

# Nicolet Search Team



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## **Announcing: 2014 NASAR FUNSAR Classes**

Dear FUNSAR Participants and Interested Individuals:

**WELCOME!** Once again the Nicolet Search Team will sponsor a Fundamentals of Search and Rescue (FUNSAR) class in the Spring of 2014. The class will be offered on a compressed two-weekend schedule with extended Saturday and Sunday sessions. The following is detailed information for the upcoming class. You do not need to be a member of NASAR to take the classes. Please access the education section of the [NASAR.ORG](http://NASAR.ORG) web site for exact dates and locations. Monitor the site for updates.

We've included a lot of general information that will hopefully answer the most commonly asked questions. **PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THIS ENTIRE LETTER BEFORE ATTENDING CLASS.**

**LOCATION:** The course will start on Saturday at 0730 on the date posted on the NASAR web site. The first weekend will be in the Neenah area and the second weekend will be in the Mountain area. Further details will be given to students.

**FUNSAR** is an intermediate-level course that provides knowledge and skills concerning the general responsibilities, skills, abilities, and the equipment needed by persons who are assigned to field operations during a search and rescue (SAR) mission. The FUNSAR course also provides students with practical outdoor field exercises to sharpen compass and navigation skills. You will be outside for this class rain or shine. A practice search mission is conducted where suitably equipped students are deployed to the field. Sometimes the weather is unpleasant. With student agreement the mock search will continue past dark. In Wisconsin night operations are far more common than other parts of the country that have regional hazards (big mountains or alligators) which we do not have in Wisconsin.

The FUNSAR course content includes topics in three major areas: survival-and-support, search, and rescue this course is based around wilderness and rural environments but the material is recommended as a basis for all SAR environments. Again, the **FUNSAR text** is critical to understanding this subject (see below)

The FUNSAR class is suitable for persons who are physically capable and interested in becoming involved with SAR operations as a field responder. Also welcome are current SAR personnel who would like to refresh their training; emergency response personnel whose organizations provide resource and assistance during SAR operations; managers of emergency response organizations that are involved in SAR operations; community members and groups (university outdoor recreation, scouts, hunters, hikers, outdoor trip leaders, etc.) that have an interest in outdoor safety and preventative SAR operations; those interested in outdoor work with the government (US Park Service, US Forest Service, state departments of natural resources, etc.).

The first weekend will include almost a full day in whatever elements Mother Nature provides. Please come each day (including day 1) prepared to be inside and/or outside for several hours (coat/hat/boots/gloves/etc). A mock search exercise including hiking and searching will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend. You need to prepare for fairly challenging wilderness area under possibly bad weather conditions. Students who do not present themselves with the appropriate equipment will not be allowed to participate. This is not a technical rescue course; in other words, there is no vertical training, i.e., no rappelling nor technical climbing nor actual technical rope rescue in this course. However, we do cover an orientation to technical rescue within the classroom and will be teaching the SARTECH II required knots. This is not a "survival" course, that is, you will NOT be "living off the land".

To successfully complete the FUNSAR course, you must pass the written exam with a minimum of 70%. **A certificate of completion** for the FUNSAR course and a SARTECH level III certification is granted for students who participate in all portions of the class and pass the FUNSAR written test. The written test is a 140-question written exam given after the classroom activities and review are complete. If you do not pass the written exam, you will have 12-calendar months to re-test to avoid having to retake the entire program for the FUNSAR certificate.

The class will be canceled if we lack sufficient advanced registrations. We expect everyone to be registered 2-weeks prior to the start of the class to allow time to order and prepare student materials.

A fee table is provided below covering the costs of the class.

**ALL FUNSAR STUDENTS: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO HAVE A COPY OF THE FUNSAR TEXTBOOK!** To obtain a copy, call NASAR at (703) 222-6277 or (877) 893-0702 ext 27, or order it on-line at [WWW.NASAR.ORG](http://WWW.NASAR.ORG). We will be using the textbook, "Search and Rescue Fundamentals" by Cooper, LaValla, & Stoffel. You will need a textbook by the first class. Be sure to get your textbook before you arrive! (you may need to allow 2-4 weeks for delivery)

You will be responsible for your own outdoor equipment (see equipment list below), transportation to & from the course (see directions below), lodging (see information on lodging options below), and meals. We recommend you delay any equipment purchases until after the first weekend so we can review the specific requirements and help you make good purchases.

NASAR provides education and certification which are generally two different activities (with different dates and fees). FUNSAR is a course and SARTECH is a certification. Successful completion of FUNSAR class awards the graduate the "NASAR Certificate of Completion in FUNSAR." SARTECH is the certification program. Level 3 is considered basic or awareness, level 2 is technician, and level one, the highest is advanced or supervisory. For those who are interested in eventually taking the more advanced standard, "NASAR SAR TECH I / Crewleader III", you must first be certified at the SAR TECH II level.

The FUNSAR course prepares students to challenge the NASAR SARTECH II (search technician) evaluation. **We will NOT be including the SARTECH II evaluation as part of this class**, however, FUNSAR training will certainly help you to prepare for that certification examination. The FUNSAR class is not required to attempt the SARTECH II evaluation, but our experience is that FUNSAR students generally fair better than non-students. See the NASAR web site ([www.NASAR.org](http://www.NASAR.org) web site [www.NASAR.org](http://www.NASAR.org)) for SAR TECH II certification offerings, registration and cost. An offering in Wisconsin in May is likely. The specific requirements for the SARTECH II evaluation are also posted on the NASAR web site.

