

Tim Philpott search: Acadia National Park January 15, 2016:

On January 14, 2016 Acadia National Park (NPS) called the Maine Warden Service (MWS) to assist in the search of a suspected suicide case. A car belonging to a 50 year old male (Philpott) had been found in the Parkman Mountain parking lot in Acadia on the previous day by park maintenance staff. After searches by rangers and MDI Search and Rescue team failed to locate the individual, the MWS brought in a planning team and called for MESARD and MASAR teams to search on January 15.

MESARD responded with 10 team members: six dog teams and four flankers. In addition to the MASAR ground teams and MESARD and MWS dog teams, the area of interest was covered by a Maine Forest Service helicopter and MWS airplane. No clues were found after a day of searching icy trails and slopes. Further search work was cancelled after this day due to inclement weather

During the remainder of January and month of February, MDI Search and Rescue team and NPS ranger staff continued the search effort as weather allowed. As spring approached and the weather improved, MESARD teams started searching again. On March 9, two MESARD teams with flankers searched mountains tops and cliff areas in the high probability areas around Sargent and Parkman Mountains. On March 10, two more MESARD teams with flankers went out to search cliff bands and gullies around the mountains of interest.

On March 13, the MWS organized another large search utilizing MASAR, MESARD and MWS teams. MESARD deployed 18 members, 10 MESARD dog teams and eight flankers responded. Search efforts were concentrated on gridding areas near the high probability mountains. One MESARD dog handler and one Unity College student were injured during this search due to the rough conditions. Unfortunately, no new clues found.

On April 15, two MESARD teams [Kelly Pontbriand & Tycho, Leslie Howe & Eron] and one flanker [Ed Pontriand] returned to search in the high probability area around Sargent Mountain. Pontbriand/Tycho searched on the carriage road below Sargent and Parkman Mountains and located a pack belonging to Tim Philpott approximately 40 feet off the carriage road. Howe/Eron/Ed Pontriand responded to that area and both MESARD teams continued the search in this location. Philpott's body was located by the dog teams approximately 150 feet from the pack location. NPS rangers and MDI Search and Rescue team responded to the scene for the retrieval effort.