



2004 Annual Report Southern Arizona Rescue Association

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Mission statement

The Southern Arizona Rescue Association, SARA, is a professional unpaid organization providing desert and mountain search and rescue services to all of Pima County and Southern Arizona, at no direct cost to the taxpayer. SARA is dedicated to saving lives through search, rescue, and outdoor safety education in Southern Arizona.

SARA activities

SARA is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides professional ground-based search and rescue operations throughout Southern Arizona. SARA is one of the busiest search and rescue groups in the country, and the largest accredited member of the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA). SARA is also a member of the National Cave Rescue Commission, and the National Association for Search & Rescue (NASAR).

SARCI. SARA is one of five search and rescue groups that make up the Southern Arizona Rescue Council, Inc. (SARCI). Other SARCI organizations include the Search and Recovery Divers, Southwest Rescue Dogs, Inc., the Neotoma Air Squadron, and the Sheriff's Posse. Together, SARCI organizations provide comprehensive search and rescue capabilities in Pima County. SARCI publishes a monthly newsletter that can be viewed at <http://www.sarci2.org>.

Search and Rescue services. For more than 40 years, residents and visitors to Southern Arizona have benefited from SARA's highly skilled members who serve as a vital link to

safe recreational land use. SARA's services are offered free of charge, 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. Our members are proficient in all aspects of search and rescue, including advanced medical care, wilderness search, high-angle and technical rescue, cave rescue, swift water rescue, and mine rescue. Occasionally, our services are requested for urban searches and even animal rescues.

In an average year, SARA responds to 85 search and rescue missions and logs more than 4,400 volunteer hours in the field. From technical cliff rescues to multi-day searches, SARA provides its services at no expense to the taxpayer or to those individuals we rescue. The vast majority of these missions take place within Southern Arizona, but SARA personnel have traveled to central and northern Arizona and to Mexico in order to support other agencies in search and rescue operations. In the past forty-six years, SARA's success rate, as measured by individuals successfully rescued, has been greater than 99%.



Outdoor education. SARA promotes outdoor safety through public education and provides speakers and demonstrations to any interested group or organization. SARA's members participate in the nationally acclaimed "Hug-A-Tree and Survive" system for teaching young children the essentials of outdoor safety and survival. Other educational programs are available for scouting groups, hiking clubs, parents' groups, hunters, and off-road enthusiasts, at no charge. SARA also provides first aid services to various community activities.

SARA's volunteers

All members of the Southern Arizona Rescue Association, from the president to recently recruited trainees, are volunteers from the Tucson community who give freely of their time and expertise. SARA members undergo extensive medical and technical training before they are qualified to participate in field operations. Each member must hold current certifications in Outdoor Emergency Care (National Ski Patrol; Emergency Medical Technician-Basic equivalent) and Basic Life Support (CPR). Field qualified members also participate in extensive courses and field-based trainings in all aspects of search and rescue techniques including vertical mountain rescue techniques, desert and mountain search, flood and river rescue, cave rescue, and mine rescue. Members continually upgrade their medical and technical qualifications through regular monthly trainings and additional classes.



SARA members provide their own personal equipment (at their personal expense). Group assets such as rescue vehicles, radios, ropes, and technical equipment are paid for with donations from individuals and businesses in our local community. Pima County Sheriff's Department also provides funds for equipment maintenance. Donations from members, employer-giving programs, corporations, foundations, and individuals fund SARA's annual operating budget of approximately \$30,000 per year.

A brief history of SARA

Three boy scouts and a storm. In 1958, the only search and rescue resource in Southern Arizona was a list, kept by the Pima County Sheriff's Office, of individuals and organizations who had indicated their willingness to help when needed. The list included residents and ranchers who were familiar with the local area, as well as organizations such as the Boy Scouts and local hiking clubs. In late

November, 1958, an unprecedented heavy snowstorm dropped over 2 feet of snow across the Catalina, Rincon, and Santa Rita mountains. The day of the storm, a troop of boy scouts had gone out hiking in the Santa Rita's with the plan of staying overnight somewhere on Mt. Wrightson. The next day, Sunday, November 15th, three of the scouts had not been accounted for. With little equipment that would prepare them for such a storm, the boys were presumed to be lost or stranded, and the Sheriff's department called on local volunteers to begin searching the trails.

As the search extended over days, volunteers were joined by military personnel, Sheriff's deputies, forest rangers, and boy scouts. Having never worked together before to mount such a large scale search, the teams from various agencies found themselves fragmented and disorganized, and problems were obvious in logistics, coordination, assignment of duties, and communications. Sadly, the search ended nearly three weeks later with the location of the bodies of the three boys who had died of exposure. Their bodies were recovered by volunteers 19 days after the search began.



