

RHEA COUNTY

HOMELAND SECURITY

MARCH

NEWSLETTER

2005

Homeland Security Participates in Search for 2 Brayton Mountain Youths

On Thursday afternoon, February 24th two Brothers, Joshua age 9 and Jacob Gardenhire age 7 wandered from their Brayton Mountain home.

Around 6 o'clock that evening, the boy's parents called the Rhea County Sheriff's Department and set into motion one of the largest search efforts in our history.

For 18 hours, both paid and volunteer staff from about every agency know to man came out to help look for Joshus and Jacob.

Several members of the Homeland Security Team monitored the situation throughout the night and started making plans to be ready when we got the call.

Immediately after getting our call out, all Team leaders and Squad Leaders were notified to start the call up list. As the Squad members were called out, we were already in the process of setting up a staging area at the Graysville ballpark, at the foot of Graysville Mountain.

The staging area allowed us to gather everyone together, While not being in the way at the command post, and send out teams as there were ask for.

I know everyone didn't get contacted during the call up, And that's to be expected, but it turned out to be a good thing too, and as Bill Frazier Alpha Team Leader commented, this will supply us with people to come in later to relieve the first wave in case the search was extended.

Fortunately, we didn't need extra manpower as the search ended on a successful note with the boy's being found Friday morning.

My hat's off to all that responded to our activation, in all we had 23 Team members to show up in under an hour.

That's says a lot about our group and the dedication they have to serving our community. It should make everyone proud to be a part of such a top notch organization.

Stay ready, Stay Alert and Stay Safe, you never know when that next call will come.



Just seconds after receiving the news that their loved ones were safe, Chuck Gardenhire and his parents, Frank and Suzanne Gardenhire hugged and perhaps offered up a prayer of thanksgiving. Joshua, 9, and Jacob, 7, Gardenhire wandered away from their Brayton Mountain Road home Thursday afternoon and became lost in the woods on the Bledsoe County side of the mountain. (Herald-News photo by Rachel Evans)

**Next Training Session will be with
The Chattanooga SWAT Team
On Saturday March 19 th.
Everyone attending
Will Meet at The Rhea County
Courthouse at 8 AM**

**Next Homeland Security
Meeting March 31st
6 PM in
The Civil Air Patrol Complex**



LA-Z-BOY Supports Rhea County Homeland Security
 LA-Z-BOY Vice-President David Brown (center) recently made a generous donation to The Rhea County Homeland Security Team by purchasing 4 Med Packs to help equip a new Mobile Command Unit.
 Pictured above from Left to right are: Doug McDaniel (Team Leader), Jim Conner (Director), Chief John Argo, Sheriff Mike Neal, Bill Newman (Team Leader), and Bill Frazier (Team Leader)

The Rhea County Homeland Security Team has been taking various types of training to better prepare them for whatever situation they encounter out in the field. With many of the Team members just completing a First-aid, CPR and AED course and many more signed up to take the training, LA-Z-BOY in Dayton has donated 4 Med Packs to show their appreciation for the groups dedication and commitment to the community.

The class was instructed by Team Leader Gary Roddy who is an instructor for The American Heart Association.

Rhea County Homeland Security was formed two years ago for the purpose of helping protect both the Watts bar Nuclear Plant and The Watts Bar Dam. Since it's creation, Sheriff Mike Neal has seen what a tremendous asset the group can be to the Sheriff's Department and has regularly called upon the group to provide much needed support in the event of emergencies and disasters.

Team members have the opportunity to participate in extensive training programs and receive training in areas from Disaster Relief to Self Defense and Law Enforcement procedures.

Any business or civic group that is interested in hearing more about this group or would like for a Team to come and speak about Homeland Security, at one of their meetings, contact Jim Conner @ 255-2200

"How to Recognize a Terrorist Threat" Training

This is a reminder of our training scheduled for this Saturday beginning at 9:00 a.m. with the Chattanooga S.W.A.T. Team at their training facility at Mocasins Bend. We will leave from behind the courthouse promptly at 8:00 a.m. Please wear full uniform but no weapons should be brought.

We will have classroom training for approximately two hours and practical training either on the firing range at the training facility or will travel to downtown Chattanooga to review scenarios as covered in the classroom. We should be finished by around 1:00 p.m.

If you have not already signed up with Jim Conner, please contact Jim today at Cell Ph. 255-2200 as we can only take 30 people. Team and Squad Leaders should contact their group members to remind them of this training.

