

Maine Association For Search And Rescue

Monthly Meeting Minutes 2/4/96

Meeting is called to order at 13:12 hours. Keith Heavrin, next MASAR officer in line to Chair the meeting in the absence of those preceding him, asks that Steve Hudson chair the meeting so that he may attend to duties of the Secretary during the meeting. Meeting is chaired by Steve.

Present

Warden Pat Dorian, Randy Armour, Steve Hudson, Keith Heavrin, Pete Laveway, Robert Bean, Gary Collins, Rick Farris Warden Deb Palman

Announcements

None

Treasurer's Report

No report is available for this meeting. Steve remarks that the balances should be pretty much the same as reported last month.

Steve also reported that MDI SAR voted, at their last meeting, to forgive the debt of those monies resulting from profits realized at the last symposium MDI SAR sponsored, which MASAR had owed them.

Committee Reports

By-laws Committee

Randy passes out copies of the newly amended by-laws document noting that the revision date is on the front page.

Standard Committee

Steve relates that they want to meet soon and are planning for January 10 in Sidney at 0930 hours. Purpose of the meeting is to further refine the BASAR curriculum and begin working to make up a test based on those revised materials.

ASTM

Steve relates no change in status and no communications from them.

ID Cards

To consider how the system should work. No progress

Correspondence

None

Old Business

John McDonough is working on Search Summaries and requests each unit send annual search activities summaries to him at your earliest convenience.

Peter Laveway is working on putting together a MASAR Newsletter and hands out a sheet that represents a content outline for this effort. He suggests that anyone having news articles or information about their groups send it along to him in as concise and finished a form as they can manage and he'll try to include it in the next issue.

May Search Training Exercise

Gary Collins suggests we use Camden Hills State Park as a site and says he is willing to set it up. Steve says Gary should call Dave Martin to coordinate the effort. Pat Dorian says that Warden Service would like to use the May exercise to conduct a search of the area near and around Cooper Brook lean-to on the Appalachian Trail as a continuation of the search for Tom Jacobi, a hiker who disappeared somewhere along the trail in 1990 after mailing a suicide letter to his family. Warden Dorian feels that as soon as the snow goes and before the leaves come out on the trees would be the ideal timing for the exercise and would like to move the date from May 18-19 up to the 11th-12th. He further relates that there are quite a few more Wardens interested in being part of the SAR overhead team now and that a week earlier could be a less busy time for them to participate in the training exercise. After some discussion Keith moves that we change the May Training Exercise location to the Cooper Brook area and the date to the 11th and 12th of May. Seconded by Randy with unanimous vote in favor.

The Fall raining exercise will be held on the third weekend in September. Waldo has volunteered to help set up the fall training exercise.

Warden Dorian suggests that Pete Laveway include an article in the next newsletter about what is known concerning the circumstances surrounding the disappearance of Tom Jacobi, to help inform MASAR volunteers and generate interest.

New Business

Networks and Computers

MDISAR has a new member who has set up a web page for them on the Internet. Steve says a lot of SAR units are on line now and using the net to communicate.

Gary Collins announces that there is a new technical rescue team in Orland that has been set up by several members of the Orland Fire Department. Some discussion about where they got their training and what standards they train to followed by the question of how MASAR might contact them to have them join the association. Steve says he knows several of the people involved and will make contact.

Steve announces that MDISAR would like to put together a basic slopes rescue training module and would like to bring in a noted instructor for it. He says there would be room in the course for a few additional students. Call Steve if you are interested.

Call Out Procedure

Gary Collins says he has written a letter of complaint to the commissioner concerning call out issues his group has experienced. After some discussion, Warden Dorian forwards that Warden Service has experienced a lot of changes in personnel recently and that there is an effort ongoing within the agency to remedy these problems. That effort is with an education and information program, for new Warden Service personnel, that will help appraise them of volunteer resources available, their capabilities and mission readiness. The Warden Service SAR subcommittee is now working on revising the SAR protocols and policies in the Maine SAR Plan. There is a lot of work being done now that will result in greater utilization of Maine's highly trained volunteer SAR resources but it takes time for these changes to occur. One of the changes now in the works is for incidents involving downed aircraft in Maine. The State Police will be assuming responsibility for such searches in the future.

Steve asks about how the new Warden Service Command Post trailer project is going. Pat Dorian relates that Gary Anderson has received a new \$2,000 donation towards the trailer purchase and they should soon be able to buy a new 24' unit that they will be able to work at setting up the way they want it set up.

Fund Raising

Steve raises the issue again suggesting that we need to come up with ideas for raising money for MASAR. Suggestions are encouraged and will be taken up at the next meeting.

Next meeting will be held in Sidney, Maine at Warden Service Headquarters at 1300 hours on the 3rd of March.

Agenda

1. Announcements
2. Secretary's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Committee Reports
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Correspondence
8. Set agenda for next meeting

Meeting is adjourned at 1548 hours