



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. 4

December 1987

Massive Search in Fauquier

On the evening of Sunday, November 22, the assistance of the ASRC was requested for a missing person search in Sky Meadows State Park, along the Fauquier/Clarke county lines in Virginia. Michael Hitchcock, a seven year old boy, had been missing since 1530 that same day. While hiking with his mother and another adult, he had stopped to look at some horses in a nearby field. About a minute later, his mother looked behind her and the boy was gone. She and her friend did some initial searching in the immediate area, calling the local Sheriff's Department at about 1730. Weather that night was expected to be very cold, with wind chill well below twenty degrees. The terrain consisted of both open, rolling fields and mountains covered with thick brush.

Fauquier cont. on p.5

MRA Recertification Held

On Sunday, November 15, a test was held for ASRC groups to recertify as members of the Mountain Rescue Association. It was held in Great Falls Park, Va. Four groups chose to participate: AMRG; RSAR; SMRG; and, ESAR Post 616. The test was composed of four stations, at which the following skills could be demonstrated: search management; semi-technical evacuation; litter lowering and raising; and, tyrolean (to move a litter across a stream). It ran from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. MRA members from several western groups served as evaluators. This marked the first time in five years that the rest of the MRA has had a chance to observe the ASRC in action. The visitors were favorably impressed with the organization and capabilities demonstrated by the Conference.

Al Rosen

ESAR's Come of Age by Carl Soloman

This past summer, the Maryland Search Group, also known as Explorer Search and Rescue (ESAR) Post 616, became a probationary affiliate group in the ASRC. The Maryland Search Group is an associate member of the Mountain Rescue Association, and is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America through its Exploring program. The primary goal of Exploring is to teach young people ages 14 through 21 leadership skills. Explorer Post 616, based in the Columbia, Maryland area, has chosen search and rescue because of its excellent potential for training and building new leaders. ESAR Post 616 has 25 explorers and 11 adult associate advisors assisting Peter McCabe, the Post's advisor.

ESAR cont. on p.4

IMPORTANT!

The ASRC alert number through the Virginia Department of Emergency Services (DES) has been changed. The new DES number is:

(804) 674-2400

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Letter from the Editors

The ASRC has had another busy year. Since the first of January, 1987, we have had a large number of alerts, many of which resulted in full responses. And masked by these statistics are individual searches, such as the Noepel Incident on the Blue Ridge Parkway, which alone entailed twelve days of active searching.

Also obscured is the fact that we not only respond to more and more searches, we also are responsible for an evergrowing number of services. As the articles in this issue point out, the Conference is concerned with proficiency in: lost person and downed aircraft search; medical stabilization and technical evacuation of the subject; and, public education.

Obviously, this is a lot. Or, at least, the Conference chairman and other SAR veterans think so. Hence, the First Roundtable Retreat on 5-6 December was held for people to gather and to begin considering what the we as an organization need to do in order that we can best fulfill the SAR community's pledge, "That others may live." It is going to take a lot of continued conversation to reach a consensus on how best to allocate our time and efforts so that we may continue to improve in helping the missing.

As to the role of *Appalachian Search!*, we will continue to present as much information as possible for all members. We also hope to start printing opinions- and eventually resolutions- about how we as the ASRC plan to structure our growth.

So speak up! Let your chairpersons know your opinions; or write to *Appalachian Search!* if you are inspired.

Here's to hearing from you soon, and to best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,
The Editors

On December 4, 1987, Biner, Jim Rooney's pet and search dog-in-training, was seriously injured in an automobile accident and had to be put to sleep. Biner was a good friend of many of us in the Conference and she will be missed.

Letters to the Editors

From the point of view of trying to understand what series of events befell a subject which necessitated a SAR effort, I often find the SAR summaries printed in *Appalachian Search!* disappointingly incomplete. In particular, despite the extensive discussion of the Noepel incident in the newsletter, I was still left puzzling over what indeed had happened to Mark Noepel- an individual with a seemingly impeccable background of outdoors experience.

Waren A. Potas

Eds. reply: We fully agree that a number of the SAR summaries were incomplete; regrettably, in many cases, this was intentionally done. As a publication, we strive to bring our readers as much and as accurate information as possible. However, we also feel that as members of the search community that we have a responsibility to respect the confidentiality of the people whom we serve. Therefore, there are situations when we must withhold information for the good of the subject. Yet, you should rest assured that when possible, we will present the facts as best we can.

