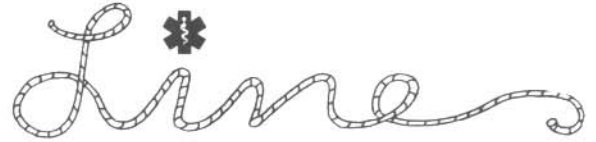




RESCUE



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS

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SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

By Steve Carden

HENDERSON COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD



Henderson County (Pop. approx. 22,000) is located in the Western grand division of the State of Tennessee. The Henderson County Rescue Squad (HCRS) is based in the county seat of Lexington, located almost geographically dead center of the 520 square mile area.

The squad was organized in 1968 by a group of concerned citizens wishing to provide water rescue and recovery services. Equipped with a box van commonly referred to as "bread truck" and a single boat, the unit carved out its niche in the community.

More than three decades later, today's HCRS reflects the hard work, determination and success the squad has experienced. The evolution of mission responsibilities has grown

over the years as has the equipment to get the job done. The squad provides a countywide service in not only water rescue but vehicle extrication, and search and rescue operations as well.

With around 17 area lakes varying in size and recreational uses, the squad has a sizable water rescue responsibility. Two "Rescue One" connector boats (one with dive platform), an additional 18' v-hull and a Ford Club Wagon Van outfitted with equipment for their six member dive team answers the water rescue role.

A 25 mile stretch of I-40 across the northern end of the county requires all to often response for extrication. The squad is equipped with two crash rescue units. The latest is a 2000 Ford 350 Super duty

series (with the Triton V-10 engine) has a custom utility bed equipped with Hurst hydraulics (cutter, spreader, rams) and a full compliment of hand tools. Air bags, air chisels, assorted cribbing and medical supplies round out the inventory. A 5 KW onboard Honda generator provides power and lighting on the scene. The squad's back-up crash truck is a 1986 one ton Chevrolet which is comparably equipped and is the second unit out if needed.

A 1991 4X4 Jeep Cherokee is slated as the Search and Rescue duty vehicle. Around 4-5 hunters manage to fall out of tree stands or otherwise get injured annually. The squad uses the jeep to help traverse rugged terrain and help move a victim once stabilized to an EMS transport. The

(Con't on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Ron Smith

Hello to everyone! Well it's CONVENTION TIME IN TENNESSEE. I hope everyone is making plans to attend this year's convention in Kingsport. Your registration packet is attached to this copy of the Rescue Line. Also, you need to get your teams ready for the competition in Extrication, Rescue Challenge, Emergency Care, Emergency Driving, Horseshoe, Rambling Rescue Race, and Scrapbook.

Don't forget to send in the names of your squad members who could win the other awards, John Stiles, Costo McGhee, Lifetime Member, Hugh Skip Trotter, and John H. Bird.

The officers want to thank each of you who took time out to meet with us during the Region travels this year.

The officers want to thank each of you who took time out to meet with us during the Region travels this year. It is really a pleasure to see such great improvements that each of you have made to your buildings and equipment. You can all be proud of what you have and the service you provide to your county and community. Again, I am looking forward to seeing each of you at the convention. ■

STATE AND REGIONAL REPORTS

REGION IV VICE PRESIDENT Bill Sowell

I hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable summer. Now that the June Region meetings and Unit Directors meeting is behind us we need to be making plans to attend the TARS Convention in Kingsport.

There are two new applications for membership into the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads in Region IV. They are Humphreys County Fire Department and Hardin County Fire and Rescue.

As of June 1, 2000, I have visited thirteen rescue squads monthly meetings in Region IV. I am getting the feelings of squad members to what kind of training they would like to have. I plan to visit more squad meetings in Region IV when the region travels and meetings are over.

I hope to see everyone at the Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads Convention in October. ■

STATE HISTORIAN BILL ROBBINS

"SCRAPBOOK COMPETITION"

Be Daring! Take a Chance! You could be a winner! It's not too late to prepare a scrapbook and enter it in the Scrapbook Competition in Kingsport. If you have any questions about the rules, about how to get started, or anything else, please give me a call and I'll be glad to try to answer them. And remember, even if you make a scrapbook and don't win, it is still a good thing to have as a historical record of your Squad. I look forward to seeing you at the Convention and bring your Scrapbook with you. Ph: 423-349-1915■



(HCRS Con't from page 1)



jeep also sees double duty as personnel hauling or pulling boats as well. A Ford Crown Victoria serves as an administrative vehicle.

Around 45 members comprise the HCRS. Training required includes Vehicle Extrication, EVOC, First Aid and CPR. Among the members, more advanced medical training including EMT, Paramedic, and one nurse can be found. The squad responds to about

100 calls a year and is dispatched by the county 911 center. Operating budget is typically around \$60,000 annually with the County and City government providing about 30%, United Way 40%, and the squad's

various fundraising projects rounding out the remaining 30%. (HCRS moved into its new building in 1998, which is a top notch facility for this top notch unit.) It has ample equipment bays, a

first rate meeting room, administrative offices, kitchen, and dayroom which make for a very modern and functional facility. Everything is always neat, clean, and in its place. The equipment is lettered, striped, and well maintained and promotes a professional image.

Chief Tom Hays remarked to me . . . *"We all work hard for the squad . . . the folks that started the squad did and we do now."* Simply put . . . that's what it takes. Teamwork and the ability to adapt and

change, breeds success and it all takes *'hard work'*.

What's in the future? The latest venture includes a cooperative effort with the Lexington City Fire Department, the Henderson County Fire Department, and the HCRS. The plan is to develop a Trench Rescue team. Funding is being split between the agencies and each unit has selected eight members for the training. A 20' Wells Cargo Trailer with tandem axle is planned to carry the shoring panels, air jacks, and additional equipment. Hmm . . . Sounds a lot like more of that Teamwork + hard work = *Success* to me. ■



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