

The Alabama Association of Rescue Squads Presents

# THE ALABAMA RESCUER



2009 Third Quarter

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SQUADS  
ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

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COMMITTEE IF ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED.**

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**RESCUER MAGAZINE**

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**ASST CHAPLAIN.....HOYT MCCAGHREN**

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JANNA ASHMORE, Ider  
BRIAN STYLES, Cullman  
DANILLE BYRD, McIntosh

# FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

I hope the heat of summer has found everyone in the A/C or under a nice big oak tree. Things are pretty quiet around the home front. We are just getting excited about heading up on the mountain in August. The Executive Board wants to send our condolences to Dr. John Campbell and family in the death of Mrs. Jackie Campbell. I had several opportunities to listen to Dr. Campbell over the last couple of months as he was working and staying by Mrs. Jackie's side. She was a great lady that believed in Dr. Campbell's vision and was such an inspiration to him. Dr. Campbell, you know you are a friend of the AARS and our prayers are with you. The Board sends its condolences to Mr. Jim McClellan in the death of his wife, Mrs. Irene McClellan. The Clay County Rescue Squad has also had two untimely deaths of charter members. I want to extend my sympathy to them.

I want to say thanks to a lot of folks. To our Honor Guard for making the trip to Roanoke, Virginia for the National EMS Memorial Service and for attending the Alabama Sports Opening Ceremony in Birmingham at which EMS and Fire were honored. I was able to watch most of the ceremony live and now I have received the DVD and watched it several times over, many of our AARS family were visible in the ceremony. Thanks, again, goes to Chauncey for the hard work he does for the association. Our Fuel Tax Bill has passed and Governor Riley invited us down for picture taking (I hope it makes it in the quarterly if not stay tuned). Speaking of the Fuel Tax Bill, watch the State Department of Revenue web site ([www.revenue.alabama.gov](http://www.revenue.alabama.gov)) as the forms become available to begin filing for your refunds. I doubt if we can have anything in this quarterly but we will have it on the web site and in the next quarterly magazine for reference. Lastly, to the committee that we appointed to work on the Honor Guard handbook and procedures, as mentioned at the last quarterly meeting we hopefully will be adopting this soon, THANKS.

I am pleased to report that Matt was voted in to our local squad and this begins a third generation family member to be a member of the Randolph County Rescue Squad. My Dad, as a charter member of the squad, one brother who is still in the squad and serves on the Board of Directors and he has a son-in-law who is a member. My sister, who is a member, and brother-in-law who is on board of directors also. And my youngest brother who was once in the squad before moving. This has truly been a family dedicated to serve its fellow man.

As I close please remember our training coming up in September and remember to let Jason know of any training you might want to have or be interested in doing for the conference. It will be here before we know it.

See ya up on the mountain!  
Matt

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE 1st VICE PRESIDENT:

Hello to all! It's already time to meet again and this time it's in Rainsville, Alabama in DeKalb County. We are very excited about having all of you here. All the county squads are working hard to make sure your stay and the meeting goes very well. I have not had a lot be going on except we have lost a very special person to the Association. Mrs. Jean Price passed away recently. Jason and I went down to pay our respects. I have to say a big thank you to Honor Guard

Captain Mike Hardy for being there, as always, to present the family with a flag. Family members were so grateful we were there in their time of sorrow. At this time we have no bills pending. I'm hoping that we will have something going in the fall, but with the economy as it is who knows what will happen. As you may have noticed, the Governor's race is filling up with many candidates. We are hoping to have at least one at our meeting along with some people who have helped us over the years. Remember this is the meeting for nominations for the officers for the year 2010. Oh, lets all say congrats to Mike and Gwen Stone on their new arrival, little Michael Stone. I will see you all here soon!

Danny Butler  
1<sup>st</sup> V.P.

