



# ASRC GM Minutes

## 08 April 2006

Camp 4, Prince Wm Forest Park, VA

Title	Name	From	Present	Proxied To
Chair (outgoing)	Peter Pennington	SMRG	Yes	
Vice Chair (outgoing)	Andrew Dorsett	MSAR	Yes	
Treasurer (outgoing)	Kevin Maskell	BRMRG	Yes	
Secretary (outgoing)	Kevin Cropper	MSAR	Yes	N/A
Roster	Steve Weiss	SMRG	Yes	N/A
Webmaster	Evan Keto	PVRG	Yes	N/A
Ops	Bob Allam	PSAR	Yes	N/A
Training	<i>vacant</i>			N/A
PA OMD	Keith Conover	AMRG	Yes	N/A
VA OMD	Marsh Cuttino	<i>none</i>	No	N/A
WV OMD	Carl Werntz	MARG	Yes	N/A
Medical	<i>vacant</i>			N/A
ADC	Alex McLellan	SMRG	No	N/A
Comms	Keith Crabtree	SMRG	Yes	N/A
PIO	<i>vacant</i>			N/A
Safety	Carl Werntz	MARG	Yes	N/A
Infection Control	<i>vacant</i>			
Group Reps	Name		Present	Proxied To
AMRG	Keith Conover		Yes	
BRMRG	Robert Koester		<i>proxied</i>	Rob Lynch (BRMRG)
BRMRG	Rob Lynch		Yes	
MARG	Carl Werntz		Yes	
MARG	Pepper Broad		<i>proxied</i>	Carl Werntz (MARG)
M/SAR	Kevin Cropper		Yes	
M/SAR	Andrew Dorsett		Yes	
PSAR	Bob Allam		Yes	
PVRG	Stephanie Bean		Yes	
SMRG	Rene Carrier		<i>proxied</i>	Robin Donnelly (SMRG)
SMRG	Steve Weiss		Yes	
SWVaMRG	Chris Chesson		Yes	
SWVaMRG	Sarah Druy		No	
TSAR	Kevin Brewer		No	
TSAR	Theresa Crossland		No	
Non-Voting Groups				
DELMARVA	Robert Fries		Yes	
At Large Attendance (Name, Group)				
Ian Kluge	SMRG		Mike Kennedy	SMRG
William Swain	MSAR		Mark Gleason	TSAR
William Barnhardt	BRMRG		Jen Clifton	BRMRG
Tabassum Majid	MSAR		Linda Huang	MSAR
Heidi Forrest	SMRG		Michael Feinberg	PVRG

Larry Raskin	MSAR	William Dixon	SMRG
Celeste Wiser	PVRG	Dave Jeyes	SMRG
Tommy Rumley	BRMRG	Mora O'Brien	SMRG
Sean O'Brien	SMRG	Andrew Bickers	SMRG

## Minutes:

### 1. Welcome by the out-going Chair

- 1.1. Peter Pennington welcomed all the members of the ASRC who were in attendance during a rainy day
- 1.2. A thank-you was made to the Price William Forest Park police for arranging for our use of a camp and for turning on the water, toilets, and lights, which had not been expected.
- 1.3. A FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) tool had been loaned to the ASRC for demonstration, testing, evaluation, and drooling over during the weekend. The loaned unit cost \$10,000, if any teams were interested in purchasing it. It seemed to be better suited for "stand and search", scanning over a large area from one spot, rather than walking and using it. For instance, scanning past a large briar patch to determine if the subject were inside. It had a long (~100 meters had been tested) range for spotting people walking about. The heat signature from where a hand had been pressed against a wall could be discerned as well.

### 2. Competition Reminder

- 2.1. The Fifth Annual ASRC Group Competition is scheduled for the morning of Sunday 9 April. BRMRG (as prior winners) has organized a series of events, and several teams have already signed up to compete, but there is room for more. The traditional trophy has again been enhanced and will be awarded to the winning group.
- 2.2. *Follow-up, from after the event:*
  - 2.2.1. Three groups posted teams: BRMRG, MSAR, and SMRG. The judges decided that groups would compete as one team, even though team sizes were uneven.
  - 2.2.2. There were three competition categories: Knots (teams were rated on speed and correctness for ten knots which had to be tied by different members), Bivy (teams were rated on functionality and style for a shelter built in 25 minutes to house the entire team from the elements), and Navigation (teams were rated on speed and successful location of flags for four marked points).
  - 2.2.3. Once again, BRMRG managed to win the trophy (which they remembered to bring this year), extending their streak to a record three straight. MSAR placed second, and SMRG was third. BRMRG's two-man team actually won each of the three categories en-route to their route.
  - 2.2.4. Feedback and ideas were solicited as planning has already begun for next year's competition. BRMRG is coordinating, but input / assistance is accepted; contact BRMRG BOD rep Rob Lynch (rlynchrealtor@aol.com) with ideas.

