

S H E N A N D O A H
M O U N T A I N R E S C U E
G R O U P

* N E W S L E T T E R *
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O C T O B E R 1 9 8 3



AUXILIARY MEMBER TRAINING SESSION THIS MONTH!
=====

Sunday, October 23 (see schedule inside for details)

If you have some hiking, hunting, or fishing experience, have the equipment listed below, and would like to help when we have a search operation, please try to attend one of our one-day training sessions and become an Auxiliary Member of the Group!

Auxiliary Member Equipment*

- > Rugged outdoor clothing, including sturdy hiking boots
- > A daypack or small rucksack
- > A 1-quart water bottle
- > Good raingear
- > A wool stocking cap or balaclava hat
- > A heavy wool shirt or sweater
- > Lunch
- > A storm shelter (two large plastic leaf bags will suffice)
- > (Flashlight and compass are recommended but not required)

*** Plan to bring everything on the list to the training session and to any missions.**

SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

- * Member, Mountain Rescue Association
- * A Group of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference, Inc.
- * A Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (pending)

1718 N Street NW
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 638-5306 (7-10 pm weekdays)

SMRG & ASRC 24-hour emergency phone: (804) 323-2300 (Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Center)

NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 1983

***** N E W S *****

LAST FREE NEWSLETTER?

Please check your mailing label to see if your subscription expires with this issue. You may subscribe or renew by sending the Group a \$5 check (made out to the Group Treasurer, Harold Driscoll).

GENERAL SMRG NEWS

The topic for the annual dinner of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (Wednesday, 26 October) will be wilderness search and rescue. The keynote address will be given by Bill Blake, a Shenandoah National Park Ranger, member of the Virginia Search and Rescue Council, and NASAR *Managing the Search Function* instructor. SMRG, PATC's newest special-interest Section, will give a presentation on its nature and activities.

At the September meeting, Ellen Nolan was voted in as a SMRG Trainee Member. Welcome to the Group.

ASRC NOTES

The Second Edition of the ASRC Search and Rescue Operations Plan (SAROP) is due out in the next few weeks. If you would like to review the draft and make comments for the revision, please contact Keith Conover (522-2844) as soon as possible.

VIRGINIA SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL

At its September work session, the Virginia Search and Rescue Council established a Commonwealth of Virginia *Search First Responder Course*, designed for those who will be first on the scene of lost person situations: Sheriffs' Deputies, rescue squad and fire department line officers, and similar people. This one-day course is sponsored by the Virginia

! MEETINGS: Most SMRG activities are held at Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Headquarters (PATC HQ), 1718 N Street NW, Wash-
! ington, DC (near the Dupont Circle Metro station). Business meetings are the first Tuesday of the month, and training
! meetings the third Tuesday.

! NEWCOMERS are welcome at Group activities; those marked with a (*) are particularly appropriate for those new to the
! Group.

! NEWSLETTERS are published at the beginning of each month and sent to each SMRG member. Certain SAR organizations,
! responsible agencies, stores, and individuals receive courtesy copies (noted by a O, R, S, or C on the mailing label).
! Potential members may receive three free copies upon request (noted by a "F" on the mailing label); the date of the last
! courtesy copy is noted on the mailing label. Yearly subscriptions are \$5, payable by check made out to the Treasurer,
! Harold Driscoll, and sent to the Group address. Articles or schedule items should be turned in to the Editor, Keith
! Conover (522-2844) by the first of each month either in writing or by electronic mail.

! SELF-STUDY TRAINING COURSE: The Group is developing a modular self-study Basic Member Training Course; certain third Tues-
! day training meetings require previous completion of one of the modules. Those wishing to purchase a set of Basic course
! materials may contact the Group Treasurer, Harold Driscoll, at any Group meeting; the cost is \$25.

! FOR FURTHER INFORMATION about SMRG in general, contact the Group Chairman, Cady Soukup, at (301) 493-9623 (H); for infor-
! mation regarding membership in the Group, write to the Group at the above address, come to one of the business meetings,
! or contact the Group Training Officer, Keith Conover, at (703) 522-2844.

