

# Black Diamond SAR Council



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

## The Coordinator's Desk

BDSAR - busy again!!! Even though it's been slow for the past week or two, BDSAR has continuously increased its response numbers each year!! This speaks to recognition by those who request us as a professional agency, and also agencies learn about us that have never used us before.

One example of that is the recognition by the Great Smoky Mtns National Park and their request for BDSAR to respond to an incident inside their park. This is a HUGE deal, and one to not be taken lightly.

However; even though our responses have increased, our training has not. Sometimes I feel like I'm beating a dead horse, but those who are not training put BDSAR in a position of liability that cannot exist.

In the very near future, there will be some pretty major changes coming to the VA SAR program. VDEM will begin using Position Task Books to track training and responses for every member of every Virginia SAR team. The only way persons will be able to re-certify at their current level of training, or progress to a higher level, will be to attend training and respond to missions and simulations.

Currently half of Black Diamond's 70+ members are not training, nor responding to missions. SAR Teams are just like any other rescue organization, fire or rescue for example, and skills have to be maintained, and certification skills must be kept up to date.

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After the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, BDSAR will consider moving inactive members to an inactive status until they can begin training again, and show a willingness to participate at the level needed from every member.

On the next page, we always provide a calendar of events to come up with which many of these are training opportunities. Please take a chance to look over these training opportunities and try to schedule a simulation into your future.

BDSAR continues to grow and the Virginia SAR program continues to gain more respect from our neighboring states. Please let us help you stay on board with us, and respond with one of the greatest systems in the United States.



## Upcoming Training Events

Mike Maggard - Training Officer

- April 19 – 22, 2012 – VASARCo SAR Conference Holiday Lake 4H Center – Appomattox, VA
- April 27 – 29, 2012 – Lost at the Lake Simulation
- May 19 – SAREx – Blue Ridge Music Center – Blue Ridge Parkway
- June 2-3 – SAR First Responder – Rural Retreat Fire Department
- Third **Full** weekend of June, July, August, & September – Backbone
- August 18, 2012 – Membership Cookout at Backbone Rock – everyone invited - Potluck

### Reminder!!

Dues should be paid by the May 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting. They can be mailed to Black Diamond's PO Box or paid at the meeting.

\$25 - 1 member

\$40 - Family of 2

\$50 - Family of 3

\$60 - Family of 4

\*\* See Bryan for any other group rates

## BDSAR's Spring Meeting

Please make plans to attend Black Diamond's Spring Meeting. The date will be May 5th, 2012 and will be at the Glade Spring Lifesaving Crew building in Glade Spring. Lunch will be provided for us by the GSVLSC Auxiliary. We will be conducting business, holding elections, having a long discussion about the command bus, and hopefully meeting with Med Flight. We can also follow up the day with a First On Scene for the new members and discuss call out procedures for them. If you haven't attended anything else that BDSAR has held in 2012, you'll need to attend this!! Put it on your calendars now!

## Another BDSAR Competition in the books!

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual BDSAR Competition was a great time for everyone there. Even though BDSAR didn't win, they actually didn't lose either!! There was a three way tie, and the three teams could not have been more even. Thanks to those that competed, and thanks to those that helped with the stations and base ops. It truly was a great time, and well worth BDSAR's commitment to increasing training for SAR in Virginia!!



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## Great Smoky Mountains State Park

Thanks to all of those that represented Black Diamond SAR at the Great Smokey Mountains National Park on March 21 and March 22, 2012.

There is a chance that this relationship will continue to build and we will have a chance to work with the GSMNP for years to come.

As Mike and I work with the Park to solidify the response agreement, we will keep you posted on needed information about when and how we respond to the Park.

Most missions will not include nighttime operations, so if we are asked to respond again, more than likely the response will be for the next day.

Also, as Derek continues to work on IDs please ensure that you have your ID with you so you can present that when you arrive.

