# The Alabama Association of Rescue Squads Presents

### The Alabama Rescuer













#### PENTHEON

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### ALABAMA ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS EXECUTIVE BOARD

| PRESIDENT                         | Chauncey Wood  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 334-403-0301                      |                |
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| president@alars.org               |                |
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| Lillian, Al 36549                 |                |
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| Association Phone 205-810-9918    |                |
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| Cell-334-338-0327                 |                |
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**Legal Advisor** 

CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IF ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

#### **Safety Officer/SEMCC Committee Appointee**

Danny Butler 256-997-6243

#### **Honor Guard**

Commander, Jamie Gray honorguard@alars.org

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Web Master / Facebook Admin

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**AARS State Medical Control Officer** 

Dr. Mike Brisson Enterprise Rescue Squad

**State Training Coordinator** 

Jim Dennis, Childersburg

**AARS STATE PHOTOGRAPHER** 

**Tina Wood, LASAR** 

**CHAPLAIN** 

**Tony Dickie, Disaster Services** 

#### **2025 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

CHAIRMAN, Ray Hogans
Jimmy Looney, East Colbert
Eddie Tigue, Scottsboro-Jackson County
Danny Butler, Geraldine
Greg Rogers, South Marengo Co.
Jim Dennis, Childersburg
Curtis Shirley, Southwest Tuscaloosa

#### RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN, Danny Smith, Cherokee Johnny Warren, Randolph Danny Butler, Geraldine

#### **WAYS and MEANS**

CHAIRMAN, Danny Smith, Cherokee
Chauncey Wood, LASAR
Johnny Warren, Randolph
Ray Hogans, LASAR
Danny Butler, Geraldine
Candi Davidson, McIntosh
Brian Bailey, Huntsville

#### **EDUCATION and TRAINING**

CHAIRMAN, Greg Rogers, South Marengo Co.
State Coordinator, Jim Dennis, Childersburg
Dive, John Wade, LASAR
Medical, Jamie Gray, Elmore
SAR, Trevor Graben, Rosalie
K-9, Susan Hanson, Autauga
Drones, Andy Sims, Carbon Hill

#### **NOMINATIONS**

CHAIRMAN, Danny Butler, Geraldine
Johnny Warren, Randolph
Danny Smith, Cherokee
Jimmy Looney, East Colbert
Tina Wood, LASAR

#### **2025 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (Continued)**

#### **LEGISLATION**

CHAIRMAN, Chauncey Wood, LASAR
Danny Butler, Geraldine
Jimmy Looney, East Colbert
Matthew Knight, Randolph
Ray Hogans, LASAR
Mike Surles, Autauga
Gene Piatkowski, Childersburg

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

CHAIRMAN, Danny Butler, Geraldine Letty Rodrigues, LASAR Mike Surles, Autauga

#### **AARS K-9 Committee**

Laurie Strite (Chairperson)
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251-978-3307
lauriestrite@gmail.com

Susan Hanson Autauga County Rescue Squad 334-796-8583 smhanson22@gmail.com

Faye Ingram
Tallaco K-9 Unit
256-373-1009
countrygirlbama@gmail.com

Fabian Mann Central Alabama Search and Rescue k-9 Unit 334-788-9422 mannsherry06@gmail.com

James Patterson
Red Mountain Search Dog Association
334-740-0325
jdpatterson@charter.net

#### **CONFERENCE**

CHAIRMAN, Matthew Knight, Randolph
Chauncey Wood, LASAR
Tina Wood, LASAR
Jimmy Looney, East Colbert
Gwen Stone, Geraldine
Ray Hogans, LASAR
Joyce Butler, Geraldine
Mechelle Looney, East Colbert

#### **AARS HISTORIAN**

Gwen Stone, Geraldine

## FROM THE DESK OF CHAUNCEY WOOD PRESIDENT



Hello fellow squad members, I trust you are all well and appreciating winter gone and spring (yellow and green) already here! I want to thank Eddie Tigue and The Scottsboro Jackson Rescue Squad for hosting the last meeting with 51 squads attending. We had a good time fellowshipping, and the food was delicious!

Matt Knight did an outstanding job handling the Board of Directors Meeting, it being his first time sitting as Executive Secretary / Treasurer. The minutes, the financial report was along with other items of interest were accountable and transparent to say the least. Matt spent over 45 hours working tirelessly with our bank representatives to get all AARS Accounts reconciled to report at the quarterly meeting. Thank you, Matthew Knight, job well done!!

The AARS now has an SGT. AT ARMS, I'm proud to have appointed Kyle Treadwell of Randolph County Rescue Squad, to that very important position. Safety Officer for AARS is none other than long term past President, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> to boot, Danny Butler of Geraldine Rescue Squad. He will ensure AARS member safety programs, policies, compliance and ongoing training to be a safe working environment for all members.

