

Maine Association For Search And Rescue
Monthly Meeting Minutes
14 July 1996

Meeting is called to order by Al Martin at 16:15 hours

Present

Randy Armour, Dave Martin, Paul Magoon, Baxter Park Ranger Barry MacArthur, Warden Tim Peabody, Al Martin, Peter Laveway, Keith Heavrin

Secretary's Report

None

Treasurer's Report

None

Committee Reports

Field Testing Team

A detailed MASAR Field Test report on the results of Sue Webb's testing for grandfathering to the new MASAR Dog Standards done on June 30th is submitted to the meeting. The testing team asks that the MASAR Standards Committee address the results to Sue Webb as they see fit.

Communications

During a discussion of the Baxter Park Search for Joseph Wroblewski, it was apparent that the CP and other searchers didn't hear for some time that the subject had been found and was being extracted by cable due to not having radios on scene that could communicate with aircraft. Al Martin relates that Dirigo has several radios that have the capability and could be used on scene to talk to and monitor BNAS and other aircraft.

Old Business

None

New Business

A short discussion of the Cutler search is held. The lost persons had spent the night out and were making their way slowly out of the area via the trail along which they had entered the area. Searchers from Sunrise SAR and a MESARD dog team encountered them after noticing the dog alert "up trail" as they were walking into the area. The subjects were tired and sore but seemed to be all right otherwise.

A discussion of the Baxter Park search for Joseph Wrobleski ensues. Baxter Park Ranger Barry MacArthur passes out copies of the report written by Buzz Caverly. Several MASAR members attending the meeting who had worked at this search expressed thanks and appreciation for the great job Baxter Park personnel did in assisting, accommodating, and facilitating the search effort.

One safety issue was addressed that became a concern due to the remoteness of the areas volunteer teams were being deployed into. It came up that some of the assignments were into very wild sections of the park and might have caused the teams so deployed to be out after dark. Keith Heavrin suggests that such areas are the very thing volunteers training is designed to address. Randy Armour adds that each of the groups involved in these searches screens their own people to see to it that the areas assigned to search are within the capabilities of those personnel chosen to go. Al Martin offers that some concern has been expressed for the youthful members of Dirigo being placed in a deep wilderness situation at a search. Al says they have a very good level of training and doesn't feel deploying them to such areas would be a problem. Tim Peabody says he has never had a problem deploying MASAR volunteers and has confidence in the level of training they receive. Keith forwards that the bottom line is that we simply have to search in all the areas where our subjects may be lost. The Wrobleski search areas were remote but we can not have a situation where someone getting lost is in an area too far out there for us to go after them.

A short discussion of the Gardner Pond search is held. Keith gives a synopsis of MESARD's effort and a description of what had been done at the scene. The Pond isn't that large and so much effort had been put in by the State Police dive team, as well as extensive use of the sonar unit, that it was clearly a frustrating search. (Note: The day after the MASAR meeting the two boys bodies were recovered from the pond though where in the pond is still unclear.) The only evidence the searchers had to go on was the boys boat, with their clothing, class rings etc., was found tied to a cement block and the block resting on a swimming float about sixty yards off the beach of a commercial campground on the eastern shore of the pond. The boys had been left at the pond to go fishing at about noon on the 11th of July.

Peter Laveway gives a short briefing on the Wilderness effort during the Mt. Abrams search on May 20th. It was helpful to the effort that the Wilderness van was turned into a CP during this search. A Wilderness team had struggled through deep snow nearly to the lean-to where the lost party had taken refuge the night before. The following morning members from the Wilderness team located the lost party who had spent a cold night at the shelter.

Tim Peabody passes out copies of the new revised Warden Service SAR plan. He notes that in the plan a provision has been added that calls for

notification of the MASAR OD of all search efforts Warden Service becomes involved in.

A discussion of the MASAR monthly meeting schedule ensues. Should we skip some months ? It is generally agreed that it would be better to cancel a scheduled meeting if that should be needed but the schedule for having a meeting every month should remain the same.

Fall Training Exercise

Peter says the planning group has met and they have a general idea of what they want to do. The exercise will be at Camden Hills State Park in September. They think they would like to have a single search scenario at the session and feel they can design it so it works for everyone.

Next meeting will be held August 4th in Bangor at Warden Service headquarters at 1600 hours. Meeting is adjourned at 17:22 hours

AGENDA

1. Announcements
2. Secretary's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Committee reports
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Correspondence
8. Set Next Meeting Agenda