

# ASRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

12 DEC 92

Called to order at 1030 hrs

## ATTENDANCE:

### OFFICERS:

CHAIR: David Carter  
VICE-CHAIR: John Punches  
SECRETARY: Bruce Hemmer  
TREASURER: Patrick Turner

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

COMMUNICATIONS: Mark Eggeman NOT PRESENT  
MEDICAL: Scott Shuffield NOT PRESENT  
OPERATIONS: David Carter  
TRAINING: Peter McCabe  
SAFETY: Gary Mechtel (Late)  
UNIFORM: Matt Rhode

### DELEGATES:

AMRG: Keith Conover NOT PRESENT  
John Greenaway NOT PRESENT  
BRMRG: Lisa Hannon  
Bob Koester  
M/SAR : Peter McCabe  
Shannon Baruth NOT PRESENT  
PVRG: (ESAR 617 - Non-Voting)  
Daphne Soares  
RSAR: Kevin Dawe  
Dennis Jordan NOT PRESENT  
SMRG: Jenny Burmester (Late)  
Gary Mechtel (Late)  
SWVMRG: John Casey NOT PRESENT  
John Punches  
TSAR: David Carter  
Matt Rhode

## OFFICER REPORTS:

### CHAIR:

The chair made additions to the agenda for the meeting to reflect additional reports presented below. He then read the attached letter from Shenandoah National Park thanking the ASRC for its involvement in and preparedness for the Old Rag search on 14-16 NOV 92. He later mentioned a rumor that we may not have been called into the recent protracted mission for a lost hunter in Augusta Co. due to political problems with another SAR organization. He is investigating.

The chair assigned the duty of maintaining a data base on ASRC personnel to MSAR, as outlined in the attached memo. The chair asked for a report on this at the next meeting.

The chair wants more input on the IC/IS letters. He

2.  
announced that SARCON 93 is still on for 30 Jan 93 and will cost \$20, reservations being accepted up to that day. PSO will be offered by VA DES for free - notices have been sent to Groups.

SECRETARY: SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN REPORT

A motion passed to accept the Oct 92 minutes as written.

TREASURER: SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN REPORT

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

##### COMMUNICATIONS:

We still have not received the renewal of the radio license, apparently because the frequency coordinator has not submitted paperwork. The situation is being investigated. When we receive the new license, we will have a new callsign. A copy of the license will be sent to each Group Chair, as a copy must be posted with every base station. We can operate on the old license until the application for renewal clears FCC.

All Groups are requested to provide the ASRC Commo Secretary with a list of Group commo equipment and information pertinent to the operation of that equipment.

MEDICAL: A report will be mailed separately.

OPERATIONS: Waiting for input on proposed changes for Ops Manual; no input has been yet received.

SAFETY: SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN REPORT

TRAINING: SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN REPORT

UNIFORM: Matt Rhode has replaced Earl Evans as Chair.

#### GROUP REPORTS:

AMRG: No Report.

BRMRG: SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN REPORT

M/SAR (ESAR 616): SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN REPORT

PVRG (ESAR 617): SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN REPORT

RSAR: SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN REPORT

SMRG: SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN REPORT

SWVMRG: SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN REPORT

TSAR: SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN REPORT

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OLD BUSINESS:

PENS:

Dave Carter is still investigating possibility. A consensus was reached that retractable plastic ballpoints are most desirable.

ASTM REP:

William Dixon resigned and described the position and its importance. John Punches volunteered to replace him.

EOC 1-800 #:

Marc Pennington made it clear that the EOC 1-800 # is still available for "yes/no" verification by enroute personnel that the mission is still in progress. Enroute personnel should not use this number for other purposes.

It was therefore decided that it is unnecessary for the ASRC to reconsider taking over the 1-800 # currently paid for and controlled by BRMRG, since BRMRG is willing to allow the incident staff to use this number for mission-related traffic from Base to ASRC Dispatch.

BUDGET:

A motion passed to accept the 1993 budget the treasurer presented with the following modifications. The expense of the 1-800 #, as discussed above, was not included. The line item entitled "State Corporation Commission" was changed from \$10 to \$25. The line item of \$25 entitled "FCC" was struck. A line item of \$100 was added entitled "dues to outside organizations". This made the total debits \$1104. With an income \$640, this made the total debt \$464. A copy of the budget as modified and accepted is attached.

It was suggested that the 1994 budget should include a donation line item in the income. A consensus was reached that the Treasurer should enforce the budget.

ASRC MOU WITH MD STATE POLICE: NO REPORT

RADIO LICENSE RENEWAL: SEE COMMO REPORT ABOVE

In discussion, Peter McCabe suggested that Neighbor may not be the appropriate body through which to be routing our renewal. He suggested that Steve Houck of SMRG may be able to offer advise, since he works at FCC.

BROCHURE:

The brochure was delayed by printer problems. It will be mailed separately. Mark Pennington volunteered to print it if needed.

IS TRAINING MATERIALS:

Bob Koester said he sent out his version 2 years ago for comment and never received any. Bob pointed out that his class has been historically offered to the Conference, rather than primarily to one Group. Bob agreed to again distribute his

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Hemmer and Paul DeHaven volunteered to serve on the committee. The Chair requested a report 30 days in advance of the next meeting.

AO PROPOSAL: To be mailed before next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

PVRG TRAINING OFFICER: A motion to accept Scott McCabe as PVRG Training Officer passed.

IC/IS RECERTIFICATION:

Bob Koester and Bruce Hemmer developed tests for IC and IS recertification. No objection to using them was voiced, in the absence of other developed tests. The IC test is ready to be sent out, and the IS test soon will be. They should be returned to them for grading at the address indicated. After grading, the IC tests will be forwarded to the Chair for review.

Bob Koester suggested that any member failing to meet recertification requirements would be placed on probation for six months, during which the member would drop one training level until satisfying the recertification requirements. If these requirements were not satisfied by the end of the probationary period, the member in question would then stay at the lower training level until satisfying the requirements for original certification at the previous training level. No action was taken on the proposal.

IC RESIGNATION:

Vince Serio of RSAR resigned as an IC. He remains IS. A copy of his resignation letter is attached.

ADMINISTRATION OF ASRC WRITTEN FTL TEST:

Several members of the Board, some of them GTO's, voiced objections to the protective restrictions associated with the administration of the ASRC written FTL test. The following motion passed: The ASRC Training Officer will mail one copy of the ASRC FTL test to each Group Training Officer for use in 1993, able to be superceeded at any time if the test's security is found to be in jeopardy. The GTO's will then be free to administer the test at will as individuals become ready to take it.

