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THE ALABAMA RESCUER



4th Quarter 2013

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FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

From the Desk of the President

Happy Fall!

Hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather we have been having. I would like to thank all who helped make the last magazine a big success. Remember this is your magazine and we need articles from the squads so all can see what's going on in your squad. Also remember to get history (pictures, articles, etc.) to Gwen.

Hope all that attended Fall training had a good time and learned a lot. I'm sorry I was unable to be there due to sickness. Myself and Brian were able to attend Tennessee's Annual Conference, we enjoyed the meetings and competitions they had and it is always good to see "rescue squad family".

It is almost that time again, my how this year has flown by, and our annual conference is less than a month away. Hope you are making plans to join us. Don't forget to make sure you register for the classes you would like to take, because if we don't have enough to register for a class than we won't have it. Also, remember if you have had a member in your squad that has passed away, please make sure we have a picture and how long they have been a member of the AARS, so we can prepare for the memorial service. We would like to make this another great conference this year, it takes everybody working together and participating.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for voting for me to serve as your president this year and for being nominated to be your president next year. If you have any suggestions on things you would like to see done, or maybe changed, my mind is open for suggestions. This is your organization, may we all work together to make this another great year. Again, thank you! Looking forward to seeing everyone at conference, but until then remember, stay safe, train hard and enjoy family.

Sincerely,

Jason Heard
President

From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

Well it's hard to believe another year has almost passed already. We officers appreciate your support during the year. We hate to see Matt leave us but he has to do what's best for himself, his family, and his business. He has been great to work with. We as officers will continue to do what we think is best for the Association, its squads and members. We do need your input. Feel free to call me with ideas or concerns. Remember as I always say, this is your Association, so get involved and make a difference.

Jason, myself, and our spouses were able to go to the TARS Conference over the weekend. We had a great time. It's great how no matter where you're from all rescue people treat each other like family. They hope to have some of their members come to our conference next month. Please show your hospitality and treat them like family.

Speaking of conference ours is near. We should have some good classes and competitions. Please sign up and come have fun. Also, please

send in your renewals as soon as possible. Debbie works hard to get out everyone's tag information as quick as possible. Also in your renewal packet check out your new insurance options and be sure to fill out your application in full. We need all this information in our database. Don't forget about the Benevolent Fund. All the information in the renewal packet needs to be passed along to all your members.

Hope to see everyone at the beach!

Brian Bailey
1st Vice President

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

Well it is Conference time again.....With the conference only a couple weeks away, I want to say thanks for allowing me the opportunity to serve this great Association again. Please know that my reasoning for stepping down is strictly personal. I hope one day I can return to be able to put the necessary time into doing what is best for the Association. Again, thanks to all for your support!!!!!!!

I want to say thanks again from all my family, most importantly from Daddy and Momma. Thanks for all the calls, texts and emails. For those that didn't keep up, Daddy had triple by-pass surgery and is doing very well. Again thanks from all of the Ralph Knight family.

I want to say thanks to James Miller from Etowah County Rescue Squad and Terry Newman from Lake Martin Search and Rescue for their hard work in putting together our September state training at Lake Martin. Too bad the weather didn't cooperate, but those that attended had many good things to say about it.

Now for Conference, I hope you have had a chance to look at what we have posted and please look on the Facebook page and the website as a new class on Human Trafficking has been added on Friday afternoon. I think and hope you will find this very informative information as first responders. I hope our weather will be great for the Friday night meal and the activities slated for Saturday afternoon.

See you very, very soon and don't hesitate calling me if I can help in any way.

Matthew Knight
2nd Vice President



FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Third Quarterly Meeting
August 17, 2013
Vernon, AL

Colors Posted by the Honor Guard. Welcome by Don Dollar from Vernon Rescue Squad. Mayor Glen Crawford also spoke and welcomed the AARS to Vernon. Opening prayer by Jacob Elliott from Vernon Rescue Squad.

Roll was called with 59 squads represented. Motion was made to excuse North Baldwin Search and Rescue and also Alabama Fire College due to activities in their area that they were involved in. Motion by Union Rescue Squad, seconded by Geraldine Rescue Squad. Motion carried.

Motion to dispense with reading of the minutes by Cullman County Rescue Squad. Motion seconded by Desoto Rescue Squad. Motion carried.

