

A History of the Monmouth Beach First Aid Squad

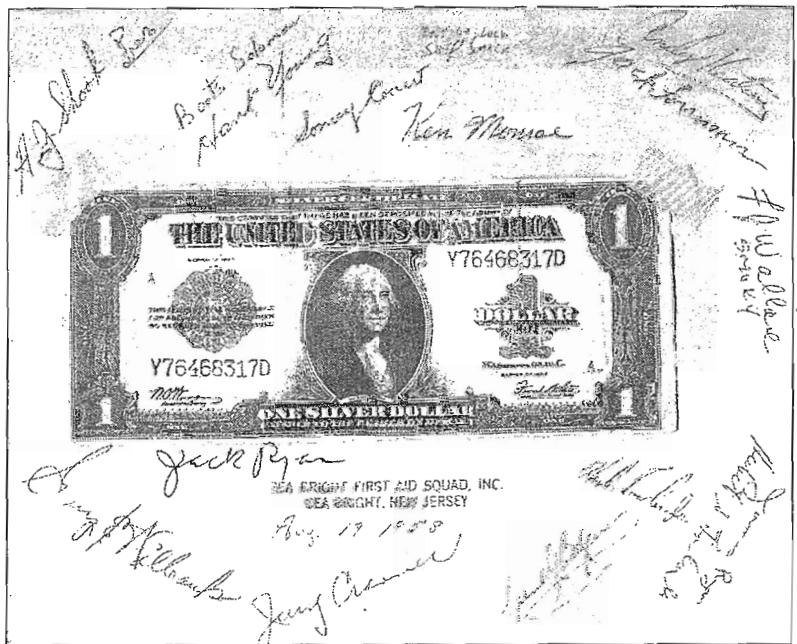
1958 2008

The Beginning Years An Ambulance for \$1

For many years up through the 1950's, residents of Monmouth Beach received first aid services from neighboring Sea Bright and Long Branch First Aid. However, the population of Monmouth Beach was growing rapidly. It became apparent that an occasion would arise when both Squads would be busy and unable to respond to a call from Monmouth Beach.

As early as 1954, a motion was made on the floor of the Monmouth Beach Fire Company to have some members trained in first aid so that they could immediately take care of anyone injured while Long Branch and Sea Bright were responding to calls.

In August 1958, William (Bill) H. Flaherty, a long-time leader in the community, purchased an older ambulance from Sea Bright (they were purchasing a new one) for \$1. Bill picked up the 1947 Chevrolet from Sea Bright, and stored it temporarily in Ray Dougherty's garage on Willow Avenue because, at that time, the Squad had no official building.



On September 23rd, 1958, a meeting was called at the Monmouth Beach Firehouse. The founding members formed the Monmouth Beach First Aid Squad. Bill Flaherty was elected as the first President, Tom Porter as Vice President, Emmett Boyle as Treasurer, and Jack Gannon as Secretary. A charter was signed by the original members:

William H. Flaherty	Thomas J. Porter	John J. Gannon
George J. Meyer, Jr.	Fred W. Hankins	John A. Schulz
Daniel I. Hennessey, Jr.	Fred A. Kampf	Peter "Booty" Mauro, Jr.
Kenneth Naess	Edward Caprario	Enoch Holmes, Jr.
Dale E. Burd	Wilbert P. Fendelander	Raymond Dougherty
Robert R. Evans	Alfred A. Truglia	Joseph E. Boyle
Charles E. Schulz	Joseph J. Caruso	Charles J. Hornbostel, Jr.
Charles J. Hornbostel, III	Carl A. Kopnicki	John J. Powers
James R. Maney	Lawrence E. DeMarco	Robert W. Kleiberg
Frank West		

In December, 1958, the Squad elected the first Captain, George J. Meyer Jr., as well as the other line officers. Several members were trained in first aid by instructor Herb Fowler, also known as the "Father of the Squad". On December 15th 1958, the squad sent a letter to the Monmouth County Police Radio Chief Operator to announce that members of the Squad were ready to serve the community and respond to calls. The letter states, in part;

“In the event that you can't contact the Monmouth Beach Police Department or the situation arises that an officer cannot leave the scene of an accident or disaster, the Monmouth Beach First Aid Squad may be reached by calling Joseph Boyle, Capital 2-4851 ...”

In that same month, the Squad responded to its first call and thus marked the beginning of a history of first aid service for the community.

The Early Years Making First Aid Possible

The Squad began with an idea of the founding members and the generous donation of an ambulance by the Sea Bright First Aid Squad. Other Squads in the area such as Long Branch, Oceanport, Eatontown, Lincroft, and Holmdel generously donated their surplus equipment to help the Monmouth Beach First Aid Squad get started. Fair Haven donated a 1955 Cadillac ambulance. The Monmouth Beach Fire Company offered their facilities to store the ambulance and a meeting facility for members.



Signing of Charter Sept. 23, 1958.

And yet, many challenges faced this new organization. There was a need for a garage to store the ambulance, first aid training for members, and further equipment and ongoing supplies to properly serve patients in need.

