

ALABAMA RESCUER FRONT PAGE



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2008 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

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TIM WILLIS, Cullman County

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DANNY SMITH, Cherokee

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Clio

TRAVIS PARDEN, Mobile County

RAY HOGANS, Lillian VFD

CANDY DAVIDSON, McIntosh

CHAD SINGLETON, McIntosh

FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

I want to start the year off by saying I hope you all had great holidays with your families. To all of you that were at the conference you can say it was a good one again. Our congratulations to Chauncey and Tina Wood on a job very well done. We had a great time just being there with all of you as well some of the special guests we had to come, Dennis Blair and Dr John Campbell came by to see just what we do on the training days. Training was good thanks to Matt and Jason for taking up the slack. I was late getting in due to a family Emergency. Debbie worked hard during the days and glad she is doing well after the fall out on Wednesday night. Sorry about the mix up on the seating at the banquet, it was a mix up on their part not ours. I cannot say enough about the training days that were presented with help from the TARS Instructors putting on the Bus extrication class. I like to say thanks to the TARS Executive Board for coming down to visit with us during the conference.

The Executive board closed out the year with a meeting with the publisher. We made new appointments to the committees for the year. The boat bill is in good shape for the time. It is ready to be presented. Chauncey will keep an eye on it while he is in Montgomery. We will present more on this at the meeting.

We will be posting some things of interest on the web site. We have had some talk among ourselves about rewriting our ambulance rules for those who run under the AARS. Let me begin to state if you run under the AL Dept of Public Health (in other words if you are States license) **you will follow the guide lines set forth per them not us.** We do not say if you get fluid and drug license or not, you have to go through the ADPH. When you run under our guidelines we have the say, it has come to a time we need to update.

To all of the Winners at the Conference I want to say thank you for competing. It was fun and rewarding to all. Congratulations to Jim McClellan and Joe Stone for the lifetime awards. They are very deserving of this award. We will try to do more in the future; we had some pins made up for this award. In closing I want to say help us to help you during the coming year.

Danny Butler
President

FROM THE 1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Happy New Year!!!! My, what 2007 had in store for the association! I can only hope that 2008 will be just as adventurous. There is really no place to start, and I certainly don't want to leave anyone out, but so many people's efforts is what I think sets the AARS aside. I have heard from a lot of different constituents many times that we stick together as a group to get a lot of things accomplished, let's keep that attitude. Everyone in the association needs to make sure you tell Chauncey THANK YOU. His efforts over the past year and the work that he has started for the upcoming year needs not be overlooked. But Chauncey is just one of the many and there are certainly others that work hard for the association.

What a great convention! From all the vendors, to the squads represented, to the members, the convention committee, the training, and all the excitement leading to the convention, job well done. I have really enjoyed the networking and insight that our great friends from Tennessee bring. I feel this relationship will only grow stronger. No one will know what the presentation made to Jim McClellan, as a lifetime member, meant to me. Mr. Jim being from Clay County and a neighboring squad of ours, I have always looked and listened to his advice and suggestions. And with that it was just as great to be able to attend Coosa Valley Rescue Squad's Christmas gathering to present Joe Stone with a lifetime membership as well. Mr. Joe is another that I appreciate the insight and support (just ask me to show you the picture sometime).

Now what can the association do for you? Take the opportunity to call or e-mail the officers. Listening to different ideas will only keep this association strong. We continue to travel to new areas in the state as our newer members begin to host the quarterly meetings. Believe it or not in May when Peckerwood hosts the quarterly meeting, I will be basking just a bit, as this will only be 40 minutes from home and I look forward to showing what East Alabama has to offer.

Please continue to support the AARS and I look forward to February to see so many of my friends.

Matthew C. Knight
1st Vice-President

FROM THE 2ND VICE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a good beginning to a new year. It was good to see everyone at the conference in November. A big thank you goes out to all who helped to make it a huge success. A special thank you goes out to the instructors who came down from Tennessee to help us out at the conference. As we start another year I hope all the squads are setting goals they would like to fulfill in 2008. The new trailer for training is coming along great and we are about to get everything organized. The trailer also is set up so it can be converted easily for disaster response. I hope to have it done in time so that everyone can see it at the first quarterly meeting.

On another note Rosalie Rescue Squad came up short this season, as their boats, boat trailers and boat equipment were stolen from the building. So keep an eye on all your equipment, as we hope this will not happen to another squad.

We have lots of great training opportunities we will be talking about at the quarterly meeting in February. Hope to see everyone there!

Jason Heard
2nd Vice President

FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Minutes of Convention November 10, 2007 Decatur, AL

Meeting was called to order by President Danny Butler, Honor Guard posted colors and Chaplain Hoyt McCaghen opened with prayer.

Roll was called by Debbie Tidwell with 70 squads being represented. Danny asked to count Vina Rescue Squad as present due to the death of Donald Davidson. Motion made by Ider, seconded by Clio. Motion carried.

Danny announced that Jim Armstrong passed away and asked that we count Etowah County present. Motion by Union, seconded by Anniston. Motion carried.

Danny called Debbie to read the minutes of the last meeting. Motion made by McIntosh to dispense with the reading of the minutes, seconded by Clio. Motion carried.

