



## 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 and Education.

### UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES:

#### EDITORS COMMENTS AND REVIEW OF WCSART ACTIVITIES:

The WCSAR Team has been busy since the first of the New Year. The MRSP (Mountain Rescue Safety Patrol Team) has been busy up on Mt. Wachusett with our Mountain Rescue Patrols, and the Communications Team has been busy doing propagation test on the Amateur Radio 60 meter band, and coordinating better Team Communications using Skype and eQSO PMR 466 build VOiP technology. Also, the WRSP (Water Rescue Safety Patrol) Team has been preparing for the upcoming season out on Lake Quinsigamond and this year we plan to assist in the QRA Races that start at the end of March extending our Patrol season by several months. Training classes' requirements for some of our members that is required will be offered this spring. There will be training for CPR, Basic First Aid, Amateur Radio License, and Boating Safety Classes for those that need it. All Team Members check our Scheduled Web Page for upcoming events and classes. WCSART does not have internal training for many of these classes; however, we support organizations that do training and encourage our members to take the training as necessary.

We are going to have a busy year, and with Fuel cost increasing, it is going to be very hard for the WRSP Team to keep active. Our Fuel Expense for our WR3 Vessel has doubled since the program started back in 2005, but fuel expense is problematic everywhere. Even our Volunteer members that use their own Vessels are feeling the 'pinch' of Fuel cost and expenses. To date we only have one Grant for \$1200 we received from a private organization in Florida and our Fuel cost will only increase as Gas is expected to hit \$4.00 per/Gal by mid summer. As for now, there will be no change in our WRSP Schedule. As of 29 March, we started our Patrol service by assisting in the QRA Races held out on Lake Quinsigamond. Our Patrol Vessel will be out on the Lake every weekend until our operational Patrols start Memorial Day weekend and ending Labor Day weekend. We plan to install the Buoys sometime in April using our WR2, WR3 and WR9 Vessels. We are currently looking into Fund Raising Projects and hope to receive several donations by organization that support our WRSP Program...but, we will continue on as planned and look forward to another successful year supporting the general public on our current program venues.

### NEWS OF WCSAR TEAM MEMBERS:



01/19/08 Joe Apicella, our WRSP Team Coordinator and active US Coast Guard Auxiliary got the USCG Auxiliary Division 10 most missions Hours Award for his active Duty Tour aboard the USCGC Escanaba. Joe is a member of the USCGA Worcester Flotilla 10-01 as a Vessel Examiner.

Joe is also a current member of the US Power Squadron and is a member of the Worcester County Sail and Power Squadron. Also, this year, Joe was appointed to Worcester County Search & Rescue Team Incorporated as a Member of our Board of Directors. Joe has been active with our WRSP Group since the start of our Water Rescue Safety Patrol Program back in 2005 and has been very active out on Lake Quinsigamond during our Water Rescue Patrols. Not only will Joe being doing Water Rescue Service for our WRSP program, he will be involved in the Corporate decision and operations of our non-profit organization. We look forward working with Joe as our organization progresses along in the upcoming years.



Paul Marsters, who heads-up SARTAC, Survival and Rescue Training and Consulting, is a current member of our WRSP Team and is a qualified 'Skipper' of our WR3 Vessel. Paul is very active with the US Air Force Auxiliary GSAR program.

Also, SARTAC is proud to announce the opening of IASART (International Academy for Survival and Rescue Technology) Campus in Sherburne, New York in February 2008. IASART is now an Official Training Center for the Emergency Care and Safety Institute. You can access a Link to SARTAC and IASART from our WCSART Web Site Link Page. [ [www.wcsarteam.com/Links](http://www.wcsarteam.com/Links) ]



Major Joe Zwirblia, CAP, has been named *Squadron Commander of the Year* for Worcester Composite Squadron, US Air Force Auxiliary by MAWG. I have known Joe over the past decade and he certainly deserves this prestigious recognition. *A Job well done!!!*



03/08/08, Bill Latimer was elected to take over as Squadron Commander for the US Power Squadron, Worcester County Sail and Power Squadron at a Luncheon Banquet held at O'Connor's Restaurant. Bill is also a member of Flotilla 10-01, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and is a Staff member of Division 10, 1<sup>st</sup>



01/04/08, Chris Maider has been appointed as MRSP Team Coordinator for our Mountain Rescue Group. Chris replaced Mac Reynolds who has moved to the Denver, CO area. Chris has vast knowledge in GSAR Operations and is a qualified 'Skipper' for our WRSP program. Chris is also a member of the USCG Auxiliary.



