

Maine Association For Search And Rescue

Monthly Meeting Minutes

10 / 1 / 95

John McDonough calls meeting to order at 1620 hours

Present-

John McDonough, Randy Armour, Steve Hudson, Al Martin, Keith Heavrin

Announcements-

John announces that he has been transferred to the Boston area with his job and will be commuting but hopes to be home most weekends. He will continue to do all he can of MASAR related work.

Secretary's Report-

Minutes from previous meeting on 9 / 10 / 95 were read and approved as written by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report-

John Passes out copies of the treasurer's report which is accepted as written.

Committee Reports-

Al passes out schedules for the up coming SAR weekend on Oct 14th & 15th.. Need to get revised workshop sheet to all members ASAP due to change in location of workshop.

There was no other Committee work to report.

Old Business-

John passes out copies of a memo sent to IF&W from their working mens comprehensive insurer denying any coverage under their policy to SAR volunteers. This was in response to an inquiry MASAR made as to whether or not we would be covered.

New Business-

Al asks if the MASAR Directory should be updated . It is agreed that it should be worked on and John asks Al to work with Randy to get it done.

John passes out a memo updating his phone numbers .

A short discussion of winter hours is held and it is agreed to keep meeting time at 1600 hours for the time being. It is also agreed to hold the next meeting in Bangor instead of Gray largely due to lack of attendance from the southern teams. If this decision proves unsatisfactory to members from southern areas we will adjust it again to encourage their participation.

It is agreed to include any upcoming MASAR calendar dates or events at the end of the monthly meeting minutes.

John departs for home at this point in the meeting. Al assumes the chairmanship.

Warden Service is making a training commitment to set aside the third weekend of September and the first weekend in May for training exercises that will include working with volunteers. Al suggests MASAR talk to W.S. about the possibility of MASAR running the fall training and W.S. running the May exercise. Steve and Randy point out problems we have had in getting Wardens to attend any training session put on by volunteers. Keith suggests we are assured they will attend if they are running the training. Al and others agree that we need to see that volunteers get needed training instead of just use at these training exercises. Al feels that by MASAR running the exercise we can set it up so the volunteers get that training. Randy and Keith argue that we should work towards inclusion in the planning for the exercises and to have MASAR personnel, who

are qualified, work with the overhead team at these exercises. Randy adds that we are working with a lot of new W.S. people right now. Many of the MASAR personnel are veterans with a lot of experience. Keith feels we should be cautious about how we proceed with these goals of being included in these training exercises least our actions be perceived as threatening W.S. prerogatives and authority and thereby undermining our good relationship with them. All present agree we need to address training issues with W.S. to work towards our volunteers getting the training they need to fulfill new requirements. Steve agrees to draft a letter to W.S. from MASAR that will address these concerns. Dave Martin will then present the letter and further these points with Gary Anderson.

Keith brings up a short discussion of fielding uncertified teams. What levels of training are required of ground search personnel before they can be fielded. It appears that each group has different requirements. A topic for future will be to establish MASAR approved guidelines in this area. Keith relates a recent problem with an uncertified team being fielded at a search and some of the repercussions.

Steve makes a motion that MASAR consider amending the By Laws at the November meeting. Changes to be considered will include that members' ip requirements be amended so that in order to qualify for membership a volunteer SAR unit must be incorporated in the state of Maine, must be a MASAR certified unit, and that 2/3 of the operational membership must be Maine residents. Keith Seconds and the motion is passed by unanimous vote. It is agreed that final wording will be drafted at the November meeting and that it will be voted on at the December meeting to be held in W.S. headquarters at Sidney.

Randy presents his work up of the new team certification certificate. It looks really good.

Meeting is adjourned at 1830 hours.

The next monthly meeting will be held in Bangor at Warden Service headquarters at 1600 hours on November 5th.

AGENDA

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