

# SARNEWS

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NOVEMBER 1998

TUCSON, ARIZONA

VOL.23 No.11

## FROM THE EDITORS

Wendy Niehaus has always been a ham, and now she has a license: KD7CYW! Congratulations!

## SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL

## PIMA CO. SEARCH & RECOVERY DIVERS

by Doug Myrvold

### DIVER'S CALENDAR

**Annual Election & Potluck** 18:30 Mon Nov 02  
Kunz residence

**November Training: Rose Canyon Lake** 09:00 Sun Nov 08  
Be at the lake at 09:00, or call members for carpooling. Be prepared for cold water, and bring your hood. The turnoff for the lake is through Rose Canyon Campground, on Catalina Hiway just past milepost 17.

## PIMA CO. SHERIFF'S MOUNTED POSSE

by Jerry Simmons, 293-2300

### POSSE CALENDAR

**Posse Board Meeting** 19:00 Thu. Nov 12  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy  
**Posse General Meeting** 19:00 Thu. Nov 19  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

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

by Wendy Webster, 744-0325

Neotoma Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, conducted a SAR Academy in September. The activity was conducted both on Mt. Lemmon and in the Tucson metro area. Classroom and hands-on-skills training was conducted in knot tying, basic SAR theory, helicopter operation, legal issues, ELT direction finding, victim transport, haul and lowering systems, and stokes lashing.

## SOUTHWEST RESCUE DOGS, INC.

by Pam Phillips, 325-4338

### SRDI CALENDAR

**Training:** 07:00 Sat, Nov 01  
Catalina State Park  
**Board Meeting:** 19:00-22:00 Wed, Nov 04  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy  
**Basic Training:** 18:00-22:00 Wed, Nov 11 & 18  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy  
**Training:** 07:00 Sun, Nov 15  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy  
**General Meeting** 19:00-22:00 Wed, Dec 09  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy  
**Training:** Fri, Sat, Sun, Dec 04 - 06  
Location: Jones' Residence in Sonoita

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our 1998 Fundraising efforts a success! (Deputy Doug, did you get some chocolate chip cookies?)

For more information regarding the December 4-6 training, contact Kay or Drexel Jones (520) 394-2686.

Happy Thanksgiving from all two-leggers and four leggers of SRDI!!!

## SOUTHERN ARIZONA RESCUE ASSN.

### SARA CALENDAR

**SARA General Meeting** 19:30 Fri Nov 06  
Program: Mine Rescue  
**SARA Basic III** 09:00 Sat Nov 07  
Meet: TBA  
**November Training: Mine Rescue** 07:30 Sat Nov 14  
Mission & Ajo, northeast corner (then to San Xavier Mine)  
**Orientation Hike: Josephine Saddle** 08:00 Sun Nov 15  
Meet: TBA  
**SARA Board Meeting** 19:30 Thu Nov 19  
U of A Farms (mobile classroom, south of bleachers)  
**SARA General Meeting** 19:30 Fri Dec 04  
Program: Looking toward 1999 and the MRA conference  
**SARA Basic IV** 13:00 Sat Dec 05  
Meet: TBA

## NOVEMBER TRAINING Mine Rescue Training

Contact: John Perchorowicz

When: 07:30 Saturday, 14 November

Where: San Xavier Mine (off of Mission Road)

Meet: Mission and Ajo, northeast corner

**The Objective:** This training is primarily to hone the skills associated with confined space such as mines (as opposed to caves) where surfaces may be unstable and air quality unknown. Secondly, it will give everyone the opportunity to participate in an exercise to be conducted like an actual operation and to experience team leader and participant positions that often go to more skilled individuals in the interest of time. Come out and gain experience with scene safety, leadership, teamwork, rigging and running technical systems, victim packaging and handling. Non SARA groups are welcome to send two participant-observers. Please clear with the presenter.

