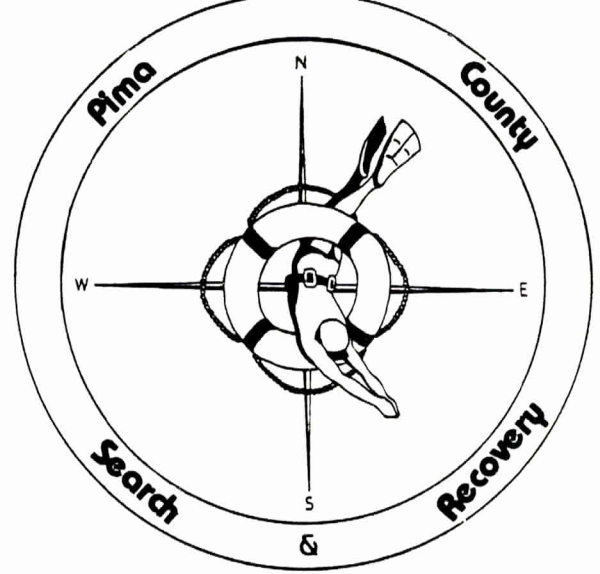


# Pima County Search & Recovery Divers



Volume 1, Number 11: October 5, 1981

## JOINT TRAININGS:

### river rescue

A joint training session with S.A.R.A. was held on Saturday, September 19 at the Gila River. For those who attended, it was an eye-opener in more ways than one. Although many members of our unit and of S.A.R.A. felt we were off to a bad start, the day became better as a cooperative effort was established. The group looked at the current methods used in river rescues, then explored new and alternative techniques.

Rich Kunz (S.A.R.A./S.A.R.C.I.) took pictures ( which we will get to see), and Chuck McHugh from the Sheriff's Department provided his expertise and good feelings (warm fuzzies) for the group.

We found out, that river rescues are difficult and challenging, and quick responses are the order of the day. S.A.R.A. has plenty of experience in this area, and Chuck is looking forward to strengthening the rescue efforts by including the use of Divers in future operations.

### Tanque Verde Falls

On September 27th, the Divers met with S.A.R.A. at Tanque Verde Falls for continued training in river and stream rescues. Tom Price and Chuck McHugh were also present to provide their continued expertise and support.

Orientation to radio communications and base camp operations was presented by two extremely competent S.A.R.A. members. Don Morris, wearing the hats of both units, discussed the implications of joint

operations and new ideas were born. Rudy Montenegro discussed the Divers equipment and transportation needs to S.A.R.A. members and several ideas on alternatives for transportation of equipment and divers were explored.

Then the group headed down to the pool of water in the canyon. I heard about a few sore legs, etc. from the divers. Perhaps the unit should now practice hiking techniques to reduce the sore muscle syndrome!

John Lutz was appointed the dive team leader - and did a smashing job of it too.

Please refer to these requirements for base camp operations:

1. One person functions as Operations Leader for organization and necessary paper work.
2. One person manning the radio to communicate with people in the field.
3. One person assigned to check people in and out as they enter and leave the field.
4. Runners are needed to take equipment, etc. in and out of the field and to provide additional assistance.

## Diver Training

Only a few people attended the training session on September 13 at Amphi Pool. This session was reserved for those who needed to complete their training requirements and for those looking for refresher training.

Because of the low turn-out at Amphi Pool, Gila River Training, and Tanque Verde Practice (about 50% of the membership), members are encouraged to review their training record to ensure that they have met the 50% training requirement. (In order to remain on active status, a member is required to attend a minimum of 50% of all training sessions.) It appears that some members are participating repeatedly, and others participate less than 50% of the time. As a result, members will be declared active or inactive at the October 3rd meeting.

# MEETINGS:

## **Divers**

The annual meeting of the Pima County Search and Recovery Divers, Inc. will be held on Monday, November 2nd at Larry Campbells residence. The address is 6531 N. Swan Rd. (north of Skyline) and in case you get lost, call 299-1878. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. so be prompt. Following the elections there will be a potluck dinner and swimming, so bring some food, drinks, and swimwear if you plan to stay.

