

The Alabama Association of Rescue Squads Presents

THE ALABAMA RESCUER



2010 Fourth Quarter - Conference Edition

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FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

From the Desk of the President

WOW!!!!!! Is it really that time again, yes it's time for Conference. I really enjoy getting back to the Conference. Even though it a very stressful time for your officers with class, training, getting vendors in place, and the banquet, it is still a very enjoyable time to catch up with so many friends and colleagues at our yearly Conference. Once again Jason has worked very hard in getting the classes in place and he continues to work very hard in getting the right mix of Rescue and EMS classes to meet all the needs of our members. To all the Conference Committee, your work never goes unnoticed. I know I mention Chauncey an awful lot but everyone on the committee deserves a big Thank YOU!! And don't forget to get your rambling rescue rides together. Put a team together to enter into the rescue challenge. Start now on getting a scrap book ready for next year. These are just a few of the things that we have so much fun doing at the conference.

As the year comes to an end it is time to reflect on some of the things that have happened this past year. We still continue with Chauncey's help to work to bridge the gap with our legislators to bring about the needed funding for you to survive. It becomes ever so hard to meet the resource requirements every year. But that is why you do want you do. You learn to overcome and adapt. That is what makes you the special group of people that I have been honored to serve. We are now seen on "Facebook"; Mike deserves a special thank you for taking the website and social media avenue and keeping our info up to date and current. National Registry and EMS rule changes are very important things that we need to be aware of and "Yes" the Office of EMS and Trauma are keeping your organization with the most up to the minute progress and details.

Without knowing the exact details to share with you in this letter, I hope to be able to bring you some important news at the conference. I believe if we get all the details worked out, this could be some of the best news the Association has had in a long time. Just without saying too much, it could be possible that we bring about a funding source to our training area and be able to offer more classes to our members. So stayed tuned!!!!!!

Now is the time to say some Thank You's. It has been an absolute pleasure to able to have served as President for this organization. While some things did not get done that I wanted to get done, it still has been a very good ride. Danny has provided me with some very good insight and support on several issues, your loyalty to this association is why these members have asked you to serve as the next president of the Association. Jason has taken a dysfunctional training platform and turned it into a very formable and valuable training arena that we will see only get stronger. Debbie has the organization to keep everything together. I never got a call saying that "this has not been done" or "by the way you need to handle this". It has been right the opposite" I have taken care of this" and "I went ahead and done this". So, Danny, Jason, and Debbie, "THANK YOU" for making my task so much easier to have accomplished. And "THANK YOU" the Association, I hope that you will allow me to again return as an officer one day.

See everyone in November at Perdido Beach Resort and God Bless each and everyone!

Matt Knight
President



From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

Conference time again, can you believe that another year has gone by? Not the best year, but a year. We are going to have to pull the belt a notch tighter again.

We, the executive board are so pleased that we were able to get the conference moved to a nice place. We tried so hard to work with WindCreek. Matt and Debbie both had put in a lot of time dealing with them on the times and what we were needing for the membership. I was hoping for the cheaper room rates at Perdido, but we will have to deal with it again. So we are looking to have a great conference again, a lot of great classes, some we have done in the past, some are new. No matter what the classes are you will get CEU's for them and they will count. Just be sure that you get your class registrations back in on time. This is very IMPORTANT so that Debbie and Jason can tell what class rooms we need to have. This is the first week long conference we have ever put on just for the training so make your plans to attend ASAP.

I would like to thank all the folks in Copeland Ferry Rescue for putting on a great meeting in August. Got to see a lot of old friends and meet some new ones. I hope the ones who want their National Registry back will follow up on that in 2012.

I am told that the conference news is up on the website now so keep an eye on that for more info. I hope to have more news on the rules at the conference. Dennis Blair may be down to monitor our classes. As you may know we will give out the certs at conference for the classes you attend. If you need any information on the classes contact Jason.

Danny Butler
1st Vice President

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

Wow! How time flies, I can't believe it's almost time for Conference. The fall SRT class held at Ider went great, and we had a good turnout and a lot of fun. A special thanks to the instructors from Huntsville Cave Rescue for coming to Ider to teach this class. I have been working hard on the classes for conference. Remember, for these to be a success you must sign up for them, if we don't have enough sign up we will not have them. We are doing something a little different this year by making it a weeklong conference. On Monday we will start out by having a DOT EMS Instructor Course starting at 8:00 .m. Pre-registration is a must for this course because you will have a lesson plan to prepare. This will be a five day class. Also, a paramedic refresher course will be offered all week and will be starting at 8:00 a.m. each day. Starting on Wednesday, we will add Intermediate Refresher for the remainder of the week. NIMS 300 will be on Wednesday and Thursday. On Thursday, we will add an auto extrication and search and recovery class. These two classes will be held both Thursday and Friday. On Friday, NIMS 400 will be the first half of the day and Meth Lab for Responders class will be taught the last half. I have sat in on this class and it was a very interesting one that I think everyone will get alot out of. I hope you will find classes that you need and interest you.

FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Also don't forget the competitions, if you were there last year, remember how much fun we had. (And yes, James Miller, you still owe me a lot of child support! HA HA!) So start planning now and get your carts, your first aid teams and your relay teams ready! The more teams, the more fun we will have. Also, this year we will be having an ALS competition, the winner of this will be deemed "Top Medic" of the conference and will receive a special award. I hope this will be another great conference. I would like to thank each of you for your nomination for 1st VP. This will be a new experience for me and I hope to do you a good job. If you need me for anything all you have to do is call. Until then remember to enjoy life, train hard, and stay safe!

Jason Heard
2nd Vice President

Third Quarterly Meeting
August 21, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Matt Knight, the colors were posted and Doyce Bobbit opened with prayer. Roll was called with 78 squads represented. Motion was made by LASAR to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion was seconded by East Colbert. Motion carried. Motion was made by Walker County to Dispense with the reading of the financial report. Motion was seconded by Peckerwood. Motion carried. Chauncey spoke about the boat bill and also the bill for tax exemption. Danny had two new squads to bring before the Association. The first squad was Houston County Rescue Unit. Chauncey inspected this squad and it was the recommendation of the Executive Board that we accept this squad's application. Motion was made by LASAR to accept this squad. Motion was seconded by Walker County. Motion carried. The second squad was Sand Mountain Search & Rescue. Jason inspected this squad and it was the recommendation of the Executive Board that we accept this squad's application. Motion was made by Huntsville Cave to accept this squad. Motion was seconded by South Lamar. Motion carried. Jason spoke about the classes for conference. Matt brought before the assembly about the conference being changed from Windcreek Casino due to the fact that we could not get a contract from them. It was the recommendation of the Executive Board to move the conference to Perdido Beach Resort. Motion was made by Lillian to go to Perdido. Motion was seconded by Randolph County. Motion carried. The Executive Board and the Editor are looking into purchasing a printer so that we can print our own magazine and lower the cost. Will be doing some research and pricing and discuss at the conference. Nominations for officers for 2011: It was the recommendation of the nominating committee to nominate Danny Butler for President. The floor was opened for nominations; with none being made from the floor nominations were closed. It was the recommendation of the nomination committee to nominate Jason Heard for 1st Vice President. The floor was opened for nominations; with none being made from the floor nominations were closed. It was the recommendation of the nominating committee to nominate Brian Bailey for 2nd Vice President. The floor was opened for nominations; with none being made from the floor nominations were closed. There will be no voting at the conference. There was no Rescuer of the Quarter. High Attendance for the Third Quarter was Peckerwood. We would also like to thank Johnny Burnett – Walker County EMA and Billy Luster – Candidate for Sheriff Walker County for coming out to speak with us. Also Allen Rice from the Alabama Fire College. Thanks to Copeland Ferry Fire & Rescue for hosting the Quarterly meeting.

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*** IF YOU PREFER I WILL BE GLAD TO BRING THE ITEMS TO THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING. ***

*** 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

**ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE
SQUADS
ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

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RESCUER MAGAZINE

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E-Mail for Editor: editor@alars.org

PHOTOGRAPHERS.....FLOYD GUTHRIE, Carbon Hill
RICK MILLER, LASAR

2009 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

**CHAPLAIN.....DOYCE BOBBITT, Etowah County
ASST CHAPLAIN...HOYT MCCAGHREN, Lawrence County**

**MEMBERSHIP.....CHAIRMAN: DANNY BUTLER
Geraldine**

BRUCE PATRICK, South Lamar
RAY HOGANS, Lillian VFD
TIM WILLIS, Cullman County
HOYT MCCAGHREN, Lawrence County
CHAUNCEY WOOD, Lillian VFD

PUBLICITY/PR.....

**GWEN STONE, Desoto Rescue
RICK MILLER, LASAR**

**RESOLUTIONS.....CHAIRMAN: DANNY SMITH
Cherokee**

JIM MCCLELLAN, Clay County
JOHNNY WARREN, Anniston
GEORGE GRABRYAN, Lauderdale County

**WAYS/MEANS.....CHAIRMAN: JOE STONE
Coosa Valley**

FRED MANEY, Coosa Valley
DON DOLLAR, Vernon
Janet Donoghue, Huntsville/Madison County

**EDUCATION/TRAINING.....CHAIRMAN: JASON HEARD
Ider/Rosalie**

GEORGE ROBERTS, Ider
BRIAN BAILEY, Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit
RAY HOGANS, Lillian VFD
ED NICHOLAS, SARTEC K-9
Chad Singleton, McIntosh
Melissa Moore, Phil Campbell

**NOMINATING.....CHAIRMAN: JOHNNY WARREN
Anniston**

DANNY SMITH, Cherokee
DON DOLLAR, Vernon
BILLY REEVES, Jackson
Terry Newman, Peckerwood

**LEGISLATIVE.....CHAIRMAN: MATT KNIGHT
Randolph County**

DANNY BUTLER, Geraldine
JASON HEARD, Rosalie
DEBBIE TIDWELL, Addison
CHAUNCEY WOOD, Lillian VFD

**COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORS.....
MICHAEL STONE, Desoto**

MIKE REEVES, Empact
WILLIAM SZCEPANSKI, Morgan County

**PARLIAMENTARIANS.....
JOHNNY WARREN, Anniston**

DANNY SMITH, Cherokee

**CONFERENCE.....CHAIRMEN: CHAUNCEY & TINA WOOD
Lillian VFD**

RAY HOGANS, Lillian VFD
MARIA JAY, Geraldine
TINA THOMPSON, Ider
Candy Davidson, McIntosh
Melinda Byrd, Citronelle

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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

**** 2011 FIRST QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: JANUARY 2, 2011**

**** 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 *****

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

*** Note from the Webmaster ***

Squad Captains, please check the information listed under Member Squads for accuracy, and report any errors or missing information to webmaster@alars.org

Be sure to check the Website regularly for updated information about things of interest.

