Major Decisions Reached at October Board Meeting

October ASRC Board Meeting

☐ The ASRC Board approved development of an ASRC affiliated group as a pilot program for established ground SAR groups that wish to become affiliated with the ASRC in adopting ASRC training standards and, when working with the ASRC, ASRC operational protocols, but who wish to retain their own existing identity and service in their regional services area. ASRC affiliated groups while retaining their existing relationships in the region they serve, would be fully capable of becoming operational ASRC units in ASRC operations.

ASRC affiliated group training standards would need to meet or exceed current ASRC training standards for COQ, FTM, and FIT levels. Review is being made regarding what equipment and communication equipment would be required for ASRC affiliated groups. When operating as an ASRC affiliate group with other ASRC certified groups, affiliate groups would need to conform to all existing ASRC operational protocols. ASRC Affiliate Groups would decide for themselves what their uniform requirements are. ASRC Affiliate Group members would be able to wear an ASRC-provided 2" ASRC patch over their left shirt pocket (similar to the Virginia Commonwealth patch and MRA patch). A subgroup of the Conference Operations Committee will be developing the details for this pilot program during the next two months for presentation at the February 1998 ASRC Board meeting.

☐ 36-month ASRC group recertifications should be completed in November and December 1997 for all ASRC certified groups. Groups not recertified by the next Board meeting will be stepped down by default at that meeting to a certified associate group status. The ASRC Operations Committee is conducting the 36-month reviews.

☐ The Board approved development of an ASRC identification card. Arrangements are being made by the ASRC Operations Committee to use portable equipment to make white plastic ID cards with the full color ASRC logo and an individual's picture embossed directly on to the card. Cards will be issued for a period of two years, and will contain the member's date of birth. Each card would cost approximately $3.00. Members will have to be present when the cards are made because pictures must be taken when the card is made. Name, date of birth and expiration date are keyed directly into the unit as the person's picture is taken. The card is produced on the spot. A schedule of dates for each ASRC group will be circulated to groups in the near future.

☐ The ASRC Board approved air scent dog and handler training standards. These standards will be distributed to all Groups by the ASRC Training Committee, and will be included in the update the ASRC Standards document which should be published in the near future. The standards are adopted from existing standards issued by the Virginia Department of Emergency Services. A subgroup of the Training Committee will work to review and recommend changes to the standards.
The ASRC Board approved an increase in membership dues from $1.00 a year per member, to $5.00 a year per member. The change will take effect with dues paid by members and/or groups for calendar 1998.

Operations Committee
Activities
During the October ASRC Board meeting, a 5-year operations plan was developed. Below is a summary of the Plan:

GOAL ONE
Improve and maintain current ASRC policies and procedures for routine operations and to facilitate opportunities for growth in the Conference.

Objective 1: Complete 36-month Group recertification programs for all ASRC Groups (December 1997)

GOAL TWO
Objective 1: Complete first phase of resting and sleep research and make results known by December 1997.
Objective 2: Develop/revise Conference Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) by revising MOU with Pennsylvania DCNR by December 1997; revise MOU with Maryland State Police by February 1998; develop MOU with New Jersey State Police by September 1998; and develop MOU with West Virginia Department of Emergency Services by October 1998; and establish relationships by April 1999 with authorities in North Carolina, Delaware, and by April 2000 with authorities in New York regarding mutual aid services in lost person ground SAR activities.

Regional News
MARYLAND: ☑ The Maryland Association of Search and Rescue Organizations (MASARO) has disbanded. Several Maryland ground SAR teams will attempt to coordinate joint training activities in 1998. ☑ Maryland Search & Rescue has a new WEB page at http://msar.homo.md.gov/3>

PENNSYLVANIA: ☑ The Pennsylvania Search & Rescue Council (PSARC) has proposed a major restructuring of the Council to provide for five membership categories. One of the categories will provide an operational status membership category. A decision on Council restructuring will occur in January 1998 in a Councilwide ballot. ASRC training certifications for COQ, FTM, and FTL would be accepted by the PSARC. ☑ Pennsylvania DCNR is considering an update to its existing MOU with the ASRC.

VIRGINIA: ☑ At the September ASRC Board meeting, the officers of the Richmond Search & Rescue Group resigned from the ASRC. A number of former RSAR members have joined Tidewater Search & Rescue and are in the process of forming a new ground search and rescue group to become an ASRC group serving the Richmond region.

WEST VIRGINIA: Mountaineer Area Search & Rescue Group (MARG), based in Morgantown, West Virginia, has become an affiliate member of the ASRC. MARG is working toward full ASRC accreditation.

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