

EXPLORER

The Park Law Enforcement Association Newsletter

SUPPORTING THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE KEEPING OUR PARKS & WILDLIFE AREAS SAFE

Volume 8

Summer 2003

President's Message



Captain Stuart Foland

By Captain Stuart Foland
Johnson County
(KS) Park Police
Department

As you can tell by now reading my President's message over the past year I don't

write about some hot topic related to law enforcement, terrorism, trends, recruitment, retaining quality and experienced staff, etc. I leave that for some other training within your agency, other readings or for others to include this information in our PLEA newsletter. I want to keep you informed about the people within PLEA, their role, what we are doing at present and so on.

Seems like yesterday we left the great little city of Covington, Kentucky for the 24th Annual Park Law Enforcement Association Conference. Every morning after waking up I would go over to my hotel room window and gaze across the beautiful Ohio River at the skyline of downtown Cincinnati. What a serene view with the Ohio River flowing between these two cities.

Our conference Host, Hamilton County Park District - Ranger Department provided all the amenities conference attendees could ever hope for and the personal attention was unsurpassed. The training sessions were very informative and valuable. Many thanks go to all the conference presenters. They were very well prepared and did an exceptional job delivering their program at the PLEA Conference. Special thanks goes to Colonel Rick Greer, Ranger Chief and Lieutenant Steve Newsom for all their hard work in coordinating this year's PLEA Conference and to all the Park Ranger staff. You will read more information about the PLEA Conference on the following pages of this newsletter.

Congratulations, is also in order to Colonel Rick Greer as the recipient of PLEA's Lifetime Achievement Award for

his significant contributions and dedicated service over the past 15 years. I presented this award to Greer along with Chief Park Ranger Steve Pokrywka from Kansas City, Kansas and Chief of Ranger Police Tim Curtin from Wheaton, Illinois at the PLEA Banquet on Friday, March 7, 2003.

Greer's contributions to PLEA are many and one significant change Greer wanted was to make PLEA financially stable, which he did and as soon as his vision was implemented. Greer suggested we have a PLEA member with a park law enforcement agency host the Annual PLEA Conference. At that time, certain staff at Michigan State University coordinated the yearly PLEA conferences and they did a wonderful job. Ever since 1995, park law enforcement agencies have hosted PLEA Conferences, allowing more income for PLEA, a win win situation.

Pre-conference activities included the all-important PLEA Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 5, 2003. Thirteen of eighteen Board members were in attendance, which includes the PLEA Executive Board and Board of Directors. It was a most productive meeting to say the least. Mike Burko, Chief of Rangers at Lake Metroparks Ranger Department in Concord, Ohio attended his first Board Meeting along with Roland Bringham, Park Manager with Utah State Parks at Willard Bay State Park in Bringham City, Utah. Roland is President of the PLEA State Affiliate in Utah, the Utah State Park Officers Association (USPOA). Captain Carl Nielsen, District Commander of the Florida Park Patrol was elected to the Board of Directors at this meeting also. Congratulations Carl!

PLEA also has two newly elected State Affiliate Presidents in 2003 that will join us on the PLEA Board. Sergeant Blake Frigon with the Johnson County Park Police Department in Lenexa, Kansas is President of the Kansas Park Law Enforcement Association (KPLEA) and Assistant Chief Gary Hoffman with the Ranger Department of the Hamilton County Park District in Cincinnati, Ohio is President of Ohio PLEA.

See **PRESIDENT** continued on back page

PLEA Officers

Stuart Foland
President
Johnson County Park Police

Larry Brownlee, Sr.
Vice President
Maryland – National Capital
Park Police

Fred McCormick
Treasurer
Minneapolis Park Police
Department

Steve Newsom
Secretary
Hamilton County Park District

Board Members

Steve Pokrywka
Wyandotte County Parks

R. Daniel Crone
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Dr. Bruce Wicks
University of Illinois

Stephen W. Thomas
City of Albuquerque

Bill Jacobs
Minneapolis Park Police
(Retired)

John R. Bryd, Sr.
Durham Park Rangers

Tim Curtin
Forest Preserve District of
Dupage County

L. Nathaniel Pinkard
Mill Creek Metro Park District

Mike Burko
Lake Metroparks Ranger Dept.

