

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE (MASAR)
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 2007
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BANGOR, MAINE

Called to Order: President, Dave Martin, 1:04 p.m.

Introductions

Secretary's Report: MASAR September 9, 2007 Meeting Minutes were presented. *Dave Martin - motion to accept as written. Unanimous vote to accept.* MASAR September 22, 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes were presented - no vote needed on Annual Meeting Minutes.

Other secretarial business: Dues were collected.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance as of 11/12/07 in checking account: \$3229.88. Current balance as of 11/12/07 in savings account: \$667.74. *Jennifer Fisk- motion to accept as written. Unanimous vote to accept.*

Committees:

Board of Directors: The Board had a conference call related to Susanne Kynast and a letter which Board Chairperson Bob Bohlmann received from Ms. Kynast's lawyer. A meeting was going to be set with the colonel of the Warden Service. However, on the date of the conference call, Colonel Santaguida stepped down from his position within Warden Service so the MASAR President and Board Chairperson would have to wait until a replacement could be appointed.

As of this date (12/02/07) a meeting has not yet been established with acting Col. Greg Sanborn. As soon as possible, a meeting will be scheduled to find out Warden Service's position regarding the past events involving Susanne Kynast. Regardless of the outcome of this meeting, MASAR will take their own position regarding Ms. Kynast's involvement in MASAR and its' activities.

The Board also updated the Duty Officer Policy which was given to those Duty Officer's who attended today's meeting (following the Board of Director's Meeting). A copy of these updated guidelines will be emailed to each Duty Officer not in attendance.

Committees:

By Laws Committee: No report.

Education Committee: No information available due to the absence of the Committee Chairperson.

Standards Committee: No Report.

Resource Officer: The MASAR President has appointed Al Martin as the new Resource Officer effective 12/03/07. The Interim Resource Officer (Julie Jones) will send all relative resource information to Al.

Recent Searches: Mike Sawyer reported that this fall has been relatively quiet regarding searches. Prior to today's meeting, Jennifer spoke on the phone to Lt. Dorian who apologized for not being able to make the meeting. However, he asked that Jennifer extend his gratitude for all of those searchers who participated in the "Lewiston search." Regarding this search, a searcher informed Steve Hudson that it took over two hours to be fielded and that this searcher was put into the field with people who were not functional and didn't know how to effectively do line searching. This brought about a lengthy discussion on working searches with more than one law enforcement entity running the search (State Police in addition to the Warden Service).

Mike said that some of these problems have to do with the turnover in the state police with retirements and the changing of roles within the agency. Mick Womersley mentioned once having to wait five hours for deployment on a search.

Carl Stewart mentioned when he was Duty Officer, having difficulties with a callout when he was given the information from the state police on the lost hunter at Nicatous Lake. Warden Service wanted to have everyone that could respond from "MESARD" but the dispatcher said what sounded like "MASAR." Therefore Carl called out all of the units. York County has given their dispatchers information regarding the two different entities. Duty Officers should be aware of this and ask Warden's what resources they want (i.e., dog's, etc.) to avert any more problems.

Richard Bowie said that DEEMI has flown their fixed wing aircraft on two searches: Maine Marine Patrol requested DEEMI to search for the missing lobsterman, Byron Gross, in the area of Deer Isle and Little Deere Isle. Targets were located using digital overflight technology which was then acted upon by the combined efforts of the State and Marine Patrol Dive Team. The body was later found washed up in the same area as the target in a mud flat at low tide. VIASAR analysts determined the target was Mr. Gross.

At the request of Bangor PD, DEEMI performed two digital overflights to locate Matt Lacrosse, who was last seen leaving a sports bar in downtown Bangor. They had no targets of interest. A report from a witness who heard screaming which seemed to 'fade', was consistent with the investigator's belief that Mr. Lacrosse had fallen / gone into the Kenduskeag Stream off from the small bridge on State Street.

There was a search in Bradford for a man that had not come back home and Paul Magoon was the only person to be fielded before the man walked out on his own.

Old Business: Website - will have our website after the new year.

Steve Hudson discussed that BASAR doesn't meet what MASAR had in mind. The past couple of years, Randy sent instructors to teams for their BASAR training. We should have quality instructors from some of the units who are able to instruct at least some of the units within BASAR.

A BASAR training used to be on Friday evening, then all day Saturday and Sunday for a full 20 hours. The Education Director shortened this to 16 hours. At the MASAR Fall Exercise during the BASAR course, there were more failures (5) in the testing phase than was expected and these failures were from those who have not had the practical experience but only the BASAR course. Having the BASAR test *after* practical experience was garnered was discussed.

