

ASRC BOD 7 July 2001

9:30am, meeting begins with introductions, favorite ice cream.

Groups in attendance: MSAR (7), BRMRG (2), SWVMRG (1), AMRG (4), SMRG (2)

After committee meetings formed of everyone in attendance, resumed about 12:45pm, as the BOD.

Chairman is absent, Vice Chair was not warned, and so is unprepared.

Chair's report: None given.

Vice Chair's report: External affairs, in discussion with Top of Virginia, they have an interest w/ ASRC as Associate Membership. Vice Chair intends to meet with them in the next month to discuss it further. Delaware group, as mentioned in Ops, is in limbo. (Their rep is out of town for the summer.)

Treasurer's report: Page 1 is last bank statement. Balance matches with our Quicken sheet. There is an In/Out since January. Page 4 is Cash flow by month. All dues paid by all groups. Total dues \$2075.00. Scheduled repayments (from former Treasurer) are proceeding normally. Only future big expenses are traditional end of year reimbursement of dispatch costs. Current balance is probably a historical high.

Comments: It is a good thing to be building a nest egg for commo gear, a pager net, or conference wide insurance. This is a good thing.

The 501.3(c) is so the ASRC can solicit funds for things like commo gear, handhelds, etc. (No individual groups can use the ASRC 501c3 number; they must have access to a number however.)

Secretary's report: Minutes from March are accepted. There is still no full time Secretary.

Committees:

Ops: Radios and pagers will need to change over the next two to five years.

Commo: Need the radio license (151.64?) from the locker. The BRMRG ASRC reps (Bob and Rob Kessler?) and so should respond.

Also see the earlier comments about the narrowing of the band and switches of the radios. Please contact Pepper (pepperb@adelphia.net) with comments and suggestions about new radios.

Medical: Make sure group Medical Officers respond to Stef with comments/suggestions, etc about the proposed medical equipment lists for field teams and groups. The medical email list should be used. Remember, we carry a lot of equipment that we may not be able to use – however, it is there in case someone who *can* use it is there. And it was suggested to add paperwork to the list to document what has been used, so it can be replaced.

Old Business:

Nothing from last meeting.

New Business:**IC/IS nominations:**

Emily Minor: ASRC received a fax from Tom Lovejoy to meet the IC3. Rob (SWVMRG) speaks for him. Tom is missing letters of evaluation. Bob made a statement that he would stand for Tom, but we will follow procedures and table this for now, as Bob is not here and does not have an official letter.

Motion:

Table the vote on Tom Lovejoy until we receive documentation.

Voting:

Passed, with one abstention.

Motion:

Five BRMRG members are up for Alert Officer – they have fulfilled the requirements.

Voting:

Passed unanimously.

There are many other individuals who are waiting on their groups to have meetings to propose them.

Other new business:

Pamela Paulding would like to open discussion on Hug-A-Tree. Emily Minor suggested that it be sent to committee. A quick discussion ensued to determine the correct committee. The goal is to generate publicity so that, in essence, the ASRC put ourselves out of business. (Teach kids how not to get lost.) Ms. Paulding's proposal is that the ASRC draft their own training guidelines to be able to present to schools, etc. Pepper suggests one by NASAR, which includes a videotape. Hug a Tree is currently unresponsive. National Parks Service (?) developed the program now available from NASAR. Emily Minor mentioned the video is named "Lost but Found, Safe and Sound." Locally filmed. PSAR is talking about filming something, Holden's as well. Trying to develop a "wrap-around" to the video. Also, brought up to the Virginia Search and Rescue Council. Ms. Paulding suggests researching existing works, and overall foresees this taking two years.

Motion:

Begin the process of researching a preventative education program, with the ultimate eye towards it being presented by ASRC members.

Discussion:

Should be a part of Training first and foremost, not PIO.

A member of the “Good Knight Organization” (www.goodknight.org) spoke about his work. Would like to be a part of the committee, has a 2.5 acre estate in Beltsville with a kingdom as part of his work.

Friendly amendment:

That this ‘research group’ become a subgroup of the Training Committee.

Rejected.

Friendly amendment:

That it become an ad-hoc committee.

Accepted.

Voting:

Passed unanimously, with one abstention.

More New Business:

Motion:

Nominate Brandon Rogers (FTL of BRMRG) as a Training Officer from BRMRG beginning September.

Voting:

Passed unanimously.

