

SAR COORDINATES



May 2009

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

Commander's Corner

A relatively quiet month this month. It's not for lack of people in the forests. Perhaps it's the cool weather combined with good water conditions in the remote backcountry. Well, warm weather will be upon us soon. Check your gear. Make sure that whatever your hydration strategy is, that it is up to par and ready to go. Hydration in the summertime here is one of the most critical aspects of rescue in the backcountry. We all use something, and it varies. One thing I have learned over the years is that you need to keep your electrolytes up when on a long, hot, or high activity mission. There are a number of electrolyte "strategies" available, such as premixed electrolytes like Gatoraid. I prefer to take packets of electrolytes, and add them to water when required. They weigh very little, can be distributed among various packs, and all you need is water.

Recent Mission Summaries:

04/04/09 – Crackerjack Road – Abandoned vehicle on Crackerjack Road cause a search when an alert went out that the subject was possibly suicidal. We searched for a few hours Saturday night with no success, then went out again Sunday morning. Subject was located by helicopter camping in a canyon. A search team contacted the subject and he appeared to be fine.

04/14/09 – Roosevelt Lake - Subject called to say he rolled his truck, and didn't know where he was. The cell phone company indicated he was hitting the Mt Ord antenna. GCSO and Maricopa County had units checking various roads around Mt Ord. The cell phone company eventually determined that the signal was 29 miles away from Mt Ord, in the "SE quadrant". Well, that makes for a large area. Drawing a quarter circle 29 miles from Mt Ord covers a lot of ground, from near Apache Jct, through the Superstition Mtns, around to the lower end of Roosevelt Lake, and up Hwy 288 towards Young. GCSO called us out to assist covering any intersecting roads in this circle. While we were enroute, a citizen found the subject near Cave Creek – in the "SW quadrant" from Mt Ord. We're not sure whether it was simply relayed incorrectly, or whether reflections through rough terrain may have caused the direction issue.

Stay safe and stay prepared.

Bill Pitterle – Commander, #500



May 2009 Training & Events Schedule

9-May (Sat) Tracking Practice – Time: 0900 – Place: Pine Canyon Narrows – Les Hulse in charge

16-May. (Sat.) Rope Training – Time: 0800 – Place: Rye Bridge – Instructor: Roger Miotto

27 – May (Wed.) CPR – Time: 1700 – 2100

Planned Training Sessions (Coming this Year)

13-Jun (Sat) Tracking Certification – Time: TBA – Place: TBA – Les Hulse in charge

17 – Jun. (Wed.) First Aid – Time: 1700 – 2100


15 – July (Wed) CPR – Time: 1700 -2100

16 – Sept (Wed.) CPR – Time: 1700 – 2100

Planned Navigation Training – Compass and GPS


Planned Mock Mission

Planned ATV over night ride 120 miles

 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

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.

Squad Web Site: www.trsar.org

Laws that are still on the books

If a frog's croaking keeps you awake at night in Memphis, Tennessee, you can have the frog arrested. In Hayden, Arizona, it's illegal to disturb a bullfrog.

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 or call 978-8009.

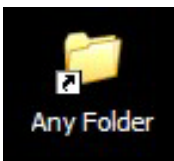
Don't forget; the meetings this month are May 12th for the Board and May 14th for the General Meeting.



Computer Tips, Techniques, Rants, Raves, and Netiquette

Submitted by Jack Quinn and Les Hulse

This month, let's take a look at the icons that are on your display screen – you know, all those different little square pictures. Each one is associated with a program, folder, or file. Each of us will have different ones depending on how our PC is set up and what programs we have installed. In this article, we will look at customizing the ones that have an arrow in the lower left corner of the icon – this arrow means that the icon represents a “shortcut”. An example is:



Have you ever wondered where they come from or if you can change them?

Any time you install a new program on your PC, the installation routine includes a small picture that is used to represent the program. In the case of Windows, the same little picture is usually used to represent several different things.

Here is a look at what some of the icons on my PC look like (to see more details, zoom in):



The icons used for the 4 selections: “Explorer – Data – SAR – Tech Info” are the default icons assigned by Windows. All of the rest of them are icons from alternate sources, and one even comes from a photograph.

So let’s see how we go about finding icons, replacing icons, and making unique ones from photos. Then we will look at arranging icons on the desktop and 2 other programs you might find to be useful.

First, how do we find where an icon (the picture) is located?

