

SAR COORDINATES

July 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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Mike Taylor, long time member has been involved with TRSAR and the SAR Coordinates for many, many years. At this point Mike thinks it's time to take a break and let others make their mark.

Thanks, Mike for all your hard work and dedication.

The following says a lot about TRSAR: *"TRSAR has maintained a well trained and efficient volunteer group since 1964"*. (More on this page http://www.trsar.org/about_us.htm)

We need a few "volunteers" to contribute to maintaining the SAR Coordinates. Not a lot of work to write a short bio of yourself or send us a story you read about SAR techniques, stories, personalities...etc.....Just something to keep our members interest up.

Vice Commander's Corner

Hell's Gate Again?

So far this year we have had a record number of missions at Hell's Gate. The folks rescued seemed to have found out about the area in different ways. One of the groups rescued had found out about the area from a website called www.toddshikingguide.com. It is an interesting website. The writer is a guy named Todd currently residing in Phoenix. He presents himself to be a very good hiker and has a writ up on a large number of hikes in the area. The hike the group was following is titled Haigler Creek and is listed in the Tonto National Forest area of the website. Todd's website lists it as 17-mile hike that he did in 2 days of hiking, 10 hours on day 1 and 3 hours on day 2. The hike starts from the Alderwood Recreation Site and heads down stream on Haigler Creek to the confluence with the Tonto Creek and then up the Hells Gate Trail. Now for anyone unfamiliar with the area, when he says hiking that actually means swimming and hiking. He identifies that swimming is unavoidable and a wet suit may be desirable during cooler weather or for skinny people. One of the folks in the group we rescued on this hike was of the skinny persuasion and had difficulty with the cold water. The website recommends the hike be completed in 2-3 days. I actually think the website listed the conditions pretty accurately. In this case the subjects of our rescue were new to loaded hiking and the heavy gear and swimming in cold water was more than could be handled by one of the group

The most recent group in the area that got in trouble heard about the hike via an Arizona Republic article on the state's 5 best swimming holes. One of the swimming holes listed is Hell's Gate.

This is a quote from the article: "Despite its name, Hell's Gate Wilderness is a lovely place, with ragged rock walls towering hundreds of feet and a lush riparian corridor providing a swath of green through the desert. It's a long, hot, steep and strenuous hike down to Hell's Gate, but it only makes the creek that much more inviting. And it cuts way down on the crowds."

Sounds pretty nice. The article does not mention any mileage or distances to get to the swimming hole. To actually complete the hike starting at the starting location identified is 19 miles round trip. So anyone doing this hike could get into trouble pretty quickly if sufficient water or food is not taken as well as water filtering devices. It would be difficult to carry enough water for 19 miles. Two of the recent rescues were a result of insufficient water. In this case I feel the article as written was irresponsible and did not provide adequate information to possible hikers to make a good decision on whether to complete the hike and what to take.

No matter what way the public is hearing about Hell's Gate we are getting very familiar with the area. With the recent missions we have learned the best ways to get hikers in to the area and the jeeps and ATV's in the squad are becoming invaluable in transporting subjects as well as squad members.

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

SAR Academy:

More Info At:

[Arizona SAR 2009](#)

[Arizona SAR 2009 Registration](#)

July 2009 Training & Events Schedule

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

18- July (Sat.) Rope Training – Time: 0800 – Place: Flowing Spring – Instructor: Roger Miotto

Planned Training Sessions (Coming this Year)

16 – Sept (Wed.) CPR – Time: 1700 – 21

18-20 Sept. (Fri.,Sat., Sun.) ARIZONA SAR CONFERENCE 2009, Place: Salvation Army Camp, Heber, AZ

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

In Logon County, Colorado, a man isn't allowed to kiss a woman while she's asleep.

Member of the opposite sex in Little Rock, Arkansas, can be thrown in jail for 30 days for flirting.

Before a man gets married in Truro, Mississippi, he must "prove himself worthy" by hunting and killing either six blackbirds or three crows.

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.

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 items

By [Kevin Johnson](#), USA TODAY

Two federal lawsuits are casting a harsh spotlight on an investigative tool long beloved by American law enforcement: a bloodhound's nose.