Carl R. Nielsen, Captain
Florida Park Patrol

State Affiliates

Kansas PLEA
Blake Frigon/President
Johnson County Park Police

Illinois PLEA
Carolyn Stark/President
Fox Valley Park District

Ohio PLEA
Gary Hoffman/President
Hamilton County Park District

Utah State Park Officers Assoc.
Roland Bringhurst

Newsletter

Norman Lopera
Editor
East Bay Regional Park District
nlopera@ebparks.org

A LOST PERSON INCIDENT

Continued by Kenneth N. Laidlaw

In review, a search and rescue event is any operation aimed at helping someone in trouble, someone who cannot solve his or her problem alone. The problem may or may not involve an injury, but the common denominator is that the victim is isolated. A search and rescue operation will eliminate the victim's isolation. Either the victim must be transported to the solution or the solution transported to the victim.

Park law enforcement agencies have a mission to provide a professional level of search management, leadership, cooperation, and search techniques to efficiently and effectively confine, locate, access, stabilize, and transport lost or injured persons within their parklands.

There is a need to recognize that **a search is an emergency** and it will be necessary to work cooperatively with other agencies to insure both a timely and adequate response to all incidents involving lost and missing persons.

The on scene Incident Commander can use the **Starting Search Checklist**, presented earlier. If the HASTY SEARCH operations fail to locate the subject quickly or produces clues that indicate additional search urgency, the IC should consider a transition to an EFFICIENT SEARCH operation. This realization might occur in a matter of minutes or after a couple of hours. Previous and in progress operations are recorded on the documentation recommended on the **Starting Search Checklist**. This information is then presented to a new IC and will serve as the foundation for additional resources and actions to build upon.

This **Search Transition Checklist** assumes an understanding of some concepts and definitions. Generally the definitions of terms will follow ICS and recommended guidelines from the National Association of Search and Rescue. Levels of search and rescue response, subject profile to determine search urgency, and a lost person questionnaire are available from NASAR sources. Samples of ICS SAR forms can be located in the Table of Contents at www.basarc.org and downloaded.

SEARCH TRANSITION CHECKLIST

- Assess the need to order additional Search and Rescue resources as appropriate. Keep response time in mind, what you order now, will not be in place for several hours.
- To activate mutual aid obtain a state's OES Mission # _____
- The new IC should begin a new ICS 201 and 202.
- Locate an Incident Base and a Command Post with better facilities.
- Continue confinement with personnel positioned in an attempt to limit the search area. Use roadblocks, trail blocks, lookouts...

Please see **LOST** on page 7

METHAMPHETAMINE



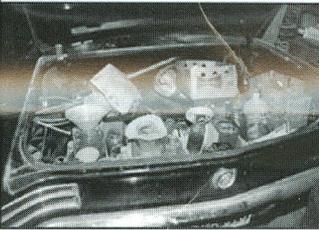
Methamphetamine (meth, crank, speed, crystal or ice) is a powerful, highly toxic, addictive drug that is illegally "cooked" in makeshift labs. It can be found in the form of pills, capsules, powder or chunks. It can be smoked, snorted, injected or eaten. Meth was developed from amphetamine, but has much stronger effects on the central nervous system.