New Business: Mick Womersley announced that David "Heavy" Whalley, will be visiting from Scotland. Heavy was a member of the RAF from 1972 to December 2007. He has been involved with the RAF Mountain Rescue Service (MRS, or just MR) for 35 years. He is planning a U.S. and Canadian lecture tour to cities and towns where there is strong interest on mountaineering, mountain rescue, and emergency response. He will give a slideshow of his photography relating to rescue and mountaineering in general, and talk about his mountain rescue and emergency response experiences. Heavy is an animated and passionate speaker, and his photography is superb. Tour dates are tentative, but roughly mid-April to mid June 2008. This is a not-for-profit tour intended to boost SAR, mountain rescue and mountain conservation in general. Tour venues will be asked to contribute to Heavy's travel expenses and to provide a night or two of lodging. For more information, please contact Mick (mwomersley@unity.edu).

Reading glasses were left in Alfred after the MASAR Fall Exercise. Please contact the MASAR secretary if you have lost your glasses.

Gary Drinkwater requested that we have our Spring MASAR Exercise be held on the same weekend each year - the first weekend of May. Bob Bohlmann made a motion that we establish the Spring MASAR Exercise be set as a permanent date of the first weekend in May. *Gary Drinkwater - motion to accept. Unanimous vote to accept.*

Dave Martin brought up that at the annual meeting the voting procedure regarding CAP. CAP is an 'agency' and therefore doesn't vote. However, Dave's personal feeling is that they should be allowed to vote. They have not been active in the last two years, however, they have been busy with airplane search and rescues. Mike Sawyer mentioned that the SERE School would fit into this category as well.

Dave would like Bill Green (Channel 2 & 6) to do a story on search and rescue if no one objected. Everyone thought this would be a good idea. Dave will contact him.

Fundraising - Dave mentioned MASAR as a group doing fundraisers, maybe like North Star did with their calendars. Monies could then be passed onto the teams. Much discussion ensued regarding how any monies would be delegated. Possibly gas companies would be able to help with our largest expense which is travel (fuel) costs. Mick mentioned different grants that were available. A Finance Committee has been appointed which Bob being the chairperson and Janice Hatch serving on the committee. Janice knows of someone else in her unit whom she thinks might want to serve.

Steve told us that the 126th did an airlift rescue of a blind hiker with a broken ankle. He remarked that wardens do not do 'rescue work' but will search for missing people. They are not skilled in the actual 'rescue work'. Do wardens have the knowledge to "know what they don't know?" MASAR needs to provide information to the wardens about the resources that the search and rescue community can offer them in this venue. Dave has met with various teams as of late and they have all mentioned that there have been searches close by their team and they have not been called in to assist. He mentioned in particular, the search in the fall for the missing woman in Orono. There were two teams right there in Orono and neither was called. The MASAR DO's can help when they receive a call from the wardens by suggesting the right resources be deployed. Calling in the local team(s) and / or the appropriate resource, but the local team(s) should be notified of a search.

Jeremy Priest from Whitten's 2-Way Service, Inc., introduced us to a new product that they have: the SPOT Satellite Messenger. SPOT is the only device of its kind, using the GPS satellite network to acquire its coordinates, and then sending its location - with a link to Google Maps™ - and a pre-programmed message via a commercial satellite network. And unlike Personal Locator Beacons, SPOT does more than just call for help. Tracking your progress, checking in with loved ones, and non-emergency assistance are also available, all at the push of a button. (For more information, please check out www.findmespot.com.)

Date / Location of Next Meeting: March 2, 2008, 1:00 p.m., Sidney, Maine.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Julie R. Jones

Those in attendance: Dave Martin (DIRIGO); Steve Hudson (MDI); Julie Jones (DIRIGO); Mike Sawyer (IF&W); Bob Bohlmann (YCEMA); Eric Sawyer (YCERRT); Paul Magoon (MESARD); Carl Stewart (Lincoln); Richard Bowie (DEEMI); Janice Hatch (MMESAR); Nancy Weeks (MMESAR); Jason Frantz (Northern Somerset); Mike Ruman (Northern Somerset); Gary Drinkwater (Waldo); Harvey King (Waldo); Jennifer Fisk (MESARD); Mick Womersley (Unity) and Jeremy Priest (Lincoln SAR and Whitten's 2-Way Service, Inc.)