



30th Edition Newsletter

FALL 1998

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ASSOCIATION

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INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP - Includes a patch, bi-annual newsletter and the opportunity to attend the annual convention as a non-voting member.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gary Martin

Hello, everyone! Hoping that you have had an opportunity to enjoy what was, for most of us anyway, one of the finest summers in recent memory and are now enjoying a pleasant and productive fall. This has been a very an extremely busy year to date....my "NAWEOA desk" is overflowing! Let me update you on the efforts which your representatives have been working on and will be pursuing in the near future. We have, as the expression goes, a mix of "good news and bad news".....

Well, chalk up another success for your association! The Ohio Game Protectors Association, Ohio Wildlife Officers Lodge, and the Ohio Division of Wildlife worked together to put on a truly memorable event at "The Lodge" on the shores of Lake Erie. Special Thanks to all of the officers who worked so hard, led by Jim Abrams and Mike Taylor....great speakers, super hospitality, deluxe facilities, and good ol' game warden fraternalism all came together for five days in June! If you have not yet taken in one of our annual meetings, beware! You will learn so much, meet so many new friends, and have so much fun that there is a very good possibility that you too, may want to become a 'regular'. Also good news - New York was selected as host of the year 2000 meeting, to be hosted in Albany and the Saratoga/Lake George area's. Plan on making it to that one!

While many of us were busy enjoying the Ohio conference, we were shocked and saddened at the news which we received on the final day of the meeting. On Sunday, June 21st, Joe Kolodski, a 36 year old National Park Ranger working the Blue Ridge Parkway was shot and killed by a sniper in a parking lot. Four days later, US Forest Service Agent Steve A. Bowman was killed in a helicopter crash in Tennessee. He was found the following Sunday. From the information which I have received to date, neither of these deaths was preventable, but, for goodness sakes folks, be careful out there - work safe.

It was my privilege this year to present the NAWEOA Officer of the Year Award to British Columbia Officer Ben Mitchell-Banks. Ben was at the conference this year to receive his award, which as it is in many professions, the ultimate in recognition because it reflects the respect of your peers. Congratulations, Ben. Ben was immediately invited to be the guest of the 1997 Officer of the year, Bruce Lemmert in Virginia. Nice touch Bruce, and a big Thank You to the State of Virginia. Remember, it is up to us to show off the quality folks in our profession....and there are plenty of them - send in a nominee for the 1999 officer of the year. Now. Do it!

Certainly, one of the worst pieces of news of the last 6 months has been the loss of the "two Mikes". After years of dedication and service,



Mike Gabbard, your newsletter editor has decided to hang up his red pen. Mike has been our longest running editor and certainly spent countless hours working to make your newsletter more readable and ensure that it is distributed in a timely manner. While, at the time of this writing a replacement has not been selected, whomever it shall be will have gargantuan shoes to fill.

About 1000 miles north of Gabby, we also are losing one of the hardest working directors I have seen from your board of directors. Mike Maillet from New Brunswick has been replaced by Brent Cole from Newfoundland. Brent, too, has very large shoes to fill, although I am hopeful that we have not heard the last from Mike.

Roughly 2000 miles west, Kerry Wishko, the western Canadian director has handed over that responsibility to Kevin Carr, also of Saskatchewan. Thanks, Kerry for a job very well done....and remember, just because you are not on the board does not mean we won't still be putting you to work!

About 30+ years ago, when I, along with most of the rest of my generation, was busy protesting against "Big Brother", one of the most common expressions was. "If you are not a part of the solution, the you are a part of the problem." Well, now is the time for every fish & wildlife enforcement officer in USA to really put that thought into action. In a nutshell, read everything that you can on the "Teeming With Wildlife" initiative and do not wait another day to act by getting a hold of your legislator and send a note to the committee, demanding fair funding for enforcement!! Y'all got stiffed on both the Dingel funding packages in the past. If you do not act on this, don't say a word when there is not enough dollars to do our job!! We are talking in excess of 45 million dollars here folks.

Having just spent a few days meeting with the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs at their annual meeting, let

me give you a few of the highlights of that session:

- * The initiative led by NAWEOA rep Mary Clawson to expand the wildlife violator compact nationwide has been endorsed by the Chiefs, and both the Law Enforcement and Legal subcommittees of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. While this is a very slow process it may prove to be one of the most significant deterrents to wildlife crime that may exist.
- * The chiefs will be working on developing a "Wildlife Crime Information Centre", patterned after the NCIC concept. If funding becomes available this fall, a pilot program may begin shortly thereafter. NAWEOA's endorsement for this project was sought after by the Chiefs association and readily given.
- * A first draft of a "Compendium of Law Enforcement Grant Applications" was shared with all at the meeting. The short story is that there is literally millions of dollars of funding available for wildlife enforcement. Successful grants have purchased vehicles, boats, vests, laptop computers, and more, as well as provided for training and even paying for additional officers (up to twenty in one state alone!) If your chief is a member of NACLEC, copies of the successful applications are available.
- * It is not "us and them". NAWEOA has joined NACLEC as an associate member. While we may not always like what the boss says, the reality is that we must all work towards bettering law enforcement and its profile in both the wildlife departments and our communities at large.

The "Tips & Tricks" Manual is now in the hands of an editor, who has been tasked with boiling down all of the outstanding tips and stories which Bob Mullen from IOWA had compiled into a concise and readable document. Every officer in North America should be putting this manual on their "wish list". It represents literally thousands of years of experience on the job and a single tip alone, would be worth the price. We will be offering this manual to either agencies or officer associations as a fundraising project for our Memorial Museum and Education Centre. The baiting issue has been put to bed. Special thanks to Rick Pallister, Mary Clawson, Randy Hancock, and especially Bruce Lemmert, all of whom put effort into this task. Bruce drafted a position paper for us which was submitted to the legislators as well as appearing in Washington, DC on our behalf. We are finished celebrating Manitoba's and Saskatchewan's victories in obtaining firearms for their officers. I am now in the initial stages of coordinating efforts to assist Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and our Canadian National Parks Officers in their efforts to be properly equipped to do our job.

By the time you are reading this we will be heading in to Christmas season....my sincerest best wishes for all of you. Happy, healthy, and safe Holidays to all!!



REGION 1 REPORT

By Kevin Carr

Hello from the smokey northwest. Things have been hot and dry for most of western Canada this year. The fire season came a good three to four weeks early for most of western Canada but Alberta was fighting them this past winter. Saskatchewan has experienced a record number of forest fires. Alberta has spent three times their annual forest protection budget and British Columbia has had lots of fun losing several homes to wildfires in the interior of the Province. If you have any extra rain you can send it our way.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kerry Wishko who has just finished two terms as the Region 1 representative. Kerry has worked hard for NAWEOA and represented region 1 well. Thanks Kerry.

Change seems to be the buzz word in government these days and this pattern is prevalent in both Alberta and Saskatchewan. It seems people are eager to flatten out levels of management in the field operation but not the rest of the agency.

Al Gibson from Alberta reports that officer morale is at an all time low. The recent reorganization in Alberta has created a lot of uncertainty. Alberta has gone down to three regions from six and out of the eighteen managers in the new structure only four have a natural resources law enforcement background.

Alberta is experiencing the generalization of their workforce while Saskatchewan is specializing (streaming) theirs. Alberta Conservation Officers have just upgraded their uniform issue and now it sounds as if all field staff, even those not having enforcement functions will be placed in the same uniform. It sounds like this plan may create some safety concerns for non enforcement staff, cause confusion for the public and impact on the conservation officer identity. Eleven to twelve recruits were in place to be hired this past year however the budget was canceled. Alberta is in a vacancy management mode but Al is hopeful the recruits will be hired during the next fiscal year. The officers series review is still an ongoing saga. The review process is suggesting a three level

system which would incorporate an entry level, working level and manager level of conservation officer. This sounds similar to what is being implemented in Saskatchewan.

Rick Hildebrand from British Columbia reports that their association were pleased to hear that one of their officers, Ben Mitchell-Banks, was selected as the 1988 NAWEOA Officer of the Year. Ben was certainly deserving of this award, and was in attendance at the conference in Ohio to graciously accept it. B.C. sends their thanks to NAWEOA for making this possible.