Many of our old members may remember Chris Gagnon. I got an Email from Chris and he has moved out of the Worcester area. Chris was a 'Crew' member of our WRSP Program and Ground Team Member for SAR. We wish Chris good luck on his new endeavors.

### **WEB SITE ADDITIONS AND CHANGES:**

If you haven't visited our Web Page, we made some changes this year. For the MRSP Team, we added a real time weather update for Mt. Wachusets conditions during the weekends. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 0500-0700 a Team member will head to the Mountain and relay back to our Web Master actual weather conditions on the Mountain and Trails. Updates are found on our Front Main Page. Check our Web site for all the updates & changes at [ [www.wcsarteam.com](http://www.wcsarteam.com) ] Also, check our Schedule Page for updated Training opportunities and Schedule Events relating to Boating Safety.

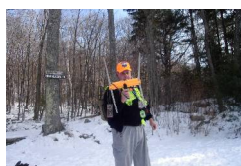
### **MRSP TEAM ACTIVE THIS YEAR:**



*Bill & Robert*



*Pine Hill Trail*



*Practicing DF Search*

Our Mountain Rescue Patrols were at a minimum this year but a patrol was done every weekend starting in late December, and ended in March. Most Hikers this year seemed to be pretty safety equipped. We handed out allot of Maps, gave bottled water, and several space blankets for those that requested it. Only notable incident was assistance to a Japanese Family of 5 that got disorientated on the Jack Front Trail in icy conditions. We escorted them back down via Echo Lake, and drove them back to the Ranger Station where they were parked. It was their first time 'ever' hiking in snow conditions and they were just not prepared, but everyone was okay. There was an fatal Ski 'incident' over at the Wachusets Ski Lodge, but it was not on the main hiking Trails. I want to thank Chris Maider, Robert Harper, and Mike Ahern for keep the Team active this year. We did get allot of request for information to our MRSP Program by the 'orange' Cards we handed out and several Hikers want to join for the next year MRSP Program.

### **ELT REMOTE RECEIVER SITE:**

There were no 'hits' since December for ELT's or EPIRB's on our remote receiver up on Mt. Wachusets. Some signals were heard, but out of our immediate area for activation. We did several practice PLB searches up on Mt. Wachusets and the new Elper DF Unit worked extremely well in snow conditions.

### **CENTRAL NEW ENGLAND BOAT SHOW:**



*Joe Apicella assisting USPS Booth*



*View of new large Mural Maps*

03/14/08 Bill Latimer and Joe Apicella attended the Central New England Boat Show by assisting the Worcester County Sail and Power Squadron Booth. This was an excellent opportunity to get information out about the US Power Squadron and boating safety out on Lake Quinsigamond.

### **MARINE USA FISHING EXPO:**



03/29/08 WCSART set up a Booth at the Marine USA Annual Fishing Expo over at Marine USA in Worcester, MA. This was a great opportunity to get information about our Water Rescue Program, to get new volunteers to join our group, and to show our new Maps of Lake Quinsigamond. Team members Glen Wains, Hernan Claros, and Don Brickman assisted

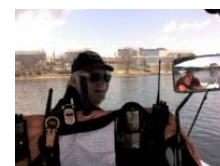
### **QRA RACES START 29 MARCH 2008:**



*Joe Apicella*



*Bill Latimer*



*Glen Wains*

03/29/08 was the start of the QRA (Quinsigamond Rowing Association) 'Shell' Boat races for the area on Lake Quinsigamond. This year, our WRSP Program has committed to assist in all the weekend races on our WR3 Vessel. All 'Skippers' and 'Crew' are encouraged to volunteer for these weekend races. Check our Schedule page for the Race Schedule for the various Schools. Weather is usually cold, windy, sometimes rain for this time of year. We also are issued a HT Radio to stay in contact with the Crew Boats also assisting out on the Lake for faster response to any situation.

### **LQC APPROVES WRSP PROGRAM AGAIN:**

03/26/08 Shrewsbury Town Hall. Shrewsbury MA. Bill & Brenda Latimer, Joe Apicella, Linc Pearson, attended the LQC (Lake Quinsigamond Commission) meeting (Ken Polito-Chairman) to propose our 4<sup>th</sup> year of operation WRSP (Water Rescue Safety Patrol) Program out on Lake Quinsigamond. After Bill Latimer (spokesperson) gave a brief premise of our operation for the past 3 year and Safety Record, we were approved by unanimous vote to continue on again in 2008. We again thank the Board for allowing this all-volunteer service to assist the boating public for the upcoming 2008 season.

### **LAKE QUINSIGAMOND MAP UPDATES:**

New Rev04\_08 Maps of Lake Quinsigamond are now available on our Web Site. Changes to Style 'A' Map and new data has been added to Style 'B' Map. Check it out!