

INLAND EMPIRE SEARCH & RESCUE COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2004

CALL TO ORDER: Council Director Mike Ward called Meeting to order at 1900 hours.

PLEDGE: Andy Jones from the West Valley Mounted Posse led the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUESTS: Visitors introduced themselves.

MINUTES: The minutes from the November 19th council meeting were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer reported a total net worth of \$12,995.82.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Deputy Chief Cardwell: Absent

Lieutenant Tuttle: Medical Leave

Sergeant Weston: Absent

Corporal Fertig: Absent

Council Comments: The Family of Ali Aminian the 2nd hiker that was lost in Mt. Baldy has asked Bob Rockwell of the China Lake SAR Team that found victim to be a pallbearer at the services.

After 31 years of service Bill Fertig will be retiring. A retirement luncheon is being held at headquarters from 2p-4p on 11/23. The SAR Council will be presenting Bill a plaque for his dedication to the Search and Rescue community.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tracker: Jeff Lehman is the new editor of The Tracker. A website has been set up at www.thetracker.info

It was stressed that articles and pictures regarding Teams' activities are a high priority and should be sent to editor@thetracker.info. This address is also listed on the web page.

The Tracker will be distributed by email to be added to the mailing list send an email to tracker-subscribers-subscribe@sbsar.org or you can subscribe by going to the web page and selecting the subscribe link.

WILDERNESS EMT TRIAL STUDY: Currently in the 6th month of an 18 month study. This study may need to be extended in order to accumulate the amount of patient contact that is required.

If program is successful other teams will be able to participate.

Teams are encouraged to contact the on-call party at Volunteer Services when being deployed and request that the Wilderness EMT's from West Valley SAR be dispatched along with their team.

Some teams may not be proficient in basic first aid skills. Medical skills seminars are going to be developed to reinforce basic first aid. A video of this seminar will be made and distributed to the units for an 8 hour training session in approximately 2 to 3 months.

There are still some missing items needed to complete some of the medical bags used by the Wilderness EMT's. These items are very specific, so money donations are recommended.

SAR COUNCIL FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT: The council is in the planning stages of soliciting sponsors for \$1000.00 donations. The target of 20 to 25 sponsors seems to be reachable. This would translate to 20 to 25 thousand dollars a year. These donations would be tax deductible for the sponsors. Other sponsor perks are being brainstormed; plaques, advertising in The Tracker, appreciation ceremony, photo of our volunteers in support of their business, etc.

Each Team has been asked to review the Prospective Sponsor letter and submit any comments to their Team's SAR Council representative to turn in during the Council's March meeting. Additionally a couple names of members who would be willing to work with the council assembling a contact of list of prospective business in their area has also been requested

A product "Bionx" was also mentioned that would enable the council to receive a donation from the sale of the product.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT: The committee has not met since the last SAR Council report.

2003 AUDIT: Dave Northrop will be conducting the annual audit.

NEW BUSINESS: Evacuations/Floods/Mudslides The Council conveyed their thanks for a job well done and noted the support of all the teams was recognized and appreciated. It was discussed that the possibility of cell phones being compromised needs to be investigated. It was also stressed by Mike Ward, Council Director, that if anyone has concerns or issues they feel need to be

addressed, to feel free to forward these issues and their recommended solutions to Mike at rockywinds@aol.com.

WATER DONATION: Search personnel in error used some water supplies from the Baldy Fire Station facility. It was suggested that several cases of donated water be taken to the station to replenish their supplies.

Teams can get cases of bottled water by contacting Daren Goodman in Volunteer Forces.

BMC SESSIONS: The goal is to have 3 field sessions. If there is a shortage of natural snow the local ski areas may be utilized for certification.

NOMINATIONS FOR IESARC SECRETARY: Tom Snyder was nominated from the floor. Nominations will be again opened during the March meeting.

JOINT SAR OPERATIONS CRITIQUES: Mount Baldy Search Doug Fish brought up the fact that the issue of communications needs to be addressed. Call out information needs to be more specific; alpine rescue, ice picks, etc. Evidently some responding to search did not have the necessary equipment and needed to be reassigned.

Forest Falls Search: Search packets distributed were GREAT.

Communication Issues: West Valley attendees shared their use of 2-way pager system that they utilize. Distribution lists are used on terminals to pass information to members with pagers, text cell phones, etc. There are systems "out there" that could alleviate some of the issues that everyone is experiencing. The communications team has been charged to investigate different options and submit recommendations to the Council as soon as possible.

COMMUNICAITONS REPORT: Deputy Chief Bushey has expressed his support for better communications and states that two of the repeaters, Heaps and AeroJet, should be operational by the end of February or March.

A revised frequency matrix was distributed.

Some of the chargers from the original radio disbursement are still missing.

Approximately 120 of the team radios will need to be reprogrammed in March. Rather than the units being turned into Volunteer Forces, the possibility of the Communications Team traveling to the units is being considered.

The Communications Team is looking at converting the military ambulance into a portable repeater. At this time the reliability of the unit is in question. Further investigation will continue.

Victor Valley asked about the possibility of units purchasing their own repeaters. Cost may be prohibiting and restrictions could also make it undesirable. Further investigation would be needed.

TRAINING: Open overnight snow training is going to be held 1/24/04 in Big Bear. If interested contact Doug Fish from Big Bear SAR, (909) 584-8939.

WEST VALLEY FUND RAISER: 5/10 K Run, 5K Walk and Kiddie K being held Saturday, April 24.

NEXT MEETING: March 17, 2004

ADJOURNED: 2050 hours