

Black Diamond SAR Council

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



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The Coordinator's Desk

Bryan Saunders



Wow what an incredible 5 days!! I know that I've started several newsletters with the word "Wow", but I can't help it. The reason for this is I continue to be "Wowed" over the trainings that I've been going to. The SAR Conference at Holiday Lake 4H Center was no different. It was an amazing time of fellowship and learning.

I would like to see more participation from BDSAR at the 2014 Event, and plead with you to let me know if you would like to go. VASARCO will be offering 1 scholarship to the SAR Conference in 2014 to cover the costs from Wednesday evening through Friday. I know the folks that attended will tell you they all learned something, and the front porch "sitings" were a hoot as well.

The Land Nav challenge was certainly a challenge, but the top three spots in the Advanced section were all held by BDSAR members. I've heard great things about the Meth Lab Awareness, Clandestine Graves, and other new lectures that we had this year.

Black Diamond probably had as many members show as any other team, but we're also the largest team too. Let's see what we can do to increase attendance in 2014. Rob Blevins, and I, will be Co-Chairing the event in 2014, so we are starting to advertise it now. It will be in April, and it will be in Appomattox again. The price will be about the same, unless we can get some Corporate sponsorship, but if you save \$20 per month until SAR Conference, you will have the money. If you would like to send BDSAR that amount each month, to set those monies aside to help you save for next year, I'd be happy to do that – just let me know.

GHSP SAR CAMPER – The SAR Camper will be in place at Grayson Highlands State Park on May 4th. Please let me know if you would like to spend a weekend at the Park and I will put you on the schedule. It's starting to fill up, so don't waste time picking your weekend!

TRAINING – Mike will touch on the Rocky Knob SAREX and the Backbone / Grayson Highlands training events coming up. Please also find a page that references the SAR Simulation at Camp Powhatan in September. We are

trying to send these items to you so that you have time to plan. Anyone that needs rides to these events, please let me know and we will make it happen.

AUGUST COOKOUT - We will be doing our annual Cookout and Gear Auction in August at Backbone. This will be on the weekend of August 9 – 11. Please come and spend an evening with us of Fellowship and also help us make a little money for BDSAR!!

I'm looking forward to a great summer of training for everyone!!



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From the Training Officer

Mike Maggard.



Current scheduled training: BDSAR - Team Wide Training

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

REMINDER: Yearly dues support Black Diamond operations! Mail your checks to PO Box 22, Marion, VA 24354.

- \$25 - 1 member
- \$40 - family of 2
- \$50 - family of 3
- \$60 - family of 6

Contact Bryan for other group rates.

2013 Second Quarter Training

- 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

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)

PREPARE PRACTICE PREVAIL



"Always have tinder with you to start a fire in every environment and climate. Natural tinders include cedar shavings, birch bark, dry grass, dead ferns, dead pine needles, pine tree pitch and cattail down."

Courtesy of the Mountain Shepherd Wilderness Survival School

MAY 17, 2013**Start time: 1900 hours for Mgmt. Team****Location: ICP at Rocky Knob****Ranger Station/Maintenance Area**

We will need people to participate in this planning meeting in order to speed things along on Saturday.

A core group will need to remain on the team on Saturday, but everyone else will be free to go out in the field on search teams. ANY VOLUNTEERS?

2013 ROCKY KNOB SAR TRAINING EXERCISE

MAY 18, 2013**Start time: 0800 hours**

Welcome & Orientation

Check In, Orientation to the area, SAR Preplanning, environmental hazards,

Park concerns and regulations,

Information on the Rocky Knob and Rock Castle Gorge area, Lessons Learned from past SAREX'S, Search scenario briefing.

SAREX SCENARIO

Simulated Search in the Rocky Knob and Rock Castle Gorge area.

(Due to liability issues; all personnel participating in the SAREX must have at least one of the following qualifications: VA FTM, or NASAR SAR Tech, or NPS employee, or member of a fire/rescue, SAR, or law enforcement agency. Exercise assignments will be made in accordance with individual's training credentials. Trainees may participate under the approval and direct supervision of their respective agencies/organizations and with the concurrence of the Incident Commander. Non-qualified personnel will be assigned other functions in the SAREX operation.)

MAY 19, 2013**Start time: 0900 hours**

Debrief

Check-out

For complete details on this event, consult the email message sent out by our indefatigable Training Officer, Mike Maggard.

VASARCO AWARD

Nina Awarded the VASARCo Group Award from Black Diamond SAR Council's Officers

Nina was awarded the Team Award from the Officers of the Black Diamond SAR Council again this year. Any team that submits a Lisa Hannon Award nomination and doesn't get it, then that person automatically moves into the Team Award if there are no other Team Award nominations.

This is what was submitted for
Nina Cipriani:

Nina Cipriani deserves the Team Award from the Black Diamond SAR Council for the second year in a row because she epitomizes what it means to be a Black Diamond member.

Nina continues to put the K9 team's interests above her own, looking over the small stuff to get on to the bigger things such as ensuring BDSAR has more operational teams. Her drive and knowledge is the reason BDSAR's K9 team was ever operational in the first place and has continued success today.

"We are Searchers First," is the attitude that she carries to every mission and she is perfectly happy serving in any capacity at any mission to fill the need. She also has filled many positions on the Black Diamond SAR Council's Board of Directors to ensure that all matters are handled as they should be.

She has been the Voice of Reason at times when adversity was greatest, and continues to be Black Diamond's "SAR Mom." This is why Black Diamond's Coordinator and Training Officer wish to convey the Team Award to Nina Cipriani again this year.



Lost in the Mist

Search and Rescue Simulation

September 27-29
Info: DMurray@BDSARCO.org

Camp Powhatan
Hiawassie,VA

Commonwealth Search and Rescue | Black Diamond Search and Rescue Council

In conjunction with
Botetourt County Fire-EMS & Blue Ridge Mountains Council

CSAR and BDSAR will be hosting a SAR simulation at Camp Powhatan in Pulaski County, Virginia. This exercise will be a simulation of a search for missing person in the wilderness. We will have tasks available for ground crews, K-9 crews, and management staff. Boy Scout troops are welcome to come and participate to fulfill the requirement for a simulation in the SAR merit badge.

The event will begin at 1800 Friday, September 27, for night operations. Saturday morning, the search will resume at 0800 and run till around 1800. We will have camping available Friday and Saturday nights, along with a dinner for purchase at the end of the simulation on Saturday.

Any questions or to sign up, please email DMurray@BDSARCO.org or call 540-765-8447.

