

# SAR COORDINATES

**April 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



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## Commander's Corner

Missions have been picking up - here and around the state. I have heard a number of them on the radio, most of which were resolved before we were called out. While up at Forest Lakes assisting Coconino a couple weeks ago, the Coconino search coordinator indicated they had 10 missions in 10 days. Coconino County is the 2nd largest county in the country, with a lot of remote and rugged backcountry. With the return of warmer weather, things are picking up.

Recent Mission Summaries:

3/13/09 - Pine Trailhead - Female hiker overdue from a hike at Pine Trailhead. Tonto 410 and a Gila County Deputy followed possible tracks while our team was assembling. They eventually made voice contact with her on the Donahue trail, most of the way up Milk Ranch Point. They guided her

down until they reached our team of hikers, who then walked her out to the trailhead.

3/21/09 - Forest Lakes - A continuation of the January search for Mr Irby. Hunters located his quad 12 miles north of Forest Lakes, near Chevelon Lake. Coconino brought in a number of search teams from several counties to assist in searching several square miles around where the quad was located. Dog teams were also brought in to search the area immediately around the quad. No additional clues were found.

3/23/09 - Payson - Elderly woman did not return home when expected. Payson PD searched for a while before we were called in. We had good turnout, and searched roads, alleys, wooded areas, in and around where she might have walked. She eventually showed up back at home. She apparently had gone to the casino, then returned home on the shuttle.

3/30/09 - Hells Gate - Two backpackers were overdue returning from a 3 day trip into Hells Gate. They left the trailhead on Friday, and were to return on Sunday. Monday morning we were called out. Hikers frequently miss one of the trail turns on the way out, so quads were called out initially to cover the normal trails. After an initial pass with no indication of fresh tracks, it was decided to send a hiking team into the bottom of Hells Gate. While preparing for this, one of the hikers finally was able to get out on his cell phone to his dad who was on scene. He gave his GPS coordinates, and we were able to get hiking teams in close enough to make contact and guide them out. They got off trail early in the trip, tried to get to Hells Gate via some side canyon, and got into vertical territory that they could not negotiate. They spent the next couple of days working their way back until they could get out on cell phone.

Stay safe and stay prepared.  
Bill Pitterle - Commander, #500

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**Don't forget; the meetings this month are April 7th for the Board and April 9th for the General Meeting.**

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## April 2009 Training & Events Schedule

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4-5 Apr (Sat-Sun)	SAR Academy - Place: Squad building - Time: 0800-1600 - This is a mandatory training for squad members who haven't taken it - Any member can also take it
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	again.
09-Apr. (Thur.)	Web site training - Time: After the meeting-
16- Apr. (Thur.)	GPS Training - Time: 1800 - Place: Fox Farm
25-Apr. (Sat.)	Rope Training - Time: 0800 - Place: Box Canyon
9-May (Sat)	Tracking Practice - Time: 0900 - Place: Corrals on Houston mesa Road - Les Hulse in charge

## Planned Training Sessions ( Coming this Year)

<i>27 - May (Wed.)</i>	<i>CPR - Time: 1700 - 2100</i>
<i>13-Jun (Sat)</i>	<i>Tracking Certification - Time: TBA - Place: TBA - Les Hulse in charge</i>
<i>17 - Jun. (Wed.)</i>	<i>First Aid - Time: 1700 - 2100</i>
<i>15 - July (Wed)</i>	<i>CPR - Time: 1700 -2100</i>
<i>16 - Sept (Wed.)</i>	<i>CPR - Time: 1700 - 2100</i>
	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](http://www.trsar.org)



Folder customization: Select **Tools** from menu bar – select **Folder Options** – select appropriate tab – make any changes you want

### Folder Actions

Create: R-Click on open area of desktop or window – select **New** – select **Folder** – enter a name

Delete: R-Click on folder – select **Delete** – answer the prompt

Copy: R-Click on folder – select **Copy** – R-Click on open area of desktop or window – select **Paste** – enter a name

