

Chief's Report May 10, 2011

The unthinkable has happened to one of our members; Russ Anderson committed suicide last week. He resigned from KL EMS last month stating "he had personal matters to deal with and would no longer be able to run, thus he felt it was best if he resign from KL EMS". He talked to me for almost an hour and had I only known what was truly going on with him... We parted with a hug and I told him our door was always open and he was welcome back if he changed his mind. In speaking with one of his close friends, Dave Bickford, he was having marital problems and stated he did not want to live alone. God Bless Ronnie, who worked with him not only at KL EMS but also at Ocean Reef; he was the unfortunate medic that ran on him when his wife found him and called 911. As I stated at the April Business Meeting, please keep Russ in your thoughts and prayers. As we find out funeral arrangements we will post them.

The rescue unit with the oil leak is still at Palmetto Ford (over a month now - for the fourth time). They advised last Thursday "that the part just came in and it would take a day or so to put it in. Once the leak is fixed, they will deliver the unit". As of today (Saturday) it is still at Palmetto Ford.

Jacque and Leo Bello have both decided that they are no longer able to run as paid paramedics, but would like to run in volunteer EMT positions. They stated their children's activities are limiting their ability to run as prime medics; obviously family comes before KL EMS. They are now running on the EMT schedule.

Dave Cruciger had his kidney transplant the end of April and will not be able to run as a paid medic for at least three months. Everything has gone well so far with the transplant; his wife was the donor. Talk about giving a whole new meaning to "love"!

GW DePauw, the paid medic that took a six month leave of absence last December, is coming back in June. I hired a new employee, Jason Borg as a temporary medic, until I develop the formal hiring process based on the recently adopted criteria. Jason is a flight medic/RN with Trauma Star. He worked as a field paramedic and Trauma Nurse in Wisconsin. He has a lot of experience and credentials. He comes highly recommended, has great morals, has lots of certifications, and should be a good fit for KL EMS. He wants to be active as a first response paramedic, thus he decided to work for KL EMS.

The AC compressor in the upstairs classroom/kitchen area broke down and was replaced at a cost of \$2,000.

At the last District Meeting, the Board approved the Fire Department's Contract. KL EMS did not have anything of significance on the agenda.

Bruce Stoll, the new District Administrator has been provided with a spare desk that was set up in the KL EMS dayroom (his choice of locations available). He has offered to help with whatever he can assist with and is welcomed by KL EMS personnel.

The KL EMS website has been updated. Personal phone numbers have been deleted – Ronnie received a call that was unwarranted from someone that got his number from the website. Listed are personal email addresses so the public can contact the BOD members and me directly via email.

Mariner's Hospital invited KL EMS to attend a training class put on by Ryder Trauma Center covering MCI activities at the hospital. I forwarded the email to the members to sign up if interested.

The Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Drill KL EMS put on April 19th went very well. Ronnie did a fantastic job coordinating it. KL EMS, KL Fire, Ocean Reef, the Boy Scouts, the EMT Class, and even Metro Dade Fire Rescue participated in the drill. The Boy Scouts were the "patients" thus they got merit badges for their participation, and Brenda's EMT Class students did a great job as well. Overall, it was a great training event for those that participated and not enough good can be said about it.

We had one "citizen complaint" last month. The individual was unclear regarding what the EMS Crew was able to do and wanted KL EMS to take his mother against her will to the hospital. He did not understand that a competent patient has the legal right to refuse transport, and wanted KL EMS to take her against her will to the hospital. I listened to him talk for almost an hour and asked him what I could do to rectify the situation. His desires were simple and I provided him with the information he wanted: the answer to three questions and a copy of his mother's refusal form. He felt someone was conspiring with the EMS crew in the parking lot to get his mother's apartment... I forwarded this information to Bruce Stoll, per the contract requirements.

CeCe ordered and installed two new cabinets for our ALS drugs and secured medical supplies. She did a wonderful job organizing the cabinets to make it easier for personnel to "find things" and keep track of inventories. Her devotion to KL EMS continues to shine on.

KL EMS sent three units to the "National Night Out" event for kids at the Key Largo Community Park last month. Lots of good came out of the event. It is a community service event for the kids to get information on Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire Rescue, etc. We had more people participate this year (six members and five EMT Students) than we have had in years past. Great Job Guys and Gals!

I will be attending a **Zoll** Patient Care Report (PCR) software training seminar next week (May 9 thru 14), thus I will not be at the BOD Meeting. I hope that once I return, I will be able to get the **Zoll** PCR software working correctly and we can start using the laptops in the field to generate the PCR's. Last month **Zoll** determined that the Norton Antivirus Program was keeping the PCR program from loading and running correctly. Cutis Teems, a paid medic with KL EMS and MCFR, is going with me so there will be an "alternate/back-up person" who will know how to administer the program. I budgeted for this training in this year's District Budget.

Zoll offers a discount when "five or more people go from the same agency". I asked Monroe County Fire Rescue about the "5-person reduced rate" since KL EMS is sending two and the County is sending three. The end result was that Monroe County agreed to pay for the KL EMS

personnel's seminar registration fee. The original PCR program was obtained under a "county wide grant" which still has some funding available so the County was willing to pay for KL EMS training costs. KL EMS only has to pay for travel and lodging which is also in the District budget.

Speaking of budget, I have started the "Budget Process" for next fiscal year. If anyone has any thoughts or ideas on items that may be beneficial for next year, please let me know. I don't anticipate any significant increases.

I received an email stating that KL Fire is trying to coordinate a "multi company training" event with KL Fire, KL EMS, and MCFR involving a search and rescue scenario. Details are pending but we look forward to working with the FD – should be fun!

Thanks and be safe,

Don