To find out where the icon picture is located, right-click on the icon, select “Properties”, select the “Shortcut” tab, then select “Change Icon”. The top display will show the file name and location where the icon picture can be found. The bottom display shows the icon picture itself and any other icons contained in the file.

Second, how can we change an icon?

Do the same steps as described in the first example. If there are more than one icon in this file, simply select a different one by left-clicking on it and selecting “OK” twice. The icon will be changed to the new picture.

If there is only one icon displayed in the file, you can use an alternate source by selecting the “Browse” button next to the file name display. You will then have to navigate to some other file that contains icons.

There are three files containing icons that are on every Windows PC and they are all found in the folder named: “c:\windows\system32”. The file names are: “shell32.dll”, “moricons.dll”, and “pifmgr.dll”.

If you cannot find what you like here, you can go to the web and download icon collections on just about any theme you can imagine – both for free and for \$\$\$.

Third, how can we create a unique icon from a photo?

If you make an icon from a photo, the best results are obtained when the photo is square – rectangular photos will be distorted.

To make a photo icon, make sure the photo is a bitmap image (example: photo.bmp). Then use any photo manipulation cropping tool to make a square image (example: square.bmp). Rename the square photo to anything you want, but change the extension to “ico” (example: square.ico) and ignore all warning messages. You now have an icon that can be used on the desktop.

Here is a bitmap image cropped to make it square measuring 300x300 pixels and the icon that is created by following the procedure (note: icons are 32x32 pixels):



Fourth, how can we change the icon arrangement on the desktop?

Changing icon arrangements are all done by right-clicking on a blank area of the desktop and selecting “**Arrange Icons By**”. You can experiment with all of the various options to see what can be done.

If you want to use larger icons, do the following:

- 1 - right-click on blank area of desktop
- 2 - select **Properties**
- 3 - select **Appearance** tab
- 4 - click **Effects** button
- 5 - check **Use Large Icons**
- 6 - click **OK**

Fifth, how can we change the arrow on an icon?

The default icon has an arrow inside of a white box in the lower left corner of the picture. The ones I like just have a small curved arrow. To make this change, you have to download a free Windows powertoy called TWEAKUI. It is located at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/Downloads/powertoys/Xppowertoys.msp>

This is a very powerful program so make sure you understand what some things do before you change them. The arrow change is found in “Explorer – Shortcut” when using this tool.

Finally, how can we preserve the icon layout on the desktop?

There is a free program you can get that is called Icon Restore.

Icon Restore allows you to save your desktop icon layout and restore it when needed. If you have ever changed your desktop resolution temporarily, you will have noticed that your desktop icons are all messed up, after you switch back. This little tool allows you to right click on the My Computer icon and select `Restore Desktop Icon Layout` and almost everything will be back in order. It is very useful for people that have to change the screen resolution often.

Get it from: <http://www.snapfiles.com/get/iconrestore.html>

So there it is – a brief summary of things that you can do with all of those shortcut icons on your desktop. You will notice that we did not discuss anything about the icons that do not have an arrow in the lower left corner. These are system icons that need a little extra care in handling and might be discussed in the future – no promises.

... Les

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.

Other SAR Related

[Deb's Search & Rescue stories](#)

[Those Wonderful Search & Rescue Dogs](#)

Posted: 20 Apr 2009 03:44 PM PDT



This past weekend, I was fortunate to meet some members of the [Maricopa County K-9 posse](#), also known as MarK9, and their wonderful dogs.

We do have a couple of search dogs on our own team--Cassie, our ground tracking German Shepherd and

Scout, an air-scenting brown Lab--but it's always a treat for me to meet others and see how they work.

Since Cassie joined our team about a year and a half ago, I've read some about SAR dogs, and I'm really interested in what they can do and how they're trained, though I doubt if I'd ever make that big commitment myself to become a handler. For one, I currently have a much-loved pooch of 11 years, who'd not take kindly to sharing my attention. And once Sassy is no longer with us, I think it'll be a long time before my husband and I own another dog. Not with my plans for future, multi-month thru-hikes and our intention to travel as extensively as possible. Someday, I'm sure we'll have another dog, but whether I'd want or be able to put in the time necessary to properly train a Search & Rescue canine would remain to be seen.

Anyhow, during our fieldwork this weekend, I enjoyed watching how each dog alerted differently during exercises. Some would bark, another would do circles (wing-dings, I call them), and one, a Weimaraner, basically body-checked her handler. They'd get so excited when it was time to work, which, as far as I could see, was usually indicated by their handlers putting certain collars, often with bells, or work-dog vests on them.

