

27th Edition Newsletter

SPRING 1997

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Rick Pallister

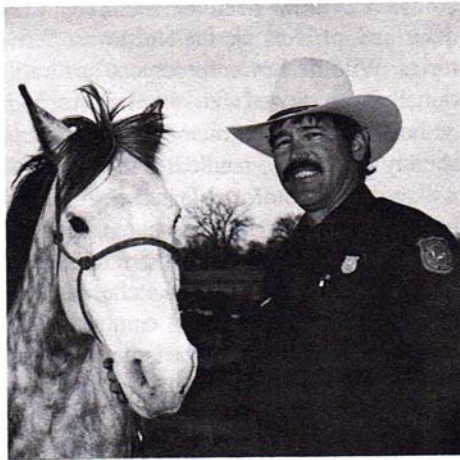
Hello to game wardens everywhere! I was told in the last day or two that large areas of the West and Upper Midwest are experiencing the worst winter since 1885. Conditions that are killing thousands of head of livestock in the Dakotas certainly bode evil for wildlife species, as well. Montana and Wyoming Wardens are faced with the unenviable tasks of dealing with bison and elk depredation and are sometimes required to participate in the killing of these animals. A North Dakota Warden reports to me that they expect to lose more than ninety percent of pheasant stocks. And so it goes across the continent.

Merryl Bustin and his family suffered the loss of their home to fire just before the Holidays. Winter has been plenty long for them, too. Those kinds of things make winter a very depressing time for wildlife professionals and I wish to hope for you all a kind Chinook wind and an early spring.

Winter hit the NAWEOA Executive Board when we were in Louisiana for the Winter Executive Meeting. It was extremely cold in the marshes but the kind hospitality of the Louisiana troops made it possible and even fun for us to complete our tasks there. NAWEOA saved a great deal of money by housing the group in the "fishing camps" of Mopey Schaumberg and Dee Geohagen in Shell Beach. Wildlife Agent Brian Clark and Major Keith LaCaze set this up for us and it was a smashing success. It is very helpful to me to have the Board in a setting that is somewhat free of distractions, and the work was completed in good order.

Being game wardens we are plenty able to improvise and find fun wherever we find ourselves. We thank the Louisiana Game Warden Association for a large contribution and the Louisiana Department for huge amounts of help with logistics, travel arrangements and tours. There were a host of individuals who really deserve our gratitude. Thanks, you'all.

We missed Merryl Bustin, of course, and regretted that he couldn't get out of the frozen North to join us. Merryl will be very busy reconstructing files, reports and replacing computers, etc. for NAWEOA as well as replacing his home. It is important for jurisdictional reps to correspond with Merryl asap



as we need help in finding out whether your state is up to date on dues.

The Board gratefully accepted a handsome check from the Saskatchewan Officers from the Saskatoon Conference proceeds. The numbers are available in the financial reports.

The Board was very happy to be able to continue the strong support for the Museum project and made a \$10,000 contribution to the fund. We feel very strongly about this project. Wardens everywhere in North America need to support this project and to help reduce the burden that North Dakota and Manitoba officers have undertaken. Search your hearts, your minds and your pocketbooks and help us make this dream a reality.

Some of you have asked me what our intention is regarding a Public Relations Officer as a Board position. It was my feeling and concurred with by the Board to have the Regional Directors take on this responsibility. Toward this end, it will be important for Jurisdictional Reps to ferret out information and issues that need attention.



NAWEOA now enjoys a certain reputation as a body of dedicated, educated professionals, widely respected by the public at large, and as such is often asked to comment or intervene in issues. I have often stated that NAWEOA should be a more issue oriented group and wherever the professionalism of wildlife officers is attacked, wherever wildlife law enforcement issues surface, and wherever the safety of officers is compromised, NAWEOA should enter the fray. What and where are the issues? We rely on you to bring them to our attention. In this session we tried to help the New Mexico Officers as they fight to keep their professional status as peace officers. In addition, NAWEOA has been contributing to the IAFWA Ad Hoc Committee on baiting of migratory birds. I will also sit on the board of the Center for Wildlife Information, a public awareness campaign which will help keep the needs of wildlife and wildlife law enforcement publicized. Wildlife law enforcement is at last being recognized as an integral tool in the wise management of wildlife. Let's work to expand our presence, as we have by becoming associate members in the Wildlife Chief's Association.

Another task that Regional Directors will take on is the commitment to, at least once in their terms, coordinate a NAWEOA sponsored training workshop. We recognize that administrators find it difficult to send folks from BC to Maine for a workshop so it is our intent to make them available on a regional basis. Do you have some training needs? Let your Regional Director know.

Another task I have taken on is the creation of a NAWEOA presence in cyberspace. I have corresponded with a number of officers interested in helping with this and expect that we will have an official web-site by summer. For the computer literate, I refer you to <http://www.hci.net/~decoydoc/NAWEOA/conference.html> which is courtesy of Tony Robinson, a North Carolina Wildlife Enforcement Sergeant.

Ian Anderson has worked very hard on a new NAWEOA brochure, which is at the printer and will be available this summer.

I hope to see you in Colorado Springs this summer. It promises to be a very productive conference.



REGION 1 REPORT

By Kerry Wrishko

There's never a dull moment in the life of a conservation officer. That's certainly true for all officers in western, arid, northern Canada. In preparing this report, it was evident that all jurisdictions had more than enough on their plate to fill several issues of the NAWEOA newsletter. I'll attempt to summarize their news into one report.

Rick Hoar says the British Columbia Officers have finally felt the downsizing and budget reductions of government. Vacant officer positions have been cut. Others have had to move to fill crucial vacancies and many clerical support staff were also slashed. Reduction in budgets meant a curtailment of field duties but not of responsibility as Crown Land management has been added to a CO's duties. Leaner times means low morale. They expect a real change to the priority of duties in 1997.

On the positive side, the British Columbia Officer's Association in partnership with the Yukon Conservation Officers, have begun publishing a magazine, *The Western Conservation Officer*. The first issue was well received and appears to be well on its way to success. It provides a direct voice to the public for conservation officers and vice versa. Contact Rick Hoar if you are interested in subscribing.

Greg Slatter, of the National Park Warden Service, states that after 1.5 years, a review has determined that consolidation of law enforcement in National Parks into the RCMP mandate will not occur. This was a big relief to the officers, who said time and again, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

In recent years, Parks Canada Officers have been enrolled in a two week law en-

forcement proficiency course at the RCMP training depot in Regina, Saskatchewan. The course is essentially a refresher/skills upgrading course for operational wardens. The course has now been extended to wardens and officers in the Northwest Territories. Wildlife law enforcement has traditionally been viewed with some mistrust and/or hostility by some members of northern society. Hopefully, candidates to this course will feel more comfortable in their roles and improve their professionalism to ultimately earn more respect from northern residents.

Brent Webster, from Saskatchewan, says a joint officer-management committee has concluded officers should be issued sidearms and body armour. An independent study by an outside psychologist supports this position. In recent years, officers have made several advances in obtaining equipment essential to officer safety. Obtaining sidearms and body armour is the next logical step in the employer's responsibility to providing necessary protection.

Saskatchewan Conservation Officers find themselves embroiled in the middle of what seems like an ongoing reorganization. Part of the reorganization will be a streaming of field duties. This streaming or specialization could see some positives or negatives, depending on what the staff numbers are at the end. Finally, their Officer's Association has incorporated a nonprofit subsidiary to support the government operated Turn in Poachers program. The subsidiary will be working on advertising unresolved cases, providing rewards to callers upon convictions and generally promoting the Turn in Poachers program. The possibilities for the development of this company are endless.

Colin Copland, of Environment Canada, Enforcement Section, states that officer efforts are increasing under the new Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and International Trade Act (WAPPRIITA). In only the second conviction in Canada, on November 27, 1996, fed-

eral game officers in British Columbia charged an individual for illegally importing a pair of Moluccan Cockatoos into Canada. The birds, classified as endangered, were valued at \$5,500. They were forfeited to the Crown. Otherwise, the officers have been kept busy doing migratory bird enforcement and new training initiatives. Another interesting case came out of Saskatchewan where federal game officers, combined with provincial conservation officers to charge and convict a migratory bird outfitter with ten counts of provincial and federal wildlife offenses. He was fined \$5,140, received a three-year hunting suspension and forfeited his Remington 12 gauge shotgun. In what is believed to be the first time ever in Canada, pursuant to the new Migratory Birds Convention Act, the court ordered the accused to publish the facts of the case, including the charges laid and the impact the offenses have on the resources being protected.

Darcy Beach, of Alberta, reports the integration of Fish and Wildlife, Parks and Water Resources continues forward, but not without problems. The Fish and Wildlife Officers feel their uniqueness and distinctiveness is being eroded in the amalgamation of the departments. While their uniforms will remain unique, it seems the integration is causing grief in promotional opportunities where park managers are being given preference over fish and wildlife officers. Alberta Officers are also unhappy with overtime provisions. Some are starting to work to rule and will only respond to after shift calls if cash overtime is authorized. A report is also in its final stages concerning officer safety issues, including the issuance of body armour.

By now, most NAWEOA members should be aware that a Federal Fisheries Officer lost his life on September 18, 1996. Dean Miller, age 43, of Prince Rupert, passed away due to natural causes while participating in a Swift Water Training Course. Dean leaves behind his wife Sharon and three sons, Jeff (16), Jamie (14) and Steven (12).

The Society of Pacific Region of Fishery Officers is looking at asking members to sign a contract in which the participating members will donate one day of pay to the next of kin in the event of the death of an active officer. It is an effective way of getting much needed funds to the family and as it is deducted from the officer's salary, you don't realize it is even gone.

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Brian Lacey of the Yukon repeats what is happening everywhere: officers are being asked to take on more duties. Inevitably, additional training will be required in the environmental field such as hazardous wastes release, legal sampling of same and subsequent court procedures. As well, as the federal government continues to download programs, Yukon Officers will become more involved in forestry, mining and land use in the territory. Still on training, Brian says the Yukon Officers participated with the RCMP in an Operation/Convoy Course. Although the course dealt with the contraband they don't often deal with, many officers still found it valuable in many ways.

The Yukon Officers will once again be offering a great auction item for the 1997 Conference. They will host two people for two weeks of incredible adventure in the Yukon Territory. In 1993, New York Officers Carol Drury and Les Wilson were the successful bidders of this trip and can attest to their trip of a lifetime.

Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia

and the BC Fishery Officers all have conferences or hockey tournaments coming up later this winter or in early spring. In Saskatchewan's case, they hope to have Montana and North Dakota Officers at their conference, being held in Estevan, in the province's southeast corner.

Finally, British Columbia continues to slowly plan for hosting the NAWEOA Conference in 2005. In the meantime, everybody is looking forward to Colorado this summer. We hope to see you there!

REMINDER

Please check to see that your dues are paid. Any individual or jurisdiction whose dues are not paid by July 1st will not receive a fall newsletter. **It is each officer's own responsibility** to report address changes as soon as possible. **Please....send these to the secretary-treasurer and not to the newsletter editor.**

NOMINATIONS OPEN

Elections for President (must be Canadian), Vice-president (must be American) and all U.S. Directors will be held at the 1997 annual conference in Colorado Springs. Nominations are now being accepted and you are encouraged to submit your nominations early. The Nominating Committee will not be soliciting individuals for these positions. It is the belief of the committee that any person interested in serving on the NAWEOA Executive Board will have enough interest to insure that their name is submitted in a timely fashion. Send nominations in writing to:

Art Redden, 3 Parker Place Crescent, Enfield, Nova Scotia B2T 1C8

NAWEOA AWARD APPLICATION

Name of Person to Receive Award: _____
(Surname) (First name)

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State/Province) (Code)

Jurisdiction: _____

Title: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Award Category (Check):
Award of Appreciation _____
Award of Valour _____
Lifesaving Award _____

Certificate of Award _____
Certificate of Retirement _____

Criteria: _____

(Please use reverse side if neccessary)

I need this certificate by (date): _____

Award to be presented at NAWEOA Annual Conference Yes _____ No _____

Please mail to the Secretary/Treasurer allowing plenty of time to process.

Make additional copies as needed.

Merryl Bustin
Secretary/Treasurer NAWEOA
R.R.#2 Whycocomagh, Nova Scotia B0E 3M0



REGION 2 REPORT

By Ian Anderson

Greetings from a piece of Canada where the weather outside leaves no doubt that it's winter! Our milder than normal fall has given way to extended cold and snow. Is it too early to think of spring?