Rick reported in the spring issue, that B.C. had hired five new officers and were hoping to bring on another five. They were only able to hire on an additional three new officers by the end of the fiscal year (March). There are still some vacancies unfilled, but with more fiscal restraint implemented out there, it may be some time before these get filled. Wage equity negotiations were finalized during bargaining of the of the government employees' master agreement. The special adjustments that conservation officers had been waiting for since 1994, did not materialize to the extent hoped for. Issues surrounding this settlement are still ongoing.

The NAWEOA 2005 Convention Committee has been pursuing agency support and participation to assist the Society of BC Conservation Officers in hosting the event. A letter of support in principle of hosting the conference in 2005, has been provided by their Minister. The B.C. jurisdiction is in the process of forming a master planning committee, as well as working on establishing host partner relationships with other resource agencies within British Columbia.

Rick sends a safety message for all those NAWEOA members whose duties include forest fire suppression, and are exposed to numerous dangers as a result, work safe!

Colin Copland of Environment Canada's Wildlife Enforcement Sections reports that a joint Environment Canada and Revenue Canada Customs Investigation resulted in charges against Kayson Hong Enterprises Ltd. For unlawfully importing patent Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM's) containing *Costas* (*Saussurea costus*) a CITES Appendix 1 Listed plant specie. A request through Interpol, was sent to the Chinese CITES Administrator in Beijing, requesting they determine if the manufacturing company was indeed including *Costas* as an ingredient in the TCM formula. The cooperation of the Chinese government resulted in the manufacturing company signing an affidavit confirming the use of *Costas*. In July the company plead guilty to one count under WAPPRIITA and fined \$500. The significance of the case was the first conviction in Canada under section 6(2) of WAPPRIITA involving importing and sale of TCM's containing CITES species, and the international cooperation of the Chinese CITES Administration.

In January, 1998, Ronald Edward SPAR-

ROW, of the famous R. vs. SPARROW case, was found using lead shot for the purpose of waterfowl hunting and was also found to be hunting more than one half hour after sunset. Charges were subsequently approved by the Crown. A pre-trial is set for December 1998 with a three day trial set for January 1999. It is anticipated that Native rights will be argued.

Environment Canada's P&Y Region and Ontario Region in cooperation with Speedwell Bird Sanctuary of Kelowna B.C. sent 14 Amazon Parrots to Mexico. Some of these parrots will be used in a captive breeding program, others will be released back into the wild. This was the first exchange of wildlife between Canada and Mexico. Many exotic species are unlawfully imported and subsequently seized annually in Canada. International cooperation is required to get these animals back quickly and safely.

Berny Bergman from the North West Territories reports that all officers have been concentrating on Forest Fire Suppression with little time for anything else. Fire activities have been a particularly busy season for the regions of Fort Smith, Fort Simpson and Yellowknife. With regards to enforcement activities, other than the usual fishing infractions, the high lights have been environmental cases and a constitutional challenge with regard to hunting restrictions on parties other than Aborigines. This particular case has not been heard yet, but has all the makings of an extremely interesting trial.

There seems to be a flurry of hiring going on at the Officer 2 level. All of the hiring has been from within the N.W.T. to date and it is expected to remain that way for some time as the N.W.T. has its' own training programs.

Greg Slater reports from the western/northern Canadian National Parks they have generally had a very dry summer following an early/warm spring. Many Parks are presently in extreme fire hazard and fires are burning in some.

On the west coast, a commercial herring fishery was held in the waters surrounding Gwaii Haanas National Park, in March '98, for the first time in 5 years. This fishery was very controversial as many local residents and the Haida first nation community felt that the herring stocks had not recovered sufficiently, from the previous exploitation, to allow a commercial fishery. Protests were planned. As the waters surrounding the southern Queen Charlotte Islands are to become one of the first National Marine Conservation Areas (jointly administered by Parks Canada, the Haida Nation, and Fisheries & Oceans Canada) Parks Canada was determined to have a presence during the fishery. They were also concerned in case any illegal activities occurred on land so they could respond as a backup agency in case of a search & rescue incident. Additional wardens were brought in from other western National Parks to supplement the small staff at Gwaii Haanas. The fishery went ahead as did the protests despite gen-

erally poor weather and the remote location. Approximately 10 commercial herring boats, two RCMP patrol vessels, two Coast Guard/Fisheries vessels, one Parks Canada support vessel, and approximately 15 protest small craft took part. The poor weather limited media coverage and the demonstrations were largely confined to running small craft around the nets in an attempt to scare the herring away. Some sea lion bombs were thrown by both sides, and some nets were cut by propellers. The numbers of herring forecast, in population models, were not present and the fleet gradually dispersed northward. The pending legislation to create National Marine Conservation Areas has been introduced into Parliament but the House is currently in recess. It will probably be another year before it is passed.

In Glacier National Park a case of mountain goat poaching has finally come to a successful conclusion. The goat was poached in October 1996 and the ensuing investigation was a joint effort by Parks Canada, BC Conservation Officer Service, and the University of Alberta Forensics lab. A husband and wife, from Golden, BC, pled guilty in court. The wife received a combined fine of \$6,000 and the husband 3 months incarceration. The judge commented that he would have given each the fine and jail time but they pled poverty.

Banff National Park wardens successfully prosecuted a local outfitter who was removing sheep heads and elk antlers from the Park. The outfitter was fined \$3,000 for the removal of a bighorn sheep head and \$1,000 for the removal of 14 elk antlers. He operated a wilderness lodge within a mile of the Park boundary and had bragged that he had been doing this for the last 5 years. In addition to the significant fines awarded, this investigation utilized close quarter surveillance (including a video record) and a confidential informant and received very positive media coverage (at its conclusion).

Jasper National Park's attempt to close its local grass airstrip and prosecute pilots who utilize this airstrip continues. The case is now embroiled in legal wrangling but charges continue to be laid against any pilot who lands off. Earlier in the summer a complaint was received of a vehicle shining a spot light along a local highway (unlawful in a National Park). When the vehicle was stopped the light was discovered in addition to a loaded .270 and a loaded .22. The driver was a U.S. citizen traveling between the lower 48 and Alaska. In

court he admitted to shining the spot light "just to view wildlife" and told the judge that the loaded firearms were for the protection of his family - he had heard reports of the aggressive elk in Jasper! The judge did not buy into this and issued significant fines. Motorized watercraft are restricted in National Parks. Jasper National Park only allows the use of gas powered boats on Pyramid Lake, a small lake near the Jasper townsite. Loons have failed to nest successfully on this lake for the last 5 years. It is felt the disturbance (noise/wake) of motorized boats is the cause. A report of nesting loons resulted in the closure of approximately 1/3 of the lake to motorized watercraft. Within 1 day of the closure the nest was vandalized with 1 egg broken and the other removed. The loons abandoned their nest and the lake was subsequently reopened to power boats. There are no suspects at present.

The Mountain Park Wardens are gearing up for the fall boundary patrol as bighorn sheep season opens up in the Rockies in less than two weeks. Wardens have been busy with the usual summer problems of campground disturbances, feeding wildlife cases, fishing violations etc.

Randy Nelson of the society of Pacific Region Fishery Officers reports that he has bumped up a step in the scheme of things and that Elliot Teskey is the new president of their society. There is a pilot renewal program in place to address the lack of recognition & compensation for fishery officers with supervisory responsibility. This should mean a boost in pay for possibly a third of the Pacific Fishery Officers. Last fiscal year thirteen positions were filled and they anticipate eight to ten positions to be filled this fiscal year. Another project they are working on is a fitness standard. Looks like they have pretty tough entrance requirements. Coho salmon stocks are on the ropes in B.C. so a new 400 million dollar program to enhance the fishery and buy-outs to reduce the commercial fleet has been set up. Some of the monies are earmarked for enhancement projects, scientific studies and hopefully some will make it to enhanced enforcement.

Brian Lacey from the Yukon reports things were pretty normal this year other than wide spread closure to salmon fishing. All the tributaries to the Yukon river are closed. The hunting season opened the beginning of August and bear problems have been pretty much normal. They have experienced over 300,000 hectares of forest burnt which is affecting several communities for smoke and with the loss of habitat he expects to have a large number of bears displaced and causing a few more problems.

In Saskatchewan the sidearm training was completed on May 16, 1998 and now there are 168 armed Officers. The training went smoothly and was enjoyed by all. The most asked question now seems to be where can I get some more ammo to practice my shooting skills.

