

Chapter 7

Rescue College



State Rescue College

The plans for a State Rescue College began in early 1975, when VAVRS Vice President Ken Morgan met with officials at Virginia Tech. The idea was supported by VAVRS President, Glenn Puhle, and the other officers. Morgan began to assemble the necessary contacts with other agencies and obtained the needed approvals from the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, and the State Office of Emergency Medical Services.

At the State Officers Workshop in October 1975, a motion was approved that the first Rescue College be held at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg on March 5-7, 1976. By then, Ken Morgan was president and he appointed Russ Leathem, Kelly Walters, and Joe Snead the task of handling all the final arrangements for the school.

The first Annual State Rescue College was held the weekend of March 5-7, 1976 at the Donaldson Brown Center in Blacksburg. Registration fees were less than \$20 and the cost of a hotel room for the weekend was \$10 single or \$16 double occupancy.

The original rescue college plan was to focus on instructor level training and had slots for a maximum of 200 participants.

The classes offered in 1976 were: American Red Cross Advanced First Aid Instructor, American Red Cross Standard First Aid Instructor, American Red Cross Multi-Media First Aid Instructor, VAVRS Basic and Light Duty Rescue Instructor, American Heart CPR Instructor, VAVRS Water Safety and Water Rescue Course, and VAVRS Specialized Equipment Course.

On Sunday afternoon, graduation ceremonies were held in the auditorium at Donaldson

Brown Center for 177 students. (FAB, April 1976)

Since 1976, the course offerings have continued to grow to facilitate the needs of all VAVRS members, both on a basic and instructor level. Association leadership recognized the need for continuing education hours being offered for all levels of emergency medical technician training. Additionally, in continuing our efforts of working with the Virginia Office of EMS, the rescue college began to offer a BLS and ALS Instructor Update and an EMT Instructor Institute.

The most recent addition to the rescue college is the EMS Leadership Challenge, an opportunity to train future EMS leaders. And in 2009, the rescue college will offer the Basic Tactical Medic Program which will allow EMS providers to support local SWAT teams

The program moved to hotels in Roanoke for a few years but has been hosted at Virginia Tech for most of its history. Hundreds of volunteer instructors have been trained at Rescue College since the beginning in 1976.

The Rescue College budget has now grown to \$140,000 for the most recent event. Registrants are not required to pay a registration fee to participate in the event.

Brief History of the State Rescue College

1st 1976 March 5-7

Russ Leathem, Chair

Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech.

181 students graduated from 9 courses

2nd 1977 Feb 25-27

Russ Leathem, Chair

Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech.

259 students graduated from one of nine

courses. Registration Fee was \$16.50

3rd 1978 April 21-23
Ken Morgan & Ron Brubeck, Co-Chairs
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech.
249 students graduated from one of nine courses.

4th 1979 April 20-22
Ron Brubeck, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech.
203 students enrolled

5th 1980 April 18-20
Ron Brubeck, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
241 students enrolled

6th 1981 April 24-26
Rob Logan, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech

7th 1982 April 16-18,
Joe Snead, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
Registration Fee \$40, 248 enrolled

8th 1983 April 22-24
Roger Hudson, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
290 students in one of 13 courses

9th 1984 May 4-6
Roger Hudson, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
266 students enrolled in one of ten courses

10th 1985 April 19-21
Roger Hudson, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
154 students enrolled in one of ten courses.

11th 1986 April 18-20
Neal Turner, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
128 students enrolled

12th 1987 April 23-26
Becky Hudson, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
290 students enrolled

13th 1988 Apr 28-May 1
Becky Hudson, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
297 enrolled

14th 1989 Apr 20-23
Roger A. Bryant, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
294 enrolled

15th 1990 Apr 26-29
Roger Hudson, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech

16th 1991 Apr 25-28
Roger Hudson, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech

17th 1992 April 23-26
Roger Hudson, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
359 attended

18th 1993 April 22-25
Roger Hudson, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
193 attended

19th 1994 Apr 21-24
Sam Langley, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
293 enrolled

20th 1995 Apr 26-30
Sam Langley, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
300 enrolled

21st 1996 Apr 24-28
Roger Hudson, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
357 enrolled

22nd 1997 Apr 23-27
Roger Hudson, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
370 enrolled

23rd 1998 Apr 29-May 3
Tim Carroll, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
213 enrolled

24th 1999 April 21-25
Wayne Myers & Darrell Beavers, Co-Chairs
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
202 enrolled

25th 2000 April 26-30
Sam Langley, Chair
Held at Donaldson-Brown Center at VA Tech
320 enrolled

26th 2001 June 13-17
Wayne Myers & Darrell Beavers, Co-Chairs
Held at Wyndham Hotel, Roanoke
221 enrolled, 389 certificates issued

