



PORTAL RESCUE NEWS

January 2022

Portal Rescue, Inc., P.O. Box 16331, Portal, AZ 85632

Tel: (520) 558-2206; Emergency Calls Only: 911

www.Portalrescue.com

President's Report

Cary Booth

Another challenging year is in the books and once again I reflect on what a privilege it is to serve on the board of an organization whose volunteer members are ALL so dedicated to the safety, health, and well-being of the community. They contribute in so many ways behind the scenes and on the front lines as the public face of Portal Rescue to the ultimate benefit of the community.

EMT and fire calls are the obvious work done by the volunteer EMTs and firefighters, but there is far more involved in enabling them to perform those roles. Much needs to be done both during those calls as well as the rest of the year.

The radio operators play a critical role in facilitating communications between personnel on calls in the field and other resources. Drivers play a crucial role assisting EMTs and firefighters on emergency calls. EMTs, firefighters, and radio operators also volunteer their time performing many other tasks to support the organization, including regular training sessions, the never ending vehicle and equipment maintenance, monitoring inventory levels, expiration dates of supplies required by EMTs, and reordering supplies as needed.

Volunteers manage streams of paperwork and the Treasurers (Susan, Ali, and Alice) have all taken turns filling that role this year. Our two chiefs, Jackie and David, manage the brunt of that paperwork.

I'd also like to thank those that stepped up to help Jackie this year and to recognize Dinah for her work as secretary, rodent control, RCO, and document review for many business letters and grants, on top of her work as a radio operator. There is always something that needs to be done on the facility and David's leadership was essential in getting repairs addressed.

And thanks to Victor for his leadership in suggesting and leading the project to get the helipad built at Portal Rescue and all the volunteers that assisted. Many thanks to Carolyn for her hard work both as an EMT and board

member and for her insights and ideas. We have volunteers that clean the facility and volunteers that run the donation drive and Pat, who chases down reports and articles to assemble this wonderful annual Portal Rescue newsletter. I am ever so grateful to everyone who supports Portal Rescue. I'd like to thank the community for their fire fuel reduction work and being mindful of fire risks in their daily activities. Lastly, I can't thank enough all the community members that have generously donated in any amount in 2021 to support Portal Rescue's mission of providing EMT and Wildfire fighting services to the community. Your donations save lives. Wishing everyone health and happiness in 2022 on behalf of Portal Rescue.

Portal Rescue Board of Directors

Cary Booth – President
Victor Shawe – Vice President
Dinah Davidson - Secretary
Alison Morse - Treasurer 1/21 - 7/21
Alice Wakefield - Treasurer 7/21 - 12/21
David Newton - Fire Chief
Jackie Lewis - EMS Chief
Carolyn Nordstrom - Member at Large

From the Editor

Pat Espenak

IT'S TIME!

Yes folks, I have been doing this newsletter for ten years or so and I think it's time for some fresh eyes. Also, I will be turning the big 8-0 in 2023! How did that happen? Fred and I are in for one more newsletter and if anyone would like an easy transition we are more than willing to make that as smooth as possible. The bad news is that the 2023 Newsletter starts now! ;-)

Contact me at TouchedByTheSun2@aol.com if you are interested.



John Yerger mops up the January 2021 "Divisions" fire on Hwy 80 from Brush 236. Brush 9 and Tender 1 to far right.

2022 Fire Chief's Report — David Newton

In terms of fire calls, 2021 was average. The season started out dry and our first incident was a roadside vehicle fire than spread to the shoulder grasses on January 30th. Then came a haystack fire that was away from anything else and we let burn; closely followed by a troublesome fire in a feedlot that was thick with dried manure. Sub-surface fires like this are difficult to extinguish because we can't get water to the seat of the fire and it simply smolders. In the end the farmer cut a firebreak down to mineral soil around the smoldering area and watered the perimeter until it burned itself out. Lastly just after a rain shower a wet branch across power lines east of the SWRS caught fire and dropped to the ground. Alert residents quickly stomped the fire out, called us, and we got Columbus electric headed to the proper location to clear the fault.

Local training: For a second year we limited our classroom training and did lots of training outside. We increased our training opportunities to twice a month this year. Topics: hazmat awareness, nighttime roadside scene safety, electric vehicle considerations, nighttime extrication tools practice, daytime tool practice, GPS use and reporting, patient moving, sandtable exercises, wildland refresher, swiftwater dangers and tools, pump & roll practice, tender operations, wildland tactical discussion, and driving practice.

Outside Training: One of our firefighters completed a 4 day Emergency Vehicle Driver Training course at State Fire School in Mesa AZ.

Thank you all for your support.

Fire Fighter Roster

Matthew Arambula	David Newton – Chief
Ed Castellion	Larry Rivers
Eric Desfachelles	Victor Shawe
Alina Downer	Lance Shultis
Lee Dyal	Aaron Smith
Henry Essary	Andrew Waser
Jeff Gee	John Yerger
Rolf Koford	

Portal Rescue Drivers

Shane Burchfield

Rolf Koford

A Fortunate Year

– Dinah Davidson

Fairly normal rains during the 2021 summer monsoon provided welcome relief from the previous year's exceptional drought, when months of below normal winter and spring precipitation during February through June followed a brutally dry 'non-soon' in July through September of 2020. Fuel moisture levels in late spring and early summer of 2021 were as extreme, or more so, than those measured in 2010-2011, when the catastrophic Horseshoe 1 and 2 fires burned extensively in the Chiricahuas and elicited evacuations of residents of Cave Creek and Whitetail Canyons. So we held our collective breath to see what this year would bring.

Although wildfire starts were fewer this year, both the Jack Fire (April 21-23 in Horseshoe Canyon) and the Warren Fire (May 25-June 7, near Horseshoe) could easily have ballooned into very destructive blazes again, were it not for early and aggressive attacks by USFS personnel, aided by Portal Rescue firefighters and equipment. Suffice it to say that we experienced déjà vu but dodged a bullet this time. With climatologists predicting increasing drought over the coming years, the past year's extraordinary drought serves to remind members of our Firewise community why we continue to strive to secure our properties and homes against the threats posed by wildfires.



EMTs practicing with the stair chair. November 2021. Top to bottom Alina Downer, Andrew Waser, Michele Lanana, Carolyn Nordstrom.

EMTs Chief Report

Jackie Lewis

Portal Rescue EMTs responded to 25 Arizona calls in 2021—14 were medical, 10 were trauma and one had passed prior to our arrival. Of those 25 calls, 15 were ground transported, 6 were flown by helicopter, 2 refused transport and one call had no patient at the house.

It is very important for you to remain where you are when you call 911 so EMTs can find you. If for some reason, you feel you need to move toward medical care, please inform the 911 Operator of your plans. We can try to come up with a rendezvous point and complete patient contact. Also, please leave a cell phone number with the 911 Operator if you leave the house. Portal Rescue EMTs will try to make contact with you if a phone number (even a land line) is left with the 911 Operator.

Portal Rescue EMTs are AZ State certified, and most have maintained their National certification. All completed their recertification in Healthcare Provider CPR as well this year. Carolyn Nordstrom and Barbara Roth are also NM State certified. Carolyn went on 5 NM calls and Barbara went on 6 NM calls in 2021.



"Firefighters completing the pack fitness test" - Walking 3 miles with a 45 lbs pack in 45 minutes. Andrew Waser, Eric Desfachelles, Henry Essary, and Alina Downer.

EMT ROSTER

ET Collinsworth
Alina Downer
Michele Lanan
Jackie Lewis

Carolyn Nordstrom
Barbara Roth
John Yerger

RADIO OPERATORS:

Susanne Apitz
Bonnie Bowen
Dinah Davidson
Rolf Koford

Jackie Lewis
David Newton
Linda Wadsworth
Bill Wilbur

Firewise Community Recognition Renewed! November 2021

Debb Johnson

Once again our community has stepped up to maintain our Firewise Recognition for another year, going well beyond the required amount of work and expenditures needed to continue our Firewise status.

What does that mean? It means we are keeping our community safer by removing leaf and limb debris, ladder fuels and dried grasses from our properties. Some neighbors have made improvements to their homes and out buildings and others are building new homes with metal roofing, screened vents and fire resistant siding, to make them better equipped to resist flying embers in the event of a wildfire. Those of us who have been practicing Firewise maintenance spend many hours and dollars each year to keep the wildfire threat low.

There has been an influx of new property owners into our community over the last two years and information is made available to them as I become aware of them. Though our recognized Firewise area extends from up canyon out Foothills Road to Sky Village and out Portal Road east to HBarM and Acacia, we encourage Firewise practice out into the valley as well. Everyone can benefit from making their properties Firewise.

I have hopes for 2022 that we will be able to once again have community gatherings for education about Firewise practices and projects around the community that will benefit us all. I plan to organize volunteers to maintain a good safe zone around our Post Office and Library by keeping the grasses and leaf debris cleaned up. It not only makes the area safer, it presents a nicer image for visitors to our downtown area. Anyone interested in donating a few hours throughout the year to help with this project, please let me know. Our abundant rain during the monsoon has left a lot of tall dry grass throughout the community and a predicted dry winter will only increase the combustibility of these fuels. We need to stay on top of this to remain safe.

Thank you all for your continued efforts to help us prevent wild fires.

For Firewise assessment or information, contact Debb or Bud Johnson 520-558-3266.





Before Helipad

Helipad Update: Pickleball Comes to Portal! – Victor Shawe, VP Portal Rescue

Rave reviews have come in from all users of the new Portal Rescue Helipad, completed early last year. Firefighters appreciate not having to water down a dusty landing zone as above. Helicopter crews are stoked with the clean, level platform, and both EMTs and patients love the smooth ride from Rescue 4 to the chopper.



Helipad Construction

Now comes the fun part! The PR Board has approved (judicious) use of the new platform as a pickleball court. But what is pickleball? It's something like tennis and involves four players (usually), paddles, and a plastic wiffle ball.

(Many youtube videos, are available online, e.g., www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLWj2LXechU.) Given the smaller court and type of equipment, the game doesn't require as much running as tennis does, and it's easier on our (mostly) aging bodies.

Members of the Portal Pickleball Club (PPBC) have painted the requisite lines for a 20' x 44' court on the helipad. A portable net, paddles, and balls are stored next to the Fire Bay, allowing members to set up and play whenever they wish. The net takes just five minutes to set up and take down, and it must be removed after each use - or immediately, in event of a PR call.

Bob Downs and Rolf Koford have agreed to manage the court and equipment. We ask that all players sign a Release to limit Portal Rescue's legal exposure. Releases will be available at the Saturday clinics and from Bob and Rolf.

You can become a member of the Portal Pickleball

Club by making a contribution. The money raised will go toward reimbursing Victor Shawe and Bob Downs for the cost of equipment and paint. Play is limited to PPBC members who have signed a Release.



Completed Portal Pickleball Court (and Helipad)!

Official Pickleball Rulebook:

<https://usapickleball.org/what-is-pickleball/ifp-official-rules/>

Players may wish to play by special Portal rules. One that seems reasonable is that a server has to keep just one foot behind the baseline. This rule modification would allow both feet to be on concrete rather than one being on gravel.

Anyone wanting to join the PPBC, desiring more information, or wishing to make a monetary donation to this community endeavor, please contact:

Bob Downs President of PPBC at 558-1080

Rolf Koford Vice President of PPBC at 558-0038

The court is now up and running, so donate, come to one of the clinics and get started playing Pickleball!



Medical Helicopter Memberships

(reproduced from 2020 newsletter)

AirMedCare Network:

Nancy E. J. Tucker 928-294-9023

Nancy.Tucker@GMR.net

PhiCare:

<https://phicare.com/plans/>

or 1-888-435-9744



November 2021 Training w firefighters and EMTs on wildland and outdoor patient extraction/transport exercise. David Newton, Alina Downer, Michelle Lanan and Andrew Waser as the patient.

The “Backbone” of Portal Rescue

Carolyn Nordstrom

It’s 3am. The siren breaks into our dreams. There’s a patient with a medical emergency. It’s not just the EMTs getting up. Portal Rescue can’t exist without some other crucial people.

That night Bonnie Bowen volunteered as Radio Communications Officer, arriving at Portal Rescue’s radio room before the ambulance left the bay. This is the night I realized Bonnie could do anything. Portal EMTs were on scene radioing Bonnie the patient needed to be flown to a Level One Medical Center, and now. She had to be in contact the Medical Air Service and the Douglas Fire Department ambulance (dispatched to help), as well as stay in radio contact with us. My favorite image of Bonnie is from that night: talking more or less simultaneously on a radio in one hand, a phone in the other (with the Air Service), and a third (with Douglas) tucked under her chin, she ran out in the pitch black to clear a space and set up lights for the helicopter landing zone. She didn’t miss a beat. The patient, the helicopter, and Douglas paramedics all arrived in perfect synch.

Most calls aren’t that dramatic for the radio operator, thank goodness. But whether the 911 call is easily solved or serious, there is no proper Portal Rescue without our radio communications operators. We equally owe a debt of gratitude to Susan Apitz, Dinah Davidson, Bill Wilber, and Linda Wadsworth.

Pre-Dawn, this time on a cold wintry day. The call was a serious trauma patient needing to be flown ASAP. The patient was over a half hour drive from Portal Rescue, well down a dirt road, pretty much near nothing. The two EMTs on this call didn’t have time for much

other than patient care, and we didn’t want to take the time to transport the patient to Portal Rescue to meet the helicopter. I remember the feeling of relief (and I’ll admit some amazement) when I was told David Newton, Rolf Koford and Lee Dyal set up a helicopter landing zone in the field right next to us (what’d they do with the cows I wondered?) This is not a rare occurrence: Portal Rescue’s firefighters have landed helicopters on highways and back trails, hilltops and front yards, for our patients—always successfully.

From the Benos

Rick and Vicki Beno would like to thank our neighbors in Portal and the surrounding area for all the "get well wishes" for Vicki.

On Feb 1st last year in the middle of the night Vicki took a bad fall and broke off the ball attached to the humerus bone in her right shoulder. She was attended by Portal Rescue who took excellent care of her until she was transported to the Douglas ambulance and taken to Copper Queen medical emergency department. X-rays showed a completely detached ball so Vicki was flown by helicopter to St. Joseph's hospital in Tucson. which two days later resulted in a half shoulder replacement.

Vicki's experience made her grateful for Portal Rescue's great EMT team, the emergency department in Douglas, and St Joseph's hospital in Tucson. After a week, she was able to come home with Rick as her primary care giver. Vicki teases Rick, saying he's replaced eight people in the hospital!

Vicki is doing physical therapy at Copper Queen medical complex in Douglas. The healing process is well underway with an optimistic outlook for a complete recovery. Thanks again for your concern.



Rick and Vicky Beno donated these jackets to PR EMTs — a big deal as we didn’t have any. Left to right Alina Downer, Carolyn Nordstrom, Michele Lanan, and Barbara Roth.

The “Heart” of Portal Rescue

Carolyn Nordstrom

The next time you see Alina Downer or Michelle Lanan give them a big thank you. You can sleep and play, and do those risky house repairs - everything that makes life fun – knowing they have your back.