Financial report was read. Motion to accept by Union Rescue Squad. Seconded by Athens-Limestone Rescue Squad. Motion carried. Chauncey Wood spoke about legislation.

Brian had two (2) late renewals to bring before the association. The first was Cherokee Rescue Squad from Colbert County. Motion to accept by Geraldine Rescue Squad. Seconded by Tallaco K-9 Unit. Motion carried. The second was HEMSI Search Dog Unit. Motion to accept by Athens-Limestone Rescue Squad. Motion carried

Matt discussed the fall training set for September 21st hosted by Lake Martin. The training will be held at Windcreek State Park. More information will be passed along as soon as it is all finalized. Matt also spoke about the classes for the conference.

Danny Butler spoke about State surplus, ways and means committee will be getting everything finalized for squads to be able to get items from surplus. Each squad must be a member of Surplus to be eligible for the free items.

Chad Singleton from McIntosh Rescue Squad spoke about the Instructor course at the Alabama Fire College.

VFIS has offered the association an accidental death benefit that is payable 24/7 that doesn't have to be squad related. Cost will be \$10.00/year.

Applications have changed – please list numbers where needed – not just a checkmark

Gwen wants anyone with pictures or any information from the association through the years get with her.

Jimmy Looney presented the nominations for the officers for 2014 from the nominating committee:

President: Jason Heard – no nominations from the floor

1st Vice President: Brian Bailey – no nominations from the floor

2nd Vice President: Danny Butler – no nominations from the floor

Rescuer of the Quarter – Leon Hufstetler – Collinsville Rescue Squad

High Attendance – Cullman County Rescue Squad

Thanks to Vernon Rescue Squad for hosting the meeting and also for the lunch that was provided.

Jason presented a certificate of appreciation to Vernon Rescue Squad for hosting the meeting.

Colors were retired by the Honor Guard.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

* **2014 FIRST QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: January 6, 2014**

* **The Electronic Version contains the ads and articles and can be found on the AARS Website or by subscribing by sending an email to 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 *****

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

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

AARS Annual Conference November 7th – 9th, 2013
Perdido Beach Resort
Orange Beach, AL

Schedule of Events

Thursday, November 7th, 2013

Training Programs Registration		7:30a – 9:30a
ACLS Course	Matthew Knight / Danny Butler	8:00a – 12:00p
24-Hour Refresher Course	Chad Singleton	8:00a – 12:00p
NIMS 400 **	Fire College	8:00a – 12:00p
Lunch		12:00p – 1:00p
PALS Course	Matthew Knight / Danny Butler	1:00p – 4:00p
24-Hour Refresher Course (cont'd)	Chad Singleton	1:00p – 5:00p
NIMS 400 ** (cont'd)	Fire College	1:00p – 5:00p

Friday, November 8th, 2013

Training Programs Registration		7:30a – 9:00a
24-Hour Refresher Course	Chad Singleton	8:00a – 12:00p
Urban Search		8:00a – 12:00p
Pediatric Special Needs		8:00a – 12:00p
Lunch		12:00p – 1:00p
24-Hour Refresher Course	Chad Singleton	1:00p – 5:00p
EVOC Refresher		1:00p – 5:00p
Protocols & CPR	Matthew Knight	1:00p – 5:00p
Human Trafficking Education	Eglaide Seiber-Barroso	1:00p – 4:00p
Conference Early Registration		2:00p – 6:00p
Karaoke		8:00p

Saturday November 9th, 2013

Conference Registration		8:00a – 9:00a
Exhibits & Vendors		8:00a – 3:00p
General Welcome		9:15a – 9:30a
Guest Speakers		9:30a – 10:00a
Scrapbook Viewing		10:00a – 4:00p
Board of Directors Meeting		10:00a – 11:00a
Lunch		11:30a – 1:00p
General Business Meeting		1:00p – 2:30p
Pre-Seating for Banquet		2:30p – 3:30p
Awards Banquet	Doors Open at 6:30pm	7:00p

****NOTE MUST HAVE NIMS 300, MUST PROVIDE COPY UPON REGISTRERING****

Competition Times

FRIDAY

Horseshoes & Corn Hole Contest

6:00pm

Cajun Shrimp Boil – Hosted by Organized Seafood – Location & Time to be announced

SATURDAY

Scrapbook Viewing

10:00a – 4:00p

EMS Competition

2:30p

Rescue Challenge

3:30p

Cart Race

4:00p

Scrapbook Contest Rules

1. All entries must pertain to the squad or squad members and must be neat in form.
2. All scrapbook material must be for 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.**
5. All entries must be displayed by 10: 00 A.M., November 10th and remain until 4:00 P.M. **NO EXCEPTIONS**

The decision of the judges will be final.

