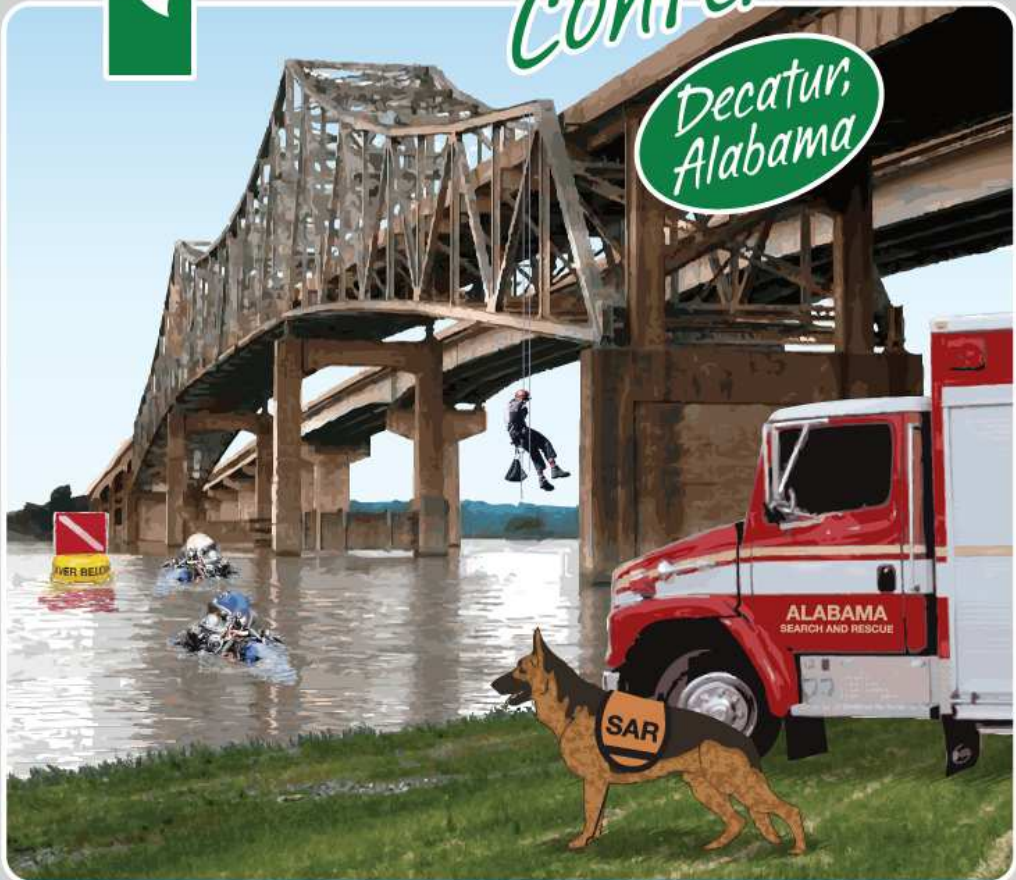


The Alabama Association of Rescue Squads Presents

# THE ALABAMA RESCUER



2012  
Conference



Alabama Association  
Rescue Squads



2012 Fourth Quarter

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PHOTOGRAPHER.....RICK MILLER, LASAR

**2012 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

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ASST CHAPLAIN...HOYT MCCAGHREN, Lawrence County**

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MATTHEW KNIGHT, Randolph County  
CANDY DAVIDSON, McIntosh  
BRUCE PATRICK, South Lamar  
CHUCK LANSDALL, Cherokee Rescue  
TIM WILLIS, Cullman County  
RAY HOGANS, LASAR

**PUBLICITY/PR.....GWEN STONE, Desoto  
RICK MILLER, LASAR**

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JIM MCCLELLAN, Clay County  
JOHNNY WARREN, Anniston

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TOMMY MACPHERSON, Huntsville Cave  
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LASAR**

TINA THOMPSON, Ider  
MARIA JAY, Geraldine

# FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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From the Desk of the President

