

2018 MESARD ANNUAL REPORT & STATISTICS

**Maine Search And Rescue Dogs (MESARD) participated in 63 activities in 2018
14 Search days, 25 Training days, and 25 Public Relations Events & Conferences
for a team total of 5,554 persons hours and 77,255 miles
31 MESARD team members, 13 certified K9, 4 dogs in training**

Search highlights:

**In 2018 MESARD were on standby for 3 missions, and deployed on 13 Search
Incidents for 14 search days,
volunteering 744 hours and travelling 12,863 miles**

Congratulations to MESARD K9 team Deb Palman & Raven w/ William Nichols

for finding 83 year-old Suzanne Hubbell on 8/2/2018 in Milbridge, ME



The Ellsworth American 8/2/2018: “At approximately 11:15 p.m., Debbie Palman, her black Lab Raven and their flanker, William Nichols, found Hubbell after following a disturbed area in the vegetation in the woods. She was located approximately one-half mile in the woods from the nearest road. Hubbell was located alive, but was wet from the earlier rain showers in the area. Multiple searchers and agency personnel assisted in carrying her out to a waiting ambulance. She was taken to a local hospital for evaluation”

Congratulations to Deb, Raven and William for a great life-saving find!

Other searches MESARD deployed to search were for a missing 5 year old boy who had fallen in the Androscoggin River in Lewiston, and MESARD deployed on 5/5/2018 for a river edge sweep with K9 teams, swift waters and steep banks made for challenging search conditions.



MESARD also deployed in September for missing Sky Diver, Brett Bickford in Lebanon, and in No. Yarmouth for a missing teacher Kristin Westra in Oct, 2018: <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/local/body-found-in-woods-behind-farmhouse-less-than-a-mile-from-kristin-westras-home/97-601170205>

2018 MESARD Training Exercises highlights:

MESARD hosted 25 training exercises, for a total of 4,143 volunteer hours, and 54,510 miles.

MESARD trained for 3 days at the end of April, learning new skills from:

Josh Stohl: Man tracking for Search and Rescue Personnel

Sumac Grant-Johnson, founder of WAG-IT! Games, “K9 Behavior and Training”

2018 MESARD hosted 25 Public Relations Events/ Special Events highlights:

for a total of 666 volunteer hours and travelled 9,882 miles

MESARD hosted 19 Public Relations Events and Trainings for more than 609 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 1-3, 2018 with SAR teams from across the northeast. Together we accomplished a lot, learned a lot, and made new friends in the northeast SAR community.

MESARD also participated in a special “mock search” event hosted by MEMA on June 8, 2018, as an exercise in deploying state-wide Emergency Resources in an airplane crash scenario.

5 Events: “Lost but found... Safe and sound” Demo Programs to 436 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.