

The Alabama Association of Rescue Squads Presents

THE ALABAMA RESCUER



2nd Quarter 2019

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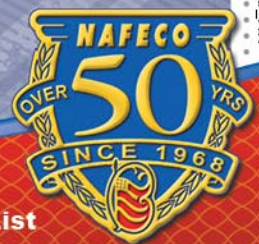


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SQUADS
ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

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FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

From the Desk of the President

Welcome Spring to all of our great squads and members!!!!!!
Just want to start off by saying my sincere prayers go to Chris Cantrell and family as well as the Central Alabama SAR on the passing of Kimberly Ann Cantrell. Also a big Thank You to Cherokee County Rescue Squad for your help in making Kimberly request happen.

Hope everyone is doing well and has been diligent in monitoring our already deadly spring tornado outbreaks. With that I would like to thank all the agencies especially or K-9 units that responded and played a vital role the efforts and assistance in the March 3rd Lee County (Beauregard) tornado event. I probably missed counted but on Monday afternoon we had 18 different K-9 teams on the ground. We had our AARS teams, other local teams, teams from Florida, and teams from Mississippi. We still had other AARS teams on standby by for Tuesday if needed. Again Thank You!!!! I had the privilege of working in the Command Center with the function of coordinating the K-9 teams. I worked very closely with the State FEMA ICS team in coordinating the logistical side of an event of this magnitude. That team is led by Matt Russell, Alabama Fire College Director and AARS first ICS 300 and 400 class that we held at conference back in the day. Was a great experience and it just helped show Alabama EMA how we can play a vital role when our agencies are needed. Again I must encourage each and every squad/department and members to get NIMS compliant. Crucial!!!!

Yes it has been an eventful legislative session so far. But as always we have Chauncey and Jimmy on top of it as always. Chauncey will give us a update and see how we need to help.

I want to say thanks for Ray Hogans getting three FEMA courses approved for conference. Make sure you stay up to date on our Facebook page and the Website. Also thanks and again for Ray and the LASAR bunch for putting on the Education Cruise and at the time of the letter, can't give an update but look forward to the update at Quarterly Meeting.

Until the 2nd Quarterly Meeting in May in Alex City, Stay Safe and as always if there is anything we as the Executive Board can do please let us know. God Bless!!!

God Bless...
Matthew Knight
President



From the Desk of the 1st Vice President

I hope this letter finds everyone well. I would like to start off by saying that we are deeply saddened by the loss of Kim Cantrell with the Central Alabama Search and Rescue. Please keep Chris and all the family in your thoughts and prayers.

I hope everyone is staying on top of their game as we have had a lot of disasters in our state already this year.

From the floods to the tornadoes, we are experiencing just how devastating mother nature can be. With that being said keep in mind if you or your squad are a member of the AARS, we DO NOT SELF DEPLOY. If you are asked to respond to a scene out of your coverage area, please notify an AARS Officer of your deployment. We are a professional organization and we should act accordingly. Thank you to all that helped and responded to the floods and tornado disasters already this year.

I had the pleasure of going to Montgomery for the Seafood Bash. I got to meet a lot of interesting people while I was there. We should all give a big thank you to Chauncey and Jimmy for all the hard work they do in Montgomery for the AARS.

Hope to see you all at the next Quarterly meeting.

Brian Bailey
1st Vice President

From the Desk of the 2nd Vice President

Wow, can you believe it is spring time already. Not to mention a fourth of the year gone. We want to thank Daphne for hosting the 1st quarterly meeting, we had a good turnout and we accomplished a lot. We already have some classes lined up for conference. Two of the classes we have confirmed is FEMA classes AWR 148 which is Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents- Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems and MGT 403 which is Access and Functional Needs Preparedness Planning for Rural Communities. We will need you to sign up and register for these classes as soon as possible. Make sure and pay attention to the fliers in the magazine and on the website for further information on these classes. I would like to thank Ray Hogan for his assistance in getting these classes set up. The dog teams have been busy being to Lee County and on other calls, with many very reports of their professionalism. Would like to thank everyone for all the hard work. We are in the process of working on some new guidelines for the dog teams. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next quarterly meeting in Alexander City in May. Remember the association and your squad is what you make it. Remember to always spend time with family, enjoy life, train hard, and stay safe.