In the case of Mark Noepel, we have recently received news from the state examiner in Richmond that the cause of death was an overdose of over the counter medication.

Letters cont. on p.10

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Technical Rescue	Al Rosen

Regional Update by Gary Mechtel

Chairman's Corner: News from the ASRC Board

Dear Member,

This is the first of many messages I'll be bringing you via the newsletter. I hope that by doing so, you will be better informed about issues and events in the Conference. November was a busy month, with the ASRC hosting the annual Fall meeting of the Mountain Rescue Association in Washington, D.C. and co-sponsoring a pilot course for the Wilderness EMT Curriculum Development Project. Congratulations to Peggy and Al Rosen, and Keith Conover, respectively.

The Conference is changing, and our regulatory documents have been changed to reflect this growth. If you haven't received a copy of the revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, ask your Group Chairperson for one. The revised Operations Manual and Training Standards will be ready for distribution early in the new year; I know that Christophers Metzler and Ingle appreciated all of your thoughtful feedback on these documents.

By the time you read this, we will have held the first ASRC Roundtable Retreat, designed to help the Board better serve your needs in the future. I hope to have seen you there!

Although we haven't had many searches this fall, more can be expected due to increased contact with responsible agents in Maryland, and enhanced agreements with Virginia and Pennsylvania. At the very least, we will have a large PSAR Incident on April 23, the running of the annual Dogwood Half-Hundred hike along the Appalachian Trail, which will be the ASRC Training Event for the spring quarter.

I wish each of you the very best for the Holiday Season, and hope that we won't be TOO busy then. Until the next time,

Greg Shea
Chairman

The ASRC's operational area is the mid-Atlantic region, primarily the States of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.

The ASRC Board of Directors has adopted minimal equipment standards for all groups. Also, new training standards are currently under revision.

Recent Virginia-wide news events centered on the efforts of the Virginia Department of Emergency Services (VaDES), the Virginia Search and Rescue Council (VaSARCo), and the normal day-to-day search and rescue (SAR) operations. To date, a total of 123 SAR incidents involving missing persons or alerts for downed aircraft have been coordinated by VaDES.

VaDES continues to increase its library of SAR educational materials. It recently added films on tracking, survival, and hypothermia. These items are available for training. VaDES recently coordinated and led the teaching of the National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) course called Managing the Search Function (MSF). Extra instructors were provided by the ASRC and Shenandoah National Park. MSF is a forty hour course that teaches SAR management skills and SAR strategy and tactics. Three new instructors, Dave Carter, Bob Koester, and Chris Metzler completed the necessary classroom instructor training.

VaDES continues to support the U.S. State Department's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) in developing an East Coast Disaster Assistance Team. Recently a number of meetings have been held between those two agencies in an attempt to define their working relationship, the Team's mission, and its composition.

The VaSARCo met recently. At this meeting, The Virginia Sheriffs Association joined the Council. They, along with the recent addition of the Virginia Department of Health's Division of Emergency Medical Services, provide the Council with a much better representation of the State Agencies and Government. This is another important step in integrating SAR into Virginia's System of

Regional cont on p.10

The ESARs meet for training three evenings a week and one full weekend a month and have a rigid training program based on the requirements for certified membership in the ASRC. The training program consists of the following three levels:

- Level 1 -- Callout Qualified
- Level 2 -- ESAR Qualified
- Level 3 -- ASRC Certified

Callout Qualified personnel have training in Land Navigation, Wilderness Travel, Search Techniques, and Equipment Selection. They must also have the minimal gear required on a SAR mission.

In addition to the training they receive to become Callout Qualified, the ESAR member must successfully complete the following training to be ESAR Qualified including Field Team Leadership, Advanced Land Navigation, Night Operations, Search Tactics, Incident Command System, Semi-Technical Evacuation, Wilderness First Aid, Winter Survival, Basic Rope Work, Communications and Litter Handling.

The final level of certification called "ASRC Certified" requires a minimum of first aid

training at the Red Cross Advanced First Aid level and basic vertical rope work skills.

