



MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION
APPALACHIAN REGION
P. O Box 789 College Park, Maryland 20741

Administrative Units

Regional Relationships
and Coordination Unit

New Member Team
Development Unit

Regional Training &
Evaluation Unit

For Emergency Operations Call The MRA Through

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency
(410) 486-4422

February 11, 1994

TO: MRA Appalachian Region Teams and Applicant Teams

There are a number of items and issues to update you on from the MRA Winter Meeting during 15-17 January in Las Vegas. Tom Cochrane represented the Region at the Winter meetings.

MRA Region Dues: Cady Soukup, MRA Region Treasurer from SMRG, reports Maryland Search & Rescue (M/SAR) and Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG) were the only MRA region groups paying their 1993 dues of \$25.00. Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG) did not pay their 1993 region dues.

Dues for 1994 at \$25.00 are payable now to Cady Soukup at P O Box 430, Route 604, Flint Hill VA 22627-0430.

Appalachian Region Election Process and Results: In December 1993, Region Chair Art Dodds sent AMRG, M/SAR and SMRG a ballot (see attached) with instructions to ask members from their MRA team vote and return ballots by January 15 to Region Secretary Peter McCabe. Completed ballots from AMRG and SMRG were never received. One unsigned ballot from a northern Virginia post office was received, but not considered as team membership was not identified or evident. The College Park PO Box was checked for ballots on February 3.

M/SAR met on January 16 and unanimously voted (21 to 0) for write-in selections of Chuck Ritenour (M/SAR) as Chair, and Tom Cochrane (M/SAR) as Vice Chair. The voting continued 21-0 for Chuck Kollar (AMRG) as Region Secretary and Cady Soukup (SMRG) as Region Treasurer.

With two teams eligible to vote, and one team voting, the ballots cast by M/SAR carried.

1994 MRA Dues: All teams are aware that national MRA dues for 1994 are \$10.00/person, and that the date payable was moved from March to January 31. Please send your payment with attached MRA roster to: Mountain Rescue Association, 200 Union Blvd, Suite 430-1355, Denver Colorado 80228. Also, please send a copy of your roster to the MRA Appalachian Region at P O Box 789, College Park, Maryland 20741. It is our understanding that dues not paid by January 31 are considered delinquent by the MRA.

Applicant teams do not pay national MRA dues until they are voted into membership.

MRA ASTM Committee Activities: This January 5, 1994 photo-reduced report is attached for your review. (Please note: only 1 copy of attachments will be mailed to a team.)

MRA Resource Response Coordination: See attached. This indicates to you the MRA is beginning to address the issue of coordinated response activities across regions and nationally for large incidents. Teams in the Appalachian Region need to consider whether we want to continue beginning to coordinate a regional dispatch capability, or continue with existing procedures each group has developed individually. There needs to be some discussion on this issue.

Regional Operations: Three administrative units have been established with a team leader arbitrarily selected, for the moment, for each. Each group is asked to select at least one individual from their team to assist in each unit.

Regional relationships and coordination unit: Peter McCabe will coordinate this responsibility for developing working relationships with Responsible Authorities in State/Federal Emergency Services Agencies, Park Systems, Forests, Wilderness Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas; Civil Air Patrol Wing Commands, and the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Langley AFB, Virginia

New member team development unit: Tom Cochrane is responsible for recruiting new programs and units into the regional MRA family. At this time, there are 5 teams with some interest in the MRA.

Training and evaluation unit: Continuing under the guidance of Chuck Ritenour, there are two applicant teams for full rescue certification.

Administrative operations will be carried by Peter McCabe. Mike Sawyer, a member of Potomac Valley Rescue Group and an M/SAR MRA Team member, will be carrying regional dispatching responsibilities when this program is fully put into place. At this time, requests to the Appalachian Region for assistance will be received by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency.

A roster sheet of the region is attached for your information and use. This sheet duplicates MRA region directory information provided to all MRA groups. (The most recent national MRA directory will shortly be mailed to all Appalachian region teams and applicant teams.

Status of MRA Applicant Teams in the Region: The Stowe (VT) Hazardous Terrain Evacuation team application has been cleared through national. This unit, applying for rescue status, will be retested for its vertical component during the second weekend of March at a site TBD north of Albany, New York.

