

# SARNEWS

© 1992 SARCI



JULY 1998

TUCSON, ARIZONA

VOL.23 No.7

## FROM THE EDITORS

### Address and Phone Number Changes

We try to keep our database updated with your current address and phone numbers. This is the database that is used to generate the phone list. The next phone list will be published with the August newsletter. Please contact Andy Lamb, 743-7175, with your changes and corrections to your address or phone numbers.

## PIMA CO. SHERIFF'S MOUNTED POSSE

by Jerry Simmons, 293-2300

### POSSE CALENDAR

- Posse Board Meeting** 19:00 Thu. July 09  
 Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy
- Gymkhana** Sat. July 18  
 "Old" South Winds Arena
- Posse General Meeting** 19:00 Thu. July 23  
 Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

Public Relations: Nick Thill is heading up Steer Roping with proceeds going to a special scholarship fund for students on Pima College's Rodeo Team. The number of students helped will be determined by how successful the roping is.

Larry Caugh and Jerry Simmons spent a week - one hour at Lyons Elementary School with 54 students ages 6 to 11 yrs, explaining S & R, Posse, the weather, how much horses weigh and yes a little bit on what to do when you go to the mountains or camping in the hot weather. You'll be happy to know we gave S.A.R.A. name out for the next ones! Good Luck!

Training: Posse had a medical update at Alex Hodge's Ranch on June 13. A special thanks to Shannon Reilly for her assistance. The steaks and food Alex Hodge prepared was only over shadowed by Capt. Caugh's inability to light the charcoal! Ha (self-starting even). Thanks to all the students but especially to Alex who allows us to train and party at her place, and for the best steaks I've had in two years.

Search & Rescue: Larry Cunningham is the S&R coordinator and doing a good job. Dan M., Seigal, Caugh, Simmons, Salber, and Thill following in support.

Well its turning hot. Don't forget to inspect your automotive cooling system before it raises its ugly head and nails us on a search.

Respectfully submitted, Jerry Simmons

## SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL

### SARCI WEB SITE

The prototype SARCI web site is up and running. We need people to use it and offer comments. We also need people interested in keeping it updated. Email addresses for comments are available on the site.

### HAM CLASS

Melody will be scheduling a ham class shortly, when her part-time job provides a break. Call Melody at 885-6362 or send an email message to her at [outdoor@azstarnet.com](mailto:outdoor@azstarnet.com).

## SOUTHWEST RESCUE DOGS, INC.

by Pam Phillips, 325-4338

### SRDI CALENDAR

- Business Meeting** 18:30-21:30 Wed, July 01  
 Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy
- General Meeting** 18:30-21:30 Wed, July 08  
 Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy
- Training: Water Search, Patagonia** 06:00 Sun, July 12  
 Meet 0600, I-19/Ajo, Mervyn's parking lot, or  
 Meet 07:30 at Patagonia Lake.
- Training: Tracking on Mt Lemmon** 08:00 Sat, July 25  
 Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

*Note:* We added a monthly business meeting date, so our general meeting can possibly have speakers or a program. Look for future topics that might be of interest to you!

Like many businesses in town when the heat of summer comes around we go into "survival" mode. Most of our trainings during the hot days of summer will be on or near Mt Lemmon, where the dogs can train in more bearable conditions. Also we add water search to our summer schedule, where we manage to stay comfortable during our training!

Any new SAR folks interested in observing or helping on our trainings please contact Pam Phillips 218-5242 or Paul Carter 825-6517. We would love to have you!

F.Y.I. When available our dogs will respond to a summer search *after the sun goes down*. Their system of scenting nearly shuts down in our dry, daytime heat, but after sundown when temps decrease and moisture increases a bit, their noses can be put to good use!

## PIMA CO. SEARCH & RECOVERY DIVERS

by Doug Myrvold

### DIVER'S CALENDAR

**July Training: Parker Canyon Lake** 09:00, Sun July 12

People interested in camping out Saturday night contact Kunz's. Otherwise meet at the lake at 09:00 Sunday morning.

