

PORTAL RESCUE NEWS

January 2023

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

Yet another year has flown by with incredible contributions by our residents in support of Portal Rescue and Portal Rescue volunteers in support of our residents.

Between Covid and the increasingly restrictive changes in USDA regulations in both AZ and NM, Portal Rescue's ability to hold our annual "Soups On" fundraiser has been curtailed and appears to have come to an end. The community has recognized this and stepped up their donations via our donation drive. This change in donation pattern is recognized and greatly appreciated by Portal Rescue.

The Portal Rescue Board is evaluating fund raising options as an alternative to Soup's On, that would still provide opportunities for engagement between Portal Rescue volunteers and the community at large. Such events require organizing and planning by many individuals. Our board members are wearing many hats already, both within Portal Rescue and the broader community and are reaching burn out. So if you see a request for volunteers, and it is something you can do, please respond.

In addition to community members needed for Portal Rescue committees, we have some volunteers that have supported Portal Rescue for years who are stepping down and we need others from the community to fill those roles. Pat and Fred Espenak have been producing this newsletter on behalf of Portal Rescue for several years now. They are ready to pass the torch but are willing to help make a smooth transition. We thank them for their generous contribution of time and skills in the production of our newsletter. We are hopeful new community members will step forward to continue the tradition of producing Portal Rescue's annual newsletter. It's a great way to get involved.

The Portal Rescue Board is composed of a mix of

community members, Portal Rescue EMTs and Firefighters. After many years of service, Dinah Davidson is stepping down from the board as a community representative. We thank her for her contributions as a board member in general and as secretary in recent years. We will need someone from the community to fill Dinah's position at Portal Rescue's Annual Board meeting in March.

In closing, I'd also like to thank my fellow board members for their support, guidance, and gentle reminders when they are far too often needed. I must say that it has been a pleasure participating on the Portal Rescue Board because it has been an environment of respectful and constructive communication and interactions. I look forward to that spirit of cooperation continuing in 2023 with upcoming changes in board membership and roles. Please reach out to Portal Rescue personnel of your choosing to communicate your willingness to volunteer.

Thank you.

Portal Rescue Board of Directors

Cary Booth – President
Victor Shawe – Vice President
Dinah Davidson - Secretary
Alice Wakefield - Treasurer
David Newton - Fire Chief
Jackie Lewis - EMS Chief
Alina Downer - Member at Large

Newsletter compiled and edited
by Patricia Espenak with
assistance from Jackie Lewis,
and IT & page layout support
by Fred Espenak — Printed and
folded by Staples, Prescott, AZ

2023 Fire Chief's Report — *David Newton*

With respect to fire calls, 2022 was an average year for Portal Rescue. There were no vehicle or structure fires and just 18 days of Red Flag weather conditions. We had only lightning starts this year and both occurred in July. On the 10th we got an evening call to investigate a start down by MP 394. It had rained heavily, so the fire was creeping and there was no nearby property. We reported this to State Forestry Dispatch and handed the fire off to them when they arrived. They mopped it up the next day.

The second lightning start was on the 22nd, minutes prior to a heavy downpour. The strike was 75 feet from a residence and the fire was moving fast in the dry fuel and erratic outflow winds. But the rain knocked it down, so the owner and a friend could stop its progress, and we helped them check the perimeter and mop it up.

In 2021 we added a second monthly training opportunity on the first Wednesday. The evening meeting allows us to escape some heat during the summer and train in the dark in the winter. This year we converted that training to an "All Responders" format, where EMTs, Firefighters, and Radio Operators could train together, more like we do during actual medical or fire incidents.

Local training: Wildland refresher, shorthanded operations, surround and drown, foam use, helicopter landing zone operations from Lifeline, vehicle winching, communications drills, hazmat awareness, Roadside Incident and Traffic Management, driving practice, pump and roll, progressive hose lay, backpack pumps.

Outside training: We had one firefighter complete their Basic Wildland training and one person completed a two-day video-conference course from the National Fire Academy titled "Fire Investigation: First Responders".

