

SARNEWS

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FEBRUARY 1997

TUCSON, ARIZONA

VOL.22 NO.2

FROM THE EDITORS

The speed limit in Sabino Canyon is 15mph. We've been pushing it.

We'll use the new rescue truck numbers after MEDS blesses "332".

MEDS: "RESCUE-330" "RESCUE-331" "RESCUE-332"

SAR: "330" "331" "332"

OLD NAME: "SARA-1" "SARA-2" "RESCUE-3"

New Sheriff's department radio identifiers:

Capt. Seligman	17	Sgt. Berry	119
Lt. Kastigar	36	Dep. Myrvold	310
Dep. Miranda	513	Dep. Price	343
Dep. Johnson	467	Dep. Sturgeon	326
Dep. Hartman	383	Dep. McGhee	408

SARCI group pager prices from Airtouch. If your bill is more, then ask for them to change it.

Voice pagers 14.95 (includes voice-mail and pager protection)

Digital pagers 10.95 (includes voice-mail and pager protection)

Alpha pagers no quote, we don't use enough of them.

PIMA CO. SEARCH AND RECOVERY DIVERS

by Fran Kunz, 886-2216

DIVER'S CALENDAR

February Training: 2nd Pool Session 09:00, Sun, Feb 9

Fort Lowell Pool

March Training: 08:00, Sun, Mar 9

Black Mountain

PIMA CO. SHERIFF'S MOUNTED POSSE

by Bob Siegel, 722-1358

POSSE CALENDAR

Posse Meeting 19:00 Thu, Feb 27

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde & Cat. Hwy.

TUCSON COMPOSITE SQUADRON, C.A.P.

by 1lt Darell New, 290-9501

No report, must be out flying.

SOUTHWEST RESCUE DOGS, INC.

by Pam Phillips, 325-4338

SRDI CALENDAR

Training Committee Meeting 18:30-20:00 Wed, Feb 5

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

Board Meeting 20:00-21:00 Wed, Feb 5

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

February Training: Reddington Pass 08:00 Sun, Feb 2

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

Tracking in the "meadow" off Reddington Road Milepost ~10

General Meeting 19:00-21:00 Thu, Feb 13

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

Dues are payable to treasurer or P.O.Box, Jan 1 - Feb 28

Specialty Training: Evidence/Urban 08:00 Sun, Feb 16

Ina and Thornydale (NE Quad)

Tracking from the Kelleman residence

March Training: Finger Rock Trail 08:00 Sun, Mar 2

North end of Alvernon

Training Committee Meeting 18:30-20:00 Wed, Mar 5

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

Board Meeting 20:00-21:00 Wed, Mar 5

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

1997 SRDI Board

President Vi Brown Training Chair Drexel Jones

Vice Pres Pam Phillips Member-at-Large Bonnie Terry

Secretary Kay Jones

Treasurer Hal Terry

SARCI reps are Pam Phillips and Vi Brown. Alternates are Hal Terry and Lisa Smith.

Dues are payable to the P.O.Box, at the Feb meeting, or directly to Hal Terry, to be received by Feb. 28.

FYI - As our general meeting began back in January, we heard the insistent noises of an unhappy feline. A "hasty" search revealed the cat was in the ducting in the conference room. So with team work and proper safety measures, the female cat was extricated from her "turkey-in-a-rock" predicament. Marti took her home for R&R and is giving her a new place to hang her hat. Deputy Doug, should we get a mission # for our rescue?!

SOUTHERN ARIZONA RESCUE ASSOCIATION

SARA NOTES

Each of the medical certifications now used by SARA members includes a requirement to maintain a current CPR card. We need to start including this information in our Field Qualifications records. Please provide a copy of your CPR card to Andy Lamb, as you have been doing with your Field Skills cards and medical certifications. At the beginning of October, the SARA Board has said, we will assume that our records are accurate, and your Field Qualifications status will include your CPR status with your medical qualification.

SARA CALENDAR

SARA General Meeting 19:30 Fri. Feb 7
St. Marks Presbyterian Church

SARA Board Meeting 19:30 Thu. Feb 27
U of A Farms (mobile classroom, south of bleachers)

SARA Candidate Program 18:30 Tue. Feb 11
Tumbleweed Room, TMC

February Training: Cave Practice 07:00 Sat. Feb 15
Sheriff Substation 108, Irvington & Houghton
Somewhere in the Santa Rita Mountains

Spring OEC Class begins Tue. Feb 25
Time and place TBA.

