



SUN CITY CENTER

EMERGENCY SQUAD



THE SIREN

News and announcements from the Emergency Squad

August 2015

From the desk of the Chief

Perhaps the "Summer of 2015" will go down in Squad history as one of the more challenging times for our organization. With illnesses, injuries, vacations and family matters, we are struggling to keep our crew schedule complete. We have managed thus far to staff two units most days and I am grateful to all of you who have stepped up to make this possible.

A few of our other challenges have been in keeping our units fully functional and the business telephone system in service. As our ambulances age, they have minor maintenance hick-ups. Fortunately for us, we have a great vehicle maintenance crew that keeps us on the road. We are still working with Verizon and Windstream to resolve our front office phone issues.

During this stressful summer, it's important to bear in mind that all of us are working extra shifts. We have many new recruits and recently trained volunteers who are learning in circumstances that can be described as difficult at best. Please treat them as you want to be treated – with respect, patience and kindness. Most of our volunteers come to us with no experience in the field of medicine or healthcare, so every aspect of our service is new to them. Even for folks who have been with the Squad for some time, please keep in mind that every call is unique because every patient is unique. Be understanding when teaching and sharing your knowledge.

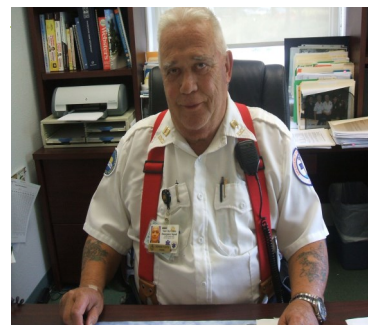
I thank Ed Davis for stepping up to serve as Captain of Team 5. Pete Derupo is taking a medical leave and we will keep him in our thoughts and prayers. Ed has served on the Squad for almost two years and has served as an EMR, Driver and Asst. Captain. He is well qualified to serve as a Captain and we are grateful to have him.

Please note that we will have our Appreciation Lunch on August 25th. This year, it will be held at the Veteran's Theater (formerly known as Borini) with the doors opening at 11:30. We will have entertainment, good food and who knows – maybe more. Please sign up in the Ready Room and drop your deposit check in the envelope. Your check will be returned to you at the luncheon.

Freedom Plaza's Appreciation Breakfasts for the Squad will be held on August 27th and August 28th. Please be sure to sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board in the Ready Room.

I have often thought that our organization truly serves two populations – our community and our volunteers. Our mission of "Neighbors helping neighbors" gives purpose and meaning to getting out of bed for many, if not most, of us. It provides an extended family and a social support network as we age. Both of these benefit our long-term well-being. However, as much as we benefit socially, we need to remember that we are a professional, award-winning EMS organization. We need to be aware of both our behavior and appearance while on duty. Please ensure that you put your best foot forward whenever we have prospective volunteers or family members touring the building and meeting you and your Squad mates.

Thank you all for your continued service, patience and dedication.



DATES TO REMEMBER

August 25 —Summer Appreciation Lunch Veterans Theater

August 12th— Prospective Volunteer Open House, Training

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Toughbook Tips from Ted Stone

1.HIPPA Signature Disclosure

When we ask someone to sign the HIPPA Signature page we are asking them to sign the statement: "By signing below you agree to the following: I acknowledge receipt of the Sun City Center Emergency Squad Notice of Privacy Policy". This is what is displayed on the screen. The implications of this are twofold: first, their signature is acknowledgement of receipt of our SCC Privacy Policy. Secondly, we must give the person signing a copy of the Privacy Policy they are acknowledging receipt of. I know most of you do this already; however I was told this is not being universally done, therefore I am passing this on.

2.Toughbook Tablet Buttons

There are 5 buttons on the front of the Toughbook, just to the left of the latch. These are the 5 buttons that can accidentally cause us grief or at least surprise if we touch one of them without knowing. I know. I've done it. Going from left to right, these keys are as follows:

Brightness (looks like the sun surrounded by a down arrow and an up arrow) This turns the LCD brightness up or down. Display ever get dim? Press the up arrow. This is most likely the cause for a dim screen and not the battery.

