

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

8 August 1976

Greg Adamson
Box 6
Onego, West Virginia 26886

Dear Greg:

Bill Sexton has been telling me about the discussion you and he had about our doing some rescue sessions at the Virginia Regional. I believe that all of us are in agreement on how we should approach this. Basically, I see it this way: we should concern ourselves at this session with basic rescue and medical techniques of concern to the average caver. We should not get into any disputes about rescue philosophy; that sort of thing will certainly not do us any good. Besides, it is not what interests the average caver; he wants to know more about practical, easy-to-understand methods and equipment.

I would like very much for Sexton to be coordinator for the rescue program. I think you agree that he is particularly qualified for this since he knows many of the people who will be there, and he has a common sense approach to the rescue situation. Some of the other people I would like to see involved are Ray Cole, who is a member of our group and of D.C. Grotto, and Bill Clem, Chairman of the Charlottesville Group, and who was with me when we saw you last in Seneca. I would also like to invite Bob Barlow, who is from down in Bland, Virginia. I am not sure you know him, but he was at the NSS convention and helped out with the medical considerations.

I would like very much to hear your ideas on this subject. It would be good if you could write a letter to us, since that would give us official notice of our involvement.

Also, try to make it down this next weekend (the 14th and 15th) to the D.C. Grotto Organ Cave project trip. I will probably be going down with Ray Cole, who is coordinator, or someone else from this area, and it would be good for us to discuss the Virginia Regional situation.

Tom Vines

Entered File 4 May 1977
E. G. V. Thomas

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Mr. Ted Waddell
C&O National Historical Park
11710 MacArthur Blvd.
Potomac, Maryland 20854

Dear Ted:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for the considerable time and energy that you devoted to our group during Sunday's training session. Of particular interest to us were all the interrelated elements that are involved in the rescue situation at Great Falls.

As promised, I am enclosing a release that describes the activities of our organization. This particular release was designed for the Emergency Coordinators in Virginia, and you will note that the callout number in that of the University of Virginia Police. One of our current projects is to obtain the use of a 24-hour number in this area for situations that may arise in Maryland. Ron Wilson tells me that in the Southwest they use an answering service for 24-hour emergency calls. This is a good solution to their problem, but unfortunately a considerable expense for a volunteer organization. So, it still remains a problem.

Our next training session in your area concerns search techniques and is scheduled for July 25. The training officer for that occasion is Ray Cole; he should be getting in touch in the near future.

Harold Bailey has asked me to remind you of his basic map and compass course which he will be teaching soon. Anyone interested can contact him at 762-0722 (nights) or 347-3287, ex. 8511 (days).

Tom Vines,
Chairman FVSARG

Entered File 4 May 1977

D. R. Thompson



**APPALACHIAN
SEARCH & RESCUE
CONFERENCE, INC.**

2617 Jefferson Drive

Alexandria, Virginia 22303

August 9, 1976

Ted Waddell
C & C Canal National Historic Park
11710 McArthur Blvd.
Potosi, MD. 20850

Ted,

Enclosed is the information I promised.

- 1) Lost person questionnaire
- 2) Nylon Highway articles
 - a) Lifting with pulleys
 - b) Don Davison's ascending system
- 3) Slides which you may retain

The Nylon Highway (NH) is an informal publication that serves as a sounding board for vertical caving information. You might be interested in looking at other issues of the NH. You or anyone else are welcome to my home where the ASRC Library presently resides. It's very small presently but is a start.

Thanks again to both you and Judy Burson for your assistance on the July 14th search exercise.

Yours truly,

Ray Cole

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. B. T. Thomas

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

27 August 1976

Mr. Albert A. Sheaffer
Chief, IRRM
National Park Service
Prince William Forest Park
Triangle, Virginia 22172

Dear Al:

As we mentioned when we were last in your area, we are having a survival course on the weekend of September 11 conducted by Lou Ritter of the Maryland Natural Resources Police. We have reserved several slots for people outside of our organization, so you--or any of your personnel--are welcomed to participate.

I have enclosed a packet of information about the course for any who might be interested. If anyone does wish to participate, then they should complete the enclosed waiver form and the data questionnaire and return it by September 5 to Larry Cline at:

5758 Flagflower Place
Columbia, Maryland 21045

If you need more than one copy of the forms, then it would be quite all right to make xerox copies.

If you have any questions, then you may phone Larry at 301/997-9061 (evenings) and 202/447-7747 (weekdays) or you may phone me at 301/652-2589.

Tom Vines,
Chairman PVSARG

Entered File 4 May 1977

D. B. Johnson



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
C&O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
PO BOX 48
SHARPSBURG, MD 21782

IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 29, 1976

Mr. Tom Vines, Potomac Valley Region Chapter
Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc.
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Dear Tom:

We were pleased to have you and Bill Clem participate in our practice / research session on the effects of small helicopter propwash on area rescue boats, canoes and kayaks on August 24. Such an informal multi-agency gathering of different disciplines contributed to the overall success of the day and to the thorough, sometimes surprising results. We appreciate your expertise in the canoe with Bill and a valiant attempt to stay upright in the propwash!

We will pass on your address and information about the survival training and ASRC in general to Bill Herren of Cabin John Park VFD. With his experience in water rescue, he would be an interesting addition to your cadre of personnel. Ted and I are again sorry we are unable to send a representative to the upcoming survival session. With winter coming, however, we anticipate greater latitude in visitor protection staff scheduling that will allow us the freedom to attend future training.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Judy B.

Judith A. Burson
Supervisor, Visitor Protection



Entered File 4 May 1977
D. A. Johnson

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

30 August 1976

Mr. William Herren
c/o Cabin John Fire Department
Cabin John, Maryland

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is some material related to the Survival Course being conducted for us by Lou Ritter of the Maryland Natural Resources Police. Mr. Ritter has also conducted programs with the National Rifle Association, and we expect this particular weekend to be worthwhile. This course is part of the training that members of our group take to better prepare them for outdoor emergencies and for their own recreational activities.

Enclosed you will find the following:

- (1) An information packet for the survival course,
- (2) A waiver form for the Survival Course,
- (3) A personal data form for the Survival Course,
- (4) Some general information about our Group.

Should you decide to participate in the Survival Weekend, you must have the waiver and the personal data form (#2 and #3) to Mr. Larry Cline by 5 September. His address is:

5758 Flagflower Place
Columbia, Maryland 21045

If you have any questions about the Survival Session or about our organization, you may phone me at 688-2589.

Tom Vines,
Chairman PVSARG

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. B. V. Gonsen

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

9 September 1976

Dr. Douglas McAllister
Division of Emergency Medicine
Room 320
6525 Belcrest Road
West Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

Dear Dr. McAllister

We would like to thank you for supplying us with information concerning the EMS Seminar in Virginia Beach. As I mentioned in our phone conversation, finding adequate--and relevant--medical training for our members continues to be a vexing problem, and information relating to this situation is most helpful.

As we promised, we have enclosed some information about our organization. If you have any questions about our group, or if you have any further information that would be of use to us, then please phone us at 301/652-2589.

Tom Vines,
Chairman PVSARG

Entered File 4 May 1977

D. B. Thomas

Entered File 4 May 1977

E. B. Thomas

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

14 September 1976

Mr. Norman McTague
Office of Emergency Services
7700 Midlothian Turnpike
Richmond, Virginia 23235

Dear Sir:

It was very nice talking to you during our recent phone conversation; I am sure that you will find your experiences at the NASAR Conference in Wyoming not only interesting, but valuable.

I have enclosed a recent information release on our organization; I believe it contains essentially the same information as those you already have in hand. However, there have been some changes in addresses and phone numbers, and these are included in this newer edition.

As we have said, we attempt to develop capabilities to deal with all forms of outdoor emergencies. As you know, Virginia and surrounding states have vast systems of caves, some of them with rather treacherous pits, water hazards, and miles of tight crawlways. Increasingly, more people are entering these caves, often without adequate training, supervision or equipment. And, increasingly, there are close calls, severe injuries and even death. We are continuing to perfect the methods for extracting victims through water barriers, vertical drops, and crawlways. To do this requires not only the development of a specialized expertise, but unique equipment as well. The Stokes Litter, commonly used in surface rescue efforts--because of its bulkiness, its rigidity, and its tendency to snag on the smallest projection--is often a detriment in cave emergencies. As a result, the British have developed what they call the 'Niels-Robertson Stretcher.' The American Military has a version of this they call the 'Evac Stretcher.' used primarily in submarine rescue and to evacuate injured through portholes. The design is basically a large rectangle

of heavy duty canvas with hickory strips running its length, and with haul rings at both ends. In a rescue configuration, the victim is wrapped in the stretcher to make a compact package. There is a detachable head piece that can be added for protection, or used for head and neck injuries. The advantage of the Niels-Robertson-- or 'Evac'--stretcher is that it flexes through tight areas, yet its helps to immobilize fractures.

We have experienced some difficulty in locating such a stretcher for use in the Virginia Region. If you are aware of where we could find such a stretcher that we could obtain, use for training purposes, or have on hand for emergencies, we would appreciate your letting us know about it.

If you need any additional information about our group, its activities, or training, or if we can be of any assistance in any way, do not hesitate to call on us.

Tom Vines,
Chairman PVSARG

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

20 September 1976

Ed Duffy
National Park Service
Great Falls National Park
9200 Old Dominion Drive
Great Falls, Virginia 22066

Dear Sir:

This is to express our appreciation for your very kind assistance with Saturday's practice session in vertical rescue techniques. The purpose of this was not only a learning exercise, but also a seminar in developing safe and efficient techniques under realistic conditions. The variety of terrain available in your Park contributed greatly to the occasion.

From among your personnel we would like to particularly thank Jim Donovan and Harry Baldwin for help in planning, and Bill Kirby and Roger Blain for special assistance during the day.

We trust that our actions during the day caused no disruptions to the other visitors in the Park, and that we will be able to perform similar training sessions in the future.

Again, from all of us, thank you very much.

Tom Vines,
Chairman PVSARG

Entered File 4 May 1977
E. R. V. Thompson

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

22 September 1976

David Morrow
3500 Stoney Brae Drive
Falls Church, Virginia 22044

Dear David

We would like to thank you for your participation in our Vertical Rescue Seminar this past Saturday, the 18th. As I promised, I have enclosed some information on our Group and on the ASRC. This particular material is aimed primarily at official organizations, but I believe that it generally explains our operations.

We have a number of activities, generally in the form of training sessions, at least once a month. They are not always as obviously spectacular as vertical rescue, but we do feel that they are just as important to our purpose. Typical training sessions are ones in Survival, Search, Land Navigation, Semi-Technical Rescue, and Tracking. We welcome any inquiries into this training--when there is space available--and membership in our organization.

Training currently scheduled includes Semi-Technical Rescue (17 October) and Land Navigation (21 November). We will also be coordinating a seminar in basic cave rescue techniques at the Virginia Regional on 9 October.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch. My phone number is 301/652-2589.

Tom Vines,
Chairman PVSARG

Entered File 4 May 1977
E. B. Vines

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

22 September 1976

Charles Milton
Chief, Inland Division
Maryland Natural Resources Police
Tawes State Office Building
Taylor Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, I would like to thank you and your agency for making available to us the services of Corporal Lou Ritter. The Basic Survival School held 10--12 September was very well received by all our members who attended the course. In most cases the survival course whetted our appetites for further study and practice in wilderness survival. Corporal Ritter was an excellent instructor and extremely knowledgeable in the field of wilderness survival. In the future, ASRC hopes to work further with Corporal Ritter and other members of your agency in programs on wilderness survival and with any assistance we may provide in the area of search and rescue problems.

Again, thank you for making the services of Corporal Ritter available to us.

Tom Vines
Chairman, PVSARG

(Copy 1 to Lou Ritter)

Entered File 4 May 1977

E. G. Thomas

Entered File 4 May 1977

D. B. Thompson

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

10 September 1976

Bob Custard
Apt. 217
900 Willowdale Road
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

Dear Bob

It was very good talking with you at Old Timers concerning some of the problems in the rescue situation. Particularly appropriate I think was your comment that Grottos who are called upon to perform a rescue should be the first to critique their actions. It would seem that this is not only the most logical approach, but the best way to avoid the bitterness and recriminations that sometime result in such situations. In many cases, people who have never set themselves up as a 'Rescue Grotto' are the ones--because of their location or expertise--who are obligated to perform rescue tasks. Then, after they complete their morally-obligated job--often under tough, nasty and demanding conditions--they come in for criticism. It seems to me--as I mentioned at OTR--that we need to get together to go over the practical problems encountered in cave emergencies, so that everyone will be better equipped to deal with these inevitabilities.

In this connection, we are being asked by Germany Valley Grotto to conduct a seminar in basic rescue techniques during the Virginia Regional on 9 October. I would like to emphasize a couple of things: First of all, this is not an operation of our group; we are making available our expertise and resources to VAR for this occasion; the subjects covered, the approach and the personnel we use are subject to approval by them. Secondly--as mandated by Germany Valley, hosts for this meeting--this approach is going to be basic-basic, meant not necessarily for those who have been already trained in rescue, but for the often-referred-to 'Joe Caver,' the ordinary guy who happens to be present when trouble takes place. Hopefully, the instruction will be on the level that this ordinary caver can grasp, and it will be 'hands-on'--arranged in a format where everyone can manipulate for themselves

the rigging and hauling setups, stokes, splints, etc. Coordinator for this seminar will be Bill Sexton, who is a member of our group, of Germany Valley and of PSC.

In setting up for this effort, we want to draw from expertise outside of our group and throughout the Region. Bill has asked me to inquire if you would be available to help out in this seminar (on Saturday, 9 October.) What he initially has in mind is for you to do a section on what should be done first off in a cave emergency. As you know, valuable time is often wasted, and lives often endangered, when people fumble around deciding what to do, or when they call ill-equipped local rescue squads. What Bill would like for you to do is a section on who to send out of the cave for help, who to call, how many should stay with the victim, etc. If you are able to help out, then you may phone Bill at 703/968-6782 or me at 301/652-2589, or you may write me at the Fairfax Road address. (If you phone Bill, keep in mind that he lives at home and call him at a reasonable hour; also, in the Southern tradition, his family named him after his father, so be sure to specify 'Bill, Jr.' when you call. You may phone me at any hour, but I expect to be out of town for a week or ten days beginning 19 September. I also have an answering service, and you can leave messages with them when I am not at home.

As far as our own group goes, we of course insist that our field teams conform to a number of training standards. But we do not regard ourselves as solely a rescue force; more than that, it seems to us that we are able to function as a forum where various people can pool their expertise and experiences. As you mentioned about your own group, many grottos do not set themselves up as 'rescue,' but they do get called upon. They do need the benefit of practice sessions and of the experience of other people. In this regard, I am considering a couple of sessions for this purpose. The first one, possibly in late fall, at a mutually agreed-upon location, would be on the surface, but would involve practical group problems in such areas as hauling, lowering, medical, supply, communications, etc. The second one, perhaps in the Winter or Spring, and which would require meticulous preparation, would take place in a typical cave situation. Most of all, these sessions would be a cooperative venture, pooling experience and resources, working out procedures, to operate more together and avoid the conflicts of the past that have not only caused misunderstandings, but have at times endangered lives.

We would like very much to receive some feedback on these possibilities. Any thoughts, warnings, or admonitions that you may have, do not hesitate to communicate them to us.

Tom Vines,
Chairman PVSARG

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

19 November 1976

Richard D. Heasty
11401 Caroline Avenue
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Dear Rich:

We are sending by way of Bill Sexton a set of 5 board splints to be placed in the care of the PSC Fieldhouse. The materials for these splints were purchased with funds provided by the Virginia Region; the labor was donated by members of the ASRC.

You may use the splints as you see fit for emergency use and/or as training devices. In otherwords, treat them as the property of the Fieldhouse. They have at present the letters 'ASRC' printed on them, but you may want to put additional lettering on them that indicates they belong in the Fieldhouse. This could make it easier for them to be returned if, in case of an emergency, they were to find their way into a local hospital emergency room. Certainly the local authorities would be more familiar with the Fieldhouse than the ASRC.

We have already discussed the dilemma of making them convenient for emergencies, yet keeping them secure from vandalism. We are sure that you will find an adequate solution to this problem.

If for any reason they become damaged, please let us know, and we will try to make repairs to them.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to call us. My number is 301/652-2589.

Tom Vines,
Chairman PVSARG

Entered File 4 May 1977

D. B. Thomas

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

23 November 1976

Bob Custard
Apt. 217
900 Willowdale Road
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

Dear Bob

As we indicated in our recent talk, the ASRC has begun using the money allocated to us by the Virginia Region by constructing ten sets (five pieces each) of board splints. As you recall, the reason for this funding was to provide supplies for cave emergencies.

We are now distributing sets of these splints to strategically located fieldhouses. It has been suggested that the Monongahelia Fieldhouse would be a good location, so we have reserved one set to be placed there.