BOD MEETING DATES:

The schedule of ASRC BOD Meetings was revised, changing the next two meetings to the following:

SAT, 13 FEB 93 1030 hrs Charlottesville

SAT, 03 APR 93 1030 hrs Surry Co (at TSAR Simulation)

Thereafter the schedule should return to the first Saturday of every even month. Note that the April meeting will also be the Annual General Membership Meeting.

1993 ASRC SAR SIMULATION:

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materials for consideration.

PSO materials are almost finished, but the authors are willing to incorporate other material. SMRG gives IS training once a month.

501(C)(3): With the new budget completed, the way is clear to turn in the application in January.

FTM TEST: SEE ATTACHED TRAINING REPORT

OPERATIONS MANUAL UPDATE: SEE OPERATIONS REPORT ABOVE

TRAINING MANUAL: NO REPORT

RSAR 36-MONTH REVIEW:

RSAR presented a roster, financial statement, training schedule and list of ASRC events in which it participated. Some confusion had occurred over whether photos of Group equipment were acceptable evidence of its existence, or whether an actual physical inspection was required. RSAR offered either. The Board decided that photos were acceptable, but rather than delay the Review process due to its own previous indecision, the Board waived the requirement in this case. It was determined that all other requirements were met. A motion passed to pass RSAR on the 36-month review, contingent on the ASRC receiving a check for Group dues. Kevin Dawe wrote a personal check for the 1992 RSAR dues and submitted it to the Treasurer.

BYLAW CHANGE: SEE ATTACHED SECRETARY REPORT

The secretary raised the question of whether all Call-out Qualified members actually met the letter of the requirements specified by the Bylaws to be voting Active Members. It was noted that members who were considered Active before 1988 were grandfathered past those requirements. No decision was made concerning this question.

The Secretary also noted that if a special General Membership meeting were required to officially count the ballots, notice of that meeting would need to be sent out 25 days in advance in order to comply with the bylaws. The chair directed that this be done for a special General Membership meeting preceding the February BOD meeting.

PRESENTATION:

Gary Mechtel gave a brisk presentation of his ideas, primarily concerning real-time control of multiple simultaneous incidents and unusual incidents, as well as real-time control of the alert/dispatch process. He suggested the establishment of a position for maintaining this control, the Operations Officer being a prime candidate.

The Chair established a committee to create an expanded definition of the Operations Officer which includes this function, to be considered by the Board. The committee is chaired by John Punches. Gary Mechtel, Patrick Turner, Bruce

6.  
Will be 13-14 Nov 93. Group training is expected to be planned around this event. Mark calendars now!

DOGWOOD HALF-HUNDRED:

Will be 17 April 93. We had a save at a previous one. Contact SMRG for details.

1993 SCHEDULES OF GROUP EVENTS:

Schedules of Group training, fundraising and other events should be sent to the ASRC Secretary for Conference-wide publication in the interest of improving coordination of Conference events and inter-group exchanges.

Adjourned 1600 hrs.

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ASRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
12 December 1992  
AGENDA

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Call to Order - Dave Carter, Chairman

Rules of Order:

1. May speak no more than three minutes to any single issue.
2. May speak ONLY if a member of the Board.
3. May NOT repeat points already made by another member.
4. Professional demeanor will be maintained.

Roll Call - Bruce Hemmer, Recording Secretary

Minutes of last Meeting - Bruce Hemmer, Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report - Patrick Turner, Treasurer

Committee Reports: ALL REPORTS WILL BE IN WRITING

Training - Peter McCabe

Uniform Committee - Earl Evans

Medical Committee - Scott Shuffield

ASTM report - William Dixon

Operations - Dave Carter

Communications - Mark Eggeman

Group Reports: ALL REPORTS WILL BE IN WRITING

AMRG

SMRG

MSAR

TSAR

RSAR

BRMG

SWVMRG

Chairman's Report, Dave Carter, Chairman

OLD BUSINESS:

ASRC MOU with Maryland State Police - Peter McCabe  
Radio license Renewal - Mark Eggeman  
Brochure - Mark Eggeman  
IS Training Materials  
Status of 501(c)(3) - Bob Koester  
FTM Test - Peter McCabe  
Operations Manual update - Dave Carter  
Training Manual - Comparison report/Scott Shuffield  
RSAR's 36 month review  
Status of Change to By-laws  
Presentation - Mechtal's five key points  
From floor

1800 H

NEW BUSINESS:

From floor

PURG GTO

93 meeting dates BOO / Gen men 6

LESSON LEARNED FROM RECENT INCIDENTS

Recent Tests

Adjournment



IN REPLY REFER TO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Shenandoah National Park  
Route 4, Box 348  
Luray, Virginia 22835-9051

A34

November 17, 1992

Mr. David Carter, Chairman  
Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference  
P. O. Box 440, Newcomb Hall  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904

Dear Mr. Carter:

On November 14 - 16 of this year, the Wentz Search Incident occurred in Shenandoah National Park. The resource assistance from your organization was very significant in the successful outcome of this search.

As usual with the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, their performances were outstanding and appreciated as in-Park resources are at a bare minimum.

Thank you for your groups' mobilization and assistance to the Park during this incident. Also, thank you for your hard work in ensuring that your group is prepared for such types of incidents. Your planning and training are evident in your mobilization and readiness to assist.

We look forward to working with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Hake  
Chief Park Ranger



# ASSIGNMENT

I have asked M/SAR, following in the tradition of BB Oros -- formerly of SMRG -- to accept the responsibility of maintaining the Conference's data base on the search and rescue and related credentials of ASRC personnel.

M/SAR has developed a resource management system to provide this service containing a relational data base containing all known ASRC records of current members.

M/SAR has accepted this responsibility.

I have also asked M/SAR to provide us with a demonstration of the SAR resource management system they have developed at their earliest opportunity. I understand the next stage in the development of this system will be to use its present resource listing and task assignment capabilities to generate TAFs and record debriefing information. In my discussion with McCabe, he indicates this resource management system does not conflict with existing CASIS II or SearchMaster programs; it complements them.

# Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group

P.O. Box 602  
Ambridge, PA 15003

February 15, 1993

Bruce Hemmer, ASRC Secretary  
2508 Fontaine Avenue  
Charlottesville VA 22903

Dear Mr. Hemmer:

**SUBJECT: December 1992 Board of Directors Minutes**

Just a few comments on and corrections to the December 1992 minutes. First, although neither John nor I were able to attend the meeting, Michael Kuga had mailed a report to Chairman Dave Carter prior to the meeting.

