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FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

From the Desk of the President

Time for the sun to come and be bright, gas prices are up way too high and we can look forward to a Vacation soon. Now it is time for us to get together at another meeting on Lake Martin. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there and spending time with you.

On March 8 we meet with the attorney from ADECA. Paperwork is pending for review on both sides before the next step can be taken. At this time, we have not heard anything back from them. Hopefully, we will have more for you at the meeting.

This has been an emotional period for my family. Thanks to everyone for sending their condolences and prayers during the passing of my Mother-in-law.

Sorry to hear of the devastation of the tornados throughout the state. Hope everyone is safe and ok. We appreciate everyone helping their neighbors out.

Danny Butler
President

From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

Hello! It's hard to believe that it is already spring time and not long to our next quarterly meeting. We would like to thank Colbert County for hosting the first quarterly meeting. Things have been pretty busy around here and I know that many of the squads have been very busy. My home squad will be hosting their 2nd annual fish fry on May 14 from 11-2. I know Brian has been busy with training classes. We have some squads to be inspected this time. We have been working on some things with ADECA. We have also been making trips to Montgomery working on getting Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and EMT-Basic classes coordinated through the AARS. With Graduation coming up I would like to wish all the graduates the best. I am trying to keep this short and sweet to keep Debbie and Danny happy (LOL). Hope to see you all at the quarterly meeting hosted by Lake Martin on May 21. Remember to enjoy life, train hard and stay safe.

Jason Heard
1st Vice President

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

Well this year is flying by already. Thanks to all the squads that were at the first quarterly meeting. It takes participation from all the squads for the AARS to be successful in meeting its goals.

As far as training goes the HCRU taught a single rope technique class at Blount County on March 5th & 6th. The class went well and the students learned a lot. Boy was it cold on the bluff on Sunday!

Thanks Blount County Rescue Squad for hosting and feeding us on Saturday. The next class will be a Basic Haul and Lower Class. The date for that will be set soon. The next Single Rope Technique Class will be in Morgan County on June 4th and 5th. The class is open to 20 students. Contact me if you are interested in attending.

The Public Safety Dive Class will be May 6th – 8th. Please contact Wesley Rose with LASAR for more information. The information

will also be on the website.

Guntersville Rescue Squad will be hosting a water search class with date and time to be announced.

We need to know what classes you would like for conference this year. Your input is needed to put these together so you get the training you need for your squad. I also need you to send letters for rescuer of the quarter. I know there are well deserved rescuers every quarter, we just don't hear about them.

Remember the AARS is your organization, please do your part to help make it better.

Brian Bailey
2nd Vice President

1st Quarterly Meeting
February 19, 2011

Meeting called to order by President Danny Butler. Colors were posted by the Honor Guard. Opening Prayer by Doyce Bobbitt. Roll was called by Debbie Tidwell with 49 squads represented. Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes by Randolph County. Seconded by SARTEC. Financial report was read and approved.

Danny talked about working with ADECA to be able to get the squads back in, will have a meeting with them on March 8th. Will also have a meeting on March the 8th about the new EMR courses. The August meeting has been changed to the second weekend, it will be held at the Rainsville Agriculture Center.

At this time the meeting was turned over to Chauncey Wood to speak about the Association and the county rescue squads becoming tax exempt. Chauncey also spoke about the boat trailer bill.

Danny spoke about changes coming for NIMS classes.

Gwen spoke about the magazine. We need articles sent in so other squads can know what your squad is doing.

There is now a Yahoo group for the AARS.

Brian Bailey spoke about training, there will be a PSD dive training and dive tender course, all the information will be posted on the website. The Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit will be hosting a single rope technique class March 5th – 6th. Brian also spoke about a statewide dive team. There will be a water search and rescue class in Guntersville to be announced. If any squads needs any training contact Brian. Mike Hardy spoke and advised the Honor Guard is looking for some new members.

Brian presented a plaque to Lillian for High Attendance 4th Quarter 2010.

High Attendance for the 1st Quarter is Lake Martin Search & Rescue. Jason Mitchell from Ider Rescue Squad was Rescuer of the Quarter. 2nd Quarterly meeting will be in Alexander City, hosted by Lake Martin Search & Rescue.