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE 2nd VICE PRESIDENT:

Hello Once Again,

It's hard to believe it's nearly time for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter meeting and summer is going by so quickly. Hope all is well with everyone. We have been busy working on fall training and scheduling classes for the conference. I hope to have these all set up soon. Remember it is a **MUST** that you pre-register for the classes we have scheduled for conference to insure that we have enough people to have the class and to line up instructors for them. We are looking forward to this to being one of the best fall training classes that we have had yet. The training will be a public safety dive class that is open to all certified divers. This class has been put together by Ray Hogan and a team of certified public safety divers from the state association. This will be a very informative and hands on class. If you are interested make sure you sign up because there is a limit of 20 people for this class. The class will be held in Lillian, Alabama, September 11-13, 2009 and will be a great weekend for all even if you don't dive and want to learn to be a line tender, please come. We have a practice class set up for the weekend of July 17-19, 2009 with a representative from the fire college attending. This is one of the classes that we are working on with the fire college and is a big step for the **AARS** and the **AFF**. We need your support with this class! If you have divers in your squad this would be a great benefit for them and for your squad as a whole. Please send at least one member from your dive team. Now on to conference. This year classes will have a pediatric theme, one of the hardest calls that EMS providers face. One of the classes that we will have this year is Pediatric Advance Trauma Life Support (PATLS). This is a class that very few people in the state of Alabama have had an opportunity to take and we are very proud to be able to offer it at this year's conference. It will be two full days, Thursday and Friday. We are also going to have a lost child class and a PALS and a PEPP class. We are going to have a special needs awareness class on how to treat people with special needs. There will also be the Basic Refresher for EMT Basics and if there is enough interest we will have a protocol update class. We will also be having a Virtual Alabama user class, I would recommend at least one officer from each squad attend this class. It will be very important and useful to your squad. Rescue Challenge it will be a very interesting competition this year and could be one of the most amusing parts of this conference. As for the cart race, this year there seems to be more competition for the McIntosh Crew and both crew members better be prepared to drive. (Now what could that mean!?)

# FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

As we are having very hot weather here, it is very important to keep your squad members well hydrated while they are on calls, so make sure you carry plenty of water with you. We will be looking forward to seeing you at the Dekalb County meeting August 15th. Remember we need to support the vendors who support the AARS. Without them it would be hard to do conference, they really help us out. Keep an eye on the AARS web site [www.alars.org](http://www.alars.org), it has changed and will be more useful to all. If you are an instructor in any field, please send me your information, we need this on file ASAP. Also I need a county map from every squad so that we will have it on file in case you have something in your county that you need the association's help on. If you have it on disk, please send that too. Also, I am trying to set up a file on all the equipment we have access to in case of a disaster, so when you renew your membership please send an inventory list. This is just for the AARS, no one else will use it. The list could help out if you have something happen at your squad and we will have this on file for that purpose. Okay, I will quit rambling on. Go have fun with your family and stay safe.

Jason Heard  
2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.

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2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting  
May 16, 2009  
Alexander City

Meeting called to order by President Matt Knight. The Honor Guard posted the colors and Chaplain Doyce Bobbit opened with prayer. Roll was called by Debbie Tidwell with 61 squads represented. Matt made a request that we count McIntosh present due to the death of one of their charter members. Detroit made motion to count McIntosh present, seconded by SARTEC. Motion carried. Matt asked Debbie to read the minutes. Union made motion to dispense with the reading, Autauga County seconded. Motion carried. Matt asked Debbie to read the financial report. Cullman made motion to dispense with the reading, Autauga County seconded. Motion carried. Chauncey Wood spoke about what has happened in the legislature. The fuel bill passed, as of August 1, 2009 it will go into effect. Danny read an application on North Marshall EMS. Desoto made motion to accept, seconded by SARTEC. Motion carried. Danny also spoke about the vests. He showed one that Cherokee County had made. Calhoun County made a motion to check prices, seconded by

SARTEC. Motion carried. Danny spoke about the Association taking care of the dues for members that are active duty. Addison made motion to continue to do this, seconded by LASAR. Motion carried. Danny also spoke about Lifetime membership, the Association does 2 per year. Submit a letter to the Executive Board as soon as possible.

Jason spoke about fall training. Jason had Ray Hogan come up and talk about dive class. Jason also spoke about a class in North Alabama for water search. Jason also asked about classes for the conference.

Matt spoke about the committee that was formed for the Honor Guard. They have setup by-laws and procedures. It will be given to the resolutions committee for them to present to the Association to be voted on in November at the conference. Matt also spoke about the EMS awards to be presented at the Alabama Sports festival. Jason presented a plaque to Peckerwood for high attendance for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.

Matt presented a certificate of appreciation to Patricia Berry for her dedication to the Association.

High Attendance for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter is Autauga County.

Jason presented a plaque to Clifford Blevins from Ider Rescue Squad for Rescuer of the Quarter.

