

For Pot Appalachian  
Semi-annual

## SEARCH AND RESCUE COMMITTEE

In 1973 PATC's Search & Rescue Committee became a part of a larger regional movement led by Keith Conover, a PATC member who is president of the University of Virginia Outing Club, and Gene Harrison of the Potomac Speleological Club.

We began the fall season with a weekend training trip at Harpers Ferry where on Saturday we participated in a line search, using radio equipment which kept us in touch with the "lost" person, a base (Gene's van filled with communications gear) and the Harpers Ferry park service. On Sunday there was three hours' practice in moving a Stokes litter with 'victim' and rescuers from a medium-sized bluff to road level. The ~~first~~ next session was held at Great Falls on the Maryland side: a lecture/demonstration by Keith and Gene, followed by ~~field working in~~ <sup>training in</sup> carrying an occupied Stokes litter, ~~using ropes~~ <sup>belaying</sup> as necessary, along trails and up and down gullies. Our third was an excellent training session in Price William Forest on compass use and <sup>t</sup> orienteering given by a U.S. M.C. captain who is a member of <sup>e</sup> the U.S. orienteering team. In January of 1974, we had a very intensive workshop at the University of Virginia covering winter <sup>e</sup> principles for hikers and backpackers (Keith Conover) with a winter clothing and camping gear display (Eric Hardee) and a special report on hypothermia and frostbite (Steve Gates). Gene Harrison talked about and demonstrated use of field telephones and CB radio equipment. Future training sessions will include a weekend trip using Doyle River Cabin as our base, a leaders' winter backpacking trip in the Dolly Sods area and more training in rope and compass use.

The Blue Ridge Rescue Group (from UVA Outing Club) now has 20 qualified members and has made its services available to the Shenandoah National Park.

As of now we envision the Blue Ridge Rescue Group and the PATC Search & Rescue Committee ~~as~~<sup>as</sup> part of a regional association tentatively called the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference which will maintain a permanent mailing address at PATC headquarters. ASRC's goal is to provide training for and assistance in general search and rescue in outdoor areas, as well as drawing upon the technical expertise of the caving and rock-climbing groups. ASRC is not equipped to, nor does it plan to, perform any services now provided by rescue squads in urban and suburban areas. As its groups become operative, their ~~services~~<sup>services</sup> will be offered to the appropriate local, ~~state~~<sup>state</sup> and federal authorities.

In the future we hope many more persons, either as individuals or through their groups, over a wide area, will become associated with ASRC. Sturdy men and women are required for the heavy going, but we also need help in public relations, ~~publicity~~<sup>legal matters</sup>, publishing a newsletter, communications, maintaining ~~base~~<sup>base</sup> camps, etc. To volunteer, write ASRC c/o PATC.

Rita Cloutier