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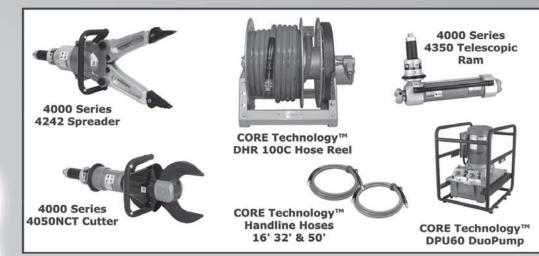


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RESCUER MAGAZINE

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FROM THE DESK OF THE 1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Hello to all! It's time to get together again, this time in Alex City with the Peckerwood Rescue Squad. We had a good meeting in February in Ozark. All the squads that were involved in setting that up are to be commended on the great job they did. Good job to Brock Butts for the good food he cooked up for us. THANKS a bunch Brock!

Now on to the main business, lots of things going on. First of all folks, we are grown ups, if we do not get the renewals in Debbie's hands by the date required then we cannot send out what she doesn't get. Be sure to keep a check on when applications are due and the cost of being late, it is posted on the applications. Also make sure the information is correct.

Since the conference is going back to Decatur, it will be a good one. I'm sure Jason is already working on the classes for then. We will try to have the NIMS 400 if possible and whatever else they come up with in the meantime. Who knows what will be next.

Jason and I went down to the drowning in Walker County on Friday March 19th to do a need assessment for them. We had several squads coming to help, but as luck would have it the body was recovered and the closure started.

As we look into this year, if the bills we have in the Senate go thru to help us on the fuel cost and tax exempt, that will help us all. Since we get little help with equipment we purchase, and that is not going down in cost, we need all the help we can get.

Matt has been busy since the last meeting and as always he is doing a great job. Jason is trying to get us up and running on some new classes, good luck with that. I hope to see you in Alex City in May. Take care and be safe as always.

Danny Butler—1st VP



HELLO, Its hard to believe we have already been thru one quarter the year. We have started working on classes for fall training. We are working setting up a water search class, we are training to get some speakers to come in from the forensic lab and local corn nor office so that we can discuss patterns and trends of what happens to a body after it has been under water for an extended period of time. We are going to try to hold this class in one of the northern regions of the state. If your squad does water search it would be beneficial to have at least one member from your squad at this class. Tentative date is set for September 12. We are also working on getting a scuba diving trip set up with training, which will be held in the southern part of the state, this will be a great way to get some CEU's, good training, and have a lot of fun. We are also working on some great classes for conference this year. One of the classes is the use of Virtual Alabama, this class will be a great benefit to all squads and would like to see at least one person from each squad attend. If you have any ideas or request for any more classes, please let me know ASAP. Just a reminder that it is necessary that you register for these classes ahead of time, so we can have adequate equipment and teachers for these classes, because remember they are giving up time to come and teach these classes for us. We have already had some great extrication classes this year. Escambia County and Athens held this classes. We are working on setting one up for Dale County and another one in Athens, if anyone in your squad is interested in attending, let us know soon these are on a first come basis. We had a great time at the last quarterly meeting in Ozark (can't wait to get some more of Brock's BBQ). Hope to see everyone in Alexander City in May for the second quietly meeting, they did a great job last year and looking for a great time again this year, with the Peckerwood gang (this is your chance at the highest attendance they can't have it this time). Remember to try and support the vendors who attend the meeting, help sponsor the magazine and come to conference because without them it would be hard to make ends meet. I would personally like to thank the ones that has helped with equipment for the state training trailer.

