

The Alabama Association of Rescue Squads Presents

THE ALABAMA RESCUER



A A D S



2008 Second Quarter

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FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

Hello to all. Can you believe it is time for the meeting again? It has been a busy time for us since Spring is here. Already squads have been busy with clearing up from storms and some have been working hard on other things.

First of all I want you all to know that on March 9th I took a little hike with the fellows from Scottsboro-Jackson County Rescue in a place called the Walls of Jericho. We went in about 9:00 pm and came out about 1:00 am with a patient who had fallen at about 6:00 pm. She had an open fracture of the lower leg. It was a long process to remove her from this area; a goat would not have even wanted to walk out of this area. I just want to say what a great job they did.

Second we are going to Montgomery on Tuesday April 23, 2008 for a hearing on the boat bill which has numbers of HB 734 & HB 735. This is a very important time for us to finally get the bill through the House and into the Senate. Chauncey Wood has been keeping an eye on this for us since he is there. I want to thank him for the work he has done for us on this bill.

I want to apologize for the 1st Quarterly Magazine being late and some not getting it for several weeks after the meeting. We changed printers to save money on the cost of printing the magazine, well it slapped us. We have since changed to a local printer which so far has been great to work with. He has assured us that he will meet our deadlines. Be sure if you want to submit anything for the magazine that it gets to the editors before the deadlines.

It is now the time for the Association to set up an Ambulance Over Site Committee to look at the squads who run under the AARS. We are not going to tolerate anybody who abuses this exemption. If you run under AARS, remember we adopted the ADPH guidelines at the 2001 convention. We will select personnel for this and I will ask for a lot of changes to the ambulance section at the May meeting.

Danny Butler
President

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 *****

1st Quarterly Meeting February 16, 2008 Daleville, AL

Meeting was called to order by President Danny Butler. Honor Guard posted colors and opening prayer by Chauncey Wood. Roll was called by Debbie Tidwell with 49 squads represented. Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. Financial report was read and approved.

At this time Chauncey Wood spoke about the bill and advised he would let us know as soon as we have a bill number. He also advised that this would not include commercial fisherman.

Danny spoke about the convention and again thanked Chauncey and Tina for all their hard work. Chauncey will be doing the vendors again for this year's convention. We discussed the magazine. Several people have still not received their 1st quarter magazine. We are working to get more vendors and we also need more articles sent in from the squads.

Danny discussed the Honor Guard being invited to the National Honor Guard Memorial in Virginia the weekend of Memorial Day. The Honor Guard will have to have dress uniforms to attend. It was voted on and approves to buy their uniforms.

At this time the meeting was turned over to Matt Knight. Matt had one new application to read on Lexington Rescue Squad. Danny and Debbie inspected and recommended that we approve. Motion was made and seconded and approved.

At this time the meeting was turned over to Jason Heard. The trailer was bought and fixed to handle the equipment. It still has to be lettered. Jason advised that is already full. He also asked about the type of training that we would like to have and for everyone to get with him so he can get training lined up. He also spoke about the Association joining forces with the Alabama Fire College. The officers will have a meeting with the college to work out all the details and will give more details later.

At this time Danny advised that Gary Mackey's son had been killed in an automobile accident and that a scholarship fund had been set up. A motion was made and seconded for the Association to contribute to this fund. It was decided to give \$250.00 dollars and also money was given by members of the Association for this fund. We gave a total of \$510.00.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

Gracious Professionalism

by Chip Laymon
Deputy Chief and Training Officer
HEMSI Search Dog Unit

At one time or another you've arrived on the scene of an incident and observed it, perhaps been a victim of it, or worse yet, perpetuated the behavior that you and your squad or agency didn't need anyone else's help in spite of being short-handed. "You" or "they" had it all under control. "You" or "they" were too proud to request assistance...or feared revealing weakness. Or perhaps you responded to a scene with rusty skills or no credentials to speak of to warrant your presence, but still assumed authority.

The term "gracious professionalism" was coined by MIT Professor Woodie Flowers for the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics competition. The definition has never been precisely outlined, but its connotation is widely understood and has relevance in many sectors of society including emergency services. Gracious professionalism is an ethical code that takes the values of cooperation, good sportsmanship, and ethical behavior to heart to better society.