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

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Sunny and Funny
By James Miller - ECRS

Boat racing is back in Etowah County, going round and round with an occasional splish splash!! This past Spring on the Coosa River, in the Greensport Marina area, several of our rescue squad members were a part of some excitement. The races were on with people cooking out, sitting back enjoying the warm summer sunshine letting their kids go run in the open neatly cut fields. One of the first days, a Thursday, around 4:15 p.m., we had the first boat to flip, putting the driver in the water with a big splash. He was a bit shaken up and you can bet he was wet behind the ears but all in all he was okay. He and his crew had him back racing the next day. Friday everyone stayed in their boats and did their swimming separate from their racing times. (Ha,ha..) Then there was Saturday..... several squad members got to see two different boats float upside down with the drivers doing the splish splash but they were not taking a bath. These flip over's came several hours apart but both drivers were okay. Boat crews will get to work on getting ready for another race and earning their pay check. The sponsors wanted all of the ECRS members to know that they were very pleased with the way things were handled. Getting the race drivers out quickly, safely and taking care of the race boats in a very timely manner so that the races were not held up. It was good to hear nothing but praises about our squad performance. Not only the sponsors but those race drivers and their team members want us to be ready and work their races again. They have seen for themselves how we worked under pressure. So, way to go, pat yourself on the head or back for a job well done!

2010 Conference
November 8 - 13, 2010
27200 Perdido Beach Boulevard
Orange Beach, AL 36561
(251) 981-9811

Room Rate \$99.00 plus tax per night. Reservations must be made by October 20th!
You must use Booking ID 8031!
PRE-REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY OCTOBER 15TH!
NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 22ND

2010 AARS Conference Class Schedule
November 8-12, 2010

Monday

0800 – 1200	EMS Instructor Course Day 1 Paramedic Refresher Course Day 1
1200 – 1245	LUNCH
1300 – 1700	EMS Instructor Course Day 1 Paramedic Refresher Course Day 1

Tuesday

0800 – 1200	EMS Instructor Course Day 2 Paramedic Refresher Course Day 2
1200 – 1245	LUNCH
1300 – 1700	EMS Instructor Course Day 2 Paramedic Refresher Course Day 2

Wednesday

0800 – 1200	EMS Instructor Course Day 3 Paramedic Refresher Course Day 3 Intermediate Refresher Course Day 1 NIMS ICS-300 Day 1
1200 – 1245	LUNCH
1300 – 1700	EMS Instructor Course Day 3 Paramedic Refresher Course Day 3 Intermediate Refresher Course Day 1 NIMS ICS-300 Day 1

Thursday

0800 – 1200	EMS Instructor Course Day 4 Paramedic Refresher Course Day 4 Intermediate Refresher Course Day 2 Basic Refresher Course Day 1 NIMS ICS-300 Day 2 Auto Extrication Class Day 1 Advanced Search Class Day 1
1200 – 1245	LUNCH
1300 – 1700	EMS Instructor Course Day 4 Paramedic Refresher Course Day 4 Intermediate Refresher Course Day 2 Basic Refresher Course Day 1 NIMS ICS-300 Day 2 Auto Extrication Class Day 1 Advanced Search Class Day 1

Friday

0800 – 1200	EMS Instructor Course Day 5 Paramedic Refresher Course Day 5 Intermediate Refresher Course Day 3 Basic Refresher Course Day 2 NIMS ICS-400 Auto Extrication Class Day 2 Basic Search Class Day 2
1200 – 1245	LUNCH
1300 – 1700	EMS Instructor Course Day 5 Paramedic Refresher Course Day 5 Intermediate Refresher Course Day 3 Basic Refresher Course Day 2 NIMS ICS-400 Auto Extrication Class Day 2 Basic Search Class Day 2 Meth Lab Awareness for Responders

**AARS 2010 Annual Conference November 12th – 13th
Perdido Beach Resort
27200 Perdido Beach Boulevard
Orange Beach, AL 36561
(251) 981-9811**

Friday

**Convention Early Registration.....2:00pm-6:00pm
Hospitality Room.....7:00pm
Karaoke.....8:00pm**

Saturday

**Convention Registration8:00am-9:00am
Exhibits & Vendors8:00am-4:00pm
General Welcome9:15am-9:30am
Scrapbook Viewing10:00am-2:30pm
Scrapbook People's Choice Voting2:30pm – 3:30pm
Board of Directors Meeting10:00am-11:00am
Lunch11:30am-1:00pm
General Business Meeting1:00pm-2:30pm
Pre-Seating for Banquet.....2:30pm-3:30pm
Kids Room.....6:00pm
Awards Banquet7:00pm**

Competition Schedule:

