

PORTAL RESCUE NEWS

February 2000

Portal Rescue, Inc.
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Edited by Helen Snyder

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BORDER PATROL TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 16

Portal Rescue's annual meeting is Thursday March 16, 7:00 pm at the fire station. Elections of board members will be followed by a program by Intelligence Officer Kim Grady from the Willcox office of the Border Patrol. He'll talk about recent enforcement efforts and statistics, so come with your questions. Refreshments will be served.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Devorie Griffiths

As we begin a new millennium this seems the perfect time to remember how Portal Rescue began and to look ahead to the future. Almost 20 years ago, a few individuals trained as EMTs to help their neighbors in times of need. Today we have a staff of 26 volunteer medical and fire personnel and a dozen others who give their time to keep it all going.

Two things have remained a constant in all these years--the sincere caring and dedication of our volunteers **AND** the financial support of our community members and friends. Portal Rescue wouldn't be here today if not for both of these groups and it may not be here tomorrow without the continuation of both.

We are so fortunate to have people willing to make annual donations to help pay for the volunteers' training and continuing education, supplies, equipment, insurance, and operation and maintenance costs associated with the fire station and vehicles. However, it is always our concern whether these donations will continue to be there in the future.

- ◆ Did you know Portal Rescue is funded almost entirely by donations received from members of our communities--Portal, Paradise, Rodeo, and surrounding areas?
- ◆ Did you know Portal Rescue is not a fire district; therefore, none of the tax money you pay to the county for property taxes comes back to Portal Rescue to provide medical and fire protection?
- ◆ Did you know Portal Rescue's volunteers do not get paid to respond to calls?
- ◆ Did you know Portal Rescue does not charge residents for medical or fire services?

Hopefully, financial support from our communities will continue in future years because without it we would have to look at other options for bringing in funds necessary to provide these services.

One option considered a few years ago, when our grants were being downsized, was to form a fire district. Those within the fire district would pay property taxes that would support our district. We didn't like that idea then, and we still don't. No one wants to pay more in taxes! Luckily, it has not come to this as many in our community have continued to support our efforts.

Portal Rescue applies for grants each year but only approximately 10% of our annual budget comes from grants. The state health department is no longer willing to provide funding for basics such as insurance, supplies, or vehicle maintenance and operation costs—items which comprise about 85% of our annual expenditures!

Portal Rescue's contract with the Arizona State Land Department to provide wildland fire protection helps bring in additional funds when there are fires. Last summer's fire patrol service brought in enough money to pay for our insurance for this year. A big thanks to the firefighters who did the patrolling and to the Arizona State Land Department!

Portal Rescue volunteers raise additional money from raffles, dinner and dances, sales of cookbooks, and cook-outs. Community members also help with fundraising efforts such as the very successful annual Soup Kitchen, gourmet dinners, guided tours, art workshops, and by donating items for raffles.

We thank everyone who donates and supports all of these efforts. Sew What? has been especially generous with their donations and scholarships. We have an organization we **ALL** can be proud of!

Please use the coupon on the back page of this newsletter to make your annual donation.

SUMMARY OF EMS CALLS 1999

- ◆ 35 calls, 37 patients - age range 4 to 97, average age 50; 18 male, 19 female
- ◆ 9 visitors; 28 residents of the greater Portal Rodeo area
- ◆ Almost half required Advanced Life Support
- ◆ 9 were flown out by helicopter

EMS CHIEF'S REPORT

Jeff Gee

It's been another busy year for Portal Rescue. Besides the calls this year, many of us spent a lot of extra time in multi-day trainings held away from Portal, as well as the usual monthly Continuing Education classes, tape and chart reviews, and CPR refreshers. We now have three Wilderness EMTs and four Tactical EMTs (see Kim's

story).

The next time you are in the classroom at the fire station please take a few minutes to look at the walls, where you'll see a few of the many training certificates that the Portal Rescue EMTs and firefighters have earned over the years. There's not enough wall space to hang them all, but I'm proud of everyone who's trained over the years, and I'm proud to be a part of this group.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Max Rothpletz

What the heck's a SEVERITY PATROL?