There are two sides to gracious professionalism. It's a double edged sword so to speak. A gracious person is characterized by kindness, warm courtesy, good taste, sympathy and generosity of spirit. Gracious folks respect others and let that respect show in their actions. A professional is a skilled practitioner possessing special knowledge; an expert engaging in a given activity as a source of livelihood or as a career. Professionals possess special knowledge and are trusted by society to use that knowledge responsibly. A gracious professional is humble and does not behave selfishly and does not misrepresent or exaggerate his or her professional credentials but instead strives to improve skills through training from recognized accredited organizations and has a responsibility to maintain that skill proficiency.

Gracious professionalism is a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. With gracious professionalism, competition and mutual gain are not separate notions. Gracious professionals learn and compete, but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process. Cooperation. No chest thumping tough talk, but no sticky-sweet platitudes either. Knowledge, skillful execution, and empathy are comfortably blended. It is thus that gracious professionals make a valued contribution in a manner pleasing to others and to themselves.

To put it in Dr. Flowers' words, gracious professionalism involves "not doing anything your grandmother wouldn't be proud of." If one becomes a professional and uses knowledge in a gracious manner, everyone wins. One can add to society and enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you have acted with integrity and sensitivity. In the long run, gracious professionalism is part of pursuing a meaningful life.

Gracious Professionalism—what a concept! ...what a responsibility.

For Sale:

1986 Econoline Van, Gas, Lights, Siren, 16 ch. VHF Radio,
Stretcher, New Tires
\$3000 or Best Offer
Clio Rescue Squad (334) 397-4032
Chauncey Woods

Please submit items for consideration to
editor@alars.org

Ariton Rescue Honors Ronnie Danner For 25 years as Rescue Captain

by Rhonda Peters & Nita McGhee

On December 6, 2007, Ronnie Danner was honored for his 25 years as head of the Ariton Rescue Squad. Danner celebrated his 40th year with the Ariton Fire & Rescue at the annual Christmas social at Sutton's Restaurant in Ariton.

Chartered in 1968, the Ariton Rescue Squad actually began operation in November, 1967. Ronnie Danner is the only charter member remaining on the squad today. Although he has decided not to continue as captain, he will remain a very active member. "I just want to be a peon now, you see" Danner said, "It is time to turn it over to someone else". Danner was named Rescuer of the Year for 2007. He was presented two plaques, one for Rescuer of the Year and the second with the EMT prayer on it.

Ariton Fire & Rescue is located in the old National Guard Armory building in Ariton. We have two ambulances as well as the Jaws of Life and we serve the northern end of Dale County. All of our equipment is paid for thanks to the generous donations of the citizens of Ariton and the surrounding community.

Ariton Fire and Rescue elected the following members as the new officers for the year 2008. Captain – Rhonda Peters, Lieutenant – Nita McGhee, Fire/Rescue Secretary/Treasure – Edsel Bonds, Fire Chief – Aubrey Peters, Assistant Chief – William Carroll, Fire Captain – Jason Peters, Fire Lieutenant – Justin McGhee.

The Ariton Fire & Rescue Squad currently has 20 members. We are looking forward to upgrades in our equipment and getting new members. We are proud to serve such a wonderful and supportive community.

Ariton Rescue Squad and the community would like to say "THANK YOU" to Ronnie for his dedication and service.

"We serve because we care"



Ronnie being presented with a cake for his service.



Ronnie enjoying his cake!

CLIO RESCUE "WE SAVE LIVES"

By Tina Wood

The first quarter for us has been slow EMS wise with only 2 or 3 calls a week. Hey, we're not complaining though because it has given the squad members time to catch up with "honey dos!" Captain Richard Johnson resigned January 14th "due to conflicts with Clio's Mayor" he stated in a letter of resignation. Co-Captain Alice "Granny" Robinett is our Captain and she has taken the "bull by the horns" so to speak and is learning all the duties and responsibilities of her new position. She has a direct line with the office of EMS and Trauma (Dennis and Gary) and AARS President Danny Butler. Granny has stressed this past quarter to everyone to "continue to work together and follow the EMS rules!" The Co-Captain is Shirley Smith who was elected February 11th.

