



**COCHISE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
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COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF SEARCH AND RESCUE

October 2014

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Special points of interest:

- Rescue Fairbanks 8/31/2014
- Training and meeting 9/4/2014
- Graham County Assist 9/5/2014
- Training 9/6/2014
- SWFT 9/8/2014 Davis Rd
- Search St David 9/17/2014
- 9/18 and 9/19 Portal SWFT water
- 9/20/14 Tech training
- 9/21/14 Almost mission Fairbanks injured hiker

Last Day of Month Mission 8/31/2014

What a month August has been we responded to a total of eight missions, not counting training and other activities SAR was involved in. This call came in shortly before 1000 am on Sunday 8/31/14. A male subject was bucked off his horse while riding along the San Pedro River in the Fairbanks area. He was about two miles north of SR 82 on a non vehicular assessable trail. HCI and Whetstone Fire responded to this call as well. They did not wait for our arrival and headed down one of the trails on the east side of the river with just a back board, no stokes basket. They turned around after they encountered a rather large rattle snake. HCI also dispatched a medical helicopter who was able to land about a quarter mile from the subject. This was initially not relayed to us, only that LifeLine was with the patient. G-Geoff was the medic on this helo and requested SAR with stokes and

wheel. We initially cancelled SAR upon learning helo medical personnel was with the patient. G-Geoff called David and asked for SAR not to be cancelled since they needed the stokes to transport the subject, who weighed quit a bit, back to the helo.



Our response was rather limited as well, since this was a holiday weekend, and most of the folks were out of town. Without the stokes and wheel this would have been a rather difficult carry out for the subject and us as well.



Training and Meeting 9/4/2014

Eric covered the quick construction of a Swiss seat, made of webbing, during this pre meeting training. This seat does come in handy if you need a quick harness and you "forgot" yours. The seat can also be constructed if you need a harness for a subject cliffed out and needing to be secured prior to extraction. A loop constructed



of webbing can serve as a chest

harness. Bill demonstrated a seat/chest harness combination constructed of one piece of webbing about 20 to 25 feet long.





Beautiful view of a quite deadly lake

“Remember, we all stumble, every one of us. That’s why it’s a comfort to go hand in hand.”
Emily Kibrough



Serenity

Graham County Assist 9/5/2014

Search and Rescue is more than just Search and Rescue. The Cochise County Search and Rescue (CCSAR) was recently called to assist a neighboring county with the recovery of a drowning victim. CCSAR is only one of three SAR teams within the state of Arizona having an active, trained dive team. Arizona State Legislature under Arizona Revised Statute 11-441, Powers and Duties section C, directs the sheriff to conduct or coordinate within the county search or rescue operations involving the life or health of any person, or may assist in such operations in another county at the request of that county’s sheriff. This was the case on September 5, 2014, when Graham County asked for our assistance. This assistance call was the second one of this nature, searching for a drowning victim, at the same location.

Several times a year, CCSAR conducts dive training exercises at Parker Canyon Lake, involving divers and dive tenders allowing the team to effectively aid in the recovery of drowning victims. Parker Canyon Lake has had its share of drowning victims in the past several years. In general, a dive team consists of a primary diver, a backup diver and two tenders. In the past it has been rather difficult to deploy divers from the middle of the lake and also provide an on lake safety for divers as well. This changed with CCSAR acquiring a NRS inflatable raft and a Rescue One dive boat. In order to cover large areas of a lake, CCSAR deploys its Rescue One Dive boat and its NRS raft. The NRS raft is utilized once anchored in place, as a dive platform whereby the diver and tenders in charge of the diver are working an area out to ap-

proximately 100 feet from the raft. The Rescue One Dive boat aids in shuttling of divers and equipment, and also serves as safety on the lake. A diver in distress can easily be scooped from the water via the folding diver rescue platform.

During this particular mission both the raft and boat were utilized. The NRS raft was anchored approximately 100 feet from the boat ramp. Two divers commenced two search pattern to either side of the raft. Diver Bill Jordan was working the opposite side of the lake, with tenders Mike Turner and Wayne Hughes tending from the raft, while Diver Eric Williams and tenders Dominic Epps and Scott Schneeweis, worked the area between the shore and the raft. The Rescue One Dive boat with Travis Chesna and Tom Sawyer (Graham County SAR) were the lake safeties for the mission. During dive operations it is imperative for the tender to keep close watch of the diver and their time under water. The team utilized full-face masks with communications (in conjunction with a tether between the diver and tender) to communicate with personnel on shore. Depending on the altitude of the dive, dive times might be reduced due to elevation. Furthermore, the murky water does not allow the diver to see their gauges under water making them highly dependent on their tender to keep track of time.

During operations the diver is attached to a 100-foot tether anchored by their tender. Rope-pull signals are used to communicate between diver and tender such commands as stop, go, trouble, located target, etc. The tether line can easily entangled on and around items below the surface. Diver Wil-

liams got entangled in one of the anchor lines and had to move away from the anchor, towards shore to complete his search pattern. Lead diver and instructor Eric Brooks returned to the anchor a little while later to complete this section of the search pattern and located the subject at that point.

