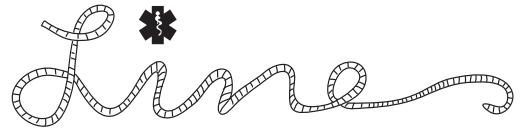




RESCUE



Vol. 14 No. 2

Official Newsletter of the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads

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SPOTLIGHT ON...By Steve Carden TARS Executive Director

KNOXVILLE VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESCUE SQUAD CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



Located in Knox County, Tennessee (pop. approximately 400,000). The Knoxville Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad (KVERS) chartered in 1958 and recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. The squad was organized by about 10 men following a drowning in the Holston River in 1956. The two years following that incident saw many informal meetings and fundraisers that lead to the squad's first boat and vehicle (a converted bread truck) to respond to calls.

Water recovery operations as well as ground searches for the lost counted for many of the squad's calls in the early years. Assistance in ambulance calls and auto accidents became common in the late 60's and early 70's as well. The early years focused on basic first aid training and expansion of services as

needed in the community. The vehicle extrication role became a mainstay in the mid 70's and KVERS still is the primary provider for Knox County extrications more than 30 years later.

The past 20 years has seen the squad focusing on specialized rescue teams that encompass fields such as cave rescue, trench & collapse rescue, dive & swift water rescue, medical response, and support & rehab operations. Operating from four (4) stations strategically located in the county, the KVERS answers more than 2600 calls each year. From the 10 founding members, the squad today boasts nearly 150 members on roll. Leigh Ann Cate, KVERS Executive Director acknowledges that sacrifices are routinely made by members and their families. One member made the ultimate sacrifice

Continued...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...By TARS State President - Jim Williamson

This past May 24th, I along with my wife and children took the opportunity to attend the Sixteenth Annual National EMS Memorial Service held in Roanoke, Virginia. Other TARS members in attendance were Glen Moore from the Hardeman County Rescue Squad and Tina and Tommy Bowers from the Blount County Rescue Squad. As in the previous 6 plus years,

Glen and Tommy actively participated in the service. I would like to thank the 3 of them for representing the TARS organization and Honor Guard at this event. As stated on the National EMS Memorial Service website (www.nemsms.org), their mission is to honor and remember those men and women of America's Emergency Medical Services who

Continued...

REGIONAL NEWS

REGION I VICE PRESIDENT ...By Keith Holt

I would like to thank each of you for the time taken out of your lives to give unselfishly to those in need. I am always impressed, as we the state officers travel across the state, by the dedicated volunteers we have the privilege to meet. Your dedication is often apparent by the pride taken in your building and equipment both new and old alike.

As a young man I thought little of why we do the things we do, but after witnessing years of service by the volunteers in Region 1, as well as across the state, I have become more philosophical about the

volunteer. Over the past months I have attempted to define the self imposed duty volunteers place on themselves. I have had little success in answering why. Some say the direction comes from God and cite passages such as Romans 15:1-2 and Luke 10:33-34. While others list family tradition, personal choice, payback for help received, and the golden rule as reasons to volunteer. While the reasons we volunteer are varied and many, I have found that the true volunteer can recite the following pledge with sincerity and conviction.

THE PLEDGE

I promise concern for others – a willingness to help all those in need.

I promise courage – courage to face and conquer my fears. Courage to share and endure the ordeal of those who need me.

I promise strength – strength of heart to bear whatever burdens might be placed upon me. Strength of body to deliver to safety all those placed within my care.

I promise the wisdom to lead, the compassion to comfort, and the love to serve unselfishly whenever I am called.

Unknown

I may not be able to provide one reason why the volunteer serves, but no matter your reason again I thank you. I look forward to seeing each of you at our convention in Kingsport, so I may thank you in person.

EMS CORNER

By Tim Bell, NREMT-P, CRT, TARS Representative

EMS Board Celebrates 25 Year Anniversary

The first EMS Act in Tennessee was signed into law in 1972. This Legislation created the EMS system for Tennessee. The EMS Act of 1973 created Paramedics. Both Acts were repealed in 1983 with completely new Legislation which include formation of the Tennessee EMS Board. The EMS Board in Tennessee was the first of its kind in the Nation.