The Southern Arizona Rescue Association. The tragedy in the Santa Rita's left many people with the strong feeling that a more coordinated system for search and rescue was needed in Southern Arizona. The experience highlighted the importance of having an organized group of trained individuals ready for wilderness search and rescue, with proper equipment and training, who were capable of responding quickly to an emergency. In the spring of 1959, the Sheriff's Office called for a public meeting for all interested people regarding search and rescue. The meeting was held in a first-floor classroom of the University of Arizona Liberal Arts Building (now the Social Sciences Building). Two current members of SARA, Mr. Tom Harlan and Mr. Marvin Stafford, had participated in the Santa Rita search and were at that very first meeting. SARA's first official mission with the Pima County Sheriff's Department happened on June 15, 1959. SARA was born.

The Mountain Rescue Association. In the same year, 1958, the Mountain Rescue Association (MRA) was established at Timberline Lodge, near Mount Hood, Oregon. The purpose of the MRA was to bring together teams of volunteer mountain rescuers, to share information, training techniques, and resources, and to establish standards of practice in the field. The first member teams were from Washington, Oregon, and Northern California. SARA, as a young team, qualified for membership in 1969, and has been an active member of this most prestigious search and rescue organization ever since. SARA not only participates in conferences and joint training events with other MRA teams, but has provided committee

members, evaluators for team accreditations, and several National Chairpersons. SARA also hosts the annual three-day summer conferences in Tucson every ten years.

Moving the field ahead. Over the years, SARA has developed into a highly skilled organization with extensive experience in search and rescue, and over 75 field-qualified members. Along the way, SARA has pioneered new techniques and equipment that have been adopted as standard procedures by search and rescue groups across the country. One example is the "wheeled Stokes litter". SARA originally carried injured patients out of the field in a metal basket litter called a "Stokes". The Stokes was carried by hand, usually with three individuals on either side of the basket. Moving a patient in this way for miles down narrow, steep trails lined with cactus and rocks was very difficult, to say the least.

To deal with the problem, SARA members fabricated a frame that attached a small motorcycle wheel to the middle of the underside of the Stokes basket. They added handles that extended to the front and back of the Stokes in order to make it feasible for two people, one in front and one in back, to move a patient along a trail. The new Stokes made it easier, faster, and safer to move a patient through the steep and rocky trails of the Sonoran Desert. The model was field tested and then shown at the annual MRA meeting. Now, search and rescue teams across the country use some version of the wheeled Stokes litter to move patients in the field. And it all started right here in Pima County.



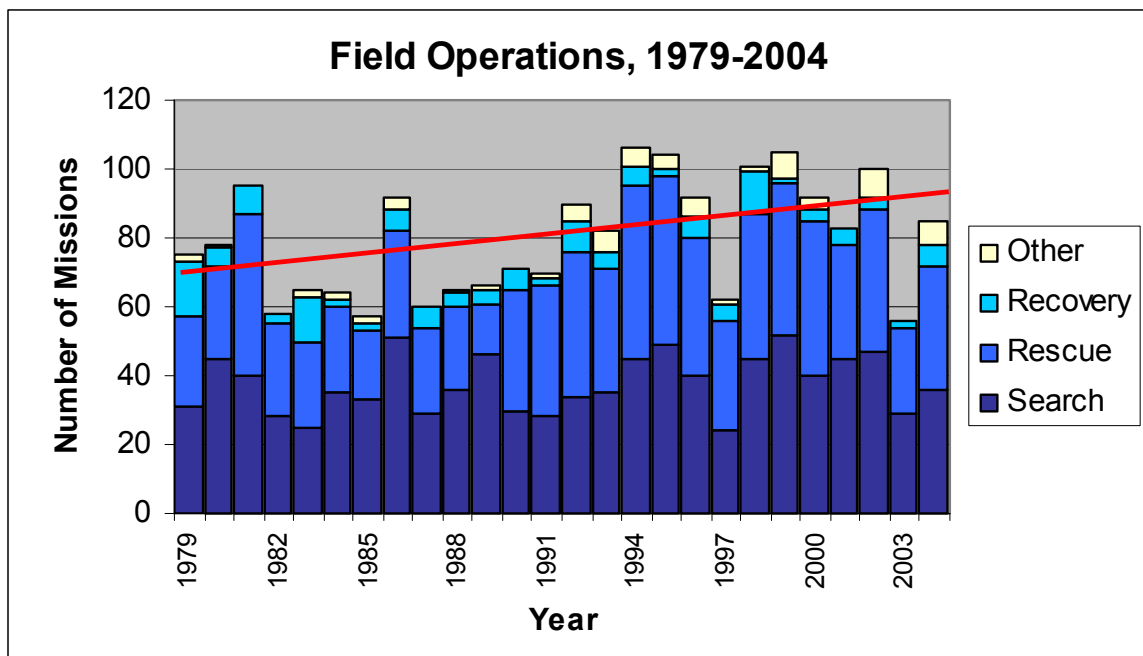
SARA's busy schedule today. Tucson is situated in the heart of the Sonoran Desert, with four mountain ranges in close proximity: the Tucson, Catalina, Santa Rita, and Rincon Mountains. Three of these ranges have peaks that rise over 8,000 feet. It is a mecca for hiking, rock climbing, and mountain biking. It is not surprising that SARA is one of the busiest search and rescue groups in the country.