If you do not plan to travel with the group that morning, here are the directions. Take Hwy 27 toward downtown Chattanooga taking the Manufacturers Road exit. Turn right at the stop light and continue until the road splits approximately 1 mile. Bear left on Hamm Road and continue until stop sign. Turn left on Moccasin Bend Road at the Moccasin Bend Treatment Plant. Go .4 (4/10) mile past the golf course and you will see a small sign just off the road on the left marked for Chattanooga Police Training Center. Pull down into the large parking lot.

See you Saturday.

Gary Roddy

PS, since the S.W.A.T. Commander is taking his day off to conduct this training with no cost to us, I am picking up a gift certificate to a Chattanooga restaurant to show our appreciation. If you would like to pitch in a couple of bucks to go toward this gift, please give to Gary Roddy.

Rhea County Homeland Security Team Members

2005 Strawberry Festival

To All HLS Members,

Just a note to let everyone know what is going on with the 2005 Strawberry Festival fundraiser.

There as been two Team Leader meetings in preparation of the Festival so far. We are going to need everyone's help in making this a success. There will be signup sheets at the next meeting on 3-24-05.

The work will start on May 12; we will need several people available to help in setting up the trailer when it arrives. On May 13 vending begins at 8:00am, then again on May14, we will need at least five people to work each shift. Shifts will be four hours each Friday and Saturday, 8:00 to 12:00, 12:00 to 4:00, and 4:00 to 8:00. On Sunday, we will need 5 to 10 people to clean and return trailer.

We would like everyone to donate a 12 pack of soft drinks or bottled water to sell at the event,

The drinks not sold can be put on the HLS trailer for future use. It has also been mentioned that we have a bake sell during the event cup cakes, cookies, etc. This will be another way to put some profit in the bank.

Please try to be at our next meeting for further discussion about the Festival.

Thank You,
Jim Conner

Homeland Security receives Weather Spotter Training

At our last regular meeting we had a guest speaker from The National Weather Service in Morristown, TN.

Howard Waldron, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, presented our annual "Weather Spotters Class".

This class included all 3 levels of the course which consist of Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Spotter And is part of their SKYWARN Program.

What is SKYWARN?

SKYWARN is a nationwide network of volunteer storm spotters trained by the National Weather Service (NWS) to report significant weather. Anyone with an interest in weather is welcome to participate. To become a trained storm spotter, you need to attend a [storm training session](#), offered at various times and places across the Morristown [County Warning Area](#).

Why SKYWARN?

The National Weather Service's mission is **to protect lives and property** with safety being the top priority. When weather conditions are favorable for severe thunderstorms or tornadoes to develop, a severe thunderstorm or tornado **watch** is issued. A severe thunderstorm or tornado **warning** is issued when severe weather has been reported by a SKYWARN spotter or indicated by Doppler radar. SKYWARN volunteers become the NWS's and local Emergency Management's eyes and ears, helping them to provide the public with better weather watch and warning services.

Who will activate SKYWARN?

The NWS and/or the local emergency management authorities may activate the SKYWARN net whenever there is a threat of severe weather or when the NWS issues a severe thunderstorm or tornado watch. In this case, information may be relayed through amateur radio repeaters. Localized events may be phoned directly to the NWS and/or local emergency management.

Where will SKYWARN observations be taken?

SKYWARN reports are relayed from on the road, while at work, or at your home. **It is important not to jeopardize your own safety by placing yourself in the path of severe weather while participating in SKYWARN.**

SKYWARN and Amateur Radio Operators

HAM radio operators have a special place in the SKYWARN program. NWS offices have HAM equipment on site. SKYWARN nets run by the volunteer amateur radio net control operators allow for reports to be directly heard at National Weather Service offices.

How do I join SKYWARN?

For additional information on SKYWARN including times and locations of storm spotter training sessions, please e-mail [Howard Waldron](#) (Warning Coordination Meteorologist) or phone (423) 586-8706, Monday-Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM.

Where can I find educational materials on storm spotting?

For storm spotters, there is a great mass of information available on storm spotting. A good place to start is [A Comprehensive Glossary of Weather Terms for Storm Spotters](#). A number of spotter guides are available for downloading including [Basic Spotters' Field Guide](#) (in PDF format), a more advanced [Storm Spotter Guide](#) from the National Weather Service in Norman, Oklahoma, and a text version (no pretty pictures) of the [Advanced Spotters' Field Guide](#) (in PDF format).