

due to conflicting schedules and unsuitable weather. Steve also reported that PTESAR, the mounted SAR team in Bangor, had submitted a packet of information to have their unit certified, as has Lincoln CEP. The Lincoln packet is complete, while PTESAR still needs to provide some information. Wilderness Rescue Team has also provided the Standards Committee with a packet of information on their team for Unit Certification and to have qualified team members certified as Basic Ground Searchers under that standard's grandfathering provision. John pointed out that he would abstain from voting at Standards Committee meetings both when acceptance of Wilderness as a certified unit comes up and when the committee decides on the grandfathering of WRT members.

ASTM Report

Steve reported that he had not yet received the minutes from the November meeting of the ASTM F-32 Committee on Search and Rescue. He has talked with Mike McDonald, chairman of the committee, and found that the F-32 committee isn't too concerned about the NFPA's plans to write standards for all types of SAR, as the NFPA is apparently overwhelmed by the amount of work necessary. He felt that we didn't need to worry about competing standards on wilderness SAR, as NFPA probably won't get to it for a long time.

By-laws

John read the last meeting's proposed by-laws changes, and asked if there was any further discussion. Peter moved that we accept the changes as read, and Dave seconded the motion. With no discussion, the vote was unanimous. John then asked that the secretary make the necessary changes in the by-laws and send updated copies to the members. He also requested that the amended by-laws show the date of amendment to avoid confusion in the future. The changes to be made are as follows:

- 1) Under Article IV Membership, the portion reading "Organizational Member - Any volunteer organization or association involved directly in search and rescue or survival activities in the State of Maine" shall be changed to read "Organizational Member - Any volunteer organization or association involved directly in search and rescue or survival activities in the State of Maine which meets the current MASAR unit certification standard and two thirds of whose membership is comprised of Maine residents."
- 2) Under Article IV Membership, the portion reading "Individual Member - Any person involved in search, rescue, or survival activities and affiliated with a recognized SAR organization in the State of Maine." shall be changed to read "Individual Member - Any person involved in search, rescue, or survival activities and affiliated with a SAR organization in the State of Maine."

Old Business

Dan Tourtelotte has received a copy of DeLorme's mapping software, but he suspects that it is the road map version, with no significant topographic details. He

also reported that the Warden Service has put in a request for money from FEMA for an aircraft-mounted video camera for use in SAR work. Peter Laveway is still looking into software from DeLorme which would show topographic details for the entire state.

Peter Laveway reports that he will send out a MASAR newsletter twice a year, timed to provide information before the two MASAR annual training dates. He would appreciate any articles or other useful information to include in it.

New Business

Pat Dorian reported that he met with the new MEMA director, John Libby. The impression he got from this meeting was that there may be federal money available to help fund NASAR or other SAR courses in Maine. MEMA may also have access to the Dept. of Defense surplus stocks, larger than ever now due to government down-sizing. Pat plans to try to make all future MASAR meetings to keep abreast of where we are and will send copies of our meeting minutes to all the overhead team members to keep them informed as well.

John asked Pat how MASAR and its member teams could be of the most service to the Warden Service so that calls to the MASAR OD would be more likely. Dan responded that his feeling is that giving teams more authority to respond would improve opportunities for volunteers. Pat suggested that the Warden Service needs to use volunteers in more positions to free up wardens. To do this, though, would require a very dependable response from MASAR teams and also more long-term commitments for long searches (i.e. 4-5 days at times).

Dan also said that volunteers must be part of the callout procedure. For example, local authorities would call the local warden then would call the local team(s) or MASAR OD. Regional MASAR team training sessions would help to get teams working together and a greater response by teams to short local searches would reduce the pressure on wardens and improve working conditions between volunteers and wardens.

The Warden Service has received a review committee report suggesting ways in which the Warden Service could both save money and improve services without increasing costs. Dan suggested that MASAR's response to this report would indicate the direction the Warden Service should go in regard to utilizing volunteers in more ways. The response to this committee report is due by 1 June 1996.

John will poll the teams to get a true picture of how teams have responded in past years to give the Warden Service an indication of what they could rely on for a dependable volunteer response in the future. Dan also pointed out that MASAR needs to educate the public about the volunteer role in searches and MASAR's part in it, to improve the situation for searchers who may not be paid by their employers when taking time off to search. One method would be to utilize the local and state media to cover volunteer efforts in training, search operations, and education.

Phil suggested that making and keeping an up-to-date roster including skill levels would increase the likelihood that volunteer teams would be called.

Steve then asked the Standards Committee members present when they wanted to have their next committee meeting. They will meet at 0900 on 11 February at Sidney to go over the BASAR curriculum and begin discussion of a standard for team leaders.

The next MASAR meeting will be at 1300 hours on 4 February in Bangor

AGENDA

- 1. Announcements**
- 2. Secretary's Report**
- 3. Treasurer's Report**
- 4. Committee Reports**
- 5. Old Business**
- 6. New Business: Fund Raising Issues and Team Polling Response**
- 7. Correspondence**

The meeting was adjourned at 1600 hours.