

MASAR MEETING  
September 11, 2011  
Warden Service Headquarters  
Sidney

Attending: VP Steve Hudson, Treasurer Nancy Weeks, Roger David, Steve Yates, Stewart Guay, Jim Bridge, Nancy Weeks, Kevin Adam, Jody Dinsmore, CB Spady

Call to Order 1:10PM without a quorum

Search Reports and Warden Service information - Kevin Adam, WS

- For 2010 the Warden Service had 513 searches at a cost of \$218,000 which tracked with 2009.
- Likewise the search profiles were similar: boating, hiking, children snowmobiles, and hunting being the largest categories.
- Warden Service needs each MASAR Unit to submit miles and man-hours expended both for training and for searches as potentially part of future budget submissions. The reports need to be for 1 JUL – 30 JUN starting with the current fiscal year. Steve Hudson will work with Kevin's staff to develop a form and format for capturing the data that will be easiest for the Warden Service and forward them to all units.
- July and August were particularly busy this year, the Richardson Lake search was 5 days, there were several times when there were multiple searches going on in the state at the same time, James Russell's body was found in Moosehead.
- A skull was found near Southwest Harbor and the Point Last Seen (PLS) of Pete Peterson (search from 2010). It is in the process of identification by the Coroner's office. There are plans at some future point to use MESARD Human Remains Detection (HRD) dogs to locate the rest of the body.
- There will be a week of SAR training in Greenville for the Wardens and a portion may be opened to MASAR units. Kevin will provide further information when available.
- Warden's new mobile Command Post is moving ahead. Procurement of the server and SATCOMM systems is the current long pole in the tent.
- Radio switchover to narrow band is progressing with Harris getting the award to provide the radios. Initial issue is expected in December. Concern was voiced that a cut over date needed to be established so everyone retained compatibility.
- There are some organizational changes occurring within the Warden Service and Kevin will take over the K9 Teams.

Baxter State Park search reports and information – Stewart Guay

- June/July/Aug were busy, for the most part with typical calls but higher numbers than usual.

- Had an evacuation from Chimney Pond of a man with a rare, emergent, genetic disease that presented as kidney failure. Evacuation to hospital was executed quickly enough and he survived.
- Baxter has developed a means to carry out an individual with only 4 people using a newly designed piece of equipment. Stewart will forward photographs.
- The Park had a mandatory evacuation for hurricane Irene. Chimney Pond received 10" of rain and there were several culverts washed out in the northern park. Winds, although high, were not excessively high for the park.
- There is a job opening for a winter backcountry ranger for Chimney pond.
- There has been an unauthorized use of the SAR bunk house for personal gain which is under investigation.

Secretary's Report - Presented but not accepted as no quorum, see attached.

Treasurer's Report - Presented but not accepted as no quorum, see attached.

Committee Reports

By-Laws - No report

Education - Jim Bridge reported that:

- The BASAR class scheduled for Wiscasset did not have enough people sign up to run so was canceled.
- BASAR Online is completed and the Beta class will be notified this evening how to access the course. The class will have 30 days to complete the course and then a practical day will be scheduled for the class.
- There are 10 people in the class.
- A check was requested and prepared paid to the order of MaineE Learning for \$100 for hosting services. Jim will deliver the check.
- Jim indicated that a set of speakers that plug into a wall plug and the laptop are needed and if anyone has a set to donate it would save our buying them.

Finance - No report

Resource - No report

Standards - Steve Hudson reported that:

- FEMA's NIMS draft resource types and credentialing requirements should be out for public comment soon and Steve encouraged all MASAR members to comment through their units when these documents come out. Comments coming from a SAR Unit will have more impact than those coming from individuals.

- It appears that the standards will be close to what MASAR already has but will add ICS 200 to the STM and RTM positions, which Steve disagrees with.
- They will also require a background check but it is unclear what results will disqualify a person from SAR work.
- Steve also mentioned that there is no legal requirement that MASAR has to comply with the FEMA standards, as we do not receive federal funds although it would be wise to do so.

#### Old Business

- NorthStar has been contacted regarding their continuation as a MASAR Unit and no response has been returned.
- Rockers and patches discussion was deferred to the December meeting.
- Testing of thermal imagers was discussed. Kevin had the opportunity to test some and said they offered some promise, Dave Martin is likewise investigating, and Jim Bridge reported that he had used some in the last few weeks and was impressed as to how well they worked.

#### New Business

- Discussion was held regarding call outs and the need to ensure that the York Dispatcher clearly understood whether the callout was for MESARD or MASAR as the two can sound very similar. Kevin clarified that when he requests ground search teams that he also means horses and that they should respond.
- Nancy Weeks announced that the MASAR horse unit has changed their name because of confusion as to their purpose and from now on are the Maine Mounted Search And rescue (MMSAR) Unit.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted

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James B. Bridge  
Acting Secretary