Jason Heard 2^{nd} VP



FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

First Quarterly Meeting February 28, 2009

Meeting was called to order by President Matt Knight, colors were posted by the Honor Guard. Doyce Bobbit opened with prayer. Roll was called with 60 squads being represented. Motion was made by Geraldine Rescue Squad to dispense with the reading of the minutes, seconded by Cullman County Rescue Squad. Motion carried. Motion was made by Geraldine Rescue Squad to dispense with the reading of the financial report. Seconded by Marengo County Rescue Squad. Motion carried. Chauncey gave legislative report. Chauncey also spoke about the Alabama Firefighter & Emergency Medical Personnel Day. It will be June 19th at 7:00 PM at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex. The information will be posted online. At this time the meeting was turned over to Danny Butler. Danny announced that Holly Pond Rescue Squad, Copeland Ferry Fire & Rescue and also Copeland Ferry Rescue Squad are on probation this year. He also spoke about Clio Rescue Squad; we received seven (7) letters of resignation from that squad. That leaves Clio with 4 members. SARTEC made a motion to suspend Clio, seconded by Coosa Valley. Motion carried. Clio will have to reapply for new membership and be reinspected by the Executive Board. Danny also spoke about the squads having a representative to be at meetings and if that person cannot be there to let the Executive Board know who will represent the squad. Danny presented 3 new squads for membership. Marley Mill was inspected by Chauncey Wood and he recommended that they be accepted. Motion by Clay County to accept Marley Mill. Seconded by Clay County Rescue Squad. Motion carried. Ashford Rescue Squad was inspected by Chauncey Wood and he recommended that they be accepted. Motion by Daleville to accept Ashford Rescue Squad. Seconded by Calhoun County Rescue Squad. Motion carried. Valley was inspected by Matt Knight and he recommended that they be accepted. Motion by Florence-Lauderdale to accept Valley Rescue Squad. Seconded by Dale County. Motion carried. At this time Danny Smith spoke about the high visibility vests and he knows a company that will make them. Jason Heard announced that Ray Hogans was appointed as liaison to the Alabama Fire College. Matt spoke about 2008 conference and the problems that we had dealing with all the details and the extra cost that were incurred. Due to extra

charges that we had to pay the Executive Board recommends that we go back to Decatur for the 2009 conference. Motion was made by SARTEC to go back to Decatur, with changed to be made by Executive Board only. Seconded by South Lamar Rescue Squad. Motion carried. A motion was made by Cherokee River to allow a single squad to host the conference that is tax exempt. Seconded by Bear Creek. Motion carried. 2010 meetings were discussed. Lillian will host February, Dale County EMS will host the May meeting and Walker County-Copeland Ferry will host the August meeting. The Executive met in December and formed a committee to work with the Honor Guard to get some policies and procedures in place. Matt discussed the Honor Guard going back to Roanoke. Motion was made by Vernon Rescue Squad to go back. Seconded by Peckerwood. Motion carried. Ray Hogans made a motion to make it mandatory for each squad to give \$25.00 to the Honor Guard to support the trip to Roanoke. There was a second made. After vote, motion failed. Matt spoke about the renewal dates and the squads that have sent by fax their renewal and not sent their checks. He encouraged everyone to remember that the renewal date is December 1st. Jason Heard presented a plaque for the Wendell Price Award for 2008 was presented to Elaine Cooley of Lillian VFD. Rescuer of the Quarter was presented to Tony Taylor of Geraldine Rescue Squad, accepted by Mark Butler. High Attendance plaque for conference 2008 for Vina Rescue Squad, they were not present to accept so plaque will be mailed. High attendance for 1st Quarter 2009 is Peckerwood Rescue Squad. Thanks to Brock Butts for the lunch he provided. Next meeting is in Alexander City hosted by Peckerwood. Colors were retired and meeting adjourned.

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

** 2009 THIRD QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2009

** IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE AN EMAILED VERSION OF THE MAGAZINE INSTEAD OF THE PRINT EDITION, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO editor@alars.org WITH YOUR NAME AND CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS **

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**** 2009 QUARTERLY MEETINGS ARE BEING HOSTED BY:** 2ND OUARTER: PECKERWOOD RESCUE SOUAD **3RD QUARTER: DEKALB COUNTY RESCUE SQUADS**

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Managing the Lost Person Incident Class Darcy Harbaugh, North Alabama Search Dog Association

Over two weekends in February, we hosted a NASAR (National Association for Search and Rescue) class called **Managing the Lost Person Incident,** taught by a NASAR instructor, Dion Petaros. This class is a very full 4 day class aimed at learning to organize and run a land search for a missing person. We had members of our unit attend, as well as representatives from Guntersville, Jackson, Morgan, Walker and Dale Counties and the HEMSI Search Dog Unit.

