

ROCKLIN PD NEWS



In This Issue:

- National Night Out
- CNOA Region II Nominee
- SWAT Challenge Results



Rocklin Police Department

Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

In the Top Ten

Recently, Family Circle magazine rated cities across the nation. Their criteria included many issues surrounding the quality of life for raising a family. Rocklin was ranked as the 10th best City in our country to raise a family. Wow, what an honor! Now as I think about it, wow what a responsibility!

We are the men and women who provide government services 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, to this top-ten community. We are the full service department called upon to handle issues from parking to pedophiles, from found property to felonious assault. Now someone has gone and ranked us; what pressure! First of all, we must be doing something right,

but now we will be held up and measured with greater scrutiny by our citizens.

As a department, we are most clearly seen through the perception of those who have come in contact with our personnel. That contact could be from a traffic collision or stop, a community presentation or when an officer was dispatched to their home. Whatever the contact, one thing holds true, through a single contact the perception of many, tens if not hundreds, are formed. The single person you have contact with will most likely, for many years, share his or her perception with their family and friends.

We have certainly measured up in keeping crime out of our city. I am constantly amazed at the

hard work each of you do to serve our community. Now that we are here, named in the top ten, we have to measure up every day. So something to ponder next time you are dispatched to a cold burglary or neighborhood problem; is my demeanor, service and action good enough for a top-ten city? Keep up the great work!



Captains' Corner, By Ron Lawrence and Dan Ruden

On July 18th, the Captains' Corner paid a visit to the Best of the West SWAT Competition in Grass Valley. We went to watch our own Tri City SWAT Team in action. **Officer Steve Ortmann, Officer Brandon Olivera and Corporal Rich Cabana** represented Rocklin PD while

P. Blake, Doug Blake, Mike Ry-

land and Mike Anderson represented Roseville PD.

About a dozen SWAT teams from all over California were there to endure three days of grueling competition with the goal of claiming the esteemed title of "Best in the West". We were extremely proud of our team members as they took **first place** among all the SWAT teams in the physical challenges at Forrest Hill and on the RAT course in Grass Valley. To top things off, our team received **second place** for the Search Warrant Scenario and **Corporal Rich Cabana** won 4th place overall in the shooting competition.

Our team's accomplishment was even more meaningful to

us as we walked the course and looked at the terrain and obstacles they had to overcome. To get a better feel for what was going on, we waited until nobody was looking then we tried crossing the rope obstacle over the river. This was located on the return side of the RAT course in Grass Valley (see photo). We managed to stay dry but I think we'll stick to our desk jobs.

The best part was this. While we were observing, we were constantly being approached by members of the other teams complimenting us on our team members, their abilities and their spirit. It became clear that the Tri City SWAT Team is well

known and respected within the California SWAT community. Their performance and teamwork as a group reflects each member's personal commitment, pride and dedication to the team, which in turn reflects positively on us all. Great job and congratulations to the Tri City SWAT Team!



National Night Out 2008, by Mike Nottoli

On the evening of August 5, 2008, more than 35 City of Rocklin employees, volunteers, and all five City Councilmembers visited block parties across town in celebration of National Night Out.

National Night Out is an annual nationwide event designed to increase neighborhood spirit, raise crime prevention awareness, and develop the partnership between the City and the community.

This year, 53 Neighborhood Watch groups joined forces to host parties at 23 different locations. For example, more than 150 people attended a party at the Gables in Springfield, representing 21 different neighborhood watch groups! Other large gatherings took place on Cassia Way (representing 7

groups) and Cameo Drive (representing 3 groups). Parties were also held on Cleveland Court, Cook Street, Denton Court, Kings Canyon Drive, Hillside Drive, Rainer Avenue, Pembroke Way, Taft Drive, Collet Quarry Drive, Rockmoor Road, Peninsula Drive, Plumbago Place, 5th Street, Archer Circle, Jersey Drive, and at Breen Park, Pebble Creek Park, the College Manor Apartments on Racetrack Road, and the Woodstream Townhomes on Brookside Circle.

The parties provided an excellent opportunity for residents to communicate with each other and with city staff members in a relaxed environment. The parties also featured barbeques, des-

serts, beverages, and fun activities for the kids.

Some neighborhoods also participated in a contest to see who had the "best dressed pet" at each party. The winning pets and their

owners received a gift certificate redeemable at a local Rocklin pet store. A special thanks to all of you for making this a successful event!



Rocklin Police Volunteer Brent Robken with "Best Dressed Pet" winner Snickers and her owner

Olivera Wins CNOA Region II Nominee for State Award, By Captain Ron Lawrence

Brandon Olivera has been selected as the California Narcotics Officers Association Region II nominee to receive the prestigious Al Stewart Memorial Award. His nomination was based upon his years of experience in battling narcotics violations in Rocklin and throughout Placer County. During his tenure as a narcotics officer, Brandon proved himself as a tenacious investigator, ridding the County of illegal drugs and bringing drug

dealers and users to successful prosecution in court. He has provided drug awareness presentations at local high-schools and has been proactive in preventing the spread of drug abuse throughout the region. While assigned to the narcotics unit, Brandon earned the reputation of being a lead agent, at times acting as a supervisor. His former supervisor of the Narcotics Unit is quoted in his nomination as saying, "During the course of my

career, I have seen few agents who have the knowledge, dedication, drive, and discipline Special Agent Olivera has displayed." In competing for the CNOA Region II nomination, Brandon was nominated along with hundreds of other narcotics officers throughout Region II, which stretches from Stanislaus to Butte County and from San Francisco to the Nevada State Line. Brandon was carefully selected after a thorough review by

a governing committee to compete at the State level, to be awarded in November. Only eight narcotics officers from different CNOA Regions throughout the State are moved to the State level competition. Brandon is commended for his years of service to the Rocklin Police Department as a narcotics investigator and his dedication to our profession. Great job Brandon and we wish you luck in November!

