Appalachian Search!

The newsletter of the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc.

An all volunteer organization dedicated to saving lives in the outdoors

Vol.4, No.3

September 1987

Wilderness EMT Course Planned

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference and the Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania have joined in a Wilderness Emergency Medicine Curriculum Development Project. We are developing a comprehensive curriculum for training Emergency Medical Technicians (from EMT-Basic to EMT-Paramedic) to deliver emergency medical care in backcountry search and rescue situations. We will use the curriculum to teach WEMT (Wilderness EMT) classes in the ASRC area, and hope that other areas will find it useful, too.

We view the Wilderness EMT as a professional (even if a volunteer professional) who must meet minimum standards of continuing education, medical control, and accountability. Therefore, we will only certify members of Wilderness EMS agencies as Wilderness EMT's. (WEMS agencies are SAR agencies that become licensed as EMS agencies or EMS agencies that become recognized as wilderness SAR agencies). Students who complete one of our pilot Wilderness EMT courses will receive a course completion certificate, but this is not the same as "Wilderness EMT Certification." A draft ASRC-CEM Wilderness EMT certification policy statement is circulating within both organizations. The requirements, in brief, are: (1) a valid EMT certificate; (2) a valid search and rescue certificate (ASRC, MRA, GSAR, or others accepted by the ASRC Board of Directors); (3) a valid AS-RC-CEM Wilderness EMT certificate; and, (4) documentation of plans for both SAR and EMT continuing education. (Wilderness EMT-P's must also have a Wilderness Command Physician willing to provide wilderness medical command and standing orders for primary care problems).

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Noepel Exhausts State SAR Resources

The body of Mark Noepel was found on August 30, thereby ending a three week search. During the massive effort specialized search and rescue resources from all over the eastern United States cooperated under a unified Incident Command Structure. In the end, well over 24,000 manhours and \$300,000 (not including \$200,000 of volunteer time) were expended on the search. The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC) provided the search with 63 trained volunteers contributing over 3000 manhours.

A summary of events follows.

Mark Noepel, a 25 year old naturalist employed at Shenandoah National Park, was last seen on August 6 at Loft Mountain Campground. On August 8, when he failed to report to work, a search was initiated. Mark's vehicle was soon located at the Three Ridges Overlook at Milepost 13 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Following a hasty search of the immediate area, it was quickly decided additional resources were required. In addition, the search area covered five different jurisdictions. Therefore, the Virginia Department of Emergency Services (DES) was contacted. DES then assigned the ASRC to provide the Incident Commander and other overhead positions on this search.

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From Search to Rescue: How not to fumble the ball

Usually searching is our primary concern. A great deal of time and effort is spent just finding the lost subject. Yet once the find has been made, we still may need to perform some sort of rescue or evacuation. This article will address both planning for the rescue and effectively executing the transition from a search to an evacuation.

An effective rescue begins with good planning. Often we plan for the search, with little or no forethought given to possible actions once the subject has been found. This may be caused by the misconception that finding the subject is our priGreetings! This is the first issue of Appalachian Search?'s new format, which will be published quarterly. In addition, we have expanded our readership to include Virginia and Maryland state and county law enforcement agencies and emergency medical services councils, as well as members of search and rescue organizations. With these changes, we hope to promote better communication and education within the search and rescue community.

We welcome and encourage any comments or criticisms regarding format, content, and presentation. If you have news, articles, or ideas for articles we would like to hear from you. In addition, if you know of people that currently are not receiving *Appalachian Search!*, and should be, please inform us. Last, we thank everyone whose hard work and diligence has made this issue possible!

Send suggestions, inquiries, and contributions to:

Appalachian Search! P.O. Box 440 Newcomb Hall Station Charlottesville, Va. 22904

We will route your responses to the appropriate section editor:

Book Review: Anne Eckman Communications: Art Dodds, Jr. Technical Rescue: Alan Rosen Gear: Chris Ingle Map Problems: Kevin Coyne Management: Chris Metzler Medical: Robert Koester Members Profile: Keith Conover

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The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc., is an all volunteer organization dedicated to providing emergency aid to people in the outdoors throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Working under local and state authorities, the ASRC provides a variety of wilderness search and rescue services. These include: all levels of search and rescue management; all weather, all terrain search and rescue teams; wilderness patient care; all levels of wilderness evacuation; and, safety and survival education. Further, members of the ASRC are self-sufficient in the field for fortyeight hours; however, for operations longer than this, accommodations should be made for food, water, and shelter. The ASRC does not attempt to duplicate the services of established rescue squads, but rather provides the specialized services necessitated by lost person search and rescue, such as the efficient use of local resources. To alert the ASRC, contact the Virginia Department of Emergency Services at (804) 323-2300.