The ongoing reorganization has disappointed

most Conservation Officers. The original streaming concept was to rationalize the work the Conservation Officer did and reorganize our staff so that a more mobile smaller number of Conservation Officers could concentrate on enforcement while some duties would be taken on by other staff. There are a number of Conservation positions that have been converted to Fire Protection Officers and Park Managers /supervisors. Most field offices were operating on a bare bones budget prior to streaming but since all the various budgets have been pared down things are much worse. Most field area staff and managers had to make some tough decisions this spring and summer in order to meet the ultimatum of no over expenditures. District budgets were pared down as much as 30% in some areas. New patrol vehicles, new radio systems have been turned in and some areas had to reduce their vehicle fleet because they cannot afford to pay the capital costs. We have been made a very ineffective enforcement agency and department. It is still hoped that our executive managers can get through to our treasury board for the proper finances to operate efficiently and effectively. It is great that the government has signed an agreement with the union to guarantee no job losses within this contract through till the year 2000, but our field staff simply do not have the adequate budgets to operate.

A recent update on the Grumbo decision. Grumbo gave the same hunting and fishing rights to Metis (those people able to show partial Indian heritage) as status Indians. In Saskatchewan status Indians may hunt or fish during all times of the year where they have access. This means virtually all crown lands. The Provincial Appeals court have sent this case to a retrial. In the meantime the law reverts to its previous state that require metis people to purchase hunting and fishing licence and abide by all regulations including bag limits, season dates etc.

As Rick Hildebrand indicated in his report to me we would like to thank the Ohio officers and spouses for hosting an excellent conference this past June. The hospitality was outstanding and the quality of presentations was excellent. These conferences take a lot of work to host but they provide such a positive experience for those that are able to attend.

As I put the finishing touches on this report we are experiencing our first general rains in northern Saskatchewan since April 29. Hopefully this moisture will draw a bitter end to this years fire season. Conservation Officers are gearing up to taste the first frosts of fall and all the hunting seasons that get us out on the land. The best for a safe and prosperous fall.



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REGION 2 REPORT

By Ian Anderson

The summer of 1998 will long be remembered as hot and dry. This combination resulted in numerous wildfires throughout the Region meaning either direct or indirect officer time being spent fighting fire or preventing wildfires. If the weather forecasters are right we should see some relief soon and this winters long range predictions are cold with lots of snow, quite a contrast to last winter.

George Tardiff of the National Capital Commission reports that the big black cloud that accompanied all the employee cuts has finally disappeared. Officers got a great morale boost when after 60 years of driving glorified maintenance trucks they have now been issued vehicles with a distinctive section logo on the door and a new light bar package. New uniforms as well to compliment the new look.

One of the Commission's officers, as well as a Regional Police Officer suffered minor injuries when they were attacked with stones and sticks. A homeless person was lighting a fire in an urban park which precipitated the attack. This person is awaiting trial on a number of criminal charges. Relocation of Big Game Animals was a common occurrence in May and June including a deer in the Rideau Canal and a moose in an apartment parking lot.

A reminder that the fallen officers memorial ceremony will be held in Ottawa on Sunday, September 27, 1998.

Jim Kamann of Manitoba reports that their officers are all currently being trained in the use of their long awaited sidearms, Glock, Model 22 in 40 caliber. The initial training is being done at the RCMP Depot with approximately one half of the officers trained to date. In addition, new body armour is being issued as well.

Opportunities for promotions are coming up this year as well as six to eight NEW POSITIONS. It should not come as a surprise then that officer morale seems GOOD and their officers association can finally relax a little without any major is-

ssues to "run" with. Manitoba's Officers Association has recently sent out a membership wide survey seeking feedback and advice on future direction for the next couple of years.

Centralized training is coming up in September for all NRO's where everyone will requalify in long arms, officer safety and use of force, all very important aspects of our jobs anymore.

Dan Van Exan of Ontario reports that Ontario has some new faces in head office. John Chevalier was hired as Manager of the Enforcement Section, replacing the now retired Guy Winterton. John has a strong background in biology and finance and will no doubt be a driving force in keeping the enforcement program properly funded.

Kevin Smith was hired as the supervisor of Field Enforcement for the province. He recently was an enforcement supervisor and has experience in both northern and southern Ontario. As an Association it is hoped that the good working relationships of the past can be continued. Ontario's Officers Association has a new executive as of their Annual meeting in Kingston in August. Bill Fisher from Lindsey as President, Dan McKnight as Vice, Steve Aubrey as Secretary and Randy Pepper as Treasurer.

Bruce Ward is the new NAWEOA jurisdictional rep for Ontario. Congratulations Bruce, and a sincere Thank You to Dan VanExan. Bruce is a familiar face at the NAWEOA Conferences and currently working in the greater Toronto area. The Ontario Conservation Officers Association (OCCA) executive met with their new Minister, John Snobelen in March and received a commitment to maintaining the number of badges and current funding levels. Our officers operating funding was significantly increased this year despite an overall reduction in operating dollars elsewhere within our Ministry.

The K-9 team has been expanded with a new position filled in Pembroke and another advertised for Sault Ste Marie. There has also been a promise to expand our "flying CO" program (currently have one in the province) Both of these programs have been very beneficial to the field CO.

Other issues include Personal Taxable Benefits for the use of our government owned Enforcement Vehicles. The Federal Government has a ruling on what they determined to be "personal" use of a vehicle. It has some serious financial ramifications for officers who take their vehicles home (common in many parts of the province) The OCCA is actively pursuing this issue seeking an exemption similar to some other enforcement officers.

OCCA is also seeking authority to enforce Small Vessel Regulations, Liquor License Act and the ability to use some sections of the Highway Traffic Act while conducting marine duties. Fatalities are on the rise in this province on the water and CO's spend more hours on the water than any other enforcement agency.

Lastly, all job specs are being rewritten for

the Ontario Public Service in an effort to reduce the number of classifications. Where CO's will fit is anyone's guess at the present but we should know by December. After fighting for 5 years to get properly reclassified, it is hoped that this exercise was not in vain.

Gerry Brunet of the Canadian Wildlife Service reports that their members who were able to attend Ohio's conference enjoyed themselves immensely and would like to thank all those who worked so hard to make this conference such a success.

For the past nine months the CWS, together with Revenue Canada - Customs Investigations, have been involved in a reptile investigation that has international overtones. The USFWS concluded a covert investigation in 1996 and indicted several persons for smuggling rare and endangered tortoises and snakes from Madagascar into Germany, Canada and the USA.

A Canadian ringleader, Enrico TRUANT, was indicted and convicted by the USFWS and sentenced to 10 months imprisonment. The CWS investigation has concentrated on the Canadian co-conspirators whom worked with Truant after a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty was secured between the Canadian and US Departments of Justice allowing the USFWS to share evidence from their investigation with the CWS. In February 1998, Customs art the CWS executed a search warrant on a residence in Windsor, Ontario and seized 11 rare tortoises smuggled into Canada in 1995. On July 3, 1998, John DeAnuda was convicted of possession of those tortoises brought into Canada illegally and was sentenced to a \$3000 fine plus forfeiture of the tortoises which had an estimated street value of \$24,000. This investigation continues with as many as five other additional persons expected to be charged for conspiracy under the Criminal Code and substantive charges under the Customs Act and Export Act and Import Permits Act.

In June 1998, The Ontario ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Canada worked jointly to execute a search warrant on a taxidermist business operating out of the Kitchener-Waterloo area. The warrant followed a five-month covert investigation relating to the illegal sale of fish and wildlife mounts. While executing the warrant officers discovered various firearm offences, including possession of a sawed off shotgun. To date the MNR has laid 9 counts under the Game & Fish Act, 3 by the CWS under the MBC Act and 9 counts under the Criminal Code by the Weapons Enforcement Team. Richard Labossiere of the CWS out of Winnipeg reports that a new computer program is being used across Canada called "NEMISES" This program contains all occurrences/inspections and investigations with officer access across the country.

All Wildlife Officers have converted to the Smith & Wesson model 5946 for their issue sidearm and recently trained in its use. This is the same

firearm used by the RCMP. Winnipeg Officers conducted inspections at Traditional Chinese Medicine shops in the city. A total of 6 shops were found to be in possession of Appendix I or II species. As part of an education program warnings were issued to the shop owners.

