

# SARNEWS

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JANUARY 1999

TUCSON, ARIZONA

VOL.24 No.1

## FROM THE EDITORS

### **Buried Alive: Secrets From the Grave**

Dr. Ken Iserson, SARA's Medical Director, participated in a made-for-TV film titled "Buried Alive: Secrets From the Grave". It's U.S. debut will be on the Discovery Channel on Thursday, January 7th at 9:00 pm and will air again Saturday, January 9th at 5:00 pm.. Be sure to watch it.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL

**Council Meeting** 19:30 Wed. Jan 20  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

### **DIGITAL PAGER UPGRADE**

by Bill Kelleman, 793-5611, and Mykle Raymond, 795-2303.

We will upgrade our pager system during early January. Old digital pagers will not receive SARCI pages after 18 Jan.

*Voice pagers will not be affected.*

Alpha pagers will be able to receive SARCI pages after upgrading to the Flex system. Existing alpha pagers and people who want to convert their personal (not SARCI) pagers to alpha pagers may do so immediately. The cost is about the same as voice service, depending upon options. State that you have a Search and Rescue pager to exchange. (SAR Officers may have their pagers set to include SARCI pages too.)

Digital pagers (both personal and SARCI) may be exchanged for Flex Pronto pagers beginning Wed, 6 Jan, at the Airtouch office, 425 E. 7th St. State that you have a Search and Rescue pager to exchange, and ask for Estella or Carrie.

Black pagers are available, and personal (not SARCI) pagers may be exchanged for any available color.

Some people carry a digital pager provided by their company. These pagers now need to use the Airtouch Flex system in order to receive SARCI Group pages. Check with us if you have questions.

Test your new pager and let us know how the improved coverage works for you. The pagers use an AAA battery, with space for a spare. There is no longer any difference between the personal and group tones.

SARCI pagers may be available from your individual SARCI group, but there aren't many. Qualified volunteers may obtain a pager on their own, at SARCI pricing, with appropriate SARCI paperwork. Ask us.

### **SPRING HAM CLASS**

Melody Kehl KG7XH may provide a ham class beginning in February, if enough people are interested. Call her: 885-6362

### **RENDEZVOUS CHANGE**

Most calls at Catalina State Park have used an Oracle and Magee rendezvous. Some calls to the park will now meet at the Romero and Sutherland Trailhead, where basecamp is usually set up, at the end of the main paved road in the park (about two miles from Oracle Highway). A message cone will be left at Oracle and Magee only when that is the rendezvous.

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

by Wendy Webster, 744-0325

No news.

## PIMA CO. SEARCH & RECOVERY DIVERS

by Doug Myrvold

### **DIVER'S CALENDAR**

**January Training: Basic Training** 09:00 Sun Jan 10  
Ft. Lowell Pool. This is a required training.

**February Training: Basic Training** 09:00 Sun Feb 14  
Ft. Lowell Pool. This is a required training.

### **Corrections of Elections**

Board Members at large: Rob Offerle Cathy Wasmann

## SOUTHWEST RESCUE DOGS, INC.

by Pam Phillips, 325-4338

### **SRDI CALENDAR**

**General Meeting** 19:00-22:00 Wed, Jan 13  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

## PIMA CO. SHERIFF'S MOUNTED POSSE

by Jerry Simmons, 293-2300

### POSSE CALENDAR

**Posse Board Meeting** 19:00 Thu. Jan 14  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

**Gymkhana** Sat. Jan 17  
Rio Rico Stable, off Houghton

**Posse General Meeting** 19:00 Thu. Jan 28  
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

### New Officers Elected for 1999

Captain..... Pat Gallagher  
1<sup>st</sup>. Lt..... Nick Thill  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lt..... Joe Beckman  
Treasurer..... Frank Dearden  
Board Member..... Larry Cunningham  
Board Member/Sgt of Arms .... Jerry Simmons

**General Meeting on Dec 10<sup>th</sup>:** We had out new Liaison Lt. Sandy Rosenthal of the Sheriff's Department. I'm sure we weren't what he expected, yet he maintained a very friendly and professional attitude during the meeting (not near the monster we were ready for!) All Posse members were polite as we were asked to ponder the aspect of NOT carrying guns during our parades and also qualifying annually with our firearms. From a past history in the military police, I agree one hundred percent. Firearm training on a regular basis is a must. Overall we decided we were impressed with Lt. Rosenthal and we're looking forward to working with him. And yes the Posse is sponsoring the Wednesday of the Rodeo. So when you get the call from the phone people, if you have questions, call anyone in the Posse and we'll get you the answers.

