

Tidewater Search and Rescue Group
P. O. Box 3492
Norfolk, Va. 23514-3492



Welcome,

Whether you're a new member or someone who is just interested. Please allow us to tell you a little something about our group and its members.

The Tidewater Search and Rescue Group, Inc (TSAR) is one of nine all volunteer member organizations which makes up the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference (ASRC). Very soon the ASRC will celebrate its 30th birthday and is proud to have performed over 500 search and rescue (SAR) missions throughout Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and West Virginia. Our missions vary with subject; we get called out to search for lost children, overdue hunters and hikers, Alzheimer's patients and even missing civilian aircraft. Our purpose however remains constant – to save lives in the out of doors. Often times this work can be physically, mentally and emotionally challenging. Especially when the conclusion of the search emergency is less than ideal, despite our best efforts. On the other hand, the personal rewards can be tremendous when the combined efforts of everyone involved, help to save a life!

You are encouraged to attend monthly general membership meetings and get involved. Remember, we are a professional organization and we need our membership to help get things done. We all volunteer to do a little work. So please feel free to contact any group officer or committee chair to volunteer your services, your talents are in demand!

Our membership is made up of professional men and women like yourself. We have among our membership, military personnel, engineers, technical, and government personnel as well as professional and volunteer firefighters, managers, laborers, etc. All it takes to be an active member of TSAR is a willingness to help others and a love for the out of doors. When, where and how often you respond is decided by you.

There is no prerequisite to joining our group. However you are required to sign a document stipulating that you will abide by the rules and regulations handed down by our employers and administered by the directors and officers of TSAR. You also are required to get at least First Aid and CPR for the professional rescuer qualified within your first year of membership. Also within 6 months of membership you are required to take and pass the NIMS (National Incident Management Systems) ICS testing which is readily available both within the group as well as locally. Along with a benchmark state program we provide the training you would need in order to help those who are lost or displaced.

Attached to this letter you will find some additional information, which you may find useful. This includes a brief description of the operational positions, our group's mission and vision statement and a list of our group officers. We hope this will give you a better understanding of who we are and how we operate.

Those for whom we search for thank you for your interest!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kevin M. Brewer'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B'.

Kevin M. Brewer
TSAR Group Commander

ORGANIZATION:

TSAR has been in existence since October 1985 and has participated in many missions. The group was formed to fill the search and rescue (SAR) resources void in Southeast Virginia and is today based in Tidewater. In that time there have been many members who have come and gone. They gave of their time when they could and helped save a lost or injured person either directly or as a result of their actions or support.

MISSION:

Tidewater Search and Rescue Groups (TSAR) mission is and always will be to provide trained personnel, who effectively manage, support, and sustain search and rescue operations when requested. This is accomplished through specialized training, constancy of purpose and continuous improvement.

VISION:

Our vision will always be: For the subject, the Tidewater Search and Rescue Group, Inc. will be recognized as the leader in training and management, providing the most professional and effective response to ground search and rescue incidents.

TRAINING:

Our members attend certification training and monthly training sessions to develop those skills required to execute a SAR response. A sample of these skills would include, map and compass, cross-country travel, search tactics, clue awareness and detection, patient packaging, wilderness litter handling, semi vertical rescue techniques, leadership, survival, planning and management to name a few.

MEMBERS:

Our membership includes people from all walks of life. Whose careers are varied with different lifestyles and experiences, but we all share a common desire. To help those in need. We are a caring and compassionate group willing to give of our time and personal resources to achieve the task at hand. Membership is open to anyone interested and willing to learn and commit to helping another person.

COMMUNITY:

Many members support their community through other organizations as well, American Red Cross, American Cancer Society, various volunteer fire and rescue squads as well as other search and rescue organizations. TSAR is very community oriented by supporting local events and other non-profit volunteer organizations.

OPERATIONAL COMMAND STRUCTURE

INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC)

INCIDENT STAFF (IS)

FIELD PERSONNEL:

FIELD TEAM LEADER (FTL)

SAR Field team management, performs a variety of specific search tactics, handling in-field emergencies, use of technical rescue equipment, performs specialized evacuation techniques and manages the distressed or injured person in a search environment.