Thank you all for your support.

Fire Fighter Roster

Eric Desfachelles	Victor Shawe
Alina Downer	Lance Shultis
Lee Dyal	Aaron Smith
Henry Essary	Andrew Waser
Jeff Gee	Brian Whitehorn
Rolf Koford	(joined Dec 2023)
David Newton – Chief	John Yerger
Larry Rivers	

Portal Rescue as a Scrappy but Powerful Organization – *Dinah Davidson*

During recent years, I have been privileged to witness some especially notable achievements and investments in the future of our organization. In 2021, Vice President (and informal "engineer") Victor Shawe and a volunteer crew oversaw and constructed a new helipad, which has greatly enhanced the safety of air evacuations from Portal Rescue.

Our most experienced EMTs – Jackie Lewis, Carolyn Nordstrom and Barbara Roth – have been key to recruiting, training, and energizing a new generation of excellent young EMTs (Alina Downer, Matthew Downer and Michele Lanan). The new acquisition of a second rescue vehicle (Rescue 233) will help meet the needs of our rapidly growing community. Firefighters Victor Shawe, Aaron Smith, Lee Dyal, Rolf Koford, David Newton and Andrew Waser have joined EMTs for lift assists and at helicopter landings. Mentored by talented and dedicated Radio Operator Bonnie Bowen, new and continuing ROs Marilyn Forestell and Linda Wadsworth, have stepped forward to handle more calls and do so very professionally. Treasurer Alice Wakefield has volunteered to conserve precious resources by handling our taxes in addition to day-to-day accounting.

President Cary Booth has provided both superb people-managing skills and efficiency in running meetings with (as commented by a local resident) "FAR above the usual ratio of tasks accomplished per hour of meeting". Cary also oversaw legal and organizational aspects of PR's contract with CCHCI, which now provides a Wednesday medical clinic at our station. Assisted by Alina, he recently recreated important documents in electronic form, scanning and uploading them in editable form to our Portal Rescue shared Google Drive. Cary's efforts will facilitate document updates to keep records current, and storage in a cloud service will help avoid data loss. He also replaced overhead lights in the EMS bay with new lights that he donated.

PORTAL RESCUE
Chili Dinner
& Raffle



Sunday, March 19
4-6pm NM (3-5pm AZ)
Rodeo Community Center

\$10 for 2 bowls of Chili, 2 breads, 1 dessert & beverage

- Bread and dessert donations and volunteer workers are being scheduled by Penni Parrish. 520-345-0846
- Donations of funds for chili ingredients will be collected by Donna Meenach. 575-557-1400



EMS Report — Jackie Lewis

It was busy year in 2022 for Portal Rescue EMTs. It was easier to count the number of calls that Alina Downer had NOT been on. She went on 42 of 52 calls. Michele Lanan was on 30, Carolyn Nordstrom on 23, Matthew Downer on 11 (he joined in September) Barbara Roth on 10 and Jackie Lewis on 6. The majority of calls were at the furthest reaches of our coverage area. Unfortunately, it takes Jackie more than 15-20 minutes to get down the mountain, so she doesn't even attempt to get to some.

New Mexico certified EMT Carolyn went on 4 calls and was stand-by EMT for 2 football games in NM, and EMT Barbara went on 4 calls in NM.

Portal Rescue's highly motivated team members attended training at the station, a trauma conference in Tucson and several conferences in New Mexico. We then shared new information and skills with members who were not able to attend. Teaching others cements the learned information and skills making each person a stronger EMT. Most are also keeping their national certification requirements up to date.

Our base hospital, Tucson Medical Center (TMC), set up an IV therapy class so we again have EMTs who can start IVs in the field. Other advance skills approved by TMC include the I-gel (a supraglottic airway that allows us to help a non-responsive patient to breathe), epinephrine dosing for severe allergic reactions, albuterol inhalation therapy and administration of NARCAN to patients who have overdosed. We are also allowed to set up a 12-lead cardiac monitor and are able to relay recorded data to the paramedics when we transfer patient care to them.

