

Maine Association For Search and Rescue
Monthly Meeting Minutes
14 April 1996

Meeting is called to order by David Martin at 1315 hours.

Present

David Martin, Randy Armour, Keith Heavrin, Steve Hudson, Rick Farris, Pete Laveway, and Warden Pat Dorian.

Secretary's Report

Rick moves to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written but Randy notes that a correction is needed under "Announcements", where reference is made to sending a card and flowers to Al and Dave Martin as an expression of our regard and respect. Randy points out that we had said "or a donation" which is what was eventually done. The minutes are so amended and Randy moves to accept as amended. Second by Steve with unanimous vote to accept.

Treasurer's Report

Randy notes that the treasurer's report Peggy has sent for this meeting has entries that are lumped together for deposits rather than showing individual entries. There is some discussion of a GPS unit donation from a snowmobile club that is in the overhead team trailer fund. Steve moves that we ask the Treasurer to list each item entry separately. Seconded by Randy with unanimous vote in favor.

Rick notes he is still being billed at \$17 per month for his pager when the cost should be \$12 less a \$2 discount, or \$10 total. Rick also notes that he needs to check and see if he has been credited for paying his dues, which he is fairly sure he paid, but which does not appear in the treasurer's report. He will check. Randy moves to accept the treasurer's report. Second by Steve. Unanimous vote in favor.

Committee Reports

Standards Committee

Steve reports that work has been going forward on the BASAR curriculum writing and the testing objectives. The Committee met before the MASAR meeting. Steve also reports that two more units have unit certification documents turned in. They are Wilderness and Pine Tree Equestrian. Search and Rescue. Steve will be contacting units that need further documentation sent to the Standards committee, mentioning Tri Town and the fitness test they conducted.

ASTM

Steve reports nothing further from them since the last meeting.

ID Card Committee

Keith presents the report written since the last monthly meeting and sent to members by mail Explains that it basically presents the considerations expressed during meetings as well as phone discussions Keith and Al had concerning the issues. Synopsis of the report has 2 areas of consideration. The first is to have the ID cards used for identification purposes at searches as the Wardens in charge see fit. The second is a breakdown and description of the T card system and the recommendation that MASAR promote it's

incorporation and use in the new overhead teams being set up.

Training Exercise Committee

Warden Pat Dorian reports that some Warden personnel will be unable to attend the training exercise scheduled for the weekend of the 10th, 11th, and 12th. The Dive Team will be in southern Me. taking Warden Mike Morrison with them and there is a Division C Warden getting married then. He also notes it is Mothers' Day weekend.

Warden Dorian says he will attempt to get Glen Feeney and/or Jimmy Dumont both of whom are outstanding tracking specialists, to present a course at the training exercise.

Dave relates that Warden Deb Palman asked if we had anyone who could present a course on GPS units and their use. Warden Dorian says Warden Service is probably going to go with the Silva version of these units, even though they are more expensive, because of the significant advantages (works well under forest canopies, ease of use, etc.). It is suggested that we may be able to get a factory or company representative to make a presentation. Warden Dorian also relates that Warden Service may be able to acquire some UPS units funded 80% by Risk Management if they are able to present it as a safety issue. Randy relates that some Canadian units have hooked GPS units right to their radios so that any time a team calls in they are automatically plotted.

Warden Tim Peabody is heading up a committee to draw up a new SAR Policy Document that will set guidelines for all SAR operations and procedures. They are also looking to draw up a report form for search incidents that will standardize the information and include all important categories. The intent is to establish a data base of information, over time, that would provide potentially valuable help for future searches. They will be looking at documents of this type already in use then adapt it.

Warden Dorian offers a short critique of the recent search in Ashland, saying they would have done a little better if they had gotten an investigator on scene sooner to be a coordinator of all the information generated. The search was a very costly one in that they had three helicopters and three fixed wing craft working it as well as some 45 wardens. Warden Dave Georgia worked the phones and radios at the CP and did a good job.