Walker County and Haleyville Rescue Squads are out on an active search and asked to be counted as present at the meeting. Motion by Detroit, second by Crossville. Motion carried.

The Board of Directors and General Business meeting were combined.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

We want to thank East Colbert and Cherokee Rescue Squads for hosting the meeting.

Hello from Addison.

On April 3rd we were called out around 3:30 pm for a search on a gentleman who had been missing in Bankhead Forest since around 10:30 the night before. He and a friend had gone out walking in the woods and had become separated at some point during the night. The friend had come out sometime that morning but didn't know where his friend was. The family had gone out and searched for him most of the day and finally decided they needed help so we were called out. The Sheriff's office contacted the Rescue Squad and asked if we could bring a dog and help with the search. Mike Hardy brought his dogs and helped with the search. We had sent a couple of teams out in different areas with no luck and around 8:00 pm we were calling off the search and would be coming back the next morning to start again. As we were discussing what time to meet someone called out that they had found him. He had walked out not too far from where one of our crews had just come from. After getting him up to where we were and examining him, it appeared that he had possibly been bitten by a snake. We got him into an ambulance and transported and it was determined that he had indeed been bitten by some type of snake. He is going to be fine but folks please be careful out there the snakes are out and moving already. We are also planning a fish fry on June 11th at our squad building to raise money for our fireworks out for the 4th of July. We look forward to seeing everyone in May in Alexander City.

IDER RESCUE SQUAD

Hello from Ider Rescue Squad! All has been pretty quiet around our small town, but that is about to change. We will be having our 2nd Annual Fish Fry on May 14, 2011 from 11 a.m. -2 p.m. This year we are also having a silent auction with many great things to bid on like Dollywood tickets, aquarium tickets, zoo tickets, water park tickets and many more! Also the car club in Ider will be hosting a poker run and car show. Come join us for food, fun and entertainment. During the first part of May, we will also be helping with the state baseball tournament that will be held in Ider. In July we will be doing our annual fireworks sales and we will also be doing Boston butts on July 2, 2011 to be picked up July 3, 2011. If anyone is interested in ordering a Boston Butt please let Jason Heard know. In August it will be time for the next quarterly meeting which we will be helping with as it will be hosted by Dekalb County Association of Rescue Squads. We would like to say congratulations to the following members: David Griffith, Sherry Green, Heather Sizemore and Paige Guffey upon their graduation. Hope to see everyone in May at the quarterly meeting in Alexander City!

From all your Brothers and Sisters at Ider Rescue Squad



By James Miller

On February 25, 2011 a call came in from our EMA director requesting the services of the ECRS for our neighboring city Attalla. There was a large tree that had fallen on top of a house and the people who lived in the house could not afford the services to have the tree removed. I toned out for ECRS members who were available to come to the building for a mission. Before long we had a crew that was headed to the sight with chainsaws. Now with us going into another squad's territory without them having been the ones that called us, I had to make some calls. While I was headed to the sight and other members were grouping for the mission I started my calls. I contacted the fire chief in that area and also the Captain of the Attalla Rescue Squad. When the ECRS got to the house we began working and the fire chief and one of their fire engines came by. Shortly after that Attalla Rescue Squad members arrived. ARS joined in with the ECRS and we took care of business with a few good laughs. When we all had finished the job we left the ARS members because we packed up and loaded quicker than they did, (ha ha). They were the ones that got to tell the people in the house all the good byes. When all was said and done it was a good day to get to work with members of our sister city again..No one was injured but we all did a little sweating. Attalla members asked me why we were called first? I explained to them what happened and that was all I had to say about that. Then I turned and said, " It was fun but next time we would wait on them to call because they needed the work and we needed the rest. We are all one big family!