Members of the Fire Department enjoyed several breaks from routine in 1999. One such activity was our "severity patrol". Because of the dry spring and summer, the Arizona State Land Department hired Portal Rescue to patrol the east side of the Chiricahuas for fires. Each day, two firefighters drove the State Land fire truck up and down some of our more little-used roads, on the prowl for smoke and in the process becoming more familiar with access and water sources and enhancing public relations.

This work earned the participants about \$80 a day from the State Land Department, and Portal Rescue was paid too; in fact, it became our largest source of outside income for the year. Several folks from other agencies helped out also.

In September, our Fire Department had a hamburger fry to say thanks to those who participated. There were many members of Portal Rescue and numerous guests in attendance, including Joe and Toni Mora, Nettie Somoza, and Ramon and Izzy Escobar of the Rodeo Fire Dept. Some folks who helped with the patrol from other departments couldn't attend, so we want to be sure to thank Sam Pursley from the Animas Fire Dept., Ralph Dawdy from the Cotton City Fire Dept., and Neil Gago from the Douglas Fire Dept.

On September 9 through 12, 8 members of Portal Rescue attended the 26th annual State Fire School held in Mesa, AZ. Participants were Manny Arambula, Jeff and Kim Gee, Max and Debbie Rothpletz, Gary Wisdom, Eric Jones and Mitch Webster. Manny, Jeff and Kim learned how to defy gravity in the "Rope Rescue 1" class. Debbie and Max took the "Fire Operations in the Urban Interface" Class while Mitch and Gary studied "Fire Pumps: Theory, Operation and Maintenance" and Eric took "Emergency Stabilization and Extrication" (of teetering cars, after accidents). We were able to send so many members because of three scholarships from Arizona Fire Fighters Association and two scholarships from the State Fire Marshals office.

Changes

Since we are a volunteer organization in an area with few paying jobs, some of our younger members have left the community to seek their fortunes. Anthony Cockerell and Jesse Jones have resigned from Portal Rescue and are greatly missed.

But we did get a new firefighter - Eric Jones has joined us and is a great asset to the department.

The training goes on

In 1999, we got to fight several real fires and attend some good training sessions. We did some controlled burns as training and community service, including one for Carl Anderson that lasted 7 hours, longer than most 'real' fires we go on, and a hot one for the Catanzaros in heavy sacaton grass.

Classes at the fire station included fighting structural fires, blood borne pathogens and how to avoid them, drafting and pumps, and much more. On May 29, Marty Jones, Arson Investigator for Cochise County and Fry Fire Department, taught a course on the basics of fire investigation. On Nov. 20, Bob Howard, Fire Chief of Sunsites/Pearce Fire Dept., gave a memorable class on Initial Wildland Fire Attack. The class included safety, size-up, weather, resources available, resources needed, communication, topography, fuels, Incident Command, engines and much more. Our special thanks to Marty Jones and Chief Howard.

New equipment

We were able to purchase a used Hurst extrication tool from Phoenix Fire Dept. (thanks to Jeff and Kim, who set up the purchase and went and got it). It's a powerful hydraulic cutting and spreading device used when someone is trapped in a car due to a motor vehicle accident.

Boots Deiss gave us a chain saw, Dennis McAvoy procured some surplus equipment from US Customs that included a large scale, 2 very serviceable generators and a military trailer. Chuck and Joan Jensen bought a major, expensive part for the rescue vehicle.

We get nice letters...

" Dear Ms. Griffiths, thanks again to your excellent organization. The people were very capable and thoughtful. And I couldn't believe the superb equipment..."

EMS AND EDUCATION

Debbie Rothpletz

In my 14 years of being an EMT the one thing I've come to know is that continuing education (CE) can never stop, and 1999 was no exception.

A Basic EMT class was taught in Portal that began in the fall of 1998 and ended in March, 1999.

