

Maine Association For Search And Rescue

Monthly Meeting Minutes

6 / 4 / 95

Meeting is called to order by John McDonough at 1606 hrs

Present-

John McDonough, Keith Heavrin, Steve Hudson, Paul Magoon, Deb Palman, Randy Armour, Al Martin

Announcements-

John has receipt of the federal 1023 Tax exempt application package from the IRS. He hasn't had time to look through it as yet.

Secretary's Report -

Minutes from previous meeting on 5/7/95 were read. There being no corrections or amendments Al moves that the minutes be accepted as read. Steve 2nds the motion and the vote is unanimous in favor.

Treasurer's Report-

Not available at this time. John indicates he will get a call Peggy to have her send along a copy of a report for the month to Keith for inclusion in the minutes for this meeting. The report will be considered at the next meeting.

Committee Reports-

Standards Committee-

Steve has revised the Ground Search Standards to reflect the small changes made at the last monthly meeting and now has a hard copy of the finished and approved Standards Document. MASAR will send the completed and approved standards to Warden Service where it is expected they will be incorporated as the accepted standards for volunteer training for the state of Maine.

A discussion is held concerning the Standards Committee having notified Search Dogs North East of their need to provide the required information and documentation to the Standards Committee that is the prerequisite for consideration for grandfathering to the new Dog and Handler Training Standard. The required information has not been supplied as yet. Steve wants to send them another letter and then give them a couple of weeks to respond before dropping consideration of grandfathering SDNE teams. If they are unwilling or unable to provide the required information for grandfathering consideration, the teams in question will be subject to the testing procedure, described in the new Standards Document, for bringing new teams to certification.

Steve acknowledges receipt of the MESARD application for Unit Certification and mentions that it appears to be complete and if approved will result in the first unit certification issued by the MASAR Standards Committee.

Deb forwards that she would like to get a copy of a tape that will give an audio of the beats per minute appropriate for helping her administer the step test to MESARD members. It will be pretty hard to test more than one person at a time with a metronome.

It is the Standards Committee's decision to let the standards writing project rest for a year or so to see how those standards and testing procedures that have been written work, and to allow MASAR to focus on other issues. The most pressing issues being training, and stimulating participation and membership in MASAR.

ASTM -

Steve reports that there will be an ASTM Committee meeting in November, at Norfolk Va., at which Dog Standards and Ground Search Standards will be discussed. He is hoping to attend.

As part of the discussion on standards and training, Steve also mentions having read an article in RESCUE magazine that indicated the NFPA, National Fire Protection Association, may possibly be writing a new Technical Rescue Standards. John suggests that Steve write a letter to them on the subject, for inclusion in the magazine.

Communications Committee-

Al reports that the 30 large, old, low band radios that John was negotiating for with CMP have some advantages and some drawbacks. They will work well in rough terrain and wooded areas. The drawbacks are that they require a lot of power to run them, they must be used as separate units and can't be incorporated into VHF high band units, and they will not run on house current but require a \$350 DC converter each. They could be used in vehicles. Al says we probably could not get parts for the radios but we could use some of the units to supply others should parts be needed. Keith observes that it sounds like we'd be spending a lot of money and time to make obsolete gear usable and we might be well advised to spend that money on new gear thus saving the problems and hassles of maintenance and unreliability. Steve asks if we could get anything from selling them off to generate funds for buying some newer gear and also feels we would be better off to get rid of them. Randy suggests we may be able to trade them in towards buying new radios. Al will work up a report concerning the above and the intent of radio use recommendations.

By Laws Committee-

There is no report from the committee. A brief discussion is held about making a revision to the By Laws to restrict MASAR membership and participation to Maine based teams and units only.

I.D. Card Committee-

There is no report from the committee. Reference is made by Keith to how well the T card system worked at the training exercise, even though we were all a little unfamiliar with it. Keith says the I.D. cards were not an integral part of that system and need not be for future T card system use. It is generally agreed that the T card system worked well and it was helpful in a number of ways. It helped to identify the type of resources, their locations and the availability all at a glance at the board. Al says the cards have been saved for use at future exercises. John suggests that the I.D. card committee should meet to consider and recommend some protocol concerning I.D. cards and the T card system.

Field Exercise-

A discussion of the field exercise started by the T card critique above ensues. Keith relates that it would be useful to make one of the several training problems into an area search problem. He observes that the last couple of training exercises he has been to have had only basic trail search problems where the victims are located by the first deployment of hasty search resources to the area of the problem. Our real search situations often get well past the hasty search stage and we would all benefit in training for that.

Steve relates the frustration the CP experienced in getting accurate and useful descriptions from teams in the field concerning their locations and where they had been. He feels more attention should be given to this skill so that teams can be accurate in describing these important facts. Keith relates that when the CP was able to get a good, accurate description of location, they were able to direct and deploy the resources effectively.

Keith and Al both suggest that we could have done a better job of planning the Sunday morning part of the KSR field exercise. Although some good useful training took place it was not, for the most part, a joint training experience or a class type situation as we'd hoped for.

Al feels that the field exercises and training in Mexico and at KSR are among the most important things MASAR has accomplished recently. John asks when we should be scheduling the next field exercise and where it should be held. It is generally agreed that around the third week of October should be planned for. It is

suggested that the MASAR annual meeting should take place on the Saturday night of the exercise. One of the problems experienced at the KSR training was that many people left as soon as the search simulations were over. It is suggested that we reformat the schedule to have FUNSAR training modules on Saturday and have the search simulations on Sunday. In considering location for the exercise, it is agreed to look at a different location than KSR for the next one.

Old Business-

John reminds us that we were going to consider eliminating Gray Me. as one of our monthly meeting places. Steve suggests that we wait till the meeting at Sidney. Most people seem to favor not using Gray any longer as it is so far for most of the members who are attending to drive. Deb relates that some people from York may be attending the next MESARD monthly training.

Baxter Park Search-

Several units were placed on standby for a missing 53 yr old hiker who went up North Brother mountain, got separated from his hiking partner and had been out overnight. They were "peak baggers" who had climbed all the 4000 foot mountains in the East. His pack was found in the am and aircraft were being used. Terrain in the area is very rough and steep. His body was located in the afternoon by aircraft. MASAR hopes to have a copy of the official report to learn more of the details of the search effort.

NASAR Conference-

Al relates that Dave Martin attended and was gathering information on GPS units, who had used them, and what their experience was. Two types are now being used and the newer ones work well in wooded areas under canopy. GPS works very well as a locator for positions of points on a map or as an accurate way to be able to communicate the location of a team or victim.

Water Rescue Class-

Al announces that Dirigo will be sponsoring a water rescue training week end that will feature classroom and swimming pool instruction on Saturday, July 22nd and river work on Sunday, July 23rd. A fee will be charged for the training. Information relating to the weekend can be gotten by calling Al Martin.

A short discussion is held about the changes in Warden Service and how these changes may affect the SAR coordinator and continuity in the SAR Committee. Concern is expressed for the Warden Service being short of trained individuals to assume the positions of retiring and promoted officers who have been working in SAR. It is estimated that only a few Wardens involved in SAR have had the MSF course.

Next Monthly Meeting-

Several members relate scheduling conflicts during the first weekend of July when the MASAR meeting is normally held so it is agreed to hold the meeting for July on Sunday the 9th, at Sidney, at 1600 hours. Meeting is adjourned at 1755 hours.

AGENDA July 9th at Sidney

- 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**