

Black Diamond SAR Council

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

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The Coordinator's Desk

Bryan Saunders



So now we've moved into Spring! Actually, it looks like we've skipped Spring and went straight into Summer. We've already had several alerts, and they've definitely been busy in other regions of the Commonwealth. Once again, missions should be supplemented by training. Let's get out there and train, so we are all ready for the next one.

I am always amazed at the questions I get from members about certain items which have been the mainstay of the organization for years, but they have no idea because they don't come to trainings or respond. If something has changed, how will you know? You don't; until something is done a little differently, and you bog down the dispatching duties with questions that you should already know the answers to.

The meeting was a prosperous one with elections held, and much discussion about call-out problems and our Medical Branch. Rob has received promises of help to get this off of the ground, and they are moving forward. Alex Renfro has even begun working on a possible Motorcycle Poker Run to supplement some of the costs of the equipment. If you want to help Rob or Alex, please let them know.

I also talked about our liability risk and scope of training. Please remember every action you take as a BDSAR member might as well be an action of BDSAR as a whole. Please think about that.

We are ramping up for our summer trainings at Backbone, and have many folks interested in the vertical training as well as other trainings. Please let Mike know if you want training other than ropes, this summer. Also, Mike will be sending out emails regarding meeting times, and locations if we are meeting somewhere other than the rock.

Lastly, I wanted to talk about sales for a moment. Whether you like it or not, each and every one of you are in the Sales department for Black Diamond SAR. I will admit that some are better at it than others. Think about how we are selling the organization to our local Sheriffs? Luckily, we've made some pretty shoddy sales calls that have turned out with great outcomes.

How can we improve? First, we can get folks to the mission. BDSAR should be dropping 30 people on the Responsible Agent for most every mission. When the RA is inundated with the response of trained SAR personnel, they will remember that. They also remember when we show up and are shorthanded.

After the point of the sale, we also need to service the account. So we've convinced an agency to start using us. How long will they continue to use us if we fumble around and break promises?

We should all be proud of where Black Diamond is 10 years later. Like it or not, we are a business, we are

(continued on page three)

Bits & Pieces

...Summer Cookout We have moved our Summer Cookout, meeting and gear auction to July 19th. Please remember this as we go forward. It will NOT be in August this year. This is another great, great time, and I look very forward to seeing everyone at this annual event!

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>From the Training Officer</i> | 2 |
| <i>BDSAR Radio Numbers</i> | 3 |

A Good Piece of Gear

Mike Maggard

The Blue Ridge Parkway SARx 2014, formally known as Rocky Knob SARx has come and gone. I am happy to say that Black Diamond had more members attend this year than we ever had.

Professionally Representing Black Diamond this year were:

Bob Barlow
 Anne Clark + K9 Hawkeye
 Mac DeBusk
 Leesa Gayheart
 Mike Gayheart
 Jeff Goodson
 Karla Grubb
 Steve Grubb
 Ashley Lewis
 Mike Maggard
 Cole Morris
 Greg Osborne
 Alex Renfro
 Alfred Rosenbaum
 Bryan Saunders
 Bill Smith
 Rob Speiden
 Amanda Wenger + K9 Gracie

As always, this was a great training opportunity and learning experience. There were seven different teams and agencies participating this year from one end of the state to the other and a few folks from out of state attended.

It always amazes me that so many people, from all walks of life, and as different as daylight and dark, can come together, work seamlessly as one large team, to accomplish one goal; to save lives.

I overheard a conversation and a comment made this weekend that I haven't heard since I was in the Marine Corp. It was one of those subtle remarks that goes in one ear and out the other, and then later it hits you what was actually said. "He is a good piece of gear". Without knowing the meaning a person could take this as a derogatory remark, but when it comes from your co-worker, your partner or team member it is meant as a major compliment.

The military, as most can imagine, has their own lingo and acronym's. Just like in SAR, we tend to speak in acronyms and use terms that most people outside our realm do not understand.

2014 Second Quarter Team-wide Training

Jun. 13-15 Backbone Rock

In the military when something is referred to as "A Good Piece of Gear" it means exactly what it implies, whatever you are working with does its job and does it well. When you refer to someone, as "A Good Piece of Gear" it means that they are doing their job, they have your back, and you trust them with your life.

This comment made me think; it takes a special kind of person, who will dedicate as much time, effort, blood, sweat, tears, loss of sleep and time away from family as SAR volunteers do. Our reward or pay doesn't come in the form of a paycheck, we often don't get the credit deserved or our names in the newspaper and surprisingly, most members I know, prefer it that way. Our ultimate goal is to become a "Good Piece of Gear" for the LEO's that call us and the families who depend on us to bring their loved ones home safe.

It doesn't get said enough, as most of the time you hear me asking for more and more of your time at training and missions. I want to say, thank you, I appreciate each and every member of Black Diamond for all you do for all the hard work and effort you put into becoming "A good Piece of Gear".

