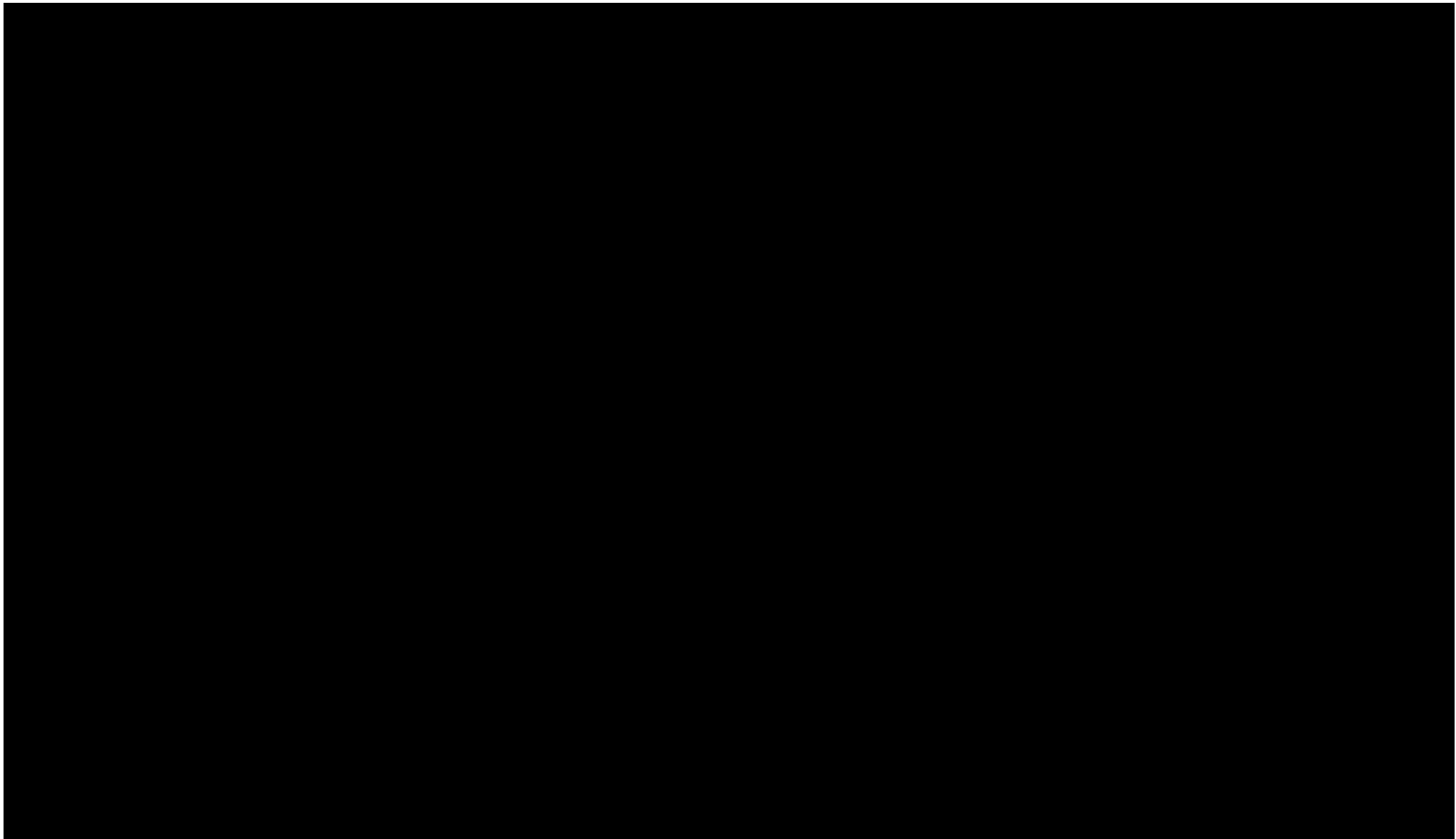




WOLFE COUNTY SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



www.wcsart.com



Our Story Begins with Don Fig

- Legendary U.S. Forest Service ranger
- Founded Red River Gorge Mountain Rescue Team in 1962
- Passed away in 2020 at age 83
- Author of:
 - “So That Others May Live”
 - “Tales of the Red River Gorge”
- RRG Rescues handed over to local teams in 2002



The WCSART story

One of Ky's premier search and rescue teams

- Based in Campton, KY
- Created 23 years ago to provide search and rescue services in the Red River Gorge
- Affiliation agreements with Wolfe, Menifee and Breathitt counties. Also providing mutual aid to any county upon request and assist state police and KY Emergency Management
- 55 unpaid but highly trained, dedicated volunteers passionate about saving lives



So that others may live

People From All Walks of Life Serve

- Firefighters/EMTs
- A Doctor
- Retired College Teacher
- Factory Employees
- A photographer
- Government employees
- Retirees
- Nurses
- Many are climbers



A Long Track Record of Success

- Average 60-80 rescues per year
- On call 24/7 to assist lost or injured hikers, climbers, water rescues etc.

