

PARK LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION



26 Years of Supporting the Park Law Enforcement Community

2005 CONFERENCE- MINNEAPOLIS

THE LAND OF 10,000 LAKES AND 20-DEGREE WEATHER OFFERED NEW ADVENTURES FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDEES!

By David Palmer

The Minneapolis Park Police Department, Three Rivers Park District, Minnesota chapter of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and the Minnesota Department of Natural resources, welcomed the 2005 PLEA Conference Attendees to the beautiful state of Minnesota and a warm temperature of 26 degrees. We were honored to be your hosts for the conference and hope you had as much fun at the conference as we did.

The theme for this conference was "Riverfront and Natural Resource Protection". With all of the things going on in the world, we felt that as Park Law Enforcement and Visitor Services personnel we need to go back to the basics. One question asked was, "How can we better protect and service our parks to preserve them as a safe haven for future generations?" People go to the parks for sanctuary from the daily hassle of life and the worries of terrorism. In order for future generations to continue to have use of these retreats, we will need to plan and preserve today. We have been afforded the unique roles of protecting these valuable and sentimental places for everyone to enjoy.

Just some of the beautiful sights of Minneapolis that Conference Attendees were treated to!

PLEA Board at the Walker Arts Center- Cherry

The conference started out with the PLEA board meeting/luncheon at the hotel and outing to the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis. Many topics were discussed and new ideas brought to the table. The expansion of PLEA and how to have members become more active in the organization was discussed and a restructured education committee was formed. The PLEA Board of Directors is looking towards the future. They intend to reorganize our organization to reach out to our fellow agencies in Park Law Enforcement to join us together to better share and utilize our resources.

Registration for the conference began in the afternoon at the hotel with 49 registered participants and several family members/guests also attending. The travel arrangements to the hotel ran like clock work as Minneapolis Park Agent Brian Woodfill and Three River's Park Service Officers assisted guest with their transportation and registration needs. Michelle Snider from the MN branch of the NRPA directed the registration and did a wonderful job.

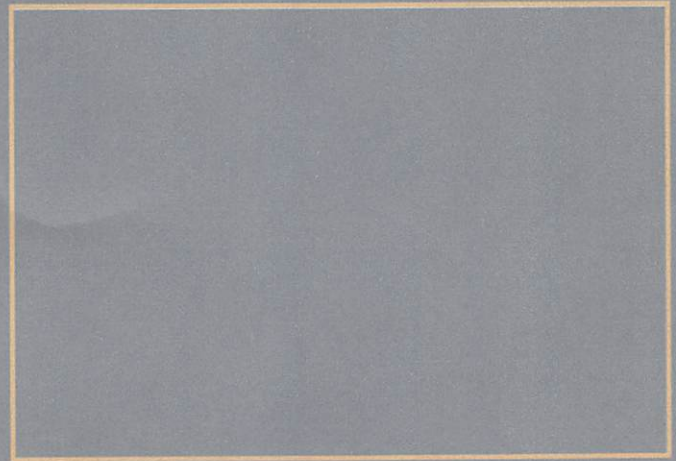
The Vendor Room was one to be remembered. We had a total of 9 sponsoring companies with 7 displaying their products for all to enjoy. Food and beverages were served in the room and everyone had a good time socializing with each other. Special mention should be made Minneapolis Agents Sarah Mann and Jeff Kirby for all the work they did recruiting sponsors for the 2005 Conference. We would also like to thank our main sponsors: Jim Burke of POLARIS INC, Ryan Johnson of BLUELINEGEAR.COM and Gina Byers of ANHEUSER-BUSCH INC. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. Their support was invaluable to making the 2005 Conference a success for all who attended.

The hospitality room was open nightly and became the great gathering place it was intended to be. MPPD Officer Anne Deneen volunteered her time had was a great host to all who utilized this social room. Many long talks and many long nights were held there. All who attended enjoyed the room and shared their stories of past conferences and adventures in Park Law Enforcement.

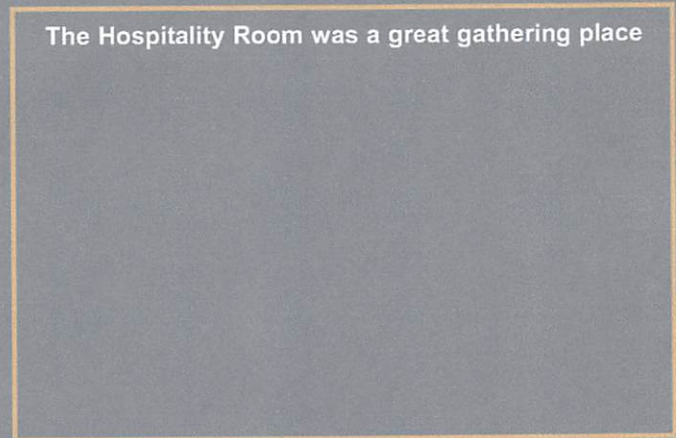
On March 2nd, L.E.M.A. (Law Enforcement Memorial Association) presented the colors for the opening ceremonies and Bill Jacobs was the MC for the conference. Minneapolis Park Police Sergeant Fred McCormick oversaw the day-to-day functions of the Conference while Agent Brad Schnickel help keep the conference schedule on track. We had a busy day with presentations from Walter Medwid with the International Wolf Center and MPPD Officer Robert Schnickel on "Terrorism in our parks".