ET Collinworth retired this year after being a member of Portal Rescue for 30 years— an amazing length of service to our community. He was often away as a wildland EMT during fire season but went on calls

when he could. He also assisted with several skills training sessions with new EMTs. We thank him for his many years of service.

We welcome Matthew Downer as our newest EMT. Matthew became an EMT because he had been involved in several wilderness medical emergencies and wanted to be able to help people and give back to the community. He will be here part time. He has an enthusiastic interest in Portal Rescue and an aptitude for patient evaluations and treatments. Matthew likes to take things apart to see how they work and has been able to fix several pieces of equipment. You have the opportunity at the farmer's market to tell Matthew and Alina how much you appreciate their service.

There are many times that our Fire Fighters assist EMTs on calls. They have made themselves available to drive the rescue vehicle, help lift patients, and set up landing zones. They have been “go-fors” in training and on calls, and even “patients” during training. We cannot appreciate their willingness to assist enough!

Portal Rescue is only viable because of dedicated volunteers. We need EMTs, fire fighters, but also radio operators and board members. We welcome members on a fundraising committee, someone to help with building and grounds maintenance, a new donation drive coordinator, someone to help with vehicle maintenance, and the newsletter. We will also need people who are willing to make phone calls to residents in case of a fire. If you can help in ANY way, please contact a member of Portal Rescue. The rosters are posted in this newsletter.

EMS Calls

Portal Rescue EMTs have responded to 55 Arizona calls. This is double the number of recent years.

Breakdown of patient transports:

- 36 patients transferred to Douglas Fire medics.
- 7 were transferred to helicopter medics.
- 8 patients refused transport
- 3 calls had no patient for Portal Rescue EMTs
- 1 call with 4 patients transferred to Border Patrol

EMT ROSTER

ET Collinworth (retired 8/22)	Jackie Lewis
Alina Downer	Carolyn Nordstrom
Matthew Downer	Barbara Roth
Michele Lanan	John Yerger

RADIO OPERATORS

Susanne Apitz	Jackie Lewis
Bonnie Bowen	David Newton
Dinah Davidson	Linda Wadsworth
Marilyn Forestell	Bill Wilbur

Baptism by Fire – A Very Complex Call

by Marilyn Forestell

Soon after moving to Portal, I learned that Portal Rescue (PR) needed volunteers—firefighters, EMTs and radio operators (ROs). The radio job seemed like a good fit for me; something important I could do for my new community.

I was hoping for the opportunity to take a call by myself. On 23 November I got that opportunity and was “baptized by fire”! When a radio transmission came in and the phone rang, to whom should I give priority? When the helicopter was about to land and a call came in, what should I be doing?

During the past year, I’ve been trained by Bonnie Bowen, the lead RO and Fire Chief David Newton. I’ve been taught radio protocol and learned the diversity of agencies summoned for different needs, the importance of firefighter support and of logging every single transmission together with its time.

In any PR call, an RO is needed to communicate among all the parties in our area. PR responds to 911 calls from the Douglas 911 Dispatch Center, Douglas Fire department or SEACOM in Sierra Vista. The Douglas ambulance is dispatched immediately after receiving a 911 call. The PR RO tracks their travel toward us. As many as 6-8 PR personnel may respond to an initial call and PR decides who will report to the Station and to the incident location.

On Wednesday, November 23, PR received a call about an injured hiker 1.7 miles up the South Fork Trail. All other ROs were out of town. This would be my first solo call. I arrived at the station just as the rescue vehicle was leaving, and I heard its departing announcement on my hand-held radio:

EMTs: “Portal Rescue Communications, Rescue 4 (R4) is leaving the station with Downer, Downer and Lanan.”

Me: “Copy R4, you are leaving the station at 3:07”.

