

# ALASKA The DPS Newsletter

WELCOME



A Department of Public Safety publication "Public Safety through Public Service"

Winter/Spring 2009

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**ON THE COVER**  
 Waves of crevases dot the Knik Glacier.

**FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK**

A new year has begun and Alaska is busy celebrating its Golden Anniversary. However, before statehood occurred, law enforcement was already in place. In 1941 the Alaska Highway Patrol was formed. In many ways, the Department of Public Safety is much like the original Alaska Highway Patrol. It is made up of individuals who hold onto the Alaska dream and have an incredible dedication to keeping all the people of Alaska safe. At statehood, the Alaska State Police included 78 commissioned officers. Fast forward to today — there are nearly 400 Alaska State Troopers and Alaska Wildlife Troopers and another 59 Court Services Officers for handling prisoner transports, writ services and courtroom protection. We are dedicated to hiring and training hardworking men and women to provide law enforcement in the Last Frontier. We are now in the process of filling the last of our vacant commissioned positions that will carry DPS into this new fiscal year staffed unlike we have ever been. That is a great accomplishment and represents the dedication and teamwork of all of our employees and our recruitment unit.



**Commissioner Joe Masters**

Together with our volunteers, military and community organizations, 752 responders have committed over 8,000 person hours and 800 aircraft hours to ensure the safe return of our visitors, family members and friends. Many of the rescuers are dedicated volunteers who risk their lives and livelihoods to rescue other Alaskans and visitors during SAR operations. This success is largely due to the constant training and commitment by these organizations.

In 2008, Alaska State Troopers investigated and solved all of the 13 death investigations classified as willful homicides and are working with smaller agencies that lack the resources with six more. The diversity of the location and types of cases in the past year have tested our ability to respond to, investigate and resolve these extremely complex cases. These cases require the collaboration of crime lab personnel, investigators and sometimes members of other police agencies. Our continued success attests to the diligent and tireless work conducted by the Department's staff throughout the state.

In 2009, the Division of Alaska State Troopers received a \$4.8 million, five-year grant from the Alaska Highway Safety Office to focus on reducing highway fatalities and serious crashes and to facilitate forward momentum on the state's Highway Safety Plan. The result was the creation of the Bureau of Highway Patrol. Two existing traffic safety teams in Fairbanks and the Mat-Su Valley were reassigned to become the start of the newest Bureau within the Alaska State Troopers. Another team is planned for the Kenai Peninsula. AST and five municipal law enforcement agencies are working toward a partnership that will provide more resources to bring more efficient and focused traffic enforcement to the roadways in Alaska. The ultimate goal is to bring the number of fatal and serious-injury collisions on Alaska's roads down to zero. This is a lofty goal, but it is one worth the hard work needed to obtain it.

This Department is only able to meet its mission because of the combined efforts and dedication of all its members. The non-sworn employees provide the technological, business and administrative support that without, the trooper on the road would be unable to carry out his or her assignments. Together, we face a new year of challenges and successes.

To all, this is a time not only to celebrate our 50th year of statehood, but to embrace and carry forward the frontier spirit that still thrives within us today for the next 50 years. ■

# DPS MEMBERS TAKE STEPS TO RAISE OBESITY AWARENESS

BY BETH IPSEN, PIO

**Deputy Commissioner John Glass** braved negative 26 degree temperatures on New Years Day to do his part in a campaign designed to draw attention to the growing issue of obesity in America.

Glass also got up at 3:30 a.m. to run his dogs for three miles before work, and then ran them three more miles after work or walk on the treadmill sometimes until 11 p.m. to try and reach the daily goal for the challenge. He estimates it took him 11.6 miles to get the goal of 30,000 miles.

He wasn't able to achieve the goal every day, but four other Alaskans, including **Fire and Life Safety Director Dave Tyler** and **Bob Cockrell**, head of the governor's protective security detail, managed to reach the goal every day of the Capitol Steps Challenge. Only 10 of the more than 400 people from 14 states participating in the challenge equaled that feat.

"I am truly amazed Bob Cockrell and Dave Tyler were able to manage and walk 30 K steps for the entire 14 days," Glass said. "My hats off to them."

Tyler said he did this by hitting the treadmill at his house as early as 3:30 a.m. some days. He also walked on a treadmill during lunch when he could and walked on it at night after work. On the first day of the challenge, Tyler walked the over four miles from work to home in 16 below temperatures. Unfortunately, he only got credit for 3.9 miles of the trip.

The contest was started when Texas governor Rick Perry challenged other governors and their senior executive agency leaders to log the most steps in order to raise awareness to obesity. Virgin HealthMiles partnered with Perry for the challenge. The state that logged the most steps between Jan. 1-14 will be awarded \$50,000 to use toward their childhood obesity programs. Alaska finished second only to Idaho among the 14 participating states. For their efforts, the State of Alaska and other participating states each received checks for \$5,000 to use for health awareness. Alaska's money will be used for the Health and Social Services' Live Well Alaska effort to promote



**Fire and Life Safety Director Dave Tyler proudly displays the pedometer he continues to wear even after the Capitol Steps Challenge is finished. Tyler was among the 10 participants to log the maximum number of steps each day of the two-week competition. More than 400 people in 14 states participated in the campaign to raise awareness about childhood obesity.**

healthy living.

Seven DPS members were among the 80 members of Alaska's executive staff, including Gov. Sarah Palin, to participate in the challenge. Other DPS members were **Commissioner Joe Masters**; **AST Director Col. Audie Holloway**; **Sue Stancliff**, special assistant to the Commissioner; and **Terry Vrabec**, executive director of the Alaska Police Standards Council.

All had a small pedometer affixed to their shoe or belt during the contest, logging miles walked not only during exercise, but also during the work day.

"I am sure that many people would have preferred I call, but no, I had to walk," Glass said.

Vrabec wore his pedometer when he taught spinning classes at the gym, but only got credit for half the cycles because it only counted the foot he had the pedometer on. Vrabec might have finished higher than his 20-some ranking, but he lost his original pedometer while on a glacier hike. He had to wait a few days until a replacement arrived, missing out on counting what he estimates was at least 20,000 steps. His pedometer also had a hard time counting miles he ran.

"My pedometer does not like me (because) it likes slower speeds," he said. "When I run faster or teach a bike class it doesn't give me 'credit

for the steps."

In the end, Tyler said the challenge inspired him to continue to work out, but maybe not at the pace or frequency he did during the two-week challenge. He has since seen the cardiac benefits from the added exercise. He continues to wear the pedometer on his belt and has participated in some smaller HealthMiles competitions since then.

"I was in a slump before the program," Tyler admitted.

Glass, on the other hand, is back to his normal schedule of running three times a week, but said he's now more consistent with the runs.

Vrabec returned to his faster pace after the challenge, just in time to run a mile in 4 minute, 57 seconds at the FBI academy on Feb. 18. ■

## CHAIN GANG

Alaska Wildlife Trooper **Capt. Burke Waldron** keeps an eye on his prisoners, from left, **Recruitment Administrative Clerk Jennifer Gordon**, **Records Clerk Laura McWhorter**, **AST Division Operations Administrative Supervisor Dianna Darnell** and **Becky Lyons**, a criminal justice technician with the Recruitment Unit. The four dressed up like prisoners for Halloween.



**Darnell inked "World Peace" on her knuckles as part of her Halloween costume.**





# OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER



## New Faces In The Commissioner's Office

**Sue Stancliff** joined the DPS family as the Special Assistant to the Commissioner, Legislative Liaison based out of the Anchorage Office. Stancliff has 18 years legislative experience, most recently as the Chief of Staff and Finance Aide to Fairbanks Rep. Mike Kelly's office. She also worked in fire suppression logistics for the Division of Forestry in Fairbanks for five seasons and has 15 years of experience working in the private sector.



**Stancliff**

Stancliff has been busy in Juneau during the legislative session.

Outside of work, Stancliff enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, gardening and kayaking.

Stancliff's first day in the Anchorage office was Nov. 7, 2009. ■

Retired trooper **Gary Wheeler** has joined the Commissioner's Office on Oc. 16, 2008 as the Department of Public Safety's Homeland Security Project Coordinator with an office at Fort Richardson. Wheeler is responsible for liaison with the Homeland Security Office and other emergency response organizations.



**Wheeler**

During his trooper career, Wheeler was assigned to the Alaska State Trooper's intelligence unit and worked with the FBI for several years. He also has contacts with law enforcement communities around the state, with Homeland Security programs and with private sector security programs. He most recently worked as part of the governor's protective service detail. ■

Retired trooper **Bob Gorder** returned to the Department of Public Safety as the Professional Standards Coordinator for the new Office of Professional Standards on Jan. 14, 2009.



**Gorder**

Gorder was with AST for 22 years and worked in a number of capacities including academy commander, judicial services commander, Ketchikan Post commander and director's staff. He became the Chief of Police for Sitka after retiring from AST in 1999. He has extensive experience in police leadership, policy making and training and is very familiar with union contracts, which will help with coordinating with labor union representatives and ensure bargaining unit contract compliance in our Administrative Investigations procedures.

The Office of Professional Standards will ultimately employ two full time investigators to take over coordination of complaints and will be responsible for conducting Administrative Investigations on DPS employees. Some immediate benefits will be relief to field supervisors, a faster AI process and better coordination with labor unions. Gorder is going through the lengthy process of creating these investigator positions.

Gorder is also going through the procurement process to obtain software for the management and tracking of these administrative investigations. This software will track past discipline in order to maintain consistency and fairness.

Gorder was enjoying his retirement in Arizona before he took this position. ■

## MOUNTAIN RENAMED IN HONOR OF GODFREY

An Afognak Island mountain was renamed in December in honor of the late Department of Public Safety Commissioner and Director of Alaska State Troopers, **Glenn G. Godfrey Sr.**

The Afognak Native Corporation Board of Directors announced the renaming of a mountain on Afognak Island near Muskomee Bay. The new name was approved for the summit by the U.S. Geological Survey's U.S. Board on Geographic Names on Dec. 11, 2008.

Godfrey (1949-2002) was the first Alaska Native to serve as DPS Commissioner and Director of the Alaska State Troopers. Godfrey started his career with DPS in July of 1970 at the Public Safety Academy in Sitka. Through the years, he promoted to various positions within AST. Starting in January of 1995, Godfrey served as the Director of AST for five years before being appointed Commissioner of DPS in August of 2000 by Gov. Tony Knowles. Commissioner Godfrey Retired from DPS in June of 2002.

"This is a lasting and steadfast tribute to a man, and a family, that has given so much to this organization and all Alaskans. It stands as a reminder to hope that our actions and contributions may someday inspire similar sentiment," said DPS Commissioner Joe Masters.

Godfrey Mountain is located 13 miles northwest of Afognak village, which is on the southwestern coast of Afognak Island near Kodiak Island. ■



**Gifford**

## GIFFORD HEADS ABC BOARD

**Shirley Gifford** was appointed Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Her first day of work Jan. 5, 2009. Gifford served as an ABC Board member for the past three years, and also comes to the Department of Public Safety family with an extensive law enforcement background.

Gifford retired from the Anchorage Police Department at the rank of captain after 20 years of distinguished service, and

retiring a second time as chief of police for the Soldotna Police Department after serving there for six years.

Among her many accomplishments, which includes graduation from the FBI National Academy, Gifford has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University and holds an Advanced Police Officer Certification from APSC. ■

# VRABEC LEADS TEAM ON FINAL LEG

BY BETH IPSEN, PIO

After years of involvement in the Law Enforcement Torch Run's fundraising efforts for the Special Olympics, **Alaska Police Standards Council Director Terry Vrabec** was selected to lead a team in the Final Leg Torch Run preceding the 2009 World Winter Games in Idaho in February.

Vrabec, who has 15 years of involvement with the Torch Run, was content to be more of a mentor this year and to help infuse the program with new blood. Anchorage Police Department Officer Carl Culbreth was selected to be Alaska's representative, joining other law enforcement runners from as far away as Kazakhstan. However, Torch Run Chairman Maj. Mike Teem of the Raleigh (N.C.) Police Department asked Vrabec to be one of his team leaders.

It was "something I couldn't turn down," Vrabec said. The task included lots of responsibility, but was "so rewarding."

"Considering that there are only 10 team leaders and they are hand picked by the national organization, I felt honored that they felt I could represent the organization," he said.

Vrabec has been involved with the Law Enforcement Torch Run as a volunteer, a local law enforcement runner at both local and international runs and even served as the statewide director for the Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run. He was part of Final Leg events

in Japan, the first U.S. National Games in Ames, Iowa and also in the Final Leg in China in 2007. However, this was his first year as team leader for the Final Leg Torch Run that precludes a Special Olympics world games event. He led a team of nine people and about 20 support people. Those running included a law enforcement member from the Republic of Ireland, Queensland, Alabama, Nebraska, New York, Maine, British Columbia and Alabama.

As team leader, Vrabec estimates he jogged 120 miles while often leading his group of runners in cadence for hours during the Torch Runs in Idaho the week of Jan. 29-Feb. 6.

"That is why I don't have a voice this week," he said via email from his Juneau office after getting back from Idaho. "You do have to make sure you team looks good out on the 'pavement' and calling cadence for hours does take its toll on you."

He also directed his team members, getting them to the events and into the mainstream of the program.

## Mark your calendars

The annual Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run is set for May 16 in 20 participating communities. The 5K run starts at 10 a.m. The run is the largest simultaneous multi-community running event scheduled for Alaska this year. The goal is to raise about \$150,000 for Special Olympics in Alaska.

The Torch Run is orchestrated by the Alaska law enforcement community, but is open to the anyone from the public to walk, run, jog with baby strollers or rollerblade in this pledge drive. The \$25 entry fee, plus any pledges participants collect, goes toward supporting training and competition programs for nearly 2,000 Alaskan athletes with intellectual disabilities, according to the Alaska Law Enforcement Torch Run organization. ■



Alaska Police Standards Council Director Terry Vrabec (on the far right) calls cadence for his team and others participating in the Law Enforcement Final Leg Torch Run preceding the 2009 World Winter Games in Idaho.

"(Team leaders) would be behind the scenes more and make sure (team members) were up front with the athletes, making the speeches and appearances," he said.

Among his group was Special Olympian Alan Fry Jr. from Southern California. Fry has been involved in the Special Olympics in a variety of events for five years, but specializes in track and field.

***"The whole event was truly rewarding and makes you feel good about humanity."***

***- Terry Vrabec, Alaska Police Standards Council Director and Final Leg team leader***

He has won more than 60 gold, 20 silver and four bronze medals including gold and silver medals in the 2007 World Summer Games in Shanghai, China.

Another of the Final Leg's goal is to inspire the nearly 2,500 athletes from more than 100 countries that competed in alpine skiing, cross country skiing, figure skating, floor hockey, snowboarding, snowshoeing and speed skating in Idaho on Feb. 7-13.

This year's Final Leg had 118 participants, of which were 81 law enforcement officer runners, 10 Special Olympians and 27 support personnel. This international team served as guardians of the flame, carrying the Flame of Hope after it's multi-country trek came to American soil in Coer d'Alene, Idaho on Jan. 29. Teams carried the torch through many towns in Idaho, giving presentations and heightening awareness for the 2009 World Winter Games. The teams safely delivered the Flame of Hope to the opening ceremony in Nampa, Idaho on Feb. 7.

The different Final Leg teams went to mountain areas like Sun Valley Ski Resort, the Canadian border, to elementary schools, high schools, Boys & Girls Clubs, city halls and police departments. At these appearances, a local dignitary such as a principal, mayor, police chief or sheriff gave a brief speech about the mission to raise awareness and funds for the Special Olympics. One member of the team and the team Special Olympian also made a brief speeches before making a gift presentation. For each appearance, the team ran into the town, made the presentation, ran out of the venue, hopped on a bus and headed to the next location. There were four to seven appearances a day, Vrabec said.

"People would line the streets, take pictures with you, hug, shake hands, do high fives and thank you for supporting their cities and athletes," Vrabec wrote. "The whole event was truly rewarding and makes you feel good about humanity." ■

# CRIME LAB ADAPTS AND ACCOMPLISHES

BY BETH IPSEN, PIO



Crime lab staff with DPS Commissioner Joe Masters, far left, and Deputy Commissioner John Glass, far right.

As the quest to build a new crime lab took steps forward, the existing lab and its dedicated staff tallied quite a list of accomplishments in the past year.

The backlog for the Combined DNA Index System, or CODIS, is down from 8,000 to about 5,000. The CODIS database is the national repository for the DNA profiles from casework and offender samples from all 50 states. The goal is to eliminate all backlog by July 1.

The reduction in caseload was accomplished through a variety of ways, said **Lab Manager Orin Dym**. The passage of House Bill 90 allowed the addition of five positions to the CODIS Unit – two analysts, a supervisor and a technician. The crime lab has 37 positions in Anchorage and one each in Fairbanks and Wasilla for a total of 39 employees.

In addition, new robotic techniques were introduced at the lab, helping reduce the backlog of cases by 24 percent. In 2008, 4,500 cases were completed, 78 percent of which were turned within 30 days.

