

The DPS Quarterly

A Department of Public Safety publication bringing professionalism and humanity together. Summer 2004

Inside Stories

The New P/V Camai 7



The "Calt" In The Hat 11



Project Code Red 18



CSI On Wheels 25



Commissioner's Comments

BY COMMISSIONER BILL TANDESKE

It is hard to believe that summer is already upon us. Now that it has drawn to a close, I can say that the legislative session flew by, although there were many days we wondered if it would ever end. Now that the dust has settled, we can take stock of what we accomplished during the session and return our focus to our core missions and investment in our employees.

With the support of **Governor Frank Murkowski** and members of the legislature, we were able to realize substantial gains for the department. The twenty new State Trooper positions we requested were funded. Additionally, the cost savings we have realized as part of our department reorganization were left in our budget. This has given us the flexibility to continue to address needs such as additional Court Services Officers and administrative support positions.

New State Trooper positions will be dispersed across the State with a notable investment in the Alaska Bureau of Investigations (ABI) and Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement (ABADE). Palmer and Soldotna will receive additional major crimes investigators and Fairbanks and Palmer will each receive two property crimes investigators. Additionally, four more investigators will be assigned to ABADE as we restore our major offender unit.

We are currently working to create another DNA Criminalist position for the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory. We are confident the demand for these services will continue to increase and we want to work to stay in front of the demand for services by seeking additional resources.

Our department reorganization is essentially in place. The primary focus for the coming year will be on maximizing the benefits of the reorganization and continued focus on the services we provide our constituents. Ultimately, the success of our department is dependent on the success of our employees. To that end, you will continue to see an investment in leadership and technical training in all divisions.

One of the significant processes we will focus on during the coming year is the structure and operation of the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) program. Our goal is to reduce administrative costs and increase the number of VPSOs serving the villages. In April, we entered into an agreement with KANA, the non-profit from Kodiak, to manage the VPSO contracts for Kodiak, Kotzebue, South Peninsula, and Southeast Alaska. By combining four non-profit regions into one contractor, we realized sufficient savings to fund four additional VPSO (Commissioner, continued on page 2)

Alaska Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Day 2004

BY JOHN GIACALONE, CRIME LAB

The Alaska Law Enforcement Memorial Service was held on Friday, May 7, 2004. The Day's events, beginning with a delicious picnic at Anchorage PD and the ceremony which followed at the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory (SCDL), were blessed with gorgeous weather. The Anchorage Police Department Employees Association (APDEA), the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), the Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA), and the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers (FOAST) sponsored the Police Memorial Day Picnic.

In 1986, the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory was built and the building was dedicated to Alaskan law enforcement officers who have lost their life in the line of duty. The Laboratory, under the direction of **George Taft**, shepherded the memorial that is on its grounds and embraced its care. A statue entitled, "A Friend" is a sculpture of an officer holding a child and is the centerpiece of the memorial. The



Alaska Law Enforcement Memorial Day was observed on May 7, 2004 at the Memorial located at the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory in Anchorage.

first year that a Memorial Service was held in Alaska was in 1989 at the 5th Avenue Mall.

In 1995, the Memorial brick project began to raise funds to sustain the Memorial and its expenses. This involved the purchase of bricks by various police departments across the State, other law enforcement agencies, along with local businesses over the next three years. **Ray Faust** along with **Joe Young** and his wife **Rosella**, tracked the inventory of the approximately 500 bricks and issued certificates acknowledging each donation. The cost of the brick installation totaled about \$14,000. A local architect donated time and talent while the materials and labor were funded by APDEA and PSEA. The Alaska Chief's of Police donated funds for the white marble chip trim around the bricks. The latest addition was the sign on the building wall that was paid for by APOA. The Capital City Chapter of the APOA, and the Alaska State Troopers donated granite benches. APDEA; APOA, Anchorage Chapter; and FOAST donated the flagpoles. Each year in the spring Faust, the Law Enforcement Memorial Committee, along with **Jim Dove**, and the staff of the SCDL, clean the site up, replace the flags, and prepare the Memorial

for the annual ceremony. Flowers are planted along the site by SCDL staff each year.

The names of 362 fallen officers, nationwide, were officially added to the National Memorial in Washington, DC at a candlelight vigil on Thursday, May 13, 2004.

This year's service in Alaska honored the Life of Kenai Police Officer, **John P. Watson**, Alaska State Trooper, **C. W. 'Walt' Zahn**, and 5010th Airman First Class (Eielson AFB) **Roy Lee Hursey**. The 'Final Call' List, commemorating each of the 42 Alaskan officers who have made the 'ultimate sacrifice', was read by **APD Chief Walt Monegan** and **Colonel Julia Grimes**, Director, AST. A violin duet was played by **Beverly** and **Erica Beheim**; **Dan Henderson** performed "Amazing Grace" with a bag pipe; a Twenty-One gun salute was given by the Military Rifle Team from Fort Richardson; and Echo Taps was played by the Air Force Band of the Pacific.

Recognition and thanks is given to all those whom have assisted in the planning and participation in this solemn event. The citizens of Alaska extend appreciation to the surviving family members of each of the officers honored. ■

Commissioner,

continued from page 1

positions, and give all of the VPSOs in the four regions an increase in pay rate. We will continue to look at innovative ways to provide services to rural communities in a cost effective manner.

In August, we will begin the planning process for the next legislative session in January and FY06 budget process that will take effect July 1, 2005. There is very little time between finishing one legislative/budget process and the start of the next. Although the process can be tedious, I believe it is an opportunity to showcase the efforts of our outstanding employees and the many positive aspects of the services we provide to our constituents.

I hope that all of our employees, former employees, and families have a great summer. I hope to see as many of you as possible as I travel around the State. ■



Alaska Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Day, May 2004 The Final Call

In memory of those officers whose lives were lost since Statehood, and to those whose lives were lost during Territorial times, we recognize and commemorate your service in Alaska. Forty-two officers have made the ultimate

sacrifice while serving the citizens of Alaska. May we all carry their memory in our hearts and minds as we carry out our duties, and hope we never have to add another name to this list of heroes. May they rest in peace.

Doris Wayne Barber

Sitka Police Dept. - July 28, 1960

Leroy Garvin Bohuslov

Dept. of Fish & Game - March 5, 1964

Roy Lee Hursey

5010th Air Police, Eielson AFB -
February 27, 1963

Gary George Wohfiel

Dept. of Fish & Game - March 5, 1964

Donald Thomas Dull

Juneau Police Dept. - October 19, 1964

Kenneth Grant Nauska

Craig Police Dept. - January 30, 1966

Benjamin Franklin Strong

Anchorage Police Dept. - January 4, 1968

Thomas Charles Dillon

Bethel Police Dept. - November 19, 1972

Dennis Finbar Cronin

Alaska State Troopers - February 18, 1974

Earl Ray Hoggard

Ketchikan Police Dept. - March 30, 1974

Larry Robert Carr

Alaska State Troopers - December 11, 1974

Frank Stuart Rodman

Alaska State Troopers - December 11, 1974

Jonathon Paul Flora

Anchorage Police Dept. - September 8, 1975

C. W. "Walt" Zahn

Alaska State Troopers - October 26, 1978

Richard James Adair

Juneau Police Dept. - April 17, 1979

Jimmy Earl Kennedy

Juneau Police Dept. - April 17, 1979

Harry Edward Kier

Anchorage Police Dept. - October 28, 1980

Roland Edgar Chevalier, Jr.

Alaska State Troopers - April 4, 1982

John David Stimson

Fish & Wildlife Protection -
January 14, 1983

Gordon Brewster Bartel

Kodiak Police Dept. - January 15, 1983

Troy Lynn Duncan

Alaska State Troopers - May 19, 1984

David Cameron Harris

Ft. Richardson Military Police -
July 23, 1984

Ignatius John Charlie

Alakanuk Police Dept. - May 10, 1985

Harry Biddington Hanson

Anchorage Police Dept. - July 17, 1986

Ronald Eugene Zimin

So. Naknek Public Safety -
October 22, 1986

Louie Gordon Mizelle

Anchorage Police Dept. - June 6, 1989

Anthony Crawford Jones

Dillingham Police Dept. - February 12, 1992

Karl William Reishus

Juneau Police Dept. - May 4, 1992

C. E. "Swack" Swackhammer

Alaska State Troopers - October 11, 1994

Robert Lee Bittick

Alaska State Troopers - October 11, 1994

Dan Richard Seely

Anchorage Police Department -
October 26, 1996

Bruce Allen Heck

Alaska State Troopers - January 10, 1997

John Kevin Lamm

Fairbanks Police Dept. - January 1, 1998

David Calvin Churchill

Fish & Wildlife Protection -
September 16, 1998

Richard Ivan Luht, Jr.

IRS Criminal Investigations Division
January 31, 1999

James Arland Rowland Jr.

Palmer Police Department - May 15, 1999

James Arthur Moen

Fish & Wildlife Protection - June 25, 2001

Justin T. Wollam

Anchorage Police Dept. - July 9, 2001

Hans-Peter Lothar Roelle

Alaska State Troopers - November 24, 2001

James Hesterberg

Dept. of Corrections - November 19, 2002

Thomas O'Hara

National Park Service - December 19, 2002

John Patrick Watson

Kenai Police Dept. - December 25, 2003 ■



The Alaska Law Enforcement Officers Memorial is located in front of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory which was dedicated to Alaskan law enforcement officers who have lost their life in the line of duty.

From the Desk of Chaplain Jerry O. Norman

It seems that only yesterday was the beginning of the new year. As we get older, time seems to “fly” by. I remember my first child being born. He is now 36 years old. I have a grand daughter who is 6 and half years old. Many of our plans have gone by the way as time passes on.

Considering all of these things, we must ask ourselves the question: what are my plans and what am I doing about them. This includes every aspect of our lives – financial, emotional, social, family, career, and above all, spiritual. How are your responses to each of these questions?

Looking to the future, I encourage each and every one to consider your plans, seek advice and counsel where necessary, and pursue your plans and goals with a “fluid” resolve that will enable you to be the person that I believe God wants each and every one to be.

In the Bible, Romans 8:28, the Apostle Paul writes, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

If God is for us, who can be against us? You have been called to a very

unique career, and one of great promise and risk. A career that only you can fulfill in this space of time.

If any one of you needs some assistance, coaching, or just some help finding your way, please feel free to contact me and I will do anything I can to aid your search.

My telephone number is: (907) 345-2813. My e-mail address is: chaplainjerrynorman@msn.com.