From the Training Officer

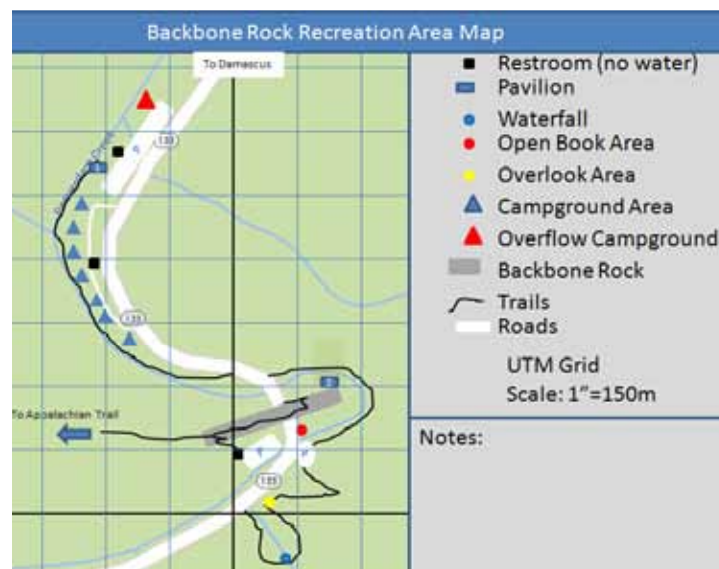
June 13-15 Backbone Rock

July 18-20 Backbone Rock

Aug 8 - 10 Backbone Rock

Sept 5-7 TBA (Tracker Basic class, sign up through the LMS)

Sept. 12-14 Backbone Rock



BDSAR's FCC License Call Sign **WQOH 896**

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----------------|------|------------------|-------|----------------|----------|
| Bryan Saunders | BD1 | Chris Bryant | BD25 | Cole Morris | BD49 | | BD73 |
| Mike Maggard | BD2 | | BD26 | Jason Peters | BD50 | | BD74 |
| Stacey Gulbreath | BD3 | Bill Garrison | BD27 | Heather Sergent | BD51 | | BD75 |
| Bob Barlow | BD4 | | BD28 | Michael Evans | BD52 | | BD76 |
| Rob Blevins | BD5 | B.J. Garrison | BD29 | Aaron Sergent | BD53 | | BD77 |
| Rana Brace | BD6 | Bill Keith | BD30 | Skipper Dorton | BD54 | | BD78 |
| Derek Anderson | BD7 | Sharon Keith | BD31 | Mike McCurdy | BD55 | | BD79 |
| | BD8 | | BD32 | Ricky Cox | BD56 | | BD80 |
| Alex Renfro | BD9 | Anthony Holmes | BD33 | | BD57 | | BD81 |
| Lester Owens | BD10 | Ron Bennett | BD34 | Mike Williams | BD58 | | BD82 |
| Todd Lagow | BD11 | Jeff Goodson | BD35 | James Byrd | BD59 | | BD83 |
| Doris Wheeler | BD12 | Kevin Rasnick | BD36 | Billy Mays | BD60 | | BD84 |
| Bob Wingfield | BD13 | Randy Ann Davis | BD37 | Daniel Murray | BD61 | Nina Cipriani | BD K9-1 |
| Ken Smith | BD14 | Trish Lockhart | BD38 | Adam Murray | BD62 | Don Cipriani | BD K9-2 |
| Larry Hall | BD15 | | BD39 | | BD63 | | BD K9-3 |
| Lisa Laughlin | BD16 | Cole Morris | BD40 | Nick Kiser | BD64 | Anne Clark | BD K9-4 |
| Greg Osborne | BD17 | Stephen Grubb | BD41 | Justin Allen | BD65 | Cynthia Bales | BD K9-5 |
| | BD18 | | BD42 | | BD66 | | BD K9-6 |
| Joe Cline | BD19 | Connie Allen | BD43 | | BD67 | Bill Smith | BD K9-7 |
| Ashley Lewis | BD20 | Marty Allen | BD44 | | BD68 | | BD K9-8 |
| Ryan Tipps | BD21 | Rob Speiden | BD45 | Branden Wells | BD69 | B. Worth-Jones | BD K9-9 |
| Mac DeBusk | BD22 | Rick Christ | BD46 | Alfred Rosenbaum | BD70 | E. Worth-Jones | BD K9-10 |
| | BD23 | Leesa Gayheart | BD47 | Marci Holland | CR135 | Amanda Wenger | BD K9-11 |
| Ken Miller | BD24 | Mike Gayheart | BD48 | Karla Grubb | BD72 | Mary Justus | BD K9-12 |



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.

If you have difficulty remembering to remit your dues, consider mailing them in each year during your birthday month!

Knowledge Weighs Nothing... Grab All You Can!

The Coordinator's Desk

(continued from page one)

family, and our jobs are pretty stressful. A lot of you have made promises recently to help the Board ensure that BDSAR succeeds. The best thing you can do for BDSAR to make sure it succeeds, is to train and respond. With training, comes a more confident response. A more confident response will create professional responses and with our professional responses, the sales portion will be easy.

See you on the next one.