

Black Diamond SAR Council

PO Box 22, Marion, VA 24354 • www.bdsarco.org

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The Coordinator's Desk

I hope that everyone had a great Easter holiday. As with most years, our busy season begins to ramp up right around this time, so I ask that everyone start preparing.

I know that I have been harping on training, and as I've told you that is one of my goals for 2013. We have done well, and already had two mini simulations which would count towards your recertifications if you attended. Attendance hasn't been what I had hoped for, but we will continue to figure out ways to make training more valuable for you, so that you will attend.

Remember our meeting is April 12th at the Highlands Animal Hospital in Abingdon. This will start at 6:30 and elections will be held as well.

The 2013 Virginia SAR Council Annual SAR Conference is going to be a great time. If you have hesitation about going, or have any questions, please let me know. There is a ton of training out there for participants!

Our May training will be at the Rocky Knob SAREx on the Blue Ridge Parkway, May 18th, 2013. This is always an incredible training event, and you can travel there for the day, or camp all weekend. There will be plenty of folks going if you need to ride with someone.

Summer trainings will consist of two trainings at Backbone Rock, and two trainings at Grayson Highlands State Park. We have the group campsite reserved for July and September. Please use these weekends to come and train, or just spend time in the Park. We will be doing our necessary vertical training, but can setup training for anyone whether it be K9, Land Nav, or Signcutting. We only need your input on what you'd like to see.

Also, we will continue to have our August meeting, supper and gear auction. This will be at Backbone Rock and



the dates will be sent out. We have moved our training to the second weekends of the month, so we may move that weekend to the second weekend as well. We will advise very soon.

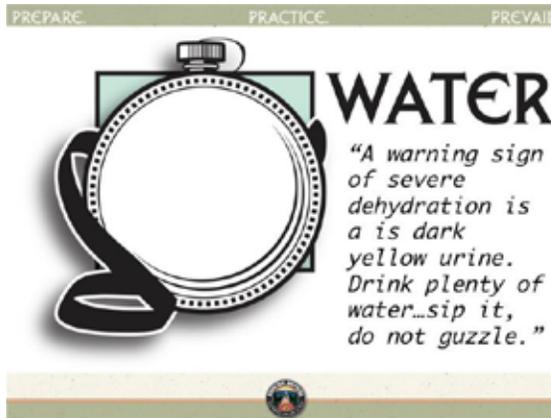
Look for Mike's training announcements and Rob's announcements, on the EMS Licensure, in this edition. Thanks to both of them for the work that they do!

Lastly, I heard a phrase the other day that I have seen many times. The phrase is "Pay it forward". I began to think about the phrase and my mind immediately applied it to our training in SAR.

We have new members joining with little, or no, training. These folks have to wait until the next GSAR in order to receive their FTM. Some of us have more training than others. I'm simply asking all of you to pay it forward. Help the person beside you. Give that person a pat on the back, "tough love" if that's what they need, or help them to understand a concept that may come easy for you.

I'm also asking everyone to accept the knowledge of others. If someone's been doing this longer than you, is recognized as a skilled practitioner in their field, and has suggestions, please don't take this personally, they are only trying to help. Business is business and personal is personal, we have a job to do and need to remember why we do this!

So that others may live...



Courtesy of the Mountain Shepherd Wilderness Survival School

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>From the Training Officer</i>	2
<i>BDSARCO MED</i>	3
<i>"God Made A Searcher"</i>	4

From the Training Officer

Mike Maggard.

Current scheduled training: BDSAR - Team Wide Training

April 13-14 Lost Person Behavior,
Hungry Mother State Park. Sign up on the LMS

**April 18-21: Virginia Search & Rescue Council
Annual SAR Conference**

4H Holiday Lake Camp in Appomattox, Virginia Come and enjoy the fellowship of other Virginia SAR persons, and SAR Folks from other states, as we share knowledge and learn new skills! Choose from a 2 day Land Navigation workshop, Crime Scene Preservation, SOLO Wilderness First Aid, or Lost Person Behavior on Thursday and Friday. Then you can move on to other items such as the following to name a few...

