ROPES THAT RESCUE LTD.
1400 SHANGRI LA DRIVE
SEDONA, AZ USA 86336 (928) 282-7299

Jerome TWRW INFO Sheet

Tactical Wilderness Rescue Workshop

See RTR Open Schedule for Multiple Dates

RTR lead instructor Reed Thorne with visiting instructor from AHS Rescue (Phoenix, AZ), Dale Stewart

Why is this the Tactical Wilderness Rescue Workshop (TWRW) needed? And better yet, WHY Now? RTR's Reed Thorne explains:

"My rope rescue career began briskly in this vertical wonderland and I was made the captain and eventual battalion chief of the Sedona Fire Districts Technical Rescue Team for almost two decades. If you have been to Sedona/Oak Creek Canyon you know the unbelievable red rock terrain is what draws the tourists from around the globe. The areas massive red walls are the top 1/3 of the famous Grand Canyon farther north. Hence, the need for a robust rope rescue team. As was then, today the SFD is a part fire department rescue AND wilderness mountain rescue team. They do both.

I noticed early on that the vast majority of the rope emergencies during my tenure were flat carry-outs, low angle and steep angle operations. In fact, I often comments that like most teams in mountainous terrain, the so called "bread and butter" of our call outs are flat, low or steep angle. Very seldom ever a high angle evacuation. While flat carries and low angle are what I call "non-technical evacuations", the steep angle evacuation can indeed be "technical" in nature due to the exposure involved. These essential rescue techniques are vital to a wilderness team but lack the glamour and glitz of the jaw-dropping, awe-inspiring high angle litter evac. The majority of RTR workshops deal with high angle only. It has a "draw" that seems to fill programs. In this first time program, we are returning to the "bread-and-butter" or more accurately, the ESSENTIALS of wilderness rescue. The TWRW is all things which most will actually use. No high angle.

So, a decision has to be made whether the operation will be one or two ropes. This is what the TWRW is all about. An intelligent decision-making process. But rest assured, you will challenged to make the right choice. This program is about down-to-earth, nitty-gritty rescue. Things like simple role rotation for long carry outs, caterpillar passes of a litter down a steep embankment with only a simple belay line. Basic frictions hitches, rudimentary tree wraps, and anchoring….all basic, but essential."


Minimalist rescue techniques reducing the mass of the steep angle litter evacuation for rapid response teams

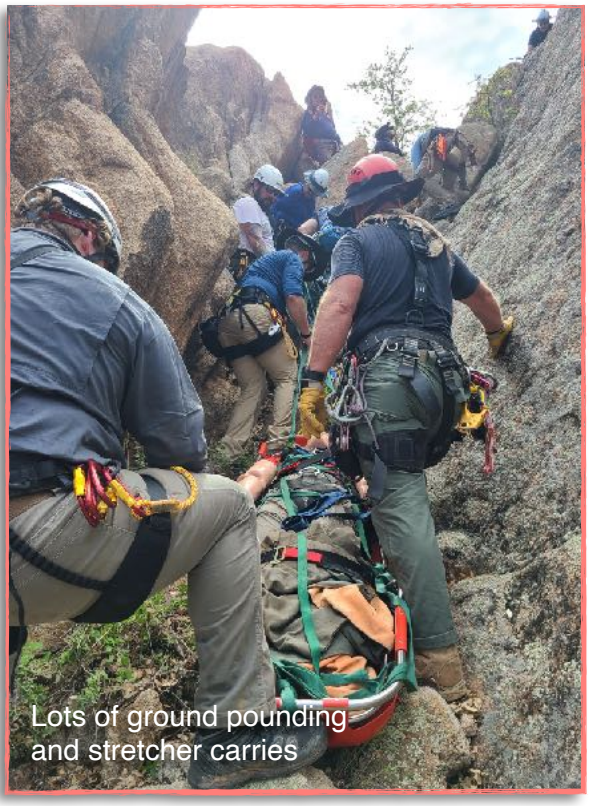
The TWRW then seeks to explore solution for a safe and efficient minimalist wilderness rescue. It is designed for the serious wilderness SAR practitioner wishing to improve their personal rigging skill and capability in the backcountry, off the beaten path and definitely out of bounds. And it is made to be quickly done with no huge systems.