In addition to training new students, the current EMTs need constant training to maintain their skills and we have classes once a month, often lasting all day. The topics this year ranged from trauma in pregnancy to psychological emergencies. Our EMTs who have taken special training teach classes to the other members. Tamara and Diane gave us a quick course in the triage system they studied, and ET, Jeff, and Helen taught some of the packaging and carrying techniques they learned in Wilderness EMT school.

To keep familiar with our equipment we do

drills -- we may each draw a card with the name of a piece of equipment from the rescue vehicle on it, and each person has to get the equipment and demonstrate its use to the others.

Two private helicopter companies, Critical Air and LifeNet, serve our area on a regular basis, and each gives us a day's training a year in how to set up a landing zone and "talk" them down safely.

Bonnie Roach is our Pre-hospital liaison with Tucson Medical Center, our base hospital, and she comes to Portal four times a year to do in-depth classes. She conducts detailed reviews of our runs, and keep us abreast of changes in emergency medicine and Tucson Medical Center protocols.

KATE ARAMBULA WANTS TO SAY...

When I first joined Portal Rescue I was the only EMT who lived in Rodeo. I knew I would be the first on scene to calls in my neighborhood and on Highway 80. I never realized beforehand exactly how scary that would be, but my first calls sure brought that home. I was so new at this, just certified with a headful of new knowledge but no experience, and all alone. If it hadn't been for my husband Manny, a firefighter, I couldn't have faced it -- but he always came on those early calls with me as he still does today, and is wonderful support. Now there are two more EMTs living nearby and it's a great help. Thanks, Tamara and Diane, for taking the training and becoming certified.

THE INITIATION

Max Rothpletz

On January 23, '99 a joint training between EMS and the Fire Dept. introduced our newest EMTs to life in the fast lane, Portal Rescue style. We set up a scenario, which is a realistic emergency scene complete with fake wounds, fake blood and actors who can really play the part: injured, deranged, hysterical, and generally out-of-control.

The scenario was this: Patient #1 (Aurora) was home in her summer cottage (a rotting old shack south of Jeff Gee's house) when a fire started. She had 2nd degree burns on her face, arm, hands and leg and even smelled like a burn victim.

A noisy distraction appeared soon after the student EMTs arrived "on scene": Pippa Roulette, playing the part of her uninjured but hysterical daughter, distraught over the loss of their cats Toast and Ashes. Patient #2 (Russ) was a bystander who'd pulled patient #1 from her burning home and was now experiencing chest pain. Patient #3 (Helen) was supposedly a diabetic fire fighter who'd rushed to the fire before she was able to eat and developed insulin shock.

These 3 patients were successfully diagnosed and treated by our students, nobody 'died' and the students learned it's hard to predict what's going to happen, and to whom, on an emergency scene!

Aurora Elliot, Kate's mom, (also known as

our 'professional victim') once again loaned her body to be made up as the burn victim. Danny Griffiths did a fine job of recording this historical event on video. Our thanks to Russ Griffiths for his excellent job of moulage.

THE MARTHA STEWART OF MOULAGE

Helen Snyder

When the EMTs do training and testing it helps to be practicing on people who actually look injured or sick.

One of Russ Griffiths' special skills is moulage, a realistic form of make-up that can transform a perfectly healthy person into someone horribly injured, extremely sick or downright dead. His special make-up kit has face paints in all the abnormal colors of human skin from burns to bruises. With common household items he can make flaps of fake skin and loops of dangling intestine.

He makes splendid third-degree burn blisters out of Kleenex and Vaseline, uses bits of glass and bone for special effects like impaled objects and open fractures, and dribbles peppermint-flavored fake blood over the finished masterpiece. Scorched feathers out of sight in a victim's pockets add a realistic smell to burn victims.

A COUPLE OF REMINDERS:

- **ABOUT PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY ...**

Please don't ask EMTs, firefighters, dispatchers or board members for information after medical calls -- we are bound by state law not to reveal anything about a run, not even who it was that got sick or hurt, where they were transported to or how they are doing.

