

# *SAR COORDINATES*

**September 2008**

**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

***Don't forget; the meetings this month are September 9th for the Board and Sept 11th for the General Meeting.***

## Commander's Corner

### **Quad Raffle a Great Success!**

We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to Greg Reed for the outstanding job he did on our quad raffle this year. The job of fundraiser is a big responsibility that requires a lot of attention to details, a lot of work, and a lot of coordination. Greg did it seemingly effortlessly. He had terrific help from many members of the squad. Thanks to the hard work of all, we completely sold out of tickets by noon of the last day of ticket sales at the Pine Arts and Crafts festival. That is simply incredible! Thanks to all who worked so hard over the last many months on this effort.

### **Mission Summaries:**

There have been several difficult missions over the last couple of months while my foot has been recovering. A special thanks to all of you who have dug in and provided that extra effort during my absence. I hope to be back to 100% in the next couple of months.

There have been many lessons learned during these difficult missions – especially the ones at Box Canyon. Box Canyon will always be a difficult rescue, and we try to learn from each mission there how to improve our response and our methods for future missions. Several of us on the rope team have

reviewed every aspect of both of the recent missions, and are working on improvements. In both cases, the team worked very well and showed a high level of professionalism and competence. We lost an anchor during a critical phase during one of the rescues – and due to proper equipment setup there was no detrimental effect on the system whatsoever. The rescuers and the subject were completely safe, and still under two points of attachment at all times.

Fossil Creek is closed – and we had our last callout there the day before it closed. It was cancelled shortly after the callout because the medical responders were able to reach the subject. I expect our responses there will go down for the next few months, though I hear rumors that folks are still finding their way in there.

Thanks to all who have responded to missions. You might want to think about adding some cool weather gear to your packs, at least have it handy. We will soon reach a time where an unexpected overnight at high elevation could be quite cool. This Labor Day weekend storm was a very early fall-type of pattern.

Stay safe and stay prepared.

Bill Pitterle – Commander, #500

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## Meet your Trail Partner

### **Ted Lucas**



Ted and his wife Vicki moved to Payson 2 and a half years ago from Kansas where he spent 20 years as President of a commercial bank in a town of 7000 population, with several branches in surrounding communities. They had driven through here 4 years ago and after 3 days in the area, bought their home and made plans to retire and move here.

We are glad that he did as he has been a very integral part of TRSAR since joining in January 2007. He met Hal and Kathy Baas in the Payson Packers club and they convinced him that this was the best volunteer organization in the area, bar none. He has been tracking certified and loves to help out with rope rescues.

His passions include rescuing dogs of which they have four beautiful specimens, volunteering at the Humane Shelter where he assisted their Building Fund-raiser by personally crushing 1,446,400 aluminum cans, (against his forehead, the rumor has it), cycling and of course the Payson Packers.

He and Vicki have one daughter and 2 granddaughters, who happen to be the most gorgeous grandchildren anyone ever saw.

When you see Ted, tell him how much we appreciate his involvement and commitment to TRSAR. It is because of people like him (of which we have over 60) that we can do the things we do, namely saving lives and restoring families in the Rim Country.

Thanks Ted, and Welcome Aboard.

## **Joe Oravek**



Joe joined the Squad in October of 2007 but he is so quiet and reserved that many of you may not have gotten to know him. He is a very dedicated member and looks forward to being even more involved as he finds his niche in the Squad. Tracking and Base Camp communications are his favorite so far, but he has been seen on most missions doing whatever is asked.

He was born in Johnstown PA on April 14, 1944, attended school in Vintondale, PA and graduated from Nanty-Glo Vintondale High in 1962. He then went into the Navy for four years and from there went to work as a civilian employee for the Naval Aviation Depot at North Island, San Diego.

After 32 years there in environmental and production manager positions, and obtaining a BA degree in Business Management along the way, he retired to Pine 10 years ago, has a beautiful home in the Portals where he and his wife Ginger plan to remain.

They have 5 children, 8 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Most of them reside in San Diego except for one son who is in the Air Force.

If you want to start up a conversation with Joe, just mention a four-letter word, like; hunt or fish. They are his favorite pastimes except for the grandchildren, of course. He will also chat with you about Alaska, the other spot in his heart.

Thanks Joe for sharing your time with TRSAR and being willing to serve that others may live. You fit right into our membership.

Welcome aboard!

## **Sept. 2008 Training & Events Schedule**

20- Sept. (Sat) Rope Training – Time: 0700 – Place: Pine Canyon Narrows – Roger Miotto and rope instructors In charge

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26-27 Sept. ( Fri.-Sat.) ATV- Overnight-Time: 0800- Place: Pumpkin City to Young to Payson-  
Instructor: DJ

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## **Training Sessions (Coming this Year)**

Planned      Navigation Training – Compass and GPS

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- 👤 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

*Italics = Sign-up required to attend this training*

\* See following notes:

- 👤 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

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**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.