In Memoriam: Pearl Dodds

On September 10, Pearl Dodds passed away after a long illness. Pearl was an associate member of the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group, and with her husband Art, Sr., functioned as the groups dispathcher. Twenty-four hours a day, the Dodd's were ready to alert the Group of yet another search. While the rest of us could gracefully decline to go, citing a pressing obligation, they manned the phone, logging over 1000 calls in 1986 alone. We'll miss Pearl's cheerful voice on the other end of the line, sounding as fresh at 2 AM as in the middle of the afternoon. We're grateful for the enthusiasm she brought to the Group and the ASRC and are glad we had the chance to know her.

In Memoriam: "Kerry"

On 28 May 1987, Marion Hardy's search dog "Kerry" was killed by a passing automobile while on a task searching for a missing two year old in ConFluence, PA. Kerry's abilities were reknown throughout the nation. From locating children who strayed from home to aiding victims of international disaster, Kerry made numerous finds in the field. As SAR Dog Alert reports, "She died doing what she loved best."

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- Oct. 03 ASRC Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 AM, Shenandoah National Park Headquarters, Luray, Va.
 - 10-12 Rigging for Rescue course. First weekend, Harper's Ferry, W.Va.
 - 17-18 Rigging for Rescue course, Second weekend, Harper's Ferry, W.Va.
 - 23-25 Center for Emergency Medicine for South West Pennsylvania (CEMSWP) and ASRC's EMT-Wilderness Course. First weekend, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Nov. 07 ASRC conference wide training session hosted by Blue Ridge Mtn. Rescue Group. Preparation for MRA recertification.
 - 14-15 MRA Board Meeting and Conference, Washington, D.C.
 - 21-22 CEMSWP and ASRC's EMT-W Course. Second weekend, Bear Run Nature Reserve Pa.
 - 17 Virginia SAR council meeting, Richmond, Va.
- Dec. 05 ASRC Board of Directors Meeting, time and place TBA.
 - 15 Mailing date for next issue of APPALACHIAN SEARCH!
 - 19 Penn. Sar Council Meeting.

MRA Heads East

The 1987 Fall Meeting of the Mountain Rescue Association will be held in Washington, D.C., marking the first gathering that the organization has had on the East Coast. The Fall Meeting is scheduled for November 13-14 and will be hosted by the ASRC. The MRA, a national organization of mountain rescue units, was born in the West and the majority of its members are from that part of the country.

The MRA provides a central agency to coordinate the efforts and activities of member units in such areas as:

1)mountain rescue education;

2)mountain rescue service;

3) exchange of rescue techniques and procedures;

4) advances in equipment;

5) and, standards.

Organizations that are interested in the MRA and the Fall Meeting can obtain additional information by contacting the event coordinators:

Alan and Peggy Rosen 305 Sumner Rd. Annapolis, Md. 21401

No High Tech Gimmicks Here

Coming in October to the Washington, D.C., area is the technical rescue class known as Rigging for Rescue, taught by Arnor Larson of Wilmer, British Columbia.

Mr. Larson has been a professional mountain guide since 1970 and has been involved in teaching cliff rescue throughout western Canada since 1976. Mr. Larson has been instrumental in establishing seven cliff rescue groups in southeastern British Columbia and is the Mountain Rescue Coordinator for the Kootenay Region. Currently, he is a member of the Columbia Mountain Rescue Group.

Mr. Larson's approach to rescue is somewhat unconventional. According to Mr. Larson,"if innovation is a key element in the Rigging for Rescue seminars, it is not by the introduction of new gadgets. Rather it lies in transforming the knowledge of principles into practical working systems of greater safety. Ropes, pulleys, and friction devices are the heart of technical rescue and Rigging for Rescue's advances come not from technocratic solutions, but by finding and reapplying the knowledge that has been lost to us since the days of shipping by sail, farming by horsepower and engineering on a human scale have passed us by."

