

# SAR COORDINATES

December 2007



## TONTO RIM SEARCH AND RESCUE SQUAD, Inc.

P.O. BOX 357  
STRAWBERRY, AZ 85544

A self-supporting, not-for-profit group of volunteer citizens dedicated to improving safety in the Arizona wilderness.

Operating under the authority of the Gila County Sheriff's Office  
John Armer; Sheriff

## TRSAR Squad meets monthly

General Public Welcome  
2nd Thursday @ 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
Payson Public Library Meeting Room  
328 N. McLane Road - Payson, Arizona



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## Commanders Corner

Mission Summaries:

After a very busy summer for SAR missions it has thankfully quieted down. We are close to 30 missions for the year. We avoided one recently in the Mazatzals – a typical location for missions this time of year because it has cooled down enough for folks to venture in far enough to get lost. The fires a few years ago rearranged the landscape, and washed out some of the trails in the deep backcountry of that rugged wilderness.

This particular mission was a typical situation for this area – a lot of people read the “50 hikes” guidebook, or various other books or websites, and are challenged to do the “loop” around Mazatzal Peak. It is about 15 miles – with about 4000 ft cumulative elevation gain - and the ones who get lost typically miss the linkup with the Barnhardt trail.

Sgt Hudgens reasoned it would take several hours for a team to get back to where this hiker was – so he called in a helicopter who found the hiker quickly and evacuated him.

Even though the frequency of missions has dropped, this is the time of year we can get some of the most challenging ones – deep backcountry, cold, snow, etc. You should be prepared for anything – especially a long cold mission at this time of year. Put on the fleece underlayers even before you leave home, then make sure you have a ready pack you can attach to any pack that has multiple layers of cold weather gear.

Think about an emergency shelter, emergency overnight gear – we have all seen weather conditions change dramatically here.

Reminders:

TRSAR Board elections during the December 13th General meeting – bring your ballots.

Also, TRSAR is entered in the Payson Christmas Light Parade Saturday December 1. We will be decorating our truck and raffle quad trailer on Thursday, Nov 29 at 904 S McLane (near McLane and Aero, just south of the Humane Society).

Thanksgiving:

During this time of Thanksgiving and the Holidays, I would like to thank all of you who make this squad so great. You know who you are. I would hate to list names and miss some – but there are so many things that are important to making the squad run:

- The folks who can always be counted on to show up for a mission no matter what time of day or night
- The folks who help so much in putting the fundraising projects together – the legwork, the tickets, the mailings, setting up booths, selling tickets, coordinating
- The treasurer who tracks all of the above flawlessly
- The grounds maintenance, building maintenance, vehicle maintenance
- The folks who put trainings together and hold them throughout the year, and the folks who attend even though they have attended the same training many times over, but who come to help and get new people started.
- The newsletter, the website, the public relations exposure.
- The countless little and big suggestions for improvement that come in all year long from all of you.
- The constant attention to safety, to efficiency by all of you

Bill Pitterle – Commander, #500

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## Comments From the Board

***Don't forget; the meetings this month are Dec 11th for the Board and December 13th for the General Meeting***

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## Squad Officer Election

Our election will be held this month at the general meeting. We have a very good list of capable members and we wish them all the best and thanks for being willing to serve.

The positions open and candidates for same are as follow:

- Commander; Bill Pitterle, unopposed
- Secretary: Claudia Bullard, unopposed
- Two Board Member seats: Alphabetically; Kim Donau, Ira Gibel, Ted Lucas, Tammy Miotto, Dave Pirtle and Sue Spinck. Vote for two only.

Ballots have been mailed out and all Active members are eligible and encouraged to vote. Write-in candidates can be added on your ballot. Turn in your ballot before the next meeting either by mailing it to the Squad address or bringing it to the meeting on Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. Please place your name on the outside of the envelope only, not on the ballot.

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## Main Street Electric Light Parade

**By Greg Reed 521**

The Electric Light Parade turned out to be a great success. Earlier in the day it did not look very promising. With the wind and rain it looked like the Parade might not even happen at all and if It did, would anyone show up to watch it?

Well, it Did happen and it was Beautiful! At the last minute the rain stopped and the sky cleared. The people came to watch, all bundled up, with big smiles on their faces. The lights went on and the parade started. The night was crisp, the air was fresh and the show was wonderful. If you missed it, you missed a lot.