It is with great pleasure that I have appointed Jim Dennis of Childersburg Rescue Squad as Training Coordinator. Jim is a dedicated and devoted search and rescue member and besides having education and training he took the lead in 2024 Operation Christmas Rescue Mission. He has also made it possible for squads to receive medical supplies, PPE and MRE on two different occasions in Montgomery. Jim and 2VP Greg Rogers are working on Training classes constantly, be sure to thank both when you see them.

#### (Continued)

I have tasked 1<sup>st</sup> VP Ray Hogans to put together a "Squad" membership drive to see if we might revitalize some old squads and enlist some new ones this year. I was taught back in the day there is strength in numbers, but organizing those numbers is one of the greatest challenges. Ray and the Membership Committee will combine their efforts, skills and resources to achieve the membership goal we so need.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly meeting is being hosted by Autauga County Rescue Squad in Prattville. Mike Surles and members are inviting everyone on Friday Night, May 16<sup>th</sup> to come to their station for hotdogs and hamburgers.

In closing it is with heartfelt sadness that I announce the passing of our AARS Assistant Chaplain Billy Evans, member of North Lamar Rescue Squad. "Meatball" as we so affectionately called him was very much a dedicated and devoted member of the AARS. He represented North Lamar with distinction and honor. A valued member of the Ways and Means Committee, since its inception I called Meatball on Friday afternoon.

February 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day, to ask him if was on the way to Scottsboro for the 4:00 Ways and Means meeting, his reply to me on my cell "I'm on the way BOSS, see ya in abit" and that was the last time we spoke, that I will never forget.

"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal" Our condolences to LaWanda and family during their time of bereavement. Rest easy Meatball, we got it from here!!



BILLY "MEATBALL" EVANS NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>,1956 – MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

## FROM THE DESK OF Ray Hogans 1st Vice PRESIDENT



#### Hello all AARS Members

Spring has arrived and we are all becoming more active at our individual squads as the weather becomes warmer. More of the local people will begin venturing out for events in the outdoor areas as the weather becomes more enjoyable. This will increase the need for our squads to be utilized and see more events we are supporting.

As we venture out and support our local community this becomes the time to recruit new members and reach out to former member squads that have fallen from our membership roles. The AARS in the past year has increased the availability of Training Classes and this year has begun a strong push to acquire support and supplies for the member squads to stock up on PPE, Medical and Emergency items for our much-needed supply rooms. I task each Membership Committee member, and each individual AARS Member to pass the word along to potential new squads and former squads of the new and increased availability of support in the association and the efforts being made to enhance the capability of our squad members with highly qualified support for the member squads!

I ask if any member of any squad has questions or support needed for their squad, please reach out to myself or any member of the BOD for assistance at any time.

Ray Hogans

1<sup>st</sup> VP AARS

From The Desk Of

Greg Rogers

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



Hello again to all my fellow AARS members and families. Another quarter has come and gone.

At the last quarterly meeting we announced our involvement with the Alabama EMS Challenge. This is a FREE, physician led, continuing education opportunity to EMS providers, rescuers and nurses via in-person and online presentations. I strongly encourage anyone needing CEU's or extra medical training to check this out at <a href="https://bremss.org/aemsc/">https://bremss.org/aemsc/</a>.

Since our last meeting I have been able to confirm that ALL members of the AARS are able to take any class the Alabama Fire College offers as long as you have met the prerequisite for that class. If your squad is not already taking advantage of this opportunity, I recommend it. Your squad will need to get set up with the fire college and create a Dashboard account. Then, all of your members can be added in. Once added in, you can register for any scheduled class or request any fire college class to be taught at your location. The link to register for the dashboard is <a href="https://www.alabamafirecollege.org/dashboard-instructions-and-forms/">https://www.alabamafirecollege.org/dashboard-instructions-and-forms/</a>.

I want to thank all the responders who completed the Medical First Responder class that was taught around the state recently. It takes a true personal commitment to set aside that many hours of time to train and learn how to help your community even more. I also appreciate the instructors who gave of their time to help the students gain that extra level of proficiency.

Included in this magazine, on the Facebook page and on the website you will see our new Call Volume reporting form. The Executive Board is trying to get an idea of how many calls AARS departments respond to in a year. We have never had a reporting method in place to gather this information. I appreciate the departments that have already submitted the numbers and I ask that all rescue squad send me your information for 2024 and 2025 as you can.

I really do enjoy seeing all the squads posting your activities on social media. Please be sure to send pictures of significant events to our newsletter so we have good content and other agencies can see what we do collectively. The magazine can only be as good as the material you send to us.

I want to thank our State Training Coordinator, Jim Dennis, for the work he does in ensuring that the monthly classes get set up and managed, working on a stellar line up for conference and getting surplus equipment for the departments where he can.

See you at the quarterly meeting.