## TUCSON COMPOSITE SQUADRON, C.A.P.

by 1lt Darell New, 290-9501

No report, must be out flying.

## SOUTHERN ARIZONA RESCUE ASSN.

### SARA CALENDAR

**SARA General Meeting** 19:30 Fri July 03

*Location: Fort Lowell Park*

Program: River Rescue

**Pool Sessions** 18:00 July 07, 08

July 07: Jacobs Park, July 08: Jesse Owens Park

**July Training: River Rescue** 07:30 Sat July 18

Meet at Oracle and Magee

**Field Skills Recertification** 07:30 Sat July 30

Himmel Park, NW corner

**SARA Board Meeting** 19:30 Thu July 30

U of A Farms (mobile classroom, south of bleachers)

**SARA General Meeting** 19:30 Fri Aug 07

Program: Special needs of pediatric "clients"

**August Training: Night Search** TBA Sat Aug 15

Meet at Oracle and Magee

### ANNUAL DUES

The new Board of Directors sets the dues for the following year. They are the same as last year: \$15. People whose dues are unpaid at the July Board meeting will be dropped.

### MEETING PROGRAMS

by Pam Phillips, 218-5242

Sept 4: Tanque Verde Falls, history and SAR introduction

Oct 2: Basic map & compass

Nov 6: Information you need if you're going underground.

Dec 4: Looking toward 1999 and the MRA conference

### JULY TRAINING

#### River Rescue and Float Regatta

Contact: Nate Shechter, 887-3714, 291-8629 vp, 907-6222 mp

When: 07:30, Saturday, July 18

Where: Gila River near Winkleman

**Prerequisites:** You must make a pool session once every three years in order to enter the river during this practice. You must provide your own wet suit and PFD for this practice. Wet suits are available for rent and sale at one of the local Dive Shops in town.

**Pool Session 1:** July 7, 1998, 18:00 - 19:00, Jacobs Park, located on Fairview between Prince and Miracle Mile. Following this pool session a brief classroom session will be

held. Things will be discussed and shown that will not be shown at the practice.

**Pool Session 2:** July 8, 1998, 18:00 - 19:00, Jesse Owens Park, located on Sarnoff between Broadway and Pantano. We will hold another classroom session at this time (see note above).

**River Rescue Practice:** Meet 07:30, Oracle and Magee, then to Gila River turnoff at MP 141.3 (If you are tardy, stop by and read the cone so you know if we are upstream or downstream. I'll be changing the location this year.)

**Topics:** River safety, reading the river, swimming the river and crossing techniques. DPS will (should?) show up for pickouts. Following the practice we will float the river as we always do. Please bring your own PFD Type 3 or 5 and a wet suit, lots of fluid to drink especially if you are trying the new Oprah diet, how to lose 25 lbs. in 6 hrs (fictional) by running around in a black rubber suit, and lunch is suggested.

### AUGUST TRAINING

#### Search Management/ Night Search

Contact: Ron Arrington, Jim Gilbreath

When: Saturday, August 15

### OEC INFORMATION

by Pam Phillips, 218-5242

To all the Spring 1998 OEC graduates: Congratulations! It's good to see the yellow shirts at all of our activities!

Since your medical skills have advanced to a much more "secure" level by class end, would you consider returning the laminated "review" cards for the next group to use? If you want to keep them as a reference, that's okay too.

Don't forget, the Fall OEC class is your first chance to "get even" by participating as a victim during in-field Saturdays and practical exams. Watch this space for dates and locations.

by John Gorski

This year's OEC Refresher will be held on Aug. 29th for the Instructors. SARA's OEC Refresher is to be held on Sept. 12th. Watch here for location and time. Keep these dates in mind unless you are willing to take another full class to keep your OEC up to date.