The course is being sponsored by the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group. It is being held on October 10-12 and 17-19 in Harper's Ferry, W.Va. For further information, contact Paul Torrence, 106 E. Deer Park Dr., Gaithersburg, Md. 20877, phone: (301)977-2102. Space is extremely limited.

Interested in Search and Rescue?

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

For further information, contact the ASRC group's training officer nearest you:

AMRG	Keith	Conover	412-561-3413
BRMRG	Beth	Pinkney	804-296-7274
BRMRG/Tidewater	Dave	Carter	804-424-0917
RSAR	Patsy	Humphris	804-323-0539
SMRG	Paul	Torrence	301-977-2102
SWVMRG	Kristi	Fitzwater	703-951-8180

or direct inquiries to:

ASRC, Inc., P.O. Box 440, Newcomb Station, Charlottesville, VA., 22904.

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The growth and maturity in the search and rescue community in the last decade is remarkable, and volunteer SAR providers in Virginia and in neighboring states are at the forefront of this phenomenon. Several independent efforts that started in the early seventies have merged to produce a cohesive, well-organized SAR system second to none. Volunteer and state resources interact in a cooperative network that provides stateof-the-art search and rescue services to a large portion of the mid-Atlantic states.

HISTORY- Virginia's current program developed primarily in the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference and the Civil Air Patrol. From the start, ASRC was ground search-oriented while CAP mostly was air search-oriented. In 1976, an ad hoc committee on ground search and rescue was formed by three CAP members in an attempt to augment the ground SAR training available through CAP. The work of this committee was supported by ASRC, and most of the instruction and much of the material in the early CAP Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR) Colleges was provided by ASRC members.

ASRC went from a Virginia organization to a regional organization with the addition of the Washington and Pittsburgh area groups. The GSAR College program went from an ad hoc effort within CAP to become the state's training and certification program for ground search and rescue, the first of its kind in the United States.

A parallel development took place in the SAR dog community. This was also a regional effort that has become the standard for search dog organizations nationwide. There are now two primregional. arv. volunteer search dog groups: DOGS-East and Blue and Grey Search and Rescue Dogs. Although there are several other search dog groups, individual dog handlers, and several smaller SAR teams, these two groups, along with ASRC and CAP, provide most of the volunteer, state-level response.

CURRENT COORDINATION EFFORTS- The responsibility for insuring that state-of-the-art search and rescue services are provided to the citizens of the Commonwealth falls to the Department of Emergency Services (DES), Virginia's search and rescue coordinating agency. In 1986, the Operations Division made a major effort to upgrade the agency's SAR capability in both coordination and training.

In the past, the agency's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) served primarily as an information clearinghouse for state and local agencies requesting SAR resources. In reality, the EOC is tasked to be the state's Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) and now specifically, based on changes to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and changes in operational protocols, provides a full range of coordination services as it handles all Virginia requests for SAR resources.

DES also provides SAR training statewide and has developed several new training programs to supplement programs already in existence. SAR training programs are available ranging from the six-hour "Search and Rescue Orientation" to the forty-hour "Managing the Search Function" course. Courses are available for the local coordinator, the search manager, and the field team member. The most extensive training program currently being offered is for field team personnel. This is a four-level program requiring over two hundred hours of training to complete.

The Virginia Search and Rescue Council has played a major role in advancing the state of the art of SAR in Virginia. The Council is a confederation of agencies and individuals who actively participate in search and rescue in Virginia. It provides a forum for solving problems, developing new ideas, and helping insure interagency cooperation and coordination.

Finally, Virginia's model for SAR coordination efforts is extending into neighboring areas. Pennsylvania has recently organized a SAR Council patterned after Virginia's, and Virginia personnel have assisted with the project.

MISSION LOAD/PROJECTED GROWTH- As inter-

state cooperation and coordination continues to improve, an increased demand for professional SAR services over a wider area is occurring. Search and rescue incidents coordinated by the EOC prior to 1986 were not fully documented and numbers and types of incidents in which the EOC was involved are not available. Now, though, we know that in 1986 alone a total of 123 SAR incidents were reported to the EOC. We also know that the vast majority were missing person situations and ELT/EPIRB activations (some were false alarms). As allocator of state resources, the EOC primarily alerted four agencies to respond to search dog organizations, the these scenarios: Civil Air Patrol, Virginia State Police Aviation Division, and the ASRC.