Hello to all my fellow squad members. Can't believe it is time for another **Conference**. This year has gone by so fast. We have some classes that we are going to put on this year that will be quite interesting. Please be aware the classes are posted on the website and you will need to preregister for the classes. Any class that does not have at least a minimum number will be cancelled. Thanks to all of our members for your continued support of the Executive Board and for your vote of confidence over the past 2 years. We still need your continued support to continue what we have set out to do. Congratulations to new officers that will be moving up this year. Just a reminder we will have an election at the Conference. I have really enjoyed my time serving as your President. I can look back and say what an honor it has been. We have the best people in our Association that works hard for us in the background, that my friends is the wives of the officers, they serve also and the husbands too. Please check the website for the conference information, if there are any changes we will post them as soon as possible.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Decatur,

Danny Butler  
President

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From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

Wow, it's already the Fall season and conference time. Hope all is well. I would like to thank everyone who attended state training class September 8<sup>th</sup>. We had a good turn out and thanks to Lake Martin for hosting this. Remember deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup> to register for classes and competitions at the conference. We have some great classes and good instructors. Look on our website to see the schedule. We would like for this conference to be bigger and better than last year. If you have pictures of classes or training since last conference, email or mail them to me, I would appreciate it. Also we would like pictures for the memorial service, if you don't have a picture, a patch from your squad would be good. It has been an honor to have served as your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for the last two years. Hope to see everyone in Decatur, November 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. Until then stay safe, train hard, have fun and spend time with your family.

Jason Heard  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

Well, the year is almost over. We have been very busy and the time has flown by. Our Fall training went well and I would like to thank Lake Martin for hosting it. It was a beautiful setting on the lake. Everything but the weather cooperated. Storms rolled in after lunch cutting it a little short. Lake Martin cooked us a great lunch and fun was had by all. I would also like to thank SARTec for the land search training. Ed and crew always do a great job. Hope the divers found the dummy!

Conference is almost here and I am looking forward to it. We have a lot of good classes this year. The contests and games should prove to be a lot of fun also. As the year comes to an end sadly so does the term of our president Danny Butler. I first met Danny when he came to inspect the Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit. He has been an inspiration and a friend to me since we met. I know he got tired of me calling him once a week or more with questions, but he always answered or called back to help me out. He is going to be missed but I know he will always be a phone call away. I appreciate the nominating committee's and the membership's nomination for me for First Vice President. I have learned a lot in the past two years as Second Vice President, I know the following years will be full too. Jason Heard was and still is a great help to me. He has always guided and helped me with all the training stuff. It takes all three officers working with and helping each other to make this Association work. And all three rely on Debbie to hold it all together and keep us on the straight and narrow. Remember, the Association belongs to you the membership, we are just your voice. Get involved and make a difference. Remember to tell your family and friends to use the check off on their income tax form. Help promote the bill we are working so we can all have some permanent funding.

Hope to see you all at conference!  
Thanks for your support.

Brian Bailey  
2nd Vice President



# FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting  
August 18, 2012

Colors were posted by the Honor Guard. Opening prayer by Doyce Bobbitt.

Guest speakers were Representative Steve Clause, Daleville Mayor Wes Etheridge and George Murray with American Income Life Insurance.

Meeting was called to order by President Danny Butler. Roll was called with 54 squads represented.

Motion was made Desoto to count Scottsboro-Jackson as present due to a squad function. Motion was seconded by Ider. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Union to count Choctaw County as present due to a squad function. Motion was seconded by Desoto. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Desoto to count Cherokee Rescue as present due to a squad function. Motion was seconded by Ider. Motion carried.

Motion was made by East Colbert to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion was seconded by Desoto. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Desoto to dispense with the reading of the financial report. Motion was seconded by LASAR. Motion carried.

George Murray with American Income Life Insurance spoke to about a no cost life insurance available for rescue squad members. The insurance pays a \$2500.00 benefit. Motion was made by Desoto to take the insurance. Motion was seconded by East Colbert. Motion carried.

Danny discussed Sand Mountain Rescue Squad. Due to falsifying their application and other issues Sand Mountain Rescue Squad was dismissed from the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads.

Danny spoke about surplus and some issues that they had discussed with him. He will be having a meeting with them to finalize the details for the Association.