Since they became associated with the ASRC two years ago, the ESARs have participated in over 19 missions and 26 alerts. They have played major roles in several training exercises, including the Winter 1986 ASRC Simulation and the Dogwood Half Hundred. Through the Red Cross Disaster Services, the ESARs provided 43 consecutive hours of support at the scene of the AMTRAK accident near Baltimore, MD last year.

Recently the ESARs have participated in the Noepel Search, which lasted two weeks on the Blue Ridge Parkway, and in the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) examination. The post was evaluated in three separate areas: search, semi-technical evacuation, and technical highline evacuation. The ESARs successfully completed each station and performed with professionalism. The post expects to become regular members of the MRA next year with completion of the examination of their vertical rescue skills.

Explorer Search and Rescue Post 616 has proven itself as an available and reliable SAR resource in the region. We welcome them as a new member of the ASRC ■

MRA Meets in Washington

On Friday evening and Saturday, November 13 and 14, the Mountain Rescue Association held its fall meeting in Washington, D.C., at the Carlyle Suite Hotel and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. The event was hosted by the ASRC. Almost 40 people attended, including representatives from mountain rescue groups in New Hampshire, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, California, Oregon, and Washington, as well as NASAR, the National Park Service, and the ASRC.

Topics that were discussed included: search and rescue standards; the just-completed North American Technical Rescue Symposium; an MRA electronic bulletin board; and, an MRA newsletter (to begin within a few months). After the meeting, participants headed to La Fonda Restaurant for dinner and the evening's entertainment.

Butch Farabee, the Emergency Services Coordinator for the National Park Service, was

the featured speaker. He discussed a legal suit that was brought against the NPS as a result of a SAR mission that took place in Alaska, and its possible ramifications for the SAR community. He then discussed a new helicopter technique being developed in Yosemite National Park for slinging rescuers onto and off of the immense rock faces that are found there. This was illustrated with several spectacular slides demonstrating the technique. Finally, the evening closed with the "great" SAR slide contest. Contestants entered slides in four categories: dramatic; esthetic; humorous; and, most technical gear in use. Unfortunately, the number of entries was rather sparse, but some enthusiastic audience participation helped make up for the lack of slides.

This was the first time that the MRA has met on the East Coast. Judging by the favorable comments from the out-of-town participants, it won't be the last. ■

At approximately 1900 hours, the Fauquier County Sheriff's Department made a request for help from Virginia EOC. Initial resources included a ground-scenting dog from the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department, nine air-scenting dogs from DOGS-East and Blue and Grey, and helicopters from both the Virginia State Police and the Fairfax County Police Department. Also, at about this time a full callout of the ASRC was authorized. While various Conference resources assembled and responded, a two-man initial overhead team, consisting of Chris Metzler and Bob Koester, left Charlottesville via the UVa Pegasus Medevac helicopter, arriving at the incident command post at 2030. Initial actions included identification of the resources involved and available, documentation of what had already been done, as well as beginning an investigation and dispatching initial tasks.

Without question, the most difficult initial actions were identifying resources and dispatching tasks. The amount of dogs, helicopters, and search personnel immediately available was huge. ASRC personnel arriving shortly after the overhead team, from SMRG and BRMRG, immediately had to be allocated either to dog tasks or to duties at the command post. The trend toward "big" never let up. By the end of the approximately 18 hour incident - most of which occurred at night - over 225 personnel from 29 agencies had been involved. Over 35 tasks were dispatched. A total of 43 different ASRC personnel signed-in, the largest of any agency involved except the U.S. Army.

In addition to the operational concerns described above, a great deal of resource planning took place during the evening. Medical/Evacuation plans were developed, and a Mattson consensus was performed. A very rudimentary operations plan based on that Mattson was developed.

At about 1230, Monday 11/23, Michael Hitchcock was located in Warren County in an area twelve miles away from the point last seen. He emerged from the woods near a subdivision, came to a house, and told the resident he was lost. The Warren County

Fauquier cont. on p.11

Rigging for Rescue Class Successful

On October 10-12 and 17-19, the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group of the ASRC sponsored the vertical rescue course known as Rigging for Rescue, taught by Arnor Larson of Wilmer, British Columbia, Canada. The course was held at Harpers Ferry, WV. Participants included 9 SMRG members, as well as 2 National Park Service rangers from Catoctin NP and Harpers Ferry NHP.

