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THE ALABAMA RESCUER



2009 First Quarter

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2009 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

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ASST CHAPLAIN.....HOYT MCCAGHREN

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TIM WILLIS, Cullman County
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MARIA JAY, Geraldine
JANNA ASHMORE, Ider
BRIAN STYLES, Cullman
DANILLE BYRD, McIntosh

FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

WOW!!! As we start the year off running it is only a few short weeks until we meet for our first quarterly meeting in Ozark. I guess the main thing for me will be the excitement of conducting the business at hand. Chauncey has introduced our bill and hope it will be one of the first bills out when the legislature starts up. With the quarterly meeting being a week later, Chauncey may have a little insight on it already. Let's wait and see!!! Now I have to say I really am looking forward to seeing our new tag on some of the cars and trucks, I had to stop by our Revenue Commissioner office and got to see it first hand. In my opinion I think it will catch a few eyes traveling abroad. You might be surprised where our tags go, Danny and I had the opportunity to help with the ITLS-C in Montgomery back in October and right of the side of the lobby is a wall of tags and yes there was a rescue squad tag. We are a vital part of Alabama Public Services as I have said many times.

The year starts off with transition but not really much. I appreciate the members of the association allowing the officers to flip around and make this big transition for me be really easy. I can't say thanks enough to Danny for being around for all the questions that are going to arise. Jason has a lot in store in the upcoming year but he has got to stop spending so many days at the ER.. Ha Ha Ha Ha!!!! Debbie has worked extremely hard in getting all the renewals out and I appreciate her hard work for the association. I have been down to do a squad inspection and have asked Chauncey to do some as well. We as an association need to continue to recruit good active units everywhere.

Not to say what your squad is to do, that is not up to the association, but the Board of Directors of your organization, I encourage all squads to become NIMS complaint. That is one thing the State EOC has asked us. I had a meeting with Rep. Mike Rogers on another matter and I did ask him to keep us in mind for all future funding and training. I have been asked by Dennis Blair to serve on the state QI committee, I think this once again shows the State EMS office's efforts to keep every one of the squads informed and on track for any upcoming changes and challenges that we may face in the future. Please keep me informed on any concerns you might have.

The executive committee has formed a committee to look at the Honor Guard's role, responsibilities, membership, and rules. This is not at all a criticism of any one of the Honor Guard, we want the Honor Guard to work as effectively and efficiently as possible and have some clear guidelines to follow. I appreciate Mike's leadership and each one of the members dedication to the great job and professionalism they represent. We as an executive committee just want to make it work effortlessly.

Look forward to seeing you all soon and don't hesitate to call me if you need me.

Matt

FROM THE DESK OF THE 1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Hello to all. Let's start the New Year by saying welcome to our new President, Matt Knight. I want everybody to give him all the support you have given me over the past 2 years. I can assure you Matt has hit the ground running. We have met to get the committees together and he has some fresh ideas that we discussed. Coming back to serve you again, I can say how honored I am to be a part of this great asso-

ciation. Also I want to thank Shannon Davidson, Debbie, Matt, Jason, and Gwen for their work over the past years. I can't forget Chauncey and Tina Wood, we had a great number of vendor's, and a great Conference. Classes were good, Jason did well about getting them together.

I also want to thank all the Instructors who came down and taught classes for us, especially the Fire College. Thanks to Laura Pate in keeping us entertained as well as teaching us what we needed to know. I have some Certificates at home for people that did not pick them up, so if you need them you can e-mail me and I will get them to you ASAP. Congratulations to all the winners of the awards. It was a surprise and an honor to be awarded the Glenn Parris award. I don't do what I do for the recognition, but I am truly honored to receive this award. We also had some help from squad members that were there taking classes so I put them to work. I want to get a plug in for Floyd and Rick, our photographers'. You can see their work in the magazine which is great. The Conference went well, but as with every conference, we did have some problems with some charges that were not part of the conference. So let me stress, WE, the executive board are the only one's who can authorize a room or food and so on from this point on. Once we set a room up for an activity it will stay in that room. Of course the food at the banquet is still an issue, I am very optimistic we can over come this at some time.

Remember it is time for your license renewal again. You can do this online or do the paperwork. I have done the online for the past 2 times to renew, it has been a good thing, the license came in 3 days, but as always it has its problems. Also check your National Registry, time for it too.

