

MASAR Monthly Meeting Minutes

2 April 1995

The April meeting of MASAR opened at 1:25 PM, with John McDonough presiding. The following officers, representatives, and individual members were present:

Randy Armour	Lincoln CEP	John McDonough	Wilderness
Steve Hudson	MDISAR	Wayne Owen	Visitor

Due to the small number of attendees, we did not have a quorum to conduct business. We did, however, discuss the reports and actions taken to date.

Secretary's Report

John pointed out that the minutes from the last meeting in Bangor were incorrect, in that they stated that the next meeting would be in Gray, not Sidney. He proposed that these be corrected for acceptance at the next meeting. The minutes from the January meeting, not accepted at the March meeting due to the lack of a quorum, remain open at this date as well.

Treasurer's Report

As the treasurer could not be present, no report was given.

Statewide Exercise

Dave Martin reported on the planning for the statewide exercise scheduled for the weekend of 12-14 May. A scenario in which a group of students (>12) becomes lost will be used for this exercise. The exercise area sports a range of terrain, so multiple search methods will be used. On Sunday workshops will be offered on various topics of interest to all searchers. Attendees note that the new searcher identification cards will be used to manage searchers and teams.

There was some discussion about who would manage the actual search operations during the exercise. The Warden Service has offered their overhead team, so Dave will get in touch with Dan Tourtelotte to finalize plans.

Meals will be the responsibility of the individual searchers or teams except on Saturday night, when a spaghetti supper will be provided. The Warden Service is covering the cost of the use of the Katahdin Scout Reservation and incidentals, but attendees will be asked to pay \$5.00 each to cover the cost of coffee on Saturday and Sunday and Saturday night dinner.

We plan to present the Tim Burt and Irma Simoneau awards to members of the SAR community after dinner Saturday. Randy will send out requests for nominations

for these awards. These will include the nomination criteria for each award and a post card to be returned if the recipient plans to attend the exercise.

Communications Committee Report

No report from the committee. John McDonough has taken possession of 29 radios donated to MASAR by CMP and has passed them on to Al Martin. The committee will evaluate the condition of the radios and then make recommendations on how to best distribute and use them.

Standards Committee Report

Steve Hudson reported for the committee. Due to the lack of a quorum, no vote on the ground searcher standards is possible at this meeting, so voting is postponed to the May meeting. The second draft of the ground searcher standards took approximately two weeks longer to send out than expected. The reason is that they were copied, packaged, and mailed out through Gary Anderson's office, and they weren't the only things his secretary had to do. In future, we will plan to get mailings to Gary at least two weeks in advance of when they are intended to go out to give him time to work them into his office schedule.

Steve also reported that the committee has sent a letter to Search Dogs Northeast which defined the conditions under which their dog teams will be initially certified (grandfathered) under the MASAR Search Dog Standard. John mentioned that he had received a letter from Sue Webb mentioning that they had some new teams ready for certification testing, but they were waiting to request testing until after their other teams had been certified. John noted that any new teams which are interested in testing for certification should contact the Standards Committee for scheduling.

ID Card Committee Report

Randy noted that the ID cards will be used at the statewide exercise. Steve pointed out the committee still needs to make up a temporary ID card to be handed out to searchers when they give their personal ID to the search management team. Al was asked to prepare a kit of materials and checklists to use with the ID cards at searches.

ASTM

Steve Hudson reported on the meeting minutes (long overdue) he had received from the November ASTM meeting. A draft standard for setting up a unitary unified incident command system at searches is out for vote in one of the subcommittees of which he is a member. He explained some of the main points of the draft standard, and also described some of the other committee activities of which he is aware.

Warden Service In-House SAR Committee

John McDonough, as MASAR's representative, attended this meeting last month

and reported as follows.

The first revelation at the meeting was the plan to have the wardens in the field wear orange vests during searches. **The Warden Service will require that all field personnel (including SAR unit members) wear an orange vest, jacket, or shirt outside their other clothing.** In light of this, it was suggested that the personal equipment list should include some items which are required at all incidents.

Training objectives were discussed, and it was proposed that more large exercises should be planned. John suggested that too many large scale training sessions would not only leave little time for basic training but could contribute to burn out of members. He also pointed out that we are volunteers with full time jobs, in most cases, and a limited amount of time to devote to training as well as actual searches.

The Warden Service will sponsor a "Managing the Search Function" course soon, which will include a "Train the Trainer" section afterward so that attendees, when they return to their units, can better present the material.

Dan Tourtelotte asked MASAR if they would provide an instructor for a FUNSAR course at the new Warden Service Training Center at the old Pinelands School. As there is only time for an eight hour class, John suggested that a course in search tactics would be a better use of the time. We will try to provide an instructor for the course, to take place around 27 April.

Communications were discussed at this meeting as well. The members of the committee did not know of LASER's intent to use the 155.160 frequency. They plan to look into the situation and see if it can be resolved without having that frequency used as for dispatch and air-to-ground communications. Dave Martin thought that we will need between 3 and 4 SAR frequencies in state, and suggested that John should mention this to the committee. John has told the Warden Service In-House SAR Committee that they should contact the MASAR Communications Committee in regard to frequency use and needs. He also asked the committee to send letters to the SAR units in Maine permitting the use of 155.160 for SAR operations.

The Warden Service overhead team is looking for a replacement for the trailer they presently use for on-scene search management. They are hoping to purchase and refit either a motor home or a 26 foot trailer.

Randy suggested that we should get a clear list from the wardens showing phone numbers and radio call numbers for the wardens. There have been a lot of changes since last year, with many wardens changing rank, retiring, and moving, and the duty officer list isn't always clear.

Workmen's Compensation for Searchers

John checked with Gary Anderson in regard to the possibility of getting searchers covered by the State's workers' compensation insurance. Gary will talk to the Risk Management Office and let us know what can be done.

Nite-Sun Update

There is a media event scheduled for the 19th of April at the Brunswick Naval Air Station, from 4:00 to approximately 6:00 PM. The Nite-Sun will be demonstrated for the news people and other attendees, following which there will be a reception. Al Martin has been asked to go to represent MASAR, as John McDonough will be out of town.

New Business

Dave Martin reported that his unit recently learned that fund-raising events advertised to be BYOB require a permit from the State. It's not difficult to get unless you find out you need it at the last minute, as they did.

Dave has been training the Civil Air Patrol's new ground search unit. It is comprised of 30-40 cadets, and will become certified for ground search soon.

Dave also reported that the Air National Guard 112th Air Ambulance Unit in Bangor now has forward-looking infrared (FLIR) detectors on their aircraft, and at least two searchlights equivalent to the Nite-Sun we assisted in purchasing.

We have received a request from a woman in the Brunswick school system who would like to provide an 8-hour outdoor-oriented first aid course for at-risk high school students in an outdoor program. The dates are not yet determined, but the course must take place on weekdays. Wilderness Rescue Team will look into handling the course if Dirigo can't. John and Dave Martin will coordinate the planning.

Next Meeting and Agenda

The next meeting will be on Sunday, 7 May 1995, at the Warden Service Headquarters in Gray. The agenda will include:

- Reading of January and March Meeting Minutes for corrections/additions
- Committee Reports
- Update on Statewide Exercise Plans
- Vote on Unit and Ground Searcher Certification Standards

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hudson
Temporary Secretary

PS-Please accept my apologies for taking so long to get these out. Evenings with time to type these up have been rare.