

Maine Association For Search And Rescue

Meeting Minutes

5 January 1997

Meeting is called to order by Al Martin at Sidney Warden Service Headquarters at 1310 h

Present

Steve Hudson, Chris Wiebusch, Randy Armour, Rick Farris, Chris Drew, Mark King, Diana Boisvert, Rick Grant, Paul Magoon, Phil DuPerry, Peter Laveway, Dave Martin, Al Martin and Keith Heavrin.

Announcements

Peggy McLaughlin resigned her position as treasurer for MASAR. Peter Laveway has volunteered to carry out her duties until elections at the May training session in Bar Harbor. As of the January meeting John McDonough has the books and a new temporary phone number 828-3250.

Mark King of Lakes Region Rescue has a new pager number 1 - 821-3237 and a new voice mail number 1-800-444-9163 PIN 0094

Dave Martin says he is going to attend the NASAR Conference May 28th in Virginia. Said he'd like some company. Give him a call if you are interested.

Steve announces that the On Rope Manual has been revised. He says it is the definitive book on technical rescue and is now available from NASAR

Secretary's Report

Al goes over the minutes from the previous meeting held last October. Steve moves that the minutes be accepted as read with Mark seconding. Unanimous to accept.

Treasurer's Report

None available.

Baxter State Park

Al Martin offers that Chris Drew has traveled much farther than the rest of us for this meeting and asks that he address the meeting first.

Chris Drew relates that Buzz Caverly had hoped to attend the meeting but has some commitments and asked Chris to attend in his place. He reads a letter of thanks from Baxter Park Administration to SAR volunteers for the years much appreciated help. He also passed out a copy of the summary report on the search for the subsequently found suicide victim on December 26th and 27th 1996. He then gave a verbal summary of the search as it unfolded. Copies of the report are available. Heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who helped.

Chris presents a draft proposal for the Volunteer SAR Response Teams. BSP would like to see a schedule in place and working for the coming busy season. The

following is a synopsis of the draft proposal: Response teams will be composed of two trained SAR personnel from MASAR affiliated units. One will be an EMT or equivalent and the other a substantially SAR trained individual to act as support and for safety. A rotation schedule will be set up to station these teams in the park during BSP heaviest use periods with a backup schedule in place as well in case the primary team is unavailable. Teams will bring their own gear. BSP will provide a tent or cabin space, a bivouac sack, and a hand held radio with park frequencies on it. Nearly all SAR callouts occur during P.M. hours (2pm to 10pm). In the event of a call out BSP intends to rely on these volunteer response teams as the first response sent to the emergency. If a response team is not available a park ranger or campground ranger will be sent to the scene. Response teams will be under the supervision of the Chief Ranger or other BSP staff as available. BSP Director is the ultimate SAR decision maker with the BSP person of highest authority in the chain of command on duty being the on scene SAR decision maker. Response team members shall be aware of park rules and regulations.

Chris relates that BSP has , on average , about 20 or so call outs in a year but that one year recently they had 40. Currently, when a search occurs park rangers and, especially, camp ground rangers are tied up with the emergency and taken away from important normal duties. The objective of the Response Teams is to take the pressure off this situation and the potential public safety issues that could arise. Any MASAR affiliated personnel interested in taking part in the program are urged to contact Chris Drew at BSP headquarters.

BSP radio frequencies = 159.300 and 159.330. Chris also relates that BSP just doesn't have much climbing gear but they have litters available at all the campgrounds and extensive first aid equipment is located at Chimney Pond, Katahdin Stream and Roaring Brook.

With closing remarks Chris distributed copies of the BSP calendar to all present with additional thanks for help volunteers provide.

GPS

Al relates that Silva is a foreign company that has now been sold to a US distributor and the name will become Nexus. Nexus knows nothing about GPS. Silva units still only operate on true north settings.