Danny called Debbie to read the financial report. Financial report was read. Motion made by Clio to accept the report, seconded by Ider. Motion carried.

Danny spoke about the by-laws change that will change the name from convention to training conference. Motion made to amend the by-laws to change. Motion made by North Alabama Search Dog, seconded by Daphne. Motion carried.

At this time Chauncey Wood spoke about our tax bill. There will have to be a constitutional amendment to be voted on in the general election, to distribute a portion of the fees for license and registration of boat trailers, including personal watercraft for the use of rescue squads providing rescue services. This will only be for members of the AARS. 40 percent will go to the Department of Public Safety. 10 percent will go to Peace Officers Annuity and Benefit. The other 50 percent will go to the AARS. To receive the funds you must be a member in good standing at the time the bill is passed. Any squad that joins after the bill is passed has to wait 5 years to receive any of the funding. The funds will be distributed equally between the squads and the Association. Danny spoke about the Association receiving a letter about updating the tags, Debbie had 2 different designs. Motion was made by Anniston to leave it up to the Executive Board to make the final adjustments on the tag, seconded by Clio. Motion carried.

Danny discussed the magazine. The editors are going to try to get more ads to support our magazine and we also are going to check on prices with a different printer. It will also be on the website, it will also show the vendors ads on the website. We will continue printing the magazine. Send all information to both Shannon and Gwen.

Danny spoke about going to meet with the ADPH about the new bill and spoke about the cost of fees for ambulances. Danny also spoke about the ADPH providing training at no cost and/or providing materials to us for training. The regions are back up and running each region has the materials available for us to use. Danny also spoke about forming a partnership with a college to provide EMS training. If this happens the classes can be taught at your location.

At this time Danny turned the meeting over to Matt Knight. Matt had one new application to read, Uriah VFD. Candy inspected and

recommended we approve. Motion made by Clio, seconded by Ider. Motion carried.

Matt also spoke about our seat in the EOC, Tim Willis from Cullman County Rescue Squad, Brian Bailey from Morgan County Rescue Squad, Lara Pate from Autauga County Rescue Squad and Matt will be our people to be in the EOC.

At this time the meeting was turned over to Jason. He spoke about training and trying to get some training set up around the state.

Any squad that wants to set up training will be responsible for getting the equipment. Jason also talked about the training trailer and asked about purchasing a bigger trailer, 24' bumper pull for \$4500.00. Motion made by Cherokee to purchase a bigger trailer, and also an awning, seconded by SARTEC. Motion carried.

Debbie gave the prices on the hotels for 2008 Training Conference. After discussion motion was made by SARTEC to go back to Decatur, seconded by Arab. Motion was withdrawn. Motion was made by SARTEC to choose between the Ashbury in Mobile and Decatur Holiday Inn, seconded by Colbert County. Motion carried.

After show of hands it was decided to go to the Ashbury in Mobile. There was also discussion about changing the conference back to the 3rd weekend in November. Motion was made by Union to move the Conference to 3rd weekend, seconded by Colbert County. Motion was withdrawn.

It was decided to get bids for the 2009 conference for both weekends and then make a decision whether to change or not.

Awards presented for the Quarter were presented to the following:

Rescuer of the Quarter: Shay Wells, Robin Wells, Billy Tyson and Jason Jenkins of Choctaw County Rescue Squad.

High Attendance was presented to SARTEC.

Plaque was presented to Peckerwood Rescue Squad for the 3rd Quarter High Attendance.

2008 MAGAZINE DEADLINES:

2ND QUARTER – MARCH 31, 2008

3RD QUARTER – JUNE 30, 2008

4TH QUARTER – AUGUST 31, 2008

**** ANY ARTICLES SUBMITTED AFTER THESE DATES WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE ****

***** ARTICLES SHOULD BE SENT USING THE EDITOR LINK ON THE AARS WEBSITE OR TO editor@alars.org *****

***** IF YOUR ARTICLE DID NOT APPEAR THIS TIME, PLEASE BE SURE TO RESEND IT TO editor@alars.org *****



A U.S. Coast Guard member presents a flag at the memorial service for Michael Baker, Allan Bragwell and Tiffany Miles, the crew of Air Evac 16 who died when their helicopter crashed Dec. 29. (Photo by: Jim Hannon, Times Daily)

PROUD TO BE WHO WE ARE!

I am a volunteer at heart and also a paid professional. Today, we laid to rest a true hero, Allan Bragwell. Who was he? Allan was a fellow crew member of Air Evac 16 (Colbert County), who on December 30, 2007 lost his life in a helicopter crash doing what he loved to do – helping a fellow man.

A hunter who was lost was found because Air Evac 16 was helping in the search. They found him, but as the helicopter hovered over the hunter with their spot light, something went terribly wrong. The helicopter crashed killing all three

crew members on board, including Pilot Michael Baker, Flight Nurse Tiffany Miles, and Flight Paramedic Allan Bragwell.

I knew Allan from taking classes with him every three months. He was always cheerful, had a smile, and he could make you laugh. We shared lots of stories about what we do every day, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. We live to do what we do. Today, what I saw was unbelievable. I saw a community give homage to a man who is truly known throughout Northwest Alabama and is going to be missed. He was married and had four children. He was also acting director of the Keller Ambulance Service, and a member of Underwood -Petersville Volunteer Fire Department.