May the Lord bless you! May the Lord keep you! May His countenance shine upon you and give you peace. ■

Salute To Those In The Field

A salute to those who strive and attain success, and thank you to those in the field who have proven they are willing to provide the highest degree of professionalism each and every day.

Trp. Jason Fieser, Palmer Post, received a memo of appreciation for his outstanding performance, professionalism, compassion, and positive attitude displayed while providing public assistance to a citizen stranded on the roadside.

Trp. John Ostoj, Palmer Post, received a memo of appreciation for his high degree of professionalism, courtesy, and appropriate demeanor while investigating a motor vehicle/moose accident. The citizen commented Trp. Ostoj’s behavior was such a sharp and positive contrast to other law enforcement officers he had experienced, he felt compelled to express his appreciation.

Sgt. Rod Johnson, Talkeetna Post, received a memo of appreciation for his

superior performance in taking operational control of a potentially crisis situation which occurred relative to the re-start of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race, by directing available troopers to take over traffic control on the Parks Highway, re-opening blocked roadways, and transitioning control back to those civilian companies paid to maintain order.

Each of you has brought credit to yourself and to all who wear the uniform, to serve the public. ■

Department Promotions

Colonel Julia Grimes announced the following promotions for **Howard Starbard**, **Perry Barr**, and **Bernard Chastain**.

Howard Starbard

Col. Grimes announced the selection of Howard Starbard, formerly the Commander of the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement, as Major, Administrative Commander for the Division of Alaska State Troopers. Major Starbard will be assuming his position May 3, 2004.

Major Starbard has over twenty-one years with our organization, both with the former Division of Wildlife Protection and most recently with the Division of Alaska State Troopers. His substantial experience as a commander and his administrative expertise in budgeting, pro-

curement and legislative processes will be an excellent fit with our leadership team here in the Director’s office. Col. Grimes said, “I very much look forward to working with Major Starbard as we continue to advance the Division in a positive direction.”

Perry Barr

Col. Grimes announced the promotion of Trp. Perry Barr, C Detachment, Bethel Post to Sergeant, C Detachment, Bethel Post, and effective May 1, 2004.

(Promotions, continued on page 5)

Retired Capt. Howard Starbard (right) was selected to replace Major James Cockrell, Administrative Commander, who retired in April.



Promotions, continued from page 4

Trp. Barr is a 13-year veteran and began his law enforcement career in Shishmaref as a Village Police Officer, becoming a Sergeant. He then became a Court Services Officer in Fairbanks and Bethel. In 1991, Trp. Barr was hired as a State Trooper and has been assigned to Fairbanks, Nome, and Bethel. He is currently with the WAANT Unit in Bethel.

As Sergeant for the Bethel Post, Sgt. Barr will be the Post Supervisor and will be responsible for the supervision of State Troopers assigned to Rural Unit Patrol in Bethel and one civilian Pilot located in Bethel.

Sgt. Barr is clearly dedicated to the rural enforcement mission and will provide the continuity of leadership that a large, active rural Post needs to be effective.

Bernard Chastain

Col. Grimes announced the promotion of Trp. Bernard Chastain, Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement, Mat-Su Region, Glennallen Post to Sergeant, ABWE Southeastern Region, Ketchikan Post effective July 1, 2004.

Trp. Chastain is a 6-year veteran with the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers, Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement. He graduated the Academy in December 1998 and his first assignment was B Detachment, Soldotna Post. He then transferred to his current duty station, Glennallen Post, in June 2001.

Trp. Chastain is a Department Pilot and was the B Detachment Trooper of the Year in 2001, as well as the Division of Fish &

Wildlife Protection Trooper of the Year for 2001. He received a Certificate of Award from the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association in August 2002.

In his new assignment Sgt. Chastain will be the supervisor for the Ketchikan, Klawock, Petersburg, Wrangell Posts, the *P/V Enforcer* and 7 Alaska State Troopers of the Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement. He will also be responsible for the supervision of one Boat Officer, two full time Public Safety Technicians and one seasonal Public Safety Technician.

Sgt. Chastain has performed in an outstanding manner as a Trooper and this commitment to AST and the ABWE mission will no doubt continue as he assumes his leadership role in Ketchikan. ■

Judicial Services--Anchorage

This year at Judicial Services (JS) has seen some changes in personnel. Last year we acquired **Kevin Kelly** and **Jenelle O'Bryant** and they successfully completed the FTO program here. A big welcome to them as they start their career with DPS. This year we gained another new person in the form of **Chris Graves** who also finished his FTO. Welcome aboard to all three of them. We lost **Dan Carlson** to Palmer in April and good luck to him out in the Valley, actually from whence he came.

Christmas was a busy time for us as the annual charity drive for a needy family kicked off here at JS. A number of years ago this was started by **Officer Semi Sanvig** (known as the grumpy old man) to raise money for a needy family so their children could have a nice Christmas. **Officer Paul Bulawa** now heads up the drive along with **Officer Pat Liss** and several other officers. The needy families submit their wishes and their stories of need through OCS and we all get to review them and vote for the family we believe is the most needy.

This year we were able to help 2 families with the approximately \$1,000 raised by the CSOs who work here. Once the families were picked, the CSO shoppers

picked a shopping day purchasing all of the presents. Representatives of OCS then came to the annual JS Christmas party, picked up the presents and distributed them to the families. It is a great cause and everyone here participates in it.

We do have talent here as well as represented by **CSO Dan Shepard**, who won first prize, in the amateur division, for the best sports color photo in the Fur Rendezvous photography contest. He also won second place in the same division along with 2nd place in the black and white division of amateur sports photography. Finally, he had 3 photos selected for exhibition in the contest. We now refer to him as the **Frank Lloyd Wright** of amateur photography. Good job Dan.

We were able recently to finish TASER training with the CSOs, all of whom really loved the effect the Tasers had on them especially **CSO Brad Zimmerman** who thought once was enough and then CSO Liss who volunteered twice.

We have been getting lots of help here from **Trps. Cloward, Babcock** and **Sheppard**, so we would like to thank ABWE and C Detachment for all the help, as we are short personnel as all of you are. ■



The Last First Sergeant

On August 15, 2003, without any fanfare, the last First Sergeant in DPS faded into only a memory of what used to be. That person just by happenstance was me.

Though on thinking back, it should maybe have been one of the First Sergeants that was in my mind, a greater person than me. Maybe it should have been **Drew Rotermond** or **Bill Nickel** or **Tim Litera**; at least someone of imposing stature that had an effect on all of us that knew and worked for them.

Now that they are all gone it almost seems hard for me to remember them all and the effect that they had on a young inexperienced trooper like myself. The times that they guided us through difficult days at work and in our personal struggles with life.

Thinking back though I do know that without them and their guidance and faith in all of us, few would be who we are today. Those large imposing people with all those stripes on their arms were certainly larger than life at times, not only too me but to the public as well, yet they could be so compassionate at the blink of an eye.

To me as a young trooper, I never dreamed I would ever rise to their rank, much less fill the boots that they wore. In thinking back, I don't believe that I ever did. I was just fortunate to wear the same stripes that they wore.

So when I look on that shelf and see those stripes, I am proud to be one of them hoping I somehow held up my end of the standard that all of them set for us. ■

Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement Welcome Aboard The *P/V Augustine*



The *P/V Augustine* was officially commissioned on April 5, 2004, in Homer, Alaska.

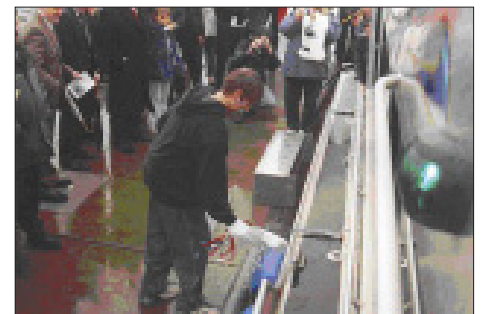
The *P/V Augustine* was officially commissioned April 5, 2004 in Homer, Alaska. The vessel will be operated by the Alaska Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers, Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement in Homer. It was commissioned for the State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety, **Governor Frank H. Murkowski**, **Commissioner William Tandeske**, **Director Colonel Julia Grimes**, **Project Manager Captain Howard Starbard**, and **Vessel supervisor/Project Manager Joe Gillas**.

Col. Grimes, Commissioner Tandeske, **Lt. Governor Loren Leman**, **Major Joseph Masters**, and **Major James Cockrell** provided comments during the ceremony.

The *P/V Augustine* was designed and built by Bay Welding of Homer. It is 36 feet in length, has a 12-foot beam, and accommodates 2 crewmembers. The vessel is propelled by 2 Honda 225 4-stroke engines, cruises at 32 knots burning approximately 10 gallons per hour. It has a 300-gallon fuel oil, and 40-gallon water capacity. It will patrol in and around the Homer area.

The vessel was named by 13-year old **Tracy Quance** who broke the commission-

ing bottle on the *P/V Augustine* and officially placed the vessel in service to protect the citizens and resources of the State of Alaska. Homer school children entered a contest to name the new vessel. Ten names were submitted to Col. Grimes for a final decision. On his entry, Quance wrote, "Augustine was the volcano that made a big wave hit across the Bay." The Peninsula Chapter of the Alaska Peace Officers Association awarded Quance a \$50 savings bond and the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers presented him with a jacket, t-shirt, and ball cap. Lt. Governor Leman also presented Quance with a book about Alaska. ■



Thirteen year old Tracy Quance, who named the vessel, placed the vessel in service to Alaska.

The New *Camai*

CAPT. HOWARD STARBARD

The new *P/V Camai* was delivered by Kvichak Marine Industries of Seattle, Washington in Ketchikan on March 8, 2004. **Major Joe Masters** signed off on the paperwork making it officially the property of the State of Alaska.

The *P/V Camai* was originally built by Kvichak Marine Industries and delivered to the Department of Public Safety August 18, 2001. Soon afterward, it was discovered to have been one of many vessels constructed of inferior grade aluminum, not suitable for saltwater, marine use. Kvichak Marine, along with the supplier of the aluminum, replaced the entire hull at no cost to the State of Alaska. Except for a few items, the new vessel is completely outfitted with entirely new equipment.

The *P/V Camai* is a 69-foot aluminum catamaran hulled vessel designed by Crowther Multihulls of Sydney, Australia. The vessel will be stationed in Kodiak. It is spending about a month in Southeast Alaska filling in for the *P/V Enforcer* which is being replaced by a new vessel, scheduled to be delivered in late May 2004. It crossed the Gulf and returned to Kodiak the first week of April.

