



Meeting Minutes PSARC Board Meeting November 13, 2004

Don Scelza called the meeting to order at 1040 hours.

Board members present:

Don Scelza (President), Vikki Coup (VP), Cathy Conner (Secretary), Lou Ann Pomposelli (Treasurer), Brian Winterstein (At-Large), Chris Rudolph (Northeast), Alan Houck (Southeast), Jean Zore, Jack Stankaweiz, This constitutes a quorum.

DHS Typing will be discussed at the GM meeting.

Membership: Bedford County Wilderness SAR has provided an application with the sponsoring team NOVASAR. The membership committee recommends them into the Council as a probationary member.

Individual membership was requested from Travis Dosz from Youngstown, OH. The membership committee recommends him into the Council as an individual membership.

A motion was made by Jean Zore and seconded by Brian Winterstein to make individual membership dues \$20.00. Motion approved unanimously.

DCNR: They had their Task Force Meeting. Mike Norris is trying to transfer back into the Parks to be more active in SAR. Information is still pending.

Old Business: No new information. Keystone SAR emailed us with a new

contact. They are reorganizing and plan to be up with a new revised team in January 2005. The new contact information is included on the Treasurer's report.

Don was contacted by TROT SAR who would like to renew their membership with PSARC.

SEARCH ONE out of Newtown has been disbanded.

New Business Dates for next year's meetings: February 12, April 30, August 13 and November 12, 2005.

Don has proposed the creation of 2 new manuals for PSARC – An operations manual and an Administrative manual. This will eliminate the need to change the bylaws every time a policy is changed. He asked the Ops committee to take on the process of creating the Ops manual.

Issues have been brought up about the dispatch process with 1-800-MED-STAT. Don had contacted Med Stat and realized that resource manuals were being used incorrectly by reading the first page of information that they were looking for and it was the oldest information.

New information for the resource manual should be recorded at Med Stat Quarterly and will be done 1 month after each PSARC meeting.

Insurance payments – Money from SAREx funds will be used to pay for insurance bills that have been coming in. The committee already agreed to it. Coverages in the insurance policies include officer and director liability (covering officers, directors and delegates) and a general liability policy that covers us for the use of the Park and training, automobile.

Acceptable Use Policy – Brian has drafted a policy and will send it out to

the board. It will be introduced at the next meeting and voted upon.

Website: Nothing to report.

A motion was made by Brian Winterstein and seconded by Jean Zore to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:11.



Meeting Minutes PSARC Member Meeting November 13, 2004

Don Scelza, President, called meeting to order at 1111 hours.

President: Don thanked the members for attending the meeting

A message from the President:
Good Morning. Thank you for coming to this meeting of the Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council.

One of the perq's of my position is that at this point of the meeting I get the ability to say pretty much whatever is on my mind. Today is one of the few times when I will take that opportunity.

More years ago than I can remember a group of people with a vision got together and formed this organization with the goal of increasing the likelihood that a lost person in Pennsylvania would be found and would be found alive. That was, and still is, a truly noble goal. There were some years when the Council lost sight of or at least failed to prioritize that goal. We got through those times and the Council continued on its path.

In 1997 Martha Ackroid, John Miller and I met to talk about what we saw as the direction of the Council over the next decade. I described some of that vision when I took over this position, hoping to live up to the legacy left by Martha and John. The basic view that we held was

that the maturation of SAR in Pennsylvania was following very closely the path taken by the Fire Service and EMS. We started to talk about SAR as the fourth emergency service with Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS being the others. This is when changes in the Council's membership policy along with requirements for background check policies and signed codes of ethics were adopted. All changes to maintain and raise the level of professionalism of the wilderness SAR community in Pennsylvania. We saw SAR become regulated in Pennsylvania in much the same way as Fire and EMS and knew that if the Council was not to be come trivialized the Council and its members needed to be ready for these changes.

Then on a September day in 2001 all of our lives changed forever. I feel safe in saying that there is not a single person in this room that has not been affected by the events of that day. This Council is not immune to those effects. The real question is: Will we be able to handle them?

