

ASRC General Membership and Board of Directors Meeting Notes

November 18, 2000

The meeting commenced at 10:35AM in the auditorium of James Monroe High School in Fredericksburg, VA.

No Bylaw changes for this meeting. Some items for discussion.

Vice Chair Report- Peter McCabe

- Brief overview of the NASAR Meeting.
- NASAR Board is being revised.
- No FEMA contracts for the future.
- Programs are being cut back.
- Costs for training being out-sourced, therefore they have little control over the cost of training.
- AFRCC program at Langley, Va. is being downgraded. The CAP may takeover this functionality.
- Statistics were given for the different types of memberships for NASAR.
- NASAR will be trying to develop a SAR Team database as a future activity.

Secretary Report – Peter Pennington

- No report, secretary is out of town. Rob Miller will keep the secretaries notes for this meeting.

Treasures Report – Emily Minor

- Emily Minor was sick and did not attend the meeting.
- Suzen Collins gave a brief report as follows:
 - The ASRC now has one financial account.
 - The old account with Sun Trust has been closed.
 - The ASRC Treasure records, which Dave Carter had been given, have been turned over the Emily Minor.
 - A new account for the ASRC has been opened.
 - The funds between the two accounts have been merged.

Chair Report – Suzen Collins

- The ASRC has had many searches in the past few months.
- Because of the many searches it has been hard to keep the scheduled meetings. The April and August meetings had to be cancelled and rescheduled.
- There are not enough members present at this meeting (23) combined with the proxy votes (40) to pass bylaws. There must be at least 1/3 of the combined membership in attendance and proxy votes.
- We need to set priorities for the ASRC.
- April 2001 will be the next General Membership meeting. Date to be announced later. Suggested By-law amendments will be presented.

Holden Family Report – Mr. & Mrs. Holden

- Mr. Holden expressed a need for separate roles of Family and Community Liaison.

- The Jackie Holden Memorial Fund has been created.
- The Holden family wants to help spread knowledge of SAR.
- The family wants to help in getting more local SAR groups started.
- Areas for improvement
 - The need for Family and more importantly Community liaison.
 - The need to take advantage of local knowledge from community resources such as local land surveyors, civil engineers, power company folks, hunt club members, etc.
 - Review how to better utilize local talent on search teams and in the command center.
 - The need to critique the search afterwards and talk to the locals to get more information.
 - Continue dialog with the family to create a good line of communication.
 - Need to control the news media better.
 - The Holden family is an advocate for SAR.
 - The families need to be handled very delicately.
 - The family can be very helpful.
 - SAR members need to be aware of what they say, their body language, emotions, and tone of voice and reactions.
- Other items discussed concerning the Holden family discussion
 - The Nelson County Fire and Rescue team is being SAR trained. They have 175 members, 4 members attended MSO and 2 attended FTM.
 - There was a brief discussion concerning the Nelson County search.
 - The Holden family wants to help with Public Relations for SAR.
 - Peter McCabe again requested an in-house debriefing for the Nelson County search by the ASRC.
 - Bob Koester gave a brief description of the MSO course.
 - Dual Staging Managers – briefers need larger staging area or dual staging areas.
 - Suzen Collins gave some comments about the search and thanked the Holden family for their participation.
 - Mr. Holden gave some closing comments and thanked the ASRC members for giving of themselves to help others with the searches. He would like to see the ASRC continue to grow with good PR and to see the general public help with the financial aspects of searches.

Mission Reviews

- Over-due Aircraft - Nelson County
 - Thursday – 11/9/00 College Park, MD to Greenville, S.C. Pilot usually refueled at Lynchburg, VA. The reported incorrect tail number issue has been corrected. The plane was reported missing over the Oakridge, VA area. The CAP conducted an NTAP search and the ASRC conducted a ground searches of the area. The ground search was suspended. The air search continues. Some learning points were- to make sure that dog and horse teams know about each other in the same search sector and where they are. The Virginia State Police have a new helicopter in Lynchburg, VA that is both Medivac and SAR equipped.

The next ASRC SAR/CAP Simulation will be in either April or May of 2001. Several sites will be set-up as bases for air and ground support.
SAR forms from the National Parks need to be obtained.

- Rapahannock /Page County VA Search – SNP – 2 missing hikers
 - Park personnel were very busy fighting the forest fire in SNP and were to under staffed to

help with the search. Hasty searches of the trails were conducted and the hikers found their own way to safety.

