



East Brunswick Rescue Squad

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For Immediate Release

ATTENTION: Community, Local News Writers

New Officers Take Posts at East Brunswick Rescue

*Squad closes productive year that included three CPR saves,
Readers' Choice Award, cadet honors and more*

EAST BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Fifteen members of the East Brunswick Rescue Squad take office this month, mixing new blood with long-time experience at the 54-year-old volunteer organization.

Leading the squad as captain for the first time is Fred Beisser, who joined in 2001. His assistant is Lisa Grande, a life member who just ended a two-year tenure as captain.

Tom Paccione, another life member, serves his second year as president this year, backed again by Tony Bersani, a five-year member, as vice president.

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“This year’s officers face appreciable challenges, including the purchase of a new ambulance,” Paccione said. He noted that squad members are already planning for the purchase and its funding.

Complementing the operations officers are:

First lieutenant – Matt Gasero, a five-year member.

Second lieutenants – Scott Pasichow and Irit Maoz, both four-year members.

Chief Driver – Life member Dave Willenbrock.

Filling out the ranks of administrative officers are:

Recording Secretary – Jacqueline Shagam (four years).

Corresponding Secretary – Karen Deignan (10 years).

Treasurer – Life member Larry Matrale.

Sergeant-at-Arms – Matt Redding (two years).

One-Year Trustee – Life member Lynn Lutwin.

Two-Year Trustee – Life member Mary Kerslake.

14th District Delegates – Marilyn Uslan (three years) and Redding.

All will be officially installed at the squad’s annual banquet at month’s end.

Redding lead the list of calls answered (353) and hours ridden (974). Other top riders were: Hours – Beisser (970); Grande (765); Pasichow (553); life member Sue Bender (526). Calls – Beisser (274); Pasichow (233); Cadet Ryan Siegel, a senior at East Brunswick High School, (207); Grande (190).

Three East Brunswick Rescue Squad crews were credited with CPR saves last year. Each call involved a patient whose heart and breathing had stopped and were revived via cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Such calls are rare in that CPR only circulates oxygenated blood but cannot address the underlying cause of heart failure.

Cadet Cara Barouch, a senior at East Brunswick High School, was honored as student of the month in November by the East Brunswick Rotary. This month, the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Court of honor will recognize Cadet Ryan Korn for his service.

In October, readers of the Home News Tribune named EBRS Best Ambulance Squad in Central Jersey for 2005.

"This is a tremendous vote of confidence from our residents," Paccione said. "We don't get that much feedback day-to-day, so it's nice to hear that our residents see how hard we work for them."

In December, the squad completed work on a project to accept donations via credit cards and the Internet. The initiative gives EBRS donors the option of making donations with their Visa, MasterCard or Discover cards securely through the squad's website. The online donations page is available at www.ebrs.org/donations.

"Individual donations last year ranged from \$1 to \$1,000 and we appreciate every one of them," said Bersani, who chairs the squad's fund-drive efforts. "Being able to accept credit cards allows us to offer our donors different ways they can support us."

Also last year, the squad replaced its outdated paging system with a two-way radio system that allows members to communicate with each other as they coordinate coverage. The system has proven its value in covering simultaneous calls.

About the East Brunswick Rescue Squad

The East Brunswick Rescue Squad is incorporated as a 501(c) non-profit, volunteer-run organization funded by charitable contributions. Its national- and state-certified EMTs provide pre-hospital trauma and medical life support to East Brunswick 24 hours a day, seven days a week with backing from strategic partnerships. Founded in 1952, the squad's 100-plus riding members contributed more than 18,000 hours of volunteer time and answered nearly 2,000 calls in 2005. The East Brunswick Rescue Squad is a member of the New Jersey State First Aid Council's 14th District. The squad maintains a website at www.ebrs.org.