If you have any questions Please contact Gwen Stone at (256)364-0150 or email at editor@alars.org
ANY CHANGES TO THESE RULES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE ALABAMA RESCUER.

Editor's Note:

The following two articles 911 Calls and What to Do On Scene, were written by my two oldest daughters. They are ages 9 and 11. They wrote these on their own with no assistance from me or their daddy. These articles go to show you that our children do pay attention to what we do as rescuers and they understand that what we do is important. Thank you for allowing me to share their articles with the membership.

911 Calls
By: Christina Stone – Age 11

Every year thousands of people call 911. Some are serious life and death situations, while others are minor injuries and problems that could be cared for at home. Dispatch centers generally cannot get enough information over the phone to properly triage the calls so it is a first come first serve basis. This can and has caused deaths because sometimes there is a longer response time because the ambulance has to come from further away due to the closest ambulance being on a different, sometimes less severe call. If there was a way they could successfully triage people before they arrived on scene they could minimize this problem.

What To Do On Scene
By: Ashley Stone – Age 9

Assess: Is my scene safe? If so put on gloves and proceed to your patients. If not stay in the truck until the police gets there. When the scene is safe proceed to your patients. Assess: How bad is my patient hurt. Do I need an ambulance? Do I need a helicopter? If you need a helicopter or ambulance call for one. Splint your patient if needed. Start an IV if needed. When helicopter needed arrives patient on helicopter and if licensed ride to the hospital. If not stay behind to help. When ambulance needed arrives put patient on stretcher and you can ride to the hospital or stay to help. When done at call, throw gloves away!

Scary Heart Surgery
Klieta Bagwell

Cherokee River Search & Rescue (formally Cherokee River Volunteer Fire Dept) wish Chief Lee Lawrence a speedy recovery after his scary heart surgery. Lee, we are glad you are finely home from the hospital and on your way to a full recovery. These last few months it seems our members have been working more motorcycle and auto wrecks, doing extrications and directing traffic. I don't know if there are just more vehicles or people are just paying less attention when they are driving. Please be safe and pay attention to nothing else but the road when you are driving. I would also like to thank those of our members who volunteer for 24/7 emergency call out.

Quarterly meeting at Vernon
Submitted by Don Dollar

The Vernon Rescue Squad had the honor of hosting the third quarterly meeting of the Alabama Association of Rescue Squads (AARS) which was held on Saturday, August 17th at the Vernon City Complex. These meetings are held all across the state and in order for volunteer squads to remain a member in good standing of this organization, they must attend two of the four meetings held, and Vernon's Captain, Jacob Elliott said that for a first time as a host for this event that it was an awesome experience.

The meeting got underway around 8:00 am on Saturday as squads from all across the state came in for enrollment. When the numbers were totaled, in all, 60 volunteer squads had signed the book, as participating members of Saturday's conference. Those who came early were able to enjoy many different breakfast items that the Vernon Rescue Squad provided, which were prepared by Katherine Collins and her staff at Stella & Dee.

The business meeting actually started at 9:30 am and the first order of business was the posting of the colors which is always professionally done by the AARS Honor Guard. This was followed by the general welcome from Vernon Rescue Coordinator, Don Dollar. After a few brief comments Dollar recognized and introduced Mayor Glenn Crawford who gave the official welcome on behalf of the City of Vernon. After the welcome by Mayor Crawford, Jason Heard, President of the AARS introduced Jacob Elliott who came to open the conference with prayer. The business session of the meeting was then conducted by Heard which also included the roll call of all the squads in the state. At the conclusion of the morning business meeting, a few drawings for door prizes were held so that those businesses who donated prizes of gift certificates could be visited during the lunch break since some of the businesses would be closed before the meeting was adjourned.

At the lunch break, all of the squads who were in town for the conference, were invited to the fellowship hall of the Vernon First United Methodist Church for a wonderfully prepared meal made available by Generations of Vernon. A very special thanks to Gracie Lewis and Carrie Stanford who actually slaved over a hot grill and cooked hamburgers and hotdogs that were enjoyed by all. In addition, potato salad and baked beans were also prepared and a beautifully decorated cake from Stella & Dee was served as desert. Everyone really enjoyed the meal and we thank the church for allowing us the use of their facility and again a special thanks to Generations and their staff for the wonderful meal!!

