

MASAR Business Meeting
April 6, 2003

Attending:

Susanne Kynast	Sunrise SAR
Chris Drew	Baxter State Park
Lt. Patrick Dorian	Maine Warden Service
Julie R. Jones	MESARD
Paul Magoon	MESARD
Kevin Adam	Maine Warden Service
Mike Sawyer	IFW
Sgt. Gregg Sanborn	Maine Warden Service
Nancy Weeks	Mid-Maine Equestrian Search + Rescue
Greg Lusk	Wilderness Rescue Team
Al Martin	Dirigo
Bruce Weaver	MESARD

1. Meeting convened by Julie R. Jones.

2. Spring Training

- a. Julie Jones, Mike Sawyer, and Susanne Kynast presented the outline for the spring training. A general discussion followed. Mike Sawyer created a final printed schedule which was photocopied and handed out to the group.
- b. Spring training will be on May 3rd at the Penobscot County Conservation Association in Brewer.
- c. Registration will be from 8:30 – 9:00, presentations from 9:15 – 16:15.
- d. The attendees will be split into two groups. There will be two tracks, with each track offering the same classes in a different order.
- e. There will be 6 classes, each lasting 1 hour (in actuality 50 minutes class time, 10 minutes for rotating), a 20 minute lunch, and a 45 minute lunchtime presentation.
- f. Lunch will be provided by a local church group.
- g. Presentations will include the following:
 - Survival for SAR Personnel: John Gardner, a civilian trainer for the Navy who has trained SEALs for 20 years will give a Powerpoint presentation on survival for SAR personnel. It was initially suggested that he could also do a practical exercise on fire starting, however it was felt that a classroom session would be sufficient.
 - Working with K-9's: Julie Jones and Bruce Weaver will do a presentation on working with dogs again since this was very popular at the fall training. Other MESARD members will not be available since they have a commitment out-of-state on that day.
 - Working with Equine Teams: Nancy Weeks from Mid-Maine Equestrian Search + Rescue will present on working with horses. They will bring only 2

horses. Mike Sawyer noted that Pine Tree Equestrian appears to be currently unavailable.

- Aircraft Safety: This will include a CAP plane at the Brewer airport. Also possibly a forestry helicopter or Lifeflight helicopter (the Maine Forest Service and Lifeflight will be contacted and asked if they wish to participate). Scott Higgins from CAP will be contacted concerning bringing FLIR / remote imaging equipment.
 - Downed Aircraft Safety: Jeremy LeClair from the Air Guard will teach a session on approaching downed aircraft, SAR safety concerns such as spilled fuel, and search techniques for locating downed aircraft, a program which was initially developed for firefighters and has been adapted for SAR.
 - Working with Hovercraft and Airboats: The Warden Service will present their boats, hovercraft, airboats, etc. on the water.
 - GPS Exercises with ME Warden Service: Kevin Adam will teach a basic GPS class including use of the unit, a short practical group exercise in locating coordinate points, and practice downloading. It was also discussed to set up a GPS game with compass components and prizes. Susanne Kynast offered to also work on the practical GPS exercise. However it was decided that the GPS exercise will be basic this time, but during fall training there will be a more extensive exercise with two tracks, one for novice and one for advanced searchers. Al Martin will bring sheets and cards with GPS reference information for Garmin 12 units as well as 'generic' GPS units.
 - The Year in Review and What is Happening in Maine SAR: Sgt. Gregg Sanborn and Kevin Adam will present a review of the SAR activities during the last year, lessons learned, and technical advances in SAR during lunch.
 - It was noted that an interesting program for younger people and new members should be presented as well. Al Martin will work on it.
 - One backup presentation will be in place. Al Martin offered to teach a class on real-time unit tracking by GPS, a system which Dirigo is trying to get to work. If the system is not yet functional Dirigo will have another backup presentation ready.
- h. Accommodations for Friday night will be either camping at Camp Molly Molasses which MESARD is using for training on that weekend (Julie Jones will check), or as a fallback option tenting around the pond at the conference site, or camping out at the Maine Forest Service Facility in Bradley (Kevin Adam and Mike Sawyer will check those options).

3. Canoe Races

There be three canoe races for which MASAR teams will provide safety this spring:

- April 12: Souadabscook (Dirigo and other teams)
- April 19: Kenduskeag (Dirigo, Lincoln SAR, and other teams)
- April 27: Machias (Sunrise SAR, Dirigo, Lincoln SAR, Aroostook County SAR)

More help is welcome for any of the races. For the Souadabscook and Kenduskeag races the Old Armory in Bangor (Bangor Parks) is available for teams to stay overnight.

