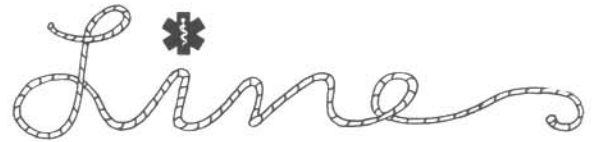




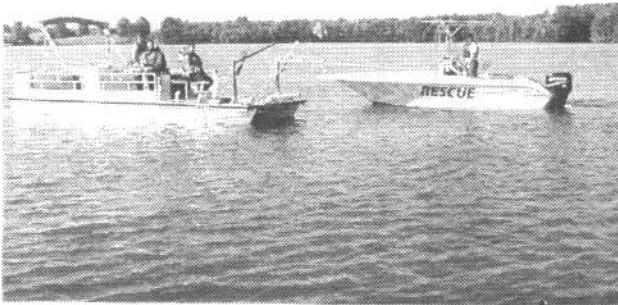
RESCUE



SPOTLIGHT ON . . .

By Steve Carden

FRANKLIN COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD



Franklin County is situated in South Central Tennessee and has a population of around 40,000. The Franklin County Rescue Squad (FCRS) is located in Winchester, the County Seat. The FCRS was originally founded in the early 1970's as a Civil Defense organization. The group's primary charter at that time was to support the County's needs in water recovery, dragging operations, and land searches. Over the years the operations was expanded to handle all rescues in the County except vehicle extrication and ambulance service which are provided by the fire departments and EMS respectively.

With a focus on more specialized missions the FCRS fine tuned it's water rescue capabilities and

expanded to handle other areas as well. The squad is composed of about 30 volunteer members who have trained and cross trained in specialty areas to support county needs and to also provide a mutual aid resource to surrounding counties in the middle Tennessee area. The unit performs land searches, high angle rescues, cave rescues, trench collapse, swiftwater and flood rescues, and dive operations. Over the past several years some members have been extensively involved in the TARS teaching staff for swiftwater and dive classes.

The squad answers around 50 calls per year in the county and about 20 mutual aid calls on average to surrounding counties. About half the squad members are medics or members on

various fire departments within the county. This creates a good working relationship with those agencies as well as provides ready trained members for the FCRS looking to expand their areas of expertise. The squad specializes in water rescue and recovery operations in particular and a look at some equipment maintained by the squad supports that observation. Over the years the FCRS has trained and developed a strong swiftwater and dive rescue group. The water team utilizes many specially pieces of equipment such as underwater camera systems and communications to help document and record underwater scenes. The camera system is capable of towed or stationary drop operations in depths up to 200'. It also has self

(See FCRS Page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kent Wadley

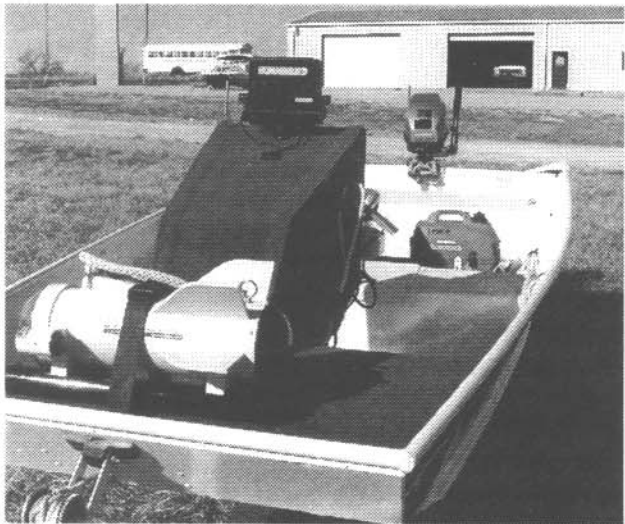
The Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads has made it half way through another year. We are seeing some difficult times with the things our State Government is doing to everyone this year. As we approach the end of a budget year we are still uncertain what will happen with our funding for our State Office.

I am proud to see that our membership has stepped up to the plate and worked hard to make sure that we can keep our State Office open no matter what the State does. Please remember that without our State Office we would not be where we are today, as one of the most respected organizations in the State.

"There should be something for everyone at the Convention."

Convention time is just around the corner. Now is the time to start making plans to attend. Also start getting your teams ready to compete, as we head to Chattanooga this year. There should be something for everyone at the convention. Be sure and stop by all the vendors because they help support our convention.

(President Message Con't P. 2)



(FCRS Con't from Page 1)

contained lighting and a video tape system and is operated off a boat dedicated to running camera operations.

The squad supports the local Sheriff's department as well as the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and Tennessee Bureau of Investigations in water operations. On holiday weekends they help the TWRA patrol the lake with a 22' First Response boat powered by a large off shore Mercury engine manned with divers and medics. Also the unit has built a specialty 28' pontoon type work boat, outfitted with liftbags, cranes, and pumps, to help raise boats and automobiles. This boat also

has a fire pump mounted on the front deck to assist in fighting boat, house, and dock fires from the water.

A Dodge 4x4 Ramcharger is the workhorse for land search operations and carries much of the high angle and caving gear for the squad. A couple of 4-wheelers augment off road resources as well. The latest project for the FCRS is designing a 16' Wells Cargo double axle trailer, which will be outfitted to support their dive and swiftwater teams.