“We also implemented improved case management techniques aimed at working what is most probative on a case and delivering critical results faster,” Dym said.

He said a majority of the case volume is controlled substance, blood alcohol and latent prints, which tend to be less complicated to work and to prosecute as far as drug possession

and driving under the influence cases. By concentrating on these cases, the crime lab dramatically increased the number and speed of cases moving through the criminal justice system.

“Our next goal is to have all cases submitted for biological screening to be completed within 30 days of submission,” Dym said.

DNA and firearms cases tend to be more complicated, require multiple levels of analysis and commonly take several months to complete. Less than 5 percent of the cases the crime lab handles take 120 days or longer, Dym said. However, as the lab is clearing out the backlog, they’re also getting more new cases.

“What the lab is finding is as we do more work faster, more work is being submitted,” Dym said. Meaning agencies, who have in the past held off with immediately submitting evidence because of fear of overloading the crime lab, are now submitting material sooner.

The lab has not only saved time in processing evidence, they’ll soon start changing the way some of it is processed to hopefully help solve more crimes.

The lab will start processing some property crimes cases the same way CODIS samples are processed, starting with those property crimes where blood or saliva is the submitted sample. A National Institution of

Justice study found 30 percent of property crime cases without identifiable latent prints were solved utilizing DNA samples.

“The potential is to gain the capacity of 40 additional property crimes per month analyzed with existing staff and equipment,” Dym said. “The working theory is if we intervene with people at the property crime level, they are less likely to go on to commit violent crimes. Should they go on to commit violent crimes, we would have their DNA in the database and again, have a higher success rate at solving violent crimes.”

Other emerging technology continues to advance the lab’s abilities, such as improving the ability to detect very small amounts of DNA to the point that “we talk about how many cells does it take to develop a DNA profile,” Dym said. “In the early days, we talked about needing samples the size of silver dollars.”

Basic computer usage has streamlined the process by delivering faster results, reducing costs by eliminating the need for everything to be photocopied and improving record keeping. It has also made evidence processing more reliable. Chain of custody is now handled in the lab electronically, inventory is now automated and barcodes are scanned to allow tracking of evidence, Dym said.

“The largest advantage to this has been the ability to actually read who transferred what

(Lab, continued on page 7)

# DRE NEWS: ORAL FLUID TESTING COMES TO ALASKA

BY FORENSIC SCIENTIST JEANNE SWARTZ

In the future, we will be able to test if a person has drugs in his or her system in a similar manner to the way we use Portable Breath Test and DataMaster tests to determine the amount of alcohol in a person's system in a rapid and non-invasive test.

That future is just about here. In early December, Drager Safety Diagnostics, Inc., the Alaska Drug Recognition Expert program and a number of probation officers teamed up in Palmer and Fairbanks to try out a new testing device that will provide rapid and accurate information about the drugs in a person's system by testing a sample of saliva. Officers collect a small amount of saliva by having a person place a small wand in their mouth for about a minute. The wand, saliva and all, is inserted into a small device, the DrugTest® 5000, that uses immunoassay processes to determine if the saliva contains one or more of a number of different drugs: opiates, cocaine, methamphetamine, amphetamine, benzodiazapines (Valium or similar medications) or marijuana. Immunoassay techniques are methods used to determine the identity and quantity of drugs, usually in toxicological analyses. The results are displayed on an LCD screen on the reader device. The results take about 10 minutes to complete.

DRE officers will also collect a blood

sample for confirmation and probation officers will also collect a urine specimen. This device is versatile enough to also test for the presence of drugs on the surface of objects. Samples are taken by swabbing the surface of objects with the saliva-testing wand, dampened with a small amount of water. The oral fluid testing project will continue until April, at which point the testing results and usability will be assessed to see if the DrugTest® 5000 has a permanent

## Upcoming Annual Chemical Testing Conference in Anchorage

The International association for Chemical Testing is hosting an annual conference for the exchange of information through presentation, panel discussions, manufacturer's exhibits and networking on May 3-7 at the Hotel Captain Cook.

A number of presenters are scheduled to speak on topics related to traffic safety and chemical testing for alcohol, drugs and other substances in the breath and blood. The presenters will be researchers, legal experts, law enforcement officers and others. A number of vendors of equipment related to chemical testing for traffic safety purposes will be in attendance.

The International Association for Chemical Testing is an organization composed primarily of employees of governmental



Karen Blasi of Drager Safety Diagnostics, Inc. instructs Palmer Police Department Officer Peter Steen, right, and Sgt. Troy Shuey (in back) on how to use the new drug testing device.

agencies involved in chemical testing in related traffic safety. The association is made up of both scientific and criminal justice professionals, including researchers, criminalists, forensic scientists, regulatory inspectors, manufacturing representatives and law enforcement personnel among others. Membership of the more than 400 representatives from a majority of the states and include several international members.

For more information, including registration information, please contact Jeanne Swartz at (907)269-5592 or Jeanne.Swartz@alaska.gov. ■

## Lab, continued from page 6

when," he said. "Hard as it may be to believe, it was hard reading everyone's signature."

Other accomplishments were the restoration of fire debris analysis and passing an internal lab accreditation. After not having the ability for a year, the lab has one forensic scientist trained in arson investigations to analyze materials from fires to identify accelerants. Also in 2008, an experienced external auditor oversaw the internal review and helped the lab identify areas of improvement.

Meanwhile, the mission to build a new and larger lab remains a hot topic. **DPS Commissioner Joe Masters**, who is leading the effort for a larger and more modern crime lab, said the land lease for a new lab is ready to be signed with the municipality of Anchorage. Design review is underway for the lab that will be located on Tudor near the Alaska Native Medical Center.

**Deputy Commissioner John Glass**, who

has been working on the project since returning to DPS in February 2007, said the new lab "would provide the State of Alaska and its people a 21<sup>st</sup> century lab that will provide forensic services for the next 75 years.

"The importance of this is to insure that the truly guilty parties go to jail and the innocent go free," Glass said. "It not only convicts, but it exonerates as well."

Glass has lost count of the number of meetings he's attended, public presentation he's made and the number of hours he's invested in trying to get a new crime lab built to replace the current one that was built in 1986.

Nonetheless, as the debate over the funding for a new lab continues, the crime lab is committed to meeting its mission of providing service to the community through scientific analysis, integrity and training, Dym said. Glass said staff at the crime lab is doing a good job of this.

"The dedication and professionalism exhibited by the employees of the lab are more than outstanding," he said. ■



Crime Lab Manager Orin Dym presents Administrative Assistant Lori Zirkle with her 10-year certificate.



Crime Lab Manager Orin Dym presents Hayne Hamilton, the Chemistry/Evidence Section Supervisor, her 20-year certificate.



# ALASKA STATE TROOPERS



## Sergeant Promotions

Alaska State Trooper Director Col. Audie Holloway is pleased to announce the promotion of troopers **Jacob Covey, Dan Cox, Inv. Ted Nordgaarden** and **Inv. Michelyn Grigg** to sergeant.



Covey



Cox



Nordgaarden



Grigg

post on Feb. 05, 2009. Nordgaarden joined the Alaska State Troopers in February 2007 after over 20 years in both military and civilian law enforcement. His first duty station was Soldotna, where he

• Covey, a trooper at B Detachment's Talkeetna post, was promoted to the position of Talkeetna post supervisor on Nov. 16, 2008. Covey joined Alaska State Troopers in September of 1998. His first duty station was Fairbanks where he was assigned to patrol. In September of 2000, he transferred to Kotzebue. While there, he was assigned part-time to the Western Alaska Alcohol Narcotics Taskforce (WAANT). In December 2002, he transferred to the Cantwell Post. Then in March 2006, he transferred to Talkeetna Post. In 2007, Covey was selected to become a Field Training Officer and currently serves as the post's primary FTO.

• Cox, a trooper at E Detachment's Cooper Landing post, was promoted to

supervisor of the Seward Post on Nov. 16, 2008. Cox joined the Alaska State Troopers in September 1997. His first duty station was Palmer, where he was assigned to patrol. In November 1999, he transferred to Kodiak. In March 2006, he transferred to Cooper Landing. Cox became a Field Training Officer in December 2006. Cox has worked as a Drug Awareness Resistance Education Instructor and DARE Mentor, which is an instructor who trains other officers how to teach the DARE program in schools. Cox is also a member of the Tactical Dive Unit.

• Nordgaarden was an investigator with the Alaska Bureau of Investigation in Soldotna when he was promoted to supervisor of E Detachment's Anchor Point

was assigned to patrol. In April 2008, he transferred to the Alaska Bureau of Investigation's Soldotna unit.

• Grigg is also an ABI investigator, but at the Mat-Su post. She promoted to sergeant of the unit on March 1, 2009. Grigg graduated from the Public Safety Academy in December of 1999. After graduating from the Academy, she was assigned to Fairbanks patrol. In December of 2002, she transferred to Talkeetna Patrol. In 2006, she transferred to the Mat-Su ABI office as an investigator. Grigg recently graduated from the National Forensic Academy, a 10-week academy that focuses on the collection of forensic evidence. Grigg is also the daughter of recently retired **Sgt. Dan Donaldson**. ■

## Successful Bids

Col. Audie Holloway is pleased to announce the following successful bidders:

• Alaska Wildlife Trooper **John Holm** of Dutch Harbor was the successful bidder for C Detachment's Aniak post as an Alaska State Trooper, effective Dec. 29, 2008.

• **Trp. Austin Macdonald**, of D Detachment's Fairbanks post was the successful bidder for C Detachment's Kotzebue post, effective Dec. 29, 2008.

• **Trp. Michael Duffield**, of C Detachment's Bethel post was the successful bidder Fairbanks in D Detachment, effective Dec. 29, 2008.

• **Trp. Barry Cebulski** of Fairbanks in D Detachment was the successful bidder for Bethel in C Detachment, effective Nov. 24, 2008.

• **Trp. Robert Casey** of Palmer in B Detachment was the successful bidder for Kodiak in C Detachment, effective Nov. 24, 2008.

• **Sgt. Arthur "Tom" Dunn** of Anchor Point in E Detachment was the successful bidder the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug

Enforcement, effective Nov. 24, 2008.

• **Sgt. Rex Leath** of E Detachment's Seward post was the successful bidder for Anchorage Intel, effective Nov. 6, 2008.

• **Sgt. Craig Allen** of the Alaska Bureau of Investigation unit in Palmer was the successful bidder for Anchorage Intel, effective Dec. 6, 2008.

• **Sgt. Walter Blajeski** of B Detachment's Talkeetna post was the successful bidder for Anchorage Judicial Services, effective Oct. 16, 2008.

• **Trp. Timothy Powell** of Tok in D Detachment was the successful bidder for Kodiak in C Detachment, effective May 06, 2009.

• **Inv. Andrew Ballesteros** of the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement was the successful bidder for the Seward/Crown Point post in E Detachment AST, effective May 06, 2009.

• **Trp. Matthew Ezell** of Soldotna in E Detachment was the successful bidder for Nome in C Detachment, effective

May 06, 2009.

• **Trp. Steven Kevan** of the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol at the Mat-Su West post was the successful bidder for Saint Mary's in C Detachment, effective May 06, 2009. ■

## Mank Promoted to Corporal and Heads to Academy

Alaska State Trooper Director Col. Audie Holloway is pleased to announce the promotion of **Trp. Ben Mank** of C Detachment's Kotzebue Post to corporal of the Public Safety Academy in Sitka.

Mank started his law enforcement career in August of 2004 at the Public Safety Academy where he was valedictorian of his ALET course and received the honor graduate award.

He was first assigned to Palmer post. While there, he served as a member of the Southcentral Southern Emergency Response Team and as a Field Training Officer. His last assignment in Palmer was with the DUI Enforcement Team. He transferred to his current assignment at Kotzebue post in September of 2007. ■



# AST CHAPLAINCY ADDS MEMBERS

BY BOYD AND DEBRA WALTMAN

If you see an unknown person in trooper blue and a white clergy collar at your post, don't run. The AST Chaplaincy is growing throughout the state. **AST Chaplaincy Directors Boyd and Debra Waltman** hope to eventually place trained, chaplains who have a spirit of excellence, at all posts. There are a total of 10 AST Chaplains including the Waltmans. The Waltmans are seeking to have all chaplains trained in Critical Stress Incident Debriefing and are working hard toward that goal.

When photos are available, new chaplains will be posted in the DPS Quarterly so that you can recognize them. To date, the



AST Chaplains Debra and Boyd Waltman

following chaplains are on board, in order of recruitment:

**Dale Wilderness**, Mat-Su Valley; **John and Sue Honan**, Unalaska/Dutch Harbor; **Dennis and Pamela Kyle**, Unalaska/Dutch

Harbor; **James Smith**, Cold Bay; **Gary Willford**, Glennallen; and **Bill Fournier**, Mat-Su Valley. Chaplains for Talkeetna and King Salmon are in process.

**AST Chaplain John Holz**, who served from 2001 to 2008, retired from Fairbanks in November because of health reasons. We thank him for his outstanding service and wish him Godspeed.

As always, your AST Chaplaincy is here to serve both the community and our DPS family. Please welcome aboard the new chaplains, and wish them all the best.

You can reach the AST Chaplaincy at (907)357-2482. ■



Anchorage Judicial Services staff gathers for their yearly Christmas party after wrapping presents for the Adopt-a-Family program.



The Judicial Services staff donated approximately \$1,200 to buy Christmas presents for families in need



After wrapping presents, Judicial Services staff sit down to enjoy a holiday meal.



AST Deputy Director Maj. John Glick, left, awards Capt. Dan Lowden his certificate for serving the state 30 years.



Capt. Dan Lowden gives Court Services Officer Chuck Mangold, right, his award for five years of service with the state.

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

BY CSO JULIE-DEE SHARKEY

Anchorage Judicial Services once again participated in the Adopt-a-Family program through the Office of Children's Services. The JS staff donated approximately \$1,200 to buy Christmas presents for families in need. **Court Services Officers Paul Bulawa, Phil Swimeley, Dan Shepard, Julie-Dee Sharkey and Administrative Clerk Rebecca Miller** woke up entirely too early on a Saturday morning and shopped their hearts out for half the day. The presents were then taken to the Judicial Services office where several CSOs and clerks wrapped the presents the following week. After all was said and done it looked like the two families were going to have a great Christmas. Special thanks to Miller, Bulawa and Sharkey for once again heading up this special task. The most thanks go to the staff who donated money to this worthy cause.

It seems that Anchorage JS always has some comings and goings. We said good-bye this quarter to **Kevin Kelly** who left us for the greener pastures of Department of Corrections. We also said good-bye to **A.J. Bergman**, who purchased the café inside the Lussac Library.

Anchorage JS welcomed three new Officers – **Sam Gregory, Steve Pohl and Phil Swimeley**. We also welcomed two new troopers to our section. **Sgt. Walter Blajeski** transferred to us from balmy Talkeetna and **Trp. Mike Wooten** came to us from Palmer patrol. ■

# ACADEMY NEWS

BY SGT. SHANE NICHOLSON, ACADEMY DEPUTY COMMANDER



Alaska Law Enforcement Training Session No. 0802

Hello from the Public Safety Academy where 2008 was a great time for us in Sitka.

In October, the academy held the biennial firearms instructor course for DPS. The course lasted 10 days and at the conclusion of the training, 26 new and recertifying instructors were issued instructor certifications. A big thanks goes out to **Cpl. Tony Wegrzyn** and **Trp. Matt Hightower** for their hard work and dedication in putting on this course.

The Academy completed the 2008 year by graduating nine municipal officers and five trooper recruits during ALET No. 0802. The five trooper recruits then completed their three weeks of trooper transition and were sent to their new duty stations on Dec. 6. We wish them the best of luck during Field Training and Evaluation Program and in their new careers.

After a few weeks of down time during the holiday season, the academy was back in full swing with the Village Public Safety Officer and Alaska Police Standards Council classes. Twenty-four police officers from various agencies across the state went through

the APSC recertification course Jan. 12-24. The VPSO class started with 18 students on Jan. 5 and graduated nine VPSOs and one Village Police Officer on March 13.

ALET No. 0901 session started Feb. 22. If you are interested in coming down and assisting us either as a guest instructor or a TAC officer, please get your supervisors approval and give us a call.

On a lighter note, it is true that one of our corporals departed the big city of Sitka. **Cpl. Ralf Lysdahl** headed north to Cantwell this spring where he turned in his raincoat for a set of fat boy gear and bug spray. We're sad to see him go. I don't think his ocean boat is going to fair too well in the Nenana River, but I know if he gets in a bind, one of the staff will take it off his hands for a fair price – say \$600?

Our education assistant **Dawn Barragan** went through the process of closing on a house, so she was a little stressed out. We were on pins and needles around her, especially when she showed up with her UFC gloves and a mouth guard.

(Academy, continued on page 11)



Firearms instructor course in October

# Academy, continued from page 10



**Dawn Barragan:** "You want what entered into APSIN?" and service to the Public Safety Academy

The following Academy staff members were recognized for outstanding performance:

Wegrzyn earned the Academy's Top Corporal award for ALET No. 0802, which in part reads "In appreciation of your unwavering leadership, dedication,



**Boat for sale, cheap. Did Cpl. Ralf Lysdahl really attend the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center?**

and the recruits who pass through their doors."