Warden Dorian also relates that they may decide to fit out a car hauling trailer for the overhead team. It would allow them to custom build the whole thing just the way they want it on a very sturdy base. They'll be looking at some forestry service trailers to see how they have laid them out.

Warden Dorian mentions the snowmobile situation that has developed this winter. Something is going to have to change because it is evolving to the Warden Service being unable to do any resource protection on weekends due to the work necessary in dealing with snowmobiles. W.S. has been working with snowmobile clubs to help educate and organize them and suggests MASAR may be able to help with this. Trails and trail building have greatly increased in recent years but funding for enforcement has not.

Warden Dorian relates that W. S. would like to see qualified volunteers be able to cycle in to some overhead team jobs at searches. He would like a list of volunteer personnel and the training that would qualify them. MASAR volunteers having had MSF, FUNSAR and ICS as well as any experience relating to this would be considered. David asks if W.S. is going to sponsor an MSF course. Warden Dorian says they want to get one going soon and are looking to see if they can get MEMA to sponsor it. They haven't planned a time or location yet.

Keith suggests that W.S. consider updating its materials on the Find a Space Show Your Face program. The video is pretty out dated and the printed material is really obsolete. We are still making quite a few of these presentations and it would be more effective if the materials were updated.

Roger Wolverton has asked for a list of anyone that might be interested in flying with him at search situations to act as observer to help search the ground. They would have to have excellent visual skills and not be prone to motion sickness. Roger also reported seeing a presentation in Mass. on an aircraft mounted camera rig that had a powerful zoom lens and motion stabilizer capability. He was very impressed. A gridded fly over of a given search area with the camera could produce a tape that could be very thoroughly examined back on the ground. He hopes that some day we could get such a unit for use in Maine.

Old Business

Keith relates that he has been in touch with Peter Kleim and left several messages for him regarding the box of MASAR documents Peter still has and MASAR's wish to have them returned. Peter related that he would send them back but has not done so since first contacted some five months ago. It is suggested that Keith call John McDonough and ask if he'll contact Peter concerning the return of the documents. Agreed to do so.

Dave relates that John McDonough had a conversation with Al Martin concerning the meeting schedule and it is suggested that we meet on a rotation of Bangor, Sidney, Gray, Sidney, Bangor from now on. A second suggestion of tying the 1600 hours meeting time change to the daylight savings time change. Both the above suggestions are agreed to. Dave suggests we make a policy of meeting on the second Sunday of the month whenever the first Sunday is a holiday. It is decided to let this go as it is, with the changes being made as and where needed.

The best way to call John McDonough during the week is to use his 758-1767 pager number.

Peter asks if anyone got a news letter in the mail. No one has so Pete will check on the holdup.

New phone numbers for Phil DuPerry pager 823-8855 and cell 2426118

Dave forwards that when MASAR representatives met with the SAR Committee all was agreed that training exercises would be held the first week end in May and the third week end in September. Dave doesn't want anyone to be angry but he notes the exercise was changed from the third weekend in May to the second when it was supposed to be the first all along. Dave feels it is very important that when we set dates for things like these training weekends we really have to stick to them. He would like to be assured that the schedule will be set and stable and not get changed around a lot. Keith relates that the scheduling of the May exercise was discussed at length during a well attended meeting some four or five months ago and that the schedule change resulted in order to facilitate the training weekends having the best chance to be successful. It was agreed to by unanimous vote of those attending the meeting. Pat Dorian assured us that exercises would be on the second weekend of May and the third weekend of September in perpetuity.

Peter relates that there is no news on the Brunswick Naval Air Station situation.

Peter passes out information sheet on GPS units and their use.

Randy has received a letter from Sue Webb stating that her dog has a broken leg and won't be able to test to the MASAR standard for at least six weeks. Steve says he would like to have a deadline for this to either get done or say the time to do it has passed and her application for grandfathering will have lapsed. It is agreed to allow until the end of June in this situation and Randy will write her a letter to that effect.

The next MASAR monthly meeting will be held at Warden Service headquarters in Sidney, Me. at 1600 hours on May 5th.

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 Meetings Agenda

Meeting is adjourned at 1516 hours