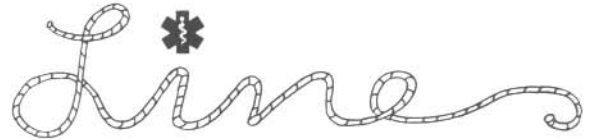




RESCUE



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS

*PUBLISHED BI-ANNUALLY *

1999

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

By Steve Carden

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Johnny Tummins

JOHNSON COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD AND E.M.S.



Most Tennesseans have heard the phrase 'from Mountain City to Memphis' describing the Volunteer State's great length. But when quizzed as to where each city is located, the majority know the whereabouts of Memphis, but are uncertain of just exactly where Mountain City is. Well folks, we will now revisit that Tennessee geography lesson that you dozed through back in high school.

Mountain City is the county seat of Johnson County (pop.14,500) which lies in the uppermost northeast tip of the State of Tennessee. Nestled in the Appalachian mountain range, Mountain City is a beautiful one hour +/- drive from the Johnson City area. For the Johnson County Rescue Squad and EMS (JCRSEMS) unit, that beautiful 50 mile trek to either Johnson City or Boone, North Carolina represents a challenge, since that is where the nearest hospitals are.

Time and distance aside, emergency medical care today is a far cry from what it was over 30 years ago when the JCRSEMS (originally the Johnson County Emergency and Rescue Squad) first chartered. In 1967, the local funeral home provided what ambulance

transportation that was available in Johnson County. When the Rescue Squad organized, the funeral home was quick to donate a vehicle to the squad to help usher them into the world of ambulance transport. Starting out in the 1960's with an all volunteer crew, the JCRSEMS soon faced the changes brought about by the EMS act in the 1970's and subsequent regulations. Those changes combined with the increased expectations of the public with each passing decade thereafter has caused the squad to evolve into a modern EMS service today.

Major changes the squad has had to endure included one of the most emotional issues an all volunteer unit could possibly face . . . conversion to a combination volunteer/paid membership. It wasn't easy but faced with the number of units, trained personnel, and administrative support required to operate a county wide EMS service, the squad was left with little choice. I would venture to say that a strong and deeply embedded determination is what allowed the JCRSEMS to overcome the volunteer staff/paid staff arguments, the free service vs. billed service arguments; the extra strain of their squad building being destroyed by a

nearby propane explosion, and to top that off (if you can), a flurry of Fair Labor Standard Act lawsuits/complaints filed by some disgruntled employees. Would you have thrown your hands up? Many people would have . . . these folks didn't. Instead they rolled their sleeves up and took on the problems one by one. Over time they had adopted one set of by-laws to operate by, that applied equally to paid or volunteer members. They built a modern new facility, settled their employee complaints, and developed a system which allows volunteer members to pull duty integrated with paid personnel. In addition, properly trained volunteers have first opportunity at paid positions as they become available if they are interested.

Currently the JCRSEMS operates a fleet of seven ambulances, one crash rescue truck, and three boats. The newest arrival is a 1999 Freightliner 70 series crash truck. This beauty features diesel power coupled with an Allison automatic transmission. The 14' custom rescue bed houses a full complement of Hurst hydraulic rescue tools, air bags, SCBA's, and a host of medical gear for EMS support. Two unique features are a 15kw PTO driven generator to

(See Page 2)

It appears that we had another successful convention considering all the construction that was around us. An item that was also successful was the Aid to Squad program. Thank you to all the squads that donated items for the giveaway, especially to Monroe County Rescue Squad for the donation of the ambulance and boats. All the items donated were all given out. If you have anything at your squad you want to donate please contact me about it.

"An item that was also successful was the aid to Squad Program."

I want to encourage you to attend your region meetings this year and enjoy the fellowship with the squads that attend. Bring someone new to the meetings with your regular attendees. I will also be bringing my bucket with me to all region meetings to accept donations for the Rambling Rescue run for the money race. Last year's winner won \$301.00. Let's make things interesting and triple that amount !!!