Scrap Books Must be on Display by Saturday 10:00 am
Scrap Book People's Choice Voting - Saturday 14:30 - 15:30
Cart Originality Judging - Saturday 12:00
Cart Race, Rescue Challenge, and 1st Aid Competition - Saturday 15:00
Captain's Meeting for competitions - Saturday 14:45
Top Medic Competition - Appointment times will be given to competitors



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Student Objectives

- Assemble course materials
- Prepare training records and reports
- Adapt a prepared lesson plan
- Organize the class room, laboratory, or outdoor learning environment
- Present prepared lessons
- Adjust presentation
- Adjust to different learning styles, abilities and behaviors
- Operate audio-visual equipment and demonstrative devices
- Utilize audio-visual materials
- Administer oral, written, and performance tests
- Grade student oral, written, and performance tests
- Report test results
- Provide evaluation feedback to students

**November 8-12
8 am– 5 pm**

This class will be held at Predido Beach Resort in Orange Beach Alabama

\$40

**Alabama Association
of Rescue Squads**

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***GOD GRANT THAT WE MAY BE
WHERE WE ARE NEEDED WITH
THE KNOWLEDGE ABILITY AND
EQUIPMENT TO DO WHAT IS
NECESSARY***

AARS MOTTO

RESCUE CHALLENGE RULES

1. All teams must be registered for the convention.
 2. Unregistered competitors will result in disqualification.
 3. Participants must wear long pants or coveralls, sturdy shoes (no flip flops), leather gloves, helmet and safety glasses.
 4. A team may consist of up to five members, including a working captain.
 5. The captain must maintain control.
 6. Judges have absolute control of each challenge.
 7. Time will be stopped for any safety hazards but you will be penalized.
 8. Order for the challenge will be drawn for by the captains.
 9. First thru third place trophies will be awarded.
 10. Unsportsmanlike conduct from any team members before, during, or after can result in immediate disqualification.
 11. Preregistration is a must.
 12. **THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES WILL BE FINAL.**
-
-

RAMBLING RESCUE RACE CONTEST RULES

1. Participation must be registered at convention.
 2. **PARTICIPANTS WILL BE DRESSED IN FULL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GEAR.**
 3.
 - A. Maximum cart length
 - B. Maximum 30" width (not including wheels)
 - C. 18" Wheel maximum diameter
 - D. 300# maximum cart weight (not including occupants)
 - E. No mechanical propulsion devices
 - F. One driver per cart
 - G. One pusher per cart
 4. Order of finish determined by order of crossing finish line with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awarded on final race.
 5. No appeals for collision, interferences, etc. will be allowed
 6. This is designed to be a fun contest; contestants must keep that in mind.
 7. Squads may have more than one cart entered but each cart must have its own separate driver and pusher. (No one cart may be entered more than once).
 8. Each squad at the convention will be given one ballot to cast their vote on appearance; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places will be decided by popular votes received.
 9. If the number of entries exceeds a safe number for one race; separate heats will be conducted with heat winners being allowed to compete in the final race or subsequent heats for final race.
 10. **THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES WILL BE FINAL.**
-
-

Extrication Contest Rules

1. All team members must be registered for the convention.
2. Unregistered competitors will result in disqualification.
3. A team may consist of up to five members.
4. The captain must maintain control.
5. **THE JUDGES HAVE ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF THE "PITS".**
6. No times will be assessed for a "FREEZE".
7. The times will be stopped at 20 minutes.
8. The tools for the competition will be furnished. However, if you elect to use your own tools, please inform us at the captain's meeting.
9. Order of competition will be drawn for by the captains.
10. Team must have submitted entry form by October 15th.
11. First thru third place trophies will be awarded.
12. Unsportsmanlike conduct from any team members before, during or after can result in immediate disqualification.
13. You will be judged on safety, anything that can be hazardous you will be stopped.
14. You will also be judged on coordination and team work.
15. Communication between incident commander and the team.
16. Patient care such as maintaining C-Spine and maintaining safety of the patient or patients.
17. **THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES WILL BE FINAL.**

TOP MEDIC AWARD RULES

The new top medic challenge rules are simple, how good a medic are you per Alabama Standards. You will have an assistant provided to you that will only perform skills you appoint them to do.

1. You will be tested on your knowledge of Alabama Protocols.
2. You will be tested on your skills.
3. You will have an extended scenario that you will have to work step by step by protocol and by doctor's orders.
4. This challenge will have a time limit of 30 minutes, if there is a tie on points gathered, it will come down to time.

MAKE SURE YOU VERBALIZE ALL ACTIONS AND PROCEDURES PERFORMED. THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASY CHALLENGE, BUT WILL SHOW THAT THE AARS HAS THE BEST OF THE BEST.

YOU MUST PRE REGISTER FOR THIS CHALLENGE. THE TOP MEDIC ONLY HAS ONE TROPHY, ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE, BUT THERE WILL BE A PRIZE WORTH YOUR TIME.

FIRST AID CONTEST RULES AND EQUIPMENT LIST

EACH TEAM WILL CONSIST OF FOUR MEMBERS INCLUDING A WORKING CAPTAIN. A ROSTER OF TEAM MEMBERS MUST BE SUBMITTED.

