



# RESCUE



## SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

By Steve Carden

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kent Wadley

### SEVIER COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD



The Sevier County Rescue Squad (SCRS) was formed in 1959, after a drowning in Douglas Lake was worked by a few neighboring county squads. Around 30 people formed the unit and raised the money needed to equip the squad to perform water recovery missions. By 1962 the SCRS had a building in downtown Sevierville to house its growing inventory of equipment.

Sevier County, home to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, and Pigeon Forge, encompasses over 71,000 residents. Today it is quite different than it was around 40 years ago. Back then a young kid named Dolly Parton was trying to get noticed singing on local radio shows, Pigeon Forge was a rural community that separated Sleepy Sevierville from a small winter resort and the SCRS was just getting started.

Well, that was then, and a lot more than Dolly has grown up and filled out in the past four decades. Anyone who has been to the area recently knows the Park is the most visited National Park in the United States. The tourist attractions line the highway virtually from the time you leave the Interstate to the Park blurring the lines of the towns. Undoubtedly, the most visited vacation spot in Tennessee, Sevier County has, as they say, 'Changed Big Time'. The SCRS flourished and was able to grow with the changes as well. Today the squad operates out of a modern 11,000 sq. ft. facility located on the Dolly Parton Parkway. The new headquarters was built in the early 90's after a fire destroyed the original downtown building in 1989.

Today's SCRS provides vehicle extrication, water

rescue and recovery, and a host of specialized rescue teams providing High Angle, Land SAR, Confined Space, Trench Collapse, Dive, and Swiftwater rescue. Equipment includes three crash trucks, three suburbans, two ambulances, seven boats and two technical trailers. The newest crash truck is a 2000 model Ford F 550 4 x 4 powerstroke diesel with a custom mounted rescue bed. Equipped with Hurst Hydraulic rams and spreaders, air bags, air tools, cribbing, hand tools, medical jump kit and on-board generator system, the unit serves as primary crash truck for the unit. The other two crash trucks (a '97 Dodge 3500 series and mid '90's F 350 Ford) are also diesel powered and comparably equipped. Both ambulances are BLS units and are designated as back up units for the EMS service. The squad also uses them for standbys at local sporting events and convalescent transport as needed for county residents. The 4 x 4 Suburbans see duty as personnel carriers and towing for the unit's boats and specialized trailers in addition to providing transport assistance for local hospitals during winter road conditions. Two 'Rescue One' boats and five V-hull aluminum boats provide the water support for the unit.

(See Sevier County Page 2)

I hope that everyone enjoyed this years convention at Pigeon Forge. In spite of the years tragic events of September 11, everyone seemed to have a good time, especially at "Fun Night". I would like to thank everyone for their support and vote in electing me your President.

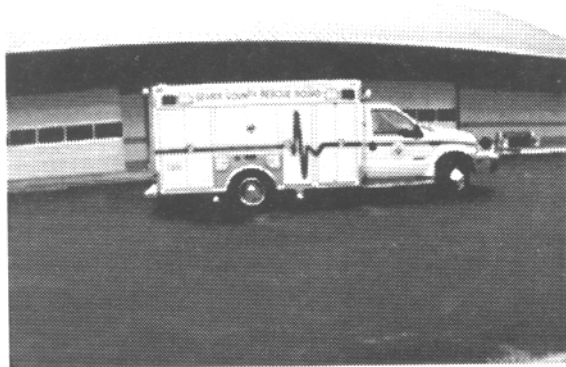
I would also like to say thanks to everyone who competed in this year's contests, and tell you that every team is a winner just for coming and competing. I hope you will start early this year and get your teams ready to compete at the convention in Chattanooga.

*"This next year will present several challenges to the Officers. "*

This next year will present several challenges to the Officers. We will be looking for ways to help keep our State Office open in the future. As you know by now, the Board of Directors has added a per member surcharge of \$10. This along with the surcharge for Associate Members will help to fund the State Office for the next year. We as Officers, will be trying to again secure funding from the State of Tennessee to assist in this matter.

I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope

(President's Message Con't on Pg 2)



One of the technical trailers carries the equipment to support the High Angle, Swiftwater Rescue, and Land SAR roles. The other is equipped to support the Confined Space and Trench Collapse needs. The latter was purchased through a direct funded grant from Blalock and Sons, a local contractor who saw the importance of the resource being available locally.

