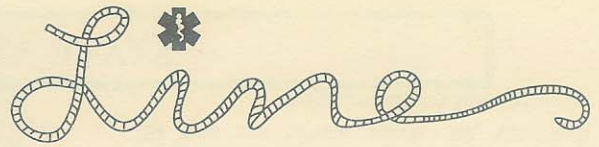




# RESCUE



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS

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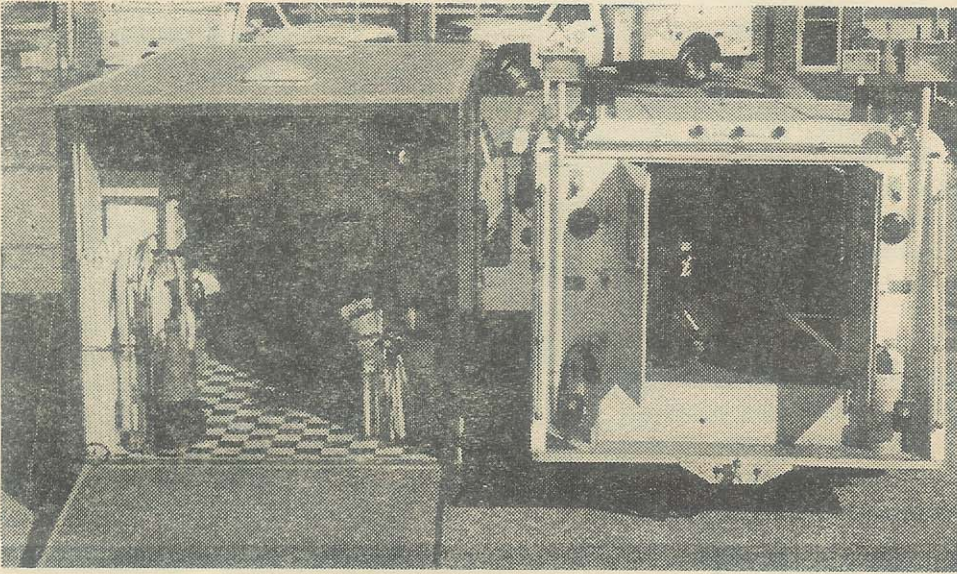
SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

By Steve Carden

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Rusty Williams

## MORRISTOWN EMERGENCY & RESCUE SQUAD



Morristown, Tennessee is the county seat of Hamblin County (Pop. Approx. 59,000) and is situated in East Tennessee, about 40 miles NE of Knoxville. The Morristown Emergency and Rescue Squad (MERS) was officially organized in 1955 as an off shoot of the local Rod & Gun Club. Local club members had heard of the nearby squads of Greeneville and Kingsport and felt the need existed for something similar locally.

In the beginning equipment was non existent. One of the squad's Charter member recounted that when they had a meeting, if you wanted something wanted something to sit on, you brought it yourself. If you went on a mission and wanted something to eat, well, you brought that too. Like most squads drowning

recoveries and lost person searches were the original missions. An old panel van and enough equipment to conduct operations were finally acquired and the crew assisted where needed. In the early years MERS participated in missions across Tennessee and traveled to Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and Kentucky to assist as well. (*Talk about road trips!!*).

In the late 1960's the MERS had assumed the ambulance service duties previously provided by the local funeral homes. In the beginning the calls and dispatching was handled by all volunteers. In the '70's many of MERS members were among the first to complete the EMT program. In fact one of the active members today has EMT license #092. The call

volume grew to the extent that by the early 80's the all volunteer crew found it difficult to keep up. At that point Morristown Hamblen EMS was formed with the squad remaining the parent company. Over the past 20 years that arrangement has worked well. Currently the Ambulance Authority Board is made up of local public safety, political, and business leaders. The MERS still has three representatives on the board. The EMS service is located at the squad's station and helps pay the utilities and insurance.

The MERS has members trained and equipped to perform Confined Space, Underwater Search & Recovery, Land Search, Swiftwater Operations, Trench, High Angle, and Vehicle Extrication Rescue.