If a member of the Monongahelia Grotto--or a person designated by them--is in the Washington area, they may pick up the set from Ray Cole (at the above Alexandria address) or from me (the Chevy Chase address.)

If this is not convenient, then perhaps we can arrange for a member of ASRC, D.C. Grotto, or P.S.C. to deliver them to a mutually convenient location during a caving trip or a rescue training session.

As for the deposition of the splints, the Grotto should treat them as their own property. At the present time the splints are initialed with the letters 'ASRC,' but the Grotto may wish to put additional lettering on them that indicates they belong in the Fieldhouse.

We would appreciate your passing this note along to the Monongahelia Grotto, and asking them to indicate to us--by mail or by phone--the best way to get the set of splints to them.

My phone here is 301/652-2589.

Tom Vines,
Chairman, PVSARG

Entered File 4 May 1977

D. B. V. Thomas

GENE ✓
RAY ✓
TOM
LARRY ✓
RITA FILE

14 DECEMBER 1976

Thomas J.C. Williams, Jr.
5055 Seminary Road, Apt. 740
Alexandria, VA 22311

Dear Tom,

On behalf of the Appalachian Search And Rescue Conference, I would like to thank you for your much needed donation to the ASRC Communications Project. With these funds we will be able to put our emergency rescue radio system on the air. Not only will the ASRC be able to serve the public better through more effective communications, but we will be able to respond to rescues faster and to coordinate limited resources more efficiently.

As always, the ASRC is available for conduct of and/or participation in both wilderness and cave rescue operations. If you should have need of us, please call. Also, we would be happy to arrange support for the DTR and the various Region Projects as needed. Of course, early coordination would be greatly appreciated.

As we are an all-volunteer, non-profit, public service organization, we are totally dependent on the efforts of our members and the donations of our supporters. If you should have any questions about our operations, please feel free to contact us at the above address or me personally at my home or office. Thank You again!

Sincerely,

Gene Harrison
President, ASRC

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. B. Thomas

Entered File 4 May 1977

D. Z. V. Lousen

GENG ☒

RAY ☐

LARRY ☐

TOM ☐

RITA ☐ FILE

14 DECEMBER 1976

Savoy Electronics, Inc.
Box 5727, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310
ATTN: Lorayne

Dear Lorayne,

Thank you very much for helping us get this crystal order straight. We would like to order them now and hopefully have them within as few weeks as possible. We inquired if Mr. Lussier would be interested in either a discount or a donation, but he felt that the quoted prices were his best offer. So we passed the hat again and scraped up just enough to do the job. Your prices are quite good, and we would appreciate it if you would thank Mr. Lussier for his time and consideration anyway.

As you may recall, we needed crystals for 155.160 MHz transmit and receive. There were two sets:

Set A: Ten pairs of crystals for Motorola U43HMT1100C

Receive: ZMM42A, oven-type, 0.001%

$F_x = (F_r - 8\text{MHz}) + 5 = 29432.000\text{kHz}$ \$6.75 each

Transmit: ZNN3A, oven-type, 0.001%

$F_x = F_r + 12 = 12930.000\text{kHz}$ \$6.75 each

Total per pair \$13.50 pair

Total per set \$135.50 set A

Set B: One pair of crystals for General Electric RE73JC6

Receive: 4033466-P1, oven-type, 0.001%

$F_x = (F_r - 8.7\text{MHz}) + 3 = 48820.000\text{kHz}$ \$10.35 each

Transmit: 8-5491417-P1, oven-type, 0.001%

$F_x = F_r + 24 = 6465.000\text{kHz}$ \$9.40 each

Total per pair \$19.75 pair B

Total for Sets A and B \$154.75

Mailing: \$.35 per crystal @ 11 pair \$7.70

A check for the total of \$162.45 is enclosed. We would greatly appreciate it if you would check your cross-references to make sure that we have properly identified the correct crystal numbers and formulas. At least we are sure of the radio models! Also, would you please send us a card to acknowledge receipt of our order and include an approximation as to when we might expect delivery? We look forward to these crystals and hope to do more business with Savoy in the future. The shipping address and my telephones are below. Have a Merry Christmas, and Thank You!

Sincerely,

Gene Harrison
President, ASRC

Appalachian Search And Rescue Conference
Gene Harrison
8802 Portner Avenue, Apt. 5
Manassas, VA 22110
H (703) 361-3030
W (703) 938-5075

14 DEC 76 GSH

RAY -

Here's the \$150 from Tom, plus an
check for \$20.45 (see L from Ray).
That's \$170.45 total. Please make
out a check to Savoy for \$162.45.

The amount of \$8 should stay in
the ASRC account as a reserve fund!

Gene

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

14 December 1976

Mr. Lacey Suiter,
Secretary-Treasurer
NASAR
P.O. Box 40138
Nashville, Tennessee 37204

Sir:

At the suggestion of Lois McCoy, I would like to present for you consideration some subjects and personnel for possible inclusion in the 1977 NASAR Convention. I believe that these represent for us in the mid-Atlantic region, some of the outstanding subjects, concerns, organizations and approaches found in the East. As we all realize, it is particularly significant that the Convention this next year will be held in Nashville, for it symbolizes the East being brought more into the mainstream of SAR activities. The Mississippi represents a gulf that exists more than just in geography; it is also a separation in economy, philosophy, and politics and, therefore, a difference in the approach to conditions of Emergency. It is not that the West has excluded us from the SAR field, but it is more--I think--that we in the East have been bound by a more cautious and conventional approach and, more often than not, by traditions in state and local government that go back three hundred years.

In my view--one shared by most I know here with SAR concerns--one of the outstanding problems is that of coordination. The potential for more effective SAR operations does exist. The expertise is here and, when monetary and bureaucratic constraints allow for it, the manpower is available, but, because of the problem of jurisdictions, there often tends to be little coordination of resources and personnel. It seems to us that coordination is a must if viable SAR programs are to be developed in this part of the Country.

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. B. V. Houser

In our own experience, we have seen that this problem of jurisdictional cooperation is a challenging one, but one that--with a great deal of care and work--can be dealt with. Perhaps it is because we are a volunteer organization, but we have found that once people find that we are not trying to usurp their territory, or take over their jobs, but rather to back them up and to provide the expertise in areas they have neither the training nor inclination (such as away from roads, in rugged and vertical terrain, or in caves), then most groups are not so suspicious of our activities.

As an example of where an official group has not only begun to effectively deal the the jurisdictional relations dilemma, and to develop an effective rescue capability, but create an impressive preventive SAR program, I would cite the area of the Great Falls of the Potomac. Here is a very rugged area, with treacherous river currents and sheer rock faces. Being close to urban regions, and surrounded by 'bedroom communities,' this area in the past has been the location of several deaths each year. The terrain is difficult enough for patrol and rescue; perhaps even more challenging is the complex jurisdictional situation. There are two national parks on opposite sides of the river, each with its own supervisor. The Park Service controls the land, but the state of Maryland owns the River to the Virginia shoreline. On the Virginia side is Great Falls National Park, until recently a Fairfax County park, with that government still collecting entrance fees. On the Maryland side is the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, which stretches in a thin band for 184 miles along the Potomac. Both parks are fairly recent additions to the national system, and must deal with units that predate them by a number of years. Together they must relate to two states plus the District of Columbia, to five counties, dozens of rescue squads and a number of police districts. Where none existed before, the park management and personnel have organize a rescue capability, trained in emergency medicine and in specialized areas such as water rescue and vertical problems. But the outstanding concern is on the preventive aspects of search and rescue, including safety education, and on patrols to warn visitors of the dangrous aspects of the terrain.

To relate how the two parks have developed a mutual aid program, a rescue capability, and preventive SAR program, I would recommend:

Jim Donovan, Visitor Protection Coordinator,
Great Falls National Park

Ted Waddell, Visitor Protection Coordinator,
Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park

- 2 -

You may recall that Ted Waddell delivered an interesting presentation during the plenary session during the last convention. It might be appropriate to employ these two gentlemen this time in a workshop type of situation; they certainly have a great deal of knowledge of value to other delegates.

In spite of the fact that there are few true 'wilderness' areas in the East, people continue to die in the outdoors; hypothermia, I understand, continues to be the biggest killer (except in those states that excel in hunting accidents.) Outdoor survival involves--but is more than--having the right materials to stay warm or knowing how to start a fire. It is, above all, a state of mind.

The outstanding authority that we know of here in the East, who has a profound understanding of the role of attitude, as well as a knowledge of the materials needed in survival, is Mr. Lou Ritter of the Maryland Natural Resources Police. Lou has had an important role in the major NASAR and National Rifle Association survival programs. Lois McCoy, who is acquainted with his work, can fill you in on his career.

Of increasing concern to emergency personnel, to the Park and Forest Services and private landowners is the greater interest--some call it a 'fad'--in rockclimbing. Many climbing areas in the East are within easy access to major urban areas, and on weekends these areas are impacted with climbers of varying degrees of skills and competence. There is a high degree of immediacy to emergencies on vertical faces, and they require attention by personnel who are not only experienced in the sport, but who have practiced their rescue skills so they may be employed quickly and without mistakes. One indication of the problem has been the number of inquiries for vertical rescue training that have come to us from rescue squads, the Park Service, and owners of private preserves. For any consultation on the vertical rescue situation, I would recommend Mr. William Clem of the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group in Charlottesville, Virginia. Besides being a very fine climber, Bill has spent several years on rescue squads, both volunteer and professional, and is at the present time a medical student at the University of Virginia. He is articulate, dynamic, and the finest instructor on the subject I know, so he could be valuable in giving a presentation, but would be particularly worthwhile in workshop setting.

Nearby areas of West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania contain vast cave systems. Many of these have tight crawlways, waterfalls, water-filled passages and vertical drops of hundreds of feet, features that not only attract people and cause accidents, but complicate a rescue problem. Several cave systems are still

being explored, and some of these are so extensive that travel time to interior sections is measured in days. There is a large and growing community of cavers, both in groups affiliated with the National Speological Society, and trained in safety considerations, and those individuals disparagingly called 'flashlight cavers,' untrained and often unaware of the dangers underground. Increasingly, members of both groups are finding themselves in trouble, often in remote areas of the countryside, where local emergency squads have neither the inclination nor the training for such emergencies.

In response to these conditions, NSS-affiliated groups (and our own ASRC Groups) are developing the capabilities for cave emergencies. It is work that is difficult and arduous, requiring a background in caving, with specialized skills and equipment. Not only are dedicated rescue units required, but extremely important, not only to the operation, but to the well being of the rescuers, is the support team.

An able and articulate spokesman for the cave rescue effort is Mr. Robert Barlow of Bland, Virginia. Bob is of course a long-time caver, is one of the founders of the Bland Rescue Squad, a lay EMT instructor, an active member of the Virginia Association of Rescue Squads, and has been on a number of cave rescues.

Essential to a search and rescue capability, be it inland or water, are the airborne operations. We work in an area that is vast and varying, from the sea and salt marsh of the coast, through the plains and the piedmont, into the mountains. The Civil Air Patrol is an essential part of the scheme. For example, when specialized equipment or personnel have to be transported quickly to an emergency site, aircraft can perform a lifesaving service. And in the search for downed aircraft, we have made our ground teams available to the CAP for their operations. In combined operations, we have found that our abilities mesh very well; we have been particularly impressed by CAP capabilities, their discipline, and devotion to the mission. Each time our two groups are associated, we find that we have learned something new. An able spokeswoman for the CAP viewpoint is Captain Dorothy Tuller, Commander of the Herndon Squadron in the Virginia Wing.

Increasingly, from Federal and State personnel, from local law enforcement people, and volunteers, I hear talk of the 'Psychological Aspect' in the outdoors. A New York Times Magazine fashion section features children in down jackets and Fry boots; a local Washington chic fashion shop now calls itself 'Britches Great Outdoors;' Newsweek Magazine features 'outdoor fashions.' This style of merchandizing of the outdoors, combined with the popularizing of it through the

media, and, perhaps, undefinable conflicts in our society, are encouraging more people, often inadequately prepared materially and mentally, into parks and recreation areas. The very press of people in some areas is causing stresses and law enforcement problems. It is forcing others to seek more isolated 'backcountry' regions where they sometimes endanger themselves. Some areas (Great Falls, for example) are finding themselves involved with programs onnsnttde prevention and crisis intervention.

Many people I know are increasingly concerned with the 'Psychological Aspect,' but, at the moment, I am unaware of any one person who has made a study of the subject either in an Eastern or a National context. It does seem, however, that the subject should be addressed.

And should you need anyone from a volunteer SAR Group to articulate or discuss the viewpoints from the East, then we should be able to help you out on that score.

If you have any questions or comments on any of the above, do not hesitate to call or write me.

My phone number is 301/652-2589.

Tom Vines,
Chairman PVSARG

cc: Lois McCoy

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

21 December 1976

Ed Duffy
National Park Service
Great Falls National Park
9200 Old Dominion Drive
Great Falls, Virginia 22066

Dear Sir:

We would like to express our appreciation to you and your personnel for assistance with our vertical rescue training session this past Sunday, and for the use of Park land.

We are particularly grateful to Richard Stokes for his presence during the day, and to Jim Donovan for his suggestions when we were planning the session.

The terrain found in your area helps to train our members under realistic but controlled conditions, and to improve their abilities and effectiveness.

I am enclosing some information about our organization which contains more recent data--particularly phone numbers and addresses--than that I left at your office on Sunday.

Again, thank you very much for your help.

Tom Vines,
Chairman
Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. B. Thomas

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

22 December 1976

Lois Clark McCoy
NASAR
P.O. Box 2123
La Jolla, California 92038

Lois:

We would like to thank you very much for the manuals; they will be extremely valuable in revising our own training materials. This problem has dogged us so long that it has precipitated bad jokes about 'training Manuel.'

Yes, I am interested in helping with your membership committee; please let me know what my duties might be, so I will know what kind of trouble I am letting myself in for. Right now I cannot say how extensive it is, but there seems to be an increased interest in NASAR here among folks in the mid-Atlantic area.

As a matter of fact, Bob Barlow (mentioned in the context of cave rescue in the letter to Suiter) was asking me about membership a few days ago. Why don't you send him some information:

Mr. Robert Barlow
Rt. 1
Box 177
Bland, Virginia 24315

And, on this same subject, one of my clients has just come through for me, so I can come through for you. Enclosed is my check for NASAR membership.

The full name of PATC is Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, and the address is:

1718 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Again, thank you very much,

Tom Vines

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. R. Thomas

No 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

23 December 1976

Tom Williams
Apt. 740
5055 Seminary Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22311

Dear Tom:

We in the Potomac Valley Group of the ASRC would like to express to you our profound appreciation for your very kind assistance with funds for our radio project. This funding is particularly significant in that it will be used to obtain crystals, thereby removing one of the major hurdles in making the radios operational. In my own opinion, communications have been among the more trying and difficult aspects of the rescue situation.

Making these radios operational will not only facilitate surface search and rescue operations, but should greatly enhance capabilities for cave emergencies.

Again, thank you very much.

Tom Vines,
Chairman
Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group (ASRC)

cc: Paul Stevens

Entered File 4 May 1977
E. B. Thomas

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

24 December 1976

Captain Dorothy Tuller
Herndon Squadron
Civil Air Patrol
13129 Greg Roy Lane
Herndon, Virginia 22070

~~Captain~~ Tuller:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter, discussed previously, concerning next year's NASAR convention. The letter had its origins in conversations with Lois McCoy, the outgoing Secretary-Treasurer of NASAR, who suggested I write Mr. Suiter, coordinator for the Convention in Nashville.

There will be suggestions from other people, and I am sure Mr. Suiter will have ideas of his own, so there is no guarantee at all that any of my suggestions will be taken. If you and your group are contacted, then, naturally, it will be up to you and your people to decide if and how you want to participate, and to deal with NASAR. The suggestion concerning you and the Herndon Squadron was made not necessarily with the thought of representing the CAP nationally--though I am sure that you people would excel at that task, too--but as an example of a group doing an excellent job dealing with typical SAR problems in a particular region of the Country. I am a great believer in the Art of the Practical: Having practical people approaching problems in a practical manner means more to me than all the theoreticians in the world.

Should you have any comments, do not hesitate to write or call.

My phone number is 301/652-2589.

Tom Vines,
Chairman
Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group (ASRC)

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. B. F. Jones

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Don Davison,
NSS Safety and Techniques Committee
Route 2
Box 58C
Grundy, Virginia 24614

Don:

As I mentioned in our recent phone conversation, I am sending a copy of materials concerning the failure of the Maasdam Pow'r Pull Winch. This material was forwarded to us from one of our members who is now in one of the Western parks.

At the present time, I know of no one who is using the Maasdam, but it did apparently enjoy a vogue among certain rescue groups--primarily in the west, I believe.