### MEMBERSHIP

by Mary Lamb 743-7175

#### Candidate Program

The next opportunity to join SARA is August 18<sup>th</sup>. That is the date of the SARA orientation that will be held from 18:30 to 22:00 in the Tumbleweed Room in Marshall Auditorium at TMC. Potential candidates will be given an orientation about who we are, what we do, and what is expected of members. If the individual is still interested after finding out about us, they fill out an application and pay the application fee (\$35). Then they are required to go on a hike with us on Saturday, August 22<sup>th</sup>. If after the hike they still want to be candidates the OEC course begins August 25<sup>th</sup>. If after the hike they decide that SARA is not for them we will cheerfully give them back their application fee.

## CALLOUT REVIEWS

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

### Data Summary

<b>Reporting Period:</b> 01 Jan – 27 June	<b>Callouts:</b> 57
<b>SARCI People:</b> 713	<b>Total Hours:</b> 2878
	<b>Hours/Person:</b> 4.0
	<b>Calls/Week:</b> 2.2
<b>Reporting Period:</b> 30 May – 27 June	<b>Callouts:</b> 11
<b>SARCI People:</b> 147	<b>Total Hours:</b> 647
	<b>Hours/Person:</b> 4.4

**SAT 30 MAY** CALL 98.046 Search for a 2 year old boy, missing from a shack in Avra Valley. Several agencies had been looking prior to our arrival, including air support with TPD Air1, AirCare, and Ranger38. A large line search was organized to search thru the flat desert with scattered vegetation. Meanwhile a couple of Sheriff's Canine Unit people were working on track that lead to the child sleeping under a tree. The line search disintegrated instantly. The boy was not responding appropriately, so he was flown to town. 15 people, 62 hours, Air1, AirCare, Ranger38, MedEvac, AvraValleyFire, PictureRocksFire, TucsonMountainPark

**SUN 01 JUN** CALL 98.047 Search for a 24 year old male overdue on a hike in Carter Canyon, Mint Spring. The initial report was to MLFD, who had a number of people available. They were in the field a ways before any of us made it to base camp. Ranger 38 spotted the hiker's fire and directed the MLFD personnel to his location. No further assistance was requested, although the chief would have welcomed our company during the walk out. 16 people, 31 hours, R38 MLFD

**MON 02 JUN** CALL 98.048 Search for a 40 year old male hiker at Sabino Canyon. The subject had started his hike at the north end of Alvernon planning to come out Esperero Trail at the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center. As we were responding a report was received that someone was yelling for help a short distance up Ventana Canyon. A subject walked out at the entrance to Flying V Ranch and met a deputy, who determined that he was the overdue hiker. The subject said he also heard some yelling so a team hiked up the trail to the Forest Service boundary. No one was located, so we assumed that it had been our subject, too embarrassed to admit it. 12 people, 23 hours

**THU 04 JUN** CALL 98.049 Search for a 50 year old male hiker on the "Blue Line" below the Wilderness of Rocks. The subject became separated from his group while bushwhacking from the Aspen Trail to the west across the next canyon, and did not show up at the trail after the others made it out, so they reported him missing. Teams covered the Wilderness of Rocks, Marshall Gulch, Aspen, and Box Camp Trails, and several teams spent the night here and there. He had turned down the canyon, which runs into Sabino, then hiked upstream, falling into the water several times after dark before he decided to stop. He had no source of light, so couldn't signal Ranger 38. He was by the running stream, so couldn't hear the team on the ridge above. In the morning, he found the Box Spring Trail, and hiked out. 12 people, 141 hours, R38

**SUN 07 JUN** CALL 98.050 Rescue of a ?? year old female with an ankle injury at The Crack in Sabino Canyon. She got a stokes ride downstream to the road. 11 people, 22 hours, USFS, RMFD

**TUE 16 JUN** CALL 98.051 Search for a 63 year old female hiker in upper Sycamore Canyon. The subject became separated from her bushwhacking group, and couldn't hear their shouts in the wind. She crossed the canyon and ridge, running into Rose Lake, then got a ride back to the group's cars as we arrived. 9 people, 16 hours

