



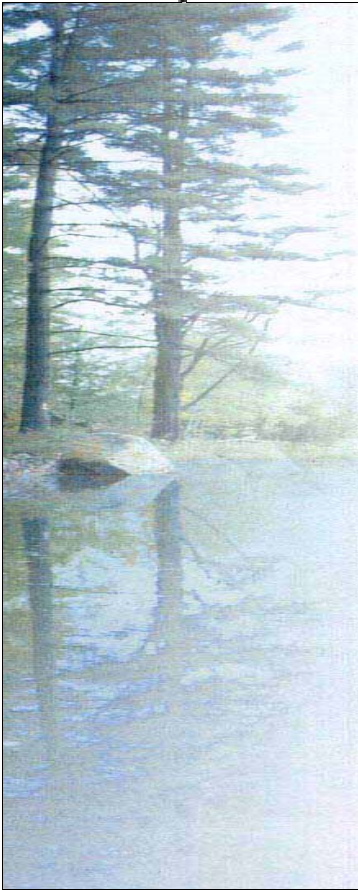
Greater Philadelphia Search & Rescue

RESCUE ME

Serving PA, NJ, DE & MD since 1979

2004

Volume 4, Issue 3



GPSAR's New Vehicle

For the first time in it's history GPSAR has mobile command post.

Most departments can't remember ever not having a vehicle. We can and always will. This vehicle is a tool to help us do our jobs better. We will NOT be waiting for it's arrival to work. We are first and foremost a field unit.

The vehicle is a 1997 E-450 SuperDuty vehicle. In 30 days our members shined as they used their talents to get the vehicle ready for



the fire expo AHEAD of schedule and UNDER budget (\$1000). The vehicle will be used as a mobile command post for our management personnel on a search or training.

It has workspaces with designated computer, radio, and planning areas.

Thanks to everyone that helped make this possible. You all know who you are and your assistance will always be appreciated in helping GPSAR make a huge step forward in getting this needed vehicle.

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Ridley Creek / Princeton

RIDLEY CREEK

GPSAR was contacted by DCNR Rangers at Ridley Creek to locate a missing despondent man.

The man was located and turned over to Rangers within 20 minutes of putting dogs on his trail.

PRINCETON

GPSAR was contacted by the Princeton PD to locate a despondent man.

The man was located after a phone call and sending 2 officers to the scene to size up the situation.

Every search is not a full scale operation. Many can be resolved by a small response or even a phone consult.

We adapt the response to the situation to get the best outcome for the subject.

EDUCATION / OUTREACH

Blue Marsh 2004

During the second quarter of the year we've been busy. We usually have a slow time around now

but for some reason that's changed. We've done the usual events like the Pet Expo but have been called to speak at schools, corporations, clubs and more.

There is no way to express the importance of doing these "details". They either pay us back because someone remembers something we've told or shown them and because of this they don't end up

needing our services or some someone who knows of a need for us now knows how to get in touch with us.

location let us know as far in advance as possible and we'll try to get a presentation together for you.



Education and Outreach are important but they must be balanced with actual field training which is always paramount in everyone's mind as it should be!

THANKS!

Everybody wins.

If you'd like to have us speak at your

Training

Urban CERT Mock / Nockamixon

Enough can't be said about the importance of training.



No one is an expert. If you've stopped learning then something is wrong. You should come away knowing something (no matter how seemingly trivial) after every outing.

We've trained inside and out in any combination of circumstances and environment we can expose ourselves to.

The result is that we're better prepared each and every day but we keep a healthy respect for the element of surprise.



Keeping trainings interesting is tough work when you're coordinating the schedules of 35 + people who are already busy.

It would be great if the SAR teams could get together and coordinate trainings so that people might go to each other's trainings to make up for missed ones, cross train, etc. I'd like to see that day come sooner than later personally.

As I've said before, "Training never ends".



MEMO's Night Ops

Statement – Nocturnal operations increase the chances of a mishap due to all of the normal hazards existing in a limited visibility environment. These notes can be applied to any environment where visibility is restricted with modification (i.e. fog, smoke)

Personal Lighting:

You should have 2 sources of light at all times. 1 source should be able to provide you with lighting at a walking pace 12ft ahead of you and be visible from ¼ mile while the other source should be able to give you visibility into light brush at 75 ft.

You should have a flashing safety light attached to your person. This light should be as visible as possible. A strip or vest type light that covers more than 180 degrees is a good choice if possible.

Task Unit Lighting:

In addition to personal lights there should be spotlights with each field task of no less than 1 million candle power. 2 per field task is preferred. Keep in mind that these lights have a typical operation time of 30 minutes or less so they are to be used at spotlights and not personal lighting.

Reflective materials:

In addition to the daytime yellow we encourage 500 square inches supplemented by reflective materials for night operations. These can be in the form of vests or arm / leg bands. Special vests will be assigned to special tasks as needed (i.e. Safety Officer).

Traveling:

Travel at a safe spacing with respect to task and terrain. Callout when you see something that can impact operations. A

decision should be made prior to heading out about whether or not all task members need to have lights on during duration of trip in order to conserve power.

Posting:

When going into brush task leader might opt to leave someone at the edge with a flashing light to watch road, give guidance to arriving assistance, and provide a clear point of reference for getting back out.

Courtesy:

When conversing be mindful that the headlamp that is allowing you to see can be blinding the person you are talking to. Be aware of the affect of the lights on canine and equine partners also.

Q&A: How do Search Dogs work?

Search and Rescue (like everything else) is changing. There are 2 choices; (#1) change with the changes or (#2) be left behind.

In this area it's going more urban. That means a change in tactics, trainings, and more.

During the last search we had resources that



simply could not be utilized properly due to the nature of the environment.

Since we can't change the environment we clearly need to address the tactics.

This is something that we'll be formally addressing in the near future in an attempt to adapt SOG's accordingly.

How Your Emergency Services Organization Can Reach GPSAR
1-877-598-5618 for business related items
gpsar@gpsar.org for email
911 in Montgomery County for emergencies



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Picture of the Month

