

## Tom Winkler Bio -

Division Chief Special Operations and Training (retired) Seminole, Florida USA has been a part of Seminole's Extrication Team for decades serving as tool technician, incident commander and training officer. His team has successfully competed in TERC, NAVRA and WRO circuits since the late 1980's winning local, state and national challenges. Tom helped form the original NAVRA organization in 2008 serving as NAVRA's first training officer and began assessing extrication challenges throughout the country. He currently works as a TERC, NAVRA and WRO Command Assessor. During his time with Seminole Fire Rescue, Tom coordinated and led the Special Operations teams responding to hazmat, high angle rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue, building collapse and vehicle crash rescue.

Following his 27-year tenure with Seminole Fire Rescue, Tom spent 12 years as a Hurst Jaws of Life Rescue Specialist working as lead instructor for national vehicle and machinery rescue educational events throughout the United States. He is frequently consulted during the research and development phase of new rescue tool technology drawing from his tactical expertise involving new vehicle construction and high-strength vehicle tactical operations.

Now in full retirement, Tom enjoys time with his family and has recommitted his efforts to the vehicle rescue community working as the NAVRA Assessor Coordinator where he oversees the development of new NAVRA assessors. He also continues to teach local fire departments the basics of vehicle crash rescue.

Chief Winkler has committed countless hours to the betterment of vehicle rescue operations through the years. It is for these reasons and others that he received the 2024 NAVRA Lifetime Achievement Award.