**FRI 19 JUN** CALL 98.052 Rescue of a 16 year old hiker who fell while climbing near the saddle at Picacho State Park. We assisted the State Park and Pinal Co. A park ranger arrived on scene as we arrived at basecamp. Foot teams carried medical and evacuation equipment, with help from Ranger 38 flying into the saddle above the scene. The patient was carried by stokes to the saddle (not easy, but short), then by Ranger to basecamp, and by medical helicopter to Tucson. 12 people, 49 hours, R38, Pinal Co SO, Picacho Rangers

**SUN 21 JUN** CALL 98.053 Search for a 34 year old backpacker separated from his companions on a overnight backpack on the Turkey Creek Trail in the Rincon Mountains. The trip started Saturday morning, heading for Manning Camp that night. The trail climbs 2000' in 3 miles, passing Mudhole Spring (not on maps) about half way.

The subject has been dealing with diabetes for 23 years, doing a lot of hiking. He stopped to rest at Mudhole Spring, which was dry. His companions were told to continue. Deer Head Spring is running nicely, just before the junction at the top of the climb. They continued to the official campground at Spud Rock Spring (nowhere near Spud Rock!). That spring was dry (so they reported: it was full of water, but not running much), so they returned to the junction and camped while waiting for their companion.

The slow hiker had continued another half-mile before getting off trail, dropping his pack, and drifting about 100 yards away in pine trees (nice area, actually). In the morning, his companions hiked back to their vehicle, not finding any sign of the missing hiker, then reported him missing.

Park and SAR people investigated the report, deciding that search teams were needed. Logistics support was being provided to Manning Camp by helicopter, and at least four search people were transported from the park heliport. Ranger 38 also flew teams up, resulting in a couple of SAR teams and at least one park team working from the large top of Mica Mountain. A Posse team started up-trail, hoping the subject would be able to ride out. Other teams blocked trails from below.

Ranger spotted a backpack, well off trail, and matching the rough description of the missing hiker's. Andy entered the GPS coordinates and headed about a half-mile cross country, while others converged on the area (at the top of the climb) looking for a person without his pack.

But, it belonged to a hiker from December, who lost the trail (it WAS somewhat snowy ...), then dropped his pack, finally finding the trail but not his pack, and hiked out, reporting the

situation to the park. He looked for his pack on later trips. We dropped the pack on trail, then continued the search.

One team headed down the Turkey Creek Trail at dark, heading for the point-last-seen at Mudhole Spring. Teams were hearing each other shouting for awhile, then a response was heard that sounded a lot more interesting, about a mile down trail. The subject at that time had been 32 hours with no pack, no food, no water, no medicine, and a T-shirt and shorts, after a long, hard, hot uphill hike.

Jeff remained horizontal, lying in pine needles, for the rest of the night. The second team headed down to help look for the pack, but it got found (more by chance). He was unable to eat, and sips of water were shortly deposited on the ground. "Normal" insulin was dropped by Ranger, with a support package from home. A couple of blood-sugar meters were barely useful. Several doses of insulin at intervals of a couple of hours were ineffective. We provided clothing, and that was about all that we were able to contribute that was effective.

He remained in serious condition, but stable. At first light, a litter was delivered by Ranger, and Jeff was flown to basecamp, then transferred to a medical helicopter for the ride to town. Teams still in the field were out by lunch time. The Posse had climbed the steep trail past Mudhole Spring, giving them more exercise than they were ready for (Nice job!).

15 people, 170 hours, R38, NPS, Helicopter320, Lifeline 350

**SUN 21 JUN** CALL 98.054 Search for a ?? year old woman and her Dalmatian, missing from her husband on an outing at the top of Mt Lemmon. All this while the Turkey Creek call was in progress. Some searching was done around the top of the mountain. She walked out to Catalina City about 0100 Monday, in good condition. We still haven't really figured out her route.