Winnipeg Officers seized a Polar Bear hide and skull as well as Muskox hide and skull which was illegally imported from the NWT to Manitoba. The exporter has been charged and convicted of illegal importation with the investigation ongoing. On May 1st, 1998, Dennis Hunt of Minneapolis entered a plea of guilty and was fined \$1,000 in Brandon, Manitoba to guiding without a license. Hunt lost approximately \$2,000 worth of hunting equipment as well. He was illegally operating a waterfowl hunt in southern Manitoba.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

ALL NAWEOA MEMBERSHIP DUES EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31 OF THE YEAR. DUE TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SEND OUT RENEWAL NOTICES TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO PAY AS INDIVIDUALS. FOR THOSE WHO PAY AS JURISDICTIONS, PLEASE CHECK TO SEE THAT YOUR DUES ARE PAID. ANY INDIVIDUAL OR JURISDICTION WHO HAS NOT PAID THEIR DUES BY JANUARY 31ST WILL NOT RECEIVE A SPRING NEWSLETTER.

NAWEOA MEMORIAL FUND

A few years ago NAWEOA started the Fallen Officer 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 was to have fifty members so that a cheque for \$2,500 could be sent to the survivors of the fallen officers as soon as possible after notification to the Executive Board of NAWEOA.

However, when Secretary-Treasurer Merryl Bustin lost his home to a fire in 1996, the records listing those associations, individuals or businesses which were participating were also lost in the fire. If you or your association were one of the previous participants, we want to hear from you. Please reconfirm your commitment of participation by notifying Merryl Bustin as soon as possible.

If you were not participating, NAWEOA would welcome you to join. If more than fifty associations, individual or businesses join, the survivor family will receive a greater donation. Along with the cheque, the family will receive a letter of condolence that lists each sponsor.

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. If you are a new member, please complete the form below and send a cheque for \$50 made payable to NAWEOA Memorial Fund.

The Memorial Fund is one of the most important functions that NAWEOA performs and administers. We need to hear from old sponsors and new ones alike. Drop a line to Merryl today! (Kerry Wrishko)

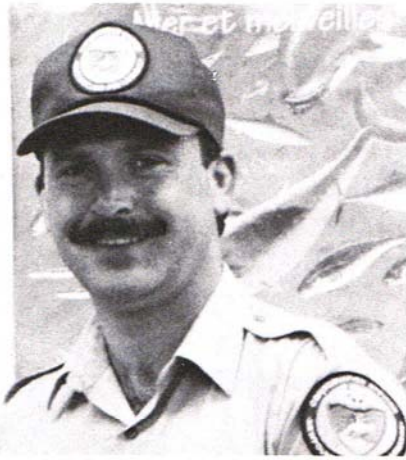
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Please send this form and check for \$50 U.S. made out to NAWEOA MEMORIAL FUND to:
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REGION 3 REPORT

By Brent Cole

"Great Job," Ohio. Congratulations on a job well done. The 98' conference will be a memorable one and from the reports I have received, everyone had a great time. Let me extend our thanks to everyone who played a role in making the conference a success.

I would also like to express my thanks to everyone who supported me in my run for Director of Region 3, and for their kind words of support, especially Mike Maillet. I know Mike did an outstanding job for NAWEOA and his region in the last couple of years, and no doubt I have big shoes to fill. Once again, thanks Mike.

The Ohio conference saw Region 3 well represented with Quebec 1, New Brunswick 5, Nova Scotia 4 and Newfoundland 2. The upcoming conference in St. Louis, Missouri is offering 30 rooms Canadian money at par with U.S. for the 1999 conference, so book early. I'm sure these rooms will go fast.

Michel Morin reports from Quebec that Marcel Provost, a Conservation Officer stationed at La Tuque, Quebec, proved his heroism this past February by saving a woman from eventual suicide. Around three pm, as he was driving home on the autoroute from Granby, he noticed a person standing on an overpass. As he looked in his rear-view mirror, he noticed the person climbing over the railing. He immediately took that exit hoping to reach the person before she jumped. As Agent Provost arrived on top of the overpass, the woman removed her coat. He knew immediately what her intentions were. He accelerated and turned on his flashing lights, even opening his door so that once he reached her he would be able to jump out quickly. As he reached the woman, she was already in perfect position to jump over the side. He said to her "Don't do it, I will help you". He tried to keep his voice calm so as not to encourage her actions. She answered him "It's too late, I'm jumping". At the very moment the woman let herself fall, Agent Provost let his instincts take over and with lightening speed reached out and grabbed the

woman by the wrist. This good Samaritan held the woman suspended over the autoroute for what seemed a very long time as he hoped passing cars would stop and help him. All the while he was consoling the woman, she was begging him to let her go. Regardless of his physical fitness training the position in which he was holding her did not allow Agent Provost to pull her up. And, regardless of his five years experience as a fireman, he found his frustration mounting as the cars were passing him by without anyone stopping to help. Eventually, a truck driver pulled over to help, but it was the hand of a third man that finally pulled the woman to safety. At which time, approximately 3:10 pm, Agent Provost contacted the police.

Agent Provost does not really know how many minutes he held the woman hanging in thin air, "It may have been two maybe three minutes, but to me it seemed like an hour. I never for a moment thought of letting go. The worst moments were when I heard the cars driving by underneath, I held her even harder afraid that if she did fall she would hit a windshield, thus causing more accidents." This was the third time that Agent Provost has saved someone's life, the first two he saved from drowning. Officer Provost was awarded a certificate for life saving at the conference in Ohio this past summer. Congratulations Marcel.

New Brunswick's Richard Kingston reports that the decision which gave natives ownership of all crown land wood was overturned by New Brunswick's highest court. The natives have taken the case to the Supreme Court of Canada for a final decision.

Last season the great Miramichi River, world renowned for Atlantic Salmon angling, appeared to be in trouble having lower levels than usual of salmon present. Conservation measures are in place this year allowing only one salmon to be taken per day with a season limit of eight. To date, anglers indicate there is a better than normal return of fish to the Miramichi.

New Brunswick's Department of Natural Resources and Energy continue to recognize the importance of having officers present at annual NAWEOA conferences. This year, they sponsored two officers to attend the Ohio Conference. As well the Rangers/Wardens also sponsored one officer. Thanks to both groups.

Recently, a request has been made to provide enforcement training in the area between empty hand control and the use of lethal force. Verbal Intervention training has started this summer and we're expecting a decision on pepper spray and baton training to come later in the year.

The Conservation Officers Association of Nova Scotia Newsletter, Spreading Wings, has been reborn. Many thanks to Chuck Moore, Assistant Manager of Enforcement, for making this project a reality - a pro job Contributors, great stuff, keep sending articles to Chuck. Chuck has also recently become president of ANRET, The Association of

Natural Resource Enforcement Trainers. Congratulations and hope all goes smoothly for you. Nova Scotia Officers are continuing with a classification appeal. Conservation Officers who specialize in enforcement are presently negotiating for recognition of skills and responsibilities which are now far beyond current classification levels. Good Luck.

On that note, two Nova Scotia Conservation Officers were seconded to the Justice Institute of Canada in Summerside, Prince Edward Island. Merryl Bustin and Kevin Penny have completed the course curriculum and coordination plans for the first conservation course beginning this September. The course will be quite extensive including 10 weeks on campus and 6 weeks on the job training. Course requirements will include living in barracks, wearing of uniforms, professional conduct, along with regular drill and discipline.

Terry Smith of Department of Fisheries and Oceans says that last years extensive enforcement efforts on the Crab, Lobster and Groundfish Fishery has paid off. Many patrols this year revealed that violations are considerably fewer. Keep up the good work, we need our fishery to flourish once again. We'd like to welcome Joanne Legel to the Cape Breton District of department of fisheries and Ocean's Gulf Region. Joanne will be working out of Port Hood with John Angus MacIntyre. Nova Scotia has also seen the retirement of four Department of fisheries and Oceans Officers. These dedicated individuals are: Wes Banington of the Margaree - Cheticamp Office, Pete Marcott of Port Hood, Jim Webber of Antigonish and Ralph Young of the Pictou Office. Thanks seems so inadequate when we consider the many years of service you gave to the people and the resources. We do wish you many pleasant years of retirement.