Our Squad, officers and members alike, have been under much stress the past couple of months due to a "Who has control and owns what vehicles" issue. The Clio mayor claimed the city owned the 1986 van and 1993 box ambulances. Our rescue squad incorporated in June 2004, four months prior to the mayor taking office for his first term. When the squad bought and paid for both above ambulances, they were titled to Clio Rescue Squad. Our new 2005 box ambulance is titled to Clio Rescue Squad, Inc. so the Alabama Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Division, Vehicle Services Manager proved. Clio Rescue sought the legal advice and expertise of Former District Judge Robert Bowden of Clayton to handle this matter along with a letter from AARS President Danny Butler to the mayor of Clio and five council members, supporting our volunteer rescue squads membership in good standing with explanation of certain qualifications in certain search and rescue cases, missing persons, transports, carrying equipment to the scene, quarterly meetings and EVOC training, just to mention a few. It is very discouraging to all volunteer rescue squads whether incorporated or not to be "bullied". It is no wonder volunteerism is almost extinct! Clio Rescue is alive and moving forward. Until next time be safe and God Bless and keep you safe.

Rescue Squad President Thanks Fellow Members and AARS

By Terry Newman

To my fellow squad members, I would like to thank each and every one of you for the job you do. Every time we are called out on an emergency, no matter what time or what the weather conditions are, you are right there ready to do whatever needs to be done. I know you think at times that it seems like a thankless job, to give of yourself and give your time as well as time away from your families, but I assure you, the families we have helped, when they have had a love one in harms way, appreciate you and so do I. I am honored to work side by side with each of you and I wish to thank the Jackson Gap Volunteer Fire Department for standing side by side with us and all of us working as a team to do what we can for the Tallapoosa County and Lake Martin areas.

On Wednesday, March 12, 2008, we laid to rest one of our longest standing members, Mr. Willie Joe Taylor. Mr. Taylor was a founding member of Peckerwood Rescue Squad and remained a supportive member until his death. He was confined to a wheel chair, but still continued to come to various functions put on by the Squad. The last function he attended was just two months before his death.

Mr. Joe continued to give even after his death as he was an organ donor and someone received the gift of sight because of him. Peckerwood Rescue Squad was important to him and he was important to all of us. Mr. Joe was also Fire Chief of the Jackson Gap Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years. When we notified the AARS of his passing not only did they send out the Honor Guard but Danny, Matt and Debbie came as well. The family and the squad were deeply honored and very touched by their presence, camaraderie and support. The Honor Guard gave an outstanding tribute to Mr. Joe, it was appreciated and will long be remembered. We at Peckerwood Rescue Squad think of each other as family and the entire AARS and Honor Guard are definitely part of our family. Thank you again.

Autauga County Rescue Squad

By Rocella Miley

Greetings to all from the Autauga County Rescue Squad located in Prattville, Alabama where Mike Surles is our commander and Ronald Johnson is the 2nd in command. Our "2008" year has started out with training, fun, disaster, fund raisers and more training.

From January to March our weeks have been full of excitement. We had our Mardi Gras parade and NIMS training. We traveled to Daleville for the first quarterly meeting and Daleville your hospitality was great. We enjoyed the fellowship that we had and the prizes that we won.

We did not know that after having fun with our fellow rescue squad members we would have a disaster to deal with ourselves. The tornado that hit Prattville gave us memories that will not be forgotten and for the lives that were spared we are so thankful and grateful that no one was killed. We would like to thank all of the squads, firemen and emergency responders that came to help us.

We have had our fund raiser with Bow Hunters weekend where we serve the bow hunters with food for the weekend. Our next outing is with Relay for life. Barb Sullivan who not only serves as a board member and volunteers with our team was the first in line to sign us up for the walk. Barb, as well as myself, has had family members who have had or have cancer. This is not only important to our community but to our families as well.

Hope to see you all on May 17, 2008 in Alexander City at the next quarterly meeting. God bless to all.



Ready for the Mardi Gras Parade.



Ronald Johnson getting ready for the Parade.



Laura (Smiley) Pate during the tornado.

