

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE  
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MASAR Secretary's Notes

The Maine Association for SAR held its monthly meeting at the IF&W Headquarters in Bangor. The meeting opened at 1600 hours with John McDonough chairing.

At 1606, the March 6th Minutes were silently read. Steve Hudson moved to accept the minutes as written. Motion was 2nded and unanimously approved without discussion.

At 1610, the April 10th Minutes were silently read. Julie Erb asked for the following two corrections/amendments: Under Attendance, Toni Deswnap is with Wilderness Rescue Team and not SDNE even though she signed in under both. Also, at 1435 in April's meeting, questions were asked by Julie and Annabella if there was an October search in York County. Comments/answers were given that there was none and that the search being referred to occurred in the beginning of November. Finally, a clarification was asked by John if Don Littlefield replaced William Ricker in both committees (state-wide training and standards). Since Don had not yet arrived, the clarification was tabled. At 1620, a motion to accept the minutes as amended with both corrections was made. Motion was 2nded and approved with no discussion.

At 1620, Don Littlefield arrived. Don clarified that he replaced William Ricker on the State Wide Training Committee only. The position on the Standard's Committee is still open. Clarification accepted. After discussion regarding filling the position, a notice would be made regarding the opening. After further discussion, Debbie Palman offered to fill the position if the logistics could be worked out. John accepted the offer. The Standards Committee now consists of the following members: Randy Armour, Steve Hudson, Dave Martin, John McDonough and Debbie Palman.

At 1625, Stuart gave the Treasurer's report. Updates have been made regarding general account and pager information. Updates are being made to reflect the new donations for the NightSun light-fund. Motion to accept the report was 2nded and unanimously approved without discussion.

At this point, the 1993 Symposium Audit Committee gave their report. All records are in order with no problems. John thanked the Audit Committee for their assistance and declared that the committee can stand down.

At 1632, John updated the membership with current information regarding the planning of the 1994 Symposium. Wilderness Rescue Team signed an agreement for the Symposium for the dates of October 15th/16th with the option to hold an event on Friday the 14th. SMTA Culinary Arts School has backed out of their offer to cater the symposium. Wilderness Rescue Team is

now looking at other options. There is a possibility to hold a Managing the Search Function (MSF) course at the symposium. There is also a possibility to have an MSF course in the spring during a proposed K9 SAR School to be held in the Bar Harbor area. Debbie commented that we could possibly hold both because of the potential demand from the IF&W.

At 1640, Julie suggested that information regarding courses and the symposium be sent directly to the Lieutenants for NH Fish and Game and that she would try to get their names and addresses. John requested that one member from each team help out with the symposium. Symposium discussion continued with Julie being asked if Marian Hardy/Brooke Holt are coming up? Don't know. John asked if there was anything else on Symposium 1994. None.

At 1643, an ID Cards update was given. John has been signing and signing and signing. Al Martin commented that the committee has not met yet to discuss how the cards are going to be used. They are currently looking at the tag system. "IE T-Cards." Discussion continued with Al stating that they have not yet met with the two IF&W representatives. John suggested that Al set a date with Keith and call Carter.

At 1648, John stated that he has received some comments and suggestions regarding the K9 standards. Decision: The Standards Committee will look at the concerns and will decide if it is worthwhile to re-open the standards for discussion. Dates were made for the Standards Committee to meet regarding the development of ground standards. More discussion.

At 1700, John asked Steve for a quick update on the ground standards development. Steve reported that the Standards Committee is working on ground standards in three parts. One is updating Maine's version of SAR Fundamentals. The second is developing a draft of the training and testing standards. The third is revising the proposed standards and developing the instructor/evaluator program. The primary emphasis on ground standards is using aspects of the FUNSAR and SAR TECH programs.

Further discussion led to an update on ASTM F32 - SAR Standards. ASTM develops high standards when completed. ASTM is very expensive to join. More discussion. Comment: To join as Profit vs Non-profit. Non-Profit is at a disadvantage because of the cost to go to these meetings. Steve commented that once ASTM develops a standard, it is basically law. Al added that we (MASAR) should start by asking NASAR to step in regarding our concerns. John's concern is that NASAR is not part of the ASTM committee. Al added that we should ask NASAR to become involved in this process and become a member of ASTM because NASAR represents many organizations and associations. John said that he has a list of the ASTM officers. Al thinks that the MASAR Standards Committee should get all of the ASTM SAR Standards and get updates as they come out. Al also suggested that MASAR should become a NASAR member and suggest that NASAR join and get involved with ASTM. Steve commented that he is unimpressed with NASAR and what can we (MASAR) say to NASAR since we are not a NASAR member. John concluded the discussion by saying that he

will write NASAR. He thinks that MASAR should become actively involved. Steve moved that MASAR join NASAR as an individual. Motioned 2nded. Steve thinks the cost is about \$50. Discussion: On voting membership, John doesn't see the difference between organizational and individual membership. Both receive one vote. Motion to join NASAR was unanimous. At 1725, John asked if there was anything else regarding standards. None.