Move (1): Do copy operation – then do delete operation on original folder

Move (2): L-Click or R-Click on folder and keep mouse key depressed – drag to open area of desktop, window, or another folder – release mouse key to drop

### Movement within folders



Open a folder: D-Click on folder name

Go to top of folder: Press “Home” key to go to first item in folder

Go to end of folder: Press “End” key to go to last item in folder

Go to item: Press any letter / number key to go to first item beginning with that key

Backup (forget): Use **Up** symbol  on toolbar to backup 1 folder

Backup (remember): Use **Back**  symbol on toolbar to backup 1 folder – use **Forward**  symbol on toolbar to return

### Make folder into toolbar

Copy folder to desktop – Drag to any edge and release (R-Click to close toolbar)

### File actions

Create file: R-Click on open area of desktop or window – select **New** – select **File** – enter a name

Delete file: R-Click on filename – select **Delete** – answer the prompt

Copy file: R-Click on file – select **Copy** – R-Click on open area of desktop or window – select **Paste** – enter a name

Move (1): Do copy operation – then do delete operation on original folder or file

Move (2): L-Click or R-Click on file and keep mouse key depressed – drag to open area of desktop, window, or folder – release mouse key to drop

### Folder and File Views

Change folder view: Select **View** from menu bar – select one of **Thumbnails, Large Icons, Small Icons, List, or Details** – or select as **Web Page**

Make all folders the same: Select **Tools** from menu bar – select **Folder Options** – select **View** tab – select **Apply to All Folders** button

Recommended settings: Select **Tools** from menu bar – select **Folder Options** – select **View** tab – then:  
select **Show all Files**  
uncheck **Hide file extensions for known file types**  
select **OK** button

Please note that whenever you delete a file/ folder by using the procedures described above, the item(s) are

sent to the recycle bin. If you are absolutely, positively, 100% sure you really want to delete the item(s), hold the shift key down when you select the delete operation. The deleted item(s) *will not go to the recycle bin!*

And there you have it – a brief summary of things that you can do when you open folders on your PC.

Have fun out there.

**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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## Related SAR News

Editor's note: I recently came across this blog by a member of the Coconino County SAR. I have been very impressed with her observation skills and also her willingness to share them. I would really like to see someone within our team who would undertake a similar task. Until then since she gave me permission to do so, I will share hers here.

### ***Deb's Search & Rescue stories***

#### **An Ongoing Mystery**

Posted: 24 Mar 2009 01:41 PM PDT

I need to get a new camera. If I had one, I'd show you a picture of all the vegetation that came out of my hair following our latest search--not only the pinon/juniper/ponderosa pine salad that collected around the shower drain the night I returned, but also the pile of twig bits I assembled on my desk the next day. Long hair and SAR just don't mix very well.

Maybe I should shave my head?

Anyway, it was another bushwhack, this time in the area where the ATV belonging to Mark Russell Irby was found about a week and a half ago. As you might recall, Mr. Irby went missing on January 2nd from Forest Lakes, when he went out for "just a short ride" around the subdivision before he and his wife were to return to their home in the city. But Mark Irby never did return, and, after a 10-day search, neither he nor the red Bombardier ATV he'd been driving had been located. Not until a couple of hunters stumbled upon the ATV earlier this month, well outside of the original search area.

This time, I participated in the "Irby search, Part 2," on two days, the first being a hasty search when the ATV was retrieved and then, following the search for the 7-year old boy, a full day which included efforts by two counties, mounted units, K-9 teams, ATV riders and ground teams. My field team was assigned to search a canyon. I took the center position, along the bottom, while Mike and Larry, and Larry's chocolate lab, Logger (or maybe it's Lager?), covered the flanks.

At first, the going was rather easy. We spread out a bit, keeping one another in sight, and slowly made our way along what began as a gently sloping drainage, scanning the ground and trees for anything out of the ordinary. We kept an eye out for clothing or perhaps even bones that weren't clearly those of an animal. We checked clusters of rocks and beneath bushes, being as thorough as we could.

