



**COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
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# COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF

## SEARCH AND RESCUE

January 2015

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**Special points of interest:**

- 12.31.2014 A sad day for the Cochise County Sheriff's Office
- 1.3.2015 Helo training with Graham county
- 1.8.2015 Training and Meeting Foothills Station
- 1.16-17.15 SAR Academy
- 1.27.15 Search Mile Post 36 Geronimo Trail
- 1.31.2015 Swift Water Sierra Vista

### Searching for our own 12.31.2014—A very tragic day

Cochise Air was in the Phoenix area for about one week for routine maintenance, and was on the way to the Sierra Vista airport. In the afternoon hours, CCSO was contacted by the leasing company shortly before 1900 hours stating they lost communications with the helo around the Benson area. The tracking software was activated and placed the helo in an area south of I-10 and between S Crazy Woman Rd and S Smith Ranch Rd. No roadways led to the area. Cell phone pings narrowed the search area. SAR was activated around 1919 hours, Benson FD responded around 1948 hours to include Mescal fire. Deputies Cleveland and Kartchner also responded to assist with the search. SAR also used an ELT receiver to locate the helo. Teams were deployed to the various locations. The terrain was not the easiest and the weather was down right unbearable. Wind,

rain sleet and the snow made it difficult. No light source was given off by the helo. Around 2130 hours fire department personnel located the wreckage and stated one subject located. A cell phone ping for the mechanic on board showed a rather distant location from the wreckage. Personnel was deployed to check that area as well. A SAR team reached the wreckage within about five minutes. During this time frame the rain turned into snow with extreme wind covering the wreckage and surrounding area with about two inches of snow. The search for the second subject continued and was located within the wreckage around 2154 hours. What we found was nothing that came even close in resembling a helo.

After documenting the wreckage and making contact with the National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) and having

received authorization from the NTSB and the Medical Examiner to extract both victim, we began the painstaking recovery process. Never in the entire existence of SAR did we have to search and recover our own. This was the most tragic SAR call the team had responded to. Thank you for your response to this tragic event and compassion.



Mechanic Hansen and pilot Steele had no chance in surviving this — RIP



**Dr. Scuba Corner**

“The value of compassion cannot be over-emphasized. Anyone can criticize. It takes a true believer to be compassionate. No greater burden can be borne by an individual than to know no one cares or understands,”

Arthur H. Stainback

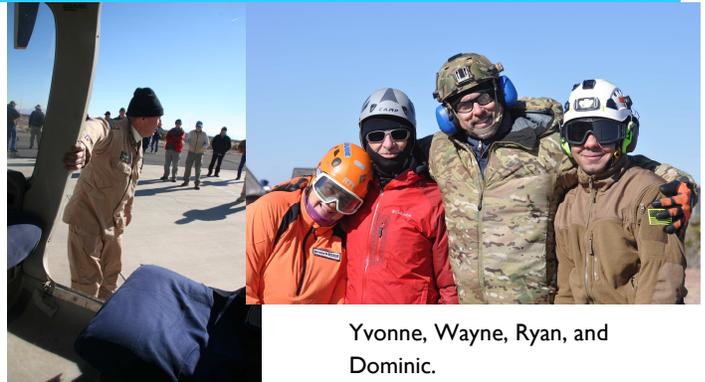
“Dare to Be -

When a new day begins, dare to smile gratefully. Where there is darkness, dare to be the first to shine a light. When there is injustices, dare to be the first to condemn it. When something seems difficult, dare to do it anyway. When life seems to beat you down, dare to fight back. When there seems to be no hope, dare to find some. When you're feeling tired, dare to keep going. When times are tough, dare to be tougher. When love hurts, dare to love again. When someone is hurting, dare to help them heal. When another is lost, dare to help them find the way. When a friend fails, dare to be the first to extend a hand, When you cross paths with another, dare to make them smile. When you feel great, dare to help someone feel great too. When the day has ended, dare to feel as you've done your best. Dare to be the best you can - At all times, Dare to be!”

Steve Maraboli

### Helo Training with Graham County 1.3.2015

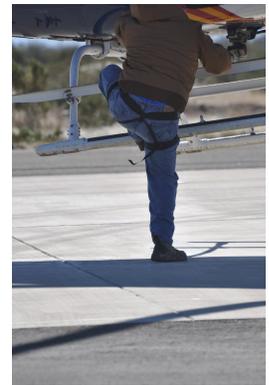
This past weekend the team went to Graham County to attend additional DPS Air Rescue training sponsored by Graham. They for sure could not have picked a colder day. G-Goeff covered all the aspect of helo safety and what to pay attention to during a helo operation. Several of the Graham team went through the ingress/egress stationary and hovering. Prior to the afternoon session, Graham provided an excellent lunch. During the afternoon session G-Goeff covered the Bauman back, screamer suit, and loading the stokes basket into the helo. Prior to training conclusion, Harry was able to complete his rappels and short haul, since he missed the last requals—being on vacation.



Yvonne, Wayne, Ryan, and Dominic.