The 13 member board held their first meeting at Legislative Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee on June 15, 1983. Joseph B. Phillips, Jr. presided, pending the election of the Chairman. TARS has had representation on the Board since its inception. C.R. Clark, M.D., former member of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Rescue Squad, was elected as the first Board Chairman. Also, one of the first Board Members was the late John Bird, who at the time was the Executive Director of TARS.

The first fees set by the Board were \$10.00 for EMT and Paramedic certification, \$60.00 for EMS Service Licenses and \$20.00 per Ambulance permits. Needless to say, the fees have increased over the years. The new fees

For EMS personnel, service licenses, and vehicle permits will increase in August 2008. See the TN EMS Website for details on the new fee schedules at <http://health.state.tn.us/ems/index.htm>

New changes for First Responders:

In the Previous issue of the *Rescue Line*, I reported on proposed changes affecting First Responders. Those changes have passed the rule making process and the Board. They have also passed the Office of General Counsel and are currently in the Office of Attorney General for review prior to being written into Law. Hopefully, in the next issue of the *Rescue Line*, I will be able to report that the proposed rules have been adopted.

Proposed EMS Unit Color Changes:

In the March 2008 meeting, the EMS Board Members heard discussion from the Board Chairman and the Division Staff regarding proposed changes to the EMS Law. Changes in the EMS Law which affects ambulance colors/markings had been passed in the previous General Assembly, and further changes were being proposed in this past Legislative session. The Board thought that we should remain

proactive in consideration of this Legislation, and Board Chairman Robert Byrd formed an Ad Hoc Committee to review current regulations regarding ambulance colors and specifications. The committee made recommendations to the Board during the June 2008 Meeting. The Board accepted the recommendations and passed the changes to go to the rule making hearing.

Your voice can be heard. I encourage anyone interested in ambulance changes to inquire about the rule making hearing. Inquires should be directed to the division by visiting the TN EMS Division Website or by calling 615-741-2584. The rule making hearing is anticipated to be held during the EMS Board meeting on September 17, 2008.

It is a pleasure to continue to serve you, TARS and the EMS Board. Should you have any questions or comments, or should you require any information about the EMS Board, please feel free to contact me. Also, please visit the Tennessee EMS website <http://health.state.tn.us/ems/index.htm> and the TARS website at <http://www.tnars.org>

“2008 CONVENTION IN KINGSFORT, TENNESSEE”

The 53rd ANNUAL TARS CONVENTION will be held October 2 - 4, 2008 at the Kingsport Marriott Meadowview Convention Center in Kingsport, Tennessee. Pre-Registration form and Hotel reservation information are included in this newsletter. Please take care of these items early to help avoid delays or possible sell-outs.

The Meadowview Convention Center in Kingsport, Tennessee is conveniently located at 1901 Meadowview Pkwy, Kingsport, Tn 37660 and is surrounded by local attractions and restaurants. All of our functions will be held on site, so your attendance at the meetings, exhibits, and contests will be only a few moments walk from each other.

CONTESTS

Some contests scheduled are the Vehicle Extrication contests, the Rescue Challenge, the Emergency Care Contest, the (EVOC) Emergency Driving Contest, and The Rambling Rescue Race. Don't forget the Horseshoe and the Turn-Out Gear Competitions. Rules and entry forms have been sent to your squad, so get with some fellow members and enter.

It's guaranteed to be fun!!!

SPECIAL ACTIVITY FOR THURSDAY MORNING

Golf Tournament Sponsored By J. Mark Bowery Insurance Co., for more information call or E-Mail Wendy at wendybowery@charternet.net or 1-800-752-9620 to register for this event. 8:30 am Shotgun start; \$35 per player, includes cart and green fees.