Then the canyon began to deepen, and, eventually, my teammates were high above me and often out of sight, with steep, brush and tree-covered walls on either side. At times, we were out of voice contact as the vertical distance between them and me grew into the hundreds of feet, so we resorted to communicating by radio as I periodically plotted our progress on my map and relayed to incident command that we were "Code 4" (okay) and our approximate location in our search segment. Eventually, though, I was too deep in the canyon to make radio contact with base, so my teammate on the rim above me relayed the messages.

At one point, I thought I might have to backtrack in order to ever exit that canyon. I'd arrived at a bit of a climb and, though Mike had found a place to make his way down to the bottom to join me and had successfully negotiated the tricky spot, my arms and legs just weren't as long as his and I was having trouble finding good hand- and footholds that I could reach. So I walked back and forth, looking for an adequate spot to climb and finally gave in to handing my pack up to my teammate to make things a little easier.

"You think you might be able to brace yourself to give me a wrist?" I asked Mike as he stood looking down at me. I don't like to ask for help, but I figured it might speed things up (a lot).

Mike wedged his foot against a dead but seemingly sturdy tree and reached for my arm. It wasn't pretty, let me tell you, and I ended up in the dirt, but needless to say I made it with my teammate's assistance and we continued on.

As the canyon bottom gradually rose to rejoin the rims, so too did my radio make contact again with the others in the field. Teams were spread out all over the new search area, doing a good job of covering the ten segments from morning till late afternoon. But, as far as I know, nothing of particular interest was found, and the mystery surrounding Mr. Irby's disappearance continues.

<http://www.sarstories.com>

You are subscribed to email updates from Deb's Search and Rescue Stories

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Dave Pirtle recently came across an interesting website that may be of benefit to you.

<http://www.goldengadgets.com/index.html>

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Former member Bill Daily (KC7NOJ) forwarded this very interesting story from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) newsletter;

## HAMS ASSIST WOMAN INJURED IN DESERT

It was a sunny day, not a cloud in the sky, when Hal Whiting, KI2U, Todd Kluxdal, Kluxdal's father and Whiting's two sons decided to go out to the Poverty Mountain area in Arizona to search for airplane crash sites.

Whiting, who lives in St George, Utah, and Kluxdal, who lives in Mesquite, Nevada, took two vehicles that day. According to Whiting, they always take two vehicles, just in case a problem pops up: "We always have two spare tires, extra gasoline and a tow rope. We take enough food and supplies to stay two or three days." In addition to the extra equipment, Whiting took the one thing he never goes without -- his ham radio.

"It was a bit after lunch, about 73 miles into our trip," Whiting told the ARRL, "when we were flagged down by a man wanting to know if we had a satellite phone, since he couldn't get coverage on his cell phone."

Whiting didn't have a satellite phone, but he asked the man if this was an emergency. Whiting said that the man told him that one of his friends had been injured when her ATV rolled on top of her. "I told him I could call for help on my ham radio," he said. The injured woman was knocked unconscious by the fall, but had regained consciousness and was speaking coherently, but was in pain.

"I picked up my mic and put out a call on the 146.910 repeater, one of four repeaters run by Dean Cox, NR7K," Whiting said. "I called for assistance a couple of times when Mac Magee, N6LRG, in the Arizona Cane Beds, answered."

"Mac lives about 50 miles away from the accident site," Whiting said. "It's funny -- it's usually Washington County hams who are on the repeaters, since that's the direction they're pointed in. But Mac lives in Mohave County. And the accident happened in Mohave County. We were lucky, since if the call was answered by a ham in Washington County, there would have been a delay in them getting the info to the proper authorities in Mohave County, but with Mac answering, all our information went right to the proper place."

That morning, Magee told the ARRL that he came into my shack "and for some reason, turned on the 2 meter rig and it happened to be on the 146.910 repeater. I usually have a problem with the repeater 'hearing' me, so I rarely use it. About 11:20 Arizona time, I heard someone call and say they had emergency traffic and needed help. I fully expected a bevy of hams to answer the call, since so many are in range of that machine, but after his second call, and no answer, I took it."

