

# Keith Conover, M.D., FACEP

55 Sigrid Drive

Carnegie, PA 15106-3062



(412) 276-1980 (H)  
kconover@pitt.edu  
www.conovers.org

September 2, 2015

Matthew Benson,  
Executive Director,  
Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group

Dear Mr. Benson:

## *Fellowship Nomination*

I am writing to propose Chris Ruch for Fellow status under the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group Fellowship program.

For many years, Mr. Ruch has served in leadership positions in the Group, which he continues to this day. His tireless efforts to make the Group the best, strongest and highest-quality SAR team around have created an organization that is highly-regarded, not only in the local area, not only in the state, but across the country.

Some specifics are in order. Mr. Ruch first joined AMRG in 2000, and thus this marks fifteen years of continuous leadership with the Group. By 2004, he was serving as Team Commander, and he has continued strongly in leadership roles ever since. Some particular high points of his career in SAR include:

- Reorganizing AMRG's administrative structure to be more similar to that of a fire or EMS service.
- Serving four years as Training Officer for AMRG's parent Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, and guiding through a very major revision of the ASRC Training Standards, bringing these standards in line with current national procedures for such standards.
- Becoming an extremely active officer of AMRG's parent Mountain Rescue Association, working to further the MRA's purposes by expanding its Appalachian Region, and serving as Region Chair for four years.
- Working to modernize accreditation standards for the MRA, and developing a training and certification system for AMRG that integrated MRA standards along with ASRC standards for AMRG members.

- For fifteen years, generally not having a life except for doing stuff for AMRG, MRA and ASRC.

For all of these reasons, and others I am sure I have left out, I strongly believe that Chris Ruch is richly deserving of being a Fellow of the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group.

Thank you.

Yours aye,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Conover', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith Conover, M.D., FACEP

cc: AMRG BOD

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