Further, although amount of growth is difficult to forecast, so far in 1987 the case load has increased by about 25%. This increased demand directly affects the need for services in three areas: search management, trained field team leaders, and air-scent search dogs. These resources are almost entirely lacking at the local level and, as seen is just the 1986 statistics, prove to be

The Danger with High Tech Radios

For more than ten years, field team leaders have been going into the field with highly sophisticated microcircuit technology that frequently requires reference to the owner's guide or assistance from a trained technician to restore even the most simple function. However, this sort of assisstance has rarely been available in the field. Most Incident Commanders considered this to be a minor concern since the team could always contact base for the correct time. The sophisticated piece of equipment refered to is a programmable watch. For a long time, this was the most complex piece of equipment that a field team had.

Now, however, the rescue community finally has available very flexible frequency synthesized radio equipment, governed by unforgiving computer chips that work on the assumption that the operator knows what he is about. If you recall your first digital watch, you might remember that you had to show off to your friends all that it could do, but that this required sitting down with the instructions manual until all the functions were mastered. The synthesized radio, unlike the old crystal controlled radios that one could learn to operate in a few minutes, is even more complex. For example, some radios permit the keypads to be disabled, preventing unauthorized keystrokes, such as broadcasting on an unauthorized frequency. Unfortunately, just as there are many ways to idiot proof a radio, there are even more ways to disable it or prevent it from working properly. Eventually, this, along with improper transmissions, could jeopardize our privilige to use radios.

Therefore, each group needs to have training classes in this area in order to insure that every member can verify that the radio is properly functioning and that he can restore its operation if it is accidentally disabled in the field. Further, each group also needs to have a selected body of personnel certified by the ASRC Communications Committee to reprogram and supervise the use of these radios to insure proper operation both within the ASRC and between various agencies, such as was recently required on the Noepel search. Finally, we must remember that these radios are a fact of life for the SAR community and must therefore be treated with respect; this is not only the job of the ASRC Communications Committee and the various Group Communications Officers, but of every member of the ASRC.

Art Dodds

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Louisa County, Va.

IC: Koester

On 5/1 Lousia County Sheriffs office requested a full callout to respond the next morning for a missing 20 year old despondent male. He had been missing for over two days and resources totaling over 150 people were expected. Before a response was organized the subject was located behind his house able to walk out.

Powhatan County, Va.

IC: Koester

On 5/6 Powhatan County Sheriffs office requested an overhead team to respond for a missing 2 year old female. While, on the phone with the Department of Emergency services, the young girl was located in excellent condition.

ConFluence, PA

IC: Joe Thrash

On 5/28 the ASRC became involved in a search for a missing 2 year old female. The subject was last seen playing in the road near her Aunt's house which the family was visiting. Tracking dogs followed a trail which terminated at the edge of the storm swollen river. The search area included several miles of river banks, nearby swamps, and extremely steep terrain all located near the point last seen. The search involved ten different agencies and used a combination of tracking dogs, air scent dogs, hasty teams, sweep teams, water teams, and aerial searching. The search attracted the attention of all national The subject's body was located apmedia. proximately eight miles downstream by a whitewater rafting company being utilized as searchers.

Craig County, Va.

IC: Koester

On 6/3 Craig County Sheriffs office requested an overhead team to respond for a missing male. The subject was last seen driving his pickup truck by a sheriffs county dispatcher. The ASRC and Dogs EAST was requested to organize and search a rugged section of mountains, where a suspicious vehicle was spotted. After two days of searching and evaluating the subject's low probability of being in the area, the search was suspended. The subject has not been located to date and foul play is suspected.

On The Cutting Edge: Ascending Systems and your Rope

In the world of rescue, mechanical ascenders occupy a prominent position. They are often used as safeties in rope rescue systems. Some folks up in British Columbia wondered about the safety of ascenders in such systems. To answer their questions, they decided to perform a series of drop tests in order to determine how well mechanical ascenders and soft ascenders such as prusik loops can hold a dynamic fall.

The test setup used is shown in Figure 1. The weight is raised a specific distance and then dropped (Figure 2); the device under test takes the full force of the fall. All devices were set as in normal use. Devices that were tested included Jumars (both old and new style), Gibbs, and 7 mm and 8 mm 3-wrap prusiks (both single and double).