- **ABOUT WHOM TO CALL?**

When you want any sort of medical help, even for something you think is minor like a blood pressure check or a little reassurance, please call Portal Rescue's emergency number at 558-2222 and explain what you need, or just dial 911.

If you just call an EMT neighbor or friend to come over and check you out alone, it puts a very unfair burden on that single EMT -- what if, in those next few minutes after you hang up, your problem worsens and the lone EMT must work without the rescue vehicle and its equipment and the help of teammates? That puts you and them at risk.

FIREHOUSE CLASSROOM DOINGS

Our new classroom has seen regular use for non-Portal Rescue functions. One of our concerns when we first decided to allow this kind of use was that we might have to ask assembled folks to move vehicles for a helicopter landing so they wouldn't block access or get sand-blasted by prop wash.

This finally became necessary during an art class. The room was filled with happy multi-media

artists in paint-smeared smocks with tissue and glitter everywhere, when we had to tell them that we were about to have a helicopter landing. People darted to their cars and with the precision of a military drill, everything vanished in a cloud of dust.

This spring we plan to improve accessibility to the classroom by putting in cement sidewalks around the outside of the building and by adding a handrail to make it easier to get from the parking area to the classroom door. Sew What?, Penny Johnston and Pete Rawdon donated money for this and Dan Rehurek has volunteered to mastermind the project.

An air conditioner will be installed and ready for use in hot weather. Russ Green and Danny Arvayo donated their time and labor to install the air conditioner.

Last May we asked community residents to help with cleaning our new classroom as one EMT had been doing most of it and it became a burden. A sign-up sheet was posted and, as usual, we received a wonderful response. Kudos to Bob and O'Leary Squier, Yvette Rehurek, Pat Willy, Jeanne Williams, Fran Zweifel, Robbie Ward, Bob Chew, Chris Rogers, Devorie Griffiths, Pete and Barbara Miller, Delane and Rene Blondeau, Jim and Lydia Barrett, and Marv and Janice Goldfogel. We will soon be asking for your help again with classroom cleaning for the year beginning in May.

A VERY LONG HALF HOUR

or "**You guys took FOREVER getting here!**"

When you call 911, it can seem like an eternity till help shows up, even when you are in a city only blocks from a fire station manned 24 hours a day. Portal EMTs are paged out by radio, and then often must cover many miles. **Jeff Gee** composed this fictional history of a callout but the times involved are realistic and show how minutes add up.

I'm asleep in my nice warm bed when it starts with a sound like no other: first a long loud tone, a single screaming note from the radio on the nightstand, then a familiar voice - Devorie's - saying "Portal Rescue firefighters and EMTs please respond..." I'm already swinging out of bed and into my jeans as she continues. "... to an MVA [motor vehicle accident]...". I look at the clock: it's **5:15** am. I'm getting into shoes as she continues, "Meet at the fire station".

I grab my keys and radio and as I start my van I radio Devorie to say I'm on my way. I check my watch: already **5:17**. By now, other EMTs and firefighters are responding by radio, and though there's no traffic visible, I cover the brake pedal as I drive past the McAvoy's and Helen's drive, then Barney's and Gerry's - now I'm at the bridge and it's **5:20** - 5 minutes into the call already.

More responders' headlights pull into the road behind me as I turn up the hill to the fire station. I see the lights are on and the big door opening - good! Max and Debbie are already here - how'd

they get here so fast? With brief greetings we grab gear, I start the rescue vehicle and Max closes the bay door to keep the skunk out, and piles in along with Helen and Gerry. We radio "Unit 3 [ambulance] is out with 5 on board", "Unit 2 [red fire truck] is out with Barney and Dennis". Dev responds, "Thank you, time out of station, **5:22**, Manny, Kate and Gary going POV [personally owned vehicle]".

