

# Maine Association For Search And Rescue

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

1 / 8 / 95

Meeting is called to order at 1310 hours . Chairman John McDonough

**Present-** John McDonough, Steve Hudson, Tom McLaughlin , Peggy McLaughlin, Phil DuPerry, Keith Heavrin, Dave Martin, Rick Ferris, Randy Armour.

### Announcements -

John announces that Gary Anderson and Dan Tourtelot will be working jointly as the Warden Service SAR coordinators as of the retirement of Carter Smith. Both men are highly qualified and familiar to us in the SAR community . John mentions that Gary is updating safety issues and it would be timely for Dave to get a copy of his dive suit letter out to Gary .

Both the scheduled day and the alternate day for the night sun media event at Brunswick Naval Air Station have been cancelled. No word about rescheduling as yet.

### Secretary's Report-

The minutes from MASAR's last meeting on 12/4/94 are read . There being no errors or omissions Tom makes a motion to accept them as written. Motion is seconded by Steve and the vote is unanimous to accept the minutes.

### Treasurer's Report-

Peggy hands out sheets listing all transactions in MASAR's savings and Checking accounts , including balances, for the last month.

Phil asks when or if there will be a reconciliation of the symposium accounts . John says Paul Labbe has been called and will be getting together with Phil to do that .

Steve moves to accept the Treasurer's report as written . Tom seconds the motion and the vote is 8 in favor with one abstaining.

A discussion of dues begins with the observation that quite a few members have not paid as yet. It is agreed to give members a one month grace period for dues payment before removing them from the mailing list. Last year a problem occurred where the dues were due in June but the notification didn't go out until November. Peggy and Randy make it clear that such mistakes will not occur this year. Randy says we are carrying 3 or 4 agencies but quite a few organizations have not paid up . Several amendments are voted then the following paragraph is voted into the minutes unanimously.

**We need your support and input but can no longer absorb the cost of keeping you informed. For those individual members and organizations who have not paid dues, this is notification that unless dues are paid up you will be removed from the mailing list. .**

### Committee Reports-

#### Symposium Questionnaire report -

Dave has put together a very good report and handed out a two sheet compilation of the results of the questionnaire. Of the 200 questionnaires sent out 60 came back, which is a very good response. Several questions on the questionnaire resulted in strong responses . The following were areas of concern: (32 )

Responded that the symposium information was inadequate and they wanted to see course schedules in the flyer. (24) Responded that they wanted alternating classroom and outdoor instruction. (18) Responded that they received notification too late. (16) Responded that the dates were not convenient. (15) Responded that they felt the location was wrong, with most of those feeling that it was too far South. Many wanted camping to be available.

John asks if the strongest areas of concern might be dealt with in the planning of the May Field exercise coming up. Dave responds that it appears that this is happening and that the May event will be an entirely different format.

#### May Field Exercise-

Scheduled for May 12th, 13th and 14th. Dave reports that two areas have been looked at. Camden Hills State Park and the Katahdin Scout reservation. In talking to the Park director Dave learned that a special activities request would need to be filed and sent in to Augusta to be approved. His recommendation for approval insures that it would be and he gives that approval. He said that some problems would need to be solved in that the dates for the field day are well before any Park personnel normally prepare anything for having people in the Park. Big drawback is no building to meet in.

Katahdin Scout Reservation (KSR) has recently implemented a user fee schedule for their facilities. Costs for using the main lodge and the mess hall are \$125 a day but the director says we can use it for the whole weekend for \$125. Some of the expense could be deferred by participating in some sort of service project directed towards upkeep at KSR. A discussion ensues as to whether or not a three to five dollar per head attendance fee for the weekend would be a good idea. General feeling is that it would be a good idea and could pay for the KSR user fees as well as for the Saturday night supper for everyone attending.

John asks if any other areas should be considered or might be available for the field exercise. Phil suggests the State Police training area or perhaps Oak Grove Coburn. John asks if there is an area at KSR that would be suitable for a helicopter to land. Dave responds that he thinks the first large parking lot might serve and will check it out.

John asks for Dave's recommendation on where to hold the May Field Exercise, with the response to the questionnaire in mind. Dave makes a motion to use KSR for the May Field Exercise and that it be scheduled for May 12, 13 and 14 and that it have the basic format described in last month's minutes. Tom seconds the motion and vote is 9 in favor with one abstaining. Probable schedule for Field Exercise is as follows:

### **MASAR Training and Field Exercise May 12th, 13th, 14th**

Participants arrive in time to set up camping situations and for an informal gathering the evening of the 12th, perhaps a camp fire. There are group areas and tent platforms available. Saturday will be devoted to training problems and instruction. Saturday night will feature a group supper. Sunday morning will be given to some instruction or practical problems prior to pull out around noon. A fee of up to \$5.00 per person may be requested to cover expenses. More information will follow.

#### Standards Committee Report -

Steve Hudson hands out copies of the working document that includes the new Basic Ground Searcher Standard plus two appendices, The Unit Certification Standard, A Testing Objectives Statement, A Required Minimum Personal Equipment List, and a cover letter requesting comments on the documents by Feb 6th. Standards Committee expects to make final revisions in March and complete the documents. As the document he handed out consisted of some 34 pages and is new to most of the people attending the meeting discussion was deferred.

