

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE (MASAR)
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 7, 2006
DISTRICT WARDENS HEADQUARTERS
SIDNEY, MAINE

Called to Order: V.P., Steve Hudson, 1:01 p.m.

Recent Searches: No callouts substantial to mention. Ray Geisel did mention the recent case of the missing 4-year-old in Charleston. (Child was found before any MASAR activation.) Warden Pat Dorian mentioned that on this search, the fire department had done preliminary searching which did considerable 'contamination' to the area, which prompted him to mention that Warden Deborah Palman has been working with fire departments on how they should handle any missing person cases that they get called for. Susanne Kynast mentioned that DEEMI is also going to be doing a program along those same lines.

Secretary's Report: A DRAFT of the Meeting Minutes will be emailed to unit representatives for any inclusions or changes. The minutes will be voted on at the next scheduled meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance: \$2502.42.

Committees:

By Laws Committee: Vote on proposed new By Laws (draft 12). *Paul Magoon - motion to accept By Laws as revised. Unanimous vote to accept revised By Laws.* Brad said that if last fall the By Laws had been passed, we wouldn't need to elect any new members of the Board of Directors. However, now we have Robert Bohlmann and Paul Magoon who were elected and will stay on board, as well as Julie Jones and Steve Hudson. That would leave three (3) remaining positions vacant. Steve will post that at the next meeting we will be voting on the three open BOD positions.

Brad wanted to give special thanks to Julie Jones, Michele Fleury and Randy Michaud for their "agonizing work" on the By Laws Committee. Julie added that Brad deserved many thanks as he was the chair and he "agonized" the most with the committee's work.

Standards Committee: Vote on proposed revised Standards. *Unanimous vote to accept revised standards.* Several standards were revised in the past year. A grandfather clause was been added to the Mounted Team Standard; Unit Certification and Ground Searcher Standards had major changes made, and the Dog Team Standards were reorganized and revised. A major change was in ground searcher recertification, which was changed from every five (5) years, to every three (3) years.

Training Committee: Evaluate Spring Exercise. Randy was unable to attend this meeting, however, feedback on the Spring Exercise was very favorable. Susanne thought that the class on booby traps was a high level class and would like to see more of this type of training for certification purposes. Steve sees little reason to have this type of class / certification because there wouldn't be a large interest in it and the level of learning would be beyond what trainees would understand. Susanne also informed MASAR that DEEMI will be offering a track of professional classes offered either this summer or fall. She will put the information on the MASAR list when it becomes available. Michael Sawyer heard very good feedback on the exercise despite there being a lot going on at the Unity campus. Steve said that Chris Wiebusch was impressed with the choices of classes. Warden Wayde Carter and Warden Roger Guay's presentation regarding their work in New

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Orleans was very much enjoyed. *Brad Rounds - motion to for Randy Michaud and Mike Sawyer to be officially commended on their work for 2006 Spring Exercise.*

Old Business: ID card photos - there were 29 certified members who received ID cards at the Spring Exercise, and several non-certified member photos were taken (those photos will be held until the members become certified). Steve suggested that the forms that are completed at the time of the photos should be changed in that some of the info. is redundant. He will check into this.

New Business: Board of Directors developed some proposed policies; (e.g., recommendation on what units would and would not do when working in and out of the state of Maine; duty officer protocols - starting this year, the DO only dispatches units that are certified by MASAR and those that are not trained, or not certified, must be requested specifically by Warden Service). An example of the latter would be DIRIGO SAR. They are not a certified unit (documentation has not yet been filed) and therefore would have to be officially requested by W.S. If W.S. requested their help (for example) for communications purposes, then that is the only venue that they should supply. Steve will hold on to these policies until we have the new BOD on board.

Susanne mentioned that Sunrise SAR was looking to have law enforcement join their team and wanted to know how they would be utilized at a search. Pat said that he will sign in all of the people and have them work in whatever their expertise lies in. A question from Susanne arose about being an EMT and having to contact her medical supervisor if she comes across someone hurt in the woods while she is searching. Paul, who has been an EMT for years, said that if he is on scene, he will provide treatment for which he is trained for, and wait until medical personnel arrive.

Misc. New Business: Julie made a recommendation that MASAR adopt a change in the months that MASAR meets to the months of: March; June; September; and December. Reasons for this would be for the months of December and March, weather conditions are likely to be better for driving; we won't have any meetings in July and August which tend to be months that people are away vacationing, etc., and September is before hunting season gets going, thus it would be easier for us to have Warden representation. Also, having the meetings in March and September will help us to be able to set up the spring and fall training exercises more easily. It was noted that the first Sunday in September is Labor Day so we *would* need to change that meeting date to the second Sunday of the month, as opposed to our usual meeting date of the first Sunday of the month. As we did not have representation for each group in attendance at this meeting, Steve will put out an email asking for opinions on this change and we will discuss it at our next meeting.

Mike asked if anyone is doing a BASAR class - the weekend style. Brad says that likely there will be a team that does this.

Mike announced a new program that he has become aware of: Hike / Safe Program. This program offers wallet sized card with tips on them on what you should do if you become lost. He asked if any of the teams do programs for their communities and several hands were raised. Mike mentioned that he thought he and Pat might look into this and even though there is a cost, they may be able to get a Heritage Grant to cover the expense of materials, etc. He will check and get back to us with more information.

Julie wanted to publicly acknowledge Mid Maine Equestrian SAR for hosting the morning snack at the Spring Exercise in Unity.

Susanne announced publicly that she planned to file a complaint against Randy Michaud for intentionally or unintentionally discrediting her. Steve interjected to let her know that this wasn't the forum for such announcements and that she needed to direct this to the Board of Directors.

Ray Geisel announced that he would also be on the complaint about Randy.

Presque Isle Search: Pat said that everyone participating in the search at Presque Isle should be there on Saturday, May 13, 2006, by 7:00 a.m. There are lodging accommodations available if you arrive on Friday night. Susanne apologized for not being able to attend this search but she is working for another agency and will be working there the following weekend (unless Ms. Hart is found).

Date / Location of Next Meeting: August 6, 2006, 1:00 p.m., Bangor, Maine

Meeting Adjourned: 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Julie R. Jones

Those in attendance: Steve Hudson (MDISAR); Julie Jones (MESARD); Mike Sawyer (IF&W); Patrick Dorian (MWS); John Blagdon (MWS); Rob Tice (BSP/Wilderness); Brad Rounds (MWK9) Judy Graham (MWK9); Andrea Riccardi (MWK9); Susanne Kynast (Sunrise); Ray Geisel (Sunrise); Paul Magoon (MESARD); Bruce Weaver (MESARD); Harry Key (Waldo County SAR); and Colleen Hoyt (Mid Maine Equestrian).