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# ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

*a Group of the*  
**Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc.**

(full membership pending)

Allegheny Mtn. Rescue Group, ASRC

P.O. Box 2196

Pittsburgh, PA 15230-2196

Member, Mountain Rescue Association

Member, National Association for Search and Rescue

Affiliate, Eastern Region, National Cave Rescue Commission

**Emergency Phone: (804) 323-2300 (Virginia Emergency Operations Center)**

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13 June 1986

Keystone Search and Rescue  
c/o Mr. Rick Guinard  
Rd 1 Box 156  
Dysart, PA 16636

Dear Mr. Guinard:

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, I was asked to provide further follow-up to your letter of this past March. I trust you received the information previously sent by the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group to your group (AMRG obtained KSAR's name and address from the Directory of the National Association for Search and Rescue). The publications in the AMRG Member Packet should, I think, answer most of your technical questions about the ASRC. I've enclosed some recent ASRC Board minutes, as well.

In response to your questions about joining the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, I will explain the prerequisites for chartering a SAR organization as an ASRC Group. The prospective ASRC Group must obtain sponsorship from a nearby ASRC Group, meet ASRC technical standards described below, and have financial records that are complete and compatible with status as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service code (this is necessary to protect the ASRC's tax-exempt certification). The prospective Group must have at least two members who meet the ASRC standards for Basic Membership, and four members who meet the standards for ASRC Trainee Membership. Basic and Trainee standards are listed in the ASRC Training Guide, which is part of the AMRG Member Packet you should have received last month. The prospective group must also have the minimum equipment to manage a search or run a straightforward technical rescue, although specific standards for prospective Group equipment have not been established.

Once all these requirements are met, and the group agrees to follow the Bylaws, operational standards, and training standards of the ASRC and the Mountain Rescue Association, the group is proposed to the ASRC for a vote. If the application is accepted, the new ASRC Group is given a provisional charter, and after 18 months as a probationary ASRC Group, receives full Group status. Members of probationary Groups have full rights as ASRC Members, but the Group's delegates to the ASRC Board of Directors have no vote on the Board, and the Group must use the phrase (*membership pending*) when it identifies itself as an ASRC Group.

Sponsorship for Keystone SAR is a problem, because AMRG will still be in probationary status until July of next year, and cannot sponsor a Group until that time. The only other potential sponsor for KSAR, the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group in the DC/Virginia/Maryland area, is already sponsoring AMRG and cannot sponsor two Groups at once.

However, if KSAR decides to pursue becoming an ASRC Group, we would like to start work on integrating your organization into the ASRC as soon as possible, despite the problem of sponsorship. Since sponsorship cannot be set up until July 1987, a suggestion was made at the ASRC Board meeting that KSAR members join the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group, with the understanding that they are interested primarily in helping Keystone SAR become a separate ASRC Group. That way, when it becomes possible for AMRG or SMRG to sponsor Keystone SAR, KSAR members already certified as ASRC members would make chartering KSAR as a new ASRC Group easier.

If KSAR would prefer to remain independent of the ASRC, we would respect this, and as we do with many other SAR organizations, would try to work closely with Keystone SAR to further our joint aims in wilderness search and rescue. Please write or call to let us know if you would like to pursue ASRC membership further at this time. Also, please note that training sessions are generally open to the interested public, so regardless of your decision as far as ASRC Group status, your members are welcome at ASRC and AMRG functions. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Keith Conover, M.D.  
Training Officer, AMRG; Director, ASRC  
412-561-3413 (H)  
412-359-3131 (W)

cc: ASRC File, AMRG File

enclosures: April ASRC Board meeting minutes