

# WSSARCA MEETING NOTES

Date: November 15, 2012

Location: Ellensburg, WA

Meeting called to order @ 10:15 hours

## Introductions

- New President Darren Ullmann, Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office
- New Vice President Tom Peterson, WSDOT Aviation
- New Treasurer Jordan Spencer, Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office

Everyone had an opportunity to look over the minutes from last meeting. (9-20-12) Minutes were accepted and approved.

## Treasurer Report

Balance of \$3465.12

2012 statements will go out as soon as personal information of board members is collected.

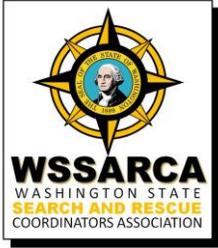
## Reports

### **Chris Long- EMD**

- Things are going well as far as mission numbers. Slightly ahead of last year. 700 are estimated for this year.
- AFRCC requests are going well. Some agencies are still calling directly which can cause a delay. The correct procedure is to call the duty officer and ask for air. EMD must verify that local resources aren't available and then the state will go to AFRCC.
- Resource requests seem to be working well. New procedure is being played out for Mt. Rainier, both it and Mt. Olympic are exclusive federal parks which means the park has jurisdiction for SAR in the park. However they do occasionally ask for assistance from the state. NIMS typing and credentialing set up through Dept. of Interiors to be used when asking for outside resources.
- Fall/Winter SAR management training was requested by Spokane in March. Class to be put on by Hugh Dougher. Tentative date is set for March 4-6. Requests were made from the Westside as well however, probably won't be taught by Hugh Dougher. It will be a 3 day course held most likely the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in January but Chris will advise when dates are finalized. Class will be held at Camp Murray.
- Still looking for suggestions for the SAR Conference both pre conference and conference. Chris would like input from everyone.
- Winter SAR issues are coming up. People are heading out unprepared. Chris handed out PDF from Mountaineers website, [www.help.mountaineers.org](http://www.help.mountaineers.org), which spells out the "10 Essentials" to have when going out.

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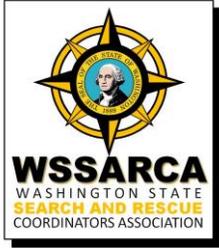
- Claims: Budgets are tight. More people are checking the claims making sure everything is filled out correctly. Property loss needs to be described in detail to include make, model, how it was lost and what you will or already have bought to replace it. The claims do not cover normal wear and tear. Gas claims: start with a full tank then fill up when you are done, keep track of how much fuel you use. Make sure you fill up within 24 hours from the completion of the mission to get reimbursed. Coverage is for the registered volunteers and support directly for the volunteers, not for the mission itself. Insurance: Amendment for RCW that provided immunity. Stems from a mission last summer where a county had a search and set up base in a church parking lot. A volunteer was instructed to move a vehicle and the vehicle was backed into a church sign. Because of the RCW nobody seemed to be liable because the volunteers were immune from coverage. The state can't pay out in this situation. What it is now causing is now it becomes harder to rent facilities for SAR conferences without insurance. Chris will look into changing the insurance issue so we can rent facilities and they can be reimbursed for any damages by volunteers.

#### **WSDOT- Tom Peterson**

- Mission activity: beacon at Shilshole marine (with aviation beacon)
- Boeing having issues with beacons going off, beacons are tested at several stages which makes it hard to fix the problem.
- Study Update: good report for the most part. One problem that they found was that Tom was the only person running the program and a recommendation is to use other pilots from the aviation division to be SAR coordinators. This is how it was 20 years ago. However, it may be difficult to train these guys in IC. The final report is due out Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.
- State purchased about 120 PLB's that they intend to issue on an as needed basis for employees working in the backwoods without radio contact. The registration will show WA DNR. EMD will then notify the appropriate county and clarify that the person is a DNR employee, then notify DNR and alert them, give them the details and they should be able to tell who the beacon was issued to and where/what they were doing.
- Insitu UAV (from last year's SAR conference) The question came about regarding whether or not they would be able to be used for SAR because they made the offer to SAR at the conference to do so, however the details were never worked out. They can't fly until they get a certificate of authorization from the FAA. The device has limitations like having to have visibility at all times using spotters. Still negotiating with Insitu regarding Tsunami debris monitoring but Tom is still trying to negotiate with them. Working on areas of the state where Insitu can fly within the state. Congress wants 6 test sites in the nation to fly unmanned aircraft but this won't happen overnight. Tom is also still working on what the procedure would be in order to contact Insitu to fly. Insitu currently has free reign in airspace in Iraq and Afghanistan. Comment period for congressional hearing has a split. Airline pilots

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don't want UAV's to be used but others do. Insitu is evolving quickly and are becoming service providers and not hardware providers.