10 people, 54 hours, Ranger 38

**MON 22 JUN** CALL 98.055 Search for a 5 year old and a 7 year old males who walked away from their campsite at Rose Canyon Lake. The two boys were out exploring near their camp when they became lost after dark. They did have a whistle and a flashlight when searchers found them over a ridge and at the bottom of a side canyon for Sycamore. They were fine and were walked back to the campground.

10 people, 37 hours

**WED 24 JUN** CALL 98.056 Rescue of a 21 year old male hiker with a leg fracture 0.9 miles up the King's Canyon Trail in Saguaro National Park West. The victim had a 500 lb. rock fall on his leg as he was looking at some pictographs. Ranger 38 landed in the wash and was assisted by Picture Rocks FD. The victim was treated and airlifted to the hospital. Teams did not make it very far into the field.

8 people, 15 hours, R38 NPS PRFD

**SAT 27 JUN** CALL 98.057 Rescue of an exhausted 35 year old male hiker from Frankfurt, Germany, on the trails below Pusch Peak, off of Linda Vista Road. He was rested and watered, then carried by horse a short distance down trail, then across the nearby fence to a residence.

17 people, 27 hours, RMFD

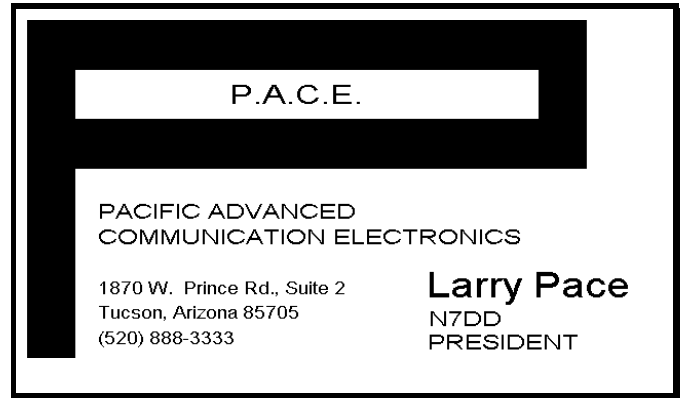


**Great Gear  
Good Prices**

Ask About  
SARCI Special Pricing

**Bumjo's®  
Outdoor  
Gear**

7445 E. 22nd St. • Tucson, AZ 85710  
**(520)751-4212**



**P.A.C.E.**

PACIFIC ADVANCED  
COMMUNICATION ELECTRONICS

1870 W. Prince Rd., Suite 2  
Tucson, Arizona 85705  
(520) 888-3333

**Larry Pace**  
N7DD  
PRESIDENT

## DEATH EXPERIENCE

by Rebecca Raymond

March 29, 1998

Walking + hiking + running in the Sabino Canyon outside of Tucson, Arizona. I was with Robert, and his friend Walter and his girlfriend Gwen. I wanted to run so I went ahead. We left for the hike around 10:30 am. It was raining and we all assumed the weather would clear up and that we could go swimming in the many pools that the river had to offer. I crossed the river 7 times, each crossing of the stream became a little more difficult, and the water on the previous crossings was just above the knee. The path was becoming more difficult to detect. The sixth crossing was the most difficult because it was hard to figure out where the path continued. I climbed up the streambed ahead about 50 yards and crossed and couldn't spot the path so I backtracked another 50 yards till I spotted the path. I had fallen off a big boulder into the water, drenching half of my body to the shoulder. I didn't think much of it because I knew I was getting closer to our destination, and I figured I'd just wait there till my party caught up with me. I was having a wonderful time rock jumping and running along the paths, everything was in full bloom, pink and blue flowers abound, and the diversity of the cactus was intensely beautiful. I saw the seven pools ahead, and still had so much energy that I wanted to continue. I felt strong and energized. I decided not to wait for the party to catch up thinking that I would only go ahead a little further and then return to the party after I got a good workout.