I first learned about some of the problems from the District Ranger at Great Falls, Maryland who has had a great deal of rescue experience in the West. He, like others of us, has a skepticism about the reliability of any winch in a rescue situation.

I am not sure who is the author of the Scottish letter, but you will note that his letter was forwarded to the Park Service by Maasdam.

Since this material was passed to us unofficially, we would appreciate your not making any direct reference to the Park Service memo without their permission.

Tom Vines
Chairman, Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group (ASRC)

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. B. V. Lomson

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. J. V. Lawson

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

5 January 1977

Captain Larry Fulbright
HHD
85th Medical Battalion
Fort Meade, Maryland 20755

Captain Fulbright:

We would like to thank you for your phone call, and for your interest in our Group's activities. Concerning your need for survival training, I have been in touch with Lou Ritter of the Maryland Natural Resources Police, and he should be in contact with you very soon now. If you are unable to make a satisfactory arrangement with him, then let us know and we will work in some other areas.

I would like to see our two Groups work out some sort of arrangement for cross-training, or some sort of joint simulated exercises. The only real constraint on this I can see is the one of time; most of our people are only available in the evenings or on weekends. I am certain, though, that there exists some means of working around this problem; it might be possible, for example, to involve only certain members of the Groups, instead of everyone. We have long emphasized the need for cooperation among the various groups involved in Search and Rescue; it is our feeling that each group has a certain area of expertise or experience that would be of value to the others. (This is part of the rationale for the formation of national organizations such as the National Association for Search and Rescue.) The kinds of skills we specialize in that might be of value to you are in the area of search and rescue techniques in rugged, mountainous and wooded areas, with certain specialized skills, such as tracking. In your area of expertise there are a number of skills that would be helpful to us; two that come to mind immediately are medical techniques and helicopter evacuation.

Enclosed is a handout on our Group which in general terms explains our activities. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to call me.

I hope that we will be in contact very soon in the near future.

My phone number is 301/652-2589.

Tom Vines,

Chairman, Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group (ASRC)

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

22 January 1977

Ralph Puckett
Discovery, Inc.
316-A Victory Drive
Herndon, Virginia 22091

Ralph:

As promised in our recent phone conversation, I am sending along some materials on the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, and on our local Group. We appreciate your interest in the organization, and, should you need more information, do not hesitate to call us.

Tom Vines,
Chairman Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group (ASRC)

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. B. Vines

Entered File 4 May 1977

D. B. Johnson

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

24 January 1976

Anne Whittmore
Vice-Chairman, VAR
4107 Ranch Road
Johnson City, Tennessee 37601

Dear Anne:

We would like to thank you for your letter, and for the invitation to attend the VAR Rescue Workshop. We expect to have there ASRC representatives from both the Potomac Valley Group (the Washington area unit of ASRC) and from the Blue Ridge Group (the Charlottesville unit.) We believe that D.C. Grotto will be represented, and we are encouraging attendance by other Grotto Representatives from this area.

I personally believe that the topics of rescue prevention and self-rescue come before any discussion of rescue. But this is the ideal; the real problem is how to interest and involve cavers. Certainly the 'Dear STC' column in the NSS News does make a contribution and we have tried to generate interest at regional meetings (we have discussed with Janet and with Paul Stevens how the subject could be included at Old Timers, but we all agree that OTR is primarily a party, and not the place to find interest in 'serious' concerns. However, there might be a way to introduce it in a more subtle way, such as in the manner the speleolympics are run, but one must be careful even there not to turn people off.) I believe that the most effective place to teach rescue prevention and self-rescue is on the grotto level, but that leads us back to the question about how to interest cavers and the local grottos. As to whether anything would be gained by a discussion of these subjects, I would think that will depend on the variables, such as who will be at the meeting, what the tone of the meeting is, etc., but I would like to see us give it a try.

As for what other subjects should be discussed, during the last

few months I have informally asked various grotto representatives what they think are the most pressing concerns on the rescue scene. The most common two answers are: (1) a viable rescue communications network, and (2) cooperative rescue training.

The need for rescue training has been a concern of ours for some time, and, before the Rescue Workshop was announced, the ASRC had begun arranging for cooperative training with caving members of our Groups, Greenbriar Grotto, and D.C. Grotto, and had done some preliminary talking with Mountain State and Monongahelia. It may be appropriate for the Virginia Region to sponsor some sort of inter-grotto training, though I would think it wise to begin cautiously and on a small scale to develop teaching techniques, and try to avoid the ridiculous personality classes that have occasionally been a problem. It seems to me that the key words here are 'cooperative' and 'practical.' There is the expertise available, and we can all learn from one another. I am afraid that I react badly to those who come on as though they know it all, and to those who turn rescue seminars into esoteric discussions of physics and philosophy; doubtless this sort of thing alienates many other people.

The ASRC has for some time been concerned about the creation of a viable communications net and callout system. We believe that this is the area in which we could make a contribution, for these reasons: (1) We already have a well-developed callout system that is used for other emergencies, (2) Our emergency number (University of Virginia Police) is the same as CRCN, (3) We are a viable, cooperative organization, not dependent on a single personality to run everything, (4) We have caving members scattered among the various grottos and areas of the region, and, therefore, working knowledge of the various conditions in the region and acquaintance with the cavers, and (5) We have a history of rapport with local authorities--Sheriffs, State Police and Rescue Squads, and with national groups--Park and Forest Service, Civil Air Patrol and the National Association for Search and Rescue. We are not interested in dominating the rescue mechanism of the Region--again, it has got to be a cooperative venture--but we do feel that this is one area in which we have experience and in which we can make a contribution. But our being able to do this is contingent on there being general agreement on our doing it and on the possibility of compiling a good index of rescue talent that represents all the local areas. A couple of complaints that I have heard about callout systems is that they smack of cronyism or that they ignore local talent. There are probably three basic criteria for such a system: (a) Knowledge of the cave, (b) Medical and rescue ability, and (c) proximity to the cave. We believe whenever possible local people should be used.

One subject that may be good for discussion, and one that seems to have been ignored in the past is relationships with landowners and with local authorities. Calousness toward the landowners during rescues may result in bad feelings for years, or the cave being closed; the Sheriff or Police is the one responsible for that area; they may not want to go into the cave, but they are

legally still in charge. Insensitivity towards these people can not only encumber an operation, but cause problems for years to come.

Another subject that we might discuss is some sort of certification for cave rescuers and for training. I realize that this is a delicate matter, and it may be a long time before the Region takes steps toward any sort of standards, but I understand that the subject may be coming up in the NSS nationally, so this might be a good time to start thinking about it.

Again, thank you for the invitation; please be assured of our interest in the meeting.

Tom Vines
Chairman, Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group (ASRG)

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

28 February 1977

Subject: Joint Emergency Operations Seminar

FRANCES H. TOTH, LTC, CAP
Headquarters
Virginia Wing, Civil Air Patrol
Richard Evelyn Byrd International Airport
P.O. Box 237
Sandston, Virginia 23150

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your letter and for your invitation to participate in the Joint Emergency Operations Seminar on 21 March. Our organization has a concern for cooperation with all groups involved in Emergency Operations, and has a particular interest in improving our interface with the CAP. We are very interested in this Seminar, and expect to have representatives present on the 21st.

As you perhaps know, the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference is comprised operationally into local Groups. We are sending a copy of your letter to the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group in Charlottesville, and expect that you will also be hearing from them.

Again, thank you for the invitation, and please be assured of our interest in the Seminar.

Tom Vines
Chairman, Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group (ASRC)

cc: Bill Clem,
BRMRG

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. B. Thompson

No. 21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Mr. Robert Harney
National Park Service
Prince William Forest Park
Triangle, Virginia 22172

Dear Sir:

We would like to express our appreciation for the use of Park facilities, and for the assistance of your personnel during our Land Navigation training session on 30 January. As usual, Al Sheaffer was extremely helpful in the planning for this occasion, and Audrey Calhoun provided invaluable assistance to our instructor and to our people during the day.

Again, for the help given us during that day, and for all the times in the past, thank you very much.

Tom Vines
Chairman, Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group (ASRG)

Entered File 4 May 1977
D. B. Thomas



**APPALACHIAN
SEARCH & RESCUE
CONFERENCE, INC.**

2617 Jefferson Drive

Alexandria, Virginia 22303

March 31, 1977

Carol Wilckersham
Virginia Region Treasurer

Dear Carol,

This letter represents a claim for \$33.00 of the \$100.00 granted to ASRC to be spent for medical equipment and supplies.

The \$33.00 was spent on ten sets of board splints constructed by the Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group of ASRC. These were distributed to several groups in Virginia and West Virginia with sets going to Greenbriar Grotto, Potomac Speleological Club fieldhouse, VPI Grotto, Mongahelia Grotto, and Blue Ridge Rescue Group in Charlottesville.

Yours truly,

Raymond Cole
Treasurer, ASRC

Entered File 4 May 1977
D-B. Thomas



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301-949-2515

Tom Vines
#21
6725 Fairfax Road
Chevy Chase, Maryland
20015

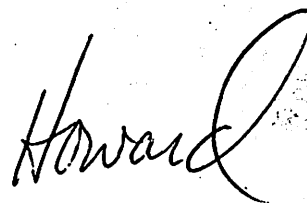
April 11, 1977

Tom,

Just a long overdue note to say thanks for writing the ASRC article for the Overlook. The newsletter will be going out at the end of the month (we have to wait until after our sale to send it out) and I'll send you some extra copies if you like.

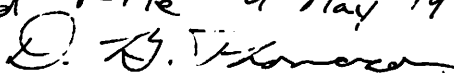
You put together a fine article and I think that it will not only make people aware of the existence of the ASRC but, as you put it, make them aware of the problems and perhaps take more responsibility for their own actions.

A good article and, once again, THANKS.



P.S. I still intend to get involved with Potomac Valley Search and Rescue, but I am having some trouble finding the time. Still working on it though.

Entered File 4 May 1977



"YOU are the only solution to ALL pollution" . . . And where will you go, when the outdoors is gone?

19 April, 1977

Tom Vines
Apartment #21
6725 Fairfax Rd.
Chevy Chase, MD
20015

Dear Tom,

Enclosed is the letter we formulated for the Alleghany County Sheriff's Department. Didn't mention PVSARG because your people didn't have a chance to see it first.

At our Board meeting on 11 April we formed a new committee for the Group to handle incoming and outgoing information, public relations, public education, and collaborate with the training committee on recruitment. We are tentatively calling it the "Information Committee", and I have volunteered to chair it.

One of my aims is to get up better communication between our groups. Within the next two weeks you should receive a list of our calendar for the summer, and any other pertinent information.

Also, I am going to write MRA for a membership application in the early part of next week. Would you like me to have them send you one also?

Sincerely,


D.B. Thomason

cc File
Enclosure

28 June 1979

Gene Harrison
Rt. 1
Box 313
Hamilton, Virginia 22068

Dear Gene:

During its May meeting, the Executive Committee of the Potomac Valley Group conducted a review of the certification of PVSARG members. It found that you have attended no training sessions during the past year. The ASRC Training Guide, in stating guidelines for standards of competence, says, "In addition to maintaining his personal skills, each Basic or Rescue Member must have attended at least 32 hours of field training, including 8 hours of search and 8 hours of mountain rescue during the year prior to his review."

To assure public and private agencies that it can do the job, ASRC must demonstrate that its members are competent. The key to this is the continuous training of those certified as 'Basic' in primary skills.

It is the decision of the Executive Committee to place you in a 'Basic-Conditional' status until October. At that time, the Executive Committee will reevaluate your status. Between now and then, there will be training sessions by the Potomac Valley and Blue Ridge Groups to compensate for the categories in which you are deficient. If by October you have shown that you have made an effort to correct these deficiencies, then you will continue in the 'Basic' status. If you have not corrected these deficiencies then your status will revert to Auxiliary or Inactive--depending on evidence of interest in training, meetings, callouts, etc.

If you feel that the training records do not adequately reflect your true participation, or that this decision is otherwise unjust, then you should contact the Training Officer, Paul Burke. Under terms of the ASRC Bylaws, you have the right to appeal any decision on training to the ASRC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Larry Cline,
PVSARG Chairman

28 June 1979

Gene Harrison
Rt. 1
Box 315
Hamilton, Virginia 22068

Dear Gene:

During its May meeting, the Executive Committee of the Potomac Valley Group conducted a review of the certification of PWARG members. It found that you have attended no training sessions during the past year. The ASRC Training Guide, in stating guidelines for standards of competence, says, "In addition to maintaining his personal skills, each Basic or Rescue Member must have attended at least 32 hours of field training, including 8 hours of search and 8 hours of mountain rescue during the year prior to his review."

To assure public and private agencies that it can do the job, ASRC must demonstrate that its members are competent. The key to this is the continuous training of those certified as 'Basic' in primary skills.

It is the decision of the Executive Committee to place you in a 'Basic-Conditional' status until October. At that time, the Executive Committee will reevaluate your status. Between now and then, there will be training sessions by the Potomac Valley and Blue Ridge Groups to compensate for the categories in which you are deficient. If by October you have shown that you have made an effort to correct these deficiencies, then you will continue in the 'Basic' status. If you have not corrected these deficiencies then your status will revert to Auxiliary or Inactive--depending on evidence of interest in training, meetings, calls, etc.

If you feel that the training records do not adequately reflect your true participation, or that this decision is otherwise unjust, then you should contact the Training Officer, Paul Burke. Under terms of the ASRC Bylaws, you have the right to appeal any decision on training to the ASRC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Larry Cline,
PWARG Chairman

No. 112
4757 Chevy Chase Drive
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

18 September 1978

Ranger Rod Suarez
C & O Canal National
Historical Park
11710 MacArthur Blvd.
Potomac, Maryland 20854

Dear Rod

During the recent operation, we noted that your calldown list for ASRC was outdated. The following is the updated list. The calldown procedure may be approached in two ways:

A - Direct Contact--The first person you reach will take care of the callout:

1) Tom Vines 652-2589

(If not at home, leave word with Answering Service
and continue down list.)

2) Ray Cole (h) 960-3559
 (w) 767-2901

3) Larry Cline (h) 301/997-9061
 447-7747

4) Dennis Seekins (h) 588-2531
 (w) 982-2381

B - If none of these people can be reached immediately, or if you do not have the personnel available for this procedure, then use the ASRC Central Callout Number at the University of Virginia Police in Charlottesville:

804/924-7166

Because there is another layer of personnel involved with this method, the response may be slower. Be sure to say that this

Suarez
18 Sep 78
page two

is an emergency call for the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, to leave the name of the caller, the name of the park, and a callback number.

If there are any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Tom Vines
President ASRC

No. 112
4757 Chevy Chase Drive
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

21 December 1978

Mr. William M. Calnan,
Coordinator
Civil Defense & Emergency Planning
Montgomery County, Maryland
County Office Building
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Sir:

In regard to our recent telephone conversation, we request that the Potomac Valley Group of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc. (ASRC) be considered for inclusion as a Volunteer Organization in the "Search and Rescue Annex" of the Montgomery County Emergency and Major Disaster Assistance Plan.

The specific details of ASRC capabilities are spelled out in one of the enclosures; for Montgomery County, the Organization would offer field and/or managerial personnel for lost person search, for rescue in technical (vertical) terrain or for evacuation of injured victims in difficult, hilly or mountainous terrain. With personnel trained in search management and in technical rescue, the Organization also has available personnel for assistance in search pre-planning and for certain types of search and rescue training.

There are two things that we would particularly like to emphasize. First of all, we expect to work at the pleasure, and under the authority, of the Responsible Agent, or whoever is charged with the legal responsibility for the emergency. Secondly, ASRC does not propose to duplicate the activities of any presently constituted organization. ASRC deals only with those specialized outdoor emergencies, as detailed in the enclosure, that are not normally performed by other organizations.

ASRC has performed a number of operations in this area during the

Calnan
21 Dec 78
page two

past several years; for your information, we have enclosed file letters from other organizations with whom we have worked.

In addition, we have enclosed a list of persons with whom you may wish to discuss our capabilities.

We welcome any questions concerning the Organization, and will be available to meet with you on any aspects of its activities.

My phone number is 652-2589.