Greg Rogers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President



#### Alabama Association of Rescue Squads, Inc.

Post Office Box 780 Roanoke, Alabama 36274 Phone: 205-810-9918

#### AARS MEMBER DEPARTMENT CALL INFORMATION TOTALS

For the period of Jan-Dec 2024

The Alabama Association of Rescue Squad's Executive Board appreciates your assistance in providing the call volume and member participation of your squad. This information will help the Association get an idea of how many different responses our squads and members respond to and to provide solid data when discussing the benefit of our squads to our great state. We ask that you forward this information to us in a format that is easiest for you.

First, we ask that you send us your 2024 call volume totals. Then, we would like periodic call volume and manpower hour updates in time frames that coincide with your current record keeping format (monthly, quarterly, 6 months). If you are using a records management system (RMS) that provides the same information, you may send us the summary straight from that system. You are welcome to use the format on the next page if you wish.

The last two rows are added in an effort to see how often AARS departments are called to assist each other. Please add in totals for the times you were GIVEN assistance to or RECEIVED assistance from an AARS department during the same given time period. This will not include law enforcement, ambulances, fire departments or other agencies unless they are a member of the AARS.

For questions or to submit your totals email this information to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President at 2ndvp@alars.org.



#### Alabama Association of Rescue Squads, Inc.

Post Office Box 780 Roanoke, Alabama 36274 Phone: 205-810-9918

#### CALL VOLUME AND MANPOWER TOTALS

| Tir                      | _                         |                    |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Department Name          |                           |                    |
| Report submitted by      |                           |                    |
| Contact info (phone/emai | l)                        |                    |
| INCIDENT TYPE            | TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES | VOLUNTEER MANHOURS |
| LAND SEARCH              |                           |                    |
| MEDICAL/EMS CALL         |                           |                    |
| MVA with/without injury  |                           |                    |
| LIFT ASSIST ONLY         |                           |                    |
| LANDING ZONE SETUP       |                           |                    |
| DROWNING                 |                           |                    |
| OTHER WATER RELATED CALL |                           |                    |
| MEDICAL ALARM            |                           |                    |
| WEATHER RELATED INCIDENT |                           |                    |
| WELFARE CHECK            |                           |                    |
| WILDLAND/GRASS FIRE      |                           |                    |
| STRUCTURE FIRE           |                           |                    |
| VEHICLE FIRE             |                           |                    |
| TRAFFIC CONTROL ONLY     |                           |                    |
| PLANE CRASH              |                           |                    |
| OTHER -                  |                           |                    |
|                          |                           |                    |
| TOTAL                    |                           |                    |
|                          |                           |                    |
| **Mutual Aid Given       |                           | ******             |
| **Mutual Aid Received    |                           | *****              |

\*\* by AARS member departments.

Email this information to 2ndvp@alars.org
Thank you!

"GOD GRANT THAT WE MAY BE WHERE WE ARENEEDED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE, ABILITY, AND EQUIPMENT TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY"

#### Minutes of 2025 1st Quarter Meeting

@ Scottsboro-Jackson Rescue Squad on February 22, 2025.

Meeting called to order by President Chauncey Wood. Colors posted by the AARS Honor Guard. Prayer by Mike Tidwell. Roll called. Motion made by Desoto to suspend reading of minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gearldine. Motion Carried

| inancial Report given: General Account |                 | \$ 73,609.82  |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| Ad Valum Account                       |                 | \$164.302.29  |
|  | Benevolent Fund | \$ 3,119.84   |
| Conference Account Investment Account  |                 | \$ 19, 330.15 |
|  |                 | \$ 94,477.93  |
|  | TOTAL           | \$354,840.03  |

Motion by Daphne to accept Financial Report. 2<sup>nd</sup> by LASAR. Motion Carried.

Chauncey made mention about having AARS T-Shirts and other merchandise that we will be selling at the quarterly meetings.

Jim Dennis showed the video from the AARS Toy Drive and gave a report.

Chauncey appointed Kyle Treadwell from Randolph County Rescue Squad as the association Sergeant of Arms.

Jimmy Looney gave a report on legislation. HB27 Sex Offender Bill. & HB 47 Bid Law Legislation.

Jamie Gray discussed legislation on Tuition Reimbursement to add 6 EMS Regions.

Matthew asked the association to consider purchasing the latest version of FilePro that is now a Claris Product. Matthew talked about how Jimmy Madison with Winston County Search and Dive built our current database and how the most up-to-date version will allow more to be done. Motion by McIntosh to purchase the 5yr. license for \$6837.48 that would get all updates. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roselie. Motion carried. Matthew thanked Jimmy for his help. Bob Filler from Scottsboro-Jackson addressed the Board of Directors on his knowledge of large database development and offered any assistance he could to the association.

Greg reported on training.

Jim reported on training and 1<sup>st</sup> quarter training to be offered in for the quarter. EMR classes are currently going on. April Map Reading. May CalTopo, June new Man Tracking class.

