

MASAR Monthly Meeting Minutes 5 June 1994

The June meeting of MASAR opened at 1:15 PM, with John McDonough presiding. The following officers, representatives, and individual members were present:

Randy Armour - Lincoln CEP	Stephen Croteau - SDNE
Julie Erb - SDNE	Michelle Fleury - MESARD
Steve Hudson - MDISAR	John McDonough - Wilderness
Tom McLaughlin - SDNE	Annabella Morse - SDNE
Sue Webb - SDNE	

Peter Kleim was not present, therefore Steve Hudson volunteered to act as temporary secretary.

Secretary's Report

As the meeting minutes had not been mailed until 31 May, many members had not had an opportunity to go through them. Julie moved that acceptance of the minutes be delayed until the July meeting. Sue Webb seconded the motion, which passed with 4 Yea votes and 1 abstention.

Treasurer's Report

Stuart Cady was not able to make the meeting due to a schedule conflict, therefore John McDonough read from Stuart's message to him. The present balances in MASAR's accounts are as follows:

Light Fund	\$3,974.19
<u>MASAR Funds</u>	<u>\$1,229.33</u>
Total Balance	\$5,203.52

Stuart's report noted that he has gotten thank-you's written to all those who have donated to the MASAR Light Fund, with the exception of three whose addresses he has not yet received.

Sue Webb moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted; Julie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Additional Light Fund information

John read Gary Anderson's letter to the President of Maine Yankee, written to determine if Maine Yankee would follow up on its offer to assist with the purchase of the Night Sun. Gary is concerned about the approaching end of the State's fiscal year, and would like to see the Night Sun purchased as soon as possible. John proposed that the organizational members of MASAR make donations to the Light Fund to complete the fund raising. This met with general agreement; John will send a letter out

to the organizational members.

1994 Symposium Committee Report

John McDonough reported for the Wilderness Rescue Team's committee. The first mailing will be going out the week of 12-18 June, and will include an early registration form. Most of the instructors have been chosen, but there are a few still to be found. An MSF course will be offered, and possibly a 2-day course in ICS. SOLO has been chosen over Wilderness Medical Associates to provide additional medical and rescue classes, as WMA failed to meet several of the symposium committee's requirements. Some possible courses to be offered at the symposium by SOLO include low angle rescue methods, high angle rescue techniques, wilderness medical assessment, and backcountry patient care. Advertisements for the symposium have been sent out for publication.

ID Card Committee Report

Steve Hudson gave a brief overview of the plans to date for the use of the ID cards. Each person in an organized SAR unit in the State of Maine, whether the unit is an organizational member of MASAR or not, will receive a card. Once a training level tracking system in MASAR is set up, each person will receive annually a label listing their level(s) of training. These cards will eventually be used for tracking search and/or rescue team members at an incident and for determining what resources are on hand.

In response to a question regarding identification for dog teams, it was noted that each dog will receive an individual identification card.

Standards Committee Report

John McDonough reported for the committee. During the latest session, held before the June monthly MASAR meeting, the committee responded to letters it had received which pertained to the Search Dog Standard. The concerns in these letters were addressed by the members of the committee, and John will be sending individual letters to those who wrote, explaining what the committee intends to do in each situation.

In other business, the committee is working on its evaluation of MESARD, and those member teams for which MESARD has requested certification. The committee expects to begin the actual certification process in July for MESARD teams.

Communications Committee Report

Randy reported for the committee. He has learned from Summit Communications that pagers may be upgraded to a different status to improve their range in state. This may not, however, improve local reception for those who are having difficulty. Tom McLaughlin proposed that the committee send out written requests for proposals to provide pager service for MASAR in Maine, and then choose the best offer based on the response. This suggestion may be utilized in the future; for the present, John McDonough will ask Rick Farris of Waldo County Search and Rescue to contact the President of Page New England to get a clear explanation of the pager

range, reception, and accessories options available to MASAR members.

While on the topic of electronic communications, Tom McLaughlin asked what DIRIGO had learned while using their new GPS receiver. He had heard that they had had difficulties in getting fixes due to forest cover. John will ask Dave or Al Martin for a report at the next meeting.

Status of Radio Frequency 155.160

Tom asked if there had been any changes re the intended use by LASER of 155.160 as a dispatch frequency. Following a repetition of previous discussions of LASER's plans, Steve Hudson volunteered to contact the FCC office in Belfast to find out what avenues are open to SAR teams licensed on 155.160 to prevent the indiscriminate use of that frequency for ground-to-air communications and air ambulance dispatching.

Bylaw Committee Report

The bylaw committee was officially dissolved by John McDonough at the request of its members. John McDonough will ask 3 organizational members of MASAR to provide an individual member to sit on the committee. The proposals put forward by the members of the previous committee will be provided to this committee for reference only.

Sue Webb suggested that in the future MASAR might do well to ask for volunteers and let the unit representatives go back to their respective teams and ask for volunteers to sit on these committees. Steve Croteau proposed that the new bylaws should include a requirement that a committee shall be formed periodically to reevaluate them.

ASTM

Steve Hudson reported that he had joined as an individual member, listing MASAR as the organization of which he is a member. He will report on the last meeting when he receives the minutes from ASTM. John suggested that it would be a good idea if each SAR team had one member join ASTM to increase voting power, insure that all of the subcommittee had a member from Maine, and provide more comment from the Northeast.

Statewide SAR Training

John reported that he had talked to Glynn Pratt, one of the two wardens organizing the statewide training. Glynn was disappointed with the small number of responses he received from teams regarding what they would like to see in this training. John pointed out that if teams didn't respond to Glynn's letter, the training might well not meet any of their needs. John has asked Perry Hopkins to send out a letter under John's name reminding teams that they need to answer Glynn's letter.

TV Coverage of SAR in Maine

John reported on a recent program on Channel 10. It featured an interview with

Dan Tourtelotte which focused on SAR in Maine, but gave little information on the part played by the members of Maine SAR teams. It was suggested that we contact Channel 10 to publicize the role of the unpaid professional searchers. John will contact the person at Channel 10 who directed the show to see if there is any interest in portraying 'our side', as it were.

Recent Search Reports

Michelle Fleury gave a brief report on the activities of MESARD members in the recent search for a missing 70-year old man in Bradford. Tom McLaughlin reported on SDNE's activities in the following searches:

- Possible drowning - Whitingham, NH
- Possible suicide - Potash Mt., NH
- Missing Alzheimer's patient - Wellesley, MA
- Evidence search in New Hampshire
- Missing Alzheimer's patient - Sherbourne, MA
- Drowning victim search - Walpole, ME

New Members and Monthly Meetings

Steve Croteau suggested that maps should be sent out to all members, especially new ones, so that they can come to MASAR's monthly meetings. Randy was asked by John to send out maps to all members showing the locations of the three Warden Service offices we regularly use.

There were several comments made about how valuable a new member packet would be. John asked Julie Erb to form a committee of one to put together a new member information folder.

Next Meeting and Agenda

The next meeting will be on Sunday, 10 July 1994, in Gray at the Warden Service Headquarters there. The agenda will include:

- Reading of May Meeting Minutes for corrections/additions
- Committee Reports
- Distribution of Membership Cards
- Laser Update
- Light Fund Status
- New Member Package Status

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Hudson
Temporary Secretary

