

VIEWPOINTS

NKY.com

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | CH@TROOM

EDITORIAL

Water rescue team shows professionalism

"Kudos on a job well done. Having worked underwater search and recovery myself, I am always impressed by the courage, dedication and professionalism demonstrated by those who risk their lives in helping others to recover lost persons and property from lakes and rivers in our area. We all appreciate the hard work and selfless (efforts) of Boone County Water Rescue."

- Comment from nky.com reader

The above comment came in response to our story about Boone County Water Rescue's discovery of a helicopter in Tennessee.

Written by Paul McKibben, the story "Water rescue finds helicopter in Tennessee" was indeed a testament to the professionalism of our underwater search and rescue unit.

Searchers in Tennessee had tried in vain to find a helicopter that crashed Nov. 2 in the Cumberland River. The helicopter's pilot had died and his body was recovered.

With the helicopter still a mystery, four members of Boone County Water Rescue joined the search on Nov. 14. Two days later, in cold weather, the Boone Countians found the helicopter in 54 feet of water.

Fortunately the team members didn't have to dive to find

the helicopter. They found it using its state-of-art equipment.

Had they been required to dive, the Boone squad would have been ready.

Since being established in 1967, Boone County Water Rescue's 33 volunteers work more than 12,000 hours a year in water rescue activities. Countless hours are spent training new divers and sharpening the skills of accomplished ones.

If needed, the team has ice rescue capabilities, with three certified dive and ice rescue instructors. They also teach ice rescue classes to other fire departments and police departments.

In fact, Boone County Water Rescue offers many services to surrounding counties and states: water safety programs, boat patrols, evidence collection, vehicle, bus, aircraft recovery and victim recovery. According to the squad's Web page, no other governmental body in the region provides such an array of services for boaters.

Congratulations to the four squad members who made the trip to Tennessee - Capt. Dale Appel, Sgt. Ken Purcell, Mike Bean and Jason Geiman.

And further thanks to the ongoing efforts of this highly capable volunteer organization.