



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

This Month in Search & Rescue

July Activities

- 7.5.2016 Graham Co Assist, Recovery Mission Fry Mesa Reservoir
- 7.7.2016 training and meeting
- 7.16.2016 Trauma First Aid Training
- 7.20.2016 Wind farm Tower Training
- Body Recovery Whetstone Mountains 7.19.7.21.2016
- 7.30.2016 Tech Training Foothills station

7.5.2016 Graham Co Assist Recovery Fry Mesa Reservoir

David texted me late in the afternoon on the 4th asking me to get in touch with Graham Co SAR Coordinator Jerry in regard to a dive assist. Upon contacting Jerry he asked if we could assist in the recovery mission of a drowning victim at Fry Mesa Reservoir. Apparently a 20 year old drowned while trying to swim the lake. The reservoir is approximately at 5000 feet elevation with various depths of up to 90 feet. I contacted David back for the page out and for the team to meet at 0600 hours at the WX station. I almost thought we were unable to assist, since at least two divers are needed. We ended up with four divers and two support personnel. I re-contacted Jerry and informed him we would be at the reservoir around 0800 hours and commence the dive operation. Eric, Andrew, and Mike were briefed by the on scene coordinator

and others decided to jump from the dam wall and swim across the reservoir. The subject made it to about 100 feet from shore, when he went under. Another person tried to help him, but the subject struggled too much and the other person had to give up. Since we could not bring the dive boat to the location, we used our raft

the back up diver. Mike was the tender. For some reason Andrew had difficulty going into the right direction under water and always ended up outside and to the left of the search area. Eric took over and completed about three search patterns, when he located the subject. Even as tragic as this inci-



to haul equipment and also set the raft up to tender from the raft. We had to secure the raft to either side of the reservoir and about 75 feet from the shore. Eric set a buoy in line with the area the subjects jumped into the water and the shore line. He also transported two anchors further out to stabilize the raft. Andrew was the first diver in with Eric being



Aaron. He gave them information regarding the location of where the subject went under as seen by witnesses and reported by the subject, who was trying to help him. The subject



dent was, at least we brought closure to the family in finding/locating their son.

“A successful team beats with one heart.”

Unknown

7.7.2016 Training & Meeting—Dive Review

Eric went over our knot tying again, before we conducted a review of the last two dive missions. He also asked what it would take to be a better diver, since we do not have a lot of dive training. He recommended the divers need to dive more, this will insure dive gear is set up faster and will improve the comfort level of the diver. Eric referred to recreational diving as well, which would also improve the comfort level of the diver.

We need to standardize what we do in regard to diving, just like we have in other aspects of SAR Standard gear, muscle memory, buddy checks, be able to figure out issues in a short time frame, be able to work/dive in blackout conditions, be able to work under stressful conditions, have pony bottle in the front, easier for the other diver to access. Weight standards—know where the weight release is and how it works. Is it readily assessable etc.

After this discussion we debriefed the two dive missions, Patagonia Lake and Fry Mesa. What went well, what should we have done different, problems encountered. We talked

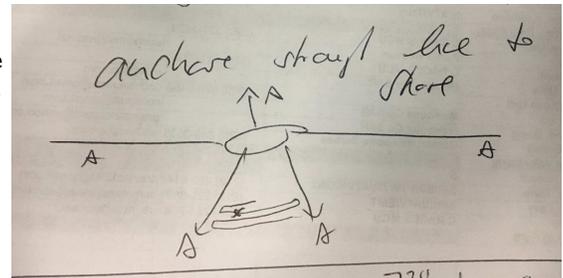
about Patagonia first. We experienced equipment failure, and deviated somewhat from standard procedures. We should have finished the search pattern the next morning in the area, where Deuce left off.

The divers utilized an anchored diver with limited communication to the surface. The problems encountered can be the drag on the line, the farther the line the greater the drag. To eliminate some of these problems the search could be conducted in segments. Since the divers communicated amongst each other it was difficult to relay needed information. Tenders on the surface, even if they not

actively holding the tether line, need to pay attention to the divers for any and all deviances. The side

scan sonar did help in locating the body a little easier, however, passing the information to the divers was another thing. We do need to practice with our dive communications

equipment. The Fry Mesa operation could have been rather difficult due to the elevation of the reservoir and the depth of 95 feet. Luckily the subject was on a ledge at a depth of 30 feet. Elevation and depths will complicate things for the diver in regard to dive time and depths, since they only dive to a depths of 60 feet. We anchored the raft in a straight line and to the shore and also anchored it to a tree as well as two anchors out from the raft. In this particular incident, we had pretty good witness accounts of where the person went under. Eliminating witness accounts is number one on the list.



The raft was pretty stable and did not move.

“We're a team. It's part of our job to help each other out, and to forgive each other quickly. Otherwise, we'd never get anything done.”

— Jeramey Kraatz, Villains Rising

7.16.2018 Wilderness Trauma 1st Aid

This Saturday was the first day of a two day training class in in Wilderness Trauma 1st Aid. There were quite a few people in attendance for this all day long training involving theoretical and practical applications. A quiz was given at the end of the class covering the topic covered from the day. The next class will be 8.27.16 with a test at the end, required for certification. This group can consider itself lucky having Eric as one of their very dedicated instruc-

tors; covering everything from diving to first aid, CPR, swift water and technical rope training. For some of the other training classes, Eric has some very good co-instructors like Deuce, Bill and Grasshop-



per. Thank you guys for stepping up to the plate. .