Motion:

Nominate Ken Chaicchia group Training Officer of AMRG as of April 1.

Voting:

Passed unanimously.

Motion:

Move that SMRG be recertified as a group member of ASRC as of 7 July 2001.

Voting:

Passed unanimously.

The subject was raised that the September meeting falls on the Labor Day Holiday weekend and should perhaps be moved.

Motion:

Move the September meeting to the second Saturday – 8 September.

Discussion:

BRMRG cannot attend.

Friendly Amendment:

Move it to the third Saturday, 15 September, so BRMRG can attend.

Discussion:

Peter cannot attend anything other than 1st Saturday in September.

Friendly Amendment:

Move it to the final Saturday in August, 25 August.

Amended Motion: Hold the next meeting on 25 August.

Voting:

Passed unanimously.

The subject of a host was brought up. PVRG may have offered to host, but they aren't here, so we will not commit them.

Motion:

That the August 25 ASRC BOD meeting be hosted by MSAR.

Voting:

Three for, none opposed, five abstentions.

The Secretary will contact the Chair about the new date and then send out email about the new date and the location.

Other New Business:

The Vice Chair steps down temporarily to present a letter on a personal basis. The topic is the lowering of IC rank and the resultant actions. The Treasurer, as Acting-Chair, requests that the reading be stopped as it concerns a topic that is going on behind closed doors. Therefore a break is called, to be followed by a reconvening of just the vote- or proxy-holding BOD members.

Meeting reopened to non-voting members at 3:15.

Outcome of the executive session is that Todd Lerue has moved to FL. And because of that Chris Ruch has been appointed to serve as investigator in the current issue. Ruch is from AMRG.

Other New Business:

Pepper brought up that the ASRC has been lacking in leadership skills. He would like to see the ASRC last for many years, to do this we need very strong leadership in place that is there to run this organization. Without strong leadership will the ASRC survive? What condition will we be in by the next election in April of 2002? He suggests that we discuss this with Susan and if she is not willing to be a strong leader then to call for elections sooner than April 2002. He would be willing to nominate Lauren Shiff since she has served to help hold us together up to this point. What do we do...wait until April and maybe see it die...or move now to strength?

Peter offered an observation that he spoke to Susan. They talked about the leadership of the ASRC and it's fragility. Needs a good committee structure. We have very individual teams and need committees and leadership to support it.

Emily spoke to how hard it is to do the jobs in the ASRC...they are very big. We are always investing in one person....the praise and or blame for the progress of the whole group. It disturbs her that we are talking about people/ officers without them here. What links us together? We don't have a singular mission....without one why should we be together?

Ken said without loading it all on one person he observes that the committee structure has failed us. This is partially because the very people we need on the committees are the ones with the most responsibilities in our individual groups. What Lauren has done well is using the technology to get the people on her committee to communicate together better than before.

Pamela said that the mission is clear; it is when we lose focus on the mission that we get out of whack. The more meetings that we have the worse we do because people feel free to skip. We might be able to find people to help us with the organizational end of things. Organization must come from the ranks, not from the top down. It is like a search team, comfortable with our own people and very different when with each other...more challenging...we should focus on each team's strengths and not their weaknesses.

Chris: Groups don't get to interact much with each other than the board meeting. ASRC is not as important to most people as their own group. We need to do more together. Do a meeting after a mock search and we would get a lot more done.

Michelle(?): From her experience with another group, she found that the only way to get people there is to write it into the bylaws with punishment for not meeting the obligations.

Pepper: He realizes that Susan accepted the job for her term. This gives her a stewardship, not an easy job. Some one should ask her about her plans. She has never come to visit AMRG...she didn't get to know us. That makes him sad, but not as sad as if ASRC falls apart. I don't want to see it die. It needs to be led out of where it is now.

Emily: Goal setting is a responsible thing for a board to ask for from its Chair.

Pepper: It is in her lap, what we want to do.

April: Our committee structure makes it feel like things get lost (?), like we don't focus on a "mission statement." We need to decide what our goals, as a group, are. We need better set goals, set and acknowledged by more of us than we do right now (not just in committees). We should have a Secretary and we should have a Training Officer. And that stems from leadership; our leader doesn't necessarily need to know about SAR, but needs to know about leadership, about delegation.

Michelle(?): It probably should be a part of the bylaws, as someone must show up at the meetings. That is the only way we found results.