Tonto Rim Search And Rescue had our squad truck pulling our latest raffle fundraiser: A 2008 Arctic Cat 650 Prowler XT H1 riding on it's own Big Tex trailer. Everything was decorated in orange lights with search and rescue members walking or riding on their decorated quads along side. It looked great!

Remember, even though TRSAR members cannot purchase tickets for themselves, you can purchase raffle tickets as gifts or stocking stuffers for your friends, neighbors and loved ones. You can even purchase tickets for family members as long as they don't live under your same roof. Just think, what a great, inexpensive gift this makes (\$10) and you are helping your own TRSAR organization as well. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors about our raffle, too. YOU are our own best ambassadors for Tonto Rim Search And Rescue's raffle sales program.

Thank you! To every one who helped plan, decorate and participate in our Electric Light Parade entry. You did a great job and we couldn't have done it without you.

Also check out our web site: [www.TRSAR.org](http://www.TRSAR.org). People can now purchase raffle tickets at our web site using their bank cards through PayPal. Thanks, Jack Quinn, for all the hard work you did to get this feature set up.

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukkah! and Happy New Year! Everyone have a Safe and Happy Holidays.

**Click on pictures for larger versions  
Click BACK button to return here**

**This first set is the preparation of the squad truck**



**And then....the light parade.....**





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## December 2007 Training & Events Schedule

NOTHING FOR DECEMBER

### Requested Training Sessions

If you would like to volunteer to run a training session, or if you have a training session request contact any Board Member or Don Johnson

To reserve use of squad ATV, contact Don Johnson at 928-474-5335. Jacket, gloves, boots, helmet, and eye protection required to operate Squad ATV

Squad Web Site: [www.trsar.org](http://www.trsar.org)

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# Annual GCSO Party



Saturday Dec 15 at 6:00 PM @ American Legion Hall

Potluck style

Make plans now to attend, you need to go by the GCSO to sign up for the dish you are providing.

There will be a gift exchange for those who wish to participate, just bring an inexpensive gift, male type if you are male, female type gift if you are female.



## CHRISTMAS PARTY



COME AND CELEBRATE

SATURDAY, THE 15TH OF DECEMBER AT 6:00 P.M.

AMERICAN LEGION ON HIGHWAY 260 IN PAYSON

ALL SHERIFF'S OFFICE PERSONNEL, VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS AND FAMILY ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND HAVE A GOOD TIME.

For those wanting to participate in a gift exchange, please bring a gift for a Male or Female with a maximum amount of \$10.00. You will be given a ticket and we will then have a drawing for tickets and you will go and get a present.

Please label each present with Male or Female so they do not get mixed up.

This will be a pot-luck affair so bring your best dish.

Utensils and plates will be provided.

Beverages will be on your own.

Santa will be there for the kids at about 7P.M. so you can bring gifts for your young ones and he will pass them out.

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## Who's New

*Ted Lucas 547 of Payson Joined in January 07,*

*Tom Laporte 551 of Star Valley joined in March,*

**Bob Sumegi 517R of Payson joined in May,**

**Warner Thompson 552R of Payson joined in June,**

**Dr. Olivia Morris 528R of Payson joined in August and**

**4 new members joined us in October.**

**Alphabetically; Sonja Denman 564R of Tonto Basin,**

**Sheri Hayden 557R of Payson,**

**Joseph Oravec 556R of Pine and**

**Mary Smith 531R of Payson.**

**We welcome all of you and congratulate you on choosing to dedicate your time and talent to saving lives in the wilderness.**

**It is encouraging to see all these dedicated volunteers and we encourage you to become involved in the area of SAR that best fits your personality. There is always room for one more in any field.**

**Now it is up to us to get better acquainted with you. In this newsletter we will be having member profiles beginning with the new members listed above and then doing some of the members with more seniority as time passes.**



## Computer Tips, Techniques, Rants, Raves, and Netiquette

submitted by Les Hulse

I have noticed that several squad members have been bringing their digital cameras to training sessions and missions.

So, for a little change of pace for the next several issues, let's take a look at digital cameras. This may give you some ideas if you are in the market for a camera or wish to upgrade the camera you already have.

Pixels and megapixels

When you purchase a digital camera one of the first things you'll undoubtedly be asked is how many megapixels you want, or need. Currently, consumer digital cameras range from two megapixels to 12 megapixels!