The Council and our ability to perform wilderness search and rescue is at a critical point. Changes shaped by September 11th and by the building of the USAR system are starting to be felt in the wilderness SAR community. These changes will affect how we as individuals, we as teams and we as a

Council perform wilderness search and rescue.

On September 8th of this year Secretary Ridge sent a letter to the Governors of the states detailing some of the high level points of the new National Incident Management System, NIMS. Do not be confused and think of NIMS as just ICS on steroids. The NIMS covers not only ICS but all aspects of incident response. Taking a quote directly from the FEMA web page:

“This part of the NIMS Integration Center will focus on the development of a national system of guidelines, protocols and standards for the implementation of the NIMS system. For example, the NIMS requires the qualification and certification of incident response personnel. This requires national standards for qualifying and certifying personnel and will ensure that agencies and organizations involved in incident response will be able to request and deploy personnel with the knowledge, skills and experience to do their jobs efficiently and effectively.”

From this you can see that NIMS will be setting requirements for most if not all aspects of an emergent response. One of the most important points in the Secretary’s letter is that Federal preparedness assistance funding to the States will become dependent on their implementation of the NIMS with full implementation required by September 30th, 2004.

Some of you may be thinking, “this is all well and good but how does it affect me and my team?”. The Department of

Homeland Security has defined requirements for emergency response resources that cover the areas we currently handle. If you haven’t looked at the resource typing information from DHS, I suggest you do¹. A good example of how these standards will affect you is the definition for a Type I Wilderness Search and Rescue Team. This team must be able to field 54 personnel with at least six of them having medical certifications. This team must be completely self sufficient for at least 72 hours. In addition to team personnel and training requirements, there are requirements for significant amounts of equipment. Can your team do this today?

So, here are the points that I would like you to take away from this:

- *For the States to get their Federal Preparedness dollars they must implement the NIMS and Wilderness SAR is part of that system. That means that the State will be getting involved in Wilderness SAR and they will be doing it on the same type of scale that they have become involved in Urban SAR.*
- *The requirements of the NIMS are larger than any single team in Pennsylvania can handle.*
- *Currently, the Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council is the only organization in the State whose primary focus is Wilderness Search and Rescue.*

¹ The resource typing lists can be found on the NASAR page at:
<http://www.nasar.org/nasar/news.php?id=151>

If we are to obtain the noble goal of increasing the survivability of the lost subject that was the reason for forming this Council we must put aside petty disputes and work together to meet the needs and requirements of lost person search and rescue in the post 911 era. We must not forget the motto of SAR-EX our State wide training conference: "Search is an Emergency, Search is Teamwork"

At the February meeting we will take 2 hours after the meeting to discuss NIMS.

VP: Nothing to report.

Secretary report: Nothing to report.

Treasurer's: Current balance is \$2149.00. All items that need to be mailed out should be to LouAnn by December 15th. She would like to mail them out January 2nd.

The council was declined a credit card.

The Dues list has been done and is attached.

Committee Reports

Membership: Bedford County Wilderness SAR has submitted an application. All of their paperwork is in place. They have 32 members and 20 are NASAR SARTECH III and 7 that are SARTECH II. NOVASAR is the sponsoring team. A motion was made and seconded to waive the dues for 2004 and charge \$40 for 2005. All in favor with one opposition.

An individual application was received from Travis Dosz. He will pay a \$20 fee for 2005. A motion was made by Brian

Winterstein and seconded by Tony Ghaffari to accept an individual membership.

Operations: Application to have your team certified with levels has been updated. Three questions were added: 51% FTM, 2 members FTL, all members of team certified in CPR/First Aid. There is a 2 page instruction sheet included with the application on how the certification process will work. There are also instructions for the video certification procedures.

There is an updated list for certified teams. All information will be on the website.

A motion was made and seconded to make the teams red that have not been certified. All in favor. Motion carried and passed.

K9 Specialist – Any teams running K9's (Air Scenting) must have 51% of their team certified as a Rescue Specialist by the end of 2006.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the K9 Specialist standards. All in favor. Motion carried and passed.