- Charlestown, W VA Search – Missing hunter
 - ASRC members were to meet DNR folks at a given location and they were not there. Top of Virginia SAR team had four members at the search. The missing person was a 57y/o male, diabetes and heart condition. Family and friends were helping with search. Rita Krentz acted as the family liaison and did a good job.
 - Lesson learned is that Top of Virginia keeps all SAR forms necessary to begin a search in a folder packet and is easy to deploy when beginning a search. Teams should look into creating these packets for their Operations Kits.
- Madison County, VA Search – Missing Ginseng hunter
 - Trails were north of Bluff Mountain. The Sheriff wanted to find the missing person. The local sheriff did not want the park services. The park provided many resources to help the county with the search. Lessons learned were to keep a sign-cutter back at base for deployment. Keep the clue log up to date better. Need to record all PODs every day. Don't separate to Communications and Operation in order to attempt to keep the logs more up to date.
- Albermarle, VA County Search –
 - Received a \$3,000.00 donation. Sign-cutting team made the find. 40 family and friends volunteered to assist with the search.
- Craig County, VA Search –
 - Missing 12y/o found by bloodhound team.
- Dundo Park, VA Search –
 - Missing hikers returned on their own.
- Fredericksburg, VA Search –
 - Missing 12 and 15yo.
- Blacksburg, VA Search
 - Missing hiker walked out on his own from Blacksburg to Roanoke.

Medical Committee Report –

ASRC passed the Medical Review. Teams must send in the medical reports for all team members to the ASRC Medical Officer Stephanie Dorow. All medical treatment forms must be completed for searches and the forms must be returned to both the medical officer and the ASRC locker.

By-law Amendments

Due to the recent problems with the Treasury being kept for the ASRC, there is a need to establish better business practices and make amendments to the way the ASRC does business. By-law amendments were handed out to each team that was in attendance. Teams were asked to review the By-law changes and be ready to make comments at the next ASRC meeting.

Updates to the ASRC Homesite and Internet mail lists

There is a need to create a more user-friendly On-line system for using the Internet and sending out the mail messages to all groups and ASRC BOD and committee members.

Treasury Investigation

No evidence of wrongdoing has been found, except that no action had been taken to maintain the financial records for the ASRC. No formal charges have been established as of the November 4, 2000.

Operations Committee

Rob Miller will be conducting the Team 36Month Reviews. Robert Koester will be conducting the Recertifications for the IC/IS staff positions for the January 2001 renewals. The Virginia IC/IS standards have been revised. Current certifications will be grandfathered in.

Safety Officer

Position is still open. There is still a problem with team members not getting the proper rest before leaving base at the conclusion of searches. The problem needs to be addressed by each team, the IC's, the future ASRC Safety officer, and each of the team Safety officers.

Training Officer

Position is still open.

Miscellaneous

Peter McCabe made the comment that Committee Chairs are to be selected by the group officers. This was affirmed by Suzen Collins (ASRC Chair).

The MSAR team, ask that briefs for all searches be placed on the ASRC web page. IC's are to create After Action Reports for all searches and send copies of the ASRC Public Information Officer. The PIO will place a sanitized version of the report on the ASRC web page.

Peter McCabe requested that there be a debrief by the ASRC on the Holden search. The IC's must schedule the debrief. It was request that this be done as soon as possible. It has been six months since the search.

Stephanie Dorow (ASRC Medical Officer) reported, the ASRC and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) are creating a training film. The SMRG team and OEM will be heading up the creation of the film. The film will deal with cold weather emergencies. Filming is scheduled to take place in Shenandoah National Park (SNP) at White Oak Canyon. The preliminary dates are the weekend of December 1 - 3, or December 8 - 10. Several scenarios are being evaluated at this time. Fallen climber, hunter with hypothermia, lost father and child were some of the scenarios that are being evaluated. The ASRC needs to provide between 12 and 24 members to participate in the exercises. The film will be presented at the February 2001 MSAT. The ASRC needs to provide at least 2 baskets, 4 sets of ropes, semi-tech gear and medical gear. Any team interested in participating, please contact Stephanie Dorow.

Randy Frank (ASRC PIO) reported that an Information Sheet for the ASRC is being created. This sheet will provide facts about the ASRC and is still under revision.

Hudson Trail Outfitters is offering an ASRC Membership Discount. ASRC members would receive up to an 80% discount on items purchased at HTO.

Robert Koester presented information concerning State of Virginia Budget Recommendations to give more monies for SAR training, SAR response, out of pocket expenses and lost equipment reimbursements. Handouts were distributed to each team member present at the meeting. The team members were encouraged to send letters to the Executive Branch of the Virginia government and

specifically to Governor Gilmore and Gary Arnhalt.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM.