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# COCHISE COUNTY SHERIFF SEARCH AND RESCUE

This Month in Search & Rescue

September 2016

**Special points of interest:**

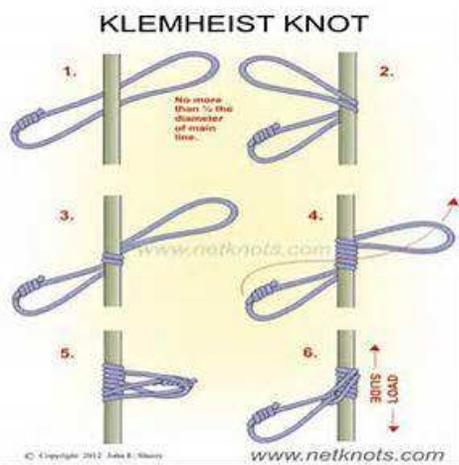
- 9.1.2016 Training and Meeting 1730 Foothills Station SV
- 9.5.2016 Rescue Rucker Canyon (1100 hrs)
- 9.7.2016 Swift Water Rescue Ramsey & Burro
- 9.7.2016 Search for suicidal subject Sybil Rd (1400 hrs)
- 9.7.2016 Swift Water Rescue Mescal Rd MP 6 (1153hrs)
- 9.10.2016 Tech Training W Stronghold (0900 hrs)
- 9.11.2016 K9 Training Empire Ranch (0900 rs)
- 9.18.2016 Supplemental tech training Charleston Bridge
- 9.18.2016 K9 Training Charleston Riparian Area North of Bridge.
- 9.21.2016 Medical Rescue Fort Bowie
- 9.24.2016 Technical Rescue Training West Stronghold
- 9.26.2016 Search for missing child Benson
- 9.29.2016 Medical Rescue EB I-10 MP 317 car over a cliff

## 9.1.2016 Training & Meeting Foothills Station

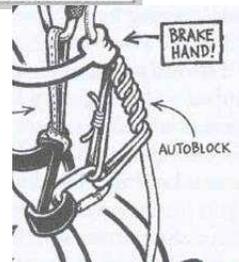
We had quite a busy meeting. Eric went over the Skills Sheet for TRT and upcoming training. The September training will encompass rappel / ascend from a cliff face at the West Stronghold. He also mentioned the addition of another knot, the **Klemheist**, which is a friction hitch gripping the rope when weight is applied, and is free to move when the weight is released. Used as a safety during ascend or descend. The Klem-

heist is easier to slide up than a Prusik. Start from the load end

the knot up or down. Make sure this slide and grip knot grips and releases well. You might want to practice and see how this grip/release knot works. During a rappel you can have this knot above you as an additional safety, however, you would have to keep your hand on the knot to ensure it will follow down rope. If you let go, you will come to a sudden stop.



and wrap a Prusik loop upward. Make at least two to three wraps or more to prevent slipping. The loose end is threaded through the starting end, and carefully tightened to leave the wraps neat. Holding around the wraps will enable you to slide



Self belay

## 9.5.2016 Rescue Rucker Canyon

As usual, no holiday without a mission, could we have been so lucky. Several of the team members had gone hiking in the area of Redfield Canyon, while others stayed at home. David activated the team around 1100 hours for a subject lost and having activated a PLB. We sure had a very limited response to this call. David also asked for

DPS Air Rescue, to assist. Geronimo responded to the area but was turned around due to DPS having been activated. We also had two BP agents assist in the search, Walter and the two from BP hiked up a pack trail toward Baker Canyon and then north in Rucker Canyon prior to the arrival





The "Windsock" at the Rucker Ranger Station. Not a bad improvisation and it worked.

## Rucker continued

of DPS Air Rescue. We were told they would fly a recon after we completely unloaded everything. Due to the elevation and temperature the air density was not really favorable for air rescue. We also had some difficulties with the radio communications. Once the team left the trailhead there was no communication with them. DPS Air Rescue located our subject and the first ground team, unfortunately they could not communicate with the ground team either. Therefore, they orbited in the area to

ensure the ground team made contact with our subject. We were told, initially the subject had laid out an orange colored sheet, but then packed up everything and it was nearly impossible to see him. Once the air crew came back indicating a rescue on their part was impossible, we deployed Eric, Brian and Jim to meet the other team, just in case our subject needed more assistance. John, later drove up to the trailhead to act as a radio relay,

which did not work too well either until the team got way closer. Cell phone service was zero.



***"Teamwork is a make or break situation. Either you help make it or the lack of (it)"***

**Kris A. Hiatt**

## 9.7.2016 Swift Water Ramsey and Burro

Hurricane Newton did bring quite a bit of rain to Cochise County, especially the Sierra Vista area, creating havoc on some of the roads and washes. We had more accidents than every in a short time frame. People called in several deep flowing washes saying they would no dare drive through them. Road closures occurred everywhere. Ramsey and Burro was not yet closed and a couple apparently tried to make it

through the flood waters and were washed away. Luckily they had the window to their vehicle down and the water could flow through. Some of our guys almost made it to location before we were told Fry Fire was able to conduct the rescue and get the couple to include their dog to safety.



Carr Canyon

We actually lucked out not more people became stranded.

## 9.7/8.2016 Search Sybil Rd

The initial call was given to former Coordinator Cleveland. A mother contacted us around 1400 hours wanting to speak to a deputy who could ping her daughter's phone. When questioned, she stated she received a text from her daughter early this morning indicating she might do harm to herself. She further said they found her vehicle on Sybil Rd and had been looking for her ever since. The mother gave me the phone number and provider and a ping

was requested. The information received showed the phone was last used in an area 7.61 miles west to southwest from the cell tower. I plotted a range ring 7.61 miles from the tower placing the outer edge east of Sybil Rd. Rick asked for further assistance once he got on scene saying a lot of people have been in the area looking and foot prints were everywhere. He also located the vehicle and David, once on scene plotted a one mile range

ring from the vehicle. Since it had been raining off and on, I contacted the DOC chase team to see if the dogs still could pick up a scent. I was told it was possible and we asked for their assistance. Once on scene they did track but apparently lost the limited scent due to more rain. The search was suspended for the night. David activated the team early in the morning to respond with ATVs. Around 0800 hrs Jake, one of the

### Sybil Search Continued

Coordinators notified dispatch of the subject having been located. Unfortunately deceased by the subjects own hands. This was a very tragic incident and more than likely will rattle the small community of St. David for quite some time. The subject was found almost at the 7.61 mile marker from the tower and in a southwest direction. Checking areas and trying to determine what a subject might do is rather difficult especially if the search area is rather large and in this instance somewhat undeter-

mined. There will be a lot of unanswered questions.

May she Rest In Peace!



**Regardless of differences, we strive shoulder to shoulder... Teamwork can be summed up in five words: "We believe in each other."**  
**Unknown**

### 9.7.2016 Swift Water Mescal Rd

From what I heard this was a truly lucky fellow. The truck was washed away, subject was swept out and under the vehicle, but was able to make out from under. David activated the team for this swift water rescue around 2253 hours with a cancellation around 0158 hours. I must say the team did excellent as usual. Training, determination and the willingness to help those in distress goes beyond anything any person would do. Our pay is the

satisfaction we attain be helping.

We have been lucky thus far in regard to swift water rescues in the county. Even though several of the washes, especially in the Sierra Vista/ Hereford area have been running rather swift and deep, folks are slowly becoming aware of the dangers involved in crossing a running wash. Unfortunately, people have to die, before the dangers of swift

water are recognized by the ordinary citizen. Even wearing a PFD and other protective gear, swift water rescues, next to helicopter operations area the most dangerous rescues we can get involved in. Kudos to all of you for risking life and limb for our citizens.



All photos are by Lorelei. Thank you! Alternate Papparazzi



**9.10.2016 Tech Training W Stronghold Rappel/Ascend**

To coincide with our TRT training schedule, we conducted Rappel and Ascend training at the West Stronghold. Our initial training was held at Carr Canyon by the bridge and consisted of team members becoming familiar with the rescue 8, rappel rack and some of their personal devices. Our lead technical rescue personnel set up an excellent training, and quite a few folks were able to test out in accordance with the TRT skills sheet. Other members practiced the lock-off with one brand new member practicing rappel. Overall, everyone was challenged during training and everyone did benefit. Practice makes perfect.

# October 2016

## Schedule of Events For October

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					
<b>Happy Halloween</b>						

- 10.1.2016 TRT training
- 10.4.2016 National Night Out 1600 to 2100 SV Veteran's Park
- 10.6.2016 Training & Meeting 1700 hrs Foothills Station
- 10.11&12.2016 David, Ursula and Tom State SAR Coordinator Meeting Flagstaff.
- 10.14 to 16 Overnighter East Stronghold. Heli re-quals, ATV and K9 training etc
- 10.20.2016 SAR Coordinator training 1000 hrs Foothills Station
- 10.22.2016 Chiricahua National Monument Standby for Adventure Race be there by 0700 hrs.
- 10.30.2016 K9 training Hunter Canyon

### Tech Training W Stronghold continued 9.10.2016



It was a great training day and everyone was able to test their personal skills. Getting ready for the set up. Anchors for several ropes to be used for rappel preventing a bottleneck. Dominic is keeping

rescue eight, and how to properly operate the rescue 8 during a rappel.



## Dr. Scuba Corner

*“Interdependent people combine their own efforts with the efforts of others to achieve their greatest success.”*

**Stephen Covey**



track of personnel taking the skills test regarding rappelling against a wall to include lock off, simulated jammed rappel device maintaining 2 points of contact with the rope. Mike



Deuce and Paul working on their rappel skills, as well as working through the improvised jammed device.

their skills. Below, Grasshop-



per is demonstrating his lock off.

track of personnel taking the skills test regarding rappelling against a wall to include lock off, simulated jammed rappel device maintaining 2 points of contact with the rope. Mike



Deuce is also utilizing a leg wrap prior to releasing the locked off rescue 8, thus avoiding a drop, once resuming the



and Scott working on the “jammed rappel device.” Below,



Bonnie, our newest member practicing the hook up to the



rappel. For personnel requiring some additional training Eric set up a special rope system allowing members to practice

Missing from the group photo are Mandy and Mike, they had to leave a little earlier than the rest of the group.

