



Stars and Bars



Sheriff William M. Hutton

A Quarterly Publication of the Washington County Sheriff's Office

Fall 2007

Keith Radtke Receives Medal of Valor Award from the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association

By Sheriff William Hutton

The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association held their annual winter conference in Owatonna, Minnesota on December 2 - 4, 2007. Prior to the conference, the Sheriffs' Association solicits recommendations for awards from its membership for recognition during their annual banquet. This year the Washington County Sheriff's Office nominated two individuals for their outstanding contributions to the organization and the citizens of Washington County.

Reserve Deputy Pete Bjurstrom was nominated as Volunteer of the Year. Reserve Deputy Bjurstrom received an appointment as a Washington County Reserve Deputy Sheriff in 2004 and has amassed over 800 volunteer hours to date. Reserve Deputy Bjurstrom has been involved in all aspects of the reserve program. He is greatly respected for his knowledge and work ethic. Reserve Deputy Bjurstrom did not receive the Volunteer of the Year award but did receive a recognition certificate from the Sheriffs' Association. The certificate was presented to Reserve Deputy Bjurstrom at the Washington County Sheriff's Office Water Parks and Trails annual holiday banquet. Thank you Pete for the hard work.

Keith Radtke was nominated for the Medal of Valor award. As you are aware, Keith wrestled with an armed intruder in an effort to protect himself and the lives of his wife and three young children on August 24, 2007. Keith's nomination was unique because he is not a licensed peace officer. This award has historically been granted to a licensed officer.

The nomination committee for the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association selected Keith to receive the association's Medal of Valor award. The award was presented to Keith on December 3, 2007, at the annual banquet. There were more than 150 attendees present. Among the attendees included Jody Radtke, wife to Keith, and Keith's mother and father.



MSA President Brad Peterson, Sheriff Hutton, Keith Radtke and National Sheriff's Association President Craig Webre from Lafourche Parish, Louisiana

The award was presented to Keith by Minnesota Sheriffs' Association President Sheriff Brad Peterson (Blue Earth County) to a standing ovation. After the formal presentation was concluded and the banquet adjourned, there was a line of peace officers to shake Keith's hand and congratulate him on his heroic act and award. Keith continued to rebuff the kudos he deserves and continually stated that the accolades need to go to the responding law enforcement officers.

The Radtkes are truly an amazing family. They were very appreciative of the nomination and thankful for the help that the Washington County Sheriff's Office has given them. Congratulations Keith and Jody Radtke.

Recognition Ceremony

By **Commander Patrick Olson**

On October 3, 2007 Sheriff Hutton presided over the Washington County Sheriff's Office recognition ceremony. There were a number of awards presented. The event was well attended by peers, family and friends. The following is a list of individuals that received recognition for their outstanding performance. Congratulations to all recipients.

Medal of Honor

Deputy Kyle Olson

Meritorious Service Award

Commander Cheri Dexter

Life Saving Award

Susan Vermeland (citizen)
Robert Ver Straeten (citizen)
Deputy Angela Hanson
Deputy Charles Aldean
Deputy Breana Fry
Deputy Danelle Erickson
Correctional Sgt. Troy Jorgenson
Correctional Officer Nick Sullivan

Letters of Excellence

Sgt. Andrew Ellickson (2 letters)
Deputy Timothy Harris (2 Letters)
Deputy Christopher Majeski
Deputy Danelle Erickson
Deputy Michael Pearson
Deputy Marc Lombardi
Deputy Douglas Flory
Correctional Officer II Deb Hartmann

Unit Citation - Civil Unit

Deputy Mike Bonn
Office Specialist Amy Larsen
Senior Office Support Betty Lokker



Medal of Honor - Deputy Kyle Olson



**Meritorious Service Award
Commander Cheri Dexter**



**Unit Citation Award - Civil Process
Deputy Mike Bonn, Senior Office Support Betty
Lokker, Office Specialist Amy Larsen**

Life Saving Awards



Susan Vermeland



Robert Ver Straeten



Deputy Angela Hanson



Deputy Charles Aldean



Deputy Breana Fry



**Deputy Danelle Erickson
and son Cole**



**Correctional Officer
Nick Sullivan**



**Correctional Sergeant
Troy Jorgenson**

Letters of Excellence



Sergeant Andy Ellickson



Deputy Tim Harris



Deputy Danelle Erickson



Deputy Chris Majeski



Deputy Mike Pearson



Deputy Marc Lombardi



Deputy Doug Flory



**Correctional Officer
Deb Hartmann**

Chris Howard and K-9 Blaze Graduate from K-9 School

By Sgt. Doug Anschutz



Chris Howard and Blaze

On August 13, 2007 Deputy Howard and his K-9 partner Blaze began their career together at the St. Paul Police Canine training facility in Maplewood, MN. Blaze is the newest police canine to join the Sheriff's Office. He is a one year old German Shepherd and Malinois mix. Blaze was imported from Europe, where he was bred to do police work.