I saw other flight services, EMS Agencies, and Fire Departments there, who took time out of their busy everyday lives to pay their last respects to a Fallen Hero and comrade. Air-Evac lost a great person; we are all hurting to see what we sometimes read about in the papers. What we say is this – “It will never happen to us,” but this time it did.

I would like to take this opportunity to say:

**THANK YOU FOR RESPECTING A FALLEN HERO,
ALLAN, YOU WILL BE MISSED!**

Danny Butler

President - Alabama Association of Rescue Squads
Flight Paramedic – Air Evac 32 (Jackson County)



Clio Rescue
“We Save Lives”
By: Tina Wood

CALHOUN COUNTY CIVIL DEFENCE
James Norton

Thanksgiving has just passed and Christmas is around the corner. Clio Rescue held its annual Boston butt sale on Saturday, November 3rd. This year we added ribs and the cooks this year were Neil and Freddie Sutton, and the taster Captain Johnson. The butt and rib sale was a success.

Emergency calls don't discriminate and can come at any moment, especially during the holidays it seems. Your Thanksgiving dinner is set for 1pm and 911 tones your squad out at 12:15 for a one vehicle 10-50 with 4 injuries so you roll and hope everyone else saves you some turkey.

We finished up an EMT Class in November taught by Wallace College EMS of Dothan. Tina Wisdom is one of Clio's newest EMT's, having passed her NREMT test November 20th. Clio Rescue also had re-certs in November, CPR refresher was taught by Michael Warr and EVOC and EMT refresher was taught by Dianne Tharpe.

Clio Rescue's Christmas and Awards Dinner was held December 17th at Conestoga Steak House in Dothan. The dinner was well attended and enjoyed by all. The recipient of "The Rescuer" of the year is Alice "Granny" Robinett, "EMT" of the year Shirley Smith, and the "Driver" of the Year, Chauncey Wood. Chauncey attended and passed the EVOC Instructors School December 3 and 4 at Montevallo University. That was a 2 day vacation for me!

The New Year is the celebration of the successful end of one year and the start of another. We hope you all had a very Happy Holiday Season and we pray for Peace, health, and prosperity in 2008.

Hope to see you all at the first quarterly in Daleville. Until then May God Bless each of you.

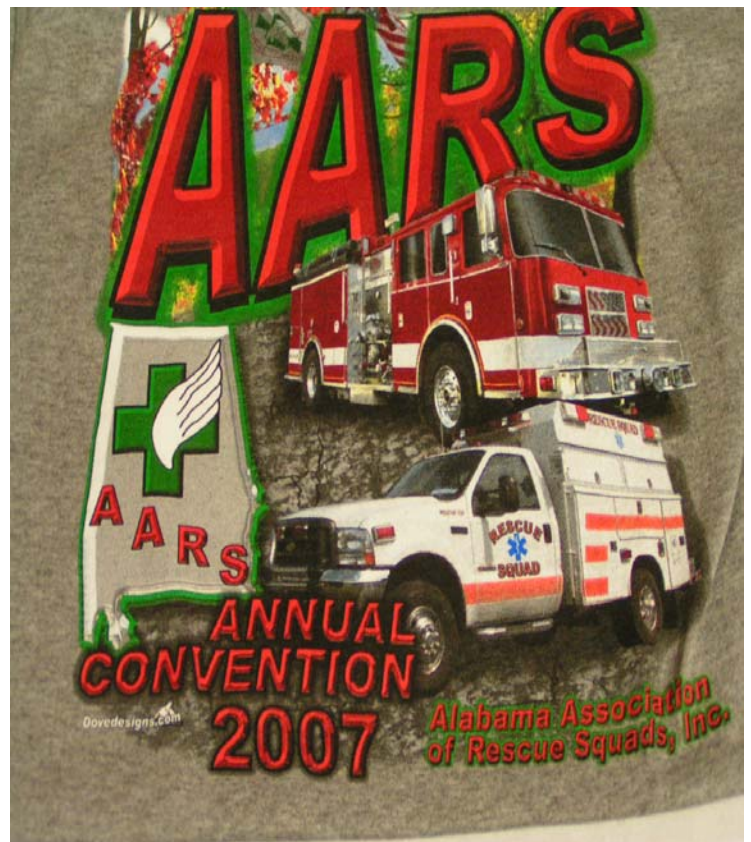
Calhoun County Civil Defense Emergency Group in Anniston, Alabama held elections on November 12, 2007 for new officers in the C.D. group. Those new officers are: Harold Rhodes, Commander; James Norton, 1st Deputy and Keith Ford, 2nd Deputy.

Our organization was founded in 1962 by several members of the community. We still have an original member in the unit who has been active since November, 1962. Hugh Smitherman is the chairman of the board for the unit and has been with our organization for 45 years.