Jason Heard
2nd Vice President

ALL REQUESTS FOR AARS ASSISTANCE OUTSIDE OF YOUR COUNTY SHOULD COME FROM THE INCIDENT COMMANDER OF THE SCENE AND GO THROUGH A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

First Quarterly Meeting
February 16, 2019
Daphne, AL

Colors posted by the Honor Guard.

Representative from FirstNet spoke.

Meeting called to order by President Matt Knight.

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

Financial report was read by Debbie Tidwell. Motion was made by Union Rescue Squad to accept the report. Motion was seconded by East Colbert Rescue. Motion was approved.

Chauncey Wood spoke about the legislation.

Brian Bailey presented 3 squads to be voted on.

Detroit Rescue Squad. Motion was made by McIntosh Rescue Squad to accept. Motion was seconded by North Lamar Rescue Squad. Motion carried.

Central Alabama Search and Rescue. Motion was made by Daphne Search and Rescue to accept. Motion was seconded by East Colbert Rescue Squad. Motion carried.

Southeastern K9 Search and Rescue. Motion was made by Marengo County Rescue Squad. Motion was seconded by Sartec. Motion carried.

Jason Heard spoke about training and NIMS. Everyone needs to be NIMS certified (100, 200, 700 and 800, also officers need 300 and 400) in order to be deployed and be reimbursed by FEMA. Also spoke about spring training, do land and water training also using K-9's and drones. Jason also spoke about the update class for EVOC.

Matt spoke about the conference.

Conference dates are 21 - 23 this year. Next year we will go back to the second weekend.

Matt also spoke about the Officers meeting with Brian Hastings the State EMA Director and touring the EOC. We do have a seat in the EOC and will be learning more soon.

Rescuer of the Quarter presented to Tony Taylor from Geraldine Rescue Squad, accepted by Danny Butler.

Matt thanked Daphne Search and Rescue for hosting the meeting.

With no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

* **2019 SECOND QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2019**

ANY ARTICLE SUBMITTED AFTER THE DEADLINE IS SUBJECT TO BE PLACED IN NEXT QUARTER'S MAGAZINE!

* **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>**



Regional Flooding February 2019

By Andrew Phelps, NRP, RN & Joseph Donoghue, NRP, RN
Huntsville-Madison County Rescue Squad, Inc.



The past 2 months have been full of events regarding the unprecedented flooding in north Alabama affecting our entire region and multiple AARS member departments. The Tennessee River at Florence crested at 28.99 feet (flood stage is 18ft) and was the #3 highest flood with records going back to 1897 ⁽¹⁾. The Tennessee River at Huntsville crested at 22.9 feet (flood stage is 17ft) and was our #10 highest flood ⁽²⁾. Below Guntersville Dam crested at 38.67 feet and is its highest known record ⁽³⁾. TVA reported they used “ its 49 dams to store and then gradually release water after what was the largest February recorded rainfall and runoff in TVA history.”⁽⁴⁾ TVA also reported Pickwick Dam outflowing at 3 million gallons *per second*!⁽⁵⁾

The effects of this flood were far reaching and numerous rescues effected by area departments. A vehicle with 3 teenagers in Bucks Pocket, Dekalb Co, resulted in a fatality. The victim was found after 19 days and the vehicle was found a week later. Our department responded to a home evacuation, abandoned vehicle in the water investigations, occupied cars in the water, a body recovery of a man who jumped in the water after an MVA. Lauderdale and Colbert counties had multiple other rescues. Flood damage was extensive; Ditto Marina in Huntsville just reopened this week, a full month after the flood, due to silt and debris. Jackson County alone is reporting > \$4 million in road repair costs.⁽⁶⁾

A large majority (if not nearly all) of the rescues were preventable. Kayakers going joy riding without life jackets, now clinging to a tree without their kayak anymore. Cars knowingly attempting to ford an obviously flooded road, or worse yet, cars actively bypassing road closure signs. All of these citizens had no business being where they were and their actions directly put themselves, and us as rescuers, in danger.