Basic Cave Rescue Orientation Seminar

August 22 - 24, 2008

Huntsville, AL

Presented by the

Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit

Member: AARS



ABOUT THE SEMINAR:

This seminar is designed to present the most current, specialized cave rescue techniques to those individuals, groups, agencies and others interested in or charged with the responsibility of performing high angle, cliff, pit or cave rescue. The course is presented in seminar form, using both classroom and field work stressing hands-on training for students. The instructional team will consist of cave rescue instructors, who are highly experienced in both actual and simulated cave rescue. This is an excellent overview of the 7-day, 70-hour National Cave Rescue Commission course held each year in various areas of the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brian Bailey, Chairman

Home: 256.498.6577

brian@HCRU.org

Ed Nicholas, Chief Of Operations

Home: 256.859.5550

Work: 256.533.7025

ed@HCRU.org

Registration forms available from
info@HCRU.org

WWW.HCRU.ORG

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Any individual interested in developing the array of technical, medical and management skills required to conduct wilderness rescue. Previous classes have included personnel from cave rescue units, volunteer fire departments, emergency management agencies, park service personnel and EMTs. Individuals not working for an agency are welcome and encouraged to attend. Classes will be limited to 50 students. To ensure a place in the class, pre-registration is recommended.

SEMINAR TOPICS:

The seminar subjects include all phases of cave rescue organization and management. Subjects covered:

- Incident command system
- Underground environment
- Underground communications
- First aid and patient assessment (advanced medical management material is presented for EMS personnel)
- Response systems
- Patient packaging and transport
- Hauling/lowering systems
- Vertical rescue
- Extrication techniques
- Pre-planning and logistics

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

All necessary equipment will be furnished with the exception of personal caving and safety gear. The following is strongly recommended, to allow the student the maximum participation in the seminar.

1. Approved helmet, with chinstrap and lamp bracket (no fire helmets)
2. Three sources of light, with main source being mounted on helmet
3. Sturdy, lugged-sole lace-up boots
4. Twenty feet of 1" tubular webbing
5. Full seat harness
6. Three locking carabiners
7. Rugged clothing (no turnout gear)
8. Gloves with leather palms (work gloves are fine)
9. Descending device (figure 8, rack, etc.)
10. Ascending system (gibbs, jumars, etc., if possible)
11. Small heavy-duty pack for above equipment (*not* frame backpack)

COST:

\$50 per person, and includes lunch on Sunday

WHERE & WHEN:

Friday night, August 22, 2008 Intro to SRT (single rope technique)

TLS, Inc. 1221 Jordan Lane, Huntsville 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday, August 23, 2008 Classroom & Hands-on Training

Sessions 8:00 am - 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Sunday, August 24, 2008 Field Day

Wheeler Wildlife Refuge 8:00 am

2nd Quarterly Meeting
At
Charles Bailey Sportsplex
1840 Sportsplex Blvd.
Alexander City, Alabama
(Hwy 280 E to Hwy 22W, ¾ mile down on left, follow the signs)

May 17, 2008

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

Vendors.....8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Welcome by Mayor Barbara Young 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.

