

SAR COORDINATES

June 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

The relative quiet of the previous month was replaced with a very active month for TRSAR with eight missions total. Yet, we are probably very lucky in that the weather has been very pleasant for most of the month, with quite a bit of rainfall. That has eliminated some of the early dehydration and heat related missions we frequently see in May, where folks are caught off guard by the suddenness and intensity of the heat. We'll still see some of this, I'm sure – but other missions have made up the difference in the meantime.

Ira and his wife Roz hosted a great potluck get together for TRSAR. Unfortunately, it was interrupted by a rescue in lower Fossil Creek. For the ones who made it, the food and company were great – Thanks Ira and Roz!

Recent Mission Summaries:

05/03/09 – Houston Loop trail – Mom, Dad, and 5 yr old son hiked the Houston Loop trail network. They did not realize that it did not loop right back to the Houston trailhead on the 199 rd, so they got caught out far from their vehicle late in the afternoon, low on water and food. Several quads ran the trails until we found them and returned them to their vehicle.

05/09/09 – Lower Fossil Creek – Backpacker hit in the head by rocks kicked down from mountain sheep. They were in a remote location – 6.5 miles in on the 591 road, then 5 miles and 2000 feet elevation down the 17 trail at lower Fossil Creek. Fortunately, DPS Ranger was able to land nearby and evacuate the injured subject.

05/09/09 – Chaparral Pines – Woman suffering from Alzheimer disappeared from her home in Chaparral Pines. PD searched for a while, and then we were called in along with DPS Ranger (the same DPS Ranger crew that helped earlier in the day at lower Fossil Creek). We dispatched teams to search around homes and vacant lots in a radiating pattern from her house. A search team found her about 3 blocks from her home on the back porch of a home.

05/20/09 – Deer Creek Trail – Subject hiked out on the Deer Creek trail, intending to return on one of the other trails after joining it near Mt Peeley. The subject lost the trail and ran out of food and water trying to locate it. He called when he felt the odds stacking up against him. We were called and met at the Deer Creek trailhead. Our plan was to dispatch teams to hike the trails from each direction. DPS Ranger arrived on scene as we were about to dispatch, and was able to locate the subject several miles off trail and west of our search area. DPS Ranger was able to extract the subject.

05/24/09 – Fossil Creek – Subject suffered leg injury near Irving Power Plant. Pine-Strawberry Fire was on scene, but requested our help either moving subject across the river, or by rope haul up the almost vertical stream bank. We elected to do rope haul up about a 30 foot embankment to the road.

05/25/09 – Hellsgate Trail – Female hiker accosted by bears several miles in on the Hellsgate trail. Game and Fish went out initially on quads, and after a hasty search called for TRSAR for assistance. Just as we were about to dispatch teams onto the trail network, the female hiker showed up at the trailhead.

05/25/09 – Tonto Natural Bridge – Subject fell and reportedly had a back injury. Pine Strawberry Fire requested our assistance in getting her out on the litter.

05/26/09 – Arizona Trail, Oak Spring – Backpacking subjects were reported overdue at Pine Trailhead. We dispatched teams in to Oak Springs on 4 different trails that all meet there. Most teams arrived at about the same time to find the subjects not planning to be out until the next day – a miscommunication with their pickup.

Stay safe and stay prepared.

Bill Pitterle – Commander, #500

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

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Be sure to read the Rants and Raves article this issue.

June 2009 Training & Events Schedule

13 – Jun (Sat) Tracking Certification CANCELLED – enjoy the Strawberry Festival

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

20 – Jun (Sat) Rope Training – Time: 0800 – Place: TBA – Instructor: Roger Miotto

2 – Jul (Thu) YES Program – Time: 0930 – Place: Community Child Learning Center (800 W. Main – Payson)

Planned Training Sessions (Coming this Year)

11 – Jul (Sat) Night Tracking – Time: TBA – Location: TBA

15 – Jul (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

No person is allowed to chew tobacco without an M.D.'s permission in Connecticut.
While Fishing in Berkley, California, it is illegal to smoke.
It is illegal to smoke a pipe after sunset in Newport. Rhode Island.

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.



Computer Tips, Techniques, Rants, Raves, and Netiquette

Submitted by Les Hulse

This is the last regularly scheduled column for the Computer Rants and Raves section. There may be an occasional article at times in the future, but the monthly article is now history.

So, why is this happening?

My current PC operating system is Windows XP patched to the Service Pack 2 (SP2) level. Technical support for XP from Microsoft ended in April of 2009. Current scuttlebutt says that security patches will still be available until 2014.

