

SAR COORDINATES

September 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 **September 7th for the Board
and **September 9th** for the General Meeting.**

Commanders Corner

Once the hot weather hit, it has been a busy summer for missions. Huge thanks to all who have responded. Good turnouts make it easier on all of us.

Thanks to all who participated in the parade. Given the considerable coverage we have received in the media lately, I think we made a good showing.

After the parade, some of the rope team members got together and went through all of the new rescue gear and distributed it between the various vehicles. We have a new titanium split-apart litter, and a lighter weight "skinny wheel" that looks promising. I have read good reviews about the skinny wheel. I am sure we'll be able to test it out very soon.

We had a swiftwater training scheduled for the end of August, and it got cancelled at the last minute when one of the instructors had to cancel due to medical issues. I am working on rescheduling it in September.

Rod Cronk is working on creating a Mounted Posse for Gila County. This will be a big benefit to us when we get searches like the lost child searches we have had this

year.

Mission Summaries for August:

Tuesday, Aug 3 – Fossil Springs: 15 YO female having seizures at bottom of canyon. Wheeled her out. Time period: 4:15PM callout, completed 10:00PM

Tuesday, Aug 3 – Pine: 79 YO male missing form home. Fell down creek embankment and got tangled in blackberries and flash flood debris. Time period: 11:20PM callout, completed 2:00AM.

Wednesday, Aug 4 – Fossil Springs: Pool jumper injured ribs at waterfall 1 mile above lower trailhead. Wheeled out. Time period: 11:30 AM callout, completed 4:00PM

Thursday, Aug 5 – Fossil Springs: 15YO male dehydrated, ill at bottom of canyon. Wheeled out. Time period: 5:30PM callout, completed 9:30PM

Tuesday, Aug 10 – Fossil Springs: 21 YO female injured back while jumping from waterfall. Wheeled her out. Time period: 1:10PM callout, completed 5:00PM

Sunday, Aug 15 thought Monday, Aug 16 – Chenault Parkway, Payson: Missing 4YO male missing from home near airport. Foot search, quad search until 2:00AM. Restart at 6:00AM after DOC dogs gave some direction. Additional foot/quad search until boy was located by searchers on horseback at 11:30AM. Time period: 6:00PM callout, completed 12:00PM next day.

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

We Need to Learn to Use a new GPS Position Format

By Kathy Baas

When we do search and rescue work we usually set the Position Format on our GPS to UTM UPS. When we work with helicopters we will also use the Latitude/Longitude setting of hddd mm.mmm'. This Latitude/Longitude setting stands for degrees, minutes and decimal minutes.

On a recent search we had a need to use a new Position Format setting. The lost subjects had a newer cell phone (smart phone) that could text their position coordinates. The position coordinates were communicated as 3433647 and 11099555. So using the normal Position Format we would enter as 24.33.647 and 110.99.555. When we tried to enter this in to the GPS using the hddd mm.mmm' setting, the GPS stopped on the 99. In the mm (minute) format, the maximum is 60, so the GPS would not allow a 99 to be entered. This clued us in that the format we normally use for Lat/Long was not appropriate. If the location had been 59 (or any

number less than 60) it would not have been so easy to figure out.

Looking at the Position Format choices on the GPS there is a hddd.ddddd. This format is in degrees and decimal degrees. When we entered the coordinates at 34.33647 and 110.99555 along with WGS84 as the datum the subjects were .36 miles from our location. We were then able to easily determine the direction of travel necessary to get to the subject.

After the mission we checked out a “smart” cell phone that had a location App installed. This phone also stored location in the hddd.ddddd format. The lesson we learned is to become familiar with one more Position Format with use of your GPS. And beware especially if you get coordinates communicated from a new phone as this is the setting that may be used.

Pack ✓ Check

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by Greg Reed

Backpacking Checklist - The Ten Essentials

Last month in Pack ✓ Check we gave you a list of the Ten Essentials that should be included in every hikers pack. This month we have included an additional list of pack items that are either essential or recommended for SAR members. (Items marked with a “*” are essential).