Updating some of our current classes and writing new objectives for new classes. Thanked State EMS Office for CEU's.

Greg mentioned conference classes, Air Force class and FEMA classes. National Weather Service SkyWarn Class.

Greg reported on request from Rep. Oliver wanting to know how many calls and hours the Association does. The Association will develop a report to submit your calls. Also asking what kind of training each squad is doing.

Greg reported on Alabama EMS Challenge, where members can get free CEU's that EMS Challenge can do each month.

Greg reminded about Rescuer Quarter and Pictures for slide show at conference and for magazine.

Greg reminded about VFIS Instructor update.

Ray reported that Cleburne County Rescue Squad had submitted an application for approval by the Board of Directors. Jim Dennis did the inspection and reported to Executive Board, and it was the Exec Board to bring before the Board Directors for approval. Motion by Central AL K9. 2<sup>nd</sup> by LASAR. Motion Carried.

Ray also asked each squad to give us POC, phone and email.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Chauncey reported that Permanent Tags processing is going fine.

Chauncey reported on Jim Dennis was acting Training Coordinator and was going to take applications for Training Coordinator. Discussion from floor and Chauncey rescinded the application process and appointed Jim Dennis as the associations Training Coordinator.

New Business.

Danny Smith gave report on Ways and Means and 7 Application and 3 tabled. Grants of 4 grants in the amount of \$21,458.00. Danny reminded that Grant cannot be signed by the same person. Grant Committee met prior to the meeting and the Grant Committee made the recommendation to add 3year Amendment for squad maintain 3 yr, continuous membership in association. Motion by Gearldine 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daphane to Motion Carried.

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

Call to order by President Chauncey Wood.

Motion by Gearldine to dispense reading of the minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Childersburg. Motion Carried

Motion by Desoto to dispense reading of the Financial Report. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gearldine. Motion Carried.

Huntsville Cave made a motion to pay quarterly bills. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roselie. Motion Carried.

Jimmy Looney recapped Legislative Report.

Chauncey reported that he had appointed Dr Mike Brisson as the Association Medical Director. Dr Brisson is the current medical control officer at Enterprise Rescue Squad.

Greg gave a recap on training.

Greg presented the Rescuer of the Quarter to Kassie Martin from Munford Rescue Squad.

Ray presented Cleburne County Rescue Squad for membership on the recommendation of the Board of Directors. Motion by Cherokee County 2<sup>nd</sup> by Geraldine. Motion Carried.

Chauncey appointed Kyle Treadwell from Randolph County Rescue Squad as the association Sergeant of Arms.

Chauncey recognized Jim Dennis, who was appointed as the State Training Coordinator.

Chauncey mentioned that K9 Committee appointments are being made.

Danny Smith gave reports from Grants. The Board of Directors approved \$21,458.00 for disbursements.

Matthew mentioned that Benevolent Fund had an increase in enrollment from this year's renewals.

Greg Rogers closed the meeting in Prayer. Honor Guard retired the colors.

Motion to Adjourn by Desoto 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gearldine.

Greetings From the Editor,

As recommended by the Executive Board, I am going to incorporate a page for the recognition of the members that pass on during the year, As I don't currently have the obituaries of all those that have moved on this year so far, I am asking all squads that have lost a member this year to email me a brief obituary for them and if the member's family wants a picture put in with it a copy of that would need to also be included so that none of our fallen heroes go unmentioned. I plan on naming the page the Chaplain's Corner. I also invite the State Chaplain to also write a short article for the newsletter as they feel led.

Keith Bailey

(256) 267-1789

Editor@alars.org

#### IN MEMORIUM



BILLY "MEATBALL" EVANS NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>,1956 – MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

## 2025 AARS, QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULE

May 17<sup>th</sup> Second Quarter
Autauga County Rescue
Prattville Alabama

August 9<sup>th</sup> Third Quarter

Alabama Fire College

Tuscaloosa Alabama

November 5<sup>th</sup> — 8<sup>th</sup> Fourth Quarter

AARS 2025 Annual Conference

Orange Beach Event Center

Orange Beach Alabama

#### From The Desk of Jim Dennis Training Coordinator



#### Greetings to All,

It has been a busy 3 months in the training arena. A lot of good things have happened and more is on the horizon.

