

SARNEWS

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JUNE 1999

TUCSON, ARIZONA

VOL.24 No.6

FROM THE EDITORS

UPDATE

Tom Mireles is now on the list for both a pancreas and kidney transplant. Money is still an issue: a number of events being planned. Call Tom if you are interested: 624-0288.

PIMA CO. SHERIFF'S MOUNTED POSSE

by Jerry Simmons, 793-2300

POSSE CALENDAR

- Posse Board Meeting** 19:00 Thu. June 10
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy
- Gymkhana** 11:00 Sun June 19
Rincon Valley Stables
- Posse General Meeting** 19:00 Thu. June 24
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

Public Relations: May 15 Gymkhana at Rincon Creek Arena was a huge success. Lots of contestants - Lots of people watching. No wrecks.

Roping took place May 1. Had over 300 teams. Posse members worked their tails off. At least the ones who were there. Thanks to Nick Thill for his work in setting it up.

Search & Rescue: Yes, you may be the first one on scene. You may even see it happen. Just remember, go into the Rescue mode. Put your Rescue brain in gear and take care of business. Good job by Larry Cunningham, Bob Siegal, and Ken Salber for the work with Mr. Abernathy at Chivo Falls. A big thanks to T.J. Price on the 1st time IV direct hit on Mr. Ed Simmons on the rescue. Ranger was excellent as usual. The Posse helped load Mr. Simmons in Ranger, and helped T.J. and the Ranger Paramedic. Good Job!!!

Training: The Posse completed field training on May 22, at Harrelson's Arena. Thanks to Deputy Scott for getting Ranger to us for training. Thanks to Gary Copus, Rich Kunz for help. Larry Cunningham, Dan McPhedran, Larry Caugh, and others assisted with the training stations.

Personnel: Thank you Frank Dearden for the coating we are going to use on the Posse trailer.

Membership: We are always looking for new Posse members. Hear of someone, contact any Posse member and we'll take it from there. Thanks

Respectfully, Jerry Simmons

SOUTHWEST RESCUE DOGS, INC.

by Pam Phillips, 325-4338 and Paul Cartter

SRDI CALENDAR

- Training: Mt. Lemmon** 07:00 Sun. June 06
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy
- General Meeting** 19:00-22:00 Wed. June 09
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy
- Training: Patagonia Lake** 09:00 Sun. June 27
07:30 at Valencia / I-19 (WalMart) or 09:00 at the lake.

A fun day at the lake with our new teams, learning boat work, grid patterns, alerts and getting the dogs used to their life vests.

Congratulations to SRDI's newest mission-ready teams! Janelle Wilt and her K-9 partner, "Vader" passed field tests on March 27th, and Paul Cartter with his tracking hound, "Sally Mae" became mission ready on April 3rd. Both of these handlers have been training their dogs for over 15 months and their dedication and hard work has materialized into the capable, tracking teams which will now be representing SRDI on various search missions.

A large portion of SRDI members has continued their education at out-of state seminars and hands-on training in both California and New Mexico. Local group training continues twice a month for members and some overnight training has proven our true versatility within the group. Ask Jennifer about her to-die-for Peach Cobbler at our annual Potluck/Campout, (the aroma had Deputy Doug and Richard appearing out of nowhere in the middle of the forest).

Summer months are slow months for training info so watch this space for reports on Canine Service history during the past several centuries.

PAW PRINTS

Search dogs first came into being in the 1700 and 1800's. They were utilized at the St. Bernard Hospice, and St. Gothard and other Alpine pass regions to find stranded travelers. So the story of the St. Bernard dog and his kegged collar is true! They would find these lost travelers, minister "medicinal brandy", then guide the monks back to the victims for safe passage out of the mountains.

Stay tuned for more interesting info.

Any SAR member wanting to join in on SRDI trainings, please contact Paul Cartter at 825-6517 or on ham KD7BIB.

SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL

PIMA CO. SEARCH & RECOVERY DIVERS

by Doug Myrvold

DIVER'S CALENDAR

June Training: TBA Sun June 13

NEOTOMA COMPOSITE SQUADRON, C.A.P.

No report

SOUTHERN ARIZONA RESCUE ASSN.

SARA CALENDAR

SARA General Meeting 19:30 Fri June 04

Location: SARA House, 3455 N. Craycroft

Program: TBA

Basic II 08:00 Sat June 05

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

June Training: Night Search TBA Sat June 05

Location: Near the Butterfly Trail, Catalinas

Hike of the Month: Baboquivari North Saddle Sat June 12

See Marvin for information

MRA Spring Meeting Fri-Sun June 18-20

Location: Girl Scout Camp, Organization Ridge

SARA Board Meeting 19:30 Thu June 24

Location: SARA House, 3455 N. Craycroft

Basic IV 12:00 Sat June 26

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

SARA General Meeting 18:00 Sat July 03

Location: SARA House, 3455 N. Craycroft

Program: Fourth of July Picnic

July Training: River Rescue TBA Sat July 17

Location: TBA

Field Skills Recertification 08:00 Sat July 25

Location: SARA House, 3455 N. Craycroft

JUNE TRAINING

Night Search

Meet: TBD, Sat – Sun, 5 – 6 June 1999

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

Trainer: Karmin Laramie.

