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**Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference**  
**P.O. Box 440 Newcomb Station**  
**Charlottesville, VA 22903**

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**Minutes, 4 June 1988 ASRC Meeting:**

Meeting called to order, 10:25.

**Group Reports:**

AMRG - Working on Tax-exempt status and incorporation.

New recruiting and training drive.

Three members passed the Basic test. No recent interesting SAR action.

W-EMT - Pittsburgh, 30 September to 2 October and 14 - 16 October weekends.

RA-GSAR College weekend work meeting to be held in August (at Highacre, Harper's Ferry, WV?) *ASRC-Com - VA WSMU*

SMRG - The fall and spring 88-89 training will be coordinated with ESAR Post 616. The classroom sessions will be conducted in parallel; the outdoors sessions will be joint sessions.

6 pagers are presently on-line with 3 more coming.

The Western Maryland SAR Team training in May was postponed at their request. They want to reschedule it later in the summer. (No pre-plan has been approved (draft form).)

The Eastern Shore training for law enforcement agents has been postponed at their request. It will be rescheduled for later this summer.

A phone intercom system is available for missions. It must be requested by the IC.

The Dogwood 1/2 Hundred Hike/Run was successful.

SMRG is experiencing growth pains in providing overhead teams.

SWVMRG - Phone was cut off; it will be back on soon.

Car wash fund raiser did quite well in April.

SWVMRG did not ask for more funding from Va.Tech. since they haven't spent last year's budget.

As usual, it's a black hole in Blacksburg for the summer vacation time.

6 members went to the Dogwood 1/2 Hundred. Scraped up responders to a few recent missions.

RSAR - No members present. Have met all training requirements for certification.

Tidewater - No members present. Wish to become probationary group as soon as possible. Need official letter of sponsorship from a member group (BRMRG).

ESAR - No written report. Radio purchased, compatible with SMRG. Have 2 pagers on SMRG frequency. 5-10 ESAR members should be available consistently throughout the summer.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Checking account, actual total: \$603.95

Incoming: ESAR \$70.00

Outgoing Gary Mechtel -\$50.00

This year's dues:

BRMRG	\$45.00
ESAR	\$45.00
RSAR	\$45.00
SMRG	\$45.00
SWVMRG	\$45.00

Checking account, theoretical total: \$848.95

(Recently paid PA SAR<sup>Council</sup> Dues) (-\$25.00)

#### Committee Reports:

Training Committee (Chris Ingle not present). BRMRG training schedule out (6 sessions planned).

DES sponsoring weekend course in Mantracking (Charles Worsham) - groups may send one delegate (by invitation). Worsham has offered to train groups (specifically BRMRG). Cost for weekend is \$70.00.

Fluvanna County, VA Fire Chief requested search training (contacted BRMRG). They will be notified about the VA state course.

Operations Committee (Gary Mechtel). On-route Call-backs have improved, as have sign-ins.

Rosters -- need better distribution. See addendum for current group addresses.

When sending information to other groups: BITNET is OK, but not everyone is on it. Individual groups should be responsible for dissemination of information. Send to the group chairman when in doubt.

The Operations Manual is ready for review. Metzler requests phone vote to prevent delay until next meeting. Other editions of the manual may follow.

Ops Manual Appendices -- Alert/Dispatch, Technical Rescue Standard -- are minimum levels. Recommend that ASRC BOD find someone to set thorough standards (e.g. proper /improper anchors, etc.) Soukup/Lindell?? Communications -- development of standards (Dixon??) One Appendix section will be deliberately left blank.

At this time, individual group standards ARE NOT being incorporated; incorporation will follow approval. Representatives will be responsible for circulating the completed manual. Rhetorical question: Are the SAROP & Ops Manual redundant? Consensus is that each fills its own area, not the other's.

ICS -- Metzler has kept an outline for 18 months on the use of ICS on searches. Needs input on who needs/wants copies of the outline. ICS tailored to SAR standards? IC requirements -- some may be unknown to some IC's. Metzler/Koester offer to come up with a list of practices (shall-do's) for the ASRC newsletter.

Training between Basic & IC (Mechtel) - Incident Staff. 20-24 hour course on General Staff? Including Ops & IC information? Or should it be added at the end of the MSF course: Topics to be included: ASRC Use of ICS; Ops/Plans; Rules, reg's. & laws; Resources; Paperwork; Case studies; Group dynamics; Leadership; Problem solving; Pre-plans; Safety. (Metzler/Mechtel to coordinate the above.)

Newsletter (Deming Herbert/Bob Koester) - \$250.00/issue = \$200.00 (printer) + \$50.00 (mailing).

Outstanding bills: \$200.00 for past printing + \$50.00 for past mailing = \$250.00.

45 people failed to resubscribe.

There are some outstanding advertising funds not yet collected (ca. \$150.00).

Expecting \$150 to \$200 from AMRG.

#### MOTION:

In two weeks, the Newsletter Treasurer <sup>will</sup> request and receive up to \$250.00 to make up the difference in the outstanding Newsletter bills.

MOTION PASSED.

PA SAR Council -- Pa SAR Council/CAP relations: National CAP HW has directed Pennsylvania CAP Wing to cooperate with the local SAR resources.

The next Pa SAR Council Meeting is to be at the end of June, including a tracking course.  
Pa. SAR Bill - - Status unknown. Bill includes establishing a committee that reports to the Lt. Gov. and may make SAR a line item in the Pa State budget.

Finance Committee -- Status unknown. ASRC tax-exempt status is still under IRS review.