Second, regarding ASTM: we had elected to use the cheaper alternative of having an individual ASTM member represent the voice of the ASRC, and agreed to pay the individual membership dues for Mr. Dixon for this purpose. In order to switch membership to Mr. Panches, Mr. Panches needs to submit a membership application to ASTM (available from ASTM HQ) and pay 1993 membership dues (\$50), which by previous motion should be reimbursed by the ASRC.

Regarding the ASRC Membership Meeting in Surry, VA in April: this location is 7.5 hours drive from AMRG, not counting rest or meal stops. If you wish to have any chance of AMRG members attending, you should schedule the meeting in the late afternoon/early evening hours of Saturday; please let us know of the time and exact location.

Regarding the November 1992 ASRC Simulation discussed in the Training Report: this was scheduled at the same time as the ASRC-CEM Wilderness EMT class and simulation in western Pennsylvania. This was known before the simulation was scheduled, and it was known that all of AMRG and some other ASRC Groups would participate in the official ASRC simulation held as part of the WEMT class. Therefore poor attendance at the "other" ASRC simulation should be no surprise. If we wish to hold an ASRC simulation so that AMRG will



The western Pennsylvania Group of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference  
A certified Member Team of the Mountain Rescue Association



Bruce Hemmer, ASRC Secretary  
February 15, 1993  
Page 2

attend, and so that ASRC members will not be drawn away from the simulation, we should not hold them the same weekend as a WEMT class. I also think that ASRC Simulations suffer from lack of publicity to individual ASRC members. Although expensive, a training mailing to each individual ASRC member once or twice a year might remedy this.

Regarding the Safety Officer report of Lyme disease from an ASRC mission: as a physician specializing in diseases such as Lyme Disease, I must observe that there is little in the published report to suggest that this person actually contracted Lyme Disease on an ASRC mission. The diagnosis was based on serological tests for Lyme Disease, and these tests are notorious for having false-positive results. The current recommendations are that acute Lyme Disease be diagnosed entirely on clinical grounds, in particular having the classic rash of Erythema Migrans; "flu-like symptoms" are not enough. The report notes that this person had been treated for Lyme Disease in the past, and we know that in particular the ELISA test may stay positive for years after treated Lyme Disease. To paraphrase a recent article:

"Resist the temptation to test patients with vague nonspecific symptoms such as fatigue, fever, myalgias, or transient arthralgias; the ELISA test remains positive for many years, even in treated patients, and a false positive test in such a patient may lead to numerous courses of unneeded antibiotics (sometimes with a placebo effect) and result in failure to diagnose the true problem." [Gerber MA, Shapiro ED. Diagnosis of Lyme disease in children. J Ped 1992; 12(1):158-62.]

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Keith Conover, M.D.  
AMRG ASRC Delegate

cc: Mr. Carter, Mr. Punches, Mr. Mechtel  
C:\TEXT\ASRCMISC\DEC-BOD.LTR

10.  
6507 Barcroft Lane  
Richmond, VA 23226

October 22, 1992

Mr. David Carter  
Chairman, ASRC  
803 Townsend Ct.  
Norfolk, VA 23502

Dear Dave:

Contrary to our telephone conversation last evening, I have decided to resign as an ASRC incident commander effective immediately. After further thought, I believe that my time commitment to medical school will continue to increase, and that trying to stay current as an IC will be impossible in the near future. My tenure as an IC has been short, and I don't believe that I have gained enough experience to maintain my skills in this position with my current level of involvement.

I do, however, feel that I would still be able to perform IS or FTL duties, as my experience is more extensive in these areas. I understand that these levels are also dependent on constitutional/bylaw standards and I intend to abide by those rules. I believe that my time at future practice/actual missions will be better spent by strengthening my skills in the roles of IS or FTL, rather than in developing my IC skills, which are so new to me.

I will continue to respond to IS/FTL callouts unless I have further communication from the board suggesting otherwise. I will notify Mark Pennington, Chairman, RSAR of my change in status. I request you to please inform the appropriate ASRC hierarchy of this decision.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as an ASRC IC. My allegiance to the organization remains, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Respectfully,



Vince Serio

ASRC SECRETARY REPORT  
ASRC BOD MEETING  
12 DEC 92

EMS AGENCY INSPECTION:

We passed inspection contingent on sending in an updated roster by the end of the month. Members will be listed on the roster as having medical certification only if the certification is on file at ASRC Headquarters.

ROSTER:

The Bylaws and Ops Manual Require Groups to supply the Secretary with a roster including **type of membership** and date conferred, types of training and **expiration dates**, and vehicle info, in addition to name, address and phone #'s.

BYLAW BALLOTS:

The conference-wide return is overwhelmingly positive, but is only at 45% at this time. All groups have been notified of which members have not returned a ballot, and these people should be called.



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APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

P.O. BOX 440

NEWCOMB STATION

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904

### **12 December 1992 Treasurer's Report**

Our income since the last meeting has been \$88.00. BRMRG paid their 1992 dues and registered 43 members. Notices have been sent out to all groups about 1992 and 1993 dues. All groups are reminded that 1992 dues and individual registration dues are due by 1 January 1993; all 1993 dues are due by April 1993.

Our debits since the last meeting has been \$205.65. They include \$17.00 per month for pager service, \$17.54 for the final payment to Hazel and Thomas (they forgot to bill us originally for certain reimbursements), \$95.00 postage for the by-law change, and \$63.06 for the last set of minutes. Anyone who needs reimbursement needs to get all receipts to me before 31 December 1992.

The paperwork for the 501c3 has been completed. The only remaining information still needed is 1992 financial statement and a budget for 1993. Hopefully, everyone received a copy of the proposed budget. I will present it formally with during Old Business.

I have not had a chance to looking into business cards as fully as I would have liked to. I have found different versions of the old business cards and need to have a style approved. I also found the original templates for group stationary if anyone is interested in getting more made.

I was charged with looking into getting long-term storage space for mission records. The smallest units available in self-storage are 5'x5' at a minimum cost of \$32 per month. Other sizes and costs are: 5'x7' \$34/month; 5'x10' 39/month; 6'x6' 40/month. We will not come close to filling up this space and it would be a waste of money to pay for storage.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick L. Turner".

Patrick L. Turner  
ASRC Treasurer

- **ASRC Training Standards and Training Manual:** On July 28 all ASRC GTOs were asked to send a list of reference materials used in their group FTM training programs. It was emphasized that materials could be in any format, published or otherwise. The goal was to gather basic information on what each ASRC group uses to conduct its training. Two Groups have responded: M/SAR and AMRG. PVRG has indicated they are developing their training materials at this time. Nothing has been heard from BRMG, RSAR, TSAR, SMRG and SWVMRG. Recommendations for dealing with this situation follow in a further section of this report.