The Academy's Administrative Assistant, **Jaye Forst**, was recognized for her outstanding performance. In part, her award reads "Thank you for your constant professionalism, leadership and continued support though all these ALET classes." ■



A 6.5 mile run and a swim in the ocean on Nov. 1 is not something students in ALET Session No. 0802 will soon forget.

## ACADEMY GRADUATES

- Jacob Abbott**  
Juneau Police
- Brian Ervin**  
Juneau Police
- Cody Grella**  
Anchorage Airport Police & Fire
- Jerry Herrod**  
Bethel Police
- David Indelicato**  
Fairbanks Airport Police & Fire
- Dayton Long**  
Haines Police
- Ryan Mattingley**  
Alaska State Troopers
- Paul Overturf**  
Sitka Police
- Sherman Powell**  
Alaska State Troopers
- Jocelyn "Josh" Roy**  
Alaska State Troopers
- John Ryan**  
Alaska State Troopers
- Ricky Sawyer**  
Alaska State Troopers
- Ryan Silva**  
Sitka Police
- Stephen Smith**  
North Slope Borough

## FORST WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Ever since he was a little boy, Sitka resident Branden Forst has looked up to watch planes flying overhead and thought, "I sure wish I could fly one day and be looking down instead of up." He shared that wish with the Alaska Air Carriers Association, which honored Forst with the 2008 Forrest Jones Memorial Scholarship.

The Alaska Air Carriers Association scholarship committee commends Forst for his demonstrated character, self-motivation and the good grades he worked to receive. Forst is son of **Academy Administrative Assistant Jaye Forst**. He worked as a part-time tech for Alaska Wildlife Troopers out of Wrangell last summer and intends to this summer.

While working as a public safety technician, Forst assisted **Alaska Wildlife**

(Forst, continued on page 12)



**Branden Forst**, son of Academy Administrative Assistant Jaye Forst, was the recipient of the 2008 Forrest Jones Memorial Scholarship. Forst also worked as a part-time tech for Alaska Wildlife Troopers out of Wrangell last summer and intends to this summer.

**Forst**, continued from page 11

**Trooper Joe Paul** in the field with investigations, stakeouts and helped maintain state equipment. Forst also spent two weeks aboard the P/V Enforcer cooking, cleaning and assisting on deck while retrieving crab pots. Paul said this year the pair will spend more time on the Stikine Rover aboard P/V Protection.

In his nomination package, Dan Langbauer, Branden Forst's math teacher for four years at Sitka High School wrote, "First and foremost, he is a quality human being. Branden never has a bad thing to say about anyone, is very positive and always has a smile for people. Though he is very soft spoken, people respect him as a leader. Branden has distinguished himself as one of the top trumpet players both locally and throughout the state. The thing that separates Branden from many of his peers is his work ethic. Branden knows what it means to work, and there are many times when he is in school before 6:30 a.m. to get extra help on math, physics or practice a particularly difficult music piece."

Forst's father, Rich Forst, has his pilot's license and flies the family Aviat Husky on floats throughout Southeast Alaska. Rich has taken the time to teach his son "everything from how to tie a plane down to how the different

instruments work."

Branden Forst said: "When I was 7, I remember sitting in the cockpit of an Alaska Airlines 737-400 in awe of all the switches and instruments around me."

Forst exemplifies the attitude and commitment that the Forrest Jones Memorial Scholarship seeks to perpetuate in Alaska aviation. Forrest Jones made a significant contribution to aviation in Alaska during his 40 years supporting aircraft. He was a dedicated aviation maintenance professional and role model who combined innovative thinking and a common-sense approach to everyday problems. His maintenance philosophy of "fixing it right, by the book" reflected a high degree of professionalism and integrity.

Forst was born in Sitka and grew up in the outdoors hiking, mountain biking, hunting, boating, fishing, scuba diving and kayaking.

"When I was 12, my brother and I would take our 13-foot whaler out to go fishing or camping," he said.

Forst obviously has a vision, works with purpose and achieves his goals, according to the scholarship selection committee. This year, through the U.S. Coast Guard, Forst became a licensed U.S. Merchant Marine Officer and master of steam or motor vessels of not more than 100 gross tons. In addition, he is

a state-certified Emergency Trauma Technician and a certified PADI Rescue Diver.

Forst is enrolled in the California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, Calif. studying Marine Transportation. He is combining marine and aviation studies with flight lessons to build a firm foundation on his way to achieving his dream of becoming an Alaska Wildlife Trooper and pilot. ■

**Look who's back**



Rick Roberts the elder is back with the Department of Public Safety as a background investigator in the Recruitment Unit starting on Feb. 25, 2009. You may see him in either the Palmer, Wasilla or Anchorage offices.

**ALASKA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**To Catch a Thief**

BY SGT. DEREK DEGROAF,  
SUPERVISOR OF THE COMPUTER  
AND FINANCIAL CRIMES UNIT  
AND EDITED BY THE ABI SUPREME  
ALLIED COMMANDER CAPT. JOHN  
PAPASODORA

It was raining that July 31, 2008, and a large group made up of Alaska's finest from Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, AST's Alaska Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, FBI, University of Alaska Fairbanks Police Department and U.S. Postal Inspection Service was serving search warrants at two locations. All of them were there probably wondering the same thing: "Are we really going to find a bunch of stolen computers in this little town?"

In all, over 15 state, federal and municipal



Multi-agency law enforcement involved in serving two search warrants in Delta Junction in July stand with the computer equipment stolen from the Delta High School in June. Those involved that day were, from left to right, Delta Post Supervisor Sgt. Tim Tuckwood, Sgt. Tim Schoenberg and Sgt. Brian Wassmann of Fairbanks, Trp. Edward Halbert of Delta Junction, ABI Inv. Nathan Bucknall, U.S. Postal Inspector Matt Hoffman, University of Alaska Fairbanks Officer Marc Poeschel and ABI Sgt. Derek DeGraaf.

## Thief, continued from page 12

law enforcement officers converged on the small Interior town of Delta Junction that is known as the “The Friendly Frontier” at the end of the Alaska Highway. A month earlier, an administrator from the Delta High School reported to troopers at the Delta Junction Post that someone had broken into the local high school and stole over 50 computers, several overhead projectors, computer monitors and even the school’s sophisticated video security system.

A scene investigation did not turn up any solid clues or suspects to follow ... enter ABI Fairbanks **Sgt. Dave Willson**.

Willson is the unassuming type who does little to project his intellect and love of technology. However, within ABI he has quickly become known for his computer prowess. He can frequently be seen wandering around with his face glued to the screen of his iPhone, which is probably programmed to do something the National Security Agency would be concerned with. But in this particular case, Willson stepped outside of the box and used his computer skills to our collective advantage.

Knowing that a great deal of merchandise is sold via the Internet and that the market for computers in the Interior is small, Willson started checking the on-line auction and sale sites just to see if the culprit would try and sell the ill gotten proceeds online. With his fingertips flying over the keyboard at an amazing rate, Willson dedicated much of his own time to surf eBay and Craigslist to see if any new Apple iMac and MacBook computers were advertised for sale.

It was the beginning of a fast and furious investigation that was not only solved in a month, but adjudicated in five months when the 16-year-old culprit agreed to pay the school \$10,000 in restitution, perform community service and was trespassed from the school property.

Within days after the theft, Willson found several Apple computers matching the description of some of the stolen computers from a seller using Alaska as part of his username on eBay. The seller was even nice enough to take a picture of the computer while it was running and displaying a scenic and distinct screen saver photo. Willson followed up and determined the photo was taken by a teacher in Delta Junction and was the used as desktop background on this computer before it was stolen. Shortly after,



**This large stack of computer equipment was collected as evidence in the case.**

the seller’s location was narrowed down to Delta Junction.

The investigation began in earnest just as the Fourth of July holiday was upon us. That morning, ABI personnel Willson, ABI Computer and Financial Crimes Unit **Investigators Angela Womack and Nathan Bucknall** and **ABI Commander Capt. John Papasodora** eBayed the morning away, creating accounts and bidding on the various stolen items listed by the seller. There were many high-fives when they won, or rather out-bid others on the online auctions. However, then the difficult part began ... how to pay for the purchases and receive the stolen property. That’s a whole nuther story ...

The next four weeks in the investigation were hectic, and pulled together many units within ABI and our state and federal partners. Womack was assigned case follow-up and management and spent over 200 hours behind her keyboard and on the telephone putting this case together. She was on a first name basis with fraud units for online auction websites and accounts. Womack coordinated with local U.S. Postal Inspector Matt Hoffman, who assisted ABI with obtaining undercover post office boxes and money orders. After a few weeks of bidding and finally receiving some of the computers in the mail, ABI confirmed all the computers received were the stolen computers. ABI served over a dozen search warrants at various financial institutions across Alaska and the Lower 48 to obtain records building up a tight case against the culprit.

After Womack assembled the case (including a bunch of Secret Squirrel stuff), Bucknall was assigned to create an operation plan to contact the suspect and serve search warrants in Delta Junction, leading to the gathering on that rainy day on July 31, 2008 and contact with the 16-year-old

eBay entrepreneur (and subsequent burglar suspect).

When confronted, the teenage boy looking sheepishly at Bucknall and said: “I figured you guys were coming.” During the next few hours, Bucknall bonded with the 16-year-old suspect and convinced him that denying his involvement was pointless and it would be in his best interest to give up the goods. Not only did the teenager confess, he led Bucknall and a contingent of officers to a remote job site where a house was under construction and then to a small weather-proofed cache containing the remaining computers that had not been sold to investigators. In total, AST recovered 29 computers, monitors and overhead projectors. Even the schools video recording equipment was recovered. Several other stolen items were recovered, to include a stolen pistol. The suspect then became the defendant. He was arrested and transported to Fairbanks.

When the case report was completed, the Fairbanks Youth Facility, in conjunction with the Fairbanks District Attorney’s Office, reached a resolution with the defendant; a result that would not have been possible without the partnership between all of the various agencies and personnel that helped with this case. It was gratifying to see the product of several years of building collaborative relationships within AST and with other agencies. As this case demonstrates, this has increased our collective ability to respond to and investigate crime in Alaska. The mantra: Creative solutions, innovation and professionalism.

Thanks to all the troopers and other agency investigators who worked on this case. Special thanks to Willson, Womack and Bucknall, who were able to successfully navigate the red tape, legal hurdles and fiscal issues to bring this case to closure. ■

## IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES; A TALE OF PALMER ABI

BY INV. RAMIN DUNFORD, PALMER ABI

It was a dark and stormy night. The wind was howling creating an ominous feeling. The depth of the night created a chill in our bones ... we could feel it coming ... change was in the air.

Late 2008 was a time of change for ABI Mat-Su, a change that carried right through into 2009. In a short period of time we lost three investigators and a sergeant. **Inv. Bill Zamora** left AST to join the Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office in Washington. **Inv. Chris Long** left us for Kotzebue. Investigative "father" Rick Manrique returned to Wasilla Police Department patrol and **Sgt. Craig Allen** moved to the Intel section in Anchorage. In return we gained three investigators and shortly after, word that we would have a new sergeant to replace Craig Allen. Troopers **Amy Bowen**, **Rob Lawson** and **Luis Nieves** made the move from Palmer patrol to major crimes, property crimes, and the child sexual crimes unit respectively. And finally just last week, **Michelyn "Mikie" Grigg** accepted a promotion to sergeant.

If you were balancing the scales you would think we were somewhat even. However, we lost a collective 47 years of experience and replaced it with 18. As with any other agency that grows to depend upon the experience of our members, all of us in ABI Mat-Su have undergone a major transition filling the gaps left when we lost some of our most experienced personnel.

During our transition and transformation, we have made many mistakes along the way as people learned their new jobs and responsibilities. It took quite some time for our new folks to learn the secret language and codes that lead to the mysterious resolution of cases we work that include a fair mix of homicides, sexual abuse of minor cases, robberies, sexual assaults and the occasional officer-involved shooting. But what the new investigators lacked in experience they make up in enthusiasm. At times we have had a good laugh at some of the mistakes we all have made and have started giving awards for "outstanding" achievement. If you see Investigator Nieves you'll have to ask him what the 3-foot Q-Tip buccal swab is about ... don't worry, he loves to tell the story. The stories and shared experiences help us cope with the gravity



**Inv. Ramin Dunford** uses an external hose attached to a vent inside the car during Total Station training. He and fellow investigator **Rob Lawson** came up with the invention that, while looks a bit on the hillbilly side, allowed them to keep their hands and equipment warm during an investigation in cold weather.

of the crimes we investigate.

Now, back to work thoughts ... We finally had a total station class. **ABI Investigators Ramin Dunford** and **Rob Lawson** attended the class, braved the sub-zero temperatures and passed the final exam to receive their forensic mapping specialist certificate. Part of the instruction given during the course was to use whatever means available to keep the data collector (part of the equipment used with the total station) warm. True to ABI form, Lawson and Dunford came up with an external hose attached to a vent inside the car that allowed them to keep their hands and equipment warm.

Instructor **Lt. Kat Peterson** thought it looked "hillbilly" and didn't

(ABI, continued on page 15)

## CERTIFICATES OF THANKS



Mat-Su Crime Stoppers Coordinator **Inv. Luis Nieves** of Palmer ABI, left, presents Palmer Police Department Dispatch Supervisor **Karen Ripley** with gift certificates for dispatchers who work the Crime Stoppers tipline at the dispatch center.

The Mat-Su Crime Stoppers recognized the efforts of the Palmer Police Department dispatch center by presenting \$20-gift certificates to each of the dispatchers on Nov. 25. Palmer dispatchers take turns manning the completely anonymous Crime Stoppers Tip Line receiving the crime tips that are then screened and forwarded to responding agencies by the Law Enforcement Coordinator, Alaska Bureau of Investigation **Inv. Luis Nieves**. Mat-Su Crime Stoppers has been serving the residents of the Valley since its inception in August 1982. The dispatchers of the Palmer Police Department have diligently received and forwarded tips for over 20 years. The Mat-Su Crime Stoppers have tallied approximately 3,977 tips which have directly resulted in 555 arrests, the recovery of approximately \$728,487.00 in property and the seizure of over \$17 million in drugs. The Mat-Su Crime Stoppers has paid approximately \$81,000.00 in reward money to its anonymous tipsters.

Tipsters can submit anonymous tips via the hotline at (907) 745-3333 or through its website [www.matsu-crimestoppers.org](http://www.matsu-crimestoppers.org) ■

**ABI**, continued from page 14

waste any time informing Dunford and Lawson of that observation. Dunford's response was: "I may look hillbilly but I'm a warm hillbilly." Determining that their engineering was sound they have now devised to paint their contraption trooper blue.

**Inv. Michelyn Grigg** (now Sgt. Grigg) left us for a number of weeks to attend the National Forensics Academy in Tennessee. She came back excited and brought many useful skills that she has been sharing with the rest of us. Inv. Grigg thought the training was well worth her time.

Speaking of people leaving and coming back . . . **Judy Cantey**, our administrative clerk left us for a much deserved vacation. Her travels took her to Pennsylvania where she found a factory that makes chocolate. Judy



**Palmer ABI Administrative Clerk Judy Cantey brought back this giant-sized chocolate bar from a trip to Pennsylvania.**

says she got her chocolate fix while she was there. We believe her. Like a hunter brings back a trophy head and mounts it to his wall, Judy has this monstrous 5 pound candy bar displayed in her office.

**Inv. Sherry Ferno** has been quietly working away in the corner this year getting mountains of work done. She was preparing for the Air National Guard Officer Candidate School basic training for most of the year which is both mentally and physically challenging. Inv. Luis "Lu" Nieves tempted her with donuts and other junk food, but she held fast to her training and diet. Sherry left us as master sergeant and recently returned as a second lieutenant. On March 20, 2009 she took command of the 176<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron at Kulis Air National Guard Base.

Our ever faithful leader, Burkmire, has kept a steady hand at the tiller successfully keeping the boatload of unique personalities that can be found here in ABI Mat-Su from hurting each other. Burkmire continues to instruct occasionally at the academy and recently assisted with instruction



**Pictured on the left, Alaska Air National Guard Col. Robert Doehl, commander of the 176th Mission Support Group and former assistant attorney general, hands the 176th Security Forces Squadron guide on to new squadron commander 2nd Lt. Sherry Ferno during an assumption of command ceremony on March 20. Also pictured are Capt. Eric Aarseth (in green uniform), commander of the 176th Services Flight and an Anchorage superior court judge and SMSgt Jeff Jones of the National Guard Counter Drug Support Program, in back. Pictured on the right are members of the Alaska State Troopers who attended the ceremony in support of Ferno, who is an investigator at the Mat-Su Child Abuse Investigations Unit. From the left, Maj. John Glick; Lt. Dave Tugmon; Col. Audie Holloway; Mat-Su Major Crimes Sgt. Michelyn Grigg; Ferno; Mat-Su CAIU supervisor Sgt. Mike Burkmire; and ABI Commander Capt. John Papasodora.**

**READY FOR VOLCANIC ASH**



**Anchorage Major Crimes Inv. Mark Granda is ready for Mount Redoubt to blow.**

at the total station class in Wasilla.