Night Search Training will be held near the Butterfly Trail in the Catalinas. So load up those overnight packs, stock up on batteries, and come on out for a great training!

MAY TRAINING REVIEW

Cave Rescue

Cave Rescue Training was in Onyx Cave on 1 May. The scenario: A group of five went in and ran into some trouble on their way out. As the fourth person crossed the Gorge, the rope broke. She fell to the bottom and slid out of sight, leaving her juvenile son stranded on the far side of the Gorge. The other three proceeded towards the entrance. Entering the Up & Down room, one of them hurt his ankle. One of the two

remaining cavers boosted the other out, but could not make the climb unassisted. The last caver reported the incident to a sheriff's deputy, who briefed the teams and base camp.

Twenty-five personnel took part in the training. (15 SARA, 4 SRDI, 1 Ski Patrol, 1 Sheriff's Office, 5 Escabrosa Grotto, 3 Cochise County Cavers) They used 1000 feet of rope, two haul bags, lower bag, SKED (w/KED), medical bag, sandwich splint, blanket bag, and four radios. The first team met the two cavers in the Up & Down room, helped the uninjured one out and hauled the ankle injury out. The second team 'leap-frogged' ahead to the Gorge (380 feet from the entrance). They rigged a tyrolean traverse, and the juvenile easily crossed the Gorge and was escorted out. His mother was hauled from the lower room up and out of the Gorge. A belay and lower were used to get into the Up & Down room and a haul through the window to the entrance room. Despite some initial skepticism, a loaded SKED does fit through the entrance gate.

Radio relays were required at the old gate (far side of the Up & Down room) and the choke point near the Gorge. Communications with the Gorge team was by voice. (No more radios were available) Thanks to the relatively 'straight-shot' to the Gorge, this arrangement worked well, was simple to install, and did not require the time or personnel the use of cave phones would have required. A rescue any further into the cave would have required the installation of cave phones.

Lessons learned or relearned: Be sure that the teams have been trained to rig a SKED for vertical extraction. Anchors are never in good locations in a cave, so systems don't always work as friction-free or with the size bite as desired. Caves are slippery! The people operating a system need to know the size of the load, beforehand! (Especially critical on a lower!). Voices carry very well in a cave; therefore (especially if voice communications are being used!) always be aware of the criticality of the conversations going on around you and if the one you are having is equally as critical. Recycling rescued victims into rescuers, after waiving the magical 'Heal' wand, is an excellent way to supplement limited man power. Rigging extra lines for attendant(s) to climb (as opposed to being hauled with the litter) reduces the load (see Anchor comment above) and gives both the litter and the attendant(s) more maneuverability to negotiate lips and windows. A group of people, each with knowledge in a specific area (caving, rescue, medical, etc.) who are willing to work together, share their knowledge, and learn from each other, can do amazing things. All personnel & equipment were back at base camp only six hours after the report was received. On the time line of most cave rescues, that was amazingly fast. Many thanks, and good work to all who participated!

HIKE OF THE MONTH

Baboquivari North Saddle

Meet: 05:30 Sat, June 12,

Ajo & Mission N/E corner by the old BoSa Donuts

Map: Baboquivari Peak, Arizona

Guide: Marvin Stafford 575-1497 margnx@azstarnet.com

We will leave rendezvous at 5:30 and take Ajo Way to Robles Junction (Three Points), then south toward Sasabe on State Route 286. Turn right at mile post 16. Four-wheel-drive or high clearance vehicles beyond this point. Park outside of white gated fence at Riggs Ranch, elevation 4700 feet.

The trail starts at the corral and heads up Thomas Canyon. After crossing the wash 5 times in 1.5 miles, the trail exits right and is steep up to the saddle at 6500'. Here we will find hiding places for water bottles. From the saddle, you can see a deep notch. You have 1000' of gain and three rock pitches in about 1/2 miles to reach the summit.

The purpose of this hike is to hide the water bottles and also to condition and refamiliarize ourselves with this trail, so we can be guides for those who will be attending this hike after the conference on June 20th and 21st.