We are in the process of starting to get an operations manual done. The main topics are the certifications of the teams.

In regards to the STAT Comm issue Chris Rauch submitted the following explanation:

"Ken and I met with the Communications Coordinator at STAT yesterday. We gave them the most recent PSARC referral manual and went over the proper dispatch procedures. They

were aware that there were some issues with dispatching last month and were glad we were taking the time to go over the procedures with them.

It was very clear why bad information was being given out. First, there were lots of new faces in the STAT dispatch center. There are couple long time dispatchers that normally handle PSARC referral and AMRG dispatch. If one of them is not around, the newer people aren't sure what to do and have to go and look things up in the STAT manual, which was the second problem. The manual was a three ring binder about as thick as the City of Pittsburgh phone book. Basically, they have been keeping every document that PSARC or a member team has ever sent them and they were in chronological order. So if someone new and unfamiliar with the process opened up that book the first information they found about a team would likely be about 10 years old, behind that there would be the 7 year old information, then the 5 year old info, etc until you finally found the current info. We had them remove all of the the old contact info from the binder and file it elsewhere.

So STAT now has the current info, they know they have it and where it is, and they are going to go make sure that their communications specials are properly trained to use the referral guide. STAT is enthusiastic about continuing to support us with their communications center. AMRG will continue to do face to face meetings with STAT about once a year (when a new PSARC referral manual comes out) to maintain a good working relationship them.”

Chris

Problems that arose with StatCom have been rectified. They had all of the information that we had provided them, but they were not using the manual properly. StatCom now has an organized updated manual to use. A team in Pittsburgh will visit StatCom quarterly and update the PSARC information.

*The original manual was at StatCom since November.

Web: An Acceptable Use of Policy will be presented at the next meeting.

Forms: Nothing to report.

SAREx: Discussion has been done regarding health certificates for K9's. A health certificate certified within the last two weeks will need to be brought to SAREx including a copy of the K9's vaccinations in order for the dog to be at SAREx.

A motion was made by LouAnn for K9's to have a health certificate current within two weeks and a vaccinations record including rabies shot or titers if attending SAREx. Seconded by Vicki. All in favor. Motion carried and passed.

A plaque will be presented to Jason for assisting and allowing the Campground for SAREx.

A motion was made by Don to spend \$50 on a plaque for Pinch Pond Campground for SAREx. Brian seconded. All in favor. Motion carried and passed.

Finalized details for the insurance policy for the SAREx event need to be done.

Jack Frost, from the Coast Guard who has written the papers about sweep widths will be a speaker at SAREx.

Public Relations: Lou Ann , Barb and Joe were asked to do a child's event at SAREx. Ie. Hug a Tree. We could bring the public in and teach kids about SAR.

DCNR :

K9 Standards: K9 Standards handouts were given out at SAREx regarding trailing standards and input was requested. These standards will not be through DCNR.

Chris made a motion to accept the trailing standards. Seconded by Lou Ann. All in favor. Motion carried and passed.

Standards for Cadaver dog. They are the standards from the National Recovery Dog Network. Evaluators will be done through Karen Dashfield.

New standards are available and comments regarding these standards should be addressed to Vicki. They will be voted on in February.

By-Laws: Nothing to report.

Old Business: An email will be sent out to teams asking for their latitude and longitude for their home locations. This will assist in completing the reference map.

New Business: Feb 12, Apr 30, Aug. 13 and Nov. 12 are the dates for the 2005 meetings.

Alan stated that we will lose 150.775 frequency split in 2008.

For the Good of the Council:

Teams need to apply with the Game Commission to have a permit to train on State Gamelands. Don will look in to this.

CCSOSAR Signed a Mutual Aid Agreement with Seven Mountains Regional Task Force. This will allow for their team to access to specialized equipment through the task force.

Search Responder Courses and BSAR are available at Pocono and Lancaster. Contact Chris Rudolph or Alan Houck for details.

A motion to adjourn was made by Brian Winterstein, 2nd by Tony Ghaffari. Meeting adjourned at 13:12 hours.