



Rocklin Police Department

Newsletter

May 2009



Rocklin Police Department

Vol 4 Issue 5

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



Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

Changing Times

As I write this article, email news alerts keep popping up notifying me that the layoff of 5000 State workers is eminent and the deficit is growing. By the time most of you read this, the May 19th special election will be over and whatever the outcome the State will still face huge deficits. Who knows where it will end or what our economy will look like when it does.

Here in Rocklin, we are struggling with making ends meet as well. Toward that effort, I tip my hat to the Police Officers Association and the Firefighters for amending their contracts to forego the scheduled raises next year. In addition, everyone's effort to economize has paid off. These changes and others will get us through the near future. But, as we all wait for things to return to normal one must wonder what *normal* will look like.

The future reality will likely not look like our near past. The record growth in California will most likely be replaced by no growth or declining populations due to a population fleeing the highest taxes west of the Mississippi. It is likely that wages and benefits will flatten out or decline, at least in buying power.

So is this all bad? Probably not in the long-run. The excesses of the past decade were unsustainable and it has taken this crisis to wake us up. Financial news outlets are reporting that people are spending less and saving more. That is good for individuals but not for struggling markets and retailers. However, the industries of necessity will survive and a more stable economy should emerge.

I guess the *good* news is we have job security in policing (which is

never really good news at all). Our industry is very necessary now and in the future. Crime continues to tic upward and in an effort to cut costs the State is planning to release tens of thousands felons from prison, while eliminating parole as we know it. It will be interesting to see how that plays out on our streets and county jails. So what will *normal* look like? Who really knows? But, I do think we will need some new colors on the pallet to paint that picture.



Captains Corner, by Dan Ruden and Ron Lawrence

On May 8th, we visited the enrollment ceremony at the California Peace Officers' Memorial in Sacramento. I often see the same old friends attending this solemn event, held in May each year during Peace Officers' Memorial Week. And every year the Governor, Attorney General and other notables speak to the crowds of officers, mourners and onlookers. But what changes each and every year are the faces of the surviving family members making the 'Walk of Honor' down the Capitol steps to the site of the memorial. The spouses and parents, the sons, daughters, department and family members who represent the 10 California peace officers who gave their lives in the line of duty during

2008, made that walk past the honor guard and the thousands of saluting officers, down to the memorial just across 10th Street.

Seeing their faces is always heart breaking to me. And having made that walk twice in my career, I can only hope that we

never have cause for another enrollment ceremony. The unfortunate fact is there will be another ceremony next year; as of this writing, five California peace officers in 2009 have already paid the ultimate price. We just don't know yet how many officers will end up on that list. There is an inscription on the monument that says, "*In the line of duty, I heard him say, 'My family now the price will pay.'*" So be sure to wear your vest, don't be complacent, buckle up and remember those whose people are counting on you. Your most important responsibility is to make sure you go home to them each and every night.





New Form Created to Remind Citizens to Take Preventative Measures, by Mike Nottoli

It's no secret that current economic conditions have caused more people to turn to criminal activity to supplement their "income." Like most cities in our region, Rocklin has experienced a recent increase in burglary and theft. Since there are more criminals out there looking for easy opportunities, it makes sense for citizens to take steps to reduce their own vulnerability.

Unfortunately, our experience has shown that many Rocklin crimes occur in part because victims make it easy for criminals to steal their property. Therefore, Rocklin Police personnel will soon be issuing Courtesy Crime Prevention

Reminder forms when they observe conditions that may lead to criminal activity. These 3"x5" cards will be used to remind citizens to close garage doors, secure bicycles, remove valuables from vehicles, and take other preventative measures. They will have an adhesive strip on the back so they can be attached to homes and property, and they will not require police personnel to make face-to-face contact with citizens when they are issued.

We hope these forms will cause people to secure their valuables, thus making it more difficult for criminals to operate in Rocklin.

COURTESY CRIME PREVENTION REMINDER			
The Rocklin Police Department has noticed the following condition(s) that could create an opportunity for criminal activity to occur:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bicycle or other valuable property left unattended		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vehicle left unlocked and/or with the windows rolled down		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Valuable property left visible inside of a vehicle		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Garage door left open	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____
Your safety and the protection of property are very important to us. Taking steps like locking doors and securing valuables can greatly reduce criminal activity. You may also consult our website for additional crime prevention information.			
Date: _____	Time: _____	By: _____	Badge: _____
	Rocklin Police Department Non-Emergency: (916) 625-5400 Emergencies: 9-1-1 Website: www.rocklinpd.com <small>RPD Form 09-02</small>		

"The leadership instinct you are born with is the backbone. You develop the funny bone and the wishbone that go with it" Elaine Agather

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS by Sgt. Chad

Close Encounters is a new section of the Newsletter designed to showcase the great work of the men and women of the Rocklin Police Department. During this period, employees handled 3,693 incidents. Although great work is performed everyday by everyone, below are a few incidents that stand out.