Since its inception in 1959, SARA has completed over 2,850 full-scale search and rescue missions. Of those missions, 1,007 occurred within the past ten years. Our mission numbers have grown significantly over the years, from 39 in 1968, to over 80 in 1980. The number of calls to SARA has risen steadily since that time, with two notable exceptions. The Bullock Fire northeast of Tucson in 2002, and the larger Aspen Fire in the Catalina Mountains north of Tucson in 2003, closed local wilderness areas during both summers. This cut our normal mission load by almost fifty per cent for those years.

With the exception of 2002 and 2003, SARA currently responds to over 100 calls from the Pima County Sheriff's department yearly. At least 85 of those calls develop into full-blown field operations, so that SARA puts in an average of over 4,400 man hours in the field yearly.

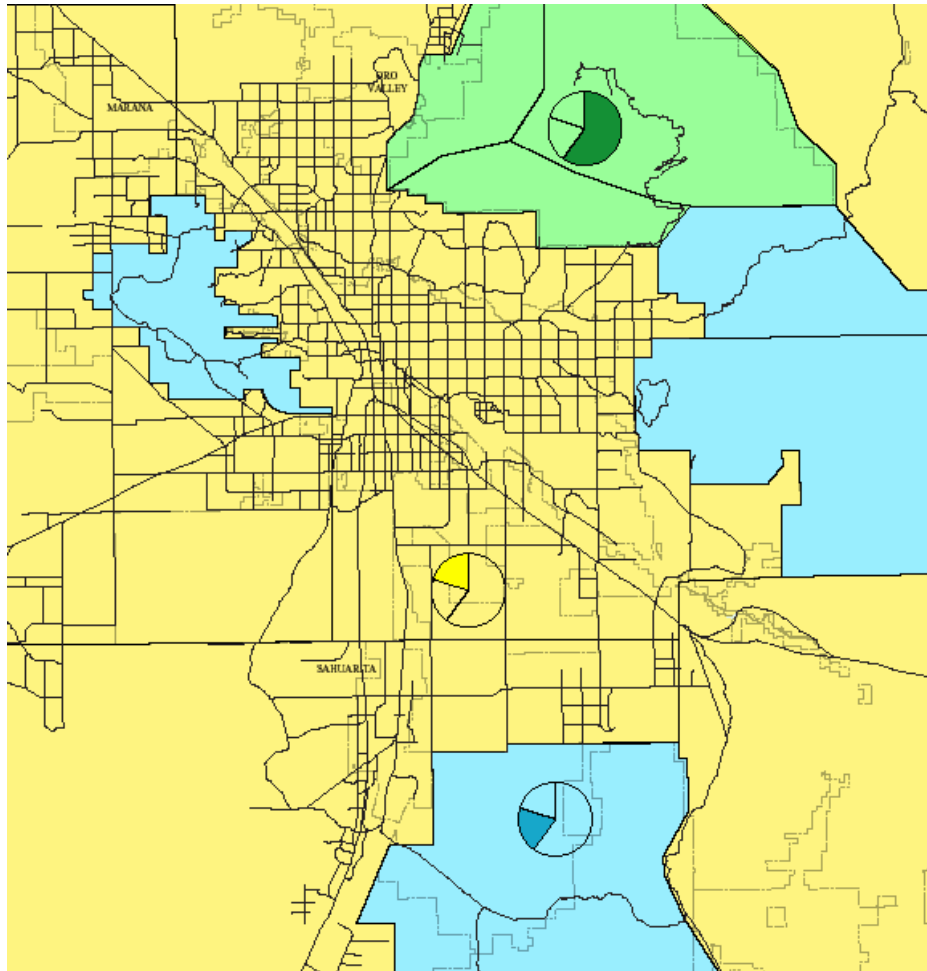
The majority of our missions are searches and/or rescues, and may also include body recoveries, urban searches for missing children or Alzheimer's patients, evidence searches, and sometimes even animal rescues.

The number of full scale field operations for the past 25 years. SARA's missions have increased steadily since 1979, with several notable exceptions due to fires in the Catalina and surrounding mountains. The statistical trend (indicated by the red line on the graph below) suggests that, by the year 2025, SARA may be responding to as many as 110 full-scale search and rescue field operations per year.



Working with public safety agencies. All SARA field operations are overseen by the Pima County Sheriff's Department. Additionally, SARA works closely with the Tucson Police Department, Rural Metro Fire Department, Tucson Fire Department, Mount Lemmon Fire Department, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the United States Border Patrol, and many other agencies. In the past ten years, SARA has been assisted by or provided assistance to over 35 public safety organizations throughout Southern Arizona, Northern Arizona, and Mexico.

Geographical distribution of SARA field operations. Over 60% of our missions occur within the Catalina Mountain Range, including Catalina State Park, the Pusch Peak wilderness area, and the Mt. Lemmon region. An additional 20% of missions occur in the Rincon, Santa Rita, and Tucson Mountains. The remaining missions are spread throughout Pima County. The map below shows this distribution.