In other ways, we enjoy our own brand of fun and slightly twisted humor off duty. Halloween 2008 brought ABI Mat-Su together for a little gathering at **Sgt. Mike Burkmire's** house.

**Inv. Curtis Vik** earned the "I would never wear that trick or treating with my kids" award. This latter award stems from the "I would never wear that" award that was given earlier this year to another deserving ABI member, however, that photo will not be shown to protect the not-so-innocent.

That about wraps it up for ABI in Palmer this year. It has been an exciting year to say the least. We look forward to more investigation and training; assisting other agencies; and working with our road warrior brothers and sisters in AST and AWT patrol. ■





ABI Commander Capt. John Papasodora handed out awards during an employee appreciation event at headquarters in December. Those receiving awards included 1. Fairbanks Inv. Steve Lantz for 10 years of service; 2. Lt. Dave Tugman, Letter of Commendation; 3. Computer and Financial Crimes Inv. Nathan Bucknall, Letter of Commendation; 4. Mat-Su Major Crimes Supervisor Sgt. Craig Allen, Letter of Commendation; and 5. ABI Supervisor Sgt. Derek DeGraaf, Letter of Commendation. Anchorage Major Crimes Inv. Eric Burroughs, not pictured, received his certificate for 10 years of service.



In an example of international cooperation between the Alaska Bureau of Investigation and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Sgt. Jeremy Rupe (far left) and Inv. Mark Eldridge of the Fairbanks ABI Unit get some pointers in Canadian Law from the RCMP in Beaver Creek during an attempted homicide investigation.



### MORE AST AWARDS



Col. Audie Holloway presents Lt. Jeff Laughlin with a Headquarters Commendation for Honorable Service for 2007.



Col. Audie Holloway presents Recruitment Unit Background Investigator Bob Barnes with a Letter of Commendation for for 2008.



Maj. John Glick congratulates Division Operations Administrative Supervisor Dianna Darnell on five years of service with the state.



# DETACHMENT DISPATCH: News From Around the State A DETACHMENT NEWS



Capt. Kurt Ludwig, left, and Lt. Rodney Dial present Juneau Post Trp. Chris Umbs, middle, with the 2007 A Detachment Trooper of the Year award. Umbs also received his 10 years of service pin and certificate this past quarter.



Capt. Kurt Ludwig gives Juneau Judicial Services Court Services Officer Wally Scott a plaque of appreciation for his service in Juneau prior to his transfer to Palmer JS.



Capt. Kurt Ludwig gives Juneau Judicial Services Sgt. Tim Birt his Alaska Police Standards Council Advanced Certified Police Officer Certificate.



Capt. Kurt Ludwig gives Ketchikan Post Trp. Steve Shern his APSC Advanced Certified Police Officer Certificate.



Capt. Kurt Ludwig gives Juneau Post Trooper Jeff Landvatter his APSC Advanced Certified Police Officer Certificate.



Capt. Kurt Ludwig gives Ketchikan Post Sgt. Gary Webb his APSC Advanced Certified Police Officer Certificate.



Capt. Kurt Ludwig presents Klawock Post ACIII Ray Howard with a plaque of appreciation for his service to the state. Howard retired from DPS in August. However, retirement hasn't exactly been restful for Howard. He's been busy working at his drive up restaurant in Ketchikan.



After 20 years together, Juneau Post RDII Scott Guenther finally ties the knot with his now wife, Shari. Guenther received the 2007 A Detachment Civilian of the year award earlier.

# B DETACHMENT NEWS

## Weddings and Babies Galore

B Detachment's family grew with the birth of eight young ones and four weddings. Talkeetna Troopers **Shayne Calt** and **Terry Shanigan**, Glennallen Troopers **Josh Heinbaugh** and **Nathan Duce**, Mat-Su West's **Sgt. Chris Hill**, Palmer Patrol Troopers **Josh Varys** and **Todd Womack** and Court Service Officer **Tim Adams** all welcomed new babies. For more information and a few photos of the new bundles of joy, see the list of DPS births on page 45.

**Palmer Judicial Services Sgt. Robert French** and Amy Hoskinson were wed by **AST Chaplins Boyd and Debra Waltman** at the scenic Hatchers Pass on Aug. 13. **CSO Daniel Carlson** and Lynn Laselle were wed at American Legion on Oct. 31. The service was performed by Lori Hahn. Heinbaugh and Amber Saintamand wed at the scenic McCarthy Bridge on Aug. 27. The service was performed by Pastor Tim Heinbaugh. Bobby Bucher performed the service for Palmer Evidence Custodian Lisa Bucher, who is now **Lisa Kistler** after marrying Mark Kistler at Hatchers Pass on July 7.

Congratulations to all!

B Detachment said goodbye to some old faithful faces and welcomed new ones.

**Sgt. Walter Blajeski** said goodbye to Talkeetna Post to transfer to Anchorage Judicial Services. Palmer Patrol **Trp. Mike Wooten** joined him at Anchorage JS. **Trp. Robert Casey** said goodbye to not just Palmer, but also the road system when he transferred to the Emerald Isle, or rather Kodiak, in C Detachment.

**Lynn Wilborn** joined the Palmer Judicial Services Clerical Staff on Nov. 3. **CSO Wally Scott** transferred from Juneau Judicial Services to Palmer JS on Sept. 2. B Detachment also welcomed three new Trooper Recruits – **Josh Roy**, **Rick Sawyer** and **Ryan Mattingley**.

Welcome aboard! ■



Palmer Judicial Services Sgt. Robert French and Amy Hoskinson (in the middle) were wed by AST Chaplins Boyd and Debra Waltman at Hatchers Pass on Aug. 13.



Glennallen Trp. Josh Heinbaugh and Amber Saintamand wed at the McCarthy Bridge on Aug. 27.



CSO Daniel Carlson and Lynn Laselle were wed at American Legion on Oct. 31.



Evidence Custodian Lisa Bucher is now Lisa Kistler after marrying Mark Kistler at Hatchers Pass on July 7



Pictured at left, AST Chaplain Debra Waltman introduces Chaplain Bill Fournier to B Detachment and the AST Chaplaincy.

On the right, Patrick Davis' new lieutenant badge is pinned on by his girlfriend, Carrie Lent, during his promotion ceremony.



# B Detachment Awards



Maj. John Glick, on right, presents Sgt. Kid Chan of Palmer Post Patrol with a Commendation for Honorable Service.



Lt. Nils Monsen presents Trp. Terrence Shanigan with the Denali Peak Performance Award and an award for "Best Investigation of the Year Using ALEISS."



Glennallen post supervisor Sgt. Duane Stone congratulates Trp. Josh Heinbaugh on five years of service.



Capt. Dennis Casanovas presents Talkeetna Trp. Jacob Covey with a Letter of Commendation and an award for 10 years of service.



Capt. Dennis Casanovas presents Trp. Patrick Nelson with his 10 years of service pin.



Capt. Dennis Casanovas congratulates Sgt. Steve Adams on 15 years with the state.



Maj. Matt Leveque presents Mat-Su West Trp. Ronny Simmons with the 2007 B Detachment Trooper of the Year plaque. Simmons' wife, Anna, and daughter, Alexis, attended the ceremony.



Lt. Nils Monson presents Palmer Judicial Services Administrative Clerk Alissa Noe with the 2007 B Detachment Civilian Employee of the Year plaque.



CSO Pierre Burkett, left, shows of his certificate for five years of service with the state and CSO Rick Harrington holds his certificate showing he's worked for the state for 20 years.



Capt. Dennis Casanovas presents Jake Covey with his sergeant's badge during his promotion ceremony. Covey's wife, Rachel, and other family members attended the ceremony.



Mat-Su West Patrol Trp. Andrew Gorn snapped this photo of a fire at a storage business on Big Lake Road on Feb. 16. Gorn was on patrol when he spotted smoke coming from the building and reported the fire.

# TROOPERS PROWL THE RESTART OF THE LAST GREAT RACE



AST Trp. Shayne Calt and AWT Trp. Trent Chwialkowski (on right) take a break from patrolling Willow Lake where the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race restarted on March 8.



Alaska State Troopers had an increased presence for the restart of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on March 8. The strong presence included troopers from the Talkeetna post both on foot and on snowmachine, an Alaska Wildlife Trooper on a snowmachine, as well as members of the Alaska Bureau of Highway Patrol. The traffic team concentrated on the busy roads, leaving the other troopers to concentrate on crowd safety issues and other calls for service at the heavily attended restart on Willow Lake. For the entire story and more photos, visit the [PIO website](#). // Photos by Megan Peters, PIO. ■

Sgt. Jake Covey talks on his microphone while walking through the crowd gathered to watch the restart of the Iditarod.



Talkeetna-based Trp. Terrence Shanigan goes nose to nose with a future Iditarod athlete.



Trp. Steve Kevan of the Bureau of Highway Patrol helps direct traffic on the Parks Highway after the restart of the Iditarod.

# LIGHT MY WAY

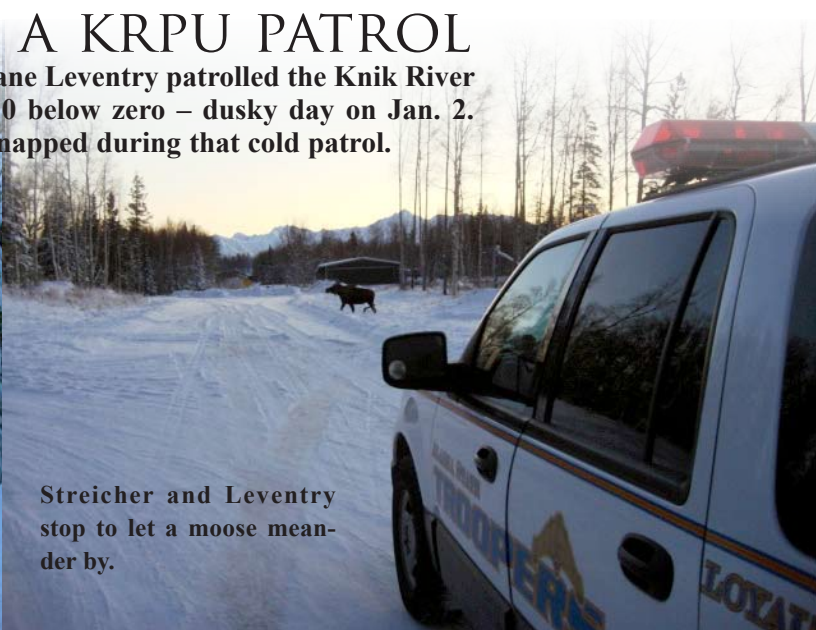
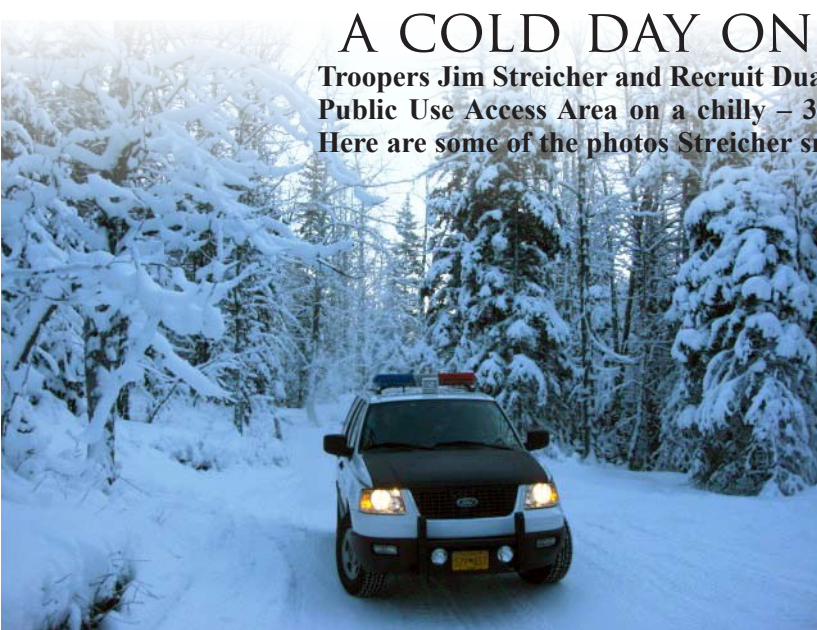
Flares light the way around emergency response vehicles on the Knik Goose Bay Road in Wasilla on Oct. 11

Flares light up a patrol car during an investigation into a fatal two-vehicle collision on the Old Glenn Highway on Nov. 6.



## A COLD DAY ON A KRPU PATROL

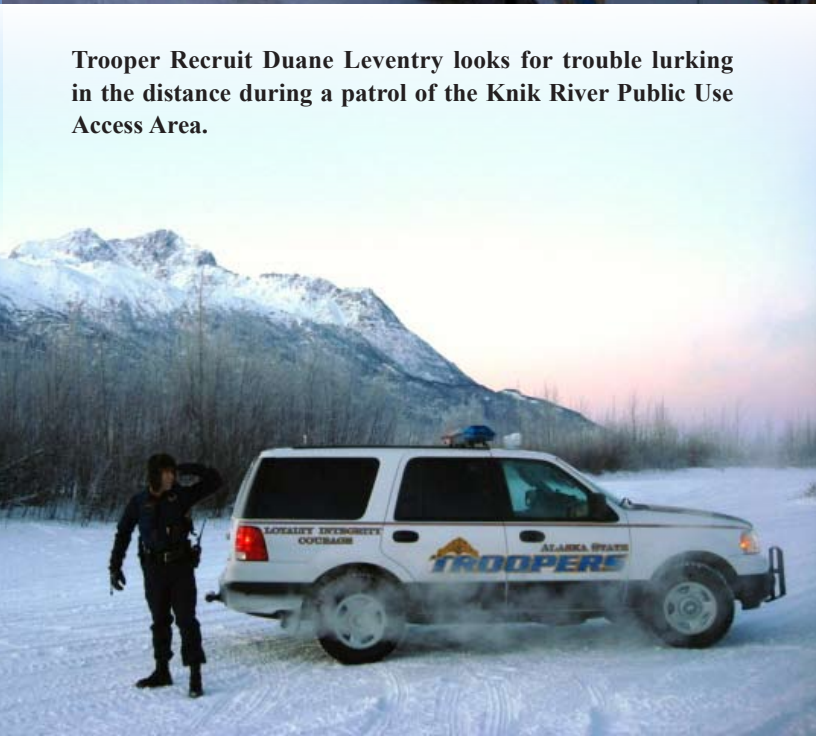
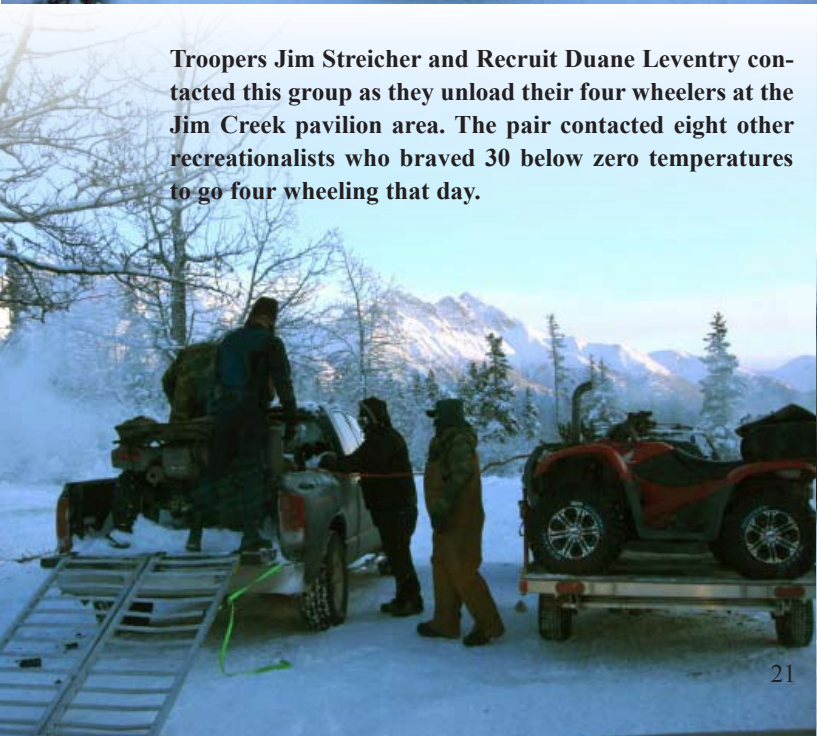
Troopers Jim Streicher and Recruit Duane Leventry patrolled the Knik River Public Use Access Area on a chilly – 30 below zero – dusky day on Jan. 2. Here are some of the photos Streicher snapped during that cold patrol.



Streicher and Leventry stop to let a moose meander by.