June/July External Commendations Received

Full details of Commendations are posted outside of the Briefing Room

- **Ofc. Jerry Seawell** received a letter commending him for a criminal investigation, and for his helpfulness to the family. The letter described him as their "personal police officer."
- **Ofc. Jay Newton** received a letter commending him for a professional investigation on a check fraud case. The citizen described him as "incredible."
- **Ofc. Natalie Constable** received a citizen commendation thanking her for her help and was described as "awesome, helpful and polite."

June/July Internal Commendations Received

- **Officers Jeff Paxton, Melisa Murphy and John Constable** received commendations for their teamwork and courage while arresting a combative suspect who attacked the officers during an altercation.
- **Ofc. Dan Groff** received a commendation for his efforts while responding to a suspicious person call. Once on-scene, a foot pursuit ensued ending in Groff using his Taser to arrest the person. It was later determined to be a burglary suspect caught in the act.
- **Officers Jay Newton, Chris Osborne, and Jennifer Torres** received commendations for their efforts and contributions on the "Every 15-Minute" program presented at Rocklin H.S. Their involvement led to a successful event.

Tri-City Team a Winner In SWAT Challenge, by Steve Ortmann

The 2008 Best of the West SWAT Competition was held in the hills of Foresthill and Grass Valley. The competition lasted three days (7-16 7-17 and 7-18-2008). The first day was a Physical Challenge consisting of a land navigation course. The course had ten check points and was held in mountainous terrain. The timer started and stopped with a shot from three hundred yards by our Sniper Brandon Olivera. The course should have been completed in under three hours. Unfortunately we had complications with our GPS unit and the map was mis-marked (check points on the wrong side of the road) so we were running, and swimming in the stream, for almost four hours. That mishap had us finishing 11th out of 12 teams. Fatigue became an issue right away. Part two, Day One, included three different shooting ranges at three different locations (Shotgun-Handgun, Rifle, and Handgun).

Day Two included a race from the top of the Foresthill Bridge to the bottom and back to the top. The terrain was so steep we slid to the bottom in approx. six minutes. On the way back



up we had to use our hands and feet to get back to the top. That took approx. 20 minutes. After the Team Challenge we went to two separate shooting ranges (a multi-gun and a hand-gun). During the afternoon session we responded to four different scenarios at four different locations. The scenarios included a Search Warrant, a Hostage Rescue, a Buy-Bust and a Dignitary Protection Scenario. Our team received a second place finish for the Search Warrant Scenario and a First Place finish for the Physical Challenge.

Day Three included the final Physical Challenge referred to as the R.A.T. (Rural Assault Trail). The course consisted of a team lift up a ten foot wall, a team carry of an approx. 600 pound log down a hill 200 feet and back to the top, a 20 foot rope climb (by each member), a team hoist through a ten foot ceiling of a small wood shack filled with CS Gas, a run through the forest, a team lift of another log, a 300 plus pound steal beam and a man hole cover. The team had to drop those items off approx. one hundred yards up the trail then cross the river over a large pipe

and back across on a large rope. Back to the heavy items listed above and carried back to the original pickup location. Back to the starting point where 5 metal plates were waiting for the extremely tired SWAT teams (each member had six rounds). The time stopped with three shots at poker chips from the Sniper Brandon Olivera. Three shots, three hits (Excellent work!). Officer Cabana from Rocklin cut his had at the start of the course. In spite of his injury, Officer Cabana completed the course and later responded to the hospital for eight stitches. His effort was incredible.

Our team won the physical challenge at the Forest Hill Bridge with a time of approx. 26 minutes. Our team won the physical challenge on day three (R.A.T.) course with a time of approx. 25 minutes. Officer Doug Blake was ninth overall in the shooting competition and Officer Rich Cabana was fourth overall in the shooting competition. Four other team members were ranked 27th or better out of 83 SWAT competitors in the shooting portion of

the competition.

It is hard to describe the heart displayed by the members present. The entire SWAT team helped prepare us for this grueling event. Officer Manzer, Lewis, Janney, Lt. Moore and Sgt. Horrillo, Tony Handley and Chris Osborne from Rocklin PD responded to the competition to help prepare us for the scenarios, show support, and help cheer us on when things got tough. Although our final placement was fifth I felt our team was the best out there. We had a few minor mistakes and GPS failures that cost us. The memories will last a life time. The competition was all about team work. No one person could have succeeded by themselves. I encourage all of you to try and engage in such an effort.

Thank you to everyone who made this event possible. We are proud to say we gave it our best effort and left nothing behind.

Remember: "Shared experiences create a deeper understanding and more lasting bonds of attachment."



Rocklin Police Department

"Open House"

Saturday, September 6, 2008 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



All community members are welcome! Complimentary hot dogs, beverages and cookies will be served. Guided tours are available throughout the day!

No reservations are necessary. Parking is available at the Police Department, the Rocklin Civic Center at 3980 Rocklin Road, and the Finnish Temperance Hall at 4090 Rocklin Road