

Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group
Monthly Group Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2008

The business meeting began at 18:40 with Ken Chiacchia presiding.

1. Chair Report/General announcements
 - a. Team credentialing – Member credentials continue to be gathered and updated.
 - b. Last person to leave the meeting room is asked to turn out the lights and lock and close the doors.
2. Operational Report
 - a. Callouts: Harrison, WV
Ambridge (71-year old despondent male. Not found.)
Wilkinsburg (8-year old girl. Found before response)
 - b. Trailer status: Trailer should be ready at the end of the week.
 - c. AMRG/ASRC jackets proposal: A volunteer is needed to finalize arrangements to get patches applied.
3. Recap of Board Meeting
 - a. Beginning this year, dues will be collected on December 1st to enable AMRG to pay affiliate organization dues in a timely manner.
 - b. Web upgrade: AMRG's website is being moved to a local service in order to improve paging reliability.
 - c. Cave rescue: It has been decided that AMRG should invest in the equipment and training needed to become a certified cave rescue team.
 - d. Don will attend region 13 meetings. These meetings are a potential source of networking and funding opportunities.
 - e. Fundraising Ideas: We need to raise funds over and above the grants that have been awarded to AMRG. Suggestions for fundraising projects that do not require large time commitments are being solicited from the membership.
 - f. An effort is being made to add one non-member to the board.
 - g. The board will meet quarterly.
 - h. The budget will be completed soon.
4. External Organizations
 - a. Scott is still working on our 501(c)(3) status
 - b. There is nothing new to report regarding new grant applications. The new budget needs to be completed before further grant-related action can be taken.
 - c. January ASRC meeting results:
 1. Future ASRC credentialing may include a mock search test.
 2. A new standards process is set to begin soon.
 3. A way is being sought to add a rider to the ASRC insurance policy that will cover trailers.
 4. Maryland State may certify search teams in the future. AMRG may want to become state certified in Maryland since it is within our response area.
 5. The state of Virginia, instrumental in establishing ASRC certification standards, no longer recognizes those standards.
 6. We need two ASRC reps to represent AMRG at quarterly meetings.
 - d. Don will attend the PSARC meeting on Feb. 9th.
 - e. MRA winter business meeting report (5-year strategic plan):
 1. PR & outreach focus
 2. Marketing & Branding
 3. MRA growth in the Appalachian region.
 4. Share educational materials on the web.
 5. Tracking team response stats.
 6. Paid Executive Director?
 7. E-blast website features.
 8. 2009 is the 50th anniversary of MRA. History of MRA being gathered. Video to be produced.

9. Focusing on avalanches due to this particularly bad season.
5. Training Report:
 - a. MARG winter training was a success
 - b. Upcoming training opportunities:
 1. Feb, 8-11 MRA winter training, Adirondacks High Peaks
 2. Feb. 11 HAZMAT awareness, Allegheny County EMA
 3. Feb 16 AMRG night ops field training, Knob Hill Park, Marshall
 4. Feb. 22-24 Virginia GSAR college
 5. March 8, 9 & 15 ICS-300, Allegheny County EMA
 6. March 13-April 10 Amateur Radio technician class, Allegheny County EMA
 7. March 19 HAZMAT awareness, Allegheny County EMA
 8. April 25-27 VaSARCo state conference
 9. April 26 & 27 ICS-400, Allegheny County EMA
 10. May 1-4 PA SAR-EX – We will have activities for AMRG members!
 11. June 15 Advanced Grid Team (DCNR curriculum,) class, Fayette county
 12. June 19-21 MRA summer conference, Stowe, VT
7. Member Business
 - a. Dues & release forms were collected.
 - b. The membership elected two ASRC delegates. Ken Chiacchia and Pete Roofl were elected unanimously.
 - c. Andy announced that he may son move out of the area, and because of that, cannot continue as training officer.
 - d. A slate of candidates was nominated in preparation for the election of officers to be held at the next monthly business meeting. They include:
 1. Commander – Dale
 2. Training Officer – Bill
 3. Asst. Training Officer – Dan Becky
 4. Ops – Chris
 5. BOD – Bru & Don

Following the business meeting, Keith conducted a training session on SAR legal issues.