Several organizations in the area help us when needed. The Calhoun County EMA provides several types of training which our members attend every year. The Calhoun County Sheriff's Department and local police departments also work with our organization. Our radio system in the 800mhz digital system. We also have VHF and UHF radio systems for back-up in case we need them. Several of our members are also Amateur Radio operators and some have trained in storm spotting with the National Weather Service. Alabama is the only state in the nation to have two different seasons for severe weather, one during the Summer and one during the Winter. We are able to communicate with all other agencies in our area during severe weather and give them updates. Several in our unit are also members of RACES and ARES in our area. Every member in our group works together to make it the best it can be!



Awards Presented – Captain Richard Johnson, far right presents plaques to Rescuer of the Year, Alice "Granny" Robinett, EMT of the year, Shirley Smith, and Rescue Driver of the Year, Chauncey Wood, for the year 2007. The Plaques were presented during the Clio Rescue Squad's annual Christmas Dinner held at the Conestoga Steak House in Dothan.



The last "Convention" shirt. Next year will be a Conference t-shirt.

SLRS WARNS OF BODY HARNESS DANGERS (*SUSPENSION TRAUMA*)

By: Bruce Patrick

I am a member of the South Lamar Rescue Squad and this is some very important information on a device that saves lives. But it also can be the cause of death if we as "Rescuers" do not recognize the dangers and treat the victim aggressively. This device is a body harness. If you or your friends hunt from a tree stand and use a safety rope or harness, this information is very important. A person who works at heights or down in holes use a body harness on each job. It is a device required by OSHA to stop a falling person before he/she hits the ground.

Body-Harness-Induced Death –Wide ranges of situations require harnesses of various types, and our government requires their use if a worker is higher than 6 feet above a surface. The task may be high up in the air, in cylinder storage tanks, in sewer holes, in wells, or even that deer hunter up in a tree stand. Have you ever heard a story of a deer hunter saved from a tree stand fall, by a safety rope, only later to die enroute to the hospital?

Hanging in a safety harness for longer than 5 minutes can be fatal:

Often workers are trained how to properly wear a safety harness, but not what to do if they fall and are waiting on rescue, hanging in the harness. Suspension in an upright posture, with legs relaxed straight beneath the body, can cause death due to the heart not being able to pump the pooled blood up into the upper body. Actual examples: A carpenter working alone is caught in mid-fall by his safety harness, only to die 15 minutes later from suspension trauma. An electrical worker is lowered into a shaft, after testing for toxic gases. He is lowered on a cable and is positioned at the right level to repair a junction box. After five minutes he is unconscious-but his buddies tending the line don't realize it, and 15 minutes later a dead body is hauled out. In 2002 a deer hunter in West Alabama fell out of his tree stand, his fall protection stopped him

from hitting the ground, but he died of suspension trauma while he waited for someone to rescue him.

Suspension Trauma Death

Suspension trauma death is caused by the orthostatic incompetence, it occurs when the body is in an upright standing position for long periods of time. It is seen when someone in the military is standing at attention for long periods of time. If they don't move their legs some, the blood pools in lower legs and they pass out and fall to the ground, into a laying position. Once laying down the blood can get back up into the upper body and the heart can regain control, the person wakes up and is OK. But if the person is suspended in the body harness, and in a vertical position (harness design keeps an unconscious person hanging upright) death can occur in as little as five minutes. Blood pools in the lower part of the vertical body, the heart pumps harder trying to pull the blood up out of the legs and more blood pools in the legs, the body goes into shock, The victim passes out, if the victim cannot get into a laying down position death can occur.

Prevention of Suspension Trauma

Fall victims can slow the onset of suspension trauma by pushing vigorously with the legs, by positioning their body in a horizontal or slight leg-high position, or by standing up (place feet against any object to push himself into a sitting position). Different harness design and fall injuries may prevent these actions.

Deer Hunters – If you tie a second safety rope from you to the tree, lower than the safety harness. You will have an extra rope to help position yourself into a laying position if you fall. It should be long enough to equal the height of the tree stand to the ground. Your safety harness attaches around the tree above a limb over your head. It is your fall protection, use it as the harness maker instructs. Your second safety rope is used to allow you to pull yourself back to the tree, so you can position into a laying position, and self-rescue if injuries permit. Do not hunt alone, have another hunter

close by to aid in your rescue (if needed), because after a few minutes hanging in a vertical position, you will start to lose consciousness.

Before the potential fall:

Workers should never be permitted to work alone in a harness.

Pope/cable tenders must make certain the harness user is conscious at all times.

Time in suspension vertical position, should be limited to less than five minutes. Longer suspensions must have foothold straps or means for putting weight on the legs.

Harnesses should be selected for specific applications and must consider: compliance (convenience), potential arrest injury, and suspension trauma.

Tie-off lanyards should be anchored as high and tight as work permits.

Suspension Rescue

Regardless of whether a worker can self-rescue or must rely upon others, time is of the essence, because a worker or hunter may lose consciousness in only five minutes. If a worker is suspended long enough to lose consciousness, rescue personnel must be careful in handling such a person or the rescued worker or hunter may die anyway. This post-rescue death is apparently caused by the heart's inability to tolerate the abrupt increase in blood flow to the right heart after removal from the harness. Current recommended procedures are for medics to take from 30 to 40 minutes to move the victim from a kneeling position, to sitting position, then to a supine position. Monitor vital signs and give oxygen during this position change time. If you lay them down as soon as you get them out of a harness, often-irrespirable shock occurs, resulting in death.