### **SARVAC- Bill Gillespie**

- The volunteer community is worked up about the coverage and insurance issued discussed previously. It's not as simple as just rewriting the WAC to balance the immunity of the volunteers.
- Spent some time on communications and sending info out to volunteers to get feedback. This includes monthly reports.
- Two people are working with King county on gathering grants and another is looking at technology, i.e website.
- SARVAC would like WSSARCA to help pay for insurance coverage for the SAR conference coming up. Trying to get the insurance issue worked out. Lots of county event centers are asking for more money for SAR Conferences because their insurance goes up while renting to facility out for the SAR Conference.
- Chris and Bill discussed working on Lifetime Achievement Awards.

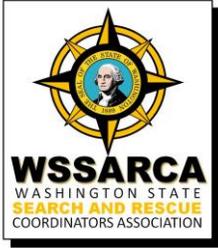
### **SAR Conference Update**

- Working closely with Kittitas county. About 40 classes are already lined out. Still awaiting the website to come up online.
- Been in contact with a dog handler who is coming in to do some training on how law enforcement can use the dog
- Joel Hardin will have a 3 day tracking class and will also do a class on how LE can deploy trackers.
- High angle rescue classes are coming in with a private contractor.
- Going to cap around 50 classes for the conference.
- Info should be sent out soon when website is up
- Kittitas has good accommodations.
- Pierce and King county have been part of the steering committee to get a jump on the next years conferences.
- Logistics for next year's conference is an issue. Pierce is negotiating with the Puyallup fairgrounds which is the only place big enough to host the event however the fairgrounds don't negotiate their price very well.
- King county has already locked up there space for 2015.

### **Core Competency Update**

- Moving along in the pilot counties
- Clark is about to start an academy in Feb. Cle Elum, Spokane, Ferry and Walla Walla are all moving forward.
- Working with King County on equivalency from SMR
- Sheriff's Association meeting in January, an update in the CC is planned for that meeting
- Some people don't like change so CC is still getting some blowback.
- SAR volunteers are getting involved as well so they can influence the outcome.

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- Core Competency is county by county and each Sheriff needs to agree to them. ARVAC has a team that is working on the parameters of what training programs would meet the “equivalency” standards. Example: if you are using NASAR and SARVAC has deemed NASAR as meeting the equivalency standard, that those using NASAR would be equal to core competency.
- Projected statewide implementation for core competency is 2017

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **AFRCC Cell Tower**

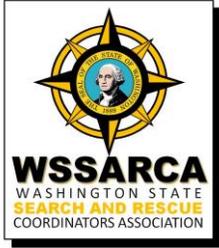
- Tom gave a short presentation on how the AFRCC cell tracking system works
- Call state EOC and tell them you want to be in contact with the AF Rescue Coordination Center person in Arizona who can provide more detailed information.
- AFRCC is able to triangulate the signal it gets to give a better probability of location than going through the cell provider.
- Generally a 1-2 hour turn around for information from the AFRCC
- AFRCC cell tracking can only be done for SAR response, not LE
- When the state contacts AFRCC they will pass AFRCC off to the county with jurisdiction directly.
- No search warrant is required, all details are already worked out with AFRCC and cell companies
- Most cell providers have the same agreement with AFRCC
- 24/7 availability.
- Sometimes when given lat, long coordinates from cell companies, the coordinates will actually be the tower itself so verify the data first.
- Still some question whether or not track phones will work.

### **New Business**

- Darren asked what we want out of WSSARCA? What direction is WSSARCA heading?
- The current bylaws are from 1997. Is this something we should think about changing?
- WSSARCA needs a direction and Darren is open for input.
- Darren wants to revamp the website and use it for file sharing/information gathering.
- Send Darren an email with ideas or thoughts.
- WSSARCA is a basically like a lobbying group for the Sheriff’s Association, what do we want to bring to them.

