



Rocklin Police Department

Newsletter

June 2009



Rocklin Police Department

Vol 4 Issue 6

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



Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

Year Ends and Career Ends

Here we are at the end of another fiscal year. For most of you that does not mean much, but for those of us who have seen many come and go, it highlights the fact that time is *flying* by. To further punctuate the passage of time and the clamor of constant change, two of our members are pulling the retirement handle this month.

Congratulations to Lieutenant Michael Freeman and Sergeant Bob Martin for stepping into the next and hopefully fun filled phase of their adult life. Both Bob and Mike have been enjoying the benefits of their AARP cards and those Carl's Jr. senior discounts for a couple of years now so the time is right.

Since Mike and Bob have both been so very instrumental to this department, I am a bit sad to see this time come. As a Chief, vision only becomes accomplishments through the hard work of those within the organization that carry out the mission. Both Mike and Bob have made turning vision into

accomplishment a pleasure for me on many fronts.

Mike Freeman has been a key person in many of the major accomplishments this decade and definitely someone I called my "go to" guy for anything needing skilled attention. Mike became the first Administrative Sergeant and was assigned to a key role in the design and construction of our police facility from 2001 to 2005. On the heels of that *little* task, Mike took the role of CALEA Accreditation Manager for our initial accreditation. You think a guy would need a breather! Not Mike he has worked tirelessly up to the last minute.

Bob Martin became our first Traffic Sergeant. Shortly after the formation of a two officer traffic unit (a leaderless group exercise), I decided to assign a sergeant to the mission. Bob Martin, a motorcycle enthusiast jumped at the chance to feel the wind in his face on the job. Over the last five years, Bob has led the unit to become one of the best in the

State. In 2008, the Rocklin Motor Unit was awarded first place in overall traffic enforcement strategies and programs including speed enforcement. This was only made possible by the teamwork espoused by Bob.

These short paragraphs only talk about a few things I have witnessed in the past eight years. With decades of service I am sure many other examples exist. Fortunately, both Mike and Bob have agreed to work part-time to help us make it through the next year while their positions remain vacant.

Congratulations on making it to the finish line gentlemen.



Captains Corner, by Ron Lawrence and Dan Ruden

Congratulations to Communications/Records Manager Jennifer Collins for her recent completion of Leadership-Rocklin! Jennifer applied to attend "Leadership-Rocklin" over one year ago and after an interview process was accepted to attend the 12-month long program. The Leadership-Rocklin program is facilitated by the Rocklin Chamber of Commerce, sponsored by Drexel University, and meets four hours once a month for 12-months. The program teaches leadership skills and has speaker/instructors from City Council, County management, public safety, the school district and CEO's of major companies. The classes examine key

issues that affect business in Rocklin, South Placer County and all of California. Discussions are held about government issues, transportation, economic development and the media. Students also learn about education, health & human services, the arts, volunteerism, Rocklin history and the City's vision for the future. Throughout the one year course, students participate in a community project of their choosing, and through this experience participants are able to use the knowledge they have learned to work together and serve their community in a meaningful way.

Jennifer Collins' Leadership-Rocklin cohort completed their project by teaching local high-school students necessary job-seeking skills such as resume writing, interviewing and completing a job application. Their project was such a success that the high-schools have asked that their presentation continue into the future. A graduation breakfast was held June 11, 2009, at Whitney Oaks Country Club to celebrate their hard work and dedication. Congratulations Jennifer Collins! If you are interested in applying for the next Leadership-Rocklin program, contact the Rocklin

Chamber of Commerce at (916) 624-5743 or on the web at www.RocklinChamber.com for more information.



Jantz on Probation? by Officer Steve Ortmann

That was the scenario that Rocklin Police Officers faced in their latest training at the Roseville Shoothouse. They responded to the shoot-house to conduct a probation search on Darrell Jantz, (role player). They were given information that Jantz had been using drugs and there was a lot of foot traffic in and out of his residence. The officers formed up their team and made a quick plan. Once at the door, they were confronted with different threats and obstacles. Before making it in the house, shots rang out and officers went down. An eye opener for many of the officers that saw first hand that inattention and compla-

gency can lead to disaster.

One of my goals, as a Firearms Instructor, is to provide as many "real life" situations as possible. With our partnership with Roseville PD, I was able to obtain the use of the shoot-house. We were able to have a house layout with multiple rooms and simunition weapons that are similar to paint guns. The officers wore their full duty belt with inert pepper spray, tasers with no darts and simunition handguns. They were given instruction on clearing rooms, watching angles, checking the corners, behind doors and covering their partners. Once they were comfort-

able with that, they were given patrol like scenarios with role players. Some officers came out of the house clean and some had some paint to clean off. Overall, the training was a

success and hopefully all officers thought about our main goal: **To get ourselves and our partners home safe at the end of shift while protecting the ones we serve.**

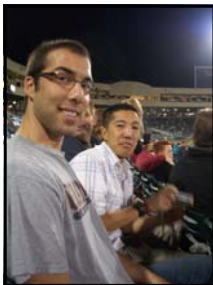


Christmas in June? Only in Sgt. Richardson's car! We wanted to thank him for keeping the Christmas spirit alive all year round!



pictures are courtesy of Investigations dept.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame! by Amy Lind



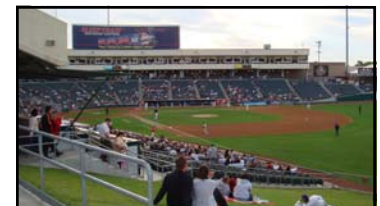
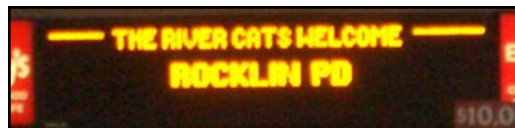
On Tuesday, June 9th, members of the Rocklin PD and their family members came together for a night of camaraderie and baseball. The Sacramento Rivercats were playing the Colorado Springs Sky Sox. The cool Delta breeze made for a comfortable evening. Members of the PD and their families filled 3 rows in section 102, right behind the visitors dugout (perfect for good old fashioned taunting). Can anybody hear, "hey batter, hey batter, hey batter s-u-w-i-n-g batter!"

