

APPALACHIAN ALERT

THE APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE

**BOX 440 NEWCOMB HALL STATION
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903-0440**

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A Publication of the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc.

Appalachian Alert collates information submitted by Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc. (ASRC) teams, develops and presents information of interest to the wilderness search and rescue community in the mid-Atlantic region, and reports activities of ASRC board of directors meetings, its committees, ASRC group and training events, and related business. The bulletin will be printed the third week of every month. Information should be received by the Editor -- at his address shown below -- the first week of every month.

If individuals or ASRC groups wish to report SAR related research or present opinion pieces, Appalachian Alert may be the forum for that presentation. Appalachian Alert is mailed to colleagues and programs in other states and regions involved in lost person SAR services and related emergency services.

JURASSIC SAR I

(Or, Did Dinosaurs Really Start the ASRC?)

The second installment of JURASSIC SAR I by Tyrannosaurus Colorcodus will hopefully be in the next issue. For those who did not read the first installment, the story began in ancient times -- about six hundred and thirty million seconds ago (or 20 years) traced the origins of the ASRC back to its roots. Be patient dear readers for it is difficult to inscribe history on stone tablets.

ERRATA

There were several errors in the inaugural August 1993 issue. Sorry.

..the ZIP code for the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group in Charlottesville, Virginia is 22904-0440.

..The correct name of Virginia Tech is, of course, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

RESULTS FROM AUGUST BOARD MEETING

Information from the August 28 ASRC Board meeting has not been received on 9-23. Therefore, news regarding ASRC Board of Directions actions will be reported in the October issue.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

My hope is that individual ASRC groups are making copies of Appalachian Alert and handing them out. In TSAR, we attach a copy to our monthly newsletter.

There is a lot going on in the ASRC on the Board of Directors level. As an individual member your awareness of the various efforts helps you to better tell your delegate what you want done.

Search and Rescue Training Associates, Inc. (SARTA) proposed to the ASRC Board of Directors at their August meeting that the Board adopt the SARTA training materials as the ASRC training materials. The rationale was, and is, based on the fact that after over 15 years ASRC has not been able to produce standardized training materials for each group and individual to use. SARTA has produced such materials and taught over a thousand individuals in Virginia (including many ASRC members) the basic skills outlined in the materials.

Two major concerns surfaced during the August Board of Directors meeting. One concern had to do with what was being shown in the manuals was not necessarily the "ASRC way," and secondly, ASRC might want to modify or change things for internal reasons.

John Punches, ASRC Training Officer, was appointed to head a committee to make a counter proposal to SARTA regarding the materials and to raise the two issues mentioned in that proposal.

Many of you are aware that I am also the President of SARTA. Thus, I am keeping my personal and business comments regarding the proposals and counter proposals to a minimum. But, I will say that ASRC has not been able, for a whole lot of reasons, to produce standardized training materials, so that the "ASRC way" is -- in fact -- taught. (Does that mean the way BRMG does it, or the way TSAR, SWVMRG or ESAR 616 does it?.) SARTA has. The SARTA training materials are those used by the Virginia Department of Emergency Services in its program. Perhaps, we should adopt these materials so in fact we do have an "ASRC way." Hummmm?

ASRC GROUP TRAINING SIMULATIONS

Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group: Forty people attended the September 10-12 training and search/rescue simulation in Roanoke. Participants at the SWVMRG program included representatives from Botetourt Rescue, Triangle Rescue, and units of the Virginia Civil Air Patrol. Training focused on land navigation, patient packaging, litter handling and semi-tech evacuation procedures. In addition, a downed aircraft search simulation with multiple subjects was conducted in steep and vertical terrain and heavy underbrush. The simulation developed into a real-time situation when one of the participants slid and dropped over a ledge.

Richmond Search & Rescue Group: The October 9-10, 1993 search simulation and training weekend at Powhatan Wild Life Refuge at Powhatan, VA has been POSTPONED until Spring 1994. Questions may be directed to Kevin Dawe at (804) 750-1623 or Bill Fisher at (804) 748-6214.

Maryland Search & Rescue Group: November 20-21, 1993. Training and search/rescue simulation scheduled at Sugarloaf Mountain reservation in

Frederick County, Maryland. Coordinated training sessions will be conducted Saturday night with Maryland State Police aviation units on air/ground operations in night operations using Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) techniques. Daytime training on Saturday and Sunday will focus on search strategies and semi-tech evacuation procedures. Call M/SAR GTO Gary Schlueter at (410) 880-3004 for info.

PENNSYLVANIA GROUND SAR RESOURCES

The Pennsylvania Search & Rescue Council represents 20 search and rescue programs in the Commonwealth. Responsible Authorities may obtain information on PSARC resources 24 hours a day by calling the Pennsylvania Center for Emergency Medicine STATCOM Dispatch in Pittsburgh. This is not a dispatching service. In Pennsylvania the number for STATCOM Dispatch is (800) 633-7828, while callers from other states should call (412) 647-7828. Responsible Authorities may also obtain resource information on Pennsylvania SAR units from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Operations Center by calling (800) 424-7362, or (717) 783-8150 from other states.

The address for the Pennsylvania Search & Rescue Council is P O Box 504, Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501.

Editor's Note: Occasionally, will report base line information regarding other lost person SAR organizations and programs.

UPCOMING ASRC BOARD MEETINGS

October 23, 93 February 26, 94
December 18, 93 April 23, 94 (Annual Meeting)

Suggestions for a weekend retreat for the ASRC Board of Directors during October 23-24 remain undeveloped. Meetings through April 1994 are scheduled to be held in Charlottesville, Virginia adjacent to the ASRC dispatch office.

SEARCH OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT COURSE PLANNED IN MARYLAND

The Maryland Search & Rescue Group (M/SAR) will conduct a 40 hour MSO course on two weekends: January 14-16 and January 28-30, 1994. The course will be coordinated through the Disaster Services program of the American Red Cross in Columbia, Maryland. Further information on registration, fees, and housing will be available in the October issue of Appalachian Alert.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM MARYLAND

PVRG is now on the ASRC wide area pager network. Their assigned PIN is 091

M/SAR is in preliminary discussions with the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems regarding the administrative process necessary for the ASRC to become recognized as a jurisdiction providing basic life support off-road EMS services.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Wing, Civil Air Patrol is entering into a Memorandum of Understanding agreement with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management

Agency (PEMA). This will transfer CAP responsibility in Pennsylvania from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to PEMA. The CAP has earlier announced that it is adopting the ground SAR standards of the PSARC.

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