AMRG March 4th Business Meeting Minutes

The meeting convened at 16:30 with Ken Chiacchia presiding.

1. Chair Report / General Announcements
   a. A draft budget for 2008, and other financial information was handed out. Members were encouraged to read the material in preparation for a budget vote in April.
   b. We need ideas for fund raising activities.
   c. Andy asked if the current dues of $35 is no longer sufficient to cover group membership fees. Ken explained that ASRC dues will be increasing and that dues outgo is beginning to outpace income.
   d. PSARC’s political problems were mentioned. Without getting into specifics, it was explained that PSARC difficulties are having no serious effect on AMRG at this point.

2. a. There were no callouts in February.
   b. PSARC status / roster: Our paperwork has been submitted. We are in compliance regarding the number of members ranking FTM or higher. We are not yet in compliance with NIMS certifications.
   c. The trailer is ready. Until a more permanent storage venue can be decided upon, Andy will keep the trailer at his house.
   d. The ANRG/ASRC jacket proposal has been tabled for now as no one has volunteered to coordinate the project.
   e. The cave rescue proposal has been elevated to the planning stage.
   f. Web Upgrade: Our new web provider did not work out. An alternative provider will be found in a month.
   g. The Board of Directors will address fundraising projects.

3. Recap of Board Meeting
   There was no meeting, but the proposed schedule of future meetings is:
   Monday, April 7th, 2008 – New board elects officers, approves 2008 budget. Discusses fund raising.
   Monday, June 30 – Board approves supplemental/updated 2008 budget.
   Monday, Sept. 29 – Board approves 2009 budget.
   Monday, Dec. 29 – Main agenda items TBA

4. News From External Organizations
   a. 501(c)(3) status: All forms have been submitted. We are waiting for a reply.
   b. ASRC meeting April 12 (BoD and general membership) to be held in West Virginia. Email Dale if you intend to go.
   c. PSARC meeting May 3 (during SAREX)
   d. NCRC update: DCNR & NCRC are altering gates at local caves to allow SKEDS to pass through.
   e. MRA update: Chris showed a video produced by MRA. Chris will burn copies for those who request a copy.

5. Training Report:
   a. Previous trainings debrief –
      1. MRA winter training: 4 teams participated. Had snow for a change. Added ice climbing this time.
      2. March 16th night training encountered problems
   b. Upcoming training opportunities:
      1. March 8,9 & 15 ICS-300, Alleg. Co. EMA
      3. March 19 HAZMAT awareness, Alleg. Co. EMA
      4. March 22 AMRG field training, crime scene & clue awareness, Raccoon Creek State Park, time TBA.
5. April 25-27 VaSARCo state conference.
6. April 26 & 27 ICS-400, Alleg, Co. EMA
7. May 1-4 Pa. SAR-EX – we will have activities for AMRG members!
8. June 15 – Advanced Grid Team (DCNR curriculum) class, Fayette Co. (registration required)

c. Dog training update: Roaring Run training was tough, but went well.

6. Member Business

a. Dues & release form collection continue.
b. FTM/L checklists: Bring checklists to trainings so that they can be checked off. Current FTLs are encouraged to bring a checklist and begin recert.
c. Election of AMRG Officers:
   1. Commander – Bill nominated Dale Lersch. Scott seconded Dale’s nomination. Dale was elected unanimously.
   2. Operations Officer – Dale nominated Chris Ruch. Scott seconded Chris’ nomination. Chris was elected unanimously.
   3. Training Officer – Dan Becky nominated Bill Evans. Scott seconded Bill’s nomination. Bill was elected. The only negative vote came from Bill.
   4. Board member #1 (3-year term) – Dale nominated Bru Randall. Chris seconded Bru’s nomination. Bru was unanimously elected.
   5. Board member #2 (3-year term) – Chris nominated Don Scelza. Scott seconded Don’s nomination. Don was elected unanimously.

d. Membership Vote:
   Dale nominated Bard Kronket for membership. Chris seconded the nomination. Bard was unanimously accepted for membership.

e. Ken & Heather will be moving to a 26-acre farm in Harmony. Look for an announcement about a moving party sometime around the end of April.

The meeting adjourned at 19:31. A training on crime scene awareness followed.