



WORCESTER COUNTY SEARCH & 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.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS GIVEN 2005



Bill Latimer presents Grant Check to Maj. Jeanne Vetter, Commander.



102nd Composite Squadron, RIWG, during Safety Briefing on Water Safety

On Thursday, 2nd February, I was privileged to give a \$500.00 Grant to the 102nd Composite Squadron, CAP, in Rhode Island to Maj. Jeanne Vetter, the Squadron Commander. 102nd Squadron was recently named the Squadron of the Year in Rhode Island, where Max Lombardo, who is the VP of WCSART is an active Staff member. This Squadron represents the best CAP has to offer and shows what a difference a well-organized Squadron can accomplish. That same evening I gave a *Safety Lecture* on Water Safety to the Squadron, and introduced *Waterway Watch* (877/24WATCH)

At end of last year and the beginning of this year, through WCSART, was also honored to give out several Donations to other volunteer organizations that truly represent the spirit of help to the general public. Recipients in 2005 were the Holden Rotary Club 'Outhouse Fun,' Hurricane Katrina Relief organizations; contribution was given to the WRSP Program for Fuel expenses for operations in 2006 and two Marine Band Radios were donated to the Worcester and Shrewsbury Police Departments Patrolling Lake Vessels. Communications Equipment and several vehicles were also donated to individuals and organization doing Search & Rescue. Funds to support the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 10-01 Boating Safety Course was also contributed. These Funds and Grants were given to those organization that sponsor SAR or related venues that operate as a non-profit groups with volunteers that give their valuable time and assistance to sponsor activities related to SAR. One cannot *thank* enough those organization and individuals that give their time and assistance to help those in need. Many of our Team members belong to these Groups and it is *my way* to 'thank' those that have dedicated their time, knowledge, and financial support to Worcester County Search and Rescue. *Thank you to all!*

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS



Dennis Stage: Joined us back in December 05 and will be part of our Communications Team acting as a base relay station. His Ham Call is WA4GLI. Dennis is also a Pilot and a retired US Army Lt. Colonel. Dennis and his wife Anne live in Marietta, Georgia. To date we have 48 Active Team members.

C.E.R.T. BREAKFAST GATHERING

On Sunday, December 11th, Joe and Jackie Antinovitch, and myself attended a breakfast gathering hosted by the Rutland Fire Department for all CERT Team Members, and members of the Rutland Fire and volunteer Fire Department at the Fire Station in downtown Rutland. Great time for all and everyone got a chance to meet the CERT Team Members.

2nd ELT SIGNAL FOUND BY WCSART

On Sunday, 18 December 05, while enroot to W.E.C.T. at the National Guard Armory in Worcester, when passing Worcester Airport (ORH), my scanner locked on for a moment on 121.5Mhz. I quickly turned around and went to the FBO at Swiss Air, but heard nothing. When leaving, my scanner locked on again. I drove over to Amity Aviation and sure enough, a strong carrier was coming from a Piper Arrow (N7478J) parked on the Ramp. With permission from the FBO I traced the signal, and the ELT was secured. I then notified the tower at ORH and AFRCC our Group had found and secured the ELT carrier signal. This is the second ELT we silenced in 2005. Back in July I secured one going off at Fitchburg Airport while enroot to Leominster Hospital. Having a scanner in ones vehicle makes a difference if you program 121.5MHz, 243.0MHz and 406.0 MHz.

On Sunday, 1/22/06, around 1435, I was advised from one of our SAR Team members of an ELT on 243.0 was going off near Nashua, NH. I called the FBO at the Airport and advised to check out the signal. Later information received stated on the last Satellite pass, there was no further signal heard after 1500 hours. Our organization is not on any 'official' call list to track down EPIRBS, ELT, or PLB's; however, many of our members are affiliated with organizations that do DF (Direction Find) ELT's. Also, in our training curriculum we offer a DF Course to further train those that require this venue. WCSART has the latest *state-of-the-art* L-Per (DF tracking unit) from Ltronics. See www.ltronics.com for details. Note: This L-Per is available for viewing and testing through us.

WCSART (at our communications site) monitors 121.5, 243.0 and 406Mhz. Our locations can monitor signals in the Worcester County Area and many of our members also monitor 121.5 in the vehicles as well as other frequencies. We are also in the process of getting a 121.5Mhz remote receiver to be installed in a local repeater that will possibly cover the entire State and well as lower NH, and upper CT to received any distress traffic, or ELT's going off on 121.5 Frequency.

"We support...so others may live"

NATIONAL SAR REGISTRY WEB SITE

Some members have inquired about this Web Site as to what has happened. Unknown, the Web Site is gone with no future forwarding to another Web Site or explanation as to why the site has been shut down. The last time I checked the site, there were not many listings, and most of the Registered Team Members were Team members from our Group. As stated in our past News Letters, the civilian SAR world is changing, and maybe the originators that started the NSR Web site decided to shutdown the site for lack of registry activity.

