

SAR COORDINATES

July 2008

TONTO RIM SEARCH AND RESCUE SQUAD, Inc.

P.O. BOX 357
STRAWBERRY AZ 85544

www.trsar.org

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

Commanders Corner

Reminders:

Raffle ticket sales July 4th weekend – all 3 days. This is a big money raiser for us, so help out if you can. Greg sent out an email with schedule. Please check your email, and fill in where it looks light.

Other News:

Several of us took a swiftwater awareness class at the end of May. This was prompted primarily because of the mission in late November 2007 where we ran into unexpected creek rises during a night of heavy rain and snow.

The class was excellent in a number of ways, but especially in that it illustrated that we need more education in how to deal with swiftwater. I can recall at least 4 missions during my time in the squad where we had to deal with swiftwater. Based on this class, we have done things right – and wrong. Swiftwater will happen in this area, both summer and winter, and we need to raise our awareness of the things we can do and the things we can't do. Swiftwater can be dangerous if not handled properly.

The board has approved purchase of swiftwater rescue gear, so we will be adding swiftwater training to our training schedule. Stay tuned – we will have more information at the next couple of meetings as we develop our requirements.

Mission Summaries:

There have been quite a few missions over the last 2 months. Fossil Springs continues to be a draw for people - and for us. Mostly heat related and injuries. Most of them have been quick and uneventful. Here's to hoping that trend continues.

Stay safe and stay prepared.

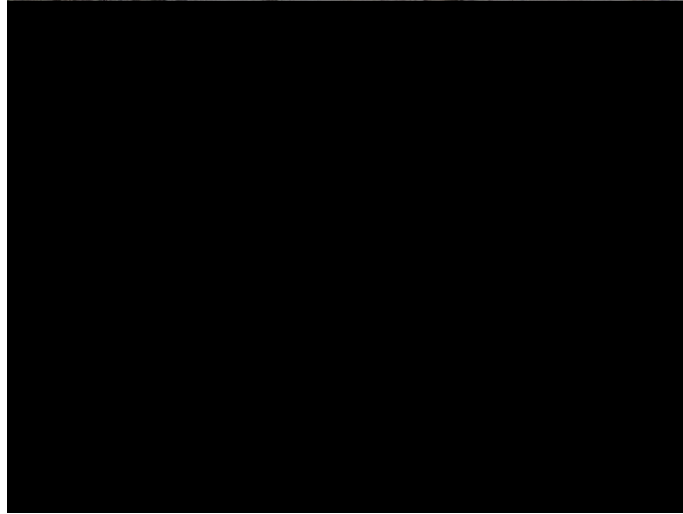
Bill Pitterle – Commander, #500

Something to think about this summer

These photos reportedly came from an Animal Control officer in Safford, Arizona.

This snake den was (reportedly) found near the Rancho Santa Fe subdivision, that's the area between the Safford Hospital and Daily Estates in Thatcher.





July 2008 Training & Events Schedule

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17- July (Thu) Night Tracking – Time: 0800 – Place: FR 198 (follow cones) – Les Hulse in charge

19- July (Sat) Rope Training – Time: 0700 – Place: Pine Canyon Narrows – Roger Miotto and rope instructors
in charge

9-Aug (Sat) Tracking Classroom – Time: 0800 – Place: Squad Building – Les Hulse in charge

Training Sessions (Coming this Year)

16-Jul	First Responder
13-Aug	CPR
Planned	Navigation Training – Compass and GPS

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

Active: Members wishing to remain on active status must attend at least three official Squad functions per quarter of the calendar year, as well as two training exercises per six months of the calendar year.

Reserve: Members who wish to remain on reserve status must attend at least one official Squad function per quarter of the calendar year as well as one training exercise per six months of the calendar year.