As I entered the station’s radio office, I immediately heard another transmission. My baptism-by-fire had begun! At 3:08pm, I learned that 4-5 Cochise County Search and Rescue (CCSAR) vehicles had been dispatched from Wilcox, Sierra Vista, and Bisbee, and that the Douglas ambulance was on its way. A flurry of phone calls and radio transmissions from up and down the canyon followed. I phoned firefighters for support and Cochise County Sheriff’s office to monitor the progress of CCSAR teams. PR volunteers radioed more information and directions. No one knew the patient’s condition, though we had heard a woman hiker had slipped in cold creek water and possibly broken an ankle.

This call now involved more than 20 rescue personnel! My heart raced with the immediacy of those moments. There were many factors to consider. Many injuries can result in shock, or the patient might also be suffering from hypothermia, which can affect heart rate, blood pressure, and respiration. Safety of rescue personnel was also a concern. How could a patient be safely extracted from the canyon with night quickly falling?

At 3:15pm the first PR EMT was on her way up the trail. She arrived at the incident scene at 3:54pm. Six other PR EMTs and firefighters were enroute. At 4:15pm the Douglas ambulance arrived. The need for blankets and water to support the effort was radioed out. EMS Chief Jackie Lewis stayed at the trailhead to relay radio messages between the incident scene and CCSAR personnel to me at PR communications.

At 4:25pm, the CCSAR teams began arriving at the incident scene and at 4:35pm the CCSAR lead let us know that a helicopter was on the way to hoist the patient out of the Canyon. I relayed patient vitals and directions while logging each transmission and time.

At 5:20pm, the helicopter landed at the PR station to reconfigure equipment. Two of the CCSAR vehicles came down from the trailhead to the station to aid the landing. The helicopter crew needed to know what kind of “suit” would work best for the patient:

Me: “R4 this is Portal Rescue Communications do you copy?”

Lewis: “Portal Rescue Communications, go ahead”.

Me: “R-4 the helicopter wants to know which suit would work best for the patient - the Avid or the Boman?”

Lewis: “Negative transmission, please repeat”

Me: “Which suit to hoist the patient out of the canyon, the Avid: Alpha, Victor, India, Delta or the Boman: Beta, Oscar, Michael, Alpha.... ummm November?”

After R4 transmitted the question to the CCSAR lead, I got the response and, at 5:35pm, the helicopter prepared the Avid suit and took off.

At 5:59pm, the helicopter left the scene with the patient and the 17 responders returned safely to their vehicles. At 6:05pm I received the “stand down” order - meaning I could go home.

At the end of the call, I felt pretty darn good. I juggled, shuffled, and stumbled, but when it was all over, all my training had paid off, and I played a vital role in helping rescue the patient.

My biggest takeaway: every 911 emergency call from our area gets a committed response from a team of professionals, sometimes including other agencies and helicopter companies. Everyone works together to assure the safety of the patient and one another. The effort, care, and concern for safety made me very proud to be a part of the Portal Rescue team.

Participants:

Marilyn Forestell
Alina Downer
Matthew Downer
Michele Lanan

Victor Shawe
Aaron Smith
Carolyn Nordstrom
Jackie Lewis

plus: 1 patient, 3 hikers, 2 DFD, 10 CCSAR personnel (6 hiked in) and AZDPS helicopter with team



Firewise: Before and After

Firewise Again!

Debb Johnson - Firewise Chairperson, retired :)

It's been a quiet fire year in the Portal area with lots of rain, which meant low fire danger. The downside is the overgrowth of tall grasses and brush that thrived with all that rain. Now is the time to start working on safety zones around your homes and outbuildings because all that stuff is drying out and is fuel for fires in the coming months.

Once again, we've been re-certified as a Firewise Community with well over the required work and expenses from community members. Our neighbors are keeping up with the task to make our homes and properties safer.

The requirements this year for community activities and education opportunities were met. We had a very successful Wildfire Preparedness Day, the first Saturday in May. Our project with nine volunteers, worked to limb up mesquite and junipers in the area across the circle from the post office, along the creek. There was a short trail that led from the road to the creek and we used weed eaters and saws to mow the tall grass and thin out the mesquite. We extended the trail under two large Juniper trees and limbed up the branches so a person could walk under them comfortably.