**Search and Rescue:** Kind of quiet and you already will have the callouts listed.

**Training:** Medical update will be prior to March 31<sup>st</sup>. And field facilities will probably take place at Dr. Dave's. More to come.

**Party:** A great big THANKS to Pat Gallagher for an excellent Christmas party at the Clarion Hotel. It was good to see Grace MacCaslin back out and about, also Winnie Dearden with her lovely smile.

Pat had a load of good clean gag gifts and presented his newly elected officers with their bars, Not booze! Overall excellent rating on the party.

Well by the time you get this newsletter the holiday season will probably be over. And on the behalf of the Posse we hope all of you had a very nice and safe holiday season. Now you can start your diets!!!

Till next month - Respectfully submitted, Jerry Simmons

## SOUTHERN ARIZONA RESCUE ASSN.

### SARA CALENDAR

**SARA General Meeting** 19:30 Fri Jan 08  
Program: TBA

**January Training: Up and Down Ropes** 19:00 Wed Jan 13  
Part 1: Classroom, 2328 E. Drachman

**January Training: Up and Down Ropes** 08:00 Sat Jan 16  
Part 2: Practice, HIDTA Facility Training Tower

**Field Skills Recertification** 08:00 Sat Jan 23  
Himmel Park, Northwest Corner

**SARA Board Meeting** 19:30 Thu Jan 28  
U of A Farms (mobile classroom, south of bleachers)

**SARA General Meeting** 19:30 Fri Feb 05  
Program: Snow Survival & Avalanche Awareness

**February Training: Snow Practice** 08:30 Sun Feb 07  
Part 2: Practice, HIDTA Facility Training Tower

### JANUARY TRAINING

#### Up and Down Ropes

Contact: Henry Schneiker, 881-2632

#### 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 lever of proficiency.

### FEBRUARY TRAINING

#### Snow Practice

Contact: Andy Lamb, 743-7175

When: 08:30, Sunday, February 07

Where: Bear Wallow Area, Santa Catalina Mountains

Meet: Sheriff Substn 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

The emphasis of this training will be snow travel, assisting victims back to camp, and winter survival. Bring your snow skis, snow shoes, and/or snow boots. If anyone is interested in spending Saturday night snow camping please let me know.

## CANDIDATE CORNER

by Andy Lamb, 743-7175

**Search and Rescue Orientation** 18:30-21:00 Tue Feb 16  
 Rincon Room, Alamo Building, Tucson Medical Center  
**Candidate Hike** 08:00 Sat Feb 20  
 Location: TBA

The next opportunity to join SARA starts with the Orientation on February 16<sup>th</sup>. The mandatory Candidate Hike will be Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. The Spring OEC class will start on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Currently we are planning on only having one Candidate class each year and only one OEC class each year. This means after the Spring '99 class the next opportunity to join SARA will be in the Spring of the year 2000.

