

Revised 01/11/14

Mountain Rescue Association

M.R.A. MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION PACKAGE

1. Resource phone numbers, including local & regional contact information
2. Application Process Information
3. Benefits Overview
4. Policies for Membership and Accreditation Procedures
5. Application Form

RESOURCES

M.R.A. Membership & Accreditation (Oversees process, assigns region contact & sponsor team)

Monty Bell, Membership Chair

PO BOX 880868, San Diego, CA 92168-0868

E-Mail: rescue89@att.net

(619) 884-9456

Your region's current Chair contact information can be found at:

<http://www.mra.org/about/region-a-committee-chairs>

If you choose to pursue the process, please contact the Membership Chair for information on;

1. A full set of Policies and Bylaws
2. A set of regional Bylaws and Policies
3. Specific Accreditation criteria and procedures
4. **ATTENDING** the next regional meeting on: _____
at _____

5. Your Sponsoring Unit

Assists you with training and through the membership process

a. ____ Has not yet been determined.

b. ____ Is as follows:

Unit _____

Contact Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

6. Which category are you applying for:

__Regular (fully accredited)

__Associate

__Ex-Officio

7. **TO HELP US GET TO KNOW YOU**, you are encouraged to attend the next MRA conference:

Next Winter Business Meeting _____

Next June Conference _____

(Contact us for a registration form)

Mountain Rescue Association

THE UNIT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Please review the Policy 101 (below) for "Membership Qualifications". You need not be accredited to join. Typically, new teams join as Associate Members and then go through the accreditation process over the next several years. Once you have completed your application, return it to the MRA. If you do not yet have a Sponsor-Team from the Region, one will be arranged. You are highly encouraged to attend a Regional meeting and the National MRA meeting following your submission of an application in order to introduce your team and for us to give you support.

Dues and Fees

A one-time non-refundable processing fee of \$250 USD is charged for the application. The MRA votes new applicants twice annually at the winter meeting and the June conference. Once you have been approved you are required to submit dues of \$15.00 per active team member (Rescue & Support) for a minimum of \$225 and a maximum of \$1,000 USD. Dues are collected annually on January 1 and must be paid before a member team will be allowed to vote at a business meeting. Ex-Officio teams are not required to pay dues or fees.

Membership Categories

Mountain Rescue Association is composed of three membership categories as defined by Policy 101. They are:

- 1) Regular - Volunteer teams accredited in all areas
- 2) Ex-Officio – Governmental/Professional teams that may be accredited in any or all areas
- 3) Associate – SAR related organizations that may be accredited in one or more areas.

Ex-Officio non-accredited and Associate non-accredited status needs only an administrative process. It requires Region, Membership Committee and Board approval.

Regular, Ex-Officio or Associate with Accreditation, the region and sponsor team will schedule orientation meetings and joint trainings, as well as schedule the actual accreditation. The Accreditation Evaluation Team is made of qualified senior MRA team members from your area. Field evaluations may be done in your response area.

If you choose to accredit, the evaluations will include the following, depending on the Accreditation category and specific regional requirements as covered in Policy 103

Revised 7/6/2004

1. Administrative Evaluation:

A. An extensive administrative review of your application package for the necessary information and supportive foundation.

2. Field Evaluation:

A. WILDERNESS SEARCH

Mock Search Operation

Table Top Search Discussion

B. TECHNICAL ROCK

High Angle Evacuation

Scree Evacuation

Hauling Systems

Oral Exercise of Safety Factors, Equipment Strengths and Dynamics, etc.

C. SNOW & ICE

Snow Evacuation

Ice Evacuation

Avalanche and Crevasse Safety and Rescue

Oral Exercise of Safety Factors, Equipment Strengths and Dynamics, etc.

D. ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT FACTORS

Organization, Leadership, Problem Solving, Multi-Agency working Relationships

Overall Technical Skills

Medical Skills and Treatment of Patients

Overall Safety

Helicopter Use and Safety

Once the testing is done, the Evaluation Team makes a recommendation to your Regional Chair, who then passes it on for voting by the MRA at the next national meeting (meetings are twice a year: the winter meeting and the June conference). Upon your acceptance to the MRA, **we hope that you will be able to attend this meeting so that we may welcome you as a new MRA Team or Agency.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST

If you have any additional questions after you have reviewed the packet, please call one of the contacts listed on the cover sheet.