I secured a \$500 award sponsored by State Farm Insurance and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and hired Larry Rivers' trailer to haul away the trimmings and brush. With the area cleared, I asked Rick Beno to build a bench to place in the park-like setting under the Juniper trees for a quiet place for neighbors and visitors to sit and enjoy the sound of the creek and birds in the area. The award paid for the materials to build a nice 6-foot bench, set in cement.

Rick volunteered his time and talent to construct the bench and cut a message in the back "Be and Stay Firewise". Bud and I helped with the installation and the bench has been getting quite a bit of use. Check it out! Of course, the monsoon rains caused the path to be overgrown again, but that will be maintained to ensure access to the bench is easy. Anyone who feels ambitious and wants to maintain that area, please let Dinah Davidson know.

I had an education table at the Friends of Cave Creek Canyon Garden Party in May and was able to inform some new neighbors of the benefits of Firewise Practice

to protect their homes and properties. I planned another table at the Heritage Days event, but had to cancel that engagement because of Covid, the virus that keeps on giving.

Packets of Firewise information are available to new residents by the Welcome Wagon, so if you know someone new to the area who may want this information, please contact Mary Lacey at jonmarylacey@gmail.com

After serving as chairperson since our initial efforts in 2018 to become a Firewise Community, I have completed this year's education events and have resigned as Chairperson of the Firewise Committee. Dinah Davidson has volunteered to take over that responsibility and completed this year's re-certification application in November. Please continue to keep track of your hours and monies spent to keep your property Firewise. We must apply for re-certification annually in November. Everyone who makes their own property safer, makes the community safer. If you are interested in a Firewise Assessment of your property, call Lee Dyal 520-558-0010.

Information is available online. Please watch these YouTube videos for Firewise Education.

<https://youtu.be/p0iR8o54hDU>

https://youtu.be/vL_syp1ZScM

<https://youtu.be/IvbNOPSyys>

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to keep our community safe from wildfires.



Rick Beno volunteered his time and talent to construct the new Firewise Bench.

*Drop off crushed aluminum beverage cans beside the Post Office for Portal Rescue fundraiser recycling
– Thank you, Linda Pretty!*



Everyone gets informed about the basics of helicopter transport.

Helicopter Training April 23, 2022

by Pat Espenak

Lifeline flew in a helicopter and crew to give more training to our wonderful EMTs and Firefighters.

Safety issues around helicopter transport were reviewed, particularly how dangerous the tail rotor can be. Then the pilot started his part and asked everyone what the most dangerous part of a helicopter is and, of course, someone said the tail rotor. But he said “No, the most dangerous part of the helicopter is the whole thing!” Lesson learned!

Other transport and patient assessment procedures were reviewed, and a good and informative time was had by all.

As editor it gave me even more insight into just one of the many things that our EMTs and Firefighters do, that are mostly unknown to the rest of us and I enjoyed being a “patient” without having to suffer any serious consequences!



Basic safety issues concerning the area around the helicopter.



Your “newly retired editor” experiences how a patient is handled.

From the “Newly Retired Editor”

– Pat Espenak

IT’S NOW PAST TIME! ;-)

Yes folks, I have been doing this newsletter for a dozen years or so (I can’t believe it either!) and it’s time for some fresh eyes. Also, I am now even closer to the big 8-0 than when I sent out this appeal last year! But now I really mean it! Fred and I are up for helping anyone take up this task and make the transition as smooth as possible.

While you would need to collect news all year long, that is a pleasant way to interact with our dedicated volunteers. Other than that, it is a short term, intensive commitment in January. Putting out the newsletter is a great way to appreciate how much goes on in our community that is invisible to most of us!