The test results showed that:

- in tests using Jumars with a drop greater than 1 m the rope was consistently cut. A drop of .5 m resulted in the sheath being stripped off the core for 160 cm (Figure 3). A 1 m drop using an old style (grey) Jumar resulted in total failure of the Jumar, due to the frame cracking.
- 2) in tests using Gibbs, a 1 m drop resulted in stripping the sheath off the rope. At 1.3 m, the rope was cut.
- 3) in tests with prusiks, both 7 mm and 8 mm were able to hold 1 m drops consistently; this extended sometimes to even 1.5 m (1.5 m drop, prusik slipped 51 cm). Double 8mm prusiks were able to hold 2.5 m drops consistently.

So now what? Melt down your Gibbs for boat anchors? Rush out and buy 300 feet of 8 mm perlon? Or do these tests accurately simulate a rope system failure? What are the likely failure points anyway? Let's start thinking....











Figure 1. Drop Test Setup.

Figure 2. Test Setup: weight raised.

Paul Torrence: Hardman at the NIH

One of the most dedicated members of SMRG over the last four years has been Paul Torrence. For the past three years he has served as editor of the old ASRC newsletter, a time consuming task that included a myriad of chores; coaxing writers to meet their deadlines, writing many of the articles, photocopying the finished product, and mailing the copies to the troops. He has also spent the last two years as the group's training officer, expending much time and enthusiasm.

Paul is a long time resident of the Washington D.C. area. He arrived in 1969 from Pennsylvania by way of Buffalo N.Y. with a brand new Ph.D. in biochemistry. He settled into a job with the National Institute of Health where he remains today. He is currently head of a laboratory dealing with biomedical chemistry. Along the way he has published 130 papers, been awarded 2 patents, and edited a book.

Paul has managed to find and maintain a life outside of the ASRC and SAR. He is a dedicated runner, putting in 5-6 miles a day. Currently, he is training for the USMC marathon. He is also manages to swim 5 days a week at a local pool.

Hiking and backpacking are favored activities both locally and in more exotic locations such as the Wind River Range in Wyoming. Paul has also worked on trail building and repairing; he has he-

Bedtime Reading

Accidents in North American Mountaineering 1987, published by the American Alpine Club, is now available. This booklet describes climbing accidents that occurred in North America in 1986. A description of each situation is given, usually followed by an analysis of the accident. While the terrain where many of them occur is foreign to our area (glaciers, high altitude, etc.), many of the causes will be familiar and worth noting, i.e, fatigue, hypothermia, inadequate equipment, etc.

Near the back are statistical tables, tabulating the data according to terrain, cause, injury, etc. In addition, there is a list of mountain rescue groups in North America, and yes, the ASRC is there. Finally, there is an accident report form included for contributions to next years publication. Accidents in North American Mountaineering 1987 is available for \$5.00 from REI in College Park, Md. and can probably be found in other outdoor shops throughout the area. lped lead work trips for the Sierra Club. Over the past few years Paul has been lured to higher and wild places, and mountaineering has become a new interest. He spent 2 years as a student at the AMC's winter mountaineering school in the Whites of N.H. He has learned well to survive and climb in the harsh environments. This year he returns to the school, but as an instructor. Paul has climbed in Wyoming including an ascent of Gannet Peak, the state's highest. This summer saw an unsuccessful attempt on Mt. Rainer in Washington.

Paul has a strong commitment to conservation and environmental issues. Ask him about his current interest, the fight against oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska,

Finally, a few words about the rest of the Torrence family. Paul's wife Glenda is a woman of many talents; typist of newsletters; baker of goodies for training sessions; recipient of late night phone calls ("callout"); patient; and tolerant ("how much were those mountain boot!?"). lan. 15, shows his fathers love of the outdoors. He accompanied Paul on Rainier this summer. He's also been spotted at several SMRG training sessions, appearing to enjoy the goings on. Jessica, 12, lover of horses, has been observed gracefully climbing a rock face. She has also played victim for several vertical rescue simulations. Lastly, there is Dixie, an Irish setter with a sweet disposition and a faithful companion on many sessions.