1. A written test for all team members.
2. One rescuer CPR – Only one person from each team to compete, selected by the team captain.
3. A practical test consisting of multiple trauma victims, to include initial patient survey, vital signs, and treatment.

Each team is to furnish its own equipment and supplies. Judges will be selected from AARS membership. Team scores will consist of total scores for all three parts. The sequence in which teams compete will be determined by a drawing at the team meeting. Trophies will be awarded for first, second, and third place.

SCRAPBOOK CONTEST RULES

Entry rules

*Scrapbooks must be no bigger than 20" x 20" and must be bound. Pages stapled together do not constitute being bound.

*Scrapbooks with pictures of victims will not be allowed entry into the Scrapbook Contest.

Scrapbooks will be judged based on the following:

*Squad name should be on front cover.

*Material in scrapbook should date from conference to conference.

*Material should pertain to the squad and/or squad members involved in squad activities.

*Color scheme

*Arrangement & neatness

*Originality

*Labeling (handwritten or typed explanation of all pages, photos & newspaper articles)

The decision of the Judges will be final.

If you have any questions, please contact Editor Gwen Stone at (256) 364-0150 or e-mail at editor@alars.org.

Any changes to these rules will be posted on the website and published in the Rescuer Magazine.

Awards

Wendell Price Award

The Wendell Price Award for Outstanding Community Service is presented to a squad member who serves his squad and community on a regular basis. This award is for someone who contributes their time by doing routine activities for their organization or always making themselves available for search and rescue operations. In addition, this person might serve the community in other ways, such as teaching CPR or First Responder courses. This award is not for singular heroic acts. The winner of this award will be presented a plaque at the banquet. Runners-up will be awarded a certificate of recognition. Nominations for this award must be received by the association no later than November 1st' each year.

Rescuer of the Quarter

The Rescuer of the Quarter Award is awarded quarterly for a squad member who performs an outstanding rescue act that deserves recognition. The winner of this award is presented a plaque at the quarterly meeting. Nominations for this award must be received no later than 10 days prior to the Quarterly Meeting.

Citizen of the Year Award

The Citizen of the Year Award is to recognize someone *other than a squad member* who has done some outstanding rescue act since the last convention. The winner of this award will be invited to our banquet and will be presented a plaque. Nominations for this award must be received no later than November 1st each year.

Glenn Parris Award

This award is presented in honor of our founder Glen Parris. The recipient of this award is chosen from the winners of the Rescuer of the Quarter for the current year.



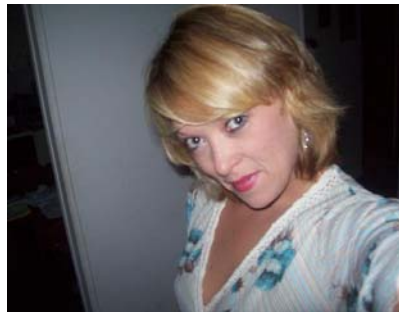
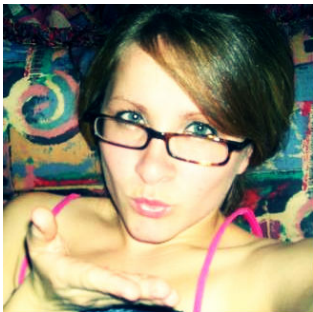
NOTE: The purpose of this column is to provide the missing persons in Alabama with an additional venue to share their stories. We also thought it would be nice for the searchers (You) to get to know your victims a little better. Too often, we leave a search without finding our victim and never hear about the case again. We are all professionals, but we also care and have questions of our own about our victim's. Most of the time this is due to the media's lack of interest in most missing person's cases. I have spoken to many families about sending in a story for our magazine that tells us a little more about our victims than what we read on a missing persons flier. All of these families were more than happy to share their stories with us. Please bear with me as this is the first time I have submitted anything to the magazine. The subject of missing persons, especially searching for the missing, is something that I am very passionate about. Because of that, I always feel like there is something more that I can do. Writing this quarterly article is my attempt at doing a little more.

My story this quarter is about two women that I have gotten to know pretty well. Their names are **Nadia** (Or Nadi as her mother calls her) and **Tabitha** (Everyone just calls her Tabby). I have gotten to know these girls so well that I almost feel like I've known them my whole life. You know how it is when you have a really close friend and you know every detail about them? That's me, I know their favorite T.V. shows, the guys they dated, their favorite foods and music. You know, the typical stuff. Unfortunately, I also know things like, **Nadia** was wearing a green Tria Market shirt when she disappeared and was actually last seen at her apartment. **Tabitha** was wearing a black dress when she disappeared and was last seen standing in a driveway waiting for a ride from the last person to see her alive. That's the worse part about my friendship with these girls...I've met their families and friends, but I never got to meet them. Being friends with a missing person that you've never met can be difficult, but, worth the effort.

These two really are almost complete opposites. Nadia is the shy, soft spoken and sometimes naïve girl. Tabitha is the true southern girl with something to say and the attitude to back it up. Here's a little history on both of them....