The annual funding for SCRS is around \$175,000 with about 50% of that being provided by the county. The remaining 50% is made up through contributions and fund raising efforts of the squad. Around 30 members are active and a 'Jr. Squad/ Explorer Post has about 15 members. Another 41 members are carried as inactive and honorary. The SCRS has 10 Crewettes that serve in a support role as well. The active squad members are required to pull a 24 hour building standby and a four hour medical standby monthly. Training requirements range from First Responder to EMT levels, Vehicle Extrication, EVOc, Bloodborne Pathogen, basic Haz-Mat and Incident Command. Each of the specialized teams set their

own training levels depending on the discipline a member may wish to serve in. The squad is currently dispatched through the Sheriff's department and responds to around 1200 calls and functions per year.

The growth of the county and tremendous influx of traffic has also prompted a need for a second station for the SCRS. In partnership with the Northview Volunteer Fire Department, a new 5,000 sq. ft. building was recently completed, which the squad and fire department jointly owns in the Kodak community. The building provides two bays for each department with a commons area shared in the center of the building. This allows a Suburban with a set of boats and a crash truck to be closer to both the lake and the stretch of I-40.

If you ever get the chance, stop by and see the friendly folks at the SCRS. They will gladly show you around and point you in the direction of a number of nearby sites during your visit. And upon your departure if you were lucky enough to see 'Dolly' . . . she would happily bid you a "Ya'll come back now . . . ya hear?" ■

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### 2002 TARS MEETINGS

#### FEBRUARY REGION MTGS

Reg I - HAWKINS CO. 2/03  
Reg II - GREENBACK 2/10  
Reg III - CLAY CO 2/17  
Reg IV - PERRY CO. 2/24

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCH 16 - MURFREESBORO  
JULY 13 - MURFREESBORO

#### 2002 ANNUAL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 3, 4, 5  
CHATTANOOGA, TN

#### INSTRUCTOR UPDATES

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Reg I - Apr 6 - Morristown  
Reg II - Apr 13 - Etowah  
Reg III - Apr 20 - Rutherford Co  
Reg IV - Apr 27 - Carroll Co

#### REGION I INFORMATION

By B. J. Robbins,  
Reg. I Vice President

I want to Thank You for your support in electing me as your Region I Vice President. I will try to do this job to the best of my ability, and am looking forward to working with all of you. If you need anything from me, I can be reached by phone at: 423-349-1915 or my pager number is 410-4022.

Region I had a *missing person mission* on November 15, 2001. Six squads were *Called Out* and all of them showed up. We found and recovered the victim around 3:30 pm that day. "Thanks to all that showed up!"

Thanks again, and let me know if you need anything. ■

(President Message from Page 1)

to see everyone at the round of Region Meetings in February. These meetings are for all members not just Captains and Unit Directors. Please try to attend so you can receive information on future events.

Our Honor Guard is moving forward and should have a sample uniform to show at the region meetings. They will again be serving at the National EMS Memorial Service this year. Please give them your support and if anyone would like to join, they should contact Roy Goddard our State Chaplain.

On a closing note, be sure to attend the Rescue College courses this next year. Morris has set several different classes in each region. If I or any of the State Officers can be of help, feel free to call us. ■

#### STATE HISTORIAN

By Jim Williamson

I hope that everyone had a great time at the convention this past year. I really appreciate everyone's support in electing me as the TARS State Historian. I promise to do the very best I can in fulfilling the responsibilities of this office.

I was really impressed with the number of squads that participated in the scrapbook competition. Everyone did a great job. Recording the history of your squad in a scrapbook is very important.

I am looking forward to traveling around the State to meet many of you and visit your squads. Thanks again for your support and let me know if I can help you in any way. ■

**2002 ROPE RESCUE TECHNICIAN I, II, III CLASSES OFFERED  
THROUGH JOINT EFFORTS BETWEEN TARS & PRS, INC.**

The following dates have been set for the Rope Rescue program for 2002. For the second year the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads and Progressive Rescue Solutions are jointly offering three levels of Rope Rescue courses. The Rope I class may be hosted by local units across the State. The April 5<sup>th</sup> class is to be hosted by Rhea County Rescue Squad in Region II.

The April 19<sup>th</sup> class is to be hosted by the Piney Flats Fire Department in Region I. The other two are open for Regions III, & IV and may be reserved by contacting lead instructor,

Patricia Wagner at (423) 886-3804, E-Mail: Pwagner410@AOL.com or write to her at 410 Miles Road, Signal Mountain, TN 37377.