In Nova Scotia a near tragedy was averted on July 4th by some quick thinking, action orientated Conservation Officers. At approximately 1910 hrs Officer Merryl Bustin, enjoying some well deserved R & R, received a call at his home asking if he had access to a boat and could he look for an overdue sports fisherman on Lake Ainslie. The lake is about 25 square miles of relatively shallow water subject to extreme chopiness during wind, and this was a windy day by noontime. Missing was Roy Olsen of Glendale, a nearby community. As it happened, Conservation Officer Donne Anderson was still at the office completing his shift as was Conservation Officer Alan Bland at Baddeck. When Merryl called Donnie, he immediately contacted Alan and he was also keen to help. Within the hour the Department of Natural Resources boat was afloat and heading toward the north end of the lake with the wind. The officers reported that there was a helicopter searching the shore area and several local residents were searching with their boats as well. RCM Police had also joined the search effort with a patrol/rescue boat. Although the officers credit luck as the

element in locating the distressed fisherman, there was also knowledge of the lake and some good old common sense used in the rescue. Approximately 15 minutes into the search Al spotted what he thought was an arm in the narrow troughs of the waves. In seconds the officers were alongside the barely conscious man and were able to bring him into the boat. He was stripped of wet cold clothing and wrapped in warm dry floater coats.

The DNR boat is a work boat and not designed for speed. The officers could see the RCM Police 22 foot Boston Whaler about 3/4 mile away but were not able to make radio contact with the officers aboard, nor could contact be established with the helicopter flying about a mile and a half away. Again warden ingenuity came into play and Officer Anderson began signalling the chopper pilot with one of the 3/4 million candlepower spotlights the officers had brought along in case the search went into darkness. The message was read, the pilot arrived and within several minutes Roy was transferred to the speedy RCMP boat and headed for medical attention. After a couple of days in hospital, Roy stopped by the office to thank the officers for saving his life. He said his 12 foot aluminum boat flipped over in a wave at about 12:30 and he drifted in the lake until the officers arrived. His watch incidentally had stopped at 2:20. His face had been to the sun and wind steadily for nearly 8 hours and had left their bright red calling cards. But otherwise the would-be-victim of Lake Ainslie's treacherous bowels kept afloat by his life jacket (PFD) and rescued by the officers was healthy, happy and driving home with his family. Great job, guys - a happy ending, not soon to be forgotten.

Roland Richards of Prince Edward Island informs us that Conservation Officers have taken the pepper spray course this summer and are now equipped to carry the spray. It's always good to see officers being trained and equipped in areas of officer safety. Prince Edward Island has recently introduced a wildlife fund of \$13 being charged once a year for anyone who fishes, hunts or traps on the island. Revenues from this fund go back to the user groups.

Newfoundland and Labrador Conservation Officers Association President Sheldon Anstey reports a busy summer with dryer than usual conditions keeping fire crews hopping, both on the island portion of the Province and in Labrador. June 1-8 saw Conservation Officer Vickie Vargas-Madrid of Denver, Colorado, spend time with Newfoundland and Labrador CO's. Vickie was picked as the exchange officer at the Colorado Springs Conference in 1997. Vickie participated in a number of activities during her visit including whale watching tour, helicopter patrols, and even some research work at Gros Morne National Park which involved radio collaring of moose calves. We're glad you enjoyed yourself Vickie.

Newfoundland and Labrador Department of

Forest Resources and Agrifoods provided funding for two officers to represent our Province at the Ohio '98 NAWEOA Conference. Officers Brent Cole and Dave Russell were the lucky Conservation Officers who brought back fresh ideas and initiatives for consideration. Thanks to the Department for their continued support.

Newfoundland and Labrador saw a busy year thus far from a law enforcement perspective and although the numbers are not finalized yet, are expecting the number of charges laid to be in excess of 1,150 with approximately 600 warnings issued. The department received a total of 3,500 complaints. These violations encompass a variety of legislations including wildlife, forestry, all terrain vehicles, guides, migratory birds and fisheries regulations, as well as some criminal code offences. Officers were successful in shutting down a couple of poaching rings in different parts of the Province last year.

One investigation by Conservation Officer Baine Pilgrim in the Springdale area resulted in 22 big game charges laid over a two month period,

with one individual receiving \$4,000 in fines on four different counts, as well as several other individuals receiving \$1,000 fines. There was also a quantity of firearms, vehicles and moose meat forfeited to the Crown. Another investigation which involved illegal nonresident hunting was carried out jointly with our Division and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the Pennsylvania Game Commission. As a result of that investigation, three Newfoundland residents were charged with a variety of offences and a Pennsylvania man faces a total of four charges in the US relating to the illegal importing of moose into the USA.

Finally, on behalf of the agency representatives and officers of Region 3, as well as myself, I would like to extend, once again, a heartfelt thank you to Mike Maillet for his dedication to NAWEOA and his region for the last two years. Mike was instrumental in saving NAWEOA a substantial amount of funds by distributing the newsletter in Canada. This is just one example of the many services Mike provided to NAWEOA. Once again, Mike, thank you!

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.



REGION 4 REPORT

By Jerry Claasen

Summer is fast coming to a close as has the 1998 Conference in Huron, Ohio. I would like to thank Jim Abrams, Mike Taylor and their committees on a fine conference. Being a Westerner, I was concerned about the double H's (heat and humidity). Jim and Mike had these under control also and Ohio hosted a great conference.

By now many of you are aware of the tragic turn of events in Washington. Despite relentless efforts of the Washington Game Warden Association (WGA), a few commissioners and some of the legislature, Washington will lose 7 to 14 enforcement positions this year. Agency budget drains are given as the reason, however, the enforcement officers were hit the hardest of any section. Despite a legislative note to save enforcement, the decision was made to RIF officers. At one Commission meeting there was much concern expressed over the loss of accountant and a risk manager I positions. As Matt Nixon stated, "in Mason county residents and sportsmen don't call an accountant or risk manager with a resource question or violation complaint". With the departure of their Director, we can only hope that conditions will improve for our Washington cohorts. If we can draw any positive aspects from this situation it might be the need for becoming involved in our own associations. And most importantly don't take things for granted.

Washington also has put into effect a recodification of Fish and Wildlife violations after a 10 year effort. Most noteworthy is the license suspension process which revokes specific license privileges for specific violations. These may include one type of license (i.e. hunting) or all license privileges.

Montana Warden Association has decided to hire a lobbyist for the next legislature to try to elevate their retirement from 2% per year to 2.5%. Along the lines of compensation Jim Conner reports an effort to obtain 200 hours of Premium Pay instead of the 72 hours of Differential Pay now allowed. In a display of civic involvement,

the Montana Association contributed \$700 to the construction of a children's dock at Ft. Peck Reservoir. Warden Jack Austin saw a need because kids were diving off of the regular dock and into the wake of motorboats. Congratulations on a worthwhile project.

Montana decoy operations have shown varied success by region, with Region 5 reporting a 12% violation rate. Extra effort was made to conduct decoy operations on borders with other states and their opening date. They enjoyed good success with multiple decoys being very beneficial.

In reviewing reports from most jurisdictions in Region 4, I saw that most were experiencing fiscal problems. Because I don't want to dwell on negatives, I'll leave it at that with a few of the good items identified.

Even though New Mexico is going through a vacancy savings, they will have 10 new officers in their Academy this year. They also report that their retirement plan has improved over past years.

Arizona is also looking at a few new officers. They may be taking a new tact in that they are considering court action on wages. This may be an interesting angle in obtaining just compensation. Stay tuned for the outcome.

Bill Peters says California is similar to other agencies at this time. Compensation for "living in District" and cost of living raises will hopefully help officers catch up as it has been several years since they have received any type of increase. As a sideline, the governor of California recently received a 32% raise with employees getting 0. who says it is lonely at the top? California has created a new region in the state. Region 7 will be known as the Marine Resource Region.

Kurt Stieglitz from Idaho was awarded the Region 4 NAWEOA Torch award at the 17th Annual Conference in Ohio. Congratulations Kurt. Idaho has also included lifetime suspension as a violator deterrent. I am not sure how many jurisdictions have a suspension process. Those that due will most surely agree the violator is more often worried about the loss of privileges than the amount of fine or confiscation of equipment.

Doug Homan reports that this spring the Colorado Legislature greatly increased the penalty for illegally killing trophy big game animals. The bill was precipitated by the poaching of "Samson" a trophy class bull elk on the wintering grounds near Estes Park. In addition to the regular fine for illegal possession, \$10,000 is added to deer, elk, mountain goat and moose if the animal meets the criteria for trophy animal (6 point for elk/22 inch spread for mule deer). The surcharge for bighorn sheep is \$25,000. The additional fine money goes to the county where the violation occurred.

Fran Marcoux, Chief of Law Enforcement, has taken a one year position with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Fran was very active in NAWEOA and organizing the Colorado conference in 1997.