I want to apologize to the members of Union Rescue Squad. I was to do a CPR class for them, but was unable to do so due to being sick, so please don't hold it against me folks. I will try to make it up to you. As always be safe in what you are doing so we can see you at the February meeting. As you may know it will be held on the **4th weekend, Feb 28th** in Ozark, AL. Hope to see you there.

Danny Butler—1st V.P.

FROM THE DESK OF THE 2nd VICE PRESIDENT:

Hello Again,

Wow! It's the beginning of another year. Hope everyone had a good Holiday season, it's hard to believe it's gone by so fast. Hope everyone had a great time at conference, I'm still recovering. I would like to thank all who participated in the competitions, instructors and all who helped behind the scenes. There is a lot more work that goes into planning a conference than most people realize. We are already starting to prepare for this year and hope y'all are doing the same. If you think of any classes you would like to see taught at conference, please make a list for me by the first quarterly meeting which is **February 28 in Clio**. We had an officers meeting December 30th in Anniston, thanks to Johnny Warren for the use of his office. We are excited about the things to come this year, we are already working on a few projects that could be interesting to all. I already have several extrication and other classes set up for the year. If I can help you with any classes you want taught, please let me know. These will be posted on the website soon, so keep a check on it and see what is to come. We are looking at doing a training day in late spring and will let you know more at the next meeting. Hope to see everyone there.

Jason Heard—2nd Vice President

FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Conference 2008
November 8, 2008

Meeting was called to order by President Danny Butler. Colors were posted and opening prayer by Doyce Bobbitt. Debbie called roll with 77 squads being represented. Danny asked that due to a medical emergency with the member of Pea Ridge that was here and had to leave that Pea Ridge be counted. Motion by Clio, seconded by Ider. Motion carried. Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes by McIntosh, seconded by Arab. Motion carried. Debbie read the financial report. The Executive Board recommended that Debbie be reappointed as Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Motion by Clio, seconded by Cherokee County. Motion carried. Danny talked about the Honor Guard and expanding it to have a north and south region. Also Danny requested that all requests for the Honor Guard be made to the Executive Board and then they will contact the Honor Guard. Danny also talked about moving the Memorial Service to the General Business meeting in 2009. The February meeting has been changed to February 28th due to a scheduling conflict. It will be at the Ozark Civic Center. Danny called Chauncey up to speak about the new tag. You can have the tag personalized for \$50.00 per year. Chauncey talked about the legislation and our bill, as of now we have a new bill being drafted. 50 % for AARS, 40% for DOT and 10% for Peace Officers Annuity & Benefit Fund. Legislation will reconvene February 3rd. Bruce Patrick spoke about the fuel tax and being refunded for fuel taxes that the squads pay. Johnny Warren spoke about resolution to have squads become NIMS compliant. Lara Pate also spoke about NIMS. Anniston made motion to adopt, Cherokee Rescue seconded. Motion carried. Danny spoke about registering for conference, it is very important that everyone register and not wait until they get to the conference. It is costly to the Association to get the instructors to come in and then not have anyone there for classes. Danny called Don Dollar to speak about his daughter, who has epilepsy, and getting congress to recognize that epilepsy is a disability. Don had petitions for people to sign that they support this this. Motion by SARTEC to adopt a resolution that we support this, seconded by Lillian. Motion carried. Danny told the membership that we had to buy a new computer for \$900.00. Motion by Lillian to approve purchase, seconded by Cullman. Motion carried. Matt spoke about the magazine. The reason that magazines are not getting to people on time is not the editor or the publisher, it is the post office. Make sure that the association has your correct address. There will not be magazines mailed to people with duplicate addresses. Matt thanked the members of the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squad for all of their help. Jim Williamson came up and

spoke about the states working together.

Jason spoke about registration. Jason presented a plaque to Peckwood Rescue Squad for high attendance 3rd quarter. High attendance for conference 2008 is Vina Rescue Squad. Plaque was presented to Danny Butler for Rescuer of the Quarter .