Peggy & Al Rosen

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We have scheduled a pilot class for two three day weekends in October and November. We will be offering more classes in the Pittsburgh area later, and plans are afoot for a class in Virginia as well. The first weekend is at the Center for Emergency Medicine, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. There, we will teach in a classroom setting with a few practical exercises. The second weekend will be entirely in the field, with tenting space near the classroom building; this sessions includes a day-long SAR simulation Saturday for which we would like to have some extra ASRC members. (Please sign up ahead of time with Dave Lindell [412-363-8036] because we plan to feed the "extras" all meals the second weekend.) If you have specific questions about the course, check with your nearest ASRC Group or contact Walt Stoy at the Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania, 190 Lothrop St. #113, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Keith Conover

Al & Peggy Rosen

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The Myth Behind Space Blankets

For many years SAR organizations specifically, and outdoors people in general, have been using bags incorporating metallized plastic sheeting (MPS)- commonly known as "space blankets"- as an integral part of their survival systems. Originally developed by NASA to provide light weight insulation in the vacuum of space, MPS is produced by spraying aluminum particles over a Mylar or Melinex sheet in a vacuum. Because the particles are not covered by varnish or glue, little heat is absorbed and much is reflected back to the source. MPS operates thus- by reflecting radiated heat. In space, this results in excellent insulation, since radiation is the major form of heat loss.

Fortunately, on Earth, radiation is not the major form of heat loss. Rather, it represents only a small fraction of the whole; evaporation and convection form the major avenues of loss. However, many manufacturers have made great claims as to the protection provided by MPS. In light of these claims, a number of laboratory and field tests of these products were made. In 1977, P. Marcus et al. found that MPS bags in either light weight or heavy weight forms have do not "any advantage over simple polyethylene or 'ripstop'nylon bags in insulating the body in the cold environment." In addition, they found that the light weight MPS bags were unable to withstand winds in excess of 10 m/s, whereas polyethylene and rip-stop bags withstood winds of up to 20 m/s even after being punctured. This test was further substantiated in 1980 by work done by I.M. Light et al.. In addition to finding that MPS does not provide any additional thermal benefits, the testing showed that the utility of MPS bags was severely reduced after moisture given off by the subjects condensed and froze on the interior of bags.

Therefore, in light of the information given above, I would recommend that you forego the purchase of a "space blanket" and instead acquire a simple nylon tarp or bag, which will be more versatile, durable, and, most likely, cheaper. If, however, you still feel the overpowering urge to get a "space blanket," refrain from getting one of the pocket variety and instead use a couple of hefties; they will provide a comparable level of protection at a significantly lower price.

Chris Ingle

Search Briefs

Caroline County, Va

IC: Koester

On 6/20 Caroline county Sheriffs office requested an Overhead Team to respond to a missing person search. A 32 year old female was last seen by a 17 year old neighbor when the subject's pickup truck became stuck in the woods. The seventeen year old then proceeded to hike out of the woods. Soon after the arrival of the overhead team a full callout was initiated to begin night searching. Soon afterwards the subject was located by a Dogs EAST Handler using attraction. Although missing her shoes, the subject was able to hike our on her own guided by the handler and After being checked by the Frog Level sirens. Rescue Squad the subject elected to go to work.

Luenburg, Va.

IC: Metzler

Search for a 24 year old probably suicidal male who was last seen at home on 7/31/87 1800 hours. The area surrounding the PLS was composed of rolling farmland and forest. The initial alert came on the afternoon of 8/1, during the Chesterfield Co., Va. search. Later that day, a request for field team leaders was made by the overhead team from Baywood SAR. On 8/2, the ASRC began to provide overhead and the callout was expanded. The subject was located deceased on 8/3 at 1750 by a team sweeping the south end of the high probability area; he was about 0.75 km southeast of the PLS.

Chesterfield County, Va.

IC: Metzler

On August 1, the ASRC was called into Chesterfield County to provide an Overhead Team to aid in the search of an eight year old female missing since the previous day; local volunteers searching the night of July 31 were unable to turn up any-thing. She was last seen on her way to a nearby lake to fish. After establishing base, the Overhead Team decided to employ searchers in sweep tasks in areas near the PLS and other high probability areas because of the suburban environment and the damage to any clues the previous night; clue conscious resources worked areas further out. At 1930 hrs, Beth Barkley of Dogs East found a blue sleeping bag and yellow pillow. At about 2000 hrs, Brooke Holt of Dogs East found the subject one half kilometer to the east of the sleeping bag; the find was two kilometers southeast of base. The subject had been assaultedknife wounds to the neck and chest were well noted. Currently the subject is recuperating from her wounds and the prognosis is excellent. It is believed that she was picked up, assaulted, then left injured at the location of the find. A suspect is in custody and faces charges that could lead to more than a life sentence.

