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APPALACHIAN SEARCH!

Newsletter of

APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE
RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

published by:

SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN RESCUE GROUP

1718 N Street, NW

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 638-5306 (7-10 PM weekdays)

GROUP, Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference

SECTION, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club

MEMBER, Mountain Rescue Association

MEETINGS : Most ~~SMRG~~ activities are held at Potomac Appalachian Trail Club Headquarters (PATC HQ), 1718 N Street NW, Washington, DC (near the Dupont Circle Metro Station). Business meetings are the first Tuesday of the month, and training meetings, the third Tuesday.

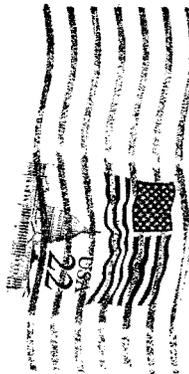
ASRC NEWSLETTER : Published on a bimonthly basis. Yearly subscriptions are \$5, payable by check made out to The Treasurer, SMRG, c/o the above PATC address. Articles or schedule items should be turned into the Editor, Paul Torrence (301)977-2102 (h).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION : in general about SMRG, or for information about membership, write to SMRG, c/o the above address, come to one of the business meetings or contact the Group Training Officer, Paul Torrence, at (301)977-2102 (h).

24-hr emergency number: (804)323-2300 (VA Dept. of Emergency services)

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group
1718 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Keith Conover
36 Robin Hood Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15220



Dear Member,

As I write you, I find it hard to believe that your new Board has only been in office five weeks; so much has happened that I think you should know about. The Medical Committee has been busy developing wilderness medical protocols and securing permission for up to 12 of our paramedics to operate as Shock Trauma providers. The Draft Prospectus for the Pennsylvania Center for Emergency Medicine/ASRC Wilderness Medical Program will be distributed at Response '87 in Orlando this week, and a pilot EMT-W course is scheduled for August. The Operations Committee has improved our Application and PDQ so that we may keep better information on our membership. Our VHF radio license has been renewed, and the Communications Committee is considering ways to expand our capabilities. We now have an operational preplan with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources and look forward to working for them in the future. With the new Bylaws unanimously approved, the Training Committee has proposed standards for Certified, Associate, and Trainee membership while also working hard to prepare a new Training Course for all members of the Conference. SWVMRG hosted an excellent Conference training session on vertical rescue this past weekend to prepare us for the upcoming MRA recertification in November.

I'm pleased to see so many good people working hard to improve our Conference. Although a complete listing would be impossible, I would like to identify as many as possible:

Kevin Coyne - Vice Chairman	Chris Ingle - Training Chairman
Brian Wheeler - Secretary	Bob Koester - Medical Chairman
Gary Mechtel - Treasurer	Jim Rooney - Operations Chairman
Marcia LeGrand - Director	Gene Harrison - Communications
Kevin Kit - Director	Tim Ross - Chief Financial Officer
Keith Conover, MD - Director	Kevin Parkes - Pa. SAR Co. Liaison
Michael S. Kuga, Jr. - Director	Al Rosen - MRA Liaison
Todd L'Herrou - Director	

Don't forget that there will be a General Membership Meeting June 6 during "SARFEST '87" at the Blackburn Trail Center. This will be an excellent opportunity for all of us to discuss a number of important issues, as well as have great fun at the festivities planned for the entire weekend. Your Groups will be receiving more information this week; please plan to attend! I look forward to seeing each of you in June, and working for you in the upcoming year.

Until then,



Greg Shea, Chairman

APPALACHIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE INCIDENT RESPONSES 1986.

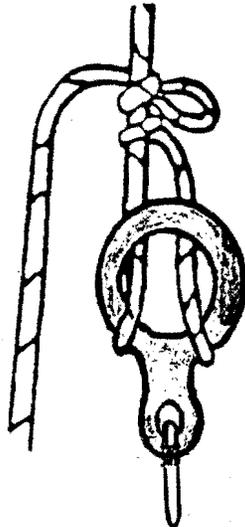
(COMPILED FROM SMRG RECORDS)

