Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Yavapai County Sheriff's Air Group, Inc.

Meeting Minutes

29 APRIL 2015

CALL TO ORDER **0700**
Dan Berry

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Membership

MEMBERS PRESENT
Dan Berry
Farrell Harris
Ray Johnson
Bob Kuropkat
Bud Lathrop
Currie Lee
Pat Moore
Kathy Moore
Dan Pavelchak
Terri Sweginnis
Noel Urban

GUESTS

Capt. Jeff Newnum YCSO
Sgt. Scott Joy YCSO
Dana Hoch- Dana attended as a possible applicant. Subsequent to the meeting Dana submitted his application to Dennyse Loll

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES Dan Berry

Minutes of March 2014 were voted on and approved by the members present

TREASURER'S REPORT Teri Sweginnis

Balance is $2543.56
Paperwork submitted to the State Commission as required
No expenses in March

COMMANDER'S REPORT Dan Berry

Election of Operations Officer
The nomination committee represented by Dan Pavelchak nominated Ray Pfeffer for Operations Officer replacing Noel Urban who met his term limit. Ray was elected by unanimous vote of the members present.

Flight Safety Officer
Noel Urban was appointed as Flight Safety Officer by the Commander to serve Ray Pfeffer's term as Flight Safety Officer.
Dan Berry mentioned the meeting he had with Chief Russell and Capt. Newnum on Monday 4/27.

Capt. Neunum was given the floor and made the following statement and answered questions.

The Air Group is a very valuable resource to the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office wants to see the Air Group continue.

SAR Missions have diminished greatly over the past few years. The primary reason is the cell phone and GPS units used by hikers, hunters and other people in backcountry. Most missions have the location of the subjects from a cell phone call or ping and/or a GPS called-in location.

The SO has a helicopter (Jeff Newnum is the SO pilot, others are contracted) used for SAR also. Capt. Newnum told us later that the helicopter was only called out 2 times this year for an actual SAR mission.

Capt. Newnum said he understood the problem keeping the Air Group viable and recommended the following: The goal is to have the Air Group called for most, if not all, SAR missions.

We need to have the Air Group and Sheriff's Office physically work together to understand and have confidence in each advantage and capability. To do this the Sheriff's Office will initiate at least 2 exercise each month involving members of the SO. Sgt. Joy will be responsible to initiate the exercises and missions.

We need to have the Air Group fixed wing aircraft and the SO helicopter work together for the purpose of being able to safely have joint SAR missions. The goal would be to be called out each time the helicopter is called out to use the advantage of each aircraft during the mission. This will take some time and a number of exercises to be successful and have confidence in each other. **He suggested the first exercise be Friday May 1. (This was accomplished and the report is available)**

Law Enforcement support:

The SO will increase the requests on LE activities. There is a request in process at this time and we will be notified.

Missions and exercises in other counties:

Any missions or SAR activities for other Arizona counties must be initiated by the officials of that county. Chief Russell said he will mention this to other county Sheriffs letting him know of our capability.

Smoke and Hazardous Weather Patrols: Capt. Newnum strongly recommended that we begin and continue with Smoke Patrols. We must submit a smoke patrol report if we want the importance of the Air Group be recognized by the SO. The SO will open a DR# for this. Sgt. Joy will provide likely problem areas in the county for our Hazardous Weather Patrols. Sheep Bridge (aka Sheep Crossing) on the Verde River was mentioned as one location.

Rapid response: The Air Group members stressed that we be notified of a mission at any time day or night so we can be ready at dawn. Capt. Newnum said that unless requested or due to expenses he usually doesn't abort the mission if the subject is found so that the SAR group can gain the full experience of the mission. The group will discuss how to shorten the response time. One thing that will be put in place by Ray will be the pilot obtaining an observer instead of the Operations Officer thereby eliminating several unnecessary calls. Pilots and Observers will team up on this.

After Capt. Newnum left we continued the discussion with Sgt. Joy. The following is a summary of this discussion:

Sgt. Joy does not recommend that we become part of any other SAR group. He sees this as not initiating more missions or activity and will likely have the group disappear into the other group. There is no need to do this to increase the mission activity. This was confirmed by Capt. Newnum at the exercise debrief on May 1. Bob Kuropkat made the comment that this would be the demise of the Air Group and most members would resign.

Sgt. Joy will initiate one or more exercises including a deputy or other LE officials each month. He is working with Ray on such an exercise with his new Deputy on the Verde River from Paulden to Sheep's Bridge on May 10.

NEW BUSINESS None Dan Berry

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NEXT MEETING DATE
27 May 2015

ADJOURN **0800**