1. *Durable work style all season gloves. Good for rope hauls, tough hikes through rocksand brush, helping to carry the litter.
2. *Latex or Nitrile throwaway gloves to protect you from coming in contact with a subject’s blood or body fluids
3. Goggles or eye protection for the same reasons as above.
4. Various sizes of Ziploc bags. Useful for waterproof storage either to keep things dry inside or to put wet things in to keep them from dampening your pack. Also good for collecting evidence, packing out trash or putting used latex gloves into so as not to contaminate your pack. Just a very useful item that can be adapted to many different situations. Pack them; you’ll be glad you did.
5. *GPS You will need this to find your way back to the command center. Command will also ask you to give coordinates of where a lost subject is found or from where you are transporting an injured subject. You may be given coordinates for an area to search or a location to meet up with other SAR members or where evidence or tracks have been found. This essential piece of equipment will get you out to where you are needed and get you back when you are done. But, it is nothing but useless dead weight if you do not know how to use it. Also, know that your GPS does not take the place of having a compass in your pack and knowing how to use it too.

6. *Note pad and pencil Great for writing down those coordinates that command just gave you. Also good for leaving a note at a specified location for other SAR members or just to keep track of information you might need to refer back to on a mission.

7. Insect repellent. Some kinds also double as sun screen and some liquid kinds make an excellent fire starter. Some do all three thus saving space and weight in your pack.

8. *Small signal mirror. Useful for signaling a helicopter or other SAR members as to your location on the ground. Great for emergency signaling if you get lost or hurt. Also useful for illuminating a track when tracking a subject. A very useful little tool that doesn't take up much space or weight.

9. Tissue paper or baby wipes. Really makes life much nicer when nature calls.

10. 20 feet of 1" wide webbing and/or 50 foot of paracord. Very handy stuff to have around. You can use it to make all sorts of things including but not limited to slings, splints, emergency shelters, rescue devices, etc., etc., etc. McGiver would never be without it and neither should you. They pack into any small space and weight practically nothing.

11. Duct tape. Same as above. This stuff will really get you out of a jamb. If you can dream it up, you can probably make it out of webbing and duct tape...don't leave home without it.

12. Small measuring tape. This is handy when command asks you how big the track is that you just found.

13. Roll of flagging tape. Commonly used in tracking to identify a track or object of interest. Used for letting others know which way you have gone. Also used to flag evidence or show what area has been covered by a search team.

14. *SAR radio. Used to communicate with command and/or coordinate with other SAR members. These things tend to be expensive and not everyone has one, but **NO GROUP OF SAR MEMBERS OR A SAR TEAM SHOULD BE WITHOUT AT LEAST ONE SAR RADIO.**

15. Tracking stick. Used in tracking to mark track and stride measurements. Also used to mark trackers path and reduce track contamination. Helpful to maintain balance on rocky terrain or fording streams. Makes an excellent tent pole for an emergency shelter.

16. Bandanna. Wet it down and put it around your neck to help keep you cool. Good flagging/signaling device. If you get one big enough you can use it as a cravat to sling a broken arm. Use it for origami to entertain the subject you are carrying out of a canyon - OK, I was just checking to see if you were still paying attention.

16. Two locking carabiners. Handy devices for quickly attaching rope or webbing to something else. Can be used to help make an emergency harness. To be safe, make sure they are load rated climbing biners so you know that they will hold your weight without breaking.

17. A few plastic Zip-ties. Again handy little items to attach light weight things to your pack, attach your emergency shelter to a tree, etc. etc. Remember these are

onetime usage only and when you want to get them off you will have to use your pocket knife to cut them off.

18. *Sheriff's Volunteer SAR Identification. Helps to let people know that you really are a member of TRSAR.

There are probably other things that you might want to include in your pack that would help you while you are out on a mission but remember that everything you include adds bulk and weight. Beyond a certain point the liability of the extra weight outweighs the benefit of having it with you on a mission. Remember the items above marked with a * are absolutely essential for members to carry with them, the rest is recommended but up to your personal preference and ability to carry the load. From time to time this list may be amended to meet current TRSAR board guidelines. When this happens I will try to update the list and get it sent out.