Sincerely,

Tom Vines
President ASRC

Enclosures: a)ASRC Information
b)Letters from other organizations
c)List of contacts concerning ASRC
d)ASRC callout procedures

List of contacts concerning ASRC

Elaine D'Amico,
Acting District Ranger
C & O Canal National Historical Park
11710 MacArthur Blvd.
Potomac, Maryland 20854

299-3613

Ranger Bill Kirby
Visitor Protection Coordinator
Great Falls National Park
Great Falls, Virginia 22066

759-2168

Robert H. Christie, MAJ
Emergency Services Officer
National Capital Wing
Civil Air Patrol
Bolling Air Force Base
Washington, D.C. 20332

979-3493

Corporal Lou Ritter
Maryland Natural Resources Police
Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

301/269-3016

Norman McTague,
Operations Officer
Virginia Office of Emergency Services
7700 Midlothian Pike
Richmond, Virginia 23235

804/272-1441

Lois Clark McCoy,
Administrator
National Association for Search and Rescue
P.O. Box 2123
La Jolla, California 92038

714/276-7228

ASRC Callout Procedures

There are two approaches:

A - Direct Callout on local level. The first person you reach will take care of the Group callout

1) Tom Vines 652-2589

(if not at home, leave word with Answering Service and continue down list)

2) Ray Cole (h) 960-3559
(w) 767-2901

3) Larry Cline (h) 301/997-9061
(w) 447-7747

4) Dennis Seekins (h) 588-2531
(w) 982-2381

B - If none of these people can be reached immediately, or if you do not have the personnel available for this procedure, then use the ASRC Central Callout Number at the University of Virginia Police in Charlottesville:

804/924-7166

Be sure to say that this is an emergency call for the Appalachian Search and Rescue, to leave the name of the caller, and a callback number.

(21 Dec 78--tv)

28 June 1979

Susan Cole
3410 Austin Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22310

Dear Susan:

During recent meetings, the Executive Committee of the Potomac Valley Group has been evaluating the training status of Basic Members. According to the records, during the past year you have attended 16 hours of training, eight of which was in search.

The ASRC Training Guide, in its guidelines for standards of competence, states, "In addition to maintaining his personal skills, each Basic or Rescue member must have attended at least 32 hours of field training, including eight hours of search and eight hours of mountain rescue during the year prior to his review.

To assure individuals and public agencies that it is adequate to the task, the ASRC must be able to show that those certified as 'Basic' maintain a certain level of competence. The key to maintaining that competence is the continuous training of those certified in the primary skills.

The Executive Committee will next review your status in October. Between now and then, there will be training sessions by the Potomac Valley and the Blue Ridge Groups in the categories in which you are deficient. If by the time of the reevaluation you have not compensated for those deficiencies, the Committee will downgrade your status to Auxiliary or Inactive, depending on your participation in Training, Meetings and Callouts.

If you feel that the training records do not adequately reflect the true state of your records, or that this decision is unjust, then you should contact the Training Officer, Paul Burke. Under the terms of the ASRC Bylaws, you have the right to appeal any decision on Training to the ASRC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Larry Cline
FVSARG Chairman

28 June 1979

Bill Sexton
5387 Brook Way
Apt. #5
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Dear Bill:

During recent meetings, the Executive Committee of the Potomac Valley Group has been evaluating the training status of Basic Members. According to the records, during the past year you have attended 24 hours of training.

The ASRC Training Guide, in its guidelines for standards of competence, states, "In addition to maintaining his personal skills, each Basic or Rescue member must have attended at least 32 hours of field training, including eight hours of search and eight hours of mountain rescue during the year prior to his review."

To assure individuals and public agencies that it is adequate to the task, the ASRC must be able to show that those certified as 'Basic' maintain a certain level of competence. The key to maintaining that competence is the continuous training of those certified in the primary skills.

The Executive Committee will next review your status in October. Between now and then, there will be training sessions by the Potomac Valley and the Blue Ridge Groups in the categories in which you are deficient. If by the time of the reevaluation you have not compensated for those deficiencies, the Committee will consider downgrading your status.

If you feel that the training records do not adequately reflect the true state of your records, or that this decision is unjust, then you should contact the Training Officer, Paul Burke. Under the terms of the ASRC Bylaws, you have the right to appeal any decision on Training to the ASRC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Larry Cline,
FVSARG Chairman

28 June 1979

Celia Greenburg
5387 Brook Way
Apt. #5
Columbia, Maryland 21044

Dear Celia:

During its May meeting, the Executive Committee of the Potomac Valley Group conducted a review of the certification of PVSARG members. It found that you have attended no training sessions during the past year. The ASRC Training Guide, in stating guidelines for standards of competence, says, "In addition to maintaining his personal skills, each Basic or Rescue Member must have attended at least 32 hours of field training, including 8 hours of search and 8 hours of mountain rescue during the year prior to his review."

To assure private and public agencies that it can do the job, ASRC must demonstrate that its members are competent. The key to this is the continuous training of those certified as 'Basic' in primary skills.

It is the decision of the Executive Committee to place you in a 'Basic-Conditional' status until October. At that time, the Executive Committee will reevaluate your status. Between now and then, there will be training sessions by the Potomac Valley and Blue Ridge Groups to compensate for the categories in which you are deficient. If by October you have shown that you have made an effort to correct these deficiencies, then you will continue in the 'Basic' status. If you have not corrected these deficiencies then your status will revert to Auxiliary or Inactive--depending on evidence of interest in training, meetings, callouts, etc.

If you feel that the training records do not adequately reflect your true participation, or that this decision is otherwise unjust, then you should contact the Training Officer, Paul Burke. Under terms of the ASRC Bylaws, you have the right to appeal any decision on training to the ASRC Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Larry Cline,
PVSARG Chairman

No. 112
4757 Chevy Chase Drive
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

6 May 1978

Mr. L.A. Fletcher
Fletcher Engineering
P.O. Box 188
Churchton, Maryland 20733

Dear Sir:

This is to acknowledge receipt of three new radio transceivers, model CB 143, manufactured by Pathcom, Inc., which you have graciously donated to the Potomac Valley Group of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc.

It is through donations of communications equipment from such persons as yourself that the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc. has been able to function in the wilderness environment. This particular equipment will be used as manpack equipment for field teams to supplement our limited commercial equipment operating on 155.16 Mhz.

This equipment will remain the property of the Potomac Valley Group of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference as stipulated in the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. They will be operated under FCC license KIU0954 granted to the Group.

Yours,

Tom Vines
President, ASRC

No. 112
4757 Chevy Chase Drive
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

26 February 1979

Carol Scott
P.O. Box 185
Batesville, Virginia 22924

Dear Carol

In reference to your recent phone call, I am supplying the following information:

- 1) All telephone numbers on the Potomac Valley Alert Officer List remain the same. Ray Cole has recently moved, but his number is unchanged.
- 2) A copy of the Mission Alert Form is enclosed.
- 3) The materials in an operations kit may vary from person to person, but the basic materials to be included would be:
 - a) Alert Summary Forms
 - b) ASRC Lost Person Questionnaires
 - c) Mission Alert Forms
 - d) Mission Data Forms
 - e) SAROP
 - f) Task Assignment Forms
 - g) Searcher Alert Forms
 - h) Searcher Information Sheets
 - i) Guide to Topo Map Symbols
 - j) George Washington and Monongahelia Forest Maps
 - k) Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia Road Maps
 - l) Rosters for Blue Ridge and Potomac Valley Groups
 - m) 3 x 5 cards of various colors
 - n) Carbon sets, grease pencils, rubber bands, etc.
 - o) Clip board
 - p) Overlays for maps

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Tom Vines

ASRC

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Yorke Brown
135 Hickok Circle
Fredricksburg, Va
22401

May 20, 1979.

Dear Yorke,

I hope all is going well with the Optics course. I hope to be able to come up and see you soon. I've enclosed the minutes to the Board meeting, sorry about the mixup. I'll have the OPS committee here look into our supply of forms, and let you know if we can spare any.

About all this call sign business, it seems to have a simple solution: if the radios are only to be used on bona fide training functions and on missions, use functional designations at those times. When people want to do a check of the system, they're interested in how a given radio is performing, so use Gene's unit designations then. That's my two cents' worth.

I'm very interested in how things are progressing with the VSARDA negotiations. Please let me know when we're ready to initial an agreement.

I think that BRMRG did an inventory in March or so. Jim Dooley would be the one to ask about that. Jim spoke to Bill Clem about the radio, it seems he's prepared to pay the balance on the cost of repairs. If Gene can total up how much he spent on the repairs of the 10 units, and let Bill know how much his share will be, at least Gene will get some of his money back. I think that Bill will want to keep the unit (minus crystals), but we have little use for it anyway.

I think the most important thing the Ops committee can do right now is straighten out the radio SOP situation. I needn't (?) remind you that it has no authority to establish the SOP but I'm confident that if a coherent program is presented to the Board, it will be approved.

We need to find someone to chair the Equipment sub-committee. Was that the job you had in mind for Ray? The inventory is something I'd really like to see.

For the information of the Ops Committee, I spoke to the Assistant Operations Officer of OEEES in Richmond. We've now been included in their listings of available resources in the state. The alerting procedure has been the subject of much discussion down here. Who's authorized to carry a pager? We've decided on an unofficial old boy network until the ASRC can establish criteria for MC status. At that time we'll probably try to restrict the
pa

14 JUNE

Dear Chris —

Here's some stuff which may interest you.

I think most of it is self explanatory.

Biff Frank's address is:

3093 WHITE BIRCH CT.

FAIRFAX, VA 22031

PHONE (703) 691-0324

Henry should be apprised of this. He needs instruction on what to do with the BRMG radio he has. But ~~see~~ NB the last paragraph of my letter to Garth.

When is the BRMG Newsletter coming out?

I've got to get back to work — I've blown a whole day on this.

دوست عزیز شما

بارک

No. 112

4757 Chevy Chase Drive
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

18 September 1978

Bill Kirby
Great Falls National Park
9200 Old Dominion Drive
Great Falls, Virginia 22066

Dear Bill

The following is an updated calldown list for emergency contact with the ASRC. The calldown procedure may be approached in two ways:

A - Direct Contact--The first person you reach will take care of the callout:

1) Tom Vines

652-2589

(If not at home, leave word with Answering Service and continue down list)

2) Ray Cole

(h) 360-3
(w) 87-29

3) Larry Cline

(h) 01/997-
(w) 447-717

4) Dennis Cocking

B - If none of these people if you do not have the person use the ASRC Central Callout Police in Charlottesville.

804

Because there is another this method, the response may

paggers to the NCs here. It's all well and good to consider the AO a function, but I'm sure you'd agree that the most qualified person should make the decisions. Besides, it would cut down on alerting time if he could appoint himself MC right away.

When the time is right I'll bring up the subject of fuel allocations with the OEES people. We have scheduled an auxiliary training session for the 16th of June, and the OEES training officer has expressed an interest in attending. Perhaps I can bring it up with him then.

The people who signed the petition may well rescind it, but there's no rush on that. I'm working on the committee assignments and jurisdictions and I will send you a copy when it's through.

Before I went down to Richmond, I ~~didn't~~ did a little work on the Fact Sheet, including your suggestions, and they ran off a few copies. They had nothing on us in their operational files. (they=OEES)

Something extra for the commo sub-committee-, how about some official equipment suggestions for the BRMRG purchases? Gene's trying to sell us the stuff we have down here, so I don't know how that will fit in.

Sorry about the unstructured letter, but I felt I could get away with it with you- I've been thinking hard about the others I wrote today, and relaxed when doing yours. Please give my very best to Carrie, and inshallah I'll see you both soon.

Dooste azia shoma,



MARYLAND STATE POLICE HELICOPTER OPERATIONS

The Maryland State Police Aviation Division operates a fleet of Bell 206B Jet Ranger five passenger (two litter patient) and UH1-B Huey Helicopters which seat seven passengers (three litter patients). The Bell 206B has a range of 400 miles with speeds up to 140 MPH. The UH1-B Huey has a range of 200 miles with speeds up to 135 MPH. Their basic mission is to provide aerial support to ground patrol units in both traffic safety and crime suppression activities. However, one of the most important functions of these aircraft is the evacuation of desperately ill or critically injured persons from accident scenes to specialty referral centers. The central control point for these centers is the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medicine (formerly the University of Maryland Center for the Study of Trauma) and was created under the Emergency Medical Services System by Governor Marvin Mandel in 1973. This institute is where the majority of all adult patients transported by our Med-Evac helicopters are taken. Here each patient is afforded the most advanced innovative medical procedures designed to keep the patient alive and reduce permanent injury to the body.

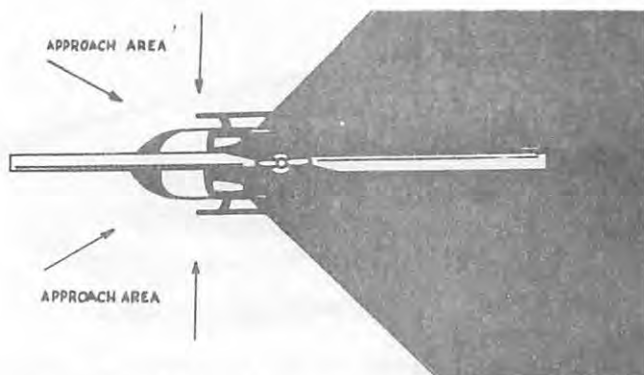
CREWS AND EQUIPMENT - Each of the helicopters have a crew consisting of a Maryland State Police pilot and an EMT-certified Maryland State Police observer/medic. The observer/medic duties are to coordinate the missions of the helicopters and to, most importantly, care for the patient once the Med-Evac transport has been initiated. Each helicopter is equipped with basic first aid supplies, oxygen, cardiac monitor, I.V. kit, M.A.S.T. trousers, etc. Each of the helicopters are equipped with State Police FM type radios and an EMS (Emergency Medical Services) radios that are used to communicate with fire boards and hospitals in the EMS system. The Bell Jet Rangers are also equipped with a 3.9 million candlepower searchlight that can illuminate a large area. The UH1-B Huey is not equipped with a searchlight.

LOCATIONS AND FLIGHT REQUESTS - The helicopters are strategically located throughout the state at Martins State Airport outside of Baltimore, Andrews Air Force Base in Prince George's County, Frederick Municipal Airport in Frederick County, and Salisbury-Wicomico Airport in Wicomico County. A thirty mile radius from an operational base is the primary response zone for each helicopter. A total of seven helicopter response areas are eventually planned to give the entire state this type of complete coverage. Requesting the service of a helicopter is simple. Contact the nearest Maryland State Police Barrack or Installation, or you may go through your local fire board headquarters. For routine request or matters in which time is not of the essence, the number to call for the Aviation Division Headquarters office in Pikesville, Baltimore County, is 301-486-3101, extension 235 or 236, or 301-486-8446.

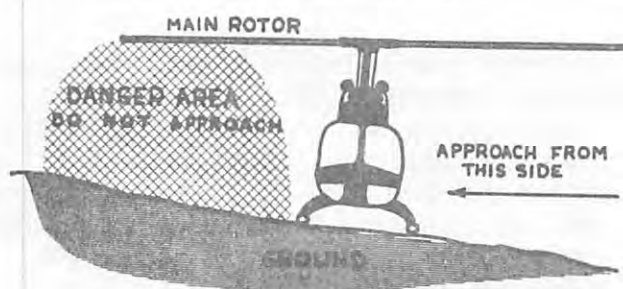
MISSIONS - Helicopters are dispatched according to their need and top priority is given to life-saving missions. The helicopters also participate in inter-hospital transports of critically ill or injured patients at the direction of SYSCOM (Systems Communications) of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medicine. The aircraft transport premature and neonatal babies from outlying hospitals to the Regional Intensive Care Nursery Units. Seriously burned patients are transported to the Intensive Care Burn Units. A new "Satelite" trauma unit has been installed at the Peninsula General Hospital to receive patients from the Lower Eastern Shore. Traffic patrol, criminal searches, search and rescue missions for lost or missing persons, fire fighting liaison and surveillance are just a few of the other missions performed by the helicopter crews.

WEATHER RESTRICTIONS - Generally speaking, the helicopters fly in most types of weather. However, thunderstorms, heavy snow, hail storms, thick fog, and severe high winds

preclude safe flight and the helicopters may be delayed. The flight minimums established for the helicopters are guided by FAA regulations and are based on VFR (visual flight rules). The minimums are: Daytime flights-600 feet AGL (above ground level) with one (1) mile forward visibility; and Nighttime flights-800 feet AGL with two (2) miles visibility.



LANDING AREAS - Safety requirements for helicopter landings is primary for the completion of our missions. Ground personnel, whether policemen or firemen, who have radio contact with the helicopter must advise the crew of the most desirable land zone nearest the scene. Ground personnel must check the entire landing zone for obstructions or obstacles such as trees, poles, ditches, signs, wires, etc., and advise the helicopter crew of these obstacles prior to the landing. Although a helicopter can hover straight up and down, this type of landing is the most dangerous configuration for the aircraft. A helicopter landing or take-off can be accomplished safer if it can be done similar to fixed wing aircraft, i.e. coming down at a slight angle to the ground while maintaining forward airspeed up to the touch down site. Normally, landing sites of 100 feet by 100 feet are safest for our operation.



Daytime landing zone requirements are relatively simple. Attempt to set up the largest open unobstructed landing zone possible such as a farm field, parking lot, dual lane boulevard or median strip.

