



Greater Philadelphia Search & Rescue

RESCUE ME

Serving PA, NJ, DE & MD since 1979

2005

Volume 5, Issue 1



Donation From REI

GPSAR was proud to be notified by the REI that we were to be selected as one of the recipients of their annual community service award and donation.

their new Marlton NJ store where food and a great presenta-

going towards our insurance payments and some maintenance

on our vehicle.



Thanks again to REI for all their

tion were provided.

help. It means a whole lot to us!

This took place at the opening of

This money is

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New Teams Popping Up

SAR is going through a stage where new teams are starting to pop up again.

Some teams make the long haul while others only last a short period of time because of the actual work involved in marinat-

ing a SAR team.

Don't get caught in the growing stages of a new team. It takes about 2 years before a team can call itself a valid resource if it is being responsible.

That time should be used

for growth, development, and HEAVY training.

Good luck to the ones that are still around to help in 2 years.

Pet Expo 2005

This year we participated in the annual Greater Philadelphia Pet Expo at the Fort Washington Expo Center.

The Expo was a good 3 day PR detail for us and as usual the dogs were enjoyed by all who attended.

As always we appreciate the generous offer from the events organizers to attend and look forward to participating again next year.



Training - Valley Forge, Hibernia, Ridely Creek and more.

GPSAR trained all over the area in the beginning of this year hitting 4 counties before April.



and if you know of any good location feel free to email us (gpsar@gpsar.org)

verse as possible and we've been successful at same. As the year moves on we plan to mix it up even more.



It is our policy to make training as often and as di-

Look for us in your area

MEMO's—What to look for in a team! - Still relevant!!!

Personnel

How many members does the team have?

Too few members and the team won't have enough people to independently function on a search. The team won't be able to have more than one shift or possibly even more than one task team in the field.

Conversely, if the team has many members but only a handful attend trainings and meetings, it may indicate internal problems or that it has more names on paper than bodies in the field.

In either case, a team with too few members is potentially unsafe and ineffectual.

Are members professional?

Is the team a social club or a professionally run emergency service organization? A team doesn't have to be all work and no play, but focusing too much on socializing means it forgot its intended purpose.

Do members get along? Not everyone has to get along all the time, but members should treat each other professionally and respectfully.

Is the membership diverse?

Differences such as background, age and experience often mean interesting growth and evolution. Different people may bring several options to solve a problem, thus increasing the chance of hitting on the safest and most efficient way of performing a task.

Administration

Is the team insured?

Insurance protects the team and its members. A team that uses donated dollars for fancy equipment instead of insuring its members has questionable priorities.

Training

How often does the team train? Anything less than once a month for ground searchers means the team probably exists for the glory and not for the victim.

How organized are the trainings? Do members stand around with no direction? Often there are periods of inactivity, but are members gearing up for the next activity or trying to figure out what to do next? Are trainings long enough to make them worth the effort to attend? An organized training usually means an organized search.

Does the team train on varied terrain and

weather conditions?

All searches don't happen on perfect spring days and rarely in the location where a team trains. Being able to safely adapt to all types of conditions is essential.

Community

Does the team provide community education?

A team that accepts public donations should give back to the public in the form of education. Searches don't happen as often as fires and ambulance calls. The time waiting for a search should be spent preventing a search.

What is the team's relationship to local officials? Local fire and police departments call the SAR teams. A team should be proactive and reach out to public officials. Organized search and rescue techniques are new to most emergency services personnel.

Does the team claim to provide unrealistic services? In other words, a team located in Delaware shouldn't claim to provide avalanche rescue.

For anyone looking for a search and rescue team, the answers to these questions may mean the difference between a successful relationship and a disaster.

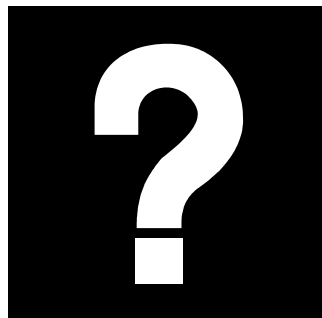
Q&A:

What is the best tool for the job?

While this question might seem broad and complex in some ways it's very simple.

The best tool is often the tool that you have there to do the job because anything else is irrelevant due to being inaccessible at the time.

There is always something better out there but far



too often I see people not having the ability to adapt

to work with what they have and they waste time longing for that "other gadget" they saw somewhere else.

Don't be that person. Be the person that knows how to get 200% out of yourself and your gear.

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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Receipt Info
Name
Address
City, State, Zip

PIC OF THE PERIOD