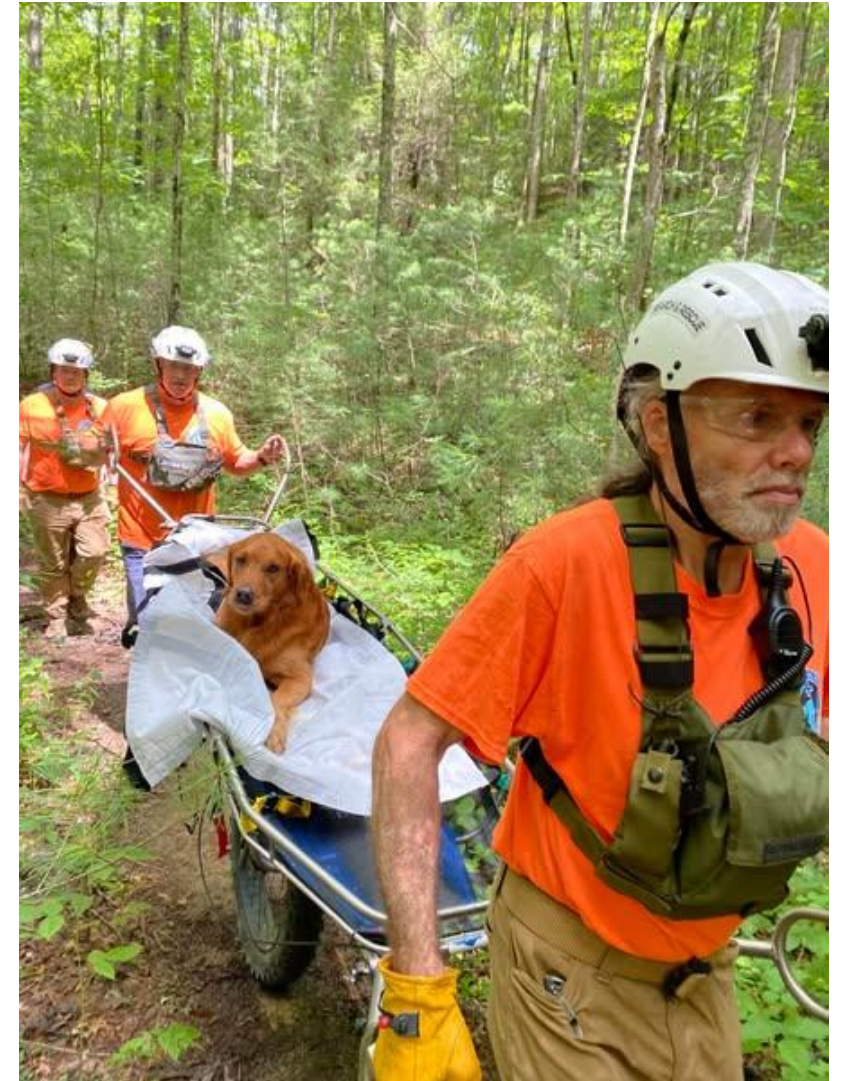


1,600 + People Rescued

Everyone who
was alive when
the team arrived
has been taken
out safely



And Some Furry Friends



Types of Operations: Cliff Rescues





Swift Water Rescues

North Fork KY River

- 2021: 100-year flood
- 2022: 1,000-year flood



Wilderness searches

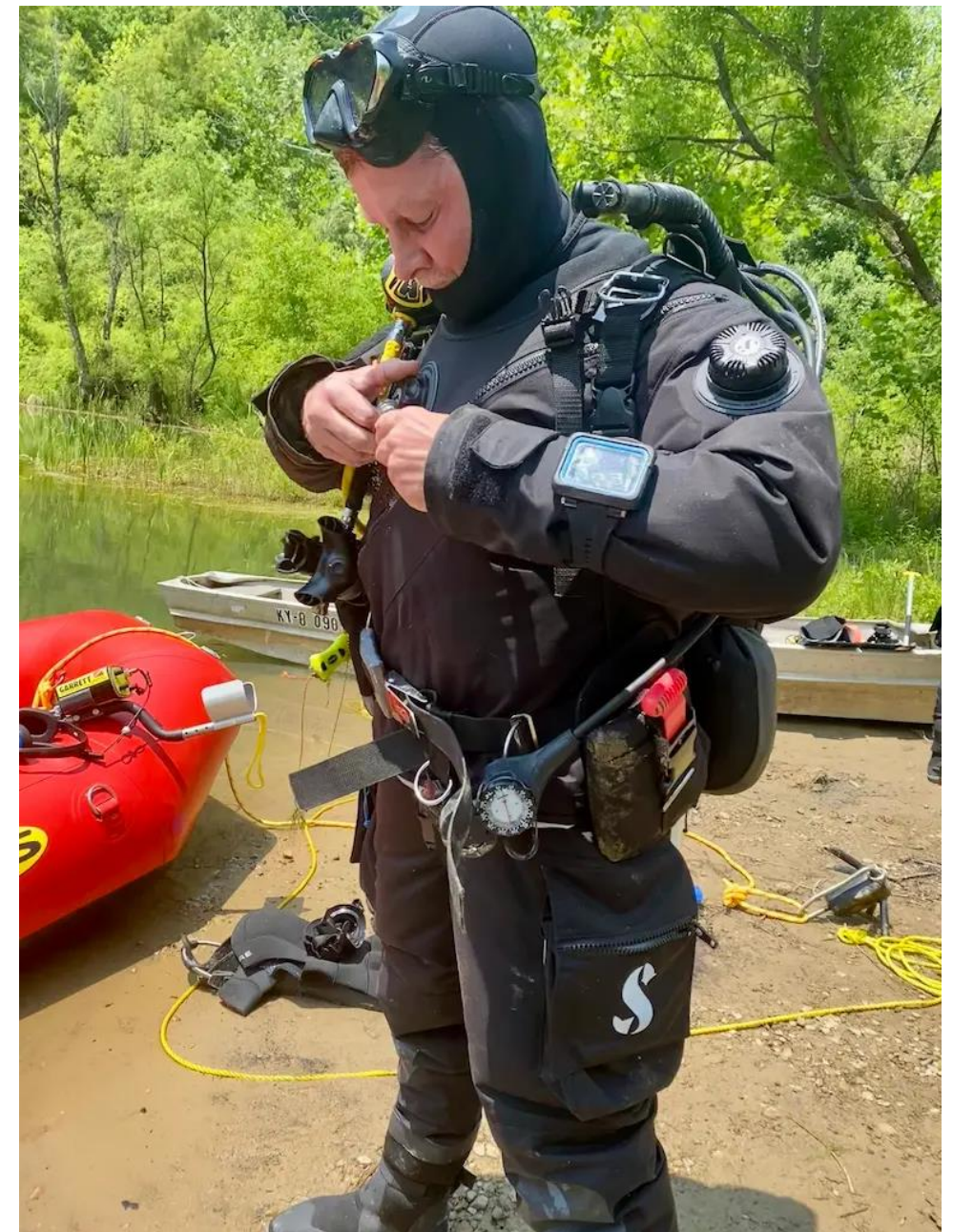
Scott Hern missing two weeks

- Five days of searching
- Searched beyond Bell Falls
- Located him **ALIVE** after 14 days in the Wilderness without food or water.



Diving and Water Recoveries

Underwater rescues and recoveries (usually drownings)



Rescue Equipment is Expensive...

- Samples of equipment utilized & cost:
 - Rescue Stokes Basket & Wheel - \$4,700
 - 11mm Static rope \$1.09 per foot x 1200' \$1,308
 - Ropes are replaced on avg every 2-3 years
 - Class 3 Rescue Harnesses - \$450 ea x 15= \$6,750
 - Harnesses replaced every 3-5 years
 - Inmar Rescue boat 14' with motor - \$10,210
 - Mobile command trailer \$13,916 (not outfitted)
 - Response Vehicles - \$270,000
 - Team Shell Jacket - \$650.00 ea



Challenges we Face

- Funding has been and continues to be a challenge. The state SAR grant is crucial but even with the most recent increase in funds, \$\$'s are still limited
- Teams must rely heavily on fund raising and donations to keep their teams outfitted. Creative fund-raising ideas like our RRG License Plate are essential



Challenges we Face

- We are homeless. An adequate squad building for equipment storage and training
- Retention and recruiting of SAR members can be a real challenge. WCSART doesn't have this issue but many other teams do
- Lack of death benefits for SAR members needs to be addressed. Other first responders have this coverage





Questions or comments