

The DPS Quarterly

A Department of Public Safety publication bringing professionalism and humanity together. Winter 2005

Inside Stories

Future Trooper?.....6



Another Day in Paradise.....12



DUI Team, Iraq Style.....16



Electronic Monitoring System.....21



Comments From Commissioner Bill Tandeske

It was another busy summer and fall. I hope all is well with each of our employees and their families. It has been another period of outstanding productivity for all divisions within DPS and I am confident that we have an outstanding record of service to our constituents on which to promote our mission during the upcoming legislative session.

This legislative session has several dynamics that should make things interesting. There are estimates of \$1 billion to \$2 billion surplus in state income for the coming year. Couple that with a legislative election cycle, and very importantly, a Gubernatorial election, and you have the recipe for exciting times. As always, we will rely upon support from each division to provide needed information to make the best case for our budget requests. We have been very successful in the past two budget processes and will be working hard to build on that success this year.

As I travel around the state and visit with our employees, I am reminded how important each employee is, and how important the support of their families are to their success. Without question, the most valuable resource in our department is each of you. We are a diverse department spread across the largest geographic expanse of any public safety organization in the country. One of our challenges is to find ways to recognize our employees and their families.

To that end, we are considering an employee and family recognition event or events that would culminate in a banquet or similar event. We are looking at an event that would allow us to properly show our appreciation of what each of our divisions bring to DPS. We are looking at possible dates in October or November 2006. Each division has a primary representative assigned for planning the event. Additionally, we would be very interested in feedback from retired members. Retired members can address their thoughts and comments to my office or through our web site, send an email to me.

One of the significant challenges we face is the recruitment and retention of quality employees. There are many employment options in government service as well as the private sector. One of the most effective recruiting tools we have is our current employees. Each of you benefits from having quality co-workers. Please consider marketing what our department does to prospective applicants to any position within the department. Our goal is not to just fill positions, but rather to invest in quality employees.

With winter upon us again, please be safe at home and at work. Challenging weather and travel conditions pose significant risk to you and your families. Thanks to each of you and your families for your efforts on behalf of the department. As always, thanks to our retired members for paving the way for us. ■

New Aircraft Supervisor

Dennis Whitesell has accepted the position of Aircraft Supervisor. He will begin work with the Department on December 27. Whitesell comes to us with many years of both aviation and law enforcement experience and should be a good fit for our aviation program. Please do your best to welcome Mr. Whitesell to our agency and assist him in learning our missions and our rules.

The current Aircraft Supervisor, **Matt Thomas**, departed at the end of November. His departure is a huge loss to our program. He has served us well as a highly dedicated and capable member of this organization and has made significant improvements to our program overall. Please take a moment to wish him well in his new endeavor. ■

Division of Alaska State Troopers

Sergeant Promotions Announced

Colonel Julia Grimes announced the following promotions:

Trp. Bryan Barlow, A Detachment, Ketchikan Post to Sergeant, A Detachment, Ketchikan Post, effective October 16, 2005;

Trp. Robert French, B Detachment, Palmer Post, to Sergeant, B Detachment, Palmer Post, effective October 16, 2005;

Trp. Walter Blajeski, A Detachment, Klawock Post, to Sergeant, B Detachment, Talkeetna Post, effective January 16, 2006;

Trp. Patrick Johnson, D Detachment, Fairbanks Post, to Sergeant, D Detachment, Fairbanks Post, effective October 16, 2005;

Trp. Tim Tuckwood, D Detachment Delta Junction Post, to Sergeant, D De-

tachment, Delta Junction Post, effective October 16, 2005;

Inv. Rex Leath, Jr., Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement, Kotzebue Post, to Sergeant, E Detachment, Seward Post effective January 16, 2006;

Inv. Christopher Thompson, Alaska Bureau of Investigation, Anchorage, to Sergeant, Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement, WAANT unit, Anchorage, effective October 16, 2005; and

Cpl. David Willson, DPS Training Academy, Sitka, to Sergeant, Alaska Bureau of Investigation, Fairbanks unit, effective January 16, 2006.

Colonel Grimes said, "We congratulate each of the successful applicants on their promotion, and thank all those who com-

peted for these positions. There was a fine group of Troopers who were willing to step forward and try for these positions. Our new sergeants each bring unique backgrounds, experience and leadership skills to their position as 1st Line Supervisor, and are key components in furthering our mission and the philosophy of the department. I have great confidence in each of these new sergeants who join the division's leadership team."

Col. Grimes also announced the following successful bids:

Sgt. Brian Wassman, Delta Junction, D Detachment, to Fairbanks, D Detachment; and

Sgt. Robert Cox, Palmer, B Detachment, to Juneau, A Detachment. ■

September 2005 Recognition



Col. Julia Grimes, along with Nancy Anderson, congratulate Lt. Brandon Anderson on his promotion.



Nancy Anderson pinned Lt. Brandon Anderson's new lieutenant badge during a presentation at Anchorage Headquarters.



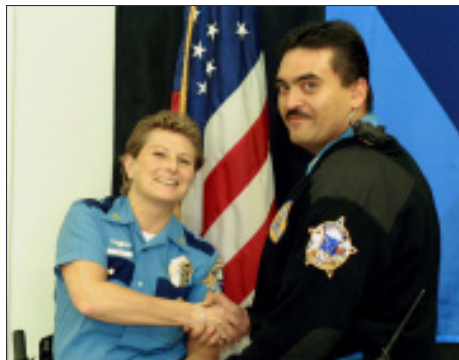
Lt. Brandon Anderson, his wife, Nancy, and son, Burke.



Stacey Stowe received her 10-year pin from Col. Julia Grimes.



Eileen Brooks received her 15-year pin from Col. Julia Grimes.



Sgt. Pat Davis received his 15-year pin from Col. Julia Grimes.

SAR Recognition Volunteer Appreciation Day

Gov. Frank Murkowski has proclaimed October 12, 2005, as “Search and Rescue Volunteer Appreciation Day”. The Executive Proclamation was presented to the board of the Alaska Search and Rescue Association (ASARA) at their meeting at DPS headquarters in Anchorage. The proclamation honors the more than 900 volunteers who, through their efforts, have located and saved more than 4,000 lost and/or missing persons over the

past decade. According to Lt. Craig Macdonald, Search and Rescue Operations supervisor for the Alaska State Troopers, these volunteers carry out 75 percent of all search and rescue activities in the state.

A representative from the Governor’s Office attended, and a representative from the Office of the Mayor of Anchorage, also presented a proclamation at the meeting.



Executive Proclamation by Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

The citizens of Alaska recognize the vital role that search and rescue volunteers play in finding lost and missing people throughout this state.

The citizens of Alaska and visitors to this state are served by over 900 such individuals who over the past decade have saved or caused to be saved over 4,000 lost and/or missing people.

The citizens of Alaska recognize the fact that these highly trained volunteers give

their own free time, training for hundreds of hours each year at their own expense, often in harms way “so others may live.”

The State of Alaska identifies the importance of such volunteers who serve such positions and acknowledges that approximately 75 percent of all search and rescue activities in the state are carried out by these volunteers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Frank H. Murkowski, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim
November 2, 2005, as:

Search and Rescue Volunteer Appreciation Day

in Alaska, and urge all citizens to support and promote this observance.

Dated: October 12, 2005

Signed by Frank H. Murkowski, Governor who has also authorized the seal of the State of Alaska to be affixed to this proclamation. ■



Shirley Weston received a Commendation for Honorable Service from Col. Julia Grimes.

Red Ribbon Week 2005: “Creativity Is My Anti-Drug”

The Alaska Red Ribbon Coalition, in their efforts to raise awareness about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and encourage healthy choices, kicked off Alaska Red Ribbon Week at Polaris K-12 School, October 24, 2005. The program features Polaris K-12 students and Coalition members. The theme of the student-organized event was “Creativity is My Anti-Drug.”

Representatives of each of Polaris’ 13 grade levels, plus members of the Red Ribbon Coalition Steering Committee and other dignitaries, tied symbolic red ribbons on the school’s playground equipment, to officially kick off Red Ribbon Week 2005.

Congress established Red Ribbon Week in 1988, to commemorate the work of **Enrique “Kiki” Camarena**, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, who was murdered in the line of duty. The Red Ribbon campaign promotes the belief that one person can make a difference in the fight against drugs while encouraging a drug-free lifestyle and involvement in drug prevention efforts.

“Red Ribbon Week is just one tool in a comprehensive continuum of prevention activities and provides an excellent starting point for implementation of community-based prevention efforts,” states **Col. Julia Grimes**, Director of the Alaska State Troopers.

The statewide advisory committee for Alaska Red Ribbon Week represents a partnership of more than a dozen organizations and is sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Alaska and the Alaska National Guard.

One of Red Ribbon Week’s central themes was to promote activities for young people that do not involve the use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. Schools and organizations across the state planned activities that celebrate a drug free lifestyle.

“Red Ribbon Week will enhance community awareness and encourage participation in drug-free activities,” states **Harvey Goehring**, Special Agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.



(From left) Naomi Sweetman, DARE; Ruth Schoenleben, Ninestar Enterprises; Major Jane Lowery, Alaska National Guard; Colonel Julia Grimes, Alaska State Troopers; Harvey Goehring, Special Agent, U. S. Drug Enforcement Administration; Carol Comeau, Anchorage School District Superintendent; Deputy Mayor Jim Colver, Mat-Su; Tim Burgess, U. S. Attorney for Alaska; Mayor Tim Anderson, Mat-Su Borough; Denise Green-Wilkinson, Principal Polaris K-12; Mayor Mark Begich, Anchorage; and Noelle Hardt, Boys and Girls Club.