**The Training:** Please prepare to depart (vehicles gassed, donuts bought, car pools formed, equipment loaded by 07:40 since the site is about twenty minutes south on Mission Road. At the site, there will be a brief orientation about the mine and mine safety, after which the exercise will begin. In order to expose the largest number of people to the different aspects of the operation, I would ask that those with experience join us as team members and guide the team rather than lead. Those wishing to volunteer for specific duties (e.g. surface communications, underground coordinator, search team leader, rigging, etc.) are welcome to contact the presenter beforehand.

**The Scenario:** A reportee indicated that she came upon an apparent victim in the University of Arizona's San Xavier Mine. The university students have been away for several weeks and according to the University no one is known to have been on the site. The reportee was in the area and found the steel doors leading to the main adit ajar and began exploring the mine on a lark. Upon discovering the victim, she ran from the scene and left the area. She called 911 in an attempt to anonymously report her findings. According to the deputy (who had just returned from another fishing trip), the victim was seen near the vertical shaft - the reportee remembers seeing light coming down the shaft. She did not proceed further. The reportee had been wandering around in the mine for "a couple of hours" prior to observing the victim. Bolting from the scene, the reportee is unsure of where exactly the victim was, since she was unsure of her location. She only recalls sketchy details of her exit, which took her through a tunnel and up a tortuous ladder-lined passage which deposited her on the level of the adit upon which she first entered the mine. There are at least two levels accessible from the shaft, assuming flooring closing off the lower portion is still intact. The ventilation system is inoperable.

As an aside, this mine is considered as safe an environment as we can find for this training. There are precautions which must be taken when going into any underground confined space of recent (compared to a cave) origin. Participants planning on going underground or working around the shaft should bring a helmet, three sources of light and a safety harness. A pack smaller than what we usually carry into the field may be more appropriate for maneuvering underground. Underground temperatures can be in the 60s or 70s, while

above ground can be anything from hot to cold, sunny to rainy so prepare accordingly. The training should end by early afternoon.

## ORIENTATION HIKE

### Josephine Saddle, Santa Rita Mountains

Leader: Thomas Harlan

When: Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

Meet: 08:00 Valencia & Midvale, in the ABCO Parking Lot

This is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the search for the missing Boy Scouts on Mt. Wrightson. This search was significant to the beginning of SARA as it showed the need for an organized Search and Rescue Group. Thomas was one of the searchers 40 years ago. We also invite other past and present SARA members who participated in the search to join us for the hike. Come along for a enjoyable hike to the saddle and hear stories of the early days of SARA.

## JANUARY TRAINING

### Up and Down Ropes

Contact: Henry Schneiker

#### Part 1 - Classroom

When: 19:00 Wednesday, January 13

Where: 2328 E. Drachman

#### Part 2 - Practice

When: 08:00 Saturday, January 16

Where: Rita Road training tower

Come learn the basics of ascending and descending ropes safely. The Wednesday night class will cover harnesses, repel devices and ascending systems. There are many ways to skin the cat (i.e., to set up a functional system) and so we will cover the basic configurations and when one system might be better than another. We will also spend time on procedures, safety and how to stay alive. And no discussion of vertical work would be complete without discussing emergency procedures.

The Saturday class will allow you to practice what you learned in the classroom session. The purpose of this class is to allow you to try out and compare several systems, help you set up a new system or adjust your existing system.

Please note that these two classes are only an introduction to vertical work. You should continue to train with supervision until you have received a high level of proficiency.

## OCTOBER TRAINING REVIEW

### Map & Compass Training

*by Jeff Brucker*

We had six enthusiastic candidates, plus Tom Harlan and myself. I originally did not plan for GPS to be part of this training, because map and compass alone can fill a whole day. But it worked out great. We started off with Tom conducting a superb GPS class. I have owned my GPS for a year, and I haven't really used it because the quantity of details seems overwhelming. Tom did an excellent job of breaking it down into understandable bite-sized pieces. I could have spent the whole day just on GPS with Tom. (Perhaps in the near future?)

Next I conducted a basic topo map-reading class. We then broke down into pairs and each pair was given an assignment, to locate a series of designated locations marked on the map. I was able to choose locations appropriate to the skill level of each team, thanks to the variety of locations

already planned out by the Tucson Orienteering Club, which was conducting an orienteering event that same day.

