

# Black Diamond SAR Council

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



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## The Coordinator's Desk

Bryan Saunders



I hope this most recent newsletter finds everyone doing well! Spring is upon us and we have already been contacted for missions!! Thanks to all who have been able to respond to those missions!!

2014 is a big year for Black Diamond and a very large milestone!! **BDSAR will be 10 years old in April.** This date actually goes from the date of our MOU and not from BDSAR's inception. BDSAR was started sometime around 2002 from members of Triangle Rescue Group. Under the leadership of Sharon Keith, we worked for two years to get our MOU from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

After obtaining our MOU, Sharon Keith handed the reins over to the membership to elect a new leader, but she has always been there to provide guidance when it was needed.

A lot has changed in the last 10 years. Even though we were listing 10 – 12 counties on our brochures, we were lucky to get called to 4 of them. We have worked very hard in the last 1- years to raise Black Diamond's image and create a team that is both professional and a family.

I would like each and every one of our members to pledge, with me on this anniversary, to continue to provide the highest level of service to all of the localities that expect a response from us.

I have included a list of those members who have been here for at least 5 years – with their number of years of service to BDSAR out beside their name. I have also included those persons who have been here at least 10 years and are considered the founding members of Black Diamond.

It is a blessing to be a part of a team that has kept folks on it for so long. Whether it be 1 month, or 10 years, each of you hold a special place in my heart and

I look forward to serving with you anytime at a moment's notice!!

### NOW ON TO BUSINESS:

Our Spring meeting is coming up on May 9th. I ask you to take this meeting very seriously. We only meet for business 3 to 4 times per year. Even though we typically only train at our other events, we reserve the right to handle business should the need arise.

Elections will be held on May 9th. As you've already seen in your email, the nomination committee is meeting and will have their recommended slate of officers for the 2014 – 2015 year. After this election, either as your Coordinator – or another member, I will be tasking our new Board with researching our lack of response.

Our response for missions is currently at 15 – 20% of the membership. 20% on any test I've ever taken did not make the grade, and I don't think we are making the grade now. I think we have been lucky at recent missions. Those BDSAR members responding with other agencies are not counted in those numbers and maybe they should be.

*(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

From the Training Officer.....	2
BDSAR Anniversaries .....	3
VARSACO 2014.....	4

## From the Training Officer

Mike Maggard

### 2014 Second Quarter Team-wide Training

Apr. 9-13 VASARCO Appomattox 4-H Center

May 16-18 Blue Ridge Parkway SARx

Jun. 13-15 Backbone Rock

### April 9 - 13 To be held at the Appomattox 4H Center in Appomattox, Virginia

[https://www.facebook.com/events/179767638859358/?ref\\_newsfeed\\_story\\_type=regular](https://www.facebook.com/events/179767638859358/?ref_newsfeed_story_type=regular)

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



### Technical Rescue Team

This year training will be at Backbone Rock .

I have had a verbal commitment from enough members to justify a full BRT & ART training session this year. If you want to take just BRT it is a two weekend commitment. ART is a two week commitment. If you want to take both Basic and Advanced, it is a 4 weekend commitment.

**There has been a change of date for July to the third weekend.**

- June 13-15 Backbone Rock - Basic Rope Techniques
- July 18-20 Backbone Rock ( Third Weekend )- Basic Rope Techniques
- Aug 8 - 10 Backbone Rock – Advanced Rope Techniques
- Sept 12-14 Backbone Rock – Advanced Rope Techniques

**We will plan on having a night exercises in September.**

## BDSAR Member Anniversaries Since 2004

### 5+ YEARS

Derrick Anderson - 6 years  
 Ron Bennett - 6 years  
 Rob Blevins - 9 years  
 Rana Brace - 6 years  
 Chris Bryant - 6 years  
 Don Cipriani - 6 years  
 Nina Cipriani - 6 years  
 Mac DeBusk - 6 years  
 Bill Garrison - 5 years  
 Larry Hall - 9 years  
 Ken Miller - 6 years  
 Allison Osborne - 6 years  
 Greg Osborne - 6 years  
 Lester Owens - 9 years  
 Stacy Galbreath - 6 years  
 Alex Renfro - 9 years  
 Rob Speiden - 5 years



### 10 YEARS

Bob Barlow  
 Bill Keith  
 Sharon Keith  
 Todd Lagow  
 Lisa Laughlin  
 Mike Maggard  
 Billy Mays  
 Bryan Saunders  
 Ken Smith  
 Bob Wingfield

### The Coordinator's Desk, cont.

As I said at the January meeting, if you are coming to trainings, and you aren't responding to missions, then what is your plan? How does Black Diamond fit into your life? Are you comfortable telling a board member why you may not be coming to trainings or responding? If you're not comfortable with that, then simply write an anonymous letter and mail it. We are looking to troubleshoot every reason as to why our response and training numbers are so low.

On a higher note: The 2014 SAR Conference registration is well under way. We have had several BDSAR members register. This would be a perfect time to knock out many hours of your required annual training!! Of course we would like to see a higher number attending, but I understand that life gets in the way of the things we want to do.

See you on the next one!

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

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# 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.*

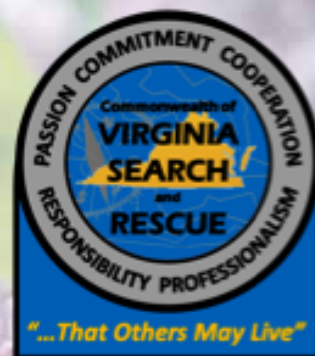
**To be held at the Appomattox 4H Center  
in Appomattox, Virginia**

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

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- Searching for Human Remains & Clandestine
- 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  
participate in SAR related events in our **Kid**

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



#### CURRENT VASARCO UPDATES.....

- 1) Signs are being prepared - as requested last year - to lead folks into the 4H Camp from the main road.
  - 2) This may not be the last edition of the flyer - depending on how often presenters change things on me.
  - 3) The class schedule could change up to the day and time of the class
  - 4) All of the Thursday/Friday (2 day) lectures have minimum enrollments. If we do not meet those minimums, folks will be contacted to see if they want to switch or want a refund.
  - 5) there will be a 3 day trailing and a 2 day k9 trailing workshop led by Kevin Kocher. I will get that flyer to everyone as soon as I have it. The K9 Trailing workshop will go all day everyday and there is no need to register for any of the other classes.
  - 6) The HRD K9 Track will run both Saturday and Sunday. The Lead Instructor (Sandy Lesko) will be able to tell you at that time what you will miss if you decide to take one of the other lectures during a certain time frame.
- Please let me or Rob Blevins [rblevins@bdsarco.org](mailto:rblevins@bdsarco.org) know if there are any questions.