

Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference
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Charlottesville, VA 22904
www.asrc.net



ASRC Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2013
Green Ridge State Forest, MD

Group Member Participation	Present	Proxies
Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group	5	12
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group	2	0
DELMARVA Search and Rescue Group	12	1
Maryland Search and Rescue	8	2
Mountaineer Area Rescue Group	3	18
Potomac Valley Rescue Group	0	0
Rapid Assistance to Community Emergencies	5	18
Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group	2	30

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The 2013 AGM Meeting of the ASRC was opened with a welcome to all by Don Scelza, Chairman, at 0900 on Sunday, May 19, 2013, at Green Ridge State Forest in Maryland – Mountain Bike Parking Area.

Chairman Scelza introduced all ASRC Board Officers.

II. Recognition Celebration

A. Chairman Scelza formally recognized the following Group Members by awarding each a certificate for their length of service and dedication to the lost person.

TEAM	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	Recognized Length of Service (LoS)	Actual LoS in 2013
AMRG	Beckey	Dan	5	
AMRG	Jackson	Scott	5	9
AMRG	Sadler	Dan	5	
AMRG	Myers	Michelle	10	13
AMRG	Ruch	Chris	10	13
AMRG	Chiacchia	Ken	15	19
AMRG	Houlahan	Heather	15	19
AMRG	Scelza	Don	20	24
AMRG	Conover	Keith	25	28
AMRG (MARG)	Randall	Bru	25	28
AMRG (SMRG)	Hower	Andrew	5	9
DMVSAR	Malone	George		
DMVSAR	Byer	John	5	6
DMVSAR	Hansen	Mike	5	8
DMVSAR	Heisterhagen	Bill	5	6
DMVSAR	O'Brien	Elise	5	7
DMVSAR	Raggio	Miranda	5	7
DMVSAR	Strickler	Kathy	5	8
DMVSAR	Wiseman	Jon	5	7
MARG	Devine-King	Ann	5	
MARG	Hanscom	Ken	5	
MARG	Miller	Russell	5	
MARG	Williams	Randy	5	
MARG	Mayle	Lovell	10	
MARG	Broad	Pepper	15	
MARG	Holbert	Kathy	15	
MARG	Moore	Douglas	15	
MARG	Patterson	Dan	15	
MARG	Werntz	Carl	15	
MSAR	Raskin	Larry	5	
MSAR	Swain	Bill	5	
MSAR	Dorsett	Andrew	10	
MSAR	Karg	Mike	10	
MSAR	Sehman	Alex	10	
MSAR	Sehman	Chuck	10	
MSAR	Solomon	Carl	10	
MSAR	Paulding	Pamela	15	
MSAR	Ross	Art	15	

TEAM	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	Recognized Length of Service (LoS)	Actual LoS in 2013
MSAR	Hornicek	Kurt	20	
PVRG	Baker	Susan	5	
PVRG	Baker	Hunter	5	
PVRG	Deacon	Jenna	5	
PVRG	Deacon	Danielle	5	
PVRG	Fabac	Joel	5	
PVRG	Holmes	Alan	5	7
PVRG	Markuski-Fabac	Christina	5	
PVRG	Mathis	Michael	5	
PVRG	Singer	Shira	5	
PVRG	Singer	Aryeh	5	
PVRG	Smith	Mike	5	
PVRG	Bean	Steph	10	
PVRG	Eberle	Bruce	10	
PVRG	Glazer	Scott	10	
PVRG	Koshy	Ben	10	
PVRG	Maassaran	Tarek	10	

B. Chairman Scelza formally recognized the following Group Members by awarding each a certificate for their contributions and service.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

DMVSAR - Bill Heisterhagen

Bill has given of his time way above and beyond the call as a team member and has devoted extended hours meeting with local agencies on the eastern shore of Maryland and Delaware to ensure we are well established there to support the missions as the need arises. He took on a major role in developing two new resources for the team and stepped up to take on the role at the GTO, when the other officer dropped out and didn't miss a beat providing good training. He has served in two roles on the BoD of DMVSAR and done a great job at both.

DMVSAR - Mike Hansen and Elise O'Brien

Mike and Elise and together developed K9 resources at the proven in multiple situations to be the best tool for the job. They have gained wide recognition in the area as very proficient handlers with two finds that no other agency could work out. Elise found a murder victim buried six feet below frozen soil that was wrapped in multiple layers of plastic and covered with detergent in an effort to mask the scent. This was done for the Delaware State Police and the FBI. Mike had a find that went outside the normal realm of SAR work, when we searched a collapsed building in Landover, MD and found a missing employee that was missing. Multiple jurisdictions brought resources to bear on that search including the FEMA USAR Task Forces from MDTF1 and VATF1. We had the

find after one hour and fifteen minutes on scene and only after fifteen minutes of work. Mike and Elise no their trade craft as well as anyone else out here and a little better.

DMVSAR - George Malone

George has taken on not only every skill set the team has to offer and mastered it, but he has done the thankless job as treasurer for the past two terms and done a great job at it always ensuring that we are covered and that we get what we need at the best price even if he has to build it himself as he did with our command and training trailers.

