families. Officers have many tasks to perform during the process of their investigations. They check & notify all area hospitals, jails, inform surrounding agencies to watch for the person, obtain phone records, talk with family members, witnesses & associates, issue alerts, notify the media and many, many other duties in order to find a missing person. They must also follow up on any tips or leads they receive. This includes their documentation on the daily reports. They also obtain subpoenas to gain access to certain records. This is just some of the many duties of the investigators. Let’s not forget that most of these investigators are parents or grandparents, brothers, sisters, sons & daughters. Yes, they have loving families too. And they know how desperate families are to find their missing loved ones. So they do many things that most don’t see ... in a struggling attempt to find a missing person safe and take them home. They don’t reveal their investigative techniques or release important information. That could ruin a case and any hopes of finding the missing person. But, whether you see them or not, they’re working very hard.

## **Fundraisers:**

### **“A Night in the Orient” Benefiting Texas EquuSearch, March 5, 2011**

Bayou Belles Charity Service Organization is presenting “A Night in the Orient” — Bayou Belles & Beaux’s Second Annual Charity Gala benefiting Texas EquuSearch. The Event will be held on March 5, 2011 at The Club at Falcon Point, 24503 Falcon Point Drive, Katy, TX 77494. Courtney Zavala from local NBC–KPRC 2 will be the Emcee. Entertainment will be provided by Jessica Erin and Jay Denton (see flyer below). There will be a Private Pre-Gala Reception at 6:30 p.m. The Gala starts at 7:00 p.m. and ends at 12 Midnight. The theme is formal to Shanghai Chic. Sponsorships are now available. For more information, go to [www.bayoubelles.org](http://www.bayoubelles.org).



## **Sequent Energy Management Presents Texas EquuSearch Sports Extravaganza — April 9, 2011**

Sequent Energy Management presents Texas EquuSearch Sports Extravaganza Banquet and Charity Auction benefiting Texas EquuSearch. The Event will be held on April 9, 2011. The Event is being held at Campbell Hall, Pasadena Fairgrounds, 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, Texas 77507. Our Special Guest Star will be 7-time Pro Bowler and NFL Defensive Player of the Year, Ed Reed of the Baltimore Ravens. The Master of Ceremonies is going to be Dave Ward, Anchor of local ABC, KTRK of Houston, TX. La Brisa Mexican Bar and Grill will be catering the Event, and live music will be performed by The Tony Hill Band. At this time, we are very close to being sold out. If you would like to attend this Event, see flyer for details. Updates on this Event will be posted on a regular basis.

### **Training:**

## **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake Whitney Area Spring Rescue School**

### **14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LAKE WHITNEY SPRING RESCUE SCHOOL**

Hosted by: Lake Whitney Rescue Association  
February 19, 2011  
Whitney High School  
FM 933 North  
Lake Whitney, Texas 76692

Registration is \$50.00 if paid by February 11, 2011, \$75.00 is paid after February 11, 2011. Pre-Registration should be sent to Randy Black, 611 South Llano, Whitney, TX 76692. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Lake Whitney Rescue Association. The fee includes lunch and a t-shirt. There are no refunds on registration, but substitutions are allowed.

Food and lodging are the individual member's responsibility. Please contact Sherry McKinney at sherry.mckinney@texasequusearch.org or 281-309-9500.



## **Texas EquuSearch Team Leader Training, March 12, 2011**

Due to the increasing number of missing person cases we receive; Texas EquuSearch will conduct a "Team Leader" training class on Saturday – March 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the **Sagmont Church Youth Center**. The address of the Sagmont Youth Center is **11600 Hughes Rd. @ South Sam Houston Parkway E in Houston, Texas 77089**. This is about 7/10 of a mile southwest of the Gulf Freeway. **The class will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude around 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.** This

**class will be open to all members of Texas EquuSearch** whether you search on foot, ATV or horse. Please bring your horse or ATV. You will have a one hour lunch break. There are several nice restaurants and fast food businesses nearby, but it is recommended that you bring a sack lunch. The class will consist of classroom training, followed by field training. However, you must attend the full one-day class in order to be credited and receive your certificate. Team Leaders on future searches will be picked from this trained group of individuals. Being a Team Leader is a very important part of any search. If you plan to attend, please email Frank Black at [black.frank@sbcglobal.net](mailto:black.frank@sbcglobal.net).

## **TES New Member Orientation and Training**

Texas EquuSearch will hold a New Member Orientation and Training class on Saturday, April 16, 2011 @ 09:00 a.m. The class will be held at the Deer Park Fire Station #2, located at 711 East Pasadena Blvd. in Deer Park, TX. 77536. It will be held in the far rear of the fire station complex at the recreation hall. This complex is an emergency response station that requires that all driveways remain un-blocked. So do not park on any driveway or block any area. You are to park on the grass in the center of the horseshoe-shaped driveway. This area is directly in front of the recreation hall. The guest speaker has not yet been confirmed. It is suggested that you bring a sack lunch because of time limitations. You will be receiving classroom training and hands-on field training, so please dress comfortably and accordingly for the weather. You must attend the full day's class in order to be credited and receive your certificate.

For further information, contact Sherry McKinney at (281) 309-9500 or email her at [www.sherry.mckinney@texasequusearch.org](mailto:www.sherry.mckinney@texasequusearch.org).

***Final Thought:*** Whenever Texas EquuSearch receives a call from the family member or friend of a missing person; in most cases, the family and friends are very nervous because they have most likely never had to deal with an emergency situation of this kind. They never thought they would ever need to call us. They probably had to ask someone how to contact us. They just couldn't have prepared - in case someone they love ever disappeared. They are very worried and they don't really know what to do. But they find out about Texas EquuSearch and they call us. When they see searchers pull up in frigidly cold, rainy weather, or the scorching heat of the summertime to find their loved one; they have a huge sense of relief. We don't wear fancy, pressed uniforms ... or bat belts full of utensils & gadgets hanging from it. Those types of things don't find a missing person. Our organization's record of successful recoveries proves that. Our only goal is to find that missing person. The only thing that the family and friends care about - is that the missing person is found. Sometimes the final outcome may be the recovery of a deceased individual, and sometimes the missing person is found alive. But in most cases, the family is just very grateful that the missing person has been found. Whether you know it or not, these families & friends won't ever forget how you came to help them when they needed it most. Some of these families and friends of a missing person - you will never see again. But some will eventually join Texas EquuSearch. But always remember, you made a lasting impact on their lives. You were there when they needed you the most. And for that - you can be very proud of yourself, for who you are ... and what you do. A lot of other people are already proud of you.