1. 15 January 1986 Lynchburg, VA. Alert for missing 30 yr old female. Subject found healthy.
2. 16 January 1986 Lynchburg, VA. Callout for missing 39 yr old female. Subject found healthy as overhead team was dispatched.
3. 20 January 1986 Empire Airport, VA Alert for downed aircraft. No additional response necessary as subjects walked away from downed plane and called in from local farm.
4. 14 February 1986. Farmville, VA Alert for overdue possible downed aircraft. No additional response necessary. Plane landed safely at Emporia Municipal Airport.
5. 28 February 1986. GWNF near Harrisonburg ASRC SAR Simulation/training became authentic incident when one searcher collapsed with hypoglycemia and required evacuation.
6. 14 March 1986. Albemarle City/Esmont City, VA Callout for missing 70 yr old male with Alzheimer's Disease. Subject found healthy.
7. 1 April 1986. Southern Shenandoah National Park, VA Alert for missing 14 yr old male Boy Scout separated from troop. Subject found healthy.
8. 20 April 1986 Charlottesville, VA Alert for missing 15 yr old male and 3 month old baby. Subjects found in good health.
9. 26 April 1986. Routes 7 and 601, VA. Appalachian Trail Alert for overdue scoutmaster and 2 scouts. All three subjects found healthy.
10. 15 June 1986. Sugar Loaf Mountain, MD Callout for missing 57 yr. old male. Subject found healthy.
11. 14 July 1986. Warrenton, VA. Callout for missing 90 yr old male. Subject found third day in need of medical attention and evacuation.
12. 14 July 1986. Front Royal, VA Callout for missing 80 yr old female. Subject found deceased.
13. 21 July 1986. Lunenburg City, VA Alert for missing 55 yr old male. Subject found healthy.
14. 2 August 1986. Southern Shenandoah National Park, VA Alert for missing 14 yr old female hiker.
15. 12 August 1986. Albemarle City, VA. Alert and callout for 2 missing 19 yr old females. Subjects found healthy.
16. 18 August 1986. New Kent City, VA Alert and callout for missing 15 yr old male. Subject found healthy.
17. 22 August 1986. Appalachian Trail, Grayson County, Va. Alert and callout for missing 72 yr male hiker. Subject found in need of medical attention.
18. 22 August 1986 Grayson County, VA Alert and callout for missing 84 yr old male. Subject found healthy.
19. 28 August 1986. Stafford County, VA Alert and callout for missing 76 yr old male, possible Alzheimers Disease. Subject found on 2nd day in need of medical attention.
20. 2 September 1986 Central Section, SNP Alert and callout for three missing 19 yr old male hikers. Subjects located in good health.
21. 4 September 1986. Beaver County, PA Alert for missing 7 yr old male. Subject found healthy.
22. 27 September 1986. Southern Section Shenandoah National Park, VA Alert and callout for a missing 70 yr old male. Subject found in good health.
23. 30 October 1986, Albemarle City, VA. Alert and callout for a missing 46 yr old female. Subject found healthy.
24. 31 October 1986. Charlottesville, VA area Alert for possible downed aircraft. Determined to be possible prank.
25. 9 November 1986. Prince George County, VA Alert and callout for missing 60 yr old male. Subject found in good health.
26. 18 November 1986. Loudon County, VA Alert for missing 35 yr old hunter. Subject found healthy.
27. 20 November 1986. Sterling, VA Alert and callout for missing male hunter. Subject found deceased (suicide).
28. 22 November 1986. Rockingham County, VA Alert and callout for overdue 17 year old male hunter. Subject found healthy.
29. 4 December 1986. King Williams County, VA. Alert and callout for missing 78 yr old male hunter. Subject found deceased.

Contributed by Paul F. Torrence

LOCKING OFF YOUR FIGURE "8"
Submitted by: Art Dodds, Jr.

Most people that use Figure "8"s never have a need to lock off, except those people that might use it during a rescue, when the proper equipment is not available. I have seen many people trying to lock off the "8" in the same way as other rappel devices. The problem with the method shown below is that the friction is reduced during the lock off process, making it very difficult. Loss of vertical position, possible injury to control hand as the knot jams in the the "8", loss of control and shock loading of the anchors when returning to rappel are common results of this method.

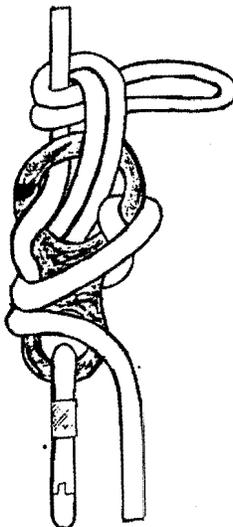


This method is not well documented but provides the following advantages: Vertical position can be maintained during locking and unlocking, The amount of strength needed to lock or unlock is greatly reduced, and you can restart your rappel, smoothly, without shock loading the anchors. It is most usefull on single rope techniques but the same method can be used on double ropes, except that the rope does not go through the hole in the Figure "8".

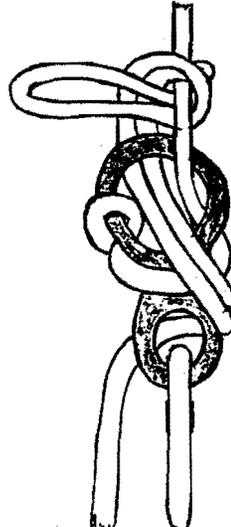
The control hand continues and compounds the turn in the rope as it exits the "8" by bringing it around the shank of the "8" and increases the friction. The free hand takes the loop and follows the path in the diagram. You should find this method easier and more positive to use.

As with any vertical techniques, you should ensure that you have a belay.

