



Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group

www.amrg.info

September - October 2010

Upcoming Trainings

This month's field training is Canine Handler Assistance. This training will be done at the regular canine trainings. Members are asked to contact Heather Houlahan to confirm your attendance.

November's classroom training will be "Wilderness First Aid Principles." This class will be after the November business meeting on November 2nd.

There will be a review of FTM/FTL skills during the regular December class room and field trainings. These trainings serve as a make up for any training you may have missed during the year.

Note – There are canine trainings each week. Come out and help the team by hiding for a canine task or get extra practice with your navigation skills. Please contact Heather Houlahan for details on future canine trainings.

These trainings are open to any who are interested, unless noted, and are offered free of charge. Pre-registration is required, however, as space may be limited. Please contact AMRG Training Officer [Ken Chiacchia](#) register, or to get directions.

The AMRG calendar can be accessed at www.amrg.info/training-calendar.html. Please check for updates.

Upcoming Events

Wilderness First Aid Class November 20th and 21st

AMRG will be hosting a Wilderness First Aid Class on November 20th and 21st at the Middle Lancaster Community Center, Harmony, Pa. (in Butler County). This is a perfect class for either outdoors people who want to be prepared for what the woods can dish out or volunteer SAR responders looking for basic first-aid certification. This class fulfills the First Aid requirement for Field Team Member certification Cost is \$99 and you can register now at:

www.amrg.info/wilderness-first-aid.html

Call Outs September – October

Emlenton, PA - October 31st

The AMRG canine team assisted the PA State Police and Elkland SAR in an evidence search in Emlenton, PA on October 31. The remains of a man missing since February 2008 had been located earlier in the month. This was a follow-up to search for any additional evidence in the vicinity of subject's location.

Marion County, WV - October 11th

The AMRG was requested for search for an 82 year old male in Marion County, WV. The subject was located in good condition while AMRG personnel were in route.

Additional Activations and Alerts

AMRG was alerted and put on standby, but not activated for the following incidents:

- 9/15/2010 – Missing 11 year old in Mt. Lebanon.
- 10/4/2010 – Missing female in Beaver County.
- 10/11/2010- Callout for a 77 year old in Clarke County, Va.
- 10/12/2010- Missing 45 year old in Phillipi, WV.
- 10/31/2010 – Missing child in Edgewood, Allegheny County.

September and October Events

Sweep Width Experiment September 11th at State Game lands 203, Allegheny County.

AMRG's third effective Sweep Width Experiment (SWE) was held on September 11th. Twenty-two volunteers participated, including the Director of the National Inland SAR School, Lt. Colonel William Clark (USAF) and his deputy. Data from this study will be used to improve how searchers are managed in this area and will provide input to an ongoing national study. A newspaper story on the topic is available at:

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_699475.html

Pittsburgh Police-Fire-Rescue-EMS Expo, October 2-3

AMRG had an outreach both at the Expo held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. We also held a workshop reviewing case studies of several major searchers AMRG has helped coordinate in the area. A special thanks to Kelly Simon Trade Shows for providing the opportunity for us to participate in this event.

New York State COMFed Conference, October 2-3

The AMRG canine team traveled to the New York State COMFed SAR Conference. AMRG's Ken Chiacchia taught two classes at this conference.

Oil Creek Ultra-Marathon, October 16-17

For the second year in a row, AMRG provided medical stand-by for the Oil Creek Ultra-Marathon 100 mile race on October 15-17. AMRG provided medical care to a number of racers in our aid station, as well as responding to several on race course situations and medical events at other aid stations.

DCNR FTM/FTL Testing

DCNR Evaluator and AMRG member, Don Scelza, conducted two Pennsylvania DCNR FTM/FTL testing sessions during the month of October. The first on October 9th near Erie, Pa and the second on October 30th at White Oak Park, Allegheny County.

Special Thanks

We would like to thank the Ruch family for their donation of two hundred dollars.

Members in the News

Pete Roolf has accepted a one year position as a medic in Kuwait. Thanks to Pete for his years of service as Operations Officer and Medical Officer. Good luck in your overseas adventures.

Congratulations to Ben McCandless on achieving his DCNR Field Team Leader certification at the October 30th testing.

Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group

Commander: Chris Ruch
Executive Director: Don Scelza
Operations Officer: Joe Ray
Training Officer: Ken Chiacchia
Canine Training Officer: Heather Houlahan
ASRC Delegates- Ken Chiacchia, Rebecca Hostetter
PSARC Delegates- Maria O'Brien and John Kihl
MRA Delegate- Chris Ruch

c/o Department of Emergency Medicine
UPMC Mercy
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-5166
Non-emergency calls: 1-888-333-4282
Emergency callouts by public agencies only: 1-800-MED-STAT
Allegheny County only- 911