“In the last few years, we’ve seen dramatic improvements in the numbers of young Alaskans who choose not to use alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs,” said **Carol Comeau** Superintendent of the Anchorage School District. “Red Ribbon Week is a great time to celebrate those successes as we kick off a week of prevention activities.” ■

At right, **Col. Julia Grimes** participated in tying red ribbons on playground equipment as a part of Red Ribbon Week observance.



On The Web

The Public Information Office (PIO) has reformatted several current public information and education brochures as pdf files and placed them on the PIO website. While there remains a small supply of most current brochures, the web access allows unlimited ‘copies’ to be made for public distribution. Please refer to the site for information or to refer the public to our publications.

Currently the brochures on line include: Alaska Party Plan, ATV Driver’s Guide, ATV Statute, BAC .08, Child Restraints, DUI, Drowsy Driver, Find A Space, How Much Do You Know, Safety Belt Quiz, Travel Safe, and What’s So Different About Winter Driving. Go to www.dps.state.ak.us/pio. Click on Resource Page, then click on Brochures. ■

ALET Graduation 34th Session

BY GREG WILKINSON, PIO

The Department of Public Safety Academy in Sitka will be holding a graduation ceremony for the 34th ALET (Alaska Law Enforcement Training) class on November 17th in the Sheldon Jackson College Physical Education Center. Director of the Alaska State Troopers, Colonel Julia Grimes, will address the graduates. Deputy Director of the Alaska State Troopers, Major Howard Starbard, will issued the oath of office.

Twenty-one graduates completed 14 weeks of rigorous physical training and challenging academics to graduate. Recruits with the Alaska State Troopers will continue their training for an additional three weeks; covering information which is specific to the Troopers. They will then be assigned to field training in Fairbanks, Soldotna or Palmer.

In addition to training recruits for the Department of Public Safety, the academy also trains municipal police officers from around the state, Village Public Safety Officers, students from the University of

Alaska law enforcement program, Civil Air Patrol cadets, State Fire Marshals, Military Security, Airport Police, and others.

Graduating with ALETS class 34 were:

Heidi Anderson, *Alaska State Troopers*; **Darcey Frenzel**, Anchorage Airport Fire and Police; **Brent Greenwood**, North Slope Borough PD; **Nathaniel Hatanpa**, USCG Kodiak; **Eric Hinton**, *Alaska State Troopers*; **Matthew Jensen**, Anchorage Airport Fire and Police; **William Kemper**, Bethel PD; **Byung Ko**, Juneau PD; **James Lewis**, Anchorage Airport Fire and Police; **Christopher Long**, *Alaska State Troopers*; **Alana Malloy**, Fairbanks PD; **Matthew McClurg**, Fairbanks Airport Fire and Police; **Crystal Miller**, *Alaska State Troopers*; **Shawn Phelps**, Juneau PD; **Joshua Randall**, Bethel PD; **Richard Robbins**, Self-pay; **Travis Schiaffo**, Metlakatla PD; **Mark Siversten**, Ketchikan PD; **Jeremy Spencer**, Anchorage Airport Fire and Police; **Daniel Valentine**, Alaska State Parks; and **Matthew Wertanen**, *Alaska State Troopers*. ■

C.A.R.E. Counts

The Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Troopers received special recognition in two categories during the annual Operation CARE Conference this summer.

Tim DeSpain, Visual Information specialist submitted a television public service announcement which was selected as the first place winner in the In-house Production category. In a letter of recognition, C.A.R.E. Vice Chairperson **Major C. E. Andrews** wrote in part, "There were some great PSAs entered this year, and our judges had a difficult time selecting the award winners. Each of the entries was judged by an impartial panel of law enforcement/media experts based on creativity, effective delivery of message, and use of medium. Congratulations on winning First Place in this category."

The Alaska State Troopers were also recognized for outstanding support of Public Information and Education efforts during the past year. This is the 6th consecutive acknowledgment of Alaska's efforts in support of Operation C.A.R.E. ■

Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement

ABWE Mat-Su Region News

BY LT. CHARLIE YODER

It has been a while since we last reported to the Quarterly so we have some catching up to do. A farewell party for two troopers was held on April 23. **Trp. Jimmy Jones** retired from State service and **Trp. Bill Connor** transferred to Northway. There were many well wishers at the party, including **Col. Julia Grimes**, **Major Joe Masters** and **Capt. Randy Hahn**. Both troopers will be sorely missed.

Wyatt Litster was born to **Trooper Cody Litster** and his wife **Megan** on May 16. Wyatt weighed in at 6 pounds 2 ounces, and was 20 inches long.

On October 19, **Meredith Cecila Durhsen** was born to **Trp. Jeff Durhsen** (Mat-Su Region, continued on page 6)



Trp. Jimmy Jones received his retirement plaque from **Col. Julia Grimes**.

Mat-Su Region, continued from page 5



Future Trooper? Wyatt Litster dreaming about filling this cap.

and his wife **Julie**; sister **Vanessa** and brother **Ben** welcomed her too. Meredith weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Her arrival was just in time for a family trip to Mexico.



Meredith Duhrsen's first minutes in Alaska.

After 15 years with the State, Admin. Clerk II **Eileen Brooks** of Big Lake Post retired. She will be moving to Arizona and is trading driving in snow and ice for warm weather and a swimming pool. We will miss her greatly. Her unofficial title as the "Roadkill Queen" will be a difficult position to fill.

Trp. Matt Hightower bought his first home this fall. He was nice enough to host Eileen's retirement party. During the house tour, the girls found his Memory Mattress bed too tempting to avoid and took advantage of it. ■



Mat-Su ABWE celebrated the good times with departing Trps. Connor and Jones.



Trp. Matt Hightower with his harem.



Lt. Steve Arlow presented Eileen Brooks with her retirement vase.



Wyatt and Tpr. Cody Litster enjoyed the farewell party for Eileen Brooks.

AST Detachment News

A Pictorial Look At A Detachment

BY SHELLY DUNN, AST KETCHIKAN

Personnel Comings and Goings...



Sgt. Dave Tracy of Juneau Post was promoted to lieutenant and transferred to Anchorage as the new Recruitment Supervisor. Connie Tracy pinned the new badge. Congratulations Lt. Tracy.

Sgt. Bob Cox is the new Juneau Post Supervisor. He reports for duty in Juneau in mid- December. Welcome back to Southeast Sgt. Cox. Good to have you here.



Trp. Bryan Barlow promoted to Sergeant as the new Ketchikan Post Supervisor. Congratulations Sgt. Barlow!

(A Detachment, continued on page 8)



Sgt. Lonny Piscoya was promoted to lieutenant and transferred to Fairbanks AST to head the position of Patrol Deputy Commander. A going away party for the Piscoya family was held on October 21, 2005, at the USCG Base Crow's Nest, to say good-bye to Lonny and Bridget Piscoya and their children, Molly, Mathew, Daniel and Nicholas. There was a very large turnout and many tears shed. The Piscoya's are truly missed not only at Ketchikan Post, but in the community as well. Good luck in Fairbanks Piscoya family!

Silence might be misinterpreted but not misquoted.

A Detachment, continued from page 7



Trp Chris Umbs, Juneau Post, recently received his Advanced Police Certificate from Lt. Dave Tracy.



Not that he needed a mask to inflate his head, but RDII John Rymer entertained the staff and the public with this uncanny look a like mask of himself on Halloween day.



Ketchikan ABWE Trp. Mark Fines holding the torch during the last Torch Run in Ketchikan this past summer.



On September 12, 2005, Ketchikan Communications Center welcomed their newest RDII, Tiana Walkowsky. Welcome to the A-team Tiana!



Ketchikan ABWE Tech Wade McClennan and his wife Rebecca welcomed their first child on October 12, 2005, at 10:12 pm. Emma Rose McClennan arrived happy and healthy at Ketchikan General Hospital weighing 8 pounds 4 ounces and measuring 19 inches long. Congratulations Wade and Rebecca!



At left, Trp. Pat Nelson and Trp. Gary Webb, received encouragement from CSO Ron Whitton (camo attire) and Trp. Shane Nicholson (back), during a recent PT test.

(A Detachment, continued on page 9)

A Detachment, continued from page 8



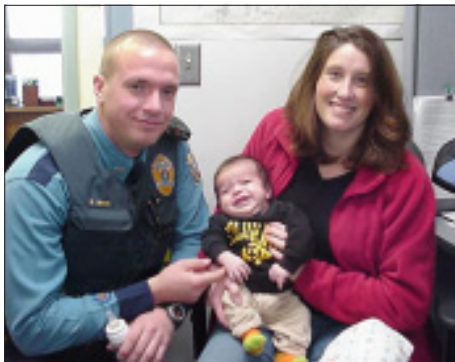
On September 21, 2005, Lt. Rodney Dial directed traffic as the construction crew paved the lot and surrounding building area at Ketchikan Post. Lines were painted on a recent sunny day to put the finishing touches on the nice pave job.

B Detachment News

WRITTEN BY JILL VELOSKE-BYBEE

Addition to the Mank Family

Trp. Ben Mank and wife, Stacey are the proud parents of a new baby boy. Elias was born on September 6, 2005. He weighed 9 pounds. Both baby and Stacey are doing fine. This is their first child and they are both excited.



Trp. Ben Mank and his wife, Stacey, are the proud parents of Elias.

Subtractions from Palmer Post

Lt. James Helgoe was promoted from the Sergeant in Talkeetna Post in September. He is the Legislative Liaison at Anchorage Headquarters. **Trp. Walter Blajeski** will be the new Sergeant in Talkeetna, he's coming in from the Klawock Post. Best wishes in your new assignment and welcome to the area.

Sgt. Robert Cox is leaving Palmer for a position in Juneau. He will be sorely missed. He has been in Palmer since July 1996. He worked mainly in patrol and also in the Investigation unit. Many of you may know him from supervising the patrol for the State Fair each year.

Sgt. Robert French was promoted in October. He will be replacing Sergeant Robert Cox in Palmer Patrol. Best wishes in your new assignment.



