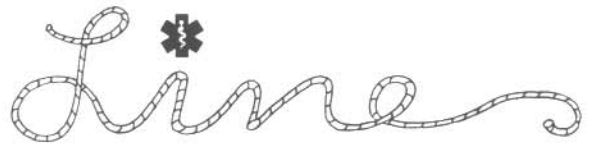




RESCUE



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS

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SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

By Steve Carden

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Johnny Tummins

HUMBOLDT AREA RESCUE SQUAD



Nearly a decade ago, an accident occurred in Humboldt, Tennessee involving a police cruiser and another car. The second vehicle's driver, later charged with DUI, was not seriously hurt. The police officer however, was not as fortunate.

At the time of the crash, there was no ambulance in Humboldt to respond to the accident. The Gibson County Ambulance assigned to Humboldt was tied up on another run at the time. The next closest Gibson County unit was twenty-three minutes away in Dyer, Tennessee. Several off duty volunteer firemen and EMS workers came to the scene to see if they could help. They found the officer in the wreckage with serious injuries to his lower extremities. To make matters worse, a fire had broken out and was growing larger by the minute threatening to engulf the cruiser. Working frantically, these volunteers along with other bystanders managed to gain entry into the vehicle. The officer was disentangled and pulled from the burning wreckage to safety. Suffering with severe fractures and various other injuries, the officer was tended to and made as

comfortable as possible while awaiting ambulance transport, which seemed to take forever.

These volunteers, several of whom were already involved in the local emergency response teams, had already been considering how to improve the level of rescue available to Humboldt and the surrounding area even before this accident. Now, this accident seemed to act as a catalyst to encourage these volunteers as well as several concerned citizens to form a local volunteer rescue squad to augment the other emergency services already in place. Instead of just complaining about the lack of a well trained quick response crash rescue unit close by, these volunteers decided to fix the problem. From this gathering the seeds were sown to create a local emergency unit.

A few months later in 1989 the Humboldt Area Rescue Squad (H.A.R.S.) was organized. With 10,000 people (almost a fourth of the county's population), Humboldt is the largest city in Gibson County located about 12 miles north of Jackson, Tennessee. While still a small city, many would argue that it would be virtually impossible to

garner the public attention and support to fund a new volunteer rescue agency. Apparently, the founders chose not to listen to that argument and went to work securing a truck and Amkus rescue equipment to serve as the unit's first crash truck.

Working initially from members' houses, the squad conducted yard sales and car parking services to raise needed funds. As the squad demonstrated its value to the community, local interest grew. Soon an older concrete block garage building and property were donated to the squad by Frank Warmath, a local attorney and businessman who shared the vision of the need of a local rescue squad. With its new home, the squad gained more visibility and continued its growth. In the fall of 1996 the squad realized a major dream with the completion of a 40' x 70' four bay building complete with a small meeting area and kitchen. Across these brief nine years equipment acquired includes; a 1989 Ford Super Duty Crash Truck equipped with a full complement of hydraulic rescue tools, air bags, SCBA, lights and generator, and front mounted
(See H.A.R.S. Page 2)

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Holiday Season. I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for your support and words of encouragement prior to, during, and after the convention. I will serve as your President to the best of my ability. I also want to thank those that attended the convention this year in Chattanooga.

Since the convention, your State Officers have been hard at work on some items for the new year. We have identified goals, came up with some solutions and worked out the bugs on some suggestions and ideas that the TARS membership has given to us. I know that we cannot make every member of our Association happy, but we are doing our best to make as many as possible happy and positive about the Association.

If you have an idea or suggestion for our Association, please contact me or one of the other State Officers. We may or may not be able to use it but we will take a look at it.

"I encourage you to attend your Region Meetings and bring some squad members that have never attended."

I am looking forward to seeing you during the February travels and Region Meetings. I encourage you to attend your Region Meeting and bring some squad members that have never attended. If you know someone that has not been to one in a while, encourage them to come also. If I or any of the State Officers can be of help to you, please feel free to call upon us.■

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORTS

STATE VICE PRESIDENT, RON SMITH

I would like to thank you the members of TARS for electing me as your Vice-President. I hope everyone enjoyed the convention this year and you are making plans to attend this year in Knoxville. Congratulations to all the teams who entered the competitions this year. I hope each squad will bring new members to the Region Meetings and convention in 1998. We need to get our new members involved in the Association in every way we can. We need to continue to grow in order to keep our Association strong. The more we involve our young people the better chance we have of keeping them active and as members.

As you can see from the November mailing on the TARS Instructor I program we are working on strengthening our squad level instructors. The quality of the instruction we receive is an important factor in any course we take.