Information and pictures for IDs may be sent to [id@bdsarco.org](mailto:id@bdsarco.org)

## Elections to be held at the May meeting



We will be holding our annual elections at the May meeting. Remember, your attendance is crucial at the May meeting. If you would like to nominate someone for a position on the Board of Directors, please get your nomination to Bill Garrison, who has so graciously agreed to head the Nomination Committee. His email address is [billgarrison@bdsarco.org](mailto:billgarrison@bdsarco.org)

### Positions to be elected:

Coordinator - Currently Bryan Saunders  
Asst Coordinator - Currently Bob Barlow  
Secretary - Currently Nina Cipriani  
Treasurer - Currently Bryan Saunders  
Member at Large - Currently Bill Keith  
Training Officer - Currently Mike Maggard

## Grayson Highlands Standby - as seen in the email

As you may have noticed in the last newsletter, we have worked out an agreement with Grayson Highlands State Park to fill a camping spot from the first weekend in May to the last weekend in October.

These persons are going to be in constant communication with the Park staff on radios that have been provided by Trisha Fitzgerald from SMRG. We will be taking some of the load off of the Park staff who had a lot on their shoulders before they lost some staffing.

We may be asked to move to a certain area of the park to speak with folks that may have a loved one overdue, we may be asked to assist treating minor injuries, or we may first respond to a major injury until EMS can arrive.

We are currently working on acquiring a camper for everyone to stay in. We have promised the person providing the camper to us that we will not be using the kitchen nor will we be using the bathroom. Please plan on making your own cooking arrangements, and plan on using the public bath facility. We will also ask that you clean it before you leave for the folks coming behind you.

We will be sharing these duties with folks from across the Virginia SAR system so BDSAR does not bear the responsibility of filling the spot every weekend. If folks have time off during the week and would like to stay at the Park during the week, then this can definitely be handled, we will just need to make arrangements with the folks coming in for the weekend, if you are not staying through Sunday.

If you can only pull a day here and a day there, you may definitely respond. We will have folks from out of town leaving Grayson Highlands pretty early on Sunday for the return trip home and if we can put someone else in the Park on Sunday that would be great!

More information will be forthcoming. Please let me know your interest in this excellent opportunity as soon as possible.

## Newest Members

### Newly Added FTMS to the Team:

- ◆ Billy Garrison
- ◆ Codie Kegley
- ◆ Justin Allen
- ◆ Joshua Barnette
- ◆ Nick Kiser
- ◆ Brandon Osborne
- ◆ Zach Miller
- ◆ Randy Toohey
- ◆ Michael McCurdy
- ◆ Amanda Wenger

### Several Members complete their FTS Training

Congratulations to the following folks for completing their FTS Training at the Halifax County GSAR!!

- ◆ Billy Garrison
- ◆ Nick Kiser
- ◆ Justin Allen
- ◆ Codie Kegley

Below is a list of gear that will be available for purchase at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. This gear has not been viewed and I should not need to remind you about buying someone else's gear. We will review the gear the best we can and come up with an action plan. The person bringing the gear states that he hardly ever used it and that's why he is going to sell it. I have no idea of how it was stored, etc.

Description	QTY	Price per
Racks with bars	3	\$48.00
Jumars	3	\$24.00
Edge Rollers	2	\$48.00
Rigging Plates	2	\$21.00
Small Carabiners	40	\$4.00
Large Carabiners	17	\$16.00
Gibbs Ascenders	8	\$25.00
Pulleys	10	\$16.00
CMI - Figure 8 with Ears	9	\$12.00
Figure 8 without Ears	1	\$9.00
Petzl Hard Hat - Red	1	\$32.00
Petzl Hard Hat - White	1	\$32.00
Knee Pads per set	2	\$20.00
Gibbs Climbing Rigs	2	\$48.00
CMC Rappel Harness - Med	1	\$24.00
Blue Water Climbing Harness	1	\$24.00
Small Utility Bags	5	\$5.00
Personal Carry Bags - Large	3	\$8.00

**Black Diamond SAR received \$1000 from General Dynamics in Marion, VA, again this year. This is a relationship that the Smyth County portion of BDSAR transferred to Black Diamond SAR, but had used it for their specific needs in the past.**