



## WORCESTER COUNTY SEARCH &amp; RESCUE

Team Incorporated, P.O. Box 159, Holden, Massachusetts 01520

**Greetings: William C. Latimer  
Founder and Editor WCSART:**WCSART is a current Member of NASAR  
National Association for Search & Rescue

The sole purpose of this News Letter is to inform members and Associates of current and upcoming events, activities, and News items of interest. Worcester County Search and Rescue

is a non-profit, volunteer Search & Rescue organization serving the Worcester County area in central Massachusetts. All our members are Volunteers, and are dedicated to the welfare and promotion of all SAR events.

**ANOTHER VERY ACTIVE YEAR FOR 2006**

## EDITORS COMMENTS AND REVIEW OF WCSART ACTIVITIES:

I want to take this time out and personally thank all those that have supported this organization and its program venues. Your dedication and hard volunteer work efforts have proven to be a valuable asset to our group and the general public... Worcester County Search & Rescue could not function without our current members valuable volunteer assistance.

This year we have been very busy with our primary active Patrol services as well as our Communications Team, ELT Remote Receiver site, and Volunteer Pilot Program. In addition, our new Web Site is up and operational, and our VOiP technology SKYPE and eQSO Server has been operational and a useful tool to use to keep the Teams in Communication with each other anywhere in the world.

Many of our Members belong to other organization such as CERT, US Coast Guard and US Air Force Auxiliary Programs, as well as members belonging to the US Military Reserve and qualified Medical personal, EMT's. We have a wide variety of Team Members that bring extensive knowledge and training to our programs eliminating any unnecessary training that one has already taken. We do not wait around for something to happen... *we make it happen.*

Our active duty WRSP and MRSP Patrol programs are a valuable asset to the public and we have gotten much recognition for these patrols. Our Volunteer numbers are increasing because we offer an active program throughout the year. We are constantly expanding our programs, and the more volunteer we have, the more we can offer to the public.

**Future Venues being discussed are:**

**WRSP Program** to expand to Lake Webster. A steering Committee is now being formed to look into this. Several homeowners on Lake Webster have contacted us about our services on Lake Quinsigamond to see if we can do the same on Lake Webster. This will be an extensive undertaking.

**MRSP Program** to extend into the summer months by patrolling the 'Rail Trails' for assistance. For now, we are only patrolling Mountain Tops in the winter. Mac Reynolds will be heading up and looking into the summer activity programs.

There are no plans to have a Missing Search & Rescue Team as before. Since this Venue requires much training, we are not prepared to add this to our Venue. I have always recommended anyone wanting to do this type of Volunteer work to contact Central Mass or Berkshire Mountain Search & Rescue Groups for this type of volunteer service. However, with that being said, our Group does support Urban SAR and can have a Team assembled for a missing person where the public is used, and additional personal are needed in a Search. Many of our members have the necessary training through other organizations to support this type of venue. This year we were notified for two searches. I also highly recommend to join a local **CERT Team** in the Town your live it.

**Communications Jump Team Members** have been busy working with MARS, AREA, and RACES Groups by checking in on various NETS. Our current NET every Sunday evening will be changing after the first of the year using another Frequency and time slot. This will be announced after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Since the Hurricane season this year had no major destructive storms hitting our coastal areas, there were no Comm Jump-Team activation. We have acquired two portable HF Radios to add to our Communications Emergency Equipment list. We have been very active with W.E.C.T. (Worcester Emergency Communications Team) and highly recommend all Ham Members support this Group and check in our their weekly NETS every Monday evenings. See info on our Web Site. Web site is constantly being updated.

**ELT/EPIRB/PLB Remote Receiver Site** on Mt. Wachusett is operational. We have been contacted by our Receiver on many ELT *hits* that have resulted in notifying AFRCC of signals heard. We were active on five ELT searches.

We have four volunteer Pilots for our **Volunteer Pilot Program (VPP)** that own their own Aircrafts. We had no Flights this year but have been contacted by the Make a Wish Foundation for future information about our program. Pete Travis has been very instrumental in keeping this program alive. Pete is a current CFI/IFI Flight Instructor.

Our quarterly **News Letter** is now posted on-line, and we have a 'News' page section on our Web Site for current and up-to-date interesting News about our Team Members and Happenings. This may eventually replace our quarterly News Letter. I have been asked to start a 'Gallery' picture page. This may happen this upcoming year in 2007.

There are several people I would like to recognize for their additional support and hard work. Joe Antinovitch, our WRSP Coordinator who kept our Water Rescue program active. Joe Apicella, who did more patrol Sorties out on Lake Quinsigamond this season. Mac Reynolds, our MRSP who kept the Mountain Teams active. Pete Travis who Fly's all over the world and promotes our Program, Kyle Donohue who Web-Mastered our first Web Site, and my wife Brenda, who is responsible for our funding Grants...and of course, ALL our active Team Members. *Thank you...you make the difference!*

**Hope everyone has a great Holiday Season. Be safe, support our fighting troops in Iraq, and God Bless America!**

## **CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEB SITE**

At the end of September, we changed our Web Page address and started a new site. My thanks to Kyle Donohue for maintaining our old site for the past two years, and Derrell Lipman who kept our Domain Name current, but due to the limited access I had to the Web Page, and to keep the site current, our BOD had made the decision to start our own Web Page via Yahoo GeoCities Web Tool builder. The site can now be updated daily (if need be) and new changes will be done throughout the upcoming year. Please visit [[www.wcsarteam.com](http://www.wcsarteam.com)] and give us your opinion what you think of the site...sign our Guestbook, and visit our Program Venues, News Letter Page, About Us, and Links.

