

KISAR December 20, 2023 General Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 7:08 PM at Bayside Fire Hall

Minutes prepared by: Tschersich

Directors present: Tschersich, Szabo, Boyle, Wielebski, Dorner

November general membership meeting minutes were read and approved.

New members: Tim Collins introduced himself as the new "blue-shirt" sargeant for the Kodiak AK State Trooper post.

Treasurer's report: Nick said he would start accepting 2024 membership dues. Nick had received the Matanuska Susitna Valley SAR (MatSAR) 'SAR Academy' training syllabus but due to its length had not had a chance to review it in full. Nick also mentioned that Alaska Search and Rescue Association (ASARA) grants will still use a 70/30 split for local SAR funding requests, and that in-kind contributions by the local SAR organization can account for their 30% contribution, but how to categorize and value the in-kind contribution is still under discussion.

Steve announced that the January wilderness first aid (WFA) class on Jan 13-14 will be a full certification class and that KISAR will pay for the instructor's time as well as the \$60 certification fee through the accrediting organization, Wilderness Medical Associates. The possibility of creating a waiting list for the WFA class was discussed.

Josh said he had spoken with Mark Stigar, the ASARA president, about the MatSAR SAR Academy course. It is a 3.5-day curriculum that covers the major introductory topics in wildland SAR operations. There would be a 20-student maximum with 2 instructors. Josh will send out a flier and outline which national standards would be satisfied through completion of the course. March or April dates were mentioned for a class in Kodiak. The instructors would provide the class for free and KISAR would only have to cover travel and meals/lodging.

The Alaska Avalanche School will be conducting an Avy Level 1 course in Kodiak March 15-17. The KISAR member benefits policy was discussed. The KISAR board of directors should meet to discuss updates to the benefits policy to clarify what training topics could qualify for reimbursement, at what rate, possible funding cycles, setting priorities, etc. There was general discussion on these points.

Ryan reported that John had been in contact with Luc Mehl about teaching an ice safety and rescue class for KISAR at a rate of \$100 per student per day for up to 12 students. The month of February was suggested for possible training.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Following the meeting Bayside Fire Chief Scott Ellis provided a walk-around of the vehicle the fire dept had acquired for more remote deployments that was equipped for exterior firefighting, patient packaging and extraction, ice rescue, etc.