Lawsuits filed in Victoria, Texas, allege that Fort Bend County Sheriff's Deputy Keith Pikett and his team of hounds — James Bond, Quincy and Clue — failed controversial sniff tests known as "scent lineups."

Much like in traditional lineups, the dogs link human scents left at crime scenes to samples from suspects.

In each case, the suits allege, Pikett's dogs called attention to the wrong person. Both former suspects have been cleared.

The legal challenges are "a first for us," says Randall Morse, an assistant county attorney who is representing Pikett. He says the hounds have worked about 2,000 cases across the country, including the search for Olympic Park bomber [Eric Rudolph](#).

FIND MORE STORIES IN: [Eric Robert Rudolph](#)

"He really never had a problem," Morse says.

Defense lawyers say the technique smacks of forensic voodoo and casts further suspicion on the broader use of scent dog evidence.

"It's a fraud on so many levels," says Jeffrey Weiner, former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Since 2004, two men in Florida and one in California have been freed after DNA evidence exonerated them. They had been convicted, in part, on the use of scent evidence, according to the Innocence Project, which uses DNA to exonerate the wrongly convicted. Pikett's dogs weren't involved in those cases.

National Police Bloodhound Association spokesman Dennis Guzlas says the association urges that scent lineups be used with caution.

In the most recent Pikett case, defense attorney Rex Easley says Calvin Miller, 42, was cleared last month

after a three-month jail stint as a suspect in robbery and sexual assault cases. He had been singled out by Pikett's dogs in a scent lineup in Yoakum, Texas.

In a lawsuit against Pikett, Fort Bend County, the county sheriff, the city of Yoakum and a police official, Easley alleges the scent lineup was "rigged."

Easley says Miller was released after both victims were unable to identify him in a traditional lineup, and DNA evidence excluded him as a suspect.

"It's junk science," says Easley, who also is representing Michael Buchanek in the second suit. He was a suspect in a 2006 murder in Victoria, Texas.

Morse, Pikett's lawyer, says his client had no reason to implicate either man.

Ken Sparks, county attorney in Colorado County, Texas, an enthusiastic supporter of Pikett's work, says he understands some of the skepticism.

"Everybody who encounters it the first time says, 'Yeah, right,'" Sparks says. "That's what I said before I first saw it work."

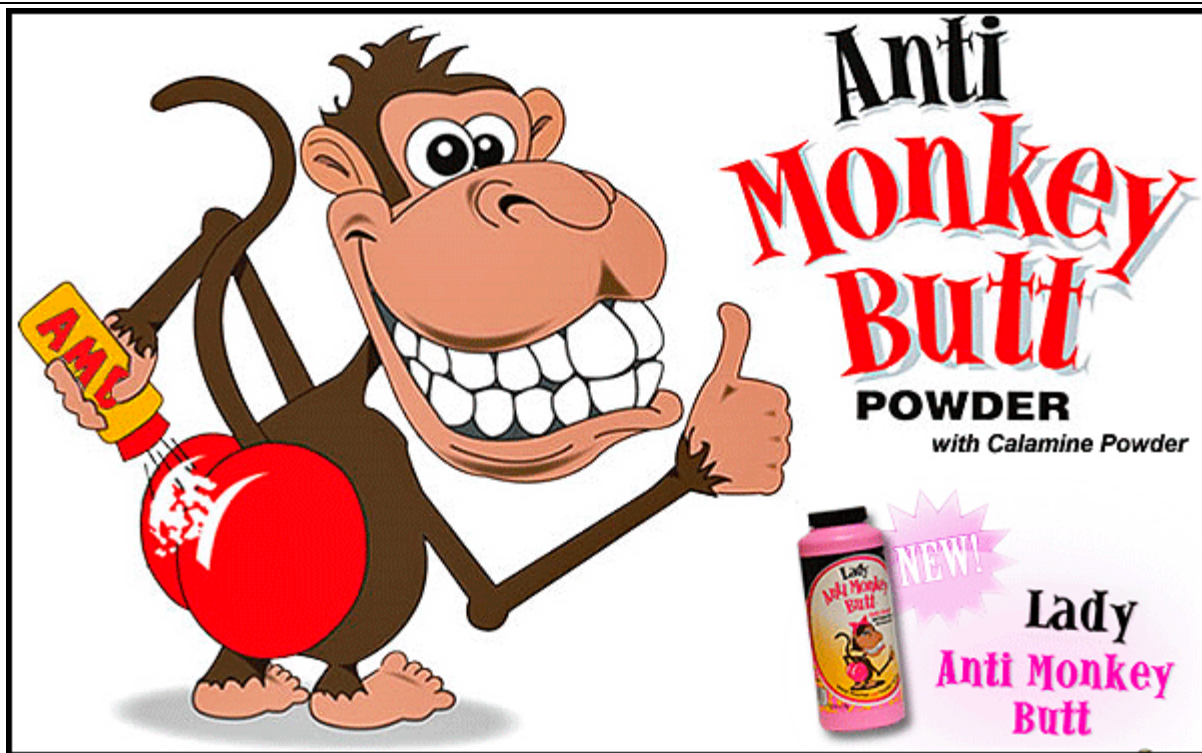
Pikett says the lawsuits are just attempts to win large awards. "It's all about money," he says.