With no further business meeting was adjourned. Colored were retired and closing prayer by Hoyt McCaghren.



Photo by Rick Miller

## \*\*\* 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.**

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 FOURTH QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 11, 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 \*\***

**\*\* 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 \*\*\***

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**\*\* 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:**

**3RD QUARTER: DEKALB COUNTY RESCUE SQUADS**

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## Geraldine Rescue Squad Fundraiser

Edith (Davis) Manning of Geraldine has donated Geraldine Rescue Squad a hand quilted, Alabama quilt to sell chances on. Mrs. Manning is a long time supporter of Geraldine Rescue Squad and this is the second quilt she has donated. Tickets can be purchased by mail at 20 County Road 1992, Geraldine, AL 35974 or from a GRS member. Ticket proceeds will go to help the Squad cover the rising cost of expenses. Tickets can be purchased through November 14<sup>th</sup> and will be given away at the AARS 2009 Conference Banquet. Winner doesn't have to be present to win. For more information contact Danny Butler 256-996-0812 or Maria Jay 256-506-5568. Cost of tickets are one for \$2.00 or three for \$5.00.



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## Hello from Addison Rescue Squad.

There hasn't been a lot going on with our squad lately, but we had our 4th of July parade and fireworks show. The parade was a huge success. We had a really good turnout for the fireworks show. We did karaoke and had a live band this year. We had a ton of fun and really enjoyed ourselves. We want to thank all of the members who showed up and helped with the parade and fireworks show. Our runs have picked up this year. We only ran 37 in the entire year of 2008, but so far this year have run 96 calls. We want to say thank you to our members for their time and devotion to helping the community. And speaking of our members, we have a few announcements to make. We want to congratulate Faye Huff, our Secretary, on her completion of her EMT-Basic course on May 5th, 2009. We have also voted in 4 new members this year. Welcome to the Addison Rescue Squad, Scott McMillan, Rhonda Hyatt, Chase Echols, and Bo Frazier. We also hosted a First Responder Class and we want to thank the instructors, Scott McMillan and Rhonda Hyatt, for doing the class for us. We had a lot of fun as you can tell from the pictures! But we also took it very seriously. We had students from different departments as well as our own squad. We want to congratulate Ory Hampton, and J.P. Thielmann for acquiring their First Responder Certifications. WAY TO GO GUYS!! Jeannie Thielmann took the course as a refresher and completed it. WAY TO GO!!! We are taking two of our members and bestowing on them the honor of "LIFETIME MEMBERS." If anyone in this squad deserves this honor it is Mary White, with 30 years of service and dedication, and Muriel Wilkins, with 24 years of service and dedication. Mary joined the Rescue Squad on January 17, 1979 and Muriel joined on April 16, 1985. This is the least we can do for these women. It is our way of saying thank you for your many years of service and dedication. It takes a person with a big heart to do the job we do. I am PROUD to say that I am part of that family and that is what we are, one big family. I know that if it was me entrapped in my truck each and every one of my members would be there trying to save my life and I would do the same for any of them. So the next time you are asked "WHY DO YOU VOLUNTEER?" Simply state to them "It's not for the fame, nor is it for the glory!" Well that is all that has gone on with us so far. We will soon be planning for our Christmas parade. Gosh where has the year gone?!?! MAY GOD BLESS AND KEEP YOU ALL SAFE OUT THERE!!!!





The Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit's (HCRU) annual Basic Cave Rescue Orientation Seminar takes place each August. It is HCRU's primary training activity.

The seminar presents a synopsis of currently acceptable cave rescue practices to individuals and/or groups interested in high angle, cliff, pit or cave rescues. While specifically targeted at technical, medical or managerial agency personnel, anyone with an interest in wilderness rescue operations is encouraged to attend.

Seminar instructors are highly experienced cave rescue team members and are drawn from a variety of backgrounds. Many have extensive training and experience with the National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC). The NCRC is a volunteer group that primarily trains and tracks cave rescue resources throughout the United States.