We boarded a tour bus and traveled to Nicollet Island where POLARIS INC. sponsored a luncheon for PLEA along with test-drives of their products. While at Nicollet Island, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board Superintendent Jon Gurban and MPRB District

Manager Eileen Kilpatrick spoke about the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board-Park System. Tours of the Mill City Museum and Fort Snelling State Park were also included. While at Fort Snelling, John Anfinson spoke on "The Environmental health of the Mississippi River" while some attendees discovered snow for the first time. The Florida folks carried on the Minnesota tradition of making "snow angels" prior to leaving for the tour of the Mall of America.



PLEA Board Meeting and Luncheon



The Hospitality Room was a great gathering place



Bill Jacobs - MC



Color Guard



A Great Conference



Mill City Museum

Upon our arrival, Mall of America-Security provided a behind the scene tour of their operations. Following the tour of the Mall of America, people were free to tour the Mall on their own while others headed to the Target Center to watch the Minnesota Timberwolves attempt to beat the Golden State Warriors. The Timberwolves lost the game 99 to 93, but all who attended had a good time.

Thursday, March 3rd was another event filled day. Morning presentations were from DNR Conservation Officer Lisa Kruse on "Illegal Dumping on Park Lands", DNR Major Al Heidebrink on "Natural Resource Protection", and Gina Byers on "Law Enforcement Programs provided through Anheuser-Busch Inc".

Following lunch sponsored by Anheuser-Busch Inc, everyone boarded the tour bus and headed out for a tour of North Mississippi, Coon Rapids Dam and Elm Creek Regional Parks. This tour was guided by Three River's Sergeant Kevin Whitlock and gave people a chance to see some of the viewing pleasures Minnesota still has to offer. It also gave the Florida folks another chance to experience the Minnesota winter activities. Oh yes, they "bombed" the winter tubing hill at Elm Creek Regional Park! Three River's Park District provided the use of their new tubing facility for all to enjoy.

Three River's Officer Juli McCormick, Three River's Chief John Gunderson and the Three River's Park Staff hosted the closing banquet at Baker Park. We had a wonderful and relaxing time by the outside fire pit, the beautifully rustic decorations, and warm atmosphere of the Baker Park Lodge. A traveler through time played by Jim Cummings topped off the entertainment for the evening. "T.H.E. Plainsman" was a role-play character that told the history of Minnesota through the adventures of a person from the past. All who attended had a great time while Bill Jacobs had some hair burnt from shooting sparks! It was a wonderful last night of a fun filled and successful conference.

The last day brought some interesting information from FBI Special Agent Millie Kirby on "Eco-terrorism and Animal Rights Activists on park lands" and Minneapolis Park Police Chief Brad Johnson, Sergeant Joey Lash and Minneapolis Public Schools Head of Security Randy Johnson on "The working relationship between Park Law Enforcement and Public Schools". The day was concluded with the PLEA business meeting where the topics from the PLEA Board meeting were discussed.

Overall, we had a great time at the conference. We are looking forward to attending the XXVII Annual PLEA Conference hosted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Be sure to keep watching the PLEA website www.parkranger.com for future conference information or contact Florida Park Police District Commander Carl Nielsen with questions about the conference at carl.nielsen@dep.state.fl.us or by phone: Office (239) 332-6975 Fax (239) 338-2719.

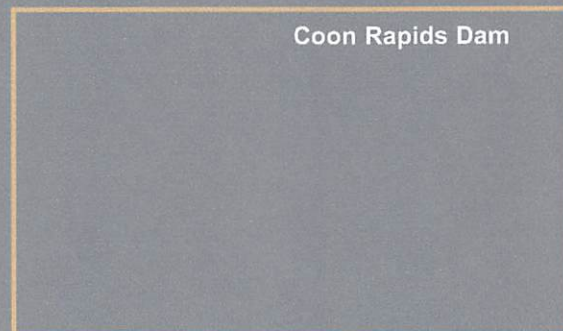
We hope to see you all there!