4. Worker's Compensation

The worker's compensation bill (LD1435) is before the legislature again. This time it specifically refers to 'SAR' in the language. If it is passed as it is written now, OSHA will apply for anyone under 18. The hearing will be on Wednesday April 9, 2003. David Martin would like to represent MASAR at the hearing. Certain changes need to be made to the bill, but everybody is unsure of the exact language of the bill. Mike Sawyer stated that representatives of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and John McDonnough met with Art Cleaves, the Attorney General this summer. Some of the language of the bill was changed, but they still have reservations. Mike Sawyer does not know for what time the hearing of the bill is scheduled. Colonel Peabody and/or Mike Sawyer will be there. David Martin will call them on Monday April 7, 2003 to discuss details. It was discussed that since David Martin was authorized to represent MASAR at the last hearing for the worker's compensation bill and did so, and since that authority never expired, there is an understanding that he still represents MASAR.

5. George Markowski (sp.?) purchased ~~Islands~~^{Ayers} Island (sp.?) and wants to build a huge training complex with federal antiterrorism money. The project will cost 5 million dollars and will include the latest technology such as virtual reality. It might also include facilities specific to SAR. He would like to receive a letter from MASAR supporting his application for federal funds. A discussion resulted. David Martin will contact John McDonnough directly on the issue. Lt. Dorian commented that he would like to see funds for the Warden Service for boundary protection first before any training facilities were funded, considering that the Warden Service is the only law enforcement agency on Maine's huge borders (the Border Patrol and Customs don't even have a map of the unmarked border crossings). Dave Martin Commented that Dirigo SAR is getting the benefit of equipment storage at ~~Islands~~^{Ayers} Island. Paul Magoon was interested in what benefits MASAR would get out of the facility. Susanne Kynast would like to see some sorts of specific commitment to MASAR before a decision. The Warden Service would like to see a clear financial statement or proposal. A mutual support commitment was also discussed. Julie Jones was asked to find more information on the proposal and to present it at a future meeting.

6. MASAR Funding for NASAR Conference:

John McDonnough had stated at a previous meeting that he was going to select a committee which would select an individual to receive money from MASAR to attend the 2003 NASAR conference. According to Julie Jones, John McDonnough had apparently not yet had a chance to develop selection criteria or select a

recipient which is unfortunate since the conference will be at the end of May. David Martin stated that if nobody else had applied, he would attend for MASAR.

7. Searches

- a. On March 10, 2003 a 3-year-old had gone missing in Franklin. Deborah Palman activated MESARD and Keith Heavrin called the MASAR OD to notify them of the search. He mistakenly notified Randy Michaud, thinking he was the OD for that week. Due to a further mistake Dirigo SAR and Sunrise SAR were activated even though the warden in charge might not have activated MASAR. The child was located and the responding SAR teams were called off. Lesson: the MASAR OD needs to clearly know whether a call is a search notification or a callout.
- b. In Machias a resident from a nursing home had walked away. The warden service was notified of the incident through a missing person bulletin 4 days later. Sunrise SAR also contacted the warden service after learning about the incident from the newspaper and talking with the Machias Police Department which had been convinced that the victim had left town. The Warden Service conducted an investigation and deployed an aircraft which located the victim in a very short time a very short distance away from the nursing home. According to medical authorities the victim was dead within 24 hours. Lawsuits have resulted from this incident.
- c. A search was conducted in Newport for a young person who had fallen into the water and had consequently disappeared while his fiends were trying to get dry clothing for him. No further details were available. The warden service was apparently not notified.

8. Training Opportunities:

- a. Wilderness Rescue Team will hold a BASAR course in the near future and will notify MASAR of the details. It was suggested that this might also be used as a great recruitment opportunity by inviting non-certified individuals to attend.
- b. Aroostook County warden David Milligan is attempting to reestablish SAR resources in the backcountry by training foresters from the big companies. Aroostook River SAR team used to exist and was made up mostly of foresters. They were reportedly a great asset at the Garfield search. David Milligan will condense the MASAR curriculum into an overview and hold a basic SAR training on April 26, 2003. Ashland Fire and Ambulance will also attend. It is hoped that this may revive Aroostook River SAR.
- c. Don Eno from the University of Maine at Fort Kent is developing a new public safety administration program (4-year degree). In the fall semester they will hold a SAR / public safety class based on the MASAR standard and certification, WFR/CPR certification, and possibly NASAR and Canadian SAR certification. Colonel Peabody, Sgt. Brian Gray, and Mike Sawyer have been involved in the development of the program and are looking for SAR teams to help out with some sessions. The coordinator / lead instructor may be Chuck Richards. The class will meet on Tuesday evenings and Saturdays until Thanksgiving (2 credit hours) and is open to students and the general public. The class will be offered once a year

and will incorporate increasing amounts of ITV / teleconferencing. UMFK will also host the USAF Inland SAR School in 2005.