Danny discussed the renewal applications and stressed that the applications need to be completely filled out. Need to know the number of items that each squad has. The application will also be a little different this time. If they are not filled out completely they will be mailed back to the squad and any and all late fees will apply.

Chauncey spoke about the bills that will be brought up in legislation this coming year. He will keep us all updated.

Brian spoke about the conference. Everyone needs to get their registration in on time.

Gwen spoke about the magazine and the cost of printing and mailing. The magazine is available on the website. Motion was made by Union to mail only a copy to each squad and that each squad will print and distribute to its members. Motion was seconded by Athens-Limestone. Motion carried.

Due to this being Danny Butlers last year in office a motion was made by Ider to let Danny continue working on the legislation. Motion was seconded by Union. Motion carried.

The nominating committee made their recommendations for new officers for 2013.

President:

Nominating committee recommendation: Jason Heard

Nominated from the floor: Candace Davidson

Motion was made by Ider to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Athens-Limestone. Motion carried.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:

Nominating committee recommended: Brian Bailey

No nominations from the floor

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:

Nominating committee recommended: Matthew Knight

No nominations from the floor

High Attendance for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: Athens-Limestone

Danny thanked all the squads that hosted the meeting.

With no further business the colors were retired and the meeting was adjourned.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **2013 FIRST QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: January 7, 2013**

\* **The Electronic Version can be found on the AARS Website or by subscribing by sending an email to [rescuer@alars.org](mailto:rescuer@alars.org) please include your name and Squad.**

\* **THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT ANY ARTICLE SUBMITTED**

\* **ARTICLES SHOULD BE SENT USING THE EDITOR LINK ON THE AARS WEBSITE OR TO [editor@alars.org](mailto:editor@alars.org) \*\*\***

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

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

### Scrapbook Rules

1. All entries **MUST** pertain to the Squad or Squad members and must be in neat form.
2. All scrapbook material must be from the current year.
3. Scrapbook must be bound. No entry will be accepted with the pages just stapled together.
4. All photos must be identified as to who is in the picture and what activity is shown.  
**PICTURES OF VICTIMS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED IN ANY FORM.**
4. All entries must be displayed by 10:00am, November 10th, and remain until 4:00PM, otherwise, they will NOT be judged!
5. The decision of the judges shall be **FINAL**.

If you have any questions, please contact Gwen Stone, Editor.  
(256) 364-0150  
[editor@alars.org](mailto:editor@alars.org)

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### **Huntsville-Madison County Rescue Squad Recognizes Long Time Member Rick Copeland**

Rick Copeland has been a member of the HMCRS for 23 ½ years. Rick is an EMT-Intermediate. Rick looks back at his memory of his first confirmed entrapment at Medaris Street and Memorial Parkway. Entrapment involved a car and a truck, with the driver of the car entrapped. This event gave him the motivation to continue as a member of the rescue squad. Rick talked about different positions he held through the years from assist director, safety officer, instructor, etc. Rick continues each year to keep his training updated even though he has been afflicted with many health issues such as a stroke and knee-replacement. He has remained a loyal member not letting a little thing like health issues stop his volunteering. Rick is retired but still has a part-time job at a store as their maintenance man and volunteers 12 hours a week at the HMCRS. Rick states he has seen a multitude of changes at HMCRS from leadership, volunteers and especially better equipment and training of all the members.

Rick's main hobby is in amateur radio as a Ham Operator. He is a MARS – licensed Ham radio operator.

At the annual Ham radio conference Rick takes an active part each year with responsibility of safety and first aid station. Another hobby is doing woodworking crafts of making lawn decorations. Rick is a dedicated volunteer to the HMCRS.



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### **BAD DAY** By Michael Hardy

On my way home from making a yard sale pickup for our squad, I came across a utility trailer crossways on a two lane road. Remnants of roofing shingles were scattered all over the place. I stopped and inquired if assistance was needed. The man stopping traffic was on the phone with the 911 center calling for an ambulance. The ambulance ETA was about 10 minutes. He informed me that a motorcycle rider was injured.

