

APPALACHIAN ALERT

Vol. 1995 No. 4
DECEMBER 1995

A Publication of the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc.

Conference Broadens Mission and Membership Base

Appalachian Alert

provides inter-team communication, and reports information of interest to the wilderness search and rescue community in the mid-Atlantic states, describes activities of the ASRC Board of Directors and its committees, lists ASRC group and training events, and related business. When the winds are strong and the tides are strong, this newsletter is published 6 times a year in even numbered months.

Send news, including changes in team leadership positions to Peter McCabe at the address below, or email to: m_sar@CapAccess.org

AppAlert is planning on using the ASRC Web Page, now under development, as a major distribution resource. Stay tuned for future information.

Next ASRC Board Meeting:
February 24 (Saturday)

APPALACHIAN ALERT
Appalachian Search & Rescue
Conference, Inc.

*Published six times a year in
even numbered months.*

*Operations and Business:
P O Box 440
Newcomb Hall Station
Charlottesville VA 22904-0440*

*Editorial Comments and
Newsletter Information To:
Peter A. McCabe, Editor
6432 Grateful Heart Gate
Columbia MD 21044-6034*

By-Laws Changed

At a general membership meeting on August 28, following the regularly scheduled Board meeting, the ASRC membership voted to change Conference By-Laws to:

- enable other SAR-type groups and programs to become affiliate members of the ASRC; and
- offer Associate Membership to individuals who wish to contribute time or services to the ASRC or an ASRC Group but do not want to become active ASRC members.

ASRC By-Laws were also changed to enable the Chairman and Vice Chairman to be elected from among ASRC delegates while the ASRC Secretary and Treasurer may be elected from the general membership of the Conference. (In the event the elected Secretary and/or Treasurer are not members of the ASRC Board of Directors, they will automatically be appointed as non-voting members of the Board.)

And, the By-Laws were changed to enable the ASRC to publish and enforce standards of procedure in the form of an ASRC General Administrative Manual.

Mission & Vision Statements

The following are proposed ASRC Mission and Vision Statements discussed at the December 16 Board of Directors meetings in Charlottesville. Statements will be circulated to each ASRC Group for their consideration and approval.

Mission: The Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference provides, when requested, professional volunteers trained in ground search, ground search management, semi-technical rescue, technical rescue, and PSAR in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and occasionally in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States.

Vision: To save lives, the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference will continuously improve its ability to conduct search and rescue activities so that it will become the preferred volunteer SAR resource in the mid-Atlantic states.

Topo Map Prices Increase

Effective August 12, USGS prices for topo maps have increased to \$4.00 for everyone. Forty percent discounts, with a \$3.50 handling charge for each order mailed, are now available to commercial map dealers, non-profit organizations, and government agencies when ordering 5 or more sheets of the same title and ordered from USGS, Box 25286, Denver CO 80225.

ASRC-National Park Service Training Simulation Scheduled

A cooperative lost person training simulation with the National Park Service is tentatively scheduled for January 27-28, 1996 in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia. Other units planning to participate include dog handlers with air-scent dogs and tracking dogs from regional organizations, the air operations unit of the U.S. Park Police, and a unit from the Marine Corps. Further information may be obtained by contacting ASRC Training Officer Peter McCabe by after 2200 hours at (301) 596-9994, or by email at PMCCABE@MSN.COM

Staff/Command Recertifications

Recertifications for 8 the ASRC's 10 Incident Commanders, and 7 of the ASRC's 20 Incident Staff persons are due in January-February 1996. Notices have been mailed to those persons effected.

Training Agreement Signed

The ASRC has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Search and Rescue Training Associates (SARTA) for use of SARTA field team member and field team leader training texts and materials as the Conference's core FTM and FTL training material and base line reference. Copies of the MOA are enclosed for ASRC groups.

ASRC Training Committee Actions

The Conference Training Committee has recommended the following actions: (1) Members of ASRC Groups may arrange for their FTM or FTL written tests to be taken with other ASRC groups with the knowledge of their home Group's

Training Officer. It is understood that some Groups may have additional requirements for FTM and FTL, in addition to practical field evaluations, that must be satisfied in the Member's home Group. (2) The Incident Staff written test needs immediate revision.

(3) Incident Staff in the recertification process need to provide a written record of their IS participation during their last certification period. Those persons without the required IS mission experience may retest with the ASRC IS test and the MSO written test, or they may choose to be reduced to FTL status. (4) Incident Staff persons whose ASRC certification expires while they are on inactive status, need to successfully pass the ASRC IS test and the Managing the Search Operation (MSO) written test. (5) Candidates for initial IS certification should successfully pass either a Practical Search Operations (PSO) course from SARTA or a Search Operations Symposium (SOS) course from the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group. (6) Candidates for initial IS certification should be required to have participated as a base staff member in incident command operations in a minimum of two missions. Recommendations are being developed into motions for the February 1996 Board meeting.