We stop for Russ at the bottom of the hill; he's got more dispatch information (because as little as possible of it goes over the radio). The accident, a rollover, was called in by a passing Border Patrol agent, there are three patients with injuries, and a bystander is doing CPR on one -- a bad sign for a patient in a trauma call. We call back to base and ask for a helicopter to be placed on standby and for an ambulance from Douglas. Highway Patrol and Sheriff's deputy are en route. With no traffic in sight, I leave the siren off.

Just beyond Foothills Road, one of the EMTs on board shouts "cattle on the left!" as the dark shapes of the animals flash by, too close in the night. We turn south on Highway 80 -- it's already **5:31** and we've still got 17 miles to go. I slow and hit the siren going through Rodeo, then floor it again.

We've been talking quietly about what we'll need to do - set up traffic control and a landing zone, get a GPS reading, find out whether we can get out by our Portal Rescue radio, EMScom radio, or cell phone (or none of the above, in which case someone will have to drive to where we can, and relay)....we fall quiet now as we wonder who might be involved in the accident, always hoping it's not kids, no one we know. In the silence, someone hands me gloves - we all know each other's hand sizes by now.

I notice the beginning of a sunrise. It's been **32** minutes since the page but it seems like hours have passed when we see the crash scene: the Border Patrol's overhead lights flashing, and another car's headlights on the overturned vehicle. As we roll to a stop amid the skid marks, broken glass, blowing paper, and scattered clothing I radio, "Unit 3 on scene", Dev replies, "Copy Unit 3, on-scene time **5:48**" and we get to work.

ACRONYMS

Mary Carson

When I was elected to the Board of Portal Rescue, I found I had to learn a new language -- and fast -- because as Secretary I had to take notes that made sense. At the first meeting I attended it seemed that people communicated solely in acronyms -- ALS, SEAMC, SATNET, CPR, ASAP, POV, SAEMS, DHS, CCEMS, HAZMAT, GPS, LZ, BLS, SEATAC, MCI, CON... they flew by me, these clusters of letters. Is it any wonder that the most off-heard word from the Secretary was "WHAT??"

The Portal Rescue vehicles are known by mysterious numbers like Unit 1, Unit 2, etc., which finally caused chief number-cruncher Yvette Rehurek to utter a memorable quote (for a treasurer)

"What's with the numbers? I don't get these numbers at all". Yvette and I have both come a long way in understanding out 'jobs', thank goodness.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Yvette Rehurek

Our budget for this fiscal year is \$27,500. As of Feb. 1, 2000, a little more than halfway through the fiscal year, we've received \$19,818 and expended \$18,939. We don't have a lot of cushion in our budget and that is why donations and fund raisers are so critical to our existence.

Our aging vehicles have been a big drain financially this past year and will continue to be so. At the beginning of this fiscal year, we added \$1000 to our capital investments fund and hope we can do this yearly, saving for the day when we may have to spend thousands on a new vehicle.

Our revenues this year were helped by our fire department. Because our firefighters were paid by the Arizona State Land Department to do severity patrol in our area, we received over \$6800. Had we not had this income, we would be facing a large shortage.

Please continue to include Portal Rescue in your giving - it's tax deductible. I found out myself how much we count on our EMTs and firefighters when I broke my ankle this winter and learned from personal experience that you never know when you will need them. Let's make sure they will always be here.

A more detailed financial report will be given at the annual meeting.

We get nice letters...

" I really appreciate the care my daughter received from your crew... she will have scarring, however she will have her life too. Her nose was shattered pretty bad and she needed plates on both sides to put it back together. I wish I could send more money. I understand totally that volunteers are really what make this country great..."

COMMUNITY MEMBERS RAISE FUNDS

Yvette Rehurek

Three individual fund-raisers were conducted by community members last spring to raise funds for Portal Rescue. A gourmet dinner was served at Cathedral Rock Lodge. Nine guests enjoyed the cooking of Jan Hurd and Yvette Rehurek and the table service of Marv Goldfogel and Dan Rehurek. \$675 was donated to Portal Rescue from this endeavor.