In Feb. and March a Emergency Medical First Responder class was taught increasing the number of those with medical training across the state. April kicked off a three month training series with learning to read tactical maps to be able to navigate without electronics or radios. Next up in May is Caltopo/Sartopo, and in June will be a lost person tracking class. Also in March, we gave away over 90 pallets of PPE to any squads who wished to have them, and in April, squads received over 62,000 MRE meals. In both giveaways, all squads were allowed to take as much as they wanted with no restrictions as to amounts. All of this will help squads be safer with more PPE and able to have food in disaster settings. If any squad got more than needed or wanted, I am sure other squads would be glad to have some. Just ask around. On a serious note, I would like to talk about training individually. We all have the same goal in mind and that is to help our neighbors when needed. That alone is to be commended. Our numbers could and should be stronger for classes offered. If you aren't taking advantage of training, you are missing an important link in safety and the success of an operation. Training can help you work safely and more knowledgably during a crises. This may sound silly but what if you were called to a water rescue but no one knew how to drive the boat or operate the equipment. The good intent is there to help but without the knowledge, it is not enough to perform the rescue hence, the victims chance of survival just went down a lot. This is just one of a thousand scenarios to consider. Please, get involved in training and learning all you can as it may be the difference between life or death. A reminder to all squads, many classes are available to you and can be taught at your squad. Please use the form online to request one. If you have any questions, feel free to call me and I will assist you in any way I can. Conference classes are done and registration will be open soon, so please be looking for them. FEMA will be opening their classes up in late May for signup. These classes are open to anyone, not just AARS, so please sign up ASAP for these if this is what you want to attend before they fill up.

(Continued)

We are going to have a lot of fun with the class lineup so be sure to attend this year. If you have a class suggestion for next year, please drop me a line as I am already preparing for next year. FUN NOTICE!!!! Montgomery Whitewater will be hosting an AARS FUN DAY in the near future or all members and their families. The date and details will be discussed at our May meeting. They will be providing a discount ticket and a action packed fun filled day for us. What a great way to get to know each other better outside of only seeing each other at meetings and on calls. Let's have some fun in the sun!!!!!

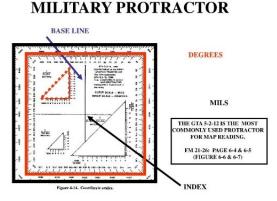
Thanks once more for all the support and help so many of you have given me to help make our training better. Without all of us working together it would not be possible. Thank you also to our assistant coordinators and instructors for all you do behind the scenes. YOU are a key part in the success of our training. Till next time, stay safe and may GOD BLESS EACH ONE OF YOU!!!!

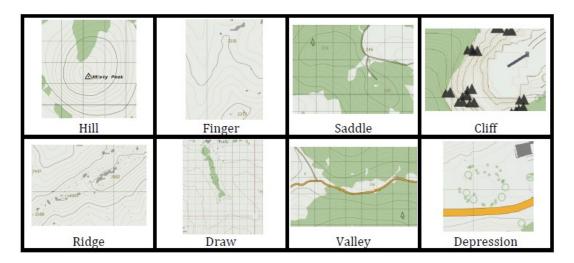
Jim Dennis

State Training Cord.









The AARS training team conducted a train the trainer class for 12 instructors for "Tactical map reading, grid coordinate plotting, and course plotting. These skills were then taught to a number of AARS members in the monthly training event.

These skills are utilized when no other method of navigation is available. In todays world too many electronic devices are used for navigation and are not always useable in select areas. These skills work with no need for satellite, cell phone, or computer internet access. A simple protractor and a mag compass will allow you to navigate to a point in space with accurate means to locate and identify points on earth with no external equipment. Tactical maps and these methods of navigation are used by the US Military and many other agencies for the precise ability to reach a point with simple use of these skills. Are you able to navigate and find a spot on earth with a simple map, plotter and a compass?

Thanks to all the newly trained instructors who have this new skill and will teach you these outstanding skills to assist you when nothing else works. A simple six digit coordinate will get you to an area within 10 meters of the point needed anywhere on the face of the earth! Are you capable of plotting and going to a spot in space with that accuracy? If not reach out to one of our skilled instructors to learn this ability before you find yourself without the ability to find your way out of a situation where nothing on the GPS or Cell phone has a signal!

## Alabama Association Rescue Squads 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting 2025

Date: May 17th, 2025

Location: Willis Bradford Branch of the YMCA

972 McQueen Smith Rd. South

Prattville, AL 36066

Questions: Mike Surles +1 (334) 595-7311 or Nancy Johnson +1 (334) 398-3258.

#### Agenda:

Registration: 8:30 – 9:30 am

Welcome: 9:30 am

Board of Directors Meeting: 10:00 am

Lunch: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (will be provided)

Business Meeting: 1:00 pm

#### **Accommodations:**

Exit 179 Exit 181

Holiday Inn Express Super 8

Tru By Hilton La Quinta Inn

Home 2 Suites Quality Inn

Courtyard Montgomery Avid Hotel

Days Inn & Suites Motel 6

And more

We would also like to invite everyone to our station on Friday, May  $16^{\rm th}$  for Hot dogs and Hamburgers

#### **DRONE OPS**

#### **Andy Sims**

#### **Carbon Hill Rescue Squad**

Using a drone to search for a missing person can be incredibly effective, especially in challenging terrains. Here are some steps to follow:

#### 1. Pre-Mission Planning

Define the search area: Get as much information as possible about the last known location, terrain, and environment.

