**PENNSYLVANIA SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL**

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[www.PSARC.net](http://www.PSARC.net)

**PSARC General Business Meeting Minutes**

**August 21, 2022 via Conference Line**

**Meeting was called to order at 1900 by President Vikki Coup.**

**Roll Call**

*Teams Present*

* Allegany Mountains Rescue Group
* Air SAR
* Cumberland County
* Elkland
* Fayette County
* Greater Philly
* Laurel Mountain
* Lawrence County SAR
* Lower Kiski
* Mid-Atlantic Regional
* Northwest
* Northeast
* PACSAR
* PAWSAR
* STRIKE
* White Oak
* Wolfpack

*Absent*

* Bedford County
* Mountaineer
* NJSAR

*Probationary Teams Present*

* Berks County SAR
* Special Unit 66

*Absent (Probationary)*

* Steel City

**Guest:**

Vikki (STRIKE)introduced Rick Bacon of DCNR. Rick presented information about the new DCNR Field Team Member (FTM) and Field Team Leader (FTL) certification testing that is preparing for release. Rick provided a brief overview of the components of the skills testing knowledge base. Those included the skills of:

**FTM**

* Knots (applied in a more functional testing sense)
* Pacing utilizing US Customary units (inches/feet/yards) instead of metric measurements.
* Pack Check
* Emergency Shelter
* Navigations including the use of a map and compass

**FTL**

* Flagline – components of pacing and compass
* Enhanced navigation including map, compass and searchers cube
* A four phase communications section that will involve a mission brief, debrief, report on locate of a subject, leading a hasty team and the communications skills needed to run a grid team.

Students must have a current FTM in order to take FTL. There will be guidance on the accepted timeline of FTM time to expiration before the FTL can be administered.

These skills are not all inclusive but give an idea of the focus of the testing.

For now, the written test will remain the same but there will be an updated version at some point.

There will be timelines / expirations on certifications as well.

A question and answer period ensued and included;

1. Will DCNR accept NASAR as an equivalent?

For now everything remains as it has been and NASAR will be accepted, however the direction DCNR is headed is that if DCNR calls out a team, it will have to be DCNR certed.

1. NWPA SAR asked for guidance in writing.

One the new program is completed and ready to release, it will be sent out and/or made available.

 Full guidance including training recommendations will likely take a while before it is released as it

 Has to go through Legal as well.

1. How will teams know what to train their members on?

This is a KNOWLEDGE of test, so knowledge is pulled from various sources, including NFPA, NASAR, National Fire Academy.

1. Will Fire Academy courses get updated to meet the new standards

Many courses will be getting updated including DCNR’s. For DCNR this will include renaming the courses as well.

Rick advised that teams that have a “primary coverage area” that includes DCNR lands, will be eligible to get training and classis from DCNR provided there is a DCNR Instructor in their region. For right now, anyone with questions or requests for training should contact Rick for information.

**President’s Report**:

Vikki (STRIKE) reminded everyone to get in required paperwork. If you need assistance, contact Lou Ann or Lisa

**Vice President’s Report:**

Terry Wise (PACSAR) noted that he is happy to see DCNR getting back involved with SAR. He is encouraged by seeing everyone working together. There is newly formed trust and belief in SAR teams being seen in the community, with requests and interagency cooperation between SAR and the law enforcement and/or fire community.

**Treasurers Report**:

Lou Ann (AirSAR) reported that the Summit Committee has agreed to cover the cost of Ring Central and One Call so there are no bills to pay.

**Secretary’s report**:

Lisa(LMSAR) advised all that emails will be coming from a different email (lrice@tiogacountypa.us). This will allow her to request delivery and read receipts and hopefully determine who is not getting emails.

**Committee Reports**

**Website:** Terry (PACSAR) reported that several changes were done on the website.

* The state map has been updated
* The K9 Evaluators have been added
* Team leveling has been divided out by level
* K9 Standards have been separated out
* They are still working on the member section but need more technical support. Vikki asks that anyone with knowledge and time, reach out to assist the committee.

The website committee will also be working with Dave Powers (CCSAR) on the email to provide a backup to Dave for email issues that individuals encounter with their PSARC emails.

**Bylaws:** Lou Ann (AirSAR) reported that an amendment for change to the Membership Section of the Bylaws had been sent out to the membership for review. There were a few grammatical errors addressed as well as a section that was added back in in reference to FTL or a PSARC accepted equivalent. The amendment will come up for vote during “GOOD OF THE ORDER”. She also stated that if anyone had any specific area that they felt needed addresses next, please reach out to her.

**Marketing:** Valerie (Fayette) related that Chris Ruch (AMRG) reported that AMRG is willing to take the marketing lead and roll it in with the marketing for SAR Summit. Vikki noted that if Chris wanted to assist on the Marketing committee that would be great, but that as a team AMRG couldn’t “take over” the marketing.

**Operations Committee**: Lisa (LMSAR) reported that the committee is awaiting guidance on what reviews are needed this year.

**K9 Committee**: Chris (SRTRIKE) advised that the committee has a meeting this week and will get their finalized documents to the Operations Committee for review.

**Membership Committee**: Lou Ann (AirSAR) reported the following;

* A membership application has been received from ChesCo Dogs with Cumberland County SAR sponsoring They have 16-18 dogs in various stages of training and they have at least 16 members certified to the SarTech2 level.
* Special Unit 66 has completed all requirements to complete their probationary period. The membership committee recommended changing their status to full membership. There being no objections heard, the recommendation was accepted and Special Unit 66 was granted regular membership status.
* Steel City SAR has completed all requirements to complete their probationary period. The membership committee recommended changing their status to full membership. Unfortunately no representative was present from Steel City SAR, so the regular membership could not be granted until someone is present.
* Berks County SAR has completed all requirements to complete their probationary period. There was a letter of concern received in reference to an event that took place at a deployment. The President has spoken to both the sponsoring agency and Berks County SAR themselves. Based on the follow-up conversations the membership committee recommended changing their status to full membership, however The letter will remain in the team’s file. There being no objections heard, the recommendation was accepted and Berks County SAR was granted regular membership status.
* With the newly amended by-laws (see below) in reference to Governmental membership, the Civil Air Patrol was granted courtesy membership in PSARC.

Lou Ann (AirSAR) requests that any teams needing information or contact numbers updated in One Call, please contact her.

**Good of the Order**

David Clark (PAWSAR) gave an update on the frequencies in use by PSARC. All frequencies are due for licensing renewal in January 2023. He will be working with Lou to get a minor change made in the licensing allowing for an increase to 5-watt transmission. He also noted that when the frequencies are getting used, we should be doing a station identifier at least once per hour. The identifier is WPBM671.

Lou Ann (AirSAR) made a motion to accept the amended membership section of the Bylaws, seconded by Jeff (AMRG). Membership poll was unanimous, motion passed.

Lou Ann (AirSAR) thanked everyone on the Summit Committee for their years of commitment and their willingness to pay the two invoices noted above.

The next meeting will be held Saturday, November 19 at 1100 via online platform

 605-468-8038     Access Code: 564149

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Kirk (NWPA) second by Val (Fayette)