SAR Tech. II was the basis for much of the Ground Searcher Standard and an aerobic fitness test is included.

### Bylaws Committee -

Rick Farris reports that he and John met before the MASAR meeting and have made further additions and changes to the Bylaws document. He feels they will be able to complete their work in another meeting or two.

### I.D. Cards -

Phil asks if everyone gets a card by being a member of MASAR. He says he doesn't understand how they would be used but sees it as valuable for people to get skill levels and training on an I.D. card format to make assigning work to them at searches be more efficient. Keith explains that so far the work on how they will be used is not done but that it may end up being similar to the way the forestry service tracks it's personnel at fires.

### Communications -

Dave passes out an updated O.D. list. A few changes took place at the O.D. workshop and are reflected in the handout.

John passes out copies of a letter sent to YCERRT explaining their loss of voting privileges in MASAR if they are enrolled as an agency as they are requesting instead of as an organization as they have been. We await a reply from them.

Peggy asks if she should send out pager bills this month. John says yes bill them out, except for Randy who is paid well in advance. Dave asks if anyone is having problems with summit pagers. No response. Dave feels they are getting some of their problems sorted out and the service is improving.

Tom asks what type are the CMP radios that are to be donated to MASAR. John says he hasn't heard from them but is going to call CMP in the next few days to get information about the radios. Tom also asks if an assigned frequency will be used at the May Field Exercise. John responds that we will use 155.160.

John is going to prepare his annual report to Warden Service and would like teams to submit information on the number of searches they participated in, time spent, and mileage, as well as training hours for each team over the year. Please send any helpful information directly to John McDonough.

### New Business -

#### Dues

Steve makes a motion to have the MASAR annual dues raised to \$10 for an individual member and \$25 for an organization. Tom seconds. Discussion follows in which it is generally agreed that the dues are very low and have rarely been increased while all other operating expenses are going up rapidly, the most recent being the increase in postage. It is mentioned that it costs over \$40 to get a single mailing of the minutes out. John asks "What do they get for their money?" Steve responds that members get better P.R. with Warden Service, and more recognition, as well as raising qualities of training through the writing of training standards. Dave comments that it is hard to place tangible value on these assets but feels there are valuable intangibles at work.

Dave makes a motion to amend Steve's motion to have the organizational member dues be upped to \$35. Seconded by Steve. Phil feels that the individual dues at \$10 is a little high. Steve comments that if individual members are not participating it doesn't bother him to lose a few of them. John feels that any increase should be effective for next July and not retroactive to last years dues.

It is mentioned that membership in any organization is usually quite a bit more and the example of NASAR dues at \$60 per year for an organization is given.

Vote is unanimous in favor of amending Steve's first motion to read that the dues shall be raised to \$10 for an individual member and \$35 for an organization. Second vote is also unanimous in favor that the dues for MASAR membership shall be raised to \$10 for an individual member and \$35 for an organization.

### New Group

Dave mentions that there is a group in the Bangor area interested in starting up an equestrian SAR team. They have some documentation and have sent away to get a set of training standards.

### First Aide

Dave asks for information on the National Safety Council's First Aid / CPR certification as opposed to us dealing with the Red Cross. There have been a lot of problems in dealing with the Red Cross. scheduling instructors, getting notification for our instructors in a timely way, expenses being high, courses being hard to come by are a few of the problems mentioned. Phil says he'll do some research on it for next time. Dave suspects that the NSC first aid course would fulfill the new Ground Searcher Standard requirements. He says that the Red Cross in Bangor has made it very difficult to teach a recognized first aid course. Randy says he had four Red Cross first aide instructors and a lot of problems with them. Dave will report back to the group about the NSC with information Phil will call in to him.

### Volunteer services Agreements -

Steve passed out copies of the agreement MDI has in place with Acadia National Park earlier in the meeting and continued a discussion of these agreements at this point. He asks if we should have such agreements in place with other Parks like Baxter. He feels we should examine what we have in place now then modify or amend that to suit our needs if possible. Keith states that we were assured we were covered by the state insurance policy held by W.S. so long as we notify W.S. of our activities and that the coverage extends to training time as well. John asks if we are covered by that arrangement in Baxter Park or in Acadia. John says he will make some calls to find out. Steve suggests we get copies of the actual coverage documents so we can determine if our needs are met. Steve has a copy of the Acadia Park policy.

### Point of Information-

Dave describes that his group was having trouble getting rid of an undesirable trouble making member and that they were threatened with litigation from this person. In seeking legal advice they learned the following: 1. As a member of a non-profit volunteer group the individual has no rights at all to be expected from the group. 2. The Maine Civil Rights Commission won't touch a suit filed by an individual against a non-profit group. 3. All you have to do is kick the fellow out period.

### Next Meeting

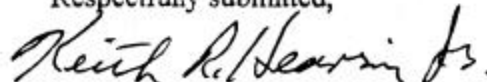
The next monthly MASAR meeting will be held in Warden Service Headquarters at Gray Maine at 1300 hours and will be preceded by a meeting of the Bylaws Committee at 1000 hours.

### Agenda

- / 1. Announcements
- / 2. Secretary's Report
- / 3. Treasurer's Report
4. Committee Reports
5. Correspondence
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Set Next Meeting Agenda

Meeting adjourned 1530 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith R. Heavrin Jr. MASAR Secretary