



# RESCUE



## SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

By Steve Carden

### WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD



Situated directly South of Music City lies Williamson County Tennessee, home to a good number of Country Western stars such as: Tom T. Hall, Garry Morris, Vince Gill, Naomi and Wynonna Judd and to the Williamson County Rescue Squad. With a population in excess of 81,000 (1990 census), it is one of the larger populated counties in the Greater Metropolitan area surrounding the capitol city of Nashville.

The Williamson County Rescue Squad (WCRS) began life in the early 1960's as an outgrowth of a local Water Ski and C. B. club. With some area floods and several drownings the members saw a need and created the rescue squad from within their organization. While original equipment was limited to a couple of boats and panel vans, the squad was destined to expand its role in the emergency services in the coming years.

By the mid 70's the WCRS found itself in the fire protection business when local municipalities deemed that city fire equipment would no longer respond outside of corporate limits. With cooperation from the county government over the next decade the WCRS expanded to four stations and provided fire protection and rescue services to the majority

of the county residents. Two of the four stations also house an ambulance for Williamson County EMS to provide quicker response to certain areas of the county. Rescue Services are provided countywide and mutual aid agreements exist with the four municipalities in the county in both fire or rescue services as needed.

The squad's current equipment list includes: five pumpers, two tankers, three brush/fast attack units, two chief/administrative units, two boats, and one light rescue and one heavy rescue unit. Fifteen pieces of equipment and four stations require a lot of attention, so three members are full time employees handling administrative and maintenance tasks as well as doubling as a firefighter. Additionally, nine members are 'live ins' at the three outlying stations and are furnished private bedrooms there with modest restrictions. Those members are required to be on the premises 50-55 hours a week. Since ISO ratings recognize firefighters as full time if they are on duty 40 hours a week, this helps to enhance the departments ratings.

The squads annual budget hits about \$400,000. With the county government providing around 50% of that, it leaves the rest to be made

up through donations, various fund raising projects and collections for certain billed services such as haz mat incidents. While 110 members are listed on the roster (that covers all classes including honorary and retired) only 65 members are on active status. New recruits are required to go through subjects such as: essentials of firefighting, live burn training, first responder and vehicle extrication in their first year.

The squad's two rescue trucks include a 1995 Chevy C3500 which acts as the 'Light Rescue Unit' and a 1990 Spartan Chassis with an American Fire Apparatus Rescue Box serves as the 'Heavy Rescue Unit'. While both units are equipped to handle your standard extrication call, the Heavy Rescue Unit boosts a lot of extra equipment as well. Items such as: a cascade system, vertical and confined space equipment, and a 30' Pneumatic Mast for lighting the nighttime scene comes in handy on certain calls.

In fact, I would imagine that unit came in handy on the recent crash (requiring extensive extrication) of George Jones. Rumor has it that nobody was 'playing possum' on that call. ■

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Johnny Tummins

With the Region meetings behind us we are now setting our sights on the Annual Convention in Nashville. I encourage each of you to attend and bring your competition teams.

We are in need of some Turnout Gear for our aid to squads program, we have several request for that type of equipment. Also any type of equipment that is not needed by your squad, we would welcome the donation and will find it a good home.

*"I encourage each of you to attend and bring your competition teams"*

As I wrap up my final term as President, I look back over the years and can only hope that I have played a positive role, setting the stage for a *Brighter Future*.

I appreciate all of the encouragement and support that I have received and offer you the same on future endeavors. Please continue your valuable support to all future individuals who wish to lead you into the new millennium.

May God Bless your lives. See you in October. ■

Whatever you want to do, do it now. There are only so many tomorrows.

*Michael Landon, Actor  
(1936-1991)*

## JOHN H. BIRD VALOR AWARD

In march of this year the Awards Committee presented, with the Board of Directors approval, a new recognition award entitled the "John H. Bird Valor Award". The award is in honor of the service of Mr. Bird, who is a charter member of the Greeneville Emergency Rescue Squad. John served the Association in several positions including President and was the first Executive Director for the TARS State Office, serving in that capacity for 20 years until his retirement in 1993. John's dedication and ability to work with the legislature had a dramatic effect on the growth of the *Rescue Squad Movement* in Tennessee. He continues to work as a volunteer for the organization today.

The award is to be presented in recognition of any TARS member who

loses their life in the line of duty. Presentation of an engraved plaque will be made to the unit and/or family members at the TARS Convention in the fall each year. The occurrence does not necessarily have to have happened in the past year and the award is not limited to a single presentation in a given year. Specific guidelines were sent to each unit regarding nominations for this award.

Other actions taken by the Board regarding awards included modifying the "Hugh Skip Trotter Award" to make multiple awards possible in a given year instead of a single award. The "Hugh Skip Trotter Award" is given for recognition of any TARS member who risks their life in the line of duty. ■

## TARS MEMBER RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL WATER SAFETY COUNCIL

Parker Lowndes has been recognized to receive an Award of Merit from the National Water Safety Council (NWSC). Parker serves the Association as lead Instructor for the TARS Swiftwater and Dive Rescue training programs and has been instrumental in the formation of the TARS State Water Rescue Team. His hard work and organizational skills have maintained these programs to a high level of performance. Lowndes attributes the success of the program

to the assistant instructor cadre's dedication to seeing that every student leaves with a working knowledge of that particular discipline.

The National Water Safety Council was organized in 1951 to promote boater and recreational water safety in the United States. One function of the NWSC is to recognize both organizations and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to this cause. ■



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