FLOTILLA 10-01 USCG AUXILIARY BSS



Joe Antinovitch and Joe Peterson giving instructions on Boating Safety

On February 15th, and each Wednesday evening from 7-9pm, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary is holding it's annual Boating Safety & Seamanship Class at the Stoddard Army Reserve Center in Worcester, MA. This is a 9-week course to promote Boating Safety. Many States already have these classes as Mandatory before boating in their waters. A must for those those are heavy into recreational boating. The class is open to the public. The next BSS class schedule will be announced.

NEW CHANGES AND DIRECTIONS IN 2006

To keep up with the constant changes in the SAR community we will be changing our focus to concentrate on our programs that serve the most beneficial support to the community. First and most important, our Missing Persons SAR Team, as an active SAR Unit is being disbanded; however, a 'Team' will be formed in case of additional support of personal are needed in a civilian Search where the 'public' is utilized. With the formation of CERT Teams in the area, the civilian SAR Teams (as in the past) are a thing-of-the-past. We have seen this coming, and unless a Team is part of a State Agency already recognized, the future for civilian urban Search & Rescue Teams is gone forever. There have been too many Teams across the Nation that have disbanded or just faded away because they are not utilized, or recognized for what is needed in today's criteria for urban civilian Search and Rescue. During the Hurricane Katrina call-up, many qualified civilian SAR Teams were *just-not-used*. We recommend our members (that are interested only in civilian SAR) to contact CMSART (Central Mass Search & Rescue Team) or BMSART (Berkshire Mountain Search & Rescue Team) as they are the only Teams left in this State that are concentrating in this style of venue, and they are apart of NEWSAR (Northeast Wilderness Search & Rescue) Organization which is the governing Registry for civilian SAR Teams in this area. Ground Team Members with our group should also consider joining our MRSP (Mountain Rescue Safety Patrol) program that is now underway. Your current qualifications as a Ground Team member makes you well qualified for this program.

As our entire Team Members know, we belong to NASAR (National Association for Search & Rescue) and abide by their standards of Training for all Search & Rescue Venues. We believe strongly that NASAR is the leader for the Rescue Professional, and one day will be the primary focus for standardization in all civilians SAR, K9, training for Search and Rescue venues across the Nation. More emphases on the SAR TECH Criteria that NASAR offers is being recognized, and many 'other' SAR related groups pattern their criteria training after NASAR curriculum.

But I encourage all our Team Members to join a local CERT Team in the town you live it, no matter what Group you belong to. CERT is the way-to-go, and recognized by FEMA. For those that have not taken the on-line training for ICS200 and NIMS by FEMA, please go on line and take the training course and test offered. (as most volunteer agencies, CERT, now require this certification).

I have spoken with many of you over the past several months, and after coming back from the Hurricane Katrina disaster, I recommended these changes to our BOD (Board of Directors) meeting this past February 23rd. Also, many of our members belong to other organizations such as the US Air Force (CAP), US Coast Guard Auxiliary Programs, CERT Teams, American Red Cross, and others. Much is changing in these groups as well as internal changes in training and Mission statements. 911 and the forming of Homeland Security have affected all these Groups. Much change has happened in these organizations with new focus and direction. Meeting these challenges that lie ahead in 2006 is important to all of us.

However, our focus *now* will be in three categories. **WRSP** (Water Rescue Safety Patrol), **MRSP** (Mountain Rescue Safety Patrol) and **UCJT** (Urban Communications Jump Teams). We will also keep focus on our Volunteer Pilot program, which has been a great success, and we are in the process of getting all our 'Ham' Operator members organized to form a specialized Communications Team to strictly establish a Comm jump-team to be activated nationwide. If notified, we can still muster-up a SAR Team for a public searches, but our 'focus' to keep a Missing Person SAR Team will no longer be a venue as our other programs that we are involved in will take *priority* for our Mission Statement. In actuality, our workload and membership will increase.

On Wednesday, March 1st, our organization was once again approved to do the WRSP (Water Rescue Safety Patrol) program out on Lake Quinsigamond by the LQWA (Lake Quinsigamond Watershed Association) Steering Committee, headed by Chief Wayne Sampson, Shrewsbury Police. This program is very active and our season will start this year on Memorial Day weekend May 27th and running through to Labor Day weekend. This is our second year doing this program and I am looking forward to another successful season by our dedicated volunteer Skippers and Crews.

Our MRSP Program will be has been approved and we have already had several sortie patrols in training. Our newly formed Ham Radio NET on 3928KHz and 146.58MHz is activated every Sunday evening, and we are building up hours in our Volunteer Pilot program. We need more volunteers for WRSP and MSRP. Please contact me for further info on these hi-profile programs to support the public as *First Responders*.

"We support...so others may live"