04/15 Detective Jantz and members of the Regional Auto Theft Task Force (RATTF) conducted an investigation that led them to the City of Lincoln. While conducting a probation search of the location they located a chop shop (location where stolen vehicles are taken and dismantled to be sold in pieces). Since the arrest of this suspect vehicle thefts in the area have diminished considerably. Nice work!

04/18 Officers Roemmich and Law were dispatched to the area of Rock Creek Elementary after a caller reported hearing a gun shot. When Officers arrived one subject fled on foot with a backpack. Several juveniles on scene advised that the sound reported was a water bottle bomb. With the assistance of Officer Hollis, officers located what appeared to be items used to make Improvised Explosive Devices. After further investigation the original juvenile that fled admitted to making them. The case was referred to the District Attorney.

04/16 while conducting patrol, Officer Gandy located a vehicle with minor vehicle code violations. Before Gandy could contact the occupants they left the vehicle and entered into the Heritage Inn. With the assistance of Officer Kolaskey the occupants were contacted. After a short investigation the Officers recovered a loaded sawed off shot gun and narcotics from the vehicle. Two of the occupants were arrested.

04/21 graveyard officers were dispatched to a vehicle that had just been stolen. The owner provided a detailed description of the vehicle and the thief. Officer Kolaskey located the vehicle on Rocklin Rd and followed it on to West I80. A pursuit ensued ending in Orangevale where the driver fled on foot. With the assistance of Sergeant Jewell, Corporal Handley, Officer Krempin and K9 Zeus, the suspect was found and arrested hiding under a deck.

05/03 Corporal Westgate along with Officers Hollis and Alway were dispatched to a silent alarm at Springview Middle School. While checking the school two juveniles were located. One was in possession of an Xbox 360 and several video games. Further investigation revealed that one of the juveniles had just burglarized the Teen Center by cutting a hole in the wall and removing the property he was still in possession of. Because of the quick response of these Officers, this burglar was caught red handed and booked at Juvenile Hall.

04/23 Officer Paxton was dispatched to a domestic violence. The caller reported that an ex-boyfriend (with a current restraining order against him) just broke into the house and was trying to kidnap his ex-girlfriend. The suspect fled prior to the officer's arrival. With the help of Detectives Farrulla and Davis, Officers N. Constable and Seawell, the suspect was taken into custody the next morning and booked into the county jail on several charges including stalking, burglary and kidnapping.

Police Unity Tour 2009, by Ofc. Pat Obrien

Beginning on May 9th 2009 in East Hanover New Jersey the 14th annual Police Unity Tour bicycle ride began, this was my 4th year participating in the tour. When we arrived at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on May 12th we had over 1200 bicyclist, over 100 motor officers and almost 100 support personal.

The primary purposes of the

Police Unity Tour are to raise money for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and to raise awareness for the Officers that have died in the line of duty. Our Motto is "We ride for those who died." This year we had Law Enforcement Officers participating from 27 different states and 1 from Australia. There were 35 rid-

ers; support personnel and motors from Northern California alone. We were able to raise One Million, Three Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Dollars for the Memorial Fund and to date; the Police Unity Tour has raised over Seven Million Dollars for the Fund.

For those that were able to donate money this year, I thank you.



Ofc. Pat Obrien handing the check to Craig Floyd who is the CEO for the NLEOMF

What's in a Name? by CSO Tracy Hedrick

While standing in the break room this morning attempting to open my Diet Pepsi bottle, I ran into **Detective Brad Alford**, who graciously assisted me in opening my bottle of "happy juice". I thanked Brad tremendously as I was rather impatient and was aching to take my first sip. I commented on what I would have done if he hadn't been there at which Brad responded, "Yeah, I help Gil open his too." As I was wiping the Diet Pepsi from my nose, Brad began to comment on **Detective Gil Farrulla's** many nicknames. **Captain Ruden**, who was making the morning coffee (yes, you read that correctly), could hardly contain his laughter and requested an article on the "many names of Gil". But first, in order to paint a complete picture, we must start with his given name and a brief history.