Debbie asked for people to send in recipes. Matt spoke about the proposals for next year. It was voted to come back to Mobile in 2009. Johnny with the nominating committee asked for a motion for the officers to be elected by acclimation. Motion by Clio, second by Ider. Motion carried. Danny thanked Rick Miller for designing the T-shirts and extrication patches. Danny also thanked South Lamar for hosting the 3rd Quarterly meeting. Motion to adjourn by Clio, seconded by Ider. Motion carried.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**** IF YOUR GREEN CARD IS INCORRECT, PLEASE NOTIFY DEBBIE TIDWELL ASAP SO SHE CAN CORRECT IT.**

**** PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RECIPES TO DEBBIE TIDWELL ASAP FOR THE AARS COOKBOOK**

**** 2009 SECOND QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2009**

**** THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT ANY ARTICLE SUBMITTED FOR LENGTH, CONTENT, AND APPROPRIATENESS**

**** ANY ARTICLES SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE NO EXCEPTIONS SO THE MAGAZINE CAN GET OUT TO YOU QUICKER****

**** ANY ARTICLE SUBMITTED THAT IS FROM A COPYRIGHTED SOURCE, MUST INCLUDE REPRINT PERMISSION, THIS IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT *****

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

**** PLEASE REMEMBER IF YOU HAVE BEEN USING YOUR SQUAD'S ADDRESS INSTEAD OF YOUR HOME ADDRESS FOR THE AARS, PLEASE BE SURE TO NOTIFY THE EDITOR AT editor@alars.org OF YOUR HOME ADDRESS OR YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A MAGAZINE *****

**** 2009 QUARTERLY MEETINGS ARE BEING HOSTED BY:
1ST QUARTER: CLIO RESCUE SQUAD
2ND QUARTER: PECKERWOOD RESCUE SQUAD
3RD QUARTER: DEKALB COUNTY RESCUE SQUADS**



“Can he come home with us, Mama?”
(Photo by Rick Miller)

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP
SO WE CAN HELP YOU**

**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS
STATE FUEL TAX REFUND BILL**

TARGET – FEBRUARY LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PURPOSE:

This is a proposed legislative bill to allow refunds of the state fuel tax that we now pay for each gallon of fuel purchased for Squads operating vehicles.

This bill will be only for member Squads of the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads.

PROGRESS:

Our 6th. District Senator Honorable Roger Bedford Jr. and our House of Representatives member the Honorable William Thigpen Sr. are working hard to get a bill ready for the February 2009 Legislative Session. At the present time they are working with the Legislative Reference Service and the Legislative Fiscal Office in Montgomery on a Fuel Tax Refund bill.

This would be modeled after the fuel tax refund bill that the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments got passed. They are now receiving this tax refund on each gallon of fuel purchased for department vehicles.

The state fuel sales tax is used for building state roads, so we may have some opposition from this group.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Between now and the February Legislative Session contact your state Senators and Representatives and let them know what the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads is trying to do to help our member Rescue Squads. The more you express to them our need the better chance we will have. We are all operating as volunteers and we need to save whatever money we can on operating expenses.

C O N T A C T S:

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35653
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Representative 6th Dist.
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205-932-4510**

**Bruce Patrick
South Lamar Rescue
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205-662-4517**

South Lamar Rescue Squad
Promotes T.A.D.D.
By Bruce Patrick

T.A.D.D. (Turn Around, Don't Drown) is a NOAA National Weather Service campaign to warn people of the hazards of walking or driving a vehicle through flood waters. The force of the water flowing over the road is so powerful that a mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes only two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicle including pickups and SUVs. Plus, you cannot see under the fast moving water so you do not know if the road or bridge is still in place or not.

Every year more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other severe weather related hazard. The Centers for Disease Control report over half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood water. The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into of near flood waters. Why? The main reason is people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles as they are swept downstream. Of these drownings, many are preventable, but too many people continue to drive around barriers that warn you the road is flooded.

Antioch Church Road Bridge Collapse

The day was Tuesday January 6, 2009 around 7 pm, when a radio call went out from Pickens County 911 for our area volunteer fire departments and law enforcement officers to be on the lookout for a missing person. A lady and her 18 month old daughter were overdue and heavy rain was causing flooding in the area. Soon 911 was paging out a call of a vehicle in the water in a creek on Antioch Church Road. The bridge had been damaged by the flood and collapsed. It turned out that two vehicles were in the Bumcomb Creek with patient entrapment. McShan Volunteer Fire Department had incident command because this incident was in their coverage area. A tremendous rescue effort was put into action involving area volunteer firemen, law enforcement officers, Alabama State Troopers, Pickens County Ambulance Service, local divers, the Forestry Service and a local wrecker service. Two people were rescued from the water alive and transported to Pickens County Hospital. Our South Lamar Rescue Squad sent one ambulance for mutual aid medical support. I was on that ambulance with Kenneth Nichols. We staged at the Antioch Church. All of the rescuers worked so very hard to get to the victims and help them. The members of the church opened it up for the family and provided food and drink support for the rescuers. The next two hours turned from a rescue effort into a recovery effort to free the bodies of the mother and her baby.