Magee said that the calling station had been flagged down by another motorist. "He told me there had been an accident in the vicinity of Poverty Mountain," he said. "I really had no idea where that was, but I began to write down details. As soon as I had basic info, I called 911. The Mohave County Sheriff Office answered; I explained who I was and what the call was about."

The dispatcher asked Magee for the coordinates to the site, and Magee relayed the request to Whiting. "I looked at my GPS and gave Mac my coordinates, but he said the dispatcher wanted the coordinates from the accident site," Whiting said. "So I got in my 4-wheel drive and drove down the ridge to the site, about 5600 feet above sea level, and got the coordinates. I had to drive back to the ridge, another 1000 feet up, to call Mac back, because I couldn't get a signal down there."

Whiting told the ARRL that in addition to his ham radio, he also carries a set of FRS radios. "I gave one of the FRS radios to Todd and he drove his Jeep down the ridge to the accident site," he said. "I kept the other one and Todd was able to relay me information about the injured woman's condition and I was able to relay that information to Mac who in turn relayed it to the 911 dispatcher. Mac put the mic right up to the phone so the dispatcher could hear exactly what was going on."

Magee said the 911 dispatcher requested more information: "While Hal was replying, I held the phone up to my radio speaker. When he finished with the details, I asked them if they copied that. The dispatcher said he did, and they held me on the line. Hal and I talked a while as he gave more data. When the dispatcher returned, they said a chopper was being dispatched from Phoenix! Well, we finished that call after they had the actual accident site GPS coordinates that Hal had passed on."

With emergency help on the way, Kluxdal returned to the ridge and he and Whiting and his group went on their way to go check out an airplane crash site, the original intent of their trip. "The family members told us to go on and get on with our trip, so we did, after making sure they were all okay," Whiting said. "So we left to go to the crash site, about 3-4 miles away. As we were getting ready to return, we saw the helicopter overhead, taking the injured woman to the hospital in Las Vegas. We returned to the top of the ridge and a sheriff's deputy was there and he told us that our GPS coordinates were off, but only by 20 feet! He said that the helicopter crew was real happy that they were so on-target."

Whiting said they were glad to have been able to help. "This is a remote area," he said. "There's only one way in, one way out with no shortcuts to get in and out. There are only dirt roads, and it can get very muddy when it rains a lot. I was out that way two weeks ago and got stuck in the mud there, but it was all dry this past weekend."

Whiting said he learned a few things after this trip: "I am glad I had my radio equipment with me, and I am glad there was someone listening on the repeater to take the emergency call. Having the spare FRS radios created an efficient means for relay with a non-ham person, and having the GPS equipment provided a very effective means for the helicopter rescue team to locate the accident, since they did not want the road designation information but the exact patient coordinates. It would have been useless to have my equipment if there had not been someone listening. This proves that there is a good reason to keep your radios with you and in good operating condition."

Whiting, who was first licensed in 1976, is the ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Washington County. A CAD Manager and Aerial Photographer for Bulloch Brothers in Mesquite, Nevada (he and Kluxdal are co-workers), he is currently teaching an Amateur Radio licensing class to 13 prospective hams at the Dixie Regional Medical Center in St George.

Magee said that before this incident he had never been involved in an actual emergency. "I have established emergency communications networks, in particular for the LDS Church in Newbury Park, California, where I was the Stake Emergency Communications Coordinator." He told the ARRL: "Our communications group won the first worldwide test of the system back in the late 1980s. This is

like ARRL Field Day, but involved mostly LDS members and facilities, then under the name of Mercury Amateur Radio Association (MARA) <<http://www.mara.net/>>. I feel very pleased in knowing that I had the opportunity to serve in this rescue incident and that every penny I spent on my system, radio and antenna was certainly worth it. In these days of extensive cell phone service and coverage, isn't it satisfying to know that ham radio can still be of use for public service?"

## 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.

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>  
<http://www.inpayson.com/TRSAR-Payson-Rim-Country-Area.htm>

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue of the newsletter.  
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Squad Web Site: [www.trsar.org](http://www.trsar.org)

