



## VASARCO

Meeting Minutes 04-18-09

Meeting convened 1031 hours

Motion made and passed to approve minutes from January meeting.

Attendees: Angel-SAR; B&G Search Dogs; BD-SAR; BRMRG; CSAR; Dogs-East; K-9 Alert; PSAR; SARTI; TSAR; TROT-SAR; VSRDA;

### Reports:

#### Officers:

- President (Bob Allam)
  - Status with SCC has been re-instated
- Vice President (Bryan Saunders) – N/A
- Secretary (Leah Coffman) – N/A
- Treasurer (Sharon Jones)

Balance as of January 2009	\$3,735.66
Expenses:	
SCC	80.00
P. O. Box Rental	22.00
Deposits:	
Dues Received	40.00
MOU Application	25.00
Balance as of April 18, 2009	\$3,698.66

#### Committees (with Committee Chair):

- Awards (Bryan Saunders) will be presented at SAR Conference by Bob Allam. A Lifetime Achievement award will be given to Greg Fuller
- Bylaws (Leah Coffman) – Most recent revision posted to VASARCO Yahoo group. Comments may be made until Friday, May 23, 2009. ByLaws to be voted on during July meeting.
- Full scale exercise (Rick Christ) –
  - Rocky Knob SAREX on May 16-17, 2009
    - Camping available from Friday night; a catered meal is available Saturday night
    - Contact Pete Schula to confirm number of attendees  
[Pete\\_Schula@nps.gov](mailto:Pete_Schula@nps.gov)
  - Billy Chrimes/VDEM is going to do test callouts and assess group responsiveness
- MOU (Bob Wingfield)
  - Halifax SAR team has requested membership as a branch of Angel SAR
- SAR Conference (Roy Hutchinson) - 04/24-26 at Holiday Lake
  - Attendance numbers look similar to last year
  - Due to health reasons, Toby Owens is not available to teach Crime Scene Preservation w/certification. Mark Eggeman to check on potential substitute instructors
  - Day rate of \$65 (for Saturday only)
  - Instructors will be on-hand for recertification on Sunday
  - Need a Chair for 2010 SAR Conference
  - 4/26/09 K-9 Evaluators workshop with Billy Chrimes (1300 – 1430)
- Website (Leah Coffman) – updates are being made as information becomes available. The VASARCO website is for general public access; the VASARCO Yahoo Group is for Council Representatives and Officers to conduct business. Announcements and

information specific to the SAR community may be made on the SAR-VA Yahoo group or on the Forum set up by VDEM (contact Billy Chrimes) at <http://www.virginiasar.org/>

#### Standards Committees (with Committee Chair):

- A Standards template has been developed based on NIMS format and terminology (Bryan Saunders) – final draft will be presented to VDEM for approval.
  - As individual standards are updated, training course content will be updated.
  - VDEM would like to see a 3-year lifecycle for standards
- Equine (Leah Coffman) – committee will convene to work on a standard for mounted evacuation/transportation
- FTL (Sharon Keith) – standards being rewritten for NIMS compliant format; will be submitted in July.
- FTM (Bob Wingfield) - standards being rewritten for NIMS compliant format; will be submitted in July.
- FTS (Rob Speiden) - standards being rewritten for NIMS compliant format; will be submitted in July.
- Ground group/MOU(Bob Wingfield) – Create checklist and documentation to evaluate applications for MOU.
- IC (Bob Koester) – N/A
- IS (Dave Carter) – N/A
- K9 Air Scent (Jane Servais, Sharon Jones) – setting a date to review standards and final review of written test
- K9 Cadaver (Pete Suitt) – N/A
- K9 First Responder (Pete Suitt) – N/A
- K9 Trailing (Pete Suitt) – N/A
- K9 Water (Pete Suitt) – N/A
- Management group (Bob Allam) – draft is on Yahoo site. 30-day time frame for review has expired and response to questions developed
- Team Accreditation (Bob Koester) – N/A
- Wilderness Rescue Technician (Bryan Saunders) – will resubmit in July for comments