Jeff Gee conducted a tour for 10 people of his reptile breeding facility, the Captive Bred Wildlife Foundation, and \$300 was donated from this fund-raiser. And local bird guide Dave Jasper conducted a day's tour for our benefit and added another \$200 to Portal Rescue's coffers.

All three of these fund-raisers are being

offered again this year, along with, so watch for announcements at the post office and store.

In addition, Marvin and Janice Goldfogel purchased **Portal Rescue Supporter** T-shirts. They were designed and ordered by Debbie Rothpletz, and are available for a \$20 donation.

TRIPWIRE WINS IRONWOMAN AWARD

Kim Gee recently went through the 6-day SWAT Academy taught by the Department of Corrections in Douglas, along with Max Rothpletz. Kim's husband Jeff Gee had taken this previously, and he, Max and Dennis McAvoy also took the 2-day TEMS (Tactical EMS) course given in conjunction with their session of the academy.

Why did she do this? EMS providers and SWAT teams in southeastern Arizona are being encouraged to cross train because if a SWAT member goes down during a prison riot or a drug raid, a local EMT with the right training can go in with other SWAT members to provide medical care instead of waiting for someone from much farther away. Prison crews work alongside Highway 80 and on trails in the National Forest and if there were an accident or inmate uprising and Portal Rescue were called to the scene, SWAT training and defensive awareness would make it a lot safer for all involved.

Kim described her experience. "Jeff got me into this! When I showed up at *his* SWAT graduation in a mini-skirt and high heels, he told his academy instructors that I was tougher than I looked that night, and could handle the course, so they signed me up!

"Jeff deliberately didn't tell me too much about what I was in for but it was by far the hardest thing I've ever done. It was 6 days of physical torture - of being hit with a baton, tackled, sworn at and kicked, of doing hundreds of pushups for punishment every day for any minor mistake like dropping your baton.

"It was all for real, no play-acting. I had my face ground in the gravel and got sprayed in the face with 2-second blasts of pepper spray. All law enforcement people must get sprayed regularly, so they know what it does to the body and how they themselves react to it. In addition, all week they set off random flash-bang explosives, just to get you used to those too, because they are used a lot on a real scene. We knew each other only by nicknames - mine was Tripwire, 'cause I was so tense and tight.

"One day we had to shoot off hundreds of rounds of ammo from an 8½ pound shotgun which for three straight hours, we had to hold up in firing position. The first hour my arm hurt, the second it was numb and the third hour I just cried and the tears dribbled off my chin, but I didn't dare let the gun sag or my squad would be on the ground again, doing pushups.

"We were up sometimes till 1 am, doing night ops in our 5-person squad. We sneaked through the desert looking for 'bad guys' - metal

silhouettes that popped up at close range. You had real ammo, and you had to tell these from other silhouettes that were "good guys" - kids, dogs, other SWAT team members - so you really had to stay alert every second, and trust your squad members not to shoot you in the back of the head.

"The instructors were like the worst imaginable Marine drill sergeants. One in particular seemed to just hate me -- he was 3 times my size and he screamed in my face every chance he got during the whole course and everyone soon noticed how he was picking on me.

"On the last day, he jumped me without warning, wrestled me down and started to try to handcuff me. He was trying to do a takedown on me, something we'd been practicing all week, in which you used any means you could to overpower someone -- your baton, pressure points, whatever. I was fighting back and barely noticed that everyone else was stopping what they were doing and were gathering around to watch, when the students and even the other instructors started to cheer me on, 'cause they had seen how this guy had it in for me.

"I was losing the struggle and getting really mad when I just felt this huge surge of adrenaline... before I knew it, I'd flipped onto him and was holding his arms back and face down and screaming "WHO'S YOUR MOTHER??" [editor's sanitized version of Tripwire's actual inquiry]. According to procedures, when he was pinned he was supposed to answer "you are" but he wasn't answering so I kept screaming at him.

"Then two instructors were ripping me off him and screaming at ME to let go and that he couldn't answer 'cause he'd turned purple! After he recovered they all congratulated me and said nobody'd ever done that to him before.

