

5 Years...!

MARCH 2009 - FIVE YEARS OF OPERATION

Back at the end of March, we hit our 5th year Anniversary of operation for our Organization. It certainly has been a learning experience, and it ceases to amaze me how far we have come over the years facing new obstacles each year as times change in the SAR world. I personally have been involved with Search and Rescue since 1969 (when I enlisted in the US Coast Guard), and I cannot tell you the changes I have seen over the decades. Times have certainly changed, many civilian SAR Groups have faded away, and many will have to change to meet the current challenges as Government Agencies, State, and City Municipalities adjust their policies to insure local SAR organization conform to new regulations set-forth by added policies from FEMA, State Police, and local EOC's. (Emergency Operations Centers). I personally have known and worked with many individuals that headed up or managed Emergency SAR Groups, and every one of these individuals have advised me that change has come...some good, some bad, and it appears it just keeps on changing to fit the 'policy' of the current times we are in. I do not have an opinion either way...as I feel I know what works for our Group, and I hope to continue on giving the support that is required by our dedicated Volunteer Members that have given 100% to our operations and program venues. We had allot of Members come and go, and I cannot thank enough all the support these individuals have given to me as a participating members, and especially as personal 'friends' of mine. So to all those past and present members, sponsoring organization that have supported our programs, members of organizations that support our efforts: Shrewsbury, Worcester, Environmental Police, LQC-Lake Quinsigamond Commission, LQWA-Lake Quinsigamond Watershed Association, DCR-Department of Conservation Recreation, Massachusetts Recreation & Park Association, Shrewsbury Parks and Recreation Dept., Regatta Point Sailing Club, Marine Corps League Detachment 144, members of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, members of the US Power Squadron, NASAR-National Association for Search and Rescue, AFRCC-Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, ARRL-WMA American Radio Relay League-Western Massachusetts, WECT-Worcester Emergency Communications Team, Marine USA, Doug Russell Marine...*our gratitude.*

We thank you 'all' for the last five years, and I hope we will continue on in the years to come.

William C. Latimer, CEO/Founder Worcester County Search & Rescue Team, Inc.

