

# The Alabama Association of Rescue Squads Presents

## The Alabama Rescuer



2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2024  
5054

# ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS

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## 2024 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

### CHAPLAIN

Michael Tidwell, Winston County Search and Dive team

### ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN

BILLY EVANS, N. Lamar Rescue Squad

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JIMMY LOONEY East Colbert

RAY HOGANS LASAR

GREG ROGERS South Maringo

FAY INGRAM Tallaco

JIM DENNIS Childersburg Rescue

GENNY SPIVEY Barbour County Rescue

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Gwen Stone, Desoto Rescue

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Johnny Warren, Anniston

Heath Bennitt, Florence-Lauderdale EMA

WAYS AND MEANS

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Johnny Warren, Aniston

Al Nix, Choctaw Rescue

Ray Hogans, LASAR

Billy Evans, North Lamar

Danny Butler, Geraldine

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Dive/ Water, John Wade, LASAR

Medical, Matt Knight, Randolph County

SAR, Al Nix, Choctaw Rescue

K-9, Fay Ingram, Tallaco K-9

Drones, Bryan Moses, Morgan County

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Ray Hogans, LASAR

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Al Nix, Choctaw Rescue

Debbie Tidwell, Winston County Search and Dive

AARS PHOTOGRAPHER

TINA WOOD, LASAR

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Letty Rodriguez, LASAR

Mike Surles, Autauga Rescue

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JOHNNY WARREN, Anniston & DANNY SMITH, Cherokee

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**CHAIRMAN: DEBBIE TIDWELL, WINSTON COUNTY SEARCH AND DIVE**

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Tina Wood, LASAR

Joyce Butler Geraldine

Jimmy Looney, East Colbert

Michelle Looney, East Colbert

Ray Hogans, LASAR

Gwen Stone, Desoto

AARS HISTORIANS

BRE HEARD, Rosalie & JAMES MILLER, Etowah County

Rescue Squad Trivia Question #1 Where did Rescue Squads evolve from? Answer Later in the newsletter.



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# FROM THE DESKS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT:

Hello everyone I hope this letter finds you well. I want to thank Childersburg RS for hosting the meeting in February. It was a good turnout.

The Executive board and the Ways and Means committee: We did have the chance to interview the candidates for the Executive SEC-Treasure position. We will make the announcement of the choice at the meeting in May.

As most of you know we had the EMS Cruise in March, I will say it was a great time with the classes put on while we were out on the sea. Mr. Ray Hogans did a good job with classes. I hope we can do another one in the next couple years. Had several people to attend. 14 total if I counted right.

Next meeting at the AI Fire College, Meeting Hosted by Tuscaloosa Co sheriff, Southwest Tuscaloosa Co Rescue and Antioch Rescue and Fire College.

As we go into this meeting, we will have some important information to give out. Hope to see all of you there.

Be sure to look at the web site to stay informed on any news.

Danny Butler,  
President

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**Rescue Squad Trivia Question #2** What was a Rescue Squads first missions? [Answer Later in the newsletter.](#)

[Answer for #1](#) Civil Defense



## From The Desk of Chauncey D. Wood 1st Vice President

Hello To All MY Fellow AARS Members!

I pray all is well with each of you and your families!! First of all I want to thank Childersburg Rescue Squad (along with Munford rescue Squad assisting) for hosting the first Quarterly Meeting. Munford Rescue prepared the bar-b-que and Munford Rescue famous Banana Pudding was by far the best. Lunch was delicious ! It was great to see everyone there.

Your Membership Committee has been busy and working hard.

“Welcome Back” McIntosh Search and Rescue; Two New additions are Springville Fire and Rescue, and Warrior River Fire/ Rescue Service, both of Jefferson County. A new “associate” Withlacoochee Regional Search and Rescue out of Ocala, FL. We have several squads to be voted on at the 2nd Quarterly Meeting coming in May.

April 3rd was Rescue Squad Day at the Alabama State House!

Senators, Representatives, Leadership Members and Staff were welcomed on The House of Representatives 6th floor by Barbour County, Childersburg, County Line, East Colbert, Lower Alabama, Munford and Randolph County Search and Rescue Squads, to include the Office of EMS Director Jamie Gray.

There were many displays of dive, search, rescue and recovery; rope, radio communication and even slides of actual missions being shown. It was defiantly a long day but very successful in the explaining Rescue Squads Identity.

The Alabama Legislature is winding down with the last day being Monday May 20th if they don't Sign-Die before. As I am penning this message to you HB126 (Invisible Disability) passed the House and Senate and is awaiting Governor Ivey's Signature. B46 (Rescue Squad Owned tag), HB 194 (Bid Law), HB 222 (1 ST Responder) and HB 241 (Pedestrian & 1 st Responder) Legislation is all on the Senate S.O.C. for floor debate and vote. We are monitoring several other House and Senate bills of interest to EMS and Rescue Squads.