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mary goal; rather, returning the subject to safety is the true objective. We will need a comprehensive evacuation plan to accomplish this; regardless of the organizational system used, this plan should be the product of a cooperative effort among all the elements of the staff. A good plan should identify available EMS resources, both at the incident and elsewhere, and should list the teams and individuals capable of carrying out a rescue. Much of this information can usually be received from representatives of the local re-sources. Further, the plan decides how the victim should be evacuated from any sector that will be searched. determines access and egress routes, and, most important, clearly identifies who will be responsible for coordinating the rescue. Nothing is more wasteful and potentially more life threatening than having to wait hours for a medevac team to be assembled and travel to the patient.

You may have the luxury of maintaining a separate rescue/evacuation team, but usually it must be assembled from teams already committed to field tasks. When briefing field teams, let them know what role, if any, they will play in the evacuation. This not only ensures that they will have not only the necessary equipment, but also will be mentally prepared for the job. The technical rescue gear should be cached in an easily accessible location (not locked up in someone's trunk) and arrangements must be made to transport the gear to the rescue team, wherever it may be.

After the subject has been found, on of the single biggest problems is information flow- specifically the lack of needed information and the excess of extraneous radio traffic. Utilizing a separate radio frequency for medevac may help, but only if other units not involved in the evacuation keep the channel clear. Discipline is the key. No matter how badly searchers want to "get in" on the rescue, they must have the maturity to stay clear to stay off the channel. Preparing an evacu-

ASRC Becomes an EMS Agency

The ASRC has been functioning as a licenced Emergency Medical Service (EMS) agency in Virginia for nine months. With this change come some important alterations in procedures. Most important, we must fill out an EMS callsheet for every search. It does not matter in what condition the patient is found. When a status three (dead on arrival) is made it must be documented why CPR was not started. Patients in need of medical attention obviously require documentation. Finally, documentation is especially required for status ones (patient able to walk out); it is important to document why you decided to let the patient walk out instead of being carried. In addition, if the patient does not wish to be taken. to a hospital then a refusal to receive treatment must be sought.

ation in advance will alleviate much of this, since those involved will know what is expected of them.

In summary, planning for the rescue will give you the best chance of successful performance. Letting everyone know the plan will help insure that the transition into the rescue phase will be as smooth as possible. PLAN TO ACT, NOT REACT!

Greg Shea



All call sheets are then turned into the ASRC medical advisor (Dr. Richard Christoph) for a call review. With a status one or three the field team leader should fill out the callsheet. If an ASRC medic was assigned to the patient they must be a Virginia EMT. However, the Division of Emergency Services realizes EMTs may not always be available. In any case, all members are strongly encouraged to obtain a Va EMT. Finally, when patient care is transferred to a regular EMS agency, this needs to be documented.

Several members have demonstrated concern over the Division of Emergency Medical Services regulation that states an agency may not refuse a request for assistance. However, in our particular case, the Division has determined the ASRC may follow our established practice of being activated

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On the following day, the overhead team now composed of members from the ASRC, Blue Ridge Parkway, and Shenandoah National Park deployed several types of search tasks. Tracking dogs and eight air scent dogs from DOGS East and Blue and Gray participated. Ground hasty tasks down drainages and around shelters were conducted. Eagle One of the U.S. Park Police provided air operations for several hours. In addition, investigation became a full time function with a staff of two. DES provided badly needed programmable handheld radios while other logistical concerns were handled by the Blue Ridge Parkway.

On August 11 (day four) a sweep team located Mark Noepel's campsite 100 yards east of Maupin Field Shelter isolated in dense rhodendrons. Since all of his belongings were found at the campsite, it was felt Mark must be dressed only in a T-shirt, shorts, and socks. The emphasis of the search then shifted from extensive linear sweeps (Mark was capable of hiking over 25 miles a day and had hiked over 2000 miles the previous summer) to intensive saturation searches around the shelter.

Unfortunately, volunteer manpower v as much lower on August 12 than anticipated, greatly reducing the productivity planned.