When Deputy Howard first met Blaze in the beginning of August he found out Blaze didn't like to ride in cars. Now this could prove to be a little bit of an issue for a police canine. Knowing he didn't want to be the first bike patrol canine team in history, Deputy Howard began trying to convince Blaze riding in a car wasn't so bad. Luckily for Deputy Howard, Blaze soon decided it was ok to ride in a car and started his training journey with Deputy Howard.

The end of summer was extremely hot so to help insure that the dogs and their human partners didn't get too hot the class started their days at 0530 in the morning. Upon completing an intense eleven weeks of training, Deputy Howard and Blaze graduated on November 1, 2007. On November 4, 2007 they embarked on what's sure to be a rewarding career as a canine team in Washington County.

Blaze is now ready to assist in tracking suspects and lost people, use his strong sense of smell to help locate evidence and suspects as well as apprehending suspects and protecting Deputy Howard.

The addition of Deputy Howard and Blaze brings the number of Sheriff's Office patrol canine teams to six. With six teams we can now offer as close to 24-7 service as possible to the citizens of Washington County. Congratulations to Deputy Howard and Blaze and welcome to the canine unit.



Sheriff Hutton, Chris and St. Paul Police Chief John Harrington



Chris and Blaze demonstrating their skills

Jail Emergency Response Team Training

By Sgt Roger Heinen

During the last week of September, the Jail Emergency Response Team (ERT) made a trek to St. Cloud to participate in training activities at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-St. Cloud (MCF-SC). Sgt. Roger Heinen, Sgt. Troy Jorgenson, CO II Gary Randall and CO II Nick Sullivan planned and facilitated this two-day training exercise. The staff at MCF-SC was very accommodating and they assisted Washington County ERT members with the training. Exercises included rifle, shotgun, less lethal and simunitions shooting, chemical munitions shooting and exposure, rapid building entries and completion of the confidence course.

The ERT had a great time while learning to work as a team and improve their tactics and proficiency in high stress situations. The ERT is made up of many new members who experienced their first off-site tactical training experiences. The Jail ERT would like to thank Sheriff Hutton, Chief Deputy Johnson and Commander Yetter for this opportunity to participate in this valuable training that will assist team members if and when they are needed for code responses in the jail.

Current Jail ERT members are: Sgt. Troy Jorgenson, Sgt. Roger Heinen, Sgt. Laura Waldon, CO II's Brian Hibbs, Dennis Rondeau, Mary Castaneda, Jennifer Blomquist, David Stumpner, Chris Thomazin, Kou Vang, Gary Randall, Branden Olson, Michael Hemquist, Vincent Scheele, Chris Vierling, Nick Sullivan, and Mike Morrissey.



Jail ERT Team



CO II Chris Vierling going through the obstacle course



Team Entry Exercise

Water, Parks & Trails

By Water, Parks and Trails Staff

As the season changes turning fall into winter, so does the Water, Parks and Trails unit. We began the year in January by taking on 22 new Reserve Academy recruits graduating them in May marking it the Academy's 10th year. As the new volunteers were finishing their courses, five new 67-day temporary deputies were hired and trained. Combined with the returning volunteer and temporary deputies, the Water, Parks and Trails unit prepared for the next recreational season.

At the same time the academy was running, Water, Parks and Trails deputies were conducting snowmobile and ATV patrols on the frozen lakes of the county and a few snowmobile trails. As snow melted the enforcement activities switched focus to the seasonal load restriction period and commercial vehicle enforcement. Patrols were conducted in a joint effort with Washington County Department of Transportation and Physical Development personnel to promote safety and prevent destruction of the roads during the spring thaw.

As the frost was leaving, patrols began on lakes and rivers. Volunteer and temporary deputies stepped forward with a tremendous effort for a safe boating summer and also much presence in our county parks. Midway through the



Water, Parks and Trails Deputies and Reserve Deputies

summer, Water, Parks & Trails responded with assists to Ramsey County and also Hennepin County with the I-35W disaster. WPT also handled incidents and shared duties with City of Hudson, St Croix, Pierce and Polk counties, the MN DNR and the National Park Service. We also helped with the relief efforts during the Winona County floods.

Towards the end of summer we again began the recruiting process for new potential personnel to assist with duties for the upcoming year.

The boats have been put away, snowmobiles gassed and once again Water, Parks & Trails prepare for change that will come.

Sheriff's Office Receives Donation to Purchase Tasers

By Sheriff William Hutton

Dwight Opperman of Dellwood, Minnesota, donated funds to assist the Sheriff's Office in the purchase of 27 Tasers. Two of the newly donated Tasers were placed in the jail. The additional Tasers were individually assigned in the Patrol Division to each road deputy. One of the Tasers has digital camera recording capabilities and is assigned to the Special Response Team. The Sheriff's Office is very appreciative of the generous donation by Mr. Opperman.