You all make plans to attend our 2nd quarterly meeting, Saturday May 18th at The Alabama Fire College in Tuscaloosa, hosted by Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Search and Rescue.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there, please remember this is your Association so get involved and make a difference.

Be safe out there and May God Bless!

Chauncey Wood,  
1st Vice President

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**Rescue Squad Trivia Question #3** What was a Rescue Squads mission during the cold war? Answer Later in the newsletter.

**Answer for #2** To assist in MVA'S, trenching in cave-ins, assist in water recovery, and assist towns and cities as needed in emergencies.



## 2nd Quarter letter 2024 From the Desk of Ray Hogans 2nd Vice President

Hello all AARS members,

As we move into the summer months we will all become more active and have many new things going on in our lives.

Along with this everyone please make time for the one Saturday per month that we are providing much needed training events for the Association Members. As the AARS training program steps up the quality and availability of training events please take time to attend the classes when they are provided.

All AARS squads are encouraged to get with your area training coordinator and host one of the monthly training classes. Schedule a training event for a class you want to host at your squad that you feel is needed for your squad.

If you don't have an instructor for the class your area coordinator will assist with finding and assign an instructor to provide the training event at your location.

We are planning a number of training events throughout the state and need squads to step up and host the training sites for the quality training evolutions. Please make use of the ability to have a training event in your area and get to know the neighboring squad members as they attend training at your facility.

The AARS spring training Cruise was a great success for those in attendance for this event. We were able to conduct eight training events during the six day cruise. AARS Personnel were able to enjoy many events on the ship daily after attending training. The two days in Port were in Belize (Central America) and the Island of Cozumel (off the coast of Mexico) where both provided excellent Diving, Snorkeling, Mayan ruins tours, Swimming with dolphins, Beautiful Tropical Beaches, and oh yes Shopping! If you missed this it was a BLAST and we all had a wonderful time both in classes and just chilling out on a beautiful Tropical Trip. Hope to schedule one of these again in two or three years.

Conference 2024 is starting to shape up well for this coming year. FEMA will be offering another class, VFIS will be hosting two new Instructor classes for "ATV/ UTV" and "Trailer operations" this year we will be doing the CPR/ AED renewal AHA Class, USA will do the Medical Simulator class and demo, also we have more in works.

Jamie Gray with Alabama Department of Public Health EMS and Trauma, as an associate member of AARS is working to assign Credentialing Educational Units, to all the AARS training classes! This will be used to provide the needed training hours to meet Standards set by legislation requirements.

The K-9 program is complete and we are selecting evaluators for the AARS K-9 program which will be conducting the state-wide first event in the very near future. We ask that all K-9 teams please participate in this event once scheduling is announced.

Ray Hogans

AARS 2nd VP



1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting

February 17, 2024

Colors posted by the Honor Guard.

Meeting called to order by President Danny Butler.

Motion was made by Autauga County Rescue to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion was seconded by Athens-Limestone Rescue. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Autauga County Rescue to dispense with the financial report. Motion was seconded by Childersburg Rescue. Motion carried.

Roll was called by Debbie Tidwell with 50 squads represented.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Ray Hogans advised that we now have 45 Instructors across the state. Monthly training is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month. Times and locations should be on the website.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Chauncey Wood had 3 squads to present:

Warrior River Fire & Rescue inspected by Danny Butler.

Motion made by Clay County Rescue Squad to accept. Motion was seconded by Childersburg Rescue Squad. Motion carried.

McIntosh Rescue Squad inspected by Ray Hogans.

Motion made by Daphne Search and Rescue to accept. Motion was seconded by Athens-Limestone Rescue Squad. Motion carried.

Withlacochee Regional SAR (Associate Member) inspected by Ray Hogans.

Motion was made by Anniston Rescue Squad to accept. Motion was seconded by Winston County Search and Dive. Motion carried.

Chauncey spoke about the legislation and the bills we have coming up.

HB 46 Permanent tag for squad vehicles \$24.25

HB 126 Invisible Disability for Autism, Dementia and others

Danny brought up that we need a new upgraded card printer, the cost is \$1998.50.

Motion made by South Marengo Rescue to purchase. Motion was seconded by Daphne SAR. Motion carried.

Motion was made by North Lamar Rescue Squad to purchase 25 more AARS flags. Motion was seconded by Clay County Rescue Squad. Motion carried.

With no further business the colors we retired by the Honor Guard and the meeting was adjourned.

**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!**

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Rescue Trivia Question #4 When was the first Rescue Squad formed and where? Answer Later in the newsletter.

Answer for #3 In the event of a nuclear attack, to gather up elected officials and leaders and get them to a nuclear bomb shelter. (Notice no workers in that scenario.)

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Rescue Trivia Question #5 How many dogs are in AARS canine teams in 2024? Answer Later in the newsletter.

