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COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF SEARCH AND RESCUE

This Month in Search & Rescue

January 2016

Special points of interest:

- 1.7.16 Accelerated meeting due to heavy snow fall
- 1.9.16 SAR Re-pack and equipment inspection
- 1.9.2016 Swift Water Mescal Rd near milepost 9
- 1.12.16 Search for suicidal subject Inbalance Ranch 2133
- 1.13.16 State SAR Coordinator Meeting Phoenix
- 1.30—31.16 Basic SAR Academy 15 students

1.9.16 Equipment Re-pack and Inspections



inspect mission and training ropes on a regular basis to avoid any type of preventable mishaps.

Putting it all back into the trucks.



Fred and Catherine inspecting gear from the secondary tech truck. While Paul and Wayne are working on new Vortex bags.



During this year's equipment inspection we also conducted an inventory of both, the tech truck 582, and the secondary tech truck 665, to include the training gear. We also marked the equipment bags belonging into each truck, hopefully making it easier to re-pack the trucks with the right equipment.



Before



After

The equipment and gear bags in this picture belong to the primary tech truck 582. The equipment belonging into the secondary tech truck 665 was inspected in the conference room. Harry inspected all the training gear in the old squad room. We had to DX quite a few prussics and a 300 foot rope, which was damaged during a mission. It is pertinent, we



Deuce and Ryan working on stuffing a new 300 foot rope into a rope bag, one of the most tedious tasks ever.



The inspection and repacking crew only a couple are missing, who had to leave early.



**“If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.”
African Proverb**

1.6.2016 Accelerated meeting

Prior to the start of the meeting it began to snow in Sierra Vista. While en-route to the meeting radio transmissions

vehicles out and turning them around. On SR 90 the snow started to accumulate around Mile Marker 333 and on SR 80 around 326. People had a hard time driving under these conditions to include one 18Wheeler, who got stuck just before mile marker 337 on



vegetation and power lines,



from DPS gave an indication this would be a rather snowy and bad day. Cars sliding off the road on SR90 around 1630 hours, including a DPS Trooper. DPS already called for a snow plow. The only plows readily available in the county are located on SR 80 by the tunnel

Hearing the mess occurring on the roads via radio, we decided to cut the meeting short allowing folks to get home safely. David and I did not make it back that soon. SR 90 and SR 80 were a mess Vehicles sliding off both roads. I had David turn around to assist with pulling



SR80. The area just before the tunnel, received a good 9 inches of snow by 2100 hours and it was not letting up. The snow plows were diverted to SR 92, since snow started to accumulate there as well causing a traffic jam. What a mess. The snow was heavy and caused quite a bit of damage to

especially in Bisbee. However, the snow gave the opportunity for some great photos.



Bisbee—The Winter Wonder Land

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More

1.12.2016 Search for Suicidal Subject

David paged out the team around 2133 hours for this mission off SR 82 near the San Pedro River. John D42, handled this mission as the coordinator/IC, since David and I had to go to Phoenix in the morning for a State SAR Coordinator meeting. From the subjects we have been looking for from this particular troubled youth ranch we found three of them in the Whetstone area. This particular youth, even though called in as a suicidal subject was more

of a run a way and was located by the Shell Station SR 90/82 interchange. John actually had to fight him, since he wanted nothing to do with Border Patrol, who initially came across him. John made it home by 4 o'clock in the morning and met us in Benson at six for the meeting in Phoenix. Thankfully the meeting did not last as long as it normally does and we returned home before dark.



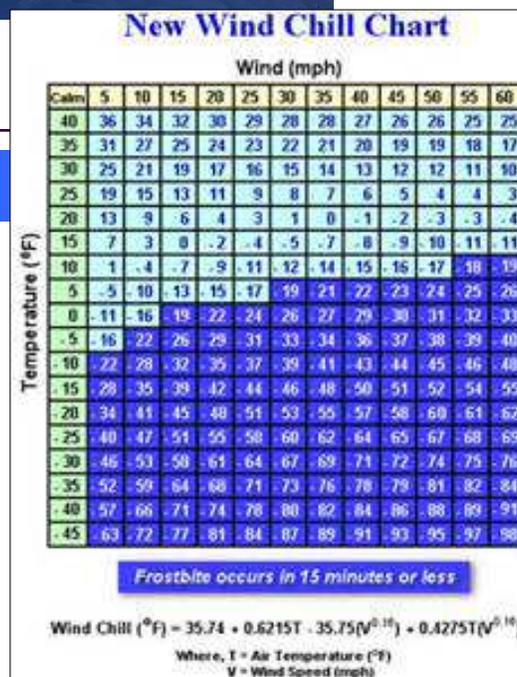
1.9.2016 Swift Water Rescue Mescal Rd MP 9

This swift water rescue shows, these incidents do not happen just during Monsoon, they can happen anytime during the year depending on weather circumstances. This one was triggered by the snow melt in the Rincon Mountains.