The *P/V Camai* is one of four main vessel projects being completed this fiscal year. The other three projects include the *P/V Enforcer*, *P/V Churchill* and *P/V Augustine*. The new 69-foot *P/V Enforcer* is currently being built by Kennedy Shipyard in Texas. This same shipyard won the bid and built the 44-foot *P/V Churchill*. The *P/V Churchill* just arrived from Texas and is currently in Valdez. It was named for **Sergeant David Churchill** who died September 16, 1998 while on patrol. The *P/V Augustine* is a 36-foot vessel built and stationed in Homer. ■



"...I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide; Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;..."

John Masefield, Sea Fever

AST Detachment News

A Detachment

By SHELLY DUNN, AST KETCHIKAN

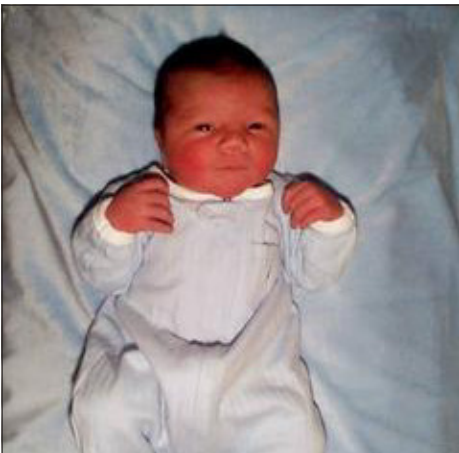
New arrivals:

On April 20th, **Trp. Mark Eldridge** and his wife **Maureen** welcomed **Ian Patrick Eldridge** at the Ketchikan General Hospital. Ian weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 1/4 inches long. Ian is happy and healthy and his parents are ecstatic. Congratulations Mark and Maureen!



Trp. Mark Eldridge and Maureen welcome Ian Patrick Eldridge.

Owen Clyde Campbell finally arrived at Ketchikan General Hospital on April 27, at 4:45 pm. He weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches in length. He joins dad **ABWE Trp. Clyde Campbell**, mom **Sarah**, and big sister **Emma**. Congratulations to the Campbell Family!



Trp. Clyde Campbell and Sarah welcome Owen Clyde Campbell.

Captain Garrett Going Away Party:

On April 7, 2004, Ketchikan, Juneau and Klawock personnel along with friends of **Capt. Steve Garrett** and his wife **Suzi**, flocked to the U.S.C.G.'s Crow's Nest, to



Shelly Dunn (center) and Linda Deal presented a photo of themselves to Captain Steve Garrett.



Captain Steve Garrett and wife Suzi received a picture of Ketchikan from his troops.

say farewell. Capt. Garrett recently transferred to Fairbanks, where he is now D Detachment Commander. **RDIII Shelly Dunn** and **ACIII Linda Deal** presented Capt. Garrett with a mock picture of the beauty of SE Alaska that he will truly miss (a picture of themselves). **Sgt. Lonny Piscoya** presented the real Ketchikan framed picture to him and Suzi. We miss you Captain!

During the festivities Capt. Garrett presented Klawock Post **Trp. Walter Blajeski** with a personal commendation

for saving the lives of 4 persons who were in the water after their boat had capsized in rough water 3 miles outside of Craig. **Trp. Blajeski** and the Craig Harbormaster **Michael Kampnich** quickly responded to the area, after receiving a report of the boat having capsized and people in the water. Capt. Garrett stated, "Your quick action, in what amounted to be very dangerous conditions, and without regard for your own safety, resulted in four lives being saved. Because of you, four people

(A Detachment, continued on page 9)

A Detachment, continued from page 8



Lt. Kurt Ludwig presented Captain Steve Garrett with a plaque. Suzi Garrett joined them.

studying. Turned out to be his routine. What a great father!

With the crowd going wild, the Dad's Drill Team danced the final performance of the year, "Stayin' Alive". Way to go Jeff! You Rock!

(A Detachment, continued on page 10)



Trp. Jeff Landvatter performed with the "Dad's Drill Team"



Captain Steve Garrett presented Klawock Post Trooper Walter Blajeski with a personal commendation.

have been given a second chance and are alive today". Congratulations Trp. Blajeski.

Juneau Highlights:

On April 8, 2004, Juneau Trp. Jeff Landvatter performed with the Dad's Drill Team at the Juneau Douglas High School. The drill team represents dad's whose daughters are on the Juneau Dance Team. The Dance Team performs a final show for the community each spring, which includes the routines they performed throughout the year. The Dad's Drill team

had been very popular in Juneau, however they stopped performing a few years ago. Much to the delight of fans, they started up again this last year. Lucky for Jeff, his daughter Mikaela made the team. He knew he would have to contribute, but sure didn't think he would have to be busting a move in front of hundreds of people. The routine consisted of different dance moves and stunts and lasted approximately 4 minutes. Earlier in the day while at work, Jeff was spotted taking a piece of paper from his wallet often and

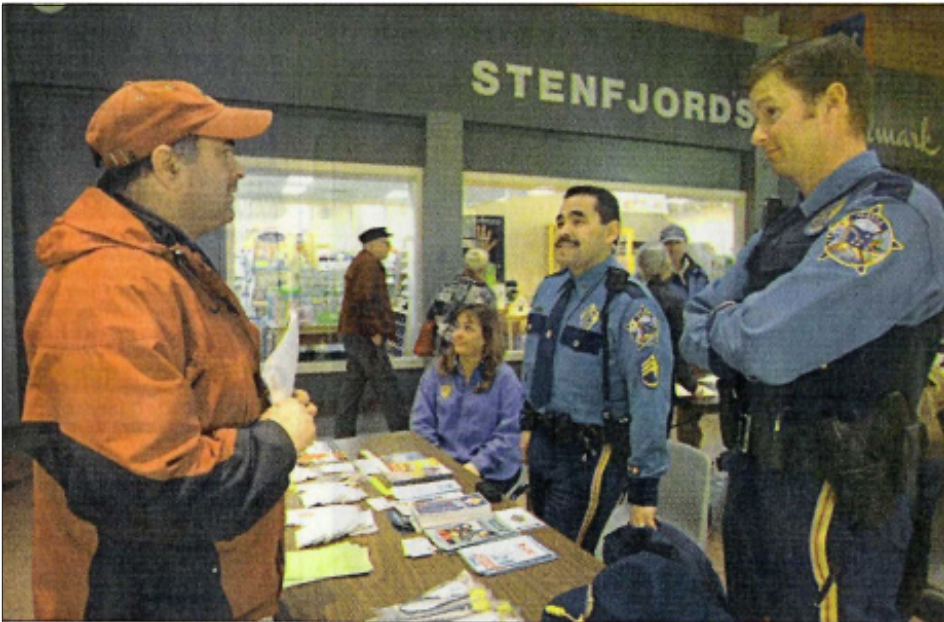


A Detachment, continued from page 9



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISLAND NEWS

Trooper Bob Claus welcomed VPSO Naomi Douglas, the new VPSO for Thorne Bay.



Trp. Mark Eldridge (right), Sgt. Lonny Piscoya, and RDII Marianne Thompson set up shop at the Job Fair in Ketchikan.

New VPSO in Thorne Bay:

The Alaska State Troopers, the City of Thorne Bay and KANA Native Association welcomed **Naomi Douglas** as the new VPSO for Thorne Bay. Ms. Douglas is a long-term resident of Thorne Bay and an active EMS volunteer. She is a member of the Alaska National Guard, and recently completed extensive medical training with the Guard. Ms. Douglas looks forward to

re-establishing the VPSO office in Thorne Bay and working with the community to solve public safety problems.

Job Fair:

Trp. Mark Eldridge, Sgt. Lonny Piscoya and **RDII Marianne Thomson** answer questions from the public at the annual Job Fair April 3rd at the Plaza in Ketchikan. ■

B Detachment Palmer Post

BY JILL BYBEE AND SANDRA EUNICE

Additions/Subtractions:

Please welcome **CSO Dan Carlson**. He has transferred back to Palmer J.S. from Anchorage J.S. He had formally been assigned to Palmer J.S. and we're glad to have him back. We also would like to welcome back **Trp. Tom Akelkok** to Big Lake Post, he also had been assigned to the Big Lake Post a few years back. And another welcome back to **Judy Canty**, a new Administrative Clerk who had worked at the Palmer Post in the early '90s. **Kim Leader** resigned her Administrative position on February 24, 2004, and **Jill Veloske-Bybee**, from Talkeetna Post was promoted to the Administrative Clerk III position and reported to duty April 1, 2004. **Trp. O'Dean Hall** transferred to ABWE Cantwell Post and **Trp. Dan Sadloske** to **Glennallen Post**:

Trp. Dave Herrell, who is assigned to the DUI team, was out doing traffic stops on April 24, 2004, on Big Lake Road when he was rear-ended in his patrol vehicle. He had stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation and the operator of the vehicle was in his patrol vehicle when another person rear-ended the patrol vehicle causing it to collide with the original vehicle he had stopped. **Trp. Herrell** was injured and transported to Valley Hospital and later released. A Big Lake man was arrested for DUI and Assault in the Third Degree. The patrol vehicle was totaled. We're glad this didn't have a worse outcome. **Trp. Timothy Lewis** was also injured in a DUI Team Vehicle mishap on April 16, 2004. He was treated and released from Valley Hospital. This vehicle was also totaled.

On April 26, 27, and 28, **Lisa Bucher** and **Julie Kirn**, the Palmer Evidence Custodians, attended the IAPE Evidence training sponsored by the Anchorage Police Department. Custodians from all across the State attended and it was nice for them to be able to put faces with the names. The course was very enlightening
(B Detachment, continued on page 11)

If you have had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed a wrong number, you might live in Alaska.

Jeff Foxworthy on Alaska

B Detachment,

continued from page 10

for Bucher who had never attended a class like this before. She came back with very optimistic ideas about improving the Palmer facility.

We would like to congratulate **Trp. Skip Chadwell** and **Trp. Paul Wegrzyn** for demonstrating proficiency with their firearms. They were selected to attend firearms instructor training in Sitka to become Department firearm instructors. Kudos to both of them.

Calt in the Hat:

On March 2, 2004, Swanson Elementary School had a tribute to **Dr. Suess**. They had requested public officials to stop by and read Dr. Suess books to the students. Not only do we have the standard job duties of Law Enforcement...but also, there is nothing better than a public appearance for a new recruit. **Recruit Shayne Calt** went and read a book with the students, Recruit Calt wanted to know when the autograph signing was.

