



APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE

To: ASRC Secretary
From: Steve Weiss
Re: Nomination of Bob Koester for Fellow of the ASRC
Date: 12 January 2018

I am nominating Bob Koester to become a Fellow of the ASRC.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Bob Koester was an exemplary responder, managing well over 100 searches as an ASRC Incident Commander. During this time, he began research seeking to improve search management. His database, book, and various electronic tools on Lost Person Behavior are essential elements of any search manager's kit bag, which has established Bob as a peerless international expert in Wilderness SAR.

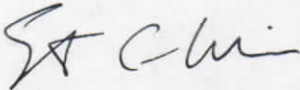
In the list below, I enumerate how Bob meets each of the requirements to be an ASRC Fellow. The nomination is further supported by a copy of Bob's Curriculum Vita, which is attached.

- 1) *The individual must have been a member of the ASRC for at least 10 years:* Bob Koester joined ASRC, as a member of BRMRG, in 1981, which currently establishes him as one of the longest serving ASRC members.
- 2) *The individual must have been certified at a level of ASRC Field Team Leader or above:* Bob's long service as a search manager has all but dwarfed the FTL certification he received in the early 1980s.
- 3) *The individual must have exhibited extensive active involvement in lost person search and rescue beyond that of their home search and rescue organization:* Between extensive publications and significant travel—both nationally and internationally—to conduct SAR research and teaching, Bob epitomizes the outside involvement sought for an ASRC Fellow. His book, *Lost Person Behavior*, is both a national and international standard for teaching and during-incident reference to support search planning activities.
- 4) *The individual must have extensive involvement in teaching the art of search and rescue:* Bob Koester has developed many courses for search-and-rescue, especially for search management. And he has been an active teacher with BRMRG, VDEM, other ASRC teams, and numerous other agencies who have sought his wisdom as a search manager.
- 5) *The individual must have advanced the art of search and rescue in one or more of a) search or rescue technology, b) search management, c) search or rescue theory, d) search or rescue practice or e) wilderness medicine:* Here, Bob's singular stature as

peerless international expert in the operational analysis of lost person behavior seems to be yet another instance of Bob's contributions that should epitomize what every ASRC Fellow should aspire to be and continue to become.

Whether or not they know it, every member of the ASRC has been touched by Bob Koester's stamp on search management and his contributions to early development of ASRC operations and search management training. He was instrumental as a leader of many of the searches (especially large searches) that helped to define ASRC's strong reputation in search management. And his research, publication, and teaching on search management have spread this skill set far and wide in the SAR community. His world-class contributions to SAR research and finding the lost person make Bob uniquely representative of the type of operational improvement ASRC leaders have brought to the mid-Atlantic region as well as to the rest of the world.

That others may live,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Weiss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Steve Weiss
Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group
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