

APPALACHIAN ALERT

THE APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE

BOX 440

NEWCOMB HALL STATION

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904-0440

OCTOBER 1993

A Publication of the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc.

Appalachian Alert collates information submitted by Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc. (ASRC) teams, develops and presents information of interest to the wilderness search and rescue community in the mid-Atlantic region, and reports activities of ASRC board of directors meetings, its committees, ASRC group and training events, and related business. The bulletin will be printed the third week of every month. Information should be received by the Editor -- at his address shown below -- the first week of every month.

If individuals or ASRC groups wish to report SAR related research or present opinion pieces, Appalachian Alert may be the forum for that presentation.

Appalachian Alert is mailed to colleagues and programs in other states and regions involved in lost person SAR services and related emergency services.

JURASSIC SAR !

(Or, Did Dinosaurs Really Start the ASRC?)

The second installment of JURASSIC SAR ! by Tyrannosaurus Colorcodus continues to be delayed. For those who did not read the first installment in August 1993, the story began in ancient times -- about six hundred and thirty million seconds ago (or 20 years) tracing the origins of the ASRC back to its roots. As we said last month, it is difficult to inscribe history on stone tablets. Tyrannosaurus Colorcodus says it's also difficult to format stone tablets.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Let's consider the problem of initial response. When I say that I mean the response in the first eight hours after a 333 has gone down.

I am concerned as Chair that in the last three missions that I was IC, there was a very poor response in total numbers from ASRC during the initial eight hours. Given the middle of the week, the distance from various units, etc., I did not expect a large response, but I hoped for a larger and quicker response than occurred. Historically, these conditions have produced low numbers, but perhaps, just perhaps there is something else going on.

I raise this as something for you as an individual to ponder over. I am not beating anyone up. Each of us has to make the decision whether or not to go on a particular mission based on the status of our lives. But, each of us also weighs the mission itself. For instance, are you willing to drive six hours to search for a known suicide? Or perhaps, an elderly man who has been missing for six days?

Do you decide on going to a mission based on the urgency of the mission? I mean by that, would you go more quickly if it was a three year old child missing for about six hours than the elderly man missing for six days? Would you prefer to save your leave, or however you get time off for missions during the week, for the three year old?

Supposing no three year olds are missing? Will you wait until you feel the mission is serious enough before you commit?

I go on a lot of missions and see the same people over and over again. I have to wonder if our of 279 people in this organization, why I keep seeing the same 30-40 people. Is it the reasoning process on when to go to a mission above? Or, is there some other reason?

Perhaps we all need to consider why we respond and when. Perhaps the answer to our personal reasons will explain why we have limited initial responses.

WHO ARE THE SEARCHERS?

"The nation's 'search and rescue' community is small, no more than the population of a small town, but the volunteer service provided by these skilled teams of individuals far exceeds simple numbers. They are people who venture 'beyond the roadhead,' regardless of weather and terrain, to help the victims of back-country accidents. What fire departments, ambulance services and other public safety agencies do in cities and towns, search and rescue teams do in the severest environment - rock, forest, cold and blizzard.

The people who choose rescue as an avocation are remarkable. They're driven by an overabundance of adrenaline, and inexhaustible compassion for those in need and a hunger for high adventure. They must train hard, some more than 200 hours a year."

Parr, P., Mountain High, Mountain Rescue, Fulcrum, 1987.

The above excerpt is used by SWVMRG in their new member packets.

ASRC GROUP TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Tidewater Search & Rescue Group, in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Emergency Services, is sponsoring a Field Team Member training program. The training program is scheduled for Newport News during the weekends of October 20-31 and November 20-21. Class size is limited to 35 participants with an application deadline of October 25. Cost is \$10.00 with reservations accepted on a first come first served basis. Questions can be directed to Dave Carter at: (804) 466-8094 Home or (804) 437-4635 Work.

Maryland Search & Rescue Group: November 20-21, 1993. Training and search/rescue simulation will be conducted at Sugarloaf Mountain reservation in Frederick County, Maryland. Coordinated training sessions will be conducted Saturday night with Maryland State Police aviation units on air/ground operations in night operations using Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) techniques. Because Sugarloaf Mountain is a private reservation which closes at 1700 hours, those planning on participating in the FLIR training sessions Saturday night must enter the park before

1700 Saturday and remain until after 0800 Sunday. Primitive bivouacing is available Saturday night. Daytime training on Saturday and Sunday will focus on search strategies and semi-tech evacuation procedures. Call M/SAR at (301) 596-5554 for information.

UPCOMING ASRC BOARD MEETINGS

The October meeting of the ASRC Board will be a weekend retreat October 23-24 at the Blackburn Appalachian Trail Center off Route 7 near Round Hill, Virginia. During the retreat future ASRC goals and directions will be discussed.

Future ASRC Board meetings will be December 18, February 26, and April 23. The April 23 meeting is the 1994 ASRC Annual Meeting. These meetings are scheduled to be held in Charlottesville, Virginia adjacent to the ASRC dispatch office.