Trp. Dave Willson received Award from Crime Stoppers:

The annual Mat-Su Crime Stoppers Board banquet was held on March 19, 2004, in Palmer. **Trp. Dave Willson** received the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year 2003 award from the Crime Stoppers. This is quite an honor and all of B Detachment wants to congratulate him on a job well done.



Trp. Dave Willson was recognized as Law Enforcement Officer of the Year 2003.



Trooper Recruit Shayne Calt got into the spirit of Dr. Suess during story time at Swanson Elementary School.



Those attending the Willow Open House included Sgt. Rod Johnson, Lt. Rick Roberts, Trp. John Ostoj, Trp. "Skip" Chadwell, Major Jim Cockrell, Colonel Julia Grimes, Capt. Dennis Casanovas, Sgt. Dallas Massie, and Lt. Randy Hahn.

Willow Substation:

After three years of planning, the Willow substation has finally become a reality. The open house was on April 22, 2004. Several members from the community and AST staff attended. The Willow substation is at Mile 69 of the Parks Highway, at the Heart of Willow. It is equipped with a fax machine, computers, and a data master. It will provide a convenient place for B Detachment Troopers to process paperwork and will save valuable traveling time. It also gives the Trooper's a local presence in the Willow Community. It will not be regularly manned but will be used as

needed. Plans are also underway to move the Talkeetna Post back out near the intersection of the Parks Highway and the Talkeetna Spur Road. The tentative move date is the early part of June. ■



Inv. Craig Allen celebrated his 40th birthday with 7-month-old granddaughter, Katelynn Lee Marie Lubasky.

D Detachment

COMPILED BY TRP. ALAN CARVAJAL

So long, farewell:

On April 30, 2004, one dynamic trio said good-bye to the department. During the retirement party for **Capt. Greg Tanner**, **Lt. Charlie Tressler**, and **Inv. Sue Acquistapace**, one posed picture seemed to capture the essence of what some believe is the true spirit of these three individuals.

Farewell Party:

By **Cheryl Searles**, CSO Fairbanks

You could of heard a pin drop when Lt. Charlie Tressler spoke about why he was a Trooper. He said he hated to see people in “fear” and did what he could in his career to make sure that people were not in “fear”. He spoke to the “Troopers” about making sure they know why they became a Trooper and holding onto that reason; that at the end of their career that is what is important. The Colonel (**Julia Grimes**) pointed out so correctly, ‘once a Trooper always a Trooper.’ She would like to see Lt. Tressler talk with new recruits coming onto the Department.

Capt. Greg Tanner thanked everyone for all their hard work and described an incident that had just happened this week. He said that **Trp. Pat Nelson** called him from the Nenana area after a fatal car accident. As he was sending FPD down to help with crime scene investigation, Trp. Nelson was explaining the extent of damage. Capt. Tanner asked Trp. Nelson if he needed more Troopers to respond. He stated, “No, that he and another Trooper had it all covered.” It struck the Capt. that this is just one example of how everyone does such exceptional work by themselves or with just a few others for help. You just don’t see that level of work in all Police Departments.

There were special thank yous from **Sgt. Dave Dvenkar** to the retirees with stories about each one of exceptional job well done. Additionally, there were friends and family who had more special and funny stories to tell.

Major Joe Masters had a funny story to tell about Inv. Sue Acquistapace. When she was going to the recruit academy, she had pulled him aside one day. Major Mas-



(From left) Lt. Charlie Tressler, Inv. Sue Acquistapace, and Capt. Greg Tanner will be a dynamic trio that will be hard to replace.

ters was a tack Officer. She explained to him how he could do his job better! He must have listened and certainly has not forgotten. Inv. Acquistapace has trained numerous people in AST and has always had the insight to see what “needs to be done”.

Lt. Lee Farmer was the MC and DJ for the party...he did a great job.

“Earth Wind and Fire”:

Each one of these individuals has had significant positive influences on the AST of today. Capt. Tanner was able to bring calm and a sense of order to difficult and complicated situations with his wise insight and his ability to break down things into simple terms.

(D Detachment, continued on page 13)



Meet Coach (Trp.) Matt Heieren and the 2003/2004 Tok Bantam Hockey team.

D Detachment, continued from page 12

Lt. Tressler was a tough trooper who led by example and inspired everyone who had the pleasure to work with and be lead by him. Inv. Auistapace was a groundbreaker that never let anything get in the way of doing what she felt was the right thing to do.

These Troopers have left their indelible mark on AST and will be sorely missed. Those of us who remain in service wish them "fair winds and following seas" in all their future endeavors.

In Time For Mother's Day:

Trp. Jon McEnroe, ABWE Trooper at the Fairbanks Post, and his wife, **Nichol**, are the proud parents of Merrick **Thomas McEnroe**, born May 3, 2004. He weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces, and was 20.5 inches long. Mother and child are doing fine, daddy is coping well.

Tok/Northway:

Coach **Matt Heieren**, trooper at Northway Post, did an awesome job this year coaching the Tok Bantam Hockey

team. The team, although not a big one, excelled under Coach Matt's command. The team was asked what they liked best about Coach Matt and they all thought he was fun to be with and he knew what he was doing but they didn't like performing line drills. It brings me great joy to see a trooper take his little precious time and share it with the youth of our community in a physical and positive way. The Bantam team thinks the world of you, Matt. Thanks troopers! ■

19th Annual Arctic Man

The 19th Annual Arctic Man Ski-N-Sno Go Classic was held April 7 through 10, 2004, near Summit Lake just below Isabel Pass in the Alaska Range. Alaska State Troopers assigned 19 troopers working rotating schedules, and AST helicopter Helo 1 to assist with medical evacuations, search and rescues, or other emergencies as needed. The Mobile Incident Command Center (MICC) was moved to the event. Dispatchers work in the MICC fielding calls and organizing troopers' efforts.

More than 10,000 people migrate to the area, in thousands of motor homes for the weekend. During this annual event, a skier and snowmobile team up for an "only in Alaska" course. It combines down hill skiing and a wild ride at the end of a rope fastened to the snowmobile along a 5 and a half-mile course where speeds reach upwards of 100 mph.

During this event, Troopers made 18 DUI arrests, investigated 5 assaults and made 1 arrest for assault on a police officer, made 4 warrant arrests, wrote 5 citations for minor consuming alcohol, responded to 36 requests for assistance, and initiated a Search and Rescue (SAR) involving an avalanche that took the life of a North Pole man.

...and then disaster:

On Saturday, April 10, 2004, around 3:30 p.m., Alaska State Troopers on snow machine and in Helo 1 were patrolling the area around the Arctic Man Ski-N-Sno-Go

Competition when some individuals waved them down. Helo 1 landed and learned that three individuals had been caught in an avalanche and one victim was still buried.

Reports by observers differ concerning the cause of the avalanche. One indicated a rider had reportedly been high marking and an avalanche was triggered, another indicated the victim had gotten his snow machine stuck in the snow and was attempting to get it out when the avalanche

occurred. One of the riders managed to stay above the snow and a second managed to dig himself out. The third, who was buried in about 7 feet of snow, was recovered by rescue workers on scene after about 30 minutes. He was flown by Helo 1 back to Arctic Man and treated by Guardian Flight Medical but was declared deceased a short time later. Additional avalanches occurred during the rescue effort and conditions were considered hazardous. ■



The 19th Annual Arctic Man included a tragic event during which three individuals were caught in an avalanche, one did not survive.

Delta Junction News

By SGT. BRIAN WASSMANN

This spring has been an eventful time for AST-Delta Junction Post. In March, we bid farewell to our longtime Radio Dispatcher, **Mrs. Lynn Harris**, who moved to Texas after working for DPS for 10 years. AST teamed up with Delta Junction Rescue Squad to host a prime rib dinner for the Harris family. We will miss Lynn but we wish her well with the transition.

We also had some excitement in March. Troopers arrested an armed and dangerous fugitive after a 7-month manhunt. In September 2003, a warrant was issued for the arrest of **Reid Labeck** for parole violations. Labeck was known to carry handguns on his person, and he told family members that he was intent on not going back to prison.

Labeck had been seen in the Delta Junction area, and we knew that he had strong ties to the area. However, troopers were a step behind Labeck on several attempts to capture him. On March 12, 2004, troopers learned that Labeck was going to a house in the Delta Junction area.

Troopers set up surveillance on the house and then surrounded it when Labeck arrived and went inside. Troopers



Sgt. Brian Wassmann's son, Caden Wassmann, age 5, participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run at Delta Junction on May 15, 2004.



Trp. Nasruk Nay assisted Delta Junction Rescue Squad at the scene of an ATV crash in February 2004 near Delta Junction. The driver broke his leg in the crash, Trp. Nay helped stabilize the patient. Lynn Harris (EMT II), the former Radio Dispatcher I from Delta Junction, was on the Rescue Squad (lower left).



Trp. Nusruk Nay and Lynn Harris assisted on an ATV accident with injuries.

called for him to surrender. Labeck bolted from the house on foot and fled into the woods. Troopers eventually captured him without any injuries to all involved.

Delta Junction Post geared up to host the Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run for this community. There was quite a bit of interest and there was a large turnout for the first Torch Run for Delta Junction.

The 2nd Annual Highway Safety Contest is set to convene pretty soon also. We will be challenging our brother troopers on the Parks Highway to see who can arrest more DUIs and contact more reckless drivers. (We won't "go there" and discuss who won last year.) The stakes are yet to be determined, and we are looking forward to a productive season. ■

E Detachment

By SHAE HOLLANDSWORTH

...to tell the truth, the whole truth...

Who took the last donut? Don't try to pull a fast one on **Trp. Katrina Malm** anymore! Malm just completed an intense 3 months of polygraph training in Pennsylvania where she received 450 hours of training in all current internationally accepted polygraph techniques. Her education consisted of classes in anatomy, physiology, psychology, and interview and interrogation. She's ready for business with her mobile polygraph instrument, and is eager to assist with any criminal cases that have suspects. She highly encourages everyone to contact her, so don't be shy about it! As one of only four polygraphists in the department, we're sure she'll be in high demand and get plenty of opportunities to complete her internship phase.

Trading Spaces:

Congratulations to **Trp. Paul Randall**, who recently became Corporal Randall. Randall gave a heartwarming and eloquent speech at his farewell party, and we certainly hope he's as entertaining to his new recruits in Sitka as he was to us!