Nighttime landings require that the border of the zone be marked by lighted flares. A circle or square pattern of at least 50-60 feet minimum is desired. Four to six flares are required. A crisscross or "X" type flare arrangement is not recommended. Flood or spot lights should not be aimed up at the

landing helicopter, but should illuminate the ground of the landing site.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO LOAD MED-EVAC PATIENT -

The observer will need assistance at the transport pickup scene with securing the patient on the litter, carrying him to the aircraft and loading the patient aboard. Firemen, policemen or civilians are utilized for this purpose. At the observers instruction, the person assisting will take a position at the bottom of the litter near the feet of the patient and assist in carrying the litter to the helicopter. The assistant will be instructed to place his end of the litter in the forward part of the aircraft first, with the observer guiding the head or top portion of the litter into the ship and securing it in place. The job of the assistant is then completed and he is instructed to back safely away from the aircraft.



INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION - The Maryland "Med-Evac" program came into existence in 1969 and has transported since then over 7,743 patients. The survival rate for these patients, most of whom suffered major trauma injuries, is approximately 83%. The primary reason attributed to such a high survival rate has been getting the patient to a properly staffed and equipped treatment center in the shortest possible time. The Maryland system continues to demonstrate that many lives can be saved when fire departments, ambulance and rescue squads, police personnel and hospital personnel work together for the good of the patient.

Cover letter

Sometime soon you may be called on to organize a search for a lost child. Or perhaps a hunter is overdue at day's end. Maybe a caver is hurt somewhere underground.

Who do you call for help? Sure, your staff is available, trained and ready. And you can count on other area agencies for support. But their time and energy may be limited. Many citizens will offer their help, of course, but they are generally unskilled and untrained in the complex business of search and rescue.

Do you know that a local volunteer organization has taken part in many search and rescue operations in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia at the request of local, state and federal officials? Do you know that this organization, trained and experienced in search and rescue skills and management, stands ready to assist you?

All it takes is a phone call to the Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group. Enclosed is an information sheet about the Group, describing its organization, qualifications and capabilities. The Group's help is available any time you need it.

You can enlist Group assistance for a search and rescue operation in your area by calling the Group Alert Officer at 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Alert Officer will immediately activate a Quick-Response Team to your location or, if required, will begin a general call-out of all Group members. In both cases, members will report to you or your deputy and will function under your command.

We certainly hope that you will not have an outdoor emergency requiring a search and rescue operation in your area. However, if the need arises, you can count on our help.

If you would like more information about the Group and its service to you, please call or write me at

Sincerely,



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440

NEWCOMB STATION

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

December 26, 1983

Dear Mr. Clatterbuck,

I represent a volunteer rescue organization, the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference Inc., (ASRC). I desire your help in approaching some issues which concern the ASRC, the VAVRS, and most importantly the people who become lost in the Commonwealth. As a representative of the ASRC, I should explain what we are and what we do.

The ASRC is an organization composed of two operational teams and a third group now being formed. The ASRC is a member of the Mountain Rescue Association, the National Association for Search And Rescue (NASAR), and the Virginia Search And Rescue Council. It is equipped to handle all types of terrain and weather conditions found on the East Coast. Many of our members have attended the NASAR Search Management School, and all our basic members are at least EMTS. (We have several paramedics, and our personal^{nel} presently run on seven different rescue squads in the state.) The ASRC has existed for about eight years, and has participated in approximately forty searches. We have worked with many different organizations here in Virginia: The Virginia Office of Emergency and Energy Services (VaOEES), the Shenandoah National Park, The Virginia National



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440
NEWCOMB STATION
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

Guard, The Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, Dogs East, the Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association, and the U. S. Army, and numerous rescue squads, police agencies and fire departments. I have enclosed a ^pamphlet from one of our teams, the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG_x). The main function of the ASRC is to help search for missing persons. This is done only in conjunction with the Responsible Agent, that person or agency officially in charge of the search, as set out by state law. We never supercede the authority of fire departments, rescue squads or police agencies. To help in the execution of a search, we can provide a trained, equipped manpower pool capable of managing searches (as taught under NASAR and Coast Guard Protocol) field team leaders trained in search strategies and tactics, and the skills and resources necessary to technical rescues.

All this background brings me to the first reason for writing this letter. The ASRC is a member of the Virginia Search And Rescue Council (VaSAR Council). As such, I am compiling a resource list to be sent to various state agencies listing the many resources available throughout the Commonwealth. This list will also be sent to other organizations outside the state. The list will advertise the resources available to those who otherwise may not be aware of their existence. I am hoping to include the VAVRS on this list. I have enclosed a working copy so that you can review it at your leisure.



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440

NEWCOMB STATION

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

Next I wish to invite your organization to send a representative to attend the next meeting of the SAR Council. It will be held on Saturday, January 14, at 10:00 am in room 105, Peabody Hall at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Many different organizations with an interest in SAR will be attending.

The third reason for this letter is one about which I have already spoken to Vice President Kelly Walters. We of the ASRC are hoping to join the VAVRS in some sort of special category appropriate to our status and the services we provide. We cannot, of course be considered as a full rescue squad, nor do we fall into the category of a contributing member. However, we and other groups throughout the state provide emergency rescue services and frequently work hand in hand with volunteer rescue squads. Some other such groups as Dogs East, The Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association, White Water Rescue Groups, Cave Rescue Teams, etc., may also be interested. Is there a membership category that would cover such organizations? What would it take to begin such a category? Membership of some sort in the VAVRS would aid us in our search activities by demonstrating that we are interested in working alongside the rescue squads in Virginia, not pushing them aside. The service we provide has many subtle points that are best learned through experience and special training. VAVRS membership as a special skills team would make it clear that we are a resource for other rescue agencies to call upon.



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440
NEWCOMB STATION
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

In early January, I would like to give you a phone call to discuss these issues and to confirm the VAVRS as an addition to the State Resource List.

Thank you for your help,

Gary H. Mechtel
Chairman ASRC
(804) 296-7276

Rt. 1 Box 328
Charlottesville, VA 22901
19 April 1977

Dear Tom and Larry,

I apologize for sending you a letter in this form, but it seems to be the most efficient way to get things done: I hate to type!

Keith and I would like to see the following items included on the agenda for the ASRC Board meeting. Anything else we can get to is gray.

- 1) Selection of officers. I'll have some remarks on this later.
- 2) Consideration of the Training Manual. This will entail consideration of the broader issue of precisely how we will interpret the bylaws as they instruct us to publish standards of procedure and competence. As you already know, Keith and I favor a Training Manual (or Guide, if you prefer) which follows the general format of the present draft: the Training Guide will specify which procedures and skills must be mastered for certification to the various levels, and the Technical Manuals will specify what the procedures are and what techniques are used to execute them. The SAROP is the only presently extant technical manual, and an incomplete version of the Mountain Rescue Manual is in draft form. We can be grateful that the SAROP seems to be pretty well accepted, but the Mountain Rescue Manual will undoubtedly come under fire. I hope that we can avoid that issue in its details at the meeting, but rather confine ourselves to the general issue of what the ASRC Publications should be like. The feeling here is that the Technical Manuals should provide sufficient standardization that personnel and equipment from any Group can be mixed with those of any other Group with no confusion and that the Training Guide should require that Certified Members know those standards.
- 3) General membership meeting. We need to hold a general membership meeting soon. Besides being required by law, a meeting would be very useful in creating a feeling of unity among the members. Right now the two groups seem to be forming up for a confrontation. That will never do. A general membership meeting will, I hope, help to dissipate the growing adversary atmosphere and replace it with one of cooperation and mutual respect.
- 4) Joint Training. This will have the same effects as a general membership meeting and will also help to make the procedural standards better known and more palatable. The improvement of our operational readiness hardly bears mentioning.

Rt. I box 328
Charlottesville, VA 22901
19 April 1977

Dear Tom and Larry,

I apologize for sending you a letter in this form, but it seems to be the most efficient way to get things done. I hate to type Keith and I would like to see the following items included on the agenda for the next board meeting. Anything else we can get to is happy.

- 1) Selection of officers. I'll have some remarks on this later.
- 2) Consideration of the Training Manual. This will entail consideration of the broader issues of precisely how we will interpret the phrase as they instruct us to publish standards of procedure and competence. As you already know, Keith and I favor a Training Manual (or Guide, if you prefer) which follows the general format of the present draft. The Training Guide will specify which procedures and skills must be mastered for certification at the various levels, and the Technical Manual will specify what the procedures are and what techniques are used to execute them. The latter is the only one currently existing manual, and an incomplete version of the Mountain Rescue Manual is in draft form. We can be grateful that the latter seems to be pretty well accepted, but the Mountain Rescue Manual will undoubtedly come under fire. I hope that we can avoid that in its details as the meeting, but rather confine ourselves to the general issue of what the Manual should be like. The feeling here is that the Technical Manual should provide sufficient standardization so that personnel can be mixed with those of any other group with no confusion and that the Training Guide should remain that certified leaders know those standards.

- 3) General membership meeting. We need to hold a general membership meeting soon. Besides being required by law, a meeting would be very useful in creating a feeling of unity among the members. Right now the two groups seem to be forming up for a confrontation that will never do. A general membership meeting will, I hope, help to dissolve the growing adversary atmosphere and replace it with one of cooperation and mutual respect.

- 4) Joint Training. This will have the same effects as a general membership meeting and will also help to make the procedures standard better known and more reliable. The improvement of our operational readiness hardly bears mentioning.

5) Finances. There are several questions here. What progress has been made toward tax exempt status? What and where is the \$400 donation you had coming when the bylaws were ratified? What is our present financial condition? What are our debts and how shall we liquidate them? You seem concerned that your members who have paid dues are resentful that we have not (although when I tried to resolve this problem some time ago, Tom told me that no one up there had paid dues). The membership here is unanimous that we not pay dues, however we are concerned that the ASRC be financially sound. We are now considering raiding some money to give (no strings) to the ASRC. If we do this, it is hoped that the dues problem will be resolved.

Anything else you want to discuss is fine with us; we just want to be sure to get to these things. It has been suggested that the issue of patches can be of symbolic importance in generating a cooperative spirit. If you would like to consider it--that's fine.

Now, on the subject of officers.....we would like to settle the issue of officers before the meeting. This will save us considerable time and grief at the actual meeting and will permit us to get on to more productive discussion. Our proposal is this:

Chairman: Larry. Keith is, of course, out of the question. I am perhaps somewhat tainted also. Although you two may in fact have quite similar views, Tom is perceived here as being much more strongly politically aligned. Larry would be most acceptable. (By the way, the chairman does not give up his vote.)

Vice Chairman: Yorke. For balance. Realistically though, the vice chairman is an impotent office until duties are assigned by the chairman. This means you have me on a leash until you can trust me. I do confess, however, that some time in the future I hope I will be given the task of preparing the operational standards.

Secretary: Tom. Public relations is a great concern of Tom's, and the office of secretary will permit him to continue the work he has already begun along this line. We have great confidence in his ability to do so very capably.

Treasurer: Keith. Since treasurer is not a policy making office, and no expenditures will be made except at the instruction of the entire board, there is no danger in giving it to Keith. Not that there was a choice left.

If these assignments are acceptable to you, let us know and we can formalize them at the meeting. If not, let's make an effort to resolve whatever problems there are before then.

I am still planning to attend the PVSARG meeting next week, and I look forward to seeing you both there.

Very truly yours,

Yorke

5. Minnesota. There are several questions here. What progress has been made toward tax exempt status? What and where is the \$400 donation you had coming when the bylaws were ratified? What is our present financial condition? What are our debts and how shall we liquidate them? You seem concerned that your members who have paid dues are resentful that we have not (although when I tried to resolve this problem some time ago, Tom told me that no one up there had paid dues). The membership here is unanimous that we not pay dues, however we are concerned that the dues be financially sound. We are now considering retaining money to give (no savings) to the A.M.C. If we do this, it is hoped that the dues problem will be resolved.

Anything else you want to discuss is fine with us; we just want to be sure to get to these things. It has been suggested that the issue of bylaws can be of symbolic importance in generating a cooperative spirit. It would like to consider it--that's fine.

Now, on the subject of officers....we would like to settle the issue of officers before the meeting. This will save us considerable time and expedite the actual meeting and will permit us to get on to more productive discussion. Our proposal is this:

Chairman: Harry. Keith is, of course, out of the question. I am perhaps somewhat tentative also. Although you two may in fact have quite similar views, Tom is received here as being much more strongly politically aligned. Harry would be most acceptable. By the way, the chairman does not give up his vote.

Vice Chairman: York. For balance. Realistically though, the vice chairman is an important office until duties are assigned by the chairman. This means you have me on a leash until you can trust me. I do confess, however, that some time in the future I hope will be given the task of regarding the operational standards.

Secretary: Tom. Public relations is a great concern of Tom's, and the office of secretary will permit him to continue the work he has already begun along this line. We have great confidence in his ability to do so very capably.

Treasurer: John. Since treasurer is not a policy making office, and no expenditures will be made except at the instruction of the entire board, there is no danger in giving it to John. Not that there was a choice left.

If these assignments are acceptable to you, let us know and we can formalize them at the meeting. If not, let's make an effort to resolve whatever problems there are before then.

I am still planning to attend the actual meeting next week, and I look forward to seeing you both there.

Charlottesville
17 August 1978

Dear Tom,

As I write this, I am not sure whether or not the SAROP will be ready to mail with this other stuff; I hope so. Anyway, here is the Radio SOP Crib Sheet, a report on the proposed Grid System, and some notes on a Commo Crib Sheet. I'll get a mission report together as soon as I can, but don't hold your breath.

The grid system comes with my most fervent entreaties to accept it. I've played with it a good bit and it seems to work very well. I don't need to tell you how much we need it. The mask itself is an 8 1/2" x 11" acetate sheet with the hachures drawn on with acetate ink and a border made from masking tape. No doubt, improvements can be made along this line. As I explained on the telephone, Xerox maps seem to be the way we are doing things. They are certainly practical in the field, and as long as a Xerox machine is readily available, it is convenient to make maps this way. BLMRG now has a nearly complete file of maps for the mountainous areas of Virginia and there is always a Xerox machine available at the Post Office (10¢ /page). I suggest that we lay in a stock of Gridded xerox maps of those areas where we are more than likely to be called (e.g. Catawba, Great Falls).

I'd like to call the Radio SOP Crib Sheet official at this point, but I will wait for your approval. I put a lot of thought into it so that if, at a later time, we want to expand and elaborate the radio system, the procedures on the Crib Sheet will not be obsolete.

Look over the Commo Crib Sheet and see what you think.

I don't want to get off on the Catawba operation too much, except for a couple of remarks. First, we will almost certainly be called back. There are roughly six searches per year there and Bob Monroe runs them. We ought to be prepared. The second is that my experiences on that operation have brought me nearly to the point of insisting that ASRC members wear the patch on missions, preferably on some sort of recognizable shirt. (I'm partial to blue chambray as being both highly serviceable and distinctive.) I would also urge people to get nametags. The appearance of professionalism is essential to gain the attention and respect of the people (both in and out of authority) that we must work with. If we want to be leaders -- and that is our primary role on a search like Catawba -- we need to stand out from the crowd.

After you left on Tuesday, 30 firefighters and rescuesquadsmen showed up to search, and Bob gave them all to me. As you may have noticed, I had taken off my shirt that morning so as not to soil it while I was in the field, and without it, I had difficulty being taken seriously, and had to go find the people who had been in the field to get information from them. On Wednesday, however, I wore the shirt, and searchers from other groups (rescue squads and fire companies) sought me out to report their experiences in the field. I had no difficulty commanding authority and I was less bothered by the merely curious. If I had my druthers, I would ask every Basic member to get a blue chambray work shirt, sew a patch on the left shoulder, and wear a name tag. This may seem Mickey Mouse, but it will help us to present a more professional appearance and thereby gain credibility in the field.

As Chris told you, BWMRG supplied some practice victims for a VSARDA exercise held near here last weekend. I attended as an ASRC observer. It was an interesting experience, and set me thinking about our relationship with VSARDA and, in general, the role of the ASRC in the AS community. I was careful not to do any negotiating with Alice Stanley about this, since that is your turf and I don't want to interfere, but I did try to leave the strong message that I wanted the ASRC and the VSARDA to grow together rather than apart. The members seemed reasonably receptive to this idea (and favorably impressed by my ability to work with them in the field), but Alice was quite defensive. I'm not sure exactly why, but I think it revolves, at least in part, around a naive view of the complexity of really good search coordination. I had the feeling that she viewed the ASRC as a largely useless appendage with a role only in filling in those few areas that dogs couldn't handle. She also seemed to be less confident of her outfit's capabilities than she would have liked; I certainly heard a lot of excuses from her about why they didn't look so good that particular weekend. Still, I was able to make pretty solid contact with the people I actually worked with in the field, and I see a bright future for both our groups.