Check drone regulations: Ensure you're compliant with local drone laws (e.g., altitude limits, restricted areas).

Prepare gear: Make sure you have fully charged batteries, extra memory cards, and any necessary attachments (thermal camera, zoom lens, etc.).

Establish communication: <u>Coordinate with ground teams</u> and ensure you have a communication plan.

#### 2. Conduct a Risk Assessment

Weather conditions: Check wind speed, visibility, and precipitation to determine if it's safe to fly.

Terrain hazards: Be aware of obstacles like trees, power lines, or buildings.

Battery management: Plan your flight duration and keep an eye on battery levels to avoid emergency landings.

#### 3. Set Up a Grid Search Pattern

Program the flight path: Use the drone's mapping software to create a grid pattern for systematic coverage.

Overlap coverage: Ensure overlap between grid paths so no areas are missed.

Height considerations: Adjust flight altitude based on visibility requirements and terrain.

Prepare for flight: Have Visual Observers (VO) in place as needed. Ensure the airspace is clear.

#### (Continued)

#### 4. Deploy the Drone

Take off and stabilize: Once you're ready, launch the drone and ensure it's stable. Mark your home point before starting the search.

Monitor live feed: Pay close attention to the video feed, and look for any unusual shapes or colors that might indicate a person. A second monitor showing the drone video allows more people to monitor the video.

Record footage: Always record your flight for review later, in case something is missed in real-time.

#### 5. Use Special Equipment

Thermal imaging: If searching at night or in dense areas, thermal cameras can help detect heat signatures.

Zoom lenses: Use zoom for detailed inspections of potential leads spotted from afar.

Software: Using software, such as Automated Drone Image Analysis Tool (ADIAT), to monitor and review video can be extremely helpful in identifying areas of interest.

#### 6. Coordinate with Ground Teams

Live updates: If you spot anything suspicious, relay the location to ground searchers immediately.

Maintain a line of sight: Keep visual or electronic tracking of the drone, depending on regulations.

#### 7. Post-Flight Analysis

Review footage: Go over recorded footage for any clues that were missed during the live search.

Recharge and recalibrate: Get your equipment ready for the next flight in case the search continues.

#### (Continued)

#### 8. Document Findings

Log coordinates: Keep a record of areas searched and any potential findings.

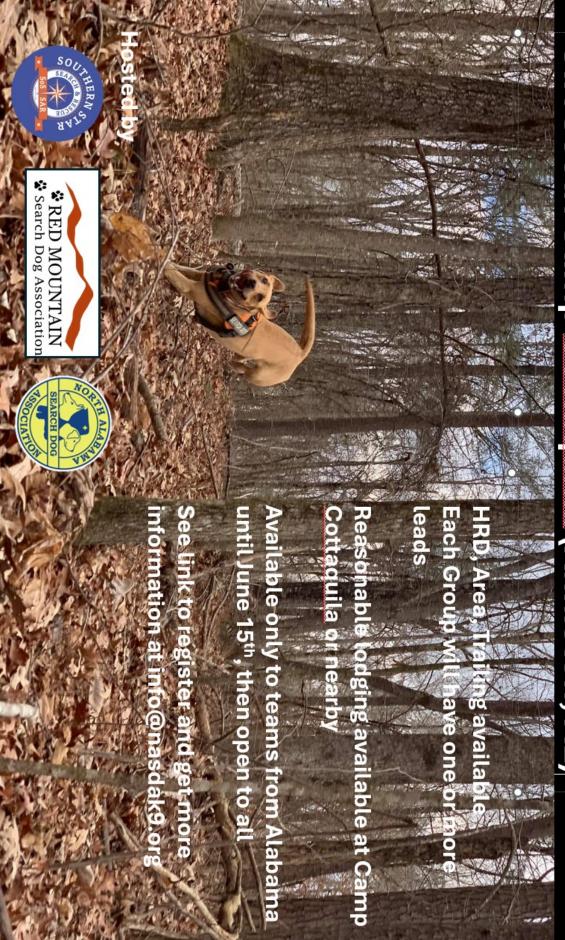
Share data: Provide all relevant info to the search and rescue command, especially if any positive leads were found.

I hope to do a Drone OPS article for our Drone Teams each quarter. If you have any mission stories, tips, pictures, or other drone related items send them to chrescue1@charter.net.

Stay Safe.



Girl Scout Camp Cotta



#### SAR K9 Open Training Weekend

The North Alabama Search Dog Association, Southern Star Search and Rescue, and Red Mountain Search Dog Association are hosting a FREE SAR K9 training weekend October 4 & 5, 2025 at Camp Cottaquilla (2500 Cottaquilla Rd Anniston AL 36207).