### 3. Introductions and Reports from Officers:

- 3.1. Vice Chair Andrew Dorsett (MSAR), whose current term was ending, introduced himself.
- 3.2. Treasurer Kevin Maskell (BRMRG), whose current term was ending and would not be returning, stated that the ASRC was in the black and thanks to the higher dues that will be charged starting with January 2007, will remain there, if somewhat tenuously.
- 3.3. Roster-keeper Steve Weiss (SMRG) requested web coding help to develop tools for automatic roster upkeep. Until that is in place, rosters have been coming in at the end of the year (in time for

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dues), but monthly is preferred; technically, the rule is updates should be provided within 40 days of certification changes (which include adding new members).

- 3.4. Webmaster Evan Keto (PVRG) stated that he maintains the pictures and text on the website and collects inputs for the *Map and Compass*, the ASRC newsletter available on the website.
- 3.5. Ops officer Bob Allam (PSAR) covered several Operations related items.
  - 3.5.1. Work continues to get DELMARVA through the hoops to be certified as a team and the process is being documented so future groups will have a smoother time of it.
  - 3.5.2. The Operations Manual rewrite continues and hopefully the document can be presented for review by the next BOD meeting.
  - 3.5.3. A Disaster Response Plan for the conference, which grew out of planning for a possible Katrina response, is being proposed for the conference. That planning process was organized using an ICS (Incident Command System) structure.
  - 3.5.4. Improvements by the ADC will hopefully allow for remote or more flexible dispatch.
  - 3.5.5. A Medical Officer is needed.
- 3.6. Safety officer Carl Werntz (MARG) reported hearing of no ASRC injuries in the past year. He also showed a bright reflective vest that may be added to the gear list.
- 3.7. Communications officer Keith Crabtree (SMRG) discussed licensing issues.
  - 3.7.1. He will make high quality scans of the FCC license and email to each group's Ops officer.
  - 3.7.2. The ASRC's business band license was renewed, we just need to get the FCC to update their website.
  - 3.7.3. There should be no fee for our public safety frequency, but might be one for business.
4. **Position Shortfalls:**
  - 4.1. The Conference is looking for volunteers to fill the following positions; interested members can contact the Chair ([chair@asrc.net](mailto:chair@asrc.net)) or their BOD reps.
    - 4.1.1. Medical Officer
    - 4.1.2. Infection Control Officer (ICO)
    - 4.1.3. Public Information Officer (PIO)
    - 4.1.4. Conference Training Officer (CTO) (filled short-term at the BOD meeting)
    - 4.1.5. Assistance with the IT work on the website and the automated roster effort.
5. **Chair's Address**
  - 5.1. Normally the Chair reviews the year passed, but instead this time he looked to the future. Peter Penning will be standing down from the Chair position, from the ASRC, and even from SMRG to pursue other, environmental, interests. But here is what he foresees the Conference facing.
  - 5.2. Virginia is traditionally in the lead in organizing SAR, having long ago absorbed lessons and standards from the ASRC, and now desires to take the lead, in addition to seeing how Federal work will direct efforts. But the Federal lead is often from FEMA or the fire service, and neither uses volunteers well.
  - 5.3. The ASRC's history of self-certification is under threat because the state needs to know what standards everyone trained and tested to. Why should the ASRC exist? Should the state serve as developer of rules, etc? The Chair provides a warning that power goes in but rarely comes back out.
  - 5.4. The Chair provided his wish list for the ASRC, which was very similar to his list from three years ago.
    - 5.4.1. A Strong Board that talks amongst itself and works together between meetings. Representatives should realize they are Board members of an incorporated company, and have legal responsibility. They should think of themselves as Directors, not Representatives, and address issues with a wider vision.

