



# Search & Rescue Council, Inc.

Southern Arizona Rescue Association  
Pima County Four Wheel Drive  
Search & Rescue  
Pima County Search & Recovery Divers  
Pima County Sheriff's Mounted Posse, and  
Civil Air Patrol Neotoma Squadron 109

P.O. BOX 44251  
TUCSON, AZ 85733

## SEPTEMBER 1981 NEWSLETTER

### Meetings, Practices, Trainings

- Mondays** Neotoma Squadron monthly meetings: 7 p.m. at Flowing Wells Fire Station #2, corner of Curtis/Davis. Review of basics and continued orientation of the UH-1H (Huey).  
Sep. 7, 14, 21, 28
- Wed.** Four Wheel Drive general meeting: 7:30 p.m. at El Dorado Hospital.  
Sep. 2
- Friday** SARA general meeting: 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 3809 East 3rd Street. Dr. Findley Russel will speak at 7:30 p.m. Russel is the Director of the Laboratory of Neurological Research, at the University of Southern California Medical Center. He is internationally acclaimed for his knowledge of venomous animals.  
Sep. 4
- Wed.** Tracking practice: Rendezvous at 7:30 p.m. at Tanque Verde/Sabino. Tracking area TBA. Call Guy Sagi for details.  
Sep. 9
- Sat/Sun** Council Basic Orientation: Meet at 9 a.m., Tanque Verde/Sabino. See News and next item below.  
Sep. 12-13
- Sat.** Fire Rescue practice: meet at 8 a.m. at Tanque Verde/Sabino, then on to Palisades Ranger Station for practice with Forest Service, rescuing firefighters from firelines. Greg Lelo of the USFS will conduct the training. SEARCH AND RESCUE MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND. This is the first of its kind for rescue personnel.  
Sep. 12
- Sun.** Divers practice and meeting: meet at 9 a.m. at Amphi pool; bring full equipment. Search patterns and rigging will be discussed.  
Sep. 13
- Tues.** Last day to register for National Search & Rescue School (West). See October Briefs.  
Sep. 15
- Wed.** SARCI (Council) meeting: 7:30 p.m. at the U of A Health Sciences Center, room 6120. Videotape of the Tanque Verde Falls rescues.  
Sep. 16
- Thur.** Posse general meeting: 7:30 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge on Dodge Blvd. Map & compass training TBA.  
Sep. 17
- Sat.** SARA/Divers combined river rescue practice: meet at 8 a.m. in the the parking lot, South-East corner of Oracle/Magee. Practice on the Gila River near Winkelman. Everyone welcome and encouraged to attend.  
Sep. 19

- Sun. Picnic at Ft. Lowell Park. Everyone invited to attend this  
 Sep. 20 family day of baseball and fun. BYO food but contact Guy Sagi for  
 more details at 747-1371 or 886-005.
- Thur. SARA board meeting: 7:30 p.m. at the Simons'. All board meetings  
 Sep. 24 are open to any SARA member.
- Sun. SARA/Divers combined search techniques & organization: meet at 8 a.m.  
 Sep. 27 at Tanque Verde/Sabino for training at TANQUE VERDE FALLS. All  
 groups are encouraged to participate in this combined group effort.  
 Know the other's strengths and limitations!!!



## October Briefs

- Thur. Basecamp training. TBA.  
 Oct. 1
- Friday SARA general meeting. Dr. Hugh C. Thompson, III will speak on  
 Oct. 2 "Orthopedic Update: Recent Changes in Management of Orthopedic  
 Trauma." He will also show slides from a recent trip to Nepal, and  
 will discuss medical problems associated with high altitudes.
- Sat. Helicopter practice. TBA.  
 Oct. 3
- Sun. Divers practice and meeting: 9 a.m. at Kennedy Lake for search patterns  
 Oct. 4 practice. Also, nominations for annual elections in November.
- Wed. Four Wheel Drive general meeting.  
 Oct. 7
- Sat/Sun Arizona Search & Rescue Association, Inc.: First Annual Arizona S & R  
 Oct. 17- Conference, entitled "A Hole In One" which discusses underground rescues.  
 18 SARA will present a Cave Rescue program; also, Mine Rescue presented by  
 Barstow Desert Rescue (Barstow, Cal.). Manufacturers of outdoor and  
 S & R equipment will have demonstrations and booths. State Association  
 members are free. Contact John Pedley for more information at 327-0820  
 or 298-2036.
- Sat. Combined Desert Search with Four Wheel Drive, D-M, Posse & SARA. TBA.  
 Oct. ?
- Sat/Sun Civil Defense Test. An effectiveness test for CAP response to  
 Oct. 17- natural disasters and nuclear war, conducted locally.
- Monday Map and Compass Orientation. TBA.  
 Oct. 19
- 18
- Friday, National Search & Rescue School (WEST), in Albuquerque, New Mexico,  
 Oct. 30 conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard contains the same information as the  
 S & R school(EAST) conducted by ARRS. This school is open to civilians;  
 contact Bob McCord for more information.



