

Maine Association For Search And Rescue

Monthly Meeting Minutes

12 / 4 / 94

Meeting is called to order at 1315 hours.

Present - John McDonough, Al Martin, Randy Armour, Steve Hudson, Rick Farris, Keith Heavrin, Peggy McLaughlin, Tom McLaughlin, Paul Magoon, Don Littlefield.

Announcements -

John McDonough announces that Keith Heavrin has accepted the MASAR Secretaries Office having been elected in absentia at the November meeting, "Welcome aboard".

John also announces that the K-9 team test of MESARD's Bob Magda and his dog Abbe went very well and that they passed the test. It was conducted by Jerry Sukforth and Rick Farris. Rick said they were surprised when the dog alerted and led her handler to the victim, who was in a tree, from approximately 250 yards away. John says the testing team felt that a couple of changes to the test form used at that time would be constructive and the Standards Committee is amending the form.

Peggy McLaughlin asks John about the requirements for Grandfathering under the newly adopted MASAR Dog Standards and John gave a rundown of the requirements, which can be found in Appendix A of the new standard document.

Secretary's Report -

There being no errors or omissions in the November meeting minutes, Keith moves to accept as written with Don making a second to the motion. Vote is unanimous to accept.

Treasurers Report-

Peggy hands out two sheets with the transactions and balances for the MASAR checking and Savings accounts. MASAR now has \$580.89 in checking and \$1062.19 in the savings account. Al makes a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Rick, and the vote is unanimous to accept.

John forwards that we need to start paying attention to fund raising. It is suggested that we may be able to use our skills in the areas that we are good at to generate money for the group. It is clear that the expenses involved with just our mailing for the month, at about \$40 per for getting the minutes out, are going to go up with the postage increase.

Al suggest we consider aligning ourselves with some larger group like The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine so that we might get support from them. He also suggests we might consider upping our dues rates.

John asks that "Everyone should consider fund raising ideas and present them soon".

Committee Reports -

Symposium Questionnaire report-

All Martin gives a breakdown of the information received so far, but states that they are going to wait for a while yet before compiling the final results. As of the meeting, 25 questionnaires had been returned and several areas seem to be emerging as suggestions to improve the symposium. The first of these was that a large number of those returned felt they needed better information, including time schedules for classes, sooner than they had gotten this years information. Apparently some people held off mailing checks till quite late or didn't mail them at all because of not having that information. The second suggested improvement was that many would like to see more outdoor instruction and hands on classes, "by example", in conjunction with the

classroom instruction. Anyone who has not returned the questionnaire please do so as soon as possible so the data can be included in the final results.

A general discussion ensued about MASAR symposium ideas. Keith asked what were maximum attendance figures from past symposiums. The most ever attending was 117, with another year being 100, but usually attendance has been less than 75 people.

John states that the attempt to sponsor a regional symposium may have been untimely and that we need to scale back and offer events more like training weekends or workshops. The symposium, as it is now organized, should be put on hold for 1995 in favor of these workshops or training weekends. This is likely to occur as nothing has come forward yet towards a symposium for 1995. John also mentions that he has been told by Warden Service that they regret not having been more supportive and more active in the 1994 symposium.

Al suggests that, at some point, we need to have a general discussion of the purpose of the symposium and who we need to target for the training to be offered.

Paul Magoon gives a brief oversight of the successful Berkshire SAR symposium. The main features were that everyone stayed in the same place where camping was available and quite a bit took place outdoors. Paul also offers that it would be good to have some courses offered more than once when course times conflict with other popular courses.

Al offers that we may need to consider a format in which each of the MASAR member groups will be responsible for some aspect of the symposium so that all contribute instead of the single group host method we now use.

Paul suggests possibly setting the symposium up to tie into or include the EMS personnel in the state.

Al asks if another questionnaire might not be advisable and it is generally agreed to put a hold on that idea for the time being.

May 1995 Field Exercise report -

Al says they are looking at areas between Waterville and Bangor to hold a weekend type training exercise. Rick suggests we look into Camden Hills State Park. An advantage here is that the weekend in question is well before the park is opened for the season. It is also suggested that enough training problems be set up so that more people are involved and fewer experience dry runs.

Steve suggests that camping out one night on the weekend may as well include camping the second night too. (Sec. condenses discussion to) = It would give the opportunity for a full day on Saturday for the training exercise and the opportunity to do some outdoor hands on classes in the morning on Sunday before people departed. Al observes that it will probably be like a search where folks will be coming in at all hours.

Keith suggests that field exercise participants sharing in some sort of cookout or feast in which all contribute is a good team builder and a lot of fun. It was one of the big draws for people attending a New Brunswick province wide SAR gather in 1993 and made for a lot of comraderie.

Randy and Rick both support networking or team building time or activities.

John suggests that the membership should support the May Field Exercise 100%.

Standards Committee report -

Steve Hudson reports that the Standards Committee met last Sunday and revised the dog standards test form based on suggestions made from the first two tests conducted on MESARD teams. The Standards Committee has agreed to blanket certify all of the MESARD teams that applied for grandfathering based on the current testing results of first an experienced, or advanced MESARD dog team, and then on a second newer or recently certified team, as well as MESARD's records and training to an acceptable training standard. Notification will be sent to them within two weeks. Steve says the committee will be looking at Search Dog North East's grandfathering application next but that they were still waiting for some information from them.

The Standards Committee has completed work on the Ground Search Standards but needs to make a revision in one of the appendices. The committee is working up a process to certify units in the state to the new

standard. Steve says the Ground Search Standards document should be ready to present to the membership at the January meeting.

Bylaws Committee report -

Rick Farris reports that the Bylaws Committee met this morning (Dec. 4th) and made progress by revising several articles in the working document they are using. He says they may be able to finish the document by the next monthly meeting.

Communications -

Al reports nothing new and no changes to previous pager information.

Steve says he talked to an FCC representative in Belfast last week. Issue is that apparently the State Police told LASER they could use 155.160 in their helicopters. It is legal for them to do so.

John says there is nothing new on the low band radios CMP offered to donate to MASAR. A discussion of the disposition of and how best to recycle them will wait till they are in hand. Tom offers to re-crystal them for no labor charge if that ends up being needed.

John interrupts the committee reports to turn the meeting over to Al Martin as he has to leave at 1430 hours. Al assumes the chair and committee reports continue.

American Society for Testing and Materials -

Steve gives a brief description of the ASTM organization and what they do in response to a question from Keith. ASTM is a large national organization that has gained a high credibility in writing standards and testing procedures for a wide variety of activities and materials. One of their committees is working currently on a dog search standard. Steve relates that they are highly respected, especially from a legal documentation point of view, by the government and the legal system.

I.D. Cards -

Al reports nothing new or changed. Rick is asked if he might be able to bring the camera and laminating gear to the May field exercise. He will check into it but feels confident he would be able to do so.

Correspondence - Prior to leaving, earlier in the meeting, John reported no recent correspondence.

Next Meeting - The next monthly MASAR meeting will be held in Sidney, Me. at Warden Service headquarters. at 1300 hours, on January 8th.

AGENDA

1. Secretary's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Committee Reports
 - a) Symposium, 94 Questionnaire
 - b) May Field Exercise.
 - c) Standards Committee
 - d) By-Laws Committee
 - e) I.D. Cards
 - f) Communications
4. Correspondence
5. Set Next Meeting Agenda

Meeting is adjourned at 1510 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith R. Heavrin Jr.
Keith R. Heavrin Jr. Secretary