I would also like to take this time to say a *BIG* thank you to all of those that supported my re-election. It's truly an honor to serve this association as an officer.

If I can ever be of service to you, please feel free to call on me. Hope to see you at the region meetings. Until then, may God richly bless you and your families. ■

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORTS

1998 ANNUAL CONVENTION CONTEST AND AWARD REVIEW

VICE PRESIDENT BY RON SMITH

First, I would like to thank everyone for re-electing me as your TARS Vice-President. I hope everyone who attended the convention enjoyed it. I believe everything went extremely well this year. My congratulations to all the teams who competed at the convention. Everyone done an excellent job.

Let's hope this year is not as bad as last year with the weather. Let's all keep our training up-to-date, so we can continue to serve the people of our State to the highest level possible.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone on the travels this year. Until then I hope everyone has a great year.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY ROY GODDARD

The State Officers have received some suggestions for TARS to establish an Honor or Color Guard, that would be available to respond to the request of member squads. The purpose of such a guard would be to serve at graveside services of squad members, or to serve at any meeting or event where Honor or Color Guards could be properly used.

After some discussion the State Officers determined it would be more practical for a guard to be organized in each region. This would minimize time and distance in travel for the guards members.

This project can only be successful if enough interest is shown and some twelve to sixteen members in each region are willing to volunteer as members of these regional honor guards.

Please, consider this project and look for more information in coming months. If you have questions or wish to show support for this project check with your Region Vice President.

Thanks.

The 43rd Annual Convention held this past October in Knoxville was well attended. Participation in the various contests was outstanding with over 50 teams competing. The contest ranged from the serious (i.e. Vehicle Extrication) to the not so serious (Rambling Rescue Race) mixing both fun and a learning experience for the competing teams. We wish to commend and congratulate everyone who took the time and made the effort to field a team. Your energy and dedication is what makes our organization so special. We also want to recognize

those teams and individuals that place in the contests or received a special recognition award. These winners are as follows:

CONTESTS

- 'EXTRICATION WINNERS CIRCLE':
1st - Morristown Rescue Squad
2nd - Bledsoe Co Rescue Squad
3rd - Meigs Co Emerg. Services

- 'BASIC EXTRICATION':
1st - Bledsoe Co Rescue Squad
2nd - Hardeman Co Rescue Sq.
3rd - Blount Co Rescue Squad
4th - Meigs Co Emerg. Services
5th - Cannon Co Rescue Squad

- 'RESCUE CHALLENGE':
1st - Johnson City Rescue Sq
2nd - Waldens Ridge Emer. Ser.
3rd - Blount Co Rescue Squad
(See Back Page)



(Con't from Page 1)

provide scene lighting and power (being PTO driven, little room is required for the generator) and the 8000# Ramsey electric winch system. The winch incorporates receiver hitch points on all four sides of the vehicle and can be removed and relocated as needed versus having to reposition the crash truck. The truck was delivered shortly after the convention this year by Chief's Fire and Rescue out of North Carolina. This year the JCRSEMS will log around 4,000 missions and require a \$650,000 annual budget. Over 90% of the operating budget is generated through billing with the bulk of payments being through medicare or private insurance. Less than

10% of revenue comes from the county/city government or fund raising means. The membership is a mix of 22 volunteers, 10 full time paid, and 6 part-time paid. "It's a full time business that takes a lot of money to run," said Paul Anderson, EMS Director. Many of us would have liked to have always had an all volunteer totally free service, but it just became impossible over the years. Our volunteer members contribute a great deal to the service and community keeping the costs down, and we are all committed to providing our county a first class non-profit service. The biggest obstacle we face is with 50 miles of crooked roads to our primary hospitals, it sometimes takes a crew

3-4 hours to complete one call," Anderson added.

Well, I guess you can't have everything . . . but cool, crisp, clean mountain air, beautiful scenery and some of the greatest meals (provided by the Johnson County crewettes) every time I have had the opportunity to visit, more than offsets the long crooked roads. Anyway, if a patient transport requires it, there's always the option of the aeromedical service now operating out of the TriCities area.