Sector	Calls	% Area%	
Catalina	48	23%	
Catalina South	60	28%	
Catalina West	19	9%	60%
Redington	18	8%	
Rincon	11	5%	
Santa Rita	8	4%	
Tucson Mtn	4	2%	19%
Tucson	5	2%	
Tucson South	4	2%	
Tucson West	17	8%	21%



Data from 2002, 2003, 2004

SARA's Activities for 2004

In 2004, SARA members logged over 10,000 volunteer hours in search and rescue operations, training, and public service. This number does not include the many hours spent in committees, meetings, and other work activities that are essential to SARA's operations and management.

Field Operations in 2004

In 2004, our rescue calls climbed to relatively normal numbers after the Bullock and Aspen fires of 2002-2003. In 2004, SARA's assistance was requested by Pima County Sheriff's Department a total of 118 times. Of these calls, 85 resulted in full scale field operations, meaning that significant numbers of SARA rescue personnel were deployed in the field. On other occasions, the situation may have been resolved by one or two rescue personnel only, or was resolved before SARA could deploy personnel into the field.

Missions in 2004 included wilderness searches, rescues for injured hikers and climbers, high angle cliff rescue and technical evacuations, body recoveries, urban searches for missing children and Alzheimer's patients, swift water and flood operations. Descriptions of typical (and several atypical) missions are listed below. One exceptional mission for SARA in 2004 was the 5-day search for a young woman who was lost on Mt. Lemmon in August. The search, coordinated by SARA, included agencies from as far away as Cochise County and Phoenix. The search ended with the safe evacuation of the woman. On Day 5, a team of two SARA rescuers

located her in a deep canyon with an injured back. She was given emergency medical care in the field and airlifted to the University Medical Center trauma unit. She has now recovered from her injuries.

Summary Data for 2004

Field qualified members: 75

Other members: 35

Requests for assistance: 118

Full scale field operations: 85

SARA members responding: 926

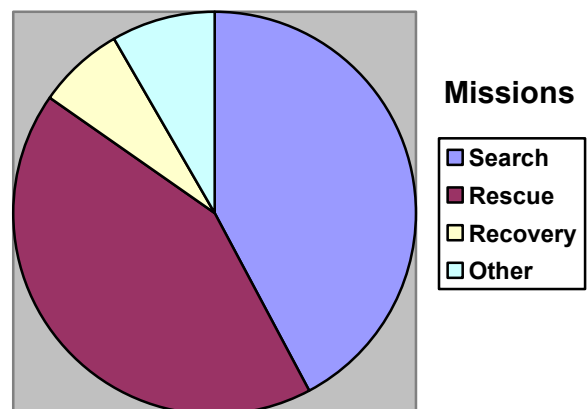
Total hours in field: 4,347

Average hours per person, per call: 4.7

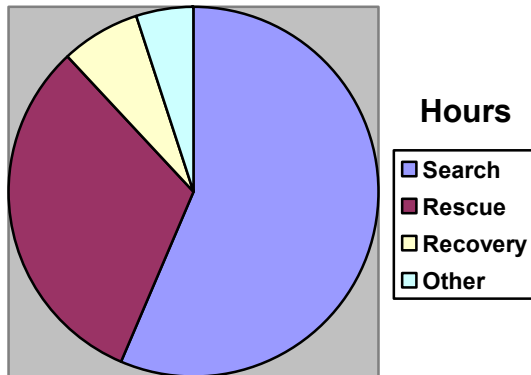
Average calls per week: 1.6

Number and type of missions in 2004.

Of the total 85 field operations during 2004, 43% operations were searches, 43% were rescues, 7% were body recoveries, and the remaining 8% were other types of operations.



Number of rescuer hours in the field for 2004. Of the total 4,347 hours spent in the field, 56% were logged during searches, 32% during rescues, 7% during body recoveries, and 5% during other types of calls.



Working with other agencies. During 2004, SARA collaborated directly with 24 public safety agencies throughout Southern Arizona, including municipal, county, state, and federal services. Each of the agencies listed below (in alphabetical order), either assisted SARA with search and rescue operations, or SARA was requested to assist the agency.

- Central Arizona Mountain Rescue Association
- Cochise County SAR volunteers
- Coronado National Forest
- DPS Ranger helicopter rescue team
- Golder Ranch Fire Department
- Green Valley Fire Department
- Mount Lemmon Fire Department
- National Park Service
- Oro Valley Fire Department
- Oro Valley Police Department
- Pascua Yaqui Police Dept
- Pima County Sheriff's office

- Pima County Sheriff's Assist Volunteers (Tucson, Green Valley)
- Rural Metro Fire Department
- Saguaro National Park (East and West)
- Santa Cruz Search & Rescue
- Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office
- Tohono O'odham Police Department
- Tohono O'odham Fire Department
- Tucson Police Department
- Tucson Police Department patrol helicopter
- United States Border Patrol
- United States Border Patrol Black Hawk Helicopter Operations
- United States Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue Teams (BORSTAR)