If anyone has an idea for training that you feel we need to look at, please let Morris Simpson or myself know and we will see if the Association can do it.

As many of you know we have several squads who now have specialized teams such as dive rescue, high angle, trench, and confined space. I hope that each squad will call upon these teams for assistance when needed and use their skills and knowledge to your benefit. If you don't have these teams in your squad, check to see who does and work with them. Not everyone has the time to certify for a special team but we can train to assist or help on all call outs. Remember, we are all working for a common goal to help the citizens of our areas.

If I can be of assistance to anyone, please give me a call. If I don't know the answer I will find it and get back to you. Again, thanks and I am looking forward to seeing each of you sometime during the year, at the meetings, or while traveling through the regions. ■



A FAMILY TRADITION. Three generations of the Blair family are represented in the LaVergne Rescue Unit in Rutherford County. Dana, Roy, and Martin Blair are loyal members of this squad and the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads. Photo by: Bill Sowell, TARS Historian



(H.A.R.S. Con't from Page 1)

winch. A fully licensed ambulance complete with drug kit and defibrillator is operated by the squad also to assist the EMS service as needed. The ambulance also carries a second set of hydraulic rescue tools as a back up to the crash truck. A squad car equipped with defibrillator and medical kit provides an additional medical response vehicle as well. Two buses (one large, one small) round out the units rolling stock and serve on extended missions as a mobile kitchen and command post respectively.

The H.A.R.S. has about fifty members, nearly half of which are trained as Medical First Responder to Paramedic level. Nearly everyone is certified in vehicle extrication as well. The squad's annual budget is typically a modest \$30,000. The vast majority of the funds (around 85%) are still raised through public donations. It is hoped that a local

United Way chapter will provide additional funding in the future.

The H.A.R.S. provides service across the entire south end of Gibson County. They also link up with Gibson County Fire and Rescue and the Gibson Tri-Squad Rescue Unit (both of which are also TARS members) to provide an effective mutual aid arrangement for the entire county. It's pretty impressive to have come so far in only a short time.

In fact, with the 10th Anniversary only a little more than a year away, the squad is completely debt free. The squad already has its sights set on adding an 800 sq. ft. addition to their building. It will serve as a training and meeting room.

Now . . . many would argue that it would be virtually impossible. . . Here's one that bets that they do it. ■

REGION II VICE PRESIDENT PAUL ROLEN

We have just completed another excellent convention. I hope that every one had a good time. We need to thank the host squads of Hamilton County for all the work that they put into making this convention successful. Everyone needs to start making plans to be with us in Knoxville in October 1998. Maybe we will have a record attendance in Knoxville.

As we move into 1998, I would like to thank the members from all across the state for the outstanding support you have shown to all the State Officers. As long as I have been a member of the Association I cannot remember a year when the Officers have ran unopposed. This speaks very highly of the confidence that you the members place in our leadership. We will try to address the problems that you bring to us in a timely manner. If you have problems do not hesitate to call on any of your State Officers for assistance.

I hope that as the New Year comes along that everyone will continue to work together. I hope that everyone continues to grow and expand their services. We are one of the top rescue associations in the country. Let us continue to move forward. I hope that everyone has a *Safe and Happy Holiday Season!*

ERRORS AND CORRECTIONS

In the last issue of "Rescue Line" the article entitled "An Olympic Reflection" recognized the efforts of many squads involved in the Whitewater events conducted on the Ocoee River during the Olympics. We failed to recognize the *West Polk Fire and Rescue Unit* in the article and apologize for this oversight. Many of their members were involved in the planning, preparation, and execution of the fire and rescue services provided during this international event. We hope there were no additional omissions but realize that many people participated in this event that we may be unaware of. To everyone who did we offer a sincere thank you and congratulations for your contribution in making the event a success. The myriad of personnel and agencies involved worked together to represent Tennessee at the highest level.

The Editor.