What Happened to the Bridge? The bridge was made of two 8 foot diameter steel culverts covered with dirt and gravel on a dirt road. The force of the racing water went over the road washing the gravel from the culverts and as the car the mother was driving hit the bridge of damaged culverts, they collapsed. Her car was under water in a very short time. A second car, which was searching for her went into the water on top of her car. The impact forced both cars to be carried downstream.

What Can You Do to Avoid Getting Caught in This Situation?

Most flood-related deaths and injuries could be avoided if people who come upon areas covered with water followed this simple advice: **Turn Around Don't Drown™**.

The reason that so many people drown during flooding is because few of them realize the incredible power of water. A mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes only two feet of rushing water to carry away most vehicles. This includes pickups and SUVs.

If you come to an area that is covered with water, you will not know the depth of the water or the condition of the ground under the water. This is especially true at night, when your vision is more limited.

Play it smart, play it safe. Whether driving or walking, any time you come to a flooded road, **TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN!**

Follow these safety rules:

- Monitor the NOAA Weather Radio, or your favorite news source for vital weather related information.
- If flooding occurs, get to higher ground. Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. **Turn Around Don't Drown™**
- Road beds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. **Turn Around Don't Drown™**
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

Three Lucky Boaters
By Etowah County Rescue Squad
Communication Officer

Safety is a concern for all of us. When we know of something that is a danger for everyone we should do what we can to make it safer.

Just this past week the Etowah County Rescue Squad was called upon by Buck's Island Marine to help find a foot and twin props that had been knocked off during a mishap with a new boat. A potential buyer for a 28 ft. boat was test driving one on the Coosa River. He was making a sharp turn around when the twin prop hit something like concrete. Turns out it was a petrified stump just below the surface just off the main channel. The foot was totally separated from the boat leaving a hole allowing water to rush into the boat causing it to begin sinking. Captain Miller reported to us that three people were on board, one female and two males; all made it safely to the shore with just bumps and bruises, and of course they were wet and muddy. Captain Miller said, that some nearby fishermen came to the rescue and also helped get the sinking boat safely to shore, where it could be put onto a trailer. Captain Miller also informed us by radio that we would be needed for this mission conclusion. Later, divers from the Rescue Squad were taken out and shown approximately where the accident occurred. Working a few hours for two days the rescue divers and squad members were able to locate the stump and also find the twin prop and foot for Bucks Island Marine.

After leaving the river, Captain Miller, contacted the marine police headquarters in Montgomery to inform them about the location and the danger of the stump. He also informed them that the stump had been temporarily marked with a bumper float until they could replace it with a permanent marker, so nothing like this would happen again. This stump will be a hazard for sea-doo's, flat bottom boats, skiers or anything else in that area. So, lets all remember to report things of danger to the proper authorities!

Conference Photos



Extrication Competition.
(Photo by Floyd Guthrie)



Too much excitement for this little rescuer!
(Photo by Rick Miller)



Ramblin' Rescue Competition. (Photo by Rick Miller)

AARS
1ST QUARTERLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2009
OZARK CIVIC CENTER
OZARK, ALABAMA

Host: Clio Rescue & Dale County EMS
Ariton, Dale County Rescue & Recovery, Daleville, Echo & Skipperville