The members and candidates who did not attend this training really missed an opportunity to improve their skills in a very conducive setting. Hope to see you next year.

### **CANDIDATE CORNER**

*by Andy Lamb, 743-7175*

**BASIC III S98 Class** 09:00 SAT Nov 07

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Highway

**BASIC IV S98 Class** 13:00 SAT Dec 05

Rendezvous: TBA

A new group of candidates will hit the field November 17<sup>th</sup>. Please welcome them into the field. The next candidate class will start in February.

Also Basic III for the Spring Candidate Class (S98) (or who ever needs it) will be held up into the Catalinas (depending on the weather). Have your Full field pack.

### **OEC TASK FORCE**

*by John Gorski, 744-9190*

November 7th will be the last OEC Refresher class for the year. It will be held on Mt. Lemmon along with the Ski Patrol. If you plan on attending, please call Rich Kunz or John Gorski. November 11th is the final hands-on practical test for the Fall OEC class. This will be held in the Fireplace Room at TMC beginning at 6:30 pm. We are in need of assistance for the test, so if you can spare a couple of hours, please plan on attending.

After SARA's recent OEC Refresher, there were several inquiries about the new edition of the OEC book. Some new terms and other additions were made. We are compiling a list of names of those interested in acquiring a copy of the new book. If interested please call John Gorski (744-9190). Depending on the number of books requested, we will get an estimate on the cost.

The OEC Class is in need of some new/old full-face motor cycle helmets. Should you have one collecting dust in a corner, please donate it to the OEC Task Force.

### **SHIRT NAME TAGS**

*by Dale Mann, 325-9958*

If you need name tags for your orange shirt, contact Dale Mann. The tags are \$3.50 each MUF (Money Up Front).

### **YOUR BEST FRIEND**

*by Bill Kelleman*

On a recent callout, I was wondering why (besides getting older) that some people were passing me by quite easily. After I finally caught up with them, I engaged them in some conversation regarding their packs. I was quite surprised to learn that the list of excuses regarding "what I used to have in my pack" has grown since I remembered last. Recently I volunteered to write a small article related to callout preparation. For those of you that know me and what I do for a living you know it is something very important to me. I would like to use this article to provoke some thought.

(Adversity has the effect of eliciting talent, which in prosperous circumstance would have lain dormant).

Now I know that some of us (deep woods) people are looked at as strange, and some of us have even been known to eat a few bugs now and then. Nevertheless, even as strange as we seem, we carry those full packs for a reason. Just ask one of us and I bet we can spin a yarn so long about the last callout that we used every item in our pack to save the day. Seriously though, there are real searches and real rescues when you might never have enough stuff. Just think about what you carry and ask yourself how many different uses can I make of this item? Can I do with a slightly larger size jacket or top? Can I use these clothes to help warm a victim instead of just knowing they will fit me? The backpack we carry with us, especially on a search, is at times our only link with our survival and outcome.

A couple points to remember in all this are. 1. There are people going into the field not fully prepared. 2. We as team leaders are not doing as good a job checking as perhaps we could. Take the time before embarking on the trail to look over the whole team. One thing to remember is that it's everybody's job to look out for each other. Remember the candidate we help today might be the one looking for our kids or grandkids someday. In researching a couple of things for this article, I found a great definition for a leader. (A short length of material for attaching the end of a fishing line to a lure or hook). ? Just some thoughts that I collected over the years.

### **It's Her Nature...**

Storm clouds loom on the horizon  
As darkness rushes in to close the day.  
Temperatures are falling fast as  
A cold bitter wind begins to blow.

Time alone becomes a threat for the  
Survivor as he races on to meet his  
Basic needs. Soaked and chilled he  
Will attempt to find protection for the  
Night.

Confused by contradiction, the  
Survivor learns an ironic flaw in the  
Power of mother natures law- that  
Although she may provide the vast  
Supplies to build a shelter, she holds  
The awesome power to bring it down.

Prior preparation and resourceful  
Ingenuity are the keys to his success.