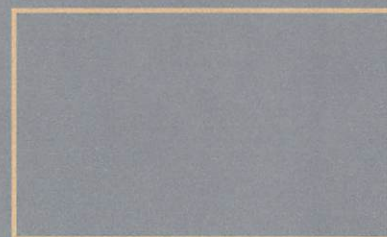
DNR Conservation Officer Lisa Kruse Presenting "Illegal Dumping on Park Lands"



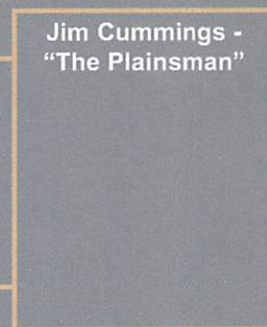
Winter Tubing Hill Fun



Coon Rapids Dam



Closing Banquet at Baker Park



Jim Cummings - "The Plainsman"

P.L.E.A. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings PLEA members,

I am sure that those of you who attended the 26th Annual Park Law Enforcement Association's Conference in Minneapolis found it to be outstanding. Our thanks and appreciation to the Minneapolis Park Police Department, Three Rivers Park District and the Minnesota National Recreation & Park Association on presenting a fabulous conference. The shuttle transportation, training sessions, meals, tours, and the Minnesota "NICE" hospitality, was great! Wasn't the "Tube Slide" just awesome? Sergeant Fred McCormick, thank you and congratulations on a job well done.

It has truly been my honor to be President of such an elite organization. As I mentioned in my remarks at the banquet, park law enforcement is unique in its responsibilities and mission. Having the phenomenal responsibility of protecting the nation's historical properties, thousands of miles of hiker-biker

trails, waterways, and rural and urban parks, all to ensure and provide a safe haven for the public to retreat to, relax, and enjoy nature and the programs sponsored by our park districts, makes park law enforcement one of a kind.

My continued commitment as president is to increase membership, increase the awareness of the Association among other law enforcement organizations, broaden our relationship with the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), increase PLEA sponsored training workshops and enhance our scholarship program. The Association adopted scholarship criteria's this session to award money to a deserving student majoring in park law enforcement. I am also happy to report that during the mid-year PLEA meeting at the NRPA Congress, we were honored to have their current President, Lori Daniels, attend our board meeting, committing her support to PLEA. This year we will increase our educational session at the 2005 NRPA Congress.

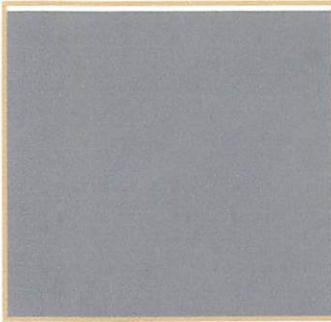
Let us continue submitting articles to our quarterly newsletter, keeping the association informed of what is going on in your agency. We still have a lot of work ahead of us and the challenge is exciting. Again, my thanks for a successful year and a great conference.

*Your President,
Chief Larry M. Brownlee, Sr.*

26 YEARS OF P.L.E.A. CONFERENCE SITES

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1979 College Station, Texas
Dallas Park Police
Texas A&M University
Texas Wildlife & Parks | 1994 Washington D.C.
Maryland Nat'l Capital Park Police |
| 1981 Navasota, Texas
Texas A&M University | 1995 Cincinnati, Ohio
Hamilton County Park District |
| 1982 Humble, Texas
Houston Park Police and Texas A&M University | 1996 Austin, Texas
Texas State Parks |
| 1983 Colorado Springs, Colorado
South Suburban Metropolitan Park District | 1997 Durham, North Carolina
Durham Park Rangers |
| 1984 Lake Barkley State Park (LBL)
Tennessee Valley Authority | 1998 Fort Myers, Florida
Florida Park Patrol |
| 1985 Lake Barkley State Park (LBL)
Tennessee Valley Authority | 1999 Albuquerque, New Mexico
Open Space Division |
| 1986 Lake Barkley State Park (LBL)
Tennessee Valley Authority | 2000 Oakland, California
East Bay Regional Park District |
| 1987 Grand Canyon Nat'l Park
National Park Service | 2001 Overland Park, Kansas
Johnson County Park & Recreation District
Unified Government of Wyandotte County
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks |
| 1988 Lake County, Illinois
Lake County Forest Preserve | 2002 Bowie, Maryland
Maryland Nat'l Capital Park Police,
Prince George's County Division |
| 1989 Bear Mountain State Park, New York
Palisades Interstate Park Commission | 2003 Covington, Kentucky
Hamilton County Park Rangers |
| 1990 Wagner, Oklahoma
Oklahoma State Parks | 2004 Ardmore, Oklahoma
(25th Annual PLEA Conference)
Oklahoma State Park Rangers |
| 1991 Cocoa Beach, Florida
Florida State Park Rangers | 2005 Minneapolis, Minnesota
Minneapolis Park Police Department
Three Rivers Park District
Minnesota National Recreation and Park Association
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources |
| 1992 Lenexa, Kansas
Johnson County Park Police Department | |
| 1993 Reno, Nevada
Bureau of Land Management | |

**Chief Jerry Venable -
30 Years Keeping Parks Safe**



**Jerry with Former partner
Sam Stanta at his 30th
anniversary celebration**

Rockford Park District Police Chief Jerry Venable had a huge turnout of well wishers celebrating his 30th year with the district - 18 of those years as chief.