Michelle and Alina joined Portal Rescue as EMTs (and Alina as a firefighter as well) early in 2021. They have been exceptional in so many ways. Perhaps the best way to introduce them is to invite you to see them through my eyes, on calls:

- There is no soft introduction to EMS work, you hit the ground running. Alina and Michelle have seen blood, bone, pain, death, and cheerful success. But the thing that most impresses me is the respect and care with which they treat everyone. They treat the wound or illness, and they see the person.

- They are fearless (they probably have our role model in fearlessness, Barbara Roth, to thank). I have seen them run into scenarios where angels fear to tread, smiling while calming all present and providing excellent care. They can get anyone out of anywhere and carry them to the ambulance if need be.

- Michelle and Alina fix a lot more than patients' problems: our loyal ambulance is feeling its years, and EMTs can be hard on life-saving equipment. They, with the invaluable help of firefighters Andrew Waser and David Newton, have “healed” our mechanical patients as well as our human ones.

- They are kind. One late night, the car of a patient's relative went dead. After seeing the patient off to the hospital they wouldn't leave without jumpstarting the dead car and seeing the relative safely off. I've seen them help feed, clean, dress, find and pack belongings for patients, and make sure pets are taken care of.

- People relax in their care, because they are trusted.

- And those of us fortunate enough to work with Michelle and Alina relax because we know they have our backs.

Red Cross Blood Donation Drives

Friday, March 18

Friday, May 13

Friday, Aug 19

Thursday, Nov 10

Where: Portal Rescue classroom.

Contact Jackie Lewis at 520-558-2287 or winjac12@vtc.net if you would like more information or to schedule.

Treasurer's Report

Alice Wakefield

Below is the 2021 financial report as of 1/1/2022, rounded to the nearest dollar.

INCOME

Category	Budgeted	Actual
Donations	30,000	37,620
Fire Income	0	3,716
Fundraising	0	0
Grants	600	430
Interest	2800	603
Misc. Income	0	233
Rent	0	0
Rainy Day Draw*	0	0
Totals	33,400	42,602

* Rainy Day Draw is the amount needed to balance the income budget with the expense budget. We did not need to draw from our secondary account.

EXPENSES

Category	Budgeted	Actual
Chief's Meetings	300	0
Dues	150	100
EMS Supplies and Equip	5,000	2,902
EMS Training	10,000	3,028
Fire Pay	0	0
Fire Supplies & Equip	2,500	1,513
Fire Training	1,000	603
Fundraising Exp	0	174
Insurance	11,000	11,249
Legal	500	158
Misc. Expenses	500	207
Office Expense	1,300	614
Radio Ops	1,000	577
Structure Maint	2,000	217
Utilities	4,000	3,299
Vehicle Ops	4,000	5,365
Helipad	8,000	9,343
Totals	51,250	39,349

We are \$11,901 under projected budget expenses and \$9,202 over projected income. Thanks to all who donated so generously!

We expect a loss of revenue in 2022, since the “Soup's On” Fundraiser, if we have it, will be different than past years. We expect to see increased costs in insurance and vehicle ops. Fire and EMT training expenses will likely not increase in 2022. The new helipad construction was completed in 2021.

2021 Donor List

DONOR:

Irene Kitzman & Robert Sandine
Philip & Barbara Deegan
Mr. & Mrs. Hank Dozier
John & Karen Allen
Frances & Peter Grill
Melinda Spina & Mariano Novoa
Melvin & Rebecca Moe
Steve Wolfe
Delane Blondeau for Vicki Freitas

FRIEND:

Phil Hedrick & Catherine Gorman
Steve & Becky Connor
Dianne & Daniel Beaff
George & Lynne May
Jon Huston
Pi Irwin & Zsombor Zoltan
Barry & Nancy Roth
Ali Morse
Denise Webb
Harry & Joanne Yeomans
Nick Waser & Mary Price
Wayne Harrison & Karen Hendricks
David & Barbara Schurian
Harry & Paula Ridgway
Richard & Mary Winkler
Kim Vacariu & Lorraine Titus
Yvonne Bradley
Josie & Edward Rivera
Bud & Debb Johnson
M & RA Opinsky
Terry & Jane Hanner
Network for Good
Carol Frischmann
Edward & Patricia Encinas
Kevin Hansen & Mary Ellen Johnson
Kevin Suter
Richard & Marjorie Schreiber
Teri Denson
Karen Walz & Terry Morgan
Vicki Freitas
Carolyn Cazier

PATRON:

Robert & Ruth Hucks
Jeanne Williams
Darlene & Michael Churchman
Linda Pretty
Howard Topoff & Carol Simon
Fritz & Gayle Jandrey
Kevin & Margaret Shea
Adam & Tracy Clayson
David & Janis Labiner
Elisa Lewis & Christopher
Cunningham
Christina & Dennis Hanisch
Delane Blondeau
Patricia Parran
Ray & Joy Mendez
Rose Ann Rowlett & Rick Webster
Erika Wilson
Frank Coppel & Jackie Shulters
Jeff & Alice Wakefield
Barbara Phillips
Guy Bonnivier
Rick & Cleo Chamberlain
Penni Parrish
Ron & Barbara Quinn
Walter Schoepfle
Deborah Herczog
Anne Hinnendael
Joanne Lyons
Barbara Bickel
Rhonda Votino & Michael Boley
Roy & Ying Gravel
Joseph & Anne Morris
Carolyn Nordstrom

SPONSOR:

David & Nina Mae Churchill
Anne Beeghly
John Roser & Carol Comeau
Michael & Kathleen Patton
Chas & Mary George
Ace & Heathy Walker
Olive Montgomery
Harold & Nancy Farmer
Robert Zoellick & Sherry Ferguson
Susan Coleman & Randy Simkin
Rick & Vicki Beno
Al Bamman & Elaine Moisan
Vaughn Camacho & Marjorie
Murphey
Drew & Linda Griner
Bonnie Bowen & Rolf Koford
Bill & Jill Cavaliere
Robert Johnson

BENEFACTOR:

Maya Decker
Ann & Edward Davis
Antonio & Jane Celaya
Barney Tomberlin
Bob & Marsha Rodriguez
Bruce & Leslie Weertman
Dinah Davidson
Elly van Gelderen
Eskild Peterson & Susan Dalby
Frances Zweifel
Jeremy & Jennifer Towne
John & Sara Stumbo
Linda Wadsworth & Bob Downs
Nicholas Paizis
Peter & Mary Waser
Reed Peters
Robert & Carolyn Dearing
The Ringtail Fund

STEWARD:

Tom & Linda Arny
Jon & Mary Lacey
Sew What Club
Cecilia Hessler
Edward Jones Investments
Pat & Fred Espenak

Thank you to the many people who helped with maintenance, upgrade projects, cleaning, and grounds work at the Portal Rescue Station.



Portal Rescue is a 501c3 organization and your donations may be tax deductible. Please consult with your tax professional. Your donations provide much of the income we receive. Thank you for your generosity and keeping Portal Rescue funded.



**Portal Rescue
P.O. Box 16331
Portal, AZ 85632**

Yes, I want to help support Portal Rescue

Here's my tax-deductable* donation of:

*Please consult your tax advisor.

< \$80	\$80	\$150	\$300	\$500	\$1500
Donor	Friend	Patron	Sponsor	Benefactor	Steward

Please make checks payable to ***PORTAL RESCUE, Inc.***

Mail to: ***Portal Rescue Inc, P.O. Box 16331 Portal, AZ 85632***

Name: _____

I wish to remain anonymous. (Please circle: Yes or No)

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email Address: _____
(for meetings and announcements<)