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MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE
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MASAR Secretary's Notes

December's meeting was held at the Sidney IF&W Headquarters. The meeting opened at 1305 with John McDonough chairing. John called the meeting to order and stated that the MASAR recommendation for Canine Standards has been given to the IF&W and that the IF&W SAR Committee is scheduled to meet and discuss these recommendations.

At 1312, the Secretary's minutes were (silently) read. Al commented that the victim climbed over the side of the Knife-edge and then fell. No motion to change the minutes was made. Minutes were accepted unanimously with no discussion.

The Treasurer reported that because the symposium records were not complete, the treasurer's report was inaccurate. Symposium audit needs to be completed. Stuart also stated that the pager bills that he sent out are already one month behind. Stuart will send out bills correcting this time-lag.

At 1335, John updated us on the NightSun fund situation. The Shikar Safari International is trying to go to their board to get funding/approval to help MASAR and the IF&W to pay the remaining balance needed to purchase the helicopter light. The organization is scheduled to meet in January.

At 1345, no one had any questions for Stuart. Steve motioned to accept the Treasurer's report with the provisions regarding the Symposium Audit. With no discussion, the vote was unanimous.

Committee Reports:

Al reported that Sky Page is not reliable past Waterville.

Status of ID Cards are unknown. Don was not present.

Symposium audit not ready. Next time.

Database: Stuart said that he hasn't had a chance to work through the different programs. Hopes to have samples by the February meeting.

Standards: The MASAR Canine Standards recommendation has been sent to the IF&W for approval. The development of Ground Team Standards will start soon. The standards committee is scheduled to meet in Bangor at 10 AM on Sunday, February 6.

At 1355, guest Kevin McGinnis from the Maine Emergency Medical Service (E.M.S.) gave a briefing on LASER (Land Air Sea Emergency Response). The concept of LASER was conceived to be a hospital based air ambulance service. LASER uses resources already available in the state (IE Coast Guard). The LASER program was designed to supplement remote patient transport.

The goal of LASER: The treatment and transport phase is what the program is all about. LASER is designed to organize and document all of the air assets, locate the nearest resources and dispatch them to the incident. This is to be coordinated through one single access telephone (800) number.

LASER currently relies on three resources. Air Med is designated as LASER 1. Bangor 112th and Capitol Ambulance are training on becoming LASER 2. The Forest Service has asked to be called after the other two primary resources.

LASER is putting together a dive accident / cold water training program for the spring.

Concerns: John commented that MASAR has felt left out and that 155.160 is ground SAR's primary dispatch frequency.

Al asked if 155.160 is a frequency that LASER intends to use on a regular basis. Frequency coordination/allocation is managed by Mark Pool from the state.

Some frequencies designated as special emergency have been pulled out to become dedicated E.M.S. frequencies. Multiple support frequencies are needed by E.M.S. to carry out its function. Due to possible mis-communication, it was decided that E.M.S. and SAR could share the 155.160 frequency.

There was discussion regarding license renewal on reallocated frequencies and 155.160.

Kevin asked if SAR would consider merging into the E.M.S./LASER program down the road. Kevin also asked how SAR would impact the use of 155.160. Al put it well by stating that we (volunteers) have possibly 1000 or more radios programmed on this frequency at our expense. Kevin stated that he will commit 155.160 use to be in support of SAR only and will try and utilize 155.280 for primary radio traffic.

John gave Kevin a recap on how MASAR operates, how it is dispatched, and why.

Carter asked about how LASER is formally activated and by whom. (Specifically the helicopters.)

At 1505, John pointed out a potential activation problem by using the Katahdin Rescue as an example where the patient was not certified for requiring emergency medical evacuation even though the rescue was exhausting and dangerous.

Steve added that he would like to see more SAR teams medically trained and with more involvement with E.M.S.

The bottom line is that LASER is essentially a referral service.

At 1520, Dave ended the discussion by stating that we need to look ahead at state dispatching and new develops.

At this point, Kevin had to leave....Further discussion on LASER and the frequency problem was made until 1600.

Dave brought up the issue regarding youth membership and the symposium involvement. How do we deal with this? Al gave a quick recap on past discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 1625 unanimously.

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON JANUARY 9TH AT THE GRAY IF&W HQ's.

Attendance: John McDonough, Carter Smith, Dave Martin, Steve Hudson, William Ricker, Peter Kliem, Randy Armour, Sue Webb, Al Martin, Kevin McGinnis, and Stuart Cady.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Kliem, Secretary.