

APPALACHIAN ALERT

THE APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE

BOX 440 **NEWCOMB HALL STATION**
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904-0440

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 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. 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.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

For those of you out there in the trenches, exciting stuff is going on.

First, eight of our eleven Incident Commanders completed a Virginia Department of Emergency Services sponsored workshop between the Virginia Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (VACAP) and the ASRC. A truly historic meeting. From that meeting came a much greater understanding of each other's organizations and some operational decisions which will affect operations in Virginia.

Operationally in Virginia, when VACAP and ASRC are on a joint operation, ICS will be used as the management system. Second, a unified command will be used with the Incident Commander (IC) and the Mission Coordinator (MC). Third, a single Operations Officer will be appointed and, depending on the particular mission, this may be an air operations (CAP) or ground operations (ASRC) person. Fourth, in order to train VACAP management personnel in the ICS search and rescue system used in Virginia, we will invite the Civil Air Patrol to our various training sessions and VACAP will be invite us to their sessions.

This -- my fellow workers in the vineyards of SAR -- is a giant step. It places the Virginia Wing at the forefront of national CAP operations in adopting and using the ICS system, CAP, as a corporation, has been taking very tentative steps toward ICS. Virginia Wing Commander Colonel John Jackson has boldly stepped forward. His vision is to be commended!

Secondly, the ASRC Board of Directors met at a PATC cabin in October for a weekend retreat. After a regular Board meeting, we spent hours discussing where we are going as a corporation. Following an excellent presentation by Gary Mechtel (thanks Gary!), we brainstormed ideas on how we are going to fix some of the business problems of the ASRC. When we finished, we had made decisions which will affect ASRC for a long time. The information, decisions, etc. will be

circulated by other members of the Board of Directors, so I will not cover everything here. The point of the meeting was to decide on where we are going. I believe we did that. It will not be accomplished overnight, but we are taking steps that will move ASRC forward.

As one of these steps, we are looking for someone with the necessary skills to take minutes at ASRC Board meetings and produce 'camera ready' copy of these Minutes. The ASRC Secretary will duplicate and distribute the ASRC Board Minutes and a summary list of actions taken. We will pay the person selected \$50.00 to do this. This is not restricted to any particular group. But, you have to be able to get to the Board meetings and produce the results within two weeks of the meeting. You will get paid when the Secretary has received and approved the Minutes and Summary List. If you are interested contact me.

David Carter
Chair, ASRC (804) 466-8094

ASRC GROUP TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group is hosting a Staff Supplemental Training course during January 22-23 for persons who have taken the Managing the Search Operation (MSO) course, or who are enrolled in the MSO course. The Supplemental Course is additional training, beyond MSO, which is considered important to become qualified for Incident Staff qualifications in the ASRC. Additional information may be obtained from Bob Koester at (804) 296-6172.

Maryland Search & Rescue Group will conduct a 40 hour MSO course on two weekends: January 15-16 and January 29-30, 1994. Training will begin at 0800 Saturdays on each weekend, and end at 1700 hours Sundays. The cost of MSO training materials is being covered by the Virginia Department of Emergency Services. A fee of \$10.00 for refreshments during the training sessions will be charged. Training will be conducted at the American Red Cross in Columbia, Maryland at 5430 Vantage Point Road. Directions and other information will be mailed to those registering and paying the \$10 fee. Registration is on a first-come first-served basis for the first twenty persons. Write M/SAR at 11034 Berrypick Lane, Columbia, Maryland 21044.

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group is conducting a Field Team Member (FTM) training program in January. The training program is scheduled during the weekends of January 14-16 and January 28-30. Further information is available from the SMRG Operations Line at (703) 255-5034.

UPCOMING ASRC BOARD MEETINGS

The December meeting of the ASRC Board will be December 18 in Charlottesville, Virginia. Future meetings will be February 26, and April 23. The April

23 meeting is the 1994 ASRC Annual Meeting. ASRC meetings are scheduled to be held in Charlottesville, Virginia adjacent to the ASRC dispatch office.

Mountain Rescue Association News

Minor realignments have been made in the Appalachian Region of the MRA. The regional address is P O Box 789, College Park, Maryland 20741. Three administrative units have been developed: regional relationships and coordination; new member team development; and regional training and evaluation. And, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency at (410) 486-4422 will receive and process requests from responsible authorities for MRA assistance and operations.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM MARYLAND

M/SAR has added an operations and training telephone line. The number is (410) 992-3945.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM PENNSYLVANIA

Nothing received.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM VIRGINIA

Nothing received.

CHANGES IN ASRC TEAM LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

There are a number of changes in leadership positions for ASRC Teams in the right column. Check these out to update your information! Changes should be noted in BRMG, M/SAR, PVRG, and SMRG.

APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

Chair (TSAR)	David Carter (804) 466-8094
Vice Chair (SMRG)	Jenny Burmester (703) 978-7819
Secretary & Treasurer (BRMG)	Camile Birmingham (804) 979-7254
Operations Officer (TSAR)	David Carter (804) 466-8094
Training Officer (SWVMRG)	John Panches (703) 552-6957
Medical Officer	vacant
Communications Secretary (SMRG)	Steve Houck (703) 257-7659
ASTM Representative (SWVMRG)	John Panches (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 (BRMG)</u> PO Box 440	(804) 924-3472 Newcomb Station C'ville VA 22904
President	Marc Buursink (804) 293-4069
Training Off	Allison Mabe (804) 977-9780
Ops Off	Brian Laurey (804) 295-2108
<u>Maryland Search & Rescue Group (M/SAR)</u> 11034 Berrypick	(301) 596-5554 Columbia MD 21044
President	Doug Baker (410) 551-2929
Training Off	Kurt Hornicek (410) 992-0709
Ops Off	Matt Bolin (410) 997-5316
<u>Potomac Valley Rescue Group (PVRG)</u> Box 10	(301) 314-7444 Stamp Union Bldg College Park MD 20742
President	Michael Vatalaro (301) 314-6763
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
Chair	Gary Mechtel (410) 381-2593
Training Off	William Dixon (703) 524-1984
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 Panches (703) 552-6957
Ops Off	Greg Sasonov (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