Conference Elects Leadership And Plans Board Retreat

Mission Statement
To save lives, the Appalachian Search & Rescue Conference provides accredited professional volunteer services in incident command management and ground search and rescue operations to government agencies in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States.

Appalachian Alert
provides inter-team communication and information of interest to the wilderness SAR community in the mid-Atlantic states, actions of the ASRC Board of Directors and its committees, lists ASRC group training events and related business. Send news, including team leadership changes to Peter McCabe at the address below, or email to: pcmccabe@msn.com

Future ASRC Board Meetings:
June 29 & 30 Board meeting and retreat at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach
August 24
October 26
December 14

Conference Leadership Team

Elected
During the ASRC Meeting on April 28, the following individuals were elected or appointed to serve one year terms in the Conference:

Chair: David Carter
Tidewater SAR Group

Vice Chair: William Dixon
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group

Secretary: Terri Midgett
Richmond SAR Group

Treasurer: Charlotte Menk
Blue Water Mountain Rescue Group

Appointed Officers
Communications: Steve Houck
Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Medical Officer: Robert Christie
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group

Operations Officer: Gary Mechtel
Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group

Safety Officers: William Dixon
Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group

Karen Vandersall
Potomac Valley Rescue Group

Training Officer: Peter McCabe
Maryland SAR Group

Certification Status Report
At the April Board meeting, certification reviews of Incident Staff and Incident Command persons were completed. Mark Pennington (Tidewater SAR Group) and Greg Shea (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group) were recertified in Incident Command for two-year terms. Deming Herbert was defaulted to Incident Staff with a note to the record that on return to the United States from the Peace Corps she will be able to provide her records to the Board to recertify as Incident Command. The status of James Poole (Tidewater SAR Group) as Incident Staff was tabled until the June meeting, pending his submission of mission records.

Certification Status for two-year certifications were: Camille Birmingham (Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group), Todd L’Herrou (Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group) and Peter McCabe (Maryland Search & Rescue Group).

Approved by the Board for Incident Staff status for two-year certifications were: Beth Pinkney Coyne, Kevin Coyne, Justin Green, Charlotte Menk, and Lauren Schiff from Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group; Teresa Drag and Karen Vandersall from Potomac Valley Rescue Group; and David Zader from Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group.

Board of Directors Retreat
The June ASRC Board of Directors meeting will be a two day retreat June 29-30 at Camp Pendleton in Building 203, Room 113 of the 203rd REDHORSE compound. Directions follow in another section of APP, Alert.

Rooms Friday or Saturday night are available on the base at $8/night. Contact Dave Carter, ASRC Chair at (804) 466-8094 between June 17-21 for reservations and details.

The meeting agenda is:

Saturday, June 29
0900 Start
0930-1 review of Vision Statement draft and Mission Statement
0930-2 Group Operations Officers meeting to validate ASRC Operations Manual, develop deadlines and appoint workers to complete Manual by August Board meeting
0930-3 Group Training Officers meeting to validate current training standards, and develop suggestions for ASRC wide training program
1030 Complete Mission Statement
1130 Start Vision development
1230 lunch
1400 Complete Vision development and develop goals and objectives
1800 Beach party

Sunday, June 30
0800 Decision process regarding which goals will be undertaken in 1996 with development of actions plans and work assignments to Groups/individuals
1300 Board of Directors meeting
1500 Adjourn

Trends in ASRC Operations
During the February and April Board meetings, Gary Mechtel, Operations Committee Chair reviewed statistics of ASRC missions in 1995. Of 33 missions in 1995, 26
were missing person, 4 were missing aircraft, and 3 other mission types. Several missions involved more than one person. 28 of the 33 missions occurred in Virginia, 2 in Pennsylvania, 2 in West Virginia, and 1 in Maryland. There were 26 Status-1 finds, 3 Status-2 finds, 9 Status-3 finds and recoveries, and 2 missions were suspended. (Note: # of subject > # incidents.)

Eighteen incidents were analyzed regarding the time from initial (100 page) request for an ASRC Alert to a responsible agent to a decision for an ASRC response and a series 33x system page to be broadcast. Of the 18 missions, 6 transitioned from a 100 page to a 33x series call-out within 30 minutes, while 7 took more then 40 minutes to transition to a 33x series call-out. In a related analysis, of 27 cases reviewed, only 2 incidents lasted more then 24 hours, 4 incidents lasted more than 1 shift but less then 2 complete shifts, and 21 incidents lasted less then 1 shift. Of these 21 incidents, 3 lasted more then 5 hours, 7 lasted less than 2 hours, 3 lasted between 2-3 hours, 5 lasted between 3-4 hours and 2 lasted between 4-5 hours.

This information has significant impact on ASRC operations as well as individual ASRC group operations and activities. As additional data is reviewed and presented, consideration of group initial (getting on the road) response time becomes decisive as does travel time to the incident, and initial set-up to launch initial field tasks.

**Directions to June Board Meeting**

Take I-66 thru Hampton, over the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, into and thru Norfolk, and on into Virginia Beach. Proceed from I-66 onto Route 44 (Virginia Beach - Norfolk Expressway) to Bird Neck Road exit. Turn right onto Bird Neck Road until General Booth Blvd. Take General Booth Blvd and proceed to main entrance to Camp Pendleton. Ask guard at main gate for directions to Building 203. Meeting is in Room 113.

**Regional News**

MARYLAND: The Maryland Association of Search and Rescue Organizations (MASARO) is meeting monthly to work through completion of Bylaws and incorporation. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13.

PENNSYLVANIA: The Pennsylvania Search & Rescue Council has proposed a Memorandum of Agreement preplan to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to facilitate coordination of lost person SAR activities in keeping with the provisions of Annex V (search and rescue services) in the Pennsylvania Emergency Operations Plan.

VIRGINIA: Bob Koester - a member of the Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group, ASRC Board Member, and President of the Virginia SAR Council - presented a paper at the May NASAR Conference in Denver on additional research findings regarding persons with Alzheimer’s Disease who wander away from their surroundings and become lost. This research will be reviewed in a future issue of APP Alert.