Speical Guests: Congressman Mike Rogers and State Rep. Betty Carol Graham

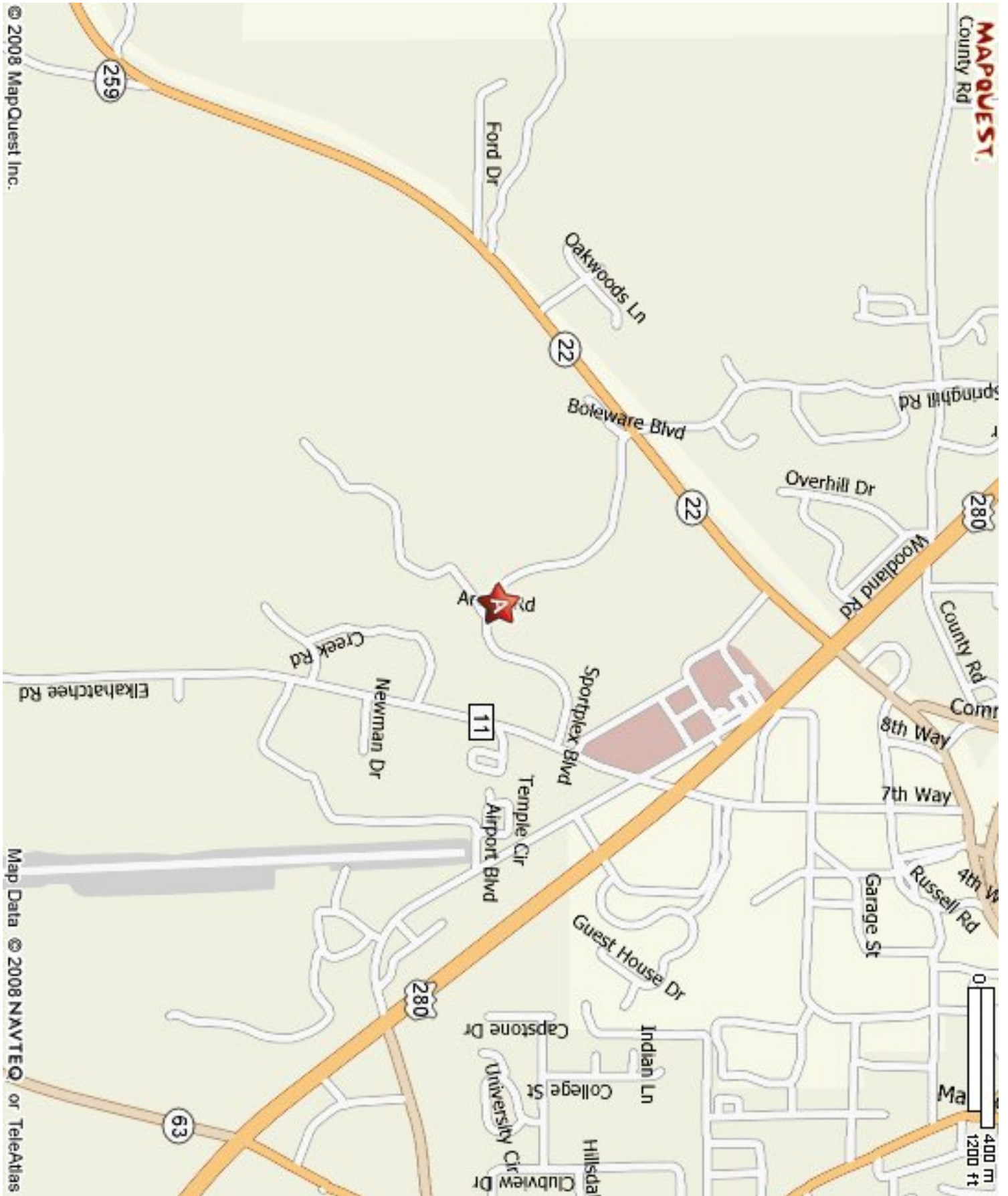
Lodging

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Jameson Inn	4335 Hwy 280 Alexander City, Alabama	\$65.40	(256) 234-7099
Royal Inn	4000 Hwy 280 Alexander City, Alabama	\$47.96/ \$52.92	(256) 329-8858

Contact information for questions:

Terry Newman (256) 392-0688 (256) 234-0135 Linc: 1*82*601	Sue Walls (256) 825-9100 Linc: 1*82*2056
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Alexander City Area Map



Joe Stone Receives Lifetime Membership Award from AARS

by Lynn Dale

Joe Stone, a founding member of the Coosa Valley Rescue Squad was honored on Friday, December 7, 2007 with the prestigious Lifetime Membership Award from the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads. Making the presentation was Matt Knight, Second Vice President of the AARS.

Joe has 49 years of service with the Coosa Valley Rescue Squad and was a founding member of the organization when it was formed in 1958. Through the years, and under his leadership, the squad has grown and ranks high in its capability today.

"This award recognizes Joe Stone for his longtime service," said Gene Watson, First Lieutenant of the Coosa Valley Rescue Squad. "We are proud of our captain. Every member is proud of him and our squad. Joe Stone is really dedicated to the Coosa Valley Rescue Squad," he said. Stone serves on the Ways and Means Committee of the AARS. Joe has the story to tell on the history of the Coosa Valley Rescue Squad. CVRS was organized in March 1958 with the help of State Trooper Billy Sumerlin. The only other rescue squad at that time was the Anniston Rescue Squad and they were very helpful in training members and getting CVRS organized. At the time of our organization the fire department only had ropes with hooks on them and used their personal boats to recover bodies. The county had one 12-foot boat and trailer that was useless without something to tow it, so Billy scouted around and found an old Packard ambulance and this put us in business.