- SAR Planning with NTAP Data
- First on Scene
- Crime Scene Awareness Basic
- Autism Awareness
- Clandestine Graves
- Responding to the Disaster
- Snakes of Virginia Mounted SAR Capabilities and Tactics
- Anchors & Semi-Tech Review
- Test your Land Nav skills on the Land Nav Challenge
- K9 Tracks for all 3 disciplines Air Scent, Trailing and Human Remains detection
- Kids Track - Basics of Equine SAR, Highline, CAP & D'fing equipment, sign cutting, Snakes of Virginia, & Popcorn, a movie and more.

Prepare for a great Bar B Que meal on Saturday night and our Keynote Speaker. Don't wait to get registered!

**May 17-19th: 2012 Blue Ridge Parkway SAR Training
and Simulation on the 18th Rocky Knob SARx**

June 7-9 Backbone Rock *This year training will alternate between Backbone Rock and Grayson Highlands State Park*

July 12-14 Grayson Highlands State Park
Camping will be in the large, group, camping area.

Aug 9-11 Backbone Rock

Sept 13-15 Grayson Highlands State Park, Camping will be in the large, group, camping area. **Also with a night exercise**

Sept 27-29 SAR Simulation Blue Ridge Mountain Council reservation, Hiawassiee, VA

Oct 12th GSAR - Hungry Mother State Park

Nov 9th GSAR - Hungry Mother State Park
Technical Rescue Team

BDSAR - Team Wide Training Second Quarter

April 13/14 Hungry Mother State Park
Lost Person Behavior

May 11 Grayson Highlands State Park

May 17-19 2012 Blue Ridge Parkway SAR
Training and Simulation on the 18th

June 15 Grayson Highlands State Park
or Backbone Rock – TBA

VDEM SPONSORED TRAINING

Sign up for all VDEM classes on the LMS

April 13-14 Lost Person Behavior, Hungry Mother State Park

GSAR Hungry Mother State Park

October 18 - 20 First Weekend

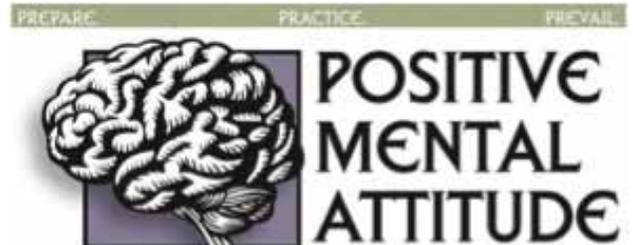
Field Team Member (FTM), Field Team Leader (FTL), Field Team Signcutter (FTS), and Management Team Member (MTM) Classes Lodging and meals provided.

November 1 - 3 Second Weekend

Field Team Member (FTM), Field Team Leader (FTL), Field Team Signcutter (FTS), and Management Team Member (MTM) Classes Lodging and meals provided.

*For all GSAR classes Register online at the
VDEM Learning Management System (LMS)*

Every member will have to be registered and using the **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM** to sign up for classes and to track certifications among other items.



"If you feel yourself in panic mode or giving up, STOP. Sit down, Think, Observe and Plan."

Courtesy of the Mountain Shepherd
Wilderness Survival School

BDSARCO MED

Medical Branch Update: Rob Blevins

Hello everyone... I am writing this month with exciting news. We have learned that Smyth County will not have to pay the LODA fee to recognize us as an EMS agency. Just as a reminder, LODA stands for the Line of Duty Act that was enacted in 2010 to provide benefits to emergency and hazardous duty personnel. Since we will not be a primary resource for the county, we will fall into the same category as the paid ambulance services in the area and therefore be exempt from LODA.

This is wonderful news because we can now proceed with becoming a licensed agency. Our plan at this point is to try and get on the agenda for May to go before the Smyth County Board of Supervisors and present BDSAR as a non-primary resource for them and ask them to recognize us as an agency. I will represent BDSAR along with others at this meeting.

Once this is accomplished, we will be ready to proceed with the licensure requirements. In the meantime, we are going to continue to work with Dr Henley and develop protocols and our equipment list and move toward licensure.

Realistically, barring any unforeseen happenings, we should be able to accomplish all of this and become a licensed EMS agency by the end of 2013. I hope all of you are as excited about this prospect as I am. As always, if you have any questions or would like to help in this process, don't hesitate to contact me. Take care, be safe, and God Bless!!

Eye See You!!!

For the BDSAR Medical Branch this month, I want to focus on our eyes. I think most of us would agree that our eyes are one of, if not the most important tool we have at our disposal for SAR. If we don't have our eyes, it's gonna be pretty hard to find our subjects.