Hot on Randall's heels is our new Cooper Landing Trooper, **Kurt Walgenbach**. Walgenbach comes to us from Craig/



Dispatcher Randy Burdine is a compassionate young man with the heart of a fireman. His good deed earned him praise as "awesome".

Klawok, where he was stationed for the past two years. He has great memories of the Klawok post, and says he was lucky to work with excellent Troopers, Police Officers, and USFS Law Enforcement Officers on the island. Life on the Kenai Peninsula is definitely faster paced, but Kurt, his wife, and his three children are adapting well. Kurt and his family love Cooper Landing and are looking forward to a busy summer in one of the Kenai

Peninsula's recreation hotspots. Kurt encourages us all to swing by his house/office any time we're in the area and promises to always have a can of condensed soup on the shelf! What a guy.

Stork Delivery:

Dispatcher **Jennifer Russell** and husband **Olen** are the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl. **Katie** decided to 10-23 on March 14, weighing in at 6 pounds 9 ounces. Big sister **Molly** pitches in to help, but two kids are keeping Jennifer 10-6 and 10-7 from work for a while.



Lt. Chuck Bartolini gave a plaque of appreciation to Trp. Paul Randall during his going away luncheon.



Jennifer Russell and new daughter Katie visited the Dispatch center.

New voice on the radio

AST welcomes new dispatcher **Carisa Rodriguez** to the radio waves. Rodriguez immediately noticed the camaraderie here at AST, and it remains one of her favorite (E Detachment, continued on page 16)

E Detachment, continued from page 15

things about her new job. Welcome to the team, Carisa!

Good deed:

Dispatcher **Randy Burdine's** efforts to help a family's attempts to rescue their tree-bound kitten landed him praise in the local newspaper. After contacting and being turned down by two fire departments, animal control, an animal rescue organization, the SPCA, and a veterinarian, the family contacted the Alaska State Troopers. The owner said, "(The man I spoke to) was awesome. He tried for two days to try to get someone to help." Burdine's compassion and desire to help earned him kudos from the family and sure helped the Troopers look good, too! Thanks, Randy! On your mark, get set...:

We've got quite an athletic group of dispatchers! **Carly Reimer** is gearing up to once again ride in the Clean Air Challenge, a 120-mile bicycle race to benefit the American Lung Association. **Lisa Kost** and **Tammy Goggia** can be seen running all over town, training for the 13.1-mile Mayor's Midnight Marathon this



Trp. Bryan Barlow and Chewy, in his designer uniform, pose before the big Show.

June. There must be something about being hooked up to a switchboard all day that makes our dispatchers want to get out and run!

Like Father Like...Pet?

It's been said that over time, dogs and their owners look more and more alike. **Trp. Bryan Barlow** and his French bulldog, **Chewy**, certainly have made believers



Chewy won "Best Dressed" in the Anchor Point Snow Rondo Dog Show.

out of us here at E Detachment! Trp. Barlow's wife, **Ophelia**, made Chewy's uniform and sent both of her Troopers off to the Anchor Point Snow Rondo Dog Show. Chewy picked up the "Best Dressed" award and the "Judge's Choice" award, but was robbed by not getting the "Looks Alike" trophy! ■

Division of Fire Prevention

News From Fire Prevention

BY JODIE HETRICK, TRAINING AND EDUCATION BUREAU

Reorganization:

The Division recently reorganized to focus on core functions and better serve the public.

We are now divided into three bureaus; Life Safety Inspection Bureau, Plans Review Bureau, and Training and Education Bureau.

Life Safety Inspection Bureau:

Under the very capable leadership of **Deputy Fire Marshal II Carol Olson**, the Life Safety Inspection Bureau is responsible for conducting life safety inspections and fire investigations throughout the state.

A Deputy Fire Marshal I will continue to be located in the Fairbanks and Juneau offices but they will now report to Deputy Fire Marshal Olson.

Plans Review Bureau:

Recently promoted **Deputy Fire Marshal II Don Cuthbert** will be leading the New Plans Review Bureau. The Plans Review Bureau is responsible for reviewing all new building plans as well as plans for renovations submitted to the Division of Fire Prevention by the public. The plan review process ensures that buildings in Alaska are in compliance with the adopted codes and standards, making them safe for Alaskans to occupy and utilize. The Plans Review Bureau will be responsible for the more than 700 building applications expected this year.

The Training and Education Bureau:

Fire Service Training and Public Education Section were joined to form the Training and Education Bureau.

Supervisor promotion:

Deputy Fire Marshal I Don Cuthbert was promoted to Deputy Fire Marshal II, Supervisor of the Plans Review Bureau on April 6, 2004. Deputy Cuthbert started his fire service career as a firefighter with North Plainfield Fire Department in North Plainfield, New Jersey. He progressed through the ranks to Shift Commander in 1994.

After he retired from the fire department, Deputy Cuthbert pursued his lifelong dream of moving to Alaska. He joined the Division in 2001 as a Deputy Fire Marshal I in the South Central Region Office.

Deputy Cuthbert is looking forward to continuing his career with Fire Prevention (**Fire Prevention**, continued on page 17)

Fire Prevention, continued from page 16



Deputy Fire Marshal II Don Cuthbert reviewing building plans.

and ensuring that buildings in Alaska are safer for the public.

Inspection Trip to Barrow:

State Fire Marshal Gary Powell and Deputy Fire Marshal I Tom Depeter recently completed an inspection trip in the North Slope Arctic Borough. They inspected the schools in the area and met with North Slope Borough Fire Department members. The Division regularly inspects schools to ensure compliance with life safety building codes. These inspections also assist school districts with planning requirements for future upgrades and new construction. While in Barrow

Deputy Depeter noticed that they always seem to have the Christmas spirit.

Project Code Red:

A film crew with the Fire and Emergency Training Network (FETN) recently interviewed Fire Training Specialist Steve Schreck about Project Code Red. FETN produces American Heat, an incident-based training program that is delivered once a month directly to fire departments via videotape, CD-ROM, or DVD. Every video addresses a specific training theme, which is supported by live incident footage and includes an in-depth study of what took place and then fo-

cuses on the lessons learned. They hope to do a special episode to highlight Project Code Red sometime soon.

Fire instructors **Jan Dick** and **Mike Holzemuller** traveled to Brevig Mission to provide Code Red training for the fire department. A major part of the training is an emphasis on educating all community members about fire prevention and safety. In Brevig Mission, the fire department members presented a fire safety program for the school children. The children learned about Stop, Drop and Roll, Crawl Low in Smoke, and Home Fire Drills.



Children in Brevig Mission learned to Stop, Drop, and Roll. One child wore the 'flame' to make the idea of a fire more real.

Public Fire Education in Venetie:

Fire Training Specialist **Jodie Hettrick** recently completed a trip to Venetie to provide fire safety and prevention training to the community and school. While in Venetie, she worked with **Thomas Frank** installing smoke alarms for the Prevention of Fire Related Injuries program. Very few homes had working smoke alarms and the residents welcomed the installation of new, longer lasting alarms.

Venetie is piloting a solar power project to enhance their electric system. They use banks of solar panels to augment their power supply and act as emergency power for many facilities. ■

(Fire Prevention, continued on page 18)



FETN crew interviewed Fire Training Specialist Steve Schreck.

Fire Prevention, continued from page 17



Fire extinguishers are an important skill for Project Code Red.



Kindergarten through 2nd graders in Venetie learn more about fire safety. Children in all grades also practiced a fire drill and other safety procedures.



Solar panels have been used to augment power supply and act as emergency power for the school, clinic, and washeteria, shown here. The solar panels are more efficient than expected and the community hopes to expand the system in the near future.



Children in 3rd through 6th grade in Venetie learn about Home Fire Drills.



Students select education materials.



There must be something in all that snow in Barrow which makes residents more creative!

Division of Statewide Services

DRE Comes To Alaska

By JEANNE SWARTZ, DIVISION OF STATEWIDE SERVICES

On April 17, 2004, in Alexandria, Virginia, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) ratified Alaska as the 38th state in the union to join the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC)/Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program. The DEC/DRE membership will provide Alaska law enforcement officers a unique and valuable tool in the assessment of persons thought to be impaired by substances other than alcohol.

The DEC/DRE program is a practical and scientifically valid program undertaken as a means to address the growing problem of persons, often drivers impaired by substances other than or in addition to alcohol.

The current DEC/DRE program has been successfully implemented in over thirty states and many countries worldwide since its inception in the early 1990s by the Los Angeles Police Department, with assistance from scientists, medical personnel, and drug experts. The DRE curriculum trains officers to recognize behaviors and physiological states associated with psychoactive drugs by

evaluating the performance of subjects during a series of standardized tests.

Initially, a subject is arrested for impaired driving based on officer observations and Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) performance.

When the subject's breath alcohol content (BrAC) is inconsistent with the observed level of impairment, a DRE-certified officer is called to administer additional tests outlining and documenting the impairment of the subject. The last step of the evaluation is a blood draw to be tested for the presence of impairing substances.

The DRE officer evaluates the information received in the 12-step process and forms an opinion as to 1) whether the suspect is impaired, 2) if impaired, whether the impairment is related to drugs, and 3) if related to drugs, which drug category or combination of categories is causing the impairment.

The scope of the drug-impaired driving problem in Alaska cannot be stated in specific numbers. But most law enforcement officers agree that it is a growing problem.

In Anchorage, Alaska, in 1999, a study of 563 adult males and 155 adult females entering a correctional facility found that 53.8 percent of males and 56.1 percent of females tested positive for any drug. During the time period between 2001 and 2004, approximately 5% of the breath alcohol tests administered to individuals under arrest for impaired driving measured less than .05. The significance of this fact is that alcohol was not the substance of abuse in these driving cases.

Currently, one Alaska law enforcement officer has completed training as a DRE and four other officers are in DRE schools out of state, including **Sgt. Rick Terry**, of the statewide DUI team. An all-Alaska DRE school is planned for October, in Anchorage. Toxicology confirmations are being performed at the Washington State Toxicology lab in Seattle, through a generous grant from the Alaska Highway Safety Organization.

With the hard work and dedication of the law enforcement officers joining this program, we will all be able to reap the benefits of safer roads. ■

Crime Lab Farewell

By JOHN GIACALONE, CRIME LAB

Essien J. Ukoidemabia transferred from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Health and Social Services on February 17, 2004. As a retired Master Sergeant in the U. S. Air Force, she began her second career in the Breath Alcohol section of the State of Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory as a Forensic Technician. Her attention-to-detail and organizational skills have aided the Crime Lab in all facets of its operations. Essien will function as the Alaska State Health Insurance Program Director (SHIP) under the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services. Her staff will provide information and referral for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Her customers (Farewell, continued on page 20)



Essien Ukoidemabia tending to the Data Master breath alcohol machines and the maintenance of the State of Alaska's Breath Alcohol Program.