EVENTS CALENDAR

1998 TARS MEETINGS

FEBRUARY REGION MTG

REG I BRISTOL 2/07
 REG II FENTRESS CO 2/14
 REG III CANNON CO 2/21
 REG IV SHELBY CO 2/28

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCH 21 - COOKEVILLE
 JULY 18 - MURFREESBORO

1998 ANNUAL CONVENTION

OCT 1,2,3, & 4 - KNOXVILLE

RESCUE COLLEGE

MANAGING SEARCH OPS
 JAN 12 - 16 - PIGEON FORGE

INSTRUCTOR I W/VEHICLE
 EXTRICATION MODULE
 JAN 30 - FEB 1 BRADLEY
 COUNTY RESCUE

BASIC VISUAL TRACKING
 MAR 10 - 12 FALL CREEK
 FALLS

ADVANCED EXTRICATION
 MAR 13 - 15 - MANCHESTER

EVOC INSTRUCTOR MODULE
 ONLY - MAR 21- COOKEVILLE

BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN
 INSTRUCTOR MODULE ONLY
 MAR 21 - COOKEVILLE

RESCUE SYSTEMS I
 Part A - APR 3 - 5
 Part B- APR 17-19 - KNOXVILLE

BASIC VISUAL TRACKING
 APR 14 16 CHICKASAW STATE
 PARK

ANNUAL INST. I UPDATES

REG I APR 4 Morristown
 REG II APR 11 Etowah
 REG III APR 18 Rutherford Co
 REG IV APR 25 Carroll Co

Specific information regarding meetings and training will be mailed to each TARS unit usually 30 days in advance. Training classes and dates are subject to cancellations or rescheduling.

RESCUE SYSTEMS I COURSE TO BE OFFERED IN TARS RESCUE COLLEGE

The Rescue Systems I course curriculum as developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Fire Administration has been adopted for the use by TARS in our regional rescue college system. The 40 hour course will be conducted in two 20 hour weekend class segments with attendance at both segments required for applicants. The course is designed to provide students with the ability to apply basic search and rescue skills, approach rescue situations safely, and understand the organizational concerns at a structural collapse incident. Planning, safety, basic rope and knots, emergency shoring, breaching techniques, and lifting heavy objects are some of the modules included in the course.

The courses was originally designed by the California State Fire Marshall's Fire Service Training and Education System. The National Fire Academy later refined

and expanded the course to its current production. The Rescue Systems I course is the basic training level used by current FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Teams(USAR). Successful completion of this course will be required for accepted applicants for the East Tennessee Search and Rescue Task Force, which is currently organizing under the TARS specialized regional team concept.

The first class will be limited to 30 applicants and is scheduled to be conducted in Knoxville for the following dates: April 3-5, April 17-19, 1998. Considering the length of the course and the amount of expendable materials expected to be used, the fee schedule is held to reasonable levels of \$125 for TARS members and \$250 for Non-TARS members. Additional courses are expected to be offered later this year and if successful the course may become a permanent offering under the TARS Rescue College system.■

CAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WINS STATE ESSAY CONTEST

Many times you wonder what impression you leave on others as you commit your time to the Rescue Squad. You know it's important and something that you love dearly, but does your family, your friends, and the general public understand your commitment? Sometimes at least, they do. The following essay was the first place winner in a statewide high school contest sponsored by the Tennessee Chapter for Public Administration. The assigned topic was "Identify a public servant you admire and describe the sacrifices associated with that person's career." Annie Presson's First Place essay was about her father's work with the Benton County Rescue Squad and is presented in its entirety as follows:

DWAYNE PRESSON

My dad's commitment to community service began twelve years ago. On March 1, my family and I returned home to find our driveway full of cars, blue and red lights flashing from emergency vehicles that blocked the entrance to our driveway. Shock and fear entered our minds as dad got out of the car to find out what was happening. Our twelve year old neighbor was believed to have drowned in the ice covered pond across the road from my house. My dad immediately went to offer his assistance.

The Benton County Rescue Squad had brought a boat and drags and was breaking the ice and dragging for Kevin's body. My mom, brother, and I sat glued to the window waiting for news. A short time later, several men came in sight carrying a stretcher covered with a sheet and loaded the body into the waiting ambulance.

My dad came to the house, told us the terrible news and shared how wonderful the Rescue Squad had been in finding Kevin's body. The next day my dad got an application and applied for membership to join the Rescue Squad.

This changed our lives forever. My dad became a faithful and dedicated member of the Rescue Squad. He has been a member for twelve years now and rescue is his number one priority. He carries a beeper and scanner everywhere and has a special radio that keeps him in constant twenty-four hour contact with the law officials and 911 dispatchers.

It doesn't matter if we are in the middle of a meal, if it is two o'clock in the morning, raining, storming, sunny, hot, or cold; if the beeper sounds, my dad is out the door and on his way to help rescue people. One time, I remember when dad

DEKALB COUNTY SQUAD PURCHASES UNDERWATER CAMERA SYSTEM

The Smithville-Dekalb County Rescue Squad purchased an underwater camera system earlier this year, according to squad member U. L. LaFever. LaFever, who is the Captain of the Smithville unit reported that the camera is a TOV 1, made by J. W. Fisher Corporation, which can operate in depths of up to 150 feet. Other features of the system includes the ability to be used in a towed fashion behind a boat or in a fixed stable situation. The camera employs a low light lens system but can be aided by attached lighting in dark water conditions when needed.