March Training: TV Falls & Trolley 08:00 Sat. Mar 15
Circle-K, east of Tanque Verde and Tanque Verde Loop

FEBRUARY TRAINING, CAVE PRACTICE

by Bill Graff, 297-0457

Time and place are in the calendar above. If it is more convenient, especially for people coming from the Northwest side of town, you can meet at the site. Take I-10 east to the Sonoita Hwy. Then south to Gardner Canyon Road, about milepost 36. Then west, follow the orange cones to the site, just before the first major stream crossing.

The Scenario: A family camping in the area is missing their two children. The girls are age 8 and 11, and wandered out of camp and never returned. The parents searched the immediate area, then called the S.O. SARA has been requested search the caves in the area of which there are several.

OUTDOOR DAY

SARA folks interested in helping out Tuesday, March 11 at Saguaro National Park (East) with a Gridley Middle School outdoor day, please contact Pam Phillips, 218-5242. We need to be there at 9:00 am and it will last till about 2:30. Bring your lunch!



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BLS Course: CPR for the Professional Rescuer

Adult, infant and child, CPR, one man and two man rescuer, use of pocket resuscitation mask and bag valve mask. Red Cross certificate upon successful completion of course. Cost \$20.00. A pocket rescue mask is required (\$10.00 at class). Time and place to be arranged. Call Frances Walker, 790-9399

MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

by Andy Lamb 743-7175 103217.1167@compuserve.com

SNOW AND ICE WORKSHOP February 8 and 9, 1997

CHANGED TO: Snow Bowl, Flagstaff

Sponsored by SARA !!

Desert Mountain Region, Re-Accreditation

Contact Nate Shechter if you are planning on going.

SPRING MEETING June 13, 14, and 15, 1997

Provo, Utah

Hosted by Central Arizona Mountain Rescue Association

THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA RESCUE ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN CANDIDATE CLASS BEGINS FEBRUARY 11, 1997

Join the team of individuals who volunteer their time and energy to help the people of Southern Arizona when they are in need in the wilderness. Hike to places in the middle of the night where you would never hike to during the day. Learn new skills and have the opportunity to receive great satisfaction that only comes when you are helping people.

Requirements:

1. Willing to give of your free time to help people in need.
2. Enjoy hiking in the mountains surrounding Tucson.
3. Willing to learn new skills.
4. Be physically fit to carry out search and rescue missions.
5. Willing to get up out of your warm bed and go on a hike.
6. Be able to sustain yourself in the field for 24 hours.

SARA candidates are required to complete an advanced first aid class and the SARA BASIC I & II classes before they are allowed to go on search and rescue missions. The candidate program begins February 11, and meets Tuesdays and Thursdays through the first of May with four Saturday classes (3/1, 3/22, 4/12, & 4/26).

Tuesday, February 11, 1997 Introduction to Search & Rescue
6:30 pm - 10:00 pm Fill out SARA application, pay \$35
Tumbleweed Room, TMC

For more information or questions please call Mary Lamb, 743-7175.

P.A.C.E.

PACIFIC ADVANCED
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Larry Pace
N7DD
PRESIDENT

CALLOUT REVIEWS

by Mary & Andy Lamb 743-7175 103217.1167@compuserve.com

Summary of Data

Reporting Period: 01 January - 27 January Callouts: 4
SARCI People: 35 Total Hours: 94 Hours/Person: 2.7

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SUN 19 JAN: CALL 97.-- Divers were called out for an evidence search in a pond off the Sonoita highway. The divers dove all day and did not come up with anything.