Mountain Rescue Association

Benefits Overview

The MRA's mission is "Saving Lives Through Rescue and Safety Education". We support our member teams with opportunities for information sharing, training and team accreditation including:

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual meeting and conference each June includes Vendor displays and emphasizes Field Activities and training for team members. The Saturday evening Awards banquet includes a Silent Auction of outdoor and rescue items and features a keynote speaker. There is also a business meeting each winter.

COMMITTEES and LIAISONS

Committees include but not limited to:

- *International Exchange *Communications *Medical
- *Membership/Accreditation *Research & Grant *Legal/Legislative Counsel
- *Fund Raising/Sponsorships *Long Range Planning
- *Public Relations *Publications *Education *Safety

Liaisons include but not limited to:

AAC (American Alpine Club)

ASTM (Standards)

IKAR (International Commission for Alpine Rescue, Europe)

ITRS (International Technical Rescue Symposium)

NASAR (National Association for Search & Rescue)

NCRC (National Cave Rescue Commission)

WRM (Wilderness Risk Managers)

NSP (National Ski Patrol)

10th Mountain Division

Revised 7/6/04

ACCREDITATION

The MRA is the only organization which offers peer accreditation to a technical rescue team. The MRA accredits member teams using strict accreditation guidelines which may vary slightly from MRA region to region (due to specific terrain and weather conditions). Units can choose accreditation in one or more areas. Many local Sheriff's offices and other authorities responsible for SAR in their jurisdiction require MRA accreditation for teams they use. Accreditation is proof of the team's safety and competence in the field.

TRAINING

Advanced training is available in most regions. Some topics include **Hard Snow Workshop *Ice and Snow Rescue Workshop *SAR Academies *Advanced Aviation Use *Crevasse Practice *and more!* Further peer networking opportunities are available at Regional meetings.

PUBLICATIONS

Each person on a Member Team will receive our quarterly newsletter the Meridian which includes items such as:

- * Happenings in the Mountain SAR Field * Feature Articles
- * Team Profiles * Research Articles
- * National Association Issues * Regional Issues
- * Committee Updates * Technical Information
- * Legislative issues affecting Mountain SAR * Wilderness Medical issues
- * Calendar of MRA and other SAR Conferences and Activities

MISSION and PSAR REPORTING

MRA Mission Report forms are provided for team use, they provide the foundation for an MRA International Data Base. The MRA and member teams use this data for planning, training, education, public relations and participation with the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (IKAR/ CISA). An annual PSAR (Preventive Search and Rescue) report is available based on input from member teams.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to build friendships, strengthen communication, encourage cultural and professional ties, and develop cooperative ventures. A number of MRA teams have already developed ties with international teams such as Chinese, Israeli, Tibetan and Taiwanese teams.

OFFICIAL MRA MERCHANDISE

Official MRA logo merchandise including uniform patches, pins, decals, and other supplies are only available to member teams.

RESEARCH GRANT

Annual grant monies are available to units for research and testing of equipment and techniques. Their findings are then presented at the ITRS (International Technical Rescue Symposium). Monies are also available for speakers travel to this event.

INTERNET AND LIST SERVER

The MRA is on the Internet www.mra.org. The MRA also has a list server for its members.

ANNUAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The MRA sponsors and provides annual Awards and recognition for individuals and teams in SAR. These awards are presented at the June Conference.
Revised 7/6/04

MRA HONOR GUARD

The official MRA Honor Guard is available for events.

OTHER DISCOUNTED SERVICES

Additional Member Services include:

- * Authorized use of radio frequency 155.160 (VHF) under MRA's FCC license on a limited basis (Contact the Communications Chair for limits on use, see directory)
- * Outdoor Clothing and Equipment Pro-deals

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

The MRA does not have individual membership. Individual membership is only granted to members of an MRA unit.