

Spring SAR Training
Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25, 1999

Maine Warden Service
Maine Association for Search and Rescue

Host: York County Emergency Response Rescue Team
Base Site: York County EMA Office
Alfred Court House (downstairs)
Rt. 111, Alfred

Saturday, April 24

0830 - 0900 Registration and Coffee
0900 - 1330 Begin Ground Search Exercise, Massabesic Forest
(Bring Your Own Lunch)
1330 - 1400 Wrap-up Search Exercise
1415 - 1500 Critique Search Exercise at EMA Office
1500 - 1645 Tech. Search & Rescue Overview: SOLO Instructor
Classroom: EMA Office
1645 Wrap-up and Review
1800 - 1845 Dinner - Newfield Fire Station **(Provided by Inland Fisheries & Wildlife)**
1845 MASAR Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 25

0830 - 0900 Registration and Coffee
0900 - 1200 Proceed to Outdoor Classroom Area For Technical Rescue Demo & Hands-on instruction by SOLO Instructors
1200 Light Lunch **(Provided by Inland Fisheries & Wildlife)**
1400 - 1430 Critique, Wrap-up, and Departure

winds as the Mt. Katahdin area is known for. Jon feels it would be wiser to use ground evacuations as a safety issue. The line has to be clear at which point use of a helo evacuation becomes advisable. Rick Mills offers that Warden Service often will call for a helo first off. It is considered an effective resource.

Technical Rescue Standards Committee

John McDonough announces the formation of a committee to begin drawing up a set of standards for technical rescue operations in the state. Keith Heavrin is appointed to chair the committee which will be made up of four or five people from the MASAR units who specialize in this discipline. Andy Robidoux from Mahosuc, Chris Wiebusch of MDI, Jon Tierney from HART, Paul Smith from Lincoln, and Phil DuPerry or another member from Wilderness Rescue Team will sit to consider these standards. First meeting will be 28 April at 1300 hours at Acadia National Park headquarters.

Education

Dave Martin announces that 19 people attended the MLPI course recently offered by DIRIGO and most of those were from out of state. The turnout was very disappointing.

The next MASAR meeting will be held on 11 April 1999 at Sidney Warden Service Headquarters beginning at 1600 hours. Note the time change and the date moved to the second Sunday of the month!! Meeting is adjourned at 1622 hours.

Ben offers that perhaps we are discussing two separate levels of involvement. MASAR volunteers versus ALS care. The considerations are quite different for the two.

Dave and others state they would rather not get involved with the Maine EMS system, citing political games and difficulties as well as control issues. Randy feels we can take our MASAR volunteers to a certain level but we do not want to get an adversarial or confrontational thing started with Maine EMS.

Jon offers that regions were established to give a focus of control to smaller groups of people. The over all guidelines apply state wide. There are some small variations but he doesn't feel there are that many differences. Andy suggests we appoint a committee to explore a way that we can do it all for ourselves and have MASAR be in control of our own requirements. Andy makes a motion to appoint a committee of three people to be a Medical Committee to explore these medical issues further and to interface with wilderness first aid. Seconded by Steve. Vote is unanimous in favor.

Andy Robidoux, Charles Blankenship and Jon Tierney volunteer and are appointed to this committee.

Standards Committee

Steve relates that Civil Air Patrol is no longer in charge of lost aircraft searches in Maine. This will now be under the purview of State Police responsibilities.

Steve suggests that anyone having suggested changes to any of the MASAR training standards should submit them to the Standards Committee in writing.

Mark Warren is the new Warden Service training officer. He has an office in Augusta with the same address currently used by Mike Sawyer.

Communications Committee

Al offers that recent information he has indicates that radio antennae height is more important than wattage on the radio.

Baxter State Park

Chief Ranger Chris Drew hands out copies of the Boomer incident critique which recommends implementing a command structure and some various gear and equipment adjustments.

Leadership issues:

Jon Tierney offers that initially the Boomer incident was a search operation but it became an extraction. Initially, the effort was directed from Millinocket. When first teams arrived, it was decided to have hasty teams run up the Abol trail and a medical team go up the Hunt trail. Turns out this was a good plan. John says notice was never given that the subject had been located. On scene, the decision was made to evacuate up to the Tableland above the Hunt trail, where the victim was found. This would provide an opportunity for a helo evacuation if that was decided upon or the team could proceed down the Abol trail. Abol is a hiking trail but rough with a lot of boulders. Mostly evaluated as so-called single rope terrain. Jon gives a lengthy description of lowering systems and the all day effort. Jon relates they started out with 8 people on the litter but started cycling new people in as they came up the Abol trail. The patient was very stable and kept comfortable. Jon also relates that the experience was a valuable learning opportunity. It was determined that the window for helo use was short and only for a brief time in the morning.

Jon and several others address helo use. He maintains that few rescue personnel are lost on ground rescues but he has many friends no longer living because they were on a helo that went down. Hoisting is really risky and he feels that sooner or later a Black Hawk will have an accident. He hopes that doesn't come for responding to a broken ankle. A short-haul evacuation would be a better option as hover time is reduced. There is a lot of danger involved with a helo hovering in a place with as capricious

membership.

