

# SAR COORDINATES

February 2010

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

### **Commanders Corner**

That was an amazing storm system that came through here in January. Fortunately, folks for the most part stayed out of trouble and we had no callouts for the duration of the storm. GCSO was busy, especially down around Roosevelt Lake with evacuations, lake ferry operations, etc.

Here are some storm numbers in case you did not see them somewhere else.

... A series of winter storm systems brought near record rain... snow... and flooding to much of northern Arizona Monday through Saturday morning...

... The first in the series of storms arrived on Monday and brought moderate snow accumulations and rainfall totals to much of northern Arizona.

... A second storm moved across northern Arizona Tuesday evening... adding to the 5 day snowfall accumulations and rainfall totals with some areas receiving over a foot of snow and over an inch in total precipitation.

... A very severe winter storm moved into northern Arizona Wednesday night and continued through Friday night.

Heavy snow began Wednesday evening over the Mogollon Rim and at unusually low elevations south of the Mogollon Rim in Yavapai and Gila counties.

Snow levels rose rapidly Thursday afternoon to above 7000 feet. During this time period... widespread rain developed from the Mogollon Rim southward and produced severe flooding a few locations.

A powerful cold front swept across the state Thursday night... lowering snow levels back down to 4000 to 4500 feet. Very strong winds occurred with the cold front causing considerable blowing and drifting of snow... and complicating the direct measurement of snowfall.

... Excessive snowfall and rainfall totals were measured in many areas across northern Arizona for the duration of this five day period... from Monday afternoon through Saturday morning. The list below contains snow and rainfall totals for the entire 5 day event.

Snow reports... since monday:

Sunrise Mountain 96 inches\* (8am MST sun)  
Forest Lakes 72 inches (2pm MST mon)  
Arizona snowbowl 67 to 92 inches (7am MST sat)  
Greer 60 inches\* (1pm MST tue)  
Clints Well 60 inches (2pm MST mon)  
kachina Village 50 to 65 inches (5pm MST sat)  
Grand Canyon N rim 57 inches (5pm MST sat)  
north Flagstaff 55.6 inches (10am MST sat)  
Grand Canyon S rim 51 to 55 inches\* (7am MST sat)  
Flagstaff Airport 54.2 inches (11am MST sat)  
Bellemont 52.7 inches (11am MST sat)  
Pinetop 51 to 59 inches\* (10am MST sun)  
Munds Park 50.0 inches (9am MST sat)  
Heber 47 inches\* (11am MST mon)  
alpine 44 to 46 inches (120pm MST sun)  
Parks 12 mi N 43 inches (12pm MST sat)  
McNary 2 mi N 43 inches (7am MST sat)  
Tonto Village 41 inches (8am MST sat)  
Williams 39 to 43 inches (1030am MST fri)  
Show Low 32 to 36 inches\* (12pm MST sat)  
Pine 32 to 33 inches\* (1000am MST mon)  
Pinon 24 to 26 inches\* (1pm MST mon)  
Navajo nm 22 to 23 inches\* (1pm MST mon)  
Kayenta 15 mi S 21 inches (10am MST sat)  
Valle 18 inches\* (2pm MST mon)  
Window Rock 16 to 19 inches\* (118 PM MST mon)  
Prescott 13 to 18 inches (1pm MST mon)  
I-40 Sanders 12 inches (2pm MST mon)  
Keams Canyon 12 inches  
Ash Fork 11 to 12 inches\* (130pm MST mon)  
Payson 11.5 inches (1215pm MST sat)  
wupatki nm 10.7 inches (8am MST sat)  
Page 20 mi S (6000ft) 10 to 12 inches\* (2pm MST mon)  
Concho 7.5 to 8.5 inches (5am MST sat)  
Petrified Forest 5 to 6 inches\* (240pm MST mon)  
Canyon de Chelly 4 to 5 inches\* (1pm MST mon)

\* estimated

Precipitation (rain or melted snow)... since monday:

Wet Bottom Creek near Childs 12.17 inches (8am MST sat)  
Globe 11.99 inches (8am MST sat)  
tonto creek Fish Hatchery 11.12 inches (8am MST sat)  
Payson 9.35 inches (12pm MST sat)  
Happy Jack 7.90 inches (8am MST sat)  
Oak Creek Canyon 7.34 inches (8am MST sat)  
Pleasant Valley 7.10 inches (8am MST sat)  
Sedona 6.99 inches (5am MST sat)  
Flagstaff 5.27 inches (5am MST sat)  
Prescott city 5.54 inches (8am MST sat)  
Fort Valley 4.95 inches (7am MST sat)  
Bellemont 4.66 inches (5am MST sat)  
Bagdad 3.78 inches (5am MST sat)  
Heber 3.48 inches (8am MST sat)  
Prescott Airport 3.33 inches (5am MST sat)  
Window Rock 2.81 inches (8am MST sat)  
Ash Fork 2.50 inches (1pm MST mon)  
Grand Canyon Airport 2.15 inches (5pm MST sat)  
Winslow 2.00 inches (5am MST sat)  
Page 1.12 inches (8am MST sat)  
St. Johns 0.89 inches (5am MST sat)

The storm total snowfall for Flagstaff of 54.2 inches ranks as the second highest storm snowfall in Flagstaff history.