Common Lab Supplies

- Plastic Tubing
- Mason Jars
- Propane Tanks
- Camp Stove Fuel
- Empty Pill Bottles
- Empty Cans of toluene, alcohol or paint thinner.
- Ammonia
- Starter Fluid
- Glass Containers
- Coffee Filters with Red Stains
- Funnels
- Rock Salt, Iodine
- Lithium Batteries
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Ephedrine or Pseudo Ephedrine Tablets

METH LABS FOUND ON STATE PROPERTY

In the last month alone, three meth labs have been located on state property; the most recent in a vehicle within a state park. Awareness and recognition of these labs before you approach the area is imperative. Chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine are volatile and toxic.



Meth labs may be set up at campgrounds, within vehicles, sheds or most any location due to their mobility. A typical meth lab consists of a collection of chemical bottles, hoses and pressurized cylinders.

The cylinders can take many forms, from modified propane tanks to fire extinguishers, scuba tanks, and soda dispensers. The tanks contain anhydrous ammonia or hydrochloric acid - both highly poisonous and corrosive.

Meth labs are frequently abandoned leaving explosive and toxic chemicals behind. Chemicals also may be burned, dumped in woods or along roadsides. Derelict labs many times will appear as discarded trash.

If a lab is suspected, maintain a cautious distance unless properly trained to respond to hazardous materials incidents. Labs present extreme dangers from explosions and exposure to hazardous chemicals.

Breathing the fumes and handling substances, can cause injury and even death. Handling contaminated glassware and needles may cause burning or poisoning. Containers may be in poor condition and unstable which may be extremely dangerous.

Entering the site after the arrests are completed, prior to proper site clean up may cause headaches, nausea, dizziness and fatigue.



These symptoms will generally subside in a few hours.

SUSPECTS INVOLVED IN METH LABS

Suspects involved in Meth Labs are felons, and may be very dangerous. If you suspect a meth lab and there is an individual present, call for law enforcement assistance immediately. A Park Patrol Officer should use caution and approach the scene with back-up when possible.

If you recognize materials that may indicate a meth lab, secure the scene from public access, and do not approach the area or touch any of the materials. Alert your supervisor immediately of the threat for further investigation. Allow specialized personnel to analyze the scene.

Provided for your safety by
DEP Division of Law Enforcement
Office of Public Education and Training