It's always exciting to see a squad identify its niche and work toward fulfilling that mission professionally. The FCRS does just that . . . and more. ■

EVENTS CALENDAR

2002 TARS MEETINGS

2002 ANNUAL CONVENTION
Oct 3 - 5, Chattanooga Choo Choo

RESCUE COLLEGE

ADVANCED EXTRICATION -
AUG 2 - 4, MORRISTOWN

DIVE RESCUE II - AUG 2-4
MANCHESTER, TN

DIVE RESCUE I - AUG 9 - 11
MANCHESTER, TN

TRENCH RESCUE - AUG 9 - 11
RUTHERFORD CO, TN

INSTRUCTOR I - AUG 16 - 18
SEVIER COUNTY, TN

FARM RESCUE - AUG 23 - 25
OBION COUNTY, TN

TRENCH RESCUE - SEPT 6-8
GREENEVILLE, TN

DIVE RESCUE II - SEPT 6-8
MANCHESTER, TN

ADVANCED EXTRICATION
SEPT 13 - 15 MCMINN CO

LAND SEARCH OPS-SEPT 20-22
BENTON COUNTY, TN

FARM RESCUE - SEPT 27 - 29
MONROE COUNTY, TN

INSTRUCTOR I - OCT 25 - 27
CARROLL CO, TN (location change)

FARM RESCUE - OCT 25 - 27
SEQUATCHIE CO, TN

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.

(President's Message con't from P 1)

I have enjoyed serving as your State President this year and will be seeking another term at the convention. The State Officers have enjoyed traveling across the four regions this year and have been proud to see all the new

IN MEMORY

Sam Farmer - 1968 - 2001
Bledsoe County Rescue Squad

Sue Hatfield 1995 - 2002
Fentress Co-Rescue Squad

Charles Franklin 1963 - 2002
Jefferson Co-Rescue Squad

Darren Willock 1991 - 2002
Jefferson Co-Rescue Squad

Ben Webb 1963 - 2001
Jefferson Co-Rescue Squad

Ray Honeycutt 1986 - 2000
Jellico Life Saving & Rescue

Newman Smith 1964 - 2002
McMinn Co-Rescue Squad

J. T. Barlow 1981 - 2001
McNairy Co-Rescue Squad

Leon Henry 1976 - 2001
Marion County Rescue Squad

Carl Dailey 1988 - 2002
Monroe County Rescue Squad

James W. Wilson 1970-2001
Monroe Co-Rescue Squad

Paul Johnson 1966 - 2002
Overton Co-Rescue Squad

Howell Hipsher 1966 - 2001
Sparta-White Co-Rescue Squad

Stanley Blackburn 1997-2002
Union Co-Rescue Squad

The above members have answered their final call. Years of service is as reported on memorial plaque applications.

These members will be remembered in the Memorial Service to be conducted at this year's convention. If your unit has lost a member this year and is not listed please have your squad officer contact the TARS State Office for information to include them in this service.

buildings and equipment. This goes to prove that with a little hard work our organization will continue to grow bigger and better. I look forward to seeing everyone at the convention and hope you have a safe summer. ■

F. L. S. A. RULING REPEALED. CAREER EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL CLEARED TO VOLUNTEER AGAIN

Remember the big stink several years ago regarding a Labor Department ruling based on the Fair Labor Standards Act? The ruling caused an uproar among the volunteer emergency service community when it threatened the status of career emergency service workers who also volunteered for similar emergency service agencies in the same county. Many local governments banned employees from volunteering out of fear of being forced to unexpectedly pay back wages for their employees' volunteered time. Needless to say in some areas this had an impact on the available pool of trained volunteers to rescue squads and volunteer fire departments. Well, the Labor Department has issued a new ruling that

appears to reverse the earlier judgement. Its ruling to Montgomery County, MD, stated in part that they . . . *"conclude that the (Fair Labor Standards Act) does not apply to career personnel if they volunteer, freely and without coercion to provide services to the non-profit fire and rescue corporations."* A 1999 court case in Virginia Beach, Virginia was cited in which volunteer departments were determined to be *"private organizations governed by their own by-laws and policies"* and separate from local jurisdiction.

The Montgomery County (MD) government is preparing to throw out the eight year regulation which prohibited career firefighters from volunteering.

Craig Sharman, Director of Legislative Affairs for the National Volunteer Fire Council stated, *"It goes along with what President Bush has been saying since September 11 that people should volunteer for their communities. We hope that other jurisdictions will take a look at this decision."*

In Greeneville, Tennessee Greene County Executive Alan Broyles promptly issued a letter acknowledging the change and encouraging County EMS employees to volunteer for the local rescue squad and other agencies. Greene County was one location such affected by the previous ruling. TARS and the Greene County Government initially challenged the ruling in 1996

but later put the proceedings on hold awaiting the outcome of other similar actions elsewhere in the nation. There is no doubt that combination agencies which both employ and utilize volunteers will be scrutinized, as they well should be to prevent unfair labor practices. However, it's good to see the Federal Government revisit and overturn a blanket ruling that was having an adverse effect on the rights of a person to volunteer their services and talents to their community. *You know, you have got to keep an eye on the Government and the Judges. The next thing you know they'll be attacking the Pledge of Allegiance (DUH)!!* ■



Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads

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