

# Black Diamond SAR Council

PO Box 22, Marion, VA 24354 • [www.bdsarco.org](http://www.bdsarco.org)

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## The Coordinator's Desk

I hate to say it, but Summer is almost over. There's still plenty of weekends open at Grayson Highlands State Park to get your camping in before the end of the season. So far the folks that have gone, have been welcomed with open arms, met a lot of nice folks, and just had an all around great time in the Park.



**Please consider signing up for one of the weekends for standby at Grayson State Park:**

- August 10-12
- August 17-19 (*Backbone and group cookout*)
- August 24-26
- Aug 31-Sept 2
- all other weekends in September.

Please don't forget Black Diamond's annual cookout on August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Large Pavilion at Backbone Rock. We will have some VIPs there, and we hope that everyone can make it. I bet some of you will meet folks you didn't even know were on the team!! Yes, we're growing quickly. If you're coming and have not yet contacted Doris, please do so. We will need numbers no later than Friday August 10<sup>th</sup> so we can plan for the meats. Please see other articles referencing the cookout.

We will also have a short business meeting to handle a couple of points of business, but nothing that I want to take very long.

There are some training opportunities coming up in September. Please make it a point to be at this simulation. This will count when it comes to re-certification!

If you haven't signed up for the Learning Management system, nor registered for classes at the Hungry Mother GSAR, you should do both. I have a feeling classes will fill up quickly since the Elkton GSAR was cancelled. It should be held sometime this winter, but folks love to come to Hungry Mother.

Thanks to all the members that make BDSAR the Family that it is!!

**Bryan**

## Bits & Pieces

**...WANT YOUR ID** completed by the August 18th Cookout? ASAP email a photo, preferably from the neck up, with a light colored background, and your certifications to: [ID@bdsarco.org](mailto:ID@bdsarco.org)

These IDs are very important when responding to incidents such as the last event in Hanover County, as well as to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**...DATES HAVE BEEN SET** for the 2013 Virginia Search and Rescue Council SAR Conference. April 17-21, 2013. Please make plans to attend. If you have difficulty with the cost of the conference, please alert one of the officers of the Board of Directors.

**...IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO HEAD UP A GEAR AUCTION** at the August 18<sup>th</sup> cookout please let Bryan or Nina know. Proceeds could go to the K9 team, or to the matching funds which we are writing a grant for. Everyone could bring an item they think someone else would want and we could auction it off. It's just an idea, but it'd be great if it happened.

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## From the Training Officer

*Mike Maggard.*

It seems that the issues with training and response are a never ending struggle. While I realize that we all have changes in life, whether it be jobs, marriage, kids, etc., in order to stay active with BDSAR, recertify, or advance, there are going to be a requirement for training and responses. We have several members of BD that we hardly ever see, and some that haven't been to any training in over a year. In order to stay active, members must keep their certifications current, train on a regular basis and respond to missions and / or simulations. SAR teams are just like any other volunteer organization, fire or rescue, skills have to be maintained and certifications kept up to date.

***It is your responsibility to keep up with expiration dates and re-certify your skills.***

I wanted to make you all aware of some major changes coming to the VA SAR program. There will be more to follow but the biggest things now to think about is your training and response to missions.

VDEM has moved to the Learning Management System. This has been covered several times over the past few months, however I want to stress that it is important to register if you haven't done so. This is the way you will register for classes and keep up with certifications from this point further.

VDEM will start using **Position Task Books**; these Task Books will track your training, and your responses. The only way members will be able to re-cert their current level of training or progress to a higher level of certification will be to attend training and to respond to missions and simulations.

If anyone has any questions or concerns please let either Bryan or I know.

### CURRENT SCHEDULED TRAINING:

**Backbone Rock, Damascus** – This has been an annual training event for many years; Geared toward the vertical, technical, and semi-technical technicians. However you are encouraged to attend and train on any of your skills.

### AUGUST - Elkton

**AUG. 17-19 - THIRD WEEKEND OF BSRT / ASRT Meeting & Cookout**; The meeting and cookout will begin at 1800 Saturday the 18th. All members of BDSAR are invited. Bring your family and enjoy the evening. Pork Tenderloin and Chicken will be provided. We will need more veggie dishes and green salad/dressings. A few more desserts would be good also - think chocolate :) A couple of "kid friendly" food items will

## Upcoming Events!

- 8/17-19 **Backbone Rock, TN**  
Membership Meeting and Cookout
- 9/7-9 **Search Sim**  
Virginia's Explore Park
- 9/14-16 **Backbone Rock, TN**  
Map Skills, K9 Training, First On Scene
- 10/19-21 **GSAR - First Weekend**  
Hungry Mother State Park
- 11/2-4 **GSAR - Second Weekend**  
Hungry Mother State Park

be appreciated (you know, the stuff your kids will actually eat). Please e-mail Doris at [wildflowergal57@gmail.com](mailto:wildflowergal57@gmail.com) with the food item(s) you will be bring to share with the group.