I pulled up with hazard lights on and went to the victim, he had a compound fracture of the tibia and fibula and multiple cuts and scrapes. He was conscious and trying to move. While maintaining a C-spine on the victim, trying to comfort him, he told me the trailer came off the tow vehicle and, you guessed it, a crash followed. The victim went for about 30 yards, tumbling, rolling, sliding and finally coming to rest in the grass which was loaded with fire ants. Making the victim as comfortable as possible was all I could do.

The ambulance arrived about 10 minutes later and we placed a C collar on the victim, moved him to a back board onto a gurney and loaded for transport to the hospital Helipad.

The fire department showed up and the officer in charge was very unprofessional, swearing about every 3<sup>rd</sup> word about closing the road, sitting up a landing zone, etc. He definitely was not professional.

Several things came to mind over this incident. First, if you ride a motorcycle please expect the unexpected, I know this goes without saying. Second, when towing a trailer of any kind, whether personal or squad property, make sure the coupler is latched and secured with a pin or lock. The ball must be of proper size 1 7/16 ball for 1 7/16 coupler, 2" ball for a 2" coupler. Don't put a 2" coupler on a 1 7/16 ball. Make sure safety chains are in good repair and crossed under the coupler and securely attached to the tow vehicle. Watch your speed when towing any trailer. Third, when on a scene act professional and be professional. You are not only representing your department but all emergency service providers. Dress for the occasion and have a safe experience as far as it goes.

## **This can and does happen**

**By Michael Hardy**

A call comes in at 11:30pm., "Rescue squad respond to a river call," no more details are available. Members are responding to the boat ramp and members are responding to the station to get the boat and needed gear. Minutes later the truck and boat arrive at the boat ramp. More information has come in from dispatch, and you know a boat has partially sunk three miles upriver with two occupants on board.

This could be a life or death situation. The boat is launched with a crew, just as the boat leaves the ramp area, the motor quits. The operator calls the officer in charge and informs him that the boat is out of gas. In a small town or a rural area, how many places are open to get gas at midnight? Now, we have a really critical situation, no fuel for the boat and two people on a sinking vessel three miles away.

The tow vehicle is used to go for fuel. Oh no, we don't have a gas can, so now back to the station for a can of gas only to find it empty. Off to the nearest fuel station for gas then back to the boat ramp. Now it is 1:00 am and the rescue boat is just underway to rescue the two boaters. 2:00 a.m. and both occupants are safely on board the rescue boat and the sinking boat is towed to the nearest shore line and secured. 3:00 a.m. you are underway to the boat ramp and everything is going fine when the spot lights quit working. Not to worry, get the rechargeable light and use it to watch for debris in the water. You guessed it, it was not put back in the charger. 6:30 am you finally make it back to the boat ramp.

Does any of this sound familiar? Only a small part of this story is true, but think about all your equipment and keep it in a state of readiness. This situation could have ended with different results.

First, get all your information before you leave your station. Second, double check your equipment before you leave. Your maintenance officer should have already made the routine checks and made the needed repairs. If the maintenance officer is at fault then you need a different person in that position.

Had this story been an actual event, the squad would look pretty bad. Three miles + seven hours + two wet, cold and angry boaters = a lot of bad PR. Look ahead, plan ahead and stay ahead, a life may depend on it. Have a plan for emergency fuel (late night, during storms). A loss of power will always happen when least expect it and when your vehicles are low on fuel.

Forgot to mention PFD'S for all on board. What condition are they in? Dirty, wet, smells or out of date and need to be replaced? If they need to be repaired, then they need to be replaced!

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## **KIDS DAY**

**BY Michael Hardy**

On a beautiful Saturday morning, August 25, 2012, at the Sportsman's Club in Limestone County, Athens- Limestone Rescue provided support for the annual Kids Fishing Rodeo, standing by for any emergencies that may arise.

About 50 young people enjoyed a morning of fishing for prizes. A 5 year old girl won the big fish prize with a two pound catfish. The smallest fish was a 2½ inch bream.