Don Jacobs, of Manitoba, reports that they now have a new Natural Resources Minister. Honourable Albert Driedger was replaced with Honourable Glen Cummings. The Manitoba Officers Association had a very good relationship with Honourable Albert Driedger who had stated that he supports their bid for the issuance of sidearms. It is their hope that the new Minister will be of a like mind with the sidearm issue still in the fore front of the officer's concerns. The committee is still in place and will be meeting with the Department of Justice. A letter has been sent to the Honourable Glen Cummings to keep the talks rolling. Both Manitoba and Saskatchewan are in about the same position regarding the bid for sidearms.

Manitoba Natural Resources now has its first canine unit. Tim Cameron (Ashern District) is the first dog handler and has been trained, along with his black lab, Duke. Tim and Duke had a very successful first season. They travelled the province assisting on various investigations plus search and rescue work. Both the Manitoba Officers Association and the Department of Natural Resources are very supportive of this program. Over the last couple of years the Manitoba Officers Association, in conjunction with the department, has carried out a very intense media campaign. A professional producer was hired and produced four thirty-second public service announcements covering the natural resources officer performing wildlife

enforcement, fisheries, parks and forestry activities. These PSA's have been aired on several TV stations over the last two years with excellent public response. Adds have also been run in several Manitoba newspapers with excellent results. This campaign has put the Manitoba Natural Resources Officers in the fore front of the public eye giving them the much needed public exposure. Presently a 30 minute video on fire fighting in Manitoba is being completed. This video is also being produced in cooperation with the Department and the Officers Association. Manitoba is presently in the process of HIRING approximately a dozen new Natural Resource Officers. This is a rarity these days in most provinces but necessary in Manitoba as there were a number of vacant positions.

George Tardiff of the National Capital Commission of Ottawa, Ontario reports that 96 was a difficult year for NCC Officers. One half of the officers lost their fathers during the year (4) and strong rumours are that one more officer position will be cut as of April 1, 1997. Presently 8 full time officers work for both Provinces (Ontario and Quebec) in the National Capital Region. By comparison, in the mid 70's there were 16 officers for only one park (Gatineau) within the Region. Is it any wonder that the public say that "they never see us anymore". Their year ended on a tragic note as officers were called to help recover the body of a former Gatineau Park interpreter who had ventured out onto the thin ice of Meech Lake. Let's hope 97 is easier on what's left of their staff and their families.

Dan VanExan of Ontario reports that with the severe staffing reductions which occurred within the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in the spring of 1996, some officers were surplus. The good news is that all of these officers have now found new positions within a newly reorganized Enforcement Section. As of now, the Provincial Coordination Centre in Sault Ste Marie is almost fully staffed providing around the clock radio coverage, license checks, and vehicle information. The new Regional Units have been filled, for the most part with officers with expertise in Fish and Wildlife, Forest Operations, Lands, Parks, Petroleum, Aggregates and Fire. Officers will be responsible for all enforcement within the Ministry of Natural Resources. The field officers are still adapting to the welcomed return of Enforcement Supervisors. A similar position was lost

in 1992 but with the new Enforcement Section on track, in line supervision returns. A number of new, fully equipped, high tech extended cab pickups have been put into operation across the province. Eventually all officers will be driving a completely standardized vehicle with identical light packages, controls, radios etc., all part of the new image. There is also a newly created Game & Fish Advisory Board who oversees and advises the Minister on the expenditure of all license, fine and royalty monies collected. These are now dedicated funds to be put back into the natural resources, something new for Ontario. The Board is very interested in conservation officers and keeping them where they belong, working in the field. The Ontario Conservation Officers Association has had the opportunity to sit down and meet with the Board over concerns and have had input into changes to the Ontario Game and Fish Act and the allocation of moose tags. There is some concern with the second phase of staff reductions, which is to occur this spring. The Minister is still committed to maintaining the number of conservation officer badges. This has caused some real dissension with other staff who are being impacted. There's talk of another 25% reduction to all government staff to further reduce the deficit. In September/October 1996, Ontario Region, together with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources hosted the third National Covert Operators and Cover Team Course for Natural Resources Law Enforcement personnel. A total of eighteen candidates completed this past course, thereby bringing the total pool of trained national operators to fifty-seven. The officers from Environment Canada's Wildlife Division who attended the 1996 NAWEOA Conference that the Saskatchewan Officers Association hosted report a spectacular event. I was sorry to have missed the conference, but the birth of my second child, Mitchell James, was worth it. From what I've seen of the Colorado agenda, the 1997 conference promises to be very enjoyable as well.

Richard Labossiere from Environment Canada, Wildlife Division in Manitoba reports that a large die-off of birds occurred due to Avian Botulism at Whitewater Lake. His office was involved in the cleanup with a total of 116,000 dead birds picked up in a cleanup effort from July 8 to September 17, 1996. In August their officers put on a Migratory Bird training course at "D" Division

headquarters in Winnipeg. A one-week ID and Legislation course put on for both the RCMP and DNR. On October 1st, Winnipeg Wildlife Officers Whitney and Labossiere, in an undercover capacity, purchased 100 lbs of walleye fillets from a commercial fisherman in Northwest Ontario. The investigation involved undercover officers making contact with a suspected violator during the fall of 1995. The initial contact, as well as two other contacts in 1996, resulted in large quantities of walleye fillets being purchased. The results of the operation provided Ontario officers with the grounds to obtain a search warrant which was executed at the suspects fishing camp. A total of 5 charges have been laid under provincial legislation. On Monday, October 14th, a joint forces road block was held in the Lake Francis area of the province. A total of 27 Natural Resources Officers, 2 Federal Game Officers and 3 RCMP members took part in the eight-hour road block. A total of 133 vehicles were inspected which resulted in 19 charges laid and 14 warnings issued for various wildlife infractions.

Bob Reside, of Parks Canada, reports that the National Park Warden Association is slowly maturing as preparations are made to have the Association's first elections this spring. A Terms of Reference is being developed and many activities will soon be delegated to various committees. The NPWA is now recognized by Parks Canada Headquarters and will be contributing to the Parks Canada Law Enforcement Strategic Direction that is being formulated. Stronger links with the International Ranger Federation and the Association of National Park Rangers are being established with the NPWA. The NPWA has officially taken over the liaison function with the NAWEOA from Ivan Phillips, who was the Parks Canada representative since NAWEOA inception. Though membership fees are still being paid by Parks Canada Headquarters, the NPWA will eventually take over this responsibility. The NPWA had a good showing at NAWEOA '96 Conference in Saskatoon with 22 Park Wardens in attendance. The Parks Canada West team showed what they're made of by winning the Warden Games (our sympathy to the CWS!). Thanks to the assistance and dedication of Rod Snuth and Ivan Phillips the NPWA now has its own webpage. Ivan is also working with NAWEOA to develop their homepage. Check out the NPWA in-

formation and the promotional items available: <http://www.ns.sympatico.ca/rdsmith/npwamain.htm>

All national park wardens in Ontario have received appointments as Ontario Deputy Conservation Officers. This will assist wardens working in National Parks with non-gazetted lands and in areas adjacent to the Park sites. Prior to this only individual appointments were made. Parks Canada has experienced significant cuts as it implemented the second phase of its budget reduction strategy. On average each National Park in Ontario experienced an 8.9% reduction after the initial reductions were reevaluated and reduced by approximately 50%. These cuts are in addition to losses resulting from the end of the Green Plan funding which will end some law enforcement and ecosystem management positions. Parks Canada has once again been reorganized into Parks Canada East and Parks Canada West with the division occurring at Ontario (east) and Manitoba (west). Park sites are now referred to as Field Units. However, Parks Canada has become more autonomous within the Department of Canadian Heritage. It is expected that Parks Canada will be given Special Agency status within the Federal Government in the spring which will once again realign how business is conducted. Mark McIntyre, at Georgian Bay Islands National Park, is completing the latest upgrades to the MILEPIUS (occurrence) program. The program was developed by Park Wardens at the Mountain parks in Alberta and BC a couple of years ago and has since gone through numerous revisions to make it compatible for all regions. This program is under review and will likely become the national standard in the near future. Pukaskwa National Park hosted the St. John Ambulance

Advanced First Aid Course for Ontario National Parks in December. This course and the Wilderness First Aid course are standard for National Park Wardens in Ontario. Georgian Bay Islands National Park will be conducting an ice rescue course this winter. It is hoped that the course will be made available to other Park Wardens in Ontario Region once each site purchases the appropriate rescue equipment. Park Wardens from Bruce Peninsula National Park participated in an officer exchange with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources on Manitoulin Island this fall. It was an excellent opportunity to work with provincial colleagues and to share resources. Pukaskwa National Park Wardens conducted law enforcement operations at Fort St Joseph National Park on St Joseph Island near Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, during the fall deer hunt. Activity around the Park was low but Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources observed an increase in violations resulting from a public perception that there are fewer conservation officers around due to the ongoing rash of provincial cutbacks, and thus a lower probability of detection. Park wardens at the Bruce Peninsula National Park use the Federal Arbitration Process and received a favourable decision regarding illegal logging that occurred on land within the Park. Not all lands in this Park are protected under the National Parks Act, so wardens must be creative in their law enforcement activities. The Park has also completed its Law Enforcement Level of Service Review and is implementing the approved Law Enforcement Plan.

In closing my report, this years conference in Colorado should prove to be a popular destination for a lot of game wardens and their families. Book early and I'll see you there!

NAWEOA DUES RATE FOR JURISDICTIONS

Number of Officers per Jurisdiction	Dues
20 to 50	\$ 200
51 to 100	\$ 300
101 to 150	\$ 400
151 to 200	\$ 500
201 to 250	\$ 600
251 to 300	\$ 700
301 to 350	\$ 800
351 to 400	\$ 900
401+	\$1000



REGION 3 REPORT

By Michael Maillet

This is my first report as Region 3 Director. My name is Michael Maillet and I have worked as a Game Warden for the past 21 years in the St. Stephen, New Brunswick area. My involvement with NAWEOA began in 1993 when I was sponsored by my Department to attend the NAWEOA Conference in South Dakota. Prior to becoming Director I was Jurisdictional Representative for New Brunswick. I have also taken the task of distributing the NAWEOA Newsletter for Canada. I would like to thank everyone who supported me during the election of Region 3 Director. It is indeed an honor and privilege to work for this great organization. I would like to thank the past Region 3 Director Richard Kingston for the excellent job he has done for the organization.

As reports come in from various agencies in Region 3, it is obvious that the theme of the day is restructuring, downsizing, and added responsibilities.

Roland Richard of Prince Edward Island reports that conservation officers are now under a new section called Investigation and Enforcement, and a new Department called Department of Fisheries and Environment. This section includes a Chief Conservation Officer, Training and Investigation Specialist, and 7 Conservation Officers. Five conservation officers recently took part in a Search and Rescue Course put on by the Alberton RCMP. A Prince County silviculture worker pleaded guilty to habitat destruction and was fined \$500 and paid various wildlife/stream enhancement groups a total of \$2,136 to cover restoring the habitat. Although the fine was minimal it may have gotten the message across with the amount

of media coverage it received. The 1996 Migratory Bird Hunting season was once again very successful. PEI attracts lots of Canada Geese giving hunters satisfying results.

Heather Davis from Parks Canada, Atlantic Region reports that park wardens in the Atlantic have been facing organizational changes as in the rest of the country. They are still awaiting the lifting of the hiring freeze so some of the hard working term wardens can be awarded placements. A national review of the warden service and RCMP responsibilities in national parks has resulted in keeping the status quo arrangement. The loss of the federally funded "Green Plan" in March 1997 will result in higher pressures in law enforcement programs in the parks. Present law enforcement positions under this plan will take on various fates. Each park will decide but most will be absorbed into current budgets.

Michel Morin of Quebec reports on three fish and wildlife operations. "Operation Sebaste": On October 24th, fifty conservation officers broke up a network of poachers in the La Baie area. The conservation officers searched 25 properties and 26 suspects were involved in the network. There could be up to 200 charges and fines of \$300,000. One of the leading suspects could have 40 charges against him and fines of \$200,000. The officers seized 12 moose, 21 nets, 7 firearms, 4 moose snares, 36 trout, and a pick up truck. This was a 12 month undercover

operation where poachers were caught red-handed. Some of these poachers killed more than 20 moose in the same year. "Operation Tamia": On November 2nd, fifty-one conservation officers executed 15 search warrants to breakup a network of poaching in the Chibougameau district. The poachers were buying and selling walleyes. The operation lasted three years and could lead to 190 violations. The officers used video cameras to identify the 45 suspects in the network. In one year some poachers caught up to 1,500 walleyes. "Operation Faucon": On December 11th, after a three-year investigation in the Sherbrooke District, 25 wildlife officers, 12 RCMP officers, and provincial police officers carried out 10 searches and seized 65 deer. Fifteen suspects could face 36 charges with fines of \$75,596. One suspect could face 14 charges totalling \$31,929 in fines for sale, illegal possession, and prohibited hunting. Others could face charges of possession of stolen goods, drug trafficking, and forged currency. The canine squad assisted in this operation. Dog Master Francois Brageau and his dog Junko did some excellent work. The assistance by the public was very helpful in this operation. We will update the above cases as they go through the court system.