If you were looking for a quality workshop which teaches all these essentials for flat, low and steep angle rudimentary rescue below high angle (<60 deg) this is your opportunity. There are limited, light weight high directionals (including using logs) short rigging pods (SMC Vector®) or unnecessary rigging. It is all similar to what we do in slot canyons—all improvisation from anchors built from available features and flora on site. Thinking outside the box is a key element here.

We will be using smaller diameter "hybrid" ropes in the TWRW with exceptional strength with abrasion and cutting resistance. The option of using larger ropes up to

11.1mm (7/16") diameter in this program is certainly acceptable but this program is trying to decrease the amount of gear and rope needed to pull off a rope rescue quickly. We use a break-apart titanium litter which is perfect for this due to its light weight.

We will build the ever popular and light weight Purcell prusiks (from one piece of 6mm accessory cord) for use on our smaller ropes where traditional ascenders will have limited applications. We will opt to leave behind all the heavy metallic gear but some students will still be welcome to use their MPD and Clutches if they so choose. We can use many different options to apply friction to the particular diameter rope we are using for lowering a litter + 1, 2 or 3 bearers down an embankment. That is part of thinking outside the box. The TWRW will eventually move into the field for the last part of this program hanging on improvised anchor systems students build and knots students tie. That is the fun of it! Students in this program learn to work as a cohesive team, working together towards the successful retrieval of an injured casualty in a non-threatening environment.


Lots of ground pounding and stretcher carries

TWRW KEY Points:

- Primary knotcraft (what can be tied quickly/easily?)
- Minimalist, rapid-response wilderness rescue. Plain and simple!
- Ropes, carabiners, pulleys, slings, hitches, plates being used in a minimalist rescue (what can be used quickly?)
- Strong emphasis on personal mountain or wilderness rescue skills (what can be improvised quickly?)
- Coiling rope, rope management skills (how can I work with no tangles off a coil with no bag?)
- Flat carries (multiple techniques) 4 and 6 person
- Low angle non-technical evacuations
- Steep angle non-technical and technical evacuations (one rope versus two rope systems)
- Anchoring improvisation and minimalism (how can I use what is there when I arrive?)
- Introduction to pulley systems for minimalism (how can I use the AZTEK set of fours for all my raises?)
- Litter work in steep angle terrain (how can I minimize force on a lower/raise system to reduce exposure?)
- Focus on having strong personal skill with keen eye to risk management and awareness
- Understanding when and where a belay can or cannot be used (where can I reduce exposure and thus eliminate the belay line?)
- Complete AZTEK kit orientation for personal and team operations (first 8 uses of the AZTEK)
- Single and double part hasty rappels Belays and self-belays Dynamic fixed and traveling brakes
- Simple, compound and complex pulley systems for rapid extrication
- "Barn floor" physics lessons for the lay person (easy to understand)
- Anchor angle and directional lecture
- Whiteboard analysis of lowering and raising systems
- Personal travel restrict and fall protection (AZTEK)
- Downclimbing techniques for easy sloping, sloping and steep rock (how can I get down safely?)
- Complete Purcell Prusiks tied from one piece of accessory cord
- Utilizing non-rescue team personnel for hauling, carrying, etc.
- Litter carry role rotation to save strength for long carry outs
- Shoulder sling support on 4/6 person flat/low angle litter carries
- Steep angle "caterpillar pass" techniques for a litter with a simple safety line on litter
- Split coil carries of slightly injured or ill casualties
- Much more…

Meeting Location on Day One

We look forward to seeing you at 0800 the first morning at our meeting location: The Jerome Fire District Station is in the middle of town and not easy to miss. It is at the big bend in the road and look for the two story brick building. Please do not park in front of the station. Parking is farther down along the Perkinsville Road to the right of the station. The entrance to the station is in the rear. We are meeting upstairs in the multi-purpose room. Please bring a chunk of small diameter rope, 2 large carabiners and a prusik with you on the first day.