If the future arrives as I would like it to, it would look something like this. The ASRC would be recognized by all responsible agencies and other SAR organizations as ready to supply three services:

- 1) A competent SAR coordinating and communications capability which could utilize and integrate all available SAR specialties.
- 2) Trained search Field Team Leaders who could utilize untrained volunteers to effectively perform search tasks in the field. The ASRC would also be prepared to field teams composed entirely of members to perform difficult tasks in severe weather or terrain.
- 3) A highly competent wilderness rescue capability. An ASRC rescue team would supply high-quality para-medical care in the field and transport the patient to a helispot or road for removal to a hospital.

VSARDA is a prime example of one of the "other organizations" mentioned above. That group would be organizationally independent of the ASRC so as to best provide for its own special needs, not be hampered by ASRC organizational and training requirements, and be free to engage in operations outside the "wilderness" area staked out by the ASRC. However an agreement would exist that whenever the ASRC conducts a search, the MC would be free to call on the VSARDA with the understanding that they would operate under ASRC standards, procedures, and direction, but also with the understanding that the MC would be well qualified to employ the dogs and well disposed to seek the advice and counsel of the VSARDA Operation Leader. Of course, ASRC standards and procedures would have to be compatible with VSARDA's needs. Under these circumstances, VSARDA would have no independent base operations, but its base personnel would be trained to work in an ASRC OPSECT and could free up ASRC members for use in the field.

If VSARDA were called into a wilderness search by the Responsible Agent, the Operation Leader would suggest that the ASRC be called to coordinate the operation, but ideally, of course, all responsible agencies would know that if a search is needed, the ASRC should be called in.

Similar arrangements would be worked out with other organizations, such as the CAP, VAVRS, and so forth, and the whole thing would have the blessing of OES.

I am well aware of your efforts in this direction and of the difficulties you have encountered on the way to realizing the ideal, but my recent dealings with VSARDA and the very cordial relations I enjoyed with Col. Jackson (CAP) at Catawba have led me to be very optimistic about the workability of this ideal and about our chances for achieving the kind of relationships with these two organizations that we need to realize it. If strong cooperative agreements can be struck among us in the near future, I think we can look forward to a dramatic improvement in our region's wilderness SAR capability.

Very best regards,
J. Oline

P.S. Base operations at the VSARDA exercise were conducted by Dalene Peterson. She asked me to send her some ~~ASRC~~ ^{ASRC} ~~done~~ ^{done} on ASRC operational procedures. I ~~will~~ ^{will} ~~instead~~ ^{instead} to do this unless you object. If you would rather do it yourself, her address is.

DALENE PETERSON

DOGUE, VA 22951

(703) 775-7209

Charlottesville
23 JUN 78

Dear Tom,

I talked to Brandon last night: the first weekend in July is definitely out for him. However, he readily agreed that we should go ahead without him. I still don't know whether Saturday or Sunday will be superior, but I am leaning toward Sunday morning -- particularly if I end up in Northern Virginia that weekend. I'll get back to you when I know what is happening.

Enclosed is the Mission Report for the LTSH affair. It could certainly stand going through another draft, but it will do as it is. The original is in the BRMRG files and I guess it should stay there until we can figure out what to do with these things. I hope you find the report useful.

There are a number of questions I would like to bring up at the meeting. Listed in more or less random order, here they are:

1) CAP

Can we arrange a cooperative agreement with Va. Wing? How should this be pursued? What sort of agreement do we want?

2) Training

We need to get the two groups together more, and joint and exchange training is one way to do it. Distance is a problem. What can we do to get more mutual training going? Why haven't I put together the mission staff school we need? What is the status of Don's committee? What is going on with vertical training? What is going on with Rescue Membership?

3) New Groups

There is some noise about a group in Lynchburg and one in Roanoke. How do we aid a new group? How do we charter a new group. Would it be worthwhile chartering the present groups?

4) Organization

Why haven't I done any work on the bylaws? Why can't we seem to get anything done? Who is going to do all the stuff we want to get done? Who will the new officers be? What is the state of our finances? Tax exempt status?

5) Publications

Here we go again. I am still working on the Mountain Rescue Manual. Will it ever be published? How will it be paid for? Do we want any other manuals?

I have answers to some of these questions and thoughts about all of them. I'm sure there are many more. As I explained on the phone, BRMRG wants the ASRC to be more active and to provide a firmer base for group operations.

Anyway, I'll be seeing you in a week or so.

Yoder

THIS ADDED PIECE IS JUST A ROUGH DRAFT OF A POSSIBLE SOURCE LIST THAT COULD BE SENT OUT TO THE RESPONSIBLE AGENTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS LIST AND RESPOND BACK TO ME WITH ANY CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS SENT OUT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF VAOEES.

JUNE 22, 1983

HEADING: VAOEES
SUB-HEADING, COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA SAR COMMITTEE.

DEAR SIR:

THIS IS A RESOURCE LIST OF SPECIAL AGENCIES IN VIRGINIA THAT MAY BE OF USE FOR SPECIAL RESCUES OR SEARCHES. THESE ORGANIZATIONS MAY BE CALLED UPON TO PROVIDE A SPECIAL SERVICE TO YOU OR YOUR CONSTITUENTS, WHEN CONVENTIONAL RESOURCES MAY NOT SUFFICE. THE CAPABILITIES OF EACH ORGANIZATION ARE GIVEN BELOW. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ALL THESE GROUPS ARE CAPABLE OF WORKING ALONE OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH EACH OTHER IN ORDER TO SERVE YOU, THE RESPONSIBLE AGENT.

IN ORDER TO CONTACT ANY OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS, WE ASK THAT YOU CALL THE VIRGINIA OFFICE OF ENERGY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, AT 804-323-2300. VAOEES CAN THEN CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS AND HELP COORDINATE THEIR RESPONSES.

I) AFRCC (AIR FORCE RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER)

THE OFFICIAL FEDERAL ORGANIZATION WITHIN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES TO COORDINATE SEARCH AND RESCUE RESOURCES. IN SUPPORT OF AUTHORIZED FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE AFRCC PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT SERVICE IN COORDINATING SEARCHES AND RESCUES. SPECIFICALLY, IT CAN PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ACCESS TO MILITARY, GOVERNMENT, AND VOLUNTEER RESOURCES THAT MAY BE UNKNOWN OR UNATTAINABLE TO THE LOCAL AGENT. IT IS LOCATED AT SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILLINOIS.

II) BRMRG (BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP)

THIS IS A MEMBER GROUP OF THE ASRC, (APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE), AND THE MRA, (THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION). ITS SERVICES INCLUDE ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING LOST-PERSON SEARCHES, AND CONDUCTING SPECIAL TECHNICAL RESCUES. IT IS LOCATED IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

III) CAP (CIVIL AIR PATROL)

THIS IS A CIVILIAN ADJUNCT TO THE AIR FORCE. ITS SERVICES INCLUDE ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING SEARCHES FOR MISSING AIRCRAFT, PARTICIPATING IN LOST-PERSON SEARCHES, AND OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES. HEADQUARTERS ARE IN RICHMOND, VA., BUT SQUADRONS ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

IV) CRCN (THE CAVE RESCUE COMMUNICATION NETWORK)

THIS A NETWORK FOR CONTACTING INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WHOSE SPECIAL ABILITIES ARE USED FOR CAVE RESCUES. MEMBERS ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT VIRGINIA AND ADJACENT STATES.

V) DOGS EAST

IT IS A UNIT WHOSE EXPERTISE IS IN USING DOGS IN LOST-PERSON SEARCHES ON LAND AND IN WATER. IT ALSO PROVIDES AID IN ORGANIZATING AND CONDUCTING LOST PERSON SEARCHES. IT IS LOCATED IN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA.

VI) PVSARG (THE POTOMAC VALLEY SEARCH AND RESCUE GROUP)

A MEMBER GROUP OF THE ASRC AND MRA. ITS SERVICES INCLUDE ORGANIZING

AND CONDUCTING LOST-PERSON SEARCHES AND CONDUCTING SPECIAL TECHNICAL RESCUES. IT IS LOCATED IN WASHINGTON DC.

VII) SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

THE PARK SERVICE IS WILLING TO OFFER ITS SERVICES IN AREAS ADJACENT TO THE PARK. THESE SERVICES INCLUDE MANPOWER AND THE ABILITY TO COORDINATE SEARCHES.

VIII) SMRG (SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP)

THIS IS A MEMBER OF THE ASRC AND MRA. ITS SERVICES INCLUDE ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING LOST PERSON-SEARCHES, AND CONDUCTING SPECIAL TECHNICAL RESCUES. IT IS LOCATED IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

IX) STRASBURG RESCUE SQUAD

THIS SQUAD IS LISTED FOR ITS TRACKING ABILITY, WHICH IS AVAILABLE OUTSIDE THE SQUAD'S IMMEDIATE COVERAGE AREA.

X) SWVASAR (SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA RESCUE GROUP)

THIS IS A UNIT OF MEDICALLY TRAINED PERSONS CAPABLE OF TECHNICAL RESCUE, BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND. IT ALSO PROVIDES TRACKING AND SEARCH SERVICES. IT IS LOCATED IN GILES CO..

XI) VAOEES (VIRGINIA OFFICE OF ENERGY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES)

THIS IS THE OFFICAL STATE AGENCY, AS DETERMINED BY STATE LAW, WHICH IS TO COORDINATE ENERGY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES WITHIN THE COMMOSWEALTH. IN PARTICULAR, IT HAS AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST LOCAL AGENCIES IN DEALING WITH ENERGY AND EMERGENCY PROBLEMS. THE NUMBER, BOTH IN EMERGENCIES AND NON-EMERGENCIES IS: 804-323-2300 . IT IS LOCATED IN RICHMOND VA..

XII) VAVRS (VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUADS)

VAVRS IS DIVIDED INTO TEN DISTRICTS. EACH HAS AN OFFICAL RESCUE COORDINATOR TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND DIRECTION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE ACTIVITIES. LOCATED THROUGHOUT VIRGINIA.

XIII) VIRGINIA STATE POLICE

THE STATE POLICE HAVE MANY RESOURCES AVAILABLE THAT MAY BE USED FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE E.G. GROUND SCENTING DOGS, HELICOPTERS, ETC.

XIV) VSARDA (VIRGINIA SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG ASSOCIATION)

THIS UNIT'S EXPERTISE IS IN USING AIR-SCENTING DOGS IN LOST-PERSON SEARCHES. IT ALSO PROVIDES AID IN ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING LOST PERSON SEARCHES. IT IS LOCATED IN THORNBURG, VA. (NEAR FREDERICKSBURG).

WE HOPE THIS LIST WILL BENEFIT YOU IN DEALING WITH THE UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY ARISE ON AN IRREGULAR BASIS.

THANKYOU
VAOEES ?????????
VASARC ?????????

Route 1, Box 509
Norton, Virginia 24273

August 29, 1983

Blueridge Mountain Rescue Group
Appalachian Search & rescue Conference, Inc.
P O Box 440, Newcomb Station
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

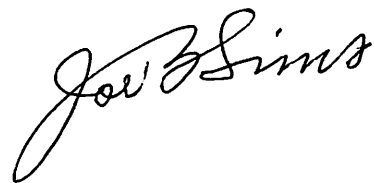
Attention: Al Baker
Gary Mechtel
Dean Wampler
Greg Shea
Bob Koester
Harry Blumner
Karen Graham
Dan Shamburek

I wish to express my thanks to each of you for a job well done in the location of my son, Joe L. Sims, who was lost in stone mountain in Lee County Virginia. It was as if a miracle was performed, or so it seemed to my wife and me.

I would like to have the article that was or will be included in your trade publication.

I am enclosing a small donation to a worthwhile group of dedicated people. This is not an attempt to pay for what you did for us, it is simply a small expression of appreciation on our part. You can never know how many real and helpful people are left unless you have gone through what we did.

Again, THANKS WITH ALL OUR HEARTS.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe L. Sims". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

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Surviving are his father, Jack
Brumit of Clintwood; his mother,
Mrs. Frances Biggs of Annandale;
two brothers, Paul Brumit of
Battle Creek, Mich., and Mark
Brumit of Arlington; and paternal
grandmother, Mrs. Delphia
Brumit of Clintwood.

Graveside services will be
conducted at the John Mullins
Cemetery, Route 3, Clintwood at 2
p.m. Tuesday (today) with the
Rev. L. Myers Mullins officiating.

WILLIAM THOMAS JR.

William Thomas Jr., 65, of 420
Blondell Avenue, Appalachia, died
Saturday at the Lonesome Pine
Hospital.

He was a lifelong resident of
Wise County and was a retired
Westmoreland Coal Co. employee.
He was a member of Dunbar
United Methodist Church and very
active in several fraternal
organizations.

He was a veteran of World War
II, having served in the U.S.
Marine Corps. He served as
Worshipful Master of the
Appalachia AF and AM Masonic
Lodge 229; was a member of
Stevenson R.A. Chapter 19; was a
past commander of Knights
Templars Cyrene Commandery
21; served as Worthy Patron of
Appalachia Chapter - Order of
Eastern Star 26; was the
secretary-treasurer of the Powell
Valley Shrine Club; and was
lieutenant commander of the
Legion of Honor Kazim Temple.

Surviving are his wife, Beatrice
Thomas; two daughters, Mrs.
Janice L. Taylor of Blackwater and
Mrs. Diana Muron of Birmingham,
Ala.; two sons, Wayne Thomas of
Kingsport, Tenn., and William
Thomas III of Wise; one sister,
Mrs. Trula Smith of Fort Ritchy,
Fla.; one brother, Ernest J.
Thomas of Wise; and four
grandchildren.

Funeral services will be
conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday
(today) in the Roy A. Green
Funeral Home Chapel with the
Rev. Henry Lane officiating.
Masonic graveside services will be
conducted at the Powell Valley
Memorial Gardens by the
Appalachia Lodge 229 AF and AM.

presented to college

A beautiful color photograph of
the late Delegate Orby L. Cantrell
was recently presented to Clinch
Valley College of the University of
Virginia by Delegate Cantrell's
daughters, Mrs. Imogene Sturgill
and Mrs. Carolyn Baker. The
photograph was presented to the
College to be hung in the entrance
of Cantrell Hall. The photograph
was taken by Morris Burchette of
Norton.

When presented the photograph
Chancellor Joseph C. Smiddy said
"Delebate Orby L. Cantrell,
through his long and dedicated
service to the people of Virginia
and especially to the people of
Southwest Virginia, distinguished
himself in so many ways it would be
impossible to list all of them.
Certainly one of his most important
contributions would be his work
with us here at Clinch Valley
College. Delegate Cantrell grew
up in Southwest Virginia and knew
the problems our young people had
in obtaining a college education.

This gave him a burning desire to
bring an opportunity to attend
college to all of our people. He not
only worked at Clinch Valley to
bring this opportunity about; he
also gave this same measure of
devotion as he helped in the
founding and development of
Mountain Empire Community
College."

Delegate Cantrell's hand can be
seen in every building and every
inch of progress that has ever been
made at Clinch Valley College.
Chancellor Smiddy noted that
Orby's grandsons, Danny Hopkins
and Robbie Sturgill are both
graduates of Clinch Valley College.

"As Clinch Valley College hangs
this beautiful photograph in the
entrance of our Student Union
building named for Delegate
Cantrell, we just hope that the
College will serve our students
with the same kind of quality and
devotion that Delegate Cantrell
gave to all the people in Southwest
Virginia," Smiddy said.

Sims family expresses gratitude for rescue efforts

The family of Joe L. Sims is
overwhelmed with the aid, efforts,
dedication, time and expertise
displayed in the recent search for
their son.

Joe B. Sims, the father of Joe L.
says, "I have never seen anything
like the concern shown by so many
people during the five days that our
son was missing."

"Our thanks and gratitude are
deep felt and it would be impossible
to list the people and organizations
that devoted so much time and
expertise in searching for our son.
Many individuals, organizations,
rescue squads, churches, friends
and total strangers, gave so much
and showed great concern. The

work of the search dogs was
outstanding", Sims went on to say.

"We came to this area 15 years
ago to make our home here and I am
delighted we have had such a
wonderful place; full of concern for
its people.

"I am scared to use names
because there were so many
organizations and individuals that
went all out to help us that I might
overlook someone or some
organization unintentionally. It is
amazing what was done."

"We are grateful God has
returned our son and provided so
many wonderful people and
organizations to help us", Sims
concluded.

BEST!

Captain D's
4 Can Eat For \$6.
SUMMER SAVINGS

Use these coupons one at a time or all at once.
Either way you'll get four delicious meals for



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

R. MICHAEL MARSH, PH.D.
DIRECTOR

Catawba Hospital, Catawba, Virginia 24070

An Intensive Treatment Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
AND MENTAL RETARDATION

September 13, 1983

Mr. Robert Koester
Appalachian Search & Rescue Group
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group
Post Office Box 440
Newcomb Hall Station
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904

Dear Mr. Koester:

On behalf of the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Dr. Joseph Bevilacqua, and myself, I would like to thank you for the services that you and your organization rendered in the search for our patient, Ms. Arlena Garrett.