Nadia Kersh was born in Russia and after many difficulties found herself in a very crowded, underfunded orphanage. She and her sister were eventually adopted and came to live in the U.S. As you can imagine, living with an American family was like learning to walk all over again. Nadia had problems in her young life like most of us. The adjustment from Russia to the U.S. was difficult and it was harder for her to fit in with other children her age. Eventually, her parents found a school that Nadia loved. There she met several girls that she would remain friends with until this day. She learned how to be herself and live. And that's what she did. She eventually moved to Alabama a few years after leaving her school and began a new life on her own.

Despite what has been said in the news, Nadia and her twin were not reunited in Birmingham. Nadia and her sister were in contact with each other throughout their lives. They always knew where to find each other and Nadia finally came to Birmingham to live with her sister for a brief period. After her sister married and moved out of state, Nadia was on her own for the first time in her life. Considering her difficulties adjusting during her childhood, Nadia was doing very well for herself. She had a job, friends and eventually a baby. Unfortunately, being naïve as I mentioned before, Nadia also allowed an unknown danger to enter her life. Don't get me wrong, I'm not being mean when I say she was naïve. Nadia was a girl that only sees the good in everyone. She made bad decisions when choosing friends because she did not understand what people are capable of. In her mind, no one would ever have any reason to hurt her. In all honesty, I still don't understand why someone would want to hurt her. The man suspected of murdering her has been arrested now and there are still no answers to that question.



Tabitha Franklin, as I said before, is a southern girl born and bred. Tabitha had no problems blending in with her peers. As we all know, that's not always a good thing. Tabitha was a beautiful girl and, I would imagine, could have anything she wanted. What she wanted was to live her life to the fullest. She wanted to love and be loved...she did and she was. Maybe Tabitha grew up too fast. It happens to a lot of girls these days. By the time she became an adult, she was on a road that she never intended to take. How'd she wind up there? Love, of course. She tried many times to get out of a bad situation and always found herself right back in it.

By this time, Tabitha had 3 beautiful children that she loved something fierce. However, she also had 3 children that needed her and sometimes she felt like she would never live up to their expectations. How could she when her own life was so out of control? She did it by loving them. She loved them and they knew it. Sometimes Tabitha would be gone for a few days for no reason. It didn't matter though, her children always knew she was coming back. She would never leave them....she loved them. And then one day she didn't return. Remember that road I mentioned? She never got off of it. She tried and tried, but, he was always there. The one time Tabitha tried to end the bad relationship she was in, her children were threatened. Throughout the duration of this relationship, Tabitha made other bad decisions, drinking among others. Not uncommon for a woman surrounded by violence and feeling like she is in an unending cycle. Unlike Nadia, Tabitha knew what people were capable of....after all, she had already seen this dark side. Even so, like so many others, she never expected this. She never expected her face to become one of so many missing persons.

So, these two ladies have “Almost” nothing in common. Almost....Here’s what they do have in common: They both loved their children dearly and would never....NEVER leave them willingly. They were both young and beautiful with their lives ahead of them. They both have families that love them and will stop at nothing to get the answers they need and deserve. They are both missing and need to be found. AND, most importantly, they both have us looking for them. Not just “Us” with Walker County Rescue, all of us in the AARS. Some of you guys have already received a call or 2 or 3 from us to assist with the search for Nadia or Tabitha. If you have not, you probably will.

One important thing that we have learned since we began working with families and law enforcement on missing person’s cases is this: Just because the media may have lost interest in a case, that does not mean that it has been forgotten. The law enforcement agencies working these cases are doing just that....working them. They never forget. Just because you don’t read about a search in the newspaper, that does not mean a search is not being conducted. Just because law enforcement has not announced a suspect’s name on the news, that does not mean that they are not keeping tabs on someone and getting closer and closer to an arrest. Working closely with law enforcement has become a big part of what our team does now. We have been fortunate enough to see all the hard work they have put into these cases. As for the families, they are also working these cases. After all, when their loved one disappeared, they inherited a new job. They just became the official spokesperson for their family member. Believe it or not, their job is much harder than ours.

In closing: I plan on submitting a story on at least 1 missing person every quarter. I figure that even if I submit 2 at a time, I will never run out of missing persons in Alabama to write about. The unfortunate truth is that even when a victim is found, another takes their place. My hope is that everyone gets something from reading this. Keep reading, at some point and time I will write about someone in your area.

Angie Cantrell
Walker County Rescue

Have You Ever Heard
“History Repeats Itself?”
By James Miller –ECRS

The Etowah County Rescue Squad has had busier times but I for one am glad that things have been easy. We have several things that will keep us very busy this summer. Just a few of the up coming events are, fishing rodeos, tractor shows, boys club rodeo, car shows.

