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[www.bdsarco.org](http://www.bdsarco.org)

## The Coordinator's Desk

Hope this finds everyone doing great and ready for the Month of March. Our Land Nav class is coming up at Hungry Mother and knowing the Instructor, it will be a great class. If you did not attend, but need improved Land Nav skills as well all do, you will have missed a great course.

April is going to be a busy month with the BDSAR Competition, BDSAR's Quarterly meeting and elections, and The Virginia Search and Rescue Council SAR Conference. If you would like to assist in the Competition in some fashion or another, please let me know. I am trying to get the meals paid for - for everyone that competes and helps with the competition. However; at this time we may be passing a hat around between the Instructors and volunteers to help pay for the meal. Just saying, any help would be great.

I am currently planning on scheduling the meeting for Friday April 15, 2011 at the SWVa Higher Ed Center. Please make plans to attend this if you plan to attend anything in April. Yes, it is a big deal that everyone be there.

The Virginia SAR Conference will be at Hungry Mother. The Smyth County members of BDSAR donated monies to support the food for one of the breaks. BDSAR can also help with the SAR Conference in other ways. If you have time to help one day, let me know and I'll forward your name to Billy Chrimes. This is the only time the SAR Conference will be this close to us, so it's a great time to network with other SAR folks, as is the SAR

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Coordinator	1
Up & Coming Events	2
BDSAR Member's Only Site	2
BDSAR 2010 Competition	3
Interested in Becoming a K-9 Walker?	4
WVa SAR Simulation in April	4
From Your Training Officer	5
Miscellaneous	7
How to Read a US National Grid Spatial Address	8

### Competition.

May is the Rocky Knob SAREx, and I know that you will find Mac DeBusk, Mike Maggard and me there. I would love to see a lot more BDSAR members coming out and training for that. Everything is free, but supper that evening is \$10. Even though you must be FTM to attend, it's a great training opportunity as well. You don't have to camp as the trip is short enough you could do it on Saturday morning.

I know that we try to open up great training opportunities for everyone. If you don't believe that, please let me know what we can do differently, as past attendance for an organization with 55 plus members has not been what it should be.

Those that took the last Re-Cert in April 2008 and have not taken anything since (i.e. FTL or FTS) will lose their certification if they do not re-cert in April. Please let us know if this is your case, as once you lose your certification, you won't be called out until you re-certify.

**A boat doesn't go forward if each one is rowing their own way.**

## Upcoming Training Events

Lisa Laughlin - Training Officer

- March - Land Nav Class with Rob Speiden
- April 2, 2011 - BDSAR 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Invitational
- April 3, 2011 - FTM & FTL Re-cert
- April 15, 2011 - BDSAR Quarterly meeting at Southwest Virginia Higher Ed Center
- April 28 - May 1, 2011 - VASARCo SAR Conference - Hungry Mother
- May 13-15, 2011 - Rocky Knob SAREx

- Third Weekend of June, July, August, September - Backbone - Subject to change

 Did you notice that the VASARCo SAR Conference payment website is part of our website? Thanks to Derek for helping VASARCo with that, and also for the free publicity it gives BDSAR!

## BDSAR's Member Only site

Everyone - we now have a Member's Only site. This is where the Newsletters will reside as well as some basic forms for everyone to use. There are also secure places for BDSAR only members to chat, post things for sale, etc.

Simply go to [www.bdsarco.org](http://www.bdsarco.org) and go to the Members Only section. When you click on that you will look for this on the next page **Current Black Diamond Members, To Create your members area account please [click here.](#)**

Click on that hyperlink, and you will be setup. After that, you will be able to get into the Members Only section.

If you have any questions feel free to contact myself or Derek at [bsaunders@bdsarco.org](mailto:bsaunders@bdsarco.org) or [danderson@bdsarco.org](mailto:danderson@bdsarco.org)

## Black Diamond Competition 2012

All

If you want to participate on the team this year, please make sure that you contact Greg Osborne. BDSAR will be fielding one combined team this year unless there is enough for two. Greg at [gosborne@bdsarco.org](mailto:gosborne@bdsarco.org) will be heading up that team. We will need volunteers at the competition as well, so please let me know if you can help and I will put you on the email list.

If you are planning on attending the dinner and awards banquet only, the meal will be \$10 unless I can get the meals subsidized. Please come and support your team if you can! Also, if you need FTM or FTL re-cert, I need to know about that in the next week or two. If we need to have the re-cert courses on the Sunday after the competition, we will need to plan on that ahead of time! A written re-test and practical will be required of those re-certifying.