Also fascinating to me are the various commands and signals that pass between handlers and their dogs. For instance, one handler, Terry, explained to me that there's a difference between the command they give for a live person search and a search for a cadaver, and the dogs actually understand that difference. She explained that the dogs are "proofed" for certain animal bones, so they ignore those of deer, elk, etc. Terry and the others were gracious in answering the many questions my teammates and I pestered them with throughout the day.

Besides the treat of watching the dogs, it was also great to meet members of another team as we sometimes do during big, multi-agency missions and at conferences. I enjoy learning about how they do things--sometimes quite differently than our own team--and what kinds of searches and rescues they've been on lately. I never get tired of the stories.

That's one reason I've put together the Search & Rescue Stories [website](#), where I collect firsthand accounts by rescuers and the rescued and keep directories of websites for SAR teams around the world. I also participate on the [SAR-L Discussion List](#), with topics ranging from techniques, training, management, tips, gear, news stories and more. You can find a list of additional Search & Rescue online forums on my [website](#) in the "Articles & More" section.

Anyhow, other than some trainings lately, a litter-carry call that I hear was mostly handled by emergency medical personnel who were notified and quickly responded to the scene, and one 10-22'd call-out for a lost hiker who showed up just as we were loading gear at the SAR building, it's been relatively quiet for the past few weeks or so. Next weekend is the POD (Probability of Detection) and Line Search Training, and then the three-day Navigation "Boot Camp" begins on May 1st. The warming weather certainly makes these activities much more enjoyable.

<http://www.sarstories.com>

March 2, 2009

Personal Locating Device a Critical Aid in Rescue near Crown King

On February 28, 2009, at approximately 6 P.M., the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office Communication Center received a rescue request from the Arizona Department of Emergency Management in Phoenix. Staff in Phoenix had just received an emergency assistance signal from a "Spot" satellite tracking device which provided detailed GPS coordinates and contact party information. YCSO personnel learned that the person who activated the device, 58-year-old Geoffrey Smith from Prescott, had become separated from an off-road group and was missing. The parties were inhibited by snow conditions trying to leave the area.

Members of Smith's party, who returned safely, indicated Smith's off-road vehicle was having difficulty in the snow. As a result, Smith was trying to walk back to his truck parked on Senator Highway near Crown King. Rescue personnel also learned Smith was with his wife and was not equipped for an overnight stay. Thanks to consistent updates from the personal tracking device, YCSO rescue personnel were able to find Smith and his wife just after midnight at the exact GPS coordinates provided. Both were in good condition and very glad they had this device with them. YCSO personnel believe this may be the first time such a device has been used to locate missing persons in Yavapai County.

This device uses both the GPS satellite network to determine the owner's location and its own computer network to transmit that information to friends, family or an emergency service center. This personal safety device allows customers to notify friends and family of their location and status, and to send for emergency assistance in time of need, completely independent of cellular phone or wireless coverage. The device also allows selected contacts to track the progress of the user via a "Google" mapping program.

YCSO rescue personnel would like to remind those enjoying the Arizona outdoors to avoid the temptation to leave your group and seek an independent way out.

(YCSO does not endorse any particular product, but provides brand information so you have the opportunity to research these new and potentially life saving technologies. For more information on the "Spot" personal tracker, visit www.findmespot.com).

Preceding article posted on Yavapai County SAR website; <http://www.vcsrt.org/news.htm>

**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

BILLY, A LITTLE THREE YEAR OLD BOY IS SITTING ON THE TOILET. HIS MOTHER THINKS HE HAS BEEN IN THERE TOO LONG, SO SHE GOES IN TO SEE WHAT'S UP. HE IS TIGHTLY GRIPPING ON TO THE TOILET SEAT WITH HIS LEFT HAND, AND HITTING HIMSELF ON TOP OF THE HEAD WITH HIS RIGHT HAND.

HIS MOTHER ASKS, "BILLY, ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU'VE BEEN IN HERE FOR AWHILE."

BILLY ANSWERS, "I FINE, MOMMY. I NO GO 'DOODY' YET..."

MOM REPLIES, "OK, HONEY--YOU CAN STAY HERE A FEW MORE MINUTES. BUT, BILLY, WHY ARE YOU HITTING YOURSELF ON THE HEAD?"

BILLY EXPLAINS IT SIMPLY, "WORKS FOR KETCHUP!"

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

Mike 502L

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