Sgt. Robert French received his new badge from Lt. Rick Roberts.

Hilary Schwaderer is a new Administrative Clerk II in Palmer. She grew up in

the "Valley". She has a BA in Political Science that she earned from UAF. We all want to welcome her to B Detachment and wish her well.

CJ Leach was promoted to Administrative Clerk III, working in the evidence area. Congratulations on your promotion.

There was a potluck on October 31st at Palmer Post to celebrate the many annual and special awards being presented. Some also enjoyed dressing up for the occasion since it was held on Halloween. Congratulations to all who received awards. ■

(B Detachment, continued on page 10)



As the new Evidence Custodian, **CJ Leach** received her new lab smock from Administrative Supervisor **Sue Sprague**.

B Detachment, continued from page 9



Sgt. Dallas Massie received the 2004 ABI Trooper of the Year from Col. Julia Grimes.



Sgt. Kat Peterson received the 2004 B Detachment Trooper of the Year award from Col. Julia Grimes.



Maria Cramer, J.S., received the 2004 Civilian of the Year award from Major Howard Starbard.



CSO Doug Packa received a Letter of Commendation from Major Howard Starbard.



Judy Cantey, ABI, received a Letter of Commendation from Col. Julia Grimes.



Trp. Tim Lewis received a Letter of Meritorious Service from Col. Julia Grimes.



(Left) Trp. Shannon Fore, Rachel Fore, Trp. Ben Mank, Stacey Mank, baby Elias Mank. Trps. Fore and Mank received their Alaska Police Standards Council certificate.



Trp. Scott Ide (above) and Trp. Rob Nunley (below) received their Alaska Police Standards Council certificate from Major Howard Starbard.



(B Detachment, continued on page 11)

Unclaimed warrants: Check <http://www.revenue.state.ak.us/Treasury/UCP/ucpsrch.asp> to find out if the State is holding unclaimed warrants for you. ■

B Detachment, continued from page 10

Valley Motor Vehicle Accident Claimed A Life



Trp. Tim Hall received his Alaska Police Standards Council certificate from Major Howard Starbard.



Sgt. Kat Peterson presented pilot Mel Nading with a bomber jacket in appreciation of numerous SAR assists during 2005.



Lt. Rick Roberts presented Lt. Jim Helgoe with a plaque of appreciation.



Tami Gilligan got into the spirit of Halloween with her daughter Katie, and her daughter's friend Lizzie.

On October 5, 2005, at approximately 12:50 p.m., Alaska State Troopers received a report of a motor vehicle collision near Mile 93.7 Glenn Highway.

Investigation revealed that **Christine Pegg** age 26 of Palmer was driving a 1988 Ford Thunderbird southbound on the Glenn Highway.

Larry Michaud age 50 of Valdez was driving a 2006 GMC Pickup northbound on the Glenn Highway. The Ford

Thunderbird was attempting to pass another vehicle that was southbound on the Glenn Highway and pulled out directly in front of the GMC Pickup. Michaud was transported to Valley Hospital in Palmer for treatment of his injuries.

Pegg was pronounced dead at the scene. She was not wearing her seat belt, although it does not appear to be a factor in this death. Michaud was reported to be wearing his seat belt. ■



Who's the imposter in this picture?

The Nun! Left is Chaplain Debra Waltman, right is Chaplain Boyd Waltman.

C Detachment News

Bristol Bay News

By SGT. JEFF LAUGHLIN

“*Chamai*” from Bristol Bay! Winter is bearing down on those of us in southwest Alaska and it’s that time of year when the water is frozen but there’s not quite enough snow for snow machines. Life around here slows down while everyone eagerly awaits the first major snowfall that will soften the tundra and flatten the hummocks.

Trp. David Bump got some early practice for Christmas by “wrapping” the boats in Dillingham in blue tarps and getting them ready for hibernation. Then, he got a chance to thaw out while he attended the PIER training at the academy in Sitka.

Trp. “Moose” Sims got the snow machines out and prepared them for service. This year, Trp. Sims added some extra traction to the snow machine trailer to aid in the loading and unloading of the heavy machines.

It didn’t take him long to realize that a snow machine reacts a lot quicker when it has “extra” traction compared to the plywood floor of the flatbed trailer. This is an important revelation, especially when the machine is thought to be in reverse but is actually in forward and the throttle is advanced.

Luckily, Trp. Sims’ vehicle was backed in at an angle and the snow machine partially launched off the front of the trailer missing the back end of his Expedition. Thankfully, a member of the public saw his predicament and stopped to lend a hand getting the snow machine back on the trailer.

Trp. Sims had another bit of good luck when earlier in the month, he asked his “significant other”, **Jessica Baumer** for



You too could be assigned to Dillingham Post! Just another day in paradise. On November 21, 2005, the temperature was –9F.

her hand in marriage and she said “it’s about time!” They set the date for August 12th. Congratulations Moose and Jessica!

Dillingham Clerk II **Jeanette Spofford** was able to get “out of town” for a bit of a break. She and her husband, Dillingham Probation Officer **Rex Spofford** went to Minnesota to visit family. Everyone back in Dillingham kept their fingers crossed hoping that Jeanette and Rex would soon return and not get swept away by the hustle and bustle of the big city. To all our relief, they returned as scheduled and life is back to normal in Dillingham.

Trp. John Holm has continued to tow the line King Salmon. We are patiently awaiting the bid for the vacant trooper position in King Salmon so Trp. Holm can

have some company at the office. Keep up the good work John, help is coming soon!

Finally, we received some sad news from Iliamna. **Trp. Jack Ransom** announced his intention to resign from the Alaska State Troopers. Jack and his wife **Jennifer** came to Iliamna in February and will depart the region on December 21st. Jack plans on going back to school and we wish him the very best and extend our “thanks” for his service to citizens of Alaska. Good luck Jack and Jennifer, you’ll be missed!

Well, that’s about it from Bristol Bay. Have a safe and prosperous holiday season and we’ll check in with the *Quarterly* next year! ■



DARE Training:

The D.A.R.E. Alaska Training Center will offer D.A.R.E.* Officer Training on January 23, to February 3, 2006. For more information on D.A.R.E. training opportunities call the Alaska D.A.R.E. Statewide Coordinator at the Alaska State Troopers C Detachment at 907-245-4529.

(*Drug Awareness and Resistance Education)

There's No Place Like Nome

BY GLORIA KARMUN, AST NOME

Melanie McNally, DMV Customer Service Representative II was hired on September 6, 2005, and works part-time for AST. Her duties include evidence custodian, processing travel and credit card statements, jail guard hire packets, and VPSO related paperwork. Nome AST is delighted to have her join the public safety team.

Sgt. Greg Lavin, VPSO Training Coordinator and the Kawerak, Inc. VPSO Program hosted the VPSO Northern Regional Training held the week of November 14, in Nome. Classroom topics and instructors and or representatives were as follows:

- Introductions and Crime Scene/Death Investigations: **Lt. Lantz Dahlke**
- Parole and Probation: **Keith Thayer**, Department of Corrections VPSO Project Manager & Victim Project Coordinator; **Sandra Martinson**, Nome Probation Supervisor; **Jason Brown**, Kotzebue Probation Supervisor; and **Kasey Mayhew**, Fairbanks Probation Officer II
- Juvenile Probation Officer: **Courtney King** and **Tracy Dompeling**
- Report Writing/Case Cards/Complaints: **Trp. Dan Cox**
- Digital Camera and Digital Recorders: **Trp. Chris Jaime**
- Defensive Tactics: **Trp. Grant Miller**
- Developing Community—Police Teams Training

A total of 17 VPSOs attended from the Kotzebue, Fairbanks, and Nome region.

Administrative Clerk II, **Gloria Karmun** celebrated 12 years with the department on November 29.

(She loves her job! In her spare time, Karmun is also president of the school board and a board of director for our local native corporation Sitnasuak; serves on several of the Sitnasuak subsidiaries, and works part time for the local Nome Nugget Newspaper. She "loves, loves, loves a busy lifestyle. Time flies when you're having fun," she said. Editor.) ■



VPSO Northern Regional Training in Nome.



On September 20, 2005, Trooper and Kotzebue Police Department officers made a safety and law enforcement presentation to children from the June Nelson Elementary School. In the middle of the photo are Trp. John Brown, Trp. Vance Peronto, Trp. Grant Miller, and Officer Bower and Lt. Swisher of KPD.

D Detachment News

BY SUE ROGERS, AST FAIRBANKS

We are happy to have newly promoted **Lt. Lonnie Piscoya** back in Fairbanks. He and his family have settled in just in time for the great cold weather. Another new arrival is dispatcher **Shawna Cowles** who started on November 7.



Sgt. Rick Quinn admired his new fishing rod at his retirement get together.



Capt. Burke Barrick sported a fancy cap for painting in the exercise room.



Major Howard Starbard congratulated Lantz Dahlke on his promotion to Lt. In attendance were his wife Betty, grandson Merrick, son Jason, and daughters Stephanie and Julie.

Trp. Joseph Harris and wife Melba welcomed **Liem Alexander Harris** on October 9, 2005, at 11:23 P.M. He weighed in at 8 pounds 12 ounces.

Along with the new arrivals we have also said goodbye to another Trooper. **Sgt. Rick Quinn** retired on September 1, 2005, after 21 years with the Alaska State Troopers. During his career with the troopers, Sgt. Quinn worked in Fairbanks, Fort Yukon, Fairbanks, St. Mary's, Dillingham and finished where he began in

Fairbanks. A farewell get together was held in Fairbanks with **Col. Julia Grimes**, **Major Matt Leveque**, and many other friends and family in attendance.