Answer for #4 Pottsville WV 1928

From the Desk of Training Coordinator:

Hello,

This has been a busy 2nd quarter. When training is completed in May, over 700 training certificates will have been issued and 5 instructors certified in TIMS since conference. Training is continuing on the 2nd Saturday of every month across the state. Please go to the website for classes and locations near you. As your training coordinator, if your squad would like to have additional training please fill out the form on the site and forward to myself or Ray Hogan. We will respond in a timely matter to get your class set up. We are constantly looking for additional instructors as well so if interested in teaching ,please apply through the form on the website. The website will be the main form of communicating information concerning training, so please check the site often. Although training is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended to ensure the best outcome on a call possible. Together, we all make a difference and have a direct impact in peoples lives so lets always be prepared to the best of our ability. Thank you for your trust in me as a training coordinator and if I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me by email at [aarstraining@aol.com](mailto:aarstraining@aol.com) or text or phone 256-391-5590.

Jim Dennis



## 2024 AARS Spring Training Cruise

The training cruise was a great success. All classes were conducted in a beautiful setting onboard the Carnival Spirit! The staff were excellent at setting up our classrooms daily and were very helpful with all our needs. The classes went off on time and there were no problems with material or equipment provided by Carnival Cruise Lines! The food was exquisite and always plenty for all.

As we sailed through the Gulf of Mexico then the Caribbean Sea on our way to Central America at the first port of call Belize.



The day in Belize was sunny and hot with a very little breeze. Lots of beautiful tropical sites and things to enjoy and site see. Blue waters so clear it was like a swimming pool all around the coral reefs and water taxi rides to and from the Cruise ship.

Next stop was the Mexican Riviera on the Island of Cozumel Mexico just six miles off the Yucatan coast of old Mexico. Which is known for hospitality, Gum, Rum, and of course Tequila and all types of it! Our day here was warm breezy and full of sun and beautiful clouds. Great shopping areas and the place for some authentic Mexican Cuisine. Great adventures abound with swimming with dauphins, scuba diving, snorkeling, tours of old Mexican, Spanish and Myan culture and the greatest scenery around. This is always a fun and beautiful Western Carribean Island for a relaxing day.



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Rescue Trivia Question #6 How many drone teams were created in 2023 in AARS? Answer later in the newsletter.

Answer #5 Over 100 dogs serving Alabama in AARS



Well, that's all for now but what a great adventure this year, AARS Spring Training Cruise was. We were busy completing our classroom classes during the days at sea and exploring the ship entertainment at night. Each day was a new adventure while onboard the beautiful Carnival Ship Spirit. With each new exotic port and the many adventures that were awaiting us ashore this was a tremendous adventure and learning experience for all! Those attending had a wonderful adventure and received some excellent training in a most relaxing atmosphere. Those who did not choose to attend or were not able to attend you missed a great event. Keep a look out as we will try to plan another training cruise soon.

Ray Hogans

2<sup>nd</sup> VP, AARS

Education and Training



Rescue Trivia Question #7 When does AARS elect officers? Answer later in the newsletter.

Answer for #6 (12) 12 squads received drones to serve the Great State of Alabama through a grant.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter AARS Meeting

May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Hosted By:

Tuscaloosa County Sheriff Office,  
Southwest Tuscaloosa Co. Rescue,  
Antioch Rescue, And  
Alabama Fire College

Location: Alabama Fire College, 2501 Phoenix Dr. Tuscaloosa AL 35405

POC: Lt. Jeff Judd 205-553-4343 E-mail [jjudd@tcsaal.org](mailto:jjudd@tcsaal.org)

Registration	08:30
Welcome	09:30
BOD Meeting	10:00
Lunch	12:00
Membership	13:00

## Hotel Information, Ask for fire college rates!

Comfort Inn, 205-553-4343 \$79.00 + tax 3916 McFarland Blvd  
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- **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**
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Rescue Trivia Question #8 Does any AARS Squads fight fire under the Rescue Squad title? Answer later in the newsletter.

Answer # 7 November

Quick note from the Editor:

Greetings,

It is my hope to help all the squads in the state to have timely and useful information. I would like to express my gratitude to all the responders that have been on standby for calls, been responding, but cancelled in route, arrived to have to just turn around and go home, and to all the boots on the water, ground and air in support of the mission.

Also a shout out to the units from *Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads* who have helped support us with training, responding to search calls and even just answering questions as needed.

Also a shout out to all the local, county and state law enforcement people that have helped in our mission.

It takes a wide range of people to train, support and work together to fulfill our mission and help keep everyone safe!

I am also grateful for the support we receive from our local, county and state government!

Keith Bailey

Rescue Squad Trivia Question #9 How does AARS remember our members who pass during the year?

Rescue Squad Trivia Question #10 What is the tool still used in water recovery as a last resort but used to be the go to tool before technology developed a better way?

Answer for #8 Yes

Answer for #9 A memorial service held at the conference in the 4th quarter

Answer for #10 A drag tool

