Artificial High Directional Workshop

UTAH-BASED, IN-DEPTH VORTEX TRAINING
Held each year in April. Check schedule!

Rock Exotica (Thompson Manufacturing Inc.) is pleased to host the annual Ropes That Rescue ARIZONA VORTEX Artificial High Directional Workshop taught by Senior RTR Instructor, Reed Thorne. Rock Exotica is where our course starts and you will love the tour that Rock Thompson himself gives to all the students! on the first Monday of the class. You must see this to believe it! All of these programs in Utah run between Monday and finish up on Sunday for logistical reasons.

REGISTRATION:
Registration should be made with Ropes That Rescue in Arizona by filling out an application found at their web site. Please carefully read the registration information found on that application. The email is info@ropesthesatrescue.com and the phone is (928) 282-7299.
UTAH LIAISON:
For more information on Utah lodging or venues, contact the Utah Liaison:
Ray Daniels (South Davis Metro Fire)
Email: rdaniels@sdmetrofire.org
Phone: (801) 809-2876

About the Artificial High Directional Workshop (AHDW):
Recognizing the need for advanced-level train-the-trainer instruction on the use of any "artificial high directional" (AHD), RTR is now offering the 7 day ARTIFICIAL HIGH DIRECTIONAL WORKSHOP suitable for fire emergency and rope access professionals. From Reed Thorne, the co-designer of the Arizona Vortex, this AHDW is meant to assist the rope rescue instructor with information relative to the use of manufactured high directionals. This program concentrates on constructed frames in general and is not intended to teach highlines, advanced pulley systems, or offsets (although some of these are touched upon). Physics, as it relates to high directionals, is covered in the AZV User Manual and several lectures. The AHDW is a hands-on workshop on the use and correct implementation of artificial high directionals (AHD) for industry and wilderness settings. The AHDW is also well suited for teaching rope access professionals the benefits of constructed frames in their work.

VORTEX HISTORY:
The AZ Vortex (or AZV) is so named from its development in the rugged highlands of northern Arizona’s Oak Creek Canyon through the rigging and rescue school, Ropes That Rescue. Reed Thorne, the school’s owner developed the AZV with the help of Rock Thompson at Rock Exotica, in Utah in early 2003. The AZV was created from years of trial and error and of having worked with crude but functional lashed wood frames at RTR. It represents the essence of at-the-edge frames which no standard tripod can match today. The ARIZONA VORTEX is manufactured from T-6 aluminum by Thompson Manufacturing Inc. (Rock Exotica) in Clearfield, Utah and is one of the most versatile and state of the art artificial high directional (AHD) available to rescue and rope access in industry. With training from Ropes That Rescue (the "Arizona" designer), you may use this frame in a variety of ways and in any number of environments from industry to wilderness. It is ideal for confined space rescue, mine rescue, cliff rescue and industrial rescue. It is also well suited to bridge inspectors, rope access, the construction trades and the movie industry.
ACCOMMODATION:
Bountiful, Utah is going to be a nice central location. The best hotel is the Comfort Inn and Suites in Woods Cross. (801) 298-3900 The rate for RTR students is discounted so be sure and mention South Davis Metro Fire Department and Ray Daniels. There is free breakfast and WiFi and the hotel is very close to restaurants, movie theaters, and downtown Salt Lake City. The rates are secure but you will need to book your own room. If you need assistance with reservations, call Ray.

Required Equipment:
Also, make sure you have the REQUIRED EQUIPMENT for this program! The AZTEK is a must for this training. Other items can be substituted. Contact Reed Thorne if you have any questions about equipment.

Preparation for this program: TRY TO DO THIS!
Knots, bends and hitches are an integral part of every RTR program. You simply cannot be a good rigger without knowing extensive knotcraft — Pure and simple. To assist you in the mastery of these knots PRIOR to class we have assembled videos of Reed and son, Keith Thorne tying each one on camera with the help of Sequoia, the green-cheeked conure.

Once you have registered for either program, you are invited to join our closed Facebook Page called “Arizona ART of Clean Rigging” for access to these videos. In this page (only open to past RTR alumni and current students) you will be able to watch all the knotcraft being performed. This will speed up the learning process during the classroom portion which will allow us to get to the field earlier. However, below is a short list of required knots….

Here is a list to get you started:

• Figure of eight on a bight
• Butterfly knot
• Double overhand stopper
• Double overhand noose
• Inside bowline with retrace
• Bowline with a bight
• Doubled long tail bowline
• Bowline on a bight
• Water knot in webbing
• Water bend in webbing
• Munter hitch
• Clove hitch
• Becket Bend
• Double becket bend

It is advised that you be familiar with some of the knots, bends and hitches we will be using in this workshop. It is always best to have some under your belt before arriving. Much of the workshop you are attending depends in large part on the roped and webbing connections YOU form! Don’t worry so much at this time about the somewhat exotic knots like the retraced double bowline but concentrate on the easier figure of eights and simple bowlines. We will be going over many many different knots which are somewhat useful for rigging. Be prepared to tie some new ones!