The painting project for the exercise room in Fairbanks happened on the weekend of October 21st and was a huge success! Thank you to **Elondre, Cheryl, Julie, Capt. Burke Barrick, Kitty and family, Theresa Duffield, Mike Wilcox** and **Mary** for volunteering their time and efforts. ■

ABWE Peer Pressure Nets Trooper Burton An Award At Boat School

BY TRP. DENNIS ROE

It has been a tradition for ABWE Troopers to attend the Marine Law Enforcement Training Program at some point in their careers. This is a four-week program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia, which specializes in Boat operation and Marine Law Enforcement. State and Federal Enforcement Officers from all over the nation are selected to attend the training as guests of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

So as an ABWE Trooper, you can expect you will be assigned to "Boat

School" sooner or later. As for me, **Trp. Roe**, I attended the class in February 1995. However, other Alaska Troopers were going to this same training for years before that. By the way, I attended the class with then **Cpl. James Cockrell** and **Trp. Brandon Anderson**.

When my fellow Fairbanks ABWE Trooper, **Jon McEnroe** was selected to attend the class in February 2005, I thought I would give him a good-natured ribbing. I showed him a small plaque I had received for "Honor Graduate" in 1995. The award
(Peer Pressure, continued on page 15)

Peer Pressure,

continued from page 14

was for having the highest grade point average (and possibly for not wrecking any boats!). Well, Trp. McEnroe picked up the challenge and returned with the “Honor Graduate” award, in February 2005. He telephoned me from Georgia, to let me know!!!

Our Fairbanks ABWE co-worker **James Burton** is quite the accomplished boat driver, growing up in a commercial fishing family in Cordova. He frequently reminds us how much he misses salt water while stationed here in the Interior, or how much better life is on the water. So, when Burton got selected for “Boat School” in August 2005, we put our Award plaques on his desk so he could see what they looked like! By the way, both of us are just your average landlubber types. We even suggested that, maybe Burton



Is Trp. James Burton wishing for a boat?

wouldn't want to return to Fairbanks Post if he didn't get the “Honor Graduate” award.

Well, off to Georgia went Trp. Burton. We understand he maybe spent like all of his free time studying, and agonizing over every question on the tests. While he as gone we giggled about how he must be studying down there in Georgia, instead

of checking out the local alligators and socializing with other officers from all over the country.

Burton came back with a smile on his face and the “Honor Award” in hand. Now here in Fairbanks, we have only Trp. Hildebrand who hasn't been to “Boat School” yet! I guess we will all be working on him! ■

Flag Football

By SCOTT VINTON

Fall is in the air and grown men start getting longings for the glory days of their youth, days that were spent in the yard with the gang playing football. We are no different.

Several members of DPS in Fairbanks volunteered time this summer to youth football in Fairbanks, doing everything from coaching to refereeing. While par-

ticipating in the various events surrounding the game, those old feelings started to surface. Thoughts turn to words, words to boasts; boasts turn to dares, and a football game is planned.

On October 1, 2005, the First Annual D Detachment Blue-Gold Flag Football game was held. The game was open to members of DPS in Fairbanks and their families.

Names went into a hat, and teams were drawn. The teams were broken down as follows:

Blue Team: Al Bell, Dedrick Campbell, Henry Ching, Andrew Ballesteros, Brandon Nichols, Dawn Vinton, Billy Duffield, Mike Potter, Ryan Tennis, Joe Harris, Toma Caldarea and Mike Duffield.



The Blue and Gold flag football team.

(Flag Football, continued on page 16)

Flag Football, continued from page 15

Gold Team: Scott Vinton, Jason Dahlke, Matt (unk last), Junior Anthony, Malik Jones, Miranda Duffield, Joel Duffield, Ron Monigold, Scott Johnson, Rob Davis, Josh Bentz and Burke Barrick.

Officials: Mike Wilcox-Head Referee & Instigator, Lance Dahlke-Chain Gang, Rebecca Wilson-Chain Gang, Theresa Duffield-Chain Gang, Kyle Duffield-Chain Gang and Julie Johnson was the Scoreboard Operator.

The game was played on a Saturday night under the lights at Kiwanis Field in Fairbanks. At game time the temperature was 20 degrees, a slight breeze was blowing, and the field conditions were a little bit slick.

The game was fast paced with a lot of interceptions thrown by the Gold Team, and a lot of dropped passes by the Blue Team. The Blue Team went up early, and was able to maintain a lead in a close game coming down to the wire. The Gold Team

scored with 28 seconds left and after a 2 point conversion, they trailed by 8 points.

Vinton tried an onside kick that went horribly awry! It was fielded by Bell and returned 50 yards for a touchdown. Final Score: Blue 28—Gold 14.

After careful consideration, and the application of a lot of muscle cream, it has been decided to try again in the spring. A potluck barbecue was held after the game, and every one went home with a full belly and a story to add to their “glory days.”■

Return From Iraq

By TRP. ALAN CARVAJAL

My tour of duty in Iraq was from March through October 2005. While in Iraq, I was stationed at Tallil Air Base (close to An Nasiriyah) but I also traveled as far north as Kirkuk and as far south as Al Basra. While at Tallil, I was the Base Combat Patrol supervisor, responsible for 215 enlisted Air Force Security Forces and Army Military Police personnel.

I also served as the Military Police Law Enforcement Supervisor, responsible for law enforcement of 10,000-plus U.S., Coalition, and civilian contract personnel. Additionally, I worked in the Military Intelligence section as an intelligence analyst.

My work shifts were 14 to 16 hour workdays, 6 days a week. There were times when I went for weeks without a day off. We were in an area where our security personnel dealt with the constant threat of VBIEDs, roadside IEDs and UXOs. Insur-



Trp. Alan Carvajal hard at work. He served in Iraq for 8 months, as the Military Police Law Enforcement Supervisor.

gents attacked Tallil Air Base with the use of 107 mm katusha rockets on several occasions and we had to kill insurgents who crashed our main gate.

Temperatures went up to 130 degrees while I was there. We had to wear full body armor and kevlar helmets anytime we were on patrol outside the parameter of the base. I had an opportunity to mentor, (Return From Iraq, continued on page 17)



Trp. Alan Carvajal had a backup DUI vehicle for use in Iraq.



Home-Away-From-Home-Sweet-Home. Note the Alaskan flag!

Return From Iraq, continued from page 16

guide, and direct some of the finest young American fighting men and women this country has to offer. Of that I am most grateful.

No matter what the political standing is, or whether a person feels this war was necessary or not, just one intelligent look at history demonstrates that "Freedom is not Free". It's good to be home. Thanks for the welcome back... **SMSgt. Alan Carvajal**

I was awarded an Air Force Overseas Service ribbon, an Air Force Expeditionary Service ribbon with gold combat border, the War on Global Terrorism medal, and an Iraq Campaign medal. I was nominated for the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the quarter for Tallil Air Base. The Garrison Commander also nominated me for the Army Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in a combat zone. ■



SmSgt. Alan Carvajal met with the locals in Iraq.

Cop for Cancer Visits Delta Junction

BY SGT. BRIAN WASSMANN

We often hear tales of adventure from co-workers, family, and friends during our daily travels. However, there probably aren't too many accounts that rival the commitment and dedication recently seen in one of our brother police officers. **Officer James Sushnyk** (AKA "Sushi") from Winnipeg Police Department in Winnipeg, Manitoba pedaled into Delta Junction recently. Officer Sushnyk started his cycling journey from Winnipeg, Manitoba to Fairbanks, Alaska on September 6, 2005. Officer Sushnyk's father recently lost his battle with cancer. In his father's honor, and to raise money for cancer research and for on-going support for other victims, Officer Sushnyk teamed up with Cycle for Cancer. Cycle for Cancer is sponsored by the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS). CCS is a community-based organization of volunteers, whose mission is the eradication of cancer and the enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer.

Officer Sushnyk pedaled approximately 2500 miles in 14 days (178 miles per day average) to get to Delta Junction. He arrived here on a typical rainy, windy, miserable autumn evening to find the no-



Officer James Sushnyk from Winnipeg Police Department teamed up with Cycle for Cancer to raise money to eradicate cancer. His journey brought him to Delta Junction.

vacancy lights on at all local motels. I stumbled upon the wet and cold officer at the local courthouse after he called AST dispatch to see if any troopers were available to help him out. Luckily we had a

Post barbecue/ bonfire planned for that night and all couches were vacant at trooper housing. We treated him to burgers and beverages and a warm bed. **(Cops For Cancer, continued on page 18)**

Cops For Cancer, continued from page 17

He treated us to some interesting fireside story telling of his journey and police work in Canada.

We got a close up view of “Sushi’s” wheels. The bicycle Officer Sushnyk used was pretty impressive. His pimped ride was a BP Stealth road bike valued at approximately \$5000. The bike was made of lightweight alloy and was obviously built to cut through the wind. The bike was outfitted with high-tech “X style” rims to reduce the weight and provide better aerodynamics. Sushi said that there were two significant drawbacks of the lightweight bike. Truckers that passed by created

gusts of wind that nearly blew him and his bike off the road every time they passed. The long stretches of gravel road in the Yukon Territories’ road construction zones were tough on the cycle and body. Officer Sushnyk fueled his body with liquid meal replacements that he carried in his pack. The nonstop pedaling wore the soles off Officer Sushnyk’s new cycling cleats, and he often had to ration his water supply between stops. Officer Sushnyk estimated that he lost 20 to 30 pounds of muscle during his journey. He also found that the autumn temperatures and rainy weather made it difficult to stay warm. When

asked why he didn’t plan the ride during warmer months, Officer Sushnyk replied that he was a 2-year officer on the Winnipeg Police Department. His low seniority left him with limited annual leave available only during September.