Reference: Seddon, Paul. Harness Suspension: review and evaluation. Health & Safety Executive Research Report 451/2002. 104pp.

SUSPENSION TRAUMA EVENT CHART

- Fall Arrested by Harness
- V
- Legs Suspended: Blood Flow Impeded By Harness Leg Straps And By Gravity
- V
- Blood Collects In Large Leg Muscles
- V
- Blood Return To Heart Declines
- V
- Danger Plus Pain Causes Heart Rate To Increase And Hormone Release
- V
- Pumping Action Of Heart Is Reduced Due to The Decreased Blood Return
- V
- More Blood Collects In Legs
- V
- Body Reflex Reduces Heart Rate And Blood Pressure
- V
- Victim Loses Consciousness
- V
- Blood Flow To Brain Continues To Fall
- V
- Brain Damage
- V
- Eventual Death

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1st Quarterly Meeting
At
Daleville Cultural and Convention Center
790 S. Daleville Ave
Daleville, Alabama
(Intersection of US Hwy 84 and AL Hwy 85)
February 16, 2008

Registration.....8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Vendors8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Welcome.....9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Board of Directors meeting.....10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Lunch.....11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

General Business meeting.....1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

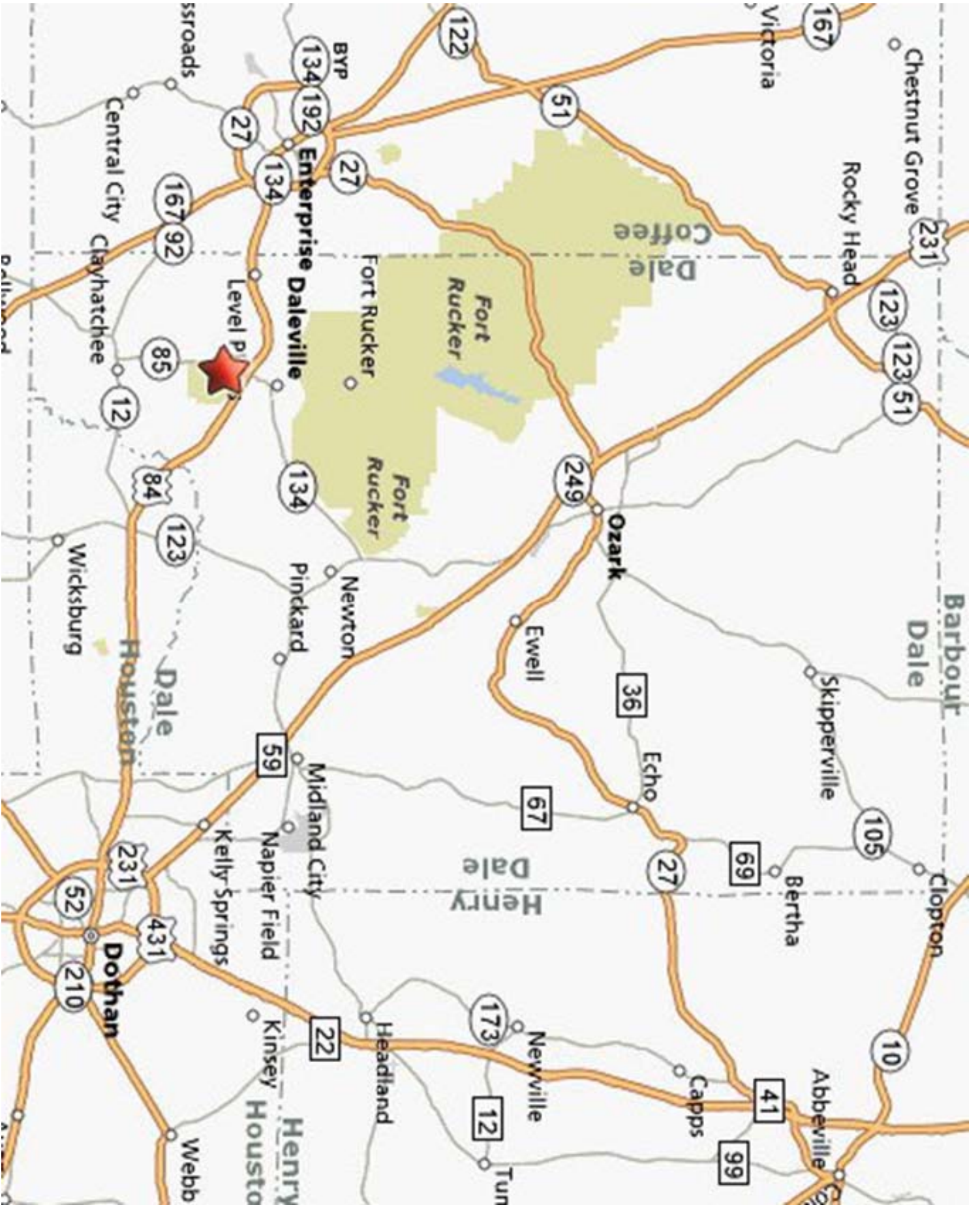
Lodging

Econolodge	444 N. Daleville Ave Daleville, Alabama	\$40.00	(334) 598-6304
Daleville Inn	108 N. Daleville Ave Daleville, Alabama	\$45.00	(334) 503-9335