Stone and a small group of squad members, Kelly Ingram and David Gillium to name a few, met for the first time and held a training session in what was known at the Craddock Clinic building located on Calhoun Avenue. This building had been remodeled and converted into offices after the clinic relocated. While meeting in the Craddock building our equipment had to be stored elsewhere and it was stored on a vacant lot behind A&P food store on Broadway. The vacant lot was later used for a car lot so we had to store the equipment elsewhere. Curtis Liles was kind enough to let us move our equipment to the radio station property until we could find a building.

After a short time we were able to rent a building that is now Aarons Auto Repair. We rented this building for several years until we located a vacant lot on Edwards Street owned by the city. After approaching the

city council, they agreed to lease the property for \$1.00 a year for 100 years. The rescue squad building we now occupy was built in three phases. The first building was built with material from the old Foote Brothers Furniture Store. The squad members built the first and second phase with the exception of the brick work. The third phase was contracted out and all three phases give us a total of 11,600 sq feet. Returning from a call on a drowning near Stemley Bridge, the old Packard ambulance engine blew up just as we made it to Herds Gap. This was only our second or third mission with it. At that time contractors were completing work at Wilsonville Steam Plant and had a Pontiac ambulance they did not want to carry back to Portland, Oregon. Through some help we were able to secure it for \$1.00 and again we were ready for calls.

Joe Stone has watched the Coosa Valley Rescue Squad grow to approximately 40 members, 12 vehicles, 4 boats, motors, 8 generators, extrication equipment, top of the line communication equipment, 4 ATVs, and a John Deere Gator equipped with a stretcher and medical supplies. The squad is now a member of the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads and part of the Sylacauga Ambulance Service where our Rescue 24 is used when someone is pinned in a vehicle and the Hurst tool "Jaws of Life" is needed. Rescue 24 is also equipped with power saws, ropes, pry tools, hydraulic rams and air bags. No longer does our funding come from road blocks but from city appropriation, the United Way and personal donations.

Our services have exceeded the Sylacauga area to extend as far as Guntersville, Hurtsboro, and as far south as Mobile and Louisiana. We assist the local police, fire, and sheriff departments and forensics services due to storm damage, missing persons, and drownings. A previous rescue mission was for an elderly lady with Alzheimer's, the search lasted for 12hrs but with the blessing of finding her alive and just slightly dehydrated. Our generators were used in the NAOS groundbreaking ceremony for the new theatre here in Sylacauga. On several occasions our 4 wheel ATVs were used in assisting the EMA for installation of towers on Bald Mountain in Talladega.

So, if you get a chance to meet Joe Stone of the Coosa Valley Rescue Squad, take some time and find out what his eyes have seen and the stories he can tell. Joe very much deserved his Lifetime membership for his dedication to the squad and he can definitely be considered a man of valor.



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Matt Knight presents Joe Stone with Lifetime Membership Award from AARS

Morgan County Gets a New Boat

By Tony Weikert

Morgan County has finally received our new boat. It has been three years in the making trying to figure out how to make a dream come true for all of us. We got our dream boat, now all we have to do is figure out how to pay for it, but that's another story. It officially went into service on February 23, 2008. We wanted a boat that could handle anything and everything that we respond to on the water.

The boat is custom built measuring 27 feet long with a three foot extension and is ten feet wide. It was built by SeaArk in Monticello, Arkansas. It has a cabin that gets us out of the elements which may have been our number one concern because as all of you know when you are on the water in the winter time, it can be very brutal on the rescuer as well as the people being rescued! The SeaArk is equipped with a two man dive station and EMS treatment bench inside the cabin. We have all the EMS supplies onboard and for all practical purposes the boat is a floating ambulance. It is equipped with a reinforced tow bar and also a section off the port side which can be removed for easy access in and out of the water for divers. So far this year we are off to a busy pace on calls. Of course most of what we have done so far was before we received our new boat! However we had an incident on Saturday, March 22 that resulted in the drowning death of one man who jumped from the Whitesburg Bridge which crosses the Tennessee River at the Madison - Morgan County line. Two men jumped, one survived and the other did not. It took 8 days to find the body, but in the end we were successful.