## CALLOUT REVIEWS

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

### Data Summary

**Reporting Period:** 01 Jan - 27 Oct    **Callouts:** 92  
**SARCI People:** 1052    **Total Hours:** 4166    **Hours/Person:** 4.0  
**Calls/Week:** 2.1

**Reporting Period:** 26 Sep - 27 Oct    **Callouts:** 4  
**SARCI People:** 53    **Total Hours:** 103    **Hours/Person:** 1.9

**SAT 17 OCT**    CALL 98.089    Rescue 5? year old female who fell at the Seven Cataracts Vista Point on the Catalina Highway. The victim ended up 300 ft down the skree slope below the highway. She was placed on the backboard and in secured in the Stokes basket. A haul system was used to bring her up to the road.

17 people, 64 hours, R38

**MON 19 OCT**    CALL 98.090    Search for a 69 year old male missing from a hike near Brown Mountain in Tucson Mountain Park. No one made it into the field before the subject was found by SAV's in the Desert Museum parking lot. 13 people, 13 hours, R38, SAV

**FRI 23 OCT**    CALL 98.091    Search for overdue group of ROTC cadets, hiking from Catalina State Park to Mt. Lemmon. The faster hikers got to Marshall Gulch, waited several hours, then reported their companions overdue. They were last seen near Romero Pools as the faster hikers moved ahead. It took awhile to sort out all the reports of cadets here and cadets there, but the remainder of the group was accounted for as they arrived at the top of the mountain. SAR people waited at 106 while the reports were being checked out. 14 people, 14 hours, R38, MLFD

**TUE 27 OCT**    CALL 98.092    ??y male hiker fell ill on a SAHC hike on the Sunset Trail. Rich White requested assistance when it looked like the patient had been unable to continue for an hour or so. Mt. Lemmon Fire was asked to assist while volunteers were enroute. The patient was carried by stokes the short distance to the trailhead by companions, deputies and fire people. 9 people, 12 hours, MLFD

## TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

by Andy Flach    <http://www.azstarnet.com/~aflach/index.htm>

This website is an ongoing effort to provide a detailed guide to all (eventually) of the hiking trails in the Tucson area. I have covered about 60% of the Santa Catalina Mountains, about 40% of the Rincons, none of the Tucson Mountains, and about 10% of the Santa Ritas.

Here you will find instructions on how to reach trailheads, the length and difficulty of the hikes, short narrative descriptions of each trail section to help you find your way, and photographs to give you an idea of the scenery along the trails.

The descriptions can be sorted by category: Hikes by Region, Hikes by Difficulty, Winter Hikes, Spring Hikes, Summer Hikes, Fall Hikes

### "POINT LAST SEEN"

#### "CBS Tuesday Movie,"

**Tues, Nov. 24 (9:00-11:00 PM, ET/PT)**

by "David C. Kovar" <kovar@webnexus.com>

Hannah Nyala wrote a book entitled "Point Last Seen", which I heartily recommend from a SAR and a personal stand point. CBS has made a movie called "Point Last Seen", inspired by this book. I questioned the publicist about the quality of the movie, doubting that "made for TV", "inspired", et al could do the book justice. Her reply convinced me that while it is a work of fiction, the movie will still be worth watching, and draws enough from the book to do both justice. I believe the movie will be worth watching. The book is \*definitely\* worth reading.

Reviews by several people of the book and movie are available from Bill Kellman or Mykle Raymond. This notice just looked interesting enough to share with everyone.

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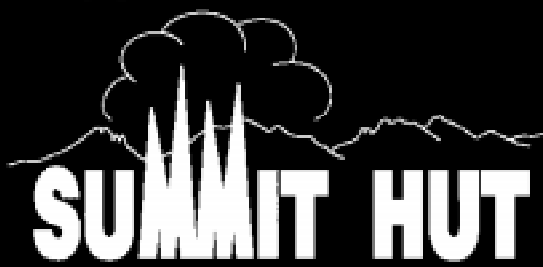
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**SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL, INC.**

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

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*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.*

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