### 9.18.2016 Supplemental Tech and K9 Training

Several team members practiced ascending, lock offs, rappel at the Charleston Bridge.



While others conducted K9 training in the riparian area across the street. Daisy with



some of the members after she completed her trailing exercise, crossing Charleston Rd, working along the concrete, across the parking lot facing numerous distractions, as well as a water crossing. She found her missing person without any problems. Nose to the ground all the way.

“The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear.”

Socrates

# November 2016

## 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
27	28	29	30			

- 11.3.2016 Training and Meeting Foot-hills Station 1730 hrs
- 11.6.2016 TRT TBA
- 11.12.2016 Pack Test Bisbee 1000 meet at St Patrick's Church Parking Lot 0900 hrs
- 11.20.2016 K9 Training Fairbank Volunteers welcome 0900 hrs
- 11.24.2016 Wishing Everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

### K9 training continued

Patti set up a great training and I believe everyone learned something and did benefit. We started out we some obedience and then went on to tracking, trailing, for the more experienced dogs and then some short run-a-ways for Bruce, the newest K9 members. Gaby



with K9 Heidi and flanker Yvonne heading out to find Walter. Below, Denise with



K9 Daisy on her hot trail in finding her subject Rick. All the way, nose to the ground, the



trail was about two hours old and roughly 1 mile. Once on



for her. The only problem she ran into, was how to get to Rick, who was hiding behind the big tree. She managed to get up to him and get her reward . While waiting for me to take some photos, A small dog wandered by her, which she totally ignored. Yay Daisy.



scent there is not stopping her, go to be in pretty good shape to run behind her. She was lying down the shoulder. She totally ignored oncoming cars and the team on the bridge, she had one, and one goal only to find her subject. Even having to cross the river was no problem



### 9.21.2016 Medical Rescue Fort Bowie

I was working dispatch, when we received a 9-1-1 call from a subject, who reported having run across a very dehydrated and disoriented hiker. The caller advised they were about one half mile from the trailhead. The initial coordinates plotted close to Mount Graham. Had her call us back and we were able to get to about 1 little of 130 feet. We were told they gave the subject water and moved him into a shaded area. They were told to stay put and

not risk trying to walk to the trailhead and therefore avoiding the subject falling, etc The team was activated, but then later cancelled, since David, Randy and a Park Service employee made to the subject and assisted in hiking the subject out. Geronimo, briefly landed and checked on the subject as well. The subject was from out of state and only had a very small bottle of water with him. He was trying to walk the loop trail, but somehow either

missed the turn or turned to early. He said he went here and there, and here and there again. He was lucky the couple came across him and called for help. This could have been deadly for the subject to say the least. Always make sure you have enough water and electrolytes with you. Our area and climate is very deceiving to the non local people.

### 9.24.2016 Tech Training West Stronghold

This training was a continuation of our TRT Skills assessment and testing.

All, Here are a couple of things that came out of today's technical rope rescue training (Personal Skills). First, after new discussion, the Piranha has been reconsidered as a personal rappelling device, so we currently have no restricted devices for personal choice rappelling. (Note: we are distinguishing between a "personal rappelling device," which would be carried into the field in your pack and used to improvise a rescue or assist using your 8 mm rope, and a "technical rescue," which would be using 12.5 mm rope and county supplied technical equipment. In this latter case, you would need to rappel using a Rescue 8 or a brake bar rack of some sort.) Second, here is our list of members who have successfully completed the rappel training and the ascent training (and were signed off). For those who missed the training, or who may still be working on their skills, there will future opportunities to demonstrate your rappelling and ascending skills (and get signed off). The

goal here is to practice enough to be conditioned so as to not have to think about how to do it, you can just do it. So practice, practice, practice.

Rappelling: Mike Turner, Jim Cormier, Paul Jordan, Dominic Epps, David Noland, Ursula Ritchie, Eric Williams, Scott Schneeweise Brian Cowan, Gabi Koschorke, Walter Schoepfle, Klaus Strzyzewski, and Gregg Powell

Ascending: Mike Turner, Paul Jordan, Dominic Epps, Eric Williams, Scott Schneeweise Brian Cowan, Walter Schoepfle, Klaus Strzyzewski, and Gregg Powell.

CONGRATS TO ALL OF YOU!

Next Saturday's training is patient packing and stokes basket usage (static). I have included a video below that demonstrates very well how we package a patient into the stokes basket. For those wanting to test out at the beginning of training, study the video. There will be a paper and pencil test at the beginning of training on patient packing. The one thing that is

missing from the video is padding. Be sure you know the three primary places that padding needs to be placed in order to make the patient more comfortable. Additionally, after securing the patient into the basket, you should check PMS x4 (do they have good pulse, motor and sensory in all 4 limbs?)

