



The 40/40 Retreat

Celebrating 40 years of success and bringing the future into focus

Bears Den Lodge

<http://bearsdencenter.org/lodge.html>

RETREAT NOTES

Friday, February 21, 2014

Arrival and informal discussions

Saturday, February 22, 2014

Participants

Ken Chiacchia, AMRG	Katy Hart, BRMRG	Don Ferguson, MARG	Gregg Wavle, MSAR
Rebecca Hostetter, AMRG	Madison Lahey, BRMRG	Doug Moore, MARG	Beth Huhn, RACE
Don Scelza, AMRG	Cristina Ramirez, BRMRG	Carl Wertz, MARG	Brian Maier, RACE
Aaron Bentley, BRMRG	Sarah Smith, BRMRG	Victoria Airey, MSAR	Andrew Hower, SMRG
Laura Dodson, BRMRG	Max Wheeler, BRMRG	Jack Boyson, MSAR	Eric Menendez, SMRG
Laura Gaul, BRMRG	Michael Hansen, DMVSAR	Alex Patico, MSAR	Steve Weiss, SMRG
Kira Guth, BRMRG	Pete Peterson, DMVSAR	Larry Raskin, MSAR	

Welcome/Kick-off – Don Scelza, ASRC Chairman

- Thank you and welcome
- Brief overview of 40 year history of the ASRC and plans for the future
- Shift in focus from conference-centric to enabling teams and supporting the needs of the RA
- Proud of cutting-edge technologies – conference members are driving SAR innovations
- Review of 1990's conference vision and mission statements and current version – compare to ASRC Strategic Plan
- Review of the 2015 Strategic Plan goals
 - Getting back to Search and Rescue
 - Reinforcing our Fundamental Search and Rescue Skills and Strengths
 - Focusing on Those We Serve
 - Developing and Mentoring Today's Leaders
 - Fostering an Ecosystem for Innovation
- Encourage local groups to develop strong relationships locally

Recommendation: Conference should gather best practices/materials for use by all groups for outreach/interface with RA's to develop and maintain local relationships.

Training and Certifications – Andrew Hower, Conference Training Officer

- Purpose is to address concern of ASRC "self-certification"
- NIMS resource typing for SAR (overview) and Position Task Books (PTB's)
- Overview of a variety of established standards and PTB's (PA, MD, CAP, VA, etc.)
- Transparent and auditable; 3 years to complete process, or must start over to attain certification
- ASRC PTB's include the ASRC Training Standards, plus items that meet individual state requirements that demonstrate competency in those areas

Training and Certifications (cont'd)

- New requirements in the ASTM-F32 standard now needs to be integrated into the ASRC PTB's – currently underway
- There will be a PTB for each position outlined in the ASRC Training Standard v7.1 document
- FIPS 201 standard – ASRC ID card
 - Enrollment form created
 - Envision route from Group Training Officer to Ops for printing, submit with completed PTB when member attains a new certification level
 - Information maintained in a repository (possibly Google cloud solution), with priority on security and sustainability
 - 3 tracks on magnetic strip, also bar code – data set for these components not yet defined
- Standardized FTM/FTL Examinations
 - CTO requested copies of tests from all teams across the conference – limited response, requesting all teams to assist with this effort and forward samples of written tests to CTO
 - CTO requesting state standard details from all teams

Deliverable timelines: PTB's within the next month, issue conference-wide for review; possible BOD vote for documents/implementation timeline at the 2014 AGM.

2014 AGM – Laura Dodson, President BRMRG

- Preview of video clip presentation developed by BRMRG to promote the AGM
- AGM details posted to tab on BRMRG's website: www.brmsg.org
- Options for lodging: Misty Mtn Campground, Red Roof Inn – discount rate \$109/night; still researching other options for overnight accommodations (dorms for student participants, etc.)
- Newcomb Hall will accommodate up to 300 participants (event facility)
- Planning a tour of the "locker" for those that wish to partake
- Planning skill stations for ASRC members/teams on Friday evening
- Reviewed the event schedule and discussed possible changes/additions
- Looking to film every lecture and post to YouTube channel or other web location
- Planning children track for Search and Rescue merit badge – babysitter(s) for younger children
- Possibly incorporate a panel of State SAR Coordinators (WV, PA, VA, MD)
 - Local contact assignments: Doug Moore-WV, Don Scelza-PA, Steve Weiss-VA, Jim Jackson-MD)
- Recommend including lunch in the conference plan versus "on own"; recommend increasing the participation fee to \$40 to cover the increased cost.
- Discussed additional Break-out Session possibilities (contact assignments made):
 - Caving – Doug Moore
 - Park Epidemiology – Carl Wertz
 - Shenandoah NPS – Steve Weiss
 - Wide Area Search – RACE
 - CAP - Airborne Real-time Cueing Hyperspectral Enhanced Reconnaissance (ARCHER)
 - Legal Issues of SAR
 - Ferguson to contact Dean Ross and John Price
- Reviewed actions to be undertaken from Session 3 Retreat Handout
 - Contacting more speakers
 - Coming up with 40th anniversary logo and t-shirts
 - Contacting vendors to show up with SAR gear for the day – donations and on-site vendors