27th 2002 June 15-23
Wayne Myers & Darrell Beavers, Co-Chairs
Held at Wyndham Hotel, Roanoke
271 enrolled, 438 certificates issued

28th 2003 June 21-29
Wayne Myers & Darrell Beavers, Co-Chairs
Held at Clarion Hotel, Roanoke
271 enrolled, 352 certificates issued

29th 2004 June 12-20
Karen Wagner, Chair
Held at Clarion Hotel, Roanoke
272 enrolled, 425 certificates issued

30th 2005 June 11-19
Karen Wagner, Chair
Held at Holiday Inn, Roanoke
258 attended, 432 Certificates issued

31st 2006 June 10-18
Karen Wagner, Chair
Held at Skelton Center, Virginia Tech
226 attended, 275 certificates issued

32nd 2007 June 9-17
Wayne Myers & Roger Hudson, Co-Chairs
Held at Skelton Center, Virginia Tech
221 attended, 306 certificates issued

33rd 2008 June 14-22
Bubby Bish & Rickey Hodge, Co-Chairs
Held at Skelton Center, Virginia Tech.
255 attended, 387 certificates issued

34th 2009 June 13-21
Rickey Hodge & Wayne Myers, Co-Chairs
Held at Skelton Center, Virginia Tech.

1976 Course Offerings
American Heart Association
CPR Instructor
CPR Instructor Trainer
EMT Lay Instructor
American Red Cross
Standard First Aid Instructor
Advanced First Aid Instructor
Basic & Light Duty Rescue Instructor
Specialized Equipment
Water Rescue

1983 Course Offerings
Rescue Squad Management, Vehicle Extrication Instructor, CPR Instructor, CPR Instructor Trainer, EMT Lay Instructor, Advanced First Aid Instructor, EVOC Instructor, Methods of Instruction, Basic & Light Duty Rescue Instructor, Cave Rescue-Basic, and Water Rescue- Basic.

1991 Course Offerings
 Rescue Squad Management
 Vehicle Extrication Instructor
 Vehicle Extrication Basic
 Vertical Rescue Basic
 Vertical Rescue Instructor
 Emergency Vehicle Operator Instructor
 Hazardous Materials Basic
 Hazardous Materials Instructor
 Swift Water Rescue I
 Swift Water Rescue Instructor
 Search and Rescue Basic
 Search and Rescue Instructor
 Farm Machinery Basic
 Farm Machinery Instructor
 CPR Instructor
 Basic Rescue Technician
 Auxiliary Management
 Basic and Light Duty Rescue
 Basic and Light Duty Instructor

2009 Course Offerings
 EMT Basic Recertification
 ALS Recertification
 Prehospital Trauma Life Support
 Advanced Cardiac Life Support
 Pediatric Advanced Life Support
 Geriatric Education for EMS
 Sports Injury/ Sports Medicine for EMS
 Basic Tactical Medicine
 Maximizing Your Retention Efforts
 How to Use EMS Retention Principles
 Auxiliary Workshops
 EMS Leadership Challenge Summit
 Parliamentary Law
 Risk Management
 EMS and Forensic Evidence
 Basic Public Information Officer Course
 Recruitment & Retention Workshop
 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents
 Advanced ICS Command and General Staff
 ICS Train the Trainer Program
 Basic and Light Duty Rescue
 Vertical Rescue
 Advanced Vertical Rescue

Cave Rescue
 Confined Space Entry and Rescue Awareness
 Confined Space Entry and Rescue Technician
 EVOC Trailer Operations
 Farm Machinery Extrication Basic
 Farm Machinery Extrication Advanced
 Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness
 Vehicle Rescue Awareness & Operations-Basic
 Infectious Disease Control
 Swift Water Rescue –Basic
 SCBA Certification
 School Bus Rescue
 Search and Rescue – Basic
 Trench Rescue
 Rescue Camp for Youth
 Rescue Explorers

Instructor Courses:
 Basic and Light Duty Rescue
 Vertical Rescue
 Advance Vertical Rescue
 CPR
 EMT-B Institute
 Emergency Vehicle Operator
 Farm Machinery Extrication
 Infectious Disease Control
 Search and Rescue
 Swift Water Rescue



(Seated L to R) Elsie Butler, Kathy Plummer, Maxine Kerns, Ruth Swicegood, Sharon Campbell
 (Standing Front L to R) Fern Puckett, Mary Anhold, Patsy Wingfield, Joan Smoot, Dolores Hudson,
 Sandra Gravley, Trula Peach (Back Row L to R) Sarah Wingfield, Warren Winner, Sylvia Clatterbuck,
 Brenda Hargrave, Jean Powell, Pat Bryant, Janis Slough