This training activity provides 24 contact hours in a combination of classroom presentations and practical field exercises over a three day period. Each day's activity is as shown:

**Day 1**

Registration  
Introduction to Single Rope Technique (SRT)  
Equipment/Climbing Systems  
Climbing Exercises

**Day 2**

Sign-in  
Introduction to Day 2 Training  
Emergency Response Systems  
Cave Environment/Safety/Personal Equipment  
Incident Command System/Resource Management  
The Press/Public Relations  
Communications  
Cave Search

Medical (For non-EMS personnel: first aid and patient assessment. For EMS personnel: advanced medical management)  
Patient Packaging  
Litter Movement

Hauls and Lowers/Litter Rigging/Edge Safety/Lip Attendant/Knots

**Day 3**

Field Operations at Wheeler Wildlife Refuge  
Scree Slope/Cliff and Bluff  
Mock Rescue  
After Action Review

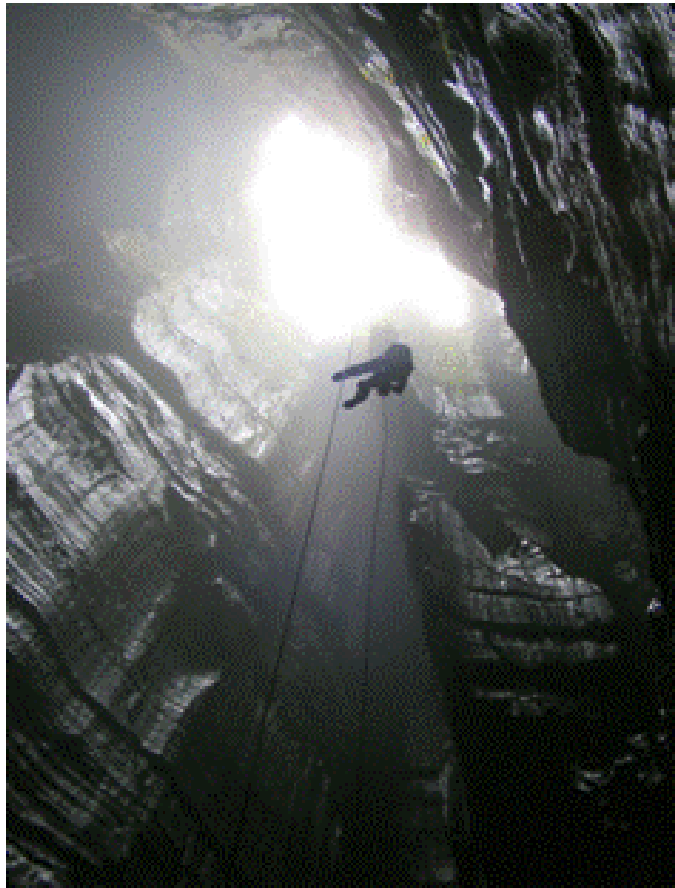
Attendance is limited to 50 students. We recommend that prospective participants be physically fit. See [www.hcru.org](http://www.hcru.org) for more information.





Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit (HCRU) offers a twelve-hour *Introduction to Single Rope Technique (SRT)*. This is the type of rope climbing used in cave rescue activities and in many high angle rescue applications. The class is scheduled throughout the year and addresses the following subject areas:

- Safety
- Ropes, Webbing, and Padding
- Rigging and Rope Handling
- Ties (Knots, Hitches, Bends)
- Equipment
- Climbing Systems
- Communications
- Rappelling
- Belaying
- Changeover and Self Rescue
- Practical Exercises



***HCRU member Brad Phillips rappels 227-foot Valhalla, Jackson County, Ala (Photo by Jack Fischer)***

Class size is limited to no more than 20 students. Since SRT is a very strenuous activity, we recommend that prospective students be physically fit.

Direct inquiries to [Info@hcru.org](mailto:Info@hcru.org) or Brian Bailey at 256-509-4785.

**AARS 3rd QUARTERLY MEETING  
August 15, 2009**

hosted by:  
**DEKALB COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS  
AT  
DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOLS COLISEUM  
1504 Main St E (Hwy 35)  
Rainsville, AL 35986**

**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.**  
**Lunch.....11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**General Business Meeting.....1:00 p.m.**