TRAINING

This year's training opportunity "Awareness Level Training in Rural Search & Rescue. This seminar will look at the obstacles faced when conducting Land Search Operations for a lost victim. The Awareness Level Class is the precursor to the operations and technician level classes being released this next year through the TARS Rescue College system. It is scheduled for 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Be sure to indicate on your pre-registration form your plans to attend Thursday's training seminar. A Seminar certificate with 0.3 CEUs will be awarded to attendees. Cost is only \$10 with conference Pre-registration. Seminar by itself or at the door is \$20. Classroom activity only, casual dress is acceptable.

ENTERTAINMENT

TWO "BINGO" OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR THURSDAY EVENING.

(1) For those daring enough to gamble on an real evening of "Bingo", Scott County LifeSaving Crew (VA) invites you to come to their "Bingo Hall in Gate City, Virginia (about 20 miles away from Meadowview) on Thursday to play. A total of 22 games will be played that evening starting at 6:30 pm ending around 9:30 pm. \$28 plays all games with extra cards available at the counter. Instant bingo and other games available to play as well at extra cost. Most games have a \$100 pot, but Blackout is played twice with pots up to \$1000. (Multiple Bingos split any prize). A bus will take you from the hotel and bring you back that evening. They have snacks

available there and Smoking is Allowed, (so you are forewarned in the event it bothers you).

(2) For the rest of you looking for a different evening of entertainment a Dinner Theatre event will be offered. "Murder at the House of Bingo" will be presented by The Off-Broad Street Players at the Meadowview at 6:00 pm. Guest can expect an exciting evening of Bingo. However, expect to be amused by interruptions from crusty ol' Auntie Rowena and surprised when a murder occurs during the evening festivities. Detective Telly Wice, of Vice, works undercover to discover possible illegal gambling, and with help from You, the Bingo-playing audience, works to solve the Who-Dun-It. The Off-Broad St. Players have delighted audiences throughout the Southeast, performing lively shows through music, drama, and comedy, while you dine. Their Mysteries are interactive, so keep your eyes open . . . you never know who might be involved.

Pre-registration is required. Seating is limited for this event, so be sure and complete your form and enclose the proper fee to join this fun event. Your ticket will be in your registration packet and may be picked up at the TARS desk at the Main Hotel Lobby between 4:00 - 5:00 pm Thursday afternoon. *Be sure and complete the pre-registration form and enclose the proper amount to join the crowd for this exciting event!*

PRE-REGISTRATION FEES ARE:

(PACKAGE 'A') \$25 per person, which includes your registration fee, name badge, and Fun-Night ticket.

(PACKAGE 'B') \$50 per person, which includes your registration fee, name badge, Fun-Night ticket and Awards Banquet ticket.

(EXTRA BANQUET TICKETS) will be available only to Non-TARS/WATARS guests of registered members at a cost of \$35 each.

THURSDAY, October 5

"Murder at the House of Bingo" \$40.

Bingo Evening at Scott Co VA Crew . . . \$28

* (After September 9)* - Pkg A is \$35, Pkg. B is \$55,
Extra Banquet ticket is \$40.

Your reservations at the hotel need to be made as soon as possible. Their reservation numbers are listed here along with room rate information. Remember check - in time at the Hotel is typically after 3:00 pm, so please do not make a reservation and arrive at 12:00 Noon and expect your room to be available. Let's remember that we are a guest in the Host City and that Courtesy is Contagious. It is up to each of us to leave a good impression of our Organization wherever we visit.

On behalf of our State Officers and our Convention Host, we hope to have an exciting and enjoyable convention for YOU. ■

**WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU THERE!!!**

2008 CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

SQUAD OR DEPT: _____.

(check one)

PKG A PKG B

\$25 ea. \$50 ea.

NAME: _____ ----- \$ _____.

NAME: _____ ----- \$ _____.

EXTRA BANQUET TICKET No. _____ @\$35 ea. ----- \$ _____.

**THURSDAY:
SEMINAR ATTENDANCE**

Attendee Name: _____ x \$10 ----- \$ _____.