Typical search and rescue missions in 2004

The following are selected summaries of rescues and searches that occurred in during 2004. The monthly newsletter documents all SARA activities, and provides a brief summary of field operations, trainings, and community service events that occurred during the previous month. Current and archived newsletters are available on the Internet at: <http://www.sarci2.org>. We abbreviate agencies that respond to rescue calls such as the Mount Lemmon Fire Department (MLFD), Rural Metro Fire Department (RMFD), and the Department of Public Service "Ranger 38" helicopter (R38), the United States Forest Service (USFS), the National Park Service (NPS), and Golder Ranch Fire Department (GRFD). Note that all missions are overseen by search and rescue Deputies from the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

February 8. Four hikers overextended. Four hikers encountered deep snowdrifts while climbing from the Davis Spring junction towards Mt. Bigelow in the Santa Rita's, and elected to turn around and return to the Soldier's Camp trailhead. Three males and one female were accompanied by several dogs and goats. They requested assistance, realizing that they were ill-equipped to be out after dark in cold weather. Teams met them near the Crystal Springs trail junction, provided lights and warm clothing, and continued to the trailhead without difficulty.

Members in field: 15

Total field hours: 55

Other agencies: None

February 20. Hiker ill. A 44-year-old male hiker became ill while photographing along the Baby Jesus Trail east of Catalina State Park. He was unable to walk or ride a horse. SARA rescuers administered first aid, then carried him by Stokes litter to the trailhead. He was then transported by vehicle to an ambulance waiting at the road.

Members in field: 15

Total field hours: 69

Other agencies: GRFD

March 3. Hiker with serious ankle injury. A 61 year-old male hiker fell 2.5 miles up Finger Rock Trail in the Catalina Mountains, near 5000' elevation. He had an angulated lower leg (tibia and fibula) fracture. Trail conditions were poor, with icy patches and continual snow and sleet, with temperatures at/near freezing. Patient's leg was splinted. He was unable to assist himself into hovering helicopter due to snow and ice covering steep

sloping rocks. Teams packaged the patient into Stokes basket and DPS Ranger short-hauled him to base camp, much to the relief of all rescuers involved.

Members in field: 19

Total field hours: 118

Other agencies: R38



April 6. Fatality and 3 victims, Tanque Verde Falls. A male visiting from Kansas was hiking with his nephew in Tanque Verde Canyon. He fell into the second Turkey Pool and rode over the third falls, sustaining a gash on one knee and an ankle injury. He was unable to hike out of the canyon, so assistance was requested via cell phone. While SARA was responding, an unrelated group of three individuals were at the upper pool. A woman in her 20's slipped into the pool, rode over the second falls, and was having problems getting out of the turbulence under the falls. Her two male companions (also in their 20's) jumped in and helped her to the side where bystanders pulled her out. The two companions were then washed over the third falls. One of them sustained back and internal injuries and

managed to pull himself out onto a rock ramp just downstream. The other companion sustained a head injury and was unable to get out from the pool beneath the falls (known as the "Washing Machine").

Victim #1 was bandaged, then short-hauled by DPS Ranger helicopter in a triangular sling seat. Victim #2 was provided with warm dry clothing and fluids, and walked out, thanks to boots contributed by a member with feet of a similar size. Victim #3 was provided first aid by SARA members and Rural Metro Fire paramedics. He was then packaged on a backboard and short-hauled by DPS Ranger helicopter to the road and transferred to a second helicopter for transport to UMC trauma unit. Rescuers were unable to recover Victim #4, who remained overnight in the Washing Machine and was presumed drowned.

Members in field: 44

Total hours in field: 99

Other agencies: R38, RMFD

April 7. Body recovery, Tanque Verde Falls. Victim #4's body was removed by a team lowered over cliffs adjacent to the falls. Other teams were positioned with anchored ropes downstream as emergency backup. Rescuers were able to free the body from the Washing Machine and remove the body downstream. The victim was packaged in the Stokes Litter and moved up the Turkey Chute using technical haul teams and two attendants.

Members in field: 21

Total hours in field: 164

Other agencies: None

June 6. Overdue hiker. A 43 yr old male hiker was reported missing from the Girl Scout Camp at 8pm. His footprints were found on the Palisades Trail. The hiker had followed Palisades trail downhill, thinking the trail headed back out to the Catalina Highway. He did not have lights and lost the trail after dark. One team continued following the track down Palisades while a second team headed in from Prison Camp. As both teams approached the base of the Palisades Trail, the subject was located in good condition. All teams walked out via Sabino Canyon, making the trail head at 5am the next morning.

