

# Alleghany County Volunteer Rescue Squad

1969-1999

30 Year

# **Alleghany County Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.**

## **A brief history of the first thirty (30) years**

On September 12, 1969, A tragic accident occurred which was to indirectly be the beginning of a lifesaving organization.

On that Friday Night a young couple wrecked on highway 18 N. they were trapped inside the car for several hours before they could be freed and taken to a nearby hospital, where they died from injuries sustained in the accident.

Whether or not these people could have been saved if prompt emergency care was available is not important. What are important are their deaths brought to light the need for the county to have a trained equipped Rescue Squad, ready for such an emergency.

Melvin Miles aired this need by radio and newspaper and on September 23, 1969 the preliminary meeting was held at the VFW building in Sparta.

Mr. Roy H. Kane, Secretary of the N. C. State Association of Rescue Squads, and a member of the Ashe County Rescue Squad were on hand to explain all the steps involved in beginning such an organization, and exactly what its functions would be. This led to the organizational meeting held the very next week September 30, 1969.

At this meeting Melvin Miles presided and again Mr. Roy H. Kane was present to assist in what ever way he could.

Mr. Kane expressed to the group the importance of being a non-profit group. The Board of Directors was elected to be the policy makers for this organization.

Money was to be a constant need so the finance committee was next in line to be elected. Thirty-four (\$34.00) dollars, was taken up at this meeting, twenty (\$20.00) dollars of this was used in obtaining a charter for operation.

Mr. R. Claude Edwards was elected to be the Squad's first Captain.

The next meeting was held on October 6, 1969.

The remaining officers were elected at this meeting. Forty-three members were present and the Rescue Squad was underway.

The Squad had to be incorporated, so Arnold Young, Legal Advisor, drew up the corporation papers.

Rules of the corporation were set up.

The Squad was to be known as the Alleghany County Rescue Squad, and would meet on the second and fourth Monday night each month.

The first training for the Squad was Standard and Advanced first -Aid. Mr. Arthur Hutchins taught the course.

The Board of Directors met to set the Constitution and by-laws that would govern the Squad.

Brice Miller, manager of WCOK radio station launched the first fund raiser for the Squad, citizens were ask to telephone in their donations in memory of the young man who was killed in the automobile accident. This campaign raised \$3,927.64.

Letters were sent to local Churches, which yielded \$639.60, and business donations reached \$1, 562.

By January 1970 there was \$6,942.64.

In February, unit one of Rescue training was conducted by Mr. Graham Johnson a State Fire and Rescue Instructor. There were four other units to follow.

In March the first vehicle arrived. Alleghany Farm Equipment housed the vehicle because of its ready access to main roads.

Members met and installed storage cabinets, etc. Local Merchants donated some light equipment. The Squad purchased a winch, generator electric lights, siren and three used Army blankets.

Summer of 1970 the Squad decided to move their meeting place to Alleghany Farm Equipment. A telephone was put in at that location and a second telephone was put at the home of Roscoe Evans.

Troutman Shirt Company donated our first uniforms to the Squad.

Many very effective leaders, many of which are still members, have led our Squad.

Advanced training has given our members greater skills to be of service to the citizens of the county.

New officers were elected in September; they will assume their positions the first meeting in October.

Rex Tolliver was voted in for a second term as Captain.

The Squad constantly keeps upgrading their equipment to stay in compliance with State specification.

We have numerous fundraisers to purchase equipment, and cover other expenses of the Squad.

We also receive a supplement from the County and the Town.

The Alleghany County Rescue Squad now provides backup service for the Alleghany County EMS and assist with any vehicle accidents where there might be the need for extrication or transport of multiple patients.

The squad also provides high angle rescue, search and recovery, vehicle extrication, dive team, water rescue, along with a paramedic service to Alleghany County.

We also now have a Jr. Rescue Squad where teens can get involved and see what a volunteer squad is all about and get an idea if they want to continue to be a part of Alleghany County Rescue when they become 18.

We have several fund raisers during the year including our BBQ's, letter drives, picture drives and Jr. Rodeo.

We are now in the process of purchasing a new 4WD ambulance. also due to new state guidelines we will have to purchase some new rescue equipment in order to maintain our state certification.

All of this equipment and training takes time and money.

Our personell have been very dedicated to giving their time to train and answer the call for help whenever it might come, day or night. There folks have spent many hours away from their families in order to serve their fellow citizens of Alleghany County.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you the citizens of Alleghany County for your support of the squad over the past 30 years. Your donations and kind words of support has

kept up going through good times and bad. We hope to be able to continue to serve you at least the next 30 years and beyond.

CAPTAINS OF THE SQUAD 1969-1999

Claude Edwards 1969-70

Melvin Miles 1970-71, 71-72, 73-74

Roscoe Evans 72-73

Gene Crouse 74-75, 75-76

Everett Shaw

David Osborne

Carl Moss

Larry Crouse

Ricky Royal

Rex Tolliver 1999-2000, 2000-01