NO RECORDS RECEIVED FOR THIS CALL

MON 20 JAN: CALL 97.001 Search for two overdue 17 year old males overdue on a hike up Romero Canyon from Catalina State Park. The two started Sunday afternoon around 14:00, planning on going to Romero Pools and maybe try to touch the snow up trail. Ranger 38 started searching from Catalina State Park and flew the canyon up to Romero Pass without seeing anyone. They continued east and spotted a fire high above West Sabino, a mile east of the Romero Trail and south of the Wilderness of Rocks Trail. The fire turned out to be our two teenagers and Ranger dropped a note to them. A foot team was dropped off, one at a time, on the other side of a gully from the two subjects. The team made their way through the snow to the subjects and found out that one of them had lost a shoe while hiking, but were otherwise okay. The group returned to the drop-off point at dawn, and Ranger made two trips to return all to the trailhead. The boys had decided to hike to the top of Lemmon, in sneakers, without telling either family of their change of plans.
12 people, 56 hours, R38

SUN 26 JAN: CALL 97.??? Rescue of a 60 year old female who twisted her ankle at the fifth stream crossing on the Seven Falls Trail in Bear Canyon. A combination of a stokes and a horse was used to bring the victim out of the field. The evacuation was straight forward.
12 people, 25 hours, RMFD

MON 27 JAN: CALL 97.003 Rescue of a 50 year old female who had fallen and injured her face near the sixth stream crossing on the Seven Falls Trail in Bear Canyon. A Forest Service person (Steve, C511) was the first to the scene. The injuries had been bandaged, so the group started walking out, collecting rescue people along the way.
11 people, 13 hours, USFS

DEATH IN BLACK CAVE

by Bill Graff, 297-0457

Thanks to Elizabeth Robb, Bob Buecher, and Ray Keeler for their input.

1st TRIP: On December 14, 1996, Bill Graff (Southern Arizona Rescue Association, and Cochise County Cavers "C3"), Elizabeth Robb (Cochise County Search and Rescue, and C3) and Dale Green (President of C3) went to explore Black Cave. It was my second trip to the cave and the first for Elizabeth and Dale. We entered the cave at 13:00 hours. About an hour later we discovered a burnt book of

matches, wheat lamp (not working), set of keys, shoe insole, torn trash bag, strips of clothing, and a 3 inch straw. We were unsure what to make of this, but did feel it was strange. We continued our cave trip down the main passageway.

Three hours later we returned to the area where we discovered the lamp. We were still eager to continue exploring the cave and decided to push the passage where the keys had been found. Elizabeth was leading down the Key Passage, approximately 3 feet wide and 18 inches high. 8 feet down the passage it split up and to the left, and also down and to the right from which Elizabeth could feel air flow coming and decided to push in that direction. She then noticed a shoe in the passage and some cloth which turned out to be a hand stitched sock and notified us of her discovery. Then looking further down into the passage she saw what she thought was a clump of fur. After more examination she realized that she was looking at hair and the next words were "Oh my word!". Elizabeth requested her camera be passed up to her, and took pictures of the body from the Key Passage above, and of the other clothing items. Next, I crawled down the passage and confirmed that yes indeed, there was a body down in the passage approximately 4 feet down through a narrow crack. I could not detect any odor coming from the body. We gathered back in the outer passageway and talked about the hair on the head glistening in the light and appearing wavy and healthy, but sitting on a mummified skull which was chalk white in appearance. We recorded the time of discovery to be 17:00. We took the set of keys, which included a card with a video store bar code, maybe useful for identification. It took 50 minutes to get to the entrance of the cave from the body, marking the route with reflective ties. It was now 18:00.

We reported our findings at the Sheriff's Office. The three of us made written statements. We gave the set of keys to the detectives, told him we had pictures of the scene, and informed him that Elizabeth and I are members of our respective counties search and rescue teams and were willing to offer them any assistance they required. I also stated that if he contacted Southern Arizona Rescue Association, they would probably be interested in providing support for the operation. However, no one understood how involved this extrication would be. The officers asked if we would be willing to lead a team of deputies to recover the body. We felt that they may have difficulty unless they were experienced cavers, due to the small size of some passages. The detectives were pondering whether this was an accident or something else. Our opinion was that we definitely felt it was an accident.

2nd TRIP: We returned to the Sheriff's Office and met the deputy who would accompany us. Our assignment was to photograph the scene, collect the evidence, and attempt to extricate the body. Elizabeth and I estimated that the operation would take approximately 7 hours. There is nothing quite like suiting up into smelly, dirty, and wet cave clothes on a cold December night in preparation for extracting a dead body from a cave. We outfitted the deputy with Dale's gear. Dale was unable to return to the cave due to a sore back, and the S.O. graciously put him up at a local hotel. We entered the cave at 23:00, and took 50 minutes to reach the scene. The deputy examined and photographed the scene. He looked at the body and stated there was no way he could fit down there. I crawled down the passage and determined that there was no way I could fit either. We collected the evidence and exited the cave at 01:00.