Training will take place 8-5 Saturday and 8-12ish on Sunday. There will be groups with each discipline and level, with a leader(s) to organize training scenarios and keep things moving along. We ask that you work only one dog and stay in the same class for the duration. We will keep groups small to provide ample opportunity for quality training. We will be offering groups for Area, HRD, and Trailing. We are prioritizing openings for handlers from Alabama first but will open to all handlers after end June 2025.

Camp Cottaquilla offers rustic group cabins for those needing low cost housing. Check in will be Friday afternoon October 3 for those people wanting to arrive Friday. Cabins are \$40 per person (bring your own bedding) for the weekend. If you don't want a cabin, lodging can be found at pet friendly hotels listed below. (I have not called any of these to know about deposits, size restrictions etc). Food is on your own. NO FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED. Restaurants are within easy driving distance, but plan to bring your own breakfast and lunch as the classes will remain in the field through lunch.

To make a reservation for the training weekend go to the website below:

HTTPS://form.Jotform.Com/250914440638154

If you are a handler from Alabama, we recommend registering before 15 June 2025. First come, first serve. Class size will be limited.

GROUP LEADERS (subject to change)

Beginner Trailing -Becky Kidd (Ratsar)

Intermediate Trailing-Ray Mooney (Southern Star) & helper:

Advanced Trailing-Laurie Strite (Southern Star) & helper

HRD- Beg/Int- Darcy Harbaugh and Chris Snipes (North Alabama Search Dog Assoc):

HRD Advanced - Eric Carney (Southern Star) & Len Slizewski (NASDA)

Beg/Int Area - Stephen Burton and Tim Haskew (RMSDA):

Advanced Area - Janet Geist, Mary Margaret Eberle, & Terri Slizewski (NASDA)