Time: 8:00 A.m. until

Contacts: Chauncey Wood
Clio Rescue
(334) 397-4032

Ronnie Danner
Ariton Rescue
(334) 762-2155

8:00 A.M. Registration

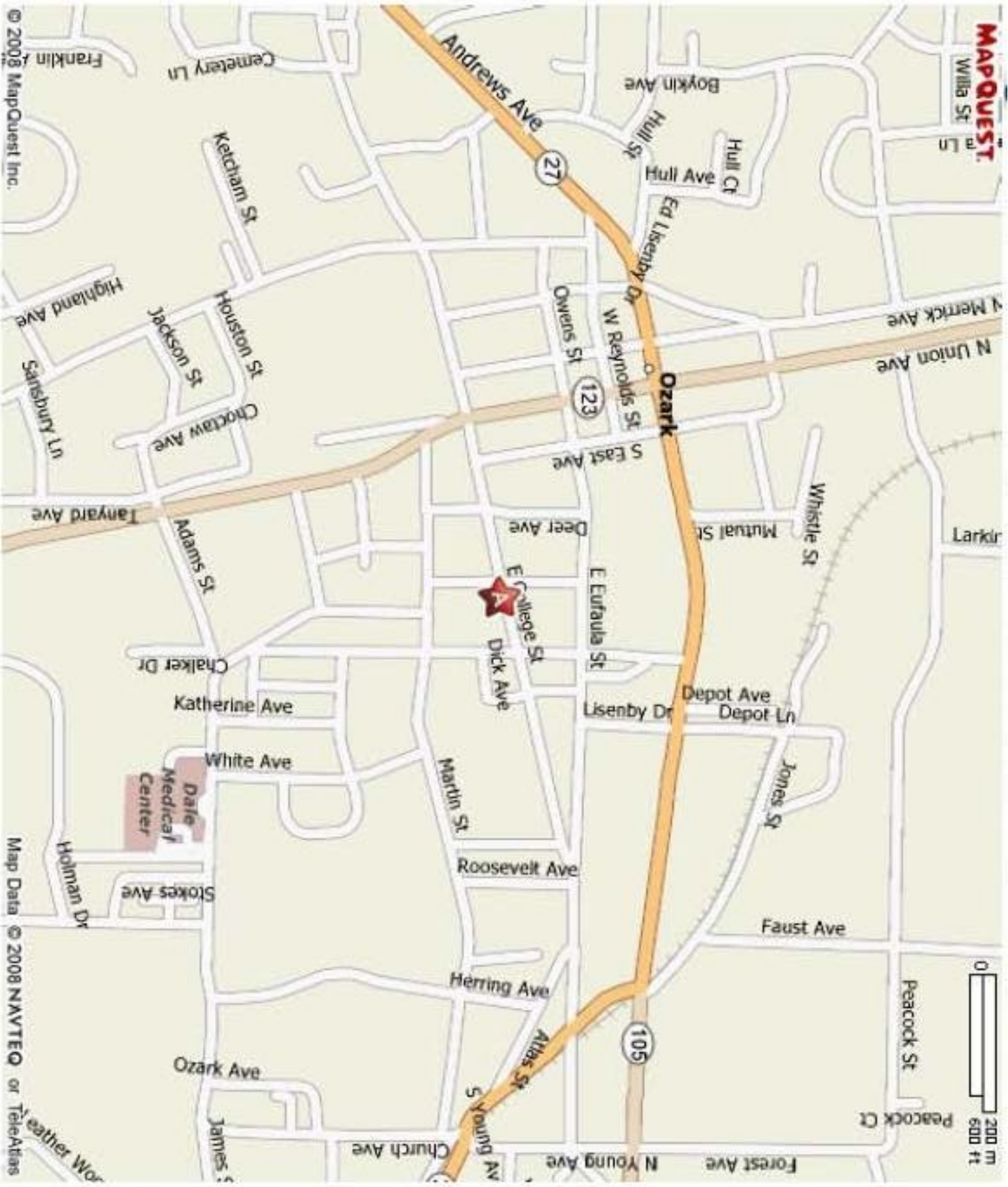
8:00 A.M. Vendors open for business

9:30 A.M. Welcome and opening remarks

10:00 A.M. Board of Directors Meeting

11:00-1:00P.M. Lunch (WILL BE SERVED)

1:00 – Until General Session and door prizes



**Mid South Band Festival
ECRS 1st Aid
Gadsden, Alabama**

On September 27, 2008 the Etowah County Rescue Squad provided first aid for the Band Festival that was held at the Gadsden City High School Football field in Gadsden, Alabama. We provide first aid for the Mid South Band Festival every year.