**Best Western - \$59.99 (mention AARS)**  
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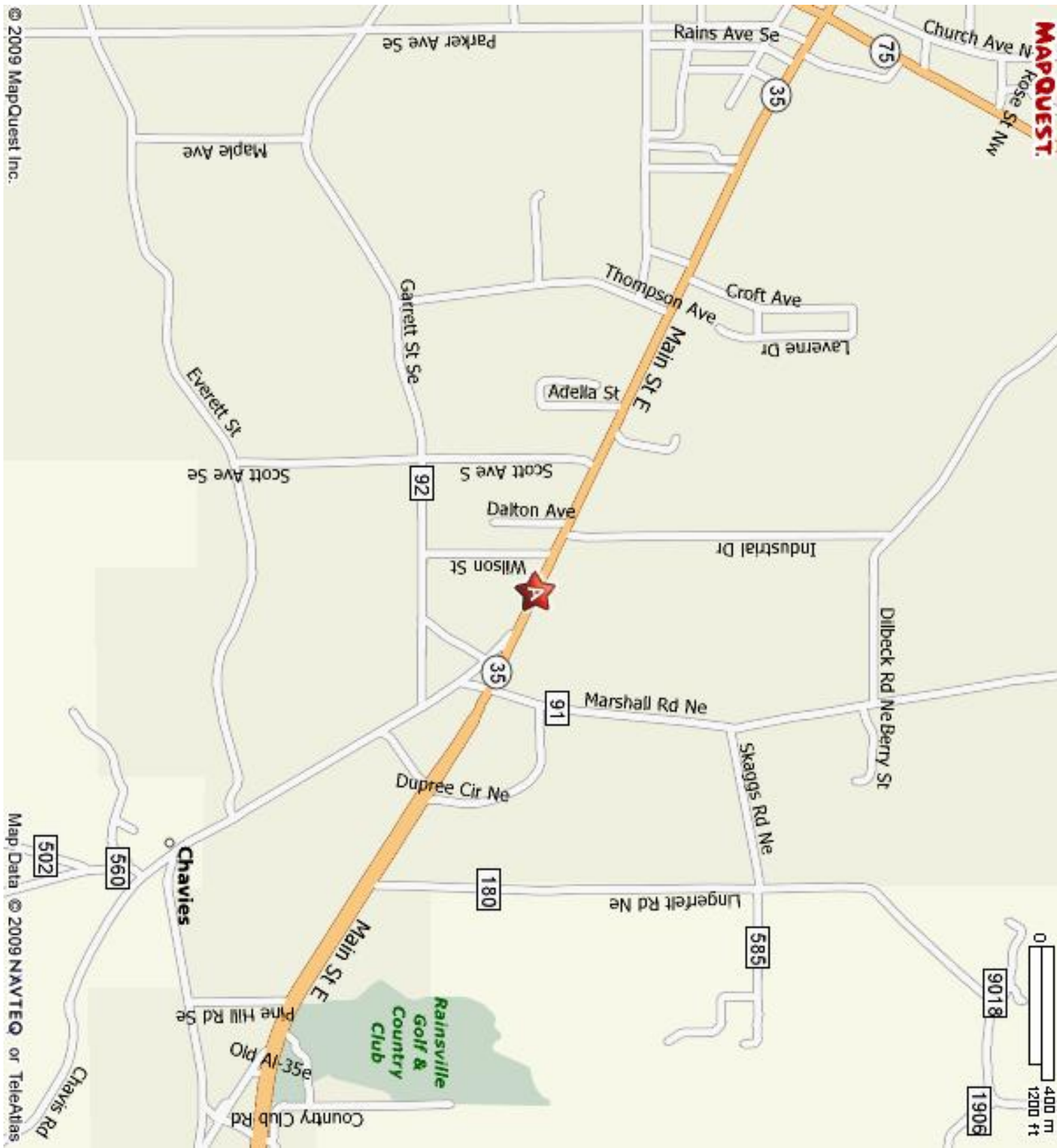
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**112 Airport Rd W**  
**Fort Payne, AL 35967**