### SEPT 7-9 - SEARCH SIMULATION AT VA'S EXPLORE PARK

Sponsored by Commonwealth Search and Rescue in conjunction with Botetourt County Emergency Services.

Night operations on Friday night and run a full scale search throughout the day on Saturday. This simulation will include all ground units, base staff and K9 resources. We will have camping available on site and a meal available for purchase after the search on Saturday.

**SEPT 14-16 - FOURTH WEEKEND OF BSRT / ASRT**  
MAP SKILLS • K-9 TRAINING • FIRST ON SCENE

**SEPT 25 - CPR/FIRST AID CANCELED**

Chris Bryant, Glade Spring Rescue (\$5 each) To register: [cbryant@bdsarco.org](mailto:cbryant@bdsarco.org) **CPR & First Aid are a requirement for membership & must stay current.**

### OCT. 19-21 - GSAR AT HUNGRY MOTHER STATE PARK

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

**Register forGSAR online at the VDEM Learning Management System ( LMS )**

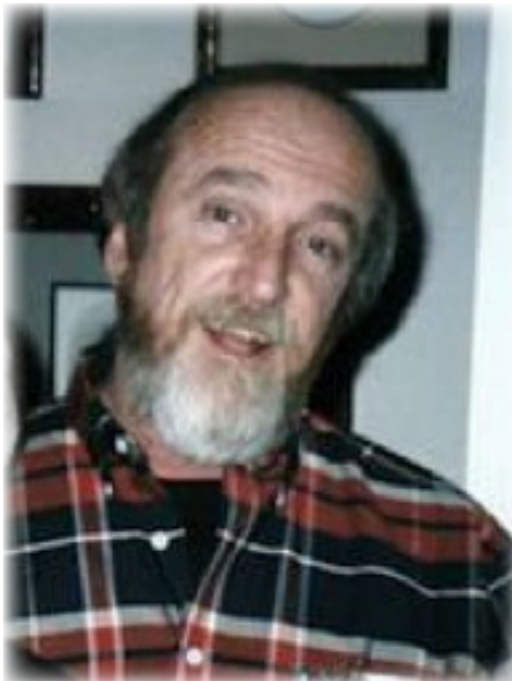
### NOV. 2-4 - GSAR AT HUNGRY MOTHER STATE PARK

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

## Tony McGee

### *Remembered By Those Who Knew Him*

**Anthony H. “Tony” McGee** died July 16, 2012, at the age of 63 years. Tony is survived by Sister Ellen McGee. Tony served in the United States Navy in the Nuclear Power School and Propulsion Engineering School with dreams of becoming a submariner. However, when an accident and disability prevented Tony from continuing his Navy career, he took his skills down other career paths and diversified and amplified his education.



Tony, a mechanical engineer, also worked extensively in materials testing, welding and welding inspection. For a dozen years Tony shared his knowledge of welding, welding inspection and mechanical engineering as an instructor at Northeast State Community College before returning to industry. Tony was a natural born teacher, a gift he applied to all areas of his life.

Some of Tony’s many loves and interests over his lifetime included flying, practical jokes, firearms, fireworks, cars, steam trains, photography and caving. However, most people that knew Tony will affirm that his love of caves and caving surpassed all other loves.

Tony has been caving for nearly 40 years and was a life member of the National Speleological Society. Tony was also bestowed the honor of being named a Fellow of the Society of the National Serological Society in 1994. As a member of the Robertson Association, Tony is officially deemed an “Old Coot” at the caving organization’s annual Old Timers Reunion, having attended more than 30 Reunions. In addition, Tony worked the Medical Tent at the Old Timers Reunion year after year. Tony was passionate about cave exploration and conservation and passionate about sharing his knowledge. Due to his passion for caving and conservation, Tony became one of the early members of Mountain Empire Grotto after its formation in 1976 and took steps to ensure the charter members were awarded lifetime membership. Tony continued to act as the Grotto’s steward and was the guiding hand of the Grotto, keeping the Grotto together and active throughout the decades.