History of the W.C.S.O. Badge

By Commander Patrick Olson



As the research continues, it has been discovered that the members of the Sheriff's Office have worn several badges; each having a distinct style. The earliest badge that is known to have survived is a basic looking silver six point star. It is believed that this style badge was worn in the late 1800s to mid 1900s, possibly until the time Sheriff Ruben Granquist took office.

In 1943 Sheriff Ruben Granquist changed the style dramatically. Sheriff Granquist was employed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a Game Warden from 1939 until 1943. Once elected sheriff, the badge took on a look similar to those worn by the DNR from the 1930s through the 1950s. (The badge shown to the right belonged to Deputy Merle Loft).



It is believed that when Sheriff Ed Westphal took office in 1971, the badge took on the style similar to the one that is worn today; that being the 5 point star (the badge shown to the left belonged to Chief Deputy Robert Bell). There have been some minor changes made to the badge since 1971. The seal in the center is now in color and our names are displayed on top of the badge with rank listed around the state seal. The historical value of artifacts that have survived over the years is invaluable and the search for information and artifacts continues. If you have any items or information that you feel have historical value and would like to share or donate them to the Sheriff's Office, I can be contacted at 651-430-7858 or

Patrick.Olson@co.washington.mn.us

Wendy Tierney Retires

By Assistant Jail Administrator John Haugen



Wendy Tierney, formerly known as Wendy Munn, began employment with the Sheriff's Office on August 8, 1996 in the jail as an Office Technician which back then was commonly called a Valuables Secretary. In January of 1999 she was promoted to Sr. Office Technician which eventually became Sr. Office Support.

In 2000 Wendy was nominated for and received a Letter of Recognition for her outstanding work as a Sr. Office Technician. For three years, from 2000 through 2003, Wendy was responsible for the Jail Warrants Unit and she did an excellent job in that role. Over the years, Wendy trained a number of new staff on the ins-and-outs of the warrants area as well as the Jail Office Support Position. In 2003, Wendy was nominated for the Minnesota Sheriff's Association's Office Support Person of the Year Award.

Wendy retired on November 15, 2007 and a cake and coffee reception was held for her on December 6, 2007. Sheriff Hutton and Commander Yetter each spoke about Wendy's accomplishments while serving the Sheriff's Office. Wendy was a valuable asset to the Sheriff's Office and she will be missed by the many friends she has made at WCSO.

New Employees:

Communication Center

Julie Zabel

Classification

911 Public Safety Dispatcher

Effective Date

November 26, 2007

Jail Division

Matthew Odenbreit

Heather Jacobs

Ronni Lake

Classification

Correctional Officer II

Correctional Officer II

Correctional Officer II

Effective Date

November 5, 2007

November 6, 2007

November 26, 2007

Administration

David Heuer

Classification

Permit to Carry Inspector

Effective Date

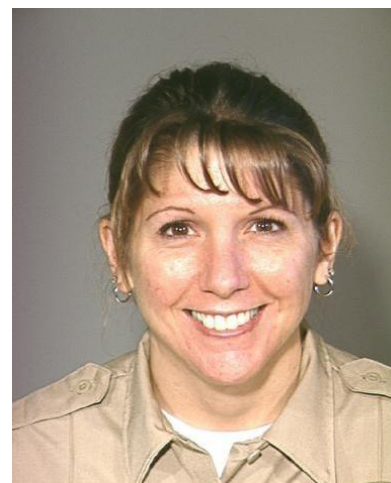
November 19, 2007



David Heuer



Heather Jacobs



Ronni Lake



Mathew Odenbreit



Julie Zabel

Explorers Compete at Duluth Competition

By Deputy Sara Peulen

The Washington County Sheriff's Explorer Post attended the annual Duluth Explorer Conference and Competition in Duluth from October 19-21, 2007. Washington County brought 2 teams with a total of 7 Explorers. This year's academics sessions were held on Friday afternoon and consisted of sessions on recognizing body language during interviews and the impacts of meth. Competitions lasted all day Saturday, with each team drawing 4 competitions of the 10 possible events. A banquet and awards ceremony was held Saturday evening.

Our Explorers took home 4 team awards and 2 individual awards.

1st Place: Field First Aid

1st Place: Traffic Accident Investigation

3rd Place: Traffic Stops

3rd Place: Domestic Crisis Response

2nd Place: Sample Police Exam – Dan McCarthy

4th Place: Sample Police Exam – Steve Bell

Congratulations to the participating Explorers: Randy Helms, Steve Bell, Nick Wronski, Breanna Dexter, Dan McCarthy, Brian Krook, and Eddy Clymer.

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