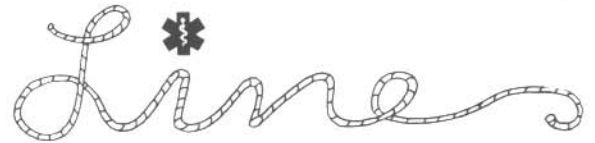




RESCUE



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS

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SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

By Steve Carden

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ron Smith

MONROE COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD



Monroe County (Population 31,000) is nestled in the southeast corner of Tennessee and is the state's third largest county in land mass and the second largest in total rural road miles. Roughly 1/3 of the county is made up of the Cherokee National Forest which borders North Carolina and is part of the Appalachian Mountain Range and the Great Smokies. In addition to the mountains, Monroe County is home to parts of both Tellico and Chilhowee Lakes. Another interesting body of water is the 'Lost Sea'. It is a seven acre underground lake with connecting caverns. Over the years the bones of prehistoric animals, artifacts of both the Cherokee Indians and Civil War Troops and even a few remnants of moonshine stills have been recovered. Today it is a commercial attraction and each year has thousands of visitors who come to sail the historic waters and tour the various caverns and passages. For a sample of moving water look

no farther. The Little Tennessee and Tellico Rivers are there to add to the scenic beauty of the area. Combined these natural attributes also add to the rescue calls for the Monroe County Rescue Squad (MCRS).

A moderate number of boating accidents, mountain search operations, and swiftwater rescues occur annually. Even the 'Lost Sea' adds an extra twist requiring occasional cave rescue techniques including having to package and haul victims to ground level for transport. This demands that the MCRS maintain appropriate equipment and training to handle such emergencies in addition to the vehicle extrication role which constitutes nearly 75% of the squad's call volume. The MCRS was organized in 1961 and like most squads, concentrated mainly on search operations and water recovery missions in the early years. The 1970's brought with it the

Governors Highway Safety Program and Vehicle Rescue became a primary mission responsibility.

Today MCRS operates four (4) crash trucks to provide timely response across the county. The squad operates out of three stations located in Madisonville, Sweetwater, and Tellico Plains. A fourth station will be a reality soon in the Vonore community to enable the fourth crash truck to have a permanent home. The expansion of Highway 411 is going to necessitate the fourth station with the increase in traffic and the squad plans to be prepared. All four crash trucks are comparably equipped with Hurst Spreaders, rams and cutters for hydraulics. Manual backup in porta-powers, air chisels and prybars are carried as well. Other equipment includes air bags, cribbing, farm jacks, and medical jump kits. Each truck is also equipped with a generator and light system. (Monroe Co. Con't page 3)

First, I would like to thank everyone for their support and vote in electing me your President. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I want to congratulate all the teams that competed this past year at the convention. I hope that the competition was a learning experience for all. I hope everyone is looking forward to this years convention in Kingsport.

I want to invite "ALL" members to attend the region meetings in their region. There is information given out for all members at these meetings.

"I want to invite ALL members to attend the region meetings in their region."

I also hope that you all will continue to support the 'aid to squads' program that is in place. If you have any equipment that you are not using and would like to donate it to be given to another squad, let one of the State Officers know. This has proven to be a good program to help our fellow squads.

Remember, if you need any of the State Officers we are as close as your phone. Give us a call. I hope to see you in our travels across the state. ■

The greatest achievements are those that benefit others.

Denis Waitley
Writer

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORTS

ARE THERE ANY REAL BARGAINS LEFT?

by Doug Warren

Possibly the best bargain today are the annual dues to be a member of our organization. Our last dues increase was over 20 years ago. Compared to the cost of membership in other organizations, our dues structure is a great bargain. The membership dues for other civic and rescue organizations average from \$50 to \$300 per year.

In the 20 years since we have had an increase, our cost of operation has soared. When our dues were last increased, we were paying \$5 for our unit director and captain's meal, today we pay \$12. The unit director's room at the convention cost \$49,

today it costs about \$92. The cost of travel, postage, supplies, and other expenses have increased substantially during the past 20 years.

