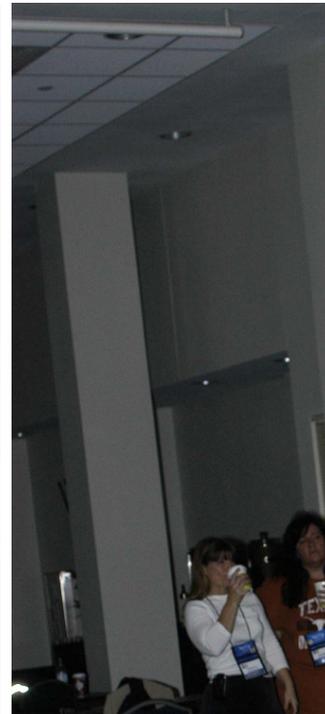

Texas EMS Conference loves Fort Worth.

And Fort Worth loves EMS Conference. Even a cool and foggy start on Saturday couldn't dampen the spirits of exhibitors, attendees and volunteers who streamed into town. This year, Fort Worth greeted us with a brand-new hotel, the Omni Fort Worth, located right across the street from the convention center. We'll bid farewell to Fort Worth for 2010, when we'll be in Austin to celebrate our 25th anniversary.



Clockwise, beginning at the upper left:

■ Texas EMS Conference sends out a call for presentations in January each year, and by February, we usually have about 300 one-hour and two-hour presentations to choose from. That's all good news for attendees, who had 177 workshops to choose from in 2009. We'll be posting the call for presentations in January 2010, so if you're interested in presenting at Texas EMS Conference, watch our website for the announcement.

■ San Antonio AirLife Paramedic Scotty Bolleter demonstrates a technique on Jane Dinsmore during the "Keeping It Real" anatomy preconference class. Coordinated by Bolleter, Scott Lail of CareFlite, and Jeff

Beeson, MD, of MedStar, the class spent half a day in the classroom before moving to the University of North Texas Health Science Lab for a hands-on session with a cadaver. With a limit of only 40 students (to make sure there was plenty of practice time for each student), the class filled within a week.

■ The two-hour hands-on workshops gave attendees plenty of time to practice. Here, attendees improve splinting and packaging skills.

■ The high angle rescue class had everyone hanging by the ropes – but that's a good thing when you're trying to save someone who has gotten stuck halfway down a steep slope. The first day of the class took place at the Fort Worth Fire Department drill tower. The second day, students moved to the Land O'Lakes/Purina Feed plant for some industrial rescue practice.

■ Attendees got to practice use of ultrasound in a prehospital setting during one of the two-hour workshops.

■ The first step is the hardest ... participants in the high angle preconference class got plenty of time to demonstrate they were not afraid of heights as they learned the basics of rappelling.



Clockwise, beginning with upper left:

■ Attendees got to watch EMS Expo Top Innovations and the Valsalva Bowl finals as they munched on a fajita lunch in one end of the exhibit hall.

■ Missourians Angie Johns (left), Heather Seeman and Andrew Spain took top honors in the Valsalva Bowl finals on Monday. Texas teams competed on Sunday night for the honor of competing for the national title on Monday. Valsalva is a fast-paced quiz show featuring teams of three medics competing in a contest of speed, luck and medical knowledge. Start practicing now for the 2010 game at Texas EMS Conference in Ausitn.

■ Bagpiper Brent Smith and drummer Chris

Addington, along with Lubbock EMS Honor Guard leader Jeff Tweed, practice for the opening ceremonies. Lubbock, Austin-Travis County EMS and MedStar honor guards participated in posting of the colors and the luncheon ceremony honoring those who died in the line of duty.

■ American Medical Response thought that hiring Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders might send more traffic over to its booth – and they were right. Here, the cheerleaders pose with Paris EMS's Andy the



Ambulance. The cheerleaders appearance made for long lines around the booth while they signed autographs.

■ The opening reception in the exhibit hall, which featured cheeses, fruits, brownies and quesadillas, was a hit with attendees and visitors. The exhibit hall had nearly 1200 visitors on Sunday and Monday, in addition to the nearly 3000 attendees, faculty, volunteers and exhibitor reps.

■ Practice, practice, practice. Attendees got plenty of opportunity to test their skills in the two-hour workshops, which limit enrollment to 25 so that everyone can get have a hands-on experience.

■ Exhibitors showed everything from intrasosseous equipment (above) to helicopters. The exhibit

hall had four helicopters and 27 ambulances on display this year.

■ San Antonio AirLife came to the conference to recruit people for its air service.

■ The hands-on “Guts and Gore” workshop let attendees dissect animal hearts and lungs to get a better understanding of how anatomy works.

■ More than 160 exhibitors and 850 exhibitor reps filled the exhibit hall this year with state-of-the-art emergency medical equipment and supplies.

