

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

February 2024

Welcome,

The following report details the activities of Mackinac Marine Rescue (MMR) over the last year. As we have in the past, MMR responded to a wide variety of call-outs. I am perpetually surprised by the new and interesting situations to which MMR is called. I am extremely proud of the generosity of time and skill MMR crew put into training and response.

Two incidents from last summer stand out to me. MMR had the first shoreside fire response in our program's history this summer. Not only were we able to transport fire crew and equipment to an active structure fire on Boot Island near Cedarville, but we were also able to employ, for the first time, our 500 gallon-per-minute fire pump. This provided much needed additional fire suppression. During the event, we received a near constant stream of compliments from fire crews on how well the boat and pump were working in that situation.

The second event was the search for a lost gentleman with Alzheimer's. Called to the search in the pre-daylight hours, MMR staff responded to the boat and completed two circumnavigations of the Island, searching the shoreline with spotlights. As daylight broke and the search continued, marine operations were terminated. However, the MMR crew did not think the job was done and quickly volunteered to join the shoreside search.

The two incidents described above demonstrate the flexibility in response of the equipment, and a willingness to serve the community in any way possible by the crew.

Our program has been forced to adjust to former Commander Sam Barnwell's move to Traverse City. While Sam remains active in MMR, and still holds the title of Coxswain, he is unable to put in the time the Commander position requires. I am deeply honored to be given the Commander position but miss working with Sam nearly daily. Due to our extensive and ongoing training, the MMR program remains strong even with this founding member's reduced involvement.

The comparison of total call volume from 2022 to 2023 had a slight decline as we were plagued with mechanical issues early in the season. Continued higher gas prices through the summer had an impact on recreational boat use and contributed to the reduction of search and rescue (SAR) cases.

As always, we are thankful for the support of the Council, local community, and that of the larger Straits region.

With best regards,

Commander Allen Burt

Crew 2023

Allen Burt	Commander	Megan Czarnecki	Engineer
Anthony Arabie	Coxswain	Brian Gist	Engineer
Sam Barnwell	Coxswain	Jimmy Hagenbaugh	Engineer
Ellen Davey	Coxswain	Trista Horn	Deckhand
Kevin Leach	Coxswain	Cory Kaminen	Deckhand
Stephanie McGreevy	Coxswain	Justin Wright	Deckhand
Chad Bennett	Trainee	Jack Stack	Trainee



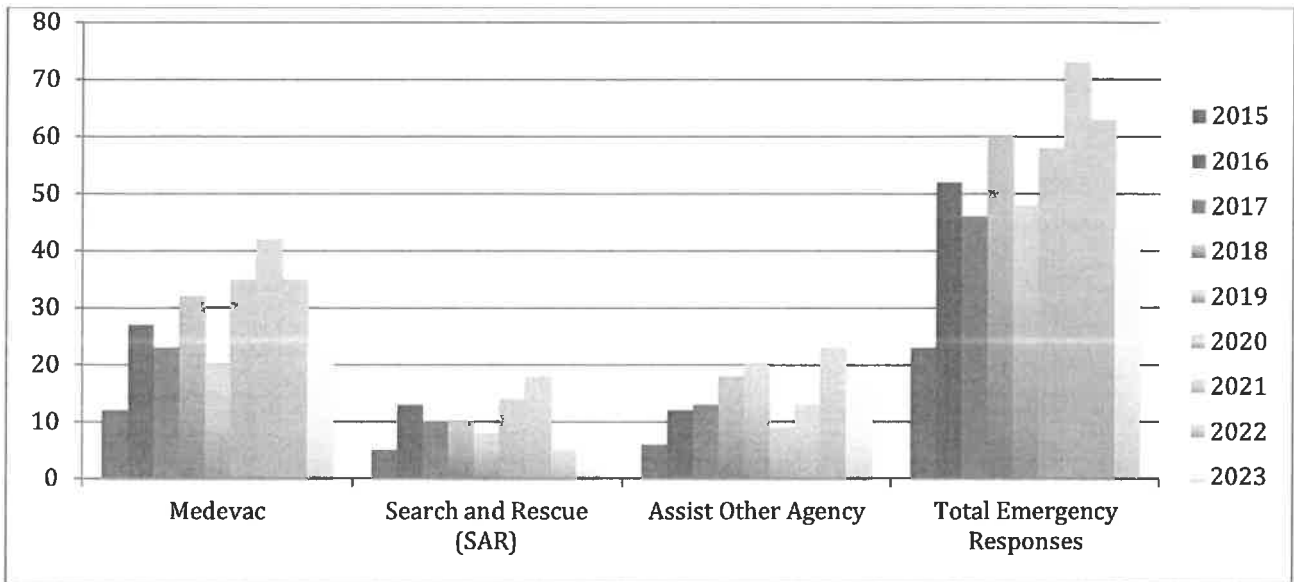
Medical Evacuations (MEDIVAC):

MEDEVAC responses continue to be an important part of MMR's mission. During the summer of 2023, MMR conducted 24 MEDIVAC missions down from the past year. Working with the Mackinac Island Medical Center we assisted in the transfer of medical and trauma patients to a higher level of care on the mainland. An integrated system of patients, physicians, nurses, EMS, and MMR staff all worked together for the most efficient and best transport for the patient. MMR received critical calls from Boblo Island Fire/EMS again this summer requesting transportation to the mainland for 911 calls when flights were unavailable.