(See Morristown, Page 3)

I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season. Sometimes this time of the year can be hard on the family, as we jump and run to answer the call for help just when our family needs us the most. That is just what we do, that is why we Volunteer. Take this time to say *Thank You* to your family for letting us care for so many. Without our family we could not do OUR jobs.

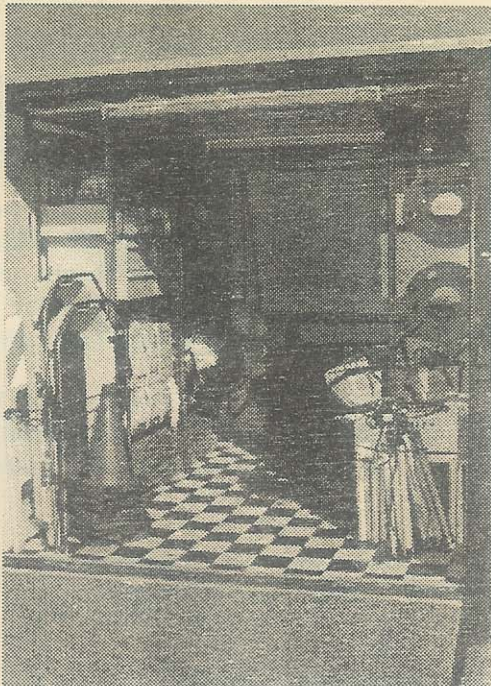
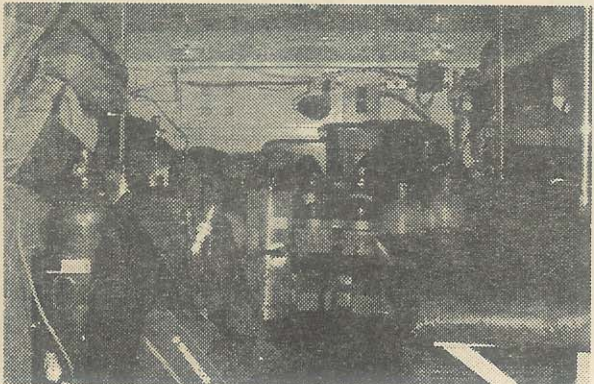
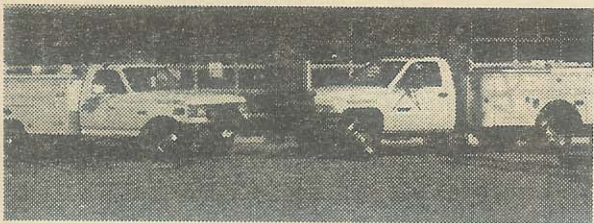
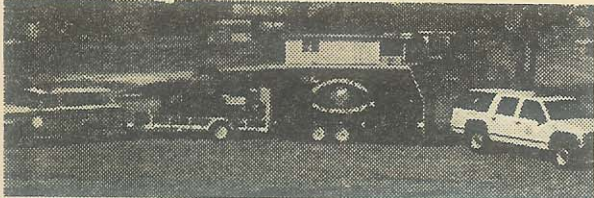
*Remember, this organization is run by those that show up. Get Involved!*

I would like to congratulate everyone who competed at this years convention in Franklin. I think every person that competes is a winner because they tried. We had a great Convention and fun was had by all, even with a few incriminating pictures on display. I would also like to say thank you for all the support the last few years and to ask for your support in the coming years. All of the Officers work hard at keeping our organization moving forward and we need your input and support to make this happen.

At our Convention I told everybody there of a few goals that I have as

(Con't on Page 2)





## EVENTS CALENDAR

### 2004 TARS MEETINGS

#### FEBRUARY REGION MTGS

- 2/07 SCOTT CO, VA.
- 2/14 LAFOLLETTE
- 2/21 BEDFORD CO
- 2/28 CARROLL CO

#### MARCH BOARD OF DIRECTOR MTG - 3/13 - COOKEVILLE, TN

#### JUNE REGION MEETINGS

- 6/05 BEAN STATION
- 6/12 FENTRESS CO
- 6/19 COOKEVILLE-PUTNAM Co
- 6/26 HENDERSON CO

#### JULY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 7/10 MURFREESBORO, TN

#### 2004 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Oct 6 - 9, MARRIOTT  
KNOXVILLE, TN

(Con't From Morristown Page 1)