FIELD TEAM SIGNCUTTER (FTS)

More clue aware searcher. Emphases on clue awareness, identifying and interpreting sign.

FIELD TEAM MEMBER (FTM)

Functions as part of a team, performs a variety of search tactics, operates as part of a litter evacuation team, functions include, team navigator, communications, team medic.

CALL OUT QUALIFIED (COQ)

Although not a state recognized field qualification, a COQ can respond to a search emergency in the company of higher field qualified group members.

SUPPORTING MEMBER - Does not respond to missions

Training is available through the state as well as TSAR for field qualifications.

TIDEWATER SEARCH AND RESCUE GROUP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Group Commander	Kevin Brewer	Elected
Operations Section Chief	Theresa Crossland	Elected
Planning Section Chief	Nathan Brown	Elected
Logistics Section Chief	Carol Beard	Elected
Finance Section Chief	Ann Brewer	Elected

APPOINTED OFFICERS and other

Group Training Officer	Nathan Brown (Interim)
Group Medical Officer	<i>*Open*</i>
Group Public Information Officer	Joe McDonough
Documentation Unit Leader	Carol Beard
Group Communications Officer	Butch Burke
Group Newsletter Editor	Ann Muir
Group Safety Officer	Carol Beard
Dispatcher's	Carol Beard, Theresa Crossland,
Alt. Dispatcher's	Kevin Brewer, Dean Matty
I.D's and Pagers	Carol Beard
TSAR Webmaster	Nathan Brown
Librarian	Theresa Crossland

ADVISORS

ASRC BOD Representative	Theresa Crossland
ASRC BOD Representative	Kevin Brewer
VaSARCon Representative	Nathan Brown
VaSARCon Representative	Butch Burke

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Kevin Brewer (Field Teams/Tracking) (757) 877-3449 (H) (757) 508-8727 (cell) TSARCOMMANDER@TSAR.ORG	Carol Beard (Safety Officer, ID's & Pagers) (757) 490-3623 TSAR30@COX.NET
Theresa Crossland (Field Teams, New Members) (757) 572-1487 (Cell) crossland@cox.net	Nathan Brown (New Members, Training) (757) 572-0254 TSAR35wm@yahoo.com

Websites:

TSAR: www.TSAR.ORG *This is a restricted site, persons must be members of TSAR to gain access to operational information located behind a firewall. Membership will be verified prior to gaining unrestricted access.*

ASRC: www.asrc.net ASRC has other valuable information also. *This is a restricted site, persons must be members of an ASRC group to gain access to operational information located behind a firewall. Membership will be verified prior to gaining unrestricted access.*

VASARCO: <http://vasarco.fovfr.org> Virginia Search & Rescue

VDEM: <http://www.vdes.state.va.us/> State training opportunities, and general SAR info

There are 9 other members of the Appalachian Search and Rescue Conference.

They are:

Allegheny Mountain Rescue Group (AMRG)

Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Group (BRMRG)

Shenandoah Mountain Rescue Group (SMRG)

Maryland Search and Rescue (MSAR)

Mountain Area Rescue Group (MARG)

Potomac Valley Rescue Group (PVRG)

Piedmont Search and Rescue (PSAR)

Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group (SWVaMRG)

Tidewater Search and Rescue (TSAR)

Delmarva Search and Rescue (DMVSAR)

Other Information

Our business meetings are held at the TEMS building on the third Thursday of each month. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (*excluding December*)

TSAR's Pager Number is available upon request when "Active" status is achieved and you have shown that you intend to maintain the status.

New Member Package Receipt.

I have received a copy of the New Member Package.

I understand that it is my responsibility to update all of the information personal or mission availability.

I also understand that I have to keep current all addresses and phone numbers.

I will let the training officer know if I will not be able to make it to training.

I will also let the dispatcher's know when I will be out of town and/or unavailable for a call out upon reaching a level of qualification which allows me to respond to searches.

New Member (Applicant): _____

Presenting Member: _____

Date: _____