In February, 1998, long time poacher Eddie

Orf was arrested (for the second time) by DWM Jim Schrievogel and local authorities. Orf has a long history of poaching which started in Wyoming in the '60's and moved to Colorado in the '70's. Orf was originally arrested for illegal possession of five bighorn sheep and is suspected of firebombing two Division of Wildlife vehicles.

A two year investigation resulted in Donald Hawkins pleading guilty to eight misdemeanors in Moffat County. Illegal possession of one bighorn sheep, two deer, one elk and one antelope and a charge of forgery resulted in 60 days in jail, \$6,028 in fines and \$13,000 in restitution to Colorado. Eleven other defendants from Alabama, Mass., Texas and Mississippi were charged and paid over \$10,000 in fines. Fifteen mounted heads were surrendered. Hawkins was illegally outfitting in the late 80's and early 90's. State and federal officers the aforementioned states assisted in the investigation.

The above cases show that poaching is an interstate problem. Being able to make contacts and networking through organizations such as NAWEOA is and will become more useful and important in the future.

Out of Oregon, Dave Rzewnicki reports a two year investigation of Scott and Jason Dungey revealed the pair was responsible for illegal killing of 20 blacktail deer, one Roosevelt elk, one mountain lion and one bobcat. The investigation showed they were acting as guides for out of state hunters, many from Michigan. Scott Dungey was indicted on eleven felony counts of violation of the Lacey Act. Jason Dungey was indicted on two felony Lacey Act violations. Several state charges are also pending.

It is interesting to review the Oregon Law Enforcement Summary and see the variety of public relations programs. Troopers there talk to everyone from 1st grade students one day to Willamette Law School the next as well as the myriad of sportsmen groups. In a more unusual duty not many wildlife officers are associated with, Senior Trooper Hathaway investigated a shark attack on a surfer. The 10 foot shark left a 12 inch bite mark on the leg before retreating. A case of unlawful disposal of hazardous waste (used paints and solvents) rendered one suspect \$163,000 in fines, 5 years probation and six months home detention. The storage facility received \$2,500 in fines and 5 years probation.

Congratulations to Robert Lund the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Officer of the Year as recognized by the Shikar Safari Club.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the friends and family of National Park Ranger Joseph Kolodski. Ranger Kolodski was senselessly gunned down while protecting visitors to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park on the afternoon of June 21. The Director of the NPS stated succinctly that Ranger Kolodski was an exemplary Park Ranger and a credit to the profession and art of "rangering". With hunting season upon us we remind everyone to please Be Careful Out There!

June 26, 1998

Dear NAWEOA Members and Executive:

As you are aware, I was fortunate enough to have been selected as the U.S. exchange officer at last year's NAWEOA conference in Colorado, and I would like to take this opportunity to say, "thank you" so much for that wonderful experience.

My choice of destinations was Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. I spent a week in each province, experiencing the similarities and differences that each had to offer. My trip to Canada was an educational and memorable experience, from the first day of my arrival into Halifax, Nova Scotia to my last day in St. John's, Newfoundland. I can't say enough about the wonderful people I met and new friends I made both in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Each conservation officer that I worked and talked with in the two provinces are highly professional and dedicated to what they do, and it was a pleasure to have worked with them.

The time I spent in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland was quite busy, yet enjoyable. By helicopter, motor boat, sail boat, ferry and automobile, it gave me the opportunity to experience and appreciate the diversity of climate, terrain of ocean and mountains wildlife and forest, by working my way from one end of each province to the other — not to mention taking an eight-hour ferry from Cape Breton to Newfoundland, all within a two weeks time.

I enjoyed every minute of the time I spent in these two provinces. Some of the most memorable highlights of my trip that I would like to share were: Being led on a trail by a search dog, seeing and being on the Atlantic ocean, sailboating, site seeing (by helicopter, boats, vehicle, and foot), visiting popular attractions, wildlife watching (whales, dolphins, moose, caribou, black bear, deer, variety of birds, lobster and fish), fly fishing, camping, working lobster vessels, trying new foods and learning different customs, seeing icebergs, touring St. John's, and most of all, making new friends and meeting the most nicest and caring people that I have ever met in my life.

I would also like to express a special thanks to two individuals who were mostly responsible for the coordination of my trip to Canada. Their affiliation with and support of their individual department Wildlife Officer's Associations, NAWEOA, and their Department of Natural Resources, made this all possible. These two individuals are: Cameron Long, Conservation Officer and Dog Handler in Cape Breton; and Sheldon Anstey, Conservation Officer in Deer Lake, Newfoundland. Cameron and Sheldon unselfishly went out of their way to coordinate and make all the necessary arrangements before and during my visit to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, as well as provide me with a schedule of fun and challenging things to do and experience. The coordination and efforts made by these two officers (Cameron & Sheldon), also provided me the opportunity to work with different conservation officers from each province and learn about the variety of tasks they do, their wildlife management techniques and styles. Without the support of all those involved, I would not have had this great opportunity. Nova Scotia/Cape Breton and Newfoundland are so rich in natural resources, and no one should miss the experience of being a part of such beautiful environment and surroundings. In sharing information with the Canadian officers about our respected wildlife agencies and what we do, I found it quite interesting to learn how similar the wildlife management profession and wildlife issues are, when compared from state to state, province to province, and even state to province.

Once again, my gratitude and appreciation goes out to NAWEOA, and all those involved in making this trip possible. (You all know who you are.) I hope that in the future, Colorado can return the favor, of hosting and providing the same hospitality that was given to me, to a fellow Canadian wildlife officer.

Sincerely,

Vicki Vargas-Madrid.....Colorado District Wildlife Manager
1997 Officer Exchange Recipient



REGION 5 REPORT

By Mary Clawson

Greetings from your Region 5 Director (the name has changed back, but it's still the same person). Just a couple of quick thoughts before I get into the jurisdictional reports - Firstly, a reminder about the NAWEOA Museum effort; the NAWEM Board is working very hard to make this project go, but we all need to help out. Thanks to those who bought and sold North Dakota moose raffle tickets, became yearly sponsors or life members, and to the states who have pledged \$5,000 over 5 years towards building the Museum. Those who haven't participated yet, please do so NOW, and continue until the building is up and running. This is truly our project, and we are ALL responsible for its success!

Many, many thanks to the Ohio Officers who put on a wonderful conference (the hospitality tent was the best idea ever!). All of the attendees had a fantastic time; if you couldn't be there - you really missed out!

From Kansas, Dave Hoffman doesn't have too much to report. They are still at the bargaining table after 3 years and are waiting for an arbitrator. The year has been normal for the most part. Also, the Kansas Officers lost their 207K status and now cannot work more than 65% of their time in law enforcement, the rest has to be in assisting other divisions or media type contacts. Richard Ryan was issued the Officer of the Year award this year, which was well deserved. Richard is an outstanding worker and officer.

From Illinois, Glenn Sanders reports that the Conservation Police Lodge is currently in a major battle with the State. For the first time in over 25 years since the political patronage system for appointments to the Conservation Police was abolished, it has now reared its ugly head again. The politicians are trying to oust one of their Regional Commanders and replace him with one of their own, and a vacancy in another Regional Commander slot is facing the same problem. They are currently trying all possible means to keep this from happening. Retirements will have the field level

uniform officer count down to approx. 90-95 officers by January 1, 1999. This will be a 33% reduction in their force. No classes or hiring is planned this fiscal year. No hires have been made for almost 5 years now. With a two year time lag for approval of money for hiring to actual field deployment of the new officers, they will be new millennium plus one year before any new troops could possibly hit the field.

On the good news side, The Conservation Police Lodge is seeing tremendous success with a new public relations project. The Lodge is purchasing 20 trailers, in which the officers build habitat displays with mounted specimens of wildlife in them. Equipped with an interactive computer and full audio visual equipment, the trailers are used by the officers at schools, county fairs, environmental days, festivals and fairs. Over 25,000 kids and adults went through trailer #1 in the first year. Trailer #2 went operational this month with a big three day event which saw an additional 3,000 kids and adults. The kids receive a strong pro-hunting, pro-fishing, pro-trapping message with the program. Once they get a chance to actually get their hands on the furs and mounts, hear about wildlife management and the importance of habitat, and then get hit with the final information about hunting and fishing license money paying for these management programs, for most of them the light seems to go on. The cost of each trailer runs about \$14,000. The Lodge contributes half the cost, with groups such as Rocky Mountain Elk, Turkey Federation, Whitetails Unlimited and Pheasants Forever underwriting the balance. The three year goal is to have six trailers stationed around the state so that there is one within two hours of every school in the state, with a goal of reaching 100,000 people per year.