Contact information for questions:

Bob Slagle
Captain
Daleville Rescue Squad
(334) 598-4442
Cell: (334) 494-2999

***** DALEVILLE AREA MAP ON NEXT PAGE *****



A Brief Introduction to Water Search with Dogs

By Chip Laymon

Deputy Chief and Training Officer

HEMSI Search Dog Unit

Summer is upon us in full furry this year and according to the state climatologist, Dr. John Christy, the drought conditions in northern Alabama are “exceptional” after the driest five months in 118 years of record. Such conditions are driving animals and humans in search of water—for sustenance, relief from the heat, and recreation. There have been numerous water-related fatalities already this year. Sometimes the watery grave or Davy Jones’ locker does not want to give up its victims easily, and specialized resources are required for recovery.

Underwater video cameras, sonars, divers, and search dogs are complimentary resources that each have unique capabilities. Underwater video cameras have proliferated in recent years and rely solely on the human sense of sight. With a narrow field of view and often limited viewing range in turbid water, cameras are best used after the search area has been refined by other means or to verify search dog indications before committing divers. Diving always carries some risk and is usually limited to high probability areas defined using other techniques. Divers also rely largely on sight and often revert to using the sense of touch more than sight in heavily stained water or at great depth where light does not penetrate. Sonar devices have a wider sensing range than cameras and divers, but interpretation of the return signal is often ambiguous. In contrast, detection with dogs that rely on their sense of smell is very precise as they are trained to detect a specific scent. It is the location of the scent source that is sometimes difficult to determine and not the fault of the dogs. Dogs working from shore or in a boat can canvas large areas quickly to narrow the search area or to locate the victim when conditions permit. The ability to pinpoint, however, is subject to a wide range of factors. For early training in this area, dog handlers owe a great deal of debt to Marian Hardy who was one of the original pioneers in water searches with dogs in the late 1980’s through the 1990’s.

Human scent is a complex mixture of soluble and insoluble solids, liquids and gases. When a subject drowns, these components are dispersed in the water and in the layer of air near the water’s surface above the victim. Initially, the victim’s scent is that of a live

subject, but as time progresses, the biological processes of decomposition begin and the victim’s scent transitions to that of a cadaver. Scientists tell us that decomposition begins very shortly after death, but it takes some time for decomposition to generate sufficient by-products to dominate the scent picture. Through experience working numerous water searches with dogs, the author has determined that victims continue to present as live scent for 36 to 60 hours following death. Consequently, only dogs that detect live human scent should be used in search operations prior to this period. After this period, only cadaver dogs should be used. In the transition period of approximately 24 to 72 hours, both types of dogs should be used because there should be no preconception as to which scent will be most prevalent.

Detecting and locating drowning victims is a three-dimensional problem—scent rises from below and is dispersed laterally and then mixes with the air at the surface. Reading clues shown in a dog’s behavior and interpreting the complex environmental conditions that distribute scent away from the victim is one part science and one part art that is derived from experience. Because many aspects of the problem may not be readily apparent, the dog and handler team operate in various states of “blindness.” Interpretation of the victim’s location requires the handler to be able to consider many factors, such as time of submersion, water depth, temperature, thermal stratification or thermoclines, current speed, eddy mixing, weather, etc., and determine how they interact to affect the intensity and dispersion of scent. Once these environmental processes are observed and considered with regard to where dogs are indicating they detect scent, the dispersion processes must be reversed in time to narrow the search area and hopefully pinpoint the victim’s location. The ability to repeatedly perform this task successfully in different environmental conditions is a testament to the experience of dog and handler teams.

Operating a dog team from a boat requires precise teamwork between the handler and the boat operator. Three things must occur concurrently—the handler must keep the dog engaged and attentive as he/she keeps a watchful eye for subtle behavioral clues that the dog might be detecting scent while at the same time directing the boat operator to implement a search strategy. When dogs work on land, they are able to maneuver to solve scent problems and locate the sources of scent on their own. From a boat, however, a dog has

limited mobility so it can be challenging to keep it engaged. As Jonni Joyce, an experienced master trainer, puts it “if the paws ain’t moving, then the mind ain’t working.” Movement of the boat must replace the dog’s own ability to move about. As long as air is moving over the dog’s nose, they are more likely to stay engaged. Scent work takes intense concentration and a dog cannot continue to work indefinitely. Efficiency, therefore, is important before the dog fatigues and stops working. The handler must direct the boat operator to maneuver the boat to implement various search strategies. All the while, the handler must be vigilant to the dog’s movements and body language that give signs of possible detection. Ultimately, the dog is trained to alert the handler that it has detected the target scent, but there are various shades of gray leading up to this point if the scent is weak or intermittent due to water and air current eddies. If the handler misses these early signs from the dog, then it may become confused and stop indicating properly, or even worse, start indicating falsely.