In future installments of Pack Check and after consultation of expert SAR members and other outdoors personnel I would like to go into more detail on the items listed above such as What makes up a good first aid kit; How to keep track of your batteries; Etc. Also I will add recommendations for an "Extended stay pack" or a "Winter pack list" or other helpful pack, clothing and equipment ideas.

Geocachers Save Two Women Stuck In Desert Women Stuck For More Than 48 Hours

Deb Stanley, 7NEWS Producer

Roy Joseph and Paul Fox went geocaching last week in what's called the Delores Triangle area, south of Grand Junction on the Colorado-Utah border.

Geocaching is a high-tech version of hide-and-seek where people use GPS devices to find some "caches" of treasures hidden outdoors.

Joseph said they found the first geocache, then a second.

The area was muddy because of heavy rain, and Joseph said he and Fox even talked about not wanting to get stuck in the mud.

"We were going to turn around to look for a third geocache when we decided to drive on down to the river," said Joseph.

"As we came over a hill, here's this Dodge van," said Joseph. "It had towels covering the windshield."

"I'm telling Paul, 'This doesn't look right, but we've got to check it out,'" said Joseph.

Joseph said when he and Fox drove up to the van, a woman got out, said "Thank God," and starting crying.

The woman and her elderly mother got stuck on a drive last Sunday afternoon. They both had health problems and couldn't push the van out of the sand and debris.

Joseph and Fox found them two days later.

"You could tell the mother was dehydrated, and they didn't have any water or food," said Joseph.

Joseph gave the women water and Fox gave the women lunch. Then the men used a tow strap to get the women out of the ravine. Joseph said there was a lot of debris around the van's front tires from the recent rain.

"If there had been more rain and runoff, it would have been more serious," said Joseph. "Just down ravine, the creek dropped down into a bigger canyon."

Joseph and Fox followed the women back to a main intersection and made sure the women could get back to town.

"They were nice ladies and really appreciative of us helping them," said Joseph.

Joseph is a long-time off-road driver and spoke from experience when he warned casual drivers to take precautions.

"While it was great that they were out exploring the great outdoors and the beautiful areas we have in Western Colorado, there are things to do to be safe and lower the risk of something serious happening," he said.

"Know your limits and your vehicle's limits and don't go beyond them," said Joseph. "Go prepared, take extra water, food and blankets. Tell someone where you are going or at least the general direction and when you should be back. It would be best to go with someone else in another vehicle."

September 2010 Training Schedule

9-Sept. (Thu)	Indoc training – after September general meeting
14-Sept. (Tue.)	Rope Training – Time: 1430 – Place: Pine Trail Head – Instructor: Roger Miotto
18- Sept. (Sat)	Rope Training – Time: 0730 – Place: Box Canyon – Instructors: Roger Miotto and rope instructors in charge

Track Training -

September 1 Wed. - 3:30pm Beginners Cracker Jack, Payson
September 13 Mon. - 3:30pm Beginners Fossil Creek, Strawberry
September 14 Tue. - 3:30pm Intermediate/Cert. Ralls, Strawberry
September 29 Wed. - 3:30pm Beginners Pine Narrow, Pine

September - Line Search - TBA
October - Night Search - TBA

The present Beginner Class which will Certify in November sometime (TBA) will be the last Beginner class until early Spring (March or April). I will start beginner classes back up then. I will schedule a Intermediate/Certified Training once a month.

Kim #544

Planned Training Sessions (Coming this Year)

	Navigation Training – Compass and GPS
	Mock Mission
	Tracking Certification – Time: TBA – Place: TBA
	First Aid – Time: TBA – Place: TBA
	CPR – – Time: TBA – Place:

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

Kissing on the lips in Riverside, California, is in violation of a local health ordinance, unless both parties first wipe their lips with carbonized rose water.

A kiss in Halethorp, Maryland, cannot last longer than a second.

Any man who constantly kisses “human beings” is forbidden to have a moustache if he lives in Indiana.

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.

This 2007 Jeep 4x4 wrangler unlimited is in excellent condition and we are asking \$19,800. that is almost 3,000 under blue book! It's a great deal and we will toss in an extra set of wheels for free.

Call Brett @ 476-4064 or email to: chellewin@live.com

