



RESCUE



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS

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SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

By Steve Carden

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ron Smith

DECATUR COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD



Decatur County (pop. 11,731) is situated in southwestern Tennessee along the Tennessee River. With over 30 miles of shoreline along the Tennessee River and Kentucky Lake, the Decatur County Rescue Squad (DCRS) was formed in 1964 primarily as a water rescue & recovery unit. Originally three counties (Henderson, Decatur, & Perry) combined to form what was called the 'Tri-County Rescue Squad', but soon recognized the need for each county to organize independently.

The primary order of business for the eleven original members was to raise funds and secure equipment to perform their mission. The first fundraiser netted \$136 by raffling a donated lawnmower. The squad's first piece of

equipment was a used boat, motor, & trailer. Members pulled the boat with personal vehicles until a station wagon was furnished by local businesses in 1966. The members worked hard establishing the unit in the community and continued building on the initial success. Three of the original eleven members are still in the squad.

Today the DCRS has about 55 members (including 20 inactive) and has seen its role extend to include vehicle rescue and land search operations in addition to its water mission. A 7500 sq. ft. building located in Parsons houses the majority of the crew's equipment. The squad is dispatched by 911 to all wrecks with injury and for assistance to EMS or Law Enforcement as needed. A typical year sees over 700

calls logged. The water mission is answered with two Rescue One Boats and a Pontoon Boat for support and command functions. Two 4 x 4 Broncos serve as tow vehicles and for off road missions or EMS support during severe road conditions. The search component of the squad includes eight (8) K-9s, trained in tracking by air scent, to support the Visual Tracking Team in Land Search operations. Two Crash Rescue Units provide the Vehicle Extrication capability for the county. The newest is a 1999 2-ton Chevrolet with a custom rescue bed. Equipped with Hurst hydraulics, airbags, cribbing, hand tools, chainsaw, and onboard generator and lighting, the unit serves as the squad's primary rescue unit. A

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As we go into the summer months, it is time for us to start thinking about this year's convention. Time to get our teams ready for the convention. I hope everyone is looking forward to attending this year's convention in Pigeon Forge. As always I am looking forward to seeing each of you.

I know it is a very busy time for a lot of you and I want to take this time to say "thank you" to all of you for allowing me to serve as your State President these past two years. All the years I have had the opportunity to serve as an officer have been great.

This year I had the privilege to go to Washington and meet with our Representatives from Tennessee and talk about the great things that each of you do to help the people of your counties and communities.

As always the officers enjoyed meeting with you during the region travels. We continue to see great improvements in your equipment and buildings. Keep up the good work and may God bless each of you.

Thought for the day:
Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that amateurs built the Ark. Professionals built the Titanic. ■

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORTS

(DCRS cont.)

second crash truck about half the size but similarly equipped, is housed in the south end of the county in cooperation with a volunteer fire department to provide timely response county wide.

Training required for the members includes Vehicle Extrication, Infectious Disease Control, EVOC, and Haz-Mat classes. The DCRS operates on a very modest budget typically totaling around \$30,000 a year.

Funding has evolved over the years to be made up of about 50% being raised by the squad by a countywide mailout. Local government provides about 30% and the remaining 20% is furnished by the corporate sponsorship of Vulcan Materials and an appropriation from the United Way.

With almost 40 years of service the DCRS is still moving forward expanding and improving. The squad

building is now equipped with a 65kw back up generator system to power the entire building. This enables the building to serve as a back up communications center for the 911 system and can feed and shelter the local emergency service workers during a extended power failure. A 3-4 day ice storm power interruption demonstrated the need for such a back up source and was a definite motivator in its implementation.

The latest step for the unit is the creation of a Junior Squad for young people who are interested in learning more about rescue management. Of course it requires a parent or guardian in the squad to be responsible and involves the Juniors in non-emergency roles. DCRS realizes if cultivated properly the rewards can be generous for future membership and to continue the valuable services the people of Decatur County rely on. ■



Left to right (Standing) Steve Carden, Rusty Williams, Ron Smith (TARS Officers), Congressman Hillary, Ed Kay (TN Fire Chiefs Assn), Kenny M^cFarland (TN Fireman Assn), George Young (TARS). (Front seated) Pat Patterson, Doug Warren, B. J. Robbins, Wayne Cole (TARS Officers) & Ricky Walker (TN Fireman Assn)

TARS REPRESENTED IN WASHINGTON D. C.

TARS Officers traveled to Washington D. C. in April to attend the National Fire and Emergency Service Institutes annual conference. Over a thousand emergency personnel from across the nation were in attendance for the event.