SIDE 1



SIDE 2



NOTICE: Change in Newsletter Editor

Commencing with this issue of the ASRC Newsletter, Appalachian Search, all editing, printing and distribution will be handled by the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group. All further newsletter contributions, change of address notices, dues payments, etc. should be directed to:

Editor
Appalachian Search
P.O. Box 440
Newcomb Station
Charlottesville, VA 22904

The outgoing editor wishes his successors the best of luck!

IMPORTANT: All SMRG members please take notice. Due to some recent problems, the executive committee, with the concurrence of the OPS and Training Officers have decided that all SAR equipment belonging to the cache must be returned to the cache with 24 hours of the conclusion of an incident. Whoever checked out the equipment must inform the incident commander/response coordinator of its disposition at all times. Conversely the incident commander/response coordinator must make it his business to know where the equipment is located and who has current custody.

Critical EMS Business. Please send a copy of your current EMS certification and CPR card to your training officer ASAP. This is needed for registration of our EMS personnel with the state of VA.

One of SMRG's Dispatch Officers, Mrs. Pearl Dodds, has been confined to the hospital for the past two weeks or so with a serious illness. While she should be returning home soon, a letter or call occassionally from SMRG personnel may be a source of some cheer. Her address is in the callout roster and can be obtained from any of SMRG's officers.

Incidentally, SMRG's new officers elected in March are

Kip Hamilton, Chairperson
Pat Hughes, Vice-chairperson
Peggy Rosen, Treasurer
Stu Carpenter, Corresponding Secretary
Al Rosen, Recording Secretary
Art Dodds, Operations Officer
Paul Torrence, Training Officer
Al Rosen, Deputy Training Officer
Gary Mechtel and
Greg Shea, ASRC Representatives
John Birch, VA SAR Council Representative

Regional News.

Gary Mechtel

Both the Virginia SAR Council and the Pennsylvania SAR Council met recently. In Virginia, the majority of the time was spent discussing Council Awards, State SAR Resource recognition requirements, the Council Logo, PSAR radio spots for public service announcements, and a draft revision of the Council's preplan.

Walter Green presented a draft revision of the Council's preplan and labeled it as a SOP. He suggested that the information contained in the preplan truly reflects a Standard Operating Procedure rather than a preplan. A SOP is a series of "shall do" statements, whereas a preplan is a higher level description of various possible reactions to certain stimulæ. For example, an ASRC SOP is that all groups shall be notified whenever the conference is involved in a SAR incident. Whereas the ASRC's draft agreement with the Hams is a preplan since it describes how the two agencies may work together at an incident.

A series of candidate logos were presented to the Council, compliments of DES (Ralph Wilfong and Carole Keiter). Some suggestions were returned to Carole for further work. Phil Audibert presented his 60 second radio spots for PSAR. He had four versions, where each one was accompanied by appropriate music and addressed a different subject category: children, elderly, hunters, and hikers. Phil's outstanding work was the highlight of the meeting. The council discussed developing yearly awards for outstanding SAR efforts in Virginia. The award was purposely given a broad definition so that any deserving contributions to SAR could be recognized. However the number of awards issued each year was limited (suggested number--one) so as to retain some meaning. This award will be open to any individual, field team, or organization.

The Council made some recommendations to DES concerning State Recognition of SAR resources. This included the following conditions for a team or an individual to be considered as a state resource: (1) demonstrate organizational viability by existing as a functional group for some minimal period of time and by submitting the necessary application paperwork, (2) establish internal training standards and a statement of the unit's mission, (3) demonstrate the unit's ability to meet the training standards and mission, and (4) demonstrate continued training by maintaining training records. As for individuals, it was suggested that individuals attempt to associate themselves with some established SAR organization in order to meet the above criteria.

At this meeting, VaEMS joined the Council. This is another important step in integerating SAR into Virginia's System of Emergency providers. The Ham radio networks have decided not to join the Council at this time. They are too involved with other tasks and cannot afford the time and energy to attend the Council's meetings. However, they are pursuing a pre-plan with the Council and its members. The DES diaster pre-plan is due for a major revision next year. The council will pursue a better definition of the role the volunteer teams could provide in the revised pre-plan. Finally, Walter Green of Explorer Post 88 will be moving to Alaska soon. During his short term on the Council, he has contributed to numerous efforts and his efforts will be missed.

In Pennsylvania, a number of events have occurred. First, the last Pennsylvania SAR Council meeting was very successful. The organizations are beginning to work with each other to achieve reasonable, common goals. Specifically, they are drafting a set of bylaws for their council, and working on a Council wide SAR preplan.

The council also had a "meet and greet" party the second weekend of May. This allowed the volunteer organizations an opportunity to learn about and work with each other. AMRG, Pennsylvania SAR Council, and NCRC sponsored the event. Twelve volunteer SAR teams attended the festivities which included demonstrations by the different teams and events for the family.

The ASRC (mainly AMRG) also hosted a training weekend at the McConnells Mills State park. This was attended by local fire-rescue personnel and a few rangers from McConnells Mill. This too was very successful, since 100 % of the attendees returned for the second day of class.