

# Minutes

Meeting: SAR Council Meeting Place: SBSB HQ  
Date: May 19, 2004 Time: 1905 hours

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order at 19:08 hours by Director Mike Ward followed by the flag salute led by Donna.
- II. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**
- III. **MINUTES** – March minutes were distributed, read, and accepted.
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Total net worth \$13103.98.
- V. **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORTS**
- A. **Lieutenant Virgil Merrett**
1. Discussed repeater status. Heaps Peak is now up and running, Aerojet site will be set up next month and Onyx Peak after that. County Communication is working hard for us.
  2. Lt. discussed the volunteer vehicles as an inventory matrix now being conducted. Volunteer forces needs to establish priority of which units need light bars, replacement, etc.
  3. Lt. stated that Sergeant Weston as of May 29 would be permanently assigned to West Valley Detention Center.
  4. 14 GPS units were received and will be issued to the teams and the command post.
- B. **Darren Goodman**
1. TRBC will be held June 12-13 and 26-27.
  2. SAR cards are being issued as the upcoming BSAR and TRBC classes are finished. Have your team submit the change or request. Requests for minor changes are not a priority. Mike Ward suggested that volunteer help might be of assistance to the busy staff. Darren will check.
- C. **John Amrhein**
1. Discussed fire safety. Be sure our units are in good shape and full of necessary supplies and gas. When marking houses only mark the ones that people are not in. Paulson Wild land Fire goggles will be issued where fires are most likely, such as Big Bear, Forest Falls, Wrightwood, etc. N95 masks will also be available at the command post during fire events.
  2. The Ambulance traffic on the 155.160 S&R radio channel has now being reduced to an acceptable level. This will help our communications. This effort was accomplished with Volunteer Forces and Wes Podboy's help.
- D. **Mike Ward**
1. Informed the council about the Terry Majors Memorial Ride. It will be held this weekend as a fundraiser to aid families of officers killed or injured in the line of duty.
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS**
- A. **Katz search**
1. The search held March 27<sup>th</sup> was successful. We did not find our subject, but the area searched can now be eliminated and other possibilities and locations explored. A prior crash sight from seven years ago was located and had us all in high hopes until it was confirmed as an old sight. Approximately 140 team members were in attendance. Comments made during team debriefing were recorded. Comments both good and bad are accepted and utilized to improve our system. Thanks to all who participated.
  2. Radio communication was discussed. Some teams requested, and had their radios reprogrammed to the new channels that day. The old program will still work, but the new programming will take better advantage of the repeaters. Two portable repeaters were in place for the search.
  3. S&R radio reprogramming is about 85% complete. Teams still needing reprogramming should contact Volunteer Forces.
- B. **Bionx**
1. Jim Audio, President of Bionx, has agreed to be on our Pro Deal arrangement. Additional information will be in the June or July Tracker.
- C. **IESAR FUNDRAISING**
1. Mike Ward discussed the corporate fundraising proposal. Ron Pesch told the group that a \$1,000 donation from corporate sponsors would not be out of reach. Mike and Ron have several potential sponsors already. Mike and Ron will put together a proposal for the Lt. to review and get approved from the department.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **SBSD Parade Detail**

1. Tom Schneider talked about the new detail and what they would like to accomplish. He explained to the group that any person within the sheriff's volunteer units could receive training and participate in the parades as appropriate. It is a great opportunity for us to improve our riding skills, as well as showing the county what our department is capable of on horses. Next fun training will be June 27<sup>th</sup> at the Devore Sheriff's rodeo grounds. Tom showed those interested pictures on disk from this past training.

B. **COMMAND POST UPDATE**

1. Dave Northrop was happy to report that a new black water holding tank has been installed, and the bathroom is now fully functional. Twelve volt outside lights, and indoor/outdoor thermometer have also been installed, plus the outside door will now close properly. A new MDC is pending.

VIII. **JOINT SAR OPERATIONS CRITIQUES**

- A. Lt. Merrett discussed the Katz' search above.

IX. **INDIVIDUAL TEAM OPERATIONS**

- A. Lt. told us that the Colorado River team, using GPS, located and recovered a downed aircraft and crew from their local desert.
- B. San G. team recovered a fallen hiker. They took about an hour to package and get her to a position where the helicopter could lift the victim to their unit for transport to the hospital. They also located a hiker lost on the PCT. This is the second time this hiker has had to be rescued on this trail.
- C. Joshua Trees had a search for lost hikers; however, the hikers walked out before the search could begin. Good job anyway. Your team was there.

X. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. This was discussed above.

XI. **SAR Council comments**

- A. Mike Ward discussed the possibility of text messaging from Volunteer Forces to notify team members of SAR events, as well as other important information.
- B. Mike also thanked the Volunteer Forces Staff for being at our IESARC meetings. He thanked the teams for their dedication to making our teams the best.
- C. A book was recommended by Donna; The Falling Season. It shows how lucky we are. The book is based on an Aston search team.

**NEXT MEETING – JULY 21, 2004**

**ADJOURNED AT 21:00 HOURS.**

**Respectively submitted:**

**Tom Schneider**  
**IESARC Secretary**