On August 13 (day 6) several agencies joined the search effort. Over 100 U.S. Army soldiers from Fort Lee, 49 Civil Air Patrol members, and National Park Service personnel flown in brought the number of searchers to nearly 300. Amateur Radios Operators from ARES established a secondary command net to improve communications between divisions and command base. The search effort located a sockprint in a sandy spot in Campbell Creek. Therefore, it was determined an intensive search must continue the next day.

Recognizing the growing logistical demands and exhaustion of statewide overhead personnel, a command staff meeting was held August 12. District Ranger Bruce Bytnar from the Blue Ridge Parkway, Chief Ranger Larry Hakel of the Shenandoah National Park, and Robert Koester, with the ASRC, decided Regional Overhead assistance would be necessary. Therefore, a class one multirisk Southeast Regional Interagency Overhead Team was requested.

Morning Briefing during Noepel Incident



The Overhead Team arrived that night with over 20 members and quickly began the transition period. A basecamp was established and all logistical concerns were taken care of. Technical search assistance was provided by the previous overhead personnel.

On August 15 (day 8) a hiker reported that his son and himself had seen Mark Noepel on August 7 proceeding southbound on the Mau-Har trail. Mark was only wearing his shorts, T-shirt and socks but otherwise in good condition. Once again the search included the possibility of the subject covering large distances. Therefore, the overhead team began to demobilize and specialized dog teams and search and rescue resources were called for again.

When dog teams, ground teams, helicopter operations, and mantrackers failed to find any clues, then active searching in the field was suspended after August 19 (day 12). However, investigation was stepped up to a staff of six and continued after active suspension.

On August 30, the body of Mark Noepel was located approximately 100 yards east of the Mau-Har trail in an extensively searched drainage. The body was found in a depression by two hunters.

In Summary, the Noepel's Incident involved over 28 different agencies cooperating under the Incident Command System. It also involved highly specialized resources seldom utilized on searches. The use of the Thomas Jefferson Critical Incident Stress Debriefing team provided the command staff with invaluable advice concerning the mental status of both searchers and the staff itself. This was also the first search an Regional Interagency team was utilized. As a direct result of this search, standardization of levels of SAR training are being proposed on a national level.

Robert Koester

Continued from page 4

among the most needed. Most of the volunteer groups are already operating at near-maximum levels and are going to be unable to meet the anticipated demand without significant growth.

Thus, at the state level, there is a concerted effort to increase funding to support coordination and training. Legislation will probably be required to address issues such as liability, workman's compensation and expense reimbursement. Competition in the political arena for recognition and funding is fierce and is going to be difficult for search and rescue. The value of specialized resources to the victim is obvious, but SAR cases usually do not attract much attention. Sometimes the spectacular is required in order to get needed recognition.

In spite of this, SAR providers understand that search is an emergency. Timely, professional, state-of-the-art intervention can significantly reduce death and disability among the victims of SAR incidents. The creed of the SAR professional is best stated in the motto of the international SAR community, "That Others May Live." Ralph Wilfong

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through the Department of Emergency Services. Therefore, we are not expected to respond to a private citizen or organization. While we are re-quired to establish mutual aid agreements this requirement has been met through Virginia Search and Rescue Council agreements. Therefore, the ASRC may continue to function as it always has.

Although becoming an EMS agency has increased required paperwork, this should be seen as a benefit. More accurate and complete records are now centralized for every member of the ASRC. While these records will require effort to maintain, we can fullfil this requirement. In addition, we now directly receive information from the EMS concerning special classes, grants, and medical information. Already, the ASRC's status as an EMS agency has helped secure two grants for digital pagers and programmable handheld radios.

Most important, the ASRC's status as an EMS agency significantly enhances our ability to render aid to the patient. We currently have four members who may render shock-trauma level care (fluids and some selected drugs) throughout the Commonwealth. In the future our capabilities may expand even further.

Robert Koester

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Address Correction Requested

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The Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference is composed of the following volunteer groups:



- The Blue Ridge Mtn. Rescue Group Charlottesville, Va.
- The Shenandoah Mtn. Rescue Group Washington, D.C.
- The South West Virginia Mtn. Rescue Group Blacksburg, Va.
- The Allegheny Mtn. Rescue Group Pittsburgh, PA
- The Richmond Search and Rescue Group Richmond, Va.

The ASRC is a member of:

- The National Association for Search and Rescue
- The Mountain Rescue Association