SEARCH OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT COURSE PLANNED IN MARYLAND

The Maryland Search & Rescue Group (M/SAR) will conduct a 40 hour MSO course on two weekends: January 14-16 and January 28-30, 1994. Training will begin at 0800 Saturdays on each weekend, and end at 1700 hours Sundays.

The fee will be \$45.00 covering costs of the MSO training materials, and refreshments during the training sessions. Limited housing in homes of M/SAR members in the Washington-Baltimore area will probably be available. Training will be conducted at the American Red Cross in Columbia, Maryland at 5450 Vantage Point Road. Directions and other information will be mailed to those registering and paying. Registration is on a first-come first-served basis for the first twenty persons. Write M/SAR at 11034 Berrypick Lane, Columbia, Maryland 21044.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM MARYLAND

M/SAR dispatch has upgraded its pager system in the ASRC wide area pager network to the system using the 972 exchange. M/SAR facilities have been extended to include an operations office, and a basement storage/classroom. Facilities, in the Columbia Red Cross office, are in addition to the M/SAR cache.

Former RSAR member Todd L'Herrou has relocated from Florida to Maryland where he is a doctoral student at the University of Maryland. Todd's address is 9769 Good Luck Road, Seabrook MD 20706. Phone number: (301) 794-8953.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM PENNSYLVANIA

With several recent lost person searches in Pennsylvania with teams from several sections of the Commonwealth participating, the need for a central coordinating activity has been recognized. While the Pennsylvania Search & Rescue Council (PSARC) planned to develop an operational capability in its future program capabilities, at this time PSARC is moving immediately to develop, in the next 60 days, a limited operational capability with plans to appoint a PSARC mission coordinator to provide assistance to responsible authorities and PSARC teams where assets may be requested or needed from beyond the immediate service area, and where multiple incidents may occur in one or adjoining sections of the Commonwealth. The PSARC mission coordinator program will be similar, in its initial development, to the role of the ASRC Area Command Authority.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM VIRGINIA

Greg Sazonov is the new Operations Officer for the Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group (SWVMRG). Greg can be reached at (703) 232-1528.

APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

President (TSAR)	David Carter (804) 466-8094
Vice President (SMRG)	Jenny Burmester (703) 978-7819
Secretary & Treasurer (BRMRG)	Camile Birmingham (804) 979-7254
Operations Officer (TSAR)	David Carter (804) 466-8094
Training Officer (SWVMRG)	John Punches (703) 552-6957
Medical Officer (TSAR)	Scott Shuffield (804) 460-1849
Communications Secretary (TSAR)	Mark Eggeman (804) 425-8842
ASTM Representative (SWVMRG)	John Punches (703) 552-6957
Appalachian Alert Editor 11034 Berrypick Lane	Peter McCabe (301) 596-5554 Columbia, Maryland 21044

ASRC GROUPS

<u>Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG)</u> c/o Dept Emerg Medicine 1400 Locust Street	(412) 869-3747 Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh PA 15219-5166
President	Owen Gormley (412) 776-1081
Training Off	Dave Knorr (412) 843-9484
Ops Off	Mike Kuga (412) 869-2567
<u>Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG)</u> PO Box 440	(804) 924-3472 Newcomb Station C'ville VA 22904
President	Marc Burrsink (804)
Training Off	Allison Mabe (804) 977-9780
Ops Off	Brian Laury (804)
<u>Maryland Search & Rescue Group (M/SAR)</u> 11034 Berrypick	(301) 596-5554 Columbia MD 21044
President	Kelly Naylor (410) 750-5850
Training Off	Gary Schlueter (410) 880-3004
Ops Off	Edward Marsh (410) 381-2679
<u>Potomac Valley Rescue Group (PVRG)</u> Box 10	(301) 314-7444 Stamp Union Bldg College Park MD 20742
President	Brian Whalen (410) 744-6674
Training Off	Scott McCabe (301) 596-5554
Ops Off	Dome Poon (301) 590-9424
<u>Richmond Search & Rescue Group (RSAR)</u> P O Box 9025	(804) 768-5555 Richmond VA 23225
President	Kevin Dawe (804) 750-1623
Training Off	Tony Felts (804) 271-7307
Ops Off	Bill Fisher (804) 748-6214
<u>Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG)</u> 118 Park St	(703) 255-5034 Vienna VA 22180
President	Gary Mechtel (410) 381-2593
Training Off	Jim Fishenden (703) 538-6568
Ops Off	Paul DeHaven (703) 354-2957
<u>Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group (SWVMRG)</u> 203 Progress St	(703) 951-2914 Blacksburg VA 24060
President	Dave Zader (703) 951-3161
Training Off	John Punches (703) 552-6957
Ops Off	Greg Sazonov (703) 232-1528
<u>Tidewater Search & Rescue Group (TSAR)</u> 803 Townsend Ct	(804) 466-8094 Norfolk VA 23502
President	David Carter (804) 466-8094
Training Off	Earle Evans (804) 693-4391
Ops Off	Ruth Carter (804) 466-8094