

APPALACHIAN ALERT

THE APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE

BOX 440

NEWCOMB HALL STATION

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22904-0440

JUNE 1994

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

Appalachian Alert collates information submitted by Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference, Inc. (ASRC) teams, and presents information of interest to the wilderness search and rescue community in the mid-Atlantic region, and activities of the ASRC board of directors, its committees, ASRC group and training events, and related business. 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.

What did we learn? I can only speak from my personal experience and the special moments I spent with her friends and family on Saturday, May 8th.

It is possible for us to be calm, rational, loving and caring of others in the middle of the most frustrating, tiring, wet, nasty mission we have ever been on.

It is possible for us to reach a calm, caring center in the middle of disagreements at Board of Director meetings as we try to solve the often knotty problems of running this organization.

It is possible to empower others through our truly listening to what they say, even when we do not agree with their point of view.

Each mission we are on is important in its own right and deserves our best. This mission we are on may not be the mission where we save the life of a young child by snatching them from the jaws of death. It could be a mission for a 79 year old patient and the problems and complexities we encounter doing the mission will in fact prepare us for that child's mission when it comes.

I will miss Lisa, but she is still teaching me.

ASRC JUNE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

On Saturday, June 26, the June ASRC Board meeting will be held at the University of Virginia with the meeting place posted on the door at the locker for the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group. The meeting begins at 1000 hours.

ASRC RADIO LICENSE

The Federal Communications Commission has granted the ASRC a radio license for tactical frequencies for use during training and search & rescue operations. A copy of the FCC license and further information will be given to ASRC teams during the June 26 Board meeting.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES

TSAR is hosting a vertical rescue simulation at Seneca Rocks, West Virginia during September 10-11. Contact TSAR for further information.

Virginia DES is holding a SAR 1SR Responder training in Virginia Beach during September 17-18. And, Virginia DES has scheduled a GSAR Institute in Roanoke during November 18-20, and December 9-11. Contact VA/DES for further information.

In Memoriam

LISA KERN HANNON

January 11, 1970 - May 3, 1994

Incident Commander
Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference

Member - Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group

Died on active duty during the Kirby, West Virginia
Lost Child Search

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Lisa's gone. This is a very hurting thing for me to say. She is the first we have lost in all the missions in all the years and miles and tasks and strange locations.

Lisa was a very special person. That is not said because she died as a result of a search, or because I want to glorify her memory. She simply was a very special person.

Her memory is important to me and to many others. And, I know from the losses I have felt in my life that the pain will ease with the passage of years. But, we cannot let what she represented and what she did ease. It is up to each of us in our own way and time and in or each group and the corporation of ASRC to learn from this tragedy.

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Four ASRC teams have Internet capabilities through one or more of their members -- AMRG, BRMRG, M/SAR, and SMRG. Are there others out there in Cyberland?

If you have a computer address, please send me a message on INTERNET at peter_mccabe@ed.gov. I will collect this information and make it available for all to use. Using this technology, we can begin to pass a great deal of information back and forth between groups.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM MARYLAND

PVRG has been given a utility truck by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute for use as a response vehicle. The truck, with Maryland State registration, will be kept at the College Park Fire Department.

M/SAR is planning to undertake a 2 year development program grant with the District of Columbia for involving youth in emergency services. The grant will involve training coordination with three District departments; Police, Fire and Ambulance, and Emergency Preparedness.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is considering a recommendation from the Pennsylvania Search & Rescue Council Board that steps be taken immediately to involve PEMA in operations management of lost person and downed aircraft incidences in the Commonwealth.

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM VIRGINIA

The Virginia Search and Rescue Council will meet on Saturday, July 30, and again on October 29, at the Virginia Department of Emergency Services Training Center in Richmond.

APPALACHIAN SEARCH & RESCUE CONFERENCE, INC.

Chair (TSAR)	David Carter (804) 466-8094
Vice Chair (SMRG)	Gary Mechtel (410) 381-2593
Secretary (BRMRG)	Camile Birmingham (804) 979-7254
Treasurer (BRMRG)	Patrick Turner (804) 295-7901
Operations Officer (TSAR)	David Carter (804) 466-8094
Training Officer (SWVMRG)	John Punches (703) 552-6957
Medical Officer	vacant
Communications Secretary (SMRG)	Steve Houck (703) 257-7659

ASTM Representative John Punches
(SWVMRG) (703) 552-6957

Appalachian Alert Peter McCabe
Editor (301) 596-5554
11034 Berrypick Ln Columbia, Maryland 21044

ASRC GROUPS

Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG) (412) 869-3747
c/o Dept Emerg Medicine Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh
1400 Locust Street Pittsburgh PA 15219-5166
President Owen Gormley (412) 776-1081
Training Off Dave Knorr (412) 843-9484
Ops Off Mike Kuga (412) 869-2567

Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG) (804) 924-3472
PO Box 440 Newcomb Station C'ville VA 22904
President Jenn Avery (804) 295-4321
Training Off Allison Mabe (804) 977-9780
Ops Off Brian Laurey (804) 295-2108

Maryland Search & Rescue Group (M/SAR) (301) 596-5554
11034 Berrypick Columbia MD 21044
President Elizabeth Fort (410) 730-5203
Training Off Kurt Hornicek (410) 992-0709
Ops Off Teresa Barnes (410) 461-4596

Potomac Valley Rescue Group (PVRG) (301) 314-7444
Box 10 Stamp Union Bldg Univ Maryland
College Park MD 20742
President Michael Vatalaro (301) 314-3637
Training Off Meg Gralia (410) 730-2736
Ops Off Karen Vanderssall (301) 937-6621

Richmond Search & Rescue Group (RSAR) (804) 768-5555
P O Box 9025 Richmond VA 23225
President Kevin Dawe (804) 750-1623
Training Off Tony Felts (804) 271-7307
Ops Off Bill Fisher (804) 748-6214

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG) (703) 255-5034
118 Park St Vienna VA 22180
Chair Jenny Burmester (703) 978-7819
Training Off William Dixon (703) 524-1984
Ops Off Paul DeHaven (703) 354-2957

Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group (SWVMRG)
203 Progress St Blacksburg VA 24060 (703) 951-2914
President Dave Zader (703) 951-3161
Training Off John Punches (703) 552-6957
Ops Off Greg Sasonov (703) 232-1528

Tidewater Search & Rescue Group (TSAR) (804) 466-8094
803 Townsend Ct Norfolk VA 23502
President David Carter (804) 466-8094
Training Off Earle Evans (804) 693-4391
Ops Off Ruth Carter (804) 466-8094