The level II and level III programs will be held at Signal Mountain, Tennessee. Each class is progressive and requires the prior level as a prerequisite. While TARS will issue a seminar certificate with 1.0 C.E.U. on these classes, application must be made directly with instructor, Pat Wagner, You may contact either Pat or the TARS State Office for the application if you are interested in attending. ■



**EMERGENCY VEHICLE COMPETITION AT CONVENTION**  
By Mark Bowery

<b>ROPE TECHNICIAN I - 40 Hours - 2 Weekends - 2002</b>		
Rhea County - Apr 5 <sup>th</sup> - 7pm,	Apr. 6-7,	Apr. 13-14
Piney Flats V.F.D. - Apr 19 <sup>th</sup> - 7pm,	Apr 20-21,	Apr 27-28
Open - Jul 12 <sup>th</sup> - 7pm,	Jul 13-14,	Jul 20-21
Open - Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> - 7pm,	Sept 7-8,	Sept 14-15
Fees: TARS - \$225, Assoc-Mem - \$275, NON-TARS-\$325		

<b>ROPE TECHNICIAN II - 20 Hours - Friday, Sat, &amp; Sun</b>	
Signal Mountain - Mar 22 - 7pm	Mar 23-24
Signal Mountain - May 17 - 7pm	May 18-19
Signal Mountain - Oct 11 - 7pm	Oct 12-13
Fees: TARS - \$275, Assoc-Mem - \$300, Non-TARS-\$420	

<b>ROPE TECHNICIAN III - 40 Hours - Thurs. - Sunday</b>	
Signal Mountain - Nov 14 - 17	
Fees: TARS - \$395, Assoc-Mem - \$420, Non-TARS- \$450	

As the pavement dried after Saturday morning showers, 21 Emergency Vehicle Operators were taking a written evaluation prior to driving in the Annual TARS/VFIS Emergency Vehicle Driving Training Contest. Entrants this year faced some new challenges: participants were required to take a preliminary exam prior to driving the practical portion and they were no longer driving an ambulance or small vehicle through the course.

Thanks to American Fire Rescue (AFR, a Pierce company) for allowing us to use a brand new medium duty Kenworth in this year's competition; this larger truck allowed the competitors to truly test their skills on the tight course. After all of the good-hearted verbal challenges exchanged between entrants, next year's competition is sure to have some heated rivalries. Many excellent

performances were made with Marty Shelton of Greeneville Emergency and Rescue taking top honors, followed by Jack Almany of Kingsport LifeSaving Crew, and Stan Stewart of Humphreys County District 2 Fire and Rescue.

Mark Bowery Insurance/VFIS and Steve Frost Agency/VFIS hosted this year's event, which included refreshments, a free competition T-Shirt to all entrants, and \$100/50/25 TARS gift certificates to the winners' agencies. Since so many people enjoyed the exciting competition to determine the best emergency vehicle operator, VFIS of Tennessee is looking forward to sponsoring next year's event in Chattanooga. TARS and VFIS have a long-standing relationship in providing quality driver training to emergency vehicle operators and congratulate the winners and all participants. ■



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## STATE BUDGET WOES IMPACTS TARS

The ongoing State Government budget crisis that Tennessee is facing threatens the modest funding that TARS has received since 1971. The direct grant has helped fund the TARS State Office operations. Whether the funds will be available for the Fiscal Year 2002-2003 remains to be seen, but the outlook is somewhat bleak with the shortfalls that are being projected for this and next year by the State.

The legislature has struggled with the State Budget for the past couple of years seemingly at odds with the Sundquist Administration, who proclaimed only four years

ago that *'one thing that Tennessee did not need was a State Income Tax'*. A reversal of that position has had the Governor bent on the passage of a State Income Tax and the legislature divided with no clear consensus on what needs to be done.

It is exactly that uncertainty that prompted the TARS Board of Directors to address the anticipated cut in revenue with an increase in membership fees across the board to all categories to offset the loss of State funds. The decision was unanimous to take such action since the State Office is the hub of information, record keeping, and meeting planning for the

organization. It is ironic that the State of Tennessee would put 'at risk' the maintenance of the up-to-date resource list and mutual aid network, the administrative foundation of the statewide Vehicle Extrication program and related training over less than 1½¢ investment per capita. This at a time the emergency services should be receiving increased funding.

Regardless of what happens in Nashville, the bottom line is whether we have the fortitude to properly fund our organization. There is no question that the amount of money per person needed is rather modest. In fact it is difficult to find any

statewide organization which you can belong to for less. Actually, many compared were more than twice the annual amount even with the increase. So, we as members are responsible for our own destiny. I think that responsibility extends to our educating our state representatives and state senators as to their duty and responsibility to support such funding for the good of the public as well. Now is the time to let your elected representative know how you feel about such issues.

We will let you know in the July issue of this newsletter where we stand on this matter for the next year.■



### Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads

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