# NEWS

SARA's new call sheet will become effective October 1, 1981. If there are any changes that you would like to appear on the next issue, call Kathy Simons , 881-6775 after 5 p.m. but before 10 p.m.

SARCI has a new mailing address and zip code. Please try to conform with the Post Office's request and use the new zip, then we'll be assured of receiving our mail. NOTE: P.O. Box 44251  
Tucson, Arizona 85733-4251

Congratulations to Sharon Franz, a recent graduate of the Arizona School of Nursing.

Our sympathies to Joanie and Jim Marshall. Joanie's father died suddenly on Tuesday, August 18, immediately after open heart surgery at the Cleveland Clinic.

Tucson Medical Center is offering a Sports Seminar beginning September 10. This five-part series will start at 7:30 p.m. in Marshall Auditorium. Note September 24 topic.

September 10: Football, basketball, baseball  
17: Jogging, swimming, physical fitness  
\*24: Hiking, climbing, skiing  
October 1: Cycling, gymnastics, dance  
8: Tennis, racketball, handball

These seminars are presented by physicians who avidly participate in these activities.

## Council

- The component groups are forming SARCI committes. Chairpersons will be appointed for these committes, such as training, publications, first aid.
- We need to know if SARCI can join Arizona Search & Rescue as its own unit, or must each unit join seperately.
- Ihsan Tezer is now responsible for keeping track of SARCI equipment. Anyone who knows where SARCI items are stored should contact him at 624-5059 so he can keep a record.
- Anyone who wants to donate to SARCI should be specific as to which component group receives these funds, or if intended for the Council only.

# Editorials

VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THESE EDITORIALS ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS, AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE ENTIRE GROUP.

It can be said that SCUBA Divers always look forward to their next dive. No two dives are alike; something is always new. For members of Pima County Search & Recovery Divers, the next dive will always be different, but not a dive that a person anticipates. When we were called on Monday night, July 27, we knew what we were being asked to do, and what had to be done.

But, it was still different. We responded with our 'skin' gear only, and wondered what it would be like to respond with full SCUBA gear, and how we'd get that gear into the water. We aren't hikers, but with some advice and assistance, we managed to find the water. The unit split into two teams; one to search the pools near the main falls, and the other to search the pools downstream. We had no specific ideas of where the victims might be, and because of the rushing water, conventional search methods were not used.

The divers responded without SCUBA gear because of the extreme dangers of the underwater currents. There was the possibility of becoming caught up in the flow and adding to the victims of those from Sunday's flash flood.

It was easy to spot the divers even without matching shirts---we used tether lines attached to a diver who searched by probing, feeling, groping, or however possible. A concern of the divers was to not put ourselves or anyone else in unnecessary danger, and we were all aware of our personal safety and limitations.

We didn't find any bodies during that specific operation, but an obvious afterthought since the Tanque Verde flood is the need for some combined training with other units of SARCI. Each unit is well trained in their respective areas of expertise; we now have to work together for a more cooperative effect on callouts. This assistance provided to the divers by SARA and Four Wheel Drive was appreciated, and with additional training, future callouts will go smoother. We all have our strengths and weaknesses, which through combined efforts, may be overcome.

Jack Redavid Pima Co. Search & Recovery Divers

The media has kept all of greater Tucson appraised of the Search & Rescue effort in Tanque Verde Canyon from the 26th of July. Actually, a first rescue took place on Saturday, the 25th. The Posse has a representative present at every call, and riders assisted with the ropes Sunday night after the first over-the-falls victim was recovered. Posse members rode all day Monday and Tuesday in the wash from Tanque Verde Loop Road up into the canyon until a horse could go no further.

It was rough for the horses; three pulled shoes, one bent a shoe, all at one time or another bellied down in quicksand. THANKS TO EACH POSSEMAN WHO ASSISTED. We did not issue a general call for the full Posse because the area was restricted to the wash bottom, and a half dozen riders at any given time were sufficient. It might have been hazardous to use more riders under tricky conditions without more radios.

Pima County Sheriff's Mounted Posse



## Editorials, cont'

The recent drama at Tanque Verde Falls left not only death and destruction in its path, but uncovered many weaknesses of our own. This letter is not meant to condemn, but to pinpoint areas for improvement.

On Sunday before the flood, we were fortunate enough (if loss of life can be considered such) to be in the immediate area when the flood occurred. This saved valuable response time and therefore, many lives were saved.

