

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE  
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MASAR Secretary's Notes

The Maine Association for SAR held its April monthly meeting at the IF&W Headquarters in Gray. The meeting opened at 1310 hours with John McDonough chairing.

First topic on the agenda was the Secretary's report. Peter began the report by reviewing the serious mail problems. In brief, Peter has been filing complaints with the Post Office regarding the repeated two week delays on first class mail to go from MA to ME or back. Peter finally got an unofficial explanation as to why. According to a cooperative (unnamed) source inside the Boston facility, the problem is due to a combination of automated machines that are accurate only 12% of the time, Fridays involving payday, and a problem with incompetent and sober workers. Mail often is misrouted to other states and is returned to the sender's home post office and then rerouted to the proper destination.

Solutions include the following: Prepare mail and UPS it (unstamped) to Maine for release, fax a copy to Steve or Randy to reproduce and distribute, have another individual take and distribute the minutes, or try to mail the minutes as best we can under these conditions. After five minutes of discussion, the solution is to prepare the minutes and give the stamped mail to Perry to release directly into the Maine system.

At 1320, John suggested that we delay reading of the minutes due to members not having copies before the meeting. Perry motioned to table the minutes until the next meeting. Motion 2nded and approved.

At 1325, John introduced Lt. Frank Carr from the Brunswick Naval Air Station. Lt. Carr is now the contact person for the rescue helicopters. Yes, they now have a second helicopter available. Stuart has received new donations for the Nightsun light fund. One is from a VFW in Bath, ME for \$1000. The second is from a Kiwanis in that area for \$200. Other sources have expressed interest to contribute.

Stuart continued with the Treasurer's report giving the current figures. At 1335, Perry motioned to have Y.C.E.R.R.T.'s date of joining MASAR back-dated to that of York County Wilderness Rescue Team since Y.C.E.R.R.T. is a merger of an existing team and not of a new one. John asked that we table the motion for a moment while we complete the Treasurer's report. John asked for any other questions or comments. Perry motioned to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion 2nded. Unanimous vote.

At 1337, John accepted Perry's motion to back-date Y.C.E.R.R.T.'s date of joining. Motion 2nded and approved.

At 1340, John asked to establish and appoint a Symposium 1993 Audit Committee. Perry pointed out that members of teams

involved with the symposium cannot be part of the audit committee. Unanimous. A motion was made to appoint 3 to the audit committee. Motioned 2nded. Discussion included John explaining why he is asking for volunteers. At 1345, those present reaffirmed the motion to give John the ability/authorization to appoint the committee members. Perry requested that we move (the motion). Vote to move the motion was yea with one opposed. Motion unanimous. Committee members appointed are Bill Ricker, Michele Fleury, Steve Hudson. Peter gave the members copies of the symposium financial statements.

At 1348, John asked for committee reports.  
SYMPOSIUM 1994: Date has been moved and finalized to October 22/23 at Southern Maine Technical Center in Portland. John presented financial estimates. The symposium is looking at 8-10 vendors attending. Registration fees for attendees is proposed at \$45 early and \$55 at the door.

Perry announced the development of the patch banner where he has asked other SAR resources to donate a patch to support the banner. Perry also stated that he was sending a letter out regarding the K9 SAR Award. Please send nominations to John. If changes in the award are desired, please send to John a.s.a.p. before the 18th. Nominations are requested by August at the latest in order to decide the recipient in September. The President of the Maine Federation of Humane Societies will present the award. Eligibility requirements for the K9 SAR Award are available upon request. John asked for any other questions regarding the symposium. End of topic.

At 1405, Steve discussed ID Cards. He explained how and why the ID cards were set up and how the teams will fill out the information for the members. John recapped his meeting with the IF&W in Greenville regarding ID Cards and how we can utilize the ID cards to show training levels. The IF&W will participate in deciding how to show this information for consistency and efficiency. Steve added that those teams who did not submit a membership roster will not receive ID cards for their members. The question was asked on whether the individuals need be MASAR members. Steve answered that the ID Cards are not membership cards. John continued that the cards are meant to fulfill a multiple function supported by a database tracking the information.