Explaining the importance of at least three points of contact with the ship, Two being good had holds, such as the frame and seat belt.



It's a big step up, once the helo is hovering.



During helo operations it is also important to pay close attention to hand signals. So no chit-chatting while waiting, especially, if you do not have a radio. Or G-Goeff might changes things up.

G-Goeff explained to the group the dangers of the rotor blades, and to pay close attention to the same during the approach to the helo. Several of the folks do stand directly under the blades, which could cause a fatality were they in operation.





*“No problem is insurmountable. With a little courage, teamwork and determination a person can overcome anything.”*  
**B. Dodge**

### **Training and Meeting 1.8.2015**

The training and meeting were cancelled for 1.8.15 to allow for a critical incident de-brief for all folks involved in the incident from 12.31.14.



**This Month in Search and Rescue**

Raul has been talking quite a

bit about starting a fire and what material one would need to do so. The team had a hard time getting a fire going during the Cochise Air search, due to the wet wood. They ended up splitting some wood getting to the drier parts allowing them to finally start a fire. Just remember in wet weather, dry wood can be found in the center of old stumps and the center of dead standing trees. You need **tinder**, which is anything that will ignite at very low temperature, with a spark, small flame, or other heat source (it must be dry).. Tinder considerations: Vaseline impregnated cotton balls, dry grass, cotton or scraped cloths, dry cattail fuzz, bird down, dry reddish pine needles, candle, etc. You also need **kindling**, which is the initial fuel stage. Find something which will ignite easy from the tinder. The material used must be relatively easy to burn such as small diameter twigs, broken wood splinters, split or shaved pieces of wood to increase the surface area and flammability. Kindling considerations: finely split wood, small dry dead branches, dry grasses twisted into bunches, etc. And last but not least you must sustain your fire by using **fuel** that will burn for an extended amount of time, such as dead wood, dried dung (cow patties), green wood you have split, etc. Stay warm

**Fire Material**

**February 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

**February Schedule of Events**

- 2.5.15 Training and Meeting, Foothills station 1730 hours.
- 2.7.15 Tech training, Vortex training Dragons 687D
- 2.14.15 Helo folks training
- 2.19.15 SAR Coordinator training Foothills 1000 hours
- 2.21.15 Emergency Responder Foothills station 0800 hours
- 2.22.15 Helo re-quals 0900 E Strong hold

**End of month mission 1.31.2015 Swift Water Sierra Vista**

Guess we cannot end a month without another mission. We were activated for a swift water rescue in the Sierra Vista area, Moson/Madera for two subjects and a three year old stuck in a wash. David activated the team around 2000 hours, Only one team member, Deuce, who lives in the area made it to location prior to the team being cancelled. Deputies were able to get the subject out. He drove around the "Road Closed" barricades and called 9-1-1 upon getting stuck. Even the Sheriff responded and had some words with the subject in regard to endangering his child. As Eric (R7) stated, this was a good dress rehearsal for future swift water missions. Monsoon Season is around the corner.

**“Outstanding leaders go out of their way to boost the self-esteem of their people. If people believe in themselves, it’s amazing what they can accomplish.”**

**Sam Walton**

### SAR Academy 1.21 to 22.2015

This was a long weekend of training. All new members had to attend this two day, 16 hour, Basic SAR Academy. Several members from Santa Cruz County attended this training as well. The group even got some K9 training in, utilizing the parking lot during the breaks to work their dogs.



John covered policies and procedures during his segment, while Eric (R7) taught



a CPR class in the old squad room. He went over theory and oversaw the practical



portion of the class. Tom in the meantime covered the



introduction to searches. During the lunch break several of the canine folk con-



ducted some training exer-

cise. Roxy is going for her find. Working hard on



getting her certification in March. I’m wondering what



she it telling Walter. Denise is working a search problem with Daisy.



Eric is teaching the map and compass portion of the



## 1.27.2015 Search Mission MP 36 GTR

The call for this mission came out around 2100 hours. We were activated to search for a missing overdue hunter not from this area. The subject's wife called him in stating the last time she had heard from him was around 1230 or so, when he called her from Douglas. The subject was accompanied by a small dog. The On-Star for the vehicle did not work in the area. A CCSO deputy responded, and several BP Agents from the Lordsburg station working the area assisted with the search. While en-route we copied radio traffic of the subject having been located and BP agents actually had "hands" on him including the dog. The subject was okay and was able to walk out. Let

me tell you the little dog sure was glad to be back at the truck. The subject followed us out and I escorted him all the way to the RV park he and his wife were staying to ensure he made it back okay.



Quite the "car park" along GTR MP 36. Travis, Dominic and Bill checking out the situation.

The BP Agents who located our subject and hiked him out. Great team work on everyone's part.



### Schedule of Events

- 3.5.15 Training and Meeting 1730 Foot-hills
- 3.7.15 Vortex Systems Training
- 3.21-22 Overnighter E Stronghold. ATV/Tracking ETC
- 3.19.15 Coordinator training

# March 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				