- **November 1992 ASRC Training Simulation:** Fifty three ASRC members from 4 ASRC groups participated in the 1992 training simulation at Sky Meadows State Park, Virginia during November 20-22. Groups participating included: M/SAR, PVRG, SMRG, and SWVMRG. Groups not participating in the simulation included Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group, Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group, Richmond Search & Rescue Group, and Tidewater Search & Rescue Group.

- ♠ **Participation:** AMRG, TSAR and RSAR did not participate, but they have not in 3 years of ASRC training simulations. BRMG did not participate; they reportedly conducted their own training program near C'ville in preparation for their FTM test Thanksgiving weekend. Three COQs from SMRG participated -- two for part of one day. One IC from SMRG served as the first shift incident commander, and another IC from SMRG joined the exercise in the field evacuations for several hours Sunday morning.

The training simulation was designed to provide a full bore "to the wall" SAR exercise to test both the skills of field personnel and IS/IC staff, many who -- it was thought -- would be working "up a step" from their existing ASRC rating. A 17 year old hiker from Towson, Maryland was recruited as the lost person. And, working with VA/DES, arrangements were made for a simulated plane crash during the ongoing lost person search. Note: This additional burden was to evaluate how IS/IC personnel would respond to a multiple incident, and how they would process and use simulated n-tap data presumed to have been received from the USAF.

- ♠ **Observations:** While genuinely disappointed with the poor response from the 5 other ASRC groups, and frustrated by not being informed by Groups they would not be participating, a number of learning points surfaced.

1. This simulation reinforced the growing attitude by an increasing number of ground-pounders in the ASRC that too many ASRC members feel the major work in a lost person search occurs indoors, not outdoors where the individual is lost. While perhaps a personal observation, it is an informed observation that traditional ASRC incident command operations are becoming increasingly over-staffed.

From onset to Hour-9 in the November 1992 training simulation, one experienced IC ran mission base. From Hour-9 to Hour-28 an experienced IS person, working up a level to IC and a former Missouri state trooper with no ASRC experience but significant law enforcement field command experience, operated the simulation mission base. From Hour-28 to Hour-43, the entire incident command was operated by the former state trooper. The two IS persons readily handled processing of simulated n-tap information, not knowing till later this phase of the exercise was simulated. Note: One asset to this paradigm, not usually available, was computer assisted resource lists denoting the ready status/assignment of all personnel.

**Conclusion:** The ASRC needs to closely look at the increasing numbers of incident staff personnel "working" at mission base.

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TRAINING REPORT  
TO THE  
APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE

December 8, 1992

- **FTL Test:** The FTL written test is now being distributed upon request to ASRC Group Training Officers. To date, SWVMRG and AMRG have requested FTL tests. the following summarizes the test.

The written test is 100 questions. There are 7 sections with established questions in each section. To pass the test, individuals must have at least 70% correct IN EACH SECTION of the test. Sections of the test may be retaken at the discretion of the ASRC Group Training Officer, but only after requesting a new copy of the test. Tests are individually printed, serial numbered and encrypted. The following guidelines have been established:

- When requested by the Training Officer, a copy of the FTL test and the answer key for that test will be mailed to the Training Officer. Each test page will be individually numbered, encrypted and dated.
- The test is not to be photocopied or reproduced in any manner. This test is copyrighted by the ASRC and is the property of the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc.
- All completed written tests, when scored, are to be returned, along with the answer key to that test, to the ASRC Training Officer. Group training officers should enclose a note with each returned test indicating the results of the total FTL evaluation for each candidate.
- Persons successfully passing the written and field evaluation will be noted in designated ASRC rosters as Field Team Leaders.

Plans call for developing an additional 300 questions for the 7-section test so that different permutations of may be developed.

This written test is one part of the FTL evaluation process which is managed and administered by GTOs in each ASRC group. It is anticipated that GTOs will also conduct a field practicum exercise for FTL candidates.

- **FTM Test Development**

As earlier reported in August 1992, Gary Schlueter (M/SAR) and John Panches (SWVMRG) volunteered to work on this project. Basic test information from M/SAR and SWVMRG has been collected. We are hopeful of making the self-imposed deadline of January 15, 1993, for a first cut draft.

- **Recommendation for New Training Officer:** Art Dodds, Training Officer for ESAR-617/Potomac Valley Rescue Group, has indicated he will not be able to continue as Training Officer for this group at the University of Maryland/College Park. I am advised Art will continue his association with the College Park program while maintaining his primary ASRC affiliation through AMRG/Pittsburgh. Scott McCabe, FTL from ESAR-616 (M/SAR), has been acting training officer since September.

- ☐ **ACTION ITEM:** It is recommended that Scott McCabe be designated by the ASRC BOD as the Training Officer for the Potomac Valley Rescue Group/ESAR-617 program.



**Recommendation:** While an operations issue, the ASRC may want to consider designating maximum ranges of incident staff to field personnel. ASRC Operations might be well advised to operationally stipulate maximum ratios of searchers in the field to mission base incident staff. Also, it appears there may well be several philosophical issues that ASRC should deal with operationally. Philosophical discussion only evades the reality that too many folks are hanging around the mission base and eating the rations which should be saved for groundpounders working outdoors.

2. As the ASRC Training Officer, I am unfortunately forced to the conclusion that ASRC groups are not training together -- within and between groups -- to facilitate immediate transference of cross referenced skills between different ASRC teams in a real search emergency. For those who question whether or not groups are training in the field, read through written group reports which are submitted.

**Conclusion:** ASRC, in many respects, may no longer be an umbrella organization with the capability to respond as a single unit -- a conference to a lost person incident.

**Recommendation:** The ASRC may want to consider requiring Conference wide training as a prerequisite for continued certification.

3. With ASRC groups not training at scheduled Conference training simulations, the opportunity for the ASRC Training Officer to observe subject groups is not present.

**Conclusion:** While the operational readiness of ASRC groups is not solely the responsibility of the ASRC Training Officer, the training that brings the individual within the group to a point of readiness as a COQ person, FTM, or FTL is the responsibility of the ASRC Training Officer. Subject responsibility has been traditionally delegated to the Group Training Officer.

