

## 2017 MESARD ANNUAL REPORT & STATISTICS

Maine Search And Rescue Dogs (MESARD) participated in **74 activities** in 2017  
**20 Search days, 23 Training days, and 34 Public Relations Events & Conferences**  
for a team total of **6,470 hours and 85,975 miles**  
**33 MESARD team members, 14 certified K9, 6 dogs in training, and retired 6 K9 this year**

### Search highlights:

**In 2017 MESARD worked 17 Search Incidents for 20 search days,  
volunteering 1793 hours and travelling 19,062 miles**

**Congratulations to MESARD K9 team Dorothy Smail & Tala** for finding Christopher Grecco at 2:20 am on a rainy night after the 5 year old boy went missing during a Mother's Day hike in Acton, ME on May 15, 2017. "She did her job," Smail said of Tala. "She went over and found him and then came back and told me, and took me to him." "He was actually playing dead," Smail explained. Smail nodded at Tala and said, "He actually thought she was a fox, and that she might bother him unless he played dead."



### Maine Warden Service Press Release

[https://emainehosting.com/mesard/images/2017\\_Searches/5-YO-Boy\\_Acton/2017\\_Acton%20Search\\_Tala%20%20Dorothy.pdf](https://emainehosting.com/mesard/images/2017_Searches/5-YO-Boy_Acton/2017_Acton%20Search_Tala%20%20Dorothy.pdf)

"... 2 am Monday morning, MESARD handler Dorothy Smail and her K9 Tala, located the boy in their search area, about approximately 1/2 mile from where he was last seen in the woods" - Lt. Adam

### WCSH6 Volunteer rescuer and dog find lost 5-year-old in Acton woods

<https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/local/volunteer-rescuer-and-dog-find-lost-5-year-old-in-acton-woods/97-439719392>

"Smail says the boy was wet, tired and hungry but otherwise alright. Smail says this is her and her dog's first find and she is very proud of her dog Tala." (VIDEO) <https://www.newscentermaine.com/video/news/local/dorothy-smail-and-tala/97-2600679>

### Dorothy Smail Describes the Moment She Finds Missing Boy in Acton

<https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/local/dorothy-smail-describes-the-moment-she-finds-missing-boy-in-acton/439781332>

Dorothy recalls that day, *"It's an amazing feeling to know that you may have saved someone's life. I am so proud to be a part of the Maine Search and Rescue Community. I have a special bond with my girl Tala, and as a team we love what we do. ;-)"*



### **2017 MESARD Training Exercises highlights:**

*MESARD hosted 23 training exercises, for a total of 3,532 volunteer hours, and 45,108 miles.*

MESARD trained for 3 days at the end of April, learning new skills from **Matt Zarrella, Master Trainer/owner of American Patriot K9 Training**, specializing in various scent disciplines to include human remains detection, wilderness, disaster live, disaster cadaver, water search, trailing, explosives detection and article search.

### **2017 MESARD hosted 34 Public Relations Events/ Special Events highlights:** *for a total of 1144.5 volunteer hours and travelled 21,805 miles*

*MESARD hosted 29 Public Relations Events and Trainings for more than 1,054 people*  
MESARD hosted a 3-day IPWDA (International Police Working Dog Association) Testing and Training Event in Trailing, HRD (human remains detection) and Wilderness Area Search June 2-4, 2017 with SAR teams from across the northeast. Together we accomplished a lot, learned a lot, and made new friends in the northeast SAR community.

### **5 Events: "Lost but found... Safe and sound" Demo Programs to 413 children**

*MESARD volunteers to present a safety video and program designed to educate and demonstrate to children and adults how to be safe in the woods, and what to do if you get lost. This usually includes a classroom DVD and education demonstration, as well as a search dog demonstration which includes a safe way to meet/greet a dog and participate in a mock search.*



(Above: Jim Bridge)

At the end of the year, MESARD's first official Flanker, Jim Bridge retired from the unit after 10 years of service. Jim was instrumental in helping define the Flanker role and program, establishing the Lost But Found, Safe And Sound outreach program which was presented to thousands of school aged children across Maine, served as MESARD's Safety Officer, team Duty Officer, and deployed on approximately 150 searches (including one non-K9 life-saving find, and participated in several other MESARD K9 finds) and he administered his Wilderness First Responder training several times on both search Subjects and Searchers. We thank Jim for his tireless support to MESARD, his high standards and ethics, and his cheerful willingness to always hide for our search dogs. Jim will be missed!

### **Also in 2017 MESARD retired 6 SAR K9:**

SAR K9 Moxie, RIP (Spencer Fuller)  
SAR K9 Fran, RIP (Jennifer Fisk)  
SAR K9 Spirit, RIP (Nancy Trough)

SAR K9 Pepsi (Dave Hudson)  
SAR K9 Maddy (Jay Holweger)  
SAR K9 Tycho (Kelly Pontbriand)