Richard Kingston of New Brunswick reports that downsizing is the topic of the day. NB has been involved in the process for about five years. The Department of Natu-

TORCH AWARD CRITERIA

As mentioned in the last newsletter, retired officers attending the 1996 Conference elected to recognize the efforts of the newer members of our profession. These awards will be presented annually, to an officer from each region, to encourage the professional development of recently appointed officers. Selection criteria is as follows:

- * Both nominating and nominated officers must be NAWEOA regular members
- * Nominated officer must not have worked as a wildlife enforcement officer more than five years
- * Must have demonstrated a genuine desire to protect the resource and develop professionally
- * Has demonstrated exceptional ability and initiative in the performance of his or her duties, including public education
- * Must be respected by his or her peers and the public
- * Nominations must be received by June 1st each year - winners notified by June 15th
- * Attendance at annual conference will not be mandatory for winners

Please submit your nominations as soon as possible to:
Art Redden, 3 Parker Place Cr., Enfield, Nova Scotia B2T 1C8

ral Resources and Energy was not exempt from this policy resulting in the number of offices being reduced from the high forties to the present twenty seven. Also some vacant positions have not been filled. The field officer moral has been affected. Recently arriving was a new Deputy Minister with a vision; one which will see a reduced number of regions, more offices closing, and still more positions being lost. There is a promise through all these cutbacks that no field officers will be laid off, although may be shuffled to other positions in different locations. The present Department structure was established in the mid to late fifties when transportation and communications were not advanced to what it is today. Richard says that he can understand the reasoning behind the proposed shake-up and is thankful there will be no layoffs in field staff. The major enforcement problem continues to be theft of "birds eye maple" from crown land. The problem started in northern part of the Province and has now spread throughout. Another thorn in the side of enforcement arose when Natives decided to cash in on this "pot of gold". Their right to remove wood from crown land without a permit decision by a judge is now under appeal by the Crown.

Dougal MacNeil and all the officers of Nova Scotia would like to congratulate Mike on becoming the new director for Region 3. Also a big thank you to Richard. Dougal reports that by the time you read this Merryl Bustin will be on his way to having a new home and Steve Lowe will be recovered from his appendectomy. Merryl, who is the NAWEOA secretary, experienced a major setback in early December when he lost his home and all contents to a fire. Fortunately no one was injured and Merryl, Janice and their four children are all fine. According to investigators the cause was electrical and started near the main panel. In the meantime they have moved into the greater metropolis of Whycomomagh, *cable TV and all*. Theresa, their secretary, happened to have a spare, large-sized house on hand. As for Steve, CEOANS secretary, Dougal had heard that he had an interesting story to pass along. When he phoned he learned that he'd just had an operation and wasn't very chipper. That's understandable when you consider someone had recently been exploring his innards with implements of destruction. But Steve told the story anyway. Usually to catch a poacher you have to fend the elements,

cold, wind, snow, and occasional near driving rain. Not so for the Lawrencetown crew. About midnight Steve and his partner Doug Robar, working out of the Lawrencetown office were doing up some paper work at the office after a 3 to 11 shift they noticed a vehicle pass with a light shining from the side window. First thought, naturally, was that someone was joking with 4.5 volt light which is illegal in Nova Scotia. With lights on at the office, the two officers inside could be clearly seen from the highway, through two large windows. This plus the 4'x8' sign by the road, indicating a Natural Resources Office should mean something to even the stupidest poacher. Not necessarily so, for by the time the officers started up their vehicle to check it out anyway, they had turned around a few hundred feet down the road and were making a second pass. To add evidence that they weren't too bright they stopped about 150 feet from the office and started shining up the surrounding fields. Red and blues in view, they tried to scurry away but were too busy trying to dismantle their light and stuff the rifle back into the case to

muster any real threat of escape and were apprehended about a kilometer down the road. Even the pieces of the flashlight landed on ice and Paul Hendricks, dog master said Rommel had no trouble finding the springs and things to put the flashlight back to working order. Steve's comment, "They don't get much easier than this". Several officers throughout the province have expressed concern about the types of individuals found poaching over recent years, especially this season. An unusually high percentage have long criminal records involving violent crimes. As always, be careful out there. Seven senior technician positions have been filled in the province. Successful candidates are: Gordon Wilson, Digby; Millage Weare, Shelburne; Ron Lawson, Milton; Art Crowell, Windsor; Dennis Barker, Stillwater; Rodney Lane, Guisborough and Merryl Bustin, Whycomomagh. Congratulations to all. NS is now in a classification review process initiated by the staff. They have 90's responsibilities and accountabilities with 60's description. Likely more to be said next issue. Hope to see you in Colorado in 1997.

NAWEOA STUFF

Richard Kingston, past director of Region 3, is now responsible for distribution of NAWEOA promo items. Only prepaid orders over \$100 will be accepted. Make cheques or money orders payable to:

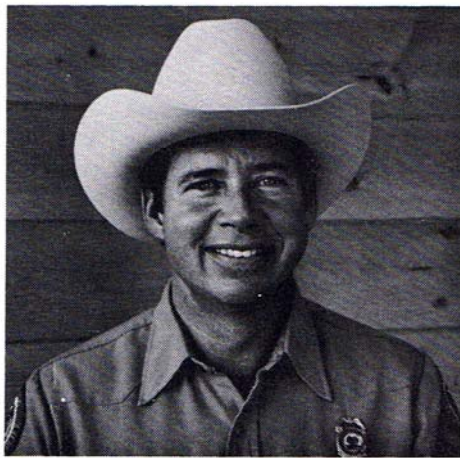
NAWEOA

PO Box 119, Red Bank, NB EOC 1W0

AVAILABLE ITEMS WITH PRICES

	<u>CAN</u>	<u>U.S.</u>
Print (Where Game Abounds)	\$130	\$100
Print (Quiet Watch)	\$ 45	\$ 35
Buckle (Original Design - First Issue)	\$ 20	\$ 15
Buckle (1996 Saskatchewan Conference)	\$ 20	\$ 20
Buckle (1995 Pennsylvania Conference)	\$ 20	\$ 20
Ball Cap (Black, Green or Maroon)	\$ 10	\$10
Journal of Wildlife Law Enforcement - Vol I	\$ 10	\$ 7
Journal of Wildlife Law Enforcement - Vol II	\$ 10	\$ 7

Some items are in short supply. All promo items will be available at the NAWEOA booth during the 1997 Colorado Conference.



REGION 4 REPORT

By Randy Hancock

Our illustrious editor, Gabby, told us not to write about the winter meeting because it would be summarized elsewhere in the newsletter, but I do want to get in my "Thank You's". The Louisiana officers and their friends were excellent hosts and really took good care of us. Thank you, Keith, and all of your officers for your hospitality.

Response to requests for items to put in this report went out to all jurisdictions in Region 4. I received a fairly good response but one problem keeps coming up. I send a letter to the most recent listed jurisdictional reps and several come back as undeliverable. People are moving around, changing jobs, or perhaps moving on to bigger things. Anyway, if all of you would take a quick look at the directory for your jurisdiction and see if the contact person listed is correct, I would appreciate it. If you know they have moved and the address listed is incorrect, let me know. We need to keep these lists current so we can maintain contact.

Edward Spoon, Secretary-Treasurer for the Federal Wildlife Officers Association, sent along their newsletter. It made for some interesting reading. Their association is celebrating its tenth anniversary. This issue talked about how they were formed (partly due to threats of pay cuts, etc.) and where they are going. Over the past 19 years, the total percentage of funding that the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service spent on law enforcement dwindled from 6% of the budget to 2%. As Greg Stover, Special Agent/pilot from Arizona said, "we have our work cut out for us". This officer's association gets involved. Their president, Kevin O'Brien sent a letter to the Director of FWS commenting

on the regulations regarding baiting and moist soil vegetation manipulation. This is a very hot topic right now, and some changes in the federal baiting law likely will result. NAWEOA has a rep, Mary Coleman, sitting on the advisory committee looking into these proposed regulation changes. While reading through the 24 pages of their newsletter, I found many interesting stories from illegal importation of cobras to illegal waterfowl cases. One of the more interesting involved a White Earth Indian reservation conservation officer. Seems the tribe authorized the killing of a moose for a powwow celebration. The Indian CO rode in the rented plane for three days, chasing moose to hunters and radioing positions before they finally killed one. Under the Airborne Hunting Act, these activities were highly illegal, and the officer was convicted by a federal jury in Minneapolis. Another interesting tidbit came from Fairbanks, Alaska, where a person, "several cards shy of a full deck", fired two shots into their office building. Seems he was pretty much "anti-government" from the beginning, then his dog got run over by a car and he began shooting cars to get revenge. Somewhere along the line he decided to shoot the government office building. He was eventually caught and prosecuted in state court. SA John Rayfeld of that area says "Who lives near your office?"

Rich Phillips from Washington reports that they are continuing to struggle with merger issues. Their Wildlife Dept. and their Fisheries Dept. were merged in 1993 into the Washington Fish and Wildlife Agency. This merger was approved without a study or a merger plan, and seems to have them wallowing in the fallout trying to sort out all the power struggles that go on in a deal like this. The merger was supposed to save two million dollars per year, but it appears that no savings are being realized. After three years their enforcement division still has "wildlife agents" and "fish agents". This is starting to sort out, with a single contract for job duties. They are getting new uniforms, but as of now, not all officers have uniforms. Officers, especially in western WA, saw vastly increased job duties with no increase in pay. Each officer is now responsible for all commercial, sport, tribal hunting and fishing, shellfish, wildlife complaints, and dangerous wildlife complaints within their patrol district. They have a new Agency Director and new Acting Chief of Enforcement.

In the November elections, citizens passed initiative 655 eliminating bear baiting and hound hunting for bear, cougar and bobcat. He states that they were already reeling from huge increases in bear or cougar problems prior to this initiative passing. Rich says there are lots of problems related to giving tribal interests 50% of shellfish in the state. It is very controversial. Tribes can fish year round, and there is a lot of poaching. There have been some good cases, in particular cases by investigators Ed Bolz and Kevin Harrington regarding laundering of goose/duck clams by non-tribal poachers. It involves hundreds of thousands of dollars and is big business! The eastern WA officers had slow seasons but are having weather problems now. They may get a large winter kill in that area. Sgt. Kohls and Officer Koner worked on a tribal member who shot an elk at a feeding station. It received lots of publicity, much of it negative. The tribe failed to prosecute so the county pursued and filed charges. Finally, there is good news and bad news. The good news is that they are getting away from white patrol vehicles and going to tan (Rich says: a small step, but a step nonetheless!) The bad news is the Enforcement Division is flat broke. All OT and comp time denied; no holidays worked; not allowed to receive cellular phone calls and voice message systems were shot down. This is very tough on morale and working conditions. Rich says despite all this he still loves his job. Isn't that about true of all of us?

From the Land of Enchantment, Leon Redman reports that New Mexico went to a new retirement of 75% after 25 years and 80% after 26 years and 8 months. Consequently, they have had numerous retirements and expect more in 1997. Another item of note is the State is being sued over senate Bill 193. This is the bill which put a quota on the nonresident hunting licenses issued. It also requires the Game Department to regulate the Guide and Outfitters. Several changes could occur in the upcoming legislative session. Their Officer's Association is getting involved in two bills for this legislative session-the Police Officer's Survivor Fund, and Police Powers. The Police Officer's Survivor Fund was passed in 1995. It provides the surviving spouse or children \$50,000 supplemental death benefits when a peace officer is killed in the line of duty. Unfortunately, Conservation Officers were not included in the original bill and they will

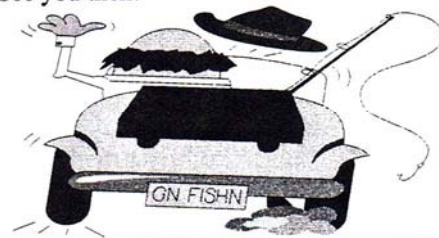
be working to get their officers included in the law. The Association is also working to restore some police powers their officers lost due to a court decision a few years ago. Being next door neighbors to Colorado, they will be sending a dozen or more officers to this summer's NAWEOA conference in Colorado Springs.