Gilbert Farrulla was born twenty-something years ago, somewhere on this planet (we think). "Gil" began his Law Enforcement career around the same time he registered to vote. Gil came to the Rocklin Police Department approximately 4 years ago and began to accrue a long list of nicknames based on his style of wrist watches, temperamental eating habits, traffic stops and towed vehicles, his softball abilities and a BELOVED Disney movie. Here are just a few of the nick names:

"Fufu", "Gilly" and "Fufi" were given when he wore his wife's powder blue watch to work, and made no effort to hide it! The name "**Tin Man**" was given because of his many traffic stops resulting in the towing of vehicles and a number of suspects who had to walk home as

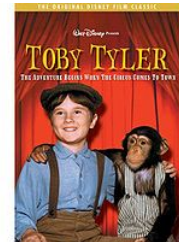
a result of Gil's tow.



"**Radar**" became a nickname he earned as a result of his several attempts at tracking down fly balls on the Department softball team (we won't say whether those attempts were successful). The nickname "**Sauce on the Side**" was given because Gil absolutely cannot have any sauce on his food. It is unknown what psychological damage could be done to Gil if he were to find ketchup on his cheeseburger.

The name "**Toby**" was given

to Gil at a young age for his favorite Disney movie, *Toby Tyler*, about a boy and his monkey.



We are still compiling a list of nicknames that flow with Gil's personality. We understand that he is somewhat of a "neat freak" and are currently accepting nickname recommendations that can be emailed to Brad Alford. To date, we have received 31 emails.....all from Gil's wife!

Honor Guard at Police Officer's Memorial Week, by Sgt. Tom Dwyer

On May 11, 2009 the Rocklin Police Department Honor Guard team spent the afternoon at the California Police Officers Memorial near the Sacramento State Capital. While meeting and greeting visitors during the afternoon Captain Dan Ruden showed up and snapped this photo. This year's event was the debut of the new digs and as you can see the officers look pretty sharp. They received many compliments from the public and other law enforcement agencies on the look of the uniform. It was a great opportunity to wear the new uniform during an event that honors the commitment and sacrifice of law enforcement officers all over the State of California.

I never dreamed it would be me
My name for all eternity
Recorded here at this hallowed place
Alas, my name, no more my face

"In the line of duty" I hear them say
My family now the price will pay
My folded flag stained with their tears
We only had those few short years



The badge no longer on my chest
I sleep now in eternal rest
My sword I pass to those behind
And pray they keep this thought in mind

I never dreamed it would be me
And with heavy heart and bended knee
I ask for all here from the past
Dear God, let my name be the last

External Commendations

On 3/27/09, **Detective Brad Alford** was honored with recognition and an award by the Placer County Child Abuse Prevention Council (now known as "Kids-First") at their annual awards luncheon and described him as "possessing the intrinsic ability to motivate team members and build peer relationships." He was recognized for his tremendous efforts and dedication to the M.D.I.C. (Multiple Discipline Interview Center) program.

On 2/24/09, **Officer Brandon Olivera** received recognition and an award from the Rocklin post of Veterans of Foreign Wars, and on 4/7/09, he received another award from the Rocklin American Legion Post 620. These awards were naming him as their "Officer of the Year," and were in recognition of his service, dedication and tremendous efforts during his five year tenure as an undercover agent in the Special Investigations Unit.

On 3/3/09, **Records Clerk Karen Bowers** received a positive comment card commending her for her professional and friendly service. The card specifically expressed that Karen was on-time for a Livescan appointment and that she was friendly and helpful.

On 3/3/09, **SRO Jay Newton** received a commendation from Rocklin School District Board Member Todd Lowell commended him on his cooperation and professionalism during an incident at Rocklin High School.

On 3/4/09, **SRO Jay Newton** received a commendation from Rose Corey who called saying he is "AWESOME" and that she is so happy that someone like SRO Newton is at Victory High to act as a second set of eyes and ears for their children.

On 3/4/09, **Lilly Sifuentes** received a positive comment card commending her for being friendly and giving useful information. The citizen was grateful for getting a "same-day" Livescan appointment and for being treated so nicely.

On 3/4/09, **Ofc Passadore, Krempin, and Montgomery** received a commendation from Rocklin High School Vice-Principal Mary Ann Knox for their professionalism and level of concern they displayed in their investigation of a case. Knox also commended **SRO Newton** for his ability to co-mingle and make friends with the high school students. Knox stated that she has the highest regard for SRO Newton and that he is a valuable member of the schools staff. Knox also commended SRO Newton for his ability to co-mingle and make friends with the high school students. Knox stated that she has the highest regard for SRO Newton and that he is a valuable member of the schools staff.