Following the meal, everyone returned to the City Complex for the afternoon session of the business meeting and the helicopter from Air Evac also landed at the complex for everyone to see. We appreciate Air Evac and the wonderful service that they provide in a time of need. They are locally based out of Fayette, Alabama and are always very quick to respond when called on by the EMS personnel in this area. During the afternoon session officers were elected for the 2014 calendar year and awards were presented to the Rescuer of the Quarter and to the squad with the highest attendance at Saturday's meeting. The Rescuer of the Quarter was Leon Hufstetler of Collinsville Rescue Squad and the high attendance award went to Cullman County Rescue. After the awards presentation, everyone was informed of the details of the Conference which will be held November 7, 8 and 9 in Orange Beach at the Perdido Beach Resort.

To conclude the meeting, many door prizes were given and two cash prizes of \$125.00 each were drawn and presented to the squad who held the winning tickets. These special prizes were made available by State Farm Insurance, Glenn Crawford and Butler Trucking. The squads who won the grand prize cash awards were DeSoto Rescue and HEMSI Search Dog unit.

As coordinator of the Vernon Rescue Squad, I would like to say thanks to everyone who made an effort to be a part of Saturday's meeting. It was a tremendous success and speaks volumes of the outstanding effort that was put forth by the outstanding volunteers in the Vernon Rescue Squad. This town and community is blessed to have great volunteers and I cannot thank them enough for the tremendous job they did on Saturday!!

Ider Rescue Squad

Alabama is well known as a state of championship teams: football, baseball, gymnastics, and even golf. But do you ever think of your rescue squad as a champion team?

Every single member is an important part of the team. From the coach to the equipment manager and water boy - each player has a role with certain duties and responsibilities. Do you practice every day, even in the off season, or only when the coaches are watching? A ball player can only excel when they give their all every day. The same also holds true for squad members. Members need to practice and train at every opportunity in order to be ready when it's their turn to "take the field." Whether you are into sports or not, it's easy to see the correlation. Practice, train, be a team member, follow orders, and show up when you are expected. Think ahead of what to do to improve the next time. Offer to fill in when other team members cannot be present. Carry the load when others can't. Don't expect the 'cheerleaders' to praise you. In life we are seldom shown appreciation for our tasks, but know that you have changed people's lives.

Just remember, no matter how small you think your role is, the team is not complete without you. Always strive to be your best.

GPSr Trackers

By: Luther Peebles

Have you struggled with collecting GPSr track data from your teams? Well, if your team is like ours was, there is no wonder.

You have your team turn in their GPSr's after their assignment and you have a dozen or more laying there on the table. Now you need six or eight different cables to connect them to your computer and oh yes, how many different pieces of software to download the data? And how long will it take to get all this data and get it converted and compiled? By the time all that is done you will have people standing around waiting on what to do next.

For us, the solution came when a SAR team showed to help on a search we had. That's when we learned about GPS Data Loggers. A little device that, once you turn it on, goes about collecting information about the travels of the wearer until you turn it off. The one that we use has two buttons and no display, just a few LEDs to show you its status. No real training required here.

Ok, so to better understand just what the heck I am talking about, let me give you the specifics.

The unit we use is the TSI model 760 Data Logger.

(available from <http://www.semsons.com/ig760ingpsda.html>) Tell them you heard about it from us and that you were told you would get a discount off the advertised price.



It is smaller than a pack of cigarettes and can be carried around your neck with a lanyard.

