

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE (MASAR)
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 2, 2008
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
SIDNEY, MAINE

Called to Order: President, Dave Martin, 1:08 p.m.

Introductions

Secretary's Report: MASAR December 2, 2007 Meeting Minutes were presented. *Steve Hudson - motion to accept as written. Unanimous vote to accept.*

Treasurer's Report: Current balance in savings account: \$667.74; current balance in checking account: \$3476.27; (total balance of all available funds: \$4141.89). *Steve Hudson - motion to accept as written. Unanimous vote to accept.*

Committees:

Finance Committee: No Report - Janice stated that no one on the Finance Committee had heard from Bob Bohlmann.

Education Committee: No information available due to the absence of the Committee Chairperson.

Standards Committee: No Report.

Recent Searches: Rob Tice, Baxter State Park reported that they received a "911" call for a man on Hunt Trail with a broken tibia bone. The man was moving slowly but they were able to walk the person out. Lincoln SAR was on site and Wilderness SAR was enroute.

Bob said that Baxter State Park usually responds to 35-40 rescues a year but this season the 126th Aviation Regiment, a National Guard MEDEVAC company from Bangor, has been deployed. They usually assist Baxter 5-6 times a year and because of their deployment, Baxter won't have their hoist capabilities so there will be a potential for more calls to teams for carry outs.

Acadia National Park had a search in January. Four people got caught in the dark on Norumbega Mountain. They were found and were able to be walked back to safety. Another search: a "911" call on the Razorback Trail for a woman with a broken wrist who said she was unable to go any further, however she was walked out safely. A carry-out search was performed by MDI and Park Rangers off Beehive.

Warden Sgt. Pat Devlin said that several searches were conducted on snowmobiles, some minor and some fatalities. Very few 'traditional' searches.

Warden Devlin commented on a search that happened earlier in Orono regarding the resources called upon. He said that Warden Service was just about to put in a full ground search callout (as noted in the previous minutes), but the missing woman was located.

Mahoosuc assisted with a search off the Eyebrow Trail, searching for a flare.

DIRIGO was training on Pickerel Pond and a call came in for a search that said it was initially on the end of Great Pond but it really was back about five miles on Brandy Pond Road. Didn't deploy.

Old Business: **Individual Removal** - The Board of Director's voted to remove Susanne Kynast which needs to be voted on by the membership. The vote was tabled until issues could be resolved, however, these issues were resolved. A letter from Ms. Kynast's lawyer was received two days ago (*said letter then passed around to the membership for viewing.*)

A question by a member, who was not fully aware of all of the issues, was briefed on some of the reasons for removal. Some team members were not willing to search if Ms. Kynast was present; that she is becoming a hindrance; and that her involvement with searching was causing enough problems on whether to even activate MASAR units as a whole. Thus, the decision for Ms. Kynast's removal has surfaced. Motion to remove Susanne Kynast from MASAR was voted on by all certified units. Vote unanimous.

David "Heavy" Whalley - Mick Womersley reminded everyone that there were going to be three times that people could see and hear David "Heavy" Whalley speak; in Unity at the Center for the Arts; at the MASAR Annual Symposium; and the National Mountain Rescue Association's general meeting on June 20th in Stowe, Vermont.

New Business: Website - The MASAR website is now functioning at: www.maineSearchandRescue.org

Education Director - Randy Michaud is no longer the Education Director. Dave (president) has appointed Eric Sawyer (YCERRT) for the position of Education Director effective immediately.

BASAR Course - Bob Bohlmann has been in contact with Brad Rounds to see if they can get the BASAR course back-on-track. A thought is to produce an on-line BASAR package. Mick can package material for an on-line blog if we wanted this. Steve Hudson says that Brad is interested in assisting to discuss what the standards say and what needs to be taught. Standards drive the BASAR course, not the other way around. BASAR now doesn't address what we need to be teaching people Dave said.

2009 MASAR Annual Symposium - Rob Tice said that Wilderness would like to volunteer to host the 2009 Spring MASAR Symposium. If anyone else is interesting in hosting, contact Dave Martin as soon as possible.

Kenduskeag Canoe Race - Dave reminded everyone of the upcoming canoe race and asked for volunteers to help and work the race. Anyone with jet ski and whitewater experience, please let him know.

Subsidizing the Annual Symposium - Consideration be given to subsidize some of the funding for the Symposium as MASAR has approximately \$4000 in revenue. Julie thought that \$500 should be considered instead of a larger amount due to the precedent that this would be setting for all future annual symposiums. Mick moved to table this motion until the next meeting to find out what the expenses actually will be as the Symposium would have already taken place. Motion seconded.

501(c) 3 - Harvey King asked for the process to file and complete the 501 (c) 3 process and the cost which he heard was about \$200 - \$300. Mick will contact Harvey with some information.

Retirement - Sgt. Pat Devlin announced his retirement effective April 26th. He thanked everyone for all of their hard work in serving the people in the state of Maine. Pat received a standing ovation.

Mid-Coast SAR - Clarence Spady asked for any help that others may give Mid-Coast SAR in starting their unit. They need help with by-laws, etc. They currently have 12 EMT / EMT paramedics and do open water and high angle work. He'd appreciate any guidance from others in getting this group organized.

Date / Location of Next Meeting: September 7, 2008, 1:00 p.m., Sidney, Maine.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Julie R. Jones