Students who pass the FUNSAR written test are waved from taking the written test for the SARTECH II examination for one year. We will structure this class in a particular way so that successful students are also granted a SARTECH level III certification. In our class we will hold practical (outdoor) sessions on land navigation, tracking, route search, area search, rope skills. We will show you all the gear needed to pass a 24-hr pack check.

For our friends who are dog handlers; we recognize the great benefits of using canines in SAR, however, FUNSAR is a training for people. Therefore, it will be best for you to make other arrangements for your dog both weekends. Dogs will not be deployed on the mock search.

If you have additional questions, we will be happy to answer them.

Best wishes!

Instructor - Chuck Keuhn 920-851-0641  
 Sponsor - Elmer (Andy) Anderson 715-851-0843

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Fee Table (for more information visit <a href="http://www.nasar.org">www.nasar.org</a> )	Per student	Your Amount
New <b>Optional</b> NASAR Membership along with class registration* (discounted \$20)	\$54	
Member registration discount (only applies to new/existing NASAR members)	(\$35)	
NASAR Course Registration fees	\$75	
Instructional fee (instructor expenses, hand-outs, equipment and supplies)	\$85	
FUNSAR Text Book (not included – students must obtain this on their own)		
Equipment, meals, transportation, lodging (student responsibility)		
<b>SUBTOTAL(Non-member)</b>	<b>\$160</b>	
<b>(member)</b>	<b>\$125</b>	
<b>(new member)</b>	<b>\$179</b>	

\*For a \$54 membership fee for new members and new and existing members are given a \$35 reduction in the NASAR certification fee. This is not an endorsement of a NASAR membership.

## **Tentative location plans - Subject to change.**

The first weekend sessions will be held at the Fire Station at Jacobsen Road and Cold Spring Road in the Town of Menasha, Wisconsin. This will include outdoor activities on both Saturday and Sunday. The second weekend including the mock search will be held in Mountain Wisconsin at Bear Paw Boy Scout Camp and/or the Mountain Ambulance Station.

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## **EQUIPMENT LIST FOR FUNSAR**

For the 24-hour pack list go to [http://www.nasar.org/files/education/NASAR\\_SARTECHTM\\_II\\_MINIMUM\\_PERSONAL\\_EQUIPMENT\\_LIST\\_11\\_2004.pdf](http://www.nasar.org/files/education/NASAR_SARTECHTM_II_MINIMUM_PERSONAL_EQUIPMENT_LIST_11_2004.pdf)  
[www.nasar.org](http://www.nasar.org) -> Education -> Pack list and FAQ

The SARTECH II 24-hour pack is recommended for the second weekend of class and the mock search. Every session we have some students who question the requirements. After all, some of these same students had successfully backpacked or climbed throughout many regions of the world with only a few of the items listed below - "Why do we need to buy and carry more equipment?" they ask us. I wanted to take some time and explain "why" we carry what we carry. In the FUNSAR course, you will be learning to be a member of a ground search and rescue team. As such, you will be expected to carry sufficient items not just for your own personal safety, and your comfort, which is key to your sustained effectiveness. Also you need to support the safety of your teammates, and possibly for the safety of a lost/injured SAR subject. In other words, we "prepare" for something to go wrong. If you become injured or ill, we must stop our search and work on rescuing YOU. Therefore, SAR people carry much more equipment than the typical recreational hiker or backpacker.

In addition to the above, we have also experienced severe weather in the past on our FUNSAR mock exercises. We have experienced various storms, icing, precipitation of all sorts, and extremes of temperature - especially very low temperatures. We've had students covertly "lighten" their packs by leaving much of their water behind (unknown to the staff) only to succumb to dehydration and thermal problems later. We've had students switch into low-top, hiking shoes (for their own personal comfort --- again, unknown to the staff) instead of wearing their high-top, hiking boots on a search assignment only to succumb to a sprained ankle later. We've also had searchers get "misplaced" for a few hours as well. The better equipped that you are, the less likely that you will become injured or ill and be in need of emergency medical attention and/or evacuation. Tennis shoes will not be allowed for outdoor activities.

## **Safety of all participants is our primary concern in FUNSAR!**

Consider any equipment that you purchase for this course can still be used in your everyday life. Outdoor clothing can certainly be used in town as well as out on a trail for a recreational hike. The first aid kit can certainly be set aside for emergencies in your home. Having a first aid kit in your car during travel is a very wise idea. In fact, many of the FUNSAR staff will stow a "24hr pack" in their automobiles during long trip or during inclement weather, just in case of an emergency.

Keep in mind that we are NOT requiring you to purchase the highest priced equipment available. And, we suggest you wait until you have attended class the first weekend to purchase equipment so that we can review a number of requirements your equipment must meet. Otherwise, you will likely have to return some items. In almost every class one or two students have wasted good money on an inadequate compass. (An orienteering style compass may be required for the certification.) Most if not all items listed can be acquired at discount stores. Just make sure that whatever you do buy that it will handle the job that you want it to and that it is durable for the wilderness environment. If you do not wish to purchase equipment, begin making arrangements now to rent equipment or borrow it from friends or family. You'd be surprised what you can find just laying around your house that you can use for equipment.

The most current NASAR equipment list can be downloaded from the NASAR web site. Be sure to have (buy, borrow, or rent) this equipment and have it on hand as you will need it for the overnight mock exercise on the 2nd weekend of the course.