

# APPALACHIAN ALERT

## THE APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE

BOX 440 NEWCOMB HALL STATION  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904-0440

APRIL 1995

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

Appalachian Alert provides inter-team communication, and reports information of interest to the wilderness search and rescue community in the mid-Atlantic states, describes activities of the ASRC Board and its committees, lists ASRC group and training events, and related business. It is published 6 times a year in even numbered months.

Send news, including changes in team leadership positions to Peter McCabe at the address below or by email to: Peter\_McCabe@ed.gov.

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The April 22 Annual Meeting of the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is very important as the decisions made at this meeting will help chart a path for the future of our unique confederation of ground SAR teams based in three different states and commonwealths of the mid-Atlantic region we serve.

To ensure the future of this Conference, we need to revise the way we do business as a non-profit corporation, not necessarily the way we do search missions. Most everyone has concluded the ASRC is not as effective or efficient as it should be in how our business practices are managed. It is important that every member of every ASRC group -- some 380 people across eight groups -- be surveyed to determine what individuals want from the ASRC and the directions they want the Conference to go toward during the next 5 years into the year 2000 and beyond.

As we look to the future during the next year, we need to develop a Vision Statement, review our existing Mission Statement, and make a strong beginning in development of a strategic plan for the ASRC.

To make this happen, I feel we will need to devote at least three bimonthly Board of Directors meetings for at least a year to sessions where different work groups will tackle specific assignments that will help the ASRC realize the end goals of: (1) maintaining the recognition of the Conference as an innovative and effective force in ground search and rescue and incident command management in the United States; and (2) developing a truly effective and efficient corporate organization.

During our last 25 years, we have faced many challenges and opportunities. This challenge will be the most difficult. But, it is one we must face.

David Carter  
President

### NEW OPERATIONS MANUAL

In the February Appalachian Alert, it was announced that ASRC Operations Chief Gary Mechtel (SMRG) had presented the newly revised ASRC Operations Manual at the February ASRC Board Meeting. All groups should have the new Operations Manual. ASRC groups should send their written comments to Gary Mechtel, c/o of Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group, 118 Park Street SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180

### ASRC SEARCH SIMULATION

During September 23-24 there will be an ASRC-wide search simulation training exercise in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park. The search simulation, coordinated by the ASRC Training Officer Candi Capozzi, will be held in conjunction with NPS Rangers and park personnel. Further information will be announced.

### ASRC ANNUAL MEETING

The ASRC Annual Meeting will take place at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia on Saturday, April 22. The Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group/ASRC will host the meeting. Activities following the meeting will include an orienteering contest.

### NEWS FROM MARYLAND

The Maryland Association of Search and Rescue Organizations (MASARO) has been formed with Garrett Dyer (Search and Rescue Dogs of Maryland) elected President. MASARO meets the second Saturday in odd-numbered months at the Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center in Rockville, Maryland from 10:30 to 14:30 hours. The new organization has established short term objectives and a Mission Statement. The Mission Statement states: "The mission of the Maryland Association of Search and Rescue Organizations is to assist the performance of search and rescue in the State of Maryland by promoting effective consistency and cooperation between member organizations and local, state and Federal agencies." Cole Brown from Trot-SAR is Vice President, and Jane Servais from Mid-Atlantic DOGS is Secretary/Treasurer.

The Potomac Valley Rescue Group (PVRG) based at the University of Maryland at College Park is moving toward full ASRC group accreditation. The Maryland Search & Rescue Group, ASRC sponsors for PVRG, are conducting an audit of PVRG equipment and personnel for submission to the ASRC at their Annual Meeting on April 22.

Twenty-two members of the Maryland Search & Rescue Group based in Columbia have completed 40 hour emergency first aid training program with the American Red Cross Emergency Responder course. Trainees will also take the DOT First Responder test administered by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services.

### NEWS FROM PENNSYLVANIA

ASRC Alert Officer training is scheduled to be provided in April to the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group at a time and place to be announced.

On April 1-2 the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks conducted a SAR training drill for recently SAR trained Pennsylvania State Park Rangers. The training simulation was held at the Pine Grove Furnace State Park in south central Pennsylvania.

The Wilderness Emergency Medical Services Institute announces that the Wilderness Medical Society has published practice guidelines in a 72-page publication. Orders may be placed by calling (800) 541-7323. Cost is reported to be \$12.95.



The Pennsylvania Search & Rescue Council (PSARC) has appointed three Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers to work with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) when local, county or other state jurisdictions request information assistance from PEMA regarding available resources during a lost person SAR incident. During the next 3 months, as part of this collaborative function with PEMA, PSARC will appoint a cadre of Mission Resource Coordinators to be available to work with responsible agents during SAR operations.