Once scent is detected, the handler must alter the search pattern to begin defining the size of the scent field and refining the search area. By interpreting the many environmental factors that affect scent dispersion, the handler must formulate a three dimensional dispersion map in his or her head. Then using the dog as a detector, the handler must direct the boat to cross possible dispersion boundaries where the dog will provide verification. These dispersion boundaries are based on current and wind direction and must be intersected in a precise and planned manner in order to optimize efficiency in determining where the victim’s scent is and isn’t. Remember, the dog cannot work indefinitely. In this way, the scent field is defined and refined as much as it can be or until the victim is located. Finally, if at all possible another dog team should verify the results of the first before other resources are used.

Performance by search dog teams is closely tied to proper training that produces 1) dogs that can work for long operational periods without fatigue, 2) handlers that are experienced in “reading” the environmental conditions, and 3) close communications between the handlers and boat operators. Dogs are not 100 percent accurate. They are living animals that have good days and bad days. It is the handler’s responsibility to know when a dog is not performing at its best, remove it from the operation and substitute another team. The handler learns to detect a weak performance through an accumulation of many hours of training on the water.

Interpretation of a complex scent picture is not straight forward and requires knowledge of hydrological and meteorological processes. It is only through training in a wide range of conditions that dog handlers develop the problem solving skills and experience to interpret the many clues and arrive at a conclusion.

With their unique scenting abilities, dogs have a great deal to offer in the search and recovery of drowning victims. They should be viewed as a complimentary part of a comprehensive set of resources available to any agency faced with a tragic event on the water involving the potential loss of human life. A proper search and recovery operation should seek to utilize these resources in concert and not independently.



Figure caption: The author and his hound dog conducting a water search below a low head dam where a boat overturned despite warnings. The team located and recovered the victim in eight feet of water 1500 yards down stream.

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Ider Rescue Squad

BY: JANNA ASHMORE, ANNETTE ROBERTS, TINA HAMMONS

Hello from Ider Rescue Squad in Dekalb County. We wanted to write in a short letter to everyone about what is going on up here in Ider. We actually just got back from the "Annual Training Conference" (Convention) and we all had a blast and were glad we were able to make it down to Decatur. The classes were very interesting, but the competitions were the best of all. The banquet as always was a very nice and emotional experience. We saw a lot of new faces as well as a lot of old faces, we love attending the quarterly meetings as well as the conference just for these reasons, and to catch up with the friends that we have made throughout the years. We all look forward to the quarterly meeting in February. Hope to see everyone there.

On another note while a few of our squad members were at the conference the remainder of our members were back in Ider working and serving our community just like any other day. On Saturday November 10, 2007 the squad hosted a benefit singing for Honorary Lifetime member Clifford "JABO" Blevins, who is a surviving cancer patient. Clifford became a member on May 21, 1996 at the ripe age of 62. He is our oldest active member and serves as the squad Chaplin. Clifford has been on active duty twenty four hours a day, seven days a week for eleven years now. The benefit raised approximately \$2400.00 with approximately 100 people in attendance. We wanted to say thank you to Clifford for all of your years of dedicated service. WE LOVE YOU!!!



George and Annette Roberts of Ider Rescue Squad enjoying the conference. George was recently awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership by Ider Rescue Squad.



Huntsville Medflight coming in for a landing at the conference.

*** MUTUAL AID ***

IF YOUR SQUAD HAS A SITUATION WHERE YOU NEED MUTUAL AID FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS SUCH AS STORM DAMAGE OR WATER RESCUES PLEASE CONTACT THE AARS OFFICE AT (800) 452-8431, SO WE CAN GET THE CLOSEST SQUADS WITH THE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT YOU NEED TO YOU. IF THERE IS NO ANSWER LEAVE A MESSAGE AND YOUR CALL WILL BE RETURNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF IT IS URGENT CALL DEBBIE TIDWELL ON HER CELL PHONE AT (256) 347-2690.

IS EMS READY FOR FIRE ANTS AND KILLER BEES?

Submitted By: Tina Wood, Cleo Rescue

Fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*), also referred to as red imported fire ants, originated in South America and came to the United States through the port of **Mobile, AL**, in the 1930's. Fire ants are medium-sized ants that build mounds of soft soil. The mounds are relatively small compared to those of other ant species. Fire ants are attracted to electrical lines and equipment. When disturbed, they emerge aggressively from their mound and sting repeatedly. Their sting causes immediate pain and usually leaves a white pustule on the skin.

Fire ants have slowly spread from **Alabama** throughout the southeastern United States, and are now spreading westward through the desert southwest into California. Attempts to control them have been largely unsuccessful.

Fire ants are extremely aggressive and inflict numerous stings. Children and babies are most susceptible to fire ants. For adults, the stings can be painful. However, for those allergic to ant venom, the stings can induce an allergic reaction or even anaphylaxis.

Their venom is only lethal in large quantities. It is an alkaloid and causes pain. It is also a hemolytic, causing swelling. Fire ants can sting repeatedly, administering large quantities (relatively speaking) of venom.