Arnor's approach to teaching emphasized understanding the theory (physics) behind the various techniques. Thus, when confronted with a new situation and location, one can apply these basic principles to construct a system that will allow the successful completion of the operation.

The course began with a thorough grounding in rescue basics such as materials, equipment, belaying, rappelling, ascending, and anchors. It then moved simple and compound pulley systems, lowering systems, raising systems, and highlines (tyroleans). Additional topics included single rescuer techniques, scree evacuation (semi-technical evacuation), litter tie-in, litter spider, A-frames, and passing knots. Participants put theory into practice with field exercises that included litter lowering and raising, and level and sloping highlines. ■

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COMMUNICATIONS

by Art Dodds, Jr.

UNCLE SAM AND SAR COMMUNICATIONS

You may recall when CBs required a license and the Federal Communications Commission was called "Uncle Sam". Well, the FCC gave up on the CB but has shown renewed interest in the Public Service Radio Licenses and the people and the groups that use them.

J. Hunter Holloway recounted a recent visit to the FCC to his mountain rescue group. The FCC was concerned about two areas:

- *Whether all of the radios complied with the current FCC regulations at the time of manufacture, i.e., not modified.
- *The procedures and controls in place to assure that personnel use the radios in accordance with FCC regulations.

For the most part, ASRC radio use falls under emergency situations and continued control and maintenance is needed to insure that our radios comply in all regards, so that confiscation and fines by the FCC will never occur.

The following is a restatement of the ASRC's Communications Committee's policies regarding the ASRC license and the operation of our radios:

- 1) Only radios that have been assigned an ASRC Unit number are permitted to be operated under our FCC License. This is required to verify that the equipment is in compliance with current FCC Regulations.
- 2) All radios used on ASRC approved activity are checked by the assigned Communications Officer for the activity for compatibility and frequency assignments prior to being placed into service.
- 3) Any person observed operating a radio in violation of current FCC Regulation should be instructed to stop. Correct the situation and, if needed, report the situation to the assigned Communications Officer.
- 4) Only personnel assigned by the ASRC Communications Committee are permitted to alter the field programmable radios. Contact your Operations Officer for a list of the

Communications cont. on p.9

BOOK REVIEW

by Anne Eckman

Mountain High, Mountain Rescue fulfills its title's promise. Peggy Parr, author and veteran searcher, recounts five years of missions with El Paso Search and Rescue in Colorado. From countless Chinook rides to search for downed aircraft in harsh winter storms to callouts aborted -after arriving on scene- at 0400 hrs, Parr creates a vivid narrative of what search and rescue entails.

In particular, Parr gives a sense of how big the country is in which El Paso SAR searches. You don't access the PLS via a half mile's walk from the nearest road; frequently, you begin your task after a half hour's helicopter ride.

Unlike most other books on the topic, Parr portrays the personal side of SAR. She identifies details well known to all members of the SAR community:

"After a mission (the spouse and friend are) forced to listen to endless phone calls from

Parr cont. on p.7

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other members, where details are dissected like a frog. Gear is spread across the floor as in a garage sale. Two hundred feet of nylon ropes are cleaned in the washing machine and hung for days like spaghetti coils from the basement ceiling."

Also recalled are feelings overlooked in the need to "complete the mission." Parr reminds us of the privilege of being in the wilderness, the pain of seeing human life end, and the repeated "humbling experience (that) frail man has the large brain, but a tiny bird, or a quarter-inch high forget-me -not, or a 500 year old tree, or a wooly animal is the

survivor."

Ultimately, through her exploration of why at over-sixty she sees "the challenge in SAR, and has become, in (her daughter's) words 'a raving maniac'," Parr allows searchers to reflect on why "we live for a mission... the touch of danger, the rush of adrenaline, the stream of (calls) that never repeat themselves... the chance to make a difference."

Mountain High, Mountain Rescue can be purchased for \$11.95 from the Mountain Rescue Association. ■

SEARCH BRIEFS

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

On the 23rd of September, the ASRC was called to help search for two missing teenagers, one male aged 20 years and a 14-year-old female, last seen on September 14. The ASRC responded an overhead team plus searchers; in addition, DOGS East was present, as were local volunteers. The two subjects were found washed up on the shore a quarter mile from the PLS. The reported causes of death were gunshot wounds to the back of the heads. Murder investigations are pending.