Levi Krause writes that in Nebraska, the NCOA will be joining NAWEOA. Chief Dick Turpin has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 1998. NE will soon be interviewing candidates for two or three CO positions and hopefully hiring soon afterward, but still won't be back up to the number of field officers that they had a few years ago. One of the new officers will dedicate spring and summer to boating safety programs and then be available for hunting and fishing enforcement the rest of the year. The Game and Parks Commission is beginning to sell certain permits via the Internet at <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us>. Also, available at this website is assorted other information regarding the NGPC park system, hunting & fishing information, etc.

Tim Phalen reports that North Dakota has two new game wardens. One of those recently hired was Art Cox; he will be stationed in the Bowman area. He has completed his basic training and his FTO training and if not in Bowman already, will be soon. Their newest hire is Marty Egeland. Marty is in basic training; he will follow that with 8 weeks of Field Training. His station will be in the Bottineau area. On June 5, 1998 friends and colleagues of George Jankowski gathered near Bowman -Haley

Reservoir to dedicate a marsh site in honor of George. George died of a heart attack in the fall of 1997 while on duty. He had a 29 year career as a District Game Warden in the Bowman area. In general, ND's summer has been good. Fishing has been good throughout the state with high water levels. Boating has been the priority the last two months. Their BUI arrests are up, probably related to better training and equipment, most officers are now equipped with digital readout PBTs. PWCs continue to be involved in the majority of our boat accidents. ND just recorded their first sailboarding fatality; the sailboarders successfully lobbied the legislature a few years back to exempt themselves from wearing PFDs. Cone flower digging on public land has begun to be a problem; this is something they have not seen in the past. The ND Game Wardens Assoc. held their 1998 MOOSE RAFFLE. The winning ticket was drawn by retired officer Del Tibke at their summer staff meeting/picnic. The winner was Joann McBride of Tama, IA. She is very excited. The ND Game Wardens Assoc. would like to thank everyone who supported the NAWEOA MUSEUM PROJECT by purchasing a moose raffle ticket. This project needs everyone's support.

Pat Harkins reports that Wisconsin is in the process of hiring 18 NEW wardens after Governor Thompson signed legislation in late June to authorize these totally new positions. Sportsman's groups, the Conservation Congress many citizens as well as the DNR encouraged this increase and they were included in the budget repair bill. These new positions will start on January 4th, 1999. Wisconsin now has 16 new wardens in training that will be assigned starting early this fall. These wardens were hired in January of 1998 and have been involved in a redesigned training program that includes training with many of their user groups like bear hound hunters, landowners, farmers, cranberry growers, etc. to give the new wardens a better understanding of the "resource users" perspective. They have long been involved in the community, but this is taking the next step in an attempt to do some proactive problem solving and forge long lasting relationships. They are hopeful that the user groups will also have a better appreciation for law enforcement work and share environmental concerns. The Wisconsin DNR as about to start an Automated License Issuing System. This system will computerize most of the DNR licenses, something that has been needed for many, many years. They are hopeful the test works out and that it will be fully implemented next year.

Randall Reigh reports that Oklahoma is still under a budget decrease. They have cut their budget 2% per year for the last 3 years. Their dept. has implemented a hiring freeze, and at this time, they are not filling 2 positions and more openings are on the horizon. For the first time, the Oklahoma state government passed paying 50% of the employees' dependent health insurance. For many of the wardens with families, this was a great help.

The other state employees received a 4% pay raise, but due to budget problems the wardens will receive only 3%. They have been fairly close to their state troopers in pay until the troopers received pay raises on the average of \$10,000 annually. The Dept. was able to purchase the wardens extended cab full size 4x4 pickups this year. The extra room is a great help in their jobs. Like a lot of departments, they are license funded and are looking at other sources of funding to make up for a decrease in license holders.

From Texas, Gary Tarpley writes that a couple of nasty little microorganisms have found their way into Texas waters. With the heat going up and water levels going down, the potential for health problems grows. Two people have died this summer from a rare organism called Primary Amebic Meningoencephalitis. The infection occurs when water containing the organisms is forcefully inhaled - usually from diving, jumping or underwater swimming, and it infects the brain. For those infected, death usually occurs within a week. Water safety efforts seem to be paying off. Texas Game Wardens are encountering a high percentage of designated boat drivers. Stricter enforcement is saving lives. Coastal Wardens in Rockport

have placed a new 25' offshore catamaran-type boat, equipped with the latest electronic technology, into service. So far, all expectations have been exceeded. The law enforcement division will be taking applications for Cadet Game Wardens soon. It is expected that 25 new Cadets will start their training June 1, 1999.

In South Dakota, summer has been busy with boaters and anglers. The Missouri River fishing was hot through the spring, but died down in the summer. Summer firearms training has concentrated on tactical firearms use from boats. Several CO's worked with highway patrol troopers during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally at the request of the Patrol; this is the first that they've been requested since the 50th Anniversary rally in 1990.

Gordon Jarvis reports that all continues to go well for NAWEOA '99 in Missouri. They just completed more contact with the conference hotel and they are bending over backwards to meet our needs. They feel that participants will be taken care of at the '99 conference and, although the amount of work is staggering, in a strange way the MO Officers are enjoying the challenge. It's a lot different that regular game-wardening. MO really wants to remind all NAWEOA members to

book the hotel as soon as possible. They would like to see all of the 350 rooms blocked taken by the 1st of Jan. If that occurs, they will be able to utilize more rooms at the conference hotel for the conference. If the Cardinals happen to be in town, there will not be rooms available within 50 miles of the hotel. Participants are going to love this hotel and all that it offers. A commanding view of the Arch and the Mississippi River and Busch Memorial Stadium are visible from there, and all are within easy walking distance. MO is excited, and now it is up to the NAWEOA membership to follow through. NAWEOA is very important to all of us and, as field agents, we should strive to make our Association even stronger and increase our numbers. The more NAWEOA grows, the stronger and louder our voice will become. MO challenges each of you that has attended a NAWEOA conference in the past to bring one new officer with you for this convention. They are planning on between 1,500 and 2,000 participants at this conference. As centrally located as Missouri is, they hope that they will have representation from every state and Canadian Province. Spread the message that there is a convention going on in MO in '99, and that everyone is invited.

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 necessary)

I need this certificate by (date): _____

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REGION 6 REPORT

By Bruce Lemmert

Officer Discretion and a Changing World

In commenting on the definition of pornography, a U. S. Supreme Court Justice famously said, "I can not define it, but I know it when I see it". This is essentially how I feel about the use of officer discretion with respect to wildlife violations. It is virtually impossible to define when officer discretion is appropriate, but you certainly recognize it when it is used inappropriately, or not used in an appropriate situation.

For the purposes of this essay, and for any reader outside the wildlife enforcement profession, I define "officer discretion", as giving a warning in lieu of a ticket in the case of a wildlife violation. An officer who does not use the discretion tool is most likely less effective in striving for their mission than they otherwise would be. Equally, if not more important than proper use of discretion, is the perception from the public that we treat people fair. Equal treatment under the law is a concept that people accept and put faith in. If a person is cited for a violation that they know their neighbor was not cited for, they will be justifiably upset.

As everyone in the profession knows, the proper use of discretion is a fine line that enforcement officers have to walk. This fine line often separates genius from fool, and any officer that uses discretion will at some time find themselves on the side with the fools. Weighing "equal treatment" versus "officer discretion" is a balancing act that every officer knows they can be criticized or even toppled on. Where does this leave us? Some officers will respond that a violation, is a violation, is a violation. That definitely meets the equal treatment concern. However, I do not think that this approach always works in the best interest of justice. When an officer is confronted with a violation, it is important that this officer ask two important questions before proceeding with a charge. The first question will obviously be, "Can I get a conviction on this violation"? A conviction of course will require that the elements of the crime can be

properly documented and presented to the court. A negative answer to the first question, will necessitate that the officer back off or gather more information. A positive answer to the first question should precipitate the equally important second question in the officers mind. "Is this person guilty?" My experience dictates that a yes to the first question in by-far the majority of cases leads to a yes to the second question. This fact does not preclude asking the second question. A yes/no situation, even though rare, is immensely important and must be acted on with officer discretion.