### Training Schedule for Competition

March 5-6 - Land Nav with Rob Speiden

March 13 - Sugar Hollow Park - Land Nav, Clue Awareness

March 20 - Sign Cutting tactics and awareness - Whitaker Hollow Boat Ramp

March 27 - Hungry Mother - Fun Hike, Team Training



A&L is now a fully authorized PMI and Petzl dealer and offers discounts on their full line of products to all Black Diamond SAR teams and members. Make sure to give Rob a call if you need anything for your personal or team gear.

Rob Blevins, owner

email: [aloutfitters@comcast.net](mailto:aloutfitters@comcast.net)

## Interested in being a K-9 Walker? - Bryan Saunders

With the progression of our current K-9 handlers and their partners, we need to start thinking about our response in the near future. When the K-9 Handlers respond to a mission, we are talking about what and who we want to respond with them. For instance, the discussion has talked about sending a K-9 Walker with every handler and also a liaison to work in base while those folks are in the field.

What would it take to be a walker?

Several of us are going to look at the K-9 standard to figure out the knowledgebase a walker would need. Everyone probably thinks they could do it right now, but if you've never been assigned on a task with a K-9 handler, you may think twice. How do dogs work? Should the walker be doing the Land Nav, or Comms? These are all things a BDSAR K-9 walker will be asked to do.

BDSAR will write its own standard for members to train against to be walkers with the K-9 Team. A strong ability for Land Nav, and an ability to train with the K-9 team will be requirements.

If you have aspirations to be a walker with the K-9 team, please let me know, and I'll be sure to include you in the training in the future.

**The WV Search and Rescue Council**, in conjunction with the WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, will be conducting a full-scale SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE on April 8, 9, & 10, 2011. This exercise, **Operation BE PREPARED**, will be held at the Buckskin Scout Reservation in Pocahontas County, WV. The exercise is open to ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES (law enforcement, fire, EMS, emergency management) agencies, both in-state and out-of-state.

The Buckskin Scout Reservation, located 12 miles from Marlinton WV on WV Route 28, provides us nearly 2000 acres to conduct the exercise. We will have activities planned for ALL DISCIPLINES of SAR response (including ground, air, ATV, equine, and K-9, as well as search management and communications).

The exercise will officially kick-off at 16:00 hours - with out-of-area teams being placed into play at 20:00 hours. Teams are permitted to arrive and check-in anytime after 12:00 on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. There is PLENTY of room for tent camping (and limited room for campers with NO hookups). Full shower and restroom facilities will be available.

One of the goals of this exercise is to evaluate a team's preparedness to be "self-sufficient" for the first 24 hours of an event. To this end, meals on Friday, and Saturday's breakfast and lunch will be the team or individual's responsibility. We will provide a large barbeque dinner on Saturday evening. Saturday evening we would also like to have a "gear swap" - this will be an opportunity for you to bring that extra gear you have lying around and try to give it a new home. We are also looking for any vendors who may have gear or equipment that may be of interest to searchers to attend.

## From Your Training Officer - Lisa

Training events in March will begin with land navigation training with Rob Speiden at Hungry Mother State Park on March 5 and 6. The focus of this training will be on beginning field skills and then move into more advanced areas. Land navigation, as it relates to base functions will also be explored Saturday afternoon. I look forward to seeing each of you that have registered. Please remember to thank Billy Chrimes for funding this training. Also, if you find you cannot attend, email or call me as soon as possible, so that other members on the waiting list may take advantage of this opportunity.

The second Sunday at 2:00 p.m. we will train again at Hungry Mother. As the email I sent out previously outlined, whether you have not trained recently, joined and have never trained, or if training is your middle name, plan to attend this event. The HAM operators will be discussing the use of HAM in the field, equipment, and will engage in hands- on training. The K-9 team, base personnel, and the sign cutters will also have a training exercise. Let me know if you would like a particular subject covered that day. **I would also request that each member email me to confirm whether you will be attending.**

Through my tenure as training officer, it has become apparent that we have a number of members that train often. It is equally apparent that we have members that do not participate in any type of training. It is my intention to propose at the April quarterly meeting that we institute a training standard that requires members that wish to respond to incidents to attend two BDSAR trainings per year. Qualifying training events would include those facilitated by the BDSAR Training Officer, trainings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month at Hungry Mother, or the Rocky Knob SIM, which was voted on by the membership as a BDSAR training event. Individual specialty team trainings, such as WRT, would not meet this requirement. Having members respond to incidents that are not involved in the training program presents potential liability to BDSAR. Members that choose not to attend training events will be able to play a supporting role and will be restricted from any field search activities.