Al Nicholson also says that at least seven officers should be coming to the conference from Idaho. Al sent along some clippings with stories about some extreme poaching cases they had this fall. The most important thing that the cases resulted in was firing up the public and particularly the Idaho Wildlife Federation which is Idaho's biggest collection of sportsman's clubs in the state. They are going to sponsor legislation that will add higher minimum fines and longer license suspensions, plus mandatory jail sentences and hopefully equipment confiscation. Current mandatory license suspensions are one year and minimum fines for illegal elk are \$800. Rarely do fines or suspensions go above these minimums. The Department is getting a new director in the middle of January. The last director held his post for 16 years. They anticipate some changes, but do not know what they may be yet. They also will have replaced five of the seven Department Commissioners within the past two years. The enforcement people still feel they have the support of the commissioners, but time will tell how well things work out. The public in Idaho is very supportive of law enforcement and continually support adding more field officers to the ranks. This would only be possible if they get a license fee increase which appears to be a dead issue this year. In a span of a few weeks, 30 elk were slain illegally. In one incident, four big bulls, one scoring 396+, were killed in southwestern Idaho and moved across state lines into Oregon where Oregon elk tags were attached. Through some good investigating, five defendants were charged. In another interesting incident, two poachers who lost their hunting privileges in October after being caught with illegally taken game were caught less than a month later killing seven elk and one deer. The second incident included a third man as well. The judge in the case fined the trio \$16,257 and lost their license privileges for six years. During that six years, they are also on probation. Hopefully legislation that ups the fines and provides for confiscation of equipment will act

as a deterrent for this type of activity.

Jim "Muskkrat" Conner, from Montana, relayed a funny case that occurred when a fellow ran a check station out of Great Falls. Warden Tom Flowers was in hot pursuit at speeds of 90 mph on back roads. Warden Brian Richards was following behind Officer Flowers. When the suspect hit a large bump in the road, a "flying antelope" sailed out of the back of his truck and hit the road. Flowers continued the chase but radioed for Richards to pick up the antelope. Upon inspection of the animal, the suspect's tag was found and he was tracked down and charged with shooting the antelope in the wrong area. Another big case near Livingston involved two Michigan fellows that illegally shot five elk. A passerby turned them in and Officer Hank Fabish made an excellent case. Their department issued the officers Vietnam-vintage M-14's and they are getting new Smith Sigma .40 caliber handguns. They were having trouble with stress fractures and pitting in the old S&W 40-03's. The Defenders of Wildlife is opposed to Montana's handling of the bison that roam out of Yellowstone Park and are shot. They are trying to pressure the tourism board, but are not having much effect as of now. Lastly, congratulations to Warden Steve Vinnedge, a Montana native, working out of Great Falls. He received the prestigious Pogue-Elms Award for Officer of the Year.

Here in Colorado, the biggest news is the 1997 NAWEOA Conference. We are well along in our planning, have a lot of agency support, and some excellent committee chairpersons working hard to make this an event to remember! We guarantee you will have a great time when you come to Colorado this summer. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for registration information. We have gone through several changes with a relatively new director as well as all new upper staff. New lines of authority separating to a degree the biologists from the field officers, and redefining job descriptions. This, and other changes, are due to a multi-million dollar management review. It is supposed to make us more efficient. Time will tell. I fear we will just create a rift between the biologists and the field officers. We all are working hard to keep this from happening, but I see it in too many other states to believe it will not happen here. Lots of other stuff happening in Colorado, but space limitations say I must stop for now. We will fill you all in when you come out this summer. See you then!



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REGION 5 REPORT

By Mary Coleman

It's time for me to come in from the cold and ***-deep snow to write a newsletter report for Region 5. They keep telling me that -25 F is good for my character; if that's true, I'll have enough character for three lifetimes after this winter. Hope you are keeping warm out there and resting a bit from the hunting seasons. After all, fishing and boating season will be here before we know it.

Owen Meadows reports that most of South Dakota is buried under snow as are many other states in this region. The wind, snow and cold have been very hard on the wildlife, livestock and people. It will now be a rebuilding time for all life. This country has experienced these times before and recovered. The officers in SD experienced a busy fall again. Hunting and fishing is so good at times, it created a temptation some cannot resist. Many exceptional cases have been handled this year as a result of these weak non-sportsmen. Cases have involved gross overbags of fish and wildlife. There have been cases involving extreme amounts of time and effort. And there are the ones that have included both tons of effort and tons of wildlife. Great job, people! Mark Smedsnud, Sioux Falls officer, received the Shikar-Safari Officer of the Year award for 1996. Since we are so close to the '97 get-together in Colorado, I know of several officers who plan to make the trip. I am anxious to see all those folks I know and hope to meet many new friends. See ya.

Randall Reigh writes that Oklahoma has been fairly quiet since the summer meeting. They have a new assistant chief of law enforcement. Dennis Maxwell, a 21-year veteran, has transferred from their covert unit

to the central office. He will replace Joe Coker, who will take over a new position in charge of training. Their covert unit combined with Colorado Officers to make an excellent case involving several subjects from Oklahoma and Kansas. Approximately \$10,000 in fines were levied. In addition, a Toyota pickup, a 4-wheeler, and several firearms were seized. A major problem this year is with exploding populations of feral hogs which are being stocked illegally on both public and private lands statewide. Although they managed to sneak in a ban on night hunting of feral animals last year, a move is afoot in the current legislative session to allow it with written landowner consent. Several officers are already working on plans for the 1997 Southeast Association meeting, which will be held in Oklahoma City in October. The Oklahoma Game Warden Association has been active at outdoor shows this winter and are planning a second edition of their very successful cookbook.

Jeff Wells writes that Indiana sent a couple of covert investigators out to Colorado this past fall in an attempt to gain intelligence on the Warden Games for the 16th annual NAWEOA conference. Thanks to the cooperative effort between agencies and good investigative work by officers from both states, a long time poaching network from Indiana was shown some Hoosier hospitality by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The six Indiana residents arrested were accompanied by two other huntin' buddies from Indiana....as in Indiana Conservation Officers! The poachers face a variety of fish and wildlife charges in both CO and IN involving the illegal taking of elk, deer, migratory birds and other species. The CO case followed a major drug bust by IN CO's of three Kentucky men in southern IN. Officers had received information of a large marijuana growing operation and set up a lengthy surveillance of the patch. The diligent effort paid big dividends at harvest time. In addition to the arrests on felony drug charges, officers seized two vehicles, a horse trailer and more than 840 pounds of marijuana valued at more than 1.6 million dollars.

Indiana's 4th annual Turn In a Poacher Banquet held in September netted \$17,000 for their TIP Program. The program is not state-funded and the annual banquet has grown into a major fund-raiser for rewards, advertisement and equipment such as decoys. Santa Claus is real!, and IN officers under-

stand he is currently busy making them new boating enforcement uniforms (white polo style shirts and pants with zip-out legs), lightweight and wearable field jackets and a fleet of 24 new personal watercraft. This is exciting news and will help make their summer much more comfortable. District supervisors already received their presents, new laptop PC's. They are optimistic this is a major step toward improving their communication efforts and that even field officers will someday get these "new, fancy tools". You know, carrier pigeons may not always be around. IN's officers' organization is continuing to make progress expanding their projects. They are awaiting printing of their 4th edition of *Indiana Conservation Afield* magazine, and rumor has it that their much talked about Conservation Youth Camp may actually become a reality this summer. Indiana is happy to report their immediate future looks bright. See ya in Colorado Springs!

Daryl Kleyer, North Dakota, writes that the Game Wardens' Association held its third moose permit raffle. Craig Jarvis, 24, of Washington, Missouri was the lucky winner this year. Craig's father, Gordon, is a Conservation Officer (and NAWEOA rep) from Missouri. Craig and Gordon were in ND for the moose hunt during early December and Craig harvested a nice bull moose. The ND Game Wardens' Association has also been successful in getting a bill introduced in the legislature to extend the number of moose permit raffles allowed by law from 5 to 10. This has been a significant source of funding for the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Museum to be built at the Peace Gardens. With the help of more states and provinces it will only get better. District Game Warden Mark Pollert was named Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year. They are fighting one of the toughest winters in a long time, not unlike many other states and provinces. Trying to keep deer from destroying landowners' hay supplies is about all they're accomplishing lately. ND's deer population is high right now and they have been issuing record numbers of permits the last few years trying to keep them in check. When a winter like this hits, however, deer flock to the easy food stacked up by ag producers. Hopefully, we'll have an early spring.

From Texas, Gary Tarpley writes that without question, the highlight of fiscal year

1996 for the Law Enforcement Division of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was the water safety initiative "Don't Be A Pain In The Boat". After the highly publicized, accident-tainted previous year, and with growing concern from Texas lawmakers and the boating public, Texas Game Wardens responded with an unprecedented effort to restore the safety of Texas waters. Below are some figures resulting from operation "Don't Be A Pain In The Boat" which ran from 5/17/96 through 9/2/96: water safety cases filed - 8,720; other cases (fishing violations, etc.) - 4,248; boating while intoxicated cases (BWI) - 168; number of boats contacted - 157,286; number of people contacted - 450,494. While it is easy to measure the success of the water safety initiative by the above statistics, we may never know the true extent of the impact game wardens had in making the public waters of Texas a safer place to spend leisure time. Through the use of high visibility boat patrol, BWI task forces targeting lakes and boating safety programs, the number of lives saved and accidents prevented is immeasurable. Even with all that was accomplished last year, wardens still face three main areas of concern: 1) Boating while intoxicated violators; 2) enforcement of personal watercraft regulations; and 3) enforcement of personal flotation devices. In July of 1996, 34 men and women graduated from the 44th Class at the Texas Game Warden Training Academy to bring the total number of commissioned officers statewide to 472 wardens.

From Nebraska, Levi Krause tells me that their State Law Enforcement Bargaining Council is at an impasse in salary negotiations with the state for their latest contract. They will be going to a mediator or court of industrial relations to resolve the dispute. Nebraska has hired four new officers recently, one of whom is female (their 2nd female officer). All of the new officers are currently at LE training, and one is in FTO training as he was a certified officer at hire. They are still six officers down from their normal contingent. Nebraska is currently reorganizing patrol areas and this will likely affect how many more or if anymore officers will be hired as replacements. There has been a bill introduced to the legislature that will provide for license revocation for certain violations (Nebraska does not currently revoke anyone's hunting/fishing/trapping privileges for any reason). Their officers' association

is supporting this legislation, as well as provisions for stiffer fines.

Gordon Jarvis says that Missouri Officers are beginning to think about attending the Sports Shows with their Association booth to raise funds and promote awareness of their organization among the hunters and anglers who attend these functions. Missouri has pledged \$5,000 to the NAWEOA Museum. They are raffling a Ruger Red Label shotgun, and hope to raise the entire amount with the one raffle. They are awarding their first \$1,000 scholarship this year and are raffling a Remington 1187 to raise the funds for this project. The Missouri Officers Association will be funding four officers to attend the NAWEOA conference in Colorado Springs, and anticipate that another six or so will attend as well.

In Iowa, Ronna Miner tells me that they are going through arbitration for a contract. They are looking for a better compensatory time policy for holidays among other things. The officers' association is selling their centennial print and they are setting up a scholarship fund for WCO's children who are attending college.

Gary Wallace says that in Arkansas, the November general election saw the passage of Amendment 2, which provides for an additional 1/8 of a cent sales tax. 45% of this tax will be given to the Arkansas Game Commission. This is the first state revenue that has been allocated to the Game Commission. They anticipate \$17 million per year, with which the Enforcement Division will be hiring 30 more officers (among other things). The sales tax increase is effective July 1, 1997; the first revenue to reach the Game Commission is anticipated to begin in September.

Kansas Officers are beginning to politic with the Legislature, according to Dave Hoffman, to try to correct their salary/hours problems that began last year. Kansas Wildlife Officers recently lost their police powers, according to their Attorney General. The Department is trying to get them back by changing three words in the definition of wildlife officer. Kansas' Chief of Enforcement has quit, and they will be hiring a replacement this spring.

Patrick Harkins writes that Wisconsin DNR Secretary George Meyer appointed a new Chief Warden effective February 16th. Thomas Harrelson was named to fill the vacancy created with the retirement of long-

time Chief Ralph Christensen. The DNR is well into "reorganization" and the resultant spin-offs statewide. They are starting to manage the state on Geographical Management Units (GMU's) that are based on watersheds. Wisconsin is also creating many new "Service Centers" where customers will be able to get one-stop service. This entire reorganization is geared to look to the future needs of the state's resources and the people who use them. The traditional fish, game and law enforcement roles are changing to a team-oriented approach. There undoubtedly will be many challenges in the coming years as the new DNR unfolds. Warden Supervisor Randy Stark was selected as the Shikar-Safari Award recipient while Don Mezie of Wausau was honored with the "Haskell Noyes Watch" for field warden of the year.

