

Rocklin Police Department

Newsletter

2010



Rocklin Police Department

Vol 5 Issue

*"It is the Mission of the
Rocklin Police Department
to Serve, Protect
and Promote a
Safe Community."*

Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

May - A Time to Reflect

On October 1, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation establishing Peace Officer Memorial Day as May 15th and the week in which the 15th fell as Police Week. The first official memorial service took place on May 15, 1982. On that date, approximately 125 people gathered in Senate Park to honor 91 law enforcement officers. Over the past 22 years we have honored over 3,000 fallen law enforcement officers from around our nation.

Today, the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service has become one in a series of events which includes the Candlelight Vigil. The Candlelight Vigil is held at the National Police Memorial in Washington DC where more than 18,600 officer's names have been engraved. The National Memorial was dedicated in 1991.

The final event is the Memorial Service held May 15th on the West front of the U.S. Capitol.

In California, The California Peace Officer Memorial Foundation holds a memorial ceremony the week before Police Week each year at the California Peace Officer Memorial on the West side of the State Capitol. This year the Candlelight Vigil will be the evening of May 6th and the Memorial Service will be on the morning of Friday May 7th.

The names of two Rocklin Peace Officers are engraved on the State and National Memorials. The first was Marshal Samuel Renaldi, E.O.W. February 19, 1914 and the second, Officer Matthew Redding, E.O.W. October 9, 2005.

This year, let's endeavor to remember and honor those who have paid the high price of keeping our communities safe and free.

More information about the memorial ceremonies can be found at: <http://cameorial.org>, <http://policeweek.org> and <http://www.nleomf.org/memorial>



Captains Corner by Dan Ruden and Ron Lawrence

Much of our society was built on symbolism. From the "Don't Tread on Me" flag of the early colonies to the NASA logo of today, symbols have always played a role in our national identity. Police work is no different. Police symbols mean much more than just being recognizable, and while being easily recognized by the public is tremendously important, so is the ability to relay authority, traditions, ideals and messages through our symbols.

Our uniform, patch and badge tie us to other police officers around the country and the world. They help us to present ourselves in our official capacity and they represent the authority entrusted to us as we

carry out our sworn duty. In Rocklin, even though we review the look of our symbols from time to time, they have remained mostly un-

changed for decades.

We conduct inspections to preserve our uniformity and our rules prohibit individual-

izing the uniform. This identity belongs to all of us as part of this organization. A neat, well maintained uniform commands respect. An old Japanese proverb says, "A man who has attained mastery of an art reveals it in his every action." So we understand that the condition of our uniforms, cars and our building can reflect on us in law enforcement, and we will continue to exude the professionalism, compassion and community-care that we have for the past 117 years in the City of Rocklin. Rocklin is a special place, deserving of the very best police department. Our image is created by our symbols, and our symbols are a reflection of who we are and what we do.



Early Gadsden Flag of the American Colonies, c.1775

Volunteer Patrol Training Improves Skills by Michael Nottoli

All Rocklin Police Volunteers who are involved in Patrol and Code Enforcement duties have recently been participating in monthly training sessions. These sessions are mandatory and have been very well-attended and received. The attendance for the first 3 training sessions this year averaged 35 volunteers per session even during cold and rainy nights! These sessions will continue each month for the entire 2010 year.

The training course lesson plan was developed by Volunteer Communications Coordinator Manuel Alcalá, Night Shift Patrol Coordinator Dave Kemp, Day Shift Patrol Coordinator Bob Jordan, and me. We carefully analyzed

the most common and critical functions and knowledge domains Volunteers need to understand, and designed practical scenario-based training to help volunteers learn these concepts.

Each training course is comprised of three separate components:

Radio Communications

Patrol Task / Scenario

Personal Safety and Awareness

Volunteers are required to learn 75 different radio codes, speak and understand basic radio traffic, and perform patrol

tasks such as responding to traffic accidents, directing traffic, and marking abandoned vehicles. The personal safety and awareness component teaches Volunteers how to anticipate, recognize, and avoid hazardous situations, and emphasizes that actual self-defense techniques are to be done only as a last resort. It also covers concepts such as distance, balance, footwork, approach considerations, and how to deal with physical confrontations such as pushes, grabs, punches, and chokes.

Volunteers are tested in all three component areas. Volunteers who have difficulty performing certain tasks are given remedial training and are re-tested. Those who do

not pass the re-test will not be allowed to perform in a patrol capacity.

The response to the training has been very positive. Many volunteers have commented that their confidence and skill level has greatly increased after just a few sessions. This training will take our Volunteer Patrol Program to a new level by improving Volunteer safety, productivity, and professionalism.



Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!
—author unknown

Dispatcher Banquet by Jennifer Collins

The week of April 12th kicks off the annual National Telecommunicator's Week celebration. The Organization of Public Safety Telecommunicators (O.P.S.T.) is hosting its annual Dispatcher of the Year banquet in Citrus Heights April 10th. Seventeen (17) public safety communications centers in the counties of Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado, and Placer are invited to participate in this annual event. The awards banquet is a special affair with the specific purpose of recognizing the exceptional performances and contributions of 9-1-1 dispatchers and call takers throughout our region. Last year over 400 public safety professionals, corporate sponsors and community members attended the banquet. Proceeds from the event will go to the Citrus Heights Domestic Violence Intervention center and the El Camino High School Eagle band.

The Rocklin Police and Fire Department will be celebrating Michelle Buckland's third award as Dispatcher of the Year. Michelle Buckland was hired as a Public Safety Dispatcher in April of 2003. Michelle is a superb dispatcher

with especially dazzling skills over the telephone and in tactical situations. Michelle is trained in Peer Counseling, Communications Training, Courtroom Testimony, Recognizing Mental Illness, First Aid, Emergency Medical Dispatching, CPR, Tactical Dispatching, and Crisis Communications.

Michelle possesses advanced skills in fire dispatching. Her greatest achievement during the previous year is aiding in the

successful implementation of resource based dispatching with our fire department. Michelle helped design the CAD upgrades, administer the program, write documentation, train staff on the dispatch and fire side, and troubleshoot the program once fully operational. Michelle has done a great deal to increase communications and camaraderie between dispatch and patrol/fire staff members.



The Dispatcher Appreciation Awards Banquet is the only event held in the four county region that specifically recognizes our public safety emergency dispatchers and call takers. Please take a moment to thank your local dispatcher for the continued sacrifice and efforts they make on a daily basis.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

by Captain Ron Lawrence

In our line of work, sexual assaults are an unfortunate reality of the job. As law enforcement professionals, we encounter sexual assault victims throughout our careers and work diligently to arrest suspected assault suspects and bring sexual assault cases to a successful prosecution. Many of us have been in positions to assist sexual assault victims, investigate the unfortunate crime of sexual assault and hopefully brought the perpetrator(s) to justice. All of us in law enforcement understand how tragic these cases are. April is designated *Sexual Assault Awareness Month* (SAAM). The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence (focusing on sexual assault and rape) and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. Working together during the month of April, we can highlight sexual violence as a major public health issue and reinforce the need for prevention. In Placer County, our official, State recognized domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy group is PEACE for Families. PEACE stands for: **P**eace **E**xtends a **C**aring **E**nviron-

ment, and offers a 24-hour crisis-line, emergency shelter and crisis response to hospitals. PEACE will provide in-person crisis intervention services for victims and families, assistance with restraining orders and assistance with obtaining emergency food, clothing and transportation. During 2009, PEACE for Families experienced 128 sexual assault callouts and since its inception has provided over 3,400 domestic violence and sexual assault services to families in Placer County. PEACE for Families has service offices in Roseville and Auburn, and maintains a shelter in an undisclosed/confidential location in Placer County. Sexual assault victims are left feeling embarrassed, isolated and find it difficult to know who to turn to. Together we can make a difference. Please join PEACE for Families in helping to get the word out that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and help to combat sexual assault perpetrators in Placer County.

**PEACE for Families 24-hour crisis line:
800-575-5352**



Training...One Way or Another by Sergeant Jamie Knox

Over the last couple of years we have found ourselves in the same boat as many other public service agencies. Our general funds have dwindled; our training budget has been shrinking, and we're all doing more with less. Like many of you, I am tired of hearing the words economy, budget, money, and housing market. However, as the popular saying goes, the show must go on.

POST requires most of our training, while other more obscure laws regulate how often we train (and in what subject matter) as well. The fact is that we will always have to train no matter what the fiscal climate is. Mandate or no mandate, training sharpens our skills, prepares us for the unexpected, and develops our wisdom as law enforcement professionals.

In spite of the flailing budget, many of you have come up with creative and frugal ways to get more bang for our buck. Some of you have been able to bargain for free tuition by hosting the class at our

facility. Others have found similar schools closer to our region that meet the required training objective, eliminating the need for overnight stays or out of town expenses. These gestures have not gone unnoticed. We can all do our part to save the City and taxpayers these necessary costs.



Within the last three weeks, a representative from POST stopped by to conduct an unofficial audit of our state mandated training. The visit reaffirmed how serious training is to our employees. Most of our employees were without 75-80% of the required training for this two-year period

(POST) which concludes at the end of the year. I am happy to report that as of now we are right back on track to meet our training goals by the end of the year. We have brought that number down to only 25% needing compliance. This results from all of your participation in the training program and hard work as individuals. Submitting the correct paperwork, attending training classes, and filling out those pesky POST rosters has paid us dividends. We are all receiving our necessary training, it is being properly recorded, and due to our diligence we are receiving all eligible reimbursement from the State of California.

So to all of you, I appreciate your commitment to training and dedication to excellence. While money is a factor in our training plan here, it is not the deciding factor. We will continue to find creative ways to meet our training goals and ensure that the Rocklin Police Department has provided the best possible training to our employees.