### **Laws that are still on the books**

Men in Eureka, Nevada, who have mustaches, are forbidden to kiss woman. Drugstores in Providence, Rhode Island, may sell toothbrushes on Sunday, but not toothpaste.

It is against the law to ride down the street on an ugly horse in Wilbur, Washington.

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## **Business Cards for Active Members**

All active members are permitted to have business cards with your SAR info on them. If you do not have them yet, or if you have used up the ones you had, contact Mike Taylor to place your order. They are nice to have when you are doing any Squad activities, and the best part is they are free. A common use for them is to hand out to family members of the search/rescue subject.  
Email [miket@trsar.org](mailto:miket@trsar.org) or call 978-8009.

*Don't forget; the meetings this month are September 9th for the Board and Sept 11th for the General Meeting.*



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

Submitted by Jack Quinn and Les Hulse

We had a reader request to do an article on topographic mapping software – so here it is.

There are quite a few topographic map software products available if you want to put one on your PC. Details on the different products can be found on the manufacturer's web sites as well as in review articles published on the web. Look at <http://www.gpsnow.com/mactable.htm> for one example of a comparison table. I am not going into all the gory details of what the different packages can do, but will describe several packages I have on my PC and several key points.

Here are the 5 software products I have used or am still using with corresponding company name, coverage, and list cost (you can find it cheaper):

- 1 – TOPO! (National Geographic) – regional – \$29.95 (currently sold as Weekend Explorer)
- 2 – Arizona TOPO (National Geographic) – state – \$79.95 per state
- 3 – Backroads Explorer (National Geographic) – national – \$59.99 (latest version has 3D – mine is 2D)
- 4 – Terrain Navigator Pro (Maptech) – state – \$299.95 per state (now at version 8.5 – I use version 7)
- 5 – TOPO USA (DeLorme) – national – \$99.95 (now at version 7 – I use version 6)

To make things a bit easier, I will use the numbers 1-5 to refer to the software packages in the following comments (less chance of a typing error repeating the product names).

**Tools:** All of these products can display coordinates and grids using UTM or Latitude/Longitude, all have location finding tools, and all have routing tools. All five products can print maps (more later) and support adding user text and symbols to maps.

For home use, any of these products would be acceptable, but for use within SAR, there are some factors which must be taken into consideration. This will be explained as we continue.

**Coverage:** Products 3 and 5 cover the entire United States, products 2 and 4 just cover all of Arizona, and product 1 covers the central region of Arizona – essentially bordered by Flagstaff, Prescott, Phoenix, and SR 288 on the eastern side.

**Note:** Product 1, although limited in area compared to the other 4 products, covers 95% of the area where our call-outs occur.

**Viewing:** Products 1, 2, and 3 have five different map scales each with seven magnification levels (zooming in and out); product 4 has two different map scales (three scales if you use the aerial photographs option) each with four magnification levels, and product 5 has 129 different map scales with no magnification levels.

**Note:** Product 1 is different from the other products in that it uses a forest map at the level 3 map scale.

**Shading (ground cover):** All products show ground cover shading (for example: forest land is green) but only product 5 allows this to be totally turned off. Product 5 also allows different ground cover colors to be displayed.

**Shaded Relief (contour lines):** Product 1 has no shaded relief unless add-on software is purchased. Products 2, 3, and 5 allow shaded relief to be on or off. Products 2 and 3 both allow light/medium/dark levels of shading. Product 4 only shows shaded relief in 3D mode – not 2D.

**Note:** So why is all this shading stuff important? When we use PCs in the field, we do not attach fancy color printers to the PC – we use a portable black-and-white printer to generate maps for searchers to use. Software that does not allow shading to be turned off or turned down will most likely produce a printed map that is hard (if not impossible) to read when printed in black and white. The shading produces hard to read blurred areas.

Also, when the printed map is also copied using a copier, the blurring just gets worse.

**2D / 3D:** Products 1 and 2 are 2D only. My version of product 3 is 2D only, but the package is now only sold as the 3D version. Products 4 and 5 allow both 2D and 3D displays.

**Note:** Product 4 is used extensively in our map and compass trainings since it is very easy to explain contour map features using its 3D display capabilities.

**Printing:** All of the products allow displayed maps to be printed. The printing tool in products 1, 2, and 3 allow maps to be printed as a percentage of the display area. For training purposes, these products allow us to create printed maps with UTM grids that exactly match the plastic overlays that we use on our Geological Survey quadrangle maps.

**GPS:** Products 2, 3, 4, and 5 have GPS import/export options built in to the software. Product 1 requires a piece of add-on software (free) for this capability. Since there are several makers and models of GPS units, the GPS devices that can be used with each software package are

constantly changing. You will have to check the software manufacturer information to see if your device is supported.

In closing, all of the products use the same starting point – the geological survey quadrangle maps. Since these maps were printed quite a while ago, updated information is at the discretion of the manufacturer. Although the major topographic features do not change - roads, buildings, town borders, etc. are constantly changing. Thus, every piece of software is a little out of date.