** If you would like to be a guide for future monthly SARA hikes or have a trail for us to venture, please e-mail or contact Josh or Karmin **

MAY HIKE REVIEW

Marshall Gulch / Wilderness of Rocks

Mykle Raymond, Loma Griffith, Dale Mann, Karmin Laramie, Josh Poles and of course Julius, Marvin Stafford with family and friends

What a beautiful day for a hike! We took the Mint Springs Trail to Marshall Saddle, then down the Wilderness of Rocks Trail where Mykle showed us different overlooks and relay points. After lunch at the first junction, Marvin's group continued downstream and did their best penguin impersonation in the balmy 40 degree waters. Mykle, Loma and Josh went to see the fern meadow, then headed back to the saddle. While some of us took the easy way back via Mint Springs, Mykle and Josh decided to try Carter Canyon. They came off this trail thankful to still have their knees in alignment, as this trail proved to be a little challenging, but nothing these guys haven't traveled before.

CANDIDATE CORNER

by Andy Lamb, 743-7175

During May and June SARA Basic Training will be offered. Basic III & IV will be offered for Fall '98 Candidates. I will contact the candidates eligible to attend Basic III & IV.

Basic II 08:00-16:00 Sat June 05

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

Basic IV 12:00-24:00 Sat June 26

Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

The S'99 Candidates will be allowed to come on callouts starting June 10th. So if you see some new faces in the field, welcome them and keep an eye on them.

MRA SPRING MEETING

by Andy Lamb, 743-7175 email: amlamb@compuserve.com

The Spring Meeting will be held at The Whispering Pines Girl Scout Camp in the Santa Catalina Mountains on June 18th-20th. Many SARA members have been working on planning and organizing the meeting. It looks like the meeting will have a good turnout and many interesting topics will be presented under the theme of the meeting, Wilderness Medical Conference. Be sure to attend the banquet Saturday night. A registration form is included with this newsletter.

SARA VEHICLE PASS

by Andy Lamb, 743-7175

A vehicle pass is now available to identify a SARA member's vehicle when on search and rescue activities. It is not to be used for recreational purposes. It expires with your membership dues and has a control number for administration purposes. The pass is designed to hang from your rear view mirror. The pass costs \$1.00 at the SARA Store.

TRUCK LOWER SYSTEMS UPGRADED

by Henry Schneiker

The racks in the Lower Bags have been modified to make them safer and less likely to be mis-rigged. There will be a Technical Minute at the June meeting to go over these changes. The modifications are:

- 1) All bars are now attached to the long side of the rack.
- 2) The top bar is now pinned closed and cannot be opened since this bar is never opened anyway. The bars cannot slide around the curve to the short side of the rack.
- 3) The second bar is the largest bar since the second bar dissipates the most energy.
- 4) Red reflective tape has been applied to the back-side of the bars where the rope is never run. The rule is: "rope over red - your dead".

CALLOUT REVIEWS

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

Data Summary		
Reporting Period: 01 Jan – 26 May	Callouts: 41	
SARCI People: 426	Total Hours: 1488	Hours/Person: 3.5
		Calls/Week: 1.9
Reporting Period: 27 Apr – 26 May	Callouts: 12	
SARCI People: 143	Total Hours: 553	Hours/Person: 3.9

SUN 02 MAY CALL 99.030 Rescue of a 20 year old female with an ankle injury on trail near the top of Picacho Peak. Access was from the old trailhead (now a maintenance trail) on the west side of the peak. Ranger 41 from Phoenix landed in the upper saddle, and the crew arrived at the victim as ground teams arrived. The victim was splinted and hobbled with assistance back up the trail. A fixed rope was used on the upper hand cable, with an ascender for belay. Ranger flew her to an ambulance at the parking lot.

13 people, 35 hours, Picacho State Park, Pinal County, R41

MON 03 MAY CALL 99.031 Search for a 45 year old male overdue in Finger Rock Canyon. He was hiking with a companion toward Finger Rock. His companion became tired and waited until nearly sunset before starting out, and reported the hiker overdue the next morning. As teams arrived at the trailhead, hikers were reporting a person yelling for help. The hiker had injured his foot while returning from Finger Rock, then hobbled down until night and continued at dawn, meeting SAR teams in the bottom of the canyon. He continued hobbling with assistance on a splinted foot, climbing up the east slope and contouring downstream to the trail at the Overlook. He actually enjoyed his mule ride to the trailhead! 23 people, 126 hours

WED 05 MAY CALL 99.032 Rescue of a 76 year old male who fell off a horse a half mile towards Chivo Falls from the parking area on Redington Road. The victim was with a group heading to the falls for a wedding. Three Posse members with the party provided assistance, then requested 911 via Ham radio. Ranger 38 was kept in the air by gusting winds and a heavy fuel load, then landed next to the main road. The victim was carried by stokes back to the helicopter. 14 people, 34 hours, R38 RMFD

FRI 07 MAY CALL 99.033 Rescue of a 43 year old male stranded by darkness on the Seven Falls Trail. The victim called 911 by cell phone, and told Deputy Jess that he had slipped in the darkness and requested a back brace, so the stokes was started. Teams met the victim after the sixth stream crossing, finding that he had a history of back problems, but nothing requiring our attention. He walked out with the teams. 15 people, 26 hours

