



Meeting Minutes PSARC Board Meeting 05/06/06

Meeting was brought to order by Don Scelza around 10:00pm immediately after the auction at SAR-EX!

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Scelza (President), Vicki Coup (Vice President), Roger Tobias (Secretary), LouAnn Pomposelli (Treasurer), Brian Winterstein (At Large), Chris Rudolph (Northeast), Alan Houck (Southeast) and John Miller (Past President). This constitutes a quorum.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS: Don Scelza welcomed everyone to the 11th Annual SAR-EX and was very pleased with the certification process and the training of PSARC Member Teams. He mentioned that it was important for the PSARC Member Teams to give some extra effort to obtain both DCNR and NASAR Certification. We must strive to increase the percentage of trained and qualified SAR Team Members throughout the Commonwealth. Their intent is to continue the surveys in the upcoming SAR-EX's.

Don mentioned that the PSARC as an organization must strive to come up with one single location for contacting resources for SAR responses and to receive information regarding searches. We've really come a long way! In order to keep moving in a forward direction we need to look at all fellow searchers and teams and treat them the way we would want to be treated. After all, we

are all here for the same purpose which is to locate the lost person! Again, the vision of the PSARC is to move forward, to become an operational entity with and through the membership of the PSARC so we may function as a single entity on searches no matter what the level of emotions are.

Tony Ghaffari of CCSOSAR lead the body in a moment of silence for John Nelson who tragically perished in a motor vehicle accident last month while on his way to a team training event. He was a member of the CAP and also very active with the Boy Scouts of America. John will truly be missed by many!

TREASURY REPORT: LouAnn Pomposelli read the Treasury Report. We presently have a balance of \$3,137.96 with the annual insurance payment of \$863.00 coming up soon. Current invoice for the annual insurance payment is \$863.00, and \$21.77 for postage.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: John Feldbauer was not present and asked Brian Winterstein to deliver the report. Their only question was pertaining to the K-9 Committee and how they were coming along with the K-9 Standards.

K-9 COMMITTEE: It was stated by the K-9 Committee that PSARC will accept both DCNR and/or NASAR K-9 Standards for the PSARC. Trailing Standards are being worked on and anyone with a set of standards in place or anyone with recommendations for standards should submit them to the K-9 Committee. Cadaver and Water Standards will be in the near future. Regarding the credentialing of teams, in order for your Team to be credentialed as a K-9 Team, you must have at least 1 operational dog and a copy of your certificate from DCNR or NASAR must be submitted to the PSARC. It was clarified that all Teams will remain in red on the Resource List until their Team Level Certification Process is complete.

Example... Let's say that your Team has not went through the Team Level process as of yet. Your Team will be listed in red on the Resource List even if you successfully meet the requirements as mentioned above. To be listed in green your Team must go through the Team Level process. If your Team is listed in green, but you do not meet the requirements to be a credentialed K-9 Team, your Team information will be listed in green regarding your Team Level and red regarding your Teams K-9 status.

The K-9 Committee looked at and recommended to the body that we vote on and put into place the newly revised K-9 Standards. It was decided to table the decision as the K-9 Standards had not been posted on the PSARC website as of yet.

NASAR LICENSING COMMITTEE: Last year at SAR-EX there was a demonstration from NASAR on how the PSARC could become a licensed provider of NASAR programs. Through this program the PSARC will have Instructors who will be able to host NASAR courses and certify members through NASAR. The PSARC has received 6 applications and already recommended 4 people for this Instructorship. In order to be eligible for the program, the PSARC must first become a member of NASAR. The cost to become a member of NASAR is \$212.00 which will present us with many benefits. It was recommended by the Committee that we proceed with the program on a pilot basis for 1 year only at this time. It was also recommended that the PSARC pay for the Instructor Candidates to take the necessary courses but that the Instructors pay for the Instructor kits to present the programs. It was mentioned by Don Scelza that it was not the goal of the PSARC to get a certain amount of Instructors but to get an idea of the demand for additional Instructors. The goal is to be certain that we have a sufficient amount of Instructors across the Commonwealth. There is or will be in the future a fact sheet regarding the NASAR Licensure Program on the PSARC website!

It was mentioned by LouAnn Pomposelli that the NASAR Licensure Program could be costly to the PSARC and we should be concerned with our finances. It would be of some help if all Teams would pay their Annual Dues up to date. President Scelza reports that the initial investment should be approximately \$1000.00

Ken Ciachhia reported that the Sweep Width Experiment went well. PSARC is only the 6th organization that was able to participate in this experiment. We are fortunate to have two of the three top experts and the assistance of the coast guard conducting this testing.

SAR-EX COMMITTEE: Pepper noted that this year there was several new Instructors at SAREX and that he is already accepting applications for next year. All Instructors wishing to offer any presentations at next years SAR-EX should submit their form as soon as possible. There are already several courses scheduled. Roger Tobias already submitted his application and will be teaching the grid program again. Linda Percy reported that we had 192 people register for the SAR-EX this year. We had only 14 cancellations and Teams from 8 different States attended which includes 26 Teams total. There were 3 Vendors on site with one Vendor canceling.

The dates for next years SAR-EX have already been chosen. It will start on May 3rd 2007! There are already several courses scheduled. It was mentioned that there are plenty of SAR-EX t-shirts available and the money collected would be a good start towards next years SAR-EX. All Instructors wishing to offer any presentations at next years SAR-EX should submit their form as soon as possible.

A Plaque and a Block of Canadian Search and Rescue Stamps were presented to Linda Percy for her unwavering commitment to the SAR-EX. Linda has done an excellent job this year and in the past with SAR-EX. Without her the SAR-EX would not happen! Thank you very much Linda for your hard work and dedication!

GOOD & WELFARE: Don Scelza thanked everyone for making the SAR-EX a success and for attending.

Tony Ghaffari from CCSOSAR presented Michael Tobias from EPSAR with a Certificate signed by Denny Nau, the High Sheriff of the County of Centre. Michael was appointed has a Special Deputy Sheriff. Mike was in a tragic vehicle accident last August 23rd while responding to an auto accident call with the local Fire Department. It's nice to see he's up, around and doing well.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Rudolph, 2nd by Tony Ghaffari. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30pm!

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger Tobias