Planned Fundraising Events for Raffle Ticket Sales

Pine /Strawberry Arts & Crafts Festivals - Pine AZ

4 - July - Friday Time 0800 - 1700
5 - July - Saturday Time 0800 - 1700
6 - July - Sunday Time 0800 - 1600

Pine /Strawberry Arts & Crafts Festivals - Pine AZ

30 - August - Saturday Time 0800 - 1700
31 - August - Sunday Time 0800 - 1600

Don't forget; the meetings this month are July 8th for the Board and July 10th for the General Meeting.

Cool Stuff For The Outdoors

By now you have probably spotted "Lawrence of Arabia" cruising around out there on some of our missions. Lawrence, aka Dave Pirtle, has been doing this stuff for a long time and knows just how to stay a little on the cultured side of "Red Neck". Or, more specifically, to save his red neck from getting even redder and possibly having a bout with skin cancer. His less than dapper head gear makes a lot of sense in our Arizona sun. Even when the temperature is relatively cool out there the sun's rays at our 5000 foot elevation is doing a lot of damage to our skin. We often think about covering up in the winter time when it is cold... but covering up in the summertime with the right "Cool Stuff" is a wise thing to do as well. Did you know that you can get sunburned through a T-shirt?

No one wants to be hot, uncomfortable, sweaty or suffer the ill effects of a burn after a long day in our summer sun.

We have all been told about slathering on sun screen. Sun screen is great for protecting you skin but it has its drawbacks. It's greasy, stinky, and if you get in your eyes it will burn like there's no tomorrow...and yet, it is absolutely essential stuff unless you can accomplish that same thing a different way.

Now for the "Cool Stuff". . . There are a lot of new, engineered, light weight, sweat wicking, SPF rated, synthetic fabrics out there that manufacturers are using to make hats, shirts and pants out of. With these new fabrics you can wear long sleeve shirts and long pants and still stay cool and dry. In fact, with the right long sleeve clothing you can stay cooler than wearing an old traditional short sleeve shirt or T-shirt and these products can literally "Save Your Hide".

Don't forget "Lawrence of Arabia". A baseball cap alone just doesn't cut it. Get a hat that shades you face, ears, nose and the back of your neck or wear a veil like Dave does. If you look like Lawrence, so what, you will be glad you did after you get home from a long day in the sun and you will save Big Time down the road when you don't have to pay some doctor to cut little chunks of cancerous meat off your head, neck and face.

For more information on these new Sun Engineered products and how they work visit the websites listed below:

<http://www.columbia.com/OmniShade.aspx>

<http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/sun+protection.html>

So now you have the straight scoop...Lawrence is really a "Cool Dude". . . and that is this month's ***Cool Stuff For The Outdoors***.

Greg 521

PS - If your not wearing gloves don't forget to put sunscreen on the back of your hands. A lot of people develop skin cancer on the back of their hands from years of exposure to the sun.

SAR Reader Offer

For any Squad member who would like to read some interesting books on SAR in the National Parks, I have recently purchased two very good books, "Over the Edge, Death in the Grand Canyon", and "Off the Wall, Death in Yosemite," both by Michael P. Ghiglieri. He has put together two very interesting accounts of all known fatal mishaps in these two Parks.

If you are interested, I will loan them to you or they can be purchased through many different venues. Also, I would imagine you can check them out of the local Libraries, although I did not verify that.

Mike 502L

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Computer Tips, Techniques, Rants, Raves, and Netiquette

submitted by Jack Quinn and Les Hulse

This month, we will take a look at creating audio files on the PC using either CDs or records (vinyl) as the source.

There will not be any discussion of the ongoing controversy dealing with “copy protection” and “digital rights” – this is being fought between lawyers in the courts right now.

Now why would you want to do this? Well, you may have several favorite pieces of music that are on several different CDs and may want to make your own CD containing only your favorite songs. Or you may have a collection of old vinyl records that you want to convert to CDs (this is one of my projects).

As an example, I take a lot of photographs and put them on DVDs with an audio background. After returning from a recent trip to Mexico, I knew I would want to add Mexican music to my DVD containing Mexico photos. So I purchased several instrumental CDs in Mexico for transfer to the PC.