**Contacts:**

**George Roberts**  
**(256) 738-1919**

**Gwen Stone**  
**(256) 364-0150**



Information for AARS Dive Training  
September 11-13 2009

1. This training is being conducted both to improve the capabilities of qualified divers (that are AARS members) and to validate the Public Safety Divers course being developed by LASAR for AARS and the Alabama Fire College to serve as the certifying agency.
2. **WARNING:** This training will incorporate stressful conditions. Although the training will be safe, divers can expect to dive in very restricted visibility with unpleasant bottom conditions. This type of diving is not for everyone! Only those divers who are very calm and confident underwater should volunteer for this training opportunity.
3. Due to the nature of this training and the extensive support requirements, this class will be limited to 20 qualified divers. Qualified divers for this training are those divers who have at least a basic open water certification from a nationally accepted dive certifying agency (i.e. NAUI, PADI, or YMCA etc..) and at least 12 dives post qualification. Certification cards must be presented at course check in and participants will be required to sign a medical waiver.
4. Participants must provide their own equipment or rent the required equipment for the class. Required equipment includes: Mask, Snorkel, Fins, BCD, weights, regulator, depth gage, cutting tool and dive skin or wet suit. Those wishing to bring their own tanks may do so but they must be marked and be within current hydro and visual inspection. Free tank fills are available thru LASAR
5. All participants must pass a ½ mile open water swim, the first day of class, (using mask, snorkel and fins) in order to train as a Public Safety Diver in the course. Those unable to complete the swim may remain at the training as Diver Tenders.
6. The Dates for the training are September 11-13 2009. Training will begin at 0800 on the 11<sup>th</sup> and end at 1500 on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
7. Those wishing to stay at a camp ground close to the training sites may want to contact the KOA camp ground in Lillian at (251) 961-1717.
8. Hotel accommodations are currently available in Foley at the “America’s Best Suites” Hotel (251) 943-3297. Rooms with a King or two double beds are \$59.95. Pricing and availability are subject to change. Divers should plan to bring everything they will need (from the hotel) for the entire day’s training each day.

## AARS Dive Rescue Training Course Outline

### Day 1 of 3:

- 0800-0830 Check in (LASAR Building)
- 0830-0845 Introductions (Staff and Students)
- 0845-0900 Review Course Out line and Admin Announcements
- 0900-0950 Block 1
- 0950-1000 Break
- 1000-1050 Block 2
- 1050-1100 Brief for Afternoon Activities
- 1100-1230 Lunch and movement to Swim Site (Perdido Bay)
- 1230-1300 All swimmers will have all vitals recorded before and immediately after swim test.
- 1300-1345 Half mile, open water, swim (with snorkel, mask and fins).  
Swim uniform will be weather/water temp dependant.  
Students will be dropped off ½ mile from the shore and will swim in (at their own pace). Students not completing the swim will be dropped from the course or will train and be certified as tenders only.
- 1345-1400 Recovery
- 1400-1450 Block 3 (at or near swim location)
- 1450-1500 Break/movement to pool
- 1500-1600 Pool work (untangling and recovering a tangled diver)
- 1600-1700 Return to Class room and clean/store equipment

### Day 2 of 3

- 0845-0900 Review of previous day's activities/discussions
- 0900-0950 Block 4
- 0950-1000 Break
- 1000-1050 Block 5
- 1050-1100 Brief Afternoon Activities
- 1100-1300 Lunch and movement to Dive Site
- 1300-1415 Group A Dive Objective 1    Group B Dive Objective 2  
Group A is a body recovery and Group B is a vehicle recovery
- 1430-1600 Group A Dive Objective 2    Group B Dive Objective 1
- 1600-1700 Return to Class room and clean/store equipment

### Day 3 of 3

- 0800-0815 Review of previous day's activities/discussions
- 0815-0915 Block 6
- 0915-0930 Mission Brief
- 0930-1000 Movement to mission sites
- 1000-1200 Missions
- 1200-1400 Lunch/Equipment cleaning
- 1400-1430 Exam
- 1430-1500 Course Critique/Graduation

**\*\*\*\* Cookbook Recipe Reminder \*\*\*\***

**Please remember that Debbie Tidwell is still collecting recipes for the AARS Cookbook. If you have not yet submitted a recipe please do so today! Be sure to submit all your favorite recipes to have them included.**

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\*\*\* Note from the Webmaster \*\*\*

The AARS Website has recently undergone a face-lift, please stop by and check out the new design. Be sure to send any comments to the webmaster: [webmaster@alars.org](mailto:webmaster@alars.org)

Also, Squad Captains, please check the information listed under Member Squads for accuracy, and report any errors or missing information to [webmaster@alars.org](mailto:webmaster@alars.org)

The AARS Website is <http://www.alars.org>

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**G.W. Lowery**  
**Listen To a Story**  
*Etowah County Rescue Squad*  
**James Miller**

Come listen to a story about a man named -----got-cha, the name is George, George W. Lowery. Now this is my story and maybe a little dance.