All hotels are located in Oxford AL

La Quinta Inn, 100 Colonial Dr, 256-294-1258

Hampton Inn & Suires, 210 Colonial Dr, 256-831-8958

Hilton Garden Inn, 280 Colonial Dr, 256-831-0083

Fairfield Inn & Suites, 143 Colonial Dr, 256-831-1921

Super 8, 1600 Al-21, 256-405-0930

Candlewood Suites, 73 Parkway Crossing, 256-525-4044

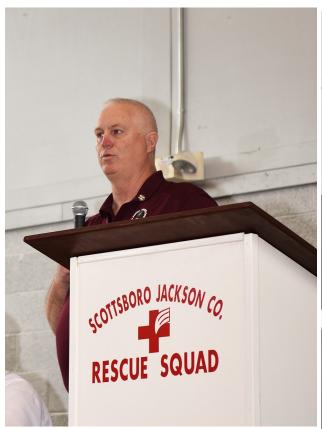
















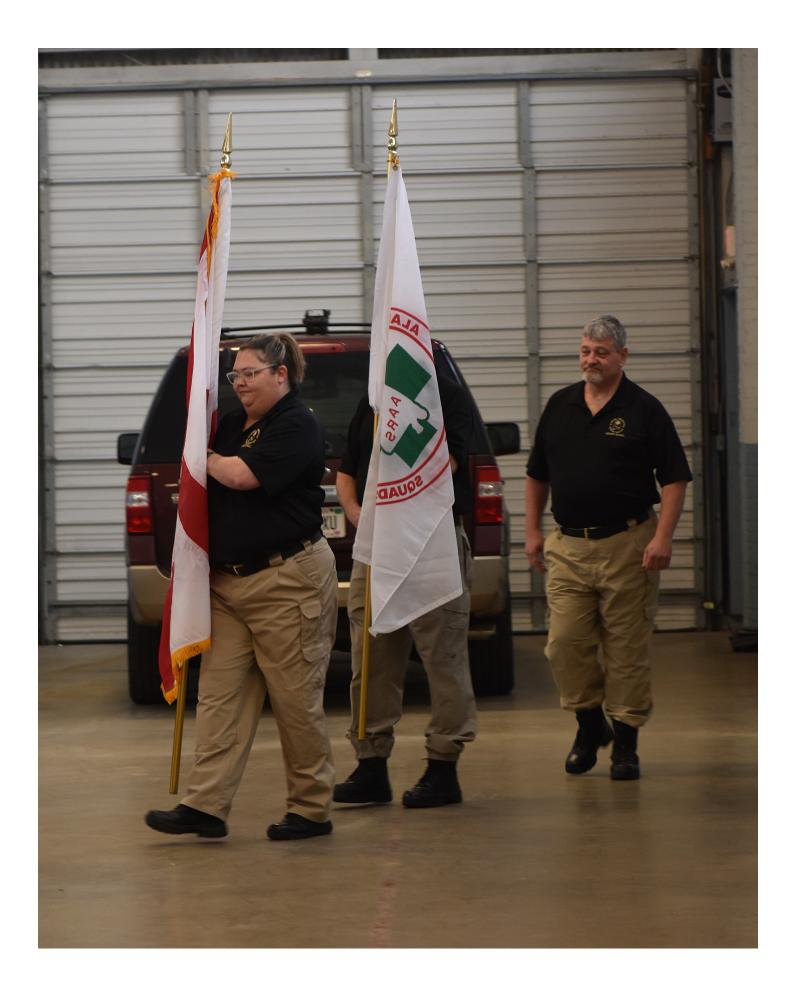


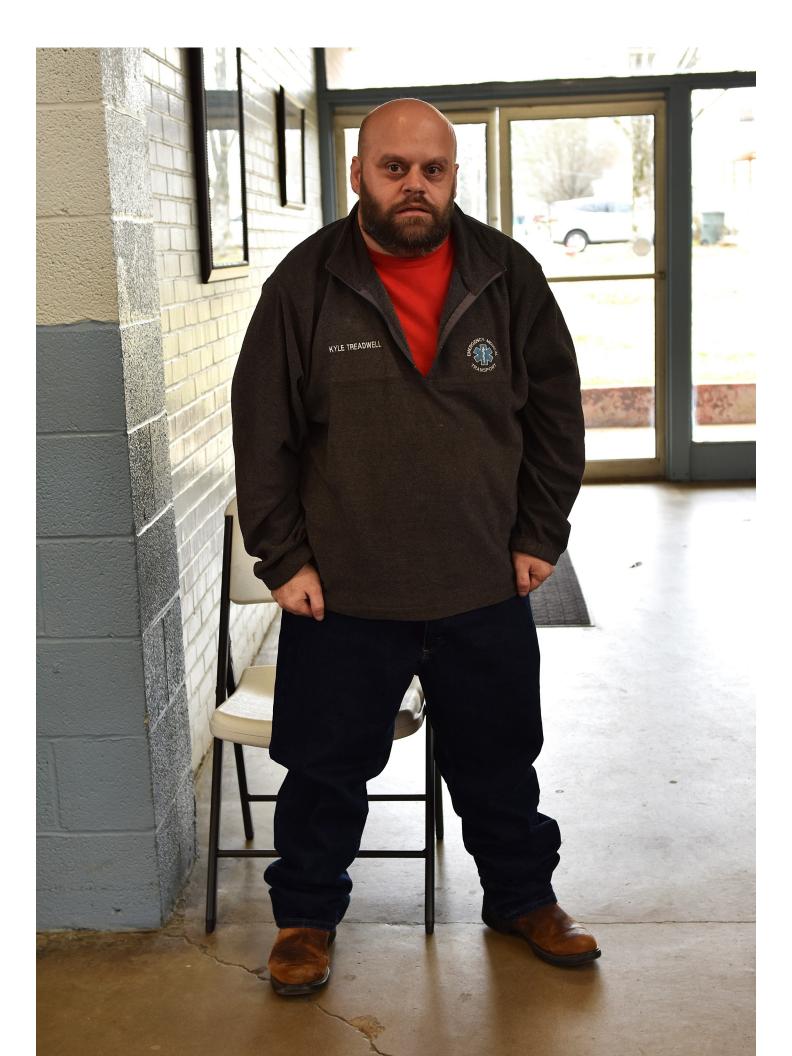












#### Training





## Stay Prepared! Keep Training!

- 2025 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER MAGAZINE DEADLINE: July 7th 2025
- 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 <u>rescuer@alars.org</u> 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

# 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!

|                     | AARS ORDER FORM |           |       |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|
|                     | QTY.            | COST      | TOTAL |
| AARS SHOULDER PATCH |                 | x \$ 2.00 |       |
| AMERICAN FLAG PATCH |                 | x \$ 2.00 |       |
| AARS WINDOW DECAL   |                 | x \$ 0.50 |       |
| AARS VEHICLE DECAL  |                 | x \$ 2.00 |       |
| AARS FLAG           |                 | x \$50.00 |       |
| GRAND TOTAL \$      | <del></del>     |           |       |

MAIL TO:
AARS
PO BOX 780
Roanoke, AL 36274

\*\*\* DO NOT SEND MONEY WITH YOUR ORDER. I WILL MAIL THE ITEMS TO YOU WITH AN INVOICE THAT WILL INCLUDE POSTAGE. THE POSTAGE FEE WILL BE WHATEVER IT COSTS TO MAIL THE ITEMS. \*\*\*

\*\*\* IF YOU PREFER I WILL BE GLAD TO BRING THE ITEMS TO THE NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING. \*\*\*



Unfortunately, you'll never know how good your insurance company is until something bad happens.

Coverage underwritten by National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburg, PA, with its principal place of business in New York, NY. Emotional pain is something no one can fix. Lost income is a different matter. VFIS has built its reputation on prompt response and the kind of in-depth coverage that goes well beyond industry standards. Isn't it nice to know that someone else is looking out for your family too?



**Insuring America's Heroes** 

VFIS/Southeast PO Box 280 Lineville, AL 36266 (800) 621-3380 www.vfisal.com