I am currently using Windows XP Pro and have no intention of "upgrading" (Microsoft's terminology) to the Vista operating system. In fact, over 65% of computer users running XP have not moved to Vista. When it was released, the Vista system was notorious for running slower than XP, taking considerably more space on the PC, not allowing many peripherals (printers, scanners, etc.) to operate correctly, and imposing a user authentication system that was just plain bad. Although some of these problems have been fixed, the general attitude is to just ignore Vista and see what comes next.

When I purchased my last PC (January of 2008), I paid a little more to have XP installed on the computer rather than Vista. This is still a valid purchase option with many computer makers (as of May of 2009), so this in itself is a telling comment on Vista.

The next version of Windows – called “Windows 7” at this writing – has now been released to selected users for beta testing. This means that they get to work with a new system, do some evaluating, and help to uncover things that might be wrong. However, there is no guarantee what the final release from Microsoft will look like as yet, or if they will even respond to user comments. The scheduled release time is projected to be early in 2010.

I know many of you already have Vista PCs. Hopefully you did not encounter major problems and hopefully you are happy with your systems.

However, after doing a little research this last week, I noted that the PowerToys I mentioned in the last article are not available for Vista – and installing the XP version on a Vista PC may cause problems. There is a free program for download called TweakVI for Vista users, but it was not written by Microsoft (maybe a plus) and I have no idea if it works correctly.

I have also learned that Vista does many tasks differently from the way XP does things. So any instructions I might give on “how to do it” may not work at all for Vista users – and will probably not work with Windows 7 when it is released either.

So I have decided to stop writing regular computer articles (based on Windows XP) for the newsletter - since they will get more out of date with each passing month. This decision can be changed to an occasional "topic on demand" for the future (articles on topics suggested by readers → no suggestions = no articles) provided there is feedback from readers.

So ... it has been fun and I hope you have gotten a little something out of these columns.

Stay safe out there ... Les

Send any comments and/or suggestions to the editor; Mike – miket@trsar.org

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

ATTENTION: TRSAR Commander

The reason for this communication is to express my sincerest gratitude and thanks to the dedicated professionals of the TRSAR Unit. Here's my story:

Having 5,000+ hikes under my belt (in every State in the Continental U.S., including the rim-to-rim-to-rim 50-mile Grand Canyon hike, hikes in Canada and overseas) I'm about as experienced as they come. On May 20th, at 7:30 AM, equipped with trail map, first aid kit, matches, Suunto watch (with compass and altimeter), over a gallon of water, and plenty of food, I set out on a 15-mile hike from the Deer Creek trailhead, right off of Highway 87 near Payson. As I always do, I informed someone of exactly where I was going, and also turned off my cell phone to conserve the battery.

The trail started off very easy to follow (very well signed and cairned) but gradually became more difficult to navigate.

The map showed that the trail followed the creek bottom and then turned back toward the trailhead where my truck was parked. I later found out from Bill Pitterle #500 that the trail markings had been destroyed by a fire. There were no warnings to this effect at the trailhead to indicate that the trail markers had been destroyed. Had there been any warnings, I would have turned back.

As I continued along the creek bed, hoping to find the trail that no longer existed, I realized that I was lost. By then I was running out of water, becoming dehydrated. I went into full cramp mode and was barely able to walk. I also became very dizzy, falling several times, and became disoriented. I turned on my cell phone to see if I could get a signal to alert my girlfriend to send help. She called the Gila County Sheriff Department, and a search and rescue was initiated. Shortly thereafter, I again lost cell phone service. By climbing up onto the north wall of a canyon, I was able to regain cell phone service allowing me to communicate with Deputy Colt White #230.

I want to extend a special thanks to Deputy White; his calm and caring demeanor is what helped to keep me focused on the task at hand -- saving my life.

Eventually, the Phoenix Ranger helicopter arrived to rescue me from my location, perched on a small ledge on the north wall of the canyon, in the Mazatzal wilderness.

Please convey my gratitude to every member of the TRSAR team who helped in the mountain rescue. Additionally, please forward this letter of commendation to any and all administrators/supervisors of the various involved agencies to ensure that they are all advised of my appreciation and commended for their devotion to public service.

Sincerely,

Joseph Schultz
480.430.0880
Email: jschultz@itt-tech.edu

Deb's Search & Rescue stories

A Short Walk Turns Into A Long Night

Posted: 20 May 2009 09:09 AM PDT

Incident Commander (IC): So, when you parked the ATV and got off, what were you planning to do?