We were all ready for a weekend of fun here in Gadsden (Saturday April 9.) with some beautiful weather. The ECRS has planned a day of dive training with some new members working as tenders. We all were looking forward to this day b/c it was going to be in a quarry close to home where there would be visibility, *something we never have*. In complete wetsuits we did some dives down to 115' up to 30' and everyone carried out each dive with no problems. Our tenders did a great job with their part of helping out divers. Our squad had also planned a cook-out for that same evening at 6:00pm. and we had another great turn out for this get together. Young ones played while members cooked and prepared for the hungry mouths that were waiting to chow down. Things were starting to wind down when we got calls from 911. The first call to R-1 was for him to call 911 on the phone. When the call was made they requested for us to deliver some food to them. Well they got what they wanted and we all had a good laugh. Minutes after this request they called again. This time they needed us to go rescue some people stranded on the Coosa River. I had members scrambling around making the necessary steps to get moving as we were speaking. I told 911 we were on it but they had just blown their chance to get any food from us. Another good laugh, as I said they got plenty of good food. We had three boats at a launch within a very short time. Launched one boat and crew until a request came from them for a second boat. It took our two boats and the crew members getting in the river to remove a stuck 18' new boat from a sand bar. It had been bought that day and they were on a river they were not familiar with. Two hours on this little mission and with no injuries, we were back at the building. They were very lucky and the ECRS members did a great job helping them out. Start listing what all could happen and the mistakes that the boaters made? Now start getting prepared in case your squad is faced with what you have come up with in your answers and discussions. Summer time is close and water accidents are going to happen in rivers, lakes, ponds and pools. Watch out for your safety first- then the ones around you because if you injure yourself how can you help others? Be safe and take carea request from your friends at the Etowah County Rescue Squad.

The week of January 10, 2011, Madison County received a record snowfall and lower than normal temperatures that have left us still shivering! Snow is not something that we usually plan for in Alabama but as we see, it can impact the way that we, as Rescue Squads and other First Responders function and continue to provide services.

There are several common threads in severe weather related events regardless of the time of year; overloaded communications, overworked providers and difficulty in access to name a few. As we plan for these events, we tend to do well at "big picture" planning, but sometimes overlook other services that we may be able to offer or situations that may prevent us from performing at the level we ordinarily would like to. Many Rescue Squads in the state have to perform multiple roles of rescue, EMS and fire service, further complicating our response times in weather related events. The Huntsville-Madison County Rescue Squad primarily responds to motor vehicle accidents with entrapment, but also assists with land and water rescue operations. As we worked through the snow storm here, we have become aware of steps that we can take that help us to provide a broad support for our community.

As the snow began to fall on Sunday, we mustered forces and developed up crews to man our vehicles and provide coverage for the county. We found that communication was, as always, critical, particularly in this situation where squad members were broadly affected by the weather. Some members, while able to respond to the early weather threats were unable to return to their homes because of the growing danger presented by the record snowfall. Having a 24 hour personal survival kit proved essential during this time! Other members were unable to respond due to employment with other local EMS services. This made accurate communication important to scheduling. Since we maintain a 24/7 coverage at our station with a minimum of two EMTs per rescue vehicle, being able to get crews in and out became a large issue. The lesson learned here was planning coverage in advance, when possible, and also planning a rehab schedule.

We found that most of the calls were minor and mostly "vehicles in a ditch" with minor to no injuries. This was fortunate because response times were compromised. Most of the ambulances were running with chains with a max speed of 30 mph. However, much of the time, conditions dictated even slower speeds. Due to the fact that the county cannot feasibly prepare for events of this magnitude, we were severely hampered by the storm. The lessons learned were that chains may not be the best answer, caution and a metered response was the best course of action.

In the ensuing days, we found that we were able to provide other services that were outside of what we may consider traditional. We were able to assist in transporting CCU nurses and other critical needs personnel to the hospital from remote locations. This was looked upon favorably by those we helped and especially by their families. As the cold weather and ice held on, we were fortunate to have relatively few bad accidents. For the most part, people were cautious, helping keep the accident rate down. The lesson here is to be open to non-traditional ways to help the community.

Now that the snow is gone and the ice has melted we can look back and reflect on this weather event. We have learned that we are not exempt from Mother Nature's fury at anytime of the year. We cannot plan for everything, but by planning and executing your plans, we can help keep the confusion down. Be prepared to function out of the pocket, be self-sustaining. It's hard to take care of those we have committed to watch over, when we have to worry about our own lack of planning.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**** 2011 THIRD QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: JULY 4, 2011**

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

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

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NO EXCEPTIONS SO THE MAGAZINE CAN GET OUT TO YOU QUICKER****

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

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

2nd Quarterly Meeting
At
Charles Bailey Sportsplex

1840 Sportsplex Blvd.
Alexander City, Alabama
(Hwy 280 E to Hwy 22W, ¾ mile down on left, follow the signs)

May 21, 2011

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

Vendors.....8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Welcome by Mayor Barbara Young 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Board of Directors meeting..... 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Lunch.....11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

