

August 29, 1991

Dick Bethers
2942 Cardiff Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

Dear Dick:

I was very happy to talk with you and find that MRA is interested in maintaining a presence in the Appalachian Region. Many members of Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC) felt that they were members of MRA and had satisfied MRA standards. It is apparent that over the last five years since the last MRA certification of ASRC Group Teams, that ASRC's support of MRA has become confused and ASRC and MRA standards have also become muddled. The elimination of the need to join ASRC should expand the number of groups participating.

I have been asked to coordinate the formation of an Appalachian Region. I believe that the best way to do this is to return to the team concept of one group, one team, vice the former concept of one large team made up from many groups.

I realize the certification in the Appalachian Region may differ from that of a group in say, Colorado. We may not need to demonstrate proficiency with an ice axe, while we may need to demonstrate greater proficiency in urban search. I would hope that MRA certification would enhance the overall operation of the rescue groups in the Appalachian Region and in turn support MRA through dues and participation in MRA activities.

I will wait to hear from you before offering a formal formation of an MRA Region to the active rescue groups in the area. I will solicit interest and volunteers to get the ball rolling as soon as you are able to provide a picture of your needs from the Appalachian Region as well as an idea of what the standards and certification procedures might look like. I will attempt to formalize the region, within the existing bylaws and charters of the MRA. I expect that some may decline while others may be added. I also expect that some teams may come from Fire/Rescue Special Equipment and Tactics (SET) Teams.

I am very optimistic about the new future of MRA in the Region and look forward to working with you to achieve an Appalachian Region.

Sincerely Yours,

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cc: Keith Conover
Peter McCabe