Thank goodness there were no emergencies other than a club member needing treatment for a snake bite to his finger. Seems he had been watching too much television on how to handle a snake. He failed to restrain the snakes head and the snake was very upset at having his tail pulled and struck back. The snake was about 4' long and 1 ½ inch in diameter and non poisonous. Treatment was provided after the snake was released into the woods. Even a rat snake has it's day. Now I wonder how did he get into the Clubhouse. Bet there are fewer mice hanging around.

All in all a very good day, kids had fun parents tempers were on edge. " Put the hook in the water, not in the trees." In the end all of the kids got a prize. Looking forward to next year.

**2012 Conference  
November 8 - 10, 2012  
Holiday Inn—Decatur  
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Decatur, AL35601  
(256) 355-3150  
(800) 553-3150**

**PRE-REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY OCTOBER 15TH!  
NO REFUNDS AFTER OCTOBER 22ND**

**2012 AARS Conference Class Schedule  
November 8-9, 2012**

	<b><u>Thursday</u></b>
0800 – 1200	Basic Refresher Course Day 1 ITLS Day 1 Search and Rescue NIMS 300 Day 1
1200 – 1245	LUNCH
1300 – 1700	Basic Refresher Course Day 1 ITLS Day 1 Search and Rescue NIMS 300 Day 1
	<b><u>Friday</u></b>
0800 – 1200	Basic Refresher Course Day 2 ITLS Day 2 Search and Rescue NIMS 300 Day 2 Pediatric Emergency Advanced Airway
1200 – 1245	LUNCH
1300 – 1700	Basic Refresher Course Day 2 ITLS Day 2 NIMS 300 Day 2 EVOC Refresher Meth Lab Awareness for Responders



**AARS 2011 Annual Conference November 9th - 10th, 2012**  
**Holiday Inn - Decatur**  
**1101 6th Ave NE**  
**Decatur, AL 35601**  
**(256) 355-3150**

**Friday**

**Conference Early Registration.....2:00pm-6:00pm**  
**Cookout & Horseshoes .....6:00pm**  
**Karaoke.....8:00pm**

**Saturday**

**Conference Registration .....8:00am-9:00am**  
**Exhibits & Vendors .....8:00am-3:00pm**  
**General Welcome .....9:15am-9:30am**  
**Guest Speakers .....9:30am - 10:00am**  
**Scrapbook Viewing .....10:00am-4:00pm**  
**Board of Directors Meeting .....10:00am-11:00am**  
**Lunch .....11:30am-1:00pm**  
**General Business Meeting .....1:00pm-2:30pm**  
**Pre-Seating for Banquet.....2:30pm-3:30pm**  
**Kids Room.....6:00pm**  
**Awards Banquet .....7:00pm**  
**(Doors open at 6:30pm)**

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**Competition Times**

**Friday**

**6:00pm.....Horseshoes**  
**Corn Hole Contest**

**Saturday**

**10:00am - 4:00pm.....Scrap Book Viewing**  
**2:30pm.....EMS Competition**  
**3:30pm.....Rescue Challenge**  
**4:00pm.....Cart Race**

**Cullman County Rescue Squad  
Judy Chambers**

Well it's time again for another news letter. Hope this finds everyone well and ready for the conference. I know we are looking forward to it.

It has been a very busy time for us around here in Cullman. We have been very busy with the football games, the OHV Park and all of the transports we do. Now we are getting ready for the fair, our Haunted Hay Ride and Carnival, and the conference. We have also had several going through EMR classes and Dive classes. Thankfully we received a grant to help pay for this.

In between all of this going on we also worked a plane crash and helped to locate a missing person. Thanksgiving and Christmas are just right around the corner so now we're going to be getting ready for that. We will be looking for a family to sponsor for each one of these holidays.

I am very proud to be a member of the Cullman County Rescue Squad. Caring for the sick and injured and helping out around the neighborhood is very rewarding and I would not trade one minute of it.

Well this about wraps it up for this time. Hope to see you all very soon. Stay safe and well trained until we meet again.

Judy Chambers-Treasurer

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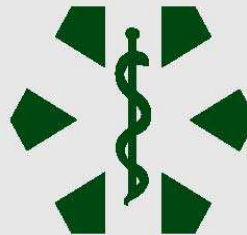
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