On 3/13/09, **Detective Spurgeon** received a commendation from an alternate juror on a DUI case of People v Richard Alex Johnson. The juror called to compliment Detective Chris Spurgeon on his excellent police work. The juror was upset that the defendant was acquitted in this case but believed that Spurgeon did an excellent job.

On 3/17/09, **Lilly Sifuentes** received a positive comment card commending her for her excellent service, friendly personality and for providing useful information.

On 3/19/09, **Capt. Ruden, Lt Freeman, Lt Milka, Sgt Martin and Community Programs Coordinator Nottoli** received a commendation from Gene Johnson, who wrote an e-mail to the Chief stating: We want to send a special thank you to you and your staff for the support the Rocklin Police Department provided for our first St. Patrick's Festival. Captain Ruden, Lt. Milka, Lt. Freeman, Officer Bob Martin and, in particular, Mike Nottoli all contributed to the success of the parade and first St. Patrick's Festival. Mike Nottoli's coordination with public works and organization of the police volunteers was simply indispensable. Also ...Mike who arranged the Children's ID booth - Becky made it our most popular booth and provided IDs for 82 children. The parade and festival went off more smoothly than any of us dared to hope. Thousands enjoyed the festival. Your department's support for the event was fantastic. Clearly, it could not have been done without you. Please extend our thanks and appreciation to your staff.

On 3/24/09, **Sgt Richardson** received a positive comment card commending him for his excellent service and friendliness. The card states Sgt Richardson was very helpful, polite, professional and informative.

On 3/30/09, **Lilly Sifuentes** received a positive comment card thanking her for being helpful and friendly.

On 4/1/09, **CSO Tracy Hedrick** received a commendation from Denise Orlando, who wrote a note complimenting Tracy Hedrick for her compassion and service to the public. A citizen had found Denise's wallet and notified Dispatch. Tracy responded, picked up the wallet, found a phone number for the owner and contacted her. Denise was sincerely appreciative.

On 3/27/09, **Ofc's Krempin and Passadore, and PSD's Hall and Henley** received a commendation from Lewis Harding II, Lt Col, USAF, who wrote regarding how pleased he was with the response from several Rocklin PD employees regarding their efforts and concern put forth during a missing person investigation. Harding had reported a missing person. The person was later "found" and returned home. Harding mentioned the fine work of Krempin, Passadore, Hall and Henley.

On 5/12/09, **SRO's Newton and Osborne** received a letter from a citizen commending them for their professionalism, care and assistance in helping with his teenage, runaway daughter. He expressed that both officers were a huge help to him and his family during a challenging time.

INTERNAL COMMENDATIONS

On 3/3/09, **SRO's Chris Osborne and Jay Newton** were commended by Captain Lawrence for their valuable service to the City of Rocklin and their mentoring of two juveniles during a minor decoy operation for tobacco sales to minors.

On 3/3/09, **SRO Jay Newton** received a commendation from Comm. Programs Coordinator Nottoli on his willingness to go out of his way in assisting the mother of an 11 year-old student who was heading down the wrong path.

On 3/4/09, **Ofc. Mike Gandy** received a commendation from Lt Milka. Which read: After a 5 mile pursuit, the pursued vehicle crashed into a tree in Loomis. Estimated speed at time of impact was 60 MPH. The driver and one occupant were trapped inside the vehicle. Maintaining his composure, Ofc Gandy approached the vehicle and noted that gasoline was dripping on hot exhaust system. Aware that the trapped driver would need to be extracted by means that only the fire department could bring to the scene due to the extensive vehicle damage, Gandy directed Ofc Murphy to retrieve two fire extinguishers from their patrol cars. Both fire extinguishers were needed to put out the flames. It took over 20 minutes for fire personnel to extract the driver, who was arrested. No doubt the fire would have spread and the results would have been catastrophic if Mike had not maintained his composure and displayed his quick thinking skills.

On 3/25/09, **PSD Angela Diehl** received a commendation from Corporal Dollar complementing her on "doing a great job in dispatch," "she coordinates and prioritizes calls expertly." Cpl Dollar expressed that whenever he asks her for something on a call, 99% of the time she has already done it. He stated she is very consistent and thorough and keeps a positive attitude. She seems to really enjoy her job. She sounds calm and professional on the radio and handles calls very well.