#### Old Business:

- Post group reports on Yahoo prior to each meeting.
- Email rosters to Leah Coffman and Billy Chrimes prior to each meeting.
- SAR presentation at VA Sheriffs Association meeting on April 23, 2009. Bob Allam and Billy Chrimes are on the schedule (30 minutes).
  - Comment made that some law enforcement not pleased with VDEM responses through dispatch center
  - Angel-SAR suggested a SAR display be developed to use when doing presentations
- Reminder about requirement for NIMS courses (IS-100; IS-200; IS-700; IS-800; and IS-809) to be eligible for FTM and FTL.
- Eventual migration to narrow-band radios discussed – SAR groups need to know what changes will be made so planning can take place. Narrow-band/FCC licenses will be a future presentation.
- Purpose of the Communications Committee (Roy Hutchinson to chair)
  - Establish protocols for text paging and situational awareness to Team Leaders/Groups who hold a VDEM MOU.
  - Review effectiveness of the current email notices and advisories that have been established for team/group leaders within the VASARCO membership.

- Determine if email notices and/or advisories need to be created for members of SAR Teams within the VASARCO matrix. There still seems to be a breakdown in communication between VDEM and VASARCO.
- Establish what type (if any) would be the best modes of communication between VASARCO Teams and non-VASARCO teams that operate within the Commonwealth.
- Review the standardization policy of the three VHF radio frequencies that are used during SAR deployments and training of VASARCO affiliated teams and identify any other channels that may commonly be used.
- Provide assistance for the implementation of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) public safety radio narrow banding (frequency) requirements.

#### New Business:

- Dues payments are due by 06/30/2009; invoices were sent to VASARCO council representatives via email. Several groups have sent in dues that are not on the current roster. Sharon Jones to verify their status with VASARCO/VDEM
- BRMRG has requested an MOU independently of ASRC. PSAR has agreed to sponsor BRMRG. Have 10-15 active members available at present. Motion made and passed to begin the MOU process.
- Billy Chrimes made a motion to use MAPTECH Datum WGS 84 instead of the current Datum in use, NAD 27 so that we are consistent with federal guidelines and other state guidelines; effective August 1, 2009. Motion seconded and passed. Additional information and operational procedure will be provided by July meeting and posted on web site.

#### VDEM Update: (Billy Chrimes)

- Standards approvals:
  - IS – originally submitted on 07/28/07. Will schedule a meeting with committee members to review standard.
  - K9 Trailing – Approved and on website.
  - Wilderness Rescue Technician - Submitted on 02/02/08. Working with Bryan Saunders on re-formatting.
- MOU approvals:
  - SWVaMRG – Submitted on 01/26/09. Will need signatures of SWVaMRG leadership before final countersigning by VDEM.
- Propose adjusting the VASARCO meeting date 1 week earlier in July 18, 2009 to avoid conflict with VDEM scheduled training dates. New date will be posted on Yahoo group.
- Learning Management System (LMS)
  - On hold
- VDEM has received many excellent comments on VASARCO groups from RAs. Groups are having a positive impact on perceptions of SAR responders around the state.

#### Training:

- Black Diamond Invitational – had four teams; good participation; significant prizes given out. The third annual invitational will be held on last Saturday of March, 2010.
- Classes for fiscal year 2009-2010 will be posted on VDEM website. Announcements will be posted 90 before class dates.
- FTS Class – Providence Forge May 29 – 31 and June 19-21, 2009  
FTM/FTL in Roanoke in July 24-26 and August 7-9, 2009 at the Roanoke Regional Fire & Rescue Training Center. Camping will be available on-site.
- GSAR will be held at Hungry Mother October 23-26 and November 6-9, 2009

Adjourned 1208 hours.

Next meeting: 07/18 at 1030, location: VDEM (Trade Court)

Upcoming meetings:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Presentation</b>
04/23	Richmond	SAR presentation to Sheriffs Association (Bob Allam, Billy Chrimes)
04/24-26	Holiday Lake	SAR Conference
07/18	VDEM	CAP resources (ground, air, comms) (Dave Carter)
10/24	VDEM	Tracking resources (Kevin Brewer)
01/23	VDEM	Narrow-band radio (Bob Wingfield)