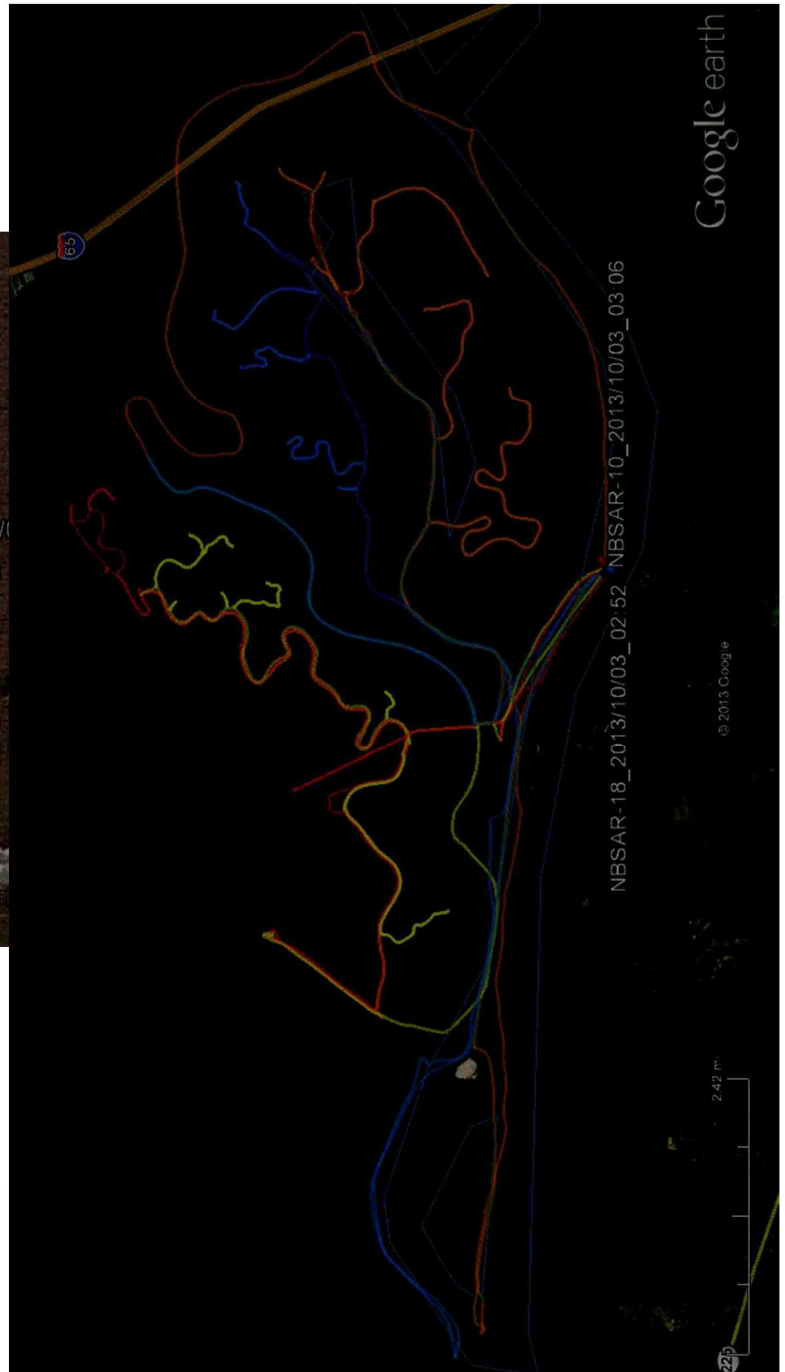
Having this little device has been a great tool and well worth the money. Each unit has a ID number that we put on it. We have a log sheet that shows who got what tracker. We provide one for each member of the team that goes out into the field. When they get back, we download the data and look to see that the areas have been covered. If not, we can direct a new team to go in and cover the areas that are missed if needed.

Recently, we had a search for two missing boaters. We put four boats on the water and assigned them each routes to search. After they had returned, here is the data for those searches shown in Google Earth...

Each track has been colored a different color to show the different boats.

You may be able to see a couple of areas that were not searched. After debriefing the teams, those areas were judged as clear due to sound sweeps or because of obstacles in the water that prevented entry.

The information collected from the track files show that all assigned areas were searched and that it took, on average, three hours to do each and that a total of 170 miles was traveled.



Here is an example of a simulated evidence search we did. This is a small area but you can get the idea of how useful they could be.

I guess you could buy handheld GPSr's and do the same thing. That would give you a display and more functionality, but they require that everyone turn on the track log, that the batteries are charged and last long enough and that they are not carried where the satellite signal gets blocked. There is the training that has to be do on a constant basis so everyone is proficient. It just got to be too time consuming for us.

These units have rechargeable batteries, last all day, and recharge in about an hour. Typical accuracy is around 10 feet.

I think they are well worth looking into.

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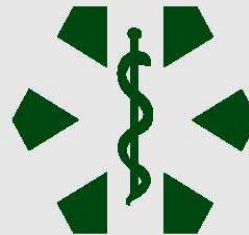
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