We have tried not to make the local ambulance outfits uneasy with the ECRS as well as not to get our Sheriff’s Department and local law enforcement rubbed the wrong way. We have had some medical runs, went out on a few search missions and had some dive missions. Now, what I am trying to say is that we (the ECRS) try not to make transfers and keep the ambulances from getting all the money from the insurance companies. We will even let them get those calls when there is no more insurance coverage. This way they can write off and show losses. Now, with all of our law offices, they get to use all the auxiliary officers and claim that money from the State and Federal government agencies. It also looks good in the public’s eyes to have all those bodies in uniforms acting as law personnel. A deterrent for crime while being a screening tool and training program to get new officers. It’s during these times that we can work to get our debts down, train and find more family time. Now there is going to be a time when auxiliary officers get tired of working for free. Then the volunteers will once again be called upon to do what they were established to do in the beginning. This is when we will see that, “History does indeed repeat itself!” They will choose to put their employees back to work protecting people, saving lives and tending to the sick and injured. Cut backs and department funding will play a big part in this. Now hopefully when this starts happening these agencies will donate all the equipment that they have to their local rescue squads so it will still be used as if they still had it. *Remember we are all good friends and work together for the same purpose.*

Here is how things pretty much went during a missing person mission, a drowning, looking for some evidence, wrecks and most every kind of a mission: A few officers from law enforcement were always on the scene. Volunteer rescue squad members would work sometimes for hours, sometimes for days. When the mission was in its final moments a call would go out. The rescue squad would tell the law officers on sight, and then they reported to their commander. After that conversation, the law officers would inform everyone what was needed from that point on. I remember seeing this a few years back. When missions were over everyone shook hands, smiled and went on their way until the next call. ***When overtime is cut back (or out) then it will be time to call on the Volunteers organizations again.***

The ECRS now has some members that are waiting on the word for the next AARS state approved Public Safety Diver class and tenders. Jason what about it? I need to talk to someone about our squad members getting some cave and /or rescue repelling classes? Swift water rescue classes? Oh and sure we hope that is put on by our AARS just as the dive class. Jason, smile I’m on a rollCo-daddy!!! I Luv –u-man!! Oh yeah, I’m running when I first see him coming towards me, I’m not that crazy!!

9/11: Full day of Honor
By Michael Hardy
AARS Honor Guard Commander

September 11, 2001 I'm sure holds a special place in any American's heart. To remember that day nine years ago and what it now stands for is something the younger generation must learn.

For some members of our Honor Guard to play a part in our local remembrance on the square (which only lasted 1 hour) brought tears to many but made others swell with pride in being an American.

It was truly an honor for our Association to be represented at this service. We were supposed to post the colors prior to and retrieve the colors afterwards, but as with any function things get changed. This was no exception. The service got moved and our nations flag and state flag wer already flying at half mast so we didn't post the colors. We formed a line with the help of the AmVets post 21 members and a member from the VFD, (CRIC) Cherokee River Indian Community.

Saluting the nations flag while the National Anthem was being sung by the Rocketeers Quartet, a single breeze came up enough to make the flags move in the breeze. It couldn't have come at a better time.

After a short prayer, I managed to perform the Alan Jackson song "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)". Prayers were said over the VFD, rescue squads, city fire, EMS and law enforcement and yes, our military and Brad Pullum performed his song "When Friends Leave".

The Lord's Prayer was also performed, and more prayers and finally the end came. You would have to have been there to get the full effect. To represent the AARS at this event was truly an honor, even if the turn out was light. Maybe next year will be better but this year we had to compete with the art show for attendance.

Later that evening we got to witness the final "Honor Flight" welcome home at the Huntsville International Airport. This was again, truly an honor to meet and greet our WWII Vets returning home from Washington DC on the final Honor Flight. More than 1000 people were in attendance to welcome home more than 100 WWII Vets.

The walkway was lined with the Patriots Guard M. C. unit friends, family and supporting and thankful Americans. Period uniforms were seen everywhere. WWII outfitted young people and older people alike. WWII nurses, MP's sailors, GI's, civilian guards, police and even a real Colonel in WWII attire. It was truly an emotional time to see just how much our WWII Vets were thought of by the younger generation.

It was an honor to shake hands with the guys and gals from WWII. Oh the stories they could tell if you could get them started talking. My friends, be proud, proud to be an American. Be proud of those who made sacrifices so that we may enjoy the freedoms we have. Remember "all gave some, some gave all". Never let what these people did be for nothing. Thank a Vet and welcome them home. Keep in mind that just because they came back doesn't really mean they came home. So many have left a part of themselves somewhere else.

Be proud to be an American and let freedom ring, "Loud and Clear". Be proud of the services you perform and the jobs you do in rescue, fire service and EMS. It is not for everyone to engage in. Just as our Vets have made sacrifices, you too make sacrifices doing a thankless job and sometimes a service that no one ever notices. To all of you "Thank You" and Vets, welcome home.

Thanks to Shawn and Corrine for their help.

Finding a Unclothed Man
By Corinne Hardy

It was mentioned at the last quarterly meeting to ask me about finding a naked man so I decided to share the story with you all. SARTEC K-9 unit was called to St. Clair County a few years back to help in locating the body of a man who had been missing for six days in the 100 degree heat. Searchers had searched the area with no signs of the man. This was to be the last day of the search. If the dogs did not turn up anything they were going to discontinue the search. SARTEC arrived early in the morning with several dogs. The dog teams were sent out to cover different areas of the hilly wooded area. Searching for a couple hours, teams came in for a break and refreshments. Afterward recoup Team Lady was asked to check out an area where a shoe had been found the night before. Searching the right side of road near a pond no indications were given. Moving across the road to a wooded area, Team Lady entered the woods finding a sock. As they went into the woods they continued on to a running creek. The handler noticed a footprint in the mud and pointed it out to the searcher with her. Handler gave Lady the cadaver command. Going to water Lady sniffed came back to the handler and gave a live alert at which time the handler told her to go find. Several times working thru the briars following the creek, Lady gave a live alert, at one point getting out of handlers sight. Calling for her, the handler and searcher heard a weak voice calling for help. The searcher with the team yelled and asked if he was the person they were looking for to which he replied yes and that he needed help. Working their way to him the handler realized, about 500 feet from him, that he had nothing on. Turning around while other searcher went to evaluate him, the handler radioed in that Team Lady had a find and that he was alive. Standing on a stump the handler verbally helped other searchers work their way in to them. With the help of team Lady from the SARTEC K-9 unit a father was reunited with his 3 year old son, dehydrated and cut up from the briar's, but alive. Now you know the rest of the story.

