

Maine Association For Search And Rescue

Meeting Minutes

3 August 97

Meeting is called to order at 1610 hours by John McDonough.

Present

John McDonough, Rick Farris, Steve Bishop , Paul Magoon, Steve Hudson, Mike Sawyer, Tim Peabody, Pat Dorian, Pete Laveway, Randy Armour, Rick Grant.

Announcements

Several new people are present so introductions are made to begin. Mike Sawyer of Warden Service is the new Warden Service SAR coordinator. Steve Bishop affiliated with CAP is also present and seeking information on how CAP can be part of the SAR picture in Maine.

Paul Magoon says there is a dive team available to be dispatched out of the Somerset County Sheriff's office. Pat Dorian says W.S. is aware of the team and may use them if needed in that area.

Secretary's Report

April meeting minutes are read and accepted as written by unanimous vote. Steve took notes for annual meeting minutes held in Bar Harbor after the May Field Training Exercise and sent the minutes out electronically. This is the meeting at which the election of officers took place . It was decided to wait to vote on accepting these minutes until next meeting when we can get hard copies for consideration.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Laveway submits 2 pages of data constituting the status of the MASAR accounts since the last meeting, which are read and approved by unanimous vote.

Also related to Treasurer's report - John spoke with an accountant about doing the set up of MASAR's 501-c3 Federal tax exempt forms . He states that he should be able to get the application ready in a month or so. The accountant also stated that he felt the monies MASAR handled for the Night Sun project and the Warden Service CP trailer would be considered as custodial funds for tax purposes and therefore present no tax problems in that area.

Search Activities Debriefing

Westbrook Search

Rick Farris was OD for this search. Tim Peabody relates that Warden Service started at around noon on Monday in an attempt to locate an 84 year old man who had been missing since the previous Saturday. Rick Ferris called several ground search units out and placed MESARD on standby during the afternoon. W.S. interviews indicated the missing man had a camp where he was eventually found at around 1830 hours . Stand by teams and other volunteers were secured by 2030hrs. Warden Pat Dorian says the Greenville area had four searches during this time and the Wardens were spread pretty thin. Rick Grant comments on establishing a state map with some pins

or other indicators of where volunteer search resources are located in the state for call out purposes. A short general discussion ensues.

Baxter State Park

Baxter Park had two fatalities over the last week . One was a fisherman who had fallen into swift water and become wedged between rocks causing him to drown. Apparently during the recovery effort one of the Park Rangers was at serious risk and considerable discussion was generated concerning the safety issues surrounding such work. Pat Dorian would like to see the people with the right skills doing this work. The second fatality was an apparent heart attack by a camper.

Harmony Search

Paul Magoon reports there was a brief search effort for an elderly woman with Alzheimer's who had wandered off in Harmony Maine. She apparently walks away in about the same direction each time and was located near the same road she had walked up at other times when she was missing. Wardens Don Anise and Roger Guy were in charge.

Committee Reports

Standards Committee

Steve reports that the BASAR test questions are done , the curriculum is done and the material is ready to be sent out to the member units. John McDonough says he will review the material as soon as he can.

Some discussion begins about how to send documents electronically to various units and members . The problem often encountered is incompatibility of various programs and the languages they are written in. Steve Hudson says there is a \$200 software package available that allows everything to be formatted so everyone can read downloads.

September SAR Training Exercise

Tim Peabody asks if changing the date for the training exercise is possible. There are some scheduling problems for him. After short discussion it is decided that the dates for the training weekend will remain unchanged.

The training will be held in Greenville on the 20th and 21st of September. The Saturday search scenario will be based out of the Lily Bay State Park area and will begin , for volunteers, at 0900 hours. The format for the search exercise will be similar to the last couple state wide training exercise scenarios we have done. The Mud River campground will be opened for people arriving Friday night and will be available for people Saturday night as well . It is recommended that you call ahead and make arrangements either directly to the campground or to W.S. HQ Greenville. The Saturday search exercise will conclude in the afternoon and be followed by a supper served at the W.S. HQ from 1700 to 1800 hours. A debriefing and critique of the exercise will begin at 1800 hours. Sunday morning will see BASAR modules in Evidence Preservation and Crime Scene Processing from 0800 to 0930 followed by , Use of Aircraft in Search Missions from 0945 to 1100 hours followed by, UTM Grid System from 1100 to 1200 hours.

John McDonough expresses that he would like to see us hold a training in southern Maine in

an effort to bring more of the southern units into participation. Tim Peabody says southern units seem to have a lot of ICS training but limited knowledge of actual searching skills. Rick Grant relates that the fire chief in his area is looking to get some of his personnel BASAR trained.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mike Sawyer introduced . He is the New Warden Service SAR Coordinator taking Gareth Anderson's place after his retirement. Mike Sawyer addresses a set of risk management issues he is working on. A general discussion of insurance coverage issues ensues. Mike distributes a sheet with a summary of current self insurance which is provided by the Risk Management Division for search and rescue activities sponsored by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. There are two specific types of insurance in place . One is Tort Liability insurance; the other is Special Accident insurance . Both cover the same persons and the same activities but they provide two very different coverages.

Who is covered - All search and rescue certified trainers, coordinators, and volunteers participating in IFW sponsored search and rescue activities.

When does insurance apply - Insurance applies when the insured person is participating in a search and rescue activity sponsored by IFW and under their supervision, traveling with a group in connection with such activities and under their supervision, or traveling to or from such activities and his or her lodging place.

Where does insurance apply - Insurance is effective anywhere in the State of Maine- on whatever type of premise the activity is held, be it privately or publicly owned.

What is covered - Tort Liability Insurance - Insurance is written to conform to the Maine Tort Claims Act (Title 14 , Chapter 741, 8102-8118) . The act limits the liability of the state and IFW to \$300,000 per occurrence. It limits the personal liability of an employee of a government entity for neglect, acts, or omissions within the course and scope of employment to \$10,000 per occurrence. Employee means any person acting on behalf of the governmental entity (IFW in this case) in any official capacity, whether temporarily or permanently, and whether with or without compensation. Volunteers are covered under this definition. We have already explained what "within the course and scope of employment" means in the above section on " when does insurance apply?" In summary, this is liability insurance but it only applies for those activities associated with IFW sponsored search and rescue activities.

Special Accident Insurance - Provided for Insured Persons as follows:

Accident death principal sum: \$10,000

Accident dismemberment principal sum: \$10,000

Accident medical expense: \$10,000 maximum

Accident dental expense: \$250 maximum

Please note that this is not Worker's Compensation insurance. There is no insurance for

illness or disease - only accidental injuries. Also there is no provision for lost wages.

Steve Hudson notes, and it has been mentioned at previous meetings, that all member units should notify the SAR coordinator of all scheduled training sessions. They are an authorized and insurance covered activity if and only if Warden Service is notified.

Tim Peabody says that two new lap top computers have come to Warden Service through the Heritage Fund grant. He is looking for software to install. Mapping for all of Maine is available on CD-ROM. Tim asks if anyone knows if T-card software is available anywhere. Steve offers that contacting the National Wildfire Coordination Group would be a good place to ask.

Next scheduled MASAR meeting will be Sunday October 5th at 1600 hours at W.S. HQ Sidney. The agenda will be the same.

Meeting is adjourned at 1815 hours.