Input (looks like a keyboard) This switch toggles between the real keyboard versus an on-screen keyboard. If it ever pops up because you pressed it by accident just press it again.

Enter (looks like a bull's-eye) This button works like the enter key on the keyboard.

Rotation (looks like a right angle triangle) This rotates the screen 90 degrees. If you touch this button, touch it 3 more times to get back to your original screen.

Security (looks like a key) This button will kick you out of Reporter. Select Cancel and you'll return to where you were.

Captains' Corner by Peter Gallagher

This will be a quarterly feature in the Siren discussing frequent issues surrounding the captain's position and how you can assist on your Captain on your duty day.

To begin, many people don't realize that most captains come in the day before to prepare for their team's duty day. On their duty day, they have the longest shift, coming in before 6AM and leaving late in the afternoon. If they are fortunate to have an Assistant Captain, they might be able to leave earlier or split the shift. The following day, the Captain returns to finish up his team's paperwork; make sure the dishes from the previous day are put away and the kitchen is clean; and throw out any food that can't be frozen or saved.

If you can do any of these to assist, your Captain will be thrilled. If you are interested in serving as an Assistant Captain, let your captain know.

Run Report July 2015

Monthly

Ambulance Runs	382
Van Runs	*
B/P	151
Falls	119

Year to Date

Ambulance Runs	3021
Van Runs	747 +*
B/P	1191
Falls	783

* not available at time of printing

Sick List

Roy Skinner - IT

Martha Finley Team 2

Pete DeRupo - Team 5

Chris Simko - Team 6

Frank Gomez - Team 6

Garry Gose Team 6

Shel Yetman Team 7

Paula Lickfeldt - Team 8

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August Birthdays

2	Anita-Marie	Abbe
2	John H.	Fetting
4	Marty	Gifford
5	Bob	Murphy
5	Ray	Walker
7	Adebola	Atanda
8	Katherine	Bizzano
8	Sandra	Dillmuth
8	Joan	Nixon
8	Ricardo	Padron
8	Raymond	Skaine
9	Ken	Reid
9	Karen	Stansell
10	Donna	McClistor
11	Roy	Paulsen
13	Sharon	Riley
15	Randy	Anderson
15	Don	Churchill
17	Margaret	Goss
18	Donna	Hay
18	Andrew	Hebel
19	Robert	Mulcahy
21	Judy	Greene
22	Gert	Affayroux
24	Winnie	Hicks
24	Marie A.	Nelson
25	Carol	Bryant
26	Carolyn	Krauss
27	Timothy	Baker
27	Karen	Crippen
27	Nancy	Willett
28	Patricia	Adams
28	Paul	O'Connor
29	Joe	O'Brien
30	Andrew	Hatcher
30	Bob	Nixon
31	Lucy	Mallory

Squad Wins County Award

Recently the Emergency Squad won an award from Hillsborough County for Emergency/Disaster Preparedness at the Neighborhood Level. Accepting the award from County Commissioner Kevin Beckner is Asst. Chief Betty Richner and Chief Dennis Floto



New Captain for Emergency Squad's Team 5 – Ed Davis

Barely two years ago, Ed Davis came into the Squad and volunteered. After Emergency Medical Responder training and then passing the Driver's course, Ed became one of the Squad's most reliable ambulance drivers. Volunteering for multiple teams and filling in when there was a vacancy, Ed quickly became knowledgeable of the Squad's policies and skilled as a driver. It wasn't long before Ed became an Assistant Captain for Team 7. However recently, when one of our captains needed to step back, Ed stepped up, becoming Captain of Team 5. Thank you Ed for your dedication.



Family Traditions

Vicki Pietz and Linda Hughes

While many folks on the Squad recognize Linda Hughes as one of our hard-working dispatchers, many would ask who the lady is next to her. Vicki Pietz, Linda's Mother joined the Squad in 2002 serving as a First Responder on Team 6 until retiring from the Squad in 2010 at 86 years old.