The camera system cost in excess of \$8,000 and was entirely funded through public and private donations. The squad hopes the camera system will aid them in missions on Center Hill Lake and in mutual aid missions with other units.■

was gone the Fourth of July, dragging for a teenage girl that drowned. Another time he was gone on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day looking for an elderly man that had wandered away from his home. Our family gets put on hold a lot; my dad says "what if it were us - we would want someone to help."

My dad is fully trained in all areas of rescue. He is on call twenty-four hours a day and never receives a penny of money for his work. The Benton County Rescue Squad is a non-profit organization and membership is on a volunteer basis. Instead of being paid, it costs my dad money to be in the Rescue Squad. He has to pay for all his uniforms, training sessions, books for classes, and keeping certificates updated. He is trained in CPR, First Aid, land search rescue, water rescue, trench rescue, and vehicle extrication. All of his training meets county, state, and OSHA requirements.

My dad is also Captain of the Benton County Rescue Squad. He has a lot more responsibilities than just a member. He is in charge of thirty-five members and oversees all rescue missions to be sure they are performed as quickly as possible.

(See Essay Page 4)

(Essay con't)

He is responsible for seeking new members, establishing fund raisers so the Rescue Squad will have enough funds for operating expenses, holding monthly meetings, seeing that all equipment is working properly at all times, that paper work is filled out and filed correctly, and all bills are paid. He attends regional and state meetings at his own expenses to keep informed of all changes and laws that might affect the Rescue Squad. He even cleans the Squad building and mows the grass.

My dad has a lot of responsibility in the upkeep of the emergency vehicles. The squad has three boats for water rescue, two emergency equipped vehicles for extrication, a van and a truck, along with other equipment such as generators and "Jaws of Life". This equipment must be in top operating shape at all times.

My dad also holds a full time job. He uses a lot of his vacation days to fulfill his commitment to the Rescue

Squad. When emergencies such as a tornado hits nearby, or the terrible ice storm of a few years ago, my dad works around the clock until the rescue is finished. During the recent flooding, he even helped in the rescue of a family cat that was stranded by high water.

There have been times when my dad comes home from a rescue mission and we can tell it has really gotten to him. One time he spent over eight hours helping rescue a Church Van load of teenagers that had wrecked. Some were dead and some injured severely. The temperature was near one hundred degrees and it was a gruesome task. Another time was when my dad helped rescue a mother and baby that had drowned in a boating accident. The list goes on and on and my dad just says, "I wish there had been more we could have done to help". My dad has helped rescue a lot of my friends from car accidents. Most survive, but some don't make it. Just this Spring, my dad helped simulate a mock

accident and present it to the Camden Central High School students the day before the Prom. The goal was to try to help the students have a safe and drinking free Prom. The mock accident involved two families and alcohol use. A baby and mother were killed in the accident. This was really an eye opener for a lot of teenagers.

My dad is also very conscious of every safety precaution there is. He constantly stresses wearing seat belts, keeping small children in restraint devices, driving the speed limit, wearing life jackets, wearing safety glasses, and wearing a helmet when riding a bicycle or an all terrain vehicle.

My dad is a great person, hard worker, and dedicated to rescuing people, no matter the situation, time of day, or family event he misses. Rescue is his number one goal and he will be there when the beeper sounds and he knows someone's life might be in danger. My dad is also involved in other community

activities and services. He works closely with the United Way of Middle Tennessee, Cancer Relay For Life, serves on the County water committee, helps coach a Dixie League Baseball team, Trustee in our church, and serves on a disaster plan committee for Benton County.

Dwayne Presson is a very special person, committed and dedicated to community service. His thoughtfulness and caring of people are shown through his everyday actions. He can be summed up with four D's - Desire, Dedication, Discipline, and Determination that the Benton County Rescue Squad will serve all the people of Benton County in the highest capacity when the need arises. ■

Our congratulations go to Annie for her writing skills and insight. Our congratulations also go to Dwayne (undoubtedly the proud father) for serving as an example in his community and state. : Editor



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

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Heavy Rescue Vehicle, 1980 Chevrolet C70, 2 1/2 Ton Unit, 5 SP Trans, W/2 SP Rear End, 14700 Actual Miles, 10,000 lb. Winch, Custom Bed, Complete W/Lights & Siren. \$10,500 - Contact: Bell County Rescue Squad (606) 248-7444 (leave message)



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