That being said, what are you doing to protect your eyes? Do you always wear your eye protection in the woods? It was recommended some time ago that all BDSAR personnel wear some form of eye protection whenever you are in the woods for any reason. Have you ever been poked in the eye when you turned into a branch? If you have, you know how bad it hurts and how easy it can be to do. If that branch were to hit your eye just right, you could be permanently blind in that eye. Currently, we don't see a

lot of our personnel wearing their eye protection regularly. Please always wear eye protection in the woods and anytime there are potential hazards to your eyes. However, limbs are not the only hazard to your eyes.

Since it is spring (yeah right!!), I thought I would touch on snow blindness a little bit. The term snow blindness is actually a misnomer. The problem is not the snow, but the sun reflecting on the snow, water, or otherwise. Over exposure to the UV radiation in reflected sunlight can damage and even burn our retinas causing severe pain and loss of vision. The vision loss or decrease is usually temporary and resolves itself in 24 to 48 hours. If you are exposed to sunlight, either directly or reflected, for 6-8 hours, you can do damage to your eyes. Our eyes are at greater risk at higher elevation and even in the warmer months of the year, there can still be snow on the mountains. We may experience this first-hand at Grayson Highlands in the coming months.

Symptoms of snow blindness start out pretty mild but can rapidly progress to severe. It usually starts with a feeling like "sand" in your eyes with some redness and swelling, but can progress to severe pain exacerbated by looking at light. To treat it, you need to move out of the light, put cold compresses over your eyes and if needed, patch both eyes for 24 hours and allow them to recover. Pain medications, usually anti-inflammatories (Ibuprofen, etc.) can also be used to help alleviate the pain.

Prevention is simple. How many of you can't live without your sunglasses? I know I can't. Think about adding a pair of sunglasses to your SAR gear. They should be something durable and block as much UVB light as possible (99% recommended). The best part is, if they're not too dark to wear in the woods, they also protect your eyes from pokes.

So protect your eyes and we'll SEE you in the field.

Rob Blevins



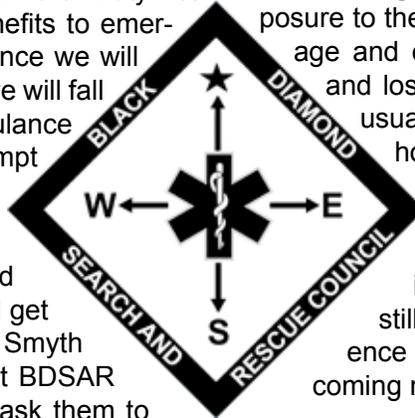
A&L Outfitters

Need Gear???
Then give us a call!!

We will beat any advertised price and always give a discount to SAR personnel!

Rob Blevins, owner
276-706-1150
aloutfitter@gmail.com
www.aloutfitter.com

And so much more!!



After this year's Super Bowl ad renewed interest in the famous Paul Harvey poem/speech "God Made a Farmer," it was worth sharing this adaptation that may hit even closer to home for those of us in the SAR community. – Submitted by Ryan Tipps

“God Made A Searcher”

– Ryan Tipps

After God chose the caretakers of his land, along with the laborers, the office workers, the teachers, and the caregivers, he wanted someone to guide them when they were lost and to reassure them. So God made a searcher.

Someone who would momentarily step away from their profession, kiss their loved ones goodbye for a night, and volunteer their time, energy, and expertise to others. So God made a searcher.

God said, “I need someone to answer my call at morning, noon, or night, to drive hours from the stores and subdivisions that give comfort to the people around them and then in turn to make themselves uncomfortable for the sake of those in need.” So God made a searcher.

“To dodge trees, thorns, and brush looking for a person or the faint trace of their presence, to kneel in the mud at the sign of a footprint, to pick up the subtle hint from a canine, or tie a knot you can trust – to keep a team together for a common goal.” So God made a searcher.

God said, “There needs to be someone who has the strength and professionalism to witness death, the sharpness to confront trauma, and the embrace to care for the living. Someone who would not dismiss those with dementia, yell about youthful abandonment, or mock the hunter without a compass. Someone who sees a person, and a family, behind each name and each task. Who is medical and technical and careful and skillful.”

“A person who trains every month, through long hours and across hills and streams and plains and forests, but silently prays that those skills will rarely be needed; that people, friends, and family will always be safe.”

So God made a searcher.