The storm total precipitation for Flagstaff of 5.27 inches ranks as the 6th highest storm total precipitation in Flagstaff history.

The storm total precipitation for Prescott city of 5.54 inches ranks as the 3rd highest storm total precipitation in Prescott history.

Note... historical storm total snowfall and precipitation records have only been calculated for Flagstaff and Prescott.

Mission Summaries:

None! So far this year. There has been activity. 3 times now, I have been in the process of setting up a callout, when Terry called to cancel at the last minute just before I sent the message.

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

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Some pictures submitted by Dave Pirtle showing the amount of snow that fell in Forest Lakes (About this time last year we were up there looking for that missing fellow on the ATV).



## February 2010 Training Schedule

12 Feb. (Fri.) 1630 Hrs	Tracking Practice – The exact location will be sent via OneCall the day prior to the tracking event. Also will be giving at the General meeting on the 11th. GPS coordinates will be given at that time. Coordinates will be in UTM format and Map datum will be NAD27. This tracking training will be going into the night time. <b>1630 Hrs.</b> So plan accordingly. Instructor: Dave Pirtle
20 Feb (Sat)	Rope Training – Time: 0900 – Place: Rye Bridge – Instructors: Roger Miotto and rope instructors in charge
24 Feb. (Wed.)	CPR - Time:1700 – Place: Ira Gibel house

## Planned Training Sessions ( Coming this Year)

10-11 April	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 again.
	<i>Navigation Training – Compass and GPS</i>
	<i>Mock Mission</i>
	<i>Tracking Certification – Time: TBA – Place: TBA – Dave Pirtle</i>
	<i>First Aid – Time: TBA – Place: TBA</i>
	<i>CPR – – Time: TBA – Place:</i>
	<i>Tracking – Time: TBA – Place: TBA – Dave Pirtle</i>

***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***

***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.***

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

***A horse is not allowed to eat a fire hydrant in Marshalltown, Iowa.  
All horse in Fountain Inn, South Carolina, are required to wear pants in public.  
All horse in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, must be equipped with horns and headlights.***

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## Other SAR News

[\*\*\*From Deb's Search and Rescue Stories\*\*\*](#)

***A Severe Out-Of-Bounds Injury***

***He was an experienced backcountry snowboarder. In fact, he was a snowboard instructor. And he did have one of the required free permits for entering the wilderness from the Snowbowl ski area. But, still, accidents happen of course,***

*and this was a bad one. The 28 year-old snowboarder apparently lost control on some ice and slammed into a tree, breaking his femur with knee involvement, an obviously very painful and potentially life-threatening injury should shock become a factor.*

*The victim was fortunate, though, that he was accompanied by three friends, one of whom stayed with him while two went for help. And luckily, Ski Patrol personnel were still on the mountain. They quickly came to the aid of the injured snowboarder and packaged him in a sked. While Search and Rescue was en route to the scene, we were in contact with these first responders, who kept us apprised of the victim's condition and their progress down the mountain.*

*In the meantime, a large group of us SAR volunteers deployed the snowcat and three snowmobiles. In the snowcat were a driver, a co-pilot/navigator, and five others, including myself and two Guardian medics, one of whom is also a SAR volunteer. The plan was to get us as far in as possible in the 'cat and then for some of us to continue on foot (on snowshoes, of course) to rendezvous with Ski Patrol and the victim.*

*Eventually, the snowcat began to get bogged down in very deep snow, so the five of us in the back got out and snowshoed to lighten the load. We caught up to the snowcat when it could go no further and then three of us continued up-slope, as the sun set and the glow of the full moon permeated the fog. Despite the task at hand, I couldn't help but notice what a beautiful evening it was on the mountain, a far cry from conditions during our last rescue during the blizzard.*

*Soon, our whistle blasts were answered by Ski Patrol, and we veered left towards the sound. Then my teammate spotted our moving target, making fast downhill progress with the aid of a rope attached to the sked. We'd heard they'd had to make several technical lowers along the way.*

*Time had been of the essence from the beginning, but now rescuers were even more concerned about the patient's condition. The three of us SAR folks could see from above that Ski Patrol wasn't about to stop for us to catch up but instead were heading towards the lights of the snowmobiles, which had stopped well short of the snowcat due to a mechanical issue. So we radioed the 'cat and told them to go back the way they'd come to meet Ski Patrol and the victim further down. We then snowshoed as quickly as we could to rendezvous with the whole group and got there soon after Ski Patrol and the snowcat connected.*

*The victim was alert but in agony. There's just no painless, gentle way to bring someone down a mountain. Not with that kind of injury. Add to that the fact that his leg was too deformed to put on a traction splint, and you're talking one extremely miserable patient. And it was too cold to administer IV fluids or painkillers, so he had to wait till he was loaded into the back of the warmer snowcat. I later heard, though, that nothing touched the pain, and every slight bump or lurch of the snowcat made him scream--which was constant, I'm afraid.*

*My teammates and I on snowshoes walked out as the snowcat delivered the patient to a waiting ambulance.*

*All in all, the mission went very well and quite fast (though I'm sure it seemed like an eternity to the victim), thanks in large part to the coordinated effort between Ski Patrol and SAR.*

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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.*

## 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.*

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