Vicki, a nurse during WWII, married husband Lee Pietz in 1945 in Edinburgh Scotland, her home town. Moving first to Canada and then to Pennsylvania, to raise her family, Vicki moved to Sun City Center in 1998.

Linda took the Dispatcher class in October of 2013 and now assists with teaching the dispatcher classes and working multiple teams as needed.



Featured Volunteer— Barry McKee

Barry and his wife Marcia moved to Sun City Center three years ago from Cape Cod. "This place," he said, "had everything we had looked for in a retirement community and the frosting on the cake was finding the Emergency Squad."

Barry's background is indeed impressive. After working as a Professor of Criminal Justice for 30 plus years, he decided to semi-retire. He continues to teach courses online through the college in Massachusetts. After serving in the Army for 2 years, Barry went on to earn an a B.S. Degree in Law Enforcement, and a Masters Degree in Forensic Psychology. Barry also worked as a police officer for 10 years until he was injured on the job and had to retire. He then became the Program Director in Criminal Justice at Bristol Community college. He served in this position for 25 years.

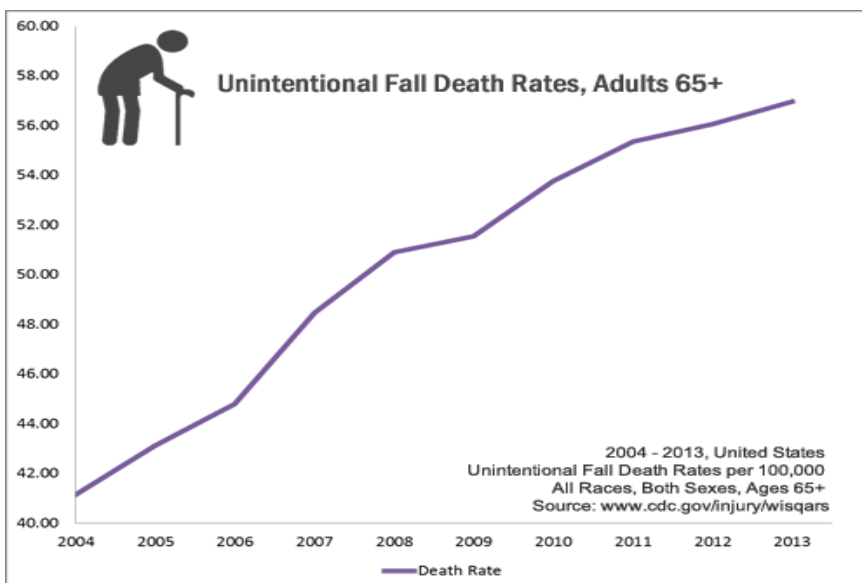


Barry has worked with the Sun City Center Emergency Squad as an EMR/Driver for the past two years. In addition, he teaches CPR to all new volunteers as well as our recert classes. Aside from the very rewarding experience of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors", Barry and Marcia feel as if they've found a new family. From the moment the late George Meeker welcomed him to Team 4, he knew there was something very special about "The Squad." The summer, he says, is such a difficult challenge yet our volunteers quietly go about helping on several different teams without a word of complaint. Barry says "The Squad is a fantastic group of volunteers who come from diverse backgrounds, all pulling together to keep the motto real--"Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Older Adult Falls*

Recently updated statistics from CDC indicate an increase in the number of falls that are fatal for seniors. CDC's new data show that from 2000 to 2013, age-adjusted death rates from unintentional falls grew for those aged 65 years and over. **Death rates from falls increased from 38.2 per 100,000 in 2000 to 67.9 in 2013 for males. For females, death rates virtually doubled from 24.6 in 2000 to 49.1 in 2013.**

**From the Centers for Disease Control*



Anniversaries

Noreen Schramm	15
Kathy Zdrodowski	5
Kathy Devine	1
Edna Fleming	1
Dee Whitehurst	3
Reinhold Baal	1
Tina Drury	1
Gill E. Jesse	1
Erik Sager	1
Stanley Zabetakis	1
Cody Fernandez	1