



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440  
NEWCOMB STATION  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904

February 20, 1987

East Coast SAR Dog Confederation  
c/o Marian Hardy  
4 Orchard Way North  
Rockville, MD 20854

Dear Marian,

I am writing concerning your minutes of the November 30, 1985 conference held at the Pocono Environmental Education Center in Stroudsburg, PA. Specifically, I refer to the section reprinted (exactly) below for your convenience:

#8 Interorganization "poop"

Discussion centered around a recent search in Pa. in which many teams participated - both dog and foot searchers. The search was managed by Appalachian SAR but Pa. DER was doubling all positions. Essentially DER was using it as a means of "field" training their people who had taken the MSF course but never used it.

The management heavy search was inefficient and caused a lot of searcher frustration. However, Appalatian SAR assured everyone that this search was not at all typical of their usuall management style.

The second word in that heading well describes the entry reprinted above, and as for accuracy, the only part I can agree with is the first sentence. Those involved in the search know what took place, and it is beyond the scope of this letter to debate the worthwhileness of critiquing a search outside the structure of an official critique.

What does disturb me is the apparent authenticity of these minutes, and the wide distribution they have received. Officials in the Pa. DER, unfamiliar with both the search and with the extremely informal nature of East Coast SAR Dog Confederation meetings, believed these minutes to be valid--their reaction caused quite a misunderstanding between our agencies.

If these minutes are an official document of the East Coast SAR Dog Confederation, then I suggest they be documented completely and accurately, edited for appropriateness, and distributed to all parties for correction before being passed on to the public. If, as I suspect, these "minutes" are merely personal notes belonging to one of the representatives and distributed within the Confederation as a helpful gesture, that such documents be clearly labeled as such on all pages. In the future, perhaps identifying a Secretary, accountable to the Confederation, will prvent this type of problem from reoccurring.

In either case, I ask that agenda item #8 be deleted from the record, if such a record indeed exists. I thank you for your efforts in preventing these "barriers to progress" from erecting themselves, so that we all may better serve the next lost person.

Yours in SAR,

Greg Shea  
Director, ASRC

cc: Ken Boyles Albert Baber

MINUTES

ECSARDC Conference  
11/30/85

Pocono Environ.  
Educa. Center  
Stroudsburg, Pa.

Attending: (Marian, you have the list)

Treasurer's Report: Milly Curtis

The present figures do not include any income or expenses from this conference. There is actually a negative balance. But when the proceeds from this conference are in, we will have a positive balance.

\$112.94 in our checking account:

debts-

\$ 80 Marian  
\$ 75 West Jersey Canine  
\$\$ miscellaneous refunds owed from last conference to members

Recap. of June's Conference:

The agenda consisted of: 1- Insurance 2- Communications, 3- PR, 4- Mutual Aid, 5-Equipment, The conference was cut short on Sat. pm and cancelled on Sun. Communications and PR were designated as group projects.

NASAR SAR Dog Committee Report: Bill Dotson

Two new documents are being developed in response to needs brought to light by the recent international searches.

1- User Manual

This manual is designed to be used by the Office of Foreign Disaster, FEMA, etc. It defines volunteer dog teams, lists their capabilities and limitations. It is meant to help the international agency pair their disaster need with the dog teams that can handle that special need.

2- Manual for Dog Units/teams (guidelines)

This manual is designed to help the individual units/teams determine which areas of disaster they want to participate in. This is accomplished through a series of questions. The questions educate the unit as to what is required of them on a search - length of stay, environmental conditions, government regulations, etc. and provides the unit information that will be listed in the user manual.

Agenda for Present Meeting:

- |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1- Insurance          | 5- Agency relations (PR)     |
| 2- Radios             | 6- Regional dispatch         |
| 3- Fund Raising       | 7- Kal Kan                   |
| 4- Video tape project | 8- Inter-organization "poop" |

#1 Insurance:

Nothing new to report

#### #6 Regional Dispatch:

It was agreed that we really have a functional regional dispatch already because of our working cooperation thru ECSARDC.

Milly brought up that Scbbt has always been a national dispatch for searches. However, they seem to be decreasing their participation in volunteer activities. Milly suggested that perhaps we could submit a proposal to Kal Kan or ATT to sponsor one phone number for east coast dispatch to replace Scott.

Marian brought up the problem of current emergency call out numbers that are not functional. There were problems contacting some members when they were needed for Mexico. Make sure that Marian has the emergency number that reaches you!!

Bill suggested that we propose a national number that then breaks down into regions. Each region would be expected to know precisely who was available on any given day and at what level they were functioning in their region.

Bruce suggested that a computer hook-up be researched. Many units have computers and use them for keeping up-dated team rosters. Intercomputer communication is possible and would provide daily team availability. At present Marian receives unit roster info. (many times it is late and therefore, old when she get it), she then puts it into her computer and then sends out periodic, written up-dates. It can produce non-current info.

Jim/Ed? (the Appalatian team member) related that ATT in his area does give a number and calling card if petitioned.

No final decision was made to set-up a new dispatch system.

#### #8 Interorganization "poop":

Discussion centered around a recent search in Pa. in which many teams participated - both dog and foot searchers. The search was managed by Appalatian SAR but Pa. DER was doubling all positions. Essentially DER was using it as a means of "field" training their people who had taken the MSF course but never used it.

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#### Next Meeting/Conference:

After much discussion it was determined that there is a need for a ECSARDC sponsored DAR Dog School.

Next Oct., in the Poconos, in conjunction with the annual confederation conference, we will sponsor a school. It will begin Wed. at noon and run thru Sat. afternoon. The confederation conference will be held Sat. pm and Sun.

Action  
Item:

Each region/unit/group would choose their own director. Four experienced handlers from the entire group are available as instructors. There is no head or chief.

With this working arrangement we will be able to call out larger number of dog teams, have common standards, and common certification.

International Confederation: Hans

A need for a handler exchange such as we have with ECSARDC was identified after the 2 recent international searches. The US team worked with the Swiss, French, German, Italian, British, Canadian teams.

Hans has written and received a positive response from the German and French. The Swiss and Israeli have not as yet responded. A tentative meeting in Munich sometime between May 15th and June has been agreed to. It is hoped that negative and uninformed feelings can be aired and eliminated. Hans will be our representative.

Marian brought up the need to include ancillary groups in ECSARDC meetings and schools. Then groups of teams would be coordinated - not just dogs. It would increase awareness on both sides and increase actual search effectiveness.

A group discussion followed. It was concluded that there was a need to stay autonomous as a "dog" group. But at the same time it was necessary to educate others about us and to educate us about others.

Agenda for next Conference:

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Marian   | 1- NASAR report                                      |
| Bruce    | 2- Rap-up of video                                   |
| Hans     | 3- Rap-up of School                                  |
| Bill     | 4- NASAR SAR Dog Committee report                    |
| Bruce    | 5- Radio/ frequency report                           |
| Caroline | 6- Up-date on SAR K-9 Service                        |
| Marian   | 7- Kal Kan report                                    |
|          | 8- Critique of mutual aid searches (written if long) |
|          | 9- Show and Tell                                     |
| Hans     | 10- International Team and Conference                |

Mary Anne Gummere