ASRC Operations Issues

The ASRC Operations Manual has been in a major revision process for nearly a year. Sections of the former Ops Manual have been placed in a draft ASRC Administration Manual. Version 2.1.1. (October 1995) of the ASRC Ops Manual updates the initial revision in February 1995. Sections will cover: general information and overview; ASRC non-incident policies; Group non-incident operational policies; ASRC alerting and dispatching policies; ASRC incident policies; Group incident policies; and membership policies. The revised Ops Manual will include 13 annexes. It is anticipated the ASRC Web Page will include the Administrative Manual, the Operations Manual, and all ASRC Training Standards.

Regional News

MARYLAND □ Sarah Herbelin, Potomac Valley Rescue Group, is the new PVRG Operations Officer. She replaces Karen Vandersall. PVRG also has a new e-mail address: PVRG-staff@umail.umd.edu □ Peter McCabe, Maryland Search & Rescue Group, has temporarily filled the ASRC Training Officer vacancy following the relocation of Candi Capozzi (TSAR) to upstate New York. □ The ASRC has updated its resource listing with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

NEW YORK: Preliminary discussions are underway to form an ASRC Group in the Rochester/Syracuse area of New York.
PENNSYLVANIA: No information received.
VIRGINIA: □ The Richmond Search & Rescue Group has a new mailing address and program leadership (see ASRC Group listings). Melody Midgette is the new Chair, Andy Bayne is the Acting GTO, and Tom Wring is the Operations Officer. □ Tide-water Search and Rescue has redesignated their elected team leadership on the basis of the ICS system. □ William Henderson from Tidewater SAR was approved as an ASRC Incident Staff person at the December 16 Board meeting; □ The Virginia Department of Emergency Services hopes to provide at least one Ground SAR (GSAR) Institute during 1996, but funding limitations may restrict GSAR training opportunities. □ The Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group's Web Page is accessed 500-2,000 times a week.

APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

- Chair (TSAR) David Carter (804) 466-8094
- Vice Chair (BRMRG) William Dixon (804) 296-9292
- Secretary (TSAR) Candi Capozzi (716) 425-1779
- Treasurer (BRMRG) Patrick Turner (804) 295-7901
- Operations Officer (SMRG) Gary Mechtel (410) 381-2593
- Training Officer (M/SAR) Peter McCabe (301) 596-9994
- Medical Officer (SMRG) Rob Christie (703) 319-1479
- Commo Officer (SMRG) Steve Houck (703) 257-7659
- ASTM Rep vacant

ASRC GROUPS

- Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG)**
 (412) 869-3747
 c/o Dept Emerg Medicine Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh
- 1400 Locust Street
 Pittsburgh PA 15218-5166
 Internet Address: chuck@kollar.pgh.pa.us
- President Rich Worst (412) 869-3747
- Training Off Mike Yee (412) 462-7285
- Ops Off Mike Kuga (412) 869-2567
- Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG)**
 (804) 924-3472
 PO Box 440 Newcomb Station
 Charlottesville VA 22904
 Internet Address: brmrgr@uva.pcmail.virginia.edu

- President Beck Hancock (804) 977-9780
- Training Off Mary Hardy (804) 977-8029
- Ops Off Frank Jargowsky (804) 296-7274

Maryland Search & Rescue Group (M/SAR)
 (410) 992-3945

- 5434 Vantage Point Rd
 Columbia MD 21044
 Internet Address: m_sar@capaccess.org
- President Val Brammer (410) 992-5888
- Training Off Kurt Hornicek (410) 750-6276
- VP Ops Rachel Via (410) 750-7114
- ESAR Advisor Peter McCabe (301) 596-9994

Potomac Valley Rescue Group (PVRG)
 (301) 314-7444

- Box 10 Stamp Union Bldg
 University of Maryland
 College Park MD 20742
 Internet Address: PVRG-staff@umail.umd.edu
- President Erin Crotty (301) 314-8955
- Training Off Mike Mann (410) 742-9497
- Ops Off Sarah Herbelin (301) 699-8520
- ESAR Advisor David Lamen (301) 982-3051

Richmond Search & Rescue Group (RSAR)
 (804) 768-5555

- P O Box 115
 Chesterfield VA 23632
- Chair Melody Midgette (804) 748-2413
- Training Off Andy Bayne (804) 485-8984
- Ops Off Tom Wring (804) 288-9752

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG)
 (703) 255-5034

- 118 Park St SE
 Internet Address Vienna VA 22180-4608
- Chair Chris Miller (301) 928-4979
- Training Off Julius Horwarth (703) 451-3502
- Ops Off Paul DeHaven (703) 354-2957

Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group (SWVAMRG)
 (540) 951-2914

- 203 Progress St
 Internet Address: swvamrg@vt.edu
 Blackburg VA 24060
- Chair Steven Ward (540) 961-6437
- Training Off Cindie Lambert (540) 628-4245
- Ops Off Sara Jensen (540) 953-1499

Tidewater Search & Rescue Group (TSAR)
 (804) 466-8094

- 803 Townsend Ct
 Group Cmdr Norfolk VA 23502
- Training Off David Carter (804) 466-8094
- Andy Bayne (804) 485-8984
- Ops Section Chief Ruth Carter (804) 466-8094
- PlansSection Chief Mark Eggeman (804) 425-8842