



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

September 2015

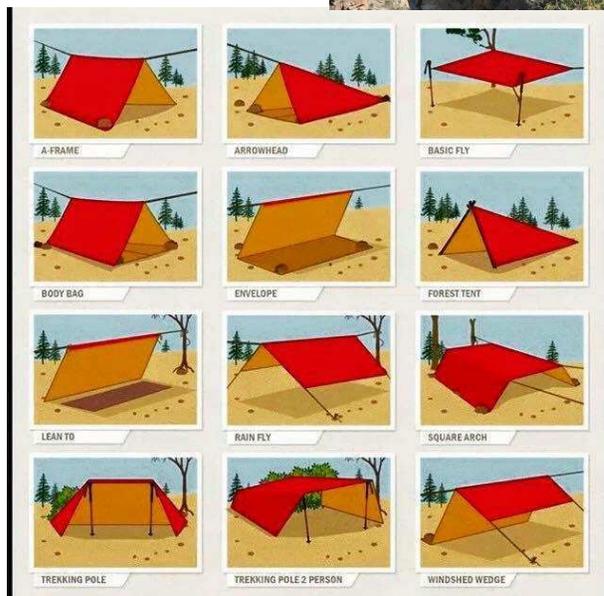
This Month in Search and Rescue

**Special points of interest:**

- 9.2.2015 Graham County Assist Technical Rescue Frye Mesa Lake
- 9.4.2015 Graham County Assist Search for a Missing Subject
- 9.8.2015 Graham County Assist, Technical
- 9.12.2015 Bridge Training
- 9.13.2015 Graham County Assist
- 9.13.2015 Lost Person east of Tombstone
- 9/19/2015 Helo Rquals
- 9/19.15 Swift Water High Knoll
- 9.20.15 Continue Search High Knoll
- 9.21.15 Search for missing person Rustler Park
- 9.24.15 High Knoll Search continues
- 9.26.15 Search for missing person Rustler Park continues
- 9.29. to 10.1.15 Wind farm training
- Harry Hicks S17 CCSO Volunteer of the Quarter

## 9.2.2015 Graham County Asst. Technical Rescue

David activated the team for this mission around 0110 hours on 9.2.2015. Graham County needed assistance in the rescue of two juveniles stuck on the waterfall above the Frye Mesa Reservoirs. The team was to arrive on location around 0600 hours. Some of our folks were rather eager to assist and arrived in Willcox at about the time David send out the cancel page. I made it to about Elfirida, Deuce all the way to Willcox. I think others barely crawled out of bed. Graham County SAR was able to hike to the subjects and assist them out. The terrain they were "stuck" in was not too bad, allowing for a walkout rather than a technical system.



## 9.4 & 8. & 13 , 2015 Graham County Assist Missing Person

We spent more time in Graham County than in our own the beginning of this month. The second request for assistance was for a missing camper. She had gone missing Thursday night to Friday morning, but authorities were not notified until late Friday afternoon. Several over our team members responded to assist in the

search. We were called back on the 8th as well as on the 13th to assist with technical rescue assistance. The first weekend was miserable for the team, searching in constant rain. The second time the team went up they checked areas of interest via rope systems. And the third time we went out to help with a recovery, which ended up in another search.



MCSO working their system for their tech segment.

### Graham Assist Continued



Eric is descending to check out other areas below a steep cliff face. While Walter and Roxy checking on a suspicious smell. All of us smelled it every so often and very faint, but Roxy basically told us it was not what we were hoping for.



Our team and some of Graham County's team checked several areas with no luck in finding the missing woman.



Graham County tending to the lower/raise device (MPD). Utilizing this device makes it so much easier to switch from a lower to raise and vice versa.



Gaby is being raised after she, Cesar and Eric checked on the area below the cliff face where everyone smelled a suspicious odor.

Their search was also fruitless. All packed up and ready to move to the next search location along the cliff side in hopes of finding our missing person and allow closure for the family.



prior to Eric taking over.



Next spot over, and we found out we had another mission in our own county. While the

Eric and Tom. Whereas Tom was going over the edge to check the terrain below for the missing subject. Eric on



team was setting up the lowering system, David worked with dispatch in trying to locate the location of the lost female. The female got lost the day prior east of Tombstone. She thought she was off Sybil Rd when she called dispatch. The deputy drove out to find her with no luck. So David contacted DPS Air Rescue for assistance, gave them the coordinates in within 5 minutes of being in the area "Bingo" they found the car. From there on, it was easy for the deputy to get to her and give her water and was able to get her back to civilization.

the system re-set bringing the



last of the Graham people up.



Cochise / Graham Team. Unfortunately we did not locate the missing person. The search was suspended until further notice.