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

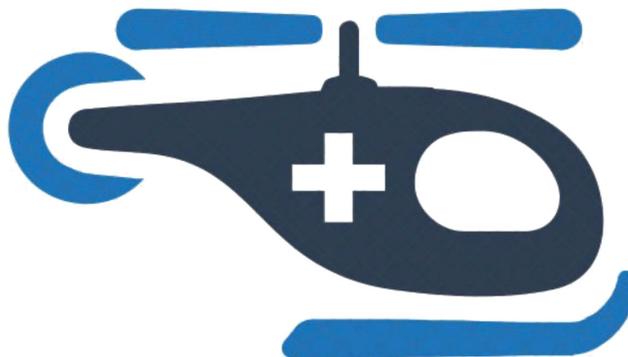
Medical Helicopter Transport Memberships

(Portal Rescue recommends memberships in BOTH companies as we cannot specify which will transport during an emergency. Private insurance Medicare may or may not cover the entire transport bill. Your membership will ensure that you have a zero balance for the flight.)

PRICING HAS CHANGED – Please Contact the Companies Directly For Information

1) AirMedCare Network
(LifeLine/Air Evac)
Airmedcarenetwork.com/apply
Nancy Tucker – 928-294-9023

2) PHICare
Phicares.com/az
888-435-9744



EMS Chief Retiring

Jackie Lewis has served Portal Rescue for 22 years as an EMT, 9 years as EMS Chief, and 16 years on the Board – several years acting as an officer (President, Vice-President or Treasurer) concurrently with her duties as Chief. As EMS chief, she ensured compliance with Tucson Medical Center’s directives by filing monthly and quarterly reports, overseeing budgeting and purchase of EMS supplies, searching out and ordering needed equipment and training new EMTs. Jackie coordinated the transfer of a “new” Rescue vehicle (233) with David Whipple from Hidalgo County EMS, New Mexico to Portal, Arizona. Always budget conscious, Jackie located a new power cot and a refurbished 12-lead heart monitor that will not break the bank. She also catered the annual Cochise County Emergency Chief’s meeting and organized the first annual Portal Rescue BBQ. Jackie is retiring as EMS Chief in March 2022 but will stay on as an EMT.



Our Versatile and Hard-Working Fire Chief David Newton

Fire Chief David Newton has been with Portal Rescue since 2006. As Chief his most important responsibility is seeing that the department's responders can safely meet their objectives. This is accomplished with equipment and training. Most important is training and, to that end, David added a new monthly training opportunity for all responders. Initiated in late 2022, these training sessions are designed to enable firefighters, EMTs, and radio operators to work effectively as a team. Outside of that primary duty, David investigated and recommended an approach (LOSAP) to rewarding and retaining our volunteers, and as in prior years, he helped to write grants. Two grants totaling (\$18,000) were awarded this year for new vehicle radios and replacement of wildland fire equipment and supplies. David currently serves as secretary of the Cochise County Fire Association. His participation in this group keeps Portal Rescue integrated with the many pieces of Cochise County's first responder community.

WE GET LETTERS!

I want to take this opportunity to share my first-hand experience with the Portal Rescue group on a recent emergency call. Calm demeanor, utmost respect for the patient, efficient moves with safety measures guiding their actions, smooth teamwork, medical and ethical professionalism, and expertise in evaluation and treatment of the person collapsed on the floor: subtle words to describe what I witnessed by these EMTs: Alina Downer, Carolyn Nordstrom, Matthew Downer, and David Newton. And, importantly, the swiftness with which the ambulance and a backup vehicle arrived; I was immensely impressed.

I came away from that scene feeling very confident that if I should ever need emergency services, this completely volunteer group of Portal citizens would render me the lifesaving assist I might need.

This community is so very fortunate to have such qualified individuals who give so freely of their time, energy, and commitment to provide all of us a safer environment in which to live. I am truly grateful!

Respectfully,
Marjorie Murphey-Camacho, Retired RN

BREAKING – *Mary Logue*

Once we start we never stop
breaking off pieces,
breaking someone’s heart,
a favorite cup used for years,

and when it happens—
that cleavage, that snap,
a tiny ping sounds
in our body, a small fissure

and we learn all over again
that all things break.
But when they do—say an ankle cracks—
there can come heroes out of the clouds

to pull you up into the sky
and bring you someplace
safe where they will
repair what has been

broken, with their hands,
their heads and their hearts.
When the broken is mended
There will always be a thin line

showing the place
where help came.
It holds its own beauty.

