

For Immediate Release

NJ SEARCHERS GAIN NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

New Jersey's premier volunteer search and rescue association, NJSAR, has been named a full member of the Mountain Rescue Association, (MRA), the national accrediting body for search and rescue teams across America.

New Jersey Search and Rescue[®] Inc., (NJSAR), is headquartered in Mahwah, NJ, but is a familiar face at most searches throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York (including the Adirondack region). The all-volunteer organization (501-C3), comprised of more than 60 trained rescue personnel, has now become a Full Member of the national organization, joining more than 80 such teams across the country, but one of only four east of Colorado. The national agency stresses training and education for all of its member teams, which also include groups in Canada and the United Kingdom. MRA member teams have been instrumental in assisting communities and government agencies in locating and recovering lost or injured people for over 45 years.

Seventeen members of the NJSAR, under the direction of Captain Brian Enberg of Sparta, were honored recently at the MRA's summer conference at Stowe, Vermont, recognizing the team's three-year commitment to gain MRA accreditation. The team was evaluated by other MRA teams in the areas of Wilderness Search and Rescue, Technical Rock Rescue, and Snow/Avalanche Rescue Operations. Winter conditions in Stowe, Vermont, guaranteed the most difficult winter operations/avalanche testing, with Wilderness and Technical Rescue work completed at Chickies Rock, PA.

In addition to their regular jobs, the volunteers have spent thousands of hours training in the classroom and field, bivouacking in all types of terrain and weather (including three winter days in the Adirondack Region.) High-Line rescue drills are practiced in most NJ-area parks, making the NJSAR orange and black uniform familiar to many of our local hikers.

Formerly part of the NJ Forest Service since 1950, and incorporated on its own in 1987, NJSAR works extensively with state, county and local police agencies, responding (24-7-365) to lost person/rescue requests dozens of times each year, at no cost to the taxpayer. In addition to being the first high performance mountain rescue team of its type in our state, (and New Jersey does have mountains), NJSAR provides expert Command personnel; highly-trained extraction and Medical teams; expert K9 teams trained in critical search specialties; and experienced ground search and tracking personnel.

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