



SESSION 4: Other Items for Discussion
The 40/40 Retreat
Bears Den Lodge

1. **Incident Management – Technology & Staff changes** (Don Ferguson)

This will be a review of how the ASRC is advancing incident management through the use of emerging technology. Items covered will include an Explanation and Utilization of Remote Support http://www.asrc.net/wp-content/uploads/ASRC_RemoteSupport.pdf

There will also be a dialogue to explore the possibility of developing training standards for Incident Staff that includes a progress outside of the conventional field team member approach. As we begin to integrate more technology we need to consider a means of incorporating staff members into the mix that have specialized skills.

2. **Review of the ASRC PA Medical Policy Manual** (proposed by Keith Conover on January 3, 2014)

ASRC PA Medical Policy:

I would greatly appreciate it if this proposed document, available at:

<http://www.conovers.org/ftp/ASRC-PA-Medical-Policy-Manual-20c.pdf>

is discussed, and if appropriate, voted on by the BOD for approval.

October 27, 2013 notes from Conover:

This manual charges the Conference Medical Committee/Medical Officer with certain tasks, and contains Conference policies, even if restricted to one state. Therefore, I ask that the BOD consider this for approval at the next scheduled BOD meeting.

This would also set a precedent that state medical policies need approval of the BOD as well as the state Medical Director.

I do not think that the BOD needs to approve Protocols, Standing Orders, or Medical Kit lists... I think those are fully within the expected duties of a state Medical Director (though Carl Wertz and I were talking yesterday at a training session about how nice it would be to eventually standardize some of these things Conference-wide).

3. **ASRC Training Materials** (relayed by Keith Conover)

There has been some dissatisfaction with the current state of training materials such as the SARTA FTM and FTL manuals.

Background: I wrote a "Ground Search and Rescue" textbook in 1972 that was used by VA Wing CAP and then Virginia's state SAR program, and then when I went into medical school and residency and had no time to update it, I assigned rights for use and updating to SARTA. That became the FTM and FTL manuals.

I am in the process of writing something akin to another GSAR textbook, available freely online



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in PDF format. It carries a Creative Commons license so that it may be printed if so desired, but it works fine as online training in PDF format. The first of the "chapters" is online at:

<http://www.conovers.org/ftp/SAR-Legal.pdf>

and the current incomplete rough draft of the next one is available at

<http://www.conovers.org/ftp/SAR-Evacs.pdf>

My schedule currently looks to be light in January and February so I would hope to have the SAR-Evacs essay done in March, at which point I would start on the next one, possibly Land Navigation, unless the BOD or CTO has a different priority, which I will be happy to honor.

I plan to provide a complete set of SAR Topics over the next 12 months or so, and these will be designed to meet or slightly exceed all the ASRC Training Standards. As you will see if you read SAR-Legal.pdf, it's not really a textbook chapter, it's much less formal and tight than that.

4. **NFPA 1670 – Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents**

The 2014 edition of the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA's) code 1670—which includes revised standards for "Wilderness Search & Rescue" operations and training—has been released:

<http://specopsblog.blogspot.com/2014/01/the-2014-edition-of-nfpa-1670-codewhich.html?m=1>

ASRC_BOD yahoo dialogue excerpt:

This is great material for the upcoming retreat; I'm not sure we'll get very far discussing it over email (the danger is we'll wind up with a bunch of long emails that not everybody will have time to read).

Having said that, your point is well worth considering. Personally, I've had a problem with the confusion of the CQ/FTM/FTL certs with operational roles for some time, and think there's much to recommend an awareness/ops/tech structure.

As a side note, AMRG, which is an MRA team, gives its members certificates reflecting both their ASRC and MRA levels (FTM = MRA Ops, just like you've said, FTL = MRA Technician IV, which is the lowest of the [I think optional] MRA gradations of technician).

On Wed, Jan 15, 2014 at 4:06 PM, Scott Glazer <RADIOINSTL@aol.com> wrote:

As of now, I believe this is the only national Wilderness SAR training standard that there is 3rd party certification of curriculum, training and certifications issued for.

Thoughts?

Can the NASAR SARTECH be blended in with these standards to make a program that could yield certification in both?

I do not see this as a replacement for our current training but I think we could take current ASRC/NASAR training and ensure that it meets NFPA Standard to get that certification.



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How would we map, awareness, operation and technician level to FTM/STM, FTL/STL
Awareness - COQ
Operations - FTM/STM
Technician - FTL/STM

Could this help with recognition of training between different states and public safety agencies (pd/FD)?

Note that NASAR is not referenced in the standard but at the Technician level, every team and team member must be a Mountain Rescue Association team member or equivalent.

I would be interested in working with the Ops chair/CTO and others on this. I think in Maryland we could get a class that meets both NASAR and NFPA approved with Proboard certs issued by MFRI. Maybe that could move us to better acceptance and use in MD not just by the state (MSP/DNR) but by the counties etc.

5. **Cross-jurisdictional resources and contacting AHJ/RA**

ASRC-BOD yahoo dialogue excerpt:

I have taken the liberty of adding the ASRC-Ops and ASRC-managers to this string, since I believe this is a discussion that should be part of the agenda at the January meeting. I'm not sure how the subsets of Search Managers and Operations Officers can be broken apart or meshed together.

Ken's perspective is much the same as mine; perhaps because I spent 27 years in Allegheny County, PA and as a member of AMRG from its start. My perception of the situation in WV is much the same, but there is also the situation that I mentioned earlier, where the local authorities sometimes do not want outsiders because of previous bad experiences. Our job, as Ken said, is to educate and inform, and then politely step back if we are not welcomed.

At the same time Jim makes a good point, perhaps there is a criminal case involved, or something else. We don't know. We also don't know the source of Alan information.

The topic of who should contact the AHJ/RA, if in fact contact should be made, is another good question. In areas of WV that are closer to Morgantown or are closer to me in the Grant/Pendleton Counties area, I or one of the other SM's in MARG would most likely call. I have done this several times in a polite, professional way and the folks I spoke to have always appreciated the call. Sometimes I have been asked to respond as a search manager and sometimes I have been given more details and told that if our resources were needed that the AHJ would notify the WV EOC or SAR Coordinator and ask for the resources.

As point of information, most of the WVSARCO teams are on the western or southern part of the state and have little in common in with the folks in the Eastern Panhandle, again my perspective. So I would think that it would make more sense for one of the closer teams, MSAR, PVRG, SMRG to make contact, if they so desired. At the same time I will continue to work to establish better relations with the WVSP SAR Team leader.

On the point of fishing, I don't consider this fishing. So on this point I respectfully disagree with Jim.

This a great discussion and I hope it continues in the meeting in January, in person as much as possible.

Thanks,
Bru
ASRC SM-3
MARG OpsO,



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In a message dated 12/29/2013 9:35:50 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, chiacchiakb@gmail.com writes:

This may well be the case in this area. But be aware that this situation is often very different in different places. In Pa., where the commonwealth system means that the ultimate authority is often a township without its own police department, ignorance of what's available is often the rule rather than the exception. When there are searches in Allegheny County, we have the inter-agency organization more of you may be familiar with and generally they call us when they need us. But outside A.C., we find that in the great majority of cases when we call to offer our help the response is an enthusiastic, "bring all you can." They'd ask if they knew. Education is a big goal for us as well, but it's less overcoming political obstacles than it is simply informing people of what's available to them. YMMV.

--Ken Chiacchia
AMRG