In response, we began a coordinated effort between all radio and TV stations in our area to get the word out: “When public safety closes a road for flooding, we aren’t kidding.” We believe this helped mitigate the number of rescues as call outs lowered after the initial days of the event. As it takes quite a bit of effort to acquire the emails and phone numbers of the true decision makers, we urge all departments to make and maintain a News Release contact list that can be activated in systemic emergencies. We also stress the need to routinely review your rescue equipment for damage and to evaluate if you have everything to respond to the hazards of your area. Even though this is Alabama, hypothermia from water still kills both patients and rescuers.

Lessons to be learned

Swiftwater classes are held in a controlled area with mitigated dangers. That lulls rescuers into a false sense of preparation and confidence. Swiftwater on a maintained river does NOT behave the same as flash flooding. We all recognize the power of the water on the Ocoee River Olympic section, but forget that same power is running through forests during flooding. Until you’ve been in a situation where you feel the strainers brushing your legs, it’s simply not something you can understand through reading. During “easy and simple” rescues, rescuers can be tempted to go lifejacket only and not don 100% of their gear. Or worse, don incorrectly simply because it’s not a skill we practice so regularly as to be perfectly proficient. Under assessing the situation and the resources needed will QUICKLY get out of hand. Tunnel vision kills: being the downstream safety team is equally important as being the primary team with the patient.

We should all give pause to think about the power and sheer danger we face in water rescue/recovery that we all underestimate at times. We should all set aside time at minimum once per month to physically donning 100% of our water PPE to retain the muscle memory of *doing so in a timely fashion*. As well as reviewing basic principles of water ops. It sounds dumb, I know. But we all have made dumb mistakes on calls but can just fumble through our mistake and get to the end of the call. Unfortunately, this is one of the things we do that one simple mistake will kill you.

Sources

- (1) NOAA National Weather Service hydrologic service. TN River @ Florence <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=hun&gage=floa1>
- (2) NOAA National Weather Service hydrologic service. TN River @ Huntsville <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=hun&gage=whia1>
- (3) NOAA National Weather Service hydrologic service. TN River @ Guntersville <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=hun&gage=gvda1>
- (4) <https://www.tva.gov/Newsroom/Press-Releases/TVA-Averts-16-Billion-in-Potential-Damage-During-February-Floods>
- (5) <https://twitter.com/TVAnews/status/1099095471203778561>
- (6) <https://www.waaytv.com/content/news/Feb-flood-damage-is-getting-worse-on-some-county-roads-in-Jackson-Co-507109251.html>



Huntsville-Madison County Rescue Squad
 Rescue of kayaker and his dog.
 Dog had a lifejacket.



The kayaker... did not. The orange in the photo is his jacket.



WAFF news live at
 Huntsville-Madison County
 Rescue Squad.



Left: County Road 17,
 Jackson County

Right: Scottsboro Jackson
 County Rescue Squad
 Rescue/Recovery at Bucks
 Pocket



Left: Hwy 231 @ Brindlee
 Mtn, Morgan County

Right: Huntsville-Madison
 County Rescue Squad
 Evacuation of home. 3
 adults 1 child.

Second Quarterly Meeting
Charles E Bailey Sportsplex
1842 Sportsplex Blvd
Alexander City, AL 35010
May 18, 2019

Hosted by Lake Martin Rescue Squad

Agenda

Registration8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Welcome and Posting of Colors..... 9:00 a.m.
Board of Directors Meeting..... 10:00 a.m.
Lunch..... 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
General Business Meeting1:00 p.m.

Hotel Information

Hampton Inn Alexander City
1151 Elkahatchee Road
Alexander City AL 35010
(256)234-2244

\$94 per night plus tax, book 10 rooms \$84.60 plus tax

Days Inn by Wyndham Alexander City
3146 US-280
Alexander City AL 35010
(256)234-6311

\$73 per night plus tax which is 10% off the regular price.