"When I started February 1, 1975, we had five full-time officers, and I'm the only one of the original group still on the job," said Chief Venable, looking trim, fit and youthful as in photos of yesteryear, except for maybe a little graying hair.

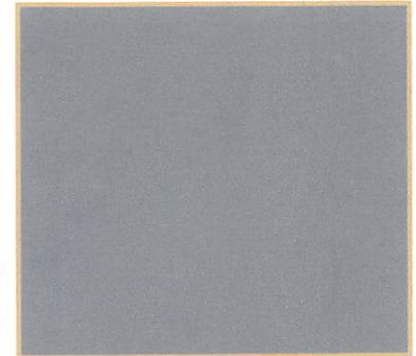
Today the park has 18 full-time officers, 31 part-time officers and 13 more in training. At one time the district had horse patrol officers. Today, they have three Harley-Davidson motorcycles. With over 180 properties to patrol, the officers need to be able to cover ground quickly and efficiently.

Venable has seen many changes over the last 30 years from "lots of crime" in the parks to "safer than they have even been today." The chief says there's always going to be a few people who want to drink or vandalize in the parks, but they also know they will be caught and penalized. He added, "I'm proud of the department for what it has become," noting the honor from the Illinois Park Law Enforcement Association' naming Rockford Park District the Agency of the year, 2004.

"There is serious competition for that award, and it's something to work toward in the years to come," the chief added. Venable believes the district will continue to grow and expand, and his agency will continue to keep parks safe for Rockford families to enjoy.

Don Brady- Rockford Labor News in Rockford, Illinois

**Col. Rick Greer -
Retires After 30 Years of Service 1975 - 2005**



Good Luck Rick!

After 30 years of service to the Hamilton County Park District Rangers, Col. Rick Greer retired on 1/26/05. Through the years Col. Greer served on many boards and was president of these boards in several law enforcement organizations, such as PLEA, Ohio Chapter of the FBINAA, Ohio Police of Chiefs Association, Hamilton County Police Association, and others. He was awarded Lifetime Achievement awards from PLEA, Ohio Attorney General, Hamilton County Police association and Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. Also during his tenure as Chief Ranger the Hamilton County Park Rangers were named best dress in 1993 and were the first park law enforcement agency in the country to receive their Certificate of Accreditation from the Commission of Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies in 1995.

The Park District and the Hamilton County Police Association both had send off parties for Rick. Both ceremonies were well attended and enjoyed by all. Ralph Hays and Tim Curtin were present as past presidents of PLEA at the second celebration On 3/13/05. Please extend big congratulations to Rick through e-mail or a phone call at his new job Capt. Rick Greer (Butler County Ohio Sheriff's Office 513-785-1060 or rgreer@butlersheriff.org).

Steve Newsom

PLEA Board Member Retires After 22 Years

Stuart,

I hope this finds you well and getting ready for the P.L.E.A. Conference in Minneapolis. I will be unable to attend this year as I am no longer an employee of the City of Albuquerque. That's right, after 22 years and a few months I decided to retire effective the first of January. I had been thinking about this since about mid October and made the final decision the first week in December.

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you and the other PLEA Members for being such good friends and helping make my job easier for so many years. It is a great organization and it was a great pleasure being a part of it. I have made many life long friends, you included. I am not sure how long I was a PLEA member but I do remember the first conference I attended was at Bear Mountain State Park in New York. That was a few years ago. Keep up the good work. I hosted the conference in 1999 and I still have fond memories of that.

On my last day at work, 12/3, the Parks and Rec Director and the Mayor moved the Open Space Parks Police under the supervision of the Albuquerque City Police. That was a big surprise for everyone. The plan is to keep the Open Space Unit together and have them continue to concentrate on the 30,000+ acres of Open Space Park lands. They have been assigned to the APD Captain, Mike Castro, that is over all of the special units (SWAT, Horse Patrol, Air Support, Emergency Response Teams, K-9's, Traffic, etc . My Deputy Chief Ranger, Ruben Griego, is now an APD Lieutenant and reports to Castro.

I have encouraged Lt. Griego to stay involved in PLEA and would ask you to consider allowing him to take my place on the PLEA Board of Directors. He was very involved in organizing the 1999 conference and has expressed a desire to host it again. Thanks for your consideration on this.