**Recommendation:** There are several.

1. Recommendations should be made annually by the ASRC Training Officer for warranting (commissioning) GTOs. Part of this process should be observation by the ASRC Training Officer of at least one group training event or participation. This observation should include annual review of the Group training records. Site visits should be coordinated with annual visits by the ASRC Operations Chief.
2. It is the responsibility of GTOs to report on and review the progress of their training programs to the ASRC. And, it is appropriate for GTOs to respond to routine queries from the ASRC for information and records.

16.

From: G. Mechtel  
To: ASRC BOD  
Date: November 30, 1992  
Subj: ASRC Safety Evaluation Procedures.

I was recently assigned the task of fulfilling the new ASRC function of safety officer. I felt one of the first things I ought to do is develop a list of roles, functions, and responsibilities that the safety officer is responsible for. Please review these functions & responsibilities and let me know if any changes should occur. I believe that the final set of functions (or duties) and responsibilities should be approved by the ASRC BOD.

Secondly, I wish to identify the issues that I am presently investigating:

- A) The Surry County search and associated tick borne diseases.
- B) Traffic Accidents involving returning ASRC personnel from incidents
- C) A repeling injury.

Lastly, I wish to identify the following issues that are of concern to me and that I shall be following up in the future:

- 1) Vertical Rescue practices, training, and implementation and a lack of peer review of proper procedures.
- 2) Lack of on-scene adequate safety procedures vis-a-vis
  - A) ASRC Operations during the hunting season.
  - B) Developing knowledge of and the subsequent briefing of known risks at an incident.
  - C) Lack of documented policies concerning the mitigation of Critical Stress impacts on all ASRC personnel and any personnel under the direction of the ASRC.
  - D) Difficulty in policing individuals to determine their present (and future) mental conditions as they drive to and from incidents.
  - E)

Draft

11/30/92

## The ASRC Safety Officer: Roles, Duties, and Responsibilities.

- 1) Limitations: The ASRC safety officer (SO) is not the Safety Officer identified under ICS as an on-scene function. The SO is not an operational function. The SO has no disciplinary role.
- 2) Duties & Functions: The SO is responsible for:
  - A) Performing safety evaluations of existing ASRC procedures and practices
  - B) Post incident evaluation of all medical incidents that occur during ASRC operations.
  - C) Advising the ASRC BOD concerning any and all risks and issues that have a significant safety impact.
- 3) Investigative Independence: The SO is granted clear and open access to all appropriate ASRC and Group information concerning the items outlined in (2) above.
- 4) Outside Contacts: The SO is allowed to make direct contact with outside agencies and individuals to access the policies, practices, and individual performances as related to safety
- 5) Inputs: The SO has the authority and freedom to investigate any and all issues deemed pertinent to ASRC Safety. The BOD, ASRC Operations Officer, and ASRC Training Officer can direct the SO to investigate any and all issues. Any ASRC member can request that the SO evaluate any pertinent issues.
- 6) Immediate Findings: The SO will report all appropriate findings to the BOD in writing. This could include a brief description of the issue and a decision not to investigate since no true safety concern existed. The BOD can override the SO's decision.
- 7) Suggestions: Pertinent suggestions to changes to policy shall be submitted to the ASRC BOD, ASRC Operations Officer, and ASRC Training Officer in writing.
- 8) Confidentiality: Whenever possible, the individuals involved in a safety issue will not be named. If the results pose a significant threat to the individuals health, follow-up will be traced via the individual's personal file stored in the ASRC archives.
- 9) Investigation Process: The SO will conduct any and all investigations in a manner most appropriate to the issue at hand. The SO may request and receive aide from any ASRC or Group Officers. The SO may appoint any appropriate person to participate in the investigation provided all the procedures defined herein are maintained.
- 10) Failure to respond: If the SO deems the impact significant, any ASRC member who refuses to support an investigation will be brought to the BOD's attention for whatever action the BOD deems appropriate.

14.

From: G. Mechtel  
To: ASRC BOD  
Date: November 30, 1992  
Subject: Surry County Search & Tick Borne Diseases--Person 2:  
Version: ASRC Safety Report #2: Draft

**Concern:** An individual from TSARG was concerned about the possibility of having contracted Lyme's Disease while participating on the Surry County Search.

**Process:** I interviewed the individual to establish the following scenario.

**Scenario:** The individual participated on the search for approximately 1.5 days. The individual arrived on-scene at approximately 11:30 PM and was soon involved in reconnoitering around the PLS to determine a reasonable location for the Base Camp. The area had heavy waist-high vegetation and undergrowth. Approximately seven (7) days later a single tick was discovered. This occurred after numerous checks for ticks by both the individual in question and the individual's spouse. The Deer Tick was discovered hidden in the individual's hair. The subject complained of flu-like symptoms but had no rash. Two independent blood tests by two independent laboratories confirmed the presence of Lyme's disease. The subject began treatment for the disease.

**Interesting Notes:**

- 1) This individual was aware of the concerns of Lyme's Disease.
- 2) This individual spread the concerns of ticks via word of mouth.
- 3) The individual used standard preventative measures: long sleeves, gaiters, pants tucked into the socks.
- 4) No bug sprays of any kind were used. The individual's normal spray is Permethrin (3-phenoxyphenylmethl).
- 5) The individual had not been in the "woods" for the last 1.5 months prior to this search and therefore felt confident that the tick contracted during the search was the cause of the disease.
- 6) This individual had had Lyme's Disease 2 year's ago. Two years ago the disease was detected by 3 of 5 blood tests.

**Findings (to date):** This information is still under investigation. However, the following should be noted:

- 1) As we all know, there are vast numbers of ticks in certain areas of Virginia. The incident rate for both Lyme's disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever are increasing. Individuals must re-double their efforts at maintaining their own safety. More training appears to be required; especially important (given human nature) is to reinforce the issue now that ASRC members are being affected.
- 2) Note that standard tick defense's did not suffice. However, this does not demonstrate that standard tick defense is a waste of effort, rather, that the standard defense is not sufficient.

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3) Given the few number of ticks found (just one), this demonstrates that anyone who goes into the field for any period of time must be checked for ticks.

4) Note that multiple tick searches were necessary in order to detect the presence of the Deer Tick. Moreover it was found in the hair which is even a more difficult area to detect ticks.

5) The physician who performed the follow-up medical testing was very cooperative. However, this was the second time the individual had the disease. The first incident (2 years ago) was apparently met with some indifference. Again, this supports the idea that we may have to support more education (on an as-needed, one-on-one basis via documentation) to aide our members in dealing with physicians.

6) The briefer (briefing outbound teams) may have been told to warn teams to beware of ticks.

