

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE (MASAR)
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 1, 2008
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BANGOR, MAINE

Called to Order: President, Dave Martin, 1:12 p.m.

Introductions

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

Treasurer's Report: Current balance in savings account: \$662.73; current balance in checking account: \$3142.27; (total balance of all available funds: \$3805.00). *Steve Hudson - motion to accept as written. Unanimous vote to accept.*

Committees:

Finance Committee: No Report - Hasn't made contact with banking establishments as of yet.

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

Standards Committee: Steve will be working with Brad on what to cover on the BASAR course. We need to be sure that the instructor's *know* how to teach the material, and maybe we need to have our *trainer instructor classes* held at least every other year. MASAR will be working with the teams via letters and polls to find out what would be the best format for training-the-trainers. Also, Map / Compass / GPS should be a prerequisite. The written test should be taken *after* doing the BASAR course.

Dave has been meeting with some of the teams and has found them productive and leading us in the right direction. Dave will meet with Eric Sawyer (Educ. Director), regarding the questions on the BASAR test. One point seemed to be clear regarding BASAR --- that land navigation needs to be taught for a full day.

Steve is also working with FEMA job titles and other teams to come up with changes for K9 standards. FEMA credentials are what you should have for skills with you should we have interstate disasters. Steve will give us an update on this in September.

Recent Searches: Harvey King said that his team worked in Belmont on the Charles Springer case, where an older man left his residence on foot and went missing. MESARD also participated. It was noted that there was a high case of tick and specifically deer tick infestation there. DEEMI did participate in one overflight and digitalized one area and had a 'hit' on one image which was taken on the power line but this was checked and it was not him. DEEMI would have made more flights if there had been able to have been a direction-of-travel, but this was unable to be done.

Bob Bohlmann had a search for what they call a 'frequent flyer', a mentally-challenged young lady her left her house. She was found the next morning, almost into Wakefield.

Richard Bowie worked a case for the VT State Police in Middlebury, Vermont for a missing Middlebury College student. The first area to be imaged was a nearby river and area surrounding the river. An image-of-interest appeared to be a body. At a later date, the Middlebury Police Chief brought in VK9 to work this case. K9's trailed from PLS (college dorm) to the river. K9 also identified with a cadaver hit, the area where the image-of-interest that DEEMI had taken. Body subsequently located a short while later, just over a dam / waterfall area.

Harvey said that Waldo County also worked the case of Carl Brown, although this was done more with divers in a small pond. There was also another search where a plant crashed into the ocean near Belfast while doing acrobatic maneuvers. While EMA provides the resources, Waldo County was there to respond where necessary.

Old Business: This **MASAR Symposium** seemed to be extremely successful with many positive comments made regarding not only the area and facility used, but by the caliber of speakers.

Jennifer Fisk read a very nice email from one of the presenters at the symposium where high 'kudos' were given to again, not only the facilities used, but to the participants (Maine SAR personnel). This email was posted on a major SAR list. Jennifer will get the email to Julie who will send this email out to the individual teams for dispersal.

Wilderness SAR has volunteered to hold the next MASAR Symposium in 2009. There is a thought to once again invite SAR teams and officers from Wildlife Fish and Game from New Hampshire as was done a few years ago, therefore a location more easily accessible for them would be advisable. A discussion was ensued about not including BASAR within the symposium because new people can't attend the training and other venues of symposium.

For funding the MASAR symposium, MDI still has an outstanding balance of \$1453.00. Harvey asked that MASAR contribute \$999.00 to MDI (seconded by Bob Bohlmann). After discussion, this amount was amended to \$500.00.

The above discussion led to a lengthy discussion regarding the fact that MASAR should be raising money to fund such endeavors as the symposium, etc.

Richard Bowie suggested that we asking the state for monies. Mike Sawyer suggested looking into grants for needed funds, like the Maine Heritage fund, and the Unity Foundation. Bob Bohlmann said that the would have the Finance Committee look into tapping into the funding mentioned, and look into starting the process for funding through the legislature, but this is a long range goal. Bob will work with the Finance Committee on funding issues and goals.

Website - There needs to have a link placed within the MDI SAR website to reroute people to the new MASAR website of: www.maineSearchandRescue.org

MASAR Voice Mailbox - We'd like to restore the call in number on the voice mailbox so that in the event the callout is cancelled, that people enrout to the callout can call in and be notified of this.

New Business: **MASAR Duty Officer** - Dave *reiterated* that ALL teams need to notify the MASAR Duty Officer when they are called out on searches.

Warden Service Promotion - Warden Joel Wilkinson is now the Colonel of Warden Service and second in command is Major Greg Sanborn.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 3:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Julie R. Jones