You remember . . . don't you? . . . A straight line is the shortest distance between two points . . . you couldn't have slept through that class too!■

EVENTS CALENDAR

1999 TARS MEETINGS

REGION MEETINGS

Feb 6 - Reg I - CHURCH HILL
Feb 13 - Reg II - BRADLEY CO
Feb 20 - Reg III - DICKSON CO
Feb 27 - Reg IV - WEAKLEY CO

DIRECTORS MEETINGS

MARCH 13 - COOKEVILLE
JULY 17 - MURFREESBORO

1999 ANNUAL CONVENTION

SEPT 30 - OCT 2 - NASHVILLE

RESCUE COLLEGE

FARM RESCUE - JAN 29 - 31
CHURCH HILL, TN

****MANAGING SEARCH OPS**
JAN 25 - 29, LOCALE T.B.A.

****BASIC VISUAL TRACKING**
MAR 2-4, LOCALE T.B.A.

INSTRUCTOR I - MAR 5 - 7
JOHNSON CITY, TN

INST I, BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN, &
EVOC MODULES - MAR 13
COOKEVILLE, TN

****BASIC VISUAL TRACKING**
APR 12 - 14, LOCALE T.B.A.

SWIFTWATER I - JUN 11 - 13
OCOEE RIVER, POLK CO, TN

DIVE RESCUE - JUL 9 - 11
DECHERD, TN

SWIFTWATER I - JUL 30-AUG 1
OCOEE RIVER, POLK CO, TN

SWIFTWATER II - AUG 20 - 22
HIWASSEE/TELLICO RIVER

SWIFTWATER II - SEPT 10 - 12
HIWASSEE/TELLICO RIVER

****ADVANCED VISUAL TRACK**
OCT 11 - 15, LOCALE T.B.A.

***These classes are offered through
TEMA. Contact your local EMA
Director or Regional TEMA office
for application details.*

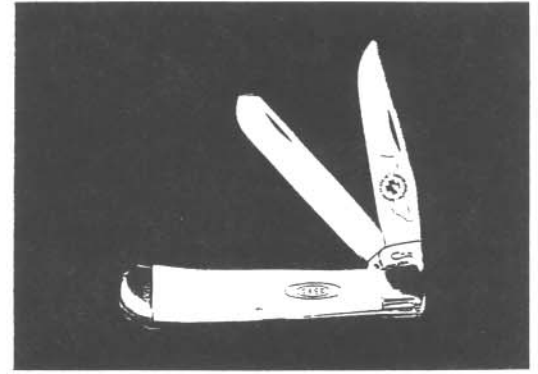
INSTRUCTOR I UPDATES

Reg I - Apr 3 - Morristown
Reg II - Apr 10 - Etowah
Reg III - Apr 17 - Rutherford Co
Reg IV - Apr 24 - 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.

TARS COLLECTOR KNIFE NOW AVAILABLE

A new merchandise item is now available from the Association. It is a collector pocket knife, made by CASE in the trapper knife style. The knife has white handles and features the TARS logo in two colors laser etched on the large blade of the two blade knife. Each knife has a registered number imprinted on the bolster and a permanent record is kept of the squad or member who purchased the knife. Only 500 of these special knives were custom made. They are priced at \$40 each and will be available at the Region Meetings or may be ordered through the State Office, with an additional \$5 shipping and handling charge. On larger mail orders postal insurance is available for an extra fee.



KNIFE: * CASE (TRAPPER)
* WHITE HANDLES
* 2-BLADE
* T.A.R.S. LOGO ON LARGE BLADE
* REGISTERED NUMBER
* PRICE: \$40.00

TRAINING AND SAFETY

TURNOUT GEAR . . .

DO WE HAVE TO WEAR THAT STUFF?