We learned how to systematically identify the urgency of our search, the lost person category of our missing subjects and set up our search area using existing lost person data. We did a series of tabletop exercises to get hands-on experience with segmenting that search area into appropriate and searchable sizes, and how to assign our resources to each area. We learned the benefits of different kinds of resources and where all types of resources are best used, how to debrief those resources and apply that information to the next part of the search. We also went over setting priorities on each area, and how those priorities change when certain segments are searched – allowing for different or additional resources to be deployed the next time. We learned the importance of confinement - limiting how far a person can go in the time missing, and the importance of being clue aware and using that information for setting segment priorities.

It was an incredible amount of information to take in over 4 days, and also a lot of math, probability and statistics, which was the hardest part for some of us. We got to see how it all comes together to make for an organized and efficient search effort where all areas get searched equally, and all information is communicated to all resources – all of which lead to more successful searches.

Our class hopes to continue our tabletop work and set up additional exercises so that we can get better (and faster) at finding out our preliminary information, identifying and containing our search areas as quickly as possible, and identifying resources for mutual aid requirements. If anybody would like additional information on the MLPI class, please let me know (<u>djandcompany@att.net</u>). You can also find out more information on the MLPI class at NASAR's website, <u>www.nasar.org</u>. Many thanks to the Guntersville Rescue Squad for allowing us to use their building for the class.



Our class and instructor, Dion Petaros, in front of the Guntersville Rescue Squad Building



Another group exercise, working objectives for the operational period, and what resources can help meet the objectives.



One of the groups working the final tabletop exercise, setting the boundaries of their search area based on statistical data, and then segmenting their search area into searchable sizes.

AARS 2ND QUARTERLY MEETING MAY 16, 2009

hosted by: PECKERWOOD RESCUE SQUAD AT CHARLES BAILEY SPORTPLEX 1842 Sportplex Blvd Alexander City, AL 35010

Registration	8:00 a.m.
Vendors	8:00 a.m.
Welcome & Opening Remarks	9:30 a.m.
Board of Directors meeting	10:00 a.m.
Lunch11:00 a.m.	to 1:00 p.m.
General Business Meeting	-

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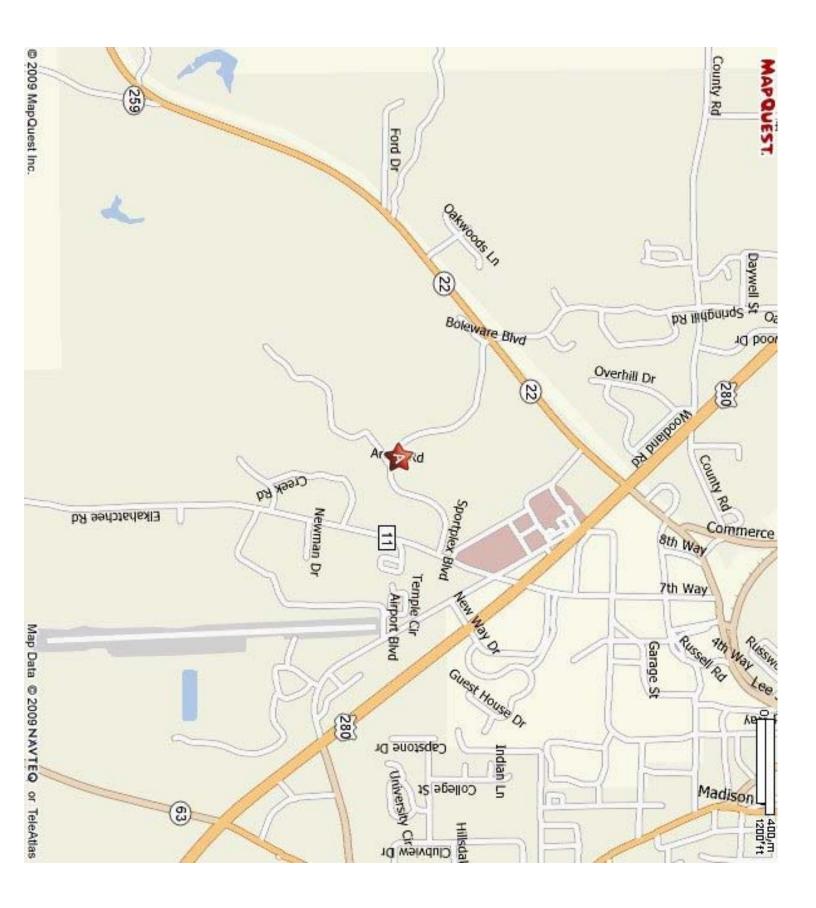
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****Special note: Anyone arriving on Friday, May 15, 2009, is invited to come over to the Sportplex for a cook out with dancing and a live band from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.****