GREG'S TRSAR MUSINGS

(IN THIS WEEK'S MUSING GREG WILL DISCUSS THE NUMBER ONE HIKER'S PROBLEM OF MONKEY BUTT)

Not a joke, it works.

<http://www.antimonkeybutt.com/>



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Or maybe even Wiggle Wormy
You might use this Preparation
To help relieve that Irritation

If your rear end is really Itchin'
This concoction cures the Affliction
It's a Sweat Absorber and a Friction Fighter
That can make your day a little Brighter.

To help you in your Circumstance
It has Talc Calamine and Fragrance
When you think you've got to holler louder
Just sprinkle a little Anti Monkey Butt Powder

ahh . . . nothin' will make you prouder

Testimonial from Greg

After a long hike on a rescue mission I get home soaking wet from sweat and have had to use rash creme that stinks like fish and didn't really work that great.

I am now able to sprinkle on [Monkey Butt](#) in the morning before going on a mission and haven't had a rash develop since I started using it.

Thanks to Monkey Butt the fish smell is gone.

<http://www.antimonkeybutt.com/>

Deb's Search & Rescue stories

These are my stories as a volunteer member of a Search & Rescue team in Coconino County, Arizona. I'll share what it's like to go from a beginner with a lot to learn to an experienced and, hopefully, valuable member of the team, as well as the missions, trainings, and other activities I participate in along the way.

June 23, 2009

The SAR I Missed While On Vacation



Not that I'm sorry we went! Heck no. We had a great time hiking and taking a scenic train ride in Colorado, but I'm always curious to know what goes on with the Search & Rescue team while I'm away. Yes, I'm a nosy girl.

So, when I got back to Flagstaff late Saturday night, June 20th, I couldn't resist calling the SAR line and listening to the last recorded message. It was from Friday evening around 8pm--a call-out regarding an overdue, juvenile mountain biker. But I didn't read anything in the

newspaper about such a search in the days that followed and haven't heard anything from my teammates, so I'm wondering if that situation resolved itself.

I did, however, see a couple of other SAR-related news stories in previous issues of the Arizona Daily Sun, including Body Recovered From Oak Creek Canyon (which I'm assuming some of our tech team members were involved with) and Searching Dangerous Depths, the latter about the special new (and expensive!) camera the Sheriff's Department recently acquired that can be lowered into deep, confined spaces. In this case, it was used to continue the search for German physicist Reinhard Kirchner, who disappeared in the Hell Hole Bend area of the Little Colorado river back in April, 2007. But nothing but rattlesnakes were found in the particular sink hole that was searched last week.

I know I also missed some Rock Rescue Academy training while I was away, but I don't know exactly what or how much. Kindly, one of my experienced teammates emailed me and offered to get together with me next week sometime to do some rope work, so that should help refresh my memory of what I've already learned and maybe even catch up a little. He tells me the next tech training will be on July 25th, so I'll have a little time to practice before then ... which is right before I go away again for two weeks and three weekends, when Steve and I will be canoe-camping in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota and doing some hiking in the North Country too.