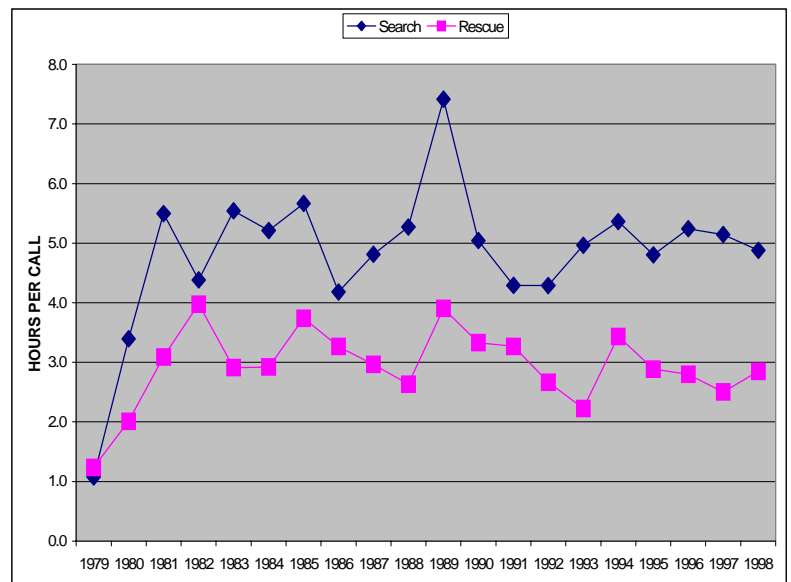
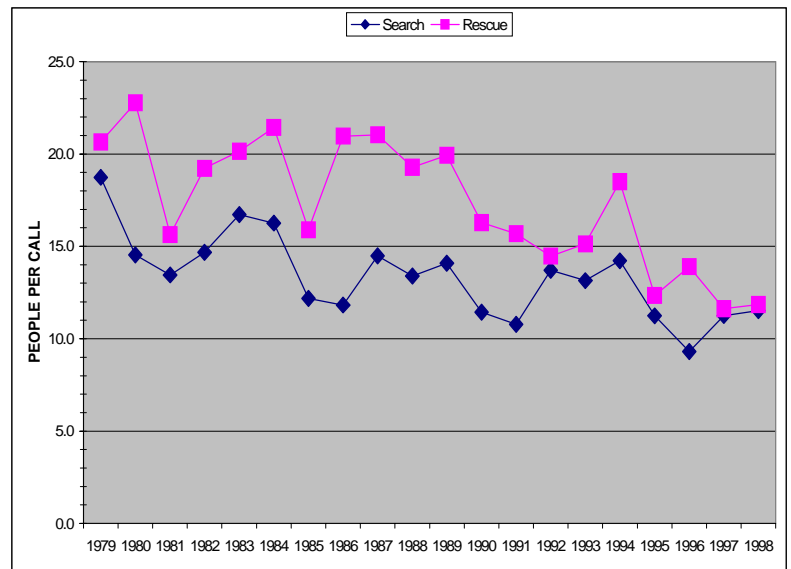
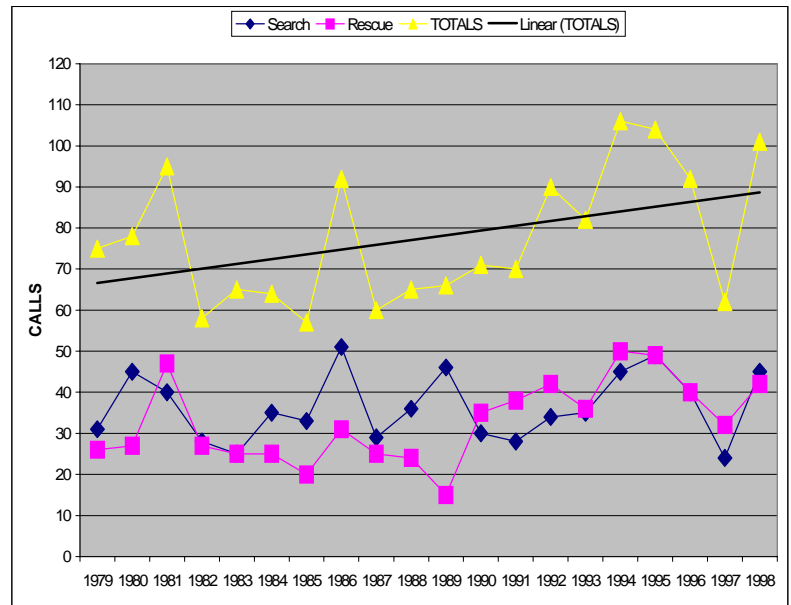
## CALLOUT STATISTICS

by Mykle Raymond, 793-2303

The 1998 callout statistics are complete. Numeric values are listed with the CALLOUT REVIEWS. These plots illustrate trends over the past twenty years.