Al gave a Communications committee report. There has been discrepancies in the old Summit billing (\$115) verses Page New England billing (\$86). Al to check on billing to investigate the reason for the difference. Al continued by explaining that SkyPage will improve in a couple of years with the addition of new satellites. Al suggested that we sit and wait to see what happens. SkyPage could work with the best coverage but it will be very expensive. Al also suggested that Summit and Page NewEngland is now one company with two separate systems. It might be possible for some OD pagers to be switched to the alternate system. Al thinks that going with one system was initially good. However, he thinks that it would be a good idea for each pager holder to speak with the local representative to see if a change to the alternate system is possible with little/no change in overall cost. Any pager holders with questions should speak to Al. Al added that it has taken a year to answer John's question that there is no good solution to the pager problem. John asked about the price breaks. Will this foul up the billing? Al answered that there is simply no one answer. Each person should contact the local representative and discuss the issue. John asked Al to contact Page NewEngland about the billing, our dilemma, and that all want to be billed under the same account. For all pager holders, MASAR's customer number is #329127. Further discussion on pager billing. John concluded the discussion by asking that all OD Pager holders go in and investigate what you can do regarding service and cost changes. End of discussion.

At 1750, Peter gave the Bylaws Committee report. Two suggestions for Bylaws were presented. One by Peter, the second by Julie. Discussion resulted with comments that both documents need to be merged before the membership looks at the proposal.

At 1800, Peter motioned to suspend any new applications for membership through the July meeting. A point of order was made that this extends past the fiscal year as well as a request to clarify the motion. Peter tried to explain that York County E.R.R.T.'s concern is due to the proposed changes in the bylaws. The proposal contains material that restrict voting and leadership requirements to non-residents. Peter continued by trying to explain that by temporarily suspending membership, this would limit any potential problems by involving new members. At this time, anyone and any organization from anywhere can submit an application without any restrictions in voting privileges or probationary time limits. The motion to temporarily suspend membership was not seconded.

Steve motioned that the two proposals be sent back to the

Bylaws Committee to be merged and to deal with problems in the documents. In one document, give both views and that the whole committee must meet and discuss these views. Discussion continued where Julie strongly differed on the proposal developed by Peter and Perry. Steve restated the motion. Motion was 2nded and approved with one abstention by Peter.

At 1820, John gave a LASER update. A meeting for LASER was held in Augusta on April 26th. Ron Moren, formally of Sugarloaf Rescue, has taken over as chair of LASER. LASER is being redone to include the State Police and Brunswick N.A.S. Helicopter. Ron asked if MASAR wanted to be "plugged" into it. Julie commented that we should contribute so long as the SAR frequency 155.160 is not used. LASER is trying to create a decision tree to be used during a request. However, they still want medical control to decide if a helicopter is necessary. More discussion of specifics and scenarios. Paul Magoon discussed protocol set up from the point of view of an ambulance service. At 1830, John asked for any further questions. End of discussion.

Next topic on the agenda is the state-wide SAR exercise. Michelle said that she hasn't heard anything of or about the IF&W. Discussion was made regarding delays. Michelle suggested that we write IF&W and decline a fall exercise and start planning for one in late May. Al motioned that we (MASAR) want to hold the SAR exercise next May. Motion was 2nded. Vote was unanimous without discussion.

At 1835, John asked to set the agenda for the next meeting. Peter suggested that we start at 1300 hours instead of 1600 hours due to the bylaws. Anything else? None.

At 1837, John asked for anything else. Julie commented that SDNE attended Unity College's new student day and that the forestry department is looking at adding a SAR elective to its curriculum.

At 1840, the topic of funding for searches was discussed including how you receive funding and should victims be billed.

Last but not least, here are some directory changes:

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H (207) 874-0150 P (207) 758-1989

Water and Wilderness SAR Gerry Michaud RR#1 Box 282  
Readfield, ME 04355 H (207) 685-3637 W (207) 897-1319  
P (207) 823-0454 Dive Shop (207) 685-3736 ???

Motion to adjourn was made at 1850. Motion was 2nded and unanimously accepted. Next meeting is on June 5th at Sidney.

Attendance: John McDonough, Steve Hudson, Randy Armour, Peter Kliem, Jennifer Applegate, Paul Magoon, Michelle Fleury, Stuart Cady, Debbie Palman, Al Martin, Julie Erb, Sue Webb, Don Littlefield, Dave Martin, John O'Dea.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Peter Kliem, MASAR Secretary.