Deuce is working the edge,

## 9.12.2015 Bridge Training Pre-Helo

In anticipation of the helo requals, we conducted some supplemental training at the Charleston bridge. It seems, having this additional training right before our requals works out perfectly. Since we are not conducting many helo operations involving rappel and or short haul, it is always better to conduct some additional practice, and the bridge is the perfect spot. No wall, just free rappel. Bill R20, Deuce R24, and Harry S17 worked with

newer personnel on some of the rappel techniques, device hook up, hand/arm position etc. Everything must be incorporated to include going over the edge, overcoming the "edge trauma." Gaby going



over and letting go at the perfect time, avoiding "smacking" her head into the side. Control is everything. Below, Eric R7

conducting a rappel with his pack and locking off the SRT. We also have to work on not applying a "death grip" to the tub of the helo. Pushing away, and free rappel. DPS Air Rescue Medic, G-Geoff would really get on you if you tried to hold on like that. After the rappel work



some tried their hands at ascending up the rope. This process will definitely challenge your physical capabilities if you have not practiced with your ascending devices. However, this is the time to find out what works and what doesn't and not during an emergency situation.



Eric R7 had to conduct a "pick off" on Jim R94, who got hopelessly stuck several feet above ground and nothing worked for him. We tried to show him some of the self-rescue application to no success.



## 9.19.2015 Helo Re-quals and Swift Water Rescue

Since the training did not start until later that day, around 1300 hours, quite a few of our personnel took the extra time

for some extra training and or recreational climbing. Initially, the re-quals were scheduled for noon, then postponed to

1330 and again re-scheduled to earlier. By the time the rest of the team arrived, we had the ship stripped and were setting up. Pilot Hunter, and Medic Phil suggested we start out with the short haul, since we are more opt to conduct a short haul than a rappel, and it was a good thing we did. Right as we were starting the rappel evolution we were dispatched to a swift water incident on High Knoll Rd. Since the helo was already

stripped, Hunter offered to fly two of us to the location for quicker response. The weather did not look the



Your business tag line here.

## 9.19.2015 Helo Re-quals and Swift Water Rescue continued

greatest, Dark clouds were moving in from the south west, the same storm responsible for the swift water incident in the High Knoll area. Other team members jumped into their respective vehicles and headed to the area. Tom Sawyer, Graham Co was stuck on location, since all the helo gear was in his truck. John Monroe also stayed back to watch over some of the



see was debris and sand, not our subject. There is nothing more frustrating than not finding the person you are looking for.

and muddy as well, while Scott, who wore his dry suit, was dry,



We flew the wash and the San Pedro river several times, while foot personnel searched along the wash. With negative results in



but very hot due to the humidity



vehicles left on location. Eric R7 ready to jump into action, An areal view of the the second wash north of SR 90. The small white dot west of the "road" is the subjects vehicle, washed several hundred feet by the water.



Deuce was smart he put his wet suit on, while Yvonne stayed in her SAR clothing, all wet and muddy. Walter got a little wert

The vehicle prior to turning and being washed further down the wash. This picture was taking by a local resident living in the area. We went back two more times to look for our missing subject, with no luck, the entire team is so frustrated not finding her, since we want top bring closure to the family. Pima and Graham County as well as DPS Air rescue assisted us on Sunday to again look for her.

finding our missing subject. Hunter flew several times over the vehicle, while Phil checked the interior to ensure the subject was not trapped inside. All we could



# Dr. Scuba Corner

*A good team, like a good show, comes into being when the separate individuals working together create, in essence, another separate higher entity—THE TEAM—the show— which is better than any of those individuals can ever be on their own.*

**Gary David Goldberg**

## High Knoll Continued 2.20.2015



missing person. The digging team.

Communications set up the following day 9.21.2015. MCU personnel worked hard on keeping track of the team and all the associated radio traffic. Thank you guys. Not knowing if

sand and silt, Scot with his truck. The car was finally re-



moved and teams were able to check underneath again with negative results in locating our



our subject was trapped under the vehicle, we called for a tow truck to remove the car from its final resting place to check underneath. And guess who had to help the tow truck, who got slightly stuck in this mess of



## 9.21.2015 Search Rustler Park

While we were searching for our subject at High Knoll, we received another missing persons call. Tucson PD entered a subject on the 15th of September, with the subject's destination being Rustler Park. On the 13th the subject spoke with Forest Service Personnel and told them he was going to camp in the area and take a quick hike to Barfoot. The terrain/trail to Barfoot does not allow a quick hike, We went on Monday to search for

the subject. The weather was miserable and we had to sus-

pend the search due to falling trees. We resumed the search on 9.26.2015

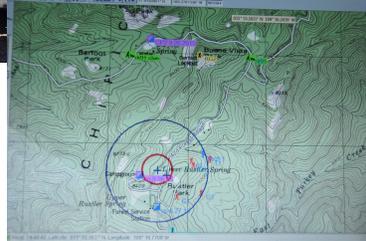


### 9.26.2015 Rustler Search

We began our search around 0900 hours. Two teams were deployed, one team checked the crest trail over to Bootlegger trail and returned on Longpark Rd. The second team with canine searched the crest trail toward Barfoot and some other side trails. Our subject was not located. We also searched the area around Barfoot toward Ida Peak with negative results in finding our missing person. To the right,



teams are getting ready for deployment. At Rustler Park and Barfoot.



