

PRESENT: Sally Moore (Pierce Co), Jim Roach (Pierce Co), Brian Foust (Spokane Co. - searchandresuceBrian@yahoo.com), Jason Smith (Spokane Co), Shawn Lewis (Spokane Co. - s.lewis@my180.net), Cheryl Drevicky (King Co), Bob Boyd (King Co), Dave Yates (Thurston Co), Roger Ramsdell (Thurston Co) and Walt Hohl (Thurston Co), Note:The e-mail addresses given are changes or new.

MINUTES: The minutes of the 30 October meeting were corrected to reflect:
Page 1, under training, second to last line in paragraph...CDs use WORD (not work) so files are editable.
Page 2, under King Co report, Missions...the second mission was to Lake ANNETTE (not Lake Net) for missing hiker.
Walt Hohl moved, Jim Roach seconded the minutes be accepted as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Dave Yates/Grant Smith:
Dave Yates reported he, Smitty and Sally met in early December to set up accounts and transfer funds from our old account (Washington Federal) to our new account (Washington Mutual, Lacey Branch). This was accomplished fairly easily with the current total balance of all accounts being \$11,472.00 (We have 2 CDs; one for \$3,000 and one for \$1,000 in separate accounts to avoid losing interest if we have to cash in part of the CD money to meet supply purchases). Dave has yet to receive bank statements indicate interest on the checking and savings accounts. A report of all financial transactions for the year 2004 was presented.

Expenses since transfer were \$16.00 for checks and \$33.00 for room rent at the Holmes Center for the January meeting. There is one outstanding invoice for \$607.70 and the purchaser has been reminded that payment is due.

Dave stated he plans to have the accounts set up on Quicken before the March meeting to be able to print out statements for both checking and savings.

Grant Smith (Quartermaster of WESAR Store) was not present. Bob Boyd has made the request that the WESAR Store be present at King Co's graduation on March 13th. Bob was advised to work this out with Smitty.

COMMUNICATIONS:
Shawn has been unable to find anyone willing to take on the Communications Chair for WESAR. He questioned whether or not the position was needed as all the Units had communications people that handled this for their respective units. The general consensus was this was a position that was not needed on the WESAR level, until or unless a new unit requested membership and in that case all current members would assist that unit in establishing their communications set up, applications, advice, etc.

RECERTIFICATION - Shawn Lewis:
The county units scheduled for recertification for 2005 are Pierce (19-20 March), Thurston (9-10 April) and Mason. Shawn asked for volunteers for the 2 scheduled units as those undergoing recerification

cannot be on the recert teams. Bob Boyd and several others indicated willingness.. If interested contact Shawn ASAP!

Mason County was not present. Considerable concern was expressed as to whether or not they will be able to be recertified this year. Several present stated that problems still exist from the prior recertification.

Shawn will contact Mason Co. officially to see what is going on, what is needed and what can be done to help. It was hoped that Mason Co would be able to send representation to the WESAR meetings this year.

TRAINING/STANDARDS - Bruce Ramey/Brooks Hanford:

Roger has only been able to get through about half the manual so far. There will be lots of room for editing and discussions.

Bruce was not present but sent an e-mail. His main goal at this time is to get volunteers to edit chapters for the Red Book. The chapters can be forwarded to each volunteer. If a volunteer chooses, they can work on

1-3 chapters. Bruce hopes he will have most chapters ready to send by the end of January. The chapters are:

- Chapter 1 - Navigation
- Chapter 2 - Search Techniques
- Chapter 3 - Search Types
- Chapter 4 - First Aid
- Chapter 5 - Evacuation
- Chapter 6 - Survival
- Chapter 7 - Radio Communications
- Chapter 8 - Outside Influences
- Chapter 9 - Incident Command System
- Chapter 10- Safety
- Chapter 11- Crime Scene
- Chapter 12- Unit Management

UNIT REPORTS: Yearly Unit reports are due.

KING CO: Yearly Unit report turned in.

For 2004 King Co has had 48 searches; 6 evidence, 15 urban, 29 rural, 3 technical rescue, 9 pack outs and 2 ELT.

Bob Boyd read a clarification from Mark Chapman about the Urban SAR unit in King Co. It is only the West Seattle post who has members that have not been completely trained but are trained enough for urban search. They are doing this so that they can keep the people interested in SAR until fully trained and provide more manpower under controlled, in town searches.

Training is down; started with 56, but plan to graduate around 35 (which is more than the third that usually pass. Graduation banquet is March 13th.

King Co (Bob) advised that each unit consider keeping an inexpensive camera to take photos (especially on body recoveries) as a CYA since we are (supposedly) the last contact before the subject/deceased gets to the medical examiner. The photos show all jewelry etc. when packaged).

Photos could help...won't hurt.

Bob also presented one of the new Brunton compasses that was given to him by a trainee.....the compass needle sticks/freezes but only when the compass is exposed to temperatures below freezing. Since it was 11-degrees outside, we decided to test this compass....sure enough after 15-30 minutes outside, the compass needle stuck...this was tried by all. Bob said he was going to keep the compass for his "weird compass collection". Several other units stated they have had problems with the Brunton compasses also, but since Silva was bought out by Suunto and we had problems with Suunto also, we will leave sleeping dogs lie so to speak.