Ben Woodard offers that there is a balance that must be recognized where if you set the requirements too high, it will result in flushing good people out because too much is required of them at a volunteer level. It is needful to set workable standards that can get the job done and meet the need but are also achievable. The result should endeavor to encourage volunteers who are often already burdened by what they give. Andy asks how liability issues affect us as MASAR personnel or individual teams and units? Are we covered by the Good Samaritan Act? Can we avoid having to write a book of a report for every call out we respond to? Rick asks, if people come from the southern part of the state into the northern part for a call out, how are they covered? Ben says that sometimes regional protocols are different and teams will have to use the ones for the region they are in when they do the work. Maine is very fortunate, compared to many states, in that the state EMS protocols are pretty good. Once you get licensed in this state you can use those skills anywhere in the state. Charles asks if anyone in Maine has considered setting up different levels of performance. He offers that the trend nationally is towards graduated levels of competence. Baseline skills and training need to be easily attainable for volunteers. Keith offers that we have had some difficulty in the past with getting training in Maine.

There are numerous observations about using the existing EMS system as a guide for MASAR volunteers. Many feel this would be very troublesome and prohibitive to get involved with. Ben observes that MASAR could engage someone like Dr. Peter Goth to act as a medical control person to oversee training. Andy feels that operating as close to the Good Samaritan Act as possible is the best approach. Al asks if a person is registered in one region, what does it take to get registered in all regions? If one person in a unit is registered, can the rest of the team operate off that ticket? Randy says the person that is registered would have to do all the paperwork for every incident. Andy offers that perhaps we could get a MASAR representative operating to all regions' requirements. All seem to agree that when a responder gets to a victim and renders the aid to the level they are qualified to administer, there needs to be accurate documentation. Ben offers the example of the National Ski Patrol. They operate under a set of their own national standards, often to specific area requirements, and are outside the EMS system.

Andy refers back to Rick's mention of getting "all region approval" as being a top aspiration. Andy says if we want to operate under state licensure then we will be required to do all the state requirements. If we want to set up our own protocols we can do that by getting medical oversight and control. We would be able to establish a system that would require a lot less paperwork and hoops to jump through. Getting our own certification process set up would be a huge advantage. Charles offers that this idea is already accepted nationally. Keith offers an additional example of our having set up the BASAR curriculum instead of using FUNSAR for many of the same considerations. Al asks if we shouldn't aspire to getting a MASAR medical director.

Jon Tierney feels that placing the most appropriate resource on scene for the needs of the patient should be the priority. He doesn't feel that starting a new system is needed. Maine EMS has already accepted the present wilderness protocols so why do we need to start a new system. John offers also that Dr. Peter Goth and others are currently working at making the present system work better. He observes that we are very fortunate here in Maine because the EMS system covers the whole state. He has experience out West where sometimes every town has different protocols. The Maine EMS system is already adjusting to change in needs and an example of that is the current changes made to accommodate Life Flight operations. The Life Flights were carrying more drugs and capability than EMS called for so there was resistance to licensing them but Maine EMS is working to adjust their requirements. Jon says the Maine EMS has the same goal as what MASAR is suggesting and advises we should sit down together with EMS and see what is possible before we expend the energy to build a whole system from scratch. If we were to describe our needs and concerns we may find them willing to negotiate changes.

Maine Association For Search And Rescue

Meeting Minutes for 7 February 1999

Meeting is called to order at 1310 hours at Warden Service Headquarters in Sidney Maine by vice-president Al Martin in the absence of president John McDonough.

Present Keith R Heavrin Jr. - MESARD, Randall Armour - Lincoln SAR, Rick Grant - Lakes Region, Chris Drew - Chief Ranger Baxter State Park, Malcolm Coltur - Baxter State Park, David Martin - DIRIGO SAR, Steve Hudson - MDISAR, Rick Mills - Maine Warden Service, C. Ben Woodard - Wilderness Medical Associates, Charles Blankenship - Rangeley EMS, Andy Robidoux - Mahoosuc Mountain Rescue Team, Al Martin - DIRIGO SAR, Jon Tierney - HART, Carolyn McAboy - YCERRT.

Announcements

Please note that the first Sunday of April, when our next meeting would normally be scheduled, is Easter Sunday. Therefore the next scheduled meeting will take place on April 11th. Also note the time change will have been affected by that date so meeting time will move from 1300 hours to 1600 hours.

The MASAR Spring training exercise will be conducted on the weekend of the 24th and 25th of April and will be hosted by York County Emergency Rescue and Response Team. See Schedule below.

MASAR will accept nominations for The Tim Burt Award and the Irma Simoneau award. Send appointments to John McDonough at your earliest convenience. The Simoneau award is given to a volunteer who, though having retired from SAR field work, continues to contribute to their unit and assist them. The Tim Burt award is given in recognition of exemplary contributions in the field by an individual that may contribute to the saving of life.

The MASAR elections of officers will be held after the supper on Saturday at the training exercise the evening of the 24th of April. Attending MASAR member units will vote on the full slate of MASAR officers for the next two years. Each unit membership receives one vote. Individual members all together equal one vote.

Secretary's Report

Minutes for the previous meeting are considered. Dave Martin moves they be accepted as written. Seconded by Steve Hudson. Vote is unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report No report is available at this meeting.

Emergency Medical Guidelines

Andy Robidoux opens by stating the need to establish continuity and guidelines in Emergency Wilderness Medicine and treatment. Andy contacted Peter Goth, Ben Woodard, and others for some advice as to how to proceed with the project of writing a set of protocols for the state. The recommendations offered sounded pretty much the same from all sources so Andy invited Ben Woodard from Wilderness Medical Associates to attend the MASAR meeting to address the issue to the