

THE BLUE RIDGE RESCUE GROUP

Sept. 1975

Box 101x Newcomb Hall
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Thank you for your enquiry about the BRRG! The Blue Ridge Rescue Group is one of the regional units of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, which co-ordinates volunteer search and rescue in Virginia and neighboring states. Our main purpose is the saving of lives through outdoor safety education, training programs in search and rescue and technical rescue, and participating in or co-ordinating search and rescue operations. The BRRG's affiliations include the National Association of Search and Rescue Co-ordinators, the International Rescue and First Aid Association, and the Mountain Rescue Association.

Membership in the BRRG is open to Charlottesville area residents with an interest in the outdoors and willingness to acquire the necessary search and rescue skills. New members are classified as "trainee" members until they have met the minimum qualifications for active membership as set by the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference. This includes classes in First Aid, Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, Survival/Wilderness Travel, Handling and Transportation, and Search. Active members are required to have a pack available with field gear to last at least 24 hours in the field without support, and to take turns being on call to leave on a mission at a moment's notice.

If you are interested in joining, or would like more information, write to the Rescue Group at the above address, or call one of the officers.

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN	Keith Conover 296-2269
VICE CHAIRMAN	Michael Warris 296-3413
SECRETARY	Betty Thomas 296-2269
MEDICAL OFFICER	Ray Fitzgerald 977-1427

APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.
2617 JEFFERSON DRIVE, ALEXANDRIA, VA. 22303
EMERGENCY PHONE: (804) 924-7166 (U.VA. POLICE)

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC) is a regional co-ordinating body for ground Search And Rescue (SAR) and mountain rescue in Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia. The ASRC is divided into local groups which provide SAR assistance to local authorities and emergency services organizations. All groups have the same minimum training standards and work closely with one another. When more than one group is participating in the same mission, the groups work in a combined fashion under ASRC operational procedures. Information on group capabilities and alerting procedures are available from each group.

Assistance from a particular group or from the entire ASRC is available through a central alerting network. A call to the University of Virginia Police Department at (804) 924-7166, at any time of the day or night, will reach a police dispatcher. This dispatcher has a regularly updated list of ASRC Alert Officers whose duty is to obtain initial information and institute the appropriate callout procedure, which usually includes the dispatch of a Quick Response Team from the nearest group. Such a team carries portable medical kits, communications equipment, and technical rescue equipment. Each member is entirely self-contained for up to 48 hours in any terrain or weather. Although the ASRC and each of its groups prefers to be alerted by, and work under the direction of, local law-enforcement agencies, a response will be made to any emergency situation.

ASRC certified members are unique. Each new trainee must have years of experience in the outdoors; only experienced climbers, cavers, backpackers, and mountaineers are selected. Each trainee must undergo a period of intensive training and practice, usually six to twelve months, in order to become ASRC certified. This training includes ground search, survival, wilderness travel, mountain rescue, and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training. Any person wearing the ASRC patch is a certified member, and you may be sure that he or she has what it takes to handle a search and rescue emergency.

The ASRC has a commitment to outdoor safety education, and will assist organizations desiring to set up survival, outdoor safety, programs or wilderness first aid sessions. Contact your local group

or write directly to the ASRC for information.

The ASRC is a non-profit, public service, volunteer organization not funded by any local, state, or Federal funds. Assistance in the form of donations of funds, equipment, or services are greatly appreciated.