The squad operates two fully equipped crash trucks, two suburbans, & a Jeep Cherokee as well as a one ton Ford truck with an enclosed bed to support the Water Rescue/Dive Team. A fleet of five boats rounds out the Water Rescue section. A 16 ft. enclosed trailer houses the unit's confined space and high angle equipment and also serves as a mobile command center when needed. A 6 x 6 Polaris ranger equipped with a litter, medical supplies, and winch allows the members access to rugged terrain if needed. The squad also has access to the EMS fleet of eight ambulances as well as a team of bike medics to assist with running events, mountain bike races or other public gatherings where it may be difficult to maneuver through crowds.

The squad maintains a membership level of around 70 members. This includes about 20 Explorers and Jr.

squad members, ranging in age from 14 - 20 years. While First Responder, Extrication, and EVOC are required levels of training, around 2/3's of the members are EMT-IV or Paramedics. Specialty rescue courses are also taken by most members and the squad maintains in-house instructors for most disciplines the squad responds to.

Funding for the unit totals around \$100,000 annually. About half comes from the local United Way with the other half being raised by the squad through fundraisers and private donations. The squad receives no money from the local government and all services are provided free of charge to the community.

The squad answers on average 125 calls each month. While most are wrecks and EMS assistance calls, the squad also

responds to all structure fires in the county to assist the Volunteer Fire Departments. A Thermal Imaging Camera is on board the primary crash truck which rolls on those calls. The remainder of calls include first aid standbys, water related calls, lost person and technical rescue calls. Of course on occasion the unusual call comes in. Captain Brian Robinson relates that from his earliest days in the unit a messed up call or a rescue that wasn't the norm was referred to by the older guys as a "goat roping".

Well, not to long ago a high angle rescue call required the team to rescue a wild orphan goat that was perched on a narrow ledge in a rock quarry about 75'

above the water filled basin and 35' down from the top. Three hours of playing 'Rope Rescue Cowboy' snatched the goat safely from it's precarious perch and landed the squad on the front page of the paper deemed heroes and humanitarians.

MERS seems blessed with a strong membership and a great group of youth training to carry the torch into the future. Plans are currently being made in conjunction with the EMS to build two substations in the county to provide even quicker response times. Strong community support and a proactive approach by the squad to be prepared for virtually any call is a formula for success as proven . . . even if the call involves "goat roping"!■



A portion of the costs of this newsletter has been provided for by VFIS of Tennessee



## STATE AND REGIONAL REPORTS

### TARS STATE VICE PRESIDENT

By B. J. Robbins

I hope everyone enjoyed this year's convention in Williamson County. I would like to thank everyone for their support and their vote in electing me as State Vice President. I will work for you; you are what makes this Association. If I can be of any help to any of you, I am just a phone call away. I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Hope to see everyone at the Region Meeting in February.

Let's try to get your members to attend the Rescue College Courses this next year. Morris will be setting up some different classes this year in each region. ■

### STATE HISTORIAN

By Jim Williamson

Thank you for allowing me to be your State Historian for the past two years and re-electing me for another term. I will do my best to represent you across this Great State of ours.

Thank you for making this a very successful convention in Franklin, we had thirteen entrants in the Scrapbook Competition. This was another big turn out. Congratulations to all of you, the competition is getting tougher each year. Start getting your scrapbooks together for next year as soon as you can. If I can help you please contact me. I look forward to seeing you at the Region Meetings. Thank you once again. ■

### REGION I VICE PRESIDENT

By Stacy E. Hickle

A new year is upon us and time for a New Year's resolution for all. Let us resolve to become more involved in our Rescue Squad's mission, Association, and training.

Region I will be hosting several Rescue College Classes this year. Region I meetings will be hosted by Scott County, Va. in February and Bean Station in June.

The 2004 Convention will be in Knoxville. I encourage everyone to attend the meetings and bring concerns to be discussed.