Tell all the Board members hello for me, I wish I could be with you one more time to tell them myself but it's just not in the cards. Thanks again for being such a good friend all these years and come visit me in Albuquerque again.

Stephen Thomas

Forensic Video Analysis Expertise Developed by Park Police Detective

Detective Giuffrida is the epitome of a team player and since becoming a detective 7 years ago has regularly assisted members of the Park Police and other local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies through his expertise and investigative skills. Detective Giuffrida has proven to be a valuable asset to the Park Police and the law enforcement community throughout the Washington D.C metropolitan area. His eagerness to take on the additional workload associated with these investigations has been recognized from both within the Park Police and throughout the local community.

Park Police Detective Apprehends a Predatory Sexual Offender Operating Within the Park System

The quick actions of Detective Chalvin Truesdale of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division in investigating a possible sex crime lead to the swift identification and arrest of a pedophile sex offender. In September of 2004, Detective Truesdale began investigating a crime involving a juvenile male victim who was assaulted by an adult male while frequenting a local park.. After interviewing the victim, Detective Truesdale was able to determine that repeated assaults had occurred in the park system. Detective Truesdale established surveillance of the park with Park Police Officers. Based on information developed through conducting surveillance, a suspect was identified. Detective Truesdale constructed a photo array that was presented to the victim. The victim subsequently positively identified the suspect. An arrest warrant along with a search warrant for the suspect's residence was obtained and on 9/15/04 both the arrest warrant and search warrant were served and executed by Park Police Officers. The suspect was taken into custody without incident. After Detective Truesdale interviewed the suspect, the suspect confessed to assaulting the victim on several different occasions at the park. Following a grand jury indictment, the suspect pled guilty to committing a 3rd Degree Sex Offense and is currently awaiting sentencing. As a result of this investigation, the suspect will be required to register as a sex offender in the state of Maryland. Through Detective Truesdale's diligence and thoroughness in investigating this crime, he was instrumental in removing a predatory sexual offender who chose to commit his crimes within the park system.

Park Police Establish Gang Initiative

With the rise of organized gang activity in the Washington D.C metropolitan area, Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division Officer Robert Labs and Officer Michael Murphy recognized the growing trends and volunteered to prepare and present gang awareness training to staff of the Department of Parks in Recreation. After recognizing the need, the officers put in countless hours, many of which were during off-duty times, in meeting with officers from

the Prince George's County Police Department's Gang Unit, School Resources Officers from local area high schools, and other law enforcement agencies to address the growing issues associated with organized gangs within Prince George's County, Maryland. As a result of these contacts, and through the officers' diligence and hard work, they created a two-hour power point presentation on gang recognition and awareness. The initial presentation was so successful that the officers were asked to repeatedly provide the training, ultimately training over four hundred staff members and volunteers from throughout the Department. Their efforts have increased the safety and awareness of Park Police Officers and Department of Parks and Recreation staff in recognizing and dealing with gang members. The presentation was a complete success and further enhanced information sharing and training which reflected positively on the Park Police.

Through the officers' development of a wealth of information and knowledge in intelligence gathering, a gang member identification photograph book was created. The book has been accessed by numerous allied police agencies in order to close out serious crimes to include a shooting in Washington, D.C.

Actions of Park Police Officers Instrumental in the Identifications and Arrest of Homicide Suspects

During the early morning hours of 03/06/04, midnight shift supervisor Sergeant Matthew Schmidt along with Officer Bryson Evans of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George's County Division were at a 24-hours convenience store when a citizen approached the officers. The citizen stated he could not talk to the officers in a public setting because he had information in reference to a homicide. Sergeant Schmidt and Officer Evans suggested a more secluded location to address the validity of the citizen's information. At the new location, the officers were joined by Park Police Officer Quenton Josey. The citizen relayed the following account to the officers: The citizen advised that he was staying at a local motor court motel not far away. While staying at the motel, he met a male and a female couple who were staying two rooms down from him. During a recent evening while drinking a few beers with the couple, the male subject asked the citizen if he could help him move a freezer. The citizen stated that he did not have access to a truck to move the appliance and the conversation ended. A short time later, the male subject told the citizen that he needed the freezer moved because a body was stored in the freezer. The citizen further advised that the subject did not tell him the specific location, only that the freezer was in a four-story house. The citizen then provided the officers with the tag number of the vehicle that the couple was operating. Based on the information provided, the Park Police officers established contact with the Prince George's County Police Department, the primary law enforcement agency for the area of the motel.

As the county police were being provided with a synopsis of the information provided by the citizen, Officer Evans through use of his assigned mobile data terminal / computer, discov-

ered that the tag number provided by the citizen belonged to a vehicle registered to a female who was reported missing from the city of Baltimore, Maryland. The county police made contact with the missing female's husband and discovered that his wife had been reported missing on 03/04/04. At that point, notification was formally made to the PGCPD's Homicide Unit who took over the investigation.

