

January 21, 2026 KISAR General Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 7:05 PM at Bayside Fire Hall

Minutes prepared by: Tschersich

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

New members:

Joy Erlenback- KNWR bear biologist

Jim Emerson- Emerson Boat Works

Myra Sholze- ADGF fishery biologist

Iver Holm- Commercial fisherman

October minutes were read and approved.

Treasurers report: KISAR calendars done.

Deb Ajango of Safety Ed is supposed to do a full WFA certification April 4-5 which is easter weekend. Approximately 12 members in attendance expressed interest in the course. [Update: Steve spoke with Deb and moved the dates to April 11-12.]

The Alaska Avalanche School will be leading an Avy Level 1 course in Kodiak for the USCG Station. There was 1 spot available for a KISAR member to participate.

Philip discussed KISAR's member benefits policy (e.g., tuition reimbursement) for KISAR members to receive support for continuing education and accreditation that further KISAR's mission.

Steve discussed the course material and online testing framework for obtaining a SAR Tech III certification.

The February 10-12 interagency training involving multiple USCG Air Stations and the Royal Canadian Air Force and maritime rescue assets coming to Kodiak to conduct 3 days of training was discussed. KISAR has been invited to participate in various scenarios including twice daily short deployments on Feb 10-11 and a longer mass-casualty even training on Feb 12. The shorter duration trainings will run from 0800-1130 and 1330-1530 the first 2 days that can accommodate 1-3 KISAR members, and from 0800-1530 on the last day accommodating up to 6 KISAR members. Any participants attending to the morning sessions need to meet at the helo hangar at 0730.

Blaine Smith can come to Kodiak to teach an avalanche refresher course on April 18 or March 21-22.

Philip reviewed the topics covered at the KISAR board meeting on Jan 20.

KISAR held board member and officer elections. The following slate was adopted:

- President- Steve Wielebski
- Vice President- Josh Boyle

- Treasurer- Nick Szabo
- Secretary- Philip Tschersich
- Member- Bryan Ferris
- Member- Brian Baader
- Member- Shanna McGrath
- CG *Ex Officio*- Brian Eldridge

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM. Following the meeting Philip gave a lecture on probability of detection and effective search sweep width.