

# APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE

## GENERAL MEETING

Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA  
Saturday 12 April 2003  
1400

**1. Present:** Lauren Fernandez (Chair), Peter Pennington (Sec), Amanda Harrison (Treasurer), Peter McCabe (Ops).

A total of 33 voting members attended. There were 88 allocated proxies for voting giving a net of 121. The by-laws require a third of all active members to be represented and so, with a reported membership of 370, the meeting was not quorate to make changes to any rules or documentation.

### 2. Chair's Address.

i) All delegates were welcomed. The goals for the past year were set out and matched against achievements. Amongst items still on going were:

- a) Insurance cover
- b) Worker's Compensation improvement
- c) Streamlining callout response procedures together with adding to AO qualified list
- d) Increasing the sharing of resources between groups in FTL and above training.
- e) Informal visits to R.A.s.
- f) Updating by-laws and associated manuals.
- g) Concluding the debate on regionalization.

Items reaching conclusion include:

- a) A new ASRC web site.
- b) Obtaining a grant from a Maryland based charity.

ii) The Chair emphasized the urgent need for a Conference Training Officer. She announced the Board selection of Tom Lovejoy (SWVaMRG) as the new Comms Officer and John O'Shea (SWVaMRG) as the new Information Officer. She thanked the outgoing members, Peeper Broad and Randy Franks, for their contributions to the ASRC.

iii) The Chair initiated a discussion on training? How much cross group training could be arranged. Would the new web site help in such arrangements? Whether the ASRC should hire an external trainer from Virginia or elsewhere. Whether BOD meetings could encompass some training. There was a consensus that all these moves should be

investigated. The use of parallel organizations such as Cave Rescuers was mentioned. It was noted that the ASRC needed to develop the Conference' future leaders and at a time when some groups may be questioning the role of the ASRC it was felt that closer working together could be extremely beneficial.

### **3. Secretary's Report**

i) The Secretary reported that certain accusations of malpractice had been brought against the BOD during the preceding year. These had been dealt with under standing procedures with no stain against the BOD but as it was felt that certain issues lingered on in some minds the BOD had decided to call for a series of meetings with those questioning its activity in order to clear the air.

ii) The matter of insurance was still being pursued, albeit slowly, and Workers Compensation was being handled by VASARCO in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Other BOD members were looking into the matter in their respective states.

iii) A major exercise was to be launched shortly to update all the ASRC literature.

### **4. Treasurer's Report**

i) The Treasurer presented her report. Which showed a closing balance of \$9481.32. It was reported that there have been some problems in getting bills from Metrocall and that the location of one check believed to have been sent as a donation is still uncertain. It is still being investigated.

ii) The ASRC is in possession of the necessary permit to raise donations within the Commonwealth of Virginia and awaits a permit from Maryland. No such permit is required for West Virginia or Pennsylvania.

iii) All groups were reminded of the need to submit receipts when claiming reimbursement.

### **5. Operations Report.**

i) The Chair of the Ops. Committee presented a written report. This report, amongst other items included:

- a) The need to remove the dependency on BRMRG for initial dispatch tasks.
- b) To develop better cross group training and central training opportunities.
- c) To strengthen the ASRC committee processes (The web site may assist in this).
- d) Task responses are uneven when comparisons are made between differing group structures and their locations. More effort should be made to recruit or create groups outside of the core Virginia areas.
- e) The Ops manual needs revision.

- f) The ASRC needs to establish a policy about training for urban searches.
- g) The issue of regionalization needs to be discussed and acted upon.
- h) There is a need for an going analysis of ASRC missions to determine strengths and weaknesses.

## **6. Communications Report**

i) A written report was submitted by the outgoing Comms. Officer. It was reported that all licenses are in date and all written communication has been attended to. The ASRC was encouraged to move to narrow band technology over the next few years in line with FCC recommendations. The Comms Officer went on to say that should the ASRC feel that it needed repeaters then this would best be achieved as group level. The outgoing Chair ended by expressing gratitude for the pleasure ASRC had given him.

## **7. Awards**

i) ASRC pins were awarded to the following members for their rears of service:

20+ years

Keith Conover (1972) AMRG/BRMRG  
 Bob Koester (1981) BRMRG  
 Bru Randall (1982) AMRG  
 George Swett (1982) SMRG  
 Betty Thomas (1973) AMRG/BRMRG

15+ years

Dave Carter BRMRG/TSAR  
 Mark Eggeman (1987) TSAR/RSAR/PSAR/BRMRG  
 Mike Kuga (1985) AMRG  
 Chuck Laikin (1993) SMRG  
 Peter McCabe (1985/86) MSAR

10+ years

Jenn Avery Whitaker (1992) - BRMRG  
 Camille Birmingham (1990) BRMRG  
 Pepper Broad - AMRG/MARG  
 Ruth Carter TSAR  
 Darren Chen (1993) BRMRG  
 Suzen Collins PSAR  
 Jason Dalton (1993) - BRMRG  
 Stef Dorow (1993) PSAR/ SMRG  
 Justin Green (1993) - BRMRG  
 Darrel Hale (1991/1992) MSAR  
 Kurt Hornicek (1990/91) MSAR  
 Frank Jargowsky (1993) BRMRG  
 Rita Krenz (1993) BRMRG  
 Moran Lakey (1989/90) MSAR  
 Don Scelza (1990) AMRG  
 John O'Shea- SWVaMRG  
 Jim Poole TSAR  
 Steve Ritter (1990) BRMRG

5+ years

Stephanie Bean PVRG  
Sid Bingley-- SWVaMRG  
Kevin Brewer - TSAR  
Ken Chiacchia (1994) AMRG  
Dan Christy (1998)- BRMRG  
Matt Curran (1997) MSAR  
Suzanne Esterson (1997) BRMRG  
Gary Fang (1997) - BRMRG  
Robert (Bob) Fedak - TSAR  
Lauren Fernandez (1994) - BRMRG  
Francisco Fernandez (1997) BRMRG  
Heidi Forrest (1997) SMRG  
Randy Frank PVRG  
Greg Guller (1996) BRMRG  
Jenifer Glazer (previously Marti) PVRG  
Donald Grace PVRG  
Devlin Harris- PSAR  
Heather Houlahan (1994) AMRG  
Bud Hyland (1996) SMRG  
Kumait Jawdat - SMRG  
Michael Kennedy - SMRG  
Tyler Kinghorn (1996) BRMRG  
Tom Lovejoy--SWVaMRG  
John Luck - SMRG  
Joe Massi - SMRG  
Mickey McDermott - SMRG  
Emily Minor (1996) BRMRG  
Troy Mohler (1996) - BRMRG  
William (Billy) Morgan - TSAR  
Janice Olson - PSAR  
Dan Patterson - MARG  
Pamela Paulding (1996) MSAR  
Peter Pennington (1998) SMRG  
Kristin Pilotte PVRG  
Wilson Riley - SMRG  
Ian Ross (1995) MSAR  
Kinsey Row-- SWVaMRG  
Brenden Schubert (1998)- BRMRG  
Emory Shelton (1998)- BRMRG  
Brett Shomaker (1997) - BRMRG  
Mike Sims - PSAR  
Rob Speiden-- SWVaMRG  
Brian Ulmer (1995) BRMRG  
Jared Ulmer (1997) - BRMRG  
Frank Walker - TSAR  
Christian Wilson (1996) BRMRG  
Canines: Lilly (1994) and Mel (1996)

The meeting then ended and was followed by a presentation on a new concept of safe refuges for weary SAR personnel on their way home. This is supported by VASARCO and is called SARSAFE.