

MASAR Monthly Meeting Minutes

6 February 1994

The MASAR February meeting opened at 1:25 PM, Al Martin (Vice President) presiding. The following officers, representatives, and individual members were present:

Barry MacArthur - Baxter Park
Al Martin - Dirigo
Keith Heavrin - MESARD
Stuart Cady - SDNE
Steve Hudson - MDISAR

Tom McLaughlin - SDNE
Dave Martin - Dirigo
Randy Armour - Lincoln CEP
Don Littlefield - CAP
Carter Smith - Warden Service

Secretary's Report

The meeting began with the presentation by Al Martin of the January meeting minutes compiled by Peter Kleim. As only one copy of the minutes was available and no other members had received their copies by mail at that time, Steve moved that acceptance of the minutes be tabled until the March meeting. This was seconded by Stuart and passed with a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Stuart Cady passed out copies of the current MASAR balance report and the current membership roster. He noted that YCERRT had paid only one month's worth of their pager bill, and they had requested a breakdown of the OD pager bill for their group. Steve recommended that Stuart send them the following:

- A breakdown of the regular billing for the OD pager
- A description of the standard MASAR method of billing for 6 months
- A note to the effect that this breakdown of the bill should be used for all biannual billings in the future

There was some question as to whether YCERRT was requesting a bill for each month in the future, or whether they just wanted to know how the costs were broken out between the pager and the voice mail box. Stuart will take care of clearing this up.

Steve moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read. Dave seconded this motion, and it was passed by unanimous vote.

Tri-County SAR

Stuart informed us that he had learned from Steve DiMarco, former group representative, that Tri-County SAR had disbanded.

1994 Symposium

Al Martin read the report sent to him from Wilderness Rescue Team's

Symposium Committee. Pertinent points from this report are:

- 75% of the vendor letters have been mailed, with 25% still to be sent.
- No responses to those letters sent have been received.
- The curriculum will be set by 1 April.
- The location is still probably the South Portland area, but a move is possible depending on the financial situation.
- The initial notice to members will be out by 1 March as planned.

Several members present expressed concern over the lack of vendor response, and the fact that the letters had not been gotten out by the first of the year as had been hoped. Steve made the motion that we request that Wilderness Rescue Team provide a report including their tentative budget and proposed location for the symposium by the March meeting. Dave Martin seconded this motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion following this was concerned with the length of time needed to organize a symposium. Steve moved that MASAR send another letter to member units requesting proposals for offering a symposium in 1995. Again, Dave Martin seconded this, and it passed unanimously.

Al Martin questioned whether we should contact other New England SAR groups to see if they're interested in assisting in organizing a regional symposium. Carter Smith suggested that a committee be formed to pursue this topic. Keith offered to pull together his resources and draft a letter. Tom McLaughlin offered to assist as needed. An ad hoc committee of one (Keith Heavrin) was formed.

Membership Cards

Steve reported that the cards would be going to the printer in the coming week, so that they would be available for distribution at the next MASAR meeting. Keith commented on the similarity between these cards and those in use in Massachusetts, and offered to get a copy of one of those cards for comparison purposes. Additional modifications were proposed, but for now the cards will be printed as proposed at the Executive Board meeting of 16 January 1994.

Keith will investigate the card system which appears to be in use in Massachusetts, and will provide this information at the next meeting. Based on his knowledge of this system, he proposed that MASAR distribute a membership card for each search dog as well as each handler. These additional cards would be distinguished by a different color or different sticker on the back.

Al Martin proposed that a committee be formed to work out a system for using searcher ID cards to track search teams and available resources at a search site. Carter suggested that someone from the Warden Service Incident Management department should also work with this committee. Keith Heavrin and Al Martin and two Warden Service people assigned by Carter will form this committee.

Non-Profit Status - Al Martin reported on the progress of our application for Federal non-profit status. Peter Kleim has the paperwork, but instead of passing it on to

Caroline McAboy of YCERRT he has started it himself. Caroline has offered to help, but commented that if we needed a lawyer to work on these, we would have to find one in Maine. Al has requested a new set of forms for Caroline to use, but will now get the old papers from Peter and send them on Caroline to fill out as a SAR member, not in her capacity as a lawyer.

Old Business

Al reminded those attending that John McDonough needs a meeting schedule for each member unit of MASAR so that he can plan to attend one of their meetings this year. He also needs the manpower and cost figures from each unit to prepare an annual report on SAR activities. He needs this information by the March meeting. Al also reminded those present that Toni Dewsnap has offered to work up a newsletter and would appreciate training schedules, articles, etc., to include in it.

Keith requested a report on John McDonough's talk before the Maine State Police Command Officers Association. Al reported the success of John's talk, as John had described it at the Executive Board meeting in January. There was some concern expressed that increased knowledge of the existence of SAR resources might lead to an increase in calls for inappropriate uses. The need to let authorities know what resources are available seems to be more important than some additional callouts, however. Carter felt that a large increase in calls from other authorities was unlikely.

Unit Trainings and Insurance

Al reminded attendees that they must keep Carter himself informed (at the Greenville office) of upcoming unit trainings in Maine to maintain coverage for unit members under the State insurance policies. Carter pointed out that if a unit is called to assist in any situation not under Warden Service jurisdiction they should contact him directly to see if they will be covered by State insurance.

Al commented that there should be an additional sentence in the OD instructions to the effect that a unit should inform the OD when they are called out by an authority other than the Warden Service so that the OD knows what resources are available.

Carter informed us that he has a new pager number: 758-6059.

LASER

Comments were made concerning the press reports on the crash of Air-Med's helicopter and the response of the Maine EMS office regarding the availability of air ambulances in the state.

Statewide Training

Carter has appointed Glen Pratt and Pat Dorian to meet with Michele Fleury and Bill Ricker and plan the statewide SAR training. They will meet before the next MASAR meeting and should be able to come up with a date and possibly a location. Moosehorn is available if it would suit, but the committee will decide what and where. Carter has authorization to detail 20 wardens to take part in this exercise.

Dog Standard

Keith requested a report on the status of the MASAR Search Dog Standard. Carter informed us that it is before the Warden Service SAR committee, which will meet shortly. He expects the committee will approve the standard, and he will have a report on this for the membership at the next MASAR meeting.

State Surplus

Dave Martin asked Carter if he could check into the availability of State surplus materials for SAR teams. Apparently Dirigo used to be able to look at the State surplus and take what they could use, but they have recently been told that they are not eligible. Carter said he would look into it.

Next Meeting and Agenda

The next meeting will be on Sunday, 6 March 1994, in Sidney at the Warden Service Headquarters there. The agenda will include:

- 1994 Symposium Report
- Acceptance of January Meeting Minutes
- Distribution of Membership Cards
- Committee Reports

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hudson
Temporary Secretary