At 1420, John spoke on behalf of the standards committee. Every organization should have received a copy of the K9 Standards. The Standards Committee is accepting documentation and training records for grand-fathering and for testing. The committee is asking for suggestions and submissions for ground team standards. The first draft for ground team standards should be produced for June. Steve recapped the letter he sent out regarding the process for developing the upcoming ground standards.

Julie asked questions regarding grand-fathering as well as asking if it was ok to send a copy to Marian Hardy.

At 1430, Communications had nothing new to report although

there has been report problems with accuracy and reliability with the Summit Communications dispatching center. Perry updated the situation with the current problem and suggested that pager users (of Summit) call 800 866-6648 and ask for Connie. Perry recommended that OD's get on the list to be called by the engineers when the towers go down. Hopefully, the situation will resolve itself.

At 1435, Julie asked questions regarding the Waterboro search last November and call-out procedures. Perry answered explaining how the SAR system works in York County and gave a quick synopsis of the search. Perry pointed out that York County is using a different call-out system between the wardens and the Sheriff's Dept. for local searches. Michele added that the wardens have the right to decide what they want to do and with what resources. John and Perry added that the request for a debriefing was worded strongly. Julie replied that (the answers given) were not answering the question she asked. Sue asked if we were still compiling and forwarding search reports to John. John answered yes. John continued by saying that we have two issues here. One is about the purpose of a critique versus that of a report. The second is that the letter sent may have played a role by "demanding" a critique of the search. John suggested using the term debriefings or after mission/search reports.

At 1505, John asked if there were any other questions regarding the Waterboro (Nov. 5th) search. None. John asked if we could agree to submit a monthly activity report as well as mission reports. End of discussion.

At 1510, John asked to establish a Bylaws Committee. This would be a short term committee consisting of 3 that would be charged with developing recommendations in 30 days to change the MASAR Bylaws. Changes would include those needed for 501c3 requirements. Suggestions for changes would be submitted for review by the next meeting. Motion for committee approved. Committee members are Peter Kliem - Chair, Julie Erb, Perry Hopkins. Please send suggestions for changes A.S.A.P. to Peter.

John gave a MEMA update at 1515 regarding MEMA's SAR Plan and LASER. John's suggestion is that MASAR should get involved. John continued with the insurance issue discussed with Dave Brown, Director of MEMA. There is a concern about the implied employee/employer relationship. Discussion continued with EMA insurance coverage vs. state and IF&W insurance coverage.

At 1520, Peter gave an update regarding MASS ID Cards. There is no system or requirement for ID Cards in Massachusetts nor is there any discussion in creating and administrating one.

At 1525, a question was raised regarding other K9 training standards and the FEMA K9 training program. Julie and Sue commented that the program was inappropriate and inflexible.

Perry motioned at 1530 that MASAR revert to the summer schedule starting in May. Motion to hold the meeting at 4pm (1600 hours) was 1st and 2nded. Quick clarification made in response to why. Vote unanimous.

Announcement: Bill Ricker would like to stand down on the

standards and state-wide training committees. Donald Littlefield offered to fill the position and was accepted.

Motion was made to adjourn at 1535. Motion 1st, 2nded and approved unanimously.

Attendance: Frank Carr - BNAS, Toni Dewsnap - SDNE, Stuart Cady Sr. - SDNE, Steve Hudson - MDI SAR, John McDonough - Wilderness Rescue Team, Peter Kliem - YCERRT, Michele Fleury - MESARD, Perry Hopkins - YCERRT, Roger Bintliff - YCERRT, Joan Soulard - YCERRT, Mary Rohde - YCERRT, Jim Corbett - YCERRT, William Ricker - CAP, Jeanne Morgan - Tri-Town SAR, Donald Littlefield - CAP, Annabella Morse - SDNE, Julie Erb - SDNE, Sue Webb - SDNE.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Peter Kliem, MASAR Secretary.

### ATTENTION !

DUE TO A CONFLICT IN SCHEDULING WITH SMTC, THE 1994 MASAR SYMPOSIUM HAS HAD TO BE MOVED TO SAT/SUN OCTOBER 15TH AND 16TH.

This change occurred after April's meeting. Sorry for any confusion. Please mark the change on your calendar.

### NEXT MEETING !

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE IF&W HEADQUARTERS IN BANGOR. THE MEETINGS WILL NOW START AT 1600 HOURS FOR THE DURATION OF THE SUMMER! PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR.