



## WORCESTER COUNTY SEARCH &amp; RESCUE

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

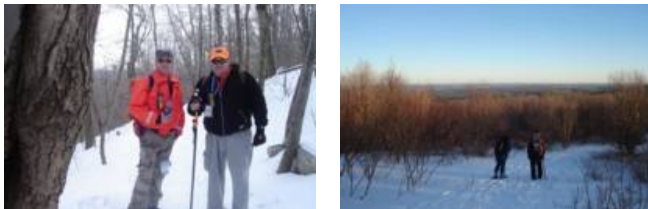
**Greetings: William C. Latimer  
Founder and Editor WCSART:**WCSART is a current Member of NASAR  
National Association for Search & Rescue

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.

**NEW YEAR 2007 STARTS OUT SLOW**

## EDITORS COMMENTS AND REVIEW OF WCSART ACTIVITIES:

As is most cases, January and the winter season sometimes are slow as far as activities. This year the winter has been unseasonably warm and we did not start our MRSP Patrols until 7 January. That weekend the MRSP Team surveyed Mt. Wachusett and the temperature was 65 degrees, no snow, and even the Mt. Wachusett Ski area had no snow at all. It was not until the weekend of 24 Feb the conditions on Mt. Wachusett were snowy enough for the MRSP Team to start their MRSP Patrols. Just about every weekend since, the MRSP Team has been active, with some days cancelled, but it appears our last MRSP Patrol will be the last weekend in March. Preparations are now focused on our upcoming Water Rescue Safety Patrols out on Lake Quinsigamond.



Chris Maider and Bill Latimer - MRSP Patrol - View from Mt. Wachusett

**LQWA APPROVES OUR WRSP PROGRAM 2007**

03/21/07 -Bill Latimer, Joe Apicella, and Chris Maider attended the LQWA Meeting held at the Shrewsbury Town Hall, Kenneth Polito, Chairman. I gave a two year operational status Report and once again proposed our WRSP Program to the LQWA Committee. The Commission Board unanimously approved our WRSP program again for this upcoming operational season in 2007. This will be our 3rd season the program has been operational. We look forward to another year assisting the Boating Public out on the Lake. We plan to expand our operation and will be looking for more volunteers to help assist in this program. If interested, and you have a passion for the water and you like to help, contact Joe Antinovitch at 508/829-3596 or Bill Latimer 508/829-2365. This Program is a high profile Volunteer service to the Boating Public serving Worcester and Shrewsbury, MA. Our sincere thanks to the Commission Board for allowing us another operational season this year.

**WEBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION FUTURE PLANS**

Many of our WRSP Members have asked about Lake Webster and I will respond to the inquiries I had from Home Owners on the Lake, our Members, and others. Back in January we had sent a proposal to Dick Cazeault, President, Lake Webster Association of what our WRSP Program was about. We also copied a proposal to Chief Tim Bent of the Webster Police Department. The proposal was the same type of program we use now to operate out on Lake Quinsigamond; however, I had stated this could only be accomplished if we had the 'volunteer' numbers from the Lake Webster area. This would be an enormous operational planning if we decided to do Lake Webster, and I could not even *think* about starting a program without having at least 15 to 20 volunteer Skippers to start.

Also, we would not *take-away* any operational vessels now operating on Lake Quinsigamond, as this is our priority responsibility for the WRSP Program now in use. Lake Webster would have to be under its 'own' program, with volunteers from that area. We would be happy to support, start the process, and get it going under WCSART Incorporated, but it takes about a year to get organized financially and getting the manpower in place, training, to get the program going to the level we now have on Lake Quinsigamond.

I got a very nice Letter from Dick Cazeault explaining his views, and at the present time, the WLA is going to *shelve* the matter until June 2007. At that time, a decision will be made if we are going to start a WRSP program on Lake Webster. I think it is a good idea, and our *seasoned* veteran Skippers/Crews would be happy to assist to help start a program with the WLA....and in time, if the program is approved, Massachusetts will be the *first* State in the Country to have two Major Lake Regions with an all Volunteer Water Rescue Service not sponsored by any State/City Municipality.