On 03/08/04 Sergeant Schmidt learned that as a result of the actions of his officers and himself that PGCPD homicide investigators had placed a GPS tracking device on a vehicle that was being driven by the couple. County homicide detectives maintained surveillance on the vehicle until it arrived at a house in Ellicott City, Maryland. County homicide detectives upon entering the residence located the body of the missing female in a freezer stored in the house.

As a result of the actions of Officer Evans, Officer Josey and Sgt Schmidt in diligently following up on information provided to them from want initially seemed like an incidental citizen contact, the officers were instrumental in the arrest and indictment of suspects involved in a homicide in Howard County, Maryland. Their performance led to the closure of the case and further enhanced the positive perception of the Park Police with allied police agencies. Their service and actions went well above the call of duty and possibly prevented further loss of life and provided closure to the husband and relatives of the victim.

Park Police Provide Security for Presidential Inauguration

On January 20, 2005 Park Police officers from the Maryland-National Capital Park Police participated in the 55th Inauguration of the President of the United States George W. Bush. With more than 3,500 local, county and state law enforcement personnel assisting with security related operations, the inauguration was designated a "National Security Event."

The Park Police sent two squads of mounted officers and a group of 10 specially trained officers as part of the Montgomery County Maryland Special Event Response Team (SERT). SERT is a multi-agency enforcement team trained to respond to various incidents in the region that may require crowd control. Park Police officers were assigned to the parade route, federal parks and at various inaugural locations thought out Washington, D.C. It was a historic but long, cold day for officers assigned to the detail with the officers working from 10-17 hours straight.

Park Police Provide Riot Control Support Related to the University of Maryland, College Park Campus

Park Police Officers from the Maryland-National Capital Park Police were recently deployed in support of activities related to the University of Maryland Men's Basketball program. Horse Mounted Officers were on hand to assist University of Maryland, Prince Georges County, and Maryland State Police officers quell disturbances related to victories over Duke University on 01/26/05 and 02/12/05. Mounted Officers were also deployed on 02/27/05, but the team lost to the University of North Carolina and no disturbances occurred.

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police regularly provide support to the University of Maryland Police Department when requested based on the likelihood of large numbers of students and non-students becoming disorderly after significant wins related to the football and basketball programs. In recent incidences, disorderly fans have started fires, caused property damage, assaulted police officers with rocks and bottles, vandalized police cars and looted businesses immediately following rival games. The deployment of Horse Mounted officers has proven to be a significant tool in dispersing large disorderly crowds.

PLEA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

At the last PLEA Board Meeting held on March 1, 2005, Board Members approved the following criteria for the Newell S. Rand Jr. Memorial Scholarship Award. Selected recipients will receive a one-time \$500 scholarship.

Requirements

- ◆ Applicant must submit current resume including education, work experience, and civic activity.
- ◆ Applicant must write a letter showing their interest in the Park Law Enforcement field and explain why they are worthy of the PLEA Scholarship.
- ◆ Applicant must be enrolled in a field of study related to Park Law Enforcement.
- ◆ Applicant must submit a letter of recommendation from an instructor or advisor in their field of study.

One \$500.00 scholarship will be awarded yearly at the PLEA annual conference. The \$500.00 scholarship will be released on applicant's behalf to the college and/or PLEA educational training of their choice. Proof of enrollment will be required.

Scholarship winners will have one year to use the PLEA scholarship.

All applicants will submit entries to the PLEA President by October 1st of the current calendar year.

PLEA Scholarship winners will be chosen by the PLEA Board or committee appointed by the PLEA board.

The winner will be the person whose entry best represents the future of Park Law Enforcement.

STATE AFFILIATE NEWS

KANSAS P.L.E.A. NEWS

KPLEA held its fall workshop on December 8th, 2004 at Pomona State Park. The workshop was titled "Dealing with Juveniles and the Law". Our first speaker was Melissa Boyer with the Juvenile Justice Authority. Melissa Boyer gave a detailed overview of the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Centers in the state of Kansas. Our second speaker was Jane Meschberger with the State of Kansas SRS Office. Jane Meschberger explained the role SRS plays in dealing with juveniles and how they can help law enforcement. Our third speaker of the day was Eric Godderz. Eric Godderz is the Osage County District Attorney. Eric Godderz explained how the law applies to dealing with a juveniles as a suspect or witness.

KPLEA's annual conference was held in Manhattan Kansas on January 23-26th, 2005. Brenda Jordan started off the conference with an overview of Sex Crime Investigation and Prosecution. Captain Troy Lane with the Kansas State University Police spoke on Patrol Officer Law 101. This was a basic law review for your front line officer. Dr. Jerry Jaax, Associate Vice Provost for Research at Kansas State University, gave a detailed overview of Bioterrorist Threats. Dr. Jaax is a nationally known speaker in the Bioterrorism field. Detective Pete Edlund with the Platt County Sheriff's Office finished the conference with Crisis Intervention: Dealing with a Suicidal Person.

