

APPALACHIAN ALERT

Vol. 1996 No. 2
JUNE 1996

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

Conference Elects Leadership And Plans Board Retreat

Mission Statement

To save lives, the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference provides accredited professional volunteer services in incident command management and ground search and rescue operations to government agencies in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States.

Appalachian Alert

provides inter-team communication and information of interest to the wilderness SAR community in the mid-Atlantic states, actions of the ASRC Board of Directors and its committees, lists ASRC group training events and related business. Send news, including team leadership changes to Peter McCabe at the address below, or email to: pmccabe@msn.com

Future ASRC Board Meetings:

June 29 & 30 Board meeting and retreat at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach

August 24
October 26 December 14

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*Operations and Business:
P O Box 440
Newcomb Hall Station
Charlottesville VA 22904-0440*

*Editorial Comments and Newsletter Information To:
Peter A. McCabe, Editor
6432 Grateful Heart Gate
Columbia MD 21044-6034*

Conference Leadership Team

Elected

During the ASRC Meeting on April 28, the following individuals were elected or appointed to serve one year terms in the Conference:

Chair	David Carter Tidewater SAR Group
Vice Chair	William Dixon Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group
Secretary	Terri Midgette Richmond SAR Group
Treasurer	Charlotte Menk Blue Water Mountain Rescue Grp
<u>Appointed Offices</u>	
Communications Secretary	Steve Houck Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Grp
Medical Officer	Robert Christie Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group
Operations Officer	Gary Mechtel Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Grp
Safety Officers	William Dixon Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group Karen Vandersall Potomac Valley Rescue Group
Training Officer	Peter McCabe Maryland SAR Group

Certification Status Report

At the April Board meeting, certification reviews of Incident Staff and Incident Command persons were completed. Mark Pennington (Tidewater SAR Group) and Greg Shea (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group) were recertified in Incident Command for two-year terms. Deming Herbert was defaulted to Incident Staff with a note to the record that on return to the United States from the Peace Corps she will be able to provide her records to the Board to recertify as Incident Command. The status of James Poole (Tidewater SAR Group) as Incident Staff was tabled until the June meeting, pending his submission of mission records.

Approved by the Board for Incident Command status for two-year certifications were Camille Birmingham (Blue

Ridge Mountain Rescue Group), Todd L'Herrou (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group) and Peter McCabe (Maryland Search & Rescue Group).

Approved by the Board for Incident Staff status for two-year certifications were: Beth Pinkney Coyne, Kevin Coyne, Justin Green, Charlotte Menk, and Lauren Schiff from Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group; Teresa Drag and Karen Vandersall from Potomac Valley Rescue Group; and David Zader from Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group.

Board of Directors Retreat

The June ASRC Board of Directors meeting will be a two day retreat June 29-30 at Camp Pendleton in Building 203, Room 113 of the 203rd REDHORSE compound. Directions follow in another section of APP_ALERT. Rooms Friday or Saturday night are available on the base at \$8/night. Contact Dave Carter, ASRC Chair at (804) 466-8094 between June 17-21 for reservations and details. The meeting agenda is:

Saturday, June 29	
0900	Start
0930-1	review of Vision Statement draft and Mission Statement
0930-2	Group Operations Officers meeting to validate ASRC Operations Manual, develop deadlines and appoint workers to complete Manual by August Board meeting
0930-3	Group Training Officers meeting to validate current training standards, and develop suggestions for ASRC wide training program
1030	Complete Mission Statement
1130	Start Vision development
1230	lunch
1400	Complete Vision development and develop goals and objectives
1800	Beach party
Sunday, June 30	
0800	Decision process regarding which goals will be undertaken in 1996 with development of actions plans and work assignments to Groups/individuals
1300	Board of Directors meeting
1500	Adjourn

Trends in ASRC Operations

During the February and April Board meetings, Gary Mechtel, Operations Committee Chair reviewed statistics of ASRC missions in 1995. Of 33 missions in 1995, 26

were missing person, 4 were missing aircraft, and 3 other mission types. Several missions involved more than one person. 28 of the 33 missions occurred in Virginia, 2 in Pennsylvania, 2 in West Virginia, and 1 in Maryland. There were 26 Status-1 finds, 3 Status-2 finds, 9 Status-3 finds and recoveries, and 2 missions were suspended. (Note: # of subject > # incidents.)

Eighteen incidents were analyzed regarding the time from initial (100 page) request for an ASRC Alert Officer to call a responsible agent to a decision for an ASRC response and a series 33x system page to be broadcast. Of the 18 missions, 6 transitioned from a 100 page to a 33x series call-out within 30 minutes, while 7 took more than 40 minutes to transition to a 33x series call-out. In a related analysis, of 27 cases reviewed, only 2 incidents lasted more than 24 hours, 4 incidents lasted more than 1 shift but less than 2 complete shifts, and 21 incidents lasted less than 1 shift. Of these 21 incidents, 3 lasted more than 5 hours, 7 lasted less than 2 hours, 3 lasted between 2-3 hours, 5 lasted between 3-4 hours and 2 lasted between 4-5 hours.

