

KISAR April 19, 2023 General Meeting Minutes

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

Minutes prepared by: Tschersich

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

March general membership meeting minutes were read and approved.

New members: Ryan Hawn introduced himself as the Ops Boss at the USCG Air Station where he flies H60s. He has been stationed in Kodiak before and looks forward to being active with KISAR during his deployment.

Nick said Paul Anderson could not visit Kodiak for a KISAR training in May as originally planned. Instead, he would visit Kodiak on September 30-October 1. Paul was the superintendent of Denali National Park and has extensive SAR management experience from his time with the Park Service and also in Arizona. He has authored a number of books on SAR techniques and management. He has taught courses to KISAR in the past that were well received. The membership in attendance expressed an interest in Paul instructing on search tactics including clue detection, tracking, etc.

Nick said he had received grant application forms from ASARA. There are approximately \$60k available for the fiscal year and the grant could be used for a wide range of SAR activities including equipment purchase and training. The grants are reimbursable.

Deb Ajango is scheduled to offer a custom WFA refresher course for KISAR on June 10-11. Deb's extensive CV and credentials were discussed. She charges approximately \$500/day which KISAR could apply for an ASARA grant to cover and the Wielebskis would offer room and board as an in-kind contribution. There was discussion about what type of training would benefit the membership most; either a full WFA course resulting in a certification card or a custom refresher course. The sense of the membership was that a custom course, which would be less expensive and would not limit the course content to textbook materials, would be preferable.

KISAR could also apply for ASARA funding to bring other trainers to Kodiak for membership skill development such as safe mountain travel techniques. Nick D'Alessio or Joe Stock could come down to offer such a course and Nick distributed a prior contract that KISAR had signed with D'Alessio from 2018 as an example.

Philip offered to teach a dual-rope twin-tension high angle technical rope training for May provided he could get either John Sikes and/or Ryan Cross to assist. The difference between single-rope mountaineering technical rescue and dual-rope, twin-tensioned systems was discussed.

Jon Cardinal asked about another IRIC (initial response incident commander) training. KISAR's role as incident command in previous SAR missions was discussed as well as the difference in the IC's role between the first 12-hour operational period and subsequent operational periods if the case is not resolved quickly.

Steve discussed the meeting he and John Sikes had with representatives from NOAA's National Weather Service from Anchorage about the NWS offering custom spot weather forecasts to organizations like KISAR during deployments.

Steve discussed getting new Kodiak road system trail maps printed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Following the meeting Jon Cardinal gave a slideshow recount of his winter ski attempt to climb Koniag Peak from Old Harbor.