

# Maine Association for Search and Rescue

## Annual Meeting 2 October 2006

### Minutes

#### **Members present:**

IF&W: Michael Sawyer

MDI SAR: Steve Hudson

MESARD: Michele Fleury, Spencer Fuller, Paul Magoon, Julie R. Jones, Bruce A. Weaver

MID MAINE: Colleen

MWK9: Brad Rounds, Margaret Mathson, Andrea R. Stone, Jeff Libby, Misty Libby

MWS: Deborah. Palman

NS-SAR: Chris Hiaw, Arnold Estabrook, Chris Moran, Lisa Michaud, Randy Michaud

Sunrise SAR / DEEMI: Susanne Kynast

Meeting called to order by Steve Hudson 13:10

Susanne Kynast recording

#### **Recent Searches:**

Debbie Palman reported a few searches, all were cleared before or just at activation of teams. DEEMI had FEMA/MEMA hurricane responses (standby only due to logistical issues with team activation in disaster area). Note: Mike Sawyer comments that Pat Dorian would like to be informed of out-of-state SAR activities by MASAR members. MASAR requests that the term 'representing Maine' is not used by responders. Julie Jones explains that she works for VK9 out of state. Susanne Kynast explains that DEEMI sometimes conducts law enforcement related responses and therefore cannot brief.

#### **Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Acceptance unanimous as revised.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Accepted as read, \$3,110.64 total funds. Six teams are fully paid. Regarding the Nite-Sun (helo light) it was clarified that Gary Anderson / MWS raised the money, MASAR acted as repository. MASAR still has the maintenance money in the account, MWS has taken the Nite-Sun back.

#### **Standards Committee:**

No report.

#### **Education:**

Dirigo SAR will sponsor a BASAR class (without the map and compass module) October 21-23. Contact Dave Martin for more info. The Statewide exercise has been cancelled. Mike Sawyer reports that Tri-Town SAR of South Paris was unable to provide organization and leadership and could not get together with Brad Rounds due to time constraints. It was noted that exercise dates need to be posted early for people to adjust their schedules accordingly. Mike Sawyer is running out of ideas for topics speakers and is asking everyone to 'think outside the box'. Susanne Kynast comments that education should increasingly be through cooperation between all MASAR teams.

#### **ID Cards:**

MEMA goes to locations to make IDs - it is hard to get them to come. Michelle Fleury called MEMA to request IDs and got no response. Mike Sawyer needs the certification list so he can email it to MEMA. It might be possible to send MEMA digital images. Dawn Cormier at MEMA is responsible for the IDs. Teams should work through Mike Sawyer to coordinate with him. It takes a 2 week notice to get MEMA to team meetings. Individual walk-ins at MEMA don't seem to work. The MEMA ID machine is required to make the IDs. The MASAR ID is valid only for MASAR purposes, MEMA IDs involving MEMA resource typing will come later. The current format of the MASAR ID was requested by MWS.

#### **USAR:**

MEMA resource listing is in progress. ME USAR team will be non-federal. USAR meeting decided on resource consolidation. A list of resources is available. MEMA is implementing new typing due to Louisiana snags.

#### **Bylaws:**

Moved to accept final proposal. Susanne Kynast requests that the document be regarded as interim and work continue. Steve Hudson requests that bylaws are either rejected or accepted. Discussion: It is noted that the revisions have not been shown to legal counsel yet. Also that a vote today would be impossible since the secretary is not present and the proxy vote therefore unknown. A vote was taken. Accept: 2 (Individual members, NS-SAR), reject: 4 (DEEMI, MESARD, MWK9, MDI). The bylaws committee was dissolved. A motion was made to resurrect the old committee to continue work. Discussion: It was suggested that new members should be able to join but the existing members refuse to continue if new individuals join. Vote: unanimous in favor of resurrecting the old committee as is. The bylaws committee is soliciting comments and a new revision will be available December 1. Proxy voting was discussed. A written proxy is difficult because it is unknown what specific issues will be discussed at the meeting. A proxy can be assigned to a member but only if they are not already voting. Proxies can only be used for issues posted in advance to the member teams.

### **Annual Meeting:**

Nominations for officers made to the secretary were unknown because Bob Bohlmann is absent. A motion was made to therefore continue the annual meeting to the next meeting date. Accepted unanimously. Bylaws will need to include which rules of order will apply (democratic or Robert's). The bylaws will be voted on at the next meeting. If they are approved the board will change, the officers will be non-voting on the board. The president, secretary, and treasurer can be from the same team. Steve Hudson will contact Bob Bohlmann, Susanne will start posting MASAR business to the MASAR discussion list. It was suggested and rejected that Bob Bohlmann should send out a nomination list. Under the old bylaws nominations are done on the floor without proxy votes.

### **Spring Exercise:**

Question of whether MASAR still needs exercises. We need more comprehensive training, with teams sharing individual, specialized trainings. More disciplines need to be represented. SAR games / SAR Tech testing / SAR skills competition. Member teams no longer like search exercises and prefer classroom instruction instead. Bring those recommendations back to units and get responses. A committee should be formed for the exercise so that more people than just the sponsoring team work on it. The education director and Mike Sawyer have been involved traditionally. The exercise should be headed up by that committee but we don't want to lose input from the local team which knows the local resources and can get work done locally. Each team also has individual ideas for training. The education committee could also work on all education issues. MASAR needs to decide if a fall or a spring exercise is better. It is also possible to work with a commercial hosting entity. The MASAR communication director should also be part of that committee. A motion was made to form an exercise / training committee and was approved unanimously. Brad is the training director, we should look at training directors of individual teams for the committee. The committee was formed with Deborah Palman, Susanne Kynast, and Tracy Williams (North Star). It was suggested that we should also have a member from an equestrian team.

### **Unit Definition:**

Question of how to define a functional resource. Size is a factor. The MWS resource list still includes non-certified teams. For example Waldo County is not certified but is still on the list. The list is mostly for dispatch officers. The MASAR list is developed by MASAR. MASAR should only call certified teams on the callout list unless the CP directs otherwise, if the search is short on responders. The MASAR SOPs will be rewritten so that only certified teams will be called (as part of the revision of the unit standards). There is some liability for MASAR if they call out an uncertified team. Should units be required to be NPOs? Should they be required to carry insurance? Units need to be a functional, organized unit that trains regularly. The MWS is still telling people that they can search without being part of organized teams. The credibility of MASAR depends on the quality of teams they call. Until non-certified units will no longer be used by MWS there will be no drive for units to be certified. District wardens may not know that MASAR exists - they will call in the individuals they remember. Compensation for certified searchers could be considered. MASAR needs a memorandum of understanding on dispatch with MWS. This issue should be discussed at the next meeting when Pat Dorian is present.

### **Meeting Location:**

Question whether some meetings should be in Bangor and how often we should meet.

Meeting adjourned 15:20