"At graduation, I received the IronWoman award, the course's highest student award. Previously it was called the IronMan Award because it had NEVER gone to a female before."

FOURTH ANNUAL SOUP KITCHEN A STIRRING SUCCESS

The February 2000 Soup Kitchen again successfully raised money for Portal Rescue. This event began several years ago to stave off mass starvation during the annual 3-day deep-cleaning closure of the Portal Café. It has since become a winter tradition and a great place for a home cooked meal, conversation and community.

A special thank you to Carolyn Dearing who led the team that ran the event. Helping her were Jan Gee, Kim Gee, Cathie Reinbold, Yvette Rehurek, and Barbara Miller. They organized the volunteers who brought the soups, breads and desserts as well as the serving and cleanup. There were contributions of food or assistance from 75 community members and businesses.

We served 289 folks and brought in \$1,445 from food sales. Raffle ticket sales added \$875 and the sale of **Portal Rescue Supporter** T-shirts

added \$440 for a grand total of \$2,760. Jim Barrett won the \$100 in lottery tickets, Dee Burns won the necklace donated by Chris Rogers, Harriet Schultis won Kitty Deiss' beautiful quilted wall hanging, and Lois Bernard won the original print by wildlife artist and firefighter David Utterback.

A big thank you to all who made this event a success.

FUND-RAISERS ON THE HORIZON

FEB 18 - The Magic Brush, Sherry Nelson and Deby Galloway's bird art academy, will host an all-day **bird painting workshop** for a \$45 donation to Portal Rescue. All materials, supplies and lunch are included, and it's limited to 16 participants. Call 558-2285 to sign up; a \$20 deposit is required at time of sign up! Meet at the Portal Store at 8:30 am.

MARCH 24 - Dave Jasper, local bird guide and owner of **The Best of Nature**, will hold a **Birdathon** to benefit Portal Rescue on March 24.

How This Works: Birding teams will scour the Portal Christmas Count area to find the maximum number of bird species dawn to dark on March 24. You pledge an amount per total species of bird seen by all teams, or you can be a spotter/counter with one of the teams, for \$25/person. 100+ total bird species are likely. Call 558-2307 if you are interested in joining one of the teams or making a pledge.

APRIL 1 - Cathedral Rock Lodge will host a gourmet dinner for up to 8 guests for \$75 per person. The menu features southwestern cuisine, with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, wine and dessert. To make reservations, call 558-2350.

APRIL 30 - Jeff and Kim Gee invite you to take a private tour of **The Captive Bred Wildlife Foundation** on Sunday, April 30, at 11:00 am. For a \$30 donation to Portal Rescue you'll tour their reptile breeding facility, and an optional extra is to have your picture taken with a giant boa constrictor. Refreshments will be served. Call 558-2458 for reservations.

SEPT 9 - Major fund-raiser party at the fire station - a dance, barbecue, cake walk, silent auction, raffle and more! Kip Callahan will sing for our supper! Kim Gee is in charge. Watch for future announcements.

We got nice letters....

" Sorry its been so long, me getting around to this letter. I have thought about all the nice things I would and could write... I wouldn't have enough paper, besides the words would not be nice enough to satisfy me, I never had an experience like that, I know a lot of nice people in the world, still had not ever been involved with people so nice as you all."

Current EMTs and Firefighters of Portal Rescue:

Kate Arambula - EMT
Manny Arambula - Fire
'Brad' Bradford - Fire
E.T. Collinsworth - EMT, Fire
Jeff Gee - EMT Chief, Fire,
CPR Instructor
Kim Gee - EMT, Fire
Russ Griffiths - I-EMT
Gerry Hernbrode - EMT

Eric Jones - Fire
Chris Lentz - EMT
Dennis McAvoy - EMT, Fire, CPR
Instructor
Nancy McAvoy - Fire
Kay Ralston - EMT
Debra Rothpletz - I-EMT, Fire, CPR
& EMT Instructor
Max Rothpletz - EMT, Fire Chief