We were delighted to welcome Officer Sushnyk to our community and we were all moved by his journey. For those of you that need a feel good story or gut check for your day-to-day motivation, keep this story fresh in your mind. We sent this officer down the road with a trooper recruitment card in his back pocket. Hopefully we will see him soon. ■

Third Annual Highway Safety Challenge

BY: SGT. BRIAN WASSMANN AND SGT. DAVE DECOEUR

The verdict is in for the annual bragging rights for highway safety supremacy in D Detachment. Once again the Delta Junction Post troopers and D Detachment- Parks Highway troopers sharpened up their pencils and hit the highways in the name of highway safety and esprit-de-corps. Between May 1, 2005 and September 11, 2005, both enforcement area contingents targeted unsafe drivers on

their respective highways, which included the Parks, Alaska, and Richardson Highways.

The results are as follows:

	<u>Delta Junction</u>	<u>Parks Hwy</u>
DUI arrests	25	23
UTC-s Issued	443	1868
DWLS- arrests	15	19

Once again the Parks Highway troopers appear to have tipped the scales for productivity. A big thanks goes out to the effort by all troopers to make our roadways safer: **Trp. Nasruk Nay, Trp. Brian Zeisel, Trp. Steve Lantz, Trp. Jake Covey, Trp. Tim Tuckwood, Trp. Rachel Foster, Trp. Rick Swanson, Trp. Odean Hall, Sgt. Dave DeCoeur, and Sgt. Brian Wassmann.** ■

E Detachment News

BY CATHY CLARK-McDONALD, AST SOLDOTNA

Well, brrrrr....this must be the winter edition of the quarterly as the sunny, warm days of summer are but a distant memory and thoughts of snow machines, bunny boots, and hot steamy cocoa are more the order of the day. As the season changes so do personnel; with great anticipation we welcomed the arrival of our new Deputy Commander **Lt. Pete Mlynarik**. From day one he has been barraged with questions and expected to be the guru problem-solver. We hope he hasn’t started weighing his decision to relocate (the work was piled up when he arrived and the flow has been constant since). The consensus among the staff is that we are fortunate to have a second in command with so much knowledge and experience. And everyone appreciated his
(E Detachment, continued on page 19)



Lt. Pete Mlynarik had the honor of presenting Lt. Brandon Anderson with a recognition plaque for his years of service to E Detachment during a farewell luncheon held in Seward.

E Detachment,

continued from page 18

understanding while numerous employees slaughtered the pronunciation of his name for the first few weeks...

E Detachment also welcomed two new faces to our Dispatch center: **Randi Sass** and her two children, ages 11 and 7, recently moved to Soldotna so she could accept the position here. Sass worked at JS in Anchorage for 2 years and spent 5 years as an Air Traffic Controller in the Navy. She says she is looking forward to working with a great group of people. With experience directing pilots and navigating planes, she will have no trouble keeping track of patrol cars and troopers. **Keri Stanton** has also joined the staff, with three and a half years prior experience as a security officer at Tesoro. No doubt keen senses and knowing radio jargon will come in handy. Stanton is a resident of Nikiski and likes to hunt grouse and spend leisure time fishing.

As you know, dispatchers are the heart and soul of handling emergencies and their effect is priceless to a community. In welcoming these two new employees, we extend a special thank you to all dispatchers for providing such a valuable and often times, lifesaving service.

We bid farewell to **Lt. Brandon Anderson**, who served as the Sergeant and supervisor of Seward Post for many years. He will surely be missed by the residents of that community, having served as their



Lt. Anderson displays a beautiful handmade quilt – a gift of appreciation from the Seward Police Department.



Safety Bear (Dispatcher Stacey Day) and **Trp. Larry Erickson** participated in the Halloween Book night at a local elementary school. The children always look forward to and enjoy a visit from their neighborhood law enforcement friends. Being read stories was a special delight.

trusted and devoted law enforcement icon for so long. Anderson will, no doubt, show the same dedication and resoluteness in his new position at headquarters and we all join in wishing him and his family the best with their transition. A send off luncheon was held in Seward and several folks showed up to let Brandon know his shoes will not be easy to fill. **Sgt. Rex Leath** certainly has his work cut out for him.

Inv. Mark Pearson is now officially entrenched in the ABI offices and he certainly looks very snazzy in his new



He has lots of impressive photos from hunting trips throughout the state – here **Inv. Scott Briggs** shows off one of his recent prizes. Scott had more furry little friends than the Pied Piper.

digs. It was difficult to cut him loose from Patrol and the extension of time there was helpful and needed. Or, perhaps he just wanted to wait until the annual infestation

(E Detachment, continued on page 20)



No, we didn't have a toxic leak; just Evidence Custodian **Cathy Clark** dressed up for Halloween as a "germophobic." As she handed out sanitized treats, she kept introducing herself as **Inv. Jeremy Grieme** from **ABADE**.

E Detachment,

continued from page 19

of shrews was past. Every year the little critters decide it's better indoors than out and try their best to join the staff. For some reason, they seemed to take a clear liking to **Inv. Scott Briggs'** surroundings and the ABI office he shares with his co-workers. None of the other investigators had much of a problem, but Briggs holds the new Post record for number of critters cornered by one individual. Left some of us wondering what the big attraction was...

Kudos Corner

Congratulations go out to **Dispatcher Randy Burdine** on his promotion to Shift Supervisor. With his calm demeanor and work ethic the Dispatch Center is well guided with him at the helm of his shift. Accolades to **Sgt. Tom Dunn** for receiving the Community Trooper of the Year award from the VFW in Anchor Point. It's always reassuring to see the residents of a community acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the law enforcement personnel in their area.

Congratulations also to **Trp. Derek Loop** and his wife on the birth of their 8



Capt. Tom Bowman disseminates helpful information to attendees at the Ninilchik State Fair.



Who is this imposter? Admin. Clerk Shae Hollandsworth had fun impersonating Sgt. Dane Gilmore from ABI.

pounds 1 ounce son, **Finnley Thomas Loop**, who joined the family on September 17th at 0120 hours at the Homer General Hospital.

And to **Trp. Daniel Blizzard** and his wife on their new baby boy, 9 pounds 8 ounces. **Noah Ethan Blizzard** was born on November 10th at 2017 hours at Central Peninsula General Hospital.

Mark Your Calendars

The Arctic Winter Games will be held on the Kenai Peninsula March 5 – 11, 2006. There will be activities for both participants and spectators in various locations throughout our communities. With the influx of visitors, troopers will play a vital role in helping to maintain order and safety.

Overheard at the front counter:

"My wife and I recently relocated to Alaska and read about your studded tire

laws in the newspaper. So, if I don't have studded tires on my car by October 1st, will I get pulled over and issued a ticket?" ■



While attending the State Fair in Palmer, Trooper John Cyr's children, Delanie and Eileen, got to enjoy a rare, first hand look at a trooper helicopter. Do we see future DPS pilots here?

Anchor Point Post Open House

The Department of Public Safety, Alaska State Trooper Anchor Point post dedication ceremony was held October 10, 2005, at the new facility 34115 Sterling Highway.

Department of Public Safety **Commissioner Bill Tandeske; Col. Julia Grimes**, Director Alaska State Troopers; and **Capt. Tom Bowman**, Commander E

Detachment, provided comments during the dedication.

The new building, known as the Anchor Point post, provides 3,200 square feet of office space and 3,600 square feet of secure outside storage. Improvements include a squad room for trooper workstations, a conference room, an evidence storage room, a DUI breath testing room,

an interview room, an equipment storage area, suspect holding cells, an employee break room, and supervisor offices. The new post is also near an airstrip, which gives troopers rapid access to aircraft operating in the area for search and rescue and other law enforcement operations. The new post was occupied in May 2005. ■

Trooper Brad Nelson In Kirkuk

By JAN REDFORD, AST SOLDOTNA

Did you know that **Trp. Brad Nelson** is serving the United States of America in Kirkuk, Iraq? If you're like me, you may say Kir-where? It doesn't appear on a lot of maps, but is directly north of Baghdad.

Brad is enlisted with the Alaska Air National Guard, 176 CEF (Civil Engineering Fire Fighter) unit. His job in Kirkuk is fire and rescue. His group handles all fire, medical, and rescue calls for the airport and the town. He is not in a fighting role, but if they respond outside of the base, they do what they have to to keep the mission rolling.

The people in this area are extremely poor even though the region has oil. As fast as the oil is drilled, it is taken away - along with all the money, so nothing goes back into the town.

Most of the houses are made of cement and mud, with no running water or other "luxury amenities". The locals buy their food items in a street market setting. The night temperatures are around 40° and the day temperatures are in the 70s. Winter Iraqi style includes sand storms.

Brad tells us that the sand storms are happening more and more frequently and increasing in intensity. It is amazing where sand can get into - I wonder if that is similar to body surfing in Hawaii and getting tangled up in a big wave, euuuuu!!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Brad as he is serving our country in Iraq, as well as with his wife **Rachel** who is holding down the fort in Soldotna! Brad has access to his military email address: Brad.Nelson@krab.centaf.af.mil Please



feel free to send emails to him, he said it sure helps to hear from friends and family back home.

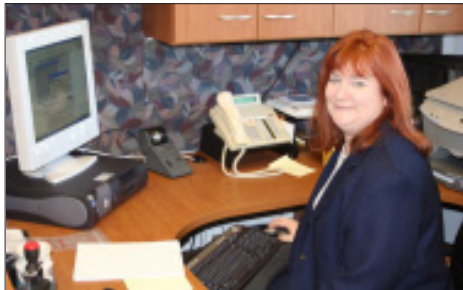
Brad's video taped Season Greeting clip from officers overseas will be aired sometime after Thanksgiving. Keep watching the television stations for this and other greetings from overseas. ■

Division of Fire Prevention

By JODIE HETRICK

Director's Office

Director's Secretary **Dianna Pree** joined the Division of Fire Prevention on September 26, 2005. Dianna comes to us from the Department of Health and Social Services.