In Other News:

Alaska State Troopers Range Dedication Ceremony 19 May 2004 Sitka, Alaska

The Department of Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka dedicated its new firing range at Starrigavan Creek on May 19, 2004 at 5:00 P.M. The range facility was dedicated to the memory of **Trooper Troy Lynn Duncan**.

Trp. Duncan was killed in the line of duty on May 19, 1984, by a multiple homicide suspect near Manley Hot Springs. He is the only State Trooper killed during a SERT (Special Emergency Response Team) action.

The Department of Public Safety Training Academy building on Sawmill Creek Road in Sitka was constructed in 1974, with an addition completed in 2001. In the mid-1970s, a range was also built in the back of the academy building. It was not constructed for long-term use and over time has deteriorated. Although still in service, this old range no longer meets the requirements for the extensive firearms training done at the academy.

Long in planning, the new range was completed near Starrigavan Creek in February 2004, on land donated by the City of Sitka. It is an all-weather, day and night



The Troy Lynn Duncan Firing Range was dedicated on May 19, 2004.

facility that is expected to meet the department's training requirements for the foreseeable future.

The dedication ceremony included a traditional evening flag retreat ceremony. In attendance were Troy Lynn Duncan's father **Troy Duncan** and his wife **Jacklyn**, Troy's brother **Keith Duncan** and his wife **Kathy**, and Troy's sister **Vicki McLean**, all of Lometa, Texas. Also attending was the Alaska Commissioner of Public Safety

William Tandeske, the Director of the Alaska State Troopers **Colonel Julia Grimes**, **Deputy Director Major Joseph Masters**, and several retired State Troopers. Retired **Lt. Jeff Hall**, Commissioner Tandeske, and Colonel Grimes all offered a short speech. Jacklyn Duncan closed the comments with a poem. At the conclusion of the retreat ceremony, Troy Duncan was presented with the State flag to commemorate the occasion. ■

Farewell,

continued from page 19

will be the Alaskan senior citizens and their families. Essien's motto is that the Alaska SHIP is where the local, objective, unbiased, face-to-face answers are. In early May 2004, Essien, and her staff, began helping seniors wade through the details and choices created by the new "Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Cards." She and her office are a resource for our best resource, the elder citizens of Alaska. We wish her all the luck with her new duties within the Senior Disabilities and Services Division.

Congratulations from the staff of SCDL and DPS. ■



Commissioner Bill Tandeske provided comments during the Dedication Ceremony.

In Recognition of Fathers

BY JEAN SHAINDLIN, PIO

In recognition of Fathers and Father's Day, it seems appropriate to recognize the Fathers and Sons and Daughters who have a family tradition of being Alaska State Troopers. There have been many over the years. Among them are: **Bud Dial** and **Lt. Rodney Dial**; **Robert Cockrell** and **Major James Cockrell**; **Sgt. Dan Donaldson** and **Trp. Michelyn Grigg**; **Glenn Godfrey, Sr.**, **Sgt. Glenn Godfrey, Jr.**, and **Inv. David Hanson**; **Sgt. Dallas Massie** and **Trp. Doug Massie**; **Kim Nay** and **Trp. Nasruk Nay**; **Lt. Rick Roberts**, **Cpl. Rick Roberts**, **Trp. Mike Roberts**, and **Trp. Ramin Dunford**; **Warren Tanner** and **Capt. Greg Tanner**; and **Fred Woldstad** and **Sgt. Ken Woldstad**.

There are also several families in the VPSO program, among them **Wassilie** and **John Pleasant**.

If you know of others, or you are a part of this family tradition, please let us know. Following are comments by several of those involved in this special family tradition, presented here in alphabetical order.

Bud Dial and Lt. Rodney Dial:

Bud Dial became a trooper when **Rodney** was around 12 years old. Rodney traveled to the Sitka Academy as a young boy and attended his father's graduation. He lived with his father off and on over his career, to include during his time stationed at Bethel Post. Rodney became indoctrinated to the Trooper life at a young age and always appreciated the sense of honor and duty associated with the career. Those experiences influenced his decision to join the U.S. Army Rangers after high school, when he was only 17 years old. After the military and college, he obtained a job as a FWP Aide, assigned to Seward Post in 1989. He enjoyed working for the Department so much that he applied for, and was hired as a State Trooper in 1990.

"Just prior to my graduation from the Academy, my father was promoted. He had his old badge set aside and they were given to me at graduation."

Bud is known to be a man of few words. Rodney commented, "I know he is proud of me, and was glad that I got started in a

career at such an early age. Dad worked in patrol, Investigations, and in Commercial Vehicle Enforcement. His pre-Trooper employment as a diesel mechanic for big rigs made him one of the best CVE Troopers ever."



Trp. Michelyn Grigg and Sgt. Dan Donaldson.

Sgt. Dan Donaldson and Trp. Michelyn Grigg

Sgt. Donaldson and **Trp. Grigg** are the only father/daughter. Sgt. Donaldson commented, "First let me tell you just how proud I am of Mikie. She decided to become a Trooper all on her own. I never offered her much in the way of encouragement or discouragement. For the first 13 years of my career I was very much a male chauvinist pig. Having a daughter as a Trooper has opened my eyes. If this job is a 10 on a scale of how hard it is to do, with 10 being the hardest, then this job is a 20 for a female who really wants to do police work. I firmly believe there is a built-in level of prejudice that makes a woman's road in law enforcement a very rough road to travel. Mikie has traveled that road well thus far. She is a better police officer than I ever was.

Trp. Grigg commented, "I decided to go into Law enforcement after covering cops and courts for the local news in Fairbanks and going on several ride-alongs. My dad was supportive, but also tried to give me a

realistic view of what it would be like. He was encouraging but told me that I would handle situations different from males. My dad's love for the job was a check in the plus column towards my decision to go into law enforcement. But the decision to change careers was my own.

My dad is a role model for me. The way he does his job, I believe, should be a role model for others as well. He preaches and lives by the "get off your ass" code. His exterior is gruff, but he is honest, compassionate and gives 110% in everything he does. He's not out for glory and doesn't get many pats on the back, but he genuinely cares for the people that he serves. **Col. Randy Crawford** told me at the academy graduation that I had some big shoes to fill. I told him my shoes were only a size 7 and 1/2 and I intended to only fill my shoes. My Father cannot be duplicated.

Like my father, I started my career off in Fairbanks. I then went to Talkeetna and my dad went from Fairbanks to Bethel and then B detachment.

I am proud to be my father's daughter. Our shields are the same, our oath is the same but we are two distinct individuals.

Lt. Rick Roberts, Cpl. Rick Roberts, Trp. Mike Roberts, Trp. Ramin Dunford:

Possibly the only four-family-members in active duty team in the history of the troopers, is the Roberts clan.

Lt. Rick Roberts is triply proud of his family. Daddy Roberts wore trooper badge No. 216 for 17 years until his promotion; son **Rick** wore badge No. 216 for five years until *his* promotion, now **Mike** wears badge No. 216. Lt. Roberts said, "**Trp. Dunford** entered our lives about six years ago when he began dating (and married) my daughter, now he is truly and absolutely part of the family. I think of him as one of my sons."

Cpl. Rick Roberts is currently working at the Academy in Sitka. He commented, "My dad went to the academy when I was two years old. Whenever someone in my life left to Sitka they left on "Sitka Air-
(In Recognition, continued on page 22)

In Recognition, continued from page 21

lines”, you know the one with the smiling face on the tail. I remember playing trooper as a four and five year old. I would slap on my cowboy gun belt, slide my “baton” in the belt and attach an old wallet that was shaped like my dad’s handcuff case. I would patrol Logan Street in Anchorage and Riddle Road in Ketchikan on my Schwinn. It was hard to carry my leather ticket book while I chased my sisters down to write them citations. They would sometimes get 5 or 6 in a day! Each! (No wonder they didn’t become troopers.) For a while the Schwinn was decked out with an honest to goodness kids siren that I’m sure the neighbors loved. Oh and the bike had to have some modifications for patrol. Usually a playing card or evidence tag would be found taped to my frame so that it would make that cool motorcycle like noise as it slapped my spokes as I rode. My pinewood derby car in Cub Scouts was a marked State Trooper car; it even had a light bar.

My pinewood derby car in Cub Scouts was a marked State Trooper car; it even had a light bar.

I wanted to be many things while I was growing up and being a trooper was one of them. I also wanted to be a fighter pilot, a schoolteacher, and an astronaut just to name a few. Being a trooper always just kept coming back. We learned very young how to care for a Stetson. Did you know there are two kinds? The cowboy kind goes upside down when you are not wearing it. This keeps the brim from going flat. Then there is the blue kind with those red and gold acorns you wear to work. It has to be placed right side up when you are not wearing it. This is so the brim stays flat. The common rule that existed was: If you sat on either one you were a goner. Not like banished—like 10-79.

I have not yet been stationed in a post where my dad worked. At each post I

have been I have had an opportunity to work for someone who worked with my dad. I have heard a lot from these men about him and what type of trooper he is. Dad has been able to pull shift with me several times while on leave visiting his grandkids. And I have had an opportunity or two to ride with him when he worked in Palmer Patrol recently. I have enjoyed these times together very much. Most people were perplexed when confronted with two troopers with nametags that read “R. Roberts.”

Dad has always tried to be a positive role model for me. He shares with me things that he has done right and also the mistakes he has made in an effort to help me. I really have appreciated him mentoring me. I think most of us whose parents are or have been troopers have many times helped their trooper son or daughter with something from work. Whether it was about a case or some other problem.

As long as I can remember there have been men and women in my home wearing those dark blue trousers with the gold and red stripe. Many of them are still around, some have retired and others have passed on. All of them have had an influence in some way in my desire to be a trooper. Of course my dad was the biggest influence of all. Being a trooper is what you did. I don’t think I really knew what else to be. Chasing bad guys, transferring, and working shifts have all just seemed to be what a person did for a living. Even though my dad has been the biggest influence on me becoming a trooper, everyone of those troopers who I saw and interacted with have had an enormous impact on me being an Alaska State Trooper.”