PLEA Annual Board Meeting
2003 PLEA Conference – Covington, KY

Wednesday, March 5, 2003
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

- I. I. Call to Order/ Roll Call** – at 9:00 a.m., by President Stuart Foland
Attendees: Stuart Foland, Larry Brownlee (Vice President), Fred McCormick (Treasurer), Steve Newsom (Secretary), Bill Jacobs, Norm Lopera, Tim Curtin, Steve Pokrywka, Nate Pinkard, Roland Bringham, Mike Burko
Past Presidents: Ralph Hays, Rick Greer
Guests: Larry Habegger – next year's conference coordinator
- II. Approval of Minutes** from Mid Year Board Meeting in Tampa Florida at NRPA Conference.
- III. Treasurer's Report**
Larry Brownlee passed out his report, which indicated beginning balance as of Sept. 30, 2002 of \$21,170.61 and an ending balance as of Feb. 28, 2003 of \$15,937.47.
- IV. Newsletter Editor** – Norm Lopera
Norm will be ending his term as editor at the end of 2003. Stuart Foland will take over as editor.
- V. PLEA Program Planning Committee Update** – Bill Jacobs
We have six sessions included in the 2003 NRPA Conference and they are Corps Of Discovery (John Nesbit - Chair), Safe Trails – Patrol with Volunteers (John Nesbit - Chair), Cursing for Sex? In My Park? (Ralph Hays – Chair), Nude Recreation (Ralph Hays – Chair), Slavery and the Underground Railroad (Bill Jacobs – Chair), Security for Large Events (Bill Jacobs – Chair).
- VI. 2004 PLEA Conference Update** – Larry Habegger – Oklahoma Parks Division – Oklahoma City, Ok
Larry is working with marketing director for location and probably can get a good rate at one of their state park resorts. It will be first week in March 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 2004 (See President's Message for new dates).
- VII. Update on State Affiliates** – Kansas, Ohio, Utah, and Illinois
Ohio PLEA is associated with OPRA Law Enforcement Section and Capt. Gary Hoffman of Hamilton County Park District is Chair of that section.
- Utah – represented by Roland Bringham explained the structure of his organization and the difference between rangers and conservation officers in Utah. They currently have 75 rangers which 62 of them are our members. Their organization donated a 2002 Winter Olympic Badge for a door prize to be given away at the 2003 PLEA Conference.
- Stuart reported Kansas alive and well and do hold training through the year.
- VIII. Old Business**
Future Sites: 2004 – Oklahoma, 2005 – Dupage County Forest Preserve in Illinois, 2006 - Minneapolis, 2007 – Utah?
2002 Scholarship recipient Tiffany Palmer – discussion on setting up account, certificate of deposit or something else. The money would be forfeited back to PLEA if recipient doesn't attend college. Steve Pokrywka is going to chair a committee on future scholarships and criteria.
- IX. New Business:** Future PLEA Conferences – brainstorming session to increase attendance at Annual Conference
Stuart said host agencies have been doing a great job of hosting, speakers, and financially supporting the conference. The discussion was focused on how to increase attendance by reaching out to new people and encouraging/enticing them to come. Larry suggested surveying agencies and organizations to see what would make it more of a priority to send representatives to the conference and include why or why they don't attend the conference. Another possibility was having a main line or well-known speaker to be paid for by PLEA and hopefully attract more attendance.
- X. Board Members Reports/New Board Members**
Stuart wanted to nominate Capt. Carl Nielsen from Florida State Park Police to be added to the board. Motion made by Pokrywka and second by Curtin to accept Carl on PLEA Board and was passed unanimously.
- XI. Adjournment** – 11:30 a.m.

Notes submitted by Secretary of Plea – Steve Newsom

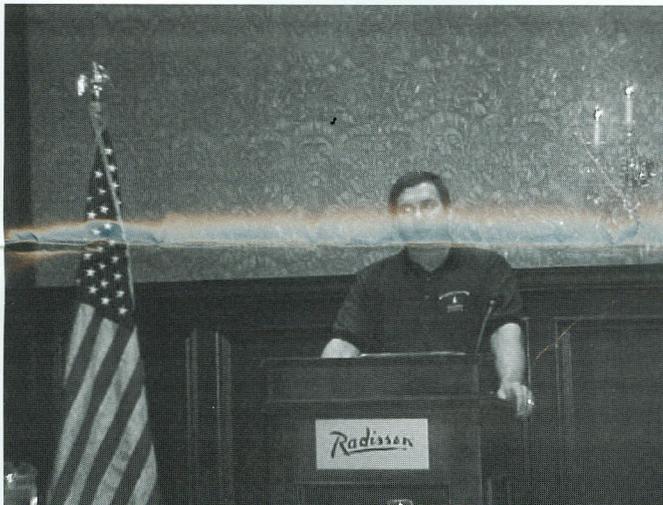
PLEA Workshop 2003

The first day we gathered was Wednesday for the Board meeting and luncheon. After exciting discussions on assorted topics the meeting concluded at 11:30 am and the board went to lunch. We dined at the Irish Pub on the riverfront and after lunch visited the Newport Aquarium or Omnimax Theatre in the Cincinnati Museum Center. The day ended with registrations and hospitality room get together.

On Thursday PLEA President Stuart Foland opened the meeting and past president and conference host Col. Rick Greer addressed the attendees. Thursday's speakers included Col. Thomas Striecher Jr. and Lt. Kurt Byrd from Cincinnati Police Division. Their topic was handling the media during a crisis situation. Lunch was provided with



Color Guard from Hamilton County.