Region I needs members to get involved in the Honor Guard, contact State Chaplain Roy Goddard if you are interested.

Thank you for the hard work you do everyday to make TARS what it is. ■

(Pres. Message Con't from Page 1)

President. One of them is to get all Squads involved in our Organization. So, if you haven't been coming to any of the meetings, be forewarned, *We're Coming to See You*. TARS can only be as strong as WE make it, so get involved. Getting more people into training another goal. Without training we are only a bunch of good hearted Samaritans wearing

### REGION II VICE PRESIDENT

By Kenny Blaker

I would like to take this time to let everyone know that I look forward to serving you as your Region II Vice President for the upcoming year.

I would like to encourage everyone to participate in the Region II meetings. Our February meeting will be held in Campbell County and our June meeting will be held in Fentress County, if you can not attend these meetings please have your Captain and/or Unit Director attend. It is your Unit Director's responsibility to bring back any and all information to your squad.

For those who can not attend we do meet on very important issues at these times.

Our squad meetings can only be as strong as we make them by attending these meetings. Don't be left out Also at this time I would like to ask everyone participate in as many training classes

white coveralls that don't know anything about rescue. So get out and get the training you need to be an asset to your Squad and your community. The last goal is bringing business back into our business meetings. There is no need for our Directors driving across the State to a meeting that has nothing there for them to take back to the

as possible. Our squads in Region II are very strong, lets make them stronger by involving more members at these classes.

If you have not been able to enroll in one of our classes because of location or limit of students, please let me know as soon as possible.

We have introduced a new Building Collapse class and have had the first Basic Class go very well. To the people that did not get involved in the class I encourage you to watch for the next class coming up and sign up for it, this is a *very very good class* as they all are! Again I say, "*Train! Train! Train!, it makes us Strong! Strong! Strong!*"

I look forward to seeing all of you in February. Again *Thanks!* for electing me as your Region II Vice President.

*P. S. Feel free to call me any time.* ■

Squad members. With your help we can make these goals happen and keep TARS moving forward. I look forward to seeing each of you during the February travels. I am only a phone call away, any gripes, cries, or comments, please call me.

*Remember, this organization is run by those that show up. Get involved!* ■



## ANNUAL INSTRUCTOR I UPDATES

Updates will be conducted during the month of *April* at the location and date indicated in each region.

The updates will be broken down by time and subject as listed below. NOTE: The class structures has been modified with the EVOC update being presented first followed by the Bloodborne Pathogen update with Extrication finishing out the days training. If you teach only one discipline and are active in the TARS program, you may attend that portion of the update for your annual recert. Times and subject breakdown are as follows: *(All times local)*

*No Pre-Registration needed.*

- EVOC 9:00 am - 10:30 am
- Bloodborne Pathogen  
10:30 am - 11:30 am
- *(Lunch 11:30 - 12:30)*
- Extrication 12:30 - 4:00 pm

## NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER NAMED IN HONOR OF FRED O. BERRY, JR.

Federal Officials with the Homeland Security Department dedicated the nation's only center, to train specialists in handling fatalities involving weapons of mass destruction in Berry's name in December. Fred Berry, Jr. was an active member of TARS with the Knoxville Volunteer Rescue Squad before his death last February from complications following heart surgery.

Berry who was President of Berry Funeral Home in Knoxville had worked tirelessly both on the local

and national levels to train and prepare teams to deal with mass fatality incidents. He was the original commander of the Region 4 DEMORT (*Disaster Mortuary Response Team*) which encompassed eight southeastern states. Berry's work in various aircraft crashes, the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, and other large scale incidents had established a national reputation as one of the top people in the field. The "Fred O. Berry, Jr." Training Center is located in ~~Rock~~ Rock Hill, South Carolina.■

### INSTRUCTOR UP-DATES

4/03 Reg I - Morristown  
4/10 Reg II - Etowah Rescue  
4/17 Reg III - Rutherford Co Res  
4/24 Reg IV - Carroll Co Rescue

Visit the TARS WebSite on the Internet.  
Log on at . . .

**WWW.TNARS.ORG**