However, too many of our generals were in the field and the fort was left bare. When the second call came, confusion was the order of the day. Members either received no calls or multiple calls. Base camp without our "Dolores" was chaotic. Competent, qualified people were not used, while others were overburdened. Miraculously, we made it through the night giving our leaders time to regroup. Monday morning brought out the best in us again. There was order. Command post was established and operating. Base camp was positioned and lacked only the personnel to make it operative. Assistance was continually arriving. The media was converging on the spot. And, lest we forget them, the ever present bystanders with their Coors survival packs who were dashing for the best seats.

In the canyon bottom, members were collecting what evidence they could find, along with the somber task of removing victims that had been found. Concern for the job at hand coupled with the hectic previous day was reflected in the faces of many people. This sight affected me deeply, because wandering among them were many lost souls, there partly because of us: the cameraman loaded with a mountain of equipment, standing precipitously on a rock like "Atlas Shrugged"; the reporter, whose \$25 tanning job was sanded off in the choppers prop wash; the young samaritan whose good intentions were exceeded only by his perfect heat exhaustion symptoms. All this, within arms reach of four of our generals. It was not a case of "too many chiefs and not enough indians" for there were plenty of indians in the field.

For some unexplained reason, the ingredients that have set us above the rest were themselves cast aside. There was no command, coordination or common concerns. To hear "we can't do everything" is nauseating. The suggestion that we didn't have enough personnel present qualifies you for a white cane. Allowing obvious jeopardy of safety while remaining silent is negligence of the first magnitude. All this and more occurred as witnessed by myself and others. To condone this is like saying Hitler suffered from migraines, but was otherwise healthy. The operation is now over, but let's hope not too soon forgotten.

With all seriousness, it's time to consider the following:

Do we have procedures to cover a large-scale evacuation or disaster?

Do we have enough trained personnel to act as back-ups?

Do we rely too much on key individuals, or the membership in general?

Where do we emphasize involvement: with members, a select few, training meetings, callouts, etc.?

Is our obligation, if any, to safety a moral or legal decision?

Do you feel our education of the public is adequate?

Should only the membership or all present be subject to procedures during a callout?

Is our use and support of other groups and agencies efficient?

Is there equality between your contributions to the unit and its support of you?

Please use this page to answer these questions and return then to me. Let's see where we are.

Rudy Montenegro  
Pima County Search and Recovery Divers

# CALLOUTS

## Council Policy for Limited Callouts

"Limited calls" or "stand-by calls" may be used where a "full callout" is not justified. In contrast to a full call requesting all personnel to respond to an incident, a stand-by call requests personnel to prepare, but not respond until a full call is received; a limited call may be used when a few specialized people are needed. IN THE EVENT OF A LIMITED CALL INVOLVING ONE OR MORE VOLUNTEERS, A STAND-BY CALL WILL ALSO BE MADE TO ALERT ALL VOLUNTEERS.

### Date

### Situation

Saturday,  
July 25

Fall victim at Tanque Verde Falls just below main falls.

Sunday,  
July 26

Fall victim at Tanque Verde Falls, airlifted by D-M before rescue volunteers arrived at scene.

"

Flash flood in Tanque Verde Creek just after above rescue. Several people were isolated, stranded on rocks. All were rescued.

"

Body recovery of first flash flood victim.

Monday,  
July 27

Two more bodies recovered in TVF area.

Tuesday,  
July 28

" " " " "

Wednesday,  
July 29

Continued search for more bodies known to have been swept over falls. None found.

Thursday,  
July 30

Three more bodies recovered in flash flood area.

Friday,  
August 7

Limited call to assist boy and exhausted dog on Douglas Spring trail.

Saturday,  
August 8

Continuation on above...boy, dog, and rescue volunteers airlifted out of area by Customs helicopter after spending a night in the field.

Wednesday,  
August 12

Search in Santa Cruz County for 6-year-old Mexican girl who was washed down the Santa Cruz River two miles south of the Mexican border.

Thursday,  
August 13

Continuation on above...Divers also responded. Not found.

Monday,  
August 17

Body recovery of 19-year-old male drowning victim from flash flood control pond, southeast of Mission Road and Ajo Way. Victim and 4 friends were filming home movies when victim tried to swim across pond fully clothed, carrying a rifle.





# SEPTEMBER 1981

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			4-Wheel meeting 2		SARA meeting 4	
		1	Tracking 9	3		Fire & BASIC 12
	CAP 6	7	8	10	11	River training 19
Basic Divers 13	CAP 14	15	Council 16	POSSÉ meeting 17	18	
Picnic 20	CAP 21	22	23	SARA board 24	25	26
training 27	CAP 28	29	30			