****Directions from HWY 280 in Alexander City:**

Take Hwy 22 West. Go approximately 3/4 mile. Turn left into Charles E. Bailey SportsPlex and follow signs



Morgan County Rescue Squad By Tony Weikert

The Morgan County Rescue Squad would like to send a note of thanks to all the squads that helped us on the Whitesburg Bridge jumper call on Jan 30, 2009. We searched very hard for 3 days straight and again the following weekend, unfortunately without success. The HEMSI Dive Team tried to get divers down immediately after the jump, but the water conditions wouldn't allow them to stay on bottom. We used various sonar devices from different squads and at one time had 5 underwater cameras in use, along with many boats dragging, we just didn't hit the right spot. I think due to water and weather conditions along with old bridge debris on the bottom caused this area of the river to make it hard for body recovery. As if we didn't need further difficulty the jumper was totally naked so there was no clothing for drags to snag. We continued to search the water surface along with the help of the Marine Police and other squads. After 34 days the person finally surfaced and was discovered on March 5th. He was recovered 15.5 miles from the bridge. Other than spending many hours on this call we have been busy with other things as usual for this time of year. We had several vehicle recoveries during the heavy rain in January with people trying to drive through water across the roadway. We also had our share of boats stuck on sandbars during the low water months through the winter. Spring is almost here and that will mean more calls. Hopefully we will be ready to handle what comes our way. If we may be of assistance to anyone, please let us know.



LEFT: Meeting Attendees enjoying lunch provided by Brock Butts from Peach State Ambulance. (Photo by Rick Miller)

RIGHT: Are Danny and Debbie plotting an overthrow? (Photo by: Rick Miller)



HEMSI Search Dog Unit

By Chip Laymon, Chief

Hi-dee-ho, Good Neighbors! I hope this issue of the magazine finds you well.

The HEMSI Search Dog Unit has been very busy with a dozen requests for service in the last 90 days. We are on track for a very busy year! Fortunately, we continue to grow our membership and expand our knowledge and capabilities to better serve our community. Case in point, we were fortunate to receive sufficient grant money and donations last year to purchase a brand new Rescue One Connector Boat with trailer and 4-stroke Mercury engine. The boat is also equipped with canine decking to allow search dogs to work the gunnel along three sides of the boat. We are currently building a scent pump and other apparatus to enhance training and ultimately canine performance in this much needed area. We still retain our jon boat for small water bodies.

Two members attended a wonderful course on "Maximizing Results for the SAR First Responder" and learned lots of useful information regarding the latest laws pertaining to civil liabilities, effective ways to managing external influences during search operations, proper protocols for child abduction cases, and much more. Also, four members enrolled and successfully completed the National Association for Search and Rescue Managing the Lost Person Incident course, which comprises 32 hours of training in skills needed to perform Incident Command functions and mission planning for lost person incidents. Search management is evolving rapidly and yesteryears reliance on historical "experience" is outmoded. Today's search management "standard practices" are deeply rooted in scientific methods and statistics. Application of these practices has been demonstrated to lead to more successful search outcomes. NIMS compliance imposes numerous requirements on search managers in terms of documentation and utilizing resources that conform to NIMS Resource Typing. Other squad members from north Alabama also attended, for which our citizens will greatly benefit and will improve our on-scene coordination. In a recent mission following this course in which the material was put into practice, I generated 40 pages of documentation for an 8 hour operational period. Argh—but the future is now! Additional training on the horizon will include two members attending ICS 300 and 400 training later this month.

The HEMSI Search Dog Unit continues to provide the Canine Search Specialist role for Alabama Heavy Rescue-1. We continue development of a unique training facility and to train dog/handler teams in live disaster search. Disaster search is a discipline that requires very specialized training for both the handler and dog. Your typical wilderness area search dog does not perform up to standard in this environment unless they were trained in and became proficient in disaster search prior to transitioning to wilderness search. The basis for this is well established. Two handlers, Chip Laymon and Colin Baessler, attended FEMA's and Texas TF-1's week-long Canine Search Specialist course at Disaster City in College Station, Texas last December. This was Chip's second time through the course, but with different canines each time.