As I was ascending above the falls I saw my party below and waved at them but they couldn't see or hear me because of the rushing stream. I decided that I wanted a better view of the falls so I decided to go up as high as I could to see it from the top of the canyon. As I walked I ran into another hiker. We chatted a bit and he said that he had come from above on the other side of the canyon and that he was making his way back down to the other side. He said that if I kept following the trail that I would come upon the road at the top. He said it would probably take me a couple of hours and that if I followed the east trail and then the west trail that I would be there. That sounded good to me because I still had so much energy. I told him that if he ran into my party to tell them where I went and that I would meet them at the bottom. I thought once I got to the top that I could take the trolley down or run it. I came upon the snow line for a little while, then I descended on the other side until I reached another stream crossing that pointed me in the direction of the east trail. The river was high but it wasn't that difficult. I swam across about 5'. The wool sweater I was wearing was now drenched but I still felt that I would come to the end of the trail and be able to get down the other side of the canyon. The paths were becoming more difficult to see but I kept finding the route. My experience in Alaska, Hawaii, Grand Canyon and on Lopez Island kept me going. One of my greatest mottos was that in the woods I never felt lost, and I had just told Robert that the day before.

I ran and ran. I felt so strong, but then I realized the path was becoming more difficult to find and that my daylight hours were diminishing. I didn't know whether to continue or head back. I thought I had better head back because at least I would be going through familiar territory. I knew that I better get back to the falls before dark to be able to see my way back across the 7 stream crossings. I started to run up and down the

paths as fast as I could. My legs were now becoming exhausted. They felt very heavy. The army coat that I was wearing became too heavy to carry. It felt like it weighed 30 pounds. I debated whether or not to get rid of my sweater, but I knew that at least wool would keep me warm even if it was wet. I knew I had to get rid of one of them because they were slowing me down and I knew I had to move fast. I left the coat on the path and continued running. By the time I got to the top it felt like a stair stepper from hell, after about 3 river crossings always going up and down. It started to snow hard and the path that I had been on was becoming more difficult to see because the weight of the snow was causing the grass to be weighted down and covered the path. A few times I thought that I had gotten off the trail, but I kept going, remembering that I had seen some magnificent Saguaros I would recognize. Their majesty was something I knew I could not forget. They soon became my guides. I started seeing them as godsends. By this time I thought that I might be in some trouble. It was becoming dark and the snow was falling thicker. I asked God "I think I need your help to get me out of this one". Usually there's some response, but this time all I got back was "This time you have to get yourself out of this one". I felt very alone and I knew that it was going to be all up to me to get out.

Once over the top I heard the seven falls below. I was so happy to hear the sound and for about 5 minutes I could see the lights of Tucson that gave me hope. I thought I'd be able to see better also, but soon the canyon walls closed in on me and it seems to turn the darkness into blackness. I had to feel the way along the path with my feet which were soon numb, so feeling my way along became very difficult. I also knew at that point that if I should happen to get off the trail that I'd be lost either by falling several feet to the bottom of the canyon or simply never getting back on track. My body temperature was cooling, so I tried to put my arms in my sweater to get some body warmth. My arms from my shoulders down were becoming numb also, but I couldn't keep my balance on the trail with my arms in my sweater. I had a couple of inches of snow on my head and sweater. It was becoming difficult to keep up any energy. On my way up I had stopped a few times to drink water from streams and laid down in the path to drink from puddles. I knew I had to keep the liquids running through my body. All the energy that I once had was now gone. It seemed to disappear in only a few minutes. I was completely exhausted! That is when I really realized that I might not get out of this. I felt that if I didn't keep moving that I would have to spend the night out there, and I knew how uncomfortable it would be. I hated shivering more than anything, and I'd be miserable and probably be in a lot of pain, so I kept trying to forge ahead. I looked for some kind of shelter. I knew I had to rest just for a little bit. I saw a big boulder (barely) and thought I could get underneath it for just a few minutes, but then once I stopped I realized that I was too cold to stop and that I had to keep moving. I walked about another 20 yards and came upon a turn in the path, at least I thought it was a turn, I was unsure. Then that uncertainty turned into fear. I felt trapped and helpless. I realized how cold I really was, moving forward and backward in the path, thinking. Wanting to move forward but unable to. I started to pace back and forth. I realized that I couldn't go anywhere. Then I became paralyzed. It felt kinda like shock. Stuck, like I couldn't move at all. I then started to think that this might be