George W. Lowery, our last founding member has retired from active duty. A lot of you out there have heard something about this man before. If not I want to tell you something about him. I have had the pleasure of knowing him for around 15 years. Right off the bat, he set out to let me know about the ways of a member of ECRS. I quote from George these words, "We do not work as individuals but as a group with all members pull their own weight. Keep your mouth closed, eyes open, and hands out of your pockets, feet moving and you will fit in. This is the way you volunteer, we do not need people who stand and talk or put on a show for the public. If I see your picture in the paper it should be one made while you were working. We have one Captain and he will take care of the reporters and all speaking matters, that is his job. We have a dress code and if you can not read and understand it then you may as well go ahead and turn your equipment back in and be on your way."

He got some of this from being in the military and serving in the Navy during WWII. In 1944 he left school to enlist in the Navy at age 17. He went to training camp to train for Seabees (the Navy construction battalion) and served in the South Pacific. Seabees had a famous slogan ---- "The difficult we do immediately ... the impossible takes a little longer" ---sums up their values to the nation. George was not a man who would pick and choose his missions, he always responded even if he was to work the next day. "If someone needs help we need to be willing to make sacrifices, that is what we are about." He could also be heard saying, "Wash both yourself and your Reds (uniforms) and brush your teeth have some pride about yourself in the way you look, day or night".

His commitment to the squad was like the one to his family. "Make sure your family is ok before you go to work or bed because you may be called on to go on a mission at any time." With the squad it was keeping your equipment ready and responding to the calls. When you have to take off you will already know your family is ok and your equipment is right where you need it and it is clean, and ready for you. He would tell you very quickly, where is my ...or I can't find....was not acceptable. This would be a reflection on your inability to be responsible as a person. How can you expect to help others if you can't take care of yourself and stay prepared?

His wife Ernie Sue from Blountsville, AL married him when he returned from the war. George worked and retired from the steel mill in Gadsden. They have two sons Ralph William and Charles Glenn who are married with children. Both families attend and are active in their churches.

I would list his values as, TRUSTWORTHY, HONEST, DEPENDABLE, MAN OF HIS WORD, A LEADER IN CHURCH, FAMILY & COMMUNITY. He also has great work habits, a doer not a watcher, and I hear he is a good granddad. Now, he does not like his hair messed with and he loves to eat, he makes plenty of mistakes but works hard not to repeat his short comings.

We refer to him as G.W. and we know he has been battling some health issues. There have been some very tough times in the hospital lately but when they think he is really bad, he fools us all. He will come home from the hospital and starts back doing his part around the house.

Squad members will miss you but you will never be forgotten !!!! I want to say G. W. Lowery is not as perfect as I have made him sound BUT.... G.W. Lowery is a good FRIEND of MINE as well as a good friend to many others !!!!!

**Where Have We Been?**  
**What Has Been Going On With You People?**  
**Etowah County Rescue Squad**  
**Captain James Miller**

**It has been a while** since I have written in but I guess I could not stand it any longer. Since I was elected Captain (two years ago) for our squad, I have not taken the time to send in articles for our magazine on behalf of our members. But, .....the ***Etowah County Rescue Squad*** needs a Captain that has the background of both a politician and businessman and I would like to be in the trenches again and working on other projects for the squad.

Anyway, here is an update for our squad from **your ole friend.**

**We** have been quite busy transporting bodies back and forth for our law enforcements of Etowah County, continuing to fill the need for local transports, and scheduling meetings with ( well it is easier to say with everybody.) We had our spring roadblock, and a lot of gracious businesses allowed us to stand with our outstretched hand and buckets for a very successful roadblock this year. We will be having a roadblock in August. (**Ouch, this will be a hot one.**) We had a training day on the water that went very well. Fifteen new members have joined and more are applying for entrance. Here is a nervous thing for me, being a volunteer organization, operating with limited donations with this economy. The squad has spent large amounts of money on communication equipment, vehicles, and building improvements. I know that this is just part of being an organization that is a 501-C3, but it just makes me very nervous.

Under my leadership, the officers have answered the cry for the people of our community, county, and state during difficult times. Due to the example of this unit we continue to grow. Their hard work and participation is being noticed and the Red Uniforms are once again being seen with the eyes of the people. The members are, like me, stumbling at times but we rescue each other and keep doing as one should, picking each other up and helping each other to get back on their feet again. After all we are family !! I think each of us sees ourselves needing help and when it is there, we appreciate it.