Tony Cornish writes from the Minnesota State Capitol, where he's fighting for increased funding for snowmobile enforcement. It's been another deadly year for snowmobilers with twenty-five people losing their lives so far in various types of accidents. As usual, the majority of the fatalities are caused by speed and alcohol. They will be pushing for funding in regards to education and equipment. Normally the Union wouldn't get so involved with a budget matter like this, but they look at it as improving officer safety and working conditions. They need more sled, helmet-to-helmet communications and additional radar units to increase their efficiency. Deer feeding is a hot topic right now with a bill introduced to increase deer license by \$2.50 with that money earmarked for deer feed in rough years. One thing of great concern to Minnesota Officers lately is disciplinary investigations and how they are conducted. Management has been convinced, by an attorney, that every complaint of misconduct against an officer must be followed up with a lengthy investigation. This applies even when the complaint form is unsigned or even anonymous. This is a growing trend in law enforcement management. It is great for management as they can show the media or whoever else how they track complaints. However, it is very bad for the officer who is the victim of thirteen unfounded complaints kept on record for the doubters who think "where there's smoke, there's fire"! So many of the things they do are affected by the Minnesota Legislature that they have become very active in their lobbying efforts.



REGION 6 REPORT

By Dave Hohman

Hello, all y'all. Just got back from the bayou in Southeast Louisiana and was able to pick up some of the lingo along with enjoying some of the best tasting food and hospitality south of the Mason-Dixon line. I want to thank the officers and civilians that were so gracious in hosting the NAWEOA Executive Board for the winter meeting. When talking about the "Battle in the Bayou", I thought they were speaking of the Super Bowl, but some of the board members found that the battle was with some red drum.

Chuck Warren in Kentucky has started something I feel is pretty unique. He has been able to put together several youth hunts. He gets knowledgeable adult volunteers to assist young adults, ages nine through four-

teen, to hunt different species of game. These hunts have been taking place on private lands and they have hunted game from ducks and quail to squirrels. This has been a big hit with the kids as well as the people that have been involved with assisting Chuck. What a great idea. It teaches ethics, skill and ensures the future of hunting. Another great job!

In West Virginia, Dave Long says that morale has had a big boost since the naming of a new chief. Colonel James Fields was named in February of '96' and has a no-nonsense field oriented management style. Col. Fields worked as a field officer in the seventies. Col. Fields has made a lot of minor changes in procedures and general operational methods that have done a lot for the morale of the officers. Welcome aboard.

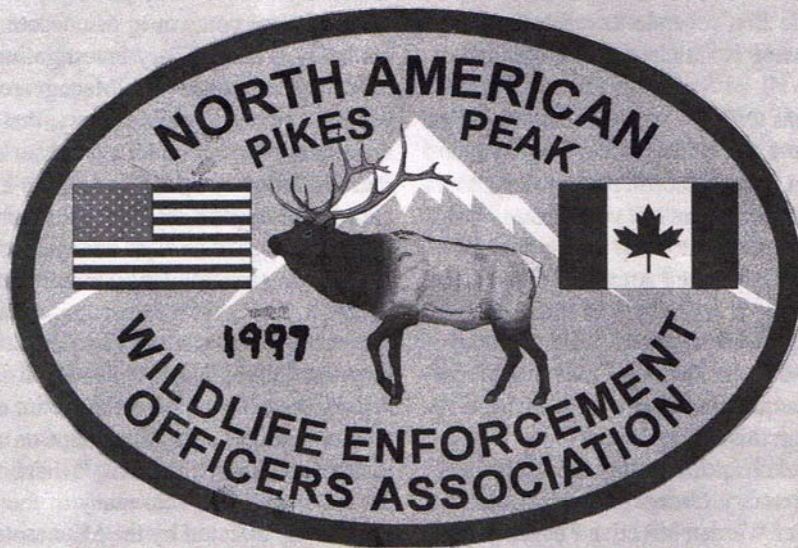
Some of the changes are they have formed a promotion board that includes members from each of the two officer associations, and for the first time in seven years all of the officers gathered at one time for training. This gathering helped in the exchange of ideas and of course some fellowship. I also want to congratulate West Virginia on their 100th anniversary in 1997.

The news from Tony Robinson in North Carolina is the reclassification of the sergeants ranks. This brings their pay scale in line with the rest of the state. It seems that their agency has gone to the dogs, K-9 that is. They have added a K-9 unit for each of their nine districts. After several years without aircraft service the officers of North

Carolina have the support of planes for surveillance and working jacklighters. Tony has jumped into the high-tech world of computers with both feet. He has started a web page on the internet and can be contacted at <http://www.hci.net/~decoydoc/>. Get in touch with Tony and he will be able to give you other addresses so you will be able to receive information and make contacts very important to all in conservation law enforcement.

Lysie Greenlee tells me that the Law Enforcement Division of Georgia Department of Natural Resources is going through a reorganization. They are going from 12 districts down to 7 regions. Along with the reorganization the Captain Supervisors will be getting a 10% pay increase. Lysie said that they don't look to lose any positions but some officers may have new supervisors to get use to.

Notes from Bill Armstrong of the National Military Fish and Wildlife are that they are working on upgrading classification standards and training requirements for the wildlife law enforcement officers employed by the United States Military. A 40 hour wildlife/marine law enforcement training program will be hosted by the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association at the United States Naval Surface Warfare Center in Indianhead, Maryland during the month of August, 1997. Bill said that this will be a good refresher course for the experienced natural resources law enforcement personnel.



PATCHES AVAILABLE

Pictured here is the 1997 NAWEOA patch. These are limited to 1,000 per year and are going fast. Start your collection now while a few of the first issue (1995) are still available. Each patch is \$5.00 (U.S. or Canadian) and can be ordered from:

Randall Reigh
802 E. Erie
Yale, OK 74085



REGION 7 REPORT

By Dan Tourtelotte

This July will complete my tenure as the Region 7 Director and I want to thank everyone for the support that you have given me over the past four years. In light of this, I would encourage anyone who may be interested in running for my vacancy to give me a call before this summer's conference in Colorado. I can tell you that becoming involved in NAWEOA as a member of the NAWEOA Executive is a great experience and is an opportunity to help shape the future of a great officers organization. There is little doubt in my mind that NAWEOA will be a very important part of the future of conservation law enforcement in North America.

The Winter Executive Meeting was held thirty minutes out of New Orleans, Louisiana, and I want to thank Keith LaCaze and his people for their hospitality, fine food and great meeting place. I can tell you that the boys from Louisiana have mastered the art of cooking wild game and fish. The executive board will be coming to the summer meeting with some important issues for the membership to decide. Additional support for the proposed conservation officers museum is perhaps the most important matter that we will discuss. I believe that NAWEOA has to take a more active role in seeing this project completed.

Jim Abrams, from Ohio, advised me that the officers in that state are working on their 1998 conference with fund raising activity taking up the majority of their time. Jim also advises that the Humane Society and Friends of Animals supported a move that would have forced a referendum for the fall that would outlaw the state's dove season. The

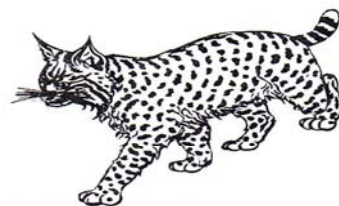
groups apparently fell short of the required number of signatures to force the referendum but has vowed to try again next year.

Mike Massey, from New Jersey, reports a routine fall season with the usual sprinkling of unusual incidents that only human beings can cause. They included some deer hunters who assaulted a man who operated a dirt bike close to their deer camp and a situation where a lady was assaulted by some hunters when she approached them for trespassing on her land. Mike says he encountered a hunter who has to be in line for the "unlucky hunter" award. Apparently this hunter was bowhunting during the first part of October, when he fell out of his tree stand and sustained serious injuries causing him to be in a body cast. The hunter, however, would not be denied the outdoor experience of pursuing the whitetail buck and the December firearms season found him sitting on the ground (he couldn't sit in his tree stand because of the cast) waiting for his buddies to drive a deer in his direction. Unfortunately for the hunter, the drive did produce results and in the melee he was shot in the jaw by a stray buckshot pellet.

Bernie Schmader of the Pennsylvania Game Commission gave me an update on the bill that was introduced in the legislature to disallow the use of decoys during daylight hours. Apparently information was provided to the legislature that included letters from COPA and case law from Vermont and Maine. According to Bernie, the effort was successful as the bill was withdrawn and a new one drafted to make it possible for someone to be charged with hunting deer illegally if they shot a decoy. This is another example where the efforts of NAWEOA and the sharing of information by jurisdictions has benefited our enforcement endeavors. Ironically, there is a bill being presented to the Maine Legislature that would outlaw the use of decoys during both day and night.

Bob Lewis of Vermont tells us that 1996 saw nine wardens retire and five warden trainees hired. In 1989 the Vermont Warden force numbered fifty-one positions but today there are only forty-one officers. Wardens Tom Sterns and Dane Hathaway were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Pete Malette of Michigan says that snowmobile enforcement is the priority this winter in his state. After several winters with extremely high numbers of snowmobile fatalities, there has been an increased empha-



sis on this activity. The agency has received new snowmobiles and several counties have been earmarked for snowmobile enforcement patrols. The primary target is people operating under the influence. Pete reports that one county in the UP had thirty-seven personal injury accidents in one weekend. He also reports that Michigan recently hired ten new officers and will hire another eleven in July. I was pleased to hear from Pete that the NAWEOA grapevine was alive and well this fall in Michigan where Pete was contacted by Canadian Officers who need assistance tracking down several residents who had committed violations north of the border.

In Maine we're also in the middle of the snowmobile season and after a disastrous season last year, a major combined enforcement and educational effort has been instituted. The results thus far have been very encouraging, with a 50% reduction in accidents with no fatalities recorded through the month of January. Special enforcement details have resulted in 39 arrests for OUI and 183 other snowmobile related violations. A new lottery ticket with the money going to natural resources agencies has benefited the Maine Warden Service through several grants. They will be buying \$50,000 worth of night vision equipment, \$41,500 to establish DNA testing for deer and moose, a night vision video system for aircraft and \$20,000 for special covert activity.

I hope you are all planning to attend the conference in Colorado. I'm sure that it will be a great time for both officers and their families. If you have any questions or concerns regarding NAWEOA issues, then give me a call or drop a note. See you in the summer and stay in the treeline!

WILDLIFE TRADITIONS



WILDLIFE ART
WILLIAM PETERS
P.O. Box 1854, QUINCY
CALIFORNIA 95971
(916) 283-4355

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Gerry Brunet of Environment Canada's Wildlife Division (CWS), Ontario Region, reports that they have been kept busy since May 1996 with the proclamation of new legislation, the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA). Ontario Region has dealt with 731 files, including both inspections and investigations. To date, the regions civil and criminal forfeitures have totalled an estimated \$500,000 in value. A total of thirteen (13) charges have been laid under the new legislation, with three registered convictions thus far, the remainder are still pending. Ontario's first conviction under WAPPRIITA involved a Philippine sailor detained by Canada Customs at Toronto's Pearson International Airport after smuggling four (4) African Elephant tusks into Canada. This individual was returning to the Philippines after having completed ten months employment on the ships, with stopovers at African ports. The accused was remanded in custody a total of 7 days and after pleading guilty, was sentenced to an additional 15 days imprisonment. Ontario's most notable case to date related to an investigative file that had been opened after intelligence was received from the USFWS in Florida that an individual in Ontario was attempting to market 200 plus Indian star tortoises. The investigation established who the caller was and that they represented a Toronto based wholesaler of rare and exotic wildlife supplying the pet trade. In November, a Hong Kong National, Shing Kwong (Michael) Chow, was detained at Toronto's Pearson International Airport after smuggling 232 Indian star tortoises into Canada. The tortoises were wild caught from India and smuggled via Singapore and Hong Kong and marketed to North American wholesalers. The courier was remanded in custody for four days and after pleading guilty was sentenced to a \$10,000 fine, plus time served and forfeiture of the tortoises. Intelligence obtained during the investigation enabled CWS Officers to obtain and execute a search warrant on the Toronto based wholesaler. From evidence obtained during the search, two additional charges have been laid against the company and one of its directors.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD SELECTION, REQUIREMENTS, RULES FOR NOMINATION

- * Must be a fully certified conservation officer in the state, province, territory or country in which employed.
- * Must be a full-time field officer, up to and including first line supervisors from the field in the last calendar year.
- * Both nominee and person submitting nomination must be a member of NAWEOA.
- * An officer whose character is beyond reproach.
- * An officer who is competent, knowledgeable and capable.
- * An officer who promotes wildlife law enforcement.
- * An officer who demonstrates professionalism in every facet of life.
- * The person submitting the nomination shall provide background material, which shall be in written narrative format. Other supportive articles, certificates, awards, media coverage, etc. may also be included. Please submit your nominations ASAP!

