

ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP, ASRC

July 7, 1987 John Zimecki, Chairman

Members Present: Mike Abbitt, Roy Alson, Keith Conover, Joe Crist, Arf Fogle, John Greenaway, Erik Hrivnak, Mike Kuga, Richard Packer, Betty Thomas, John Zimecki.

The meeting opened with a reading of Greg Shea's letter to Keith, and consensus of a response to the letter. Keith is to write the response.

To clarify our position with the PSAR Council, John Zimecki will write a letter to them. John Greenaway has been appointed AMRG's representative to the PSAR and VSAR Councils.

TRAINING

Mike Kuga is to work up a one year training schedule. John Zimecki is to call Dave Vint to schedule immediate training. The July 18 training session has been cancelled due to landowner unavailability. Roy Alson is to call the other ASRC Groups.

There will be a training weekend August 15 and 16 in the vicinity of Bear Run, to which we will invite SMRG. August 15 will be land navigation and August 16 will be a mock certification test. Keith Conover is to send out details. John Zimecki will get our orienteering flags from Mike Kuga and put them up at Bear Run.

COMMUNICATIONS

Gene Harrison has been asking our Communications Officer, John Kihl, for a catalog of all the radios in our Group, but Arf Fogle has collected the list and will give it to Gene. Our Group members also need a list of radio frequencies, and that has not been put together. The second checking account for members to purchase equipment through the Group has been set up by Arf Fogle two months ago, but not used. Because things are being done on the Conference level, but not at the Group level, John Zimecki is to write a letter to John Kihl, and at the next business meeting we will discuss John Kihl's continuance as Group Communications Officer.

OPERATIONS

There was a suggestion that we keep in our ops kit a medical form similar to the one used on the PATC hike.

Ed Hrivnak donated topo maps for our ops kit. There was a map folding session following the meeting. Arf Fogle has an index to the Pennsylvania maps. The ops kit also needs a supply

of good road maps.

It was suggested that we invite new/prospective members to training sessions instead of business meetings. We discussed having more officers' meetings so that the regular meetings are shorter, and we can have short training at the meetings again. Anyone who is interested can come to the officers' meetings.

Our agreement with LifeFlight needs to be fine-tuned.

Roy Alson is taking nametag orders.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Joe Crist was voted in as a new trainee member.

Eric Hrivnak was voted in as our sixth certified member.

Jim Mandarino was voted in as a certified member, pending his passing the written land navigation test.

MISSIONS

Our last callout was Monday, June 6. Mike Kuga was notified by Rescue 40 at 1735, and appointed John Zimecki as DO and Keith Conover as ASRC IC. We alerted the other ASRC Groups, using the standard alerting procedure. Keith Conover, Mike Kuga, Arf Fogle, John Greenaway and Tom Wilkinson went out Monday night, and reported to Base Camp between midnight and one a.m. There was no responsible agent present, and no one in authority was there. Our members registered with the Rescue 40 Base Camp, but did not sign their blanket release. About three a.m. Ron Wisbith, the Rescue 40 IC, showed up. Meanwhile, Arf was helping Rescue 40 personnel gathering information about the missing woman. The victim was a 52-year old woman who was deeply depressed, and had disappeared when her relatives were about to commit her for psychiatric treatment. When first alerted, we were told that the Point Last Seen was at about midnight the previous night at here home, in a rural/wooded area; however, on arrival, the ASRC personnel found that there was a well-confirmed sighting of the subject a few miles away, sitting in the bleachers at the baseball stadium in Elwood City, PA, at about 7:30 p.m. (just a few hours before the ASRC personnel arrived). Since the ASRC has informal policies of not searching for criminals, and not becoming involved urban search, and since this subject, who was evasive but in no distress, the ASRC IC made a decision to participate in the operation under the following assumptions. The woman, who had been missing for two nights might be hypothermic, and might have become injured, ill, or otherwise immobile in the nearby rugged, wooded, river canyon park. The ASRC IC agreed to search the park, but not to participate in house-to-house street searching. She was found about 7:30 a.m. just off the road in the park, hypothermic and with a sprained ankle.

What we learned:

- * We need to update the ops kit. Jim Rooney should have sent us new forms.
- * We need road maps as well as topo maps in the ops kit.
- * DO should know when searchers leave for home, and when they arrive at home.
- * The Communications Officer should assign unit numbers with the radios. There was also a radio frequency usage problem--some people were talking on ham frequencies (144-148) without knowing it. (Rescue 40's instructions were to contact their Base on 146.85 MHz, an amateur frequency.)

June 20, the ASRC received a callout to search for a 30 year old female in medical trouble north of Richmond. Her friends had left her to go find help, but couldn't relocate her. The ASRC had a full callout, but AMRG was unable to get air transportation because of weather conditions (tornados had been sighted in the area). Bob Koster was the DO. There was a Status 1 find.

Keith Conover handed out a list of policy suggestions arising from the Confluence critique. If we want to institute the policy of 3 X 5 personnel cards for missions, people should bring in their list of equipment at the next meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE ROSTER: AVAILABLE FOR CALLOUT:

Joseph T. Crist, #9 Judicial Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15211
(h) 412-381-1069 (w) 412-622-6927

Michael A. Abbitt, 5024 Coral Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15224
(h) 412-661-4665 (w) 412-622-3654

Keith Conover's new work #: 412-232-8364/8222 (Mercy Hospital)

a second work #: 412-749-7076 (Sewickley Hospital)

Keith is no longer available by pager through Allegheny General Hospital.

Mike Yee's CORRECT phone #: (h) 412-462-7285 (w) 412-622-6927

Until 8/31/87, a field associate with SouthWest Virginia:

Heidi Stout, 3521 Ridgewood Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235
(h) 412-823-1095.

The meeting was adjourned.