**Community
Phone Book
2022**

Portal, AZ

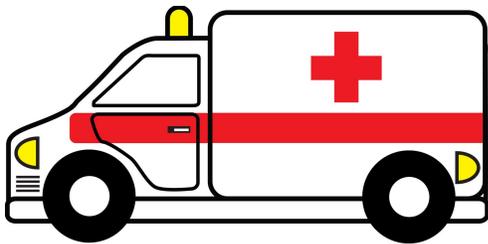


Rodeo, NM

**Portal Rescue
Emergency Phone Number:
(for emergencies only) **911****

Get Your New Portal-Rodeo Community Phone Book

The 2022 edition of the Portal-Rodeo Community Phone book is now available. It contains phone numbers of individuals, businesses, and community resources in our area. Cell phone numbers, as well as local landlines are now included. Phone books are \$15.00 each and are available at the Portal Peak Lodge and Store, Rodeo Grocery, Myrtle Kraft Portal Library, and at special sales events throughout the spring. Contact prphonebook@gmail.com to arrange to purchase a copy. Advertisements placed by local businesses provided funds for production. All proceeds from sales benefit Portal Rescue. Get your Phone book today.



New Rescue Vehicle 233

A huge shout out to Hidalgo County Emergency Services David Whipple and Animas EMS Chief Jared Fralgie for their donation of a rescue vehicle to Portal Rescue. The decommissioned Playas Ambulance is being stocked and equipped with medical equipment, cot, patient evaluation materials, and all other necessary items for our EMTs to take care of patient needs on a call. New lettering will be applied identifying the vehicle. Chief Newton has spent many hours making sure that the vehicle is ready for the road. We hope to christen it soon in a public ceremony.

January 12th, 2022: Happy 35th Birthday Portal Rescue!!!

Portal Rescue is the heart of Portal village – our town’s only essential organization, populated by the most hard-working, dedicated, and professional volunteers. It takes pride in being a small, scrappy, and powerful organization, allowing us to live more safely at our remote locations. If this description appeals to you, consider joining us as volunteers in some capacity, and in helping us provide a safer future for all.

To enable community members to recognize, get to know, and thank our active members, Portal Rescue will post flyers (with member pictures and contributions) at post offices and cafes in the area. Initial flyers will feature Fire Chief David Newton and EMS Chief Jackie Lewis.



Chiricahua Community Health Centers, Inc. EVERY WEDNESDAY! 9:30am – 4:30pm

1. In March, Ana Gonzales (CCHCI board member and Director of Mobile Services), and Dr. Darlene Melk (pediatrician and Chief Medical Officer), gave us to a tour of the new, and very compact, mobile unit that will offer services on Wednesdays from a base at Portal Rescue station. The goal is to begin service by an internist and an NP by the end of April. PR facilities, including restrooms, would be used as a check-in and waiting area.
2. CCHCI can see anyone regardless of ability to pay; they accept all types of insurance (their main revenue source) but operate on a sliding scale for those who self-pay. Their goal is prevention, i.e., primary care that keeps patients out of hospitals, but they can also do acute care if needed. They bring vaccines and do labs on site. They will refer patients to specialists if the need for specialized care is not urgent.
3. Appointments will be scheduled each 30 min, though some same-day slots may be available. Patients can schedule by phone or self-schedule online (48 hrs in advance), or they may call 520-364-1429. Walk-ins welcome at 9:30 AM to ascertain availability that day. Details of CCHCI contact information will be provided later.

Portal Rescue & Red Cross Blood Drives

This year Portal Rescue was the proud recipient of the Betty Grenig longevity award for sponsoring 15 years of blood drives held at the Portal Rescue classroom. There are typically 5 drives scheduled throughout the year. Please join us for one of the next drives.