How long can we continue without a dues increase? This question will be discussed during our upcoming region travels and meetings. It will be on the agenda for the March Directors meeting. Our current annual dues of \$3 per member, \$15 per member unit, and \$25 for associate membership are a tremendous bargain in today's economy. Maybe it's time to consider if we need to increase our dues. ■

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Roy L. Goddard

Soon after the first of the year the applications for the new TARS Distinguished Service Award will be mailed to each squad. This award is to recognize the TARS members who have served the Association and their local squad for at least 25 years. The completed application must be returned to the State Office and the certificates will be mailed to the member's squad for presentation. Let me encourage each squad to check your roster and apply for each member who has qualified. ■

REGION IV VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Sowell

I hope everyone enjoyed the TARS Annual Convention in Nashville. We had a real good convention. Some new state officers were elected to serve you. I hope you will support these new officers. I have visited some squad meetings in Region IV in October and November. I am visiting these squads at their meeting to find out what training they would like to have and also to keep in touch with the Region IV TARS members. I will start visiting squad meetings again after the Christmas and New Year holidays. Being retired gives me more time to travel in Region IV and across Tennessee. I plan to see a lot of TARS members on the region travels in February. ■

TRAINING AND SAFETY

GOOD COMMUNICATIONS ENHANCE SCENE SAFETY

By John Almon

Every training course TARS offers places great importance on keeping your rescue team safe, since it makes rescue of the victims much easier. Accountability of personnel is a major part of this objective. In November 1999, the CDC's National Institute of Safety and Health issued a report on a Washington, DC double fire fighter death investigation where accountability problems were a major contributing factor.

Among conclusions in the NIOSH report is a suggestion that fire and rescue departments should improve radio communications. These suggestions have been echoed in previous NIOSH reports, and our squad is taking steps towards implementing some solutions that seem to work in our situation.

We are no longer buying two head radios, but a cab radio

with a second radio at the pump panel or central rescue compartment. This allows us to have a backup radio, and gives us the ability to reduce radio interference during on-scene communications. The radios have adjustable power output, so we are setting most of the non-repeater channels to about five watts output. A quarter wave VHF antenna is mounted near the rear pumpers, though a concealed antenna could be mounted on the underside if necessary. The two radios are actually about \$200 cheaper than a two-head version.

Extensive on-scene use of portables is common by our squad. We will use the cab radio with a second scan group to monitor all channels in our portables. Many channels are repeater channels. We are afraid a trapped fire fighter could transmit on a repeater

channel and not "make" the repeater, but may be heard in the cab. A used scanner will work for this function, too.

We also licensed a second on-scene channel that is far removed from our primary channels to reduce interference. We can operate 100 watt VHF mobiles and not interfere with portables on the scene.

The complete text of the NIOSH report #99F-21 is available in Adobe "PDF" on the web at <http://www/cdc.gov/niosh/pdfs/face9921.pdf>. The report is interesting reading since there are probably things done by every squad which are noted as a contributing factor in the tragic deaths of two of DC's bravest.

Editors Note:

John Almon is a member and Unit Director of Williamson County Rescue Squad.

The small boy sitting in the rear of the classroom appeared to be daydreaming.

"Johnny," asked the teacher, "do you have trouble hearing?"

"No, ma'am," he replied. "I have trouble listening."

Lawrence Hembree, Editor
The Speaker's Handbook,
Grosset & Dunlap

CALL/RUN REPORT SEMINAR AT REGION MEETING

A three hour seminar on the importance of call/run reports will be offered at each TARS Region Meeting in February. The class will be centered around the need to document not only your crews actions at the scene, but any patient care that you may have provided. Proper filing and storage of reports will also be discussed.

The seminar will be conducted from 1:30 - 4:30 pm (local time) at each region meeting location. The cost for the class is \$5.00 and each attendee will receive a certificate with .3 c.e.u.s.

This seminar is being offered in cooperation with VFIS of Tennessee. ■

EVENTS CALENDAR

2000 TARS MEETINGS

FEBRUARY REGION MEETING

REG I	2/05	GREENEVILLE
REG II	2/12	ETOWAH
REG III	2/19	LAVERGNE
REG IV	2/26	CHESTER CO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCH 11 - COOKEVILLE

JULY 15 - MURFREESBORO

OCTOBER 13 - KINGSPORT

2000 ANNUAL CONVENTION

OCT 12, 13, 14 - KINGSPORT

RESCUE COLLEGE

INSTRUCTOR I - JAN 21 - 23
FRANKLIN, TN

ADVANCED EXTRICATION
APR 28 - 30, FRANKLIN, TN

TRENCH RESCUE - MAY 5 - 7
FRANKLIN, TN

INSTRUCTOR UPDATES

APRIL

REG I - MORRISTOWN -	4/01
REG II - ETOWAH -	4/08
REG III - RUTHERFORD -	4/15
REG IV - CARROLL -	4/22

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.