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

During the early evening of 10/3, a hiker in Shenandoah National Park became seperated from the rest of his party; he was last seen bushwacking off a trail in the Mathews Arm vicinity. Search efforts continued into the night when the subject was found alive and well by a Park hasty team. There was no ASRC involvement in the search, although the Conference was put on alert.

NELSON COUNTY

On 10/24, the Nelson County Sheriff's Office requested an overhead team to assist in the search for a missing twenty-four year old male who had been last seen on 10/22. The subject appeared at his residence the same day, upon which the overhead team turned back. However, the subject ran back into the mountains later that afternoon, and a second overhead team was requested. It was learned that he had failed to take his antidepressant and antipsychotic medications for two weeks.

On 10/28, the subject walked out and was found one mile from the PLS; he had immobilized himself by placing his cold feet in hot water in an attempt to rewarm them. During the four day search, temperatures fell to the high thirties, accompanied by heavy rains and strong gusts of wind. Aside from members of the ASRC, resources used during the mission consisted of rangers from Shenandoah National Park and the Virginia Division of Forestry, DOGS East, members of the Civil Air Patrol, and local volunteers.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Virginia DES contacted UVa. MEDCOM on November 11, to call out the ASRC for a missing hunter in Cumberland County. The incident was resolved while Alert Officer Brian Wheeler (BRMRG) was talking to the EOC watch officer for response information. The status of the subject is unknown.

CAROLINE COUNTY

On the night of 11/24, the Caroline County Sheriff's Office requested an overhead team to assist in the search for a missing ten year old male. the subject had been last seen shortly before dark playing in his babysitter's backyard. Tracking and airscent dogs from DOGS East were deployed throughout the night. The next morning, 175 US Army troops from Fort A.P. Hill arrived to aid the search. A grid team composed of soldiers and ASRC members located the subject a mile away from the PLS in a patch of bushes. The child was confused, but otherwise was in good condition.

Dave Carter: Virginia's "Lanky" Legend

by Mark Penington

The question has often been asked, "Who invented SAR?". Well, around these parts, the question is easy to answer. It was Dave Carter. Dave is about as diverse an individual as you would ever want to know. Now the chairman of the newly formed Tidewater branch of the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group he brings to that position over twenty (that's right, twenty) years of Search and Rescue knowledge and experience. His background ranges all the way from a Masters in Education to Director of Training at the Waynesboro Corrections to a childhood that gave him his uncanny skill in the woods.

As with most SAR people, Dave prides himself in not being locked into the conventional. He prefers to do what makes sense, not what "everyone has always done". Dave has long since given up smoking, but many a time have I seen him wandering around in the rain with his pipe upside down to keep the rain out. What can you say about a man who keeps coffee brewing in a metal canteen on his engine manifold. When you tell him something, he will more likely than not ask you a simple question, "Why?", which is his way of saying "Have you thought it through? Does it really make sense?". That has, on more than one occasion, made me discover the flaws in my own theories.

Dave's forte is organization. Having been an "organizer" all of his adult life, he can look at a situation and immediately determine the right things to do in the right order, and can quickly turn utter chaos into order and productivity. He has put this talent to good use in the Corrections Academy, as director of a Tidewater office of volunteerism, and now the National Guard, where he keeps them "organized". He has also proven his leadership skills in extensive involvement in the Boy Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, and the ARSC, to name just a few organizations.

Dave has committed his life to helping his fellow man, and is personally credited with saving two lives. Not a small accomplishment. Whenever or wherever his assistance is needed, he's there. (If Dave were paid by the mile, he'd be filthy rich.) The only thing he places above his SAR work is his family. His wife, Mary Ellen, also has her Masters and currently teaches children in Norfolk. They have five

children. His youngest son is already starting to follow in his fathers footsteps and has joined his local CAP squadron.

The next time there's a mission, look for Dave's lanky frame. You can be sure that Dave will be there, at least in spirit, if not in body.



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TECHNICAL

The Prusik Minding Pulley

by Art Dodds, Jr.

Recently, I was privileged to attend the Rigging for Rescue class, presented by Arnor Larson through the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group. The first concept that I learned was that prusiks are not all that bad to use and can be employed with the same ease as mechanical ascenders in rescue rigging systems. The perceived difficulties with prusiks in rigging systems could be a reason why mechanical ascenders continue to be used after they have been shown, even under minor fall conditions, to cut or severely damage the rope.