- 5.4.2. Distance has been a curse. There are no “conversations” in email. The Board should primarily meet to ratify things that have already been discussed, and meetings should last at most two hours.
  - 5.4.3. Group officers should be supporting their Conference Officer counterparts. Officers should be left to get on with their jobs, not have to spend time tracking down action items, rosters, etc.
  - 5.4.4. A Universal Belief in Standards, standards that should be common throughout the conference. And these standards are more than just GSAR or the state’s standards. Cross training facilitates the flow of ideas between groups (e.g., Leadership), which is something more than can be tested by just showing up at GSAR.
  - 5.4.5. Certification and Recertification is important. The conference should change the process to avoid nit-picking and allow groups to self-certify that they have the “stuff”, and instead spend the time and effort testing the people and the group, in a manner appropriate to their level.
  - 5.4.6. Groups should do a Simulation with another group within a set period of time. This fosters a transfer of ideas and comradeship, and could become a part of the peer-review certification / recertification.
  - 5.4.7. A Strong Dispatch System that only tracks resources, but promotes the search and gets people to go would be helpful. We list over 400 members, but typically can only turn out about 30.
  - 5.4.8. A Good Alert System would help senior folks who can initiate searches but also do resource management; it would be useful for non-search / disaster type response.
  - 5.4.9. Disaster Response – we need to decide yes or no. If yes, we must be ready, we must be positive. We’re good, yes; yes we can improve, but we still offer something more than emergent volunteers. We offer sense, navigation, safety, and training.
  - 5.4.10. Response to Call Out should be improved. Groups should work to get commitment from members. Why only 18 to 30 out of 400? Why would groups have a radius restriction? We are a Conference and support each other!
  - 5.4.11. Strike Teams, specialist teams for particular problems, should be investigated.
  - 5.4.12. Good Relationships with States and Local Authorities (e.g., MOUs with home and adjacent counties) mean more and earlier callouts.
- 5.5. This segued to a presentation from William Dixon (SMRG) on VDEM Policy / self-certification and the Subject’s Bill of Rights / Goals. Mr. Dixon joined BRMRG in 1984 and progressed to instructor at the IC level before leaving SMRG and moving to Washington state in 1997. He has returned to the area, rejoined SMRG (is currently a CQ, almost FTM) and is intrigued with the state in which he finds the ASRC. Highlights of his presentation are included here; the presentation itself is attached to the minutes as an appendix.
- 5.5.1. In response to the direction VDEM and FEMA are going with requirements and certification, the ASRC needs to determine what differentiates our groups and members from non-trained emergent volunteers and be able to clearly show it. Otherwise, at a disaster event, despite our training, skills, and equipment, we are likely to be grouped in with other emergent volunteers.
  - 5.5.2. The ASRC (and most all other SAR and like organizations) has never documented what we are trying to do for the subject. Hence the suggested SAR Subject “Bill of Rights” or Goals: The Subject deserves urgent, best available, quality of care. That includes training (management, search, medical, etc), technology, and professional / lawful conduct.
  - 5.5.3. The next step is to revise the Subject’s Goals and have the BOD agree upon them at a near-future meeting, so the ASRC can respond to certification proposals (such as VDEM’s) by pointing out how the new proposal would not support the Goals.
  - 5.5.4. It is good to ask what can the ASRC do for our groups, for the state, for the subject. But it is also crucial to ask what can the groups do for the ASRC, the state, and the subject.

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6. **Anniversary Pins.**

6.1. The Vice Chair distributed awards (pins of the ASRC logo) for members who had attained five years of service with the Conference (based upon information provided by team's BOD reps). Recipients included: AMRG: David Stager; BRMRGR: Bob Koester (25 Years); DELMARVA: none; MARG: none; MSAR: Andrew Dorsett, Mike Karg, Katie Kimble, Amanda Silber, Mary Wiles, Mickey Wienholt; PSAR: TJ Banholzer; PVRG: Evan Keto, Bruce Eberle; SMRG: Chris Rumohr, Christopher Smith, Dawn Smith; SWVaMRG: James Harris; TSAR: Linda "Ann" Muir, Sean Rongers.

7. After a quick announcement cancelling the afternoon navigation course and announcing a physical fitness 25-pound-pack speed walk at 1700, the meeting adjourned 1445.

8. **Addendum:** During the BOD Meeting that followed, a new slate of officers was elected and appointed for the 2006-2008 term.

8.1. Chair: Steve Weiss (SMRG)

8.2. Vice-Chair: Keith Conover (AMRG)

8.3. Treasurer: Jen Clifton (BRMRG)

8.4. Secretary: Steph Bean (PVRG)

8.5. Operations: Bob Allam (PSAR)

8.6. Training: William Dixon (SMRG)

8.7. ASRC Dispatch Coordinator (ADC): Alex McLellan (SMRG)

8.8. Comms: Keith Crabtree (SMRG)

8.9. Safety: Carl Werntz (MARG)

8.10. Infection Control: *vacant*

8.11. Public Information Officer (PIO): *vacant*

8.12. Medical: *vacant* (possibly Bob Koester, BRMRG)

8.13. Roster: Steve Weiss (SMRG)

8.14. Webmaster / News: Evan Keto (PVRG)

8.15. MD OMD: *vacant*

8.16. PA OMD: Keith Conover (AMRG)

8.17. VA OMD: March Cuttino (none) (possibly Bob Koester, BRMRG)

8.18. WV OMD: Carl Werntz (MARG)