This information has significant impact on ASRC operations as well as individual ASRC group operations and activities. As additional data is reviewed and presented, consideration of group initial (getting on the road) response time becomes decisive as does travel time to the incident, and initial set-up to launch initial field tasks.

Directions to June Board Meeting

Take I-64 thru Hampton, over the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, into and thru Norfolk, and on into Virginia Beach. Proceed from I-64 onto Route 44 (Virginia Beach - Norfolk Expressway) to Bird Neck Road exit. Turn right onto Bird Neck Road until General Booth Blvd. Take General Booth Blvd and proceed to main entrance to Camp Pendleton. Ask guard at main gate for directions to Building 203. Meeting is in Room 113.

Regional News

MARYLAND □ The Maryland Association of Search and Rescue Organizations (MASARO) is meeting monthly to work through completion of Bylaws and incorporation. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13.

PENNSYLVANIA: □ The Pennsylvania Search & Rescue Council has proposed a Memorandum of Agreement preplan to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to facilitate coordination of lost person SAR activities in keeping with the provisions of Annex V (search and rescue services) in the Pennsylvania Emergency Operations Plan.

VIRGINIA: □ Bob Koester -- a member of the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group, ASRC Board Member, and President of the Virginia SAR Council -- presented a paper at the May NASAR Conference in Denver on additional research findings regarding persons with Alzheimer's Disease who wander away from their surroundings and become lost. This research will be reviewed in a future issue of APP_Alert.

APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

Chair David Carter
(TSAR) (804) 466-8094

Vice Chair William Dixon
(BRMRG) (804) 296-9292

✓ Secretary Melody Midgett
(RSAR) (804) 748-2413

✓ Treasurer Charlotte Menk
(BRMRG) (804) 977-6029

Operations Officer Gary Mechtel
(SMRG) (410) 381-2593

Training Officer Peter McCabe
(M/SAR) (301) 596-9994

Medical Officer Rob Christie
(BRMRG) (703) 319-1479

Commo Officer Steve Houck
(SMRG) (703) 257-7659

ASRC GROUPS

Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG)
(412) 869-3747

c/o Dept Emerg Medicine Mercy Hospital of
1400 Locust Street Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh PA 15219-5166

Internet Address: chuck@kollar.pgh.pa.us
President Rich Worst
(412) 869-3747
Training Off Mike Yee
(412) 462-7285
Ops Off Mike Kuga
(412) 869-2567

Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG)
(804) 924-3472

PO Box 440 Newcomb Station
Charlottesville VA 22904

Internet Address: brmrgrg@virginia.edu

✓ Chair Jason Daiton
(804) 296-7274
✓ Training Off Mit Roberson
(804)
✓ Ops Off Justin Green
(703) 759-4074

Maryland Search & Rescue Group (M/SAR)
(410) 982-3945

5434 Vantage Point Rd
Columbia MD 21044
Internet Address: m_sar@capaccess.org

✓ President Katrina Krasnonsky
(410) 461-2040
Training Off Kurt Hornicek
(410) 750-6276
✓ VP Ops Clayton Paulding
(410) 730-0561
Advisor Peter McCabe
(301) 596-9994

Potomac Valley Rescue Group (PVRG)
(301) 314-7444

Box 10 Stamp Union Bldg
University of Maryland
College Park MD 20742
Internet Address: pvrgrg-staff@umail.umd.edu
President Erin Crotty
(301) 314-5857

Training Off Mike Mann
(410) 742-9497
Ops Off Sarah Herbelin
(301) 405-0089
Advisor David Laman
(301) 927-4564

Richmond Search & Rescue Group (RSAR)

(804) 768-5555
P O Box 115 Chesterfield VA 23832
✓ Internet Address: R.SAR@aol.com
Chair Melody Midgett
(804) 748-2413
Training Off Andy Bayne
(804) 485-8984
✓ Dispatcher Kelli Midgett
(804) 748-2413

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG)
(703) 255-5034

118 Park St, SE Vienna VA 22180-4608
Internet Address: mpotter@cpcb.org
Chair Brendan Smith
(703) 815-8875

Training Off Julius Horvath
(703) 461-8502
✓ Ops Off Todd L'Herrou
(703) 449-9251

Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group (SWVaMRG)

(540) 951-2914
203 Progress St Blacksburg VA 24060
Internet Address: srward@vt.edu
Chair Steven Ward
(540) 961-6437
Training Off Doug McCaskill
(540) 951-3872
Ops Off Daniel Osborne
(540) 961-5224

Tidewater Search & Rescue Group (TSAR)

(804) 466-8094
803 Townsend Ct Norfolk VA 23502
Group Cmdr David Carter
(804) 466-8094
Training Off Andy Bayne
(804) 485-8984
Ops Section Chief Ruth Carter
(804) 466-8094
PlansSection Chief Mark Eggeman
(804) 425-8842

✓ denotes new since last newsletter