SAT 08 MAY CALL 99.034 Rescue of a ?? year old female with an ankle injury at the Crack in Sabino Canyon. She was carried by stokes downstream to the road. 14 people, 28 hours

SAT 08 MAY CALL 99.035 Divers Call: evidence search, CAP Canal off Sandario Road. ?? people, ?? hours, NO RECORDS

SUN 09 MAY CALL 99.036 Rescue of a 21 year old male stuck on his rope near MP16 on the Catalina Highway. The victim was climbing a 70' cliff, using a fixed line and ascenders for a belay. He was switching to rappel and locked up his system, and was upside down for a short period. A rescuer was lowered from the top, the victim lifted by a separate Z-system, disconnected from his rope and transferred to our system, then lowered to the bottom. He was mildly hypothermic, complicated by the restricted circulation to his legs while sitting in his harness waiting for rescue. A sleeping bag, stokes, and haul system were used to carry him out. 18 people, 70 hours

WED 12 MAY CALL 99.037 Rescue of a 72 year old male with heart problems 1.5 miles up the Old Badly Trail in Madera Canyon. Tubac Fire and Rural Metro medics started down trail with the patient on a backboard. SAR teams arrived and switched him to the stokes. Ranger 38 flew him to the hospital from the old missile site helipad. 10 people, 37 hours, Tubac Fire, RMFD 153, R38

FRI 14 MAY CALL 99.038 Search for an 85 year old male separated from a hiking group near the top of the Box Camp Trail. A Mt. Lemmon Fire team and an initial SAR team were near the PLS when Ranger 38 spotted the subject on a rock outcrop on the ridge above Sabino. The helicopter guided the teams bushwhacking to the scene, which was near the Old Lookout Site (one of our SAR overlooks). The Posse found that the upper end of the trail is easy for horses, including the route to the overlook. So Peaches rode him out. 9 people, 33 hours, MLFD, R38

SUN 16 MAY CALL 99.039 Rescue of a 35 year old female exhausted hiker on top of the ridge west of Tram Stop 7 in Sabino Canyon. Her companion called 911 from his cell phone after she became ill. Ranger 38 located the pair, landed on the ridgetop, and flew the pair to the Sabino helispot. 9 people, 20 hours, R38

MON 24 MAY CALL 99.040 Search for a group of undocumented people near San Simon, on the Ajo Hiway about halfway between Sells and Ajo. Two of the group left their exhausted companions in the morning, and arrived at San Simon in the late afternoon, asking for help. SAR volunteers were requested late in the evening. A Customs helicopter was unable to find any fire in the search area extending south about ten miles. Others were not successful in cutting or following track. The group walked out to the hiway after dawn. 5 people, 39 hours, TOPD, Customs, BP

WED 26 MAY CALL 99.041 A 21 year old female was going for a short walk in the Starr Pass area while her companion did a bike ride. He returned, she didn't. A TPD investigative search was unsuccessful, and SAR volunteers were called at 22:00. Most of the trails between the Ajo Hiway and the Gates Pass Road were covered with nothing found. An additional check at his residence found a message from her on the answering machine, and she was asleep in the back yard. She had come out at a different trailhead, couldn't find the original one, made her way to his residence, but didn't have a key, and had no way to know a search was in progress. 13 people, 55 hours

P.A.C.E.

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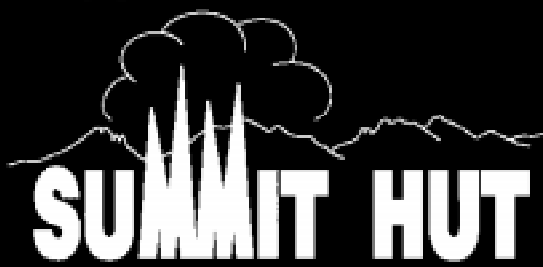
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9903

SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL, INC.

P.O.Box 44231, Tucson AZ 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 Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

SOUTHERN ARIZONA RESCUE ASSOCIATION

P.O.Box 12892, Tucson AZ 85732-2892
Meet 1st Fri 19:30, SARA House, 3455 N. Craycroft

PIMA COUNTY SEARCH AND RECOVERY DIVERS

P.O.Box 13961, Tucson AZ 85732
Meet 2nd Sun 09:00, details inside.

TUCSON COMPOSITE SQUADRON, C.A.P.

4933 N. Sunrise Avenue, Tucson AZ 85705
Meet each Sun 15:00-18:00, RMTD, 490 W. Magee Rd

SOUTHWEST RESCUE DOGS

P.O.Box 64120, Tucson AZ 85728-4120
Meet 2nd Wed 19:00
Sheriff Substation 106, Tanque Verde and Catalina Hwy

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