## Council

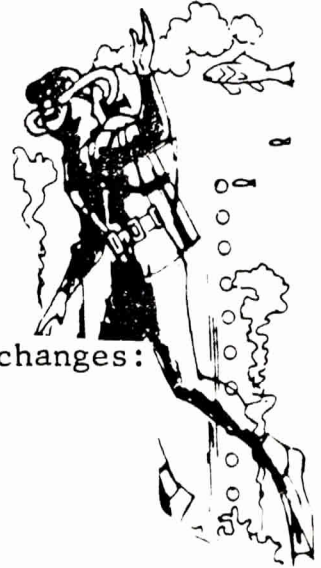
S.A.R.C.I. (Council) meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21st at the U of A Health Sciences Center. It would benefit both you and the unit if members participated in these meetings. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in room 6120.

# NEWS

## Pager

Please mark your call-out sheets to reflect these changes:

October - Gary Campbell  
November - Mike Cook  
December - ?



## Board Nominations

The following nominations were made for the Board of Directors for the Pima County Search and Recovery Divers, Inc.:

PRESIDENT: Rudy Montenegro, Jack Redavid, Mike Cook, John Lutz

VICE-PRESIDENT: Mike Cook, Jack Redavid, John Lutz

SECRETARY: Fran Ferrara, Luba Chliwniak, John Brumfield

TREASURER: John McDonald, John Lutz, Brian Baumer

MEMBER-AT-LARGE Gary Campbell, John Brumfield, Mike Cook,  
Luba Chliwniak, Larry Campbell, Fran Ferrara

Safety and Training Officer, Council Representative, and Committee Chairpersons are appointed positions.

## By-Law Amendments

A motion was made and passed; that dues are payable upon receipt of an application from a new member and that current members must have dues paid within two (2) months after the beginning of the fiscal year. Any default in dues shall subject that person to termination.

A motion was made and passed; that the membership committee shall find, investigate, and report on any other State or National Search and Recovery Diving Units that would benefit us if joined.



## By-Law Admendments, cont.

A motion was made and passed; that the position of Secretary/Treasurer be split into two (2) seperate positions.

A motion was made and passed; that a Public Relations Committee be created and that Maryann Matuska direct it. Call Maryann at home (299-2699) or work (626-5369) with any contributions, comments, or suggestions you have regarding the newsletter, publicity, etc..

## For Sale

New Seiko Automatic Diving Watch; water resistant to 150 meters, day and date, locking crown, rotating bezel. Retail price - \$165. Asking \$110 (firm). Call Jack Redavid at home (742-1203) or work (791-4366) if interested.

## Editorials

VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THESE EDITORIALS ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS, AND NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE ENTIRE GROUP.
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The past year has been long, demanding, and extremely productive for the unit. November 1980 found the unit with an all new look. There were new people, structures, goals, desires, and problems. The one ingredient that was not new was that we were all Divers. This, in and of itself, was enough to give us the pride, unity, and unique commaradarie so characteristic of the unit. With these tools attached to our weight belts, the Divers set out to accomplish the impossible. This compelling force was demonstrated repeatedly in the multitude of training sessions, practices, demonstrations, and callouts which the unit participated in their first year. I could not begin to thank each and every one of you for your contributions and dedication. Know that my feelings are there when I remember with fondnest some of the crazy activities we shared.

Remember the blackout training? It was so successful that no one in the unit sleeps with a night light on anymore. There was the endless rope work and rigging of pattern practice. So effective was this that waiting in a teller line at the bank evokes a conditioned response to grab the dividing rope and walk a circle. All of you who could swim a straight line blacked out, need not fear taking a sobriety test, provided you can talk the cop into letting you walk a straight line with foiled-in mask and your fins on. And how about the lesson we learned in camouflage of a day-glow wet suit at Tucson Sand and Soil?

# Editorials, cont'

These are only a few of the memories I treasure and only slightly indicative of the fine people you are. Perhaps, to best summarize the progress of the unit and the fine work you all have done is to pass on a comment made by Deputy Chuck McHugh. He stated that he considers Search and Recovery Diving to be the most demanding and dangerous aspect of Search and Rescue; however, as Field Operations Officer, it is the one area that causes him the least concern because of the training, organization, and quality of the people providing this service. A mark of true professionalism. He hopes to use our skill and training in tandem with others on future river rescues. Chuck and Tom Price have both decided to take scuba training so that they may actively participate with us on callouts.