The afternoon started out uneventful, but this is good news. There were few reports of injuries until around 6:30 in the evening when a young lady who twisted her knee was brought in to us. This injury required only an ace bandage and an ice pack. Shortly after that, another young lady broke a finger which required a splint. Next, a young man fell off of the bleachers and scraped both hands. His injury was cleaned and bandaged. As the bands were lining up for awards, two band members, a young lady and a young man, both had asthma attacks. The young lady was administered oxygen and was then able to use her inhaler, which helped her to feel better. The young man was administered oxygen until he regained consciousness and then he was able to use his inhaler. The young man's mother soon arrived but did not want us to take him to the hospital. We stayed with him until he was standing on his own and was feeling better. Our last injury of the night was when two young ladies ran into each other and one of the young ladies dislocated her shoulder. To begin with she did not want our help but we were finally able to talk her into letting us put a pillow under her arm for support and we then transported her to the emergency room.

We are thankful that there were no serious injuries during the Mid South Band Festival. As always we enjoyed working with the young men and young ladies that take part in the festival.

**Clio Rescue
"We Save Lives"
Tina Wood, Secretary**

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Safe New Year.

Clio Rescue had a total of 196 emergency runs and 16 mutual aid calls in 2008. Now it's time to prepare for the unexpected in 2009. This past quarter we dealt with everything from stomach aches to attempted suicides,

Our newest member, Cathy Childs, will be graduating and taking the EMT National Registry in March 2009. Cathy's husband, Freddie, is a driver for our squad. We are proud of the fact that Clio Rescue has husband, wives, mothers, sons and daughters as EMT's and drivers, that is what family is all about with Clio Rescue and working together.

Clio Rescue Squad, Inc. renewed its contract with Correctional Medical Services at Easterling Correctional Facility to provide ambulatory services for 2009.

Chauncey has promised there will be lots of vendors inside and outside the Ozark Civic Center. The first Quarterly Meeting February 28, 2009. Hope to see you there.

Conference Photos



Rescue Challenge
(Photo by Rick Miller)



First Aid Competition
(Photo by Rick Miller)

“Just an Ambulance Driver”

I am just an ambulance driver, you say as I am on the scene of a vehicle accident that has a popular high school student that is trapped in the submerged S.U.V. in the creek as I'm standing in chest deep water, freezing rain falling and stinging as it hits the exposed parts of my body. Holding her head above water to keep her from drowning until rescue could get there to cut her free---BUT I'M JUST AN AMBULANCE DRIVER!

I comfort an 89 year old woman who just watched me and my partner cover the face of her husband of 64 years as he lay dead in their bathroom floor---BUT I'M JUST AN AMBULANCE DRIVER!

I am on scene at another MVA with mom trapped upside down in her car and her dead son's body laying on top of her without a second thought for my own safety I crawl into the wreckage to take C-spine control and calm the frantic lady---BUT I'M JUST AN AMBULANCE DRIVER!

I get called away from my just prepared meal to respond to the middle of nowhere to a house with no numbers, no porch light on, nobody waiting to signal us in and they get upset because we took too long only to find out the patient left in their own vehicle ten minutes ago...so we smile and walk away from the verbal lashing only because we are JUST AMBULANCE DRIVERS!

I stand in the middle of the street at midnight on the wrong side of town trying to patch the holes and stop the bleeding of a 19 year old shooting victim with the occasional bullet whizzing past our heads but we never break stride because this kids life is in our hands---BUT I'M JUST AN AMBULANCE DRIVER!

Or how about doing chest compressions on a 16 year old girl who decided this life was more than she could take, her family screaming at us to help as though we are the ones who did this to her. Her lifeless body flailing about as the tube goes in and IV's get started, my arms and back burning from the pain of 30 minutes of CPR, never once giving up, hoping she would make it through and overcome whatever lead her to this bad decision---BUT I'M JUST AN AMBULANCE DRIVER!

Death is all around me and still I go home to live my life

I get kicked, hit, spit on, bled on, puked on, cussed at and disrespected...

I look into the eyes of a lifeless child at 7am and by 8 am I'm holding my child a little tighter and they know nothing about what happened. I have hundreds of hours of classroom time, years of in the field experience, I have challenged death and by the grace of God prevailed.

I've helped the helpless

I've neglected my family for yours

I find comfort in complete chaos

I eat cold meals if I eat at all

I work with no sleep for days at a time

I miss birthdays, holidays and school functions

I put myself in harm's way for a total stranger on a daily basis

ALL BECAUSE I AM JUST AN AMBULANCE DRIVER! STOP AND THINK NEXT TIME BEFORE THE WORDS AMBULANCE DRIVER COMES OUT OF YOUR MOUTH. THE NEXT 911 CALL JUST MAYBE YOU.