Tell them you are with the AARS or Rescue Squad, Donna is POC for discount

Super 8 by Wyndham Alexander City
4335 US-280
Alexander City AL 35010
(256)392-7440

\$72 plus tax, no discount

Quality Inn
2845 US-280
Alexander City AL 35010
(256)234-5900

\$70 plus tax which is \$19 off the regular price.

Tell them you are with the Rescue Squad, Kimberly is the POC



Huntsville Cave Rescue Unit

Presents

Rescue Technician: Cave I & II

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Any individual interested in developing an array of technical, medical, and management skills required to conduct cave rescue.

TOPICS COVERED: This course covers all aspects of cave rescue, including:

- Single rope technique • Response systems & logistics • Vertical rescue • Underground communications •
- Cave-specific medical considerations • Patient packaging and movement • Extrication techniques •

This intensive and immersive 4-day class will introduce you to the world of cave rescue.

We strive to keep the class affordable; the cost to covers being only \$90.



CLASS STRUCTURE: We work hard to provide consistent training and allow time for students to have hands on experience at all of the skills and stations. Every training exercise has multiple rotations to ensure every person may experience every station/component.

On the 3rd and 4th days of the class, students take full active leadership roles for all training scenarios. Let your own unique creativity and problem-solving skills shine as you work as a team to save your patient!

August 1-4th, 2019

NFPA 1006 Certification Exam on 5th

Certification Students: Register with Alabama Fire College (800) 241-2467

Non-Certs can register directly at: www.hcru.org/rescueclass

web: www.hcru.org

phone: (256)509-4785

email: info@hcru.org



AWR 148 - Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents: Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems

Orange Beach, AL / November 21, 2019

AWR 148: Crisis Management for School-Based Incidents – Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems is an 8-hour, DHS-approved course designed to educate rural law enforcement personnel as well as school administrators and staff on the elements that would allow for an effective response to school-based emergencies. Schools in small, rural, and remote areas across the country account for almost 23 percent of the total student population (more than 11 million students). Rural schools, law enforcement, and other emergency responders are often limited in resources, so it is imperative that all potentially affected parties collaborate on planning, preparing, communicating, responding, and recovering from a school-based incident.

This **tuition-free** course is beneficial for rural police and sheriff departments, school administrators, school resource officers, counselors, EMA, fire, first responders and others involved in school safety and security.

Topics covered include:

- Introduction to Incident Planning and Preparedness
- Proactive Threat Mitigation
- Incident Response
- Incident Recovery
- Vulnerability Assessments
- Threat Assessment Management
- Incident Defusing and Debriefing
- Parent Reunification
- Anniversaries, Memorials, "Copy-Cats"

*Please note all Non-U.S. citizens need to complete a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request Form by October 21, 2019 in order to attend this course. Contact John Kayser with any questions.



Training sponsored by:
Alabama Association of Rescue Squads

Training site: Wharf Convention Center
4671 Wharf Pkwy.
Orange Beach, AL
36561

Date: November 21, 2019

Time: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Prerequisites: U.S. Citizenship*

Registration Deadline: November 7, 2019

To register, please visit our website:

<https://www.ruraltraining.org/training/schedule/2019-11-21-awr148-orangebeach-al-001/>

Please sign-up no later than November 7, 2019 as a minimum of 20 registrations must be received by this date in order to confirm the class will be held. Should you have any questions regarding the facility or location please contact Ray Hogans at 251-747-1451 or boots1@gulftel.com.

FEMA S.I.D. — REQUIRED
Register for your FEMA
Student Identification
number at:
<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>

FINDLAY
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For more information about this course,
please contact John Kayser at
Kayser@findlay.edu or 419-434-5814.





AWR 209 Working with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders

Training offered at **NO COST!!**



AWR 209 Working with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders is a seven-hour tuition-free course designed to provide rural first responders with the skills and knowledge to quickly adopt the role of public information officer (PIO) if/when needed and to communicate with the public through the media. Many rural first responder organizations do not have a full or part-time PIO on staff. Therefore, in the event that a first responder is thrust into the role of PIO, whether it be roadside at the scene of an emergency or detailing directions to the public in a crisis situation, it is important to understand how the media works and how best to work with the available media outlets.