Director's Secretary, Dianna Pree

The Division worked with the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) and the Anchorage School District (ASD) officials to implement the Safe and Secure Schools (S3) Program that makes ASDs Girdwood K-8 School an even safer place this fall. The school received a contribution of 20 electronically monitored fire extinguishers as part of a new fire safety demonstration project facilitated by S3, a NASFM program. Fire safety and school officials introduced and demonstrated the technol-

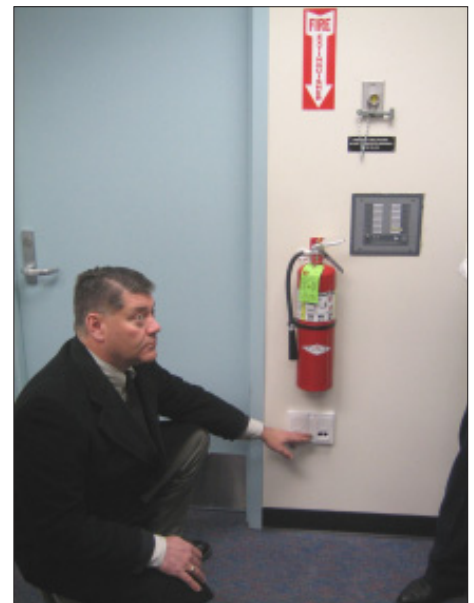
ogy during a presentation at the school on November 4, 2005.

"The donation of these electronically monitored extinguishers will greatly benefit Girdwood K-8 School", said ASD's Risk Management Director **Mike Klawitter**, who is also the S3 Regional Coordinator. "Ensuring that our extinguisher units are available and functioning is vitally important to maintaining school safety."

Electronically monitored fire extinguishers are more reliable and dependable than stand-alone models because they are constantly screened to make sure they are ready for action in the event of an emergency. Beyond the added safety this provides, it reduces operating costs for the school district as maintenance employees will no longer need to travel to Girdwood to inspect the extinguishers.

Another benefit of the monitored system is the reduction of the potential conversion of fire extinguishers to bombs by terrorists. Several countries have experienced explosions caused by fire extinguishers converted to bombs.

Life Safety and Inspection Bureau



DFM I John Bond inspected a new monitored fire extinguisher.

The Life Safety and Inspection Bureau, Anchorage office, welcomed Deputy Fire Marshal I **Lloyd Nakano** on September 15, 2005. Deputy Nakano joins the Division of Fire Prevention after more than twenty years with the United States Air Force.

(Fire Prevention, continued on page 22)

Fire Prevention,

continued from page 21



Deputy Fire Marshal I, Lloyd Nakano.

The Division of Fire Prevention's Life Safety Inspection Bureau performs technical fire investigations in accordance with the OPM. Our investigators are all Alaska State certified fire and arson investigators with two of them nationally certified.

Fire investigation requires specialized skills, knowledge, and abilities so having a unit to call on when a fire occurs allows for a more thorough, complete and accurate investigation. The result of having experts perform this type of investigation is an increased arson conviction rate.

Deputy Fire Marshals from the Division have been involved with three high profile investigations this quarter. Deputy Fire Marshal II **Don Cuthbert** identified cause and origin during an investigation into a homicide and arson fire in Big Lake in November 2003. **Mr. Richard Deremer III** was found guilty of the murder of **David Glenn McKinney** and guilty of arson for setting a fire to hide the evidence.

Deputy Fire Marshal I **Dan Jones** performed the fire investigation on a fire involving domestic violence in Wasilla. **Ms. Niobie Ewing** was convicted of killing **Thomas Bourbeau** by igniting a fire that lead to his death.

Deputy Fire Marshal I Jones also investigated the fatal fire that killed **Bonnie Weys** of Wasilla. In August, a Grand Jury indicted a suspect for 1st degree murder and 1st degree Arson. The case has not concluded.

Plan Review Bureau

NICET Hosts Fire Protection Advisory Group

The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) announces that, with the help of experts in

the Fire Protection Industry, it is launching a review and update of the certification programs for the fire protection area (Fire Alarm Systems, Special Hazard Suppression Systems, Automatic Sprinkler Layout and Design, and Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Systems).

On November 21, 2005, NICET hosted a daylong meeting at its headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, of 20 industry experts in fire protection. Plans Examiner, **Steve "Rusty" Belanger**, represented the Alaska State Fire Marshal, one of three State Fire Marshals invited to attend. The other two were Oklahoma and Florida. The meeting was devoted to a discussion of the workforce certification needs for the fire protection industry, related to both currently available and future NICET programs. Meeting participants were subject matter experts representing fire chiefs, fire marshals, government, standards organizations, educators, insurance, allied associations, as well as practitioners in myriad aspects of fire protection (fire alarms, fire sprinklers, special hazards, fire stops, for example).

A strong force in many technical fields, NICET regularly brings together industry leaders and subject matter experts to identify industry needs and design and maintain technician certification programs that promote technical knowledge and skills. The resulting programs measure the competency of, and layout career paths for, engineering technicians and technologists and supply industries and employers with a more highly skilled workforce. NICET promotes the continuing professional development of its certified technicians and technologists through a recertification process that emphasizes updated skills and state-of-the-art knowledge.

Since it's founding in 1961, more than 113,000 technicians and technologists have met NICET's rigorous certification criteria. That number is growing rapidly as more employers and local and state governments rely on NICET certification to measure the qualifications of their workforce. The certificate and wallet card issued by NICET serve as a portable credential for certified technicians and technologists who seek to maximize their

skills and knowledge and advance in their professions. By employing those workers who have demonstrated their technical qualifications, employers can provide their customers higher quality goods and services. And, ultimately, the public enjoys a higher degree of safety and protection.

NICET is a non-profit division of the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Training and Education Bureau

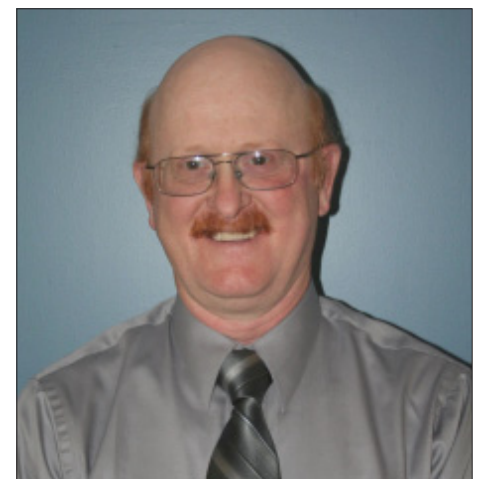
Fire Training

Angela McElmurry is the new Administrative Clerk III for the Training and Education Bureau. McElmurry transferred from Records and Identification. She is a lifelong Alaska resident and daughter of Retired AST Lt. **Charles Bartolini**.



Admin. Clerk III, Angela McElmurry

Fire Training Specialist **William Hedrick** and Fire Training Specialist **Todd Kollar** traveled to Ketchikan this quarter to conduct a Fire Training Program Accreditation Audit for the North Tongass Volunteer Fire Department. FTS Hedrick
(**Fire Prevention**, continued on page 23)



Fire Training Specialist, Mahlon Greene

Practice Candle Safety During The Holidays

State Fire Marshal **Gary Powell** and the Alaska Division of Fire Prevention urge all to use extreme caution when using candles particularly during the holiday season.

One quarter of all candle-related fires occur during the holiday season. According to the United States Fire Administration, each year candles are responsible for approximately 9,400 residential fires, over 90 fatalities and 950 civilian injuries.

The direct property loss from candle related fires are estimated at \$120.5 million. Candle sales are estimated at \$2.3 billion annually by the National Candle Association.

✓ Burn candles inside a 1-foot circle of safety, free of anything that can ignite.

✓ Extinguish candles after use or whenever you leave the room.

✓ Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.

✓ Use a sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic candleholder.

✓ Don't place lit candles in windows where blinds and curtains can ignite.

✓ Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.

✓ Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.

✓ During power outages, use flashlights not candles.

✓ Never use a candle for light when checking pilot lights or fueling equipment.

As always, test your smoke detectors during the holiday season. For further information contact your local fire department. ■

As a celebration of our 50th Anniversary here are more excerpts from the State Fire Marshal Newsletter 1990

March 1990

Tax Cap Cuts Local Code Enforcement:

The Division of Fire Prevention temporarily assumed the fire and life safety code enforcement in the City of Fairbanks due to the layoff of the local Fire Marshal unit. State Fire Marshal (**Sam**) **Neal** and the Fairbanks Building Department have worked out coordinated plans to handle plan reviews during this interim period. Neal is hopeful that this is indeed a temporary situation and that a permanent solution will be found before the start up of the summer of construction season.

"Ike" Retires:

Roy C. "Ike" Isenberg, Deputy Fire Marshal II, retired on February 28, 1990. Ike served with the Division of Fire Prevention, Southcentral office over 15 years. Prior to employment with the State Fire Marshal's Office, he was a member of the Anchorage Fire Department. Ike was dispatched in to the "good life" with a retirement luncheon held at the Southcentral office. Many friends and associates stopped by to wish him well in his retirement. Ike was presented with tokens of appreciation for his many years of dedicated service.

May 1990

State Fire Marshal Sam Neal Attends meeting:

State Fire Marshal Sam Neal attended the first annual meeting of the newly formed National Association of State Fire Marshals. At the meeting the NASFM passed three important resolutions; 1) Resolution to initiate and/or support legislation or regulation for the design of fire safe ashtrays; 2) Resolution to recommend a nationwide campaign to promote

the use, listing and maintenance of smoke detectors; 3) Resolution to urge Congress to rescind the tax on halon. Elected officers of the Association are:

James McMullen, California, President; **Frank McGarry**, New York, Vice-President; **John H. Coburn**, Missouri, Secretary/Treasurer; **Olin L. Greene**, Oregon, Board Member; **Billy Weckwirth**, Wyoming, Board Member; and **Thomas R. Brace**, Minnesota, Board Member.