We have much to accomplish and perfect in the coming years, however the job seems small and easily done when one considers the talent we have to work with, but we must not rest on our laurels. A diver above all others knows the tide does not wait for anyone.

Congratulations

Rudy Montenegro, Safety  
and Training Officer

1980-81 was a stepping stone for the Search and Recovery Divers. For the first time in its history, the Divers had a complete Board of Directors as well as a training officer.

During the past six years, the Search & Recovery Divers have matured in to a structured unit consisting of extensive training, an active part in the Council, and a newly-structured board. We have developed our image through better public relations, including fairs, shows and news articles. These advancements have been accomplished by the unit members themselves whose energies, talents and unselfish desires contributed to the basis of a well-educated, volunteer organization.

As past-President, I hope these energies will continue in the way of the first members whose ideas are now realities. You, the members of the organization, can make the Diving unit successful. I commend you on your unselfish donation of time, which many of you didn't have.

The bureaucracy which faces the new Board of Directors will need to be reminded of what we are and of our capabilities. (It took three years of bureaucratic red-tape to obtain a unit pager and a substantial donation for a much-needed compressor.)

I still think our participation in SARCI is essential for recoveries as members of Pima County Search & Rescue, so other units can learn from us as we have learned from them. Someday, hopefully, personal vendettas can be set aside and all units



# Editorials, cont'

will function as one. Until that day, the new Board members and those that follow will have a tedious task dealing with bureaucrats.

Water safety can only be promoted in Southern Arizona by greater public awareness. We need more exposure of the unit in ways other than just callouts. This year, we participated in three helpful PR events: the Posse Fair, the Crime Prevention Fair, and the Pima County Fair. They were extremely good for our PR, but I hope they will not be the only events in which we actively participate. Our progress and capabilities as divers have been apparent through our public relations attempts including the handouts, and the display booth which was totally donated by various Tucson businesses.

If we can reach one person and enlighten them, there is one less person we may have to "recover".

Again, to those families who gave precious time to do any of these tasks, THANK YOU.

RON SIKORA

19810-81 President, Pima County Search & Recovery Divers

## HELP US SURVIVE! WE COULD HELP YOU LIVE.

Volunteer Search & Rescue members are on 24 hour call every day of the year, certified in emergency first aid and trained in land/flood rescues, ground/air searches, technical evacuations and recovery.

Minutes count, and specialized equipment helps us to respond faster and more efficiently—but that takes money.

A human life is priceless.

Please support your Search & Rescue Council with a contribution today.

Then you may help us save a life.



**SEARCH & RESCUE COUNCIL, INC.**

Volunteer/Non-Profit P.O. Box 42251, Tucson, AZ 85733-4251

# Search and Recovery

by Ralph D. Erickson, PADI No. M-0

A properly equipped and properly trained diver is prepared to search and recover lost objects in any waters of the world. Small, medium, and large sized objects are lost in lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, quarries, and the oceans of the world on a daily basis. A small portion of the populace can pinpoint their losses with precision; while the vast majority claim pinpoint precision, they can in fact only give the general area where the loss occurred.

## Pinpointing Lost or Found Objects

If an object is lost in open water, or if an object is found that needs to be relocated at a later date; there has to be some way of pinpointing its location. Likewise, if a diver is on shore and a large object sinks (like a boat), then its location needs to be pinpointed.

## Shore Triangulation

To pinpoint a sinking object while standing on shore, a method of triangulation should be used. Look straight at the sinking object, then turn your back to the object and find a permanent object directly in front of you. This should be noted on a piece of paper immediately and entitled "a." If paper isn't available, retain it in your memory and record the information before it is forgotten. Next, run down the shore 50, 75 or 100 yards to another object you can call "b," and repeat the procedure. Then run back to object "a" plus on additional 50-100 yards in the opposite direction to another object which you can mark as "c." Preferably objects a, b, and c would have larger or more distinctive objects directly behind them resulting in more precise pinpointing at future times (see

Diagram "A").