BY STEVE FROST

An issue has risen again that I thought had been put to rest; TURNOUT GEAR! I thought everyone had pretty much concluded that turnout gear is hot and bulky, but we must wear it for safety purposes. During vehicle extrication, or any other appropriate situation, FULL TURNOUT GEAR SHOULD ABSOLUTELY BE WORN!

Turnout gear is designed for *your* protection! Proper protection and safety for our members should be our number one concern. Responding to a motor vehicle accident with fuel, glass, blood, sharp edges, etc. requires full turnout gear. The comment "this stuff is hot!" brings me to four points for your consideration: *Liability, Image, Professionalism, and Overexertion.*

LIABILITY- Those of you in leadership positions can be held liable for not enforcing safety. Standards for protective clothing and equipment have been established. The Standard mandates that emergency personnel use the appropriate protective gear when in a hazardous area.

IMAGE - Image means money. If you can improve your image, you can improve your funding (Is there anyone out there that does not need and want more money?). People like to feel good about the organization they support. Remember the commercial a few years ago when the guy said "Image is everything". That guy was right! Look at the military and their image. All of the trucks and equipment are the same color and all of the soldiers have on the same uniforms. Everyone and everything is crisp and clean. Remember Desert Storm and how proud you felt to be a part of this country! That's the feeling you need to capture for your organization!

PROFESSIONALISM - Compare Rescue Squad A responding to a motor vehicle accident with 5 guys in street clothes vs. Rescue Squad B responding in full matching turnout gear. Which Squad looks the most professional? Besides looks, there is another reason Squad B wears the gear and that one is safety. Image, safety, and training makes Rescue Squad B truly professional. Which one would you give money to and support?

OVEREXERTION - We must first realize that 99.9% of us are not in the physical shape to do the things we are trying to do. If you respond and think with your emotions, you will overexert ("get hot") and become exhausted. We now have two problems, the emergency and you! We need to *slow down* so we can complete the task. Work in teams and think with your mind not your emotions. Pace yourself and conserve your energy. Wear proper protective equipment and try not to overexert.

Think about your image, think about your safety, and think about your ability to complete the task. ■

About the author: Steve Frost works for an insurance company that has specialized in insuring emergency services for over 30 years. VFIS handles over 18,000 claims per year involving injury, liability, and equipment safety.

(Con't from Page 2)

■ 'EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE':

- 1st - Morristown Rescue Squad
- 2nd - Chattanooga Rescue Sq
- 3rd - Kingsport LifeSaving Cre

■ 'EMERGENCY DRIVING':

- 1st - Jerry Privitt, Humboldt Area Rescue Squad.
- 2nd - Clancy Bryson, Cleveland-Bradley Co Rescue Services.
- 3rd - Debbie Strickland, Montgomery Co Rescue Sq

■ 'SCRAPBOOK':

- 1st - Rutherford Co Rescue Sq
- 2nd - Scott Co Rescue Squad
- 3rd - Humboldt Area Rescue Sq

■ 'RAMBLING RESCUE APPEARANCE':

- 1st - Morristown Rescue Squad
- 2nd - Union Co Rescue Squad
- 3rd - Hardeman Co Rescue Sq

■ 'RAMBLING RESCUE RACE':

- 1st - Hawkins Co Rescue Squad
- 2nd - Hardeman Co Rescue Sq
- 3rd - Sevier Co Rescue Squad

AWARDS

■ 'JOHN STILES AWARD':

- * Dalton Bagwell of Dover-Stewart Co Rescue Squad.

■ 'COSTO MCGEE AWARD':

- * Donnie Hawkins of Hawkins County Rescue Squad.

■ 'LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD':

- * Robert Arnold of Kingsport LifeSaving Crew.
- * James Smith of Morristown Rescue Squad & EMS.

■ 'HUGH 'SKIP' TROTTER AWARD':


- * Junior Godsey (posthumously) of Kingsport LifeSaving Crew.

■ 'JULIAN S. WISE AWARD':

- * Dyer County Rescue Squad.

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TARS
WEBSITE
AT

WWW.TNARS.ORG



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



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