As an all volunteer organization that never charges for service, funds were raised through various ways. Members paid an initiation fee of \$5, which helped provide some early operational

funds. In addition, the Squad sold eggs, Christmas trees, and wreaths to keep the Squad going. Once the Squad was formally organized, the Borough offered to help with insurance costs. The first fund raising drive was made successful through the generosity of the community.

The Squad started community projects such as turkey shoots, ice skating races, blood drives, and pancake breakfasts.

By 1965, the Squad was able to purchase a new ambulance, communications radio, resuscitator, stretcher and other supplies critical to provide first aid service. The equipment was stored in facilities at the Firehouse.

The Building Years A Site Plan Becomes Reality

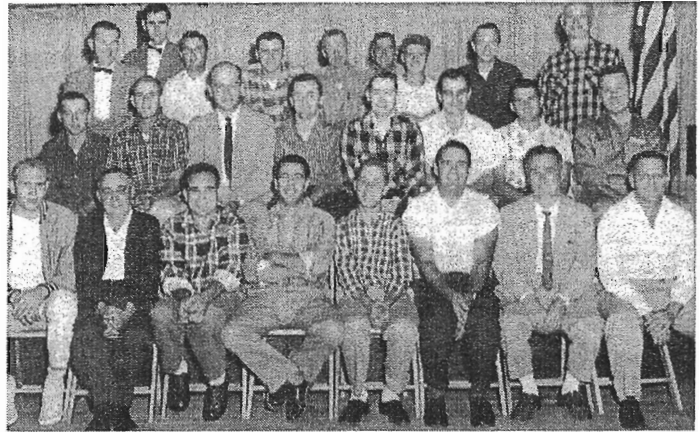
By the late 1960s, the Squad recognized the need for its own facilities to accommodate the growing needs of the community. The logical location was adjacent to the Firehouse. The Squad entered into an agreement with the Fire Company and the Borough. The launch of a new building was born.



In 1969, the Squad obtained property west of the Firehouse for its own building and made plans for the future.

On May 6th 1973, the Monmouth Beach First Aid Squad building was completed and operational. One year later, Jay W. Ross, a borough philanthropist, who made a habit of making generous gifts, donated \$40,000 to the Squad to help retire the mortgage of the new building. The building was subsequently dedicated in honor of Ross' mother, Margaret.

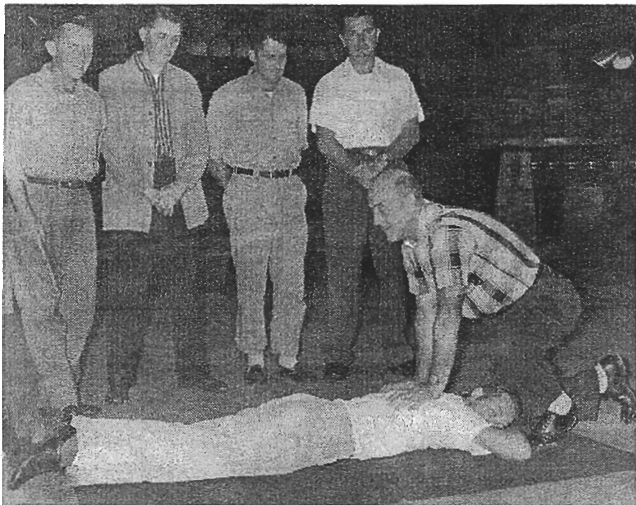
Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the Squad continued to train for and provide for more types of first aid services. By the time of the new millennium, the Squad served hundreds of patients with first aid and transport services.



**Night of the Charter Signing
September 23, 1958**

Today and the Future A History of Service and A Heritage of Caring

Since its founding 50 years ago, the Squad has come a long way. In 1958, the first ambulance sometimes had to be pushed to get started. Today, the Squad operates with two ambulances, with the newest ambulance purchased in 2008. These ambulances will allow for many years of reliable first aid and transport services.



First Training Sessions - Bill Flahety, Joseph Boyle, Jack Gannon, Tom Porter, laying down, Charles Shulz, Instructor, Herb Fowler.

The all-volunteer organization is now known as the Monmouth Beach EMS (Emergency Medical Services) with the mission to;

- respect, protect, and care for each patient
- be prepared in the knowledge, skill and means to deliver appropriate assessment, triage, and first aid
- provide prompt, secure transport to an appropriate facility, thereupon assuring direct patient transfer to a responsible caregiver

Thanks to the leadership and vision of the founding members many of whom sacrificed family and career demands to aid their neighbors in time of need the Squad had a sturdy foundation.

Thanks to the generosity of the residents, the surrounding Squads, the Fire Company, the Borough, the Ross family,

volunteers, and so many other people and organizations, an idea to serve the community with first aid services was made possible.

The dedication of the past, current, and future Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), First Responders, and Paramedics endures as a testament to a tradition of service and a heritage of caring.

The Squad looks forward to serving another 50 years.