Fire Extinguisher Permits:

The Division of Fire Prevention has adopted regulations requiring certification of persons involved in the commercial inspection, servicing, repairing, recharging, installing, and hydrostatic testing of portable fire extinguishers. To date, there are 226 holders of current Fire Extinguisher Permits throughout the State of Alaska.

The regulations were written allowing the permits to be valid three (3) years from date of issue. All those permits expiring through May of 1990 have been notified and the State Fire Marshal's Office will continue advising the permit holders of their expiration dates. To renew a permit, a permit holder should contact their nearest regional office of the Division of Fire Prevention as they must take and pass an examination with a passing score of 90%. Open book testing is allowed. ■

Did you know?

◆ The reason firehouses have circular stairways is from the days of yore, when the engines were pulled by horses. The horses were stabled on the ground floor and figured out how to walk up straight staircases.

◆ Clans of long ago that wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them use to burn their houses down. Hence the expression, "to get fired." ■

Fire Prevention, continued from page 22

and FTS Kollar spent two days reviewing the record keeping for the fire department and officiating at the Firefighter II testing. The North Tongass Volunteer Fire Department did very well during the audit.

Public Education Office

In November, we welcomed Fire Training Specialist **Mahlon Greene**. He is the new Public Fire Education Coordinator for the Division. Greene has over eighteen years fire service experience with the Central Mat-Su Fire Department. ■

Division of Statewide Services

Alaska State Troopers Finish Drug Recognition Expert Training

By JEANNE SWARTZ

In March 2005, four Alaska State Troopers, **Trp. Andrew Ballesteros**, AST/Fairbanks, **Sgt. Barry Wilson**, AST/Soldotna, **Trp. (now Sgt.) Troy Shuey**, and **Trp. David Herrell**, AST/Palmer, traveled to Phoenix, Arizona, where they took psychophysical measurements and made observations of the appearances and behaviors of drug-impaired volunteers with names like “Screech”, “Harley”, and “Lunatic”. This was the practical training required to become certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) officers.

The Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC)/Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program was first developed in Los Angeles in the 1970s as a way to address the impairment issues caused by drivers under the influence of drugs other than alcohol.

This program has grown to the point that forty-two states, including Alaska, now have DEC/DRE programs. The DRE evaluation is a standardized, systematic approach to describe and measure the impairment level of persons under the

influence of drugs and to recognize the class of drugs causing the impairment.

There are currently nineteen DREs in Alaska, including five Troopers. **Trp. Chris Umbs**, AST/Juneau completed his field training in Juneau, in January 2005. DREs have been involved in over ninety DUI-drug cases, providing critical observation and evidence that allow many of these cases to be resolved as DUI cases. We look forward to more successes with the DRE program, as it grows, to address the expanding drugged driving problem. ■

New Faces At The Crime Lab

By JOHN GIACALONE

Bob Shem, wife **Wendy**, and daughter **Emily** welcomed in **Nathan Christopher Shem** early on the morning of October 6, 2005. He weighed 6 pounds 2 ounces and was something like 19 1/2 inches long.



Nathan Christopher Shem

Brandi Barnett, a Criminalist with the Drug Identification Section, gave birth to her first child, **Cadence Riley Barnett** on October 31, 2005. She weighed 8 pounds even and was 20 inches long.

Colleen O’Bryant from Fairbanks joined the staff of the Scientific Crime De-



Cadence Riley Barnett

tection Laboratory on October 17, 2005. O’Bryant is a Criminalist I working with the Blood and Breath Alcohol analyses. She is a recent graduate of North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota where she earned a BS degree in Biotechnology. As part of the curriculum, O’Bryant spent time as an intern at the Laboratory during the summer of 2004.

Mark Beck started working for the Department of Public Safety as an AAFIS operator in January 2003. He transferred (New Faces, continued on page 25)



Colleen O’Bryant, Criminalist I

New Faces, continued from page 24

to the Crime Lab and began work as a Latent Examiner III on October 17, 2005. He is assigned to the Latent Fingerprint Section and will also be assisting with Crime Scene Investigations. Beck has a long history in Law Enforcement beginning with the Laramie Police Department in Wyoming. He retired after a twenty-five year career with the city of Laramie, 3 years as a firefighter and 22 years as a police officer. There he supervised the Criminal Investigations Division which included Crime Scene Investigations and Latent Print work. Beck was a certified peace officer in the states of Wyoming and Colorado. He also conducted training in the Rocky Mountain region. He was a member of RMD-IAI body ID team. Beck is a certified crime scene analyst and a certified latent print examiner. ■



Mark Beck, Latent Examiner III

In Other News

Steve Arlow Promoted To Captain

Col. Julia Grimes announced the promotion of **Lt. Steve Arlow**, ABWE Deputy Commander, to Captain, Commander of the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement (ABWE), Anchorage HQ, and effective December 1, 2005.

Capt. Arlow has over 19 years of law enforcement experience beginning his career with the Department of Public Safety in June 1985 as a Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Officer. He attended Recruit Class #41 in 1990 and has been assigned to Soldotna, Juneau, Ketchikan, Cordova,

Bethel and Anchorage. He is a Department Vessel Operator with a 100-Ton Masters' License and is a current State Pilot. He has 7 years experience as a DPS Sergeant and has been a Lieutenant since September 2004.

Capt. Arlow has made many choices in his career, taking on more and more responsibility within the Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement.

He has gained invaluable experience in each of his assignments, and has benefited substantially from working in

various locations around the state. In doing so, he has prepared himself for the leadership position he will assume December 1, 2005. We have great confidence in his ability to oversee the success of the Bureau's important mission and look forward to a positive impact on the Division's future.

(This items was received past deadline and not available for placement within ABWE news, but significant for placement within this edition of The Quarterly. Editor.) ■

Lt. Hans Brinke Transferred to ABWE

Col. Julia Grimes announced the transfer of **Lt. Hans Brinke**, B Detachment, Palmer Post to the Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement, (ABWE) Anchorage Headquarters as Deputy Commander effective December 1, 2005.

Lt. Brinke joined the Department January 1991 and has been assigned to AST Patrol in the Anchorage, Klawock, and Soldotna Posts. He served as the

Deputy Commander of the Alaska Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Enforcement and most recently as a B Detachment Palmer, Deputy Commander. He recently graduated from Session #114 of the Administrative Officer's course by the Southern Police Institute.

Lt. Brinke will bring valuable experience and leadership from each of his past assignments to his new role of Deputy

Commander for ABWE. His positive contribution to the ABWE leadership team will undoubtedly help the Bureau be successful in meeting one of the Division's six core missions.

(This items was received past deadline and not available for placement within ABWE news, but significant for placement within this edition of The Quarterly. Editor.) ■

Alaska Law Enforcement Assisted Officers In Louisiana

On September 7, 2005 the Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) in Anchorage received a request for assistance from police officers in the State of Louisiana who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. According to the information being distributed to law enforcement agencies around the country, officers in Jefferson Parish, Baton Rouge, and other affected communities are work-

ing long hours with little or no relief. Many have no change of uniform or clean clothes to wear.

Both PSEA and the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers donated \$1000 to the cause. The money was used to purchase socks, tee shirts, and underwear for the officers.

The Alaska Department of Public Safety (DPS) also donated surplus uni-

forms to the cause. Two motor homes, provided by ABC Motor Homes, left Anchorage on September 9, loaded with the supplies, for the trip to Baton Rouge. The motor homes were driven by Alaska State Trooper Investigator **Dave Jones** and retired Alaska State Trooper **Jimmy Grimes**. Once in Louisiana, the motor homes were put to use to provide shelter and facilities to the affected officers. ■

Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort

By Rob Cox, PSEA President

The Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) has opened an account at Wells Fargo Bank (account # 7380519954) dedicated to the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Contributions may be deposited directly or by mailing check or money order to the PSEA office at 4300 Boniface Pkwy. #116, Anchorage, AK 99504. Checks and money orders should be made out to PSEA Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund or PSEA Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

These funds are dedicated to assisting fellow police officers and/or their families

in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas. The account will be open and available for deposit through December 2005. Please be as generous as your circumstances will allow and encourage others to contribute. Contributors need not be members of PSEA to participate. These people have been completely devastated by these events. Many officers' homes and personal belongings have been completely destroyed or lost; and, many are working without a personal change of clothing or underwear and

some without knowledge of their families' whereabouts or existence. Nevertheless, they have answered the call for help from the citizens of their areas. It will be a lengthy process piecing their lives, homes, and families back together. It would be very nice to present them with a generous gift during the rebuilding phase. All funds will be delivered directly to officers overseeing this effort in the New Orleans and/or Baton Rouge areas in coordination with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). Thank you in advance! ■



KOVE, AM 1330, is a 5,000-watt station, in Lander, Wyoming, covering central Wyoming. "Coffee Time" is a 30-minute talk show broadcast on this station, which basically covers community happenings. Retired trooper Lew Rieth had been a guest on "Coffee Time" numerous times for the Lions Club. Then the 'sometimes fill in lady' moved away and Joe, station owner and "Coffee Time" host for 27 years, announced on the air one day when Rieth was there, that Rieth was the new fill in host. He didn't ask, he just announced it. Lander will never be the same. The last radio show Rieth hosted was on ARFN 38 years ago.