it, that I was going to die. I didn't cry. I figured the night ahead would be full of tears. I had heard stories of freezing to death. I figured I'd cry when the pain of that type of death set in. In that moment I felt almost calm, that this was going to be it and that there was nothing I could do about it but surrender. I didn't think of anyone but myself in that moment. All I knew is that this was it, that my life would end here and now.

Just as I was about to sit down and resign myself to dying I saw a light down in the canyon. I thought it was an illusion at first, then I saw another light, and thought that maybe there were a bunch of teenagers partying at the falls below. I thought that maybe the lights were moving away from me. I shouted "Wait!, Wait!, Wait!!!!!!". I heard nothing. Then I saw a third light, and realized that the lights were moving towards me. By that time I could barely get words out, I just bellowed a sound as loud as I could. Then I heard my name, they shouted "Rebecca!" I said "Yes, I'm up here, I'm up here". They closed in on me fast telling me to keep shouting and stay put. Three Angels came out of nowhere!

When they got to me I could breath again. I thought "My God, I'm actually going to live!" The first thing I said to them is "Do you have any clothes!" They said "Yes, and you have to get out of those clothes NOW!" They took off my sweater and put a hat on my head, I dressed my upper body in warmth. Then off came the drenched blue jeans and socks and on came sweats and rain gear. They fed me a health bar and radioed down to the other groups that I had been found and that they needed assistance. I told them I didn't need any more and that I just wanted to keep moving. We started our descent. They strung a flashlight around my neck. I could see in front of me, we moved very fast down to the falls. Energy somehow returned to my body miraculously. We started the hour and half hike back to entrance of the path.

By now the river was deeper and moving faster. A few of the rescue team volunteers had also fallen into the stream. We met a rescue guide at every stream crossing along the way. Some of them had been sitting at their posts for 4 hours, looking for my body in the darkness. As we moved along the pain in my right knee, the outside ligament started to restrict up on me. My knees were very sore, my legs started to cramp up on me, I had a hard time keeping my balance, and breathing became more difficult. It was like my lungs were being tightened in a wrench. Then I started to feel as though someone was stabbing me in the back with two knives just above my kidneys. As we approached the entrance we saw more flashlights, it was my party. First I saw Walter and gave him a hug and then Gwen and then Robert. What a sight they were to my eyes. If it weren't for their fast thinking in calling the rescue team I knew I would be dead. I knew that before I had been found that I only had about an hour and half left of life in me. I was overcome but was too exhausted to really feel anything. It was like my brain was numb. They put me into a truck and blasted the heat. At that point I wanted to cry but I didn't, I could only shed one tear. When we got to the ranger station I talked to the sheriff a little and then asked Robert to start the car so we could go home. People were standing around me wanting to talk but I started to get cold again and breathing was becoming more difficult so I said I need to be in the car NOW!!!! As we left the station I put the seat back and they handed me a blanket, that is when breathing became more

difficult, every other minute sharp pain ran through my back and I coughed hard, it hurt just to breathe.

When we returned home Gwen had drawn me a bath and washed my hair for me and filled the tub with Epsom salts. That is when I could breathe again. That night I coughed a lot. While in the tub I looked over my body. I had cactus prickles in my left thigh and hip, one that was deep and bruises up and down in the insides of my thighs and scrapes on my shins. My body hurt. The next few days were difficult. I could barely do 4 stairs, walking was painful, my right knee was shot, and getting in and out of bed was difficult. My new nickname was Gimp. I was worried that I had caught pneumonia so I took some Theraflu and slept. I was grateful not to have come down with a cold, then I was grateful that I was alive, though that was a strange order of thankfulness. If I can think of one word to describe the event best in its entirety it would be the word "SURREAL". I'm Alive!