Trp. Dunford has been with the troopers about 3 years. He’s stationed in Fairbanks as an ABI Investigator. He commented, “I started thinking about Law Enforcement 3 and a half years into my last job. The challenges were gone and the tedium of dealing with the same problems was causing me to entertain the thought of changing career paths. I had thoughts of altruism and “knights in shining armor” when I contemplated a career in Law Enforcement.

I applied for the Troopers before I met my wife Kelly (1997). I failed the psychological exam... I thought, “nuts to that” and didn’t apply again until I met **Capt. (Jeff) Babcock** at the Anchorage Airport, at the end of the B wing. He asked me why I wasn’t a Trooper; I couldn’t give him a good enough answer he would accept. (I guess being crazy doesn’t count) I applied again. Lt. Roberts helped me gain a better understanding of the Troopers the testing and application process. He was there through the months of wondering if I had a job with the State.

He makes me aware of my faults and builds me up when I’m feeling down. ...Rick and Cinda have always been selfless and loving, and that’s what family is all about.

I met **Lt. Roberts** as Rick Roberts through his daughter **Kelly** during the winter of 1997). As I got to know her better I saw in her qualities that would indicate a “good” upbringing. Some of the things she would say, like “cowboy up” and “what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger”, reminded me of my childhood upbringing. The attitudes and perspectives I found lost to many people were abundant in Rick. Playful at all times yet dangerous in the crosscurrent, I saw Rick as one of the few people I have met that share my same values. Rick is older than myself. He has much more experience and wisdom. I turn to Rick at times when I come up against a problem that Rick has already experienced. I often go to him for advise and am able to avoid mistakes he has made, despite the shots he takes from opening himself up to share them. He makes me aware of my faults and builds me up when I’m feeling down. Without sounding too sappy Rick and **Cinda (Roberts)** have always been selfless and loving, and that’s what family is all about. Rick is family in the best of sense. We talk about work at times, woodworking, martial

(In Recognition, continued on page 23)

In Recognition, continued from page 22

arts, computers and family. I have trouble calling Lt. Roberts a role model. Role models for me have been people like **Sgt. (Dave) DeCoeur**, **Sgt. (Lee) Oly** and many others. For too many reasons to mention, and not wanting to make all who read weep... I call Lt. Roberts dad."

Dad Roberts commented, "We didn't raise the boys to be Troopers, but we did raise them to value honor integrity, courage and service. Ramin values these traits above all else as well. I suppose in retrospect I should have known they would become Troopers and find a home in one of the few organizations left that embraces those same values."

Warren Tanner and Capt. Greg Tanner:

Warren Tanner and Capt. Greg Tanner are the first father-son pair who has each held the position of commander of D Detachment. Greg's career has been a reflection of his father's with only a five-year difference because his father started as a trooper after a military career. Warren said he wanted to become a trooper because as the provost marshal at both Fort Wainwright and Fort Greely, he worked closely with troopers and held them in high regard.

Greg Tanner started his stint as captain at age 40, the same age his father was when he retired from the military in 1978. He admitted following in his father's footsteps has been uncomfortable at times because of his father's renown, but he hasn't felt the pressure to become just like his father.

When Greg was promoted to first sergeant, his father pinned his old stripes on his son's uniform during the ceremony. When he was promoted to captain, D Detachment commander, he asked for his father's captain bars. They also have both served as statewide search and rescue coordinators and first sergeants in Bethel.

Warren was the sergeant in Tok and his son served as sergeant in Glennallen. They both have spent most of their trooper career working in rural posts. Warren was a helicopter and fixed wing plane pilot, an Army veteran wounded while flying a helicopter in Vietnam. Greg is more of a 'boat guy'.

Greg didn't grow up wanting to go into law enforcement. "There were several things I wanted to explore." Greg said his father didn't try very hard to steer him to the troopers. He could recall only one time his father suggested he would do well with Alaska State Troopers. Dad said, "Don't (mess) it up drinking if you ever want to be a trooper." He thought it would be a good opportunity.

"It's been a lot to live up to," Greg Tanner said, "He always gave the job 110 percent, I try to give at least 100 percent". Each is proud of the others career and they're each known for having a strong work ethic.



Sgt. Ken Woldstad

Fred Woldstad and Sgt. Ken Woldstad:

There has been a Woldstad in Alaska law enforcement since 1950. Both father and son's careers overlapped each other and spanned from 1950 to present. **Sgt. Ken Woldstad** said his father, **Fred Woldstad's**, career influenced him to become a Trooper. Fred was a Federal U.S. Fish & Wildlife Fisheries Inspector through the 1950s. In 1960, he went to the State and became one of the first State Fish and Wildlife Protection Officers. He was stationed in Petersburg, Juneau, Fairbanks and Anchorage. He went from officer to Colonel/Director.

"I spent many hours with him in the field and with other FWP Troopers as I was growing up. He never pushed me to become a Trooper, even though he was very proud when I became a Trooper.

I had always known I was going to go into Alaska law enforcement. I spent 3 years as a State Trooper explorer in high school in Juneau. I wrote my first fish and

wildlife citation when I was 18 years old working as an ADF&G Tech out of Yakutat. I worked 4 summers with ADF&G as a Fish Tech throughout SE Alaska and the Yukon River. I worked up on the pipeline for NANA Security/Purcell Security as a security officer. I worked at UAF security as a security Officer to relief Sgt. during college. I graduated from UAF in 1977 with an AA in Police Administration and in 1978 with a BA in Justice. I joined the Department in 1980 as a Constable the same year my father retired and then later I was promoted to FWP Trooper in 1982.

I have all of my father's badges from Territorial days to when he retired and I have all of my badges. I need to put all of the badges in a display case. I never wore my dad's badges, because they were different badge numbers, rank, and title, but I have wore my father's tie tacks and collar brass. I also have his original tunic. I have been wearing it for a long time.

I retired at the end of April (2004) with 23.5 years of service with the Department. I've been stationed in Fairbanks, Kodiak, Klawock and Ketchikan. I have over 30 years doing some aspect of Alaska law enforcement and I have enjoyed every minute of it. I am sure I will do some other law enforcement duties after I retire. It is in my blood.

I have all of my father's badges from Territorial days to when he retired.... I have wore my father's tie tacks and collar brass. I also have his original tunic. I have been wearing it for a long time.

I have a daughter, Theresa who is a junior with a biology major at UAF and a son, Fredrick, who is a freshman in Engineering at UAF. They both have shown interest in doing fish and wildlife research or law enforcement after they graduate from college. But I, like my father, have not pushed them to go into law enforcement, just quietly encouraged them to follow their hearts, as my father did to me." ■

Passing On The Badge*

By K. J. LINCOLN, DELTA DISCOVERY

A retired Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) has kept the family tradition alive by passing of his badge to his son in a VPSO graduation ceremony on March 17, in Sitka.

Wassilie Pleasant of Nunapitchuk served as a VPSO for 23 years. Originally from Quinhagak, he has served in several communities before settling down in Nunap.

"I left Quinhagak in 1969 to work for Bethel police department. I've been all over the area as a VPSO," said Pleasant.

Wassilie's son, **John Pleasant**, graduated from the VPSO Training Academy and will now continue to serve the community of Tuntutuliak as VPSO. His added, Wassilie, had the honor of attending the graduation to decorate his son

with his badge, the same badge that we wore for 23 years.

"I gave a speech as I passed on the badge. I said that I have a lot of good memories of it. Working with the troopers, saving lives of people who are lost out in the tundra, bringing in people to the clinic and the hospital who needed medical attention, and bringing victims of domestic violence to a safe place here in Bethel," said Wassilie. "There was a lot that badge has done when I was a VPSO, so in closing I said, 'This badge that I'm going to pass on to my son is the ears and the eyes and the first responder to the Alaska State Troopers in the State of Alaska.'"

John has made plans for his future. "My goal is to go for the Troopers, after I get a couple years of VPSO experi-

ence. So I'm still not there yet," said John.

John extended his thanks to his parents, his wife Susan, and to Mark and Lisa Olick of Tuntutuliak for the support that he received.

"I never even expected that my son would come to the same academy that I went to twice over 30 years ago. I was very proud of him. From what the troopers told me, it was the first time a badge was passed on from a father to a son since the VPSO program was formed," said Wassilie.

A total of 9 graduated in John's class including Edward Kiokun of Mekoryuk. He earned his Village Police Officer badge.

(*Reprinted with permission from *The Delta Discovery*, March 24, 2004. Ed.)■

What Does A Retired Trooper Do With All His Driving Experience?

By TRP. R. M. RON COSTLOW, RETIRED

Well, this retired trooper at age 64 put some of that training and experience toward a new career while vacationing in Las Vegas.

After paying my local taxes, (gambling), I took a break and stopped by the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The timing was perfect, I think. King Richard Petty was conducting one of his Driving Experience classes. (You can sign up to drive one of the NASCAR Winston Cup Race Cars.)

I took some time to check it out, and thought, "why not"? With all that pursuit and defensive driving training and experience chasing the bad guys all over Alaska in worse conditions than a motor speedway, I figured it would be a "cake walk". Right? Sure!

I forgot one thing. I wasn't a young man any more. But the spirit and thrill of it got the best of me and I signed up for the Rookie Experience class for eight laps around the mile and a half 12 foot bank Las Vegas Motor Speedway course, for speeds up to 165 mph in the straight away and 120 mph in the corners.

(You were limited to a top speed of 165 mph due to their insurance in the Rookie class.)

I paid my fee, took the training course, and climbed in car number 97 (**Kurt Bush's** car), with some help as at age 64 I have put on a "little" extra weight and it was a tight fit climbing in through a window.

Again I thought, the Plymouth patrol vehicle had *power*, but this Winston Cup racecar had 600 hp. I mean it had *power*! You had to be careful pulling out of the pit area. If you didn't give it enough gas you would stall, and if you gave it a 'little' too much, you would "burn out" leaving a bit of the rear tire rubber on the track.

You are the driver. No one else is riding with you. You were instructed about the rack rules: 1) Follow the "lead car"; 2) Stay close but not too close; 3) Stay in the groove; 4) Watch the flagman and the hand signals from the lead driver (a professional NASCAR driver). If you got too close, he would wave you back. In eight laps you can't do too much at 165 mph, as you are traveling around the mile

and a half track in less than 40 to 45 seconds.

Twice he waved me back. You are supposed to stay 3 to 4 car lengths behind him, yet with 600hp, when you "touch" the gas pedal, you *go!* I pulled up on him, (one car length) those two times without even trying!

I thought about passing him but then you would be "black flagged" and they would throw the "kill switch" which would turn off your engine and your Experience would be over. So, I just adjusted my speed and stayed back.