### **WAC 118-04**

- Lt. Dave Porter with Grays Harbor discussed an issue his agency is having with this WAC.
- Through attrition and lack of SAR activities, has had to rely on surrounding counties for help because of lack of SAR volunteers. Now they have gotten increased SAR volunteers but they consist of a large number of police and fire fighters, both paid and



volunteer. This complicates issues in regards to the WAC which states LE can't be SAR volunteers. According to Grays Harbor attorneys, officers and firefighters should be able to volunteer their time however they want and shouldn't be restricted by the WAC. Also some question as to whether this is a Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Lt Porter was looking for feedback.

- According to Chris Long... This issue involves RCW 38.52 and the FLSA as well as the above mentioned WAC. The WAC is trying to clarify the poorly written RCW to state that they do not cover paid officers/firefighters when on duty, it's just for volunteers. However, the real issue is with the FLSA which is a federal law. The FLSA states that you can't volunteer for something you get paid to do. If SAR activities are written into your job description then you can't volunteer in SAR. Firefighters typically don't have SAR responsibilities written into their job description so they are covered. The issue on LE volunteering isn't with the WAC or RCW, it is with the federal FLSA. Which means re-writing the WAC or RCW wouldn't make a difference. Bill Gillespie stated that the feds will recognize the "all other duties as assigned" job description when looking at LE job descriptions if they are volunteering for SAR. Much debate went into this topic and it is an issue that would be difficult to change.
- Darren will take a look at this and present this issue at the Sherriff's Association meeting in January.

### **Training**

- Does WSSARCA need to have its own set of trainers to run a basic SAR management class instead of tasking Chris with it all the time?
- This is an issue that has been discussed before but the expense for the material is usually the biggest issue.
- Also completing a training curriculum without plagiarizing stuff that is already out there would be difficult.

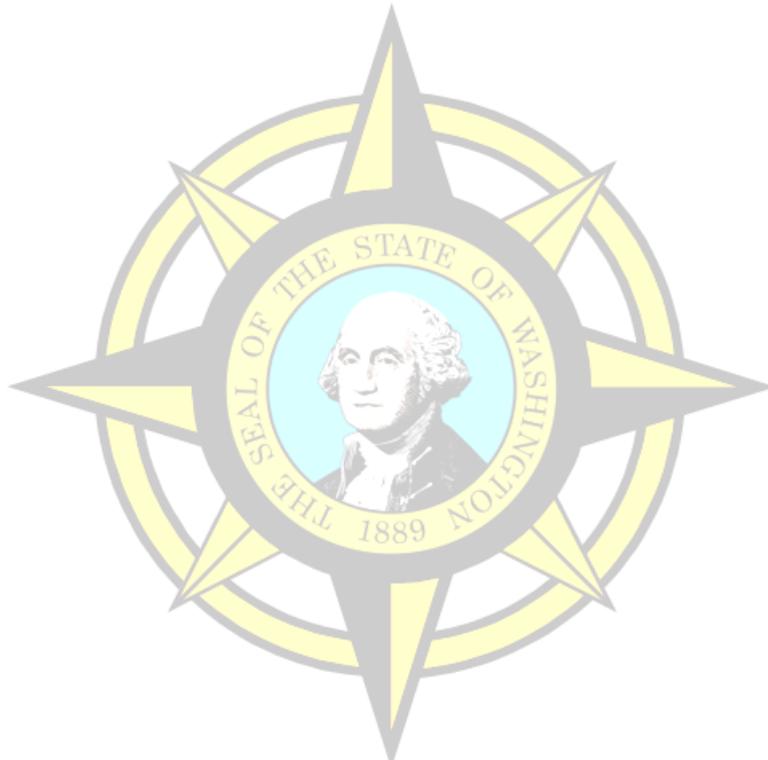
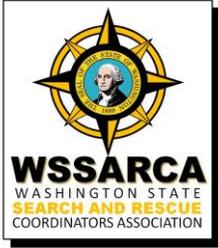
### **Good of the Order**

- Bill will look further into the insurance issue and will bring it to the next meeting.

### **Reports**- Ran out of time

**Next Meeting**- January 24<sup>th</sup> at 1000 at Camp Murray (tentative)

**Meeting adjourned**- 1250 hours



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