In general, the number of callouts continues to rise by slightly over one per year. The average number of volunteers per call has dropped by about five over this time. And the average number of hours per call is holding at about five for searches and three for rescues.

These are statistics, so you can make whatever you want of them. They reflect the methods we use to record people and times on calls. Perhaps the drop in people per call is partly due to more people having radios and/or pagers, so they don't have to get to the call to discover that it was over along time ago. Go ahead and play your own tune!



## CALLOUT REVIEWS

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

### Data Summary

**Reporting Period:** 01 Jan – 31 Dec    **Callouts:** 101  
**SARCI People:** 1192    **Total Hours:** 4962    **Hours/Person:** 4.2  
**Calls/Week:** 1.9

**Reporting Period:** 28 Nov – 31 Dec    **Callouts:** 7  
**SARCI People:** 118    **Total Hours:** 681    **Hours/Person:** 5.8

**FRI 04 DEC**    CALL 98.095    Report of a 45 year old female overdue on a hike in Catalina State Park. The subject was reported to have gone for a hike after a day of shopping and failed to return. Several teams hiked trails without finding any sign of the subject. R38 assisted with the search.  
22 people, 122 hours, R38

**SAT 05 DEC**    CALL 98.096    Continuation of the search in Catalina State Park. Early in the day a note was found in the subject's car stating that she did not want to be found. The search continued through the day without any sign being found. R38 assisted.  
28 people, 177 hours, R38

**SUN 06 DEC**    CALL 98.097    Continuation of the search in Catalina State Park. Again no sign was found  
23 people, 167 hours

**MON 07 DEC**    CALL 98.098    Continuation of the search in Catalina State Park. Again no sign was found. The search was called after all teams were back in base camp.  
16 people, 108 hours

**SAT 12 DEC**    CALL 98.099    Assist horses stranded in a vehicle collision on I-10. T.J. requested assistance to transport uninjured horses. A couple of Posse people took them to the Fairgrounds, to be picked up later by owners.  
2 people, 4 hours

**SAT 19 DEC**    CALL 98.100    A ?? year old female was reported to have fallen three feet at Bridal Wreath Falls, a short distance off the Douglas Spring Trail in Saguaro National Park, East. The victim was vacationing with her husband in the Tucson area. Apparently she was taking pictures when she slipped off a three-foot rock landing on the top of her head. She was unconscious for a short period of time. One person in a group who had witnessed the fall had a cell phone and called for help. By the time teams were in the field the victim and her husband hiked a ways down the trail. A Posse team met them, evaluated the victim and determined that she would be able to ride, then transported her to the trailhead, accompanied by additional teams.  
16 people, 24 hours, R38

**MON 28 DEC**    CALL 98.???    Two fatigued hikers reported to be 5 miles up the Romero Trail. They were from out of town spending the week in Tucson. They were hiking the Aspen Loop, became disoriented, and eventually came down the Romero Trail. They found two backpackers camped at Romero Spring a little after 8:00 p.m. The backpackers

called for help by cellphone, fed and watered the hikers and offered their sleeping bags and tent until help arrived. Ranger 38 spotted the fire and tent, and the two backpackers hiking down trail to meet the first team. The hikers were walked out, with all teams out of the field by 5:40 a.m. Tuesday morning.  
11 people, 79 hours, R38

P.A.C.E.

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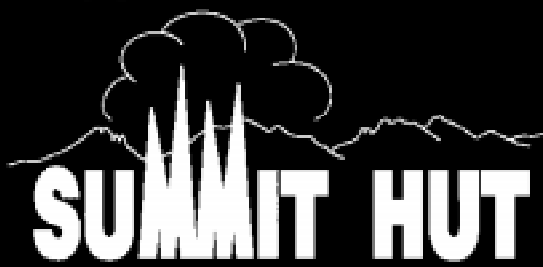
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Fairfax Station, VA 22039

xxx

**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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