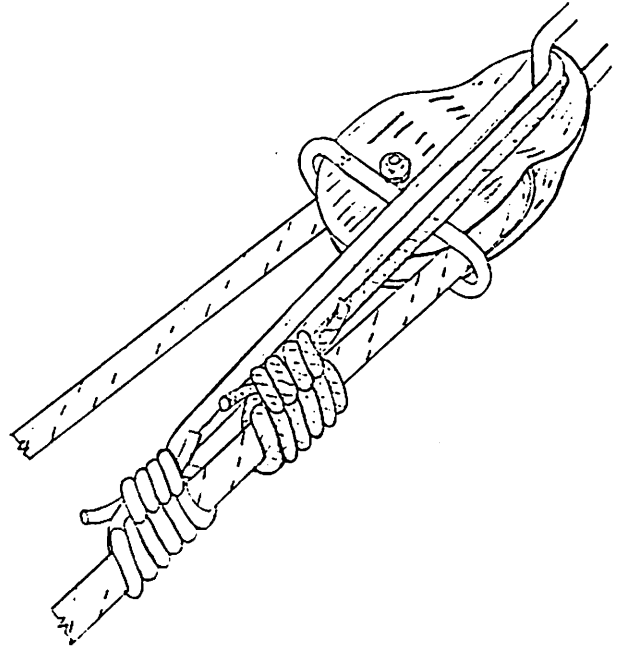
One technique that Larson demonstrated involved the "Prusik Minding Pulley," of which there are only two presently in existence. He showed how the pulley would unlock prusiks as the rope was being pulled through, eliminating the need for someone to hold the prusiks unlocked. Here are some of the ways in which the pulley can be used:

- *To pull in the belay line when prusiks are used as the belay device.
- *To lock off a haul system.
- *To belay on the English Reeves Highline system.

During the demonstration, I noted that an oval carabiner placed over the ropes and between the prusiks and the pulley would work in much the same way. The oval carabiner travels over the pulley and is stopped by the bolt on a Russ Anderson and by the frame of the CMI 2" rescue pulleys. The prusik is stopped by the carabiner and released. This concept works only if the ropes are 7/16" and near-parallel, and only if the pulleys mentioned are used with 8mm prusik loops. In addition, Larson's pulley permits a greater angle between the ropes.

During four sessions, each using the carabiner/pulley system as a prusik minding pulley, another feature was noted: one is able to use this configuration as a friction device for letting out tag and belay lines by increasing the angle between the ropes. Here, the prusik must be held unlocked manually, as it is now letting out rope in the direction of locking.

Arnor Larson plans to produce the Prusik Minding Pulley in the near future. This method may fill the void until then and help get mechanical ascenders out of rescue rigging. ■



An illustration of the prusik minding pulley. Note that the grapevine knots do not have to be placed on top of the prusick knot; this was done for simplicity in the drawing.

Communications cont. from p.6

individuals in your group.

5) Each group is responsible for training in the appropriate use of the ASRC radios, ensuring continued compliance with our FCC License. The Communications Committee is responsible for ensuring that qualified trainers are available.

While the above may appear to be only common sense, many other groups have found themselves in trouble for not following these rules. I am sure that our existing policies and continued compliance with the FCC regulations will permit us to exercise this most fundamental lifesaving tool. ■

Regional cont. from p.3

Emergency providers. Phil Audibert of DOGS-East also presented four sixty-second public service radio announcements which will be aired throughout Va. to educate citizens on what to do if they become lost.

The Council selected an official logo, received a copy of the Virginia Association for Volunteer Rescue Squads' (VAVRS) new Disaster Plan, and adopted the use of Council Awards to recognize outstanding contributions to SAR in Virginia. The discussion of the draft revision of the Council's State-wide SAR preplan was tabled along with the State SAR Resource recognition requirements. At this meeting, the VaDES representative requested that the volunteer agencies work through the SAR duty officer and not the watch officer when coordinating SAR incidents. VaDES also announced that it is mailing SAR information out to the various Police Department Dispatch Centers.

The Council's Operations committee is preparing guidelines addressing initial and follow-up directions to incident sites, procedures for performing enroute checkins and call-downs, and methods for increasing incident traffic safety. The Council is also developing an eight hour orientation course for Helicopter use by SAR personnel. The Virginia Department of Health in conjunction with VaDES is investigating the development of a pilot Wilderness EMT course. This would be taken in part from similar developments occurring in Pennsylvania.