Be safe, y'all, and keep training!





TOP: Jon boat mainted by HEMSI Search Dog Unit for small bodies of water.

LEFT: Colin Baessler and Jackson after working a search problem on the "pile" at Disaster City.

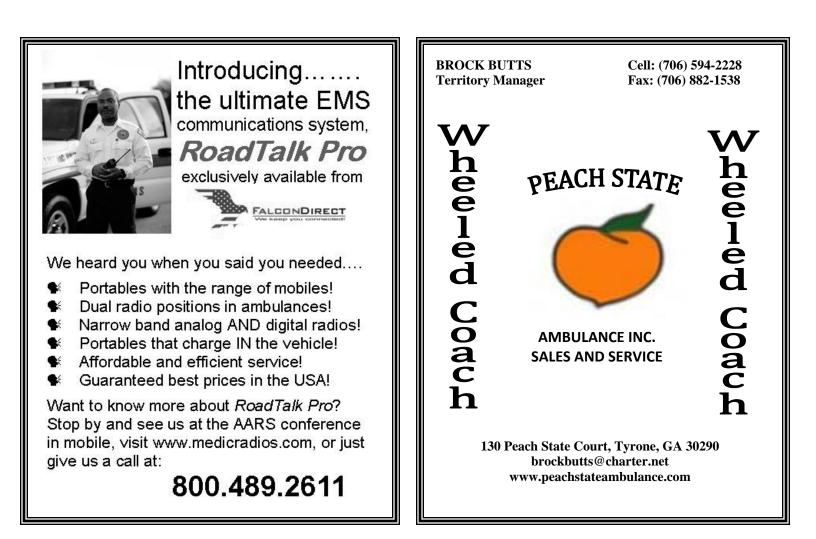
Cullman County Rescue Squad

Hello, from Cullman County Happenings! Our Squad has been busy with several missions such as missing persons, transports, flooding, ranch rodeo, and motor cross. We are in the process of remodeling our Squad building and our Squad is currently doing a fund raiser with Olan Mills. We have purchased a new 2000 Model F-350 Rescue Truck for a great price, which needed a little cosmetic work. It will look great when finished!

We would like to congratulate our new EMTs: Will Alexander, Nikki Taylor, and Megan Isbell. We also have a new First Responder: Miranda Weaver. Our new diver, Darrell Kretzschmar, only needs to take a final open water test. We would like to say best of luck to: Jeff Quick, Wesley Luker, and Darrell Kretzschmar, who are currently taking Paramedic classes at Wallace College. Additionally, we are very happy to have gained 5 new members in the past few months.

We would like to say Thank You to Mike Morgan for 20 years of Dedication and Service! We appreciate all the hard work you have given to the Squad!

May God Bless and Keep all our volunteers safe, because God has a purpose for us all.



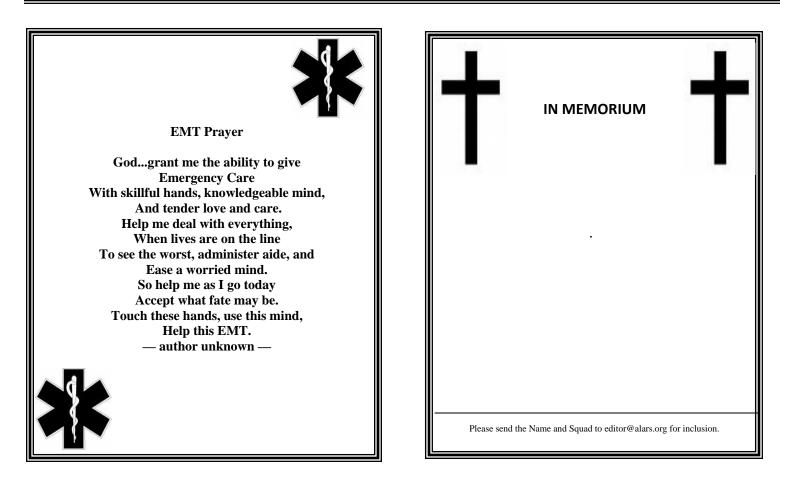
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