#### NEWS FROM VIRGINIA

The Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group is holding its first annual Easter Egg/Clue Hunt with Skippy, the Easter Weasel, on Saturday, April 15, at Greenbelt National Park in Maryland beginning at 1030. The information from SMRG says Skippy may be visited by Eagle 1, the NPS Police helicopter, about 1230 hours. Further info in on the SMRG Ops Line at (703) 255-5034.

The Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group (SWVaMRG) at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech) is selling two different SAR type t-shirts as a fund raising event. Contact Steven Ward at (703) 232-1648 or email: srward@vt.edu for further information.

Tidewater Search and Rescue has developed a creative newsletter design and format to communicate with both members and its user community (customer base). TSAR has also completed an indepth review process of its organizational structure with recommendations for changes to the TSAR By-Laws.

Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group recently conducted a Search Operations for Staff training weekend for prospective incident staff members.

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

Chair (TSAR)	David Carter (804) 466-8094
Vice Chair/Ops Officer (SMRG)	Gary Mechtel (410) 381-2593
Secretary (BRMRG)	Camile Birmingham (804) 979-9266
Treasurer (BRMRG)	Patrick Turner (804) 979-4418
Training Officer (TSAR)	Candi Capozzi (804) 722-4508
Medical Officer (SMRG)	Rob Christie (703) 573-6432
Commo Officer Secretary (SMRG)	Steve Houck (703) 257-7659
ASTM Representative	vacant
Appalachian Alert Editor	Peter McCabe (301) 596-9994
6432 Grateful Heart Gt Columbia, Maryland 21044	

#### ASRC GROUPS

<u>Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG)</u>	(412) 869-3747
Internet Address: chuck@kollar.pgh.pa.us	
c/o Dept Emerg Medicine	Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh
1400 Locust Street	Pittsburgh PA 15219-5166
President	Rich Worst
Training Off	Mike Yee
Ops Off	Mike Kuga
	(412) 869-3747
	(412) 462-7285
	(412) 869-2567
<u>Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG)</u>	(804) 924-3472
Internet Address: brmrg@uva.pcmail.virginia.edu	
PO Box 440	Newcomb Station Charlottesville VA 22904
President	Jenn Avery
Training Off	Jason Dalton
Ops Off	Frank Jargowsky
	(804) 979-4830
	(804) 984-2915
	(804) 979-8318
<u>Maryland Search &amp; Rescue Group (M/SAR)</u>	(410) 992-3945
Internet Address: m_sar@capaces.org	
5434 Vantage Point Rd	Columbia MD 21044
President	Teresa Barnes
Training Off	Kurt Hornicek
Ops Off	Valerie Brammer
Advisor	Peter McCabe
	(410) 481-4596
	(410) 750-6278
	(410) 992-5888
	(301) 596-9994
<u>Potomac Valley Rescue Group (PVRG)</u>	(301) 314-7444
Internet Address: kv13@umail.umd.edu	
Box 10	Stamp Union Bldg University of Maryland College Park MD 20742
President	Michael Vatalaro
Training Off	Marc Buursink
Ops Off	Karen Vandersall
	(301) 314-3837
	(703) 448-8978
	(301) 937-6621
<u>Richmond Search &amp; Rescue Group (RSAR)</u>	(804) 788-5555
P O Box 9025	Richmond VA 23225
President	Kevin Dawe
Training Off	Tony Felts
Ops Off	Bill Fisher
	(804) 750-1823
	(804) 271-7307
	(804) 748-6214
<u>Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG)</u>	(703) 255-5034
Internet Address: smrg@sparky.himh.nih.gov	
118 Park St, SE	Vienna VA 22180
Chair	Chris Miller
Training Off	Todd L'Herrou
Ops Off	Paul DeHaven
	(301) 828-4978
	(301) 794-8953
	(703) 354-2957
<u>Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group (SWVaMRG)</u>	(703) 951-2914
Internet Address: swvamrg@vt.edu	
203 Progress St	Blacksburg VA 24060
Chair	Steven Ward
Training Off	Cindie Lambert
Ops Off	Sara Jensen
	(703) 232-1648
	(703) 552-3828
	(703)
<u>Tidewater Search &amp; Rescue Group (TSAR)</u>	(804) 466-8094
803 Townsend Ct	Norfolk VA 23502
President	David Carter
Training Off	Earle Evans
Ops Off	Ruth Carter
	(804) 466-8094
	(804) 693-4391
	(804) 466-8094