

APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INCORPORATED  
P.O. Box 440 Newcomb Station  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903

Minutes of the ASRC Board Meeting  
6 January 1984

The meeting was called to order at 2005, at the Howard Johnson's in Warrenton, Virginia, by Chairman Gary Mechtel.

Present were Harold Driscoll (Director, SMRG), Gene Harrison (Director, SMRG), Gary Mechtel (Director, BRMRG), Henry St Clair (Director, Non-voting, SWVMRG), Cady Soukup (SMRG Chairman, Non-voting), and Dean Wampler (Director, BRMRG).

The tentative schedule for the next board meeting is 14 Jan, in Richmond, Virginia, following the VA SAR Council Meeting.

An informal discussion and review of recent press clippings and correspondence took place. There was considerable and favorable publicity resulting from the Old Rag rescue.

Report: South West Virginia Mountain Rescue Group (Henry St. Clair) The group now does have a name. It has six field qualified members, with individual gear. The group does not have any group gear or communications gear. Contacts have been made with local rescue squads, and some joint training has been conducted. The response is quite favorable.

Report: Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (Dean Wampler) The group has recently bought two new handheld radios. The Operations Kit is being revised and updated. Fundraising activities are planned for this spring, and a training schedule is being prepared. Concern was expressed that there will be a large turnover, including leadership people, when they graduate from school in about a year, and quite likely move to other areas. The group is addressing this situation.

Report: Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (Cady Soukup) The group has been very active. Formal affiliation with PATC (Potomac Appalachian Trail Club) is being completed. This affiliation is believed to benefit SMRG, PATC, and ASRC; there are no reservations regarding disadvantages. A number of new Basic and Trainee members are being trained, and some have recently seen field experience. The group is also building a network of Associate members, who have a broad assortment of outdoor skills. The group finances are a mess, and are being straightened out.

Report: Potomac Valley Search and Rescue Group (No Report) This group is now totally inactive. Actions are under way to recover any property of the ASRC, and to formally dissolve the group.

Patches (Harold Driscoll) No action taken, will follow up on obtaining a new batch of patches. The ASRC Board agreed again:

The new ASRC patches will be the same size as the present ones, and as close to identical in design and color as is practical.

Communications Sub-Committee (of the Operations Committee) (Gene Harrison) A new "crib sheet" is being prepared. The ASRC Board accepted the recommendation:

External labels on all ASRC radio equipment will not list the explicit frequency. Symbolic names such as "mountain" or "metro", and the letter designations from the Communications Sub-Committee should be used, both for marking the radio sets and when the frequencies are discussed. The actual frequency may, however, be noted within the set.

Members should be reminded that the frequencies we use are sensitive, and discussion should be used when revealing them to anyone.

Virginia Association of Volunteer Rescue Squads (VAVRS) (Gary Mechtel) Contacts are being made proposing some form of association between VAVRS and ASRC. VAVRS does not seem to have a category of membership into which we easily fit.

Public Relations (Gary Mechtel) Contacts are being made with the VA-OEES counterparts in the adjacent states.

Newsletter (Gary Mechtel) It was suggested that the SMRG Newsletter be expanded in scope to cover the ASRC (which does not now have a newsletter). The ASRC Board was favorably inclined, and the matter will be referred to SMRG.

7 Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) A productive meeting was held with George Jansen of MRA, discussing ways to establish a more active role between ASRC and MRA.

Affiliation We discussed a possible association between ASRC and a new dog team group which may be formed. The ASRC Board is willing to discuss it, with caution that we don't adversely impact our good relations with other dog groups.

Virginia SAR Council (Harold Driscoll) We discussed the upcoming VA SAR Council meeting. The ASRC Board agreed:

The ASRC wishes to have representatives, at the VA SAR Council, from each ASRC group, while at the same time limiting it to only a few people from each group.

ALS Protocols (Gary Mechtel) There is interest, in obtaining Advanced Life Support capabilities. Each group has some ALS qualified members at this time. There is also concern about the legal and other complications involved. The ASRC Board decided:

→ All ALS Protocols must be established by a Medical Director who is external to the ASRC. This Medical Director must be an experienced Emergency Medicine MD who is appointed by the ASRC Board. All ALS Protocols must be approved by both the Medical Director and the ASRC board.

Callout Procedures It is hard to contact the DC folks. The SMRG is aware of the situation and is working to improve it.

#### ACTION ITEMS

Harold Driscoll -- Tax Exempt Status; Patches

Gary Mechtel -- Liaison with organizations within and outside Virginia

Gene Harrison -- Radio License Upgrade (Aircraft); Radios from Garth

Cady Soukup -- MRA Liaison; ASRC Affiliation with PATC & Insurance inquiry; SMRG

Newsletter --> ASRC Newsletter question; New dog team liaison; Park Pre-plan (SNP)

Everybody -- Improve liaison with Paul Deem of VA-OEES

The meeting ended at 2235.

Harold A. Driscoll  
Secretary, ASRC