I heard that 28 volunteers were looking for me on various paths throughout the canyon. Some were on horseback coming down from the road at the top of the canyon. The weather was too bad for them to call in the search dogs, they would've had to wait till daylight. All their dogs are on a voluntary basis also. They also questioned everyone leaving the park and took down their license plate numbers. I was amazed at the extent of their search for one life.

The next day Robert and I returned to the canyon to look at a topographical map of the canyon. I wanted to see where I made the wrong turn. If I had kept going that I would've been climbing to the peak of the canyon and been lost forever.

My greatest error was not looking at the canyon maps before entering. I did not see the canyon as a threat. I had spent a week in the Grand Canyon several years before. I did not realize the vastness of this canyon. I also didn't realize that the trails would not have mile markers on them, not knowing the distance between trails threw me off. I basically saw the canyon as non-threatening because of my previous climbing experiences. They also informed us that they had closed all trolley service to the canyon and that they had closed the trails. The snow level had fallen an unexpected 2000 feet and they were in fear of flash flooding.

I'm amazed that with the amount of respect that I have for nature that I could've been so irresponsible. The desert has reaped havoc on my health previously, once while bicycling through the Sierras and coming across a blizzard and holding up in a shack for a couple days. I also had experienced a desert pneumonia while hitchhiking through the desert on my first trip. I had forgotten what I once knew. The desert can be EXTREME, cold and hot, all the plants and wildlife are testimony to that.

I'm totally impressed by the Southern Arizona Rescue Association, an All Volunteer Non Profit Team. They put their lives on the line for another human being. It reassured my belief in the human spirit. They're Angels, full of love and sacrifice

Quality gear...for when it counts!



**SUMMIT HUT**

5045 E. Speedway 325-1554

## **PINE PIG RESCUE**

**Rescue \* Tactical \* Caving \* Climbing Equipment**

**CMC \* CMI \* PMI \* PETZL \* SMC**

**Rock Exotica \* Gibbs \* Outdoor Research \* Moss Tents**

**MSR \* Lost Creek \* Junkin \* Skedco \* Pelican \* Wild Country**

**Bob Brantley**

In Arizona Call: Dave Brown

Phone: (520) 622-1207

Phone: (703) 978-6066

10703 Shadowglen Trail

Fax: (703) 425-3271

Fairfax Station, VA 22039

**SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL, INC.**

P.O.Box 44231, Tucson AZ 85733  
Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Thu 19:00  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA RESCUE ASSOCIATION**

P.O.Box 12892, Tucson AZ 85732-2892  
Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Fri 19:30, St. Mark's Church, 3809 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.

**PIMA COUNTY SEARCH AND RECOVERY DIVERS**

P.O.Box 13961, Tucson AZ 85732  
Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 19:00  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

**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.

*Editorials, letters and manuscripts should be directed to Mary and Andy Lamb, 4951 W. Placita De Los Vientos, Tucson, AZ 85745 (520-743-7175), or by e-mail to: [amlamb@compuserve.com](mailto:amlamb@compuserve.com). The editor assumes no liability for inaccurate contributions. Permission to photocopy and reproduce is granted provided the material is used non-commercially, published without editing and with complete source citation. Forward notification of usage to the editor.*

*Deadline for input is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the newsletter issue. Advertisement rates are \$10.00/month or \$100/year for a 3.5"x2" (business card) size graphic. Subscription rates are \$10.00/year for non-qualified individuals or organizations.*

*Editors: Mary and Andy Lamb 743-7175  
<[amlamb@compuserve.com](mailto:amlamb@compuserve.com)>  
Mykle Raymond 795-2303  
<[mykle@zongec.com](mailto:mykle@zongec.com)>  
Printing: Tenen's AlphaGraphics 297-7371*

---

**PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.**

Search and Rescue  
1750 E. Benson Hwy  
Tucson, Arizona 85714-1758