We have recently had two trainings cancelled that members asked to have scheduled. Much effort goes into planning training events that members have requested including determining a suitable location, facilitating someone to lead the training, and other logistics specific to the event. When input or action is requested about upcoming events, the training officer would greatly appreciate a response from each member so that it can be ensured that what is being offered will be supported. Unforeseen events happen, but common courtesy dictates that members make the training officer aware of any changes to previous commitments. With the plethora of communication devices at our disposal, a quick shout-out to make the training officer aware of issues is greatly appreciated.

The way BDSAR's record keeping is handled is about to change and will place most of the responsibility for accurate records on each individual member and the training officer. These new requirements will be coming from the state level and severe penalties, including the loss of the BDSAR MOU, can result from non-compliance. As a reminder, members need to be keeping accurate training records and forwarding those to the training officer each month. Log books should be signed by individual team training officers or the BDSAR Training Officer.

In addition, each member will need to submit his or her personal After Action Report to the training officer after each **mission** or **training** within two weeks of the incident/event. Personal After Action Reports can be submitted online at [www.bdsarco.org](http://www.bdsarco.org) under the membership area and do not take long to complete. BDSAR's records are in excellent shape for most members. Let us each commit to doing what needs to be done to ensure that remains the case and that if we are audited, our records do not place our MOU in jeopardy.

To recap, in order to function well as a team as it relates to training, the training officer needs each member to do the following and I ask that each member that is serious about your affiliation with BDSAR embrace this request.

1. Email whether you will be attending training on March 13 (second Sunday at 2:00) at Hungry Mother State Park.
2. Attend a reasonable amount of trainings each year that increase your skills, abilities and knowledge of search and rescue. It is not too much to ask that members commit to two trainings per year. With liability as an issue, there is much more involved in membership in a search and rescue group than owning the t-shirt and showing up for searches.
3. Respond promptly to request for information and interest in training events.
4. If you commit to attend to training, maintain that commitment unless an emergency occurs. If an emergency occurs, relay that information promptly to the training officer.
5. Maintain accurate and up-to-date individual training records as outlined and send these to training the officer on a monthly basis.

As always, I look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions. You can email me at [lyounglaughlin@gmail.com](mailto:lyounglaughlin@gmail.com).

Happy Training!  
Lisa

### REMEMBER!!!!!!

Elections are in April.  
If you have someone you would like to see nominated for an office please give that information to Lisa Laughlin or your representative to the Membership Committee.

Congrats to Nina and Lili for passing the Urban & Above Ground Cadaver tests.

Congrats to Don and Val for passing the 40 Acre Night test.

Moving BDSAR's response to another level!

## FOR SALE

-  Red dash oscillator - throws a beam back and forth to move traffic. Rare. \$50 obo
-  Red Roof light by Galls. Magnet mount 2 rotators. Used very little, very good shape. \$75 obo
-  Dispatcher rocker patches (qty 14) \$2 each.

# How to Read a United States National Grid (USNG) Spatial Address

The Public XY Mapping Project

The USNG is an alpha-numeric reference system that overlays the UTM coordinate system. A USNG spatial address is broken down into three parts, the;

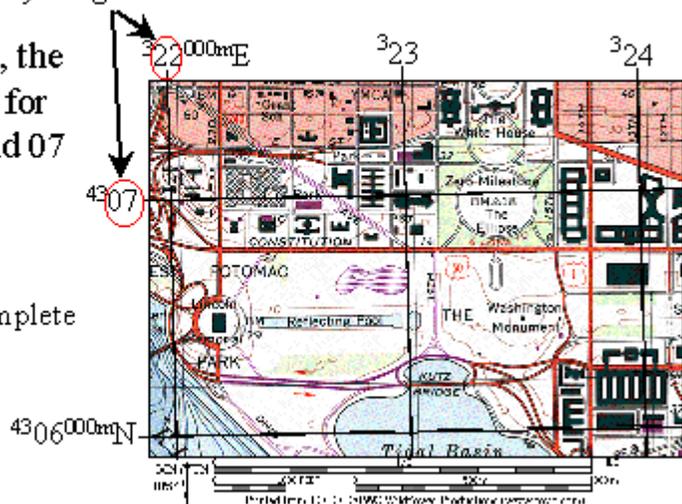
- Grid Zone Designation; for a world-wide unique address.
- 100,000-meter Square Identification; for regional areas.
- Grid Coordinates; for local areas.

