

PSARC Meeting
State College, PA
February 10, 2007

Operations Meeting:
Chair: John Feldbauer

Operations Sub Committee formed:

John Feldbauer, Kim Carr, Roger Tobias, Bruce Barton, Tom Wilson, Tony Ghaffari, Barb Mack, Mark Hopkins, Joe Pomposelli (sp), Brian Winterstein.

Bylaws:

Article 1, Probationary members: There are a number of requirements, documents that we have been lax on and need to revisit this article and decide what changes we need to implement so that we function as the bylaws are stated. A by-law needs to be created which must include a time period in which teams must submit all necessary documentation to the PSARC

Callout (One Call) – Roger passed out forms on the procedure and CDO schedule. Incident Alert Form – to be used by the CDO. (Add to form – “DO YOU WANT TO BE CONTACTED BY THE RESPONDING TEAMS OR DO YOU WANT ONE CALL FROM THE CDO WITH THE RESPONSE INFORMATION?” This will be added to the Incident Alert Form! Verbal contact should be made to the requesting agency when there is a change in the CDO during an incident.

Information was provided on the step by step process of using the one call system. Every CDO has their own password number to access the Dispatch System.

Communications:

Will be held as a separate presentation after the ops. meeting.
Bruce presented a PSARC Radio Frequency draft of acceptable frequencies to use throughout PA. The top 5 frequencies are the primary that would be needed to be programmed into the radios for SAR teams.

WPBM671 is the SAR Council Call Sign! 155.160 and 150.7750 are the two licensed frequencies by the council. Bruce is motioning, Roger Tobias seconded to adopt the first 5 items on the list, their designations and channel layout. (PSAR1, PSAR2, SARTAC, NATSAR, SAR3) and to forward as an issue into the general membership.

Board Meetings: Don would like to present Paul ? of White Oak as Western Region Representative to the council. They are a new team, however have met their minimum requirements (4 meetings). Motion was seconded by Allen Houck. Motion was Approved.

PSARC Meeting
State College, PA
February 10, 2007

General Membership meeting:

Called to order at 11:25.

Don presented information from PEMA the 2 hour phone conference. The conference team discussed PSARC and the resources we can provide. PEMA is looking for a statewide resource for both urban and wilderness SAR. Still have a long way to go. PSARC provided PEMA with info for the call-out of Certified PSARC Teams. PEMA did however make some suggestions which will be discussed later in the meeting. PEMA wants certified teams ONLY to be dispatched & deployed by PSARC! This should be a “message or clue” for teams to complete your team level certification!

Don also had a meeting with DCNR, Forestry and Parks. Ken Boyles has stepped down! All DCNR testing is still on track and will be made available. There will be testing at SAREX! Vicki Coup will be doing K9 and Don will be doing FTM/FTL Testing. DCNR SAR Task Force is getting back into force. DCNR is interested in PSARC and all testing will continue! The DCNR will proceed ahead once the minor kinks are worked out.

CAP – Arnie Andreese (sp) – CAP guest speaker were present at the meeting. They mentioned they would be renewing their membership. Interested in sharing information (communications) and working with the various SAR teams (ICS, K9) within PSARC etc. They look forward to building a relationship with PSARC so we can respond & work as a unit more efficiently.

PEMA has offered PEHSC, to assist with the standards for SAR. There is a Rescue Task Force within the PEHSC. They are currently working on Swiftwater Rescue Teams. When that is complete they will ask them to take on SAR, likely for 2008. They will help with all of the administrative functions to establish the standards (committees, meetings and general logistics etc). They will be looking for “experts” in the field to assist with this venture.

Vice President:

Not present, no report!

Treasurer Report:

\$2,002.76

\$59.56 paid out for SAREX Plague for Linda.

\$280 worth of dues, not counting today’s receipts.

Our Insurance bill should be here soon, hasn’t arrived as of yet.

501(c)(3) is moving slowing due to work constraints but will be looked into.

Committees: Membership:

Greater Philadelphia, Bedford, and White Oak all came off probationary status.

PSARC Meeting
State College, PA
February 10, 2007

Bedford is working towards their certification, however have not been certified as of yet. We need to develop a “category” to recognize newer teams once they are off probationary status before they proceed with Team Level Certification.

White Oak has contacted Don for level certification.

Center Region Emergency Strike Team submitted their application for membership and has been received by John Feldbauer.

Operations:

A committee has been formed and the names are listed above.

Should have a lot more detailed information by May/SAREX.

We will be developing a yahoo groups for online meetings.

Every team needs to submit their 2007 resource lists ASAP!

K9 certifications are not going to be recognized until 2008 due to fall out from other groups!

We will be gathering more NIMS Compliance info.

Brian Winterstein and Tony Ghaffari are going to rework the web site. Don Scelza requested that a 3 year plan be drafted by the committee regarding the website. Would like to see it be used to obtain and send out information vital to the Council.

Certificates were handed out to Blue Mountain SAR for successfully completing Level II. Susquehanna SAR successfully completed Level I on 12/16/2006. Mid Atlantic SAR successfully completed Level I on 12/12/2006 and SAR Dogs of PA successfully completed Level II on 2/2006. **Great job to everyone! PSARC would like to see more Teams certified!**

Radio frequencies:

Bruce has brought a request to standardize frequencies (see Committee Mtg).