Finally, in Virginia, the Department of Health is responding to the Governor's request to study Virginia's Emergency Medical Services response to mass casualty incidents. Bob Koester is the SAR Council representative on this committee.

The relatively new Pennsylvania SAR Council (PaSARCo) is revising its membership criteria. If adopted, the ASRC could have up to one representative on the Council for each Conference group. Presently, the Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG) (based in Pittsburgh) has a member who sits on the Council. The remainder of the Conference's teams, which are based outside Pennsylvania, have decided to use a single common representative.

Three new SAR teams joined the PaSARCo: Palisades K-9, Search and Rescue K-9, and Vigilante SAR. The Council requested that all mission reports should be forwarded to Ken Boyles of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. This data would be used to create a data base that would lead to a better understanding of Pennsylvania SAR needs and therefore a better government response to those needs.

There is some effort in Pennsylvania to coordinate the efforts of the Penn. Emergency Health Services Council's State Rescue Task Force Subcommittee with the PaSARCo. The Pennsylvania Dept. of Health is responsible for rescue throughout the state and attempts are being made to allow SAR units, which provide basic and advanced life support along with normal rescue services, to be recognized by the Dept. of Health. This does not resolve any issues concerning the definition of Responsible Agents for SAR incidents within Pennsylvania. Further efforts are being made to have Department of Health certify National Cave Rescue Commission's Eastern Region program. Finally, the Wilderness EMT program continues to be developed in Pennsylvania by the ASRC and the Center for Emergency Medicine. The pilot program will be offered this fall.

Recently both the ASRC and DOGS-East met with the Maryland State Police to discuss SAR resources available in Maryland. The Maryland State Police have 26 ground-scenting dogs in their department. The ASRC has two teams based in Maryland and DOGS-East has many individual dogs teams in the area. The ASRC also met with the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services to explain to that agency what additional volunteer resources are available in Maryland. ■

Letters cont. from p.2

Perhaps you'd like to review "Search is an Emergency" in one of your issues.
Rick Lavalla

Eds. reply: *We plan on doing a review of "Search", but since much of the information covered is also presented in the MSF course, we plan on doing so in a future issue. For those interested, a summary in book form is available for \$5.00 from:*
ERI Bookstore, Inc.
1819 Mark Street NE
Olympia, WA. 98506
Tele: (206) 491-7785 ■

Police Department was notified, and they brought the boy to a car dispatched from the command post. A positive identification was obtained, and the boy was reunited with his mother.

A subsequent debrief with Michael indicated that once separated from his mother, he had picked a direction to walk and stuck to it. The course he chose took him south on the Appalachian Trail and out of the search area. He spent the cold night sandwiched between two logs, with his coat covering him.

Learning points on this mission included not only the value of containment but the importance of tasks intended to verify containment boundaries. Also, effective preplanning regarding the media would have prevented some of the confusion in base camp when large numbers of media personnel arrived on-scene Monday morning. Morning shift change was not performed very well and documentation was somewhat confused; nonetheless, given how quickly the search grew, these probably were executed as best as possible. All in all, the Conference performed very well. ■

CALENDAR

19 Dec	Pennsylvania SAR Council Meeting
15-17 Jan	GSAR Level I & Level II
30 Jan	Virginia SAR Council Meeting
06 Feb	ASRC BOD Meeting- Location TBA
19-21 Feb	GSAR Level I & Level II (Part 1)
25 Feb	Deadline for <i>Appalachian Search!</i> submissions
15 Mar	Mailing date next issue of <i>Appalachian Search!</i>
18-20 Mar	GSAR Level I & Level II (Part 2)
26 Mar	Pennsylvania SAR Council Meeting

Note: Each ASRC group maintains a separate training schedule. Contact the group nearest you for more information.