The Tennessee group took the opportunity to meet with Tennessee legislators while in Washington. TARS Officers stressed the need to continue

and expand the Federal Grant programs and consider incentives for the recruitment and retention of volunteers in the emergency services.

A productive meeting was enjoyed with Congressman Van Hillary of Tennessee's 4th Congressional District. Congressman Hillary has always demonstrated a strong affection and commitment for the

emergency services. He has also recently announced his intention to run for Governor in the next election.

While in Washington the Officers also had the opportunity to meet with the Association's Trademark Attorney regarding legal issues pertaining to allowing the use of the Association logo. ■

IN MEMORY

Ronnie Ward 1982 - 2000
Lauderdale Co Rescue Squad

Don Satterfield 1963 - 2000
Jefferson Co Rescue Squad

Hubert Dugger 1959 - 2001
Roane County Rescue Squad

Adam Allred 1998 - 2001
Clay County Rescue Squad

Roger Riddle 1985 - 2000
Pickett County Rescue Squad

Johnny Lemons 1964 - 2001
Rhea County Rescue Squad

Bill Fox 1958 - 2001
Loudon County Rescue Squad

Tim Bushart 1994 - 2000
Crockett Co rescue Squad

James Markwood 1993 - 2001
Fentress Co Rescue Squad

William Finch 1974 - 2001
LaVergne Rescue Unit

Norma May 1970 - 2001
Lauderdale Co Rescue Squad

Buddy Bailey 1982 - 2001
Union County Rescue Squad

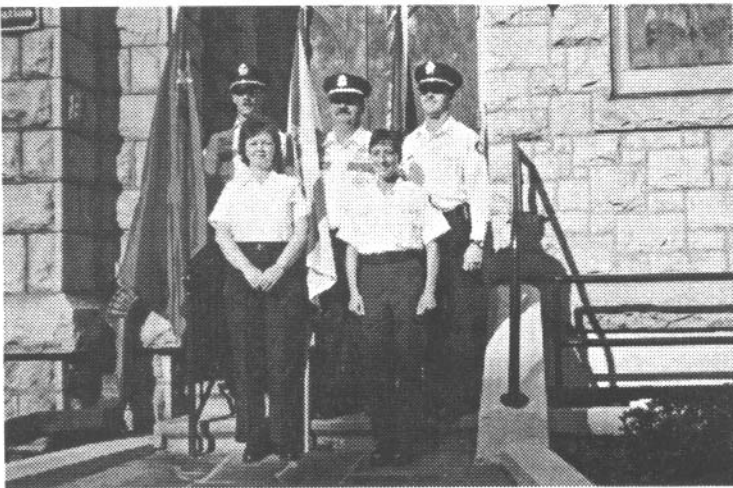
Ralph Fortenberry 1959 - 2001
Sevier County Rescue Squad

Hoover Hatmaker 1959 - 2001
LaFollette Rescue Squad

The above members have answered their final call. Years of service is as reported on memorial plaque applications.

These members will be remembered in the Memorial Service to be conducted at this year's convention. If your unit has lost a member this year and is not listed please have your squad officer contact the TARS State Office for information to include them in this service.

TARS HONOR GUARD SERVES AT NATIONAL EMS MEMORIAL SERVICE



TARS Honor Guard poses at EMS Memorial Service site Left to right (Rear) Tom Calkins, Glen Moore, both of Hardeman County Rescue, and Tom Bragg, Blount County Rescue (Front) Patricia Case, Greenback Rescue, and Jana Bragg, Blount County Rescue

Five TARS members traveled to Roanoke, Virginia to participate in the National EMS Memorial Service. TARS was invited to participate through an

invitation extended by the Virginia Association President Wanda Moorehead, who was a guest at the 2000 TARS Annual Conference.

Thirty-one volunteer and career rescue squad members from ten states, who died while on duty, were recognized at the National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Memorial Service on May 26, 2001 in Roanoke.

Since the Memorial Service was established in 1993, 195 providers have been honored. The Virginia Association of Rescue Squads founded the Memorial Service.

During the service, family members and/or colleagues received an American flag that has flown over the U. S. Capitol and recognizes the EMS provider's community service, a single white rose

signifying love of others, and a medallion representing their eternal memory. The TARS members were extremely pleased to have the opportunity to serve in such an honored service. The TARS Honor Guard is in its second year of organization and is in the process of fine tuning an official dress code and S.O.G.'s. A limited number of positions are available for interested members to become a part of the unit.

For more information contact State Chaplain Roy Goddard, 100 Grego Drive, Greenback, TN 37742 or visit the Honor Guard information booth at this years convention in October. ■