If a compass is available, bearings should be taken from points a, b, and c. Then the diver need merely swim out from point a until b and c are reached, which would be a bearing directly opposite that taken from shore. For instance, if point "a" directly out is  $0^{\circ}$  or  $360^{\circ}$ , then the opposite would be  $180^{\circ}$ . If

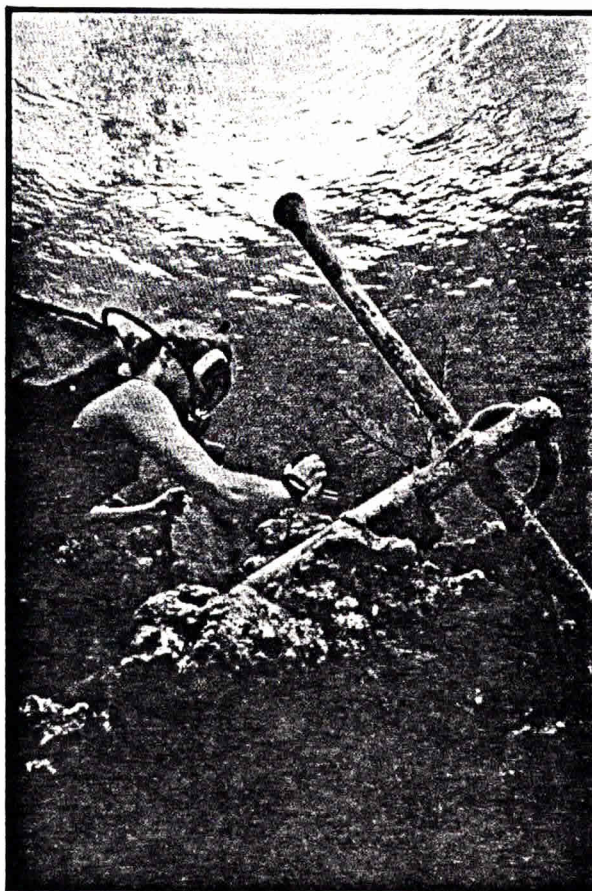
point "c" was  $300^{\circ}$ , then its opposite would be  $120^{\circ}$ , and point "b" at  $60^{\circ}$  would have an opposite bearing of  $240^{\circ}$ , thus the diver would swim directly out until the two points on shore crossed. To determine if the position were correct, the diver would sight over the compass along  $120^{\circ}$  and  $240^{\circ}$ . The sunken object should be directly below (see Diagrams "B" and "C").

## Relocating Lost Objects in the Water

If on the other hand, the diver finds an object in the water, a bearing should be taken on a stationary object on shore directly in front of the object. This should be labeled "a" on the slate with the degrees also included. Next an object to the right, labeled "b" should be sighted with the compass followed by an object to the left to be labeled "c" with its degrees also marked on the slate.

If the diver's compass fails, the same sort of precision can be obtained by using a diving knife. Most have inches marked on the blade. By holding the blade parallel to the water, the three points ("a," "b," and "c") mentioned in the foregoing paragraph can be pin-pointed by inches, half, or quarter inches as marked on the knife blade.

Divers should know how to locate an object in open water before they can dive to locate it with any degree of certainty. The aforementioned methods will assist a diver to locate an object from shore and to relocate an object discovered in open water. ■