2017 MESARD Searches									
2017	City	MESARD Activity	# MESARD	Call-out time	Outcome	Subj. Type	Subj. Name	# Hours	# Miles
3/10/2017	Arundel	Search	11	7:00	Deceased, MWS: Merryfield/Piper	65 yoF, alzheimers	Kim Coito	105	1846
3/10/2017	Stacyville	Search	10	18:15	Alive, WS/SP tracking K9	9 yoM, wander off	Rowen Ross	41	2247
4/15/2017	Bangor	Kenduskeag Canoe Race	2	9:00	12-16 rescues	water rescue		26	297
5/3/2017	Medford	Search, HRD only	11	9:00	No find	71 YOF	Diana Estey	316	2248
5/6/2017	Bryon	Pre-plan, missing 12/29/2016	9	9:00	No find/Later found deceased	YOM dementia	Derek Adams	127	1842
5/14/2017	Acton	Search	8	21:30	<b>MESARD FIND: Tala/Dorothy Small</b>	5 yo boy	Chris Greeco	57	1082.5
5/23/2017	Bristol	Search, Trailing only	2	20:50	Find by WS K-9	82 yo male dementia		9	110
5/27-28/2017	Fryeburg	Search, 2 Days	5	21:00	body located later, deceased	38 yr old canoeist	Jennifer Bousquet	23.5	426
6/9/2017	Skowhegan	Search, Trailing only	3	3:15	Found at old residence	70M dementia		13	240
6/13/2017	Gilead	No Deployment/call-out	1	1:30	no depolyment			0.33	0
7/10/2017	Greenwood	Search	6	23:30	subject walked out in am	87 yo male dem.	Peter Torng	65	919
9/17/2017	Medford	Pre-planned, HRD only	10	9:00	No find	71 YOF	Diana Estey	120	2239
10/18/2017	Orrington	Search	7	17:25		73 YOW, dementia		6	52
11/2/2017	Amherst	Search	7	4:45	Located Hancock CO K9	83 YOW dementia	Mary Lee	15	112
11/19-20/2017	west bath	Search, 2 Days	16	15:30	No Find	70 YOM, dimentionia	Ted Berry	244	1580.5
11/27-28/2017	Bradford	Search, 2 Days	15	12:50	Alive, MWS	50 YOW	Lisa Lynn Brasslett	161	2222
12/5/2017	Skowhegan	Search, HRD only	9	18:00	No clues. Cold case since May 2017	woman		464	1599
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17 Incident</b>	<b>20 search days</b>	<b>132</b>					<b>1792.8</b>	<b>19062</b>
2017 MESARD Trainings									
<b>Trainings</b>	<b>23 days</b>	<b>Training days</b>						<b>3532.3</b>	<b>45108</b>

2017 MESARD Public Relations Demos and Events									
2017	City	MESARD Activity	# MESARD	Call-out time	PR # attend	Lost But Found (Kids) # Attended		# Hours	# Miles
2/4/2017	Bangor	MESARD Annual Meeting	24	9:00	0			131.6	3441
2/12/2017	Schoodic	Winter Festival Demo	2	9:00	16			4	20
2/24/2017	Freeport	Winter Kids, LL Bean	2	9:00	25			8.5	145
2/26/2017	Phippsburg	Youth Day, LBF demo	3	9:00	24			18.5	86
3/1/2017	Kennebunk	LBF demo	3	8:00		101		21.3	242
3/8/2017	Brewer	Demo, PVKC	1	17:30	12			2	70
3/11/2017	Orono	E. Maine Sportsman's show	5	9:00	200			56.5	799
3/16/2017	Hampden	Weaaherbee School, ME Days	1	9:00	65			9	160
5/4/2017	Addison	EDGE	1	16:30	13			1.25	14
5/3-6/2017	Colorado	Urban Tracking, 5 days	1	17:00	1			38	
5/20/2017	Brunswick	Police, Bike Demo	2	12:00	8			6	18
5/26/2017	Hampden	Demo/volunteerism/stress mg	2	14:30	33			22	259
6/2/2017	Brunswick	IPWDA, day 1	11	9:00	11			116	2069
6/3/2017	Brunswick	IPWDA, day 2	12	9:00	12			130	816
6/4/2017	Brunswick	IPWDA, day 3	16	9:00	16			159	571
6/12-13/2017	Portland	Dick Staal	1	17:00	0			16	40
6/18/2017	Augusta	Greyhound LBF & Demo	3	14:00		25		15	202
6/24/2017	Gray	Gray Public Library	1	13:00	60			3	10
6/26/2017	T32	MYFGA summer camp demo	1	11:45	70			1.25	150
7/10/2017	T32	MYFGA summer camp demo	1	12:00	60			5.25	150
7/11/2017	New Glouche	Library Pet show, LBF	2	18:30		35		9	225
7/14/2017	Alfred	YCSheriff: Dorothy & Tala aw	9	15:00	135			28.75	842
7/17/2017	T 32	MYFG	1	13:30	50	0		2.5	67
7/20/2017	Hampden	Rec Dept camp demo	1	14:00	50			5.25	150
7/23/2017	Brunswick	Demo, NAVHDA	1	9:00	26			9	40
7/27/2017	Topsham	Brunswick CERT, demo	2	19:00	22			6.8	75
7/28/2017	Wells	LBF/demo Wells Rec Dept	4	11:15		132		26.5	433
8/25/2017	Westbrook	Animal Refuge League	3	12:30	18			13.55	200
8/26/2017	Freeport	L L Bean Dog Days	2	13:00	70			6	76
9/10/2017	Portland	Demo, Planet Dog store	2	13:00	30			9	182
9/21-24/2017		INBTI Trailing Conf, 3 days	3		3			79	1025
10/3/2017	Gorham	First Parish Church	2	10:00	20			7	196
10/15-19/2017	No Carolina	IPWDA Nationals	4	8:00	4			166	8787
10/25/2017	Jay	Spruce Mtn Elem, LBF demo	2	8:15		120		12	245
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>34 Events</b>		<b>131</b>		<b>1054</b>	<b>413</b>		<b>1144.5</b>	<b>21805</b>

MESARD Total Activities 2017								# Hours	# Miles
<b>All Activities:</b>	<b>74 Activities</b>							<b>6,469.6</b>	<b>85,975</b>