MRA - ASRC/MRA Relationship. Keith Conover has consulted MRA about region formation (see attached letter #1). General membership will be consulted on the exact status of ASRC/MRA relationship. Conover/Mechtel assigned to pull together some sort of a presentation (pros and cons) for the ASRC general membership.

VA SAR Council -- Pre-plan is being revised; it will be called "Standard Operating Procedure."  
Amount of interaction with the state under consideration -- possibility of becoming a NASAR member.  
Chris Metzler received VA SAR Council award for "recognition of outstanding service."

Communications Committee (Gene Harrison, from the written report) -- Dogwood -- A large commo network was set up to support the Dogwood 1/2 Hundred PATC Hike. It combined ASRC SAR radios plus excellent support from Radio Amateurs of the Shenandoah Valley Radio Club.

Radio Inventory -- At the last Commo Comm meeting in April, radio inventory sheets were issued to the Commo rep's from all the ASRC groups. Special thanks to Le Ligon, SWVMRG, who was the first and promptest in completing this task. Thanks also to RSAR and BRMRG. The other groups have not responded at this time, and have been so informed. If this information is not supplied rapidly, their radios will not be retained under the ASRC license and any operation of them may be in violation of FCC regulations. Please get the information in.

Operations & Training, Annexes & Commo Chapter, ASR Textbook -- The project action officers have not reported any progress in the last 2 months. This will be followed up by the ASRC Commo officer. The Commo Comm requests a copy of the Draft Operations Manual and that the ASRC Operations and Training Committees stay in coordination. Mr. Wm. Dixon has been volunteered to participate and support this effort.

Commo Comm Meetings -- Held simultaneously with ASRC BOD meetings. All ASRC members are welcome.

Pager Systems -- BRMRG has had an effective paging system for several years. SMRG and other groups have been coordinating with the Commo Comm to set up similar systems. This will be coordinated with the ASRC Operations Comm. The present plan is to have all groups on the same channel and the same "address" (or "cap code"), but in their separate areas and with their own contact paging phone number. Therefore, each group has its own system in its own area & others in the area can listen in to help, if needed. Then the ASRC can support a statewide contact phone number that alerts all groups for statewide needs. Technical details are available through the Commo Comm.

*(Much discussion ensued on this topic. It came out that since two groups have "standing stock" in two different types of pagers; a completely parallel system will have to be maintained for several years, or until one group or the other can afford a system to match its parallel system. The final recommendations:*

- MOTION:*
- a) If only 1-2 pagers are needed by a group, it is recommended that the group uses the existing BRMRG (GOLAY) pagers.*
  - b) If a group needs its own phone number and/or many pagers, it is recommended that the group looks into the SMRG (POCSAG) pagers for statewide/interstate use.)*

*MOTION PAS:* Also, please don't go to your local paging service first, as the Commo Comm has set up a special contact ( and good deal) with MetroCall. Special thanks to Stu Carpenter for diligent effort in coordinating this.

Pager codes -- In order to support interoperability and compatibility, the Commo Comm (coordinating with Operations Comm) is attempting to improve and standardize the digital

pager codes. BRMRG has done some excellent work already, and temporarily AMRG and SMRG are using similar lists of codes.

FCC -- The FCC recently issued a Report and Order allegedly "banning" programmable radios. This is not quite accurate; plus there are distinct pros and cons to this R&O. The Commo Comm has now obtained a copy and will be briefing all group Commo rep's on its meaning. Basically, SAR and Special Technical Rescue organizations were hurt, and a remedial response may be needed.

FCC License Sharing: Commo Officer directed by ASRC Chair to review informal agreements with other groups who are "piggy-backing" on our radio license. Next steps: making the agreements more formal (pending ASRC BOD approval); encouraging groups to apply for their own licenses (as done by DOGSEAST).

Medical (Koester) -- Medical contacts: SMRG - Training Officer; AMRG - Keith Conover; SWVMRG - Marcia LeGrand; ESARS - Carl Solomon.

Fundamentals of Wilderness First Aid (Medical Requirement for FTL in proposed training standards) -- Koester has prepared a course outline without CPR, 21 hours (8 practical, 13 classroom).

### Old Business:

ASR Textbook (Conover) -- Areas to be worked on: Legal aspects (Baker?); Lost person search, Resources, tactics (Mechtel); Cave SAR; Whitewater rescue (Parkes, Rosen?); Disasters (Mechtel).

W-EMT project in PA has adopted the Peter Goth program.

*Commo - #1 priority list of Agency Commo requirements  
(CHRISTOPHER IS VA MIA. DIRECTOR)*

### New Business:

ASRC Medical Committee -- Conover suggests adding members to an ASRC Medical Committee, with a separate Medical Director for each state.

MOTION:

To appoint a M.D. for ASRC Medical Operations in PA.

MOTION PASSED.

*OPERATIONAL MEDICAL DIRECTOR FOR*

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W-EMT (PA) -- Licensure vs. certification (liability questions). Requirements: EMT, GSAR I, passing W-EMT -- Entitles person to ASRC/Center for Emergency Medicine certificate.

(MOTION TABLED:

To direct ASRC Medical Committee to draw up guidelines for ASRC/CEM W-EMT certificate.)

Training Levels (Conover) -- (see also attachment 2)

-Suggested: sustaining/trainee(applicant); FTM ->FTL ->IS ->IC (others??)

Moving up from trainee to Incident Staff would include requirements such as reading Ops Manual or other similar material; becoming an active member requires 32 hours of activity with the group; nomination by Group Training Officer & vote-in by the Group still holds. By-Laws to be reviewed by ASRC BOD at August meeting.

NEXT MEETING, SNP HQ, 10:00, 6 AUGUST 1988. (Remember, a search is more important!)

Meeting adjourned, 19:15.