Our organization did join the Webster Lake Association (WLA) and I encourage all our WRSP Members to visit their Web site linked from our Web page, or go to their site at: [<http://www.websterlakeassociation.com>]

**AMATEUR RADIO NET CHANGED TO 60 METERS**

Our Communication Net has changed to once a month. The First Monday of the month at 1930 Hours/EST on 5403.50 KHZ/USB. This change was due to the heavy QRM on 75 Meters. Our VHF Net on 146.58MHZ is also the first Monday of the month at 1900 Hours/EST. Please take the time to check in. 60 Meters has been a great Frequency to use and last month I had a station from England check in.

**FEMA COURSES CAN NOW BE ACCESSED**

To all SAR Personal. FEMA, ICS Courses 100, 200, 700 and 800 can now be accessed from our 'Download' Page from our Web site. These Courses are now required for most Agencies that sponsor SAR related operations. You can also get other FEMA Courses by going to their Web site and getting a list.

## US COAST GUARD AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 10-01



At the Division 10 COW (Change of Watch) in January 2007, Bill Latimer was elected as Flotilla Commander of the Worcester Flotilla 10-01, USCG Auxiliary. Bill replaces Joe Antinovitch who was the Commander for the past two years. Vice Commander (VFC) is Perry Chicolas. Many members of the Worcester Flotilla are also members of WCSART and help support our WRSP Program as Skippers/Crews.

## WEB SITE UPDATES AND CHANGES

In January we changed our Web Page format and 'Entrance' to the Main page. Due to hacking issues and security purposes, the Web 'index' page was changed to track incoming IP address and keep a pace counter to the number of hits we have on the site on a daily basis. We also added a 'Guest Book' for visitors to give their comments on our site and ask questions via Email. Most cases have been very, very, supportive, but there are those individuals (as in any web site) that have negative views and unwarranted postings related to subjects that are not related to what we do in Search & Rescue; therefore, we block those individuals and comments. But the majority of visitors to our Web Page has sent me some very nice Emails, suggestions, and is very interested in what we do. We have also been 'linked' from many National Web Sites.

Also, the Web Site has been updated to accommodate PDA and Blackberry Web browsers. We added a PDA Main Page for *user friendly* (text) browsing using ones PDA or Blackberry. A 'Gallery' Page was added and we now have Team Pictures posted of our current and past activities. A 'Current News' Page is active with current updated happenings our organization is doing along with a 'Links' and 'Download' Page. Our 'Schedule' page has the latest training opportunities. *Check it out!* [<http://www.wcsarteam.com>].



**NATIONAL  
SAFE BOATING  
WEEK  
May 19-25, 2007**

## HOSSTRADER HAM FEST IS BEING REPLACED

Go to [<http://www.near-fest.com>]. The New England Amateur Radio Festival (NEAR-Fest) is scheduled in spring at Deerfield, NH Fairgrounds May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 2007. The Grand Tradition Continues. For all our Amateur Radio Operator members, this is a great event. See everyone there!

Jim - KA1TKO Hoss-Traders... Bill - WA4DDH



## FUTURE PLANS FOR OUR NEWS LETTER

For now, the *Meridian Ledger* will be made available on our Web Site and hard Copies will be mailed out to those that do not have Computer access; however, in the future, we may drop the Meridian Ledger News Letter since we now have a current 'News' page on our web site that stays archived on the same page. The hard Copy future Editions will be the same 'text' as seen on our 'Current News' Web page. This will be brought up at our next BOD meeting. I would like to get some input from our members if you would like to still get hard copies of the *Meridian Ledger* in its present format. The difference is...there are pictures on the present format. The future text version will not have any pictures. Let me know.

## ARTICLE IN THE US POWER SQUADRON 'ENSIGN'

The US Power Squadron Publication, *The Ensign*, had a very nice Article about our WRSP (Water Rescue Safety Patrol) program in the February 2007 Issue. This was due to my response to the Editor about an Article last year on a Group doing a similar program down near Tampa, Florida. Our program is entirely different, but the efforts that US Power Squadron Members make to assist the public are the same views as ours. You can view the article by accessing from our Current News Web page or go to the Web Address below: [<http://www.usps.org/national/ensign/mailbagjuly.htm#top>]



Joe Apicella 'ducking' going under bridge To Lake Quinsigamond in our WR3 Vessel From Flint Pond...it's very cozy there!

**WRSP  
PROGRAM  
Starts  
MEMORIAL  
DAY WEEKEND  
and ends  
LABOR DAY  
WEEKEND**