Tamara Smejkal - EMT
Diane Smith - EMT
Helen Snyder - EMT, Fire
Barney Tomberlin - Fire
Dave Utterback - Fire
Mitch Webster - Fire
Sharman & Gary Wisdom - Fire
Fran Zweifel - EMT

Thank you to the following people who donated to Portal Rescue in 1999, in memory of friends or loved ones:

Elizabeth Anderson
Rene & Delane Blondeau
Helen Bolle
Jack & Mary Carson
Bob & Alice Chew
Betty Cloudt
John & Anne Dominick
Jeff & Kim Gee
Susan Goodloe

Russ & Devorie Griffiths
Yoshiko Ikeda
Pia Irwin
Chuck & Joan Jensen
Penny Johnston
Guy & Audrey Miller
Pete & Barbara Miller
Michael Putlack
Dan & Mary Reece

Dan & Yvette Rehurek
Fin & Sally Richards
Max & Debbie Rothpletz
Noel & Helen Snyder
Sally Spofford
Howard Topoff & Carol Simon
Mary Willy
Dick & Fran Zweifel

Portal Rescue could not continue to operate without the generosity of the community we serve. Our thanks to the following who have contributed to our general fund in 1999:

Lynn & Sherrill Adams
Bob & Jeanne Addison
Connie Adler & Judith Nelson
Elizabeth Ames
Irving Andrews
Herb & Ginny Appelt
Paul & Susan Ashley
Jim & Lydia Barrett
Gretchen Blickensderfer
Rene & Delane Blondeau
Helen Bolle
James & Astrid Brown
Idella Burchel
Bill Burns
Jack & Mary Carson
Gene & Bonnie Catanzaro
Cave Creek Ranch
Carolyn Cazier
Bob & Alice Chew
Virginia Christensen
Tom & Debbie Collazo
Kelley Costales & Vidal
Rodriguez
Diane Davidson
Bob & Carolyn Dearing
Gene & Kitty Deiss
Madeline Doyle
Henry Dozier & Elizabeth
Addison
Brad Dubuque
Elbrock Water Systems
Sandee Eves

Bob & Marge Fagan
Kathleen Forsyth
Matthew & Sally Frankel
Jeff & Kim Gee
Nancy Glasgow
Marvin & Janice Goldfogel
Anabell & Ned Hall
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hendrix
Robert Hessler & Cecelia Ross
Janet Hickerson & Daniel
Harper
Jim & Shirley Higgins
Esther Hollowell
Richard & Margo Howell
Pia Irwin
David Jasper
Chuck & Joan Jensen
Penny Johnston
Luther & Edith Killion
Rolf Koford
& Bonnie Bowen
Joseph & Diane Lawrence
The Magic Brush
William & Rena Mason
George & Lynne May
Michelle McDonald & Robert
Johnson
The Mellows Foundation
Guy & Audrey Miller
Pete & Barbara Miller
Russell Miller
Bob Morse & Jeanne Williams

The Portal Store
Eileen Potter
Billy Preston
Pete Rawdon
Dan & Yvette Rehurek
Fin & Sally Richards
Dean & Joan Richardson
Ed Rivers
Chris Rogers
John Roser & Carol Comeau
Barbara Roth
Joe & Joyce Schatz
Bob & Katie Scholes
Sew What?
Wade & Emily Sherbrooke
Ben & Florence Snure
Sally Spofford
John Sprague
Bob & O'Leary Squier
Bobbie & Addie Tollison
Everett & Nancy Turner
David Utterback
Rose Vermilyea
Ace & Heathy Walker
Peggy Spofford Wallace &
Sandy Wallace
Maury & Roberta Ward
Peter & Mary Sue Waser
Mary Willy
Richard & Mary Winkler
Allan & Joan Yeomans
Dick & Fran Zweifel

Russ Green is donating his time to install the air conditioner at the Fire Station. Other folks gave equipment (see the Fire Chief's report). Our deepest apologies if anyone who contributed was left off this list.

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