Members in field: 9

Total hours in field: 80

Other agencies: None

July 22. Exhausted hikers. A group of four people hiked up Bear Canyon Trail in the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area. One hiker went ahead to Seven Falls, then returned without seeing her companions on the trail. The remaining three hikers had left the trail and headed up the canyon bottom, then turned around before reaching the falls. One hiker became ill, so he was left by the stream while the two others went for help. One of them collapsed from exhaustion near the first stream crossing about .25 miles from the trailhead. While treating him, Rescuers were told more about the other hiker who had been left upstream. Teams covered the trail to the falls, and DPS Ranger also searched using flood lights without results. Continued discussions with the remaining party suggested that he would be below and not above the falls. Teams had no voice contact at first, but later managed to get responses to their shouts. The male, in his 20's, was approximately 400 feet up the

canyon wall to the north above the stream. Rescue people assisted him down the slope on belay, across the stream to the trail, and then carried him in the Stokes basket to the road. It was determined that the hiker had a history of psychological problems which probably exacerbated his exhaustion and dehydration. Patient was transported by ambulance to hospital.

Members in field: 33

Total hours in field: 163

Other agencies: R38

August 8. Body recovery, Cienega Creek. BLM personnel located human remains near Bootlegger Well in Cienega Creek. They reported their find to Empirita Ranch, who called the Pima County Sheriff. GPS coordinates guided a deputy to the scene, and determined that the old road up the wash was not passable. SARA was requested to assist with recovering the remains.

Members in field: 13

Total hours in field: 26

Other agencies: None

August 18. Autistic child missing. An 11 year-old female was reported missing on Tuesday evening, near Duval Mine Road in Green Valley. Wednesday morning SAR resources were requested. DPS Ranger 52 covered the area from the air, while SARA teams covered dirt roads and adjacent desert areas, assisted by Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteers and US Border Patrol agents. The child had walked approximately 10 miles over tailing piles from nearby mines, into a rural neighborhood. She entered an unoccupied residence and phoned 911. 911 operators relayed information to Sheriff's deputies, and she was shortly

picked up and transported back home, along with her pet dog and a pet chicken.

Members in field: 19

Total hours in field: 62

Other agencies: R52, SAV, USBP

August 24 (Tuesday). Five day search for missing hiker on Mt. Lemmon begins. A 33-year-old female was overdue from a hike on Monday morning. Search teams covered Box Camp Ridge, Aspen Loop, Wilderness of Rocks and Sabino Basin without results. (Afterwards it was determined that a team in Wilderness of Rocks passed within a few hundred yards of her late in the night. She was next to the noisy stream, having rained twice that day, and had enough equipment in her day pack to be comfortably asleep. She did not hear rescuers calling her).

August 25. SARA personnel continued the search covering Marshall Gulch areas and Sabino Basin, along with dog teams and helicopters. (She later told rescuers that she didn't move far on Wednesday, saw the helicopter flying overhead but couldn't attract attention.)

August 26. Continuation of search. Teams covered downstream Sabino, lower Lemmon Canyon, and Sabino Basin. (During the day she had wandered further down Lemmon Creek, leaving the trail and Mt. Lemmon. Lemmon Creek becomes very difficult terrain below Wilderness of Rocks, so she was moving very slowly.)

August 27. Searchers continued looking for the missing 33-year-old female missing in the Marshall Gulch area.

August 28 (Saturday). SARA teams were now assisted by Cochise County SAR teams and Central Arizona Mountain Rescue teams from Phoenix. Deep woods teams covered the remaining difficult stretches of Lemmon Creek, Sabino Canyon, and Spencer/Palisades Canyon, plus the Box Camp Trail. Many teams worked in the Marshall Gulch and Aspen Loop areas, plus Sabino Basin. The Lemmon Creek team caught up with her at the main waterfall. Only a few hours earlier, the hiker had arrived at the falls, and not seeing any way down past the falls, either fell or jumped into the pool below, fracturing a lumbar vertebra. She was packaged onto backboard and Stokes basket. DPS Ranger flew in additional personnel to assist transporting her away from the falls and out from under trees, then short-hauled her out to the trailhead. The last teams were transported out of the field the following morning.

Members in field: 110

Total hours in field: 1,212

Other agencies: Air1, R52, CCSAR, CAMRA

September 5. Exhausted hiker. A 60 year-old mother and her son hiked from the top of Mt. Lemmon to Romero Pass. They originally intended to hike down into Sabino Canyon, but felt it would be easier to go down Romero. The mother became exhausted and was unable to proceed, so stayed near the saddle while her son hiked down Romero to get help. He had no light, and lost the trail in darkness near the pools (trail damaged during the erosion after the Aspen fire). He finally got cell phone coverage to call for help. Ranger 52 flew overhead and spotted the mother, was able to land and assisted her up to

the helicopter in the pass, and flew her to the park. SARA teams on foot got voice contact with the son and located him near the pools. The son was in good shape, and walked out with SARA personnel.

Members in field: 12

Total hours in field: 35

Other agencies: R52

October 23. Mountain biker injured.

A 47 year-old male mountain biker was reported overdue after not returning from a mountain bike ride. The subject had been dropped off by a friend at Prison Camp and was going to ride the trail to Molino Basin and then the Catalina Highway to the base of the mountain. Subject had ridden the trail and was familiar with the area. SARA teams started from Prison Camp and Molino Basin. Subject was found a short distance from the end of the road in Molino Basin. He had become ill and then fallen several times on his bike, sustaining cuts and scrapes to his legs and arms. Teams provided first aid and carried him to the trailhead in the Stokes basket.

