

# ASRC Winter Retreat

January 2024

ASRC Past, Present, Future

## What is the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference?

The ASRC is an organization of volunteer search and rescue teams (Groups) that are aligned by the common goal of being the resource of choice that responsible authorities will turn to when they need to locate a missing person quickly. Our Groups exhibit outstanding professional qualities, share our simple core values, and possess a strong commitment to locating the lost person.

## What is the Winter Retreat?

The Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC) sponsors an annual Winter Retreat with the goal of bringing together members from each Group to share their knowledge and experience in Search and Rescue. Typically, this happens through formal presentations by invited speakers and by side conversations. It is a weekend of fellowship between ASRC Groups and gives a forum for information exchange. Another important purpose of the Winter Retreat is for Groups to come together to discuss the direction of ASRC.

## Who can attend and do I have to register?

The Winter Retreat is open to all members of our Groups. This is one of the benefits of membership in the ASRC. To coordinate our planning efforts, we do ask that you complete a [brief registration form available at our website](#).

## What is this year's theme of the Winter Retreat?

The theme this year is *ASRC Past, Present, Future*. As the advancement of Search and Rescue evolves, we want to examine the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference's contributions and how to continue advancing search and rescue practices in the Mid-Atlantic region.

## Where is the Winter Retreat held?

Bears Den Lodge in Bluemont, Virginia. Bears Den is a PATC-operated property along the Appalachian Trail. We use the main room as our meeting space and there is a full kitchen, dining room, bunk rooms, and toilet facilities. Lodging spaces are first come first serve. There is also plenty of camping exterior to the building.

The address is: [18393 Blueridge Mountain Road, Bluemont, Virginia 20135](#)

## Is food provided?

Yes. Traditionally the ASRC has coordinated food for the weekend making use of the kitchen facilities. We do ask for a small fee to help offset costs - typically \$25 - 40 per person for the weekend. Food allergies and preferences are recorded when you register.

## Saturday Social Hour: Wine Tasting Across the ASRC

If your team is interested in participating, please provide 3 Bottles of the [SAME](#) wine. Upon arrival give your group wine to either LuAnn Gatti or Kathy Lamb. We will be doing a blind taste testing to crown a Conference winner! NWPak9SAR is the current reigning champion!

## Day 1: Friday, January 12, 2024

17:00-ish Arrival

Bunks are first come, first served

Chat with your colleagues and visit the overlook

## Day 2: Saturday, January 13, 2024

08:00 Breakfast Service

09:00 Welcome: ASRC Chair Dan Brizuela

09:15 Evolution in ASRC Radio System and DMR in SAR Community:  
Carl Werntz and Gene Harrison

10:00 Sweep Width Experiment: Head, Belt, Boots – Update: Ken Chiacchia

10:30 Fireside ASRC Story Time: The history of the ASRC  
with Keith Conover and Gene Harrison

11:30 Wilderness EMS and Wilderness SAR: Samesies? Or No?: Lee Fuell

12:30 Lunch Services

14:00 Updates to Hypothermia: Keith Conover

14:30 Digital Sign-in and the Benefit vs Paper: Anne Russell

14:50 Relationship Issues: Using the Leadership Principles  
with the Essentials of SAR Textbook: Keith Conover

15:00 Battery Powered Rapidly Deployable SATCOM System: Gene Harrison

15:45 Frostbite: Keith Conover

16:00 The Future of the ASRC: Roundtable Discussion  
with Dan Brizuela and Keith Conover

17:00 Break and Networking

18:00 Pre-dinner Social Event: Wine Tasting within the ASRC Region

19:30 Dinner Service

## DAY 3: Sunday, January 14, 2024

9:00 Breakfast service

10:00 ASRC BOD Meeting