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: 14 October 1983 (Friday)

Subject: Search and Rescue Operation on Old Rag Mountain, Shenandoah National Park, Virginia; for Shawn Crawford, age 18

Contacts: (*=local DC phone)

ASRC Mission Coordinators for this mission:

1. *Keith Conover [Home: 703-522-2844]
2. Dean Wampler [Home: 804-971-1728 Work: 804-924-3781]

ASRC Officers:

1. Gary Mechtel, Chairman, ASRC [Home: 804-296-7276 Work: 804-924-3781]
2. *Cady Soukup, Chairman, Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group, ASRC [Home: 301-493-9623 Work: 301-530-9226]
3. Albert Baker, Chairman, Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group, ASRC [Home: 804-977-4947 Work: 804-924-9806]
4. E. Henry St. Clair, Jr., Chairman, Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group, ASRC [Home: 703-992-5666 Work: 703-992-1800]

OLD RAG MOUNTAIN SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION

With its precipitous cliffs and ledges, and its well-known Ridge Trail with caves, rock mazes, and other rock formations, Shenandoah National Park's Old Rag Mountain is a favorite of climbers and hikers. Last Sunday afternoon (8 October), Shawn Crawford, a freshman at Shepherd College, was hiking on Old Rag with friends. At about 1:30 in the afternoon, they were on the summit; rather than following his friends down one of the trails, Shawn decided to travel directly down the north face, so he could beat them to the bottom. He never made it. His friends reported him missing, and the Park Service sent Rangers out to check for him. Finding no sign of him on the mountain, they began planning a major search effort. At first, Park Rangers and a few search dog teams from the Virginia Search and Rescue Dog Association began searching, but it was quickly apparent that the search area included many areas accessible only by special mountaineering techniques. On Monday afternoon Shenandoah National Park requested assistance from the Mountain Rescue Groups of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC). ASRC members responded from the Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group in Washington, DC and the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group in Charlottesville, Virginia. These ASRC members provided night foot patrols of the Ridge and Saddle Trails and camp-ins at strategic locations, so as to be certain that Shawn did not wander out of the search area during the night. The weather began to deteriorate, with increasing fog

and rain. On Tuesday, additional dog teams from Dogs East began searching, and ASRC teams began using ropes and mountain rescue equipment to search cliffs near the summit and on Pinnacle Ridge. The weather continued to worsen, with fog limiting visibility to about 30 feet; with increasing wind and cold rain, exposure and exhaustion became major dangers to all personnel on the mountain, especially ASRC members, few of whom had slept more than a few hours the night before.

One ASRC searcher was at the end of a rope, 200 feet below the summit and 40 feet above the next ledge, when through the fog she noticed something suspicious below. She directed nearby searchers to the area, and Shawn had been found, more than 48 hours after he was last seen on the summit. He was suffering from extreme hypothermia from the cold and wet, able to respond only weakly and incoherently to the searchers' questions, and he appeared to have head and leg injuries. A rappel rope was quickly rigged from the summit down to the ledge where Shawn lay, and ASRC Medics were soon at his side; ASRC members then coached a Parkmedic Ranger and a Madison County Rescue Squad Cardiac Technician down the rappel rope. A Stokes rescue litter with medical and rescue equipment was lowered down the cliff, and a warm intravenous line and warmed oxygen were started. Shawn was carefully packed into the litter, and additional ASRC rescue team members rappelled down to him. Already hampered by the fog, wind, and cold rain, operations became even more difficult as darkness settled. Since it would be a very complex operation to raise the litter up the cliff to the summit trail, it was decided to send a team from Shawn's location at the base of the summit cliff down to blaze a route to the trail lower on the mountain. This bushwhacking team was beset by difficulties, including slippery footing, driving rain, and the everpresent fog. The team kept encountering cliffs and chasms in the dark, and had to painstakingly backtrack and start again and again. The Mission Coordinators came very close to directing the litter team to spend the night at the base of the cliff, so that a vertical raising operation could be started at first light. Finally, at about 10:30 pm, the bushwhacking team was able to make visual contact with a team coming up from below. The two teams were separated by a high cliff, but one the litter could be taken down, rather than up, to get to the trail. With great effort, the ASRC rescue team carried Shawn down the mountainside to the cliff, lowered him down the cliff, and then Park Service personnel carried him out the remaining mile to the fire road; there, a Madison County Rescue Squad ambulance was waiting to take him to the University of Virginia Hospital. Although it is difficult to say for certain, some rescue personnel observed that Shawn was found just before dark, and he would not have survived the night alone.

This was one of the most difficult mountain rescue operations in Virginia or Maryland in recent memory. It was only through the combined expertise of the Shenandoah Park Rangers, ASRC's Mountain Rescue Groups, and of the other volunteer search and rescue groups involved, that such a challenging operation could be successful, allowing Shawn Crawford to be alive today.