MIDWEST FORENSIC WORKSHOP

Key Techniques for Supervisors or Conservation Officers

Workshop 1 - Laboratory DNA Workshop
Workshop 2 - Hands-on Field Workshop

WORKSHOP LOCATION

University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

WORKSHOP DATES

May 12-13, 1997

REGISTRATION

Pre-registration deadline is April 25, 1997
(Attendance limited to 30-35 individuals)

CONTACT

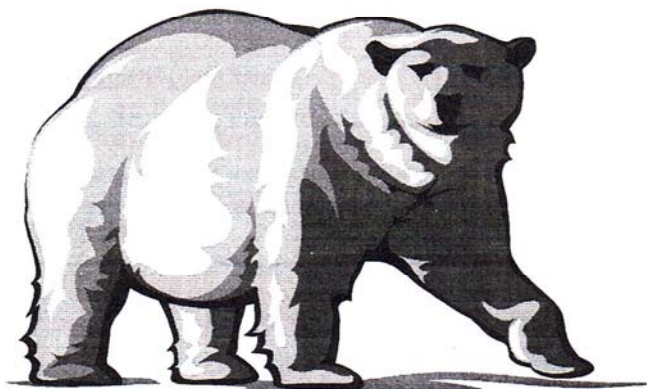
David Oates (402) 471-5441
FAX # (402) 471-5528
E-mail to: doates@ngpsun.ngpc.state.ne.us

Tips 'n Tricks

Have you ever driven home wondering what would have happened if only you could stay out an extra twenty minutes; or arrived at a camp to hear "where were you guys yesterday (last week, last month.....?); or just missed catching a bad abuser by a whisker and not maybe known why? Many of us do a whole bunch of the things that we do without giving a second thought as to how great an idea was behind the technique that we use to get that extra step on the thieves who are attempting to steal our resources.

It is with this concept in mind that NAWEOA wholeheartedly endorsed the "enforcement techniques manual" project. This project is being spearheaded by Iowa Game Warden Bob Mullen (yes, the "Rat House Reader" to you IGW subscribers). What Bob is prepared to do is compile, organize and with NAWEOA's help, produce a catalog of ideas which make our jobs easier. Simple things like "decoy guns", good contact folks, night patrol techniques, CB scanning tips and on and on and on.....! This compilation will take a while to accomplish, but will give the benefits of absolute decades of experience to everyone who reads it. This will be an in-house only manual (by wardens - for wardens).

BUT, and this is the big one folks! Do Not, I repeat, Do Not wait for somebody else to do it. Take five minutes today, jot down a little trick that helped you in the past to get a jump on a game thief and pass it along to Bob Mullen, Iowa Game Warden, 206 North Harrison Street, Toledo, OH 521342....Phone 515-750 1873 or 484-3808. (Note: If you are a techno-weenie and want to use the net, you can forward stuff to me at: martin5@epo.gov.on.ca.) I will forward them to Bob. Remember, what we are looking for is not technical reports or training courses (those you can send to me for the library). What we want are tips that you can capture in a sentence or two. Things that a senior officer might share with a young lad that needs mentoring (Old bull, young bull stuff). We have not yet determined how best to get these out to the field once they are compiled. I would love to hear your thoughts on this as well. Gary Martin, Vice-President NAWEOA



NAWEOA/COPA TRAINING WORKSHOP

The North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association and the Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania Association (COPA) announce that a training seminar will be held in Pennsylvania on May 6, 7 and 8, 1997. Topics for the session will be:

- 1) Use of Dogs in Conservation Law Enforcement
- 2) Detection and Processing Substance Abusers
Involved in Boating, Fishing and Hunting Activities
- 3) Dealing With Public Perception of Wildlife
Conservation Agencies

The workshop will be held in beautiful central Pennsylvania at Lock Haven University's Sieg Conference Center near Lamar, Pennsylvania. It will begin at Noon on the 6th and conclude at Noon on the 8th.

For more details, send the following information:

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____
FAX: _____
AGENCY: _____

Mail or FAX to:
COPA
PO Box 345
Huntingdon, PA 16652
FAX # (814) 643-2952

Workshop location is in the heart of some of the best turkey hunting and trout fishing country that Pennsylvania has to offer. There should be ample opportunity to do some hunting and/or fishing outside the workshop times. Pennsylvania's spring gobbler season runs from May 3rd thru May 31st. Trout season opens April 12th.

Workshop contact persons are:
Willis A. Sneath (814) 643-1831
William F. Hartle (717) 726-6056

TRAGEDY STRIKES AGAIN!

On Friday, January 24th, at approximately 12:05 PM, Saskatchewan Conservation Officer Kevin Misfeldt, Wildlife Biologist Wally Kost, both of Saskatoon, and pilot Breton Thomas of Prince Albert were killed in a plane crash southeast of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. They had been conducting aerial whitetail deer surveys. Cause of the crash has not been determined. Kevin and Wally had been with Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management about fifteen years, while Bret had been a contract pilot for about ten years.

Officer Misfeldt leaves to mourn, his wife Tarena and three children, Brent (12), Jostein (10) and Karena (8). Kost leaves behind his wife Becky and daughters Ruth (8) and Jane (6). Thomas was married but had no children.

Funeral services were held on January 29th for Thomas and Kost while services for Officer Misfeldt were conducted on January 30th in Saskatoon. Saskatchewan Conservation Officers attended in full dress with an honour guard present at all three services. Many other officers were in attendance as well.

For any individuals or associations wishing to make a donation, trust funds are being established for the children. Donations may be sent to:

CIBC
Circle and 8th Branch
3124 8th Street East
Saskatoon, SK S7H 0W2
Attn: Bernie MacAla

In order for the funds to be placed in trust, you must make the cheque(s) payable to:

Brent, Jostein and Karena Misfeldt
or
Ruth and Jane Kost

FEMALE OFFICERS

Val Jansen (KS) and Mary Coleman (SD) invite you to attend the
1997 Conference in Colorado Springs

AND

Join them for breakfast on Saturday morning, July 19th at 7:00 AM (your own expense). Mostly we want to provide an opportunity for women officers to discuss problems and solutions unique to their positions in wildlife law enforcement



Ian Anderson (left) is pictured with the 1996 NAWEOA Officer of the Year Award which he received at the Saskatoon Conference. With him is fellow Ontario Conservation Officer Dan VanExan, who nominated Ian for the award.

NAWEOA MEMORIAL FUND

This program is open to any Officer Association, Individual or business who would like to donate \$50 each time an officer dies in the line of duty. The goal is fifty members and a check for \$2500 will be sent to the survivors of a fallen officer as soon as possible after notification to the Executive. Each sponsor will be listed on the letter of condolence that goes out to the family. Upon the fund being paid out, each sponsor will receive a letter from NAWEOA advising of the circumstances and will be requested to send in another \$50 to replenish the fund.

NAME OF SPONSOR _____

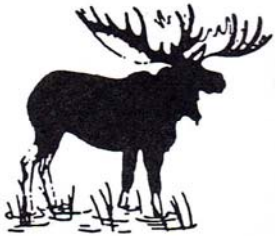
CONTACT PERSON - NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

Please send this form and check for \$50 U.S. made out to NAWEOA MEMORIAL FUND to:
Merryl Bustin, RR#2, Whycocomagh, Nova Scotia B0E 3M0

Chance of a Lifetime!



1997

North Dakota Moose Permit

The North Dakota Game Warden Association is once again holding it's ND Moose Permit fund-raiser. So far, three lucky hunters have won the moose hunt here in North Dakota. Charles Stowman of Valley City, North Dakota; Jim Oliver of North Battleford, Saskatchewan and Craig Jarvis of Washington, Missouri have all won over the last three years. All three harvested good bulls that anybody would be proud of. The winner of the 1997 raffle will receive a three-day moose hunt and \$500 for expenses. The seller of the winning ticket will receive \$100 cash.

The raffle began in 1994 as a way to raise funds for the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Museum to be built at the Peace Gardens on the border between North Dakota and Manitoba. Thus far, almost \$60,000 has been raised for the construction and maintenance of the museum. The North Dakota Game Warden Association would like to thank all of the associations from all across North America for their hard work in selling, distributing and buying our Association's raffle tickets. By all working together we can make 1997's raffle the best yet. Anyone wishing to help or buy tickets can contact me at (701) 572-9223.

Daryl Kleyer, President - North Dakota Game Warden Association

MEMORIAL

On September 18, 1996, a Canadian Federal Fishery Officer died of a heart attack while participating in a training course called "Swift Water Rescue". Dean Miller of Prince Rupert, British Columbia, was employed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. At the time of his passing, Dean was the Area Chief, Conservation and Protection, Operations Branch, North Coast Division.

Dean, age 43, left behind his wife Sharon and three sons; Steve (12), Jamie (14) and Jeffery (16). A trust fund for the family was established. For more information contact:

Scott Gilbert
12551 No. 1 Road
Richmond, BC V7E 1T7
(604)664-9307

NAWEOA AWARDS CRITERIA

Certificate of Award

Anyone who is eligible for regular membership may be nominated for this award. It is given for outstanding achievement or service in the field of wildlife law enforcement or to NAWEOA (such as outgoing directors).

Certificate of Retirement

Anyone who is eligible for regular membership may receive this award. It is given to honor years of service to the profession.

Certificate of Valor

Anyone who is eligible for regular membership may be nominated for this award. It is given to the officer who risks or receives serious injury in the line of duty in an attempt to protect themselves or others from a dangerous situation. It infers bravery in the face of adversity.

Lifesaving Award

Anyone who is eligible for regular membership may be nominated for this award. It is given for any act, at any time, which saves the life of another person.

Certificate of Appreciation

Any person who, in any way, is helpful to the Association may be nominated for this award. This includes, but is not limited to: speakers, conference or workshop hosts, fund-raisers, committee or special project members, citizens or politicians.

Honorary Lifetime Membership

Anyone who has performed an extraordinary service to the Association over a number of years may be nominated for this award. It is one of our most prestigious awards and may only be given in rare circumstances. Anyone who is eligible for regular membership in the Association, upon receiving this award, shall maintain their voting privileges within the Association.

Note: All above awards, with the exception of the Certificate of Retirement, must be submitted to the NAWEOA Executive for review not later than June 30th in any year for presentation at the annual conference. Contact your Regional Director for Certificates of Retirement as needed throughout the year.

NAWEM NEWS

By Del Tibke

The museum project is going forward, however we need to raise more money for the construction fund. The NAWEOA Executive Board voted at the winter meeting to provide \$1,000 per year to the museum fund and to provide \$10,000 per year to the construction fund. This will have to be approved by the general membership at the summer conference in Colorado. This money will be put into a special construction fund in the same manner as the jurisdictions have been. It would be returned if the museum, for some unknown reason, is not built.

We are now working with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to hold an auction at the International Peace Gardens in North Dakota. We need thirty good quality hunting and fishing trips donated that will be auctioned over the Internet two weeks prior to the banquet on September 6, 1997. If you know of any guides or outfitters that would donate, you should have them contact their tax accountant to see what portion of a donated trip could be deducted from their taxes. Both the RMEF and NAWEM are 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. Also, smaller items, such as **one of a kind** decoy carvings, hand made knives, paintings, etc. are needed. Some Canadian and U. S. Associations are already working on these trips. Most of these trips would be for 1998. We need to have the hunts, fishing trips and smaller auction items in place by August 1, 1997. The museum would receive fifty percent of the profit for the construction fund and, if the first auction is successful, it would continue in future years to help fund the museum operations.

If every state, federal and provincial wildlife officer purchased a \$100 charter patron membership in the museum over a four year period, we would easily reach our goal of 1.8 million dollars. We also expect more jurisdictions to come up with a \$5,000 commitment.

The museum also has caps (\$10), t-shirts (\$12), tie-tacs (\$8) and tie-bars (\$10) for sale. We also have 1995 logo patches at \$5 each. These can be ordered by writing to the address's on the museum membership application form.

If you need more information about the museum or the auction, feel free to call me at (701) 845-3780 or write to me at: 560 3rd St. NW, Valley City, ND 58072-2086. Lets all support the museum project.

PATRON MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual Memberships

- () \$25 Single
- () \$750 Life* (Payable at \$75 per year for 10 years. You must indicate you want to become a member this way)

Organization Memberships

- () \$100 per organization
- () \$3,000 Life* (Payable at \$1,000 per year for 3 years)

Corporate and Individual Sustaining Categories*

- () \$1,000 Bronze
- () \$5,000 Silver
- () \$10,000 Gold
- () \$100,000 Platinum

Patron Benefits

- NAWEM Membership
- NAWEM Patch (new members only)
- NAWEM Newsletter

**Membership levels marked by an asterisk receive an additional benefit of a certificate or plaque. Individual Life Members will receive a nice jacket.*

() Please apply my donation to the good works of NAWEM. I would rather not receive the additional benefit.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE or PROVINCE _____ CODE _____

Please make checks payable to NAWEM and send to the address listed for your country of residence. All donations are tax deductible.

