

MASAR Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2005

Attendees: Bruce Weaver, Paul Magoon, Jennifer Rocheleau, Deborah Palman, Susanne Kynast & guest, John Blagdon, Dan Menard, Michael Sawyer, Patrick Dorian, Brad Rounds, Jennifer Fisk, Steve Hudson, Stacey Savoy (for Bob Bohlmann)

Recent SAR Activity

Somerset Cty – 1.5 hours after the fact; two people over Moxie Falls, male - one fatal bled out instantly, female - (broken ribs, Skowhegan high angle rescue deployed, 50 searchers/help, private helo came on-sight and hovered – filed complaint with FAA. Black Hawk came for fatal. Situation still under investigation as to how accident happened.

Big Squaw – call came in as couple with two children and cameras on day hike – actually elderly couple (68 & 65) with 16 year old. Spend night sitting on log.

Greenville - broken leg 2/10 mile carryout.

Old Speck – family of five with lost child, second hand info came in on 911 call, NH and ME responded, assumed family from Quebec – search called.

Mentally challenged teen, father took to NH – father will be charged for search.

Man didn't come home, SP located vehicle after dark, hasty search, call for dogs and air support. Found man laying in brook (alive next day) – doing fine.

Dan tracked 20 hours old, tracked to 4 year old brain damaged youth 4/10 mile.

16 & 18 year old on East Grand Lake, storm situation, had life jackets and stayed with overturned canoe. One hypothermic – both ok now.

Bald Mountain - cell call (to friend) from partially incoherent female in 40s – friend called family and 911, family had starting up mountain before SAR. Family found her at top of mountain. Victim didn't recognize family members.

Fall Exercise – no updates; Mike has been following up; no firm plans at this time; will continue to pursue.

Secretary's Report – not available

Treasurer's Report – not available

Committee Reports

Standards

Revisions, comments have been sent out; should be resolved within a week or so; will make minor revisions and complete for October meeting.

Education

Education Director concerned about Fall event – if not out on the floor within the next week and half, will need to be scrubbed for this year. Teams will not have enough time to turn around information and get attendance at the event.

Need to have date, location and cost at a minimum.

Mike will follow up and have Lou provide an update to determine how to proceed with Brad.

By Laws Committee

First page still verbatim.

Board of Directors, Article III is where most of time has been spent. Only BOD member or designate will have voting. Struggled on size of BOD – a larger Board/smaller quorum; smaller Board/larger quorum. Discussion ensued between Brad and Don. Can only change the number of Board members based on Articles of Incorporation – BOD needs to be elected from membership. Brad will write two By-Laws for a decision.

Membership, Article IV - Added language under discrimination policy. Struggled with “Associate” – needs to change not to be confused with “Association” – replace with MASAR. Organizational Member language needs to be worked out but will keep Maine Resident reference.

Voting, Article V – kept voting the same; clarified “they” so that it is understood it is the membership. Should “secret ballot” be included in the Article – vote was taken to exclude.

Officers & Appointees, Article VI - Power to bind MASAR currently rests with President – clarified language to ensure this is responsibility of the entire Board. Maintain responsibilities for the all elected and appointed officers in the written Board policy.

Dues, Article VII –

Legal Counsel, Article VIII – need to have one legal counsel approved by the Board.

Liaison & Scope of Operation, Article IX – Replace “Liaison” with “MASAR” to distinguish responsibility. Should definition of Search and Rescue include patient life support – does it imply that we are EMS or anything other than First Aid responders? Delete “patient life support”; redefine support to safety of search personnel.

Removal, Article X – Require 2/3 vote (see Article V, Voting) – this is sensitive to the size of the Board; due cause – should this stay in or be removed?; if individual voted out, can appeal to general membership.

Meetings, Article XI - change 20 days to 30 days to give Teams enough time to meet prior to submitting feedback to MASAR

Amendments to By-laws, Article XII – change 20 days to 30 days to give Teams enough time to meet prior to submitting feedback to MASAR.

New Business

Jennifer Fisk recently attended USAR – 3 responses no, yes and tentative. Next meeting August 30. Believe that most teams are not interested in taking on USAR responsibilities at this time – technical team are not interesting in spending time for what they will get out of it. Brad said Maine Wilderness is interested in pursuing; Sunrise is also interested. Applied for funding for a Bill Dodson training conference. Will most likely revert to Fire Departments. Don spoke with former USAR from Fairfax...the likelihood for being called is very slight, equipment costs are expensive, and training is extensive.

Brad – BASAR is being used outside of the parameters...being used by and individual outside of SAR for commercial gain and using the MASAR name. Individual was formerly associated with a team. Individual has never been given status as an instructor. Brad will create statement and run it by MASAR’s Board – will consult with his team of attorneys on how to legally protect MASAR’s intellectual property.

Guideline for Unit Members Responding Out-of-State (Steve Hudson) - When people/units are self-deploying, should you be connected to a responding agency? Aruba search and 9/11 has brought up these situations. Different people have been going out of state – and nothing is heard about successes or failures. Maine has a national reputation that needs to be protected. MESARD is reviewing limits on the use of dogs in that only certified dogs will be used for any search situation – should this criteria should also be developed for any MASAR member or unit? What if SAR work is part of an individual’s work/job (uncertified K9 called out by PD/FD) – is there a conflict of interest – should there be a waiver of liability? Is there a liability for MASAR? Should this situation be included in the bylaws?

Steve will talk with Deb and put in the standards; Brad’s team of attorneys will consult on wording for a waiver of liability.