- d. The Warden Service is considering getting an on-staff NASAR trainer but is according to Mike Sawyer also looking into Canadian SAR certification which he prefers.
- e. Nancy Weeks is looking for an ICS instructor. It was noted that Steve Hudson must be notified of certifications individual members attain.

9. SAR Reimbursement on Income Tax:

According to several members search expenses can be claimed on the income tax as non-monetary charitable donation. Gas expenses can be claimed at 14 cents / mile. It is highly recommended to keep logs of everything! Special SAR clothing can also be claimed. Mike Sawyer stated that it is helpful for reimbursement if he has a team's training schedule on file.

10. Patches:

- a. Susanne Kynast will order 300 patches from Moritz Embroidery Works. She will try to get them in time for the MASAR spring training. It was decided by unanimous vote that they will be sold to MASAR members for \$2.- per patch.
- b. The question of rockers to go with the patches will be revisited.

11. Warden Service Funding:

Despite the funding cuts two warden and one sergeant position were reinstated. There will only be two lieutenants, each responsible for half of the State. One of the lieutenants is currently the head of the dive team, the other is currently working in southern Maine. Those changes will be effective June 7, 2003. A third lieutenant's position might be reinstated in 2005. The status of the current Warden Trainees is unclear. The effects of the changes will be that the Wardens will be spread more thinly and the Warden Service might be slower in getting a search effort started. The OD protocol might also get confused. Lt. Patrick Dorian who is the statewide SAR spearhead will go back into the field, and other supervisors will have widely varying ideas regarding when SAR teams should be called. Consequently MASAR might not be alerted quickly enough. Chris Drew suggested that any complications resulting from the changes will need to be carefully documented. Al Martin concurred and added that incidents that document certain needs can then be brought to the attention of decision makers. Mike Sawyer was especially concerned what would happen in an incident where no senior sergeant might be available. In the State Police the senior officer who might not be as experienced is then in charge which has caused problems. In the Warden Service newer people might also not be as experienced as Lt. Patrick Dorian. This has resulted in confusion in the past, such as for example when a sergeant did not have the necessary information on how to request a helicopter. Aroostook County (Division E) will under the new staffing only have two

sergeants, which means that if their days off coincide, Sgt. Gregg Sanborn from Lincoln will have to get to the scene to fill in. This means that there might not be a professional response in a timely manner. The Warden Service will also not get the \$ 250,000.- in funding which pays for overtime, SAR training, and meals. This means that the Warden Service will for example no longer be able to pay for meals during training. Sgt. Gregg Sanborn stated that there is a core group of wardens committed to SAR but no more money is available. Wardens will have to use comp time for searches which means they would be off during the week after the search, which ultimately means that they will not be able to go to a search.

Further discussion resulted. Julie Jones suggested that searchers should bring their own food for searches. Mike Sawyer pointed out that the worker's compensation law will be the best thing the Warden Service can do for MASAR. Kevin Adam stated that the gray area searches will suffer the most. Al Martin commented and Paul Magoon concurred that SAR in Maine had very much improved in the last 2-3 years. It was noted that a chain of command is essential in order to get MASAR called. Sgt. Gregg Sanborn used the example of a recent search in Lincoln for a missing 2-year old. The district warden notified Sgt. Sanborn who notified Lt. Dorian and the local fire and police departments. Sgt. Sanborn then suggested to the district warden to search the house where the child was found. Under the new system the supervisor will not get called until much later. The district warden will respond to the scene and assess the situation. When the supervisor is called there will be a significant delay before he can get to the scene and he will have to decide en-route whether to do a callout. Mike Sawyer noted Aroostook County as a particular problem. In the past there had not been many big searches in that area, but during the 2002/2003 season there had been four. He also stated that the morale in the Warden Service is currently really bad. Julie Jones stated clearly that MASAR is there to make the work of the Warden Service easier, that everybody is happy to be used, and that it is never a problem to get started and get turned around en-route.

Sgt. Sanborn and Lt. Dorian stated that there will be no more CID searches, not even as training events. Kevin Adam pointed out that lieutenants will no longer be able to be on searches. Lt. Dorian stated that the Warden Service equipment budget has also been cut which will make them less effective as Mike Sawyer said. The issue of search responses of agencies other than the Warden Service was discussed. Mike Sawyer made it clear that anyone not responding under the Warden Service is not covered under liability / worker's compensation, and anyone not responding under MASAR is freelancing. Julie Jones inquired about the issue of units in the Bangor / Brewer area doing searches without the Warden Service. Sgt. Sanborn and Kevin Adam clarified that the Warden Service has to be notified but that developed areas are gray areas. Sgt. Sanborn pointed out that the scene gets contaminated by a general law enforcement response, and Kevin Adam cited the recent Machias search as an example of the resulting disaster. Susanne Kynast asked how MASAR members could help especially in those gray areas where the Warden Service might not have the resources to respond.

Reported by Susanne Kynast