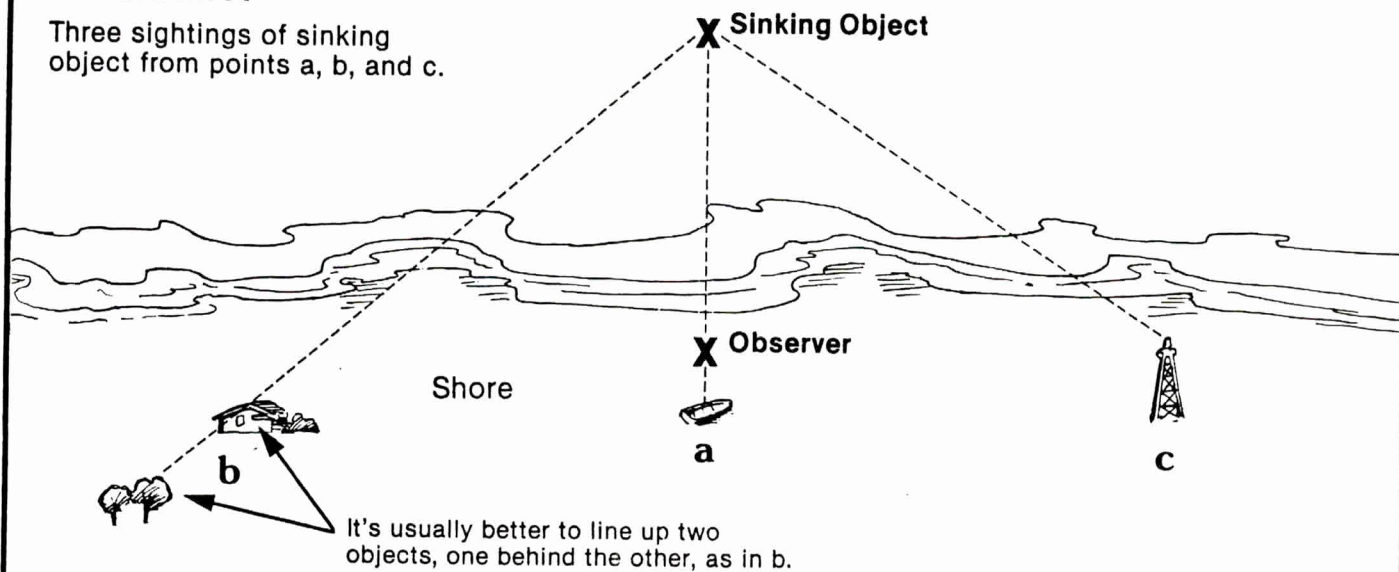


Photograph by Erich Schlader



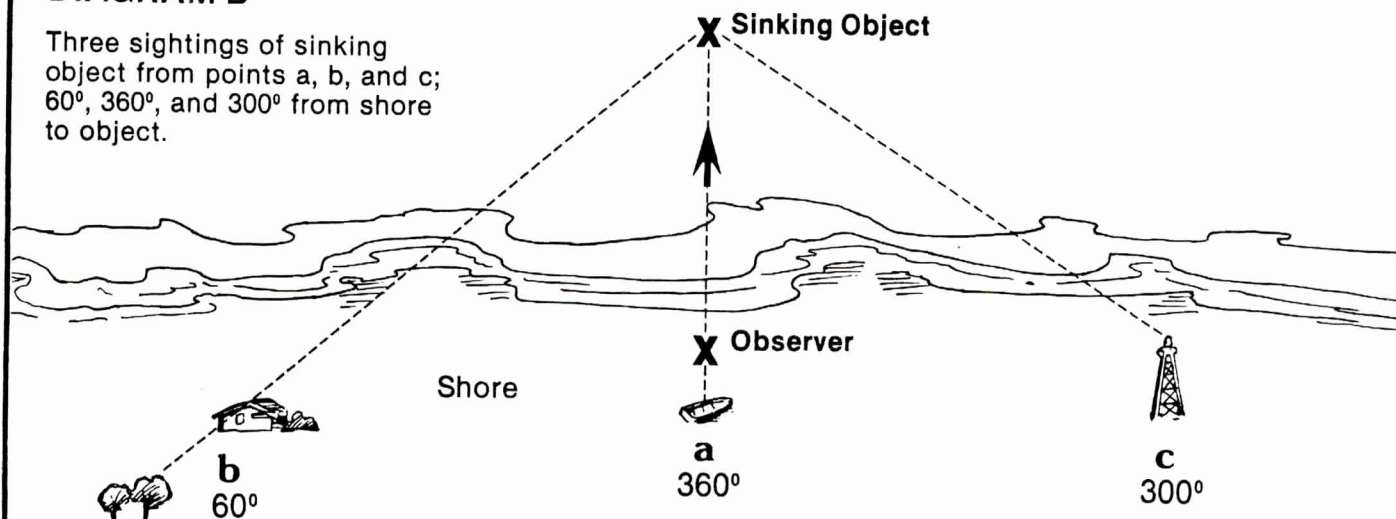
## DIAGRAM A

Three sightings of sinking object from points a, b, and c.



## DIAGRAM B

Three sightings of sinking object from points a, b, and c; 60°, 360°, and 300° from shore to object.



## DIAGRAM C

Three sightings of sinking object from points a, b, and c; 240°, 180°, and 120° from open water to land.