2014 AGM (cont'd)

- Getting the word out beyond ASRC (all participants welcome)
- Volunteers for the day

If you can assist with any of these tasks, please contact Laura Dodson at lld4ab@virginia.edu

- Established 2014 AGM Planning Committee
 - Don Scelza
 - Steve Weiss
 - Don Ferguson
 - Doug Moore
 - Beth Huhn
- Working on categorizing break-outs into topical tracks – Management, Field, History, Large Searches
- Interest from several teams in providing an area for teams to present a team overview/history in the form of poster board displays
- Finalizing registration form now – will be available on BRMRG site when finalized
- ASRC email address established specifically for the 2014 AGM/40th Anniversary celebration: 40years@asrc.net

Incident Management – Technologies and Staff Changes – Don Ferguson, MARG

- Review of comprehensive presentation entitled, “Application of various New Technologies in Wilderness SAR” (attached)
- Need to develop ASRC standards for remote support
- Excellent work being done to develop remote support, always room for improvement
- Strong desire to more fully utilize this support mechanism conference-wide

ASRC Training Materials – facilitated by Don Scelza

- Keith Conover working to develop supplemental ASRC training material
- Addressing dissatisfaction of current state of training materials
- Reference text based, published via topical chapters
- Training material should support the ASRC Training Standards and the PTB’s, understanding that standards will continue to change over the course of time

Review of the ASRC PA Medical Policy Manual – facilitated by Don Scelza

- General discussion of the Policy Manual and purpose/concepts:

Comments:

- Why would ASRC have governance over a PA Medical policy?
- Recommendation made that the ASRC does not have a governance roll in medical policy for any state
- The only medical standards required by the ASRC are those incorporated as part of the Training Standards for FTM/FTL qualifications (CPR and basic first aid)
- Several states have medical directors – possibly that is a more appropriate forum to discuss medical policies/manuals
- Recommend basic, compassionate levels of care versus EMS levels, due to liability issues
- If a specific group wishes to pursue, they may do so independently, but approval of this document is not under the purview of the ASRC Board of Directors
- All in attendance commended Dr. Conover for his continued efforts in developing the PA Medical Policy Manual

National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 1670 Standard – facilitated by Don Scelza

- Overview/discussion of what the standard is and impacts
- Comments:
- The cross-walk for current ASRC standards is evident
 - Certifications require a basic course and topical supplements
 - Purpose of this discussion is to ensure ASRC remains fully aware of other standards and how they may affect/impact the conference
- General consensus – no additional action necessary

Cross-jurisdictional contacts with AHJ/RA – facilitated by Don Scelza

- ASRC Operations guidelines already encourage Search Managers to make contact, if the Search Manager can continue to serve as the AR
 - One call offering service
 - Assess resource availability before offering services
 - Group's responsibility to assess and manage
 - If Group does not have a Search Manager, must make contact with ASRC
- State MOU may serve as an authority vehicle to become involved in a mission (VA)

Operations – Michael Hansen, Conference Operations Officer

- Overview of the operational doctrine of the ASRC
 - Sometimes in conflict with group views/policies
 - Looking at operations in a new light – to support and enable groups
 - Questions presented to the group:
 - What teams have own operations manual?
 - Two teams responded affirmatively
 - Most have operational guidelines
 - How often are the operational documents referenced that teams do have?
 - Not often, only when conflicts arise
 - What do teams need the ASRC Operations document to do for their team?
 - Ensure all teams can work together effectively/efficiently
 - Model for single team response
 - Model for single team to request limited conference resources
 - Model to activate conference-wide resources
 - Review of a draft Table of Contents
- Comments:
- Front of document should contain prescriptive requirements, appendices should contain information that is dynamic that can be changed, as needed, by the Conference Operations Officer
 - Identify small subset of functions the conference provides (Remote Support, Search Management, Safety, etc.)
 - Incorporate concept that the ASRC is a multi-agency coordination entity – strong governance (standards), but groups retain autonomy
 - Define equipment capability, services that can be rendered – what the capabilities are of the member teams
 - Discussion of the differences in which ASRC resources are requested now (some initiate direct team-to-team, some initiate through conference dispatch)
 - Group accreditation (like 36 month review) – needs to be included
 - One Agency Representative to the AHJ for collective ASRC resources, when broad response from the conference
 - Include outline for risk management decisions – respond/not respond
 - Include graphical model of what a call-out looks like

Operations (cont'd)

- Ensure some type of review process is included. Ensure it is positive; mentoring, enabling, opportunity to share best practices – goal is to improve capabilities
- NOTE: The Administrative Manual, Appendix D (page 18) – “...Operations Manual shall provide further clarification regarding recommended protocols and best practices associated with creation and retention of mission-related documentation”.

A special Thank You to the following for their extra efforts in ensuring the weekend was special:

- Steve Weiss for securing the location, coordinating facility logistics and preparing special items for several of the meals
- Katy Hart for weekend menu preparation, food purchase and serving as head chef for the entire weekend
- Don Ferguson for the wonderful breakfast on Saturday morning