Attendee Name: _____ x \$10 ----- \$ _____.

NOTE: PRICE ABOVE IS WITH PRE-REGISTRATION.

SEMINAR ON-SITE REGISTRATION @ CONVENTION or By Itself - \$20 ea.

"Murder at the House of Bingo", No. _____ @\$40 ea. Adult ----- \$ _____.

****OR****

Bingo Evening @Scott County Va Crew ...No. _____ @\$28ea. \$ _____.

TOTAL ENCLOSED ----- \$ _____.

Package "A" includes: Registration, Convention Name Tag, and Fun-Nite Ticket.

Package "B" includes: Registration, Convention Name Tag, Fun-Nite Ticket and Awards Banquet Ticket.

*Make Checks Payable to: Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads *Pre-Registration Deadline-SEPT 9*

****NO REFUNDS AFTER THIS DATE****

MAIL
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM TO:
TARS, STATE OFFICE
2906 TAZEWELL PIKE - SUITE 'B'
KNOXVILLE, TN 37918
REMEMBER! PRE- REGISTRATION DEADLINE
IS SEPTEMBER 9, 2008



CONFERENCE RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER

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Marriott.
HOTELS & RESORTS



*We are pleased that you are joining us
at our 53rd Annual Convention
October 2 - 4, 2008 in Kingsport, Tennessee*

ROOM RATE: \$97.00 plus applicable taxes.

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 1-800-831-4004 or 1-423-578-6600

Reservation cut-off date to reserve rooms is Sept. 10, 2008.

*Please specify you are attending the
Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads Convention
for the Convention Rate.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

have given their lives in the line of duty, and to recognize the sacrifice they have made in service to their communities and their fellow man. This years service recognized 73 such individuals; the largest number recognized to date; from 30 different states.

Each person being represented by their state flag; Glen and Tommy had the honor of carrying the state flags of Missouri and Mississippi. Although there were no inductees from Tennessee this year, one cannot help but feel a connection with each person being honored. They all gave their lives doing what they loved, helping other people. That is something that we all have in common. I would like to encourage each of you to consider attending next year's service.

I can't believe we have already made it past the June Region meetings. I appreciate all of the squads that hosted a meeting. That takes a lot of hard work and I am grateful for your continued support of TARS. I know summer is a busy time and with the price of gas at an all time high I would like to thank the members for putting forth the effort to attend.

The Kingsport Lifesaving Crew is working hard to make this year's convention a great time for everyone. Let us all show them our appreciation by not only attending, but competing in the events. Also, please take the

time to send in nominations for the various awards, and be mindful of the deadlines. I know that this is something that is repeated and repeated, but the numerous competitions and award categories allow each squad the opportunity to shine.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as your State President this past year and representing this organization at various functions.. Please do not hesitate to contact me on my new cell phone # 731-796-1365 or any of the other State Officers if we can help you in any way. Have a great summer!



*** * IN MEMORY OF * ***

JEWELL WILLIAMS
Weakley County Rescue Squad
1973 - 2007

JAMIE PAGE
Obion County Rescue Squad
1993 - 2007

THOMAS EDWARD PERKINS
Jellico LifeSaving Crew & Rescue
1952 - 2007

RALPH C. GREGORY
Greenback Emergency Rescue Squad
1967 - 2008

TED ROBBINS
Cumberland County Rescue Squad
1996 - 2008

LESTER PELFREY
Cumberland County Rescue Squad
1966 - 2007

LAVERGNE DAY
Sparta-White County Rescue Squad
1965 - 2008

JAMES PINKSTON
Bedford County Rescue Squad
1970 - 2007

TOM BORDONARO
Benton County Rescue Squad
1969 - 2008

CONVENTION MEMORIAL SERVICES

Any unit having lost a member this past year needs to submit the information to ensure that member being included in the Memorial Service at the convention. We are planning to have a photo presentation during the TARS Memorial Service to be conducted on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 9am. We request a photograph of the member to be recognized, to be provided by any unit who has submitted a Memorial Plaque Application for inclusion in this. The photo may be of the member in uniform or not, of recent or several years old. You make that decision based on what best represents this person being remembered in this special service.