I know that our failure to find Ms. Garrett was disappointing to you and your team, however, your persistent efforts in traversing mountainous terrain during extremely hot weather for long hours and for several days with little opportunity to rest, is reflective of your dedicated and well trained search team. Your efforts are appreciated and I will be sure to inform you of any further developments which would be of interest to you in this matter.

Enclosed please find a contribution to your organization in the amount of \$200.00 which I hope will help defray some of the out-of-pocket costs to your organization.

Thank you again for participating in a most difficult search.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Michael Marsh".

R. Michael Marsh, Ph.D.
Director

RMM:swh

Enclosure

COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

Office of the Commissioner of Health

Department of Health and Human Services

Washington, D.C.

Mr. Robert A. [Name]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

Dear Mr. [Name]:

Thank you for your letter of [Date] regarding [Subject].

I am pleased to inform you that your request for [Subject] has been approved. The [Subject] will be provided to you as soon as possible. Please contact [Name] at [Phone Number] for further information.

I am sorry that I cannot provide you with a more definitive answer at this time. The [Subject] is still under review, and I will contact you again once a final decision has been reached. In the meantime, please continue to keep me informed of any developments.

I am sure that you will understand the need for thorough review in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

[Signature]
[Name]
[Title]

Very truly yours,
[Name]

Joe B. Sims
Route 1, Box 141
Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219

August 1, 1984

Appalachian SAR Conference
Blue Ridge Mtn. Rescue Gp.
P. O. Box 440 Newcomb Sta.
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

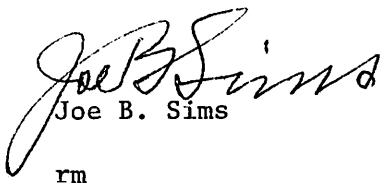
Attention: Al Barker
Dan Shamburak
Diara Simons
Harry Blumner
Dean Wampler
Karen Graham

This is just a short note to express my thanks to each of you for showing up to help locate my son Joe, while he was lost on Big Black Mountain, even though he made it out on his own.

It is embarrassing to me for having been so upset. He and I have tried to re-trace his tracks by traversing the roads and looking at topo-maps of the area. From what I see you missed one heck of an experience. He was in a real rugged area and there is no way of knowing how many miles he covered.

It is really gratifying to me to know that we have a group of dedicated people like you. Thank you so much.

Yours,


Joe B. Sims

rm

Joe B. Sims
Route 1, Box 141
Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219

August 1, 1984

Appalachian SAR Conference
Blue Ridge Mtn. Rescue Gp.
P.O. Box 440 Newcomb Sta.
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Attention: Al Barker

Barry
Dean
Karen Graham

This is just a short note to express my thanks to each of you for showing up to help locate my son Joe, while he was lost on Big Black Mountain, even though he made it out on his own.

It is embarrassing to me for having been so upset. He and I have tried to re-trace his tracks by traversing the roads and looking at topo-maps of the area. From what I see you missed one heck of an experience. He was in a real rugged area and there is no way of knowing how many miles he covered.

It is really gratifying to me to know that we have a group of dedicated people like you. Thank you so much.

Yours,

Joe B. Sims



IN REPLY REFER TO:

A7613

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK
LURAY, VIRGINIA 22835

August 4, 1981

Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group
P.O. Box 440
Newcomb Station
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Dear Sir:

On July 21, 1981, we conducted a major search and rescue operation for a missing person in the South District of Shenandoah National Park. The search effort included seven volunteers from your organization. Their names are as follows: David Husk, Andrew Johnson, Gary Mechtel, Dave Perlmutter, Dan Shamburek, Henry St. Clair and Dean Wampler.

Our entire staff was very impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism demonstrated by these men. Please extend to the above folks our thanks again for a job well done. Their assistance was most helpful to us at a time when our resources were so thinly stretched.

Sincerely yours,

Larry L. Hikel
Chief Park Ranger

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

E. S. KITCHEN, JR., SHERIFF
TELEPHONE (804) 246-5361



COUNTY OF SUSSEX, VIRGINIA
P. O. BOX 1326 SUSSEX COURTHOUSE, VIRGINIA 23884

September 24, 1984

Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference
Post Office Box 440
Newcomb Hall Station
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904

Dear Team,

I would like to take this time to thank you for your assistance in locating Mr. Williams this past weekend, without your help the search would not have been successful.

If at any time we can be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to contact us.

Thanking you again.

Sincerely,

E. S. Kitchen, Jr.

E. S. Kitchen, Jr.
Sheriff

ESKjr/kpb

227 Highland Street
Berlin, MA 01503

October 8, 1984

Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group
Box 440, Newcomb Hall Station
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904

Gentlemen:

We want you to know how truly thankful and appreciative we all are for your help in the search for Oluf Bentzen in Shenandoah National Park during July 27 and 28. Our delay in writing to you was caused by the death of Beezy Bentzen's father (William Girkin) a few days after our arrival home from Shenandoah.

The kindness and helpfulness as well as the great skill and dedication demonstrated by all participants meant so much to us during the hours of waiting. As we sat through the chilly night by the fire provided by rangers and other campers we were reassured as well as warmed. The way in which we were kept abreast of the strategies and progress of the search was very helpful. The organization and conduct of the search reflected a high degree of training and expertise as well as commitment of each individual and group. We were especially impressed at the way people worked together. You are all justly proud of your participation in search and rescue.

We know that Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group went to great trouble and expense on our behalf, and that many individuals volunteered their time and expertise. It certainly makes us proud of and thankful for the spirit of caring and volunteerism characteristic of the United States.

Mr. Oluf Bentzen is now back home in Denmark, and his bruises and abrasions have healed nicely. He is now able to accept the reality of his being lost, and the enormity of your efforts in bringing him back safely. He has still not been able to recall just how he got lost or how he happened to leave the trail. We will probably never have answers to those questions. He, and we, will all go to greater lengths in the future to be sure he doesn't get lost again.

111 Highland Street
Boston, MA 02111

October 8, 1964

Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group
Box 440, Newcombs Hill Station
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904

Gentlemen:

I want you to know how truly thankful and appreciative we are for your help in the search for Bill Hunter in the mountains. Your help during July 27 and 28, 1964, was a great help to us. We are sorry that the search was not successful, but the death of Bill Hunter's father (William Clifton) a few days after our arrival home from the mountains.

The kindness and helpfulness of the group as well as the group skill and dedication demonstrated by all participants were so much to us during the hours of waiting. As we sat through the chilly night by the fire provided by rangers and other persons we were reassured as well as warmed. The way in which we were kept abreast of the progress and progress of the search was very helpful. The organization and conduct of the search reflected a high degree of training and experience as well as a commitment of each individual and group. We were especially impressed at the way people worked together. You are all truly good at your participation in search and rescue.

We know that Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group went to great lengths to find our father, and that your help was a great help to us. We are grateful for the spirit of caring and understanding characteristic of the Blue Ridge.

Mr. Bill Hunter is now back home in New York, and his business and activities have been nicely. It is now up to him to decide the future of his father's estate, and the ownership of your father's property. It has still not been able to locate him, but we are sure that he has happened to leave the trail. We will probably never have answers to those questions. We, and we, will all be in greater danger in the future to be sure. Thank you for your help.

As a token of our appreciation for your part in the joint search, we are sending a check for \$500.00 to the Shenandoah Natural History Association-Life Support Fund. We understand that equipment purchased by this fund is available for all search and rescue operations in the Shenandoah area and that all the groups who helped us will benefit by it.

We extend to you our heartfelt thanks for your service to us.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steen + Beezy Bentzen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steen & Beezy Bentzen

P. G. BROCKWELL, JR., SHERIFF

BRUNSWICK COUNTY
LAWRENCEVILLE, VIRGINIA 23868

December 27, 1984

Appalachian Search & Rescue Group
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group
P. O. Box 440
Newcomb Hall Station
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904

Dear Searchers:

On behalf of the Brunswick County Sheriff's department I would like to thank you for your assistance in the search for the missing Mr. Wrenn the week-end of Dec. 22nd. For you to come at such a busy season was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

P. G. Brockwell Jr.

P. G. Brockwell, Jr.

By P. J.

PGBjr/pj



JOHN R. ISOM
SHERIFF

COUNTY OF LOUDOUN SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 229
LEESBURG, VIRGINIA 22075



(703) 777-0408
Metro (703) 471-1181

August 26, 1985

Appalachian Trail
%Al Baker
P.O. Box 440
Newcomb Station
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

Dear Mr. Baker:

I wish to thank you for your help during the recent investigation of the Demaria case. The circumstances surrounding this difficult situation made it imperative that we have additional manpower.

The Demaria family has expressed its gratitude for your efforts and has asked me to convey that message to you. Your efforts aided the Department's search significantly, and I am most appreciative.

Sincerely,

John R. Isom
Sheriff

JRI:cg



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Shenandoah National Park
Route 4, Box 292
Luray, Virginia 22835-9051

IN REPLY REFER TO

October 8, 1986

A34

Mr. Al Baker and Mr. Brian Wheeler
Appalachian Search and Rescue Council
P. O. Box 440
Newcomb Hall Station
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904

Dear Mr. Baker and Mr. Wheeler:

I want to express my sincerest thanks to the Appalachian Search and Rescue Council for gearing up to respond to the South District of the Park to search for Mr. Cassady on Friday night, September 26.

While Mr. Cassady was found in good physical condition, his past medical history indicated an urgency to the search process. Although we notified you of the find before any members were dispatched to Simmons Gap, we greatly appreciate both of you mobilizing your people for the search.

Thanks again. We look forward to working closely with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Hakel
Acting Superintendent



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK
ROUTE 4, BOX 292
LURAY, VIRGINIA 22835-9051
703/999-2243

IN REPLY REFER TO

July 18, 1984

P86

Dear Search and Rescue Unit Leader:

I really appreciate your units' participation in the tracking course on July 7 and 8. Ab felt the course went very well primarily because of the great student participation. I feel the same way about the great class participation and sacrifices everyone made to attend that weekend. I'm enclosing the tracking form Ab asked that we copy for you. I hope the course proves worthwhile to your organization.

Sincerely,

William J. Pierce
Assistant Chief Park Ranger

Enclosures



CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS

VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION

2400 WASHINGTON AVENUE
NEWPORT NEWS, VA. 23607
(804) 247-8451

24 January 1986

Appalachian Search & Rescue
P. O. Box 440
Newcomb Station
Charlottesville, Va 22904

Your prompt response to our request for assistance in the search conducted at Newport News Park on 15 January 1986 deserves an expression of appreciation. The professionalism displayed by your organization helped bring a difficult situation to a successful conclusion.

The compassion expressed through your efforts speaks highly of your organization and is very reassuring to us in the City of Newport News. Please feel free to call upon us for any assistance we may be able to render to you in the future.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. B. Burroughs", is written over the typed name.

R. B. Burroughs, Director
Parks and Recreation
2400 Washington Avenue
Newport News, Va 23607

cc: Susan D. Walston, Superintendent of Parks
V. W. Ramey, Park Supervisor, area II

VWR/rse



"A Volunteer Organization"

STAFFORD COUNTY VOL. RESCUE SQUAD, INC.

P. O. BOX 414
STAFFORD, VIRGINIA 22554

September 2, 1986

Appalachian Search and Rescue
Conference, Inc.
Post Office Box 440
Newcomb Station
Charlottesville, Va 22904

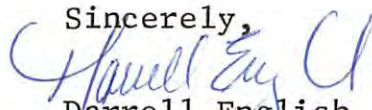
Appalachian Search and Rescue;

The Stafford Rescue Squad would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for your assistance during the search and Rescue efforts of August 28 and 29th at Marion Manor .

The joint efforts and quick response of organizations such as yours made things go more smoothly for all concerned.

Again we thank you, if the Stafford Rescue Squad can be of assistance to you please feel free to call on us.

Sincerely,


Darrell English
Rescue Chief One

Ashby W. Olinger
Sheriff



50 Lee Street
Warrenton, Virginia 22186
(703) 347-3300

July 31, 1986

Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference
P.O. Box 440
Newcomb Station
Charlottesville, Va. 22904

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to personally thank you for your assistance in the search of an elderly, senile gentleman, who wandered away from his home on July 13, 1986 in Fauquier County. If it had not been for your assistance the search would have been much more difficult.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. W. Olinger".

A. W. Olinger
Sheriff

AWO/np

★ Rescue

Continued From Page B1

By **OVERTON McGEHEE**
of The Progress Staff**Charlottesville
Group Saves
Lost Woman**

BERGTON — A Charlottesville area rescue group was instrumental in finding an 80-year-old woman Saturday who had been missing all week in the rugged terrain of western Rockingham County.

Grace Vaughan was found unharmed Saturday, by a search team led by Michelle Hegmon of Charlottesville, a member of Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group, a local volunteer organization trained in mountain search-and-rescue operations.

Ms. Hegmon spotted Mrs. Vaughan lying in a rock creek bed about two miles from where she disappeared last Monday.

"It's a miracle," said Barry Wittig of the Broadway Rescue Squad. He said the woman probably would have died if she had stayed in the woods for another day.

Mrs. Vaughan had disappeared Monday while ga-

thering mushrooms with her 85-year-old husband, Bernie Vaughan, and a neighbor.

About 100 persons had been taking part in the search. Rescue workers found a basket filled with mushrooms Friday about a mile and a half from where Mrs. Vaughan was last seen.

The Charlottesville group specializes in organizing volunteer searches and helped organize the ground search units including Civil Air Patrol members, rescue squads, fire departments and other volunteers. Gary Mechtel of Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue and Lt. Willong of the Civil Air Patrol supervised the search teams after being called into the search Wednesday.

Throughout the week, search dogs were used from the state police and the Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association.

See **RESCUE**, Page B3

The woman was evacuated about three-quarters of a mile down the steep stream bed by a team led by James Vassar of the rescue group after she was found about 10:20 a.m. by the team of CAP and other volunteers led by Wegmon.

Mechtel said the typical search strategy involves looking at the terrain and thinking where someone would go.

"People usually go downhill in the mountains," he said. "But the basket was found uphill from where she was last seen."

Rescue officials estimated she may have walked several miles. She had not eaten anything and had very little or no water.

In August of this year the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group was heavily involved in the search for Mrs. Grace Vaughan, a resident of Rockingham County. The success of the search was no accident, but rather the result of coordination and cooperation between the various agencies involved.

The long years of Group experience and training allowed the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group to add great strength to the search effort. In addition to our field operations, we have presented slide shows and lectures on outdoors safety, survival and wilderness first aid. Active in search and rescue for the last six years, the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group is a member of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, which was incorporated in 1975. The Conference grew out of concern for the search and rescue situation in the region of Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland.

The Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group was established in 1974. We have always been mainly comprised of University of Virginia students. The Group has been awarded a grant from the federal government, which will further our ability to provide the region with outdoorsmen equipped to effectively deal with search and rescue situations. We ask your help in meeting this goal.

✓
2117½ N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
1987 October 30

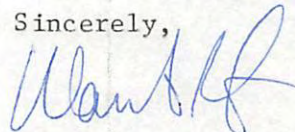
Appalachian Search!
Box 440
Newcomb Hall Station
Charlottesville, VA 22904

Dear Editor:

From the point of view of trying to understand what series of events befell a subject which necessitated a SAR effort, I often find the SAR summaries printed in Appalachian Search! disappointingly incomplete.

In particular, despite the extensive discussion of the Noepel incident in the newsletter, I was still left puzzling over what indeed had happened to Mark Noepel - an individual with a seemingly impeccable background of outdoors experience.

Sincerely,



Warren A. Potas



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440
NEWCOMB STATION
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

16 December 1986

E. Earl Bishop
7807 Dasher Rd.
Richmond, Va. 23229

Dear Mr. Bishop,

The Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc. (ASRC) is an all volunteer agency dedicated to saving lives in the outdoors by providing wilderness Search and Rescue (SAR) services across the mid-Atlantic region. Currently, the Conference is divided into five groups: the Blue Ridge Mtn. Rescue Group in Charlottesville; the Shenandoah Mtn. Rescue Group in Washington D.C.; the South West Va. Mtn. Rescue Group in Blacksburg; the Allegheny Mtn. Rescue Group in Pittsburgh; and the Richmond Search and Rescue Group in Richmond.

Usually called out by the Virginia Department of Emergency Services after a request from a local law enforcement agency or state police, the ASRC has participated in 30 incidents in 1986 around the region. The bulk of our mission load involves lost persons or downed aircraft in Virginia.