Canada #0999441-50
NAWEM (Canada) Inc.
Box 1239
Boissevain, MB
R0K 0E0

U.S.A. #45-0436114
NAWEM (USA) Inc.
P.O. Box 28
Valley City, ND
58072-0028

501-(c)(3) Charitable Organization

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS By Gary Martin



G'day everyone! Well, it sure has been a hectic few months since the last report and the summer meeting when many of us had a chance to visit personally and professionally. First, let me offer a belated thanks to Kerry Wrishko and all the Saskatchewan folks who hosted us last summer in fine western fashion. Special thanks to the two Saskatchewan Officers (well, OK, they were not officers, they were MONSTERS), who anchored the Canuck Team in the spontaneous Canada Vs. United States tug-of-war. I am sure that Dan Tourtelotte has been whispering in our 1997 hosts' ears to arrange a grudge match of some sort. I mean, those grass stain on all those 'merican butts will not likely wash out for some time. Ha! If I can't rub it in about the Blue Jays these days ("WHO are they?" asks the editor) ya gotta cut me some slack.

Second, a very large thanks to Keith

LaCaze and all the Louisiana Officers who helped out in fine game warden fashion to help us out and host the winter meeting. It is truly a great spot to visit. I know where I would certainly love to go if I were ever drawn for the officer exchange. Great guys, great food, music, scenery, the whole package. Hell, I even met one self-described "coon-ass" who invited me to go out poaching with him. Seriously, we really do need states to step up as others have in the past to host both our summer and winter meetings. I guarantee that it will be both a lot of effort and even more fun.

I will be including a short note elsewhere in the newsletter about our Officer of the Year Award. Please ensure that your state, province or agency does get together a nomination package for this award. I know quite a few of you and I know that there are a lot of folks who are doing some great work out there that deserve some of the very best recognition that anyone can receive - that of your peers. So, do yourself, your profession and your agency a favour today and get the ball rolling on the nomination.

I am continuing to work on some of the usual projects that you have seen me refer to in the past such as: the strategic plan, the budget, the library of technical reports and the awards. In addition to these we have a couple of neat new things happening which you should be aware of. First is a project being spearheaded by Bob Mullen over in

Iowa. This is the "Tips'n Tricks" booklet, patterned after a piece of work done in Iowa a couple of years back. Look for an article about this elsewhere in this issue. We are also working on establishing a NAWEOA home page on the internet. If you have any thoughts or expertise in this regard, we would love to have your input on this project, which could grow exponentially in the future.

An interesting discussion was had at the winter meeting regarding the museum project. We will be bringing a resolution before you this summer to have NAWEOA make a major financial commitment to this project. Please let me, Rick or your regional director know where you would like for us to go with this project. We also have a tremendous opportunity to partner with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation on a huge fund-raising venture involving auctioned hunting and fishing trips. This project is larger than your executive board and will require help and work by virtually every association which belongs to NAWEOA to bring it to fruition. Please let us know how you feel on this effort, as well.

One benefit of being on the board is getting a sneak preview of the upcoming summer conference agenda. Contact the Colorado folks for a complete copy right away. Have a look at it, see the quality of the professional and social programs, and start packing your mule for the trip west. Hope to see y'all in Colorado Springs this summer!

NAWEOA EXECUTIVE

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>FAX</u>
President	Rick Pallister	842 Fort Street Buffalo, WY 82834	307-684-5223	307-684-5585
Vice-President	Gary Martin	RR#4 Campbellford, ON K0L 1L0	705-653-3066	705-653-3414
Past-President	Art Redden	3 Parker Place Cr. Enfield, NS B2T 1C8	902-883-9008	902-424-7735
Sec.-Treasurer	Merryl Bustin	RR#2 Whycocomagh, NS B0E 3M0	902-756-2584	902-756-3159
Region 1 Director	Kerry Wrishko	Box 70 Leader, SK S0N 1H0	306-628-3900	306-628-4410
Region 2 Director	Ian Anderson	P.O. Box 264 Gore Bay, ON P0P 1H0	705-282-2874	705-282-0329
Region 3 Director	Michael Maillet	#22 Abbott Street St. Stephen, NB E3L 3C4	506-466-4527	506-466-7349
Region 4 Director	Randy Hancock	P.O. Box 990 Buena Vista, CO 81211	719-395-2880	719-539-3372
Region 5 Director	Mary Coleman	1118 Northview Lane Aberdeen, SD 57401	605-226-3378	605-626-2217
Region 6 Director	Dave Hohman	6904 Colonial Ave. Thurmont, MD 21788	301-898-5256	301-898-5404
Region 7 Director	Dan Tourtelotte	284 State Street Augusta, ME 04330	207-287-2766	207-287-6395
Newsletter Editor	Mike Gabbard	P.O. Box 187 Elgin, OK 73538	405-492-4306	405-355-3099

EXECUTIVE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Winter Executive Meeting was held January 16-18, 1997 in Shell Beach, Louisiana. The following is a summary of business discussed and acted upon at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 0920 by President Rick Pallister. Other members present were: Gary Martin, Art Redden, Kerry Wrishko, Ian Anderson, Michael Maillet, Randy Hancock, Mary Coleman, Dave Hohman, Dan Tourtelotte, Mike Gabbard, Randall Reigh and Keith LaCaze. Del Tibke and Dick Knapp were also in attendance representing the Museum Committee and the North Dakota Officers Association. In the absence of Secretary Merryl Bustin (due to a disastrous pre-Christmas house fire) minutes were recorded by Vice-President Gary Martin.

President Pallister expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of the Executive Board, to Major Keith LaCaze, Wildlife Agent Brian Clark and all other Louisiana Officers who worked to host and make the meeting possible. Special thanks were also offered to our hosts, Mopey Schaumberg, Hilton Petit and Dee Geohagen, whose properties at Shell Beach were the locations for meeting and lodging.

The absolutely un-prestigious "Lonesome Traveller Award" was presented to Michael Maillet of New Brunswick, who persevered bad weather, flight delays and changes to arrive in Louisiana well into the night of January 15th.

As a result of the fire at Merryl Bustin's residence, a great number of files and records were destroyed or suffered smoke and water damage. The NAWEOA computer was destroyed but there is a slim hope of recovering some data from the hard drive.

Minutes of the previous meeting were discussed. Motion by Art Redden to accept minutes. Motion seconded and approved.

Membership report was discussed. The most recent list had been destroyed, however, a recent copy had been mailed to Del Tibke for the museum committee. Del to make copies and mail one to Merryl Bustin and another to Mike Gabbard for newsletter distribution. Directors were advised to contact each jurisdiction in their region to check on payment of dues and update list.

Merryl had mailed the Financial Report and copies were distributed. We are in stable financial shape as a result of the fund-raising success at the last two conferences. Balances on January 1st included \$64,395 in Canadian funds and \$43,418 in U.S. funds. Approximately \$26,000 (Canadian) of this is earmarked for officer memorials and another \$30,000 (Canadian) is in contingency savings. By policy, 10% of income in excess of base budget is set aside as contingency funds. The remainder is available to cover budgeted expenses. All expenses are well within budgeted amounts at this time. Motion to accept financial report was made and approved.

Motion by Kerry Wrishko to issue check from memorial funds to the surviving family of DFO Officer Dean Miller. Seconded by Dan Tourtelotte. Motion approved.

After discussion, the Board voted to direct Secretary Merryl Bustin to replace the desktop computer, laptop computer and laser printer that were destroyed in the fire.

Kerry Wrishko provided a post-conference report from the 1996 Saskatchewan Conference. Tentative figures show a contribution to NAWEOA of approximately \$40,000 (Canadian). Motion was made

to increase profit sharing at future conferences by using a sliding scale where higher profits would increase the percentage retained by the hosting organization.

Del Tibke and Dick Knapp provided update on the museum project. Although North Dakota's Officer Association has done the bulk of the work, their interest is waning due to a perception that support from NAWEOA and other associations is lacking. A museum financial report was provided showing approximately \$69,000 in the construction fund. The majority of this has been obtained through the North Dakota Moose Raffle. After much discussion, the Board voted to increase financial support by providing an annual contribution of 5% of funds over base budget to the museum operating fund (\$1,500 this year). In addition, a goal of \$10,000 per year for ten years was set for the museum construction fund if approved by the general membership at the summer meeting. All monies in construction fund are to be refunded to the contributors in the event that the project is not completed. The Executive Board urged all members to support this worthwhile endeavor and offered thanks to those who have been working so hard to complete the project.

Rick Pallister distributed materials produced by the Center for Wildlife Information. They had requested an endorsement of their work by NAWEOA. This action was approved by the Board.

A newsletter report was presented by Mike Gabbard. He advised that there continues to be a problem with late reports by some Executive members and this usually delays the newsletter by several weeks. Costs have not increased lately and the newsletter is still within the budget. A pentium computer and laser printer were purchased for newsletter layout and printing, as approved at the last meeting. The cost was approximately \$2,000 and was covered by a surplus in the newsletter budget.

Randall Reigh provided a report on the Patch Program. Sales have been good, both at the conference and by mail. Bernie Schmader of Pennsylvania has assisted a great deal with patch sales. Randall still has 270 of the 1995 patches and 435 of the 1996 patch. All expenses have been covered and every patch sold is clear profit. A new design was approved and Randall was authorized to purchase 1,000 1997 patches.

At the request of the New Mexico Officers Association, the Board approved a resolution supporting their efforts for Peace Officer classification.

Gary Martin updated the Board on the NAWEOA Library of Presentations. We have accumulated 53 new papers or articles since the summer meeting. Gary will update listings and provide them to reps. All members are urged to use this valuable tool.

Ian Anderson discussed final draft of new NAWEOA brochure. The Board voted to purchase 10,000 at a cost of \$1,910.40. Appreciation was expressed for Ian's hard work on this project.

Motion by Randy Hancock, seconded by Mike Gabbard, that NAWEOA waive Louisiana's 1997 membership dues as a token of appreciation for hosting the winter meeting. Motion approved.

Numerous other items were discussed and acted upon but space limitations prohibit a full report. A copy of the minutes is available from the Secretary. Meeting closed at 1200 on January 18, 1997.

**COLORADO
PARKS AND WILDLIFE
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

**IS HOSTING THE
1997
NAWEOA CONFERENCE**

COLORADO SPRINGS ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦ JULY 17 - 20

**Colorado Division of Wildlife's
100th Anniversary**

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Employees have a proud history of protecting wildlife. Our Wildlife Officers are delighted to bring the 1997 NAWEOA Conference to Colorado in coincidence with our centennial. This four day event will bring together Conservation Officers and their families from all over the United States and Canada. This conference allows officers the opportunity to learn and exchange the most recent wildlife and fisheries law enforcement techniques, share ideas and solutions unique to Conservation Officers. We are bringing quality speakers and wildlife specialists. We hope the 1997 NAWEOA Conference in Colorado will be the best!

In addition to conducting regular NAWEOA business such as the Fallen Officer Memorial Ceremony, elections and changes in by-laws, the following training seminars will be conducted: *Future of Black Bear Management, Snowmobile Law Enforcement, Boat Safety, Wildlife Trafficking in the US, GPS Technology, Wildlife Forensics, Critical Incident Response from a Legal Perspective, Social Issues and Wildlife, Shooting Accident Investigations, Future of Hunting, Organized Gang Activity, Carcass Care/Weights, Social Deviants, Wildlife Management of Military Lands, Why Things Go Right - Why Things Go Wrong*

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Employees Association (PAW) is a member organization of NAWEOA. Members of PAW are employees of the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. PAW sponsors scholarships and provides wildlife recreation opportunities for special individuals through the "Make a Wish" program. PAW promotes professionalism, fraternalism and increased communication between Conservation Officers, agency staff and the public we serve

Colorado Springs, Colorado

From the wide open prairies to the majestic Pikes Peak, Colorado Springs is typically Colorado at it's best. From the top of Pikes Peak you can take in the view that inspired "America the Beautiful" and see from Prairies to Peaks. There are more attractions in the Pikes Peak region for families than any other place in Colorado. The Air Force Academy lies to the north with its beautifully spired chapel. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and the Royal Gorge with the world's highest suspension bridge are to the south. West you'll find the old gold mining town of Cripple Creek now revived by the casinos. Also West extend the Rocky Mountains for 200 miles with valleys to be explored, rivers and streams to be fished, mountains to be climbed, forests to wander and wildlife to be seen.

Within the city of Colorado Springs are more things to do than can be packed into a vacation. The Garden of the Gods is a free city park of awesome red rock formations that frame Pikes Peak for a perfect picture. The Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, the U.S. Olympic Training Center, the Hall of Presidents and Buffalo Bill Wax Museum can all be found in town. Cave of the Winds, Seven Falls, Manitou Cliff Dwellings, the North Pole (Santa's Workshop) and historic Manitou Springs can be found within a ½ hour's drive from the Sheraton. (If you prefer, take the family tour!)

