



VASARCO Minutes

January 23, 2010

Meeting called to order at 10:32

Meeting minutes from last meeting were approved as posted.

Members Present: Steve Weiss (ASRC); Gary Goodson (ASAR); Greg Motley (ASAR); Rick Christ (APTG/TOVSAR); Joanne Kuchinski (ATT Search Dogs); Vickie Ganey (ATT Search Dogs); Bob Wingfield (BDSAR/CSAR); Melissa Taylor (B & G); Misty Sampson (B & G); Bob Koester (BRMRG); Evan Koepke (BRMRG); Leah Coffman (CSAR); Jeff Good (ER-NCRC); Pete McClintock (GARD); Pete Suitt (K-9 Alert); Dave Carter (Orion); Bob Allam (PSAR); Nate Brown (SARTI/TSAR); Chris Stone (SMRG); Justin Stone (SMRG); Butch Burke (TSAR); Laurie Hanahan (TROT-SAR); Tina Ryner (TROT-SAR); Jack Corrigan (VSRDA); Lisa Carlisle (VSRDA); Scott Haas (VSA)

Tanya Brown, VDEM Watch Officer – provided overview of VEOC Watch Center and SWAN (State Wide Alert Notification).

- Centralized point of contact for Emergency Services in VA (24/7 operation)
- Coordinates dispatch for state SAR efforts and conducts monthly communications testing
- Open enrollment for SWAN (form will be posted on Yahoo site)
- SWAN system may replace need for dispatcher calls to VDEM – all information can be included in SWAN page-out. Text reply can be sent with available resources and qualifications.

Reports - Officers:

- President (Bob Allam) n/a
- Vice President (Bryan Saunders) n/a
- Secretary (Leah Coffman) n/a
- Treasurer (Sharon Jones)
 - 501c3 application – completed and ready for submission

Reports - Committees:

- Awards (Bryan Saunders)
 - Team Awards and Lisa Hannon award nominations are due to Bryan Saunders by Feb 1, 2010 so they can be presented at the SAR Conference.
- Bylaws (Leah Coffman) n/a
- Communications (Tomí Finkle)
 - Anyone willing to serve on this committee should contact Tomí
 - Recommendation to add the VDEM EOC telephone number to cell phones. Lesson learned from the Knight search - searchers who did not have radio connectivity with base did have cell phone coverage at higher elevations. A couple of cell calls were made to the VDEM EOC and messages passed on to Knight ICP.
 - Preparing for narrow-band radio – Provide the following to Tomí:
 - Number radios that need replaced due to non-compatibility
 - Group's FCC call sign

- Radio frequencies legally authorized by group's FCC license
- Exercise (Rick Christ)
 - Will conduct phone/communication exercises to ensure all groups receive callouts
 - Working on series of functional exercises/evaluation criteria for SAR management groups
 - Considering tabletop exercises for variety of situations
 - 3 full scale exercises on calendar (SMRG/ASRC April 9-11, 2010; SWVaMRG in September 2010; and TSAR in April 2011)
- MOU (Bob Wingfield)
 - Orion – Pending development and approval of management group standard
 - Halifax – application to be pulled, pending clarification of status
 - BRMRG status – Fee (paid), paperwork and information still missing
 - SMRG
- SAR Conference (Nate Brown/Leah Coffman) - 04/22-25 at Holiday Lake; 4 full days of events. Conference flyer and registration forms are on both Yahoo and VASARCO website.
- Website (Leah Coffman) – please forward any information that you would like posted on public site

Standards:

- General - development of standards template based on NIMS format and terminology and modification of existing standards (Bryan Saunders)
- Equine (Leah Coffman) – Create mounted evac standard; review to start Spring 2010.
- FTL (Sharon Keith) – review January 2010
- FTM (Bob Wingfield) - review January 2010
- FTS (Rob Speiden) - review January 2010
- Group Accreditation (Kevin Brewer) – undergoing revision
- IC (Bob Koester) – needs new chair/committee
- IS (Dave Carter) – need to reconstitute committee
- K9 Air Scent (Jane Servais, Sharon Jones) – review to start in April
- K9 Cadaver (Pete Suitt) - next review: May 2010
- K9 First Responder (Pete Suitt) - next review: September 2010
- K9 Trailing (Pete Suitt) - next review: April 2010
- K9 Water (Pete Suitt) - next review: July 2010
- Management group (Bob Allam) – Still working on the evaluation process; terminology; etc..
- Wilderness Rescue Technician (Bryan Saunders) – Bryan and Billy working on draft. Tentative draft April 2010. Beta version with training will be pilot-tested with BDSAR