Our brightest blazes are commonly kindled by unexpected sparks.

Samuel Johnson,
Writer
(1709-1784)

*At Right:
MCRS
Tellico Plains
station is
housed
adjacent to
the fire
department.*



*At Left:
Madisonville
station was
the first
location for
the squad
and has
larger
storage areas
for MCRS
equipment.*

(Monroe Co. Con't from Page 1)

The County 911 system dispatches the squad on all 10-46s and the squad works closely with the other emergency agencies to aid in other incidents. Even in the Cherokee National Forest the squad, by agreement, handles all rescue calls in the Park. They work closely with the resident ranger staff to conduct search and rescue missions on the Federal property. The MCRS has worked diligently to be prepared for its water rescue responsibility in the county. They operate two "Rescue One" connector boats, a Zodiac inflatable and a 26' SeaRay Laguna. Affectionately referred to as "The Yacht", the Laguna was donated to the squad by SeaRay manufacturing. It is used as a command/support boat and is generally deployed on area lakes on major holidays. In fact, the MCRS works with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to conduct boating safety inspections where the squad will loan life jackets as

needed to boaters in lieu of a TWRA ticket. This program not only promotes water safety, but is a good public relations project as well. The "Zodiac" is primarily slated for swiftwater operations and is augmented with a specially equipped swiftwater rescue trailer which is loaded with gear to conduct water rescue operations. It doubles in a rope rescue role also, since line and haul systems are frequently used in both scenarios. Four-wheel drive suburbans pull the trailers and provide personnel transport in addition to giving the squad mobility during winter conditions. A John Deere 'Mule' comes in handy for those calls where the suburban can't go due to terrain or space limitations.

The MCRS has about 50 active members. While CPR and Basic First Aid training are required, about 20% of the members have from first responder up to

paramedic medical training. Around half of the squad is certified in Vehicle Extrication and the Swiftwater and Rope Rescue Components each have about ten members trained in the respective discipline. The squad's total annual budget approaches \$100,000. With the County appropriating about \$40,000+ and the United Way portion being around \$12,000, it leaves around \$40,000 to be raised through various civic organizations, fund raisers, and donations throughout the year.

The unit displays a strong commitment to upgrade equipment and provide a county-wide service. Recruiting members from and having a station in each of the major communities will ensure continued growth and success for the MCRS as they go into the 21st Century. ■

Visit the TARS WebSite on the Internet.
Log on at . . .

WWW.TNARS.ORG

THE MORRISTOWN RESCUE SQUAD
presents

**K-9 SEMINAR ON
TRACKING/TRAILING**

April 7, 8, & 9, 2000.

**Cost is \$50 per Dog/Handler team
and \$25 per Observer**

**For information and details please call:
Instructor Jeff Wisecarver, Quality K-9
@423-586-1030 after 4:30 pm.**

**FELLOW RESCUE, EMS AND FIRE MEMBERS
NEED YOUR HELP**

I am sure most everyone remembers watching coverage of the devastation created by Hurricane Floyd this past year. Especially hard hit was North Carolina and even though Hurricane Floyd may be gone the effects are still being felt.

Over 140 Rescue, EMS, and fire families suffered devastating losses as a result of the powerful flood waters that rose in the Hurricanes wake. These members were out helping and rescuing others and many suffered extensive damage to their homes and belongings themselves. Few, if any had flood insurance since they lived in areas that had not seen a flood in the last 500 years.

Two North Carolina organizations have established special funds to assist these members and help get

them back on their feet. Contributions may be sent to these funds set up for this purpose:

Hurricane Floyd Relief Fund for
Rescue and EMS Personnel
c/o North Carolina Association of
Rescue and Emergency Services
P O Box 1914
Goldsboro, NC 27533

Hurricane Floyd Relief Fund for
Firemen
c/o North Carolina State Firemen's
Association
P O Box 188
Farmville, NC 27828. ■



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Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads

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