Topics covered include but are not limited to:

- Utilizing the media in emergency and public awareness situations.
- Working with the media at the scene of an emergency.
- Anticipating what news agencies want from the responders at the scene of an emergency.
- Giving interviews that work.
- Writing effective news releases that will be read.

**Please note all foreign nationals need to complete a Department of Homeland Security Foreign National Visitor Request Form in order to attend this course.*

Register for your FEMA Student Identification number at:
<https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>



Friday, November 22, 2019

Registration Deadline: November 8, 2019

*Please sign-up no later than **Friday, November 8, 2019** as a minimum of 20 registrations must be received by this date to confirm the class will be held. Should you have any questions regarding the local jurisdiction or directions to the facility please contact Ray Hogans, (251) 747-1451 or boots1@gulftel.com.*

Training Sponsored by:

Alabama Association of Rescue Squads

Training Site

Wharf

4671 Wharf Parkway, Orange Beach, AL 36561

Sign-in begins: 7:30am

Class time: 8:00am - 4:00pm

Prerequisites: U.S. Citizenship

Registration

[Click here to register](#)

or visit

www.ruraltraining.org

Students who successfully complete training will receive an RDPC certificate in approximately 6-8 weeks after training.

For information about course content or how to obtain a DHS Foreign National Visitor Request Form contact the RDPC at: helpdesk@ruraltraining.org or 877-855-RDPC (7372)



MGT 403 Access and Functional Needs Preparedness Planning for Rural Communities



Friday, November 22, 2019

Class Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Registration Deadline: November 8, 2019

Please sign-up no later than November 8, 2019 as a minimum of 20 registrations must be received by this date to confirm the class will be held. Should you have any questions regarding the local jurisdiction or directions to the facility please contact Ray Hogans at: boots1@gulftel.com or Phone: (251) 747-1451.

Training Site:

**Wharf Conference Center
4671 Wharf Parkway
Orange Beach, AL 36561**

This is an eight-hour planning and management-level course. The purpose of this course is to ensure the safety of older adults, particularly those residing in assisted-living and nursing homes, and people with access and functional needs during a crisis event by increasing knowledge among community emergency planners in the area of pre-planning and preparedness.

It is important to encourage outreach to the whole community so that everyone is aware that these individuals may require personalized care, transportation, shelter, and medical assistance that must be considered before the crisis occurs. This course focuses on the preparedness phase of emergency management.

Topics covered include but are not limited to:

- Review of Common Programs and Continuity Resources
- Partnerships
- Individual Considerations
- Community Considerations
- Care Provider Considerations
- Preparedness and Response Tabletop Activity and Evaluation

Prerequisites: US Citizenship

**Please note all foreign nationals need to complete a Department of Homeland Security Foreign National Visitor Request Form in order to attend this course.*

Registration

Training offered at NO COST!

To register **CLICK HERE** or visit:

www.RuralTraining.org

Training Sponsored by:

Alabama Association of Rescue Squads

**** You must have your FEMA SID number for class registration. ****

Register for your FEMA Student Identification number at: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid>



RDPC
Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium



NWACC
NORTHWEST ARKANSAS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Is your equipment ready for the next call?
Danny N. Mitchem, Assistant Chief
North Baldwin Sheriff's Search and Rescue



The call comes at 9:30 PM, a fisherman is overdue. The weather forecast shows a severe thunderstorm will be approaching in the next couple of hours so response time is critical. You run to your station, hook up to two boats and head to the landing. The first boat is backed into the water and the captain notices that the fuel gauge is showing just below a quarter of a tank. That boat has to be pulled back out and taken to the nearest gas station for refilling. The second boat is backed into the water and the captain finds out that both batteries are dead. Another team member is sent to try to find a battery to start the boat. About an hour and a half later both boats are in the water and running. You then find out that the navigation lights on boat two are not working. The storm is getting much closer. After another 15 minutes you get the navigation lights working but then the captain in boat number one discovers that his boat has taken on water, no one installed the plug. That boat is pulled back out until the water can be drained (the bilge pump would not come on). Another 30 minutes go by and you are finally ready to go. It is now raining, the wind has picked up and lightning is on the horizon. Someone has to make a critical

decision on the risk vs. benefit of going out in what is sure to be a dangerous situation for the responders.