Rivercat's mascot. Our department was "Welcomed" on the big screen multiple times much to our surprise. Rocklin PD is now famous in Sacramento, well at least we were for a few minutes.

Everyone enjoyed the evening full of friendship, families and baseball. This event was a fundraiser for a very special local teenager named Mariah Yanes, who recently had a heart transplant. Those that attended the Rivercats game had a portion of the cost of their ticket donated to Mariah's Miracle Fund. A special thanks goes out to the RPOA who covered and MATCHED that donation for each ticket. In addition, Thanks to Officer Mike Alway who organized the whole event.



The most exciting moment of the night? Natascha Pimentel catching the rocket launched hot dog from Dinger, the



External Commendations Received

Officer Neil Costa received a positive comment card from a citizen commending Neil for the great job he did helping her solve her situation. The citizen was very grateful.

Officer Melissa Murphy received a letter thanking her for the kind and professional way she assisted the citizen with her driver's license and vehicle issues during a traffic stop.

Community Programs/VIP coordinator Mike Nottoli and **Volunteer Dave Kemp** received a letter thanking them for handling a situation at his home and the care and attention given to his mother while they were out of town. The citizen stated it was way beyond the call of duty and wanted to thank the Rocklin Police Department for all they do for the community.

Officer Jerry Seawell received an e-mail from a citizen of Lebanon, Tennessee, thanking him for way her case was handled which resulted in the full recovery of money owed to her.

Public Safety Dispatchers Karri Hall and **Pam Henley** received a letter in appreciation of dispatch and police patrol efforts regarding her missing son. The citizen expressed *"I appreciate your professional coordination and patience with my non-professional call-ins. ...your efforts were very helpful to our family. I know this event was one of many you handled on your shift, and I suspect that you don't always get the positive feedback from your citizens that you deserve. So from us and all those who should thank you and have not thanked you for what you do every day and night in providing our Rocklin residents with a safe community."*

Sgt Trent Jewell received a commendation from Fire Chief Bill Mikesell, after Rocklin police officers responded to a reported fire in an apartment complex. The officers evacuated a building in the complex that was on fire. All residents were safe and Fire Chief Bill Mikesell commended Sergeant Trent Jewell for his coordination efforts in the evacuation process. His skills ensured that the fire department could devote their efforts to solely fighting the fire.

Animal Control Officer Merae Riley received a note of deep appreciation for her re-capture of 2 parakeets that escaped their cage. Riley responded to a call that the two birds had escaped and were flying around the house. The owner could not retrieve them because of health issues so she did the next best thing and called the Rocklin Police Department. ACO Riley captured the birds and returned them to the cage. The citizen expressed that she was deeply appreciative of the help that she received and wrote, *"Officer Riley is so nice! Nice matters!"*

Officer Roemmich received a note from a citizen thanking him for finding a cellular telephone in the parking lot of Bank of America. He was able to access the phone and locate the owner. The citizen expressed his thanks for Officer Roemmich's extra effort in tracking down the owner of the cellular telephone and getting it back to his wife.



"Retirement is like a long vacation in Las Vegas. The goal is to enjoy it the fullest, but not so fully that you run out of money." ~Jonathan Clements

CONGRATULATIONS TO LT FREEMAN AND SGT MARTIN,
BOTH RETIRING JUNE 26TH!



Reflection by Sergeant Trent Jewell

"We can and will never stop moving forward but we will not forget what has passed."

2009 – It began with an innocent comment: "It's sure quiet tonight." But the quiet was broken and innocence was lost at 0040 hours on New Years Day. An event that began as an armed robbery call changed the lives of many. We all know that there is nothing "routine" about any call in our line of work. Something did not seem right when the call came. A sixth sense, a gut feeling - call it what you may - but all was not right. By the end of the call at 0121 hours, four Rocklin officers and

two CHP officers gave up their innocence that morning and did not hesitate when duty called. Each one of them lost something that morning that they will never get back. A family lost a loved one, lives were changed. An event like this is hard to comprehend for some, and for others, part of what we are called to do.

It is human nature to run from danger but there are groups of people that are called to run towards it. Soldiers, firefighters and police officers are a few of the groups that are called to defend others when that danger comes. Police officers respond to situations where people are often at their worst. We see things that others don't want to see and would prefer not to

know about. We are all human, we all stumble and make mistakes but the Police are held to a higher standard because we are the caretakers and peacemakers that have to decide the fate of others sometimes in a split second or in a blink of an eye. Not many people want that responsibility but the Rocklin and CHP officers that responded that night took that oath and shouldered that responsibility. It has taken its toll because we are human. We have emotions and we all want to go home at the end of our shift to our families. No one wants to be put into that situation because the outcome affects everyone.

I will not forget the sacrifice

each officer made that morning and the loss of innocence that we will never get back. I was never prouder of any group of men than I was that morning. Each one is a hero in my eyes as they acted without hesitation to protect our citizens and each other. Each one stands proud knowing that we will each be there for the other whenever we are called. Gratefully few will know the bond that comes from an event like this. We may all go separate ways and end up on different shifts but we all carry the memory of weekday graves on New Years Day.

Thank you all.