## **WEB SITE HOSTING FOR THE FOLLOWING**

We are pleased to host a Web site for the Rutland CERT Team and the USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 10-01. These sites can be accessed via our Front Page; however, we are still in the construction phase and final authorization for the USCG Auxiliary Flotilla site. Any SAR related organization that would like to post a Link from our Web Page might do so by emailing our organization at [wcsarteam@cs.com](mailto:wcsarteam@cs.com). We are happy to assist and support any SAR organizations.

## **NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST**

If you visit our site, we added a current News Items of Interest for our Team Members. This may eventually replace our quarterly News Letter Hard Copies that we send out. With today's technology, it may be easier and more cost efficient to post our News Letter 'on-line.' We will still mail-out hard copies for those that have no Computer access, but the cost of sending out over 100 copies of our News Letter is getting expensive and time consuming. In the future, what you read on our current News Item page will be posted in the Meridian Ledger. Yes, a Gallery Picture Page will be added sometime next year, and we have many pictures of the Team in action.

***THIS IS OUR FIRST MASS DISTRIBUTION OF THE MERIDIAN LEDGER VIA EMAIL NOTIFICATION. PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU STILL WANT A HARD COPY ISSUE TO BE MAILED OUT.***

## **BANQUET GATHERINGS WRSP & MRSP**

On Thurs, 2 Nov, we had our annual WRSP year-end banquet at the Sterling Inn for our Water Rescue Team. Nice turnout and Joe Apicella got the 'Meritorious Service Award' for outstanding duty to performance. Joe maintained more Sortie Patrols out on the Lake this past season. Chris Maider got the 'Bent Prop' Award...that speaks for itself. This has happened to all-of-us, but Chris got the 'honors' for being the 'first' to wipe out our prop on the new WR3 Vessel. I was actually with Chris when we were patrolling in Flint Pond...and 'bam...' I guess that 57 Chevy that submerged there by the bridge is still there...ha. Even though the prop was 'toast' Chris and I finished the Patrol sortie. We got the prop rebuilt and now have a spare onboard if this happens again in the future.

On Saturday, 11 Nov, the MRSP gang met at Harrington Farms and hiked up to the top of Mt. Wachusetts for our first annual picnic gathering for the Mountain Team. The Ribs from the Outback Restaurant were great. 'Meritorious Service Award' given to Mac Reynolds for outstanding performance

keeping the MRSP Team active, and Mike Ahern got the 'Falling Rock' Award for starting an Avalanche of logs. The Team was patrolling while Mike lead the way kicking a rock holding a dead tree...well, it came rolling down the hill. Macs lunch was squished...but I understand...I was told...that MRE #11 Tuna Casserole bit-the-dust. Mike now sits in-back-of-the bus. (Ha). In addition, Mike is Flight Current by taking his bi-annual check ride back in October from Pete Travis.

## **COMMUNICATIONS NET TO CHANGE**

Due to the popularity of 75 meters, and the constant QRM on the Frequency at the time of our Net, we have decided to change our HF Net to the 60 Meter Band. Ham Members please check out [[www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq-60.html](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq-60.html)]. We plan to use 5405Khz for our new scheduled Net starting the first Sunday in January at 1900 Local time/EST. The Net will be on the First Sunday of the month along with our VHF Net on 146.58Mhz at 1830 Hours Local, now changed to the first Sunday of the month. This will be posted on the ARRL Web site. All Hams please note this change.

## **ARTICLE IN THE LQWA NEWS LETTER**

I want to thank Linc Pearson for the extremely nice article on our Water Rescue Service in the November 06 Issue of the LQWA (Lake Quinsigamond Watershed Association) News Letter. The more we can get out to the public about our Water Rescue Service, the more volunteers we may get to assist in our programs for the upcoming year. I am also honored to be on the Steering Committee for the LQWA and hope to contribute more to the LQWA organization. Also, Thanks to Scott Norton, Joe Apicella for assisting Linc Pearson for the Buoy removal on Lake Quinsigamond weekend 10/14/06

## **CELESTIAL NAVIGATION CLASS FULL**

Our Annual Celestial Navigation Class starting in January at the Stoddard Army Reserve Center is full and we cannot take on any more students. Each year this class gets more popular. I plan to have another class this summer and will make the announcement on our Web Site. You must have the Davis Celestial started Kit to attend the Class, which can be ordered on-line. The Class itself is free and open to the public.



***HAPPY NEW YEAR 2007***