

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

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MASAR Secretary's Notes

Happy New Year to All! MASAR started 1993 in Bangor with a strong turnout representing many sar teams and agencies. Al Martin chaired the meeting in John McDonough's absence. The meeting opened at 1310 with the Secretary's minutes from December. The report was accepted unanimously. Julie Erb read the Treasurer's report (in Stuart's absence). Report was accepted unanimously. A motion followed the report to allow the funding for the NightSun to go into a money making (savings) account. Motion was accepted and approved.

At 1325, Al Martin raised the question about dues and dues renewal. Suggestions were made for either July 1 or the annual, fall symposium. John O'Dea made the motion that we use the July 1st to June 30th schedule to coincide with financial budgets and MASAR bylaws. Motion was ratified unanimously. Questions were raised on how the bylaws would be amended to reflect the dues schedule. With clarifications on amendments made by Al, Dave and myself, I made the suggestion that everyone should think about what possible amendments that they would like to see and that all proposals should be made at the same time.

Next came the committee reports starting with the standards committee by Dave Martin. The standards committee met on January 9th in Sidney for three to four hours. Dave reported that there are not many substantial changes made since the initial meeting. The next meeting will be on January 24th in Sidney. The next expected changes will deal with tracking standards (for sardogs). The largest problem that the committee hasn't addressed is in evaluating the standards. Recommendations were made that the testing team would include a dog and a non-dog handler and must not be from a (sardog) team. The field evaluations included four tests. Two in-house and two in unknown terrain. Al Martin asked if the committee should send out a rough draft to all teams or just to dog teams. Dave replied that the committee has completed only half of its objectives and that the next update and publication of the rough draft would not be made until after the next committee meeting.

Further committee discussion led to the problem of grandfathering. Dave commented that separation of standards and grandfathering was less than successful. Carter Smith responded by stating that we should get the system down and then we will deal with grandfathering. There was also a question made on outside of state recognition. That question would be addressed at the next committee meeting as well.

At 1350 the communications committee starting with licensing on 155.1600. Carter expected that the paperwork was nearly complete and licensing would follow in the near future. John

O'Dea recommended that a letter should be sent to all teams on policy and procedures are and the proper call signs.

At 1355 Julie Erb gave notice that Search Dogs NorthEast had a new in-state "800" number and that we disband the dispatch for YCWRT. I HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE THAT THE YCWRT DISPATCH IS STILL ACTIVE AND THAT THE ONLY CHANGE TO BE MADE IS THE "800" NUMBER FOR SDNE. A new MASAR/sar resources directory has been published and is dated 15 JAN 93. Unless needed, published changes will be listed in the Secretary's notes.

1410 Not so good news. Baxter Park is now having second thoughts about the training group size. Carter is now pessimistic that the training will be permitted due to potential damage caused by such a large crew. Where else? What if? One possibility is Moosehorn in Calais with 20,000 acres. One disadvantage is that there isn't any technical training area there. ANY SUGGESTIONS ON WHERE TO TRAIN FOR A LARGE GROUP ARE WELCOME!

1420 Comments on the concern of the reduction (and existence) of the Maine IF&W due to legislative considerations. Contact John O'Dea or your area representative for more information.

1430 Steve Hudson related the recent incident that he was called by the Marine Patrol who did not have any understanding about sar resources and sar in Maine. Comments were reiterated that we need to have a package developed on what we do. This could include portions of the IF&W manual.

On another subject, Steve stated that if anyone failed to receive symposium attendance certificates to please contact him.

There will be a Managing the Search Function (MSF) tentatively offered on Saturday Feb. 27th and Saturday/Sunday March 6th and 7th. Cost of attending is around \$100 - \$125. Dave Martin will be the primary instructor.

Another question on the certification business. Will the IF&W continue to issue certificates or will MASAR start issuing them? No answer at this time. Also, should MASAR start compiling a list of certifications (IE Funsar, MSF, etc.)? More to follow in the next few months.

A new committee!!! The Membership Card Committee. This committee's purpose is to develop some sort of membership identification. Committee will consist of Toni Dewsnap, Don Littlefield, and Peter Kliem. Don will chair the committee.

At 1500 Dave passed the message that John McDonough wanted to developed the annual symposium 1.5 to 2 years in advance. Information to include date and location for next year's symposium and the hosting organizations. 1505 the end... Attendance: Carter Smith, Randy Armour, Dave Martin, Al Martin, Don Littlefield, Peter Kliem, Julie Erb, John O'Dea, Steve Hudson, Toni Dewsnap, Philip Whitney (YCWRT) Rob Yates (Acadia East District Ranger), and Capt. Benjamin Ayer (112th Army medevac).

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Kliem, Secretary.