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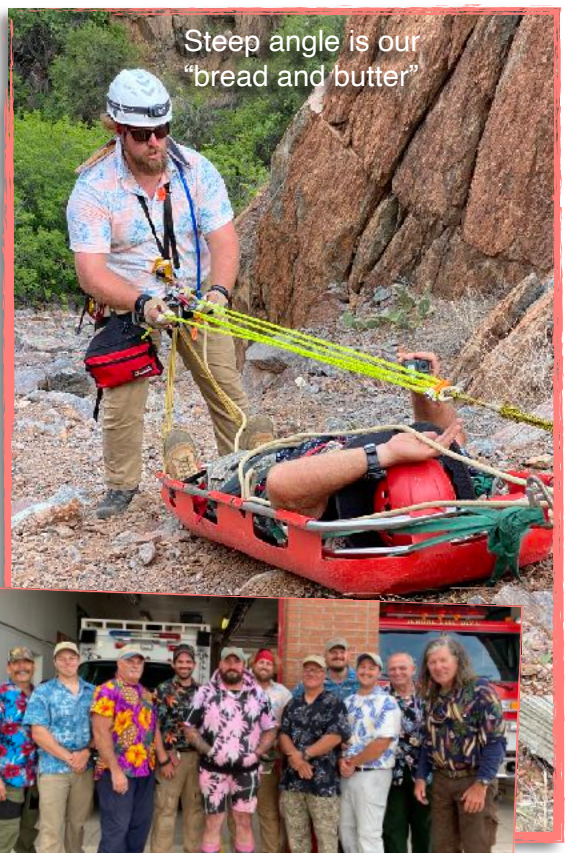
LODGING:

If you have two or more coming, look into VRBO and other vacation rentals to save money. There are many good options available in Cottonwood, Clarkdale and Jerome (NOTE: Sedona, Prescott or Prescott Valley are too far away - 45 minute drive)

Jerome: *Jerome Grand Hotel and the the haunted Ghost City Inn (B&B). Both of these are in old town Jerome within walking distance to the fire station (allow 15 minutes walking).*

Cottonwood: *Iron Horse Inn (strongly recommended as it had a great BBQ and central meeting location, patio). All the major hotel chains have accommodation in Cottonwood area. Drive from here to Jerome Fire is about 15 to 25 minutes up the hill on 89A (south).*



IMPORTANT NOTES -

1) See dates for the 7 day TWRW HERE

2) Please plan on staying through the evening of the last day of the program as we do not get out early! This is a VERY physical workshop and you will be worn out. Driving home on the last day can be dangerous.

3) The final day of all RTR programs is Hawaiian shirt day. Please bring a great Hawaiian shirt to receive an RTR embroidered hat!

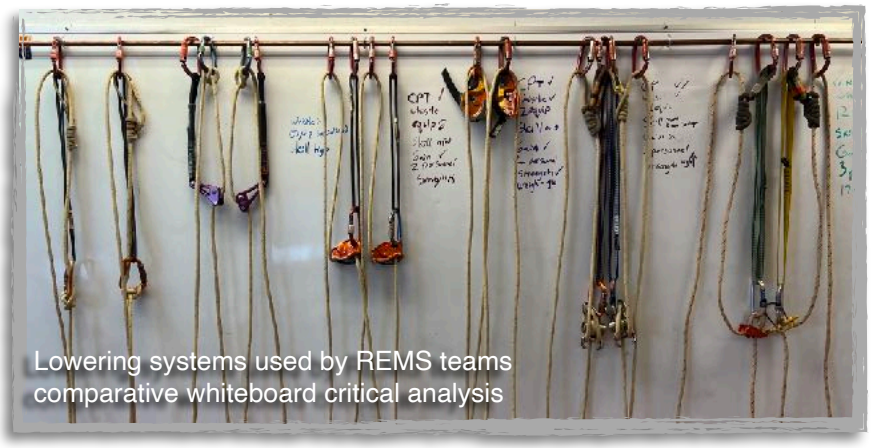
Be ready for a great week and it will surely be challenging! You will learn a lot and walk away with heaps of knowledge & understanding.

Hawaiian Shirt Day during 2021 TWRW in Jerome, Dale Stewart (penultimate) and Reed Thorne, right

REGISTRATION:

On line registration information HERE
On line RTR Application HERE (for print)

All about RTR Flyer
HERE (for print)


Lowering systems used by REMS teams comparative whiteboard critical analysis

Above: AHS Rescue Guest Instructor, Dale Stewart at 2021 TWRW in Jerome, AZ