Letter of authorization for the frequencies will be sent to all PSARC teams. Frequencies will also be added to the web page to accept the first 5 lines as a set of standard frequencies for PSARC operations. (Ken Chiacchia motioned to accept, Tony Ghaffari seconded the motion)

All in favor – motion carried.

Frequencies are as follows:

Freq. Name	Receive Freq.	Transmit Freq.	PL Tone
PSAR -1	155.160	155.160	127.3
PSAR -2	155.160	150.775	127.3
PSARTAC	150.775	150.775	118.0 (Transmit only)
NATSAR	155.160	155.160	127.3 (Transmit only)
SAR 3	154.570	154.570	186.2

PSARC Meeting
State College, PA
February 10, 2007

Roger Tobias and Brian Winterstein have agreed to post a “post incident” summary following a call out that should show general information about the mission and the teams called out and responded. This information will also be available on the website in the future. All IC’s should be using the DCNR reporting form (available on the website). Don was able to see the statistics generated by these reports and they will be available to the PSARC. Brian demonstrated how to file a report on the PSARC web site. This is valuable statistical information and again, all teams should be using this form which is on the PSARC website at www.psarc.org

The one call reports will also be listed under Operations.

Don asked how many teams did not have insurance. A few raised their hands. From the discussions with PEMA, it was made perfectly clear that all teams responding under PSARC for PEMA must be covered under each individual teams liability and workers compensation insurance. Previously, the council did make the offer for insurances, however there was no interest generated by the teams. Since then, it has come up again and will be re-addressed at SAREX. The VFIS agent will be onsite at SAREX for further discussions. Discussions were held regarding the cost of workman compensation insurance. All Teams need to start thinking about general liability, errors & omissions, management liability & workers compensation and how to make this happen. We need to seriously consider insuring and protecting our personnel should something ever happen! Ed Goth, a VFIS agent, is also handling the State Workers Insurance Fund for SAR teams.

We have had three requests by PEMA to PSARC for SAR missions. We are moving forward and picking up speed.

Per Bruce Barton, the laws have recently changed regarding who is responsible for insurance coverage. Bruce will put the info on the PSARC list.

Sweep Width:

Sweep Width Experiment will be on March 10 & 11th. Contact Ken Chiacchia for appt. times at chaiacchiakb@yahoo.com or 412-352-6119 (cell).the experiment will be held in the same area that the summer experiment was held. The first experiment was done on the same grounds in opposite seasons. This will allow us to be much more accurate in determining actual POD. Ken would like to have SAR responders of all ages and backgrounds, civilians etc. participate in this experiment.

Dispatch:

The system worked well during the most recent search. Brian Winterstein and Roger Tobias will be working on a training program to train CDO’s which will enable other members to act as a CDO.

PSARC Meeting
State College, PA
February 10, 2007

Website:

Brian would like to start a committee for assistance on the website. Don would like to put together a 3 year plan of how we will continue to communicate (pagers, web, email, Onecall Now etc). How we can get information in and out more efficiently from the site. Brian would head this committee. If you are interested please contact Don Scelza. Arnie/CAP offered to assist with web. It was mentioned that the information needs to be constantly updated.

Sarex:

Pepper Broad: May 3rd-6th SAREX will be held at the Pinch Pond Campground in Manheim. Pepper has been trying to reach Linda, but has not been successful. Classes that are being scheduled: ISAR, FUNSAR, Basic/Advanced Grid, ICS 100, ICS 200, MLPI etc.. Some classes will be held twice. We will still be doing the flea market table, vendors etc.

Pamphlets and banners are available!

Bylaws:

Documentation that is required to be submitted by Teams according to the bylaws will be reviewed to revise as needed. Teams will be asked to provide a copy of current bylaws, background policy, ethics statement, policies & procedures etc.

Elections:

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, (all two year terms), Northwest Board, Western Board and At Large Board are all up for election this year. Changes in leadership take effect at the completion of the November meeting. Jean Zore cannot run again for the Northwest Board due to the time line as defined in the bylaws. Alan Houck has been asked to chair the nominating committee which will include: Kim Carr, Vicki Coup and Lou Ann Pomposelli.

Old Business:

DCNR is testing again and willing to accept tests!

New Business:

Discussions ensued with the CAP about a number of ways that we can work more closely together. CAP provided a presentation on the PSAR and PAWG Civil Air Patrols "Joint Notification Initiative". They are working on a plan to develop a list server and adding addresses – will be sending test messages. Intended purpose for this presentation is to develop an MOU between CAP and the council. Regarding operational security –the people who are CDO's will have to sign NDO (Non Disclosure Order).

PSARC Meeting
State College, PA
February 10, 2007

Good of the company:

Penn State University has a search and rescue club.

March 3rd – ASRC will be running a full scale Mock SAR, Clifton, VA (north of Richmond)
www.smr.org

Adjournment:

Ken Chiacchia motioned, Alan Houck seconded at 14:00!