Troopers Jim Streicher and Recruit Duane Leventry contacted this group as they unload their four wheelers at the Jim Creek pavilion area. The pair contacted eight other recreationalists who braved 30 below zero temperatures to go four wheeling that day.

Trooper Recruit Duane Leventry looks for trouble lurking in the distance during a patrol of the Knik River Public Use Access Area.



# C DETACHMENT NEWS

## *What it takes to be a Bush Trooper*

Trp. Chris Long braves a blizzard raging right outside the Kotzebue post. Long left for lunch after coming in for work to make sure case reports are done and there was a trooper to man the phones, and to take the report of a snowmachiner who decided to travel in these conditions on Feb. 27. Post Supervisor Sgt. Karl Main, Long, Trp. Terry Shepherd, WAANT Inv. Aaron Meyer and Administrative Clerk Keith Kendall were stuck in the office as the blizzard raged outside. At one point Kendall tried snowmachining home, but was turned back because white-out conditions hampered his visibility so much, he couldn't see the 5-foot high drifts in the road.



Trp. Karl Erickson had to shovel his way to the front door of the post in Unalakleet on Feb. 19. Erickson said the door is on the west end of the building, the worst place for when the prevailing winds are from the east, but such is life in the Bush at a one-person post with no rookie to do the shoveling.



**GOT TIME ON YOUR HANDS?** Troopers at the Aniak post not only dealt with cold temperatures (-45 at night and -35 during the day) and blowing snow, as shown in the photo on the left, but a slow Internet connection. Sgt. Nathan Sheets tried to download the 2008 DPS Newsletter only to learn it would take him two hours. He was then emailed a smaller, but not shorter, version that didn't take as long to download.



# Bethel Troopers Spread Holiday Cheer

BY TRP. MIKE ROBERTS,  
BETHEL POST



Santa Claus, or rather VPSO John Pleasant, and Trp. Mike Roberts prepare to deliver Christmas presents to an Eek family that lost their home to a fire before Christmas.

The Bethel Troopers had the opportunity to help Santa Claus this year by delivering Christmas presents to families in need.

**Sgt. Teague Widmier and Pilot Earl Samuelson** delivered presents to a family in Napakiak via State Trooper C-185.

**VPSO John Pleasant** assisted **Trp. Mike Roberts** with the delivery of presents to families in Eek and Napakiak. Pleasant was outfitted as Santa Claus and delivered well practiced “Ho, Ho, Ho!” greetings. Samuelson provided the transportation via AST C-185. One family receiving gifts recently lost their house in a fire. The Christmas AST provided was the only Christmas these six children and their parents had this year.

The Bethel Trooper Family Christmas Party was a hit again this year with a wonderful spread of food including crab and shrimp donated by Faulkner Walsh, the landlord of the Bethel Trooper housing.

The Bethel Troopers welcomed **Trp. Barry Cebulski** and **Sgt. Greg Lavin** to the Bethel Trooper Crew. Both have hit the ground running, Cebulski with Bethel Judicial Services and Lavin as the outpost supervisor.

The Y-K Delta Troopers bid farewell to troopers **Mike Duffield**, **Kirsten Hansen** and **Sean Adkins**. Duffield and Hansen have left for their new assignments in D Detachment with Duffield settling into Fairbanks and Hansen taking a spot in Delta Junction. Adkins resigned his commission with the Alaska State Troopers and took a position with Office of Children’s Services in St. Mary’s.

The Bethel Trooper Post is undergoing much needed renovations. In addition to walls being moved and painted, windows have been replaced, the building has been better insulated and each trooper has been given a new desk. ■



Sgt. Teague Widmier loads presents into a trooper patrol car before Pilot Earl Samuelson flies them out for a family in Napakiak.



VPSO John Pleasant, in the Santa Claus suit and Trp. Mike Roberts deliver presents to a family in Eek.



From left, Trp. Lucas Altepeter, Sgt. Teague Widmier, AWT Mike Cresswell, Trp. Mike Roberts and Trp. Henry Ching line up for food at the Bethel Christmas Party.



Sgt. Teague Widmier passes out the crab legs at the Bethel post Christmas party.



Administrative Clerk Shavon Conner was Safety Bear at the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital for Domestic Violence awareness week.



Sgt. Teague Widmier passes out Christmas presents to the Jacob family in Napaskiak.



Bethel's new Administrative Clerk Shavon Conner



Bethel's new Evidence Custodian Lucy Mochin



Trp. Lucas Altepeter models the new furniture at the Bethel post.



Trp. Lucas Altepeter took this photo of Trp. Mike Roberts lost in concentration.



Trp. Lucas Altepeter also took this photo of Trp. Mike Roberts taking photos for the Quarterly.



NOT YOUR NORMAL SANTA, HIS LITTLE HELPER OR SLEIGH – Pilot Earl Samuelson, VPSO John Pleasant and Trp. Mike Roberts deliver presents to a family in Eek.





Trp. Kirsten Hansen gets a little help from her dog, Grace, in catching up with her reports before her transfer from the Emmonak post to Delta Junction.



Trp. Mike Duffield and his Trooper Fuel – Monster energy drink. Duffield left Bethel and transferred to Fairbanks patrol.

### ANIAK NEWS

BY SGT. NATHAN SHEETS



Trp. Chris Nelson, on right, and Trp. John Holm prepare to head out for a patrol on the Kuskokwim River to visit the village of Chuathbaluk.

Like most of Western Alaska, temperatures, winds and swirling snow fill winter days and nights in Aniak. The holidays weren't immune as temperatures were in the 45 below zero range, warming up to -35 in the day time. Most, if not all, flights were canceled, with some bare shelves evident at the local AC store. At one point or another every patrol vehicle wasn't working.

However, we were not without some gifts. The Aniak Post welcomed **Trp. John Holm**, formerly of Dutch Harbor Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Holm is a welcome addition to the Aniak Post as we are experiencing full staffing for the first time in many months.

**Trp. Michael Carpenter** made himself at home in McGrath and was welcomed by the local area town folks. Word is he bought a snow machine and was looking forward to his first Iditarod in McGrath. ■



Bethel troopers lead area VPSOs in two days of defensive-tactics training at the Bethel Cultural Center Dec. 9-12.



On left, Trp. Mike Roberts leads Village Public Safety Officers in Judo or seal pushups to warm up before a training session.

### NOME POST DODGES FOR CHARITY

BY SGT. ANDREW MERRILL, NOME SUPERVISOR

On Nov. 1, Alaska State Troopers at the Nome Post participated in a dodgeball fundraiser for the Nome High School Boys basketball team. The Public Safety Employees Association sponsored the team to participate in the event, which raised approximately \$500 for the team. Troopers were joined by family, friends and members of the Nome Police Department in this worthy cause. The team was appropriately named "COPS."

The community was excited to have the opportunity to throw stuff at the COPS and not get in trouble. The team placed third in the tournament. All team members would like to thank PSEA for sponsoring them to play in this tournament. ■



From left to right, front row Nome Police Officer Preston Stotts, AST WAANT Inv. Jay Sears, Nome Officer Ian Koenig. Second row, friend Maggie Stang, Trp. Aileen Witrosky, retired trooper and NPD Chief Paul Burke, NPD Officer Greg Bonham, Connor Merrill and his father, AST Sgt. Andrew Merrill. Back row, friend Justin Hemminger, family Dan Grimmer and Witrosky's husband, Rich.

# VPSO PROGRAM GRADUATES 10 NEW OFFICERS



From left to right, VPSO David Slwooko, VPSO Clifford Moses, VPSO Winfred Olanna Jr, VPSO Harley Huntington, VPSO Gerald Otto, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Joseph Masters, VPSO Dorothy Alexie, VPSO Chad Hand, VPSO David Eneyuk, VPSO Glenn Farmer and St. Mary's Village Police Officer Curtis Francis.

The Village Public Safety Officer program added 10 new officers when they graduated from the Public Safety Academy in Sitka on March 13.

Program recruits received 10 weeks of extensive training at the Academy. The curriculum spans 37 separate subjects and includes 492 classroom hours of intensified instruction and testing before a student may graduate.

The VPSO program began in the early 1980s as a way of providing rural Alaskan communities with needed public safety support services. The VPSO Program was designed to train and employ individuals residing in the village as first responders to public safety emergencies such as search and rescue, fire protection, emergency medical assistance and law enforcement support

The presence of these officers has had a

The following is a list of those VPSOs and the VPO who have successfully completed the program, the employing Native non-profit corporation and assigned village:

VPSO **Dorothy Alexie** – Association of Village Council Presidents – Pilot Station  
 VPSO **Clifford Moses** – Association of Village Council Presidents – Toksook Bay  
 VPSO **David Eneyuk** – Bristol Bay Native Association – New Halen  
 VPSO **Glenn Farmer** – Kodiak Area Native Association – Ouzinkie  
 VPSO **Chad Hand** – Copper River Native Association – Copper Center  
 VPSO **Harley Huntington** – KAWERAK, Inc – Shishmaref  
 VPSO **Winfred Olanna Jr.** – KAWERAK, Inc – Brevig Mission  
 VPSO **Gerald Otto** – KAWERAK, Inc – Elim  
 VPSO **David Slwooko** – KAWERAK, Inc - Koyuk  
 Village Police Officer **Curtis Francis** – City of St. Mary's – St. Mary's

significant impact on improving the quality of life in the participating villages. As a result, the Village Public Safety Officers are generally the first to respond to many calls for help from community members.

The VPSO Program is divided into five areas of public safety responsibilities: law enforcement, fire safety, water safety, emergency medical response and search and rescue. ■

Mount Moffit is one of the three volcanoes within striking distance from the town of Adak.

# Adak's hidden treasures

By Trp. Vic Aye, Anchorage Service Unit

Adak is a land that is beautiful, mysterious and adventurous.

It's one of the most remote islands in the Aleutian chain, a land of immense contrast, both old and new, wilderness beauty, unique history and an ancient heritage. Prior to the arrival of Russian explorers, Adak Island was home to a large population of Aleut Indians. Sadly, most of the original inhabitants living on Adak are long gone due to disease brought in by the Europeans and some were taken away as slaves by the Russians. Since then, Adak has seen many changes, namely the sight of a large military installation that was brought in during World War II. Most recently in the 90s, the island saw the closure of the Adak Naval base and the departure of some 6,000 plus sailors, Marines and their dependents and civilian workers. Today, Adak hovers around 80-100 residents who presently utilize the housing that was left behind by the U.S. Navy. At the peak of World War II, there were over 100,000 military personnel stationed on Adak Island, the 25<sup>th</sup> largest island in the U.S.

The city of Adak is an area with vast amounts of buildings large and small, housing communities that would fit right into a southern California planned suburb. Today, you may find that for every occupied housing unit, there are a hundred that are empty. For anyone wishing to invest in a housing unit, just contact the Aleut Corporation and you may have the opportunity to purchase such a home

for very little. There are dozens of large two to three story structures sitting empty, with many of them having underground stories as well. Many of these were interconnected underground with other buildings. Adak is an explorer's paradise.

Like many other villages in the Aleutian chain, Adak is surrounded by beauty with its abundant wildlife, volcanoes and mountains and the Bering Sea and the North Pacific Ocean. Adak is land that may not just be beautiful, but also very unpredictable. Great cyclonic storms regularly make their appearances there. Earthquakes are abundant and three volcanoes are within striking distance from the town of Adak – Mount Moffit, Mount Adagdak and the Great Sitkin. Volcanoes dot the landscape up and down the Aleutian chain and regularly erupt and spew forth ash that can cover the islands for miles.

Hunting for caribou is good on the island because they can be hunted year round. Wildlife viewing is also at its premium, with abundant bald eagles, ducks, sea otters, sea lions, seals, sea birds, Orcas and other Whales.

### Troopers and Adak

Since there is no trained law enforcement personal on the island, the Alaska State Troopers spend time and assist the city with the mission to keep communities safe.



During a trip in January, Anchorage Services Unit Trp. Vic Aye stands beside a sign welcoming people to Adak, a community on a remote island in the Aleutian Chain.

Adak, like many villages throughout Alaska, sees many of the same problems such as alcoholism, domestic violence abuse and other crimes.

Recently, I have responded to Adak for a fishing boat sinking where only four of the 11 crewmen survived. Another incident involved an Anchorage resident who turned up missing in the middle of the summer last year while camping. Adak does have many dangers, such as unexploded ordinances dotting some parts of the island and the ever present deep volcano tubes that are often covered with tall grasses and make it difficult to see for the unwary.

Plus, there's the ever changing weather. There is the expression there: "if you don't like the weather, wait 15 minutes." ■

Rows of empty houses dominate the city of Adak, a once thriving military community on a remote island in the Aleutian Chain.



# D DETACHMENT NEWS

## D Detachment Laces Up For Charity



BY AMANDA ADAMS, FAIRBANKS DISPATCH

Troopers from Fairbanks Patrol, in blue, go head to head with members of the Northern Special Emergency Reaction Team in a dodgeball tournament. Patrol won the game.

Whether it's on the court or on the ice, D Detachment put it all out there for two deserving charities this fall -- the Fairbanks Fire Department and the local chapter of the United Way. Troopers, Court Service Officers, the Northern Special Emergency Reaction Team and even Alaska Wildlife Trooper staff laced up their skates and tennis shoes, hit both the ice and the court to support local groups in need. They even had fun doing it.

On Oct. 25, a variety of staff played with other law enforcement officers in the Fairbanks area, as well as former Ottawa Senator Doug Smails and former Dallas Star Bill Huard from the national hockey league, against the Fairbanks Fire Department. The game was sponsored by local businesses and attendance was free of charge. The event benefited the firefighter benevolent relief fund, which supports firefighters and their families due to fire-related injuries or in times of need. The fund also supports new equipment, training and local programs, such as the burn foundation.

The game started off with law enforcement quickly falling behind 5-0. There were no injuries and few time outs. Law enforcement rallied for a respectable loss at 8-7.

A few days later, Fairbanks Patrol and the Northern SERT team put on their gym clothes and played dodge ball for the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital's United

Way Annual Dodge Ball Tournament. All proceeds benefited the United Way. Fairbanks Patrol and the SERT team played various groups of athletes ranging from groups of teenagers to hospital staff and even other troopers. In the end, neither was the final winning team, but a good time was had by all. The most exciting game of the tournament was the SERT versus Patrol in an exhibition game with Patrol beating SERT, giving them bragging rights for years. Nothing like watching your co-workers go head to head.

In the end, it doesn't matter how many wins or loses the Department of Public Safety collects in 2009. It matters more that after the badges and long hard days come off, D Detachment just wants to have fun! ■



Fairbanks Trp. Will Dooley goes after the puck.



Those among the law enforcement team who battled the Fairbanks Fire Department included, in white on the left, Tok Trp. Joshua Rallo, No. 11 Mike Long and former Dallas Stars pro-hockey player Bill Huard, No. 17.

# WELLS NAMED TO APSC



Wells

Gov. Sarah Palin appointed Sgt. Freddie Wells to serve as the first appointed line officer on the Alaska Police Standards Council. The

11-member council establishes and enforces standards for employment, training and retention of police, corrections, probation and parole officers. It also adopts regulations and conducts administrative hearings regarding such officers.

Wells has been an Alaska State Trooper since 1998 and currently works as a post supervisor in Tok. He had previously served in the U.S. Army from 1994-1997 as an emergency treatment facility supervisor. Wells has an advanced certification as a police officer from the council, and has received additional training from the council and other national criminal justice training institutes in administration, supervision, criminal intelligence and accident investigation. He also attended the University of Alaska Anchorage. Wells serves as a member of the Tok Emergency Planning Committee.

"It is truly an honor to serve the State of Alaska in this role and to be the first appointed line officer to serve on the Alaska Police Standards Council," Wells said. "This position gives me the opportunity to provide insight from working officers prospective as well as represent the law enforcement profession with honesty, and ethical values." ■



**Winter Stop** Headlights reflect off an icy road during a winter felony traffic stop outside Fairbanks.

# Snapshots from the Interior



**Past Presidents** Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush and Richard Nixon don the uniforms of Trp. Recruit Lee Bruce, Trp. Jason Pugh and Trp. Mike Wery for Halloween at the Fairbanks post.



**Going to the dogs** Tok Trp. Josh Rallo ended up with four dogs in his patrol car after he and Trp. Vince Meyer responded to a crash. The dog owner was the only person in the vehicle and was transported for medical treatment, leaving the dogs at the scene of the crash in -48 weather. The dogs were kept first in Rallo's patrol car, and then the Tok post garage before other arrangements were made for their safe keeping.



ABADE Investigator Sgt. Scott Johnson and his canine partner, Marley, did an outstanding presentation at the Tok School during the school's drug awareness week. The team held two educational sessions for students in kindergarten to 12th grade. Johnson and Marley demonstrated the team's ability to detect and alert on drugs hidden in very unusual areas that bad guys think officers won't find. Johnson also emphasized the importance of staying drug free.



**Years of Service** Lt. Lonny Piscocoya presents Sgt. Freddie Wells with his 10-years of service certificate.



Lt. Lonny Piscocoya presents Tok Radio Dispatcher Diane Kendall with her 10-years of service certificate.