Anyway, there are several different topics with respect to handling audio:

- 1 – Copying music from CDs to your PC,
- 2 – Copying your old records (vinyl) to your PC (for us old-timers),
- 3 – Processing audio tracks to “clean them up”, and
- 4 – Creating your own music CDs.

The first task is getting the music you want off of the CD and into the PC. To do this, you can use a free program called Audiograbber (<http://www.audiograbber.com-us.net/>).

This program allows you to get any or all audio tracks from the CD and store them as individual files on the PC. Since the audio tracks on a CD are already in digital format, the copying is quite fast. The individual sound tracks can be saved in several different formats depending on how you will want to use them in the future. CDs are usually pretty “clean” and musical clean-up normally is not needed.

When copying music from an old vinyl record to the PC, you will be dealing with an analog signal, not a digital format. Getting the music into the PC can be done any number of ways that usually involve hooking up your stereo system to the PC or using custom preamps. You will also need a signal conversion program to change the analog signal to digital. In my case, I use a turntable that connects directly to a USB port on the PC.

To capture and convert the analog signal to digital, you can use a free program called Audacity (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>). As the record is played, the program displays a wave diagram corresponding to the sound as it is being captured. All of the “pops, clicks, and crackles” from the vinyl surface are reproduced faithfully.

If the captured sound was now recorded to a CD, it would sound just like the original vinyl record source – including all the bad stuff. So how can we fix this?

You can actually clean up the sound tracks using Audacity, but it is a lot of work. A better solution lies in a piece of software called Spin-It-Again. This software is not free, but costs \$39.95 (<http://www.acoustica.com/spinitagain/>). The software can perform 3 functions – (1) record from vinyl (like Audacity), (2) record from cassette tape, and (3) process sound files. I do not use the first 2 capabilities, but use the third one extensively.

This program allows one to remove all of the “pops, clicks, and crackles” from the sound file. If desired, sound equalization can also be done. Using this capability, you can capture a “tinny” soundtrack from a recording made in the 1930s and make it sound like a high-fidelity recording from the 1960s.

The final step in this process is making an audio CD that can be used in a CD player. Any of the software packages that we discussed last month can be used to burn audio CDs (see previous article). If you are making a DVD, the audio tracks on your PC have to be added to the movies using your DVD building software.

As a special option this month, you can listen to about 1 minute of a soundtrack taken from a Louis Armstrong album recorded in the early 1940s. The first example is taken directly from the record – notice clicks, pops, etc. The second example is the same track after cleaning – notice the cleaner sound.

Listen to the difference at: http://www.trsar.org/sar_newsletter/2008/july08.htm

I hope this article gives you some useful information on handling audio.

Have fun.

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.

Website

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

HUMOR ME

Blonde Mortician.....

A man who just died is delivered to a local mortuary wearing an expensive, expertly tailored black suit. The female blonde mortician asks the deceased's wife how she would like the body dressed. She points out that the man does look good in the black suit he is already wearing.

The widow, however, says that she always thought her husband looked his best in blue, and that she wants him in a blue suit. She gives the blonde mortician a blank check and says, 'I don't care what it costs, but please have my husband in a blue suit for the viewing.'

The woman returns the next day for the wake. To her delight, she finds her husband dressed in a gorgeous blue suit with a subtle chalk stripe; the suit fits him perfectly.

She says to the mortician, 'Whatever this cost, I'm very satisfied. You did an excellent job and I'm very grateful. How much did you spend?' To her astonishment, the blonde mortician presents her with the blank check. 'There's no charge,' she says.

'No, really, I must compensate you for the cost of that exquisite blue suit!' she says.

'Honestly, ma'am,' the blonde says, 'it cost nothing. You see, a deceased gentleman of about your husband's size was brought in shortly after you left yesterday, and he was wearing an attractive blue suit. I asked his wife if she minded him going to his grave wearing a black suit instead, and she said it made no difference as long as he looked nice.'

'So I just switched the heads.'

BET YOU DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING!!!



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