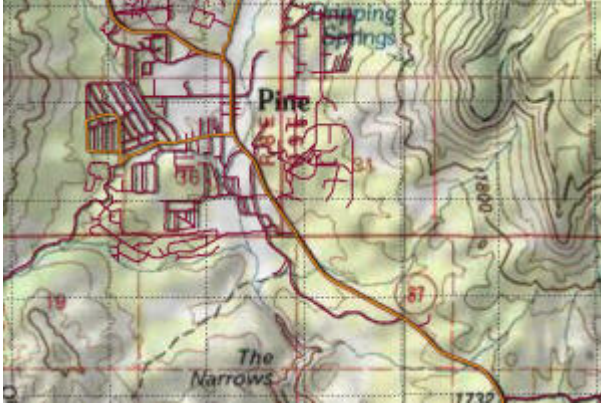
Products 3 and 5 have the most up-to-date road information. However there are some things to consider.

Product 3 updating uses overlays to superimpose current roads on base maps. However, since this product went to the 3D version, user reviews have worsened. I do not expect new overlays for the 2D version to continue any longer.

Product 5 is updated yearly. But you have to pay about \$50 each year to get all the new roads and structures. Since this product covers 50 states, central Arizona is not high on the list of updates (compared to metropolitan areas around the country). I only update this software every 3-4 years.

The following 5 examples will show you how each product would look on your PC. Each one displayed the default installation setup with one addition: I added the UTM grid. Each example shows a 6x4 UTM grid area around Pine.





**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](mailto:jack@jackswebs.com) to arrange for it, no cost to you or us.

## Related SAR news

"Hey Vern!" ... check out the [NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY WEBSITE !](#)

<http://www.VERNUSA.ORG> is now up and running and ready to use!

- Please feel free to pass this on to any friends or colleagues who may be interested.-

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- OFFICIAL LAUNCH of the 'Volunteer Emergency Response Network' (VERN)! -

[VERNUSA](#) is your 'Resource Optimization Tool'.  
One that helps you leverage and maximize your community's available emergency response resources to better help you meet or exceed your operational and readiness goals...

***"Because when an emergency happens... it's simply too late to prepare!"***

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What is "VERN" you ask?...

**...AN INTERNET WEB-BASED, INFORMATIONAL RESOURCE 'HUB' AND ONLINE TOOL:**

\* A comprehensive collection of resources, tools and training on the local, county, state, and national levels which includes:

- Scheduling, Training & Communications
- Information & Educational Sourcing
- Facilitation for Networking & Resource Sharing
- Databank of Personnel Qualifications & Certifications
- Promotional, Recruiting, Public Education & Outreach

***Some of VERN's Features:***

- Live weather radar
- Event schedules & event communications capabilities
- Online training, educational, and grant research resources
- Links to a wide range of additional online resources
- Library of manuals, guides, software, and (video-future addition)
- Databank for personnel qualifications & certifications (future feature-in development)
- Jobs, professional & volunteer opportunities
- National, DHS / FEMA / USFA / CDC / FLETC & Health-related RSS news feeds
- Local news items of related content
- Free (related) classified advertising (installed-pending setup)
- Related products & services (future feature)
- And much more!...

[Download and view the presentation!](#)

**Note that sign-ups, suggestions and feedback are always welcome!**

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**"For Safer and Better Prepared Communities!"**

In fact, "Vern insists", that you forward this notice on to friends & colleagues!

For more information about setting up a 'VERN' hub for your community, please do not hesitate to contact:

Tom LaPorte

**Star Information Services - EMSS**

Emergency Management Support Services

The 'Volunteer Emergency Response Network'

HC4 Box 20-70, Star Valley, AZ 85541-9529

Tel/Fax: (928) 472-3266

Email: [tlaporte@vernusa.org](mailto:tlaporte@vernusa.org)

Web: <http://www.VERNUSA.org>

**We are promoted and you'll also find our newsletter on the  
Rim Country Volunteer site;  
<http://www.inpayson.com/TRSAR-Payson-Rim-Country-Area.htm>**

## Humor me

A pastor's wife was expecting a baby, so he stood before the congregation and asked for a raise. After much discussion, they passed a rule that whenever the preacher's family expanded, so would his paycheck. After 6 children, this started to get expensive and the congregation decided to hold another meeting to discuss the preacher's expanding salary. A great deal of yelling and inner bickering ensued, as to how much the clergyman's additional children were costing the church, and how much more it could potentially cost.

After listening to them for about an hour, the pastor rose from his chair and spoke, "Children are a gift from God, and we will take as many gifts as He gives us".

Silence fell on the congregation. In the back pew, a little old lady struggled to stand, and finally said in her frail voice, "Rain is also a gift from God, but when we get too much of it, we wear rubbers."

The entire congregation said, "Amen."

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

Mike 502L

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