President Stuart opens the conference.

an all American presentation by Vane Scott called "Many Faces of Old Glory" an historical presentation on the American Flag. The afternoon session was first responders to a domestic violence/rape victim crime scene. The speakers were Pam Sears from our local Prosecutors Office, Tracy Burnett from Women Helping Women Center, and Jeanette Porter from University Hospital. They day wound up in the hospitality room with many beverages consumed and singing and dancing from our local Hamilton County Rangers Choir.

Friday was a day on the road with visits to Paul Brown Stadium home of the Cincinnati Bengals and Great American Ballpark where the Cincinnati Reds first game in the ballpark is 3/31/03. The staff of these facilities addressed the group on safety aspects and general information about the parks. We ate in the press box at Paul Brown Stadium with a variety of local foods served. Bob Bedinghaus and contact person for the Bengals addressed the group and donated a

sign football from new Bengals head coach Marvin Lewis. After a short break we loaded the bus again and went shopping at the Bass Pro Shop who helped sponsor the conference. Shopping ended and we had the PLEA Banquet at Parky's Farm in Winton Woods a Hamilton County Park District facility. Guest Speaker Thane Maynard from the Cincinnati Zoo exposed us to nature and environment with a snake, armadillo, and alligator to touch and enjoy. A lifetime achievement award was presented to Col. Rick Greer for his devotion to the Park Law Enforcement Association and park law enforcement in general. This was the second such award given by PLEA since it's inception, "Way to go Rick." Also at the banquet our second annual scholarship was awarded to Angeline Brooksbank. The last of many door prizes was given away with the grand prize of a Glock Pistol doanted by Roy Taylor's Unifrom Co. The winner was Ranger Bill Leaman from you guessed it Hamilton County. Everyone at the workshop received at least one door prize



Lt. Kurt Byrd, Chief Thomas Striecher, and Chief Rick Greer



Board members pay close attention at Wednesday's board meeting.

and many goodies. The day concluded in the now famous hospitality room again with singing and dancing. We could hardly get everybody to leave but finally the food ran out.

For those who could get up or never went to bed on Saturday the conference had sessions on Deer Management and Control by John Klien and Sgt. Mark Brooksbank and Accreditation is it Right for Your Department by Lt. Norm Kandil and Sgt. Glen Smyth, all from Hamilton County Park District. The general session meeting wrapped up the day and President Stuart Foland spoke to the attendees and closed the conference.

In conclusion the Hamilton County Park District Staff had a great time hosting the conference. We would like to thank all who attended and hoped you had as much fun as we did. I would like to encourage all of you to stay connected with PLEA and persuade officers from your agencies to join at the very low cost of \$20. I extend an invitation to all members if visiting the Cincinnati area please call on us to help you enjoy your visit and show you around.

Steve Newsom



Members enjoy the closing banquet at Hamilton County's Parky's Farm.



PLEA members tour the Cincinnati Bengals' Locker Room.



PLEA members tour the new Cincinnati Reds' Baseball Stadium.



Board members at board meeting.



Hamilton County Lieutenant and Conference Host, Steve Newsom.

LOST - continued from page 2

- Protect clues. Direct on scene personnel to protect areas likely to contain perishable clues, such as footprints.
- Hold a formal briefing.
- Expand the Incident Command structure.
 - Establish a Planning Section to:
 - Establish **Probability Of search Area** using the Mattson method.
 - Begin planning team assignments for additional search teams that have been ordered on ICS Form 214.
 - Manage resource displays and situation statistics.
 - Assign personnel to complete initial investigation and follow up on clues found by searchers.
 - Debrief returning HASTY searchers.
 - Establish a Logistics Section to provide services and supplies required by the incident.
 - Begin planning for multiple shifts.
 - Establish communication nets and order equipment, i.e.: additional portable radios, batteries...
 - Provide nutritious food and drinks.
 - Arrange for sanitation needs.
 - Provide shelter and sleeping arrangements.
 - Staff the **Public Information Officer** position.
 - Prepare a media release.
 - Prepare a location to meet media representatives, and VIPs at the scene.
 - Staff additional ICS positions as needed.
 - Operations Section Chief.
 - Safety Officer.
 - Liaison Officer.
 - Appoint a liaison for victim/family.
 - Develop an evacuation/medical plan for when the subject is found.
 - Staff the rescue team and have them available at an appropriate location.
 - Review span of control considerations.
 - Rotate units out of field after 4 to 6 hours of search.
 - Consider demobilization and CISD potential.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHIEF PARK RANGER, CLEVELAND METROPARKS