If you are called to treat a person attacked by fire ants, ensure you are wearing gloves and other personal protective equipment. If the victim has not been removed from the fire ant mound, do so as soon as possible. With a gloved hand, knock off any remaining ants, as they will continue to sting. Be aware that some ants will get into body crevices. Once the ants are removed, assess the patient. If there are problems breathing or other signs of an allergic reaction, begin treatment.

As the name indicates, Africanized honeybees (AHBs) are originally from Africa. In 1956, some colonies were imported to Brazil with the idea of crossbreeding them with local populations of honeybees of European origin in order to increase honey production. In 1957, 26 African queen bees, along with swarms of European worker bees, escaped from

an experimental facility south of Sao Paulo. These African escapees subsequently interbred with European honeybees, creating hybrid AHB populations. These have gradually spread northward through South America, Central America and eastern Mexico, progressing approximately 100-200 miles a year. In 1990, AHBs reached southern Texas. By 1993 they had appeared in Arizona, and by 1995 California. They have also appeared on the Florida peninsula and are spreading north.

Physically, AHBs are virtually identical to European honeybees to the untrained eye. Only their behavior and aggressiveness demonstrate their difference. AHBs nest in many areas, including holes in trees, poles, shrubs, birdhouses, abandoned vehicles, sheds and similar structures. Several things have been found to trigger AHB attacks. These include engine vibrations, intrusion into a defended space, and a direct threat to the hive, loud noise or even the act of swatting a bee. If you swat a bee and crush it, its body releases a chemical messenger (pheromone with a banana-like odor) that will incite other bees to attack. Attempts to control the spread of AHBs have been futile.

AHB attacks are a high-risk situation. The bees do not discriminate in whom the attack. Furthermore, they will follow a person for some distance and continue to sting. If an EMS or fire crew is called to care for a victim of bee stings, it is best to assume the offending insects are AHBs, especially in areas where colonies have been identified. However, because the spread of AHB colonies has occurred so quickly, they can be virtually anywhere.

The response to a possible AHB attack should include at least one ambulance and one piece of fire equipment. Upon arriving stage approximately 150 feet from the hive and stay out of the bees' path. All responding personnel should don full protective equipment (no SCBA is necessary). If ambulance personnel do not have protective equipment, they should not approach the patient.

Source: EMS / vol.36 no.8

For Sale:

This space is a new addition for **SQUADS** to advertise equipment they are selling or needing.

Please submit items for consideration to
editor@alars.org



A glimpse at the number of vendors we had at the convention.
Thanks to the convention committee for their hard work!

HONOR GUARD

If you weren't able to stay for the banquet at the convention this year you missed one of the most stirring and memorable memorial services I have ever witnessed. Tribute was paid, not only to those members of the AARS who have passed away but also to all Veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice to give us the freedoms we so dearly enjoy.

The Honor Guard began the service by marching down the center aisle, candles in hand, to the strands of Trace Adkins' "I Made it to Arlington". I wish I could describe to you in vivid detail the entire service but it is not possible for me to do that with words on paper. I believe the entire service stirred the emotions of everyone in the room, especially those who had lost friends or loved ones, those who are Veterans and the families of those Veterans.

While I know that Mike Hardy and the entire Honor Guard are not looking for applause or pats on the back, that is not why they do what they do, I think all of us who were privileged enough to be witness to the memorial service should let them know just how it made us feel and how much we appreciate them for what they do. Our Honor Guard is just that, OURS, we can always count on them to be there and they go above and beyond to make sure they are there for us whenever we need them. Since its inception, members have come and gone from the Honor Guard but they have always managed to be where they were needed and take care of us. Please do not take your Honor Guard for granted. Thank you to all the members of the Honor Guard!



EMT Prayer

God...grant me the ability to give
Emergency Care
With skillful hands, knowledgeable mind,
And tender love and care.
Help me deal with everything,
When lives are on the line
To see the worst, administer aide, and
Ease a worried mind.
So help me as I go today
Accept what fate may be.
Touch these hands, use this mind,
Help this EMT.
— author unknown —



IN MEMORIUM



This area is to remember those who have passed since the last memorial service.

Please send the Name and Squad to
editor@alars.org for inclusion.

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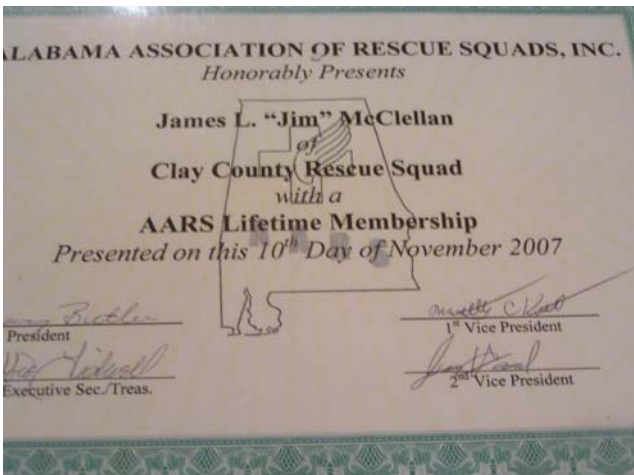
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Dr. John Campbell, Medical Director of ADPH, presenting James L. "Jim" McClellan of Clay County Rescue Squad with a AARS Lifetime Membership.



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