

APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

c/o PATC, 1718 N St. N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year to All!

Have you noticed the addition of "Inc." to ASRC's name? ASRC was incorporated in Virginia in late 1975, official address: 2617 Jefferson Dr., Alexandria, Va. 22303. At a meeting of the initial board of directors in November, the following officers were elected: President: Gene Harrison, Vice-President, Keith Conover, Secretary, Rita Cloutier, and Treasurer, Ray Cole.

The Potomac Unit of ASRC meets on the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Tuesday of each month at the Lubber Run Recreation Center, George Mason Drive and Route 50, Arlington, Va., at 7 pm. For further information, call Ray Cole 703/960-3559.

The Blue Ridge Unit, ASRC, meets on alternate Mondays at Newcomb Hall, UVA, Charlottesville, Va. at 7:30 pm. Next meeting, Jan. 19. For information: Betty Thomas 804/296-2269.

ASRC Schedule

(subject to change - check with person named)

- Jan. 10-11 ASRC practice sessions, Charlottesville, Va.
Information: Bill Clem 804/924-4262
- Jan. 17-18 ASRC Basic Communications and Operations, UVA,
Charlottesville, Va.
Reservations: Gene Harrison 703/361-3030
- Feb. 21-22 Basic Survival and Wilderness Travel, Charlottesville, Va.
Reservations: Chris Stubbs 804/295-8161
- Mar. 6 (tentative) Basic Search - field simulation
(camping may be available)
Reservations: Ray Cole 703/960-3559
- Mar. 20-21 (tentative) Testing for basic members
Reservations: Gene Harrison 703/361-3030
Keith Conover 804/296-2269

Newsletter subscriptions

Regretfully, for those persons/organizations with a red streak by their name and address, this is the last free newsletter we can send you. If you'd like to keep your name on the list, please send a check for \$3. payable to "ASRC" to Rita Cloutier, ASRC Secretary, c/o PATC, 1718 N St. NW, Washington, D.C. We will be applying for a bulk mail permit, but as you all know, postage costs are up.

Dues and Fees

Annual dues for all members (trainees, active, associate and sustaining individual members) - \$5.00

Administrative fees: \$5.00 for associates
\$15.00 for basic members (to be paid upon application to become a basic member).

Annual dues and administrative fees will help, in part, to pay for the newsletter, patches, identification cards, supplies, and other administrative expense.

Happenings

Bulletin Broadcast (amateur radio) - Every Wed. night, 8 pm, D.C. area 146.91 Mhz, Northern Virginia FM Association Bulletin

Civil Air Patrol, Monticello Sqd., meets every Tues. night, at the JAG School, UVA, Charlottesville, at 7:30 pm. Information: Betty Thomas 804/296-2269

CAP ground search and rescue sessions are held every second weekend in Virginia. Two 6-hour sessions for CAP and ASRC people will be held in Norfolk. Information: Keith Conover 804/296-2269

Courses of interest to ASRC members offered at Northern Virginia Community College - for a schedule of community service programs: 323-3168.

EMT - Ambulance Tues. & Thurs., Jan. 20 - Apr. 3 \$85.

Amateur Radio Lic. Prep. Jan. 19 - Feb. 23 Mon. \$20.

" " " Adv. Mar. 1-Mar. 29 Mon. \$25.

In other areas, check the Continuing Education classes offered at your local university or college.

Notes

Chip Queitzseh (804/296-4529), 236-B Old Lynceburgh Rd., Charlottesville, Va. 22903, will be running tests on knots and rope slings. He needs samples of new ropes and old ropes with known use history.

Emergency Medical Technicians - For those who successfully complete an accredited EMT course, HEW may refund one-half the cost. Harold Bailey, ASRC medical chairman, 1619 Gruenther, Rockville, Md. 20851 (301/762-0722) is getting the details and will have forms for EMT's.

Slides/photos - Ray Cole, 2617 Jefferson Dr., Alexandria, Va. 22303, would like to receive slides or the negatives of photos taken on actual ASRC search or training operations. He needs these for slide shows and to accompany articles. Ray will make copies and return original slides/negatives to you. Please be sure to include your name and address, and the date/place taken.

ASRC's First Operation

November 19, 1975, is an important day for ASRC - the date of its first official search and rescue operation. In coordination with the Charlottesville Civil Air Patrol, which had received a request for assistance from the Sheriff's Department of Augusta County, Virginia, ASRC met with other volunteers in Augusta Springs.

ASRC's stand-by alert was made 8-8:30 pm November 18; the decision to go was made at 11 pm. The Potomac ASRC contingent left the District at 3 am, the Blue Ridge Rescue Group left Charlottesville at 6 am, all had arrived at Augusta Springs by 8 am.

Evan Sharp of Madison County, hunting in the George Washington National Forest, had been last seen November 17 near Elliott Knob. Scratch searches for him had been made on November 18, and on the same day the Sheriff asked for additional help for an extended land search.

CAP and ASRC set up mobile communications centers at an abandoned gas station on Route 42 in Augusta Springs. Gene Harrison's van served as our center for registration of incoming volunteers and recording dispatch of search teams. The van is equipped with both citizens band and amateur radio gear.

ASRC Director of Operations Keith Conover and the Deputy Sheriff blocked out search areas for ASRC. Harold Bailey, Operations Officer, dispatched ASRC teams to make scratch searches and a medical/rescue team to stand by at Elliott Knob. Each ASRC team carried a radio, an emergency medical kit and a sleeping bag. Teams included both ASRC and other volunteers, and all teams were dispatched by 9 a.m. Other persons, individuals and members of organizations such as the Augusta Springs Volunteer Fire Department and the Madison County Rescue Squad also searched.

About 11 am ASRC and CAP teams were advised by radio to halt searches and assemble members. Approximately 30 minutes later all teams were ordered to return to base as the victim had been found. Most ASRC teams were in by 3 pm, the last team returning about 5 pm.

ASRC Incident

Climbing Accident, Carderock, Md.

On 12/14/75, David Jones, McLean, Va., while climbing a familiar route on the cliffs, without a belaying rope, fell 25 feet to the bank after a weathered handhold came out of the rock.

ASRC President Gene Harrison, an EMT, went to his assistance. He and another EMT (Bill _____) also on the scene determined that Jones had a dislocated elbow and two fractured ankles.

"Patching" through the local amateur radio network, Gene got other hams to notify an emergency dispatcher (Fairfax County) to notify the Montgomery County Police. The Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department responded, carrying in a Stokes litter and splints. With the assistance of Bill, Gene, bystanders, the Cabin John volunteers got Jones warmly packed into the litter, and carried around the cliffs.

to the ambulance. Gene notified the ham network that the emergency was over and accompanied the victim to the hospital. Jones' injuries were diagnosed as a fractured elbow, a fractured ankle, and a fractured lower leg bone. Time elapsed: approx. 30 minutes from fall to ambulance.

Gene would like to learn the full name of Bill, the other FMT assisting that day. Gene says full credit goes to the Cabin John men who are frequently called in this area for rescue of climbers, hikers and canoeists.