Old Business:

- Missing 2009 group reports on Yahoo:
 - BRMRG (Q1-Q3)
 - CAP (Q1-Q4)
 - CSAR (Q4)
 - MAD (Q2)
 - MSAR (Q1-Q4)
 - RASAR (Q2)
 - TOV (Q3)
- Email rosters to Leah Coffman and Billy Chrimes prior to each meeting. Q4 rosters still missing from:
 - APTG

- CAP
- GARD
- K-9 Alert
- MAD
- MSAR
- SWvaMRG
- TOVSAR
- VSRDA
- April VASARCO meeting – 4/23/10 on Friday night of the Conference at 2000 hrs.
- VASARCO vehicle decals for sale – Sell for \$2 each (new decals are waterproof)
- Let Bob Allam know if you have suggestions for future presentations at meetings

New Business

- Debrief from Harrington incident: Friday disorganized; Saturday better organization; multiple challenges working with non-SAR organizations (such as Laura Recovery Center-LRC).
- Standardization of qualifications needed for COQ. SAR First Responder was suggested as first step. VDEM would like even more comprehensive training for COQ status. It was suggested that groups set time limit for COQ before members must have FTM. Pete Suitt will chair committee and work with Kevin Brewer to develop a standard/definition for COQ. May be incorporated into team accreditation standards
- Senate Bill 18 (coverage in event of malicious wounding) included SAR responders – Bill was approved; passed in Senate. Passage of bills has broad ramifications for benefits/protections on other issues.
- Nathan Brown (TSAR/SARTI) is researching state license plates for SAR Responders. A new survey will be sent out with a choice of two logos. If there is adequate support, VASARCO discussion will need to be held on qualifications to purchase plate.

VDEM Update (Billy Chrimes)

- Response Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). Changes coming in VDEM response levels and standards – responders will need to be members of teams that train for that specific discipline. Teams and individuals will need to meet qualifications for call-outs that require those disciplines.
 - Standards revisions will be based on building blocks in areas of discipline with twelve disciplines
- **Deadline for FEMA NIMS class compliance was Jan 1, 2010**
 - Responders **must** have basic understanding of ICS principles. Additional information can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtm>
 - Per VDEM, members who have not completed NIMS classes are no longer call-out qualified. IS-100, 700, 800, and 809 **must** be completed to be COQ. Cannot respond to searches or be operational in field or base without meeting NIMS requirements. If you are a member of a SAR team, you **CANNOT** be an emergent volunteer.
 - Documentation **must** be maintained by groups (review of personnel files will be part of state MOU review and evaluation).
 - NIMS classes are not prerequisites for FTM/FTL, however are mandatory for operational status.
- State budget cuts affect on SAR activities:
 - Travel budget cut by 33%; funds are gone. Budget for state instructors has not been cut; however training is affected by travel cuts.

- FTM class in Pulaski only one still scheduled (Jan-Feb) – class is full. Pittsylvania (March) may not be funded; no new classes approved.
- No GSARs until new fiscal year (July 2010).
- If local funding is available, SAR groups could cover all training/evaluation costs. Must be coordinated through Billy Chrimes.
- First responders should have background checks when joining a SAR team. VDEM resources are not available to cover background checks for responders. However a portal is available through state police on the VSP website under criminal records check: http://www.vsp.state.va.us/CJIS_Criminal_Record_Check.shtm.
- Billy working with K-9 teams on basic K-9 class standards and defining criteria for evaluators.

Training:

- 03/27 - Black Diamond annual SAR Competition
- 4/9-11 - ASRC Full Scale exercise
- 5/15-16 - Rocky Knob/National Park Service SAREX

Presentation (Butch Burke): Narrow-band Radio, FCC License Implications, Compliant Radios

- Narrow band radio takes effect in 2013. Wide bands will no longer work.

Meeting adjourned at 1435 hours.

Next meeting: 04/23 at 2000, location: Holiday Lake

Upcoming meetings:

| Date | Location | Presentation |
|-------------|-----------------|--|
| 04/22-25 | Holiday Lake | SAR Conference |
| 04/23 | Holiday Lake | VASARCO meeting at 20:00 at SAR Conference |
| 07/24 | VDEM | Trailing dogs (Pete McClintock) |