ROPE RESCUE, RAPPELING, LIFE LINE — WELLINGTON-PURITAN RHINO RESCUE ROPE



- MEETS NFPA SPECS.
- HIGH STRENGTH
- STATIC KERNMANTLE CONSTRUCTION
- 100% DUPONT 707 NYLON
- BEST RESISTANCE TO ABRASION
- WILL NOT DRY ROT
- LOW STRETCH
- NO SPIN
- HEAT RESISTANT
- AMERICAN MADE

Wellington-Puritan's Rhino Rescue rope provides the durability, strength, and abrasion resistance that have been the key to dependable kernmantle design. It's high strength 100% nylon inner core, protected by a sheath of 100% nylon assures low stretch and no spin. All of Wellington-Puritan's tensile test figures are based on standard specifications of the federal government and reflect the minimum tested strength. The 9,000 Plus offers highly colored rope that rescue personnel demand as a safety feature.

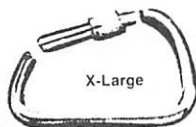
SPECIFICATIONS 7/16" - 6,000 lb., 1/2" - 9,000 lb., 5/8" - 13,000 lb.

7/16" White w/ orange striker	.62/ft
7/16" Red w/ white striker	.69/ft
1/2" White w/ red striker	.67/ft
1/2" White w/ orange striker	.67/ft
1/2" Red w/ white striker	.75/ft
1/2" Orange w/ white striker	.75/ft
5/8" White w/ red striker	.85/ft
5/8" White w/ orange striker	.85/ft
5/8" Red w/ white striker	.94/ft
5/8" Orange w/ white striker	.94/ft

CARABINERS

Fine carabiners for rescue work available in aluminum, steel, and a heat-treated alloy steel. These carabiners are the best available in quality workmanship and strength.

X-Ig Locking D, Steel . . . \$15.00
Lg Locking D . . . \$12.50



X-Large

CMI RESCUE 8'S

CMI Rescue 8 with ears is the most popular Figure 8 in use today. The ears are designed to prevent the rope from sliding up and locking off. The larger upper oval allows free passage of the heavy duty rope combinations common to rescue work.

\$22.50



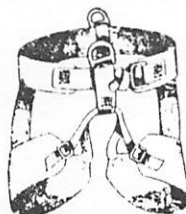
WATER RESCUE BAGS

Wellington Puritan Water Rescue Rope is specifically designed for Water Rescue use. This floating rope has a polypropylene core and highly visible yellow nylon sheath.

75 ft bag . . . \$46.95
50 ft bag . . . \$32.95



THE RESCUE HARNESS



The only harness designed for technical rescue that has three-inch web at the waist and legs for safety and comfort. The two-inch parachute-quality buckle allows for quick, easy waist adjustment; legs also adjustable. Steel D rings in front and back.

Sizes S, M, L, XL . . . \$59.00 ea
Padded models . . . \$79.00 ea



LADDERLINE

Wellington-Puritan's Ladderline is designed to be used as a halyard line on extension ladders. Rope construction is braid on braid, the sheath is a multiplex polyester and the core is filament polyester. A waterproof ID tape runs continuously through the core.

3/8" Ladderline . . . 52/ft
1/2" Ladderline . . . 65/ft
5/8" Ladderline . . . 94/ft



B&B ROPE BAGS

B&B Rope Bags are made of 1000 denier, 11 oz/sq yd nylon cordura fabric. The fabric is quick drying and highly water repellent. All seams are double stitched with nylon thread. Standard color is International Orange with black straps and black Fastex hardware.

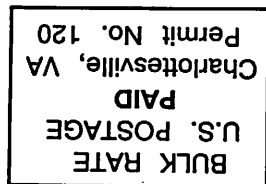
B&B rope bag for 150' 1/2" rope . . . 17.75
B&B rope bag for 250' 1/2" rope . . . 19.00
B&B rope bag for 300' 1/2" rope . . . 22.00

Also available for 5/8" rope or with shoulder straps



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Lewisburg, WV 24901
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PLEASE WRITE OR CALL FOR COMPLETE CATALOG**



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



- The Blue Ridge Mtn. Rescue Group (BRMRG)
Charlottesville, Va.
- The Shenandoah Mtn. Rescue Group (SMRG)
Washington, D.C.
- The South West Virginia Mtn. Rescue Group (SWVMRG)
Blacksburg, Va.
- The Allegheny Mtn. Rescue Group (AMRG)
Pittsburgh, PA
- The Richmond Search and Rescue Group (RSAR)
Richmond, Va.

AFFILIATE:

- Explorer Post 616
Columbia, MD

The ASRC is a member of:

- The National Association for Search and Rescue