--Keith Conover

Office of Energy and Emergency Services and will be taught throughout Virginia by Search and Rescue Council instructors. Bill Blake is presently finishing the instructor's lesson plan package, and it is expected that pilot courses will begin within the next several months.

CALLOUT ROSTERS

All members (and other SAR organizations and responsible agencies) should have received the revised September Callout Roster and attendant documents with the last newsletter. PLEASE check your entries and let Gene Harrison or Keith Conover know of any corrections or updates.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all information for the newsletter in by the first of each month. Items may be submitted in writing or by electronic mail directly to the computer. Those submitting items verbally at the last minute may be subject to disciplinary action involving ice-axe and crampons.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost at the recent ASRC/VSARC Simulation: Swiss Army Knife with purple cord- Cady Soukup H:(301) 493-9623/W:(301) 530-9226. Also: HT-220 case and harness- Gene Harrison H:703-777-6111/W:(202) 342-4279.

***** SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES *****

<u>Date/Month</u>	<u>Activity</u>
4 Oct. (Tues)*	SMRG BUSINESS MEETING - PATC HQ, 7:30 PM. Program: <i>Poisoning: Wilderness Management</i> - Rose Ann Soloway, R.N., National Capital Poison Center.
8 Oct. (Sat)	[SMRG to give wilderness medicine/first aid/self rescue talk at the annual meeting of American Hiking Society at Prince William Forest Park.]
11-13 October	1983 National EMS Conference - Charleston, WV.
15-16 Oct. (Sat-Sun)	Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group Training Weekend - date, time, place, and topic to be announced. Call Greg Shea (BRMRG Training Officer: (H) 804-977-1044 (W) 804-295-1530) for information.
15-16 Oct. (Sat-Sun)	[Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group and Dogs East to give seminar on modern search in Galax, Virginia.]
18 Oct. (Tues)*	SMRG TRAINING SESSION - PATC HQ, 7:30 PM. Trainee members: test answers for Module I (Survival and Wilderness Travel) will be distributed and discussed. Certified Members: class on advanced ropework techniques.
22 Oct. (Sat)	Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group Training Session - date, time, place, and topic to be announced. Call Greg Shea (BRMRG Training Officer: (H) 804-977-1044 (W) 804-295-1530) for information.
23 Oct. (Sun)*	SMRG Auxiliary Member Training Session - 0930, Prince William Forest Park (near Quantico, VA; just off I-95 South). Cost: \$5 (for Auxiliary Member dues to pay for Newsletter subscription). Bring all equipment listed

on cover. Reservations required. Session Coordinator:
George Swett (703) 385-8179.

- 1 Nov. (Tues)* SMRG BUSINESS MEETING - PATC HQ, 7:30 PM. Program:
Hypothermia - Rich Saunders, George Washington Univer-
sity Medical School
- 7 Nov. (Mon) *Seminar on SARSAT (search and rescue satellites)* -
Goddard Space Flight Center, MD. Cady Soukup has de-
tails.
- 8 Nov. (Tues) SMRG Work Session - EMS Standards Proposal - PATC HQ,
7:30 PM. Coordinator: Keith Conover [(703) 522-2844].
- 11-13 Nov. and *Virginia Wing, Civil Air Patrol: Ground Search and*
2-4 Dec. (tentative) *Rescue College* - two weekends, at Fort A. P. Hill.
- 11-13 *Virginia Fourth Annual Statewide EMS Symposium* - Wil-
November liamsburg, VA
- 10-13 *Mountain Medicine '83* - Pinkham Notch Camp, NH. A
November seminar for EMT's, RN's, and MD's. Keith Conover has
information.
- 12 Nov. (Sat) *Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group Training Session* -
date, time, place, and topic to be announced. Call
Greg Shea (BRMRG Training Officer: (H) 804-977-1044
(W) 804-295-1530) for information.
- 17-19 *Sixth Annual National Trauma Symposium* - Baltimore
November Hyatt Regency Hotel. Cady Soukup has details.
- 19-20 Nov *Cave Rescue Class* - Allentown, PA. Contact: Gene
(Sat-Sun) Harrison [H:703-777-6111, W:(202) 342-4279]
- ? November *SMRG Wilderness Medicine and Emergency Management Semi-
nar for Trip Leaders.* (Tentative)
- ? November SMRG Mountain Rescue Training Weekend - Harper's Ferry,
WV. Coordinator: Gene Harrison [(703) 777-6111].
- ? December *NASAR Managing the Search Function Class* - a 40-hour
class, sponsored by Virginia OES.

SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP,
Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference
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