As the Virginia Emergency Coordinator for ARES, I am writing you concerning a proposed mutual-aid arrangement with ARES. Many HAM radio operators have been involved with the ASRC over the years. This past year, there has been much interest in using HAM radio operators on SAR incidents. In November, the ARES in Augusta and Rockingham Counties provided expert assistance for a search in that area. We have also worked with HAMS and REACT clubs throughout Northern Virginia and especially York, Warren, and Loudoun Counties.

The ASRC has its own communications network operation on highband VHF. Obviously, however, HAMS provide search managers with a valuable resource: highly skilled operators; additional communications equipment; repeater access; and long range communications to name a few.

As I mentioned, we have worked with HAMS before, but no preplan has been followed for their callout on SAR incidents in Virginia involving Va. SAR Council agencies. The ASRC would like to suggest that we formulate such a plan. I have discussed this at length with Doug Edwards (KA4NWK) and Bill Day (N4AOP), an Associate Member of the Conference for almost Two years.

I recently received a copy of the Va. ARES EC list from Doug. This will greatly assist us in contacting the appropriate ARES personnel. Previously it has been difficult to contact someone at odd hours in the many counties we have had missions in. Updated copies of the EC List and a written plan regarding how the ASRC and ARES might interface on incidents, would go make a callout go much smoother. I can envision using properly equipped HAMS as radio operators on field teams, as base communications personnel, and to relay communications back to our dispatch centers and DES when phone lines are not available. These operational details would all need to be worked out.

The ASRC and ARES both provide valuable volunteer services. I believe with the more frequent use of HAMS in SAR, we can greatly help the missing or lost person. In addition, it provides an opportunity for your people to do what they do best.

I am planning to make a presentation on the ASRC to both the Augusta/Rockingham and Charlottesville HAM Clubs sometime in the next few months. The ASRC is also planning to involve these clubs on a simulated incident this Spring. I would be happy to arrange a presentation for the Richmond Club too. We would like to learn more about your capabilities and also introduce your members to SAR.

The Virginia Search and Rescue Council is made up of the many of the Volunteer and professional agencies providing SAR resources in Virginia, including the ASRC. The Council, which meets every three months, has asked me to invite you to represent ARES at their next meeting on 31 January 1986 at 1030am at Va. DES in Richmond. For further information on the meeting, please feel free to contact the Chairman, Gary Mechtel, whose phone number and address are inclosed.

I am anxious to hear what you think of this plan. Please contact me if you have any questions. I will be returning to Charlottesville from a vacation the first week in January. Mark Pennington and Ralph Wilfong of Virginia DES and Bill Day are also good sources for information on the Conference. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Wheeler
Board of Directors, ASRC

cc: Doud Edwards
Gary Mechtel



APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440
NEWCOMB STATION
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904

December 20, 1987

Connie Smith, Executive Director
Blue Ridge EMS Council, Inc.
P.O. Box 2164
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Dear Connie,

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference (ASRC). I have enclosed several ASRC documents, newsletters, brochures, training information, and applications which hopefully will answer any questions you may have about the ASRC.

Currently, the ASRC is divided into six groups across Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. Since the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG) is closest to Lynchburg, I would encourage any potential members to attend a few training sessions in Charlottesville (see enclosed schedule). Contact the group's Training Officer Beth Pinkney several days beforehand to confirm location and time of the training event. You may also contact Beth regarding applications for membership.

The enclosed ASRC Constitution and Bylaws might help you if you wish to form your own SAR group, or a group that might wish to join the Conference. Becoming an ASRC group is a lengthy process and BRMRG has already made commitments to support newer and probationary groups in Tidewater and Richmond. This should in no way discourage you from attending our training, joining the Charlottesville group, or forming your own team. As the mission load for SAR teams has increased in recent years, so has the need for trained volunteers!

Finally, you will also find some information related to the Virginia Department of Emergency Services SAR Training Certification Program. Va. DES frequently offers excellent training sessions which your people may wish to attend. Also, a Porter B. Echols, M.D. in Lynchburg has contacted us a few times in the past several years requesting information on the ASRC. Mr. Echols might be interested in your efforts to form a SAR group. I have enclosed his address.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to write us or call our office at (804) 924-3472. We will be glad to help in any way possible.

Sincerely,


Brian A. Wheeler
Secretary, ASRC

Enclosures / baw



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440
NEWCOMB STATION
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

27 June 1986

Shenandoah Natural History Association
c/o Bill Pierce, Assistant Chief Park Ranger
Shenandoah National Park
Luray, Virginia 22835

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference would like to thank you for your recent contribution! We greatly appreciate your support in our project to build a new type of electronic Direction Finder for downed aircraft.

I regret that we have been delayed in conveying our gratitude. The past few months have been very busy and have just recently finished the unit! Still in the initial testing stages, we hope to have it operational very soon. At this time, we plan to demonstrate its capabilities to those Park personnel and any of your people who are interested. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Again, thank you. As an all volunteer agency, we often find money for new equipment hard to come by and your donation helps greatly! We look forward to talking to you soon. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Wheeler
Secretary, ASRC

cc: Bill Pierce
baw



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440
NEWCOMB STATION
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904

8 June 1986

Terry Stanton
RD 1 Box 41
Selins Grove, PA 17870

Dear Terry,

I enjoyed our recent conversation on the phone. It is always nice to hear from new people interested in the Conference.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the vertical rescue training session originally scheduled for 14 June. A group of people from Brazil is visiting our Country and we have been asked to present a vertical and semi-technical rescue demonstration for them. They are here to learn about our EMS systems, SAR, disaster preparedness, and other emergency operations. Obviously this is an important opportunity for our group, which is why we made the schedule change.

I hope you will consider coming to some of our other training sessions. Enclosed is the Charlottesville group's schedule and the names and addresses from which you can receive our newsletter and other training schedules. Hope to see you get involved!

Sincerely,

Brian A. Wheeler
Secretary, ASRC

baw



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440
NEWCOMB STATION
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904

Appalachian Search!, Newsletter of the ASRC

Published on a bimonthly basis. Yearly subscriptions are \$5.00
payable by check made out to "The Treasurer - SMRG"
c/o PATC
1718 N Street, NW
Washington D.C. 20036

Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group - Pittsburgh, PA

Contact: Keith Conover (412) 561-3413
36 Robinhood Rd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group - Washington, D.C.

Contact: Paul Torrence, Training Officer (301) 977-2102
Shenandoah Mtn. Rescue Group
c/o PATC
1718 N Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440

NEWCOMB STATION

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

27 June 1986

Sarah P. White
c/o Shenandoah National Park
Rt. 4 Box 292
Luray, Virginia 22835

Dear Sarah,

Hello! Thank you for your postcard and interest in the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference (ASRC). I would assume from your address that you are a Park Ranger, but I do not think we have had the pleasure of meeting before. I have enclosed a brochure which hopefully will answer any questions you may have about the ASRC. Currently, the Conference is divided into four groups across Virginia and Pennsylvania: in Charlottesville, the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG); in the Washington, D.C. area, the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG); in Blacksburg, the Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group (SWVMRG); and in Pittsburgh, the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG).

Since you are closest to the Washington group, I have enclosed the phone number of Paul Torrence, SMRG's Training Officer. He would be more than happy to talk to you about the Conference and SMRG's upcoming training sessions. Also enclosed is a training schedule for the Shenandoah group. If you are interested in attending any of these sessions or becoming a member at any level, please give Paul a call.

The Conference is always looking for new members! We have had the pleasure of working frequently with many of SNP's rangers on various incidents over the years. Kris Bardsley, Kenny Slay, and Greg Stiles in the Northern District could tell you about our group if you haven't already talked with them. Attached is a handout we have used for several years describing our levels of membership. We are in the process of revising it at this time, but I thought you might like to see a copy. I hope we will be hearing from or seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Brian A. Wheeler
Secretary, ASRC

cc: Paul Torrence
baw



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440
NEWCOMB STATION
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

Paul Torrence, SMRG Training Officer
(301) 977-2102.
c/o PATC
1718 N Street NW
Washington D.C. 20036

Appalachian Search! , Newsletter of the ASRC

Published on a bimonthly basis. Yearly subscriptions are \$5.00 payable by check made out to "The Treasurer - SMRG" to the above address.

August 18, 1986

Susan D. McHenry
Director
Division of Emergency Services
Department of Health
Commonwealth of Virginia
1102 Madison Building
109 Governor St.
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Susan D. McHenry,

Recently, you requested some information about the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group from Dr. Christoph. As you are aware, we are attempting to allow our EMT-ST and above to use their skills, at least at the EMT-ST level, throughout the Commonwealth. I realize this might take some time, but I feel the benefit to future patients is worth the trouble.

The Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG) is an all volunteer wilderness search and rescue organization that is a member of the Thomas Jefferson EMS district. However, we are not currently an EMS organization. At some point I realize the group will need to fill out a formal application. You may recall from the disaster seminar this year, we made a presentation on the Henson Aircraft Incident. However, in public we refer to ourselves as the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference (ASRC). Actually, three groups make up the conference, a group in Washington D.C., Blacksburg, and ourselves in Charlottesville. Furthermore, members of BRMRG reside in Charlottesville and Richmond. For the purposes of this ALS request, only the members from the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group are to be considered. However, at a later date we might wish to include the entire conference.

Number and types of calls

Our needs are quite similar to the park medic program. Since we deal in wilderness search and rescue, we are faced with long evacuation times (typically five hours for injured patients). Appendix B details the types and number of calls along with their average evacuation time. We respond to

roughly twenty incidents a year. Each incident usually represents 500 manhours. This number is increasing each year due to closer cooperation with the Department of Emergency Services and the recently accquired capability to locate downed aircraft through electronic means. Our patients can be broadly classified as lost elderly patients, lost children, injured hunters, and aircraft incident victims. Trauma, hypothermia, and dehydration make up the bulk of our calls. In the fourteen cases where we carried out the patient, thirteen of those were ALS level calls. Furthermore, eight of those patients only recieved BLS treatment. Of the five patients that recieved ALS treatment, members of our group provided that care on three occasions. The calls were located in the TJEMs district and the members used the local rescue squad's equipment. On the statistical sheet it should be noted that the times given do not include additional transport to a hospital. Since most incidents occur in a wilderness setting, these times are quite long. On three occasions air transport has been used. It has always been group philosophy that our responsibility ends at the roadhead. Unfortunately, when we find our subject, the local rescue squad either may take a long time to reach the search site, does not have ALS capability, or most importantly, is not willing or able to safely perform in an extended, severe environmental setting. In addition, since we are capable of carrying out electronic detection of downed aircraft, we are often the first to arrive on the scene.

Medical Personnel

The Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group currently has twenty-nine field certified members on the roster. This certification represents their ability to lead a team of volunteers on any search task. In almost all cases ASRC certification is the same as a level two searcher under the Commonwealth of Virginia training certification program. The medical certifications are summarized in appendix A. Briefly, we have fifteen EMT-As, another seven EMT-As that run on a rescue squad, two EMT-STs, five EMT-Ps, and one MD. If the entire conference were to apply, these numbers would triple across the board. My primary goal is to allow our current EMT-STs and above to use their skills statewide. I expect that due to the small number of calls we respond to, they must be a member of a rescue squad to keep their ALS skills current.

Vehicle

The group is in the process of obtaining a four wheel drive military ambulance. Our goal is to use the ambulance as a mobile operations and communications center. We have no

desire to transport patients to a hospital. We feel the local rescue squad should fulfill this role. If only minor additions need to be made to the vehicle to fulfill any licensing requirements, we can afford them.

Equipment

In appendix C you will find an inventory of our medical and rescue equipment.

Communications

Appendix D includes our inventory of communication equipment. We always maintain communications between mission base and the evacuation team. At times this may require setting up a relay station due to the mountainous terrain. However, in every search this communications link has been patent. Mission base usually has a telephone line, hospital communication channels, SNP radio frequency and repeaters, Department of Emergency Services radio frequency and repeaters, local rescue squad radios, a local law enforcement radio link to their base, and HAM radio operators linking to a distant telephone. In addition, in the near future we may gain the use of the Blue Ridge Parkway repeater network. Therefore, in every case hospital communications are possible. Furthermore, depending upon the location, direct communications may be possible from the evacuation team itself. During one recent search, UVA Medcom was contacted through a pay telephone and the information was passed to mission base through a handheld radio. Mission base then passed the information through a relay on a mountaintop to the evacuation team. Since we train in passing information through relays, this posed no problem.

Alerting

We respond to requests for assistance from local responsible agents, in most cases a law enforcement agency. Additionally, we respond directly to requests of the National Parks and to the Department of Emergency Services (DES). Through DES we are considered a state resource. The responsible agent contacts the emergency operations center of DES to obtain our services. DES then contacts UVA MEDCOM which serves as our local, 24 hour alert number. If this contact fails, DES may contact UVA's Police Department. Group members are contacted by pager and then communicate directly with UVA MEDCOM, DES, and the responsible agent. In the event of an urgent incident, UVA's Pegasus will transport an overhead team to the incident. For missions greater than 65 nautical miles from Charlottesville, DES attempts to arrange air transport for the overhead team.

I hope I have included all the information you need to make an initial assesment. Feel free to contact me for additional information. Dr. Christoph indicated to me that we would have a direct meeting at some point. I look forward to this meeting and will be willing to supply any additional information you request. Thank you for your time and effort. Virginia already provides a unique model of search and rescue coordination and cooperation compared to other states. We feel statewide ALS capability will benefit the patient and provide a model to other states. Additionally, since the ASRC plays a national role in search and rescue, these skills might someday be used in a national disaster. Already our members have been placed on alert for the Mexico and Columbia disasters, and responded to the Puerto Rico disaster.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Koester
Medical Officer
Director, BRMRG BOD

RJK/db
enc.

Appendix A: Roster
Appendix B: Medical Statistics
Appendix C: Medical and Rescue Inventory
Appendix D: Commo frequencies and Inventory
ASRC information

cc.
Dr. Christoph
ASRC Board of Directors
Brenda Barbour



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440

NEWCOMB STATION

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

20 October 1986

Mr. Ralph Wilfong
Va. Dept of Emergency Services
310 Turner Road
Richmond VA

Dear Ralph:

Attached is a summary of the changes in the Conference would like to see in the proposed memo of understanding. Please pardon my delay in producing this list, but I feel that having discussed it at the ASRC membership meeting, we have adequately solicited input from everyone. The document was generally well received and everyone is enthusiastic about the continued good working relationship we have with DES.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Albert M. Baker", written over the typed name.

Albert M. Baker
Chairman, ASRC

AMB/dns

encl



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440

NEWCOMB STATION

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

Proposed Changes in Virginia DES
Memorandum of Understanding

- 1) Add to the end of the sentence in paragraph four (4): "by either party."
- 2) As written, problems might arise if the SCO misinterprets vague sections of this document and is less enthusiastic about the operation than we might hope. We feel that the operational (tactical) role of the SCO should be better defined.
In paragraph 3b(3), "assignment" should not be used. It implies that the SCO retains operational control, which he should not. His role as a coordinator of resources should be emphasized. Some mechanism should be described for operational control by the most qualified available person(s), e.g. volunteers with extensive training and experience in SAR management.
- 3) Some allowance should be made for input into the decision making process described in paragraph 3b(4) from outside the agency. For example, incident commanders from incidents in progress and those developing should be consulted before redeploying resources. We feel that it is important that such input be actively sought in all instances in the future, regardless of who is coordinating the search for DES.
Remember that tenet of MSF training: Never plan alone!
- 4) Change "or" to "nor" in the last sentence of paragraph 3a.



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440

NEWCOMB STATION

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22901

20 October 1986

Mr. Phil Mortensen
Director, Pegasus Program
Building 924, Flight Operations
Blue Ridge Hospital
Charlottesville VA 22908

Dear Mr. Mortensen:

We have recently revised our list of persons considered qualified to be transported by Pegasus to search and rescue incidents in accordance with the agreement we reached last May. The training criteria are the same as those outlined in our memo of 23 May 1986. All of the persons on this list are qualified leaders and are thoroughly trained in air operations, safety, and LZ coordination.

The current list:

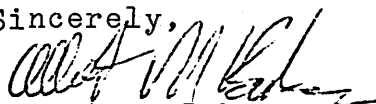
| <u>Member</u> | <u>Qualification*</u> | <u>weight with</u> <u>"10 essentials" (lbs)</u> |
|---------------|-----------------------|--|
| A. Baker | IC | 185 |
| B. Koester | IC | 130 |
| C. Metzler | IC | 180 |
| B. Wheeler | IC | 165 |
| H. Blumner | GS | 175 |
| K. Coyne | GS | 170 |
| W. Dixon | GS | 170 |
| C. Ingle | GS | 175 |
| B. Mackreth | GS | --- |

*IC= Incident command qualified

GS= General staff qualified

Thank you for your support of our operations. Please feel free to call if we can ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,


Albert M. Baker
Chairman, ASRC

AMB/dns

cc: above ASRC members