KPLEA held elections for board positions during the conference. Rick Martin with Kansas Wildlife and Park is the new President. Terry Anderson with the Johnson County Park Police is the new Vice President. Jeff Ostlund with Kansas Wildlife and Parks was elected to Secretary. Chris Smith with Kansas Wildlife and Parks was elected as the new Treasurer.

ILLINOIS P.L.E.A. NEWS

Message from newly elected IPLEA President Chief Ward Davis, Decatur Park District

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me and re-introduce myself to those who do.

On Sunday, January 9th I took over as your new president. I feel like I am stepping into a job with mighty big shoes to fill because of the wonderful job that Carolyn has done over the last two years. I want to thank her for all that she has done in the past and all that I expect her to do in the future.

A little background on my experience in Law Enforcement. I was an officer with the Decatur Police Department and served from 1967 through 1995. During my time with Decatur PD I was a patrol officer, School Liaison Officer, Juvenile Detective, street supervisor (Sergeant) and left the department with the rank of Master Sergeant (Shift Commander). When I retired I worked for awhile as a Private Detective and created a Process Serving Business, which I still run on the side. I joined the Decatur Park District Ranger Department (read Police Department) in March of 2000, as the Chief Ranger.

I was told by my Director that one of the first things I should do was get involved in IPLEA because of the assistance and guidance that was available from other park departments. This is the best advise I could have been given and I have never regretted following it. I hope that under my leadership, IPLEA will continue to grow and be a resource for Park Law Enforcement officers through out the state of Illinois. I know that I have been given a lot of good advice and guidance from my fellow members and I hope that I can be a resource for others.

If you have any questions, comments or just want to "shoot the bull" I can be reached at the Decatur Park District (217) 422-5911 or by e-mail at Ward@decparcs.com or at our web site www.IPLEA.org.

Chief Ward Davis, Decatur Park District

FLORIDA TRYING TO FORM PLEA AFFILIATE- WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Efforts to form a state PLEA affiliate in Florida continue. Persons wanting to lend assistance or express interest in membership should contact via email either Kevin May, Jr. (kemayjr@bellsouth.net) or Eric Waters (EricW@oaklandparkfl.org). Kevin or Eric may also be reached by telephone at (954) 561- 6264.

www.parkranger.com- online discussion board, job listings, membership info & more!

2005 SPRING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Mike Burko

HR 173 - Anti-Terrorism and Port Security Act of 2005

Sponsor Rep Millender-McDonald D-CA

A bill to prevent and respond to terrorism and crime at or through ports, including Use of a dangerous weapon or explosive on a passenger vessel, and Sanctions for failure to heave to; sanctions for obstruction of boarding or providing false information.

Status: 1/4/05 Referred to House Committees

S 430 - Arrest Methamphetamine Act of 2005

Sponsor: San Cantwell (D-WA)

The Attorney General, through the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the Office of Justice Programs may make grants to States to address the manufacture, sale, and use of methamphetamine to enhance public safety.

Status: Committee on the Judiciary 2/17/05

HR 165 - Child Safety Lock Act of 2005

Sponsor: Rep Millender-McDonald (D-CA)

Requirement for locking devices on firearms sold by dealers.

Status: 1/4/05 House Committee on the Judiciary

HR 246 - Child Gun Safety and Gun Access Prevention Act

Sponsor: Rep Jackson-Lee (D-TX)

A bill to prevent children's access to firearms by raising the age for handgun eligibility to 21, enhanced penalty for youth possession, gun storage and safety devices for Federal Firearms Licensees, and responsibility of adults for death or injury caused by child access to firearms. Requires that a child be accompanied by an adult at a gun show and provides grants for gun safety education.

Status: 1/6/05 House Committee on the Judiciary

HR 47 - Citizens' Self-Defense Act of 2005

Sponsor: Rep Bartlett (R-MD)

A bill to protect the right to obtain firearms for security, and to use firearms in defense of self, family, or home, and to provide for the enforcement of such right. Also identifies findings for situations where police are not legally liable for failing to protect.

Status: House Committee on the Judiciary 1/4/05

P.L.E.A. SESSIONS AT THE 2005 NRPA CONGRESS

There were four PLEA educational sessions that were selected by the National Park and Recreation Conference Planning Committee for the October 18-22, 2005 NRPA Congress and Exposition in San Antonio, Texas.

The following PLEA programs currently are slated to be presented at NRPA Congress on a specified date and time during the Congress:

1. "Developing and Implementing Disaster Plans"

Description: How to develop disaster plans for parks and identity resources.