Only In Alaska

On September 11, 2005, at about 2:30 p.m., AST observed a Ford Expedition traveling 76 MPH in a 45 MPH zone near Mile 69 of the Parks Highway. **Trp. Andrew Adams** activated his lights and siren and the vehicle failed to yield. The vehicle slowed to 60 MPH and continued south on the Parks Highway. **Trp. Rick Pawlak** and **Trp. Steve Meyer** deployed the Stinger at Mile 54 of the Parks Highway, deflating the two front tires. The vehicle came to a stop approximately .5 mile down the highway. The driver and only occupant was identified as a 44-year old male from Termoli, Italy. The suspect stated that he saw the police car with the lights on for the last 15 kilometers, but has seen in movies that if a Peace Officer wanted you to pull over he would pull in front of you. The suspect was cited for speeding and placed under arrest for Eluding in the Second Degree. ■

Retired DPS Employee Mary Elizabeth (Bette) Reischl Died

Longtime Juneau resident Bette Reischl died October 19, 2005, at her home on Reischl Way, surrounded by her family.

She was born to Jacob O. Hammer and Genevieve (Millette) Hammer on February 4, 1922, in St. Paul, Minn. Following graduation from St. Joseph's Academy in 1940, she worked for the

St. Paul Dispatch-Pioneer Press. She met Dave Reischl in New York City while working as a civilian employee during the war years. They married on Jan. 31, 1944, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

At the conclusion of World War II, the couple returned to Alaska, arriving in Juneau on Thanksgiving Day in 1945. She retired from her job with the Department of

Public Safety in 1977. She enjoyed world travel with family members and the weekly bridge games at the Valley Senior Center.

In accordance with her wishes, a family memorial service was held October 21. Remembrances may be made to Hospice and Home Care of Juneau, 419 Sixth St., Juneau, 99801. ■

The Flag On The Mountain[©]

BY KEITH BETTINGER

There are things I enjoy seeing, things that make me happy that I live here in the United States of America. Seeing large American flags billowing in breezes can move me to tears. I love to see the changing colors of autumn leaves in the Northeast. I love watching ocean waves crashing on shores whether it is the Atlantic or the Pacific Ocean. Both are beautiful. I love to see the mountains in the Southwest as well as the Grand Canyon. When you see those mountains for the first time, your thoughts will immediately go to America the Beautiful and you will suddenly understand the lyrics proclaiming "Purple Mountains Majesty". The Grand Canyon too, is a sight to behold. It is a gift from God that has to be witnessed to be appreciated.

I have been to the Statue of Liberty and know she must have cried on September 11, 2001.

There are also special places in other parts of the country. I had been to the top of World Trade Center on three different occasions and now cherish the memories of those trips. I have been to the Statue of Liberty and know she must have cried on September 11, 2001. I never tire of traveling to Washington, D.C. The monuments to our heroes and great buildings of our government stand before you and bring our great history to the forefront of our minds.

I made my first trip to Washington, D.C. in 1956. The history of my generation was only starting. I have a photo of me standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. A short distance away is a very special place, the Viet Nam Memorial. On my first trip to Washington, Viet Nam wasn't even yet a part of our history. Today it is the military event with which all current military events are compared.

Besides the Viet Nam Memorial my other favorite memorials in Washington are the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and United States Marine Corps Memorial. This is the bronze sculptured statue of five Marines and one Navy Corpsman raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima. It lies just on the outskirts of Arlington Cemetery. This is a memorial that will grab your heart when you see our flag of red, white, and blue waving and contemplate what it must have meant to all those Marines, Sailors and Soldiers who watched it being raised during some the most horrible combat of World War II. It will bring tears to your eyes if you fly to Reagan International Airport and are fortunate enough to pass over on your airplane's approach and see all the white gravestones of our veterans standing at attention row after row in Arlington Cemetery.

I am appalled when I see people revel in their own ignorance. **Jay Leno**, the television show host, goes on the street and asks people questions about our country's history. Their ignorance should embarrass them, but they laugh and giggle

at their own stupidity and have no knowledge of why this country is great.

In 2002, I moved here to Las Vegas. I had to learn to find my way around a new community after more than fifty years on Long Island in New York. In my travels I took a freeway, the 215 and came to the intersection of Cheyenne Road. Like so much of the Las Vegas Valley it is an area of transition going from vacant beautiful desert to new homes in subdivisions. But there is something very special that stands out at this location.

On the Southwest corner is a mountain. Not a very big one as compared to other mountains, but a very special one. Since the first time I saw this mountain there has always been an American flag flying proudly from the top of the mountain.

I have seen it flying during all the seasons we experience here in the desert.

I have seen it flying during all the seasons we experience here in the desert. I have seen it fly as a new flag and over time watched it become tattered in our desert winds. When that happens, soon thereafter, someone goes up to the top of the mountain and exchanges the worn veteran flag with a bright new flag to take its place. It is like the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery, but here at our mountain I have never seen the honors performed. (Flag, continued on page 28)

Flag, continued from page 27

I don't know who these wonderful people are who take the time to maintain our country's flag on this solitary mountain. In fact, I don't think I want to know who they are. The mystery makes them and what they do more special because it is a selfless act of patriotism, an act of love for our great country and a gift to our citizens.

I do know my heart skips a beat every time I see that flag. I know I slow down whenever I approach the mountain and look to see that the flag is still there.

I also know I am happy to call Nevada my home, where some special people take the time, incur the expense, and trek up the mountainside to make sure an American flag always stands proudly upon the top of that mountain beckoning to the citizens below. ■



The First Annual International TASER Foundation Motorcycle Rally and Poker Run will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona, March 24 to 26, 2006. All proceeds will support the families of fallen officers in the United States and Canada. For details, go to www.TASERFoundation.org.

Oy, Vat A Christmas

By RONALD J. SCHWARTZ

I was a Jewish kid who grew up in the Bronx. In the Bronx that's not a strange phenomenon, except in our neighborhood, we were the only Jewish family. While the other kids in the apartment building were celebrating Christmas, we were celebrating Chanukah.

In the middle of the 1970s, I became a Law Enforcement Officer with the New York State Courts. The union representing our officers was very involved with a charity that assisted mentally retarded people.

Also involved in this charity was a well-known news celebrity, who also donated a lot of both his on-air and personal time to this great cause.

One year, in December, out of all of the officers on the job, I was requested to donate some of my time. Having no idea what I was going to be doing, I said "Sure, why not"? What little thing could I be asked to do?

Well, little did I know that I was to become the first Jew to play Santa Clause for this worthy cause. On the day that I was to do this, I went to the facility where this Christmas party was being held. The first mistake that I made was that I thought that I was going to do security. When I arrived, I was told that I was going to be playing good old St. Nick. I found out later that one of the reasons I was se-

lected was because they did not have to get a pillow for the costume. I got into my Santa Claus outfit, which I am sorry to admit, did not need a pillow. I was told that I was going to give out gifts to all of the people who resided in the facility. I was warned to be prepared, that seeing some of these people would be very heart-wrenching, but that I would need to be professional and unemotional.

Well for those of you who have never done something like this, let me assure you that this was one of the hardest things I have ever been asked to do in my life. Most of these very wonderful people were a heck of a lot stronger than I was that day. After wishing them a Merry Christmas, and doing an incredible Ho!!! Ho!!! Ho!!! at the end of my part of the party, I left the room. I changed out of my Santa Claus costume, walked out of the facility, sat down on the stairs, and began to sob like a baby. All the while between the tears, I was thanking God that my wife and I had a healthy baby daughter.

Shortly thereafter, I left the courts and became a police officer with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Because I left the court officers union and moved to New Jersey, I was no longer Santa for those wonderful people at the facility.

(Vat A Christmas, continued on page 29)

From Whispers in the Wind[©]

By GEORGE G. RODGERS

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***The wind is restless,
no longer does it
laugh among the leaves,
as it did this summer.
Afraid to touch the earth, it races
high in the tree tops,
moaning and complaining.
It speaks of snow on the high
far places, and it measures
the time before it journeys south
and leaves this land locked
in a white silence.*

***Your life touches mine...
like the sunlight that dances
off the puddles of rain
and chases the shadows
from the darkest corners.
...like the fading light when the sun
departs the sky
...your leaving releases the shadows
once again.*



“Your order is here”. A cart full of holiday spirit was delivered to Anchorage headquarters. The spirits represent about 30 days effort of alcohol interdiction in rural villages, with a local street value of about \$5345. (The ‘delivery’ was made to the Evidence Room!)

Vat A Christmas , continued from page 28

However, through new acquaintances, I was requested to once again be Santa Claus, this time at a Senior Citizens residence in a town in New Jersey. A friend did volunteer work for this residence, and asked me if I would be willing to play Santa Clause for the residents at the annual Christmas party. Having “extensive experience” (the truth is that I did not think that I would need a pillow for this costume either), I agreed.

On the day of the party, we met at the residence, and I changed into my Santa costume. The residence had several hundred rooms, and although the party was held in the main room, some of those residents were unable to attend the party. The two of us, along with some of the staff, went to all of the rooms of the residents who were unable to attend. We gave each of them a gift for Christmas. We took as many Polaroid photos of the residents with Santa as we were able to, so that they would have a memory of this great holiday. This too was a very emotional thing for me to do.

We then went to the party in the main room, where Santa arrived, and all of the

residents had an opportunity to sit on Santa’s lap, have photos taken, and to receive a gift from Santa. It was one of the best days I have ever had, knowing the joy of making these elderly people happy during the Christmas holiday.

I have since retired, so my days of being Santa are over. I will say that I truly loved doing it, and writing about it has brought back a lot of emotional thoughts and feelings. It is very difficult to type and see the computer screen through heavy tears. So, to all of you and your families, “HO!!! HO!!! HO!!! and OY, VAT A CHRISTMAS!!!!!!!!!!

(Ron Schwartz was a retired police officer and lived in Freehold, New Jersey. He was the father of two daughters, one who is married to a deputy sheriff in Monmouth County, and the youngest is a graduate of Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. Since writing this great story, Ron passed away. I promised him before he died, that I would help him try and get this story published. Ron loved everyone. He was a great father, a wonderful friend, and had to have been one heck of a Santa Claus. Keith Bettinger.) ■

THE DPS QUARTERLY

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