April: Our goals are unclear. We need to do something about committee design.

Peter: Last election, we altered the service period from one to two years, to allow more time to get things planned and implemented. What I saw, coming in after Dave Carter, was that we needed a mission statement, as Dave said. I drafted those right away, short term, long term goals. They were very useful while I was in office.

Second, I've served two terms as Training and two as Ops. One of my disappointments was an inability to cross-train and teams that would schedule training on top of long announced ASRC meetings. It makes it difficult.

Third, there has been discussion, informally, for a time, that perhaps we should be more like a congress, an infrastructure that would enable programs to come together several times a year, but within those structures, would enable us to come together.

When I came in 16 years ago, ASRC operated as a board of the entirety and therefore we accomplished nothing. The committee structure was an attempt at something better, but it hasn't really worked. We are at a crossroads and need to rediscover what we are really about. We started as a Commonwealth of VA resource; five teams are in VA, but four are not.

Pepper would feel comfortable talking to Suzen about things, alone. Have a conversation.

Emily: I want to be sure that you are just going to talk about your feelings, b/c we didn't seem to come to consensus.

Pepper: Right.

April: I'd like to reiterate something Emily said: It is within the realm of the board to tell the Chair what we want accomplished. Maybe we figure out what we want and "charge" the Chair with doing it.

Frank: I would encourage general membership to come up with ideas and we present them to Suzen.

Pamela: Things I've heard: people want to know well ahead of time when meetings are. Secondly, I believe that a lot of people who are really committed and want to volunteer, they are reluctant b/c they get sucked into doing a lot more than they think they are volunteering for. And they feel they'll be "shoveling against the tide" – ASRC members are too critical and therefore nothing is good enough. And fourth, we need to be really clear what it is we do and why we exist – a mission statement of what we want to do.

April: A general membership meeting would be a good time for discussing this. And we need to have more fun, because what we currently do is sit and hash out stuff like this – ugh. Do something interesting – different ways of packaging, or searching, or whatever. And everyone ties a litter differently, so let's discuss it. That is true of lots of things we do. Have a topic to share and discuss to draw people to the meeting.

Michelle: Something to discuss and do is much better!

Frank: A lot of the committee stuff should be done online to shorten that part of the meeting. And then have Show-And-Tell. It would be a great way to end a meeting. Get Committees done before hand.

April: Ice breakers are a good idea.

Ken: AMRG had some attendance problems, so we got past the business meeting and switched things to training then business meeting. Some people left, but some stayed all the way to the end of the meeting. It made the drive worth it. Even leaders can learn from others.

Peter: Good thoughts. I think everything here can be put into some sort of action item. One of our ASRC prides is the "ASRC Way" – how to tie a harness, etc. Lots of good people want to stay out of the politics and just want to search. This politic-ing works for some, but not for the larger organization.

Emily: And cut ourselves a break – this last year is better than normal. :) And we need to leave our baggage.

April: Instead of getting together and discussing things we use in the field, we've talked about how we never hear from searches, it would be nice to debrief them! Avoid rumor mills, etc.

Emily: We were supposed to have search debriefs and such in the minutes, but they were always cut in the interest of time.

April: Where does this leave us?

Peter: Pepper will have a discussion. And then bring it back to the board?

Pepper: No, I think the dialogue is open about the future of the ASRC and that is good enough. My conversation is between Suzen and I and about my group.

Peter: Do we want to consider asking/requiring of Pepper if he would make an inquiry on behalf of the ASRC?

Pepper: It probably would not be a bad idea to call her up and ask her if you have a question.

Emily: My suggestion: I think Frank has a good hold on what we want to do and we need to lead a goals suggestions.

April: Discuss with teams what we want to see from the ASRC and what we want to feel more coordinated and connected.

Emily: It will take a long time.

Pepper: It is about healing and we have started.

Rob: It is ongoing maintainence and we must continue.

Michelle(?): A little suggestion: Is there anyone here who would NOT like to hear debriefings? Someone could make a motion that the FIRST thing we do at Board meetings is to talk about them.

Motion:

Add debriefing as the first thing of every meeting.

Discussion:

Should it be a different time? Was it fun? Did we enjoy it? Did we learn something? With the recent past, it would be a good idea.

Voting:

Passed unanimously.

To add to the **Old Business List** for next time:

April will have a list of about five short questions to ask your members about the ASRC and its direction.

Meeting was adjourned about 4:30pm.