Deuce is trying out his new sleeping hammock



Some of the areas searched.

# October 2015

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

### Schedule of Events

- 10.1.2015 Training and meeting SV 1730
- 10.3.2015 Tech Training West Stronghold Pick Offs and self rescue etc.
- 10.15.15 Coordinator training, Foothills 1000 hrs
- 10.16 through 10.18 Overnighter at the east Stronghold set up team arrive 10.16

### Three Days of Wind Farm Tower Training

Our team was offered some specialized training working possible wind tower accidents at the wind farm north of Willcox. Several members committed to this training and received some excellent instruction.

#### Cold Weather

The prime consideration in cold weather is to prevent the loss of body heat. Dressing improperly, or wearing too much clothing, can be just as dangerous as wearing too little. You have to regulate your clothing to keep your body temperature within the normal range. Elements of good cold weather clothing

design: Thickness to prevent heat loss; dryness—any material when wet will no longer insulate (wet clothing is cold clothing Remember the heat loss through a wet garment can be three times greater than a dry one; windproofness-wind makes the cold even colder. To a well clothed person the wind-chill factor is not relevant, it is worth considering in regard to exposed skin; flexibility-how easily you can arrange your

Garments (put on or take off) to suit the conditions. Dress in layers would the classic solution to this classic problem. Add layers when cold, remove layers when hot. Normally you would remove the outer layers, requiring the inner layers to have some type of wind protection.

Stay warm

# November 2015

## Schedule of Events

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 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30					

- 11.5.15 Training and meeting Foothills Station 1730 hrs
- 11.7.2015 Tech Training possibly lower Carr Canyon systems
- 10.1915 Coordinator training, Foothills 1000 hrs
- 
- December
- 12.3.2015 Christmas Party Pot Luck Foothills Complex approximately 1800 to 1830 hrs. With elephant gift exchange no more than \$20.00 SAR related.
- 12.5.2015 SV Christmas parade
- 12.17.15 Coordinator Training Foothills Station
- If needed or wanted we can conduct tech training on 12.19.2015

## Harry Hicks S17 Recognized by Sheriff Dannels as CCSO Volunteer of the Quarter—Cngratulations

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office Search & Rescue Coordinator's would like to nominate Harry Hicks as volunteer of the quarter.

Harry Hicks has been a member of the CCSO SAR Posse for 11 years. During this time Harry has become a very relied upon team member. Harry started out as a ground and ATV member and has progressed into high angle technical rescue, helicopter rappel/short haul, swift water rescue, and is now a volunteer SAR Coordinator.

Throughout his tenure with CCSO SAR, Harry Hicks has obtained all required ICS courses, such as the ICS 300, 400, ISM (Inland SAR Management) just to name a few. He took these classes on his own and own expense, and has become a valuable coordinator.

Harry took it upon himself to make sure all vehicles are serviced to include the ATV's and the new dive/rescue boat. He also makes sure the truck carrying all of the technical rescue gear is fully stocked, and the gear is in its proper place. Harry Hicks spends countless hours on these tasks to ensure all trucks and gear is mission ready. Not only has Harry Hicks taken on the responsibly for the SAR vehicles and gear, he also created and maintains the SAR T-Card roster for CCSO SAR to be utilized during major searches.

Several years ago Harry began attending the biannual AZSAR Conference. During the conference Harry has always helped with setup and break down of the camp. He has assisted with teaching the ATV course and with his helicopter rappel expertise has assisted with Air Operations during the conference.

Harry is a valuable member not only to the CCSO SAR Posse, but to SAR throughout Arizona.

Harry was nominated by the State SAR Coordinators as volunteer of year for 2014, receiving the award during the last State SAR Conference in Heber. Being selected, and recognized for contributions made to SAR, by all State SAR Coordinators is truly an honor, and well deserved.

In conclusion, the unselfish contributions of Harry Hicks through his passion and leadership has allowed countless families to avoid the ultimate grief over the death of their loved ones or to receive dignified closure when nothing could have prevented it. Harry Hicks is a vital part in CCSO SAR remaining the volunteer organization it is today – a group of professional, very dedicated men and women, giving countless hours to the cause – *Cochise County Search and Rescue – YOUR SOS!*

Sgt. David Noland  
Sgt. UJ Ritchie  
Det. John Monroe  
Dep. R. Cleveland

