

VA Search and Rescue Council

Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2007

Meeting Convened 1043 hours

Attendees:

Black Diamond; CSAR; GARD; Halifax Heriff's Department; K-9 Alert; PSAR; SARTI; TSAR; and VSRDA

Group Reports:

- Reports submitted by hand or electronically to Secretary by Black Diamond SAR; Blue & Gray Search Dogs; CSAR; DOGS-East; Greater Atlantic Rescue Dogs; Piedmont Search & Rescue; RASAR; Sarti; TSAR; and VSRDA

Officer Reports:

- President – No report/NA
- Vice-President – No report/NA-recovering from Lyme disease
- Secretary – No report
- Treasurer (Sharon Jones) \$1,269.71 in account
 - Dues for some groups have not been paid for two years. Bills to be sent to active members
 - Allegheny Mountain Rescue – drop membership
 - Appalachian Search & Rescue/ASRC
 - Baywood Search and Rescue – drop from roster
 - Blue & Gray
 - Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue/ASRC
 - Civil Air Patrol
 - First Response K-9 Task Force – drop from roster/gone
 - Franklin County SAR
 - Harrisonburg Rescue – drop from roster/gone
 - Intermont SAR – under Black Diamond –not a member yet
 - Maryland SAR/ASRC
 - Mountaineer Area Rescue Group/ASRC
 - National Cave Rescue Mission
 - NC SAR – drop from roster/not a member
 - ODSAR
 - SWSMRG
 - TOVSAR
 - Trail SAR – drop from roster
 - Triangle SAR – drop from roster after sending a letter of intent
 - Need an update on who owes monies to Bob Koester to reimburse him for conference expenses. He will need to personally follow-up.

Committee Reports:

- IS – no report/Approved/submitted in processing awaiting finalization
- FTS – new standards accepted and in effect
- Equine Standards – Marc needs final copy for posting. Has letter of recommendation from Bob Koester
- Cadaver – No report
- K-9 First Responder – Marc will check status. Should've been approved.
- Water standards – no report
- Communications – Bob Wingfield has asked to be included on this committee. Tomí Finkle, Roy Wheeler, Jim Leonard, Tracy Valentin, Sharon Jones, and Rick Christ. Bob W raised question about what VDEM will be doing about FCC mandated migration to narrow band radio communications. Each member group should send a listing of radios that are narrow band compatible as well as

number of radios in use, including base stations, handhelds, and portable. Send information to Marc with copy to secretary.

- Wilderness Rescue Technician – final standards sent to be posted on web for vetting process. Decision made to leave them up another 30 days.
- Full SAR Exercise – no report. Members are Rick Christ (Chair), Steve Weiss, Tomí Finkle, Dave Carter, Bob Wingfield, Don Smith, Roy Wheeler
- Conference – Roy Hutchinson (chair). Working on flyers for conference. Lining up presenters. ARES coming to share radio capabilities; radio use; management coordination of CAP resources; Bob Koester and Marc will be presenting; hidden dangers of clandestine meth labs with state police; Project Lifesaver; K-9 First Aid;
 - Committee members are Nate (TSAR);
 - Conference dates 4/25-27/08. To be held at Holiday Lakes 4-H Center. Check in Friday evening
 - Looking at how to coordinate registration for conference. Roy will offer a post office box and coordinate getting fees to Treasurer.
 - Base price to come is \$150 including lodging , meals and conference sessions. 10% discount to committee members and early bird registration; 20% discount to presenters.
 - No table fee for vendors; however requesting a donation for door prizes and responsibility of paying for meals and lodging
 - Every team gets a table to showcase their team capabilities
 - Looking at potential keynote speakers

Old Business:

- Status of standardized ID cards – Marc has made no new progress. Equipment doesn't work and there are no funds to purchase new equipment. Suggestions made on ways to address problem including using OEMS councils.
- Bob Wingfield announced that Heather and John Haudenshield are not members of CSAR. They have been dismissed and are not eligible to rejoin.
- Problems getting to searches. Arriving at base and no one there. Call point of contact directly to verify where base is actually located. If phone service not available, call local authorities. Make sure VDEM is notified when base has moved and request information be sent out to responding teams.
- Search in Pittsylvania County called out CAP, but no local groups were paged out. Calls are coming into VDEM, but not using local resources. Problem is in dispatch. Copy of EOC SOP requested so

New Business:

- Have new K-9 evaluators in VSRDA group that need to attend a state evaluator's meeting (non-discipline specific). Sharon will check with Marc Eggeman and VDEM on scheduling a meeting.
- Black Diamond has scheduled a First Annual SAR competition at Hungry Mother State Park on March 29, 2008. There will be prizes.
- Motion made and seconded and passed to migrate website to a functional server and format. Bob Koester owns domain name. Marc has offered to have VDEM/OEM IT staff host site on server – would have okay first part on next week. Process to update web site for current information and user functionality will start as soon as the okay is relieved.
- Marc will send a list of email contacts to Sharon and Leah so a current D-list can be set up.
- Visitors attending from Halifax SAR/Emergency Services. Are considering membership in VASARCO.
- Current By-Laws need to be sent out to all member groups.

Next meeting will be the weekend before GSAR – Saturday, January 19, 2008.

Meeting adjourned 1226 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Leah K. Coffman