# E DETACHMENT NEWS



Sgt. Bryan Barlow of the Girdwood post, on the left, and Trp. Mike Zweifel of Seward brave chilly weather on Jan. 2 to do a Total Station scene investigation of a fatal crash on the Seward Highway.

## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF E DETACHMENT

BY BETSY KESNER, ANCHOR POINT ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

A big warm welcome to Soldotna's one and only Records Clerk – **Heidi Gomez**. If that last name sounds a little familiar to some of you old timers, it



Gomez

is because a number of years ago her dad, Mike Gomez, was a State Trooper in the very same building. Heidi was born and raised in Soldotna. Since she's the daughter of a trooper, she is no stranger to AST or law enforcement. After graduating from high school, Heidi went to college in Las Vegas and earned an Associate of Science degree in Graphic Design. She moved back to Alaska to be near her family (parents, brother, and nieces and nephews). She stays busy with her family and friends, but in her spare time can always be seen with a camera, as she has a love for photography. In her previous employment at a local realty company Heidi put her experience and education to work. She was a licensed realtor and an advertising coordinator. We plan to tap into that wealth of knowledge in the near future. Thankfully

Heidi is a quick typist and fast learner because we put her straight to work. She is a welcome addition to the Soldotna team and the DPS family.

We welcome **Trooper Recruit Sherman Powell** to Soldotna Post. He arrived for duty mid-December and is our lone recruit in training, so all eyes and attention are on him. We'll have more to come on Sherman as he progresses through field training and as he acclimates to Soldotna's sub-zero temperatures. Welcome Trooper Recruit Powell.

### OUT AND ABOUT

**Earlene Reed**, a Criminal Justice Technician in Soldotna, and a group of women hiked the Chilkoot Trail in August to raise money for the fight against cancer. They managed to not only tackle the trail but they raised over \$5,200. One hiker became hypothermic while doing the final ascent up the "Golden Stairs," the toughest portion of the trail that is coincidentally depicted on one version of the Alaska license plate. They were able to get her up to the ranger station/warming shack and get warming pads on her and warm liquids down her. She was okay after a couple of hours, but then had to face



**Earlene Reed, a Criminal Justice Technician in Soldotna, was part of a group of women who hiked the Chilkoot Trail in August to raise money for the fight against cancer.**

four more miles before reaching the next camp, with two of those miles being through ice fields. The Chilkoot Trail can throw brutal conditions at hikers and not everyone made it to the top. However, for all of us that have been touched by cancer in some way, we appreciate all your efforts.

**Sgt. Rex Leath** and **Sgt. Tom Dunn** took their sons, Wesley Leath and Drew Dunn, bear hunting out of Seldovia this past summer. The bears were lucky and stayed hidden from view, but the guys had a good time.

(E Detachment, continued on page 31)

**E Det.**, continued from page 30

Anchor Point **Trp. Mike Henry** and Anchor Point AWT **Trp. Travis Bordner** gave out Drug Awareness and Resistance Education diplomas. **Detachment Commander Capt. Pete Mlynarik** also attends the graduations when possible. **AWT Public Safety Technician Bill Hague** donned the DARE mascot Darren suit for one of Bordner's Anchor Point graduating classes. The newpew of Kenai **JS Clerk Signe Anderson** was a part of the graduation.

**AWT Trp. Todd Vanliere**, Henry and Soldotna **Trp. Darrel Christensen** familiarized themselves with the use of snow machines in the Caribou Hills. Anchor Point **Trp. Ryan Browning** also got to "familiarize" himself with the workings of snow machines. Soldotna **Sgt. Rob Hunter** supervised Browning in the art of extraction of a snow machine from a big pile of snow! It's nice to see that being a trooper is not all work and no play!

Everyone had a good time at the E Detachment's Christmas gathering. Child care was provided by **Sgt. Larry Erickson's** family so the adults could have a nice night out. Only one photo was submitted for this. Hmm ... I guess the adults did have fun!

A Firearm's Instructor Course was held in Sitka this past October. E Detachment had several in attendance: **Sgt. Rob Hunter**, **Sgt. Bryan Barlow**, **Sgt. Jim Truesdell**, Henry, **ABI Inv. Ted Nordgaarden** and **AWT Troopers Chris Jaime** and **Glenn Taylor**. The two new instructors were Henry and Nordgaarden.

Please don't send any mail via the U.S. Postal Service to **Trp. Jeremy Grieme**, it takes too long for him to don all the protective gear prior to reading it. We've found emails work much better for him.

Southern SERT members apprehended bad guy **Lt. Dane Gilmore** during a training exercise at Dolly Varden Lake near Soldotna. Participants were **AST Trp. Mike Zweifel**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Officer Chris Johnson, Kenai Police Officer Trevor Miller, Erickson, Gilmore, Christensen, Truesdell and Henry.

There was a combined AST/AWT Search and Rescue planning and GPS plotting in the Lost Lake area in sub-zero temperatures no less. Participants were **AWT Trooper Joe Wittkop**, Gilmore, **AWT**



Sgt. Tom Dunn and his son, Drew, bear hunting near of Seldovia.



Sgt. Rex Leath and his son, Wesley, out hunting bear near Seldovia.



Soldotna Sgt. Rob Hunter, left, supervises Trp. Ryan Browning in the art of extraction of a snow machine from a big pile of snow while the two are out snowmachining in the Caribou Hills.



From left, AWT Trp. Todd Vanliere, Anchor Point Trp. Mike Henry and Soldotna Trp. Darrel Christensen take a break from snowmachining in the Caribou Hills.



The E Detachment Christmas party.



Soldotna Trp. Jeremy Grieme is very careful when going through his mail.



AWT Public Safety Technician Bill Hague is in the Darren suit at one of Anchor Point AWT Trp. Travis Bordner's Anchor Point graduating classes. The young man holding Darren stuffed toy is Kenai JS's Signe Anderson's nephew, Eric Paulsrud.

(E Detachment, continued on page 32)



From left, AWT Trooper Joe Wittkop, AST Lt. Dane Gilmore, AWT Tpr. Shane Stephenson, AST Capt. Pete Mlynarik and AST Trp. Mike Zweifel go through combined Search and Rescue planning and GPS plotting training in the Lost Lake area.



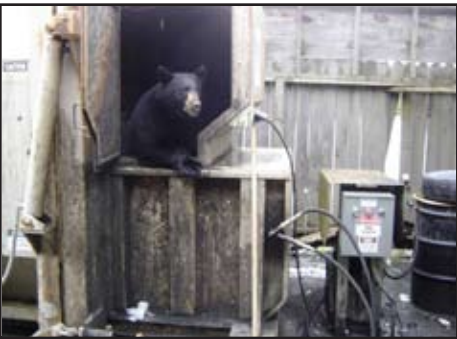
Sgt. Tom Dunn discusses important issues with Deputy Commissioner John Glass and AST Director Col. Audie Holloway. Holloway, Glass and Lt. Dane Gilmore made a visit to congratulate the post on being nominated for a Denali Award.



Southern SERT members apprehend bad guy Lt. Dane Gilmore during a training exercise at Dolly Varden Lake near Soldotna.



The Anchor Point Post crew that was nominated for the Denali Award for Customer Service Excellence Team.



Trp. Tim Lewis was called to get the bear out of the dumpster. It was attracting a lot of people behind the Tesoro gas station in Girdwood, right outside the post's back door. He ended up shooting at it with a firecracker shell, scaring it up the tree.



# E Det., continued from page 31

**Trp. Shane Stephenson**, AST Captain Pete Mlynarik, and Zweifel.

## WHERE ARE THOSE BROWN SHIRTS WHEN WE NEED THEM?

**Trp. Tim Lewis** was called to get a bear out of the dumpster because it was attracting a lot of attention behind the Tesoro gas station in Girdwood, right outside the post's back door. He ended up shooting at it with a firecracker shell, scaring it up the tree.

## DETACHMENT AWARDS

**Erickson** received his sergeant badge with Retired Sgt. Dan Donaldson presenting the badge to Erickson. Donaldson, who worked alongside Erickson on graves before his retirement, gave Erickson some words of advice and inspiration.

"Dan's speech was very moving and insightful, and it was definitely the best and most meaningful badge pinning I've seen since I've worked here," said Administrative Clerk Shae Hollandsworth.

**DPS Deputy Commissioner John Glass** took a picture of the Anchor Point Post crew when he and **AST Director Col. Audie Holloway** and **Gilmore** came down to honor the post for being nominated for the Customer Service Excellence Team.



A Christmas wreath adorns the Anchor Point wall. The guys even loaned some of their son's trooper cars for decoration.



AWT Trp. Travis Bordner and Trp. John Probst work on a case where 20 percent of the weapons confiscated were Title II weapons and taken to Anchorage for disposal.



Cubby Bear visited eight classes at the Soldotna Elementary School on April 1 and gave over 200 hugs. Cubby Bear accompanied Sgt. Larry Erickson who spoke on bullying and basic safety issues.



Trp. Mike Henry's son, Micaiah, and the family's dog, Bella, find out at an early age what it is like to be behind bars.



# TROPICAL WEDDING BELLS



Lindy and Joseph Minnick

E Detachment's **Trp. Joseph Minnick** was married on Aug. 2, 2008 on Trunk Bay Beach in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands. His new wife, **Lindy**, was hired in September 2008 by AST to be a Cold Case Investigator for ABI. She now works with **Inv. Jim Stogsdill** in Soldotna.

After a week on the island with their families, the Minnicks returned to St. Louis for a reception with friends and more family.

Joe and Lindy had been best friends for 12 years after working together as police officers in St. Louis. Although, they went their separate ways over the years – living overseas in various countries and changing careers a few times, they always kept in touch. Lindy joined ABI after having been a police officer for 11 years in St. Louis and then working out of Washington D.C. in the Defense Industry with Intelligence for two years.

The dual Trooper/Investigator couple now resides in Kenai and is excited to explore Alaska through their careers. ■



**Anchor Point Trooper Greg Pealatore** is giving his partner, **Anchor**, a bath at the post. He works and plays hard and often needs baths (talking about **Anchor** – can't vouch for **Greg**), as you can tell by the bottom photo from a canine training session.



**Signe Anderson**, a clerk with Kenai Judicial Services, receives her five-year service recognition from **Trp. Joseph Minnick**.



**Capt. Pete Mlynarik** presents **Sgt. Bryan Barlow** with his 2007 E Detachment Trooper of the Year.



**AST Deputy Director Maj. Matt Leveque** presents **Sgt. Rex Leath** with 2007 Division/Statewide Trooper of the Year.



E Detachment Administrative Supervisor **Jan Redford**, left, presents Clerk **Marcy Brown** with a plaque for her service to the detachment before she transferred to the Alaska Bureau of Investigation in Soldotna.



**Capt. Pete Mlynarik** presents **CSO Sue Macholz** with 2007 Court Services Officer of the year.



**Capt. Pete Mlynarik** presents **Trp. Garrett Willis** with his five-year anniversary pin.

Attendees to the awards picnic in Seward (from left): AWT **Trp. Mike Hicks**, **Trp. Garrett Willis** and wife, **Amber**; AWT **Trp. Tim Abbott** and family; **Trp. Larry Dur'an**; **Trp. Brent Hatch** and family; **Trp. Michael Shelley** and family; and **Trp. John Probst** and wife. All but **Willis** were recruits who are now full fledged troopers.





# ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS



## Commander's Call

Alaska Wildlife Troopers command staff met at the Anchorage Crime Lab for a director's conference in December. Those who attended were, from left to right, AWT Director Col. Gary Folger, Kodiak post supervisor Sgt. Lonnie Gonzales, B Detachment Commander Lt. Tory Oleck, WIU Commander Lt. Bernard Chastain, C Detachment Commander Lt. Willard Ellis, Operations Commander Capt. Burke Waldron, A Detachment Commander Lt. Todd Sharp, D Detachment Commander Lt. Lantz Dahlke, E Detachment Commander Lt. Glenn Godfrey Jr. and Deputy Director Maj. Steve Bear.

## PROMOTIONS

**Alaska Wildlife Trooper Director Col. Gary Folger** is pleased to announce the promotion of **Sgt. Bernard Chastain** of B Detachment in Palmer to lieutenant of the headquarters staff in Anchorage, effective Dec. 1, 2008. Chastain is now the Commander of the Wildlife Investigations Unit and Liaison to the Board of Fish, Board of Game and Commercial Services Board.

Chastain began his career with Public Safety September 1998. After graduating from the academy, he was stationed in Soldotna. From Soldotna he transferred to Glennallen in June 2001. He was promoted to sergeant July 2004 and transferred to Ketchikan. After four years in Ketchikan he transferred to Palmer in September 2008. He has worked with most major fisheries and hunts throughout Alaska, giving him tremendous experience with the wildlife resources of Alaska. Chastain is a department pilot, firearms instructor, Incident Command System instructor, water survival instructor, medium class vessel instructor and a field training officer. ■



**Gena Chastain pins the lieutenant badge on her husband, newly promoted AWT Lt. Bernard Chastain.**



**Alaska Wildlife Trooper Director Col. Gary Folger** is pleased to announce the promotion of **Trp. Doug Massie** to sergeant of B Detachment's Palmer Post, effective Jan. 16, 2009.

Massie attended ALET Academy No. 16 in 1996. After completion of the Academy he accepted a position with the Kotzebue Police Department in the spring of 1997. He was hired in August 1997 as a Wildlife Trooper and was stationed in Soldotna. In December 2000 Massie transferred to the Wildlife Investigations Unit in Anchorage. In April 2003 he transferred to the Palmer Post where he served as Officer In Charge on several occasions. In August 2006 he transferred to the Talkeetna Post and then October 2008 he transferred back to the Palmer Post. ■

**Alaska Wildlife Trooper Doug Massie on a snowmachine patrol in the Talkeetna Mountains.**

# Successful Bids

Alaska Wildlife Troopers Director Col. Gary Folger is pleased to announce the following successful bids:

- AST Cpl. Ralf Lysdahl of the Public Safety Academy in Sitka was the successful bidder for Alaska Wildlife Trooper at the Cantwell Post, effective April 1, 2009.
- AST Sgt. Jeffrey Manns of Fairbanks

in D Detachment was the successful bidder for Dutch Harbor Alaska Wildlife Trooper in C Detachment, effective March 16, 2009.

- AWT Trp. Thomas Lowy of Cantwell was the successful bidder for Dutch Harbor Alaska Wildlife Trooper in C Detachment, effective Feb. 1, 2009.

• AST Trp. Kyle Carson of the Soldotna Post was the successful bidder for Sitka Alaska Wildlife Trooper in A Detachment, effective March 1, 2009.

- AST Trp. Jeremy Stone of the Fairbanks Post was the successful bidder for Kodiak Alaska Wildlife Trooper in C Detachment, effective Jan. 16, 2009. ■

## KODIAK NEWS

### In this corner

### In this corner



Dan Fox, aka "Taco Libre"  
Public Safety Technician II,  
Alaska Wildlife Troopers  
Kodiak Post



Tom Anthony, aka "Slucky"  
Public Safety Technician II,  
Alaska Wildlife Troopers  
Kodiak Post



### The Showdown

### The Winner



### Taco Libre

see some of these back for another round.

Patrol Vessels Woldstad and Cama'i were kept busy with fall game patrols and commercial fisheries around Kodiak and south peninsula. We had planned a Safety Bear and Trooper Ted E. Bear trip to several communities on the south peninsula, King Cove, Sand Point, Cold Bay, Perryville, Chignik and Chignik Lagoon. However, this trip was cancelled due to hurricane force winds between Kodiak and Chignik. It will be rescheduled in the spring. Hopefully the weather will be much better.

It seems like the patrols never end. The

Woldstad was out for the week-long tanner season starting Jan. 15.

We would also like to welcome to the AWT Division in Kodiak, Trp. Grant Cooper and Trp. Jeremy Stone and also extend a welcome to Public Safety Technician II Daniel Fox.

On the fun side, after the first of the year we had a lunch time taco eating contest. Public Safety Technician II Tom Anthony and Fox faced off in the contest that tested hearty appetites and digestive strength with tacos cooked at the Kodiak post. They were given 23 tacos each and 30 minutes to eat the tacos. We also had spectator food provided by our two clerks, Shelley Cubbedge and Kerry Bateman. The winner, Fox, devoured 20 tacos in the 30 minutes while Anthony could only stomach 11. A drop of Dave's Insanity Sauce that was put on one taco each for Anthony and Fox may have been Anthony's undoing. He grabbed the hot one first. The sauce was so hot, Anthony could barely swallow. ■

BY TRP. DAVE ANDERSON,  
KODIAK AWT

Hello from Alaska Wildlife Troopers in Kodiak. Now that the holidays have passed, we are into the real winter. It may not be like Fairbanks at 45 below zero, but we have been hovering around 10 above at night and 20 above during the day, which is cold for us. In addition, we have very little snow compared to the last couple of years.

This past fall was extremely busy for AWT in Kodiak with several crab seizures, lots of game violations and boater safety checks. The Cessna 185 and Super Cub are some of the best tools we have. Trp. Alan Jones is the eye in the sky for not only hunters, but for the fisheries around Kodiak.

