

KISAR November 22, 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, Edlund

September general membership meeting minutes were read and approved.

New members: Sam Jordan introduced himself and joined KISAR. He has lived in Kodiak continuously since 2015 after retiring as a Captain from the USCG where he ran ships and performed maritime SAR missions. He enjoys hiking, running, and hunting and looks forward to learning inland SAR techniques.

Treasurer's report: Nick reported the financials look good with KISAR having \$15k in First Alaska checking and \$10k in CU1 Savings. Nick has been investing in CDs to obtain a higher interest rate than is awarded in regular savings and will continue to roll the CDs over to reinvest.

Nick clarified that Alaska Search and Rescue Association (ASARA) grants go in half year funding cycles that go from Jan 1-June30, and July 1-Dec 31. Requests for grant funding needs to be prospective and the cutoff for the upcoming funding cycles must be received by Nov 15 for spring funding and by May 15 for fall funding requests. KISAR had been missing some of the current ASARA information as they were using KISAR's old, defunct email address. Nick will get the 'SAR Acedemy' syllabus from the Matanuska Susitna Valley SAR (MatSAR) to see what topics are covered. A full SAR Tec II class in Kodiak in the past cost \$14k. MatSAR could teach a SAR Academy class in Kodiak for \$6k plus travel/boarding. ASARA grants often use a 70/30 funding formula, so if KISAR contributes 30% in funding or in kind donations, we could pursue a SAR Tec-like course in Kodiak.

KISAR's policy for training tuition reimbursement was discussed. The KISAR BoD should meet and draft a new policy covering what training topics could qualify for reimbursement, at what rate, funding cycles, priorities, etc.

Ryan suggested Josh report back to KISAR on the types of funding requests ASARA was receiving from SAR organizations around the state to generate training ideas.

Paul Anderson is scheduled to visit the Alaska Geographic Society meeting in Anchorage in May and might be able to come to Kodiak to teach SAR topics.

Deb is scheduled to visit Kodiak January 13-14, 2024. Philip will ask Julia to send out a Doodle Poll to ask the membership if they would prefer a custom class or a full Wilderness First Aid certification. Full certification would be more expensive and probably require more time.

Training topics were discussed and included; ice safety and rescue, Blaine Smith visiting Kodiak and teaching safe mountain travel, and brining former PJ instructors to Kodiak for advanced rope training. Reenergizing the ad hoc training committee was discussed. Philip said he would contact Bryan Ferris to get the ball rolling so that KISAR is prepared to submit funding requests for the next ASARA grant cycle.

Steve handed out road system trail maps for members who had requested them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Following the meeting Josh gave a recap of the ATV accident on Cope Mountain from November 6 which the USCG responded to. He discussed how the accident information was relayed to the Troopers and the subsequent interaction with the USCG Sector Anchorage. Philip gave a recap and debrief on the ground search and helo hoist cross training with the USCG Air Station on Pyramid Mountain from October 4.