The Lancaster (PA) Wilderness Evacuation Search Team's application is presently being processed through national. A date for their retesting the vertical component has not been established, but should be penciled in shortly. By June there should be four rescue member teams in the Appalachian Region!

June 1994 Annual MRA Meeting: The MRA Annual Meeting will occur June 17-19 in Palm Springs, California, hosted by the Riverside Mountain Rescue Unit (see attached).

MRA Policies: The MRA has drafted revised -- and in some cases new -- policies and guidelines for national, regional and unit operations. Tom Cochrane indicates these materials were discussed at some length at the January 1994 winter meeting in Las Vegas. A photoreduced copy of the 11/93 draft is attached. These policies, with some significant changes, were approved at the 1994 winter meeting. Changes from the draft are briefly discussed below. When an edited version of the adopted Policies is received at the Region they will be distributed immediately to all teams. There are significant changes in operating policies in the MRA! Several major changes are noted below:

- ✓ MRA "Standards" are now defined as "Guidelines."
- ✓ There are three MRA designations for groups; Regular membership, Associate membership; and Ex-Officio membership.
 1. Regular membership groups are fully accredited mountain rescue teams.
 2. Associate membership groups are search and rescue teams that do not qualify for regular membership because of a lack of one or more of the regular member qualifications.
 3. Ex-Officio groups are primarily governmental agencies which conduct mountain search and rescue operations but which may not otherwise meet the qualifications for regular membership.

The former category of accredited ex-officio membership has been dropped with those teams becoming regular membership groups (see comments on MRA voting privileges below).

- ✓ Regular member groups and Ex-Officio member groups may vote in the MRA. Associate member groups may not vote.
- ✓ The requirement that regular member groups obtain IRS 501(c)(3) qualification remains, but organizations comprised primarily of volunteers are now eligible for regular membership status whether they have 501(c)(3) status or not.
- ✓ Guidelines for individual team member medical qualifications have been changed. There are no longer established medical training guidelines. Whatever medical training is provided must be appropriate to each team's area, environment and services. Further, team standards should reflect those in the community/region the team operates in. Each team is expected to have a medical physician advisor, and each team should be approved as an EMS provider. A survey will be conducted.

ASTM Materials: A copy of the MRA Committee report on the ASTM is enclosed for your review.

FCC Radio License Issues: A note to MRA teams from the Communications Committee Report is enclosed for your review.

Please forward comments to the above address.

Attachments

As Stated



Peter A. McCabe
Administrative Operations

Friday, February 5, 1994

MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

Region: APPALACHIAN REGION

ORGANIZATION	PHONE NUMBERS	UNIT/TEAM ADDRESS	NOTES
Region Administration/Ops (Peter McCabe) New Team Development Unit Regional Relationships/Coord. Unit Regional Training & Evaluation Unit Operations Regional Chair (Chuck Ritenour)	H (301) 596-5554 W (202) 205-9567 P (301) 513-6955 PIN 811 P (410) 684-0985 PIN 811 H (410) 666-2188 W (215) 713-2961	P O Box 789 College Park MD 20741 13410 Bladon Road Cockeysville MD 21131	Operations requests for MRA Regional Teams through Maryland Emergency Management Agency at (410) 486-4422
Air Force Rescue Coordination Center ex-officio	(800) 8512-3051 (804) 764-8112	205 Dodd Blvd, Suite 101 Langley APB, VA 23665-2789	
Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group Charles Kollar (412) 371-3417 full	(412) 647-7828 AMRG Dispatch	Dept Emergency Medicine Mercy Hospital 1400 Locust Street Pittsburgh, PA 15219	
Maryland Search & Rescue Group Peter McCabe (301) 596-5554 full	(410) 992-3945 P (301) 513-6976 PIN 811 P (410) 684-0985 PIN 811	11034 Berrypick Lane Columbia, MD 21044	
National Park Service Jim Lee Search & Rescue Coordinator ex-officio	(202) 208-4188	National Park Service Dept of the Interior Box 37127 Washington DC 20013-7127	
Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group Gene Harrison associate	(703) 255-5034	118 Park Street, S.E. Vienna, VA 22180	