The holidays came and went, as 2008 came to a close. Let's hope that 2009 allows us to take the time to slow down a little and enjoy it. We had our annual Christmas party with lots of good food and the white elephant gift exchange. I'm sure that in the future we may

# SHRIMPING PARTY ON POW ISLAND

BY DAN GUNDERSON, KLAWOCK AWT

Alaska Wildlife Troopers spent four hours deheading roughly 550 pounds of shrimp seized from an illegal commercial fishing vessel near Craig in January.

At 10:17 a.m. on Jan. 6, Alaska Wildlife Troopers Jeremy Baum and Dan Gunderson were out in the P/V Interceptor near Craig when they contacted a fishing vessel commercial fishing for shrimp. Neither the skipper nor the crew members had their 2009 licenses and permits. However, they did have 550 pounds of live shrimp, which were not legal. Troopers escorted the fishermen back to Craig, then gave them their summonses and citations and seized the shrimp to be sold. Everything was normal up to that point.

As it turns out, there isn't a market for live shrimp on Prince of Wales Island in January. They needed to be deheaded in order to be sold.

Baum, Gunderson and Public Safety Technician II Tom Hardin popped the heads off of 550 pounds of illegal shrimp so they could sell them. Four hours and three sore backs later, they were finished. ■



Trp. Dan Gunderson, on left, and Trp. Jeremy Baum work hard at deheading shrimp seized from an illegal shrimping boat near Craig in January. It took them and PST Tom Hardin four hours to dehead the 550 pounds of shrimp.

LICENSE AND REGISTRATION, PLEASE – Bethel-based AWT Trp. Mike Cresswell has fun with the guys over at Alaska Hovercraft on the Kuskokwim River near Bethel and with the wind chill at -55 on Jan. 8, .



CULTURAL EXCHANGE – Trp. Doug Massie spoke on behalf of the Alaska Wildlife Troopers at the annual Hmong New Years Celebration. Here he is with the Hmong Ci Ntsa and Nplaim Dej dancers after a performance.



NEW DIGS – (On left) Lt. Todd Sharp gives then Sgt. Bernard Chastain his “kicked out of the Southeast” plaque and wishes him well before Chastain transferred to Palmer. Chastain wasn't in Palmer long when he was promoted to lieutenant and moved to Anchorage headquarters where he was given this plush office (on right). Don't feel too sorry for him, the office was only temporary.



# E DETACHMENT NEWS

BY DENA ROSS, SOLDOTNA AWT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

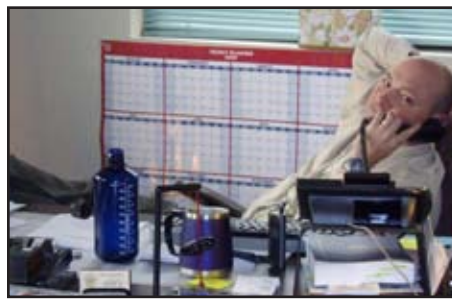


Sgt. Paul McConnell is hard at work passing along his knowledge to a trooper under his supervision.

*Aalapa!* The weather the last few weeks has been extremely cold with below zero temperatures. It's always nice to work in a warm and friendly atmosphere especially with the likes of **Lt. Glenn Godfrey**, aka the Singing Trooper! It's amazing how quickly a word triggers a song for him. Most recently...the weather outside is frightful ... la de la de da da. He is the epitome of *when life gives you lemons... make lemonade and sing a song ...* something like that?! He just walked by a desk as someone mentioned "I wish it would warm up and snow"...and he burst into song again "let it snow, let it snow, let it snow." In the background you can hear a trooper telling him not to give up his day job!

I can't count how many times this past year that I've heard good things regarding our post's **Sgt. Paul McConnell**. The Soldotna Post is fortunate to have McConnell as a supervisor. His refined skills as a leader are admired greatly by all that are privileged to be supervised by him. McConnell is a perfect example of how it's done as his work ethic and performance demonstrates. Thanks McConnell for being you!

**Trp. Joseph Wittkop** finished up his Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP) in August 2008. As Soldotna Post's newest trooper, he has been effective in carrying out his new commission and seems to be a magnet for violators ... or maybe it's his magnetic personality that draws even the worst of them? We haven't quite figured out why every corner he turns, there's a report to be written or a chase to be had. Seriously, Wittkop's rapport with both the public and co-workers has been outstanding since his arrival to the Kenai Peninsula. It is a privilege to have him representing our



Our fearless leader at E Detachment, Lt. Glenn Godfrey, the singing trooper.

Division and we are very pleased to have him as part of our post family.

Our post Christmas tree was designed by **Trp. Todd Mountain** – it has a very "a-lure-ing" effect! Nice job Todd ... hey where'd you get the illegal hooks; the evidence room or out of your box?

**Trp. Shane Stephenson** had to hold his plane in the choppy waters of Tustumena Lake while **Pilot John Chiri** landed the Helo. Chiri transported a battery to replace the one that ran out of juice during a hunting patrol in September. **Administrative Assistant Dena Ross** was along for the ride and took several shots throughout the patrol. You'll need to view the PowerPoint that was prepared to appreciate the whole adventure ... ask Stephenson for a copy!

**Sgt. Rob Morrisett** of the Cordova



AWT Trp. Joseph Wittkop during a recent search and rescue/GPS training in the Lost Lake area.



Trp. Shane Stephenson holds his plane in the choppy waters of Tustumena Lake while Pilot Trp. John Chiri lands the Helo.

Post welcomes back Mike Hicks who is now known as **Trp. Mike Hicks**. Hicks started with AWT in 2006 as a Public Safety Technician II. His FTEP took place on the Kenai Peninsula this summer and ended in November. Cordova now has two full time troopers in addition to Morrisett. He'll need to purchase another whip to crack to keep Hicks in line. You have to know Hicks to know what we're talking about!

**Trp. Marc Cloward** at the Seward Post welcomed **Public Safety Technician Jim Hoefler** in July of 2008. Since his hire date, Hoefler has been learning the ropes and doing a superb job at it. Cloward had several training sessions around the state the last few months and was very pleased with Hoefler's independent actions at keeping the post in

(E Detachment, continued on page 38)



Trp. Todd Mountain decorated this Christmas trees with illegal lures.

# E Det., continued from page 37

working order and directing inquiries to proper agencies. Hoeffler will be attending the annual Joint Enforcement Agreement training in Kodiak and is looking forward to getting acquainted with his JEA cohorts in other agencies such as NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service and the Office for Law Enforcement as well as expanding his job skills. JEA is the program for ensuring enforcement of commercial and recreational fishing (including Crab IFQ and halibut), charter vessels, halibut subsistence fishing and inspections of Alaska fish dealers and shippers buying, selling and transporting crab or fish. AWT PST IIs meet the boats at the dock before they off-load crab and bottom fish and make sure the fishermen are following the regulations concerning harvesting targeted fish and by-catch fish.

We welcomed **Trp. Ken Acton** to the Cooper Landing Post in the fall of 2008. Snowmachine patrols are common in the winter for this area. The Kenai and Russian River areas will keep him very busy during summer months. ■



**Public Safety Technician Jim Hoeffler** in July of 2008. Since his hire date, Hoeffler has been learning the ropes and doing a superb job at it.



**Trp. Ken Acton** has recently transferred to the post in Cooper Landing and will no doubt be busy with snowmachine patrols in the area (below) and will be out on the Kenai and Russian rivers this summer (left).



**Maj. Steve Bear**, in middle, gives **Lt. Lantz Dahlke**, left, and **Lt. Tory Oleck**, their certificates and pins at the commander's conference for 20 years of service with the state.



**Boat Officer III Laurence Nagy** presents a plaque to **Ray Streitmatter**, the vessel tech from the P/V Enforcer, for his tenure in Southeast. Streitmatter transferred to Dutch Harbor to the P/V Stimson. See page 49 for a list of Alaska Wildlife Trooper awards.



**Lt. Will Ellis** gives **Trp. Alan Jones** his 15 years of service award.



**Sgt. Paul Fussey** receives his advanced police standards certificate and 10 years of service certificate from **Lt. Will Ellis**.



**Lt. Todd Sharp** presents **Sgt. Steve Hall** with his Dean's List notification from the Southern Police Institute.

# CORDOVA NEWS

BY DIXIE LAMBERT, CORDOVA AWT ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK



Public Safety Technician II Paul Trumblee, in dive gear, prepares for kids to enter the pool. Trumblee and Cordova Alaska Wildlife Troopers Sgt. Rob Morrisett, Alex Arduser and Mike Hicks provided the children with instruction on how to use personal flotation devices.



Trp. Mike Hicks holds up Keyona Mattson to show other children that she won't slip out of a PFD that fits properly.



Trp. Alex Arduser shows Ethan Whitcomb how to coil a rescue rope during instruction for part of the "Kids Don't Float" program.



Trp. Mike Hicks helps Santa Claus and elves (or children of fire department personnel) pass out bags of goodies to nursing home residents while at the Cordova Community Medical Center.

The Cordova AWT post brought boating education to about 130 grade school students and delight to about 25 nursing home residents during the first week of December.

As part of the "Kids Don't Float" program, **Sgt. Rob Morrisett, Troopers Alex Arduser and Mike Hicks, and Public Safety Technician Paul Trumblee** provided instruction on how to use personal flotation devices (PFD) at the local swimming pool over a span of five days.

Morrisett, a certified diver, and Trumblee, a firefighter/medic/diver in the Cordova Volunteer Fire Dept., also showed the kids what it was like to breathe underwater using a regulator. It was hard to determine who was having the most fun, the troopers or the kids!

On Dec. 5, troopers Arduser and Hicks assisted in providing traffic control at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting for the Chamber of Commerce. A brightly decorated fire engine and Santa's sleigh brought Santa to the location and, after the tree lighting, the troopers accompanied the fire engine and Santa's sleigh to the Cordova Community Medical Center. Carols were played over the fire truck's loud speakers while Santa visited the nursing home residents. Hicks assisted in passing out bags of candy prepared by the fire department.

Hicks also plays a dual role in the community as he is the Chief of Cordova Volunteer Fire Department. The skills that he and Trumblee bring to the table at the trooper post are highly valued. Knowing that education saves lives, they both jump at chances to provide instruction and training to the community.

Congratulations go out to Alaska Pacific University skier Kate Arduser, who was on APU's World Cup Team when they competed in Canada. Earlier, Kate placed sixth in the Women's 5K Freestyle race on Jan. 5 and 15th in the Women's Classic Sprint Race held on Jan. 8. The races were part of the U.S. Cross Country Ski Championships held in Kincaid Park in Anchorage. Kate is the bride of trooper Arduser of the Cordova AWT post. ■



# FIRE & LIFE SAFETY



The division of Fire and Life Safety has had a busy fall and winter.

All three Bureaus have been active with conferences, training, building code changes, inspections and investigations. One of the most significant accomplishments this fall

was getting the residential fire suppression sprinkler code requirement passed at the International Code Council final action hearings in Minneapolis. The code requires builders to install fire suppression sprinkler systems in new homes. This requirement will save many lives that are lost do to fires in the home. **Division**

**of Fire and Life Safety Director David Tyler, Deputy Director Kelly Nicoello, Plan Review Bureau Supervisor Carol Olson and Plans Examiner Tim Fisher** attended the hearings to support the residential fire suppression sprinkler code. ■

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION BUREAU

BY MAHLON GREENE, PUBLIC EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The Training and Education Bureau has been busy promoting the new online fire prevention game "Raven Island." There are approximately 4,200 players to date and we are actively looking for sponsors to keep the game on line.

**Public Education Coordinator Mahlon Greene** set up and staffed information booths at the annual Alaska Firefighters Association/Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Joint Conference in Juneau, Alaska Federation of Natives Youth and Elders Conference in Anchorage and the Alaska Municipal League Conference in Ketchikan. There was a lot of interest in the "Raven Island" fire prevention game from attendees in Bush communities.

The Training and Education Bureau worked successfully with the members of the Kotzebue Fire Department in delivering and completing their first Firefighter I and

Firefighter II series. This delivery was accomplished utilizing 10 senior instructors from the Fairbanks area working out of the Fairbanks TEB office. The Firefighter I series was 180 hours and the Firefighter II series was 56 hours.

This milestone was made possible by the



**The Training and Education Bureau has been busy promoting the new online fire prevention game "Raven Island." There are approximately 4,200 players to date and the Bureau is are actively looking for sponsors to keep the game on line.**

cooperation of Kotzebue Fire Chief Steven Troxell and his fire department membership along with the many instructors who traveled to Kotzebue teaching on evenings and weekends to allow volunteer members to participate. The Division of Fire and Life Safety wants to recognize this achievement and congratulate the members in becoming State of Alaska/IFSAC certified firefighters. This project was a dream for years and was finally accomplished by all working together and staying focused on the end game. Testing for each level was conducted by a Certifying Officer appointed by the Fire Standards Council. The Firefighter I began in late April and finished in Mid July. Taking a breather for a couple of months to allow for some hunting and fishing, the Firefighter II began in early October and

(Training, continued on page 41)



Members of the Kotzebue Fire Department completed their first Firefighter I and Firefighter II series. This delivery was accomplished utilizing 10 senior instructors from the Fairbanks area working out of the Fairbanks Training and Education Bureau office. The Firefighter I series was 180 hours and the Firefighter II series was 56 hours.



# PLAN REVIEW BUREAU

BY BUREAU STAFF

The Division of Fire and Life Safety is in the process of adopting the Regulations for 2009 International Codes within the State of Alaska. Significant changes will possibly include adopting the Wildland – Urban Interface Code and the International Residential Code, but without State Fire Marshal regulatory enforcement. This would depend on the feedback we get during public comment. We would like to involve as many participants as possible, and get as many views as possible.

The Bureau has also implemented their first of many, informational forums (Code Talk) from people around the state that were requested during the Fire Marshal Forum in April 2008.

Coffee Break and Code Corner seem to be a big hit with all the complimentary e-mails and comments that have been received. These subjects are posted on our web site at [www.akburny.com](http://www.akburny.com), on the Plan Review Bureau (PRB) page. The general public and registered design professionals alike can review the issues and thereby use our web site as an ongoing informational tool.



Buck

We regretfully



The Plan Review Bureau consists of (from left to right) Bureau supervisor, Deputy Fire Marshal Carol Olson and Building Plans Examiners Diana Parks, Christ Grooms and Tim Fisher. Not pictured is Plans Examiner David Aden in the Fairbanks office.

had to say good-bye to **Administrative Clerk III Cerrissiah “Cissy” Buck**. She decided to be a stay at home mom. She will be missed by the entire Division.

New projects which are gaining steam are the Liberty Pad for BP, Sport Fish Hatchery for Department of Fish and Game, a new hospital in Nome and the Goose Creek Correction Facility at

Point MacKenzie for the Department of Corrections. These projects have kept the pressure on while maintaining a steady flow of work through out the office.

Currently we have implemented the first phase of our new database, called Hansen 8, and working on phase II will allow our customers to log in and submit applications over the web. ■

## Training, continued from page 40

finished in late November. The Kotzebue Fire Department now has 11 new certified firefighters to increase the department’s safety and effectiveness.

Congratulations to all who stuck with the project and completed the training. TEB also thanks all staff members who worked on the project, The Northwest Arctic Borough management and Sue’s B&B in Kotzebue for accommodations for all the instructors. **Fire Training Specialist Bill Heddrick** in TEB’s Fairbanks office should be commended for coordinating this successful effort.

The Office of Rural Fire Protection continues to schedule training for Project Code Red. Several new Code Red Communities will be trained this year. Fire training for Village Public Safety Officers’ will be conducted for two weeks at the Department of Public Safety Academy in Sitka. ■

## MELE KALIKIMAKA



1. Alaska Fire Standards Council Administrator Gordon Descueter’s kids, Kiefer, Kemp and Kade, enjoy the food at the Fire & Life Safety Hawaiian Christmas party on Dec. 23. 2. Fire & Life Safety Director Dave Tyler, an avid Packers fan, holds up Green Bay sweat bands his Secret Santa gave him. 3. Training and Education Bureau Clerk Alex Richardson holds her Hello Kitty coloring set and Deputy Fire Marshal Kevin Hunter hugs a body pillow the pair got from their Secret Santas. “This is for our long trips out in the Bush,” Hunter quipped about the present.



# LIFE SAFETY INSPECTION BUREAU

BY DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL LLOYD NAKANO, LSIB SUPERVISOR



The Life Safety Inspection Bureau consists of Deputy Fire Marshals Nathan Rocheleau, Kevin Hunter, Administrative Clerk Amy Gamboa-Noket, Bureau supervisor Deputy Fire Marshal Lloyd Nakano and Palmer-based Deputy Fire Marshal John Bond. Not pictured are Fairbanks-based Deputy Fire Marshal Bob Plumb and Clerk Judith Miller and Fairbanks-based Deputy Fire Marshal Tom DePeter.

The Life Safety Inspection Bureau schedule has been very busy with training, inspections and investigations throughout the state.