I would like to thank all the squads that came and helped us on the Whitesburg Bridge incident. There were seven or eight different squads and three dog teams that came and offered support. We could not have brought this tragedy to a close without the great help that we received. There is no way to do justice to how we feel about the squads that came to give support. Most we didn't even have to contact, they called us and offered their help!! When you have these types of calls it is great to have help from our brother and sister rescue squads. Without you it makes the task very difficult. If at anytime we can be of assistance to you, please let us know.



Morgan County Rescue Boat in action.

BROCK BUTTS
Territory Manager

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www.peachstateambulance.com

*** 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.

Contacts keep a Rescue Squad active and up to date

By Daniel Jackson

Everybody knows that a Rescue Squad lives and dies by the participation of its members, but when the missions are at the slow time of the year what will a lively Rescue Squad do? The Etowah County Rescue Squad (ECRS) maintains its presence in the community by attending community functions and social gatherings. By doing this the squad keeps up appearances and adds new contacts at every event. This past year the ECRS has been very active in between missions. The ECRS had the pleasure of being asked to set up first aid tents at a local church and the Mid South band competition held at Gadsden High School. The ECRS also had divers on hand at the boat races in Gadsden and provided road block assistance for the Gadsden Christmas parade and floats for the Hokes Bluff and Altoona parades. The ECRS had the pleasure of being invited to the Gadsden Police Awards Banquet in which several of our officers attended to show support for our local police department and keep our wonderful organization on the minds of our local leaders. These are just some of the events which the ECRS attend.

Attending such functions not only keeps us on the mind of the citizens of the community we are gladly serving, it also serves as a way to generate new contacts and refresh old contacts. These contacts helped facilitate us attending meetings with the local EMA office about communications and what we need to do to keep us in touch with each other, while working a mission, the meeting also put us in contact with the right people for replacing old equipment with new up to date equipment. These community functions have also kept us in contact with the local leaders which we depend on for funding and approval to participate in local functions. Participating in these events also reminds our community why they continue to donate money to our organization and helps them remember that we are here serving them at their hour of need no matter what kind of mission we are working.



Briefing at Whitesburg Bridge Rescue including members of Etowah County Rescue



Medevac Helicopter Tour at 1st Quarterly Meeting. (Photo by Rick Miller)



George Roberts discussing "important" matters? (Photo by Rick Miller)

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Richard Douthat looking at CPR equipment with a vendor at Quarterly Meeting. (Photo by Rick Miller)

In Memory Of:

Robert Dean Uhls
1958 – 2008

Robert Uhls, Chief of the HEMSI Search Dog Unit, died recently after a year-long battle with cancer.

Robert served in the Army National Guard and worked in management at Kroger Co. for 15 years followed by Walgreens for the past several years. Robert was a devout Christian, taught youth bible study, and gave generously to charity and service. Robert and his wife of 30 years, Brenda, have been affiliated with HEMSI since 1998. Robert was drawn to rescue work because it combined his love of the outdoors and service. It was also a very personal devotion after he witnessed the multi-agency efforts to save his son who had broken his neck in a climbing accident.

Robert joined the HEMSI Search Dog Unit in 1999, where he served faithfully for over 8 years. During his service with HEMSI, Robert trained three search dogs, Heidi, Jett, and Wilson, in multiple disciplines. Although he began with no prior training experience, he was a consummate student, had keen intuition and natural talents, and quickly learned how training became the portal into the minds of his canine partners. He combined this knowledge with his desires to innovate and created new training apparatus and new ways to approach training problems. He aspired to a high performance standard and expected the same of others.

Son, husband, father, grandfather, soldier, musician, leader, Christian, rescuer, volunteer, Chief, friend. Robert filled many roles and was a role model for all who came to know him. Robert was a leader that practiced what he preached and led by example. His meek and tender heart, his gentle mannerism, and his humility and grace had a calming effect on all persons in his presence. He touched many lives and those who came to know him have been truly blessed. Robert is a hero and friend that will be dearly missed.



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



Donald Davidson, Vina Rescue Squad
Kathy Kirk, Randolph County Rescue Squad
Charles Banks, Sr., Monroe County Rescue Squad
Rufus P. Helms, Luverne Rescue Squad
Robert D. Uhls, HEMSI Search Dog Unit
Willie Joe Taylor, Peckerwood Rescue Squad

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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What is President Danny Butler plotting?? (Photo by Rick Miller)

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