Group photo from the Graham Assist. Great Job you guys.



7.19 & 7.21.2016 Body Recovery Whetstone Mountains

Border Patrol contacted CCSO on 7.19.2016 late afternoon hours in regard of several agents having found partial human remains in the area of Lobo Trail. Due to Sierra Vista units being busy, and the location of the remains being in tough terrain, the call was given to David. He contacted DPS ranger and was flown into the area. Brian hovered about 4 feet above the ground for David to egress and create a better landing zone for the helo. He and Chris, DPS medic, then hiked to the remains, which were not partial. The body might have been in the area for about one month and was in the advanced stages of decomposition. Unfortunately the weather turned on them and Brian called the two back immediately. The weather became quite the light show and they got out just in time. A recovery was set for Thursday early morning hours with rapel and short haul.

The area is quite scenic as one can see from David's photo, and one can also tell a little



“ground maintenance” was done allowing the helo to land. Another attempt to recover the body was planned for Thursday 7.21.2016. In the

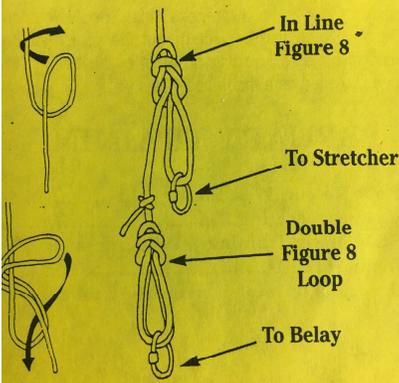
during this mission.

early morning hours of 7.21.16 the mission recommenced and the remains were flown out. David and DPS Medic Chris Hecht can be seen on the short haul after the body was flown out. Above, Harry S17 is the ground contact

“Compliment and encourage talent wherever you find it.”
JJ Goldwag



Knot of the Month—Inline Figure 8 Loop



The In-Line Figure 8 Loop is a fast and effective way to create a strong directional loop in the middle of the rope, while still maintaining the load bearing properties of the whole rope similar to a butterfly knot. It can be used to connect to the stretcher spider at the end of the main line and the belay line. Tie the knot so it has just enough tail to reach the tender or the head of the stretcher without restricting movement. This knot is similar to the Figure 8 Loop, but the tail runs out the bottom of the knot rather than making a sharp bend at the top. A double In-Line Figure 8 Loop can be used if you want all your loop knots to have double loops. **Remember:** *The In-Line Figure 8 Loop is directional, supporting the load into one direction only.*

August 2016

August Activities

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	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			

8.4.2016 Training and Meeting Foothills Station 1730 hrs

8.6.2016 Tech Training

8.18.2016 SAR Coordinator training Foothills Station 1000 hrs

8.20 & 21.2016 Basic SAR Academy—Mandatory for all new personnel and those who not yet have attended this training.

8.27.2016 SAR Medical Foothills Station

Thanks for Packing our Parachute!

A true story about CPT Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate. He was a fighter pilot stationed in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his aircraft was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb safely ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk, You were shot down".

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!"

Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today.

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said, "Good morning, How are you?" or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shroud lines and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he probably didn't know.

CPT Plumb is now an inspirational speaker and sometimes he asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down that day over enemy territory; he needed his physical parachute,
his mental parachute,
his emotional parachute,
and also his spiritual parachute.

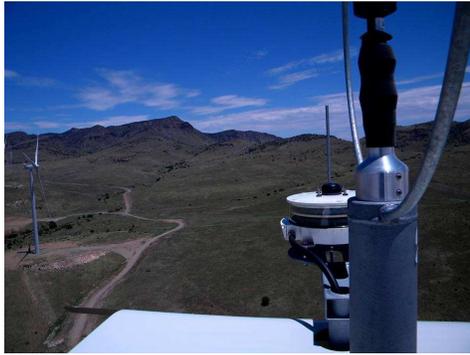
He called on all these supports before reaching safety. Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason.

As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachute. So tonight I am sending you this as my way of thanking you for your part in packing my parachute !!! And I hope you will send these thoughts on to those who have helped pack yours! HAVE A GREAT DAY!!

7.20.2016 Wind Farm Tower Training

Several of our team members took a re-cert on the wind farm towers. Several months ago, the team received their initial training at the wind farm. Climbing up the 100s of ladder rungs is not for everyone. Definitely not for Eric, who has some issues with confined spaces. Also, the moving heights might not be for every-

one either. All photos are courtesy of Mike R42. Thank you.



7.30.2016 Tech Training Vortex Set Up

This training was spearheaded by our youngest member, Dominic AKA Grasshopper., with the assistance of Deuce. He prepared a power point presentation for the initial class room portion of the training followed by hands on training. First indoors, then set up in an outdoor environment. The Foothills office had just enough terrain to set up the Vortex with lower/belay systems. Every member was involved in this training from setting up the

anchors, the Vortex, safety line, ect. The overall comments pertaining to this training was great. The group was working on the side ways S-A frame



with tension guying to either side. Once the classroom portion was completed the team

moved outside to work on the set up in a terrain environment



Working on the bottom of the rear leg tie down, ensuring the leg does not move during a rescue operation.





The upper section of the rear leg also has to be secured to avoid any kind of movement.

This was a relaxed training atmosphere, where everyone was able to get their hands into the mix.



Again, thank you Grasshopper for this excellent training.