Colorado Springs is located in the center of the state. So no matter which way you come, you can take a side tour to see many of Colorado's other famous attractions such as Rocky Mountain National Park, Durango-Silverton Railroad, Mesa Verde National Park, Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Denver and all it's glitter, and thousands of square miles of the biggest outdoor playground in the USA.

Alternate Accommodations

The Sheraton has reserved a block of 300 rooms for the conference. However, if they are full, they have assured us that they will make arrangements at a comparable facility. **The new reservation number is 1-800-981-4012**

Golden Eagle Ranch Campgrounds are located five miles south of Colorado Springs on Highway 115. There are 500 shaded pull-through sites, all facilities, 10 miles of mountain trails and fishing lakes. This "Good Sam" campground can be reached by calling 1-800-666-3841.

Garden of the Gods Campground is located west of Colorado Springs at 3704 W. Colorado Ave. There are 250 full hookups, tent campsites, heated pool, jacuzzi, game room, grocery, and laundry. They can be reached at: 1-800-248-9451.

More Information

Space limitations prohibit the printing of a complete business and family agenda. A complete conference information packet may be obtained by calling Lisa Martinez at (303) 291-7223



NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

JULY 16 - 20, 1997

◇◇◇◇◇ DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM AFTER JULY 1, 1997; DO NOT FAX AFTER JULY 11, 1997; ON SITE REGISTRATION ONLY AFTER THOSE DATES ◇◇◇◇◇

REGISTRATION FORM

DELEGATE - SPOUSE/GUEST

DELEGATE'S NAME		SPOUSE/GUEST NAME	
MAILING ADDRESS :		PHONE :	
CITY :	STATE/PROVINCE :	ZIP CODE :	

CHILDREN

NAME :	AGE :	SEX :	NAME :	AGE :	SEX :	NAME :	AGE :	SEX :
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DELEGATE INFORMATION

AGENCY NAME :	YEARS OF SERVICE :
WORKING TITLE :	RETIRED ? Yes No

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION /FEES

(ALL FEES MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM. PLEASE REMIT IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY - SEE REVERSE)

RESERVATIONS	CONFERENCE FEES				QUANTITY		SUB-TOTAL
REGISTRATION TYPE	THROUGH JUNE 1, 1997	AFTER JUNE 1, 1997	NUMBER OF PERSONS		NO. OF PERSONS TIMES \$ AMOUNT		
FULL REGISTRATION (INCLUDES DAY EVENTS AND BANQUET ONLY AND NAWEOA MEMBER DOES NOT INCLUDE SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)	\$90.00	\$125.00	1				
NON-NAWEOA MEMBER (INCLUDES ASSOC. MEMBERSHIP IN NAWEOA)	\$120.00	\$145.00	1				
SPOUSE/GUEST	\$50.00	\$75.00					
CHILDREN - <u>FREE REGISTRATION</u> (BANQUET ONLY)	\$20.00/\$10.00 UNDER 12	\$20.00	CONFER.	BANQUET			
DAY PASSES							
UNIFORM DAY (INCLUDES LUNCH) (THURSDAY ONLY)	\$25.00	\$35.00					
WARDEN SKILLS DAY (INCLUDES BARBEQUE) (FRIDAY ONLY)	\$35.00	\$45.00					
PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS DAY (INCLUDES LUNCH-SAT. ONLY)	\$20.00	\$25.00					
SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET (INCLUDES EVENING ENTERTAINMENT)	\$30.00	NOT AVAILABLE					
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES							
GOLF TOURNAMENT (ACTIVITIES TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY - SEE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION)	\$40.00	\$45.00					
TENNIS TOURNAMENT	\$10.00	\$15.00					
SPORTING CLAYS	\$25.00	\$30.00					
ARKANSAS RIVER RAFT TRIP (WEDNESDAY - INCLUDES LUNCH AND TRANSPORTATION)	ADULT \$35	CHILD \$30	ADULT \$40	CHILD \$35	ADULT	CHILD < 12	
PIKES PEAK / AIR FORCE ACADEMY TOUR (WEDNESDAY - INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION)	ADULT \$25	CHILD \$15	ADULT \$30	CHILD \$20	ADULT	CHILD < 12	
COLORADO SPRINGS FAMILY TOUR (THURSDAY - INCLUDES ENTRY NORTH POLE/CAVE OF WINDS/CLIFF DWELLINGS FEES & TRANSPORTATION)	ADULT \$30	CHILD \$20	ADULT \$35	CHILD \$25	ADULT	CHILD 6-15	
CASTLE ROCK OUTLET STORES BUS TRIP (SATURDAY)	\$10	\$15					
WESTERN SWING DANCE CLASS (THURSDAY EVENING)	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX			NO CHARGE		
BABYSITTING SERVICE AVAILABLE AT THE SHERATON USER PAY BASIS SERVICE REQUIRED YES NO HIGHLIGHT EVENTS SERVICE REQUIRED		GRAND TOTAL					

PRAIRIES TO PEAKS

NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
JULY 16 - 20, 1997

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Register by Mail: Lisa Martinez, Law Enforcement
Colorado Division of Wildlife
6060 Broadway
Denver, Colorado 80216
Attn: NAWEOA Conference

Register by Fax: Fax registration can be sent to: (303) 296-3630

Register by Phone: Phone registrations will be taken at: (303) 291-7223
9:00am - 4:00pm weekdays. Have credit card information ready

Registrations received by Feb. 1, 1997 will be entered into an early bird drawing for a three (3) day raft trip on the Green River through Dinosaur National Monument. There will be two winners selected. Each winner will be able to take one (1) guest. Each trip includes all accommodations (except personal gear) for two people.

Please make checks payable in US funds to: NAWEOA Conference 97

Check # _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Exp. Date ____ | ____
____ | ____ | ____ | ____

Name as appears on card: _____ Signature: _____

Lodging

The newly remodeled **Sheraton Colorado Springs** Hotel has been selected as the site of the 1997 NAWEOA conference. The Sheraton has indoor/outdoor pools, tennis and shuffleboard courts, health club, game room, deli, lounges, restaurants and airport transportation. The Sheraton has agreed to hold 300 rooms at \$88/night quadruple occupancy until June 13, 1997 just for conference delegates. Federal Government employee room rates are available on a limited basis. For reservations, call **1-800-981-4012** and identify as a delegate to the 1997 NAWEOA conference.

Airline Travel Information: Contact MTS Travel at 1-800-444-3004 (in US only) or 1-719-471-4514. Ask for Vicky and tell her you are with NAWEOA 1997. MTS will use United Airlines and service is available to Colorado Springs at the Colorado Springs Airport. The Sheraton has a shuttle service to and from the airport.

Tourist Information: Colorado Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau (719) 635-7506

PRAIRIES TO PEAKS

North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association

annual conference - colorado springs, colorado

July 16 -20, 1997

REGISTRATION GUIDE

FULL REGISTRATION

This registration is for officers, spouses, guests and civilians who want to attend all conference activities (except special activities). It includes all programs, NAWEOA business meetings, luncheons, warden games and barbeque, hospitality functions and the Saturday night banquet, auction and evening entertainment. Thursday is designated as uniform day. Officers are requested to wear their uniforms without sidearms. PLEASE REGISTER BEFORE JUNE 1, 1997 TO RECEIVE A DISCOUNT ON REGISTRATION FEES. Civilian registration includes an associate membership in NAWEOA.

DAY PASSES - EVENTS

This registration is for persons who cannot attend the whole conference or would like to attend just a certain event. Registration can be made for more than one event or program. All day passes include a meal.

UNIFORM DAY

Opening ceremonies will be held at the Sheraton with the Air Force Academy Color Guard leading the way for officers representing 100 years of wildlife law enforcement in Co. One hundred years of wildlife conservation in Colorado will be celebrated along with a tribute to fallen officers. Lunch will be provided. The afternoon will consist of programs.

WARDEN GAMES

The Air Force Academy stadium will be the scene of this popular conference event. Activities will also be available for spouse/guests and children. The games will have a uniquely Colorado flavor that only a mile high plus could provide with help from the wildlife investigators. The blue grass band *Southern Exposure* will provide music and a western style barbeque along with western style entertainment is planned.

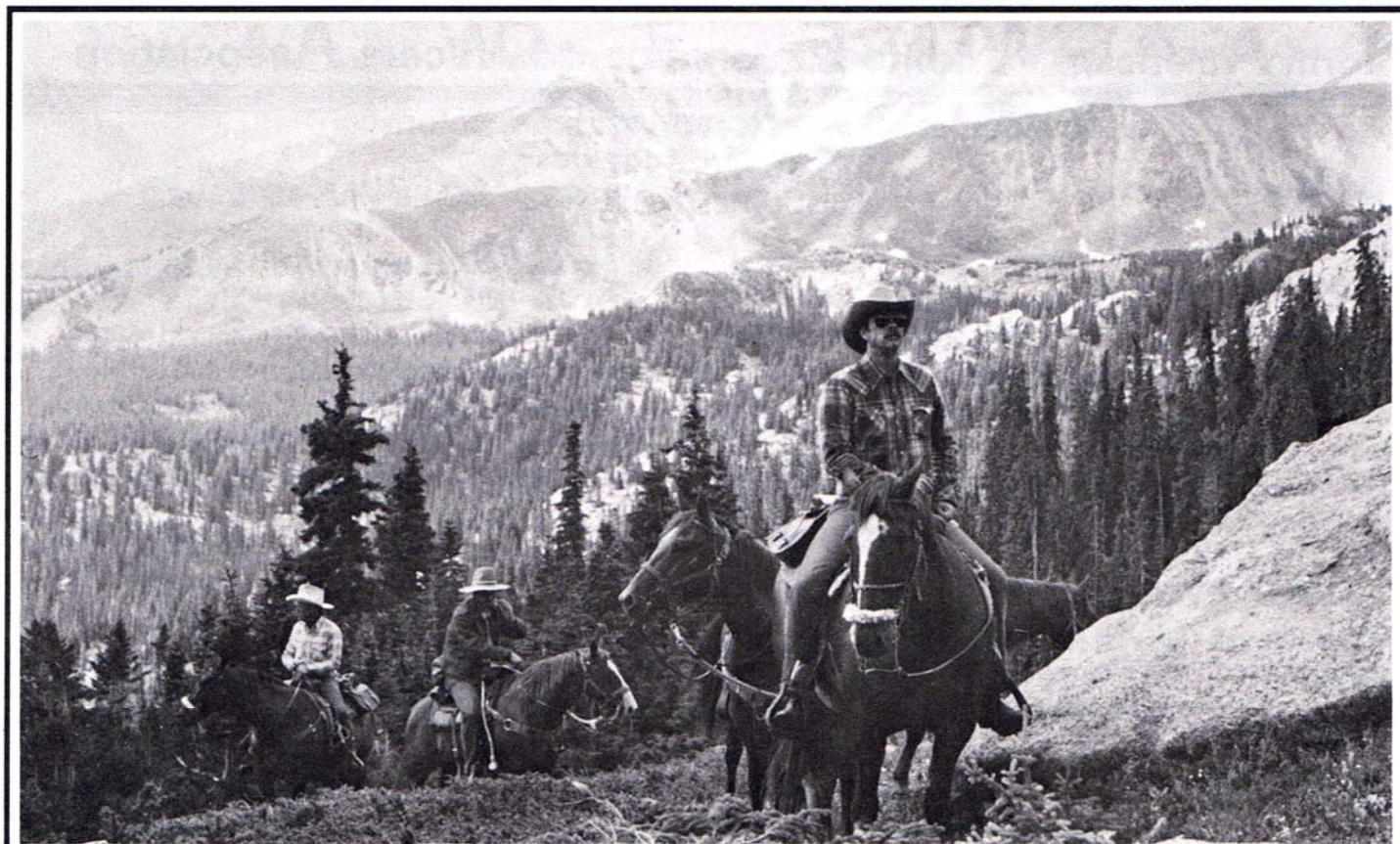
PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS DAY

The programs will include speakers from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, World Wildlife Fund, Colorado Division of Wildlife and the US Air Force Academy. A History Alive program will be presented by Rich Pauling on the history of wildlife management in Colorado. The programs will be pertinent to today's wildlife officer.

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET

The traditional conference banquet will be held Saturday night with accompanying awards and auction. The cowboy poet (Gary McMann) will entertain and the country rock band *Runaway Express* will provide the music including country and western. Be sure to attend the western swing dance class on Thursday evening to be ready for a western shindig.





Colorado Officers head out on a high-country fisheries patrol. If you attend the 1997 NAWEOA Conference , you will meet some great people and enjoy some of this fantastic scenery.

"WORKING FOR WILDLIFE"

Mike Gabbard - Editor
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