Tony was also a founding member of the Appalachian Cave Conservancy. Tony has been involved in the leadership and organization of the Appalachian Cave Conservancy for its entire 35 year existence and is the only person to serve as ACC Chairman of the Board. The Appalachian Cave Conservancy now manages and protects many caves in Virginia including Perkins Cave and recently acquired Gilley Cave.

Tony designed the gate for Gilley Cave and performed much of the fabrication and erection of the Gilley gate (which is ranked among the best in the world). Tony was also instrumental in building two Perkins Cave gates as well as the now famous “Wilson’s John” located on the Perkins property. Tony’s welding and engineering skills have served him well in his continued cave conservation efforts. Tony has gated several abandoned coal mines and built or

collaborated on more than 200 cave gates in the Tennessee area. Among those projects include the massive Hubbard’s Cave gate in 1985 which took over 10,500 man-hours to build.

In addition to Tony’s passion for cave conservation and exploration, all cavers knew he was the one to call on for a cave rescue. Tony was an instructor with the National Cave Rescue Commission for many years and instrumental in forming Triangle Rescue Group. Tony taught the skills necessary to manage or participate in high-angle rescues and cave rescues including complex rope rigging needed to haul a patient from great depths. If a caving accident occurred in East Tennessee or Southwest Virginia, Tony McGee was always the first person contacted to coordinate the rescue. Local cavers knew they could count on Tony if anything ever went wrong underground. Tony will be so missed by his family and friends especially those in the caving community and those who have grown to appreciate and love his gift of teaching and wonderful gift of storytelling.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Gilley Cave Capital Fund, Appalachian Cave Conservancy, Inc., 84 Preserve Ct., Hendersonville, NC 28791-2803, ATTN: Stu Syms, Treasurer.

## Cookout Fun!

**On August 18, 2012, Black Diamond Search and Rescue Council will holding our annual Membership Meeting and Cookout. The meeting/meal will start at 6 pm at the Pavilion at Backbone Rock.**

Come meet with your team for a time of fun, fellowship, information sharing and great bonding time with your SAR family. It's also offers a chance to meet new members of the group and their families. Kids, spouses, and significant others are welcome -- we want them to see how crazy and dedicated this SAR family really is!

**Pork Tenderloin and Chicken will be provided.** We will be needing more veggie dishes and green salad/dressings. A few more desserts wold be good (think chocolate). A couple of "kid friendly" food items would be appreciated. You know, the stuff your kids will actually eat.

**Also needed is paper goods:** plates, cups, plastic tableware, napkins, paper towel, etc. Perfect for those of you who prefer not to cook!

**KINDLY EMAIL DORIS AT:** wildflowergal57@gmail.com with the items you will be bringing to share, and how many people will be attending.

***The 18th is comin' up fast, so don't delay! See you there!***

The advertisement features a central silhouette of a person climbing a rope against a light blue background. To the left, a dark grey vertical banner contains several brand logos: TRUE NORTH (red and white), PETZL (white on black), BRUNTON (white on black with 'SINCE 1894'), 5.11 TACTICAL SERIES (black and orange), Adventure Medical Kits (blue and white with 'BE SAFE' below), nalgene (blue and white), and eno (blue). To the right, the text 'A&L Outfitters' is displayed in large green letters. Below this, the text reads: 'Need Gear???' and 'Then give us a call!!'. Further down, it states: 'We will beat any advertised price and always give a discount to SAR personnel!'. At the bottom right, contact information is provided: 'Rob Blevins, owner', '276-706-1150', 'aloutfitter@gmail.com', and 'www.aloutfitter.com'.

## Fall SAR Simulation

**NOTE FROM MIKE MAGGARD:** This is another great training opportunity and a chance to work with others teams. If you are interested in attending please let know.



Commonwealth Search and Rescue

In conjunction with

Botetourt County Emergency Services



Presents:

# LOST EXPLORERS SEARCH SIMULATION

September 7-9

Virginia's explore park

Event will run night operations on Friday September 7<sup>th</sup> and a full day search simulation on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Camping will be available on site and a meal will be available after the end of the simulation on Saturday. Everyone interested in Search and Rescue is invited to participate. For more information or to sign up your group, email Daniel Murray at [Daniel.Murray720@gmail.com](mailto:Daniel.Murray720@gmail.com)