On Thursday, March 6, 2003, Cleveland Metroparks Board of Park Commissioners will appoint Greg Loftus as Chief Park Ranger. Chief Loftus replaces James Whitley who retired from Cleveland Metroparks on January 10, 2003, following eight years of serving Cleveland Metroparks as Chief Ranger.

Chief Loftus currently serves as captain and field commander for the Park District ranger department. Loftus holds a B.A. degree from Cleveland State University, and has been employed by Cleveland Metroparks since 1985, when appointed as a Park ranger. The Cleveland Metroparks ranger department include 78 full-time positions (68 sworn officers and 10 support personnel) with a 2003 operating budget of \$6.1 million. "Greg Loftus has distinguished himself as a highly competent law enforcement professional who also understands the importance of conservation and natural resource management," said Cleveland Metroparks Executive Director Vern J. Hartenburg. Currently, Cleveland Metroparks is constructing a new headquarters in Rocky River Reservation for the Park rangers, which will be ready for occupancy in early 2004.

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

Two working committees were formed during the Board meeting, a Membership and Education Committee (M&E) and a Scholarship Committee. M&E Committee is chaired by Mike Burko and was formed to generate and implement ideas for increasing memberships, annual conference attendance and to be a liaison for future host agencies of PLEA conferences in identifying possible training sessions and keynote speakers.

The Scholarship Committee will be chaired by Steve Pokrywka to look at PLEA's current criteria for recipients receiving the yearly \$500 Newell S. Rand Jr. Memorial Scholarship Award. This award was presented to two prior recipients, one at the 2002 PLEA Conference in Bowie, Maryland and one this year in Covington, Kentucky. Each recipient plans to go to college in the near future and if not the monies will be retained by PLEA for future scholarships.

I want to update you on next year's PLEA Conference in Oklahoma with the Oklahoma State Park Rangers. I was advised recently that the dates for next year's PLEA Annual Conference will most likely be a week earlier than normal, February 25 - 28, 2004. When confirmed we will let you know.

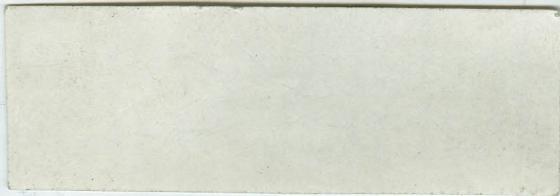
Beginning in 2004, I will be responsible for coordination and distribution of the PLEA Newsletter. I will be working closely with PLEA's current Administrative Services, Digital Graphiti based here in Lenexa, Kansas. Chuck Shelton and Gil Coddington will be assisting me with the Newsletter. If you have any thoughts or ideas concerning the newsletter, what we might include or change, please let us know at 1-877-PARK LAW or at webmaster@parkranger.com.

A reminder, the National Recreation and Park Association's Annual Congress and Exposition will be held in St. Louis, Missouri from October 22 - 25, 2003. PLEA will also six education sessions at this Conference, the PLEA Booth at the Exposition and PLEA's Mid-Year Board Meeting which will be held Friday, October 24 from 1:00 - 3:00PM.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Or call us at
1-877-PARK LAW

Visit P.L.E.A. on the web!
Discussion Forums, P.L.E.A. Merchandise
www.parkranger.com



17930 Lake Chabot Rd.
Castro Valley, CA 94546
Attn: Chief Norman Lapera