You may E-Mail photos to or mail a copy of your selected photo (*No Originals please, as we cannot be responsible for their return*) not Later than September 1, 2008 to the State Office.

TARS STATE HISTORIAN

By Dujuana P. Weaver

Hello everyone. As you all well know Convention is just around the corner, and I can't wait to see you all there. I understand that the members in Kingsport are working on having a great convention in honor of their 60 years of service. Let's all go up and help them celebrate this wonderful accomplishment.

I hope you all are working on your scrapbooks, because there is going to be something new this year. We will be having a People's Choice Award as well as the regular scrapbook competition. The Unit Directors will be given a ballot for the scrapbooks as well as for the push cars.

The Scrapbooks will be displayed during Fun Night so that everyone will have a chance to look at them and pick their favorite.

Don't forget to send in your pictures and newspaper articles for the State Scrapbook before August 15th. Send them to me at: P O Box 7, Bolivar, TN 38008. If you have any questions please call or send me an e-mail, I will be glad to help you any way I can.

REGION III VICE PRESIDENT

By Cecil Nunley

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer so far. I have only been notified of one drowning in Region III and that was at Coffee County. All of the surrounding squads responded, so there was no need for a region call out. If any squads needs any assistance please do not hesitate to inform me so I can get the help to you as soon as possible.

I hope that all the squads are getting excited about the convention this year in Kingsport. You should start getting your teams geared up and ready. I hope the convention keeps getting bigger and better every year.

Thanks for your continuing support while serving as Region III Vice President. If you need my assistance in any way just let me know.

2008 RESCUE COLLEGE CLASSES

FARM RESCUE - JUL 11 - 13
NEWPORT RESCUE

SWIFTWATER I - JUL 25 - 27
EAST POLK/OCOEE RIVER

DIVE RESCUE I - AUG 8 -10
@TN FIRE CODES ACADEMY

TRENCH RESCUE - AUG 8 - 10
DECHERD FIRE DEPT

ADVANCED EXTRICATION -
AUG 22-24 - Morristown Rescue

SWIFTWATER II, AUG 29-31
RELIANCE/Hiwassee/Tellico

SWIFTWATER I - SEPT 12- 14
EAST POLK/OCOEE RIVER

DIVE RESCUE II - SEPT 5-7
TENN FIRE CODES ACADEMY

BIG RIG RESCUE - SEPT 5 - 7
OBION COUNTY RESCUE

INST I, VEHICLE EXTRICATION
SEPT 12-14 LaVERGNE Rescue

STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE Rescue
OCT 17 - 19, NEWPORT Rescue

SWIFTWATER II OCT 17 - 19
RELIANCE/Hiwassee/Tellico

(Rope Rescue Class Schedule
Available On-Line)

Training Fees: TARS - \$70
Associate Members - \$85 * Non-TARS - \$110

Training classes and dates are subject to
cancellations or rescheduling.

Course Descriptions and a printable
application are available on line

@ WWW.TNARS.ORG

. Board of Directors Meeting
July 26, 2008
@DoubleTree Hotel, Murfreesboro
Call for Reservations
615-895-5555

Spotlight On Con't from Page 1 . . .

and lost his life during a dive mission in 1995, the only line of duty death in the squad's history.

Another member joined the squad following the tragic drowning of her 20 month old son in 2003 when her estranged husband jumped from a bridge on Christmas day with the child in his arms.

From Fifty years ago, \$200 fundraisers have evolved into an annual budget of almost \$350,000 today. Important to note is the services the squad provides would cost local government many times that amount and is a tremendous savings and services to the citizens. While many



things have changed and evolved with the passage of over 50 years of service one important aspect has not, *the services provided are done so for free, in service to their community and fellow man.* CONGRATULATIONS ON 50 YEARS KVERS! For more information on the squad visit their website www.kvers.net

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