Tactical Mapping System

Al reports that this system sounds really good. Maps are expensive and it takes a lot of them to cover our state. We have been looking for years to find a way to make maps in the field. Steve forwards that we can have a CD ROM disc made by this company for around \$450 to \$475 that can hold as many as 270 maps, which would be more than enough for our needs. Deb says she has or can get obsolete endangered species maps for most if not all of the state in 7.5 minute versions. They would be very good for topo purposes . Steve feels that getting the maps scanned should be negotiable , price wise, and could be very cost effective. With the maps on a CD ROM disc and a computer at the search scene, maps for any part of the state could be printed as needed at the search. It is pointed out that ink jet printer ink runs

when wet and would not be a good choice as a printer for these maps. Laser printers are a lot better but are more expensive to buy and to run. No action taken at this time on the Tactical Mapping System. More information is sought.

May Training Session

MDI SAR will host the training weekend scheduled for the first weekend in May. Chris Wiebusch distributes a sheet with the following information: Folks can arrive Friday the 2nd and stay at Black Woods Campground for free or make their own arrangements. Saturday the 3rd will be a training day with a mock search set up. The CP will be at the Echo Lake Beach parking lot near Southwest Harbor. The search area will be the five mountains nearest to that location. Exercise will begin at 0800 hours and end when victim (s) are found or at 1600 hours. Dinner will be provided at 1800 hours, location to be announced.

MASAR annual meeting and election of officers will be held after supper.

No activities are currently planned for Sunday but it will be given over to team training, Demo's and any suggested activities units might like to participate in. For information and suggestions contact MDI SAR at PO Box 493, Bar Harbor, Me. 04609.

ID Cards Revisited

Mark King offers that a new ID card is available that gives an individuals full medical record. He saw it as it was offered through a local hospital. He'll check to see if we might get them with the MASAR logo on it and he'll check costs. Mark suggests a card carried right on a person is more useful and could be a better way to track skills and resources at a search.

Mexico Search

The subject was located by aircraft with several other teams closing in on the area. Lakes Region team members were first to get to him and worked at packaging and administering fluids. It was apparently the third time the subject had chained himself to a tree in this area. It was an efficient effort with volunteers being deployed for only about 3.5 to 4 hours on the morning of the 26th. Questions remain as to how long he was there, it having been reported that he was last seen on Dec. 13th when he was headed for Portland saying he would be back for Christmas.

Machias River Search

Deb Palman gives a short report describing the effort put in to locate a suicide up near great falls on the river. Both banks had been walked for some distance away from the last known place, where his car was found not far from a camp on the river. The first days effort should have found him but did not due to unfavorable wind direction and a failure to have searched further down stream on the river bank where the subjects vehicle was located. Wardens returning to the scene when a south wind was blowing smelled the body on the wind and reported that. About a week after that first effort Deb Palman and several MESARD teams went back to the scene. The

second day saw a short time spent in walking down stream on that side of the river and finding the body.

Highland Plantation Search

A brief review of some of the problems with communications and the evasiveness of the lost person were discussed. During the search teams using voice calls to attempt to get a response from the lost person were mistaken for the lost person by some wardens at the search. Some effort and confusion resulted that should have been avoidable .

Pager Codes

Pete has been doing some work to initiate a pager code system for call out and call off purposes . A lengthy discussion full of changes to the proposal ensued and would not serve well to be repeated here. Pete is working to revise the idea with input from AI and others to bring up a workable proposal . If we can institute such a code , considerable information can be transmitted with a page call out or call off and it could help reduce wasted effort . Pete says Wilderness will start using the code internally and report on how things work out.

Meeting is adjourned at 1610 hours

The next MASAR meetings will be held at Sidney Warden Service Headquarters Sunday, February 2nd at 1300 and on Sunday , April 6th at 1300 hours. The first weekend in May will be the MASAR spring training exercise on MDI. Next meeting agenda is as follows:

AGENDA for 2 / 2 / 97

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