3rd TRIP: The next morning we arrived at the S.O. at 09:00. The officers thanked us for our help and told us we could go. They planned

to attempt an extrication with their local Search and Rescue team. We discussed the extrication, and both Elizabeth and I volunteered to assist. The objective was to extricate the body, but if that wasn't possible we were told to bring back as much as we could. The head could be used to match dental records and even a hair sample would be better than nothing.

Myself, Elizabeth and a Gila Co. SAR person entered the cave at 11:30. We worked for three hours to remove the body, but only returned with the head. We exited the cave at 16:30. At the S.O. we examined the additional evidence and discussed the difficulty of the operation. The officers were amazed that the body stayed intact.

4th TRIP: On December 16th, I was contacted by Ray Keeler (Central AZ Mountain Rescue Association (CAMRA), and Central AZ Grotto (CAG)) who is very familiar with Black Cave. Ray has done extensive mapping of the cave, and was able to interpret from my verbal description in what area the body was located. Over the next few days he contacted the Gila County S.O. and organized several cavers to attempt a body extrication. Both of the deputies that Elizabeth and I had escorted into the cave had no desire to return. On December 22nd, Bob Buecher (SARA) and I traveled to the Gila County S.O. and met Ray and his group. Ray and Officer Rasmussen conducted a briefing.

We assembled in the Wheat Lamp Passage. Part of the team went to work on widening the passage, while others looked for an alternate route to the body. Ray discovered a second flashlight, disassembled. He also found a number of cigarette butts next to the flashlight. The widening of the passage was going very slowly. Finally enough protrusions had been removed that a sling could be passed around the upper torso. Two haul systems were rigged, and a bolt was set as a redirect to improve the angle of pull. Both systems were tried independently and simultaneously without success. We alternated between the two systems, attempting to wiggle the body out, also without success. Efforts to enlarge the crack and use a 2x4 to pry the body into a larger portion of the crack resulted in no significant progress after several hours. The entire effort lasted for 9 hours. Most of the problem was caused by the body in a squatting position with legs wedged in the narrow crack. The torso filled most of the crack and it was difficult to see the lower part of the body. We decided to make another attempt in a couple of weeks.

5th TRIP: Bob and Deb Buecher and myself returned to the Globe S.O. on January 4, 1997. We met Ray Keeler and a contingent of 16 cavers and additional Maricopa and Gila County S.O. personnel for surface support. The equipment included electrical tools and cables, and cave phones.

Ray organized us into two teams, Subject and Communications/Electrical. Each team consisted of 9 members. Bob, Deb and I were on the subject team, which entered the cave first and consisted of the smallest cavers. While we were moving equipment, the comm team wired the passages from the entrance to the body. Lisa Wolf, the smallest caver, was able to wiggle down into the crack and reach the body without any additional widening of the passage. Once through the crack she was even able to turn herself around so that she could position herself over the body.

Two haul systems and redirections were set up and worked for several hours without success. By this time we had electric power and communications to the surface. The hammer drill with a chisel tip made slow but steady progress on the narrow top of the crack.

Additional attempts to haul while prying on the body with a pry bar were also unsuccessful. Hauling with a re-rigged system moved the body slightly from side to side, it would still wedge with any upward pull. The power drill was of no further use that far down into the crack, because we couldn't get an effective angle to work on the walls. A person down in the crack worked on the passage way around the body with a hammer and chisel. He quickly tired and we were again unsuccessful in wiggling the body free.