I'm sure all of us could share a story similar to this one. A story like this should never happen in our line of work, people are depending on us! Yes, sometimes Murphy's Law will catch us with something unexpected but everything in the paragraph above could have been avoided by simple inspections and maintenance. I truly understand how we get ourselves in this situation, you complete a mission at 4:00 AM and have to be at work at 7:00. You are exhausted and just hope to take a shower before going to work. Someone makes the suggestion that it will be okay to just store the equipment and come back later to get it ready for the next call. Only later gets postponed.

No one will argue that regular inspections and maintenance of our equipment is vital to our ability to respond in a timely manner. So who is responsible for inspection and maintenance? If you can't answer this for every piece of equipment you use or may need you will eventually have a story like the one in the first paragraph. Even as volunteers we have an ethical (and possibly legal) obligation to maintain our equipment. How is your squad meeting this obligation? Some of you may have one person who is responsible or you may have equipment assigned to owners. Are you getting regular status reports? Are they performing the inspections and maintenance required for each piece of equipment? The equipment manufacturer will have the maintenance schedules that should be strictly followed. For pre-use a checklist should be developed to keep us from forgetting things like installing the plug in our boat. The checklist should start at your station and end at the point of use. This will prevent us from having embarrassing and possibly life critical failures when we need our equipment to perform. A post mission checklist can help ensure that our equipment is ready for the next call.

We must devote ourselves to always be ready whether it be our equipment or ourselves. We got into this to help our fellow man, don't let them down by not being ready to respond to the call.

Dive team training with LASAR Ray Hogans Commander LASAR

During the first week of April six (6) members of the Etowah Rescue Squad Dive team traveled to the Gulf Coast to participate in dive rescue training that was scheduled with the Lower Alabama Search and Rescue (LASAR).

During the three days of training LASAR provided a full classroom scenario for both Diver's and Safety Line Tender's. The class covered equipment, procedures, safety signals by tether rope and the methods of rigging and records keeping for dive operations.

The next scenario was a practice hands-on operations on dry land with both divers and line tender's completing a full scenario and being hand walked through the dive operation and recording all required information for a PSD dive event.

The afternoon consisted of a deployment to Perdido Bay for a full suited up dive training event with tender operations to locate a object on the bottom of the bay. All divers and tender's were exposed to dark water operations while being coached by experienced members of the LASAR Unit.

All personnel were given a chance to have hands on experience with specialized equipment and allowed to utilize the PSD items for the training evolutions during the practice sessions and the live dive training events.

Day three was another dive training event in the Gulf of Mexico at Fort Pickens on the Florida Gulf Coast near Pensacola Florida. During this training they were exposed to a simulated diver in distress simulation where the safety diver was required to recover the rescue diver under actual surf conditions.

The training was a great success for both Squads and was a great mutual aid experience for all involved. We at LASAR were pleased that the Etowah Rescue Dive Team ask to train with LASAR and we look forward to their team returning later this summer for more advanced training events with our unit.



ETOWAH TEAM MEMBERS

Maryann Stanfield
Jonathan Stanfield
Phill McGuire
Justin Cornelius
David Quarrells
William Cambron

LASAR TEAM MEMBERS

John Wade Bill Templeman
Roger Iburg Ray Hogans
Billy Slavey Mike Kovacs
Teresa Slavey John Crispin

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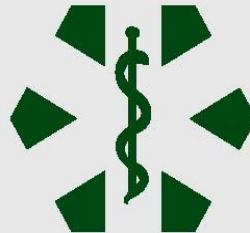
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