Three deputies attended training at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md. **Deputy Nathan Rocheleau** successfully completed Fire Inspection Principles, **Deputy Kevin Hunter** successfully completed Fire Origin and Cause Determination and **Deputy Lloyd Nakano** successfully completed the Interview and Interrogation course. Rocheleau, Hunter and Nakano work out of the Anchorage office. Fairbanks-based **Deputy Tom DePeter** and Rocheleau also completed the Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Specialist I and II

course. Deputies and administrative clerks are being trained in the new data base program called Hansen. This program will streamline the Bureau's inspection process when going to Mobile Solutions. Mobile Solutions is the top priority for the Bureau. The Bureau should have Mobile Solutions implemented by the next fiscal year.

Deputies traveled to and inspected the Pribilof Islands, Ketchikan, Gustavus, Excursion Inlet, Elfin Cove, Tok, the Aleutian Chain out to False Pass and south to Homer. They also performed Life Safety Code Long Term Care surveys in Anchorage, Cordova, Homer and Seward.

LSIB responded to assist outside agencies

at Fort Yukon, Chignik Bay, Alakanuk, Fairbanks, Homer, Wasilla, Kotzebue, Delta Junction and Valdez just to name a few. They conducted fire origin and cause determinations. Sadly to say six of those responses were due to fire fatalities. During the first full week in January 2009, we responded to two fatal fires.

Juneau-based **Deputy Bob Plumb** traveled to Dillingham to testify as an expert witness on two different court cases. The first case resulted in Arson I and Murder II conviction; however, the other case resulted in an acquittal. We would like to thank the Ketchikan Fire and Police Departments for pursuing charges on a residential fire. ■



Instructor Jim Wolfe taught members of the Life Safety Inspection Bureau methods of documenting and collecting snow impression evidence. Wolfe, third from left, teaches LSIB members from left to right, deputy fire marshals Kevin Hunter, Lloyd Nakano and John Bond (also pictured on the left) the sulfur cement casting process of heating the sulfur cement to a liquid and then pouring the cooled liquid into an impression. This method makes a cast without melting the snow around it.





# STATEWIDE SERVICES



## HOLIDAY CHEER



Statewide Services employees enjoy a Christmas potluck and Chinese auction gift exchange at the DPS Headquarters in December.



Analyst Programmer Kenn Barnett opens a present to reveal a box of animal shaped cookie cutters, various shaped pancake molds and a box of treats.



Kathy Monfreda, the chief of the Criminal Records and Identification Bureau, laughs as AFIS Supervisor Sue Blei rejoices over her gift.

## AWARDS

DPS Commissioner Joe Masters and Statewide Services Director Dave Schade handed out years of service certificates to division employees at ceremonies at headquarters in November and December. Those awarded were:



AFIS Clerk Ali Ollayos for 10 years of service.



Leetta Smith, an administrative clerk with AFIS, for 10 years.



Quality Assurance Project Supervisor Rena Bukovich-Notti for 25 years.



Records Clerk Marty Miller for 5 years of service.



Analyst Programmer IV Jeffrey Spees for 25 years.



Criminal Records and Identification Bureau Chief Kathy Monfreda for 15 years.



# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



DPS Commissioner Joe Masters, left, Director of Administrative Services Dan Spencer and Lisa Emerson-Galea, the administrative operations manager, share a laugh after Emerson-Galea was presented with a certificate for 25 years of service to the State.

## OTHER NEWS

Many DPS employees were awarded years of service pins for their commitment to the State of Alaska. Some were presented at various awards ceremonies throughout the state, including one at Anchorage headquarters in December. For a list of those awarded in the last quarter of 2008 that did not appear in awards presentation photographs, see page 49.



Crime Lab Manager Orin Dym, on right, presents Forensic Scientist III Jeanne Swartz with her 10 years of service certificate.



Fire and Life Safety Building Plans Examiner Diana Parks is congratulated on 10 years of service with the state.



Commissioner Joe Masters congratulates Statewide Services Director Dave Schade, left, on five years of service with the state.



Fire and Life Safety Director Dave Tyler presents Life Safety Inspections Bureau Clerk Amy Noket-Gamboia with a certificate for five years of service.



Executive Secretary Cassandra Byrne is all smiles after Commissioner Joe Masters presents her with a certificate for 10 years of service.

# “Children are not the people of tomorrow, but people today.”

-Janusz Korczak, Polish children’s advocate.

Bethel-based **Trp. Mike Roberts** said he and his wife, Mandi, have decided to withdraw from the Roberts family “who can have the most babies” competition and support **Sgt. Rick Roberts** in his continued quest for the title. Mike Roberts and Mandi have four kids to the five that his brother and wife, Kasey, have. Meanwhile, the brothers’ sister, Kelly, who is married to Palmer **ABI Inv. Ramin Dunford**, welcomed their third addition to the family in December. The oldest Roberts sister, Chantel, has two children. That makes 15 grandchildren for retired trooper Rick Roberts Sr. The Roberts family is obviously doing a good job of producing troopers to fill the ranks well into the future.

In addition, B Detachment troopers are also doing their part to fill another generation of uniforms and have added eight to the trooper family in last quarter of 2008.

Additions to the DPS family are:

- Maraya Spring Dunford was born to Palmer **ABI Inv. Ramin Dunford** and his wife, Kelly, at 11:26 p.m. on Dec. 6, 2008. She weighed 8 pounds and measured 20-3/4 inches.



**Mother Mandy and baby Kaylee Roberts**

- Kaylee Roberts was born to Bethel **Trp. Mike Roberts** and his wife, Mandi, at 10:14 p.m. on Oct. 13, 2008. She weighed 8 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 20 inches. Maraya joins three other siblings.

- Brennen Wright Roberts was born to Fairbanks **Trooper Sgt. Rick Roberts** and his wife, Kasey, at 11:15 p.m. on Nov. 7, 2008. He weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 21-3/4 inches. Brennen joins four other siblings.

- Owen James Calt was born to Talkeetna-based **Trp. Shayne Calt** and his wife, Aleshia, at 12:18 a.m. on Oct. 25, 2008. He weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 21.5 inches.



**James Calt**

- Glennallen-based **Trp. Nathan Duce** and wife, Debbie, welcomed Natalie Zade Duce at 2:33 a.m. on Jan. 16, 2009. She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 19.5 inches.



**Natalie Duce**

- Wieland James Heinbaugh was born to Glennallen-



**Sgt. Rick Roberts** holds his son, **Brennen Wright**, in this photo taken by the child’s grandmother and Robert’s mother-in-law, professional photographer **Paula Pettijohn**.

- based **Trp. Josh Heinbaugh** and wife, Amber, at 7:43 p.m. on Dec. 23, 2008. He weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 21 inches.



- Conner James Hill was born to Wasilla-based **Sgt. Chris Hill** and wife, Andrea, at 9:46 a.m. on Sept. 18, 2008. Conner weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 19.75 inches.

**Wieland Heinbaugh**



**Father Josh and son Lincoln Varys**

- Lincoln James Varys was born to Palmer-based **Trp. Josh Varys** and wife, Leslie, at 3:50 a.m. on Sept. 8, 2008. He weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 19.5 inches.



**Bristol Shanigan**

- Bristol Maelyn Shanigan was born to Talkeetna-based **Trp. Terrance Shanigan** and wife, Elissa, at 4:26 p.m. on Sept. 16, 2008. Bristol weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 21 inches.



**Chase Womack**

- Chase Stryker Womack was born to married troopers Palmer-based **Trp. Todd Womack** and **ABI Inv. Angela Womack** at 7:49 a.m. on Nov. 5, 2008. He weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 19.75 inches.

- Traeton Cole Adams was born to Palmer **Judicial Services CSO Tim**

- Adams** and wife, Alana, at 10 a.m. on Sept. 3, 2008. Traeton weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 21.5 inches.



**Traeton Adams**

- Ruby Suzanne Litster was born to Wasilla-based **Alaska Wildlife Trooper Cody Litster** and wife, Megan, at 8:27 p.m. on January 11, 2009. Ruby weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 21-1/4 inches. She joins siblings Wyatt and Isaac.

- Hoonah-based **Alaska Wildlife Trooper Andy Savland** and Kimberly Steadman welcomed Jora Lynne Savland, born on Oct. 31, 2008. She weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces.



**Jora Savland**

- Nome-based **Trp. Honie Culley** and husband, Matt, welcomed Madison Mckinley Culley born at 6:30 a.m. on Jan. 20, 2009. Madison weighed 9 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 21-3/4 inches.

- Ketchikan Post **Trp. Joey Beaudoin** and wife, Raelene, welcomed their first child, Arabella Hope Beaudoin on August 22.



**Arabella Beaudoin**

- Palmer-based **Alaska Wildlife Trooper Doug Massie** and wife, Misty, welcomed daughter, Hallie, at 9:53 a.m. on Jan. 8, 2009. She weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 19.5 inches. She joins brother Gavin. ■



Patriot Guard Riders escort a military funeral procession in Arizona.

# RETIRED TROOPERS RIDE WITH PRIDE FOR FALLEN HEROS

**U**nder a sea of red, white and blue and a wave of rolling thunder, Patriot Guard Riders across the nation honor fallen military members and those returning home from deployments.

Among the ranks of these two-wheeled patriots are retired Alaska State Troopers **Sam Barnard** and **Bob Gorder**. They both joined the PGRs because they wanted to honor the troops fighting overseas, especially those who make the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

“I wanted the family to know that their terrible loss did not go unnoticed,” said Gorder, a trooper from 1978 until 1999. As

part of his 22-year career with troopers, he served as a commander for the academy, judicial services and Ketchikan post as well as on the director’s staff.

Meanwhile, Barnard, who was an investigator in Fairbanks and Anchorage during his almost 18-year trooper career starting in 1969, remembers how he and other troops were treated when they returned from the Vietnam War and wanted to ensure those returning today didn’t get the same unkind treatment. Barnard served in the Navy from June 1964 until December 1967.

“Being a part of the PGR is an

opportunity to say thank you and pay my respect to these men and women who are serving our country,” Barnard said. “I am too old to join the fight, much as I would like to, but I can do this.”

Barnard and Gorder not only knew each other as troopers, rode together as Riders in southern Arizona, but were neighbors in a small retirement community there until Gorder recently moved back to Alaska to take a job with the Department of Public Safety as the Office of Professional Standards Coordinator.

Barnard takes the Riders' mission to heart. Not only has he ridden his Yamaha Venture on countless missions, he is the assistant state captain for the southern Arizona area. His duties include getting information regarding events or funerals and coordinating with the families or military on the logistics of the PGR's involvement. Riders only attend funerals with the family's permission. Anywhere from 50 to 200 members will escort the funeral motorcade on motorcycles with flags flying, then stand surrounding the funeral holding the flags high. Sometimes they outnumber the family members in attendance.

“The (killed in action) missions are the most intense and are what the PGR was



Retired Alaska State Troopers Bob Gorder, pictured on the left, and Sam Barnard, pictured both behind Gorder and in the photo on the right, participated in numerous Patriot Guard Riders missions to provide escorts for military and veterans' funerals.



Patriot Guard Riders hold flags as they and family members welcome home troops returning from a deployment.

initially formed for,” Barnard said via email from Arizona. “The families are always very appreciative and thankful that they know there are others that feel their loss.”

Gorder, who rode his Harley in approximately 15 missions before moving back to Alaska, remembers one particular funeral escort near Fort Huachuca, Ariz. There were about 100 motorcycles from the Tucson area and the local PGR chapter. He remembers seeing family members standing outside the mortuary watching as the line of flag-flying motorcycles pulled into the parking lot.

“All were crying,” Gorder said.

After the bikes were parked and shut down, a woman Gorder believes was the fallen soldier’s mother, walked from bike to bike, giving each of the Riders a hug.

“I don’t think there was a dry eye within a mile of the place,” he said.

The PGR was formed in Kansas in 2005 in response to religious zealots protesting the funerals of fallen troops. According to information on the PGR website, members of the American Legion Riders in the area were appalled to hear of protestors tarnishing a fallen hero’s memory at a funeral. They mobilized to show support for the dead soldier and the family and to protect them from the protests.

“Any time the protestors arrive at one of these, it will always be our primary focus,” Barnard said.

They are not to engage or confront these protestors either verbally or physically, but instead stand with their backs to them while holding flags high as a way to form a wall

to shield friends and family members. The Riders may sing, rev their engines or recite the “Pledge of Allegiance” to drown out the protestors.

The movement picked up momentum and now has chapters across the nation, including Alaska. Their services have expanded to ceremonies for returning troops and escorts for veterans’ funerals.

The PGR mission statement says: “We don’t care what you ride, what your political views are, or whether you’re a ‘hawk’ or a ‘dove’. It is not a requirement that you be a veteran. It doesn’t matter where you’re from or what your income is. You don’t even have to ride. The only prerequisite is **Respect.**” ■

Members of the Patriot Guard Riders salute as Taps is being played at a funeral.



# POLICE MEMORIAL MAY 8

Once again, the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association, the Alaska Peace Officers Association, Public Safety Employees Association and the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers are sponsoring a Police Memorial Day Picnic. Join former and current law enforcement professionals for a picnic of hamburgers, pulled pork, chicken, ribs, and desserts galore.

At 2:15 p.m., a bus will be available on the east side of the APD parking lot to provide convenient transportation to and from the State Crime Lab for the Police Memorial service starting at 3 p.m.



**Picnic from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the West lawn area of Anchorage Police Department. Service at 3 p.m. at the State Crime Lab**





# THE DPS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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The DPS Newsletter 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.

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# YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

## Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

- Mat-Su West Trp. **Thomas Akelkok** for 10 years of service.
- Valdez Trp. **Tony Beck** for 10 years of service.
- Ketchikan Trp. **Clyde Campbell** for 10 years of service.
- Investigations Lt. **Bernard Chastain** for 10 years of service.
- Pilot Trp. **John Chiri** for 15 years of service.
- Bethel Trp. **Michael Cresswell** for five years of service.
- Juneau Sgt. **Steve Hall** for 15 years of service.
- Fairbanks Trp. **Marc Hendrickson** for five years of service.
- Mat-Su West Trp. **Matt Hightower** for 10 years of service.
- Fairbanks Trp. **Darrell Hildebrand** for 10 years of service.
- Inv. **Katrina Malm** for 10 years of service.
- Haines Trp. **Ricky Merritt** for five years of service.
- Bethel Sgt. **Paul Randall** for 15 years of service.
- Anchorage Trp. **Joe Whittom** for 10 years of service.

## Division of Alaska State Troopers

- Domestic Violence Training Program Coordinator **Katie TePas** for five years of service.
- **Shirley Weston**, an administrative clerk with the AST's Director's Office, for 15 years
- **Sgt. Steve Adams**, of the Bureau of Highway Patrol, for 15 years of service.
- **Sgt. Craig Allen** of Anchorage Intel for 15 years of service.
- Fairbanks Trp. **Adam Benson** for 10 years of service.
- Talkeetna Trp. **Shayne Calt** for 5 years of service.
- Palmer CSO **Dan Carlson** for 15 years of service.
- Bethel Trp. **Henry Ching** for 5 years of service.
- Soldotna Trp. **Darrel Christensen** for 10 years of service.
- ABADE Inv. **Charlie Cross** for 10 years of service.
- **Information Officer III Tim DeSpain** for 10 years of service.
- Kodiak Trp. **Dennis Dupras** for 10 years of service.
- Soldotna ABI Sgt. **Eugene Fowler** for 10 years of service.
- E Detachment Deputy Commander **Lt. Dane Gilmore** for 15 years of service.
- ABI Sgt. **Dave Hanson** for 15 years of service.
- Fairbanks ABADE Sgt. **Scott Johnson** for 15 years of service.
- Fairbanks Sgt. **Rodney Johnson** for 15 years of service.
- Ketchikan Trp. **James Kimura** for 5 years of service.
- Bethel Sgt. **Greg Lavin** for 15 years of service.
- Klawock Trp. **Aaron Mobley** for 10 years of service.
- ABADE Inv. **Rick Pawlak** for 10 years of service.
- Anchor Point Trp. **Greg Pealaterre** for 5 years of service.
- D Detachment Deputy Commander **Lt. Lonny Piscoya** for 15 years of service.
- Fairbanks Trp. **Jason Pugh** for 10 years of service.
- Soldotna ABADE Sgt. **Sonny Sabala** for 15 years of service.
- Fairbanks Sgt. **Brian Wassmann** for 15 years of service.
- Delta Junction Trp. **Mike Wilcox** for 5 years of service.
- Seward Trp. **Mike Zweifel** for 5 years of service.

## Division of Fire & Life Safety

- **Todd Kollar**, a Fire and Life Safety Fire Training Specialist in Juneau, for 15 years.

## Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

- Anchorage Investigator **John Bilyeau Jr.** for 15 years of service.

## Alaska Police Standards Council

- Anchorage Training Coordinator **Jim Meehan** for 10 years of service.

## State Crime Lab

- Physical/Crime Scene/Firearms **Forensic Scientist III Janeice Amick** for 20 years.
- DNA Screening **Forensic Scientist III Michelle Collins** for 5 years of service.