Photo by Rick Miller

South Lamar Rescue Squad
Winter Home Safety Tips
By: Bruce Patrick

Here are a few tips that if used will help ensure that your family has a safe winter. Often the winter brings on more house fires as we all try to keep our families warm. These 8 tips can help ensure that your family will have a safe winter.

1. Smoke alarms – Your best home life insurance, but only if they work when needed. Did you remember to change the alarms battery when the day light savings time changed, if not change them now. Place these alarms within 10 feet of bedrooms. Test smoke alarms monthly and replace them when they are 10 years old.
2. Evacuation Planning – Know two ways out of every room. Designate a safe place to meet outside; in a fire do not go back into the fire once outside. The smoke and toxic fumes will kill you. Practice a fire escape plan at least two times per year.
3. Smoking – Never smoke in bed, never leave lit cigarettes unattended. Keep lighters and matches away from children.
4. Cooking – Never leave food unattended on or in a stove and the keep stove top clean. In case of a grease fire in a pan on the stove top, put the lid on it to put it out. A fire has to have three things to burn – fuel, heat and oxygen. Take away any one of the three and the fire will go out. Put a small fire out quickly before it gets larger. Never run to the back door carrying the pan that is on fire. The run will feed more oxygen to the fire and as you run the grease fire will splash out onto your arm.
5. Heating – Keep items at least 3 feet from space heaters and other heating sources. Use Carbon Monoxide Detectors to ensure you have enough oxygen in rooms. If a propane heater malfunctions it can cause Carbon Monoxide. Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that will put you to sleep and you will never wake up. Check propane heaters at winters start for gas leaks. Clean fire places yearly and never leave candles unattended.
6. Electricity – Do not use items with damaged cords or plugs. Do not overload outlets. Do not place extension cords under rugs or carpets. If cord plugs show signs of overheating – discolored plastic, loose plug prongs, or device tripping the circuit breaker – replace all damaged cords. That cord is warning you that it is going to start a fire if not replaced.
7. Home emergency generators – If we lose power due to a winter storm these generators can give you power for lights and to keep freezers working. Remember to only plug in the appliances that you need to work. Never plug into the main house circuit breaker panel. Never have a running generator close to doors or windows that could allow Carbon Monoxide from generator exhaust to come into your house.
8. Escaping a fire - If a house fire occurs stay low as you escape, the good air will be close to the floor. If a door knob or door is hot, stop, go another way, fire is on the other side of the door. Practice family escape plans so everyone knows where to go. Never return into a burning building.



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Addison Rescue Squad Update

Well, it is that time of year again! That's right --- elections! The Addison Rescue Squad has elected new officers.

However, we would like to take a moment to say Thank You & We Appreciate the time and dedication that the previous officers showed. We would also like to say to our previous President, Ray Ward, Thank You for your great leadership.

Now to announce our new officers:

President – Mike Tidwell
V. President – Jeannie Thielmann
Secretary – Faye Huff
Treasurer – Debbie Tidwell
Captain – Cassie Tyree
Captain – Kim “Scooter” Emerson
Captain – Lee Ray Beasley
Sergeant at Arms – J P Thielmann
Sergeant at Arms – Scott Tyree
Chaplain – Ory Hampton
Radio Man – Ray Ward
Public Relations – Cassie Tyree
Training Officer – Stephen Brewer

Congratulations to the new officers.

Now for what is going on within our squad. Although things have been slow as far as calls go, we are still very busy. We are in the process of remodeling our building and should be complete by the time this is published.

We have gained 10 new members in the past few months.

On Halloween we joined Winston EMS and the Addison Fire Department in handing out candy to the trick or treaters. This was a first for some of us, but we hope to see it become a tradition. We will soon be planning our Christmas Parade. We hope to have a long one this year. Of course Santa will be there for all the kids both young and old alike. I think that covers everything that has & is going on with the Addison Rescue Squad. We look forward to seeing everyone at the next quarterly meeting.

May God Bless & Keep You All Safe!!!



