

# 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

Bryan Saunders



Wow! It's been a busy summer! Now that we're past Labor Day weekend, we now have a ton of training events coming up. Please don't forget the Lost in the Mist training event at Camp Powhatan September 27 – 29. If you haven't been on a simulation or a real mission, it would behoove you to be at this simulation as it is the last planned simulation for a while. If you have been responding to BDSAR training events and missions, it still wouldn't hurt!

SAR resources across the Commonwealth have been very busy. Having spent a day at the Nelson Co incident, looking for Alexis Murphy, I can tell you that those folks were already exhausted from that search and moved on to two others. It's what we do – we go when we're called. Well, some of us do.

This is the time of year that I ask everyone to start looking at their commitment to Black Diamond SAR in preparation for the New Year. We always ask the same of everyone, every year, so this should only be news to the newer members. Think about why you're a member on this team and if you're contributing. If not, then how/what can you contribute to make Black Diamond successful in 2014?

We have several new members already signed up for FTM at Hungry Mother. We should have 5 or 6 new FTM's in November. Please make it a point to introduce yourself to these folks and welcome them to the BDSAR family. I'll be honest when I say that I believe I'm the only one on our team that knows every single BDSAR member, except for the newest applicants. If you see a BDSAR member that you don't know, please make it a point to meet them. Yes, I know we're a very large team, and we are

pretty dispersed, but you're going to be in the field with them, it helps to know them.

Thanks to all of those that stepped up to volunteer to dispatch. Even though this is not a very hard job, it's critical that it be handled a certain way. That being said, we will have a meeting in December or January which will be mandatory for those that wish to dispatch. Here you will learn the intricacies of dispatching and the "need to know" information.

So why the push for dispatchers? Mike and I had been our only dispatchers for years. Rob Blevins stepped up about a year ago, maybe more, and that help has been huge. However; with the three of us, there's still been lapses in coverage where we've been lucky we weren't called. Daniel Murray has agreed to step up and be the Lead on this project and he has some interesting ideas about possibly cleaning up the process. Once we get it nailed down, we'll be set.

Dispatchers should be prepared to handle the calls when they are on the schedule. They need only volunteer to take dispatch when they can devote 100% of their time to the call. Especially when the call goes out. And they may not respond, as they are the lifeline between the mission and the EOC. Once people get dispatched and on the road, it slows down a little. We will go over all of that at the organizational meeting.

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**2013 Third Quarter Training**

Aug 9-11	Backbone Rock (Annual Meeting, Cookout, and Gear Auction)
Sept 13-15	GHSP

**From the Training Officer***Mike Maggard*Current scheduled training: BDSAR - Team Wide Training

Sept 13-15	Grayson Highlands State Park, Camping will be in the large, group, camping area. <b>Also with a night exercise</b>
Sept 27-29	SAR Simulation Blue Ridge Mountain Council reservation, Hiawassiee, VA Simulation will begin at 1800 on Friday and end around 1800 Saturday. Camping is available Friday and Saturday nights.
Oct 18-20	GSAR - Hungry Mother State Park
Nov 1-3	GSAR - Hungry Mother State Park

**Knowledge Weighs Nothing...  
Grab All You Can!****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)*

**Please, if you register for a class and cannot for some  
reason attend, please UN-REGISTER on the LMS  
to give someone else your seat!**

**The Coordinator's Desk, cont.**

What are some things that you should be doing when you respond?

- Please let the dispatcher know you are responding. It happens on just about every mission, someone shows up that didn't let anyone know they were responding.
- Please let the dispatcher know when you are home after the mission has closed. After everyone is home, they should send out a text letting all members know that dispatch has been closed. – No we haven't been doing a great job of that as dispatchers, but we're trying to get better.
- Don't send a text to me or Mike – telling us you're responding if we are not the dispatchers. If you send it to me, and I'm responding, I'm probably going to put it low on my priority list if I'm not dispatching. The dispatcher provides information on whom to text your availabilities to.
- Please do not try to call us if we are not dispatching as we do not have the information, the dispatcher does. Get in touch with the dispatcher as they are the one talking to the EOC.

I know that's a lot of information, and I apologize, but this is the best way to get that information out to our members.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or comments. See you on the next one!

**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!!

# Lost in the Mist

## Search and Rescue Simulation

September 27-29  
Info: [DMurray@BDSARCO.org](mailto: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](mailto:DMurray@BDSARCO.org) or call 540-765-8447.





# SAVE THE DATE!! April 9 - 13, 2014

## Virginia SAR Council 2014 SAR Conference

### The Virginia Search and Rescue Council

*is excited to announce the dates for the  
2014 Virginia SAR Council SAR Conference.*

**To be held at the Appomattox 4H Center  
in Appomattox, Virginia**

Plan for a full 4 days of SAR Training and Breakout sessions.  
Some sessions in the past have included:

- 2 day Land Navigation
- Wilderness First Aid certification
- 2 day Air Scent K9 Track
- 2 day HRD K9 Track
- 2 day Trailing K9 Track
- Land Navigation competition
- SAR Planning with NTAP Data
- Searching for Human Remains & Clandestine Graves
- SAR Mission Tabletop
- Responding to the Disaster
- Leadership within your Agency
- Meth Lab Awareness
- Equine Search
- Exciting Clothing and Gear Vendors!

Bring your children and leave them with our wonderful instructors to participate in SAR related events in our **Kids Track** on **Saturday / Sunday!**

Be sure to follow the Virginia Search and Rescue Community Facebook page for updates or contact **Bryan Saunders** at [bsaunders@bdsarco.org](mailto:bsaunders@bdsarco.org) for info.