I received my certificate and plaque showing I had completed the Rockie Experience with an average speed of 136.22 mph. Other than getting in and out of the vehicle through the driver's side window, and my knees taking a little time to adjust after the 8 laps, I am ready to graduate and try the next level up, the Experience Of A Lifetime, or 30 laps of white knuckled, heart pounding speed! "Improve your driving line, increase your speed, and consider a career change."

(Retired Trooper, continued on page 25)

Retired Trooper,

continued from page 24

My wife says “NO!” It was so fast she couldn’t even keep the video camera on me. Well, we’ll see the next time we stop by Vegas to pay our taxes.

I personally recommend this driving experience for anyone who has a desire and thirst for speed, and the thrill of just doing it. It was much like riding on the world’s biggest and fastest roller coaster!

(Ron Costlow received his pursuit and defensive driving experience in his teenage years, from the 10th and 14th State Trooper Academies in 1966 and 1968, and at the Seattle Police Academy in 1973.) ■

Lois Waugh Retired

In a brief message to the Department before her retirement, Lois Waugh said, “On April 30, 2004, I am retiring from State service. I am taking a new position with the Federal Protective Service in Auburn, Washington. I have had a wonderful 11 years (almost) with the Alaska State Troopers and feel very privileged to have worked for them. Many people have crossed my path who have influenced my work experience in a positive way. I am not saying good-bye but happy trails to each of you. Lois.” ■

This Is My Shield

This is my shield. I bear it before me into battle, but it is not mine alone. It protects my brother on the left. It protects my City. I will NEVER let my brother out of its shadow or my City out of its shelter. I will die with my shield before me facing the enemy.”

Gates of Fire, by **Stephan Pressfield** ■



Team CSI On Wheels looked fit and eager for their 2-day, 120 mile trek.

CSI On Wheels

Four brave souls signed up for the Alaska Clean Air Challenge 2004 Bike Trek, a fundraiser for the American Lung Association. The team, known as CSI On Wheels, included (above from left) **Curt Harris**, ABI; **Jessica Cohen**, Crime Lab; **Lesley Hammer**, Crime Lab; and **Randy McPherron**, ABI. For 2 days and 120 miles, the team rode from Houston to Talkeetna and back. Watch for details on the Trek in the Fall edition of the DPS Quarterly. You’ll find out why McPherron earned the title of “Crash”, and Hammer the title of “Animal”. Don’t miss it!! ■



Even "high tech" bikers need a break.

The Basement ©

BY KEITH J. BETTINGER

It was a hot and humid summer day. The air wasn't moving. It made this worse than I expected. I slowly worked my way down the stairs. The back door was closed. The light on the wall did not throw much light, especially around the turn in the stairway. Twenty-three years on the job, and I still was not prepared for what lay ahead. If I was still on the job, I would not be alone, I would have backup. But once you're off the job, the backup is gone and you are on your own.

I reached the bottom of the stairs. Down in the basement, it was once again like working the street – the good side of the tracks and the bad side. The good side used to be the cop bar, revolving lights, precinct signs, patches, plaques, and uniform hats. That was all gone. Now, some kid, who would not share a room with his brother, inhabited the better side.

There was a strange odor coming from the other side of the basement. It was like the call I received while working the desk one day. An old lady called to say she had not seen her friend in days, and now, a smell was coming from the apartment. It was *deja vu*, I was back to 1971.

The unfinished side of the basement is the bad side of town. The side no one inhabited. Just a place for packed away memories and machinery. The washer and dryer, the freezer, and the old broken down refrigerator were all sitting there.

I flipped the light switch. Nothing prepared me for what I saw. There, in the dim light, from the single overhead bulb, were bodies. Some lying face down on the floor. Others stuffed into plastic bags. There were even some body parts lying on the floor, squeezed under furniture.

I surveyed the scene. I watched where I stepped as I walked through. It was hard not stepping on the bodies or the tools lying on the ground. A few more light switches, and the room was filled with bright light. Now I knew what I had to do. It was the job I had been avoiding. It was time to clean the basement.

I went over to the first body. Ted E. Bear was lying face down. Apparently, he

had either been purposely drowned or died accidentally when the washing machine overflowed onto the basement floor. He had been there a while. The fluids made his body stick to the floor. All I could do was pry him up and try not to look at him as I closed up the hefty bag around his bloated form. The first one was tagged and bagged and ready to go.

The next was more heart breaking. The little ones – so small. They never amounted to much. They were the prizes given out when the carnival barker had to give a prize. They never grew to be big like Ted E. Bear. They were all together, some in the bag, others falling out. I didn't have the heart to separate them. If they had been together all this time, they should leave the same way. I just closed the bag, and carted them away as a group.

After the bodies and tools were removed, it was like any other crime scene. Someone had to clean it.

I found a head under the sewing machine. Apparently, it had been there for quite a while. The eyes were looking at me. You could still see the white eyes with the black pupils. If the body had been attached, I probably would have picked him up and given him a shake just so I could watch the black pupils circle around those large white orbits. With only the head lying there, I did not think it would be much fun. At first I thought I recognized the head. I picked it up and looked squarely at it. I thought it might have been Buddy Beagle, but then I realized, as I held it and looked it in the eyes, Buddy Beagle had never been that tall. I guess it would just be an unknown head making the trip in a bag. All I could think of as I closed the bag was that old song, "I Ain't Got Nobody!" Sometimes, gallops humor sets in when performing terrible tasks.

There were other things on the floor. Things I hadn't seen in years - my tools. I

slowly picked them up and examined them. I wondered were these the weapons of destruction, used by persons unknown, on the creatures in the bags? It seems I will never know, no one was there to tell, and if they were, they'd never admit to it. Slowly the tools that were worth saving were gingerly placed into a new toolbox. The old ones were cast aside. Into the bag – into the garbage pail - never to be used again. Just like the bodies that went before them.

After the bodies and tools were removed, it was like any other crime scene. Someone had to clean it. It is the dirty job everyone forgets about. I knew, that person who had to clean the scene was me. No one ever offers to help when the air is foul, and the floor is littered. Into every nook and cranny, the broom searched. The piles became so deep, they had to be shoveled into garbage pails. With two or three pails filled, nothing was left cluttering the scene.

When all the pails were filled, help finally arrived. Help always comes when the worst part of the job is over, but I was not about to turn the help away. The two of us carried out the bags; - farewell Ted E. Bear, - good-bye little ones, - so long lonely head. The pails were heavy.

Years of debris and clutter were gone. Washing the floors, some more cleaning, and a little paint would eventually make this all seem like nothing ever happened, however, all of us would have to be careful to never let something like this ever happen again.

I am glad I am not on the job anymore. I prefer retirement to working the streets. However, I am glad I had the job to prepare me for what I saw and what I had to do. I do not think I would have been able to clean the basement, if the job had not taught me how to deal with horrible scenes.

(This article is reprinted with permission of the author. Keith Bettinger is a retired Suffolk County New York Police Officer. He can be contacted at 9669 Vista Crest Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89148; or 702-795-8616.) ■



Safety Bear (aka Lt. Chuck Lamica, AST retired) and Officer Brenda Lamica, Kettle Falls Police Department, were on the go visiting school children in Washington to tell them about lots of ways to be safe.

Safety Bear Goes South

By Lt. Charles Lamica AST, Ret.

Cabin fever is a common malady known to many Alaskans. It usually strikes sometime between the mad rush of the holiday season and the messy days of breakup. It is during this time many seasoned veterans of the Far North dream of escaping, for just a few weeks, to some place warm and sunny. In this respect, Safety Bear is no different than the rest of us.

It has been quite a few years since Safety Bear's last vacation, when he traveled with retired state trooper **Bill Farber** to Bosnia. This year, faced with the prospect of enduring yet another Anchorage winter, no one was surprised when Safety Bear submitted a leave slip for a few weeks off.

The request for leave was approved in February by **Major Joe Masters** and, with the help of his good friend **Greg Wilkinson**, Safety made travel arrangements to visit retired state trooper **Chuck Lamica** in Colville, Washington.

Nowadays, any well known celebrity knows the best way to avoid being hounded by paparazzi is to travel incognito. With that in mind, Safety Bear squeezed his not inconsiderable bulk into a large aluminum can and had himself delivered via UPS to the Lamica residence. Unfortunately, there was a security leak,

and word got out that a famous entertainer was in the area. Although this was supposed to be a vacation, Safety Bear generously agreed to stage several performances.

Safety Bear's first performances were at the elementary school in the small north-eastern Washington town of Kettle Falls. Safety was assisted on stage by **Officer Brenda Lamica**, the newest member of the Kettle Falls Police Department and a graduate of Alaska Law Enforcement Training class #29. Working together, Safety and "Officer Brenda" entertained nearly 100 school kids with information about school bus safety, strangers, bullies, and gun safety.

The two performers were featured in a local newspaper and as a result, school officials from the nearby town of Chewelah requested a performance. Two performances were done in that town before Safety Bear's vacation was over.

All in all, Safety Bear's vacation was fun and memorable. He met a lot of new friends and helped make young kids a bit safer. He also was an excellent ambassador for Alaska. Many of the school officials who met Safety Bear asked that he convey a warm "thank you" to the Alaska State Troopers for allowing these presentations. ■

THE DPS QUARTERLY

© SUMMER 2004

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

FRANK MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

BILL TANDESKE
COMMISSIONER
TED BACHMAN

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

COLONEL JULIA GRIMES, DIRECTOR
ALASKA STATE TROOPERS

GARY L. POWELL, DIRECTOR
FIRE PREVENTION

DAVE SCHADE, DIRECTOR
STATEWIDE SERVICES

DAN SPENCER, DIRECTOR
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

JIM MEEHAN
ACTING DIRECTOR

ALASKA POLICE STANDARDS COUNCIL
DOUG GRIFFIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

DENISE HENDERSON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

THE QUARTERLY is written by and produced for the employees and friends of the State of Alaska Department of Public Safety. Its purpose is to inform, educate and entertain. It is published four times a year by the Public Information Office.

Reader comments are encouraged and welcome. Reprint permission is granted on all materials not under owner copyright. Please credit this publication, and provide a copy of the publication in which the material is used.

Entry date for the next issue is August 1, 2004. You are invited to contribute to **THE QUARTERLY** by submitting materials to:

Public Information Office
THE QUARTERLY, Editor
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
PHONE: 1-(907) 269-5654 or
FAX to: 1-(907) 338-0276 or
laura_shaindlin@dps.state.ak.us