We actually had a pretty good response for this mission before we got cancelled. The subjects made it out okay, were just a little cold and hypothermic. Wonder why, snow

melt, and outside temps with wind-chill not the warmest. The chart on the right gives you an idea on how wind speeds can and will affect temperatures, add moisture to the picture and it turns into a recipe for disaster.

Make sure you dress accordingly and be prepared for these low temperatures and wind-chill. **STAY WARM**



THREE MONTHS TRAINING SCHEDULE

Feb 04 Business Meeting, 1830 HRS at Foothills Complex w/Training at 1730 hrs
 06 *Specialty training: Tech trng – Foothills 0900 hrs.
 13 *Specialty training: Helo Trn at Charleston Bridge 0800 hrs
 18 **Coordinator Training-Foothills 1000 hrs. (Coordinators Only)**
 20 Helo Re-Quals at West Cochise Stronghold 0900 hrs.

35rd Anniversary--Started by Manny Gomez in March, 1981
March 03 Business Meeting, 1830 hrs at Foothills Complex w/Training at 1730hrs
 05 *Specialty training: TBA
 17 **Coordinator Training-Foothills 1000 hrs. (Coordinators Only)**
 19-20 **Training:** Overnight at East Stronghold

April 02 *Specialty Training: TBA
 07 Business Meeting, 1830 hrs at Foothills Complex w/ Training at 1730 hrs
 14 **Evening Training:** Dive tender training at Foothills at 1730-2100 hrs.
 16 **Training:** Dive Training at Parker Lake at 0900 hrs.
 21 **Coordinator Training-Foothills 1000 hrs. (Coordinators Only)**
 27 AZSAR Coordinator Meeting Prescott, AZ.

1.30-31.2016 Basic SAR Academy

**Dr. Scuba
 Corner**

**“Never say
 never be-
 cause limits,
 like fears,
 are often an
 illusion.”**

Michael Jordan

For this academy we had 14 students in attendance, with three being from Yuma County. Kudos to our new Commander, Tom Alinen, who also attended this training as a student. Thanks Commander for showing such interest in our group and in learning what we do. This 16 hour Basic Academy is a State Require-



Bob Hollister R70 teaching the Communications portion of the class. Gaby and Andrew



Understanding compass work in conjunction with GPS.



ment for all new SAR members and Coordinators. While new members attended the academy, others went through a refresher CPS training class given by Eric R7.



working on a mapping problem.



THINGS I HAVE LEARNED SINCE I JOINED SAR

1. I did not join for the fine dining.
2. Twisted ankles and sore feet will take you farther than you thought possible when on an active search.
3. The gruffer the searcher the bigger his heart.
4. Search managers do not appreciate measurements being given in “cubits”.
5. We can teach the military a thing or two about “hurry up and wait”.
6. A cold rainy night is the most common time for a call-out.
7. Don’t piss-off the field team leader, he knows the best places to hide a body.
8. Everyone in SAR has a purpose-Even if it is nothing more than being a bad example.
9. 10% of the team members do 90% of the work.
10. Anything you need in a hurry will always be at the bottom of your pack.
11. In every search there is a swamp crossing.
12. The dedication and professionalism shown by most searchers is a close second to sainthood.
13. Knee deep is better than waist deep.
14. You can never have too much flagging tape.
15. Know the Command Post cell number.
16. Nothing is waterproof.
17. Teammates will share the food in their pack with you.
18. Friends will share the GOOD food in their pack with you.
19. Even 91 YO men can go over, under, around or through 5 strands of barbed wire.
20. No drug can duplicate the high of bringing a lost person home to their family.

By Jamie Harper



Students / Instructors of
the 2016 Basic Search And
Rescue Academy

Three attendees were
from Yuma County

SAR Academy continued Tracking Training instructed by Team Member Freddy Osuna

After the initial theoretical portion of the introduction to tracking, Freddy Osuna (R85) with the assistance of SAR member Joe Turner (R34) ran the students through some practical tracking exercises. Tracking is a skill, which must be practiced on a continual basis. The saying "If you don't use it you lose it" definitely applies to tracking. Tracking, like rope work is an extremely perishable skill if not prac-



ticed or utilized on a continuous basis.



Freddy is explaining one of the exercises to the students.



Students had to figure out who went from point A to point B utilizing what they had learned during the theoretical portion of the lesson.

Creating your own shadow using a mirror or even your cell phone. Tracking is rather difficult at high noon, when shadowing is very limited.



Freddy is demonstrating/explaining index tracking to the group. Index tracking is a way to determine the direction of travel of a subject.



Explaining aging



Working the index tracking exercise, which way did the subject go?



Freddy explaining other important elements of tracking to include incorporating ones sense.