## Principal Digits...

...identify the grid line.

In this example, the principal digits for grid lines 22 and 07 are circled.

The superscript values are for complete UTM values.



This format allows a spatial address to be truncated (or another term might be *abbreviated*). For example, stationary letterhead for the Department of Interior might portray the address as:

Department of Interior

1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20006

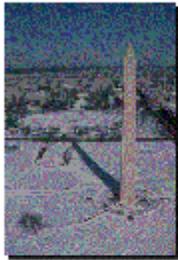
USNG: 18SUJ22850705 (NAD 83)

A complete USNG spatial address provides a unique value and is necessary for use with GPS receivers and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). The USNG spatial address from the above stationary letterhead is for the building's centroid. On the other hand, a Department of Interior employee might tell someone coming to visit from the local area, "Our south visitor's entrance is located on 1849 C Street NW, at grid 22850694." Another spatial address might identify the north visitor's entrance, and another set might identify the loading ramp for delivery vehicles.

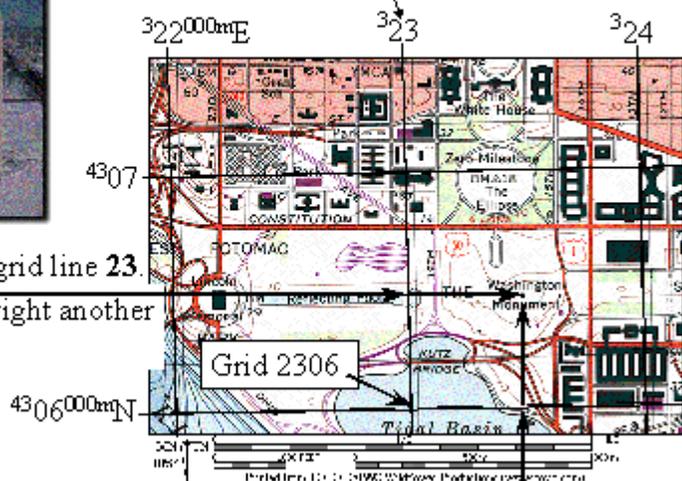
**Local Area; reading grid coordinates.** Grid coordinates are used to define a particular place within a local area (within a 100 by 100 kilometer area). Coordinates are written along the sides of a map designating specific grid lines. (These grid lines are based on UTM values.) The two larger numbers identify a grid line and are known as *principal digits* as depicted below.

### Reading Grid Coordinates... "Read RIGHT, Then UP."

The Washington Monument is located at grid **23480647**  
(think **2348 / 0647**)



Read **RIGHT** to grid line **23**.  
Then measure right another  
480 meters



Then, read **UP** to grid line **06**, and measure up another 470 meters.

To plot coordinate values, always **read right, then up**. Coordinates are always given as an even number of digits so you know where to separate the easting and northing coordinates. This allows you to abbreviate to the degree of precision you require within a local area. Grid coordinates are used to define point features, such as a neighborhood, soccer field, a particular house, or even a parking place. These require different levels of granularity. For example;

4 digits - 2306 - locates a point with a precision of 1,000-meters (a neighborhood size area).

6 digits - 234064 - locates a point with a precision of 100-meters (a soccer field size area).

8 digits - 23480647 - locates a point with a precision of 10-meters (the size of a modest home).

10 digits - 2348306479 - locates a point with a precision of 1-meter (within a parking spot).

In the following example, the Washington Monument is described as being located at grid 23480647 (think 2348 / 0647). Read right to grid line 23 (using the principal digits). Then count grid lines up to line 06. This intersection is known as grid 2306. This four digit value would give the location to within 1,000-meters. Measuring right in meters from line 23, we find the Washington Monument is another 480 meters east. The complete easting component is 23480. Measuring up in meters from grid line 06 the Monument is another 470-meters north. The complete northing component is 05470. We drop the 1-meter level values (shown as 0s in this case), and combining the easting and northing components, the grid coordinate is given as an eight digit value (to within 10-meters) as:

Grid: 23480647

**Regional Area; 100,000-meter Square Identification.** The USNG further divides the world into 100,000-meter squares and identifies these with two letter values. The illustration below depicts the Washington, DC area. In the spatial address for the Washington Monument (18SUJ23480647) you can see the monument falls within the 100,000-meter by 100,000-meter square designated UJ. (Note: The yellow and red square outlines a 100 km x 100 km sized *local area* surrounding Washington, DC.)