#### **Future Efforts:**

1) Determine the effectiveness of the Lyme Disease blood test.

2) Determine the chances that Lyme Disease can have relapses.

2) Follow-up with more details:

- where tick found
- how many tick searches were conducted
- why the numerous tick searches
- Determine the timeline: flu-like symptoms, tick removal & the blood tests.

3) Determine if the briefer was told to brief the concerns of ticks and whether or not the briefer did as asked.

4) Determine any correlations with the other ASRC members who suspected that they developed a tick borne disease subsequent to the Surry search.

5) Follow-up with other SAR teams in the Virginia area

6) Warn others who were in the Surry Incident that a higher chance of exposure occurred. Due to the lack of direct medical evidence that Lyme's Disease was present, we must present all know facts so as not to unduly frighten, just raise the level of awareness. This should only occur once the other Surry County investigations have occurred.

7) Investigate the possibility that the ASRC should recommend that each member undergo a periodic test for Lyme's so as to establish a baseline.

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8) Determine if a standard de-ticking process ought to occur at the end of each shift (in regions of known tick hazards).



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BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP  
P.O. BOX 440  
NEWCOMB STATION  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904

**BRMRG Report to ASRC BOD**  
**December 12, 1992**

1.) The fall semester is ending and we are going into winter break. Our numbers will be lower than normal, but there should be no operational difficulties.

2.) We are entering the budget process for 1993-1994 with expectations of positive results.

3.) The General Membership has voted to allow the ASRC to take over the 1-800# so long as it is understood that BRMRG would not be able to take it back if the ASRC cannot afford to pay for it.

4.) Searches since last BOD meeting:

**RESPONDED TO:**

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>HOW MANY</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
8 Nov.	Shenandoah National Park	16 people	1

**DISPATCHED:**

<u>WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
14 Nov.	Rockingham County, VA	1

5) 2 MSO Trained People, 9 started FTM testing

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**MARYLAND SEARCH & RESCUE GROUP (ESAR 616) REPORT  
TO THE  
APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE**

December 9, 1992

**New FTMs**

Five members of M/SAR have earned FTM credentials; Arndt, Baker, Elliott, McAllister, and Wright. Four others are nearing completion of their FTM training program.

**Proposed MOU with Maryland State Police**

Discussion this date with the Maryland State Police indicates a favorable review, to date, of the proposed ASRC Memorandum of Understanding. However, due to end of year activities, I was advised that a formal response will not be forthcoming until after the first of the year.

**Training Schedule Modifications**

The M/SAR MRA team will be conducting snow/ice training during the weekend of January 8-10 in the Laurel Highlands region of western Pennsylvania. This training weekend is also a prerequisite for the Group's February training program in New Hampshire.

**Resource Management System**

As previously reported, M/SAR is developing a resource management system for use in incident command operations in lost person SAR missions.

Information on this system has been communicated, under separate cover, to all ASRC groups requesting they update their Group roster information. When the first cut of this completed program is developed, the system will be demonstrated at an ASRC meeting.

**M/SAR Response to ASRC Events**

Sep 2	Albermarle Cnty (VA)	..not available, enroute to FL
Sep 5	Gaithersburg (MD)	..not available, in FL
Sep 6	Surry Cnty (VA)	..not available, in FL
Sep 18	Montgomery Cnty (MD)	11 persons at search
Oct 1	Pittsylvania Cnty (VA)	..not available
Oct 8	Pulaski Cnty (VA)	..not available
Nov	Shenandoah NP (VA)	14 persons at search

**Proposed Alert Officer Qualification**

In a nutshell, we find this proposal conceptually defective, and technically flawed. Briefly...

- ☐ This proposal is too narrow. As proposed, it suggests an intent to maintain the AO function at the University of Virginia/Charlottesville, or in the hands of former residents of Albermarle County who may have had the opportunity to serve as Conference Dispatch persons.
- ☐ The net result of this proposal is that rather than **INCLUDE**, the proposal is designed to **EXCLUDE**.



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- ☐ We see little, if any, relationship between the responsibilities of AO, Incident Commander and Incident Staff. Further, terms used in this proposal are not defined.
  - ☐ And, we are at a loss to understand what gives the present cadre of Alert Officers sole custody of the ability to understand or relate with the requisite political sensitivities specified (by them) for this job. Our apparent disorientation -- in not understanding -- becomes even more pronounced as we acknowledge that we don't know what geopolitical secrets and are kept in the vaults of Peabody Hall regarding sensitive issues in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Is there something we've missed?
  - ☐ In Maryland, our Group Dispatcher does not have to be FTL or IS qualified. Is this wrong? Again, are we missing something here? Our goal is to deliver maximum resources to the field -- where the searching is -- not to the mission base environment where it's warm and comfy.
  - ☐ **Recommendations:** We have two. **One**, it is recommended that the Chair or the ASRC Operations Chief identify the skills necessary to function as an ASRC Alert Officer. With such skills listed, the work can then begin to define the parameters of each of the skills identified. **Two**, since this exercise will take a bit of time, considering review and comment by all ASRC Groups, it is recommended that, for the moment, all ASRC members who serve as Group Dispatch persons and two senior members in each group (FTLs, or above) be invited to a one-day basic training session. Training would include: background knowledge of the Conference, geopolitical issues, and use of available outside resources. And it is further recommended, following subject training, all trainees completing the training be considered as "interim" Alert Officers.

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POTOMAC VALLEY RESCUE GROUP/ESAR-617  
REPORT TO THE  
APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

December 8, 1992

Mello

**Election of Group Officer's:** The following persons have been elected as student officers of the PVRG: Daphne Soares, President; Robert ~~Mello~~, Vice President; Brian Whalen, Secretary; and Steve Klueter, Treasurer. An executive committee elected by the membership includes: Andrew DeSaro, Peter McCabe, and Scott McCabe. Adam Zaranski is the Group's representative to the University of Maryland SGA.

**New Group Training Officer:** Arthur Dodds has advised the Group he will not be able to continue as GTO. The PVRG has asked Scott McCabe to assume the responsibility as GTO. He has accepted. Nomination of McCabe is being made to the ASRC.

**ASRC Qualifications:** Having met minimum ASRC<sup>PC</sup> personal equipment requirements including completion of a series of basic training sessions, and completing one weekend training session, seventeen PVRG members were recently awarded COQ status. The ASRC status of all PVRG members may be reviewed on the attached roster.

**Tracking Program:** Tom Cochrane has started his third month of teaching a basic tracking program to PVRG members. This program is an extension of the regular wilderness SAR training program. Another individual with tracking experience is joining the unit. When this training is completed, several tracking teams will be in place and ready to respond to requests for service.