MSAR – Art Ross

This certificate is in recognition of Art Ross's long-term service and dedication as Maryland Search and Rescue's (MSAR) Group Dispatch Officer. Art has tirelessly dispatched MSAR members on SAR missions throughout the region, most often during late night hours. He has always ensured that our members and Conference Dispatch were kept up to date on late breaking information. His dedication to the SAR mission is exemplary.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Keith Conover, M.D. FACEP

Over the last 40 years, Dr. Keith Conover has played a leading role in the development of search and rescue in the Mid-Atlantic region. During this time, he was largely responsible for the founding of the ASRC, starting three ASRC teams, a state SAR council, a multi-agency SAR conference, as well as the Appalachian Region of the MRA.

Starting in 1972, while a student at the University of Virginia, Keith founded and served as the first chairman of the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group, in Charlottesville, VA. That same year, he, along with three others, started the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, which today is an umbrella organization with nine member teams located in Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Ohio. Between SAR teams and going to college, Keith also worked as a summer seasonal ranger in Yosemite National Park, Shenandoah National Park, National Capital Parks, and C&O Canal National Historical Park.

From those beginnings, wherever Keith moved he started a new SAR team. In 1980 he moved to Washington, DC to attend medical school and founded Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group, serving as its first chairman.

Five years later, now Dr. Conover moved to Pittsburgh to continue his professional career at Allegheny General Hospital and, later, Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh and founded Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG) in 1985. Shortly after starting AMRG, Dr. Conover organized the Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council in 1986 and served as its first President, helping to coordinate volunteer SAR teams across the state.

Not content with starting 3 SAR teams and a State SAR council, around the same time, Dr. Conover was also the driving force leading to the formation of the Appalachian

Region of the Mountain Rescue Association in 1988, as well as serving on both the ASTM F-32 Committee on Search and Rescue and the ASTM F-30 Committee on EMS and as the Medical Director for the Eastern Region, National Cave Rescue Commission.

Today, Dr. Conover continues to be an active member of Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group, serving as the team's Medical Director and as a member of the Board of Directors. Dr. Conover is also currently an Emergency Physician at UPMC Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh and the Chief Medical Officer for PA-1 DMAT and has participated in long term deployments to a number of major natural disasters, including to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina.

In recognition of 40 years of service with the ASRC, as well as emergency medicine and disaster response, including 28 years with Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group, we recommend Dr. Keith Conover for an Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference Lifetime Achievement award.

III. Chairman's Report

A. Vision, goals and accomplishments:

- Regain focus on purpose of the conference
- Goal of the ASRC is to support the Groups – ASRC will refocus to serve in a capacity to support group needs
- Need to figure out how to move forward
- Last year adopted new Training Standards, this year will work to fully implement
- Implemented new ASRC website. Still a work in progress, but much better way to dispatch, group centric
- New Administration Manual will be released soon for review. Updated to ensure in line with Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. Includes clarification of electronic voting and Officers supporting the Board.
- New Operations Manual to come. Streamlined approach, focused on supporting the Groups with guidelines and direction.
- New Strategic Plan will be released soon for review. Will be disseminated for review on the new website and emailed to Group Chairs and BOD Representatives. [Question: Will the document require a vote and endorsement? Chair: Just available as a guideline and input from each of the Groups will serve to improve the document.]
 - Michael Hansen, Conference Operations Officer, provided an overview of each of the sections of the Strategic Plan (goals and action items).
 - Mission Statement
 - Getting Back to Search and Rescue
 - Reinforcing our Fundamental Search and Rescue Skills and Strengths
 - Focusing on Those We Serve
 - Developing and Mentoring Today's Leaders
 - Fostering an Ecosystem for Innovation

- Request discussion within each group and then bring back group comments. [Question: Is Conference growth included in the Strategic Plan? Chair: Not specifically at this time; concentrating now on providing the needed services to current member groups.]
 - Additional comments:
 - Process to join the ASRC is cumbersome – will there be efforts to restructure the process?
 - Benchmarks are important – where are we now, where do we want to be, benchmarks achieved, how measure
 - All future efforts should be assessed against the Strategic Plan and Mission Statement

IV. Questions from Membership/Discussion

- A. How can the ASRC better support your group? [Open discussion]
- Groups are juggling multiple certifications – can the ASRC help to promote ASRC standards as acceptable to state specific authorities? Chair and the new Conference Training Officer will work with Groups to promote the acceptance of ASRC certifications.
 - Reciprocity among states – can ASRC help? Training standards are generally accepted, but the certification method is not. Cross-certification among teams will require work across the conference of both training and operations.
 - How many people would like standard ASRC written tests? General agreement by attendees. Could create a question bank and pool vetted bank for all teams to use (possibly extend to practical testing). Scope of actual testing and certification requires future discussion: how to certify, cadre of certifiers/evaluators, how evaluators will be chosen – then develop standard testing. Create new document devoted to certification versus including in Administration Manual.
 - Request for Groups to notify all other Groups when they host speakers. Possibly the conference could sponsor speakers to present topics to the conference. Joint training opportunities are desired – integrate classroom and practical exercise.

V. Thank You / Adjourn

Chair Scelza extended a Thank You to all participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 1041.

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The foregoing minutes are reported to the best of my knowledge.

Beth A. Huhn, ASRC Secretary