AARS President Danny Butler is Rescuer of the Quarter and Rescuer of the Year. Presentation made by 2nd Vice President Jason Heard.
Photos by Floyd Guthrie

Dusty's First Live Find
By Chris Cantrell
Walker County SAR K-9

First of all I must say thanks to Ed, Kay, Andy, Mike and all the guys and girls with SARTECH K-9 for all of their help over the last year and a half. Thanks for their support, advice and wisdom and putting up with us tagging along and all the phone calls when we needed information. The most important thing they taught us, and I do mean us, is trust your dog....trust your dog....trust your dog and if you don't trust your dog.....trust your dog.

It was a long year and a half with so many hours, days, weeks and months spent learning and training, but you have no idea what it feels like when it finally pays off. It was a cold rainy night in September when we got the call. A fellow EMT from Regional Paramedical Services and a volunteer with Fultondale Fire Department called me. When I saw who was calling I was thinking "Oh, crap...he's gonna want me to work or something." I answered and Eric said "Hey, are you working?" I told him no and I could tell by the tone in his voice something was up. He said "We were wondering if you and Dusty were available, we've got a situation out here." I immediately told him yes, we were sitting on go and got a few details. Eric told me that they had a missing 60 year old female that had not been seen since 2:30 p.m. It was now 7:30 p.m. I told him we would be in route in 15 minutes or less and I would call him in route and get more details. Angie and I grabbed our gear and loaded Dusty in the Suburban. He could tell he was "going to work" and he loved it.

We were in Fultondale by 8 p.m. and made our way to the last point seen by 8:30 p.m. Dusty was fired up and ready to go. When we reached the support vehicle that had set up a make shift base, we were informed that the female had last been seen entering the woods by way of the trail they had worked down to and that she had a dog with her. I knelt down and asked Dusty if he was ready to "go to work" and he was fired up, almost mowing me over wanting to go. We started from the point last seen and Dusty immediately picked up on a scent. The Fire Department had kept all of their people out of the woods, which wasn't necessary but it was OK since that eliminated a lot of possibilities having to be ruled out. It had also been raining which, as you know, also makes it more difficult for any dog. A police officer even remarked "It's been over an hour and a half, there's no way a dog can track her scent."

Dusty didn't even hesitate as he led us through the woods down a rock and dirt trail. I was surprised when we came to a creek that was at least twenty feet wide and Dusty didn't even slow down. We wound up having to cross this creek four times and it was even wider in some places. As we reached a concrete bridge some of the fire department members advised us that the victim lived up the hill to the right. Dusty was not even remotely interested in going that way so I told them "Dusty wants to go this way, this is the way we are going". We kept going and going and going, but before long I saw Dusty get that trot and his pace picked up and I knew we were close. I started jogging to keep up with him and then I heard another dog. I started calling the victims name and I could hear a faint reply. I was psyched and as I got closer I could hear her calling us. I yelled to her to hang on that we were coming.

We found her at the bank of the creek, that we would now have crossed five times, she was cold, bare foot and shaking but OK. I could hardly contain my feelings of elation and Dusty got lots of praise and admiration from us and the victim. Dusty was even nice enough to snuggle with her to help her warm up.

The fire department called for their deuce and a half to come in and get us and explained that we were probably about two and a half miles in and I was pretty willing to wait after having to run after Dusty all this while. They brought the truck in and we loaded Dusty in the back (he wasn't really sure about the big truck, but he dealt with it.)

We carried the victim out after letting the PD and dispatch know she had been found and was OK.

It was a very enlightening experience and made all the months of training worthwhile. There is not really any way to explain the feeling of being able to accomplish a mission and find someone who was missing, especially the first time. We are all even more dedicated to our cause and continuing our training with Dusty and his future sidekick Nadya.

To everyone in Search and Rescue.....keep doing what you are doing because we have a purpose.



Is this a meeting of the minds?
(Photo by Floyd Guthrie)



The next generation of rescuers!
(Photo by Floyd Guthrie)

AARS Honor Guard



AARS Honor Guard Memorial Service at 2008 Annual Conference. (Photos by Rick Miller)

***** SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING HONOR GUARD REQUESTS *****

**FOR ALL HONOR GUARD REQUESTS PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER
OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD INSTEAD OF CONTACTING THE
HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN DIRECTLY.**



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



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

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Russell Crowley
Deputy Director

William Crawford M.D.
Assistant Medical Director

Craig Dowell
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Financial & Special Program Manager
EMSC Grant Manager

Mark Jackson
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