General Business meeting.....1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Special Guest: State Rep. Mark Tuggle

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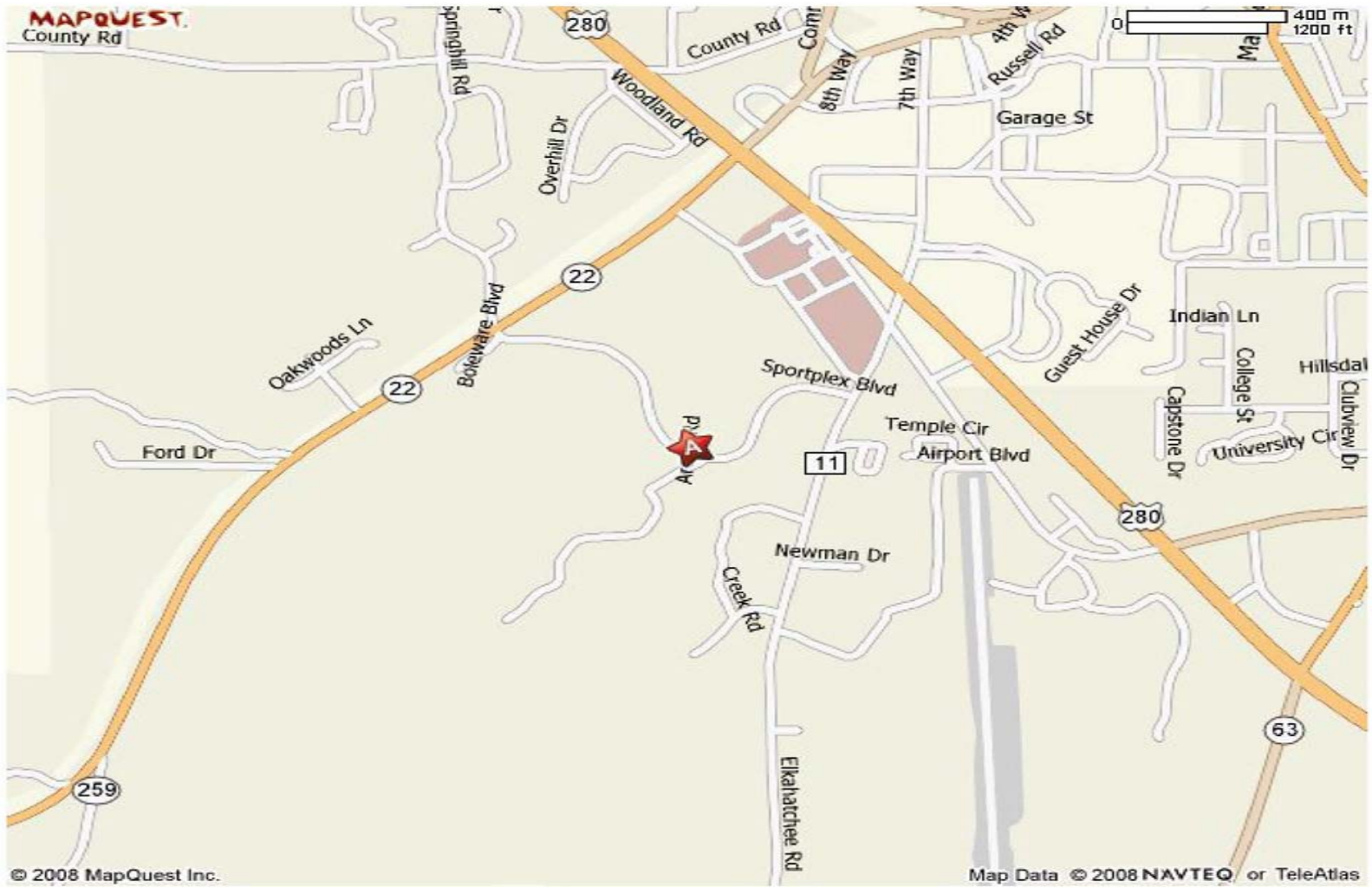
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