Speaker: Thomas O. Mefford

2. "Preventing Prairie Fires: Countering Civil Unrest"

Description: The dynamics of civil unrest, the management and prevention of collective violence.

Speaker: Chief Larry Brownlee Sr.

3. "Community Policing Through Coalition Building"

Description: This session will detail one agency's multi-faceted community-oriented -policing program.

Speaker: Chief Larry Brownlee Sr.

4. "Homeland Security Issues for Parks and Events"

Description: An update on how to address homeland security issues during event planning and everyday operations.

Speaker: Chief Ralph Hays

You can contact NRPA for further information regarding their annual conference or have any questions related to educational sessions can be found on their website at www.nrpa.org.

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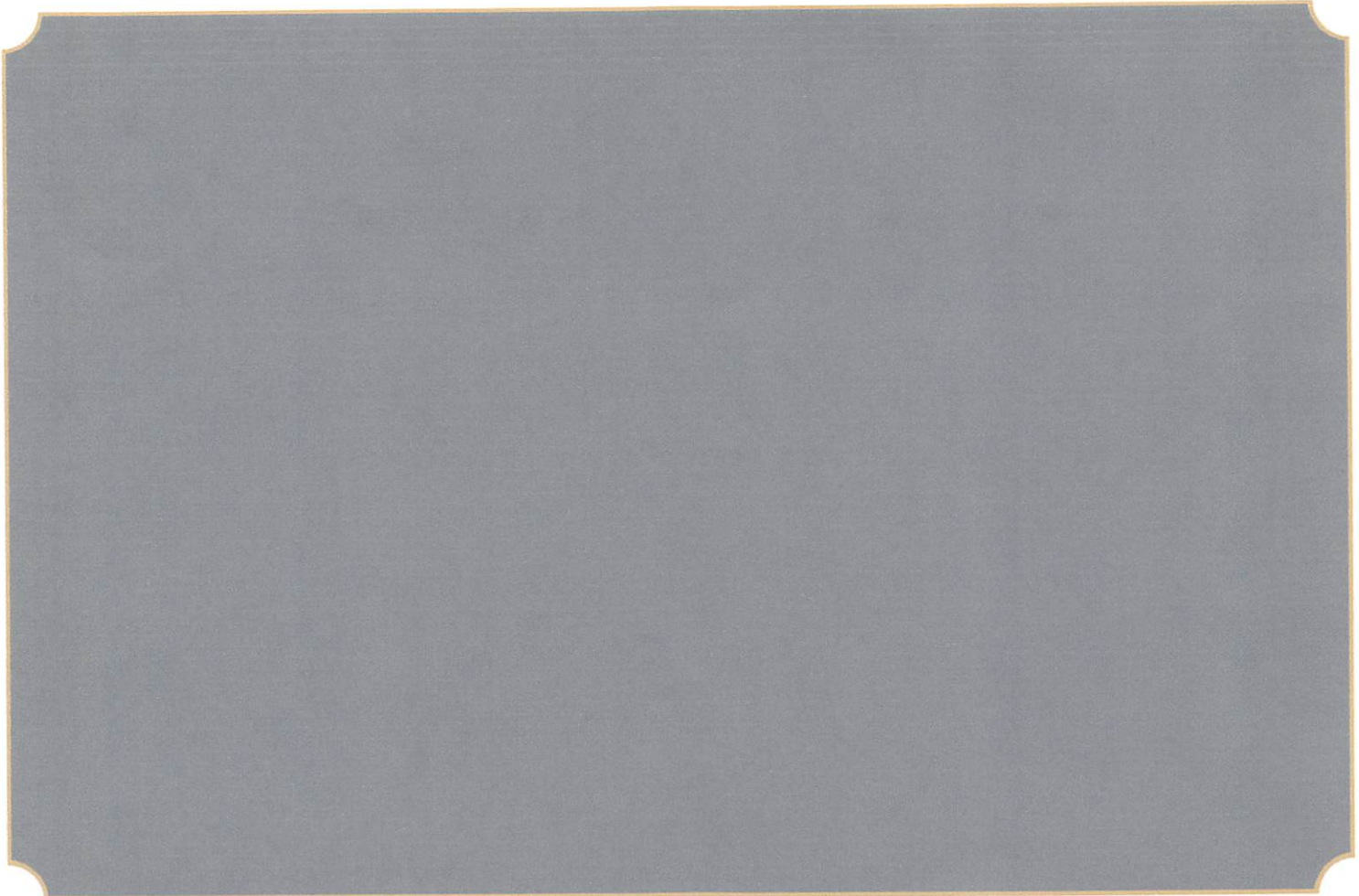
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P.L.E.A. CALENDAR of EVENTS

October 18-22

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