Busy, Busy, Busy
Chris Cantrell
Chief, Walker County Search & Rescue

We have been very busy the last few months with searches from Hueytown to Smith Lake to Lamar and Lawrence County it has been non-stop. The only thing I can say is if I ever go fishing I want to go with Haleyville Rescue squad because if there is anything out there, by golly, they are gonna catch it. Of the last few calls that they have responded to help us one victim was recovered at around 100 ft, the other in swift water and both by dragging.

As for dive teams, I cannot say enough about all the divers that have responded to help. We had divers from the Smith Lake Task Force, Hoover PSD team, Haleyville, LASAR and several others that I did not even get to meet or thank. These guys worked in 100 plus feet of water with zero visibility to 20 or 30 feet of water with a very swift current. Either way you go you definitely get a work out, and they performed like pros. I also want to thank LASAR again for an AWESOME PSD class because it continues to make diving easier and more productive. You take the basics and continue to build on them and you always remember what you learned in the class.

I do need to give kudos to Dusty, he is now 6 out of 6 on the water and thanks to all of the people that have helped us throughout the years in training Dusty. I need to thank Darcy and the crew at NASDA for help on some very sensitive searches and Chip and crew from HEMSI for their help in Town Creek and also on some discreet searches. Thanks to SARTEC K-9 for being on the way to help when we found the victim on Smith Lake.

I will say that even though one area was checked by a diver and another K-9 team (not an AARS member) and Texas Equusearch was called in, I will still listen to what Andy told me.....Trust your dog, trust your dog, *trust* your dog. And if you don't trust your dog....TRUST YOUR DOG! Why? Because two days later they drained the lake and guess what they found? Yep, the victim, about 20 feet from where Dusty alerted. On this particular search Dusty jumped in the water. He normally doesn't get in the water, as you can ask some of the guys from the Lamar County search who had to tempt him with pretzels to get him in the water. I was not able to go the first day since I was at the fire department so Angie had to take Dusty. They took Dusty out on the boat after he jumped in the water and after having found some shoe prints at the edge and he alerted again on the boat. So, all along we knew something was there.

The search in Lamar County was an excellent example of many squads coming together to work as one for a common goal. We continue to work missing persons cases and have spent countless hours on searches but thanks to some dedicated members we press on and continue to "fight the good fight".

We were fortunate enough to be a part of the first Basic SAR class which was held in Addison and had a very good turn-out. I hope that everyone had fun and learned something. We are holding another class in July and Haleyville has been gracious enough to host it. We plan to have at least one more, probably hosted by Coosa Valley before the conference and to have an advanced class at the conference in November.

A Very Special Day
By Danny Butler

We all know Sept ember 11th is a very special day for us as Americans. This September 11, 2010 I had one myself. I was asked to go on an Honor Flight with the WW II veterans. We left early Saturday morning on September 11, 2010 from Huntsville, Alabama. We flew to Washington D.C. which was a treat in itself. I sat next to a gentleman named Roy who told me stories that made my skin crawl and stories that had me laughing so hard that I cried.

When we landed we had to help all the Veterans off the plane and help them get on the buses for the tours of the day. I can tell you I can load a bus with wheelchairs and Vets now. The Vets had a guardian with each one of them, they walked with them and pushed them in their wheelchairs. That was amazing in itself. When we saw a couple of them talking we would walk up behind them and just listen to the stories they had to tell. Whether it was Alzheimer's or Dementia at that point, I didn't care.

We then went to the WW II Memorial to honor them as what they dang well deserved. It was amazing to see the sites of what the vets had fought for. We went to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and watched the changing of the guard, it was the most amazing thing I have ever witnessed.

So may Vets were teary eyed at that point and exhausted. When we were at Arlington National Cemetery , for those of us old enough to remember him, I saw the grave of Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WW II and our cowboy hero of all times.

We then made our way back to the airport which is a ride in itself. The sites you can see -Washington Monument, Jefferson's home and the Pentagon . To answer the main question, no we didn't see the President, but we saw his motorcade and the Secret Service was all over that. The flight back was just as good. I sat by another Vet and we laughed all the way back. The vets were so tired, but happy they had made the trip. So what is the moral of the story? If you ever get a chance to go on an Honor Flight give your time to go, it's well worth it!



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

Marilyn Knight
 Guin Rescue Squad

Rev. Matt Miller
 South Lamar Rescue Squad

Margaret Allene Fields
 South Lamar Rescue Squad

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

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