Up and coming events will be the August roadblock, two car shows, a tractor show, bikers ride, annual duck race, annual rodeo for the Boys and Girls Club, band fest, football games, public participation with area schools, training with other local volunteer organizations, and the unexpected .....See we have been busy and will continue to be.

For several years we have offered dive training and have had attendees. I would love to have several training classes in our Coosa River. Some divers think they have been in black water, but you would really appreciate other areas in the state after diving in the Coosa. For the certified diver, I would love to teach the members statewide of AARS for **free** if someone had the time to organize the training dates and times. If someone would like coordinate this please contact me.

I would like to tell you of an incident that happened recently. Coming home from the last quarterly meeting two of our members were first responders on the scene of an accident that resulted in two deaths. Both of our members did a very good job of doing all that they could and stepping back when local help arrived. I wanted to say publicly good job men.

Also, **G.W. Lowery** has recently retired from our squad. This was a very sad day for me as well as the squad. **He is the last founding member of the Etowah County Rescue Squad.** He was the one that always kept me in line. He is already being missed and will always be remembered! As I write this he is in the hospital awaiting an operation to have a pacemaker. I ask that we all keep him and his family in our hearts and prayers.

I hope that I have given you something interesting to read and have given you some information on what has been going on with us (the ECRS) and where we have been. Just because things are going good for the ECRS I, Captain James Miller, cannot take credit. It has been a squad effort with the officers and members. There are two concerns for our squad members that I feel responsible for, the first being that I will keep everyone well informed and prepared for any event. The second is that all debts be paid and remain current. My goal is to be debt free in the future.

I came up with a saying for our squad to read years ago. I always print it on our phone list.

**“With Active Members, a Squad Lives: With Inactive Members, a Squad Dies.” We are proof!**

I hope that all of you are having a safe and wonderful time this summer with your friends and family.

After you have read this article I want to leave you with a thought for discussions with other members of your unit – am I doing all that I need to be doing to help out or am I just \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank!). Are you only one part of your unit or do you try to be a team player with your unit?

**Do I talk the talk or walk the walk?**

**I am proud that I joined the Rescue Squad and am proud to say I stay active! Just as proud to be your friend!**

Etowah County Rescue Squad. – 2009

**James Miller, Captain**



**\*\*\* 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.**



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## AARS Honor Guard

### The Beginning of the End or a New Beginning?

The year was 1928, a group of individuals saw the need for an emergency Volunteer Rescue Squad. This was the beginning of a nationwide movement and since then all 50 states have formed some type of volunteer rescue service.

Roanoke, Virginia is the place where it all started. We here in Alabama are following an 81 year old tradition.

The National EMS Memorial Service was started in 1992 to honor those who lost their lives in the line of duty. Since 1992 over 500 men and women from all 50 states representing just about every type of volunteer and paid rescue service have been honored. Men and women from ambulance crews, air crews, state troopers and rescue squads who have paid the ultimate price are now a permanent part of EMS history.

This year 89 were honored in what was the final chapter of the EMS Memorial Service in Roanoke, Virginia. In 2010 a new chapter will start in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It remains to be seen if this will be short lived or will continue into the future.

The general feeling of most of the Honor Guards attending this year was Washington D.C. would be a more fitting memorial for our fallen heroes. We in Alabama can help make this a reality. Write your Congressman and express your desire for this to happen. Senator McConnell ( Ky) is spear heading a movement in Washington D.C. to make this happen. Make your voice heard, write a letter or send an e-mail. Our fallen brothers and sisters deserve this.

All in all the trip and events in Roanoke couldn't have been any better. There were many positive comments on our uniforms, how clean, well organized and professional they looked. The shoulder patch received a lot of praise and positive comments. The AARS Honor Guard received so many compliments it was unbelievable, in fact a group from Missouri has asked for my input into their forming a statewide unit, patterned after ours.

Your Honor Guard did a very good job in representing our Association and we want to thank our Association members for all they have done to make this possible. The uniforms, patches and the National EMS Memorial Service were because of you and we are very thankful for all we have and were able to do on your behalf.

Michael L. Hardy  
Commander AARS 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

Paul Lett  
Clay County Rescue

Irene McClellan  
Clay County Rescue

Jean Price  
Anniston Emergency & Rescue Squad



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

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