

Expenses and Field Support

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference and all its Groups are volunteer organizations supported by membership fees and contributions. There is no charge for our services, though we appreciate any donations.

All members carry enough food and equipment to be self-sufficient for 48 hours. For more extended operations, we greatly appreciate support services, such as water, food, and shelter.

Membership

All Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference field members are experienced in outdoors activities, with training in mountain rescue, land navigation, wilderness survival, and emergency and wilderness medicine. Training and certification of Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group members meet stringent ASRC and Mountain Rescue Association standards. Administrative, medical, communications, and base management members support our field operations. Anyone who is interested and willing to help is welcome to join. Most members train and become certified in wilderness rescue, but we are also happy to have members who can help with our administration (e.g., lawyers and accountants).

If you might be interested in joining or helping, call, write, or come to a meeting or training session.

Meetings and Training

We hold Business meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Emergency Department Conference Room at Pittsburgh's Mercy Hospital. We schedule evening and weekend training sessions on a quarterly or yearly basis. Call the Training Officer for

the current schedule. Visitors are welcome at all business and training sessions.

For More Information

For further information about AMRG or Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference services, meetings, or activities, please write to us: Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group, P.O. Box 602, Ambridge, PA 15003. Or, call one of our officers:

Michael Kuga, AMRG Training Officer:

(412) 266-9181 (H)

(412) 266-8343 (W)

Thom Jones, AMRG Chairman:

(412) 885-6488 (H)

Alerting and Callouts

Members of the various ASRC Groups all wear the same uniform and all have the same training. On an operation, all ASRC members work under a unified command, despite coming from different Groups. Thus, you should call the ASRC for help, even if for western Pennsylvania. Teams of ASRC members are available for help with lost person searches and rescues regardless of the weather, terrain, or time of day. For ASRC help, call:

EMERGENCY ALERT: 804-674-2400

This is the telephone number for the Emergency Operations Center of the Virginia Department of Emergency Services in Richmond, Virginia. You will reach a Duty Officer trained to deal with search and rescue needs, who will put you in contact with an ASRC Alert Officer. The Alert Officer will then dispatch appropriate ASRC resources from the various ASRC Groups. Local public safety agencies wanting a fast response for rescues may arrange for direct radio alerting; call an AMRG officer for details.

Revised April 1990

ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP



a Group of the
Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference
affiliated with:

- Mountain Rescue Association
- National Association for Search and Rescue
- Eastern Region, National Cave Rescue Commission
- Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council

Emergency Phone:
(804) 674-2400

(Virginia Emergency Operations Center)

The Organizations

The Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG) is a volunteer search and rescue organization dedicated to saving lives in the outdoors. Our missions include wilderness search for lost persons and the rescue of injured persons from hiking, hunting, or other outdoor accidents. We also conduct technical rescue operations including cave, mountain and cliff rescue. Our Group has many experts in technical rescue, search management, and wilderness medicine. It is the Pittsburgh-area Group, or local "chapter," of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference.

Allegheny General Hospital's *Life Flight* and the Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania's *Angel 1* helicopters provide air transportation for us. The Center for Emergency Medicine's STATCOM also provides 24-hour dispatch services for AMRG (800-MED-STAT or 412-647-7828), and is the emergency resource information service for the Pennsylvania Search and Rescue Council.

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC) is a tightly-knit search and rescue organization spanning several states. You will find ASRC Groups in Pittsburgh, PA; Columbia, MD; Washington, DC; and in Charlottesville, Richmond, and Blacksburg, VA.

The ASRC is a national leader in wilderness medicine, search management, and mountain and cave rescue techniques. It is also the Eastern Region of the national Mountain Rescue Association (MRA); every Rescue-Certified ASRC member meets the national MRA certification standards.

Responsible Authority

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference functions under the authority of the

agency responsible for the search or rescue (e.g., State Police, County Sheriff, Civil Air Patrol Mission Coordinator, local Emergency Services Coordinator, or Park Superintendent). The ASRC (and AMRG) will conduct operations only at the request of such agencies, and will directly support the responsible agency.

Services

An Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference Quick Response Team can be mobilized in an hour or less. It will respond from the ASRC Group that can most quickly provide a qualified team to the area. The composition of this team depends on the nature of the mission. For a rescue operation, the Quick Response Team is self-sufficient for 48 hours and carries field-portable medical gear, communications equipment, and technical rescue gear, as appropriate for the situation and the patient. Members have medical training ranging from First Responder, through EMT-Paramedic, to field-qualified MD.

The ASRC also can quickly provide an Overhead Team to initiate the coordination and execution of a large-scale search operation, until more ASRC search management staff arrive. Our members can simply provide advice, provide specific management help, or supervise all the details of a search operation, at the pleasure of the responsible agent. Many members are graduates of the National Search and Rescue School or the National Association for Search and Rescue's *Managing the Search Function* and *Incident Commander for SAR* course, and have completed special ASRC search management training.

We welcome opportunities to train related organizations in search and rescue techniques, and can provide speakers and programs on outdoor safety topics, such as "Avoiding the Wilderness Emergency," "Wilderness Survival," or "Wilderness First Aid." We offer wilderness medicine courses for EMT's, Paramedics, RN's, and MD's

through the Center for Emergency Medicine, including Wilderness EMT, Wilderness Paramedic, and Wilderness Command Physician classes.

Service Area

The Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group will deploy a Quick Response Team or Overhead Team, either by helicopter or ground vehicle, to any location within a two-hour drive of Pittsburgh. The other ASRC Groups have a similar service area. The ASRC, including the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group, will respond to emergencies in other parts of the state or country, but may ask the responsible agency to approve fixed-wing air transport (usually funded by the U.S. Air Force or the state), to minimize travel time and fatigue, and to make our services more efficient. If an operation in the western Pennsylvania area needs more resources, we can quickly call in other ASRC and related groups, including air-scenting search dogs.

Excluded Activities

Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference Groups have neither the equipment nor the intent to replace any of the services of established rescue squads, fire departments, or law enforcement agencies. We provide specialized management and technical services in the outdoors, especially in rugged terrain, and consider our mission finished when the lost person or accident victim reaches a normally accessible area (i.e., a road).

We will help law enforcement agencies with certain tasks, such as collection of evidence or search and recovery of crime victims in wilderness areas. However, we will not be involved in the direct apprehension of criminals.