From what we learned initially, the 26-year-old male attempted to swim across the lake and return. Apparently, half way through the swim he complained about chest pains and attempted to return to shore. Unknown to his friends (who thought he made it back to shore), he drowned.

Since the creation of the CCSAR dive team, the team had been involved in over ten dive missions. These missions include Cochise County and assisting other counties such as Graham County, Santa Cruz County as well as Fort Huachuca.



The NRS raft being anchored as dive platform for tenders Mike and Wayne, and diver Bill.



Eric setting the anchors.

Graham assist continued



Eric is explaining the responsibilities of the tender and went over the tracking sheet and rope signals.



Bill and Deuce getting ready to dive, while Eric is keeping a close eye.



Travis, checking the coordinates for victim location to relay to command post.



Scott is testing the communications system



Eric and Bill working on the recovery of the body.



Bottom left. Deuce testing out the communications mask.

Dominic being the tender for Deuce, while Scott keeps track of the search patterns and David operating the commo system.



*"A single arrow is easily broken, but not ten in a bundle."
Japanese Proverb.*



Mike and Wayne being shuttled to the dive platform, being the tenders for Bill.



Eric completing Deuce's search pattern, and found the subject.



Dr. Scuba Corner

"Contrary to popular belief, there most certainly is an "I" in "team." It is the same "I" that appears three times in "responsibility."

Amber Harding

Due to the inclement weather, tech training was moved from cave training to training at the Foothills station. We covered pretty much everything from putting the stokes together, attaching the wheel, to patient tie-in. Every team member was able to put the stokes together, place/remove the wheel, pack-age/secure the patient to the stokes and also utilize the air mattress (full body splint) together with the stokes and the sked. Jim was our first volunteer



to be secured into the stokes with our ready attached webbing and clips

Guess the tie-in worked, Jim is secure and will not fall out, even if someone



took a stumble.



Next on the training was practicing attaching the wheel to the stokes, with initially attaching the frame to the stokes. We practiced having the



wheel attached prior to placing the subject into the stokes, and also attaching the wheel, once the subject was inside the stokes. We got the time to about one minute.



We also practiced the tie-in using regular webbing for a seat and chest harness. We learned, the subject has very little to no movement within the stokes using this particular way of securing the subject into the stokes basket.



While some of the members worked with the stokes Travis was the training object for the Oregon Splint



And last but not least we practiced with our vacuum mattress. All who were subjected to the splint said it is way more comfortable than a back board. A bit bulky to carry, but I the end more secure and

“A single leaf working alone provides no shade.”
Chuck Page

Tech continued.

Comfortable for the patient.

The handles can also be utilized to transport the patient from one area to another, without the subject moving within the vacuum,



unlike being strapped down to a back board.



The mattress will form to the subjects body, once all the air is pulled out. In the winter or

during colder temperatures, this mattress also acts as an insulation preventing hypothermia in the patient during transport. We also tried, how the vacuum mattress would work in conjunction with the sked, and we found it is a perfect fit. The only drawback was the setting on the carry

Handles. We discovered, using

the handles on the mattress works much better.



Swift Water Davis Road 9/8/2014/Search 9/17/2014 St. David

This was another rainy day with flooding occurring all over the county, especially in the Davis Rd area. It is amazing how many people drive into a flooded wash, unable to tell how deep the water is running, or if there is any other damage to the road. By the time we were on the road a civilian truck driver offered its services to on scene deputies. Via the loading dock of the truck, they backed to the subjects in the water and picked them off one at a time. Davis Rd was closed there after between SR 80 and Frontier Rd.

On 9/17/14 David activated the team for a missing 13 year old in the St. David area. The mother told us she really did not know when the child left the home. He was last seen by his sister around 2300 hours

and was not in bed at 0730 in the morning.



For the most part we had mobile teams checking all the roads and side roads around the home. Freddy was able to locate one track in an area of a home the boy normally visits. Checking with the family they did not see him. We continued the search until the school bus came, at what time the boy was located. He had been hiding in a tree house behind a residence unknown to us. The tree

house was not visible from any location the searchers searched.



Reserve Deputy Allred and Deputy Davis are talking to the young man.



“Individuality counts, but team work dynamites.”

Jin Kwon

Odile had it in for us 9/18/ to 9/19/2014



SR 80 E near mile marker 388 and 389

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.”

John C. Maxwell



Bridge at MM 406 SR 80

We learned we were in for some heavy and long term rain, but nothing prepared the people living in the Portal area for what came. No sand bag in the world could withstand the power of the water cave creek wash brought forth. Many homes near the creek got flooded and were close of being damaged or washed away by the flood. The EOC was established in the greater Sierra Vista area, but they had no clue of what was going on out east. Walter R62, our local first responder in the Portal area was called by a friend telling him he needed to assist with the evacuation of an elderly female, whose house was in danger of being swept away. The same call came into dispatch, unfortunately the called did not give a specific location. He did not indicated the house was actually sitting at the creeks edge, with water coming into the house. Two Willcox deputies and one from Douglas responded to the area. Sgt Keil and Deputy Paz were unable to get to Portal via Nolan Rd, totally flooded and washed out. They had to go via NM and SR 80. On 80 by mile marker 12 Cave Creek wash ran over the bridge and the two almost did not make it to Portal. On SR 80 from Douglas the road became flooded as well, however Deputy Estrada made it to Portal. They went to the home of the female, and the house was indeed in danger of getting swept way. Walter utilized his swift water training, and the two passed swift water missions we had on Foot-hills Rd and commenced the rescue with Deputy Estrada and two Portal Rescue volunteers. They were able to bring the female to safety utilizing the “wedge.” Training and practice does pay off. While