Members in field: 10

Total hours in field: 30

Other agencies: None

October 26. Dog exhausted. A hiker was intending to hike Agua Caliente canyon, but was unsure of the location and area. He ended up in an unnamed canyon on the side of Agua Caliente Hill at the top of a waterfall, and his dog was exhausted and in need of water. He called for help on his cell phone reporting his situation, reporting that he could see a parking lot below. After some confusion the parking lot was determined to be the trailhead for Agua Caliente Peak. SARA teams reached

him in several hours. Subject was in good shape although he was out of water. His dog also needed water and an oatmeal cookie from a friendly rescuer before having the energy to hike out. Dog and hiker were both fine.

Members in field: 4

Total hours in field: 14

Other agencies: None

November 29. Unprepared hikers.

Two lightly equipped hikers left the Finger Rock trailhead at 3 P.M. to hike up to Finger Rock. During their descent, they missed the route and ended up in the canyon bottom below Linda Vista, at the start of the rough section of the canyon. They had only one light, and were wearing only shorts and t-shirts, despite nighttime temperatures in the low 40's. DPS Ranger located them at 10pm but, due to the rock walls, was unable to provide assistance. Five SARA members hiked up the trail; three dropped into the bottom of the canyon at the bend before the Linda Vista drainage, and joined the hikers in a difficult cliff area in the bottom. They provided warm clothing, lights, and hot food, and then assisted them back up the canyon using hand lines. Rescuers escorted the couple down the trail. Everyone was out of the field at 5:30 A.M. Saturday.

Members in the field: 7

Total hours in the field: 38.5

Other agencies: R38



Training in 2004

SARA has three major goals for training:

1. Ongoing trainings for field qualified members . These trainings occur at least once a month, and are designed to refresh or update skills and techniques. Trainings during a one-year cycle include all the major areas of service that SARA members are expected to provide in the field, including medical care, technical rescue, helicopter operations, wilderness navigation and search, equipment operations, tracking, swift water evacuations, winter and desert survival skills, cave rescue, and mine rescue.

2. New member medical training.

SARA trains a new group of members each year, beginning in early February. The major portion of their training in the first year is medical training, which is comprised of the Outdoor Emergency Care (OEC) Technician certification. The course curriculum is organized by the National Ski Patrol Association, and is taught by members of SARA who have trained as NSP OEC instructors.

3. New member field training. SARA also trains new members each year in field skills, which are taught in a series of four day-long courses (referred to as Basic I through IV). The Basic series covers all aspects of SARA field operations, use of equipment, introductions to map and compass skills, technical skills (knots, working with rope, anchors, haul and lower systems), as well as other SARA-relevant skills (moving a stokes, radio operations, search techniques, etc).



Summary data for 2004

Ongoing Trainings:

- Number of trainings: 31
- Total hours: 2418
- Average members attending: 12
- Average hours per training: 6.5
- Trainee hours: 1813
- Instructor hours: 605

New candidate OEC class:

- Number of candidates: 8
- Total hours: 1395
- Number of classes: 29
- Number of instructors per class: 5
- Trainee hours: 870
- Instructor hours: 525

New candidate field training:

- Number of candidates: 10
- Number of instructors: per class: 8
- Total hours: 668
- Number of classes: 4
- Average hours per training: 8
- Trainee hours: 320
- Instructor hours: 348

Total training hours: 4,481

In 2004, SARA held monthly training sessions for members (see listing below), as well as other special trainings in preparation for our evaluation for the Mountain Rescue Association re-certification in Technical Rescue, which must be completed every 5 years. SARA successfully passed the MRA evaluation in October, 2004, on Mt. Lemmon. The technical team was commended for their teamwork, and evaluators made special note of the depth of knowledge exhibited by all members of the team.

Several trainings in 2004 were conducted in conjunction with other agencies, such as Desert and Mountain tracking (conducted with the U.S. Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue Unit), and the helicopter ingress/egress trainings (with Department of Public Safety Ranger Helicopter).

In total, SARA held 31 ongoing trainings in 2004, with an average of 12 members attending each training. The total number of hours spent in these trainings was 2,418 hours, including 1,813 hours for trainees. Each training had at least two instructors, who put in an additional 605 hours on the trainings, not including

preparation time. The list of specific trainings offered during 2004 are:

SARA's 2004 Training Schedule

- January 10 Map & Compass I
Location: Lincoln Park
- January 11 Map & Compass II
Location: Italian Trap
- January 31 Candidate Basic IV
Location: SARA House
- January 31 Field Skills Recert
Location: SARA House
- February 7 Winter Skills classroom
Location: SARA House
- Feb 21-22 Winter Bivouac
Location: Mt Lemmon
- March 6 TV Falls Orientation
Location: Tanque Verde Falls
- March 6 TV Falls Technical Rescue
Location: Tanque Verde Falls
- March 20 Candidate Basic I
Location: SARA House
- April 3 Cave Rescue- Classroom
Location: SARA House
- April 4 Cave Rescue Field Exercise
Location: Cave-of-the-Bells
- May 8 Swift Water Rescue
Location: Gila River
- May 22 Candidate Basic II
Rendezvous: 106
- June 3 Sonoran Desert Safety-Class
Location: SARA House
- June 5 Sonoran Desert Safety-Field
Location: Redington Pass
- June 19 Candidate Basic III
Rendezvous: 106
- July 3 Night Search and Tracking
Location: Sabino Canyon
- July 11 Candidate Basic IV
Location: SARA House
- July 31 Field Skills Recert
Location: SARA House
- August 5 Base Camp Ops
Location: SARA House

- August 7 Base Camp Operations
Location: SARA House
- August 7 Truck and Equipment
Location: SARA House
- August 28 DPS helicopter static brief
Location: Ratliff Aviation
- September 4 Technical Rescue
Location: TV Falls
- September 25 OEC Refresher Training
Location: SARA House
- October 16 MRA Technical Recert
Location: Mt Lemmon
- October 31 Field Skills Recert
Location: SARA House
- Nov 6 Basic Rock and Stokes Handling
Location: Milagrosa Canyon
- Nov 20 Man Tracking Class USBP
Location: SARA House
- Nov 21 Man Tracking Field USBP
Location: Mt Lemmon
- Dec 6 Rope Ascending/Descending
Location: HIDTA



Community Service Activities in 2004

In 2004, SARA members were active in educational and community service programs. These included the Hug-A-Tree program, where members go to elementary schools within Pima County and give children information about

being safe in the desert, and while hiking. We provide first aid services for outdoor events in Tucson and Pima County, such as the Chili Festival and Rodeo Days.

SARA maintains a HAM radio repeater on Mount Lemmon, which greatly enhances our ability to communicate during field operations in the Catalina Mountains and with other agencies. The radio repeater station was severely damaged during the Aspen Fire in 2003. During 2004, SARA members rebuilt the repeater on Mt. Lemmon, so that it is now providing greater coverage for radio operations. The repeater is used by Pima County Sheriff's Department Deputies, particularly when engaging in search and rescue activities, either with SARA or with DPS Ranger and other agencies. All materials and manpower required to build and maintain the repeater is donated by SARA members.



Southern Arizona Rescue Association Key Personnel for 2004

Officers and Directors for 2004

In 2004, SARA adopted a new policy that Officers and Directors will serve a two-year term, with half the Board positions being voted on each year. In order to accomplish the transition to the two-year term, the 2004-2005 SARA Officers and Board of Directors were elected at the April 2, 2004, Annual Meeting. Half of the Board members agreed, by consensus, to serve a one year term, from April 2, 2004, until the Annual Meeting of the following year which is on Friday, April 1, 2005. The remaining Board members will serve a two-year term, from April 2, 2004 until the Annual Meeting in April, 2006. Board members for 2004-2005 are:

Richard Kunz, President (to 2006)
 Jennifer Ashbeck, Vice Pres. (to 2006)
 Mike Jennings, Treasurer (to 2005)
 Henry Schneiker, Secretary (to 2005)
 Bob Buecher (to 2005)
 Rich Giachetti (to 2005)
 Elizabeth Robb (to 2005)
 Cathy Wasmann (to 2006)
 Scott Clemans (to 2006)

Committees and Committee Chairs for 2004

All SARA functions are organized by committees, with a committee chair that is appointed by the current President of the Board of Directors. Committees organize activities and make recommendations to the Board for policy in their area. The committees and Chairs for 2004 are:

Communications: Mykle Raymond
Trucks & Equipment: Gary Copus
Monthly Training: Brian Duffy
Basic Training: Linda Catterson
Membership: Manny Montano
Medical: Rich Giachetti
Technical: Scott Clemans
Fundraising: John Perchorowicz
Documents: Fran Kunz
Records: Joe Barr
Outdoor Emergency Care: John Gorski

Meetings in 2004

SARA conducts several monthly meetings which are all held at SARA House, located at 3455 North Craycroft Road. Regular meetings include the Board Meeting (third Thursday of the month), the General Membership Meeting (first Friday of each month), and monthly committee meetings (as required). Announcements for the meetings are posted in the monthly newsletter which is distributed to all members by mail and is available on the SARA website, <http://sarci2.org>.



Summary Budget for 2004

Dues and Donations:	27,000
Member Awards	600
Business and Operating	1,265
Communications	600
Professional Dues (MRA, NASAR)	1,730
Medical supplies	1,000
Fund Raising	500
OEC supplies	2,350
Public relations	450
SARA house upkeep	4,250
Technical equipment	750
Training supplies	600
Trucks (maintenance, licenses, insurance)	4,925
Contingency funding	4,750
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Total Expenses	24,070
Net Income	2,930