PIERCE CO:

Jim reported 7 searches since last report

10 Nov- missing 10-y/o girl in Kitsap Co (found)

13 Nov- missing mushroom picker Winlock (turnaround)

20 Nov- missing 9-y/o autistic boy in North Tacoma (turnaround)

24 Nov- report of girl in water off Pt. Defiance/Salmon Beach

(Tacoma)

assisted TPD in searching area. Found kyack and styrofoam. no girl. and no-one reported missing.

12 Dec- missing 14-y/o girl in Oak Harbor/Whidbey NAS (nothing found).

12 Dec - missing Alzheimer adult female in Edgewood (found/turnaround).

1 Jan 2005 - missing 14-y/o girl in Oak Harbor, evidence search (nothing

found) Scheduled to go back 15-16 Jan but search cancelled.

Body found, boyfriend admitted involvement.

Training numbers are down. We have 34 trainees so far through Course.

Fundraising: We have re-signed with Safeco Field, but are doing a smaller stand so only will need 10 people and only 2 adults for the beer kiosk. Hopefully will be easier to get people with the lesser amount needed. Will only be half the money, but \$12,000 with a year-end bonus isn't bad.

SPOKANE CO (Unit report turned in for 2003-2004)

Shawn reported 6 searches in 2004, 1 so far in 2005

Since last report have had

17 Oct - missing hunter (found deceased apparently of natural causes)

27 Nov - lost person from assisted living facility (found at Union Gospel mission)

1 Jan 2005 - Missing white male at Mt. Carlton (nothing found, ESAR

returned home at 2200 hrs. Subject contacted his family 3 Jan 1400 hrs

en route to Canada and was okay)

Shawn reported training numbers are down. He is now Training Chair for

Spokane and Brian Foust is Operations Chair.

THURSTON COUNTY (2004 Unit report turned in)

Roger reported Thurston has had 6 search missions during the year, 2 of which were turnarounds. They have had 11 training missions in 2004. They are seeking more ways to get more public awareness of ESAR and keep their people involved both in community and SAR. They participated in several community activities had a super activity (campout) at Ocean Shores State Park and purchased a video camera to aid in making program videos for PR purposes.

They have 9 people going through training. Roger reported they were putting in a new Course 2 and that has been taking up a considerable amount of his time.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Lynne Smith of Elliott Sales had approached Sally after Thanksgiving with the proposal of having WESAR order awareness bracelets (rubber/plastic bracelets in colors to promote awareness of whatever---Lance Armstrong has yellow bracelets for cancer awareness, pink ones for breast cancer survivors, etc.)Lynne had suggested green bracelets embossed with "Support Search and Rescue" as a possible money raiser for WESAR but the total cost of 1000 bracelets at \$1.11 each plus set up fee of \$500 (for a total of \$1610 plus tax and shipping) in order to be able to sell for \$2.00 each was prohibitive.

The WESAR members, after much discussion, decided to pass on this offer as it was felt the fad was waning and the cost outlay versus the income was not worth it. Sally will inform Lynne.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

** Walt Hohl presented information for the State SAR Conference 16-20

May (pre conference) and 20-22 May (conference) in Leavenworth. This consisted proposed classes and the registration fees; registration fee with meals is \$95 before 20 April 2005, after it goes up to \$125. Conference costs without meals are \$50 before 20 April 2005, after it goes up to \$80. There is camping available. Conference web site addresses are:

<http://www.chelansar.org/registration.htm>

http://www.chelansar.org/training_classes.htm

** Bob Boyd brought the draft of proposed standards (benchmarks) from WSSARCA, copies were handed out to those present. Even though several members from WESAR were present at the WSSARCA meeting nothing was mentioned about WESAR having their own standards. The proposal came through ERI International and seem made more for fire fighting/ers in mind. Considerable discussion ensued. It was decided that Chris Long would be contacted to find out when the next WSSARCA meeting would be held and where and that Walt and Dave to their next meeting.

** Jim and Sally brought up the new testing that has been imposed on Pierce County. It seems all volunteers must take an on-line test and pass in order to have an emergency worker card. This has come down from the Federal government (Homeland Security) and deals with National Incident Management System (NIMS) Training Modules. All volunteers must be in compliance by 31 July 2005 so that FEMA monies will go to the Sheriff and DEM. E-mail addresses for this information and the testing is:
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>
The test is an "open book" test and you are given a 2-hour time frame to complete it.

Sally stated that if every unit is affected by this that the Pierce County Council will put on a 2-hour class at the Pierce County University of Search and Rescue seminar in October 2005 specific to this requirement to get the new trainees and those that missed.

Considerable discussion ensued about this new requirement and WESAR will try to keep on top of this and see if it is required in other counties.

It was reported there is considerable hesitation/reluctance by some in Pierce Co at the moment.

** Shawn wondered if we were ever going to have a 2-day WESAR training again. He stated it was a great way to get the youth together and have the counties intermingle since we were not doing Encampment at this time. A Mini-SAR management course was discussed. Roger will look into getting Rick LaVella since he is a member of Thurston county...why not get the man who publishes the material? More at next meeting.

** Sally reported that the meeting date in June is not good for the Holmes Center. After considerable discussion, it was decided that we would do everything we could to have the March 12th meeting. According to our bylaws we only have to meet 4 times a year. If we make the March meeting, then we can ignore the June meeting if we wish. If we have to skip the March meeting (due to weather/pass conditions, etc) then we will make contingency plans for the Cattleman's Assn building or whatever for June.

Meeting adjourned 1310 hours.
Sally Moore, Chairman