- Thursday 3/16/23
- Friday 5/12/23
- Thursday 9/14/23
- Thursday 11/16/23 (tentative)

Treasurer's Report

Alice Wakefield

Below is the 2022 financial report as of 1/1/2023, rounded to the nearest dollar.

INCOME

Category	Budgeted	Actual
Donations	30,000.00	48,130.00
Fundraising cans		414.50
Fundraising PB ads		2,800.00
Grants	600.00	657.00
Interest	300.00	890.45
Misc. Income		259.28
Rent		75.00
Rainy Day Draw*	25,650.00	
Total	56,550.00	53,226.23

* Rainy Day Draw is the amount needed to balance the income budget with the expense budget. We did not use any rainy-day funds as our actual expenses were less than our actual income.

EXPENSES

Category	Budgeted	Actual
Chief's meetings	300.00	140.23
Dues	150.00	280
EMS Supp & Equipment	5,000.00	4365.16
EMS Training	3,000.00	3543.8
Fire Supp & Equipment	4,500.00	5114.84
Fire Training	1,000.00	897.71
Fundraising Expenses	2,000.00	216.36
Insurance	13,000.00	10828
Legal	500.00	0
Misc. Expenses	100.00	901.17
Office Expenses	500.00	1154.8
Radio Ops	2,500.00	3021.71
Structure Maintenance	2,000.00	1653.52
Utilities	4,000.00	3526.19
Vehicle Ops	6,000.00	2764.13
Rescue 3 Buildout	12,000.00	9786.36
Total	56,550.00	48,193.98

\$6032 actual income over actual expenses.

\$8356 actual expenses under budgeted amount.

\$1300 in donations dedicated to the purchase of a heart monitor. That purchase was made in January 2023.

Chief Lewis was away during the budget making process in January 2021 and was unable to remind the Board that dues would be higher because of a bi-annual lab fee. The newsletter printing should be under office expense, but the funds were added to fundraising income, so it looks like we overspent in the office category and underspent in the fundraising category.

Most EMS training expenses were donated back to Portal Rescue.

Annual Meeting & Potluck



Portal Rescue Annual Meeting & Potluck

When: Saturday, March 11th for Potluck at Noon.
(The Annual Meeting will begin at 1pm)
Location: Portal Rescue classroom.

- Nominations and elections for board members.
- Year end reports.
- And the Christening of New Rescue Vehicle 233

Thanks to Donors and Other Contributors – See you at the Spring BBQ

We acknowledge here - with immense gratitude - our many donors, who in the environment of Covid and cancelled fundraisers, have responded so generously to our solicitations for support for all these projects. We do so much with a small budget but, without you, none of this would have been possible – not the helipad, new radios, or the LOSAP program, and not the cardiac monitor and power cot, nor external training opportunities. We hope you will join us again at the now annual spring BBQ (date to be announced) and take advantage of this event to both get to know us better and perhaps also volunteer in some capacity. As always, your donations to our 501 (c)(3) organization are vital and much appreciated.

2023 Donors to Portal Rescue

DONOR:

Sue Burkhardt
 Dan & Carole Doeppers
 Karen Fasimpaur
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**KEEP
CALM
AND
VOLUNTEER**



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organization and your
donations may be tax
deductible. Please work with
your accountant. Your
donations provide most of the
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receives. Thank you for your
dedication to keeping Portal
Rescue funded.**

Another Reminder:

Give the Gift of Life

**Blood
DRIVE**

Portal Rescue & Red Cross Blood Drives

This year Portal Rescue was the proud recipient of the Betty Grenig longevity award for sponsoring 15 years of blood drives held at the Portal Rescue classroom. There are typically 5 drives scheduled throughout the year. Please join us for one of the next drives.

- Thursday 3/16/23
- Friday 5/12/23
- Thursday 9/14/23
- Thursday 11/16/23 (tentative)

*“Volunteers are
not paid - not
because they are
worthless, but
because they are
priceless.”*