Subject: I was just going to check out a couple of tanks [man-made watering holes] in the area, for elk sign. I figured that one tank was only, like, 1000 yards away or something, so I just walked that direction. But I never saw it.

IC: And what did you do then?

Subject: I kept going, but I guess I got turned around. I thought I was walking back to the power line where I'd left my ATV, but I never found it again. I walked for hours. Then it got dark and cold, so I laid down and covered myself with pine needles.

IC: Did you ever see the helicopter?

Subject: Yeah, they flew right over, but I had no way to signal them.

IC: And what about the searchers on the ground? Did you hear them calling or any whistles during the night?

Subject: No, not till right before they found me. Then I started yelling back. I did hear a siren once, earlier, but it was a long way off.

IC: So, what would you tell someone else who was in this sort of situation?

Subject: [emphatically] I'd tell 'em never, ever walk away without your pack. Take a light, food and water, a map and compass, and all that. Even if you're just going for a short walk, be prepared! I've been doin' this outdoor stuff and huntin' for a long time, so this can happen to anybody.

I leaned over the seatback, watching through the open rear hatch of the IC's vehicle as this conversation was going on. I'd been waiting back at command for teammates to return with the subject, who'd been located about an hour earlier around 2:30am. The IC asked those of us in the SUV, "You guys have anything to add?"

I looked at the subject, illuminated by the interior lights of the vehicle, as he stood out back with our commander. The man had been driven to base by one of our teammates in a SAR vehicle, while the others hiked back to retrieve their ATV's and the subject's quad as well. "No," I answered. "We're just really glad you're okay."

With his arms wrapped around himself, the man nodded and, in a shaky voice, said, "Thank you all. Thank you very much."

Poor guy. It'd been a long, uncomfortable and probably scary night for him. He'd heard about rabid animals in the area, he'd said, and he worried about the coyotes. Just because you've been camping, hiking and hunting for a long time doesn't mean you're immune to mistakes *or* being afraid. I could tell he was feeling embarrassed.

It had been a long night for us searchers too. We'd been called out shortly before sundown and, after loading trailers and equipment, we responded to the staging area near Kinnikinnick Lake. While we were en route and as the light was fading, the man's ATV was spotted by air rescue, along a powerline.

When the quad was reached by a deputy on the ground, he found that it was dry beneath the vehicle and wet all around. It had rained since the ATV had been parked, and no foot tracks were picked up near the quad to determine direction of travel from that point. Trackers from our team tried cutting for sign in the immediate area, but didn't find any prints.

By then in the dark, we continued to search in pairs for six, seven hours before some foot tracks were finally picked up along a forest service road. Maybe twenty minutes later, I heard a teammate report through the static that he thought they "had our subject." Radio communications and cell phone contact were sketchy at best, so the rest of us had to wait for several long minutes to find out that they meant a *living* subject. Due to some medical history, we'd been worried that a health issue may have been the reason the man hadn't returned to his ATV or the camp he was sharing with his brother, the reporting party, since 10am the previous morning.

At 7:30 the following morning--yesterday, Tuesday, May 19th--I got home, just after my husband had gone to work. After two nights of SAR in a row, I was rather wiped out, but I'd have to wait till that evening to get some sleep. I had things to

do for my mom and some practice back at the SAR building already arranged for later yesterday afternoon with two other teammates for a little Rock Rescue Academy homework.

Needless to say, when I did finally commune with my pillow at 9:30 last night, I slept *really* well until the sun through the window woke me up this morning.

<http://www.sarstories.com>

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Posted on this publication by written permission of the author. She is an avid member of Coconino County SAR in Flagstaff AZ, an accomplished writer and loves to share her experiences. Read more of her stories and other SAR articles at; www.sarstories.com

**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 young boy enters a barber shop and the barber whispers to his customer, 'This is the dumbest kid in the world. Watch while I prove it to you.'

The barber puts a dollar bill in one hand and two quarters in the other, then calls the boy over and asks, 'Which do you want, son?'

The boy takes the quarters and leaves the dollar.

'What did I tell you?' said the barber. 'That kid never learns!'

Later, when the customer leaves, he sees the same young boy coming out of the ice cream store & says: 'Hey, son! May I ask you a question? Why did you take the quarters instead of the dollar bill?'

The boy licked his cone and replied, 'Because the day I take the dollar, the game's over!'

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

Mike 502L

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