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APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE  
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Reply To:  
Keith Conover, M.D.  
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June 3, 1988

To: ASRC Board of Directors  
From: Keith Conover, M.D.  
Member, Board of Directors

Subject: MRA Region Status

As you know, I was to draft a letter to the MRA about us forming the Appalachian Region of the MRA. However, I had a chance to speak with Hunter Holloway, Tom Frazer, and other MRA types at recent NASAR and ASTM meetings. As a result, I'd like to make a new suggestion as to how we might form a region in a way that would satisfy most people in both ASRC and MRA. It goes like this.

1. The ASRC becomes the Appalachian Region of the MRA. It's still the ASRC, we just add another title. We could make our letterheads read:

APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE  
the Appalachian Region of the Mountain Rescue Association

2. Our defined region would be Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. When we have groups in West Virginia or North Carolina, we can expand the Region.

3. Any group in our region that wanted to become an MRA team would have to join the ASRC. Requirements for MRA membership in our Region and those for ASRC Group status would be the same.

4. Any fully-certified ASRC Group would be an Appalachian Region "Rescue" Group. Any Group that was unwilling or unable to meet the full requirements for ASRC Certified Group/MRA Rescue Group would become an ASRC Associate/MRA Support Group.

5. Any member with ASRC Certification would also have MRA Rescue Certification. All other ASRC members would have MRA Support membership.

Cons

- a. This might require some minor revisions in the ASRC Bylaws.
- b. What if some group wanted to join the Appalachian Region but couldn't stand the ASRC?

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- c. What if an ASRC Certified Group couldn't pass the MRA exam?
- d. What if a SAR Group that was not interested in wilderness search and rescue wanted to join the ASRC? (I.e. an urban SAR organization) The MRA charter limits members to wilderness search and rescue groups.

Pros

- a. This simplifies things as much as possible, making a 1:1 correspondence between ASRC and MRA at region, Group, and member levels.
- b. It establishes the ASRC in the leadership role in the MRA in the East, preventing someone else from supplanting us in this role.
- c. It confirms our role in wilderness search and rescue. The ASRC Articles of Incorporation state that our purposes are:
  - A. To provide wilderness search and rescue capability, and special technical rescue capability, within the Commonwealth of Virginia and other regions as necessary;
  - B. To conduct training programs in subjects related to wilderness search and rescue and special technical rescue;
  - C. To conduct training programs in subjects related to wilderness safety and survival;
  - D. To serve as a coordinating agency for related rescue and survival information, equipment, and resources; and
  - E. To conduct and carry out the work of the Corporation, not for profit, but exclusively for humanitarian, educational, and public service purposes.