It was late afternoon and was beginning to look like we might not get the body out that day either. I then attempted to slide down the widened crack. I found it difficult to fit, mostly due to the length of my body, 73 inches. I went into the crack feet first and it wasn't long before I could feel the body with my feet. I backed my myself over top of the body and into a narrow crack on the other side of the body from the crack from which I had entered. I was able to lay on my stomach in this crack and position my arms over the body. At this point I was able to fully evaluate the position of the body in the passage. He was sitting in a squatting position. Both feet were resting on the cave floor below him. The right knee rested against the wall. The wall behind him was undercut approximately at the lumbar area of his back and his pelvis was below and underneath the undercut. I attempted rocking him forward and backward, rotating him side to side, lifting straight up and even pushing down on him. None of which produced and significant movement in the body. After 6 hours of working on the extrication, we decided that we would have dismember the body in order to get it out. We obtained permission from the Sheriff on the surface. The body bag was cut in half and the torso put in one half and the arms and legs in the other half. The body & most personnel then started out of the cave. Those of us remaining finished de-rigging, and Lisa went back down into the crack to look for any additional evidence. She did find several articles including the guy's billfold which had his drivers license. All personnel and equipment were out of the cave by 20:30.

The Speculation: The officers suspected that the body was of an individual who had been missing since April of 1995. If so, the body had been in the cave for 1 year and 9 months. From the evidence we had collected it appeared that the individual had become lost in the cave. He was caving alone, not wearing a helmet, knee or elbow pads, or boots, and had only two sources of light. To get to the passageway where the wheat lamp was found, one had to crawl through a tight twisting passage which "T'd" into the Wheat Lamp Passage. The individual never found the turn he needed, which was a low passage off the larger continuing passage, to find his way out. It appears that he was leaving debris in the passages to mark where he had been, and continued to do this even in the dark. He was most likely in the upper left passage from the key passage and felt the air flow coming out of the lower right passage. In the darkness he managed to squeeze himself down into the lower passage where it pinched off. There was a crack which continued in the lower passage but was not passable. This was where the air flow was from. He was then unable to get himself out of this lower passage in the dark.

(You are welcome to ask Bill for a copy of his detailed narrative that is alot longer than this space allowed. Mykledidit.)

February 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 SARA BASIC III
2 SRDI Training	3	4	5 SRDI Board Mtg.	6	7 SARA GENERAL MEETING	8 MRA Snow Workshop Flagstaff
9 Divers	10	11 SARA Candidate Program	12	13 SRDI Gen. Mtg.	14	15 SARA Monthly Trng. CAVE Practice SARA Candidate Hike
16 SRDI Spec. Trng	17	18	19	20	21	22
RODEO, Feb. 19-23						
23 RODEO, Feb. 19...	24	25 Spring OEC Class Begins	26	27 SARA Board Posse Mtg.	28	

March 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 SARA BASIC IV
2 SRDI Training	3	4	5 SRDI Board Mtg.	6	7 SARA GENERAL MEETING	8
9 Divers	10	11	12	13 SRDI Gen. Mtg.	14	15 SARA Monthly Trng. TV Falls & Trolley
16 SRDI Spec. Trng	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 SARA Board Posse Mtg.	28	29
30	31					

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SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL, INC.

P.O.Box 44231, Tucson 85733

Meet 3rd Wed 19:30 (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct), details inside.

PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S MOUNTED POSSE

8987-309 E. Tanque Verde, Box 232, Tucson AZ 85749

Meet 4th Thu 19:00,

Sheriff's Substation #106, 8999 E. Tanque Verde Rd.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA RESCUE ASSOCIATION

P.O.Box 12892, Tucson AZ 85732-2892

Meet 1st Fri 19:30, St. Mark's Church, 3809 E. 3rd St.

PIMA COUNTY SEARCH AND RECOVERY DIVERS

P.O.Box 13961, Tucson AZ 85732

Meet 2nd Sun 09:00, details inside.

TUCSON COMPOSITE SQUADRON 109, C.A.P.

P.O.Box 92593, Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ 85707-2593

Meet each Sun 18:00, Building 3220, DMAFB

SOUTHWEST RESCUE DOGS

P.O.Box 64120, Tucson AZ 85728-4120

Meet 2nd Thur 19:00,

Sheriff's Substation #106, 8999 E. Tanque Verde Rd.

SARNEWS is published monthly by Search and Rescue Council, Inc., a volunteer, non-profit organization. It is distributed free to members of SARCI affiliated groups and other qualified search and rescue organizations.

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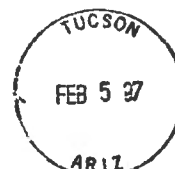
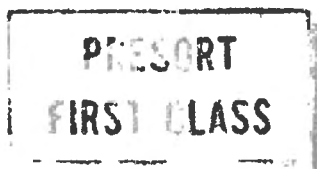
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