Huh?! What's megapixel?!?!

Simply put, a *megapixel* is equal to one million pixels, which stands for picture elements. The more pixels there are in a digital image, the higher its resolution and quality will be.

Digital cameras capture images as pixels. Images are made up of thousands of these minuscule, tile-looking pixels. The more pixels a camera has, the greater sharpness and detail an image will have when viewed on a computer monitor.

One of the most helpful ways to determine how many megapixels you need is to decide the largest size photo you will want to print. Megapixels influence the visual quality of an image when printed. Also, the greater the number of megapixels, the less likely an image will become pixelated when cropped.

While the megapixel count of a digital camera is important, other factors such as camera sensor and optical quality of a lens play important roles in image quality.

For printing photos with the least pixelation, consider:

Maximum print size:	Get a digital camera with:	Image resolution in pixels
4x6"	1 megapixel	800x600
5x7"	2 megapixels	1024x768
8x10"	3 megapixels	1600x1200
11x14"	4 - 5 megapixels	2272x1704 +
13x19" & above	6 megapixels +	

### How Many Images Fit on a Memory Card

Most camera manufacturers publish tables on their Web sites to show how many images you can save on their included memory card. There is no fixed rule for the number of photos you can put on one card because different image file types, different amounts of compression, and image content all affect the size of each file – and each camera manufacturer does things differently. But the manufacturer's site is a good place to start when you decide how much memory you want.

As a general rule, I'd recommend a minimum of at least a 256 megabyte or two 128 megabyte cards if you're buying a 3-5 megapixel compact digital camera. If you want to shoot lots of high resolution photos and manipulate them on your computer, then you'll probably want to look at 512 megabyte and 1 gigabyte cards.

It's also a good idea to not save all of your photos on one card. There's always the possibility that cards can get corrupted, lost, or stolen. Using more than one and switching during a shoot protects your valuable photographic data.

### APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF IMAGES PER CAPACITY OF CARD

Camera Type	File Size*	16MB	32MB	64MB	128MB	256MB	512MB	1GB	2GB
<b>2 Megapixel</b>	900KB	17	35	71	142	284	568	1137	2275
<b>3 Megapixel</b>	1.2MB	13	26	53	106	213	426	853	1706
<b>4 Megapixel</b>	2.0MB	8	16	32	64	128	256	512	1024
<b>5 Megapixel</b>	2.5MB	6	12	25	51	102	204	409	819
<b>6 Megapixel</b>	3.2MB	5	10	20	40	80	160	320	640
<b>8 Megapixel</b>	3.5MB	3	9	18	36	73	146	292	585

MB = megabytes GB= gigabytes

\* Average file size using cameras highest resolution JPEG mode. The actual number of images per card will vary and depends on the camera model and compatibility of the scene being photographed.

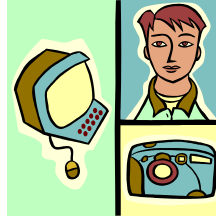
Two tips for this month:

1 – Never completely fill any memory card – always leave empty space for at least 2-3 photos.

Why? Many memory cards will become corrupt if the last photo you take cannot be completely stored on the memory card. The photo file will not be "closed" possibly resulting in all photos being made non-accessible.

2 – Always erase and format your memory cards using your digital camera.

Why? Some computer programs will format the card slightly differently from your camera – possibly resulting in fewer photos per card or making the memory card unusable.



**Question:** Do any of you find this section useful?

We can rant and rave about many topics, but do not know if it is appreciated. Also, we will most likely choose topics that "tick us off" and ignore the ones that you may be interested in. We can give you our opinion on just about anything (opinions are cheap).

**So let us know if this section is useful, and if you would like us to tear into some topic, just tell us.**

Send any comments and/or suggestions to the editor; Mike – address at bottom of newsletter.

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## Website

Tonto Rim SAR Members can now have your very own email address through our site. Just contact our Webmaster at [jack@jackswebs.com](mailto:jack@jackswebs.com) to arrange for it, no cost to you or us.

*I told my friend that I was having an affair.*

*He turned to me and asked, "Are you having it catered???"*

*THAT, my friend, is the definition of "OLD"!!!!*

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue of the newsletter.

Mike 502

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