12 DEC 92

RSAR REPORT

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PURCHASED 2 MOTOROLA HT600 RADIOS

SEARCH SIMULATION WITH K9 ALERT

4 ON SCENE & 2 IN RT TO OLD RAG SEARCH  
MEMBERS 7 MEMBERS  
~~MEMBERS~~ AT PATE COUNTY SEARCH

TRAINING - 2 MEMBERS ATTENDING PSO

# ASRC BOD mtg - SMRG Report 12/12/92

## Missions

10/21-24      Pittsylvannia County  
11/8            Old Rag Search

## Training

Debrief of montgomery County Search w/ mid-Atlantic Dogs

FTM/FTL Workshop - 1 day

Investigations Lecture - Mentally Retarded

FTM/FTL Practical Test - FTM-1; FTL-2; - not completed

FTM/FTL Written Test - FTM-2 (OES TEST) passed

FTL-2 (ASRC TEST) Failed

FAA - Guest speaker, Aircraft Searches

FETN - ~ 8 members filmed a SAR Training session to be broadcast nationally in five stations

## Upcoming -

- SMRG will be offering an MSD class  
January 23/24 and February 27/28  
Cost ~ \$45 call (703) 255-5034 (SMRG OPS LINE)
- Inaugural events - Jan 16-20
- Investigations series lectures
- FTM/FTL Workshops (class + field)
- DOGWOOD - April 17, 1993

Membership

- IG-B, IS-6, FTL-11; FTM-8; COQ-13; TRN-3 = 44
- Active - 32; Prob - 8; Sustain - 4 = 44
- Posting notices in outdoor stores
- Membership Committee - working on improving tracking & retention of new members; officer responsibilities; new member packet; sponsors by older members

Operations

- ~ 10 members had identification cards issued / renewed by Montgomery County, MD for SAR ops in the County

Dogwood Half-hundred Tentatively April 17, 1992

SMRG Events 1993

MSD Jan 23, 24 // Feb 27, 28

DOGWOOD April 17

Mail-DC July 4

~~Disaster~~  
Disaster SAR<sup>Seminar</sup> June 19

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**Appalachian Search and Rescue  
Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group  
203 Progress St.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060**

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**REPORT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
12 Dec 92**

- \* 12 members responded to the Wentz search in Shenandoah National Park, 8-9 Nov 92
- \* 12 members attended ASRC simulation at Sky Meadows State Park, 20-22 Nov 92
- \* Presented 3 Hug-a-Tree programs
- \* 24 probationary members achieved active status
- \* Gained 2 new probationary members
- \* 24 trainees achieved COQ training level
- \* 5 FTM's have essentially completed FTL requirements
- \* Built a tracking box using donated materials
- \* Purchased additional technical equipment including: rope, carabiners, pulleys, helmets, perlon, webbing
- \* Preparing to purchase new topographic maps for western half of Virginia
- \* Voted in a revised group Constitution
- \*\* Spring 1993 training schedules are available upon request. Write to:

Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group  
Secretary  
210 Progress St.  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

## TSAR Written Report to ASRC BOD

December 12, 1992

### Membership Status

Membership totals 43 members as follows:

IC: 1

IS: 1

FTL: 13

FTM: 18

OTHER: 10

### TRAINING

- Sponsored an FTM class which was completed on Nov 1, 1992. 28 persons attended the class and 26 graduated, receiving their FTM certification. 6 of those that graduated were from TSAR.
- Held a class in patient care of hypothermia in a vertical environment. Several persons attended and practical training was conducted.
- Held a class in incident scene procedures.
- Completed the first weekend of Practical Search Operations (PSO) at Harwood's Mill, Newport News City Park. Ten attended, seven from TSAR. Second weekend of PSO is Dec 18-20, 1992.



### NEW TRAINING

- Field Team Leader's (FTL) course being offered at Harwood's Mill, Newport News City Park in January/February. See Dave Carter for dates, details, and applications.

### MISSIONS

- 2 persons responded to the search for a 12-year-old boy in Shenandoah National Park.

### OTHER

- Matthew Rhode replaced Earls Evans as TSAR's second BOD delegate. Mr. Evans resigned his position for personal reasons.

Proposed Budget for 1993  
Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference

Income:

Dues:	\$45	x	7 groups	\$	315
	\$75	x	1 group	\$	75
	\$ 1	x	member	\$	250

Total: \$ 640

Debits:

Operational:

Pager Bills	\$17	x	12 months	\$	204
<del>000 Sprint</del>	<del>\$15</del>	<del>x</del>	<del>12 months</del>	<del>\$</del>	<del>180</del>
	<del>+ Calls</del>				<del>302</del>

Administrative:

President		\$	50
Secretary	\$75 x 7 meetings + \$25	\$	550
Treasurer		\$	25
Training		\$	25
Medical		\$	50
Operational		\$	25
Communication		\$	50
State Corporation Commission		\$	1025
<del>fee</del>		<del>\$</del>	<del>25</del>

Dues to outside organizations

Total:

\$ 100  
\$1024  
~~220~~ 1104

INCOME:	\$	640	
DEBIT:	\$	<del>1024</del>	1104
DEBT:	\$	<del>384</del>	464

Debt: 464

Since AMRG was considered by the BOD to have met the activity requirements set forth for recertification by attending a few Board meetings and hosting a few WEMT courses, I dare anyone to question RSAR's level of activity. However, in keeping with the spirit of the bylaws, the following is a partial list of the ASRC "activities" that RSAR has participated in over the past three years:

04/23/89 Hanover Co. search for small child later "found" by friends of the father  
 09/20/89 Newport News search for Madeline Lashbrook  
 10/18/89 Henrico LOL search (found in ditch along RR spur beside fairgrounds)  
 04/17/90 Richmond City search for Faruque brothers  
 05/10/90 Manassas aircraft search  
 07/12/90 Disputanta aircraft search  
 6/8/89-11/89 07/31/90 SNP search for Mark Noeppel (???)  
 09/08/90 Richmond City (LOL in high rise nursing home (found in boiler room)  
 10/06/90 Chesterfield Co. Charity Powers search  
 01/18/91 Henrico Duckworth search  
 02/06/91 Powhatan Co - Search for child's remains  
 03/17/91 Pr. William Co.  
 03/18/91 Stuarts Draft  
 05/08/91 Chesterfield search for retarded woman (found by Wm Fisher)  
 06/02/91 Newport News search for LOM (later found along RR tracks)  
 07/17/91 Hanover Co. (HCSAR running)  
 08/24/91 Newport News (left suicide note in pack)  
 09/24/91 Dinwiddie search for LOM from Azzie Manor nursing home  
 10/18/91 Gloucester Co. (2 yowm w/ dog)  
 11/11/91 Dismal swamp hunter  
 12/21/91 Loudoun Co. (Harpers Ferry)  
 01/08/92 Richmond Co search for psychotic ex-military BM  
 03/06/92 Madison Co search for LOM  
 05/15/92 Chesterfield Co (suicidal psychotic lesbian from trailer park)  
 06/06/92 Floyd Co.  
 06/25/92 Lee Co.  
 07/01/92 Gloucester Pt (2 juv throwing rocks)  
 09/02/92 Albemarle Co.  
 09/05/92 Surry Co.  
 09/18/92 Montgomery Co. MD  
 10/01/92 Pittsylvania Co search for retarded BM  
 10/08/92 Pulaski Co. A/C crash  
 11/07/92 SNP search for 12 YOWM on Old Rag Mtn

*LOM - Little old man*

*LOL - Little old lady*

Conference wide simulation hosted by RSAR June 1990 (not attended by a single solitary soul from the rest of the conference outside of RSAR)

SAR Council wide simulation hosted by RSAR/K-9 Alert Oct 1991 (see note from above)

SAR Council wide simulation hosted by RSAR/K-9 Alert Oct 1992 (see note from above)

Romp-in-the-swamp 1991?

It should be noted that this is only a partial list and does not include BOD meetings, General Membership meetings and other social events. The searches listed above are those where RSAR members arrived and signed in at base, but I consider any search where RSAR members marked in as responding as "participation".

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**Central  
 Fidelity**

# Statement of Account

CENTRAL FIDELITY BANK  
 P. O. BOX 27802  
 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23281

7011738881

DIRECT INQUIRIES TO:  
 DEPOSIT ACCOUNTING DEPT  
 804 788-7114

RICHMOND SEARCH AND RESCUE GROUP  
 C O JUDITH MOORE  
 RT 4 BOX 178  
 GLEN ALLEN VA 23080

LAST STATEMENT 08-04-82  
 THIS STATEMENT 10-08-92

PAGE 1

2

DATE	TRANSACTIONS - INTEREST CHECKING	7011738881	AMOUNT	BALANCE
08-30	BALANCE LAST STATEMENT			1,453.25
10-08	CHECK 172		18.35-	
10-08	CHECK 173		17.00-	
10-08	INTEREST		2.81	
	ENDING BALANCE			1,420.71

## SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

BEGINNING STATEMENT BALANCE  
 0 DEPOSITS  
 2 WITHDRAWALS  
 INTEREST EARNED  
 BALANCE THIS STATEMENT

1,453.25  
 .00  
 28.28-  
 2.81  
 1,420.71

DAILY BALANCES (AVG COLLECTED BAL THIS STATEMENT

\$1,447)

1,453.25	08-04	1,418.80	10-08	1,420.71	10-08
1,433.80	08-30				

NUMBER OF ENCLOSURES THIS STATEMENT

2

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 841-42-3128.

INTEREST PAID YEAR TO DATE

21.84

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PENNSYLVANIA SEARCH & RESCUE COUNCIL  
P O Box 504 Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501

December 9, 1992

REPORT TO THE ASRC

Three ASRC groups are members of the Pennsylvania Search & Rescue Council: AMRG, M/SAR, and SMRG.

**PSARC Standards - A Status Report**

Considerable work has been done by the PSARC Standards Committee since September. Draft position descriptions have been formed for Call Out Qualified (COQ), Field Team Member (FTM), and Field Team Leader (FTL), these being the names temporarily selected by the Committee as working designations for the position description categories. (These names may well change down the road as further work is done.)

The COQ designation will be used for both fire service personnel with minimum equipment completing basic lost person search training, and for members of ground search and rescue programs meeting first cut standards after completing an initial entry training program and having minimum equipment and gear.

Draft position descriptions for these three categories will be distributed at the December PSARC meeting. Written comments are requested. All comments will be reviewed with the likelihood that a special PSARC meeting will be called in March 1993 to present revised draft standards.

Decisions were not made by the Standards Committee regarding the positions of: (1) base operations staff, incident staff, base tech I, staff officers; (2) incident commander, team leader; (3) rescue specialist; (4) medic, medical specialist; (5) tracker; or (6) canine specialist, search dog handler.

However, it is understood the Committee feels that existing standards from other organizations may be suitable for: incident command staff and incident commander (from the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference and NASAR); technical rescue specialist (Mountain Rescue Association) and cave rescue specialist (National Cave Rescue Commission); and search dog handler (from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Services, NASAR and American Rescue Dog Association).

To ensure the widest possible dissemination of information concerning the development of standards for persons providing lost person search services, the October issue of SAR Net was mailed to more than 100 persons and organizations in Pennsylvania and neighboring states. The intention is to inform everyone -- to the greatest extent possible -- of the activities of this Council regarding the development of standards.

**PSARC Board Assignments:** Board Director Ken Boyles is focusing on developing future PSARC operations protocols, including future development of the Mission Coordinator program responsibility.

Directors Ron Wisbith and Tom Hirschak are playing a coordinating role with Jim Howley in his broadened role as Chairman of the PSARC Training Committee. (As previously reported, the Training Committee and the Standards Committee are joined for the moment.)

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All Board assignments are being monitored and coordinated by Vice President Martha Geary.

**Paging Network:** A paging network has been identified which will cover the Commonwealth. A presentation on this will be made at the December meeting.

**Communications Committee:** In the October SAR Net it was announced that Bruce Barton had been released as one of the Cochairs of the Communications Committee. Steve Houck (West) and Joe Thrash (Somerset) were appointed cochairs of the Communications Committee. The FCC has received the revised PSARC radio license application, and a new \$35.00 fee has been paid to the FCC. Mr. Barton asked for, and was granted, an opportunity at the December meeting for a review of the decision to release him from the Communications Committee.

**Incorporation:** An attorney in western Pennsylvania has volunteered to complete and submit incorporation papers for the PSARC. The only charges PSARC will pay are the customary filing fees with the Commonwealth. With the previous June 1991 authorization from the membership, arrangements are being made to proceed with incorporation.

**Proposed MOU with PEMA:** The request to PEMA, proposing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for coordination of operational aspects of ground search and rescue in the Commonwealth, continues on hold pending approval of recommended changes to PEMA's enabling legislation.

*J. J. [Signature]*