en-route, Walter gave us more updates about the situation in Portal as well as the impassable road conditions. Further, with the on scene deputies they checked other homes in danger of being washed away. One of the areas affected was the Cave Creek Ranch. One of the cabins was up to about three feet in water, and we believe one of the chairs hung up at the Portal Bridge was from this particular

There was no getting through. Cave Creek Rd passed the Ranger Station was impassable. If we would have tried, we would have ended up in NM. You can see half of the



road is gone. This is nothing compared to the damage we saw further up. An entire section of road became the new Cave Creek bed.



cabin.

The Portal Bridge. Even with all the swift water gear this would have been deadly for anyone falling into this.



The road is gone. We flagged the opposite side of this particular stretch to prevent people from driving in and ending up in the water.



The water has somewhat receded, initially it surrounded the entire structure.



On of the bridges, block for large trees, some did make it to Portal Bridge and went under.



Portal Continued



One of the cabins going toward Herb Martyr. The water went all the way to the top step.



The owner of this cabin said he almost lost the cabin, when the water reached to front door. It was very frustrating the first day we were in Portal. We knew there were people further up the canyon and at the research station, but we had no way of reaching them. The ceiling was so low, we could not get a helicopter in. The water was running too fast, no vehicle could have made it in. We were sitting, waiting and

hoping for the best no one was injured, hurt, or fell victim to the water. It will take over a



week to get the power back into this area.



Area near Stewart Camp-ground

OCTOBER 2014

Schedule of Events for October

- 10/2 training and meeting Foothills station 1730 hours
- 10/4 Cave Training Montezuma Pass 0800 hours
- 10/7 National Night Out SV City Park 1700 to 1800 hrs.
- 10/8 State SAR Coordinator meeting Springerville
- 10/6 Coordinator Training Foothills
- 10/18 Tech training Carr Canyon Flag-pole
- 10/21 to 10/31 Ursula and Jamie out of Country
- 10/31 Happy Halloween

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Carr Falls

Tech Training Lower Carr Canyon 9/20/14

Due to the inclement weather training was first change to the station, but a revolution occurred and Raul was “forced” to conduct training out in the field and the team decided to conduct the training at the lower Carr Canyon Bridge. This was a wise choice, the weather held except for the extreme humidity. Everyone who attended was able to brush up on old skills and work on new ones. The team even found an illegal plant, and I had to write a report and transport the item to the evidence room for destruction.

**“Team player:
The one who unites others toward a shared destiny through sharing information and ideas, empowering others and developing trust.”**

Dennis Kinlaw



Scott, Bill working on setting an anchor for one of the rappel ropes, while Dominic and Deuce placed the second one.



Scott beginning his first rappel, while Jim and

Bill is coaching Lilly through her rappel, making sure she is using proper techniques.



Dominic keeping an eye out.



Dominic working on the tie-off.



Make sure all your gear is attached to your harness. Remember, if it falls off it is fair game for the ones on the bottom to keep it. Scott almost lost a nice flashlight.



Dominic working on a pick-off. Rescuing Bill



A small secondary waterfall next to Carr Falls



View of Hereford

November 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>Vet- eran's Day</i>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 <i>HAPPY THANKSGIV- ING</i>	28	29
30						

Schedule of Events November

- 11/1 Tech Training
- 11/6 Training and Meeting Foothills 1730
- 11/8 Helo training at the bridge
- 11/14 to 16 Overnighter East Stronghold. Helo Requals and mandatory ingress / egress for new personnel
- 11/20 Coordinator Training Foothills 1000 hours

- DECEMBER**
- 12/4 Christmas Potluck
 - 12/6 Christmas Parade
 - 12/19 Coordinator Training

The Cochise County Search and Rescue Team would like to thank the below listed individuals for their donation to the SAR team in memory of *Kim Lehman—Rescue 30*

Trish and Ron Brister, Bartlet, TN
Donna McKinney, Memphis, TN
Bill McKinney, Memphis, TN
Mary and David Diaz, Douglas AZ
A. Polston and S. Gonzales, Tucson, AZ
Randy and Julie Wernette, (SV Building Supply)
Robert and Barbara McKinney, Okolona, MS
Donna Saphet (Kim's Aunt)
Dianne Reeven (SV Building Supply)
Jimmy Gant (SV Building Supply)
James Muller (SV Building Supply)

Almost Mission Fairbanks 9/21/2014

This was another record mission call out. The location of the injured subject was unknown at the time of the call and several people responded they were on their way. However, within seconds the cancel came out. The subject was at the vehicle and needed not to be rescued.



Just passed John Hands campground—no going further.