Search and Rescue (SAR):

MMR responded to 3 search and rescue missions that were called into 911. The SAR missions MMR responded to this season were related to boats aground and a missing person.

By The Numbers



Assists Other Agencies:

On 17 separate occasions Mackinac Marine Rescue was called to assist other agencies during 2023. Events MMR supported: Mackinac Island’s Fourth of July fireworks, Hessel Boat Show and Labor Day Bridge Walk.

MMR and Mackinac Island Fire Department were requested to assist Clark Twp Fire Department on Boot Island in the Les Cheneaux Islands. While our fire fighters assisted at the home, MMR used their water pump to transfer water from shore to the fire site.

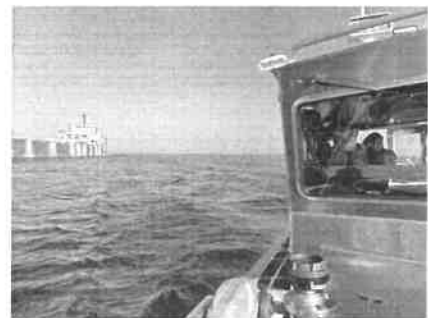
MMR continued to be an asset to the community as we regularly returning EMS and police personnel to the island after they had escorted patients to the mainland on the last boat. Thanks to this assistance, EMTs and officers serve Mackinac Island for the remainder of the night. MMR has also assisted Cloverland Electric with transportation of personnel to the island.



MIFD, MMR headed to Les Cheneaux Islands



MMR pumping water for Clark Twp FD



USCG: Labor Day Walk Patrol Command & Nuclear Screening

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives Detection (CBRNE):

Mackinac Marine Rescue was initially funded by a FEMA port security grant. Part of the grant required the boat be equipped with hazardous materials screening equipment and the crew be trained in its use. MMR met these expectations with random, passive screening of vessels and docks while underway this summer. MMR acted as the Patrol Command (PATCOM) vessel and as a PRND (Preventive Radiological Nuclear Detection) screening vessel during the Mackinac Bridge Labor Day walk in 2023. Being able to use the PRND equipment while underway for other missions kept our staff current on its use even with a limited number of events.

In the spring of 2023, 4 MMR crew attended CBRNE training in Nevada that equips our team to properly screen maritime vessels.

Training:

MMR had 23 training sessions with over 45 hours. MMR took advantage of every available opportunity to train and work with our new members including time with our partners, USCG Station St. Ignace. We train to the standards of our United States Coast Guard (USCG) counterparts and this is a high bar to reach. Training can include docking, cross towing with USCG29, driver training and search pattern drills among other duties.

MMR assisted the Mackinac County Emergency Management team with Operation Safe Harbor. This was a 2-day training with numerous other state and federal agencies assisting the September event.



Dry Suit Training



2 Boat Training with USCG Station St Ignace



Operation Safe Harbor

With the assistance of Mackinac Island EMS, MMR personnel have renewed their CPR skills and obtained certification in the Stop The Bleed program every other year. In 2024, the team will work with EMS for TECC, Tactical Emergency Casualty Care designed to present a strong foundation of topics, concepts, principles, and skills specific to delivering emergency medical care for patients in a civilian tactical environment.

Partnerships:

Working together and building relationships with our area partners has been a cornerstone of the MMR mission since our inception. We are proud of the relationships we have fostered and how these relationships have improved our team and joint responses. The Mackinac Marine Rescue Team could not be successful without the help and support of our partners.

In addition to the City of Mackinac Island, there are many agencies that assisted in making MMR a successful program. We would especially like to thank the following:

- All-Star Marine (Motor installation and on-going maintenance)
- Mackinac State Historic Parks (Visitor Center for equipment storage)
- Village of Mackinaw City (Fuel access 24/7)
- United States Coast Guard (Training and operational support)
- Chad and Larry Belonga (Official Trailered Transport Driver)
- Mackinac Island Ferry Co. (Off-season vessel storage)
- Mackinac Island DNR Marina Crew (Dockage)

Working with the Mackinac Island Community Foundation (MICF) in 2020, the MMR team members began a fund within the MICF. Thanks to generous support from donors, this endowment continues to grow, and our crew has high hopes this fund will support MMR for generations to come. A big thanks goes to MICF in 2021 and 2022 for a grant of \$32,000 for the purchase of upgraded Mercury Motors.

		
<p>MI Ferry Co: Winter Storage</p>	<p>All- Star Marine installing new motors and upgraded electronics</p>	<p>Boat checks at MI DNR Dock</p>