

MASAR Monthly Meeting Minutes

7 August 1994

John McDonough opened the meeting at 16:05 with the following members present: Randy Armour, Keith Heavrin, Steve Hudson, Al Martin, John McDonough, Paul Magoon, Deb Palman and Chip Wadsworth.

As the first item of business, John notified those present that Peter has resigned the secretary's position as of Aug. 1. John will appoint a new secretary to serve until the elections at the MASAR conference. He asked for a volunteer to take notes at the meeting, and it was decided that Keith would take the notes, Debbie would type them and Randy would distribute them.

John noted that the June minutes had not been voted on at the past meetings. Al couldn't remember why they were not acted upon, but speculated that it was because no one had read them. Following this, the May, June, and July meeting minutes were voted on separately, and all were unanimously accepted as written.

Debbie mentioned that she had talked with Dave Martin after the search in Howland and heard his concerns about the lack of credit given to the volunteer groups in the Bangor Daily News. She talked on Monday to the IF&W media coordinator, Paul Fornier, and was assured by Paul that all the volunteer group names, warden's names, departments involved, etc. were given to the press as is his custom after all searches and incidents. Unfortunately, often the paper chooses to print only the group who actually found the victim. Some discussion was held about writing a letter to the editor after the search.

Debbie suggested that an alternative way to gain recognition would be to submit an "end of year" report to Warden Service and an article to the IF&W magazine on the contributions MASAR has made for the year. John mentioned that he will have the figures available as part of his own records. John also mentioned that he will be meeting with a reporter from the Portland Sunday Telegram to do an article on SAR.

There was some discussion about the Bylaws Committee and how it has gotten bogged down. John asked if anyone else wants to be part of the committee. The committee now consists of a member from Dirigo, Wilderness, SDNE, York and Waldo Co.

Treasurer's Report:

There is \$1000.60 in the regular fund and \$1100 in the Night Sun fund. The Night Sun light was ordered in mid June, and was paid for with a check for \$6000.00. The Navy still needs a second hook up unit, so John is asking for more contributions from the SAR community. So far, the following groups have contributed: MDI \$500, Wilderness \$100, and SDNE \$300.

Since there is no official report available at this meeting, the Treasurer's Report will be tabled until next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Symposium: Advertising for the symposium has appeared in several magazines. The mailing of registration forms to the groups has been completed. John reports that they have only ten advance registrations and urges all MASAR members to get their registrations in ASAP. Full literature will be mailed out in mid August. The MASAR meeting and election will take place at the end of the symposium.

John asked Al about plans for a teenage SAR conference, and Al said that they had delayed plans until 1995. Dave will do an R.F.P. for our symposium. [Typist's Note: Neither Keith or I knew what R.F.P. meant.] John will ask Paul to make a presentation at the next MASAR meeting about the symposium.

ID Cards: Randy reports that none have been done yet as he has not received rosters from all the teams. He is missing Dirigo and York Co. He asked how to do the dogs' cards, and others replied that they should have a separate card. The cards will have a name and picture on the front. The teams will be responsible for filling in the information and laminating the cards. The ID card committee will be meeting in 10 days or so.

Standards: Steve reports that the committee has made progress on the ground searcher standard and will be formulating a written test which will be administered to people who wish to be certified but have not taken a FUNSAR course. A basic physical fitness test is being considered now and will be a walk/run or step test.

Al asked about MASAR's opinions on the Red Cross. He said that the National Safety Council has been formulating a program partly because many are dissatisfied with the Red Cross system with its complications and high costs. He asked if anyone knew anything about the Safety Council's Program, and suggested that MASAR consider sending an instructor to be certified.

Keith expressed his frustration over the slowness of the dog team certification process. Steve reported that only one unit had submitted most of the paperwork needed. He will be sending out letters to the units repeating what is needed for grandfathering.

Communications: Al reports that it seems that the Summit/Page New England system is going downhill with tower problems and fewer service reps. A new, Maine owned, company called Northeast Paging has formed largely from old Summit employees and appears to be expanding its service areas and eventually will probably offer better service than Page New England. One advantage of their system is that they use only one frequency and therefore one pager for the whole area. The disadvantage of this is that messages may not be sent as fast when the system is backed up. Currently Newcastle and Hinckley are bad areas, but they plan to cover all of the state in the future. They have a central office in Westbrook with service reps and drop points across the state. They may have regional offices in the future. The prices are comparable to New England.

Al asked John to write a letter to Northeast requesting

paggers to test. The unit leaders and presidents will be the contact persons.

ASTM: Steve Hudson has submitted his name to be on two committees: SAR Hardware and Search Operations. Debbie mentioned that she sent comments to the ASTM dog committee. The next ASTM meeting is in Phoenix, AZ.

Laser Update: John has nothing to report. Steve mentioned that the Midcoast EMS symposium listed a class on the future of air medical in Maine, and that it will be given by a highly qualified speaker.

SAR Exercise: Apparently the exercise was cancelled because not enough teams replied to the Warden Service letter asking for participation. There may be an exercise next May.

Old and New Business: Steve is working up a letter to the Maine EMS leaders asking what documentation is needed for a non licensed medical provider. In short, when do "wilderness" protocols apply and what services can SAR people supply. What is the definition of transport time, etc., so we know when the good Samaritan laws apply and when they do not.

Al reminded the group that we had voted in the past to have an SAR exercise in May.

The next meeting will be at Sydney at 1600 hours on Sept.
11. The agenda will be:

1. Symposium 1994 (report by Paul)
2. Committee Reports
3. Laser Update

The meeting adjourned at 18:36.

Respectfully Submitted,



Keith Heavrin and Deborah Palman, Temporary Secretaries