In many instances when the field officer determines that there is sufficient evidence to make a charge, that same officer may not be privy to knowledge that would answer the second question, "Is this person actually guilty". That evidence may only exist in one place and that place is a place we cannot go, namely inside a suspects head. As hard as it is for some people to believe, some people lie to game wardens. Despite the fact that the elements for a conviction are present, in some instances it may be possible to do some more digging which may indicate innocence. This is every bit as important as digging for incriminating evidence in the case of a guilty suspect as it is always the truth that we seek. In some instances, when indicators of innocence cannot be found, the field officer must weigh the facts at hand and simply make the charge. It is the very important element of equal treatment that requires this. In the past, it was sometimes the unwritten policy of law enforcement to let the court decide in lieu of using officer discretion. This, in my opinion, is becoming a decreasingly effective wildlife enforcement technique. We are increasingly apt to be dealing with attorneys and judges that are not familiar with the nuances of hunting. In the past that may have meant that the court treated wildlife offenses in a trivial or petty manner. We have all lamented that unfortunate situation. Now we may face a court that is flawed in an underlying hostility toward hunting in general. Even a totally competent and objective court faces a detachment from the field that cannot always be bridged. Although the court must remain the final word in the case of convictions, a good field officer is in the best position to determine innocence.

We are currently in a debate over the U. S. regulations regarding baiting and baited areas for migratory bird hunters. At the core of this debate is the use of officer discretion, or lack of same, depending on the perspective. It remains to be seen whether the U. S. baiting regulations are changed or not. However, make no mistake, the forces for change on this issue are citing lack of discretion as reason for needed change. This lack of discretion is, in my opinion, more perception than reality. NAWEOA has declared a position in opposition to the proposed changes that undermine the field officers use of discretion.

There are many other signals that indicate change. The declining percentage of hunters and

the collective defensive posturing of hunters with respect to firearms and to hunting in general is a major factor to deal with. Add to this the antigovernment interference feeling in the general population and the result can be over-reactive resentment.

What does all this mean to the wildlife enforcement field officer? It means that we too will change. Change is not bad; it is essential. We will change. In this process, it is important that we make the truth come out. We need to keep useful tools, but even the best tools are useless, unless we use them properly. Mistakes? Yes, we will continue to make them. Mistakes are unavoidable in an interactive society. It is important that we correct our mistakes, strive for the truth, and move on. It is important that each officer in Region 6 become familiar with the proposed changes that are pending. Ask yourself if the changes will help you do your job in a more effective manner.

National Military Reports on New Equipment

Bill Armstrong reports that the most recent law enforcement acquisition (at Aberdeen Proving Ground) is a 25 foot catamaran style marine patrol vessel for the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Evaluation thus far: Suburb!!! The handling characteristics are excellent in rough water, very stable work platform, reported much superior to the mono-hull boats, especially for the law enforcement personnel on board, i.e. less fatigue, less pounding, less stress on the knees, etc.

Radio and satellite telemetry transmitters are to be utilized by wildlife law enforcement personnel for marking/surveillance of illegal commercial fishing nets. These transmitters were acquired and tested this past spring. The transmitters will allow the officers to maintain surveillance of the nets from distances of up to one mile away without compromising officer location. The transmitters are small and easily concealed in the net apparatus. The radio signal is inaudible when the net is submerged, but once the net is pulled to the surface, the signal is acquired. Once acquired, the signal can then be tracked with a directional antenna until the apprehension is made and the transmitter recovered.

On March 5 and April 7, felony indictments for violations of the Lacey Act were handed down by Federal Grand Jury in Baltimore, MD, against three Maryland commercial fisherman and two Sandusky, Ohio seafood dealers. The multi-state investigation, originating at Aberdeen Proving Ground involved state wildlife and fisheries officers from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and special agents from the U. S. Army and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Marine, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement Division at Aberdeen is in the process of adding additional personnel and providing specialized training for those personnel. In February, two officers attended the 10th Annual Con-

servation Officer Enforcement Conference in Prescott, Arizona, for training in the Federal Archeological Resource Protection Act, and other related subjects. Two wildlife officers also graduated from the three month basic wildlife officer training program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, in Glynco, Georgia. Wildlife law enforcement personnel are now being offered preventive immunization for the possibility of rabies exposure. Populations of fox, raccoon and coyote have dramatically increased, as have the number of complaints, adding to the possibility of officer exposure.

Whitbread Race Comes To Maryland

Dave Hohman reports that Maryland officers were involved with the Around the World Whitbread Race held in May. Maryland Natural Resource Police made a substantial commitment to this race and this put Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in the public eye for over one week.

Maryland now has a reserve officer program to assist the Natural Resources Police. After a background check and some training, the reserve officers can assist with routine patrols. The reserve officers cannot make arrests, but are permitted to drive unmarked patrol cars if accompanied by a regular officer. The reserve officers come from many different backgrounds and have many skills. Several of the reserve officers rebuilt an office which helped keep construction costs down. The reserves have also been used for public relations details and hunter education. Often times the reserve officers are used as a second person on the boat during boat patrols. Last fiscal

year, the reserve officers put in a total of 12,632 hours. Hohman also announced that "Maryland, once again captured the Warden Skills Games in Ohio". Sources indicate that it was apparently a "stacked team" with ringers brought in from New Jersey, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, et al.

Virginia Obtains New Funding Source

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has obtained a new funding source that should bring up to \$12,000,000 per year into the agency. This money will begin coming in the year 2000. The Virginia General Assembly approved that 2% of existing sales tax monies collected on wildlife related purchases, be earmarked for the Department. This money is coming none too soon as the Department is projected to start going in the red at the turn of the century. The Department has already been experiencing cash flow/allocation difficulties with funding sources and timing not always accommodation the realities of existing priorities.

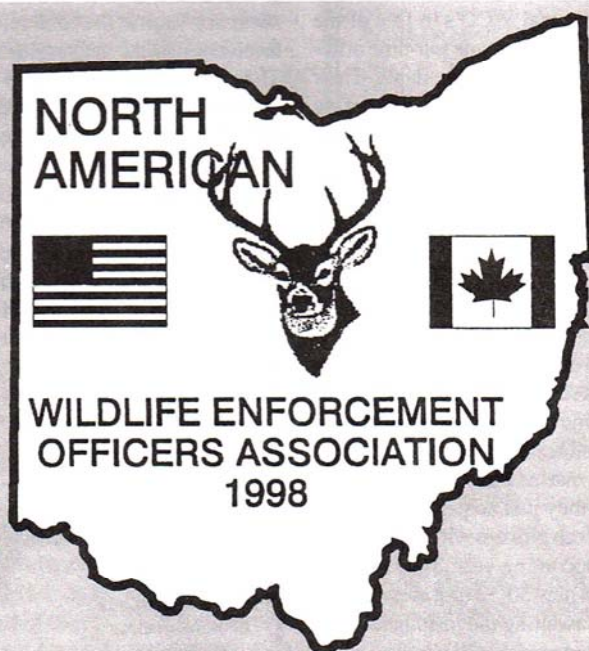
There was very good leadership on this funding initiative, and the public supported the effort. The bill that made this new funding source a reality went through committee, the Virginia House of Representatives, and the Virginia Senate without a negative vote. Those with a long memory in Richmond can not recall any other bill, that dealt with money, going through the Virginia General Assembly without any negative votes. It is a relief to know that the Department will have secure funding sources for the foreseeable future and encouraging that the General Assembly had the foresight to see that traditional funding sources would not be able to alone take us into the next century.

Georgia Steps up Boating Effort Announces Officer Awards

Elysia (Lysia, pronounced Lee-see) reports that the Law Enforcement Section has 23 new positions as a result of positive action by the Georgia General Assembly, Federal Boating Funds and an agreement with a major lake association. Three of these positions were given to the Covert Unit which increases that unit to five.

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety awarded the Law Enforcement Section a grant for \$161,000 for BUI (Boating Under the Influence) enforcement. This money is being used to purchase 15 Intoxilyzers to be placed around the state near the waterways. One hundred Alco-Sensors are being replaced with newer models. Also 100,000 buoy key chains, with a safety message are being purchased to be distributed to boaters across Georgia.

Georgia wildlife law enforcement officers that have been recognized with special awards are as follows: Philip Scott, of Jesup (Coastal)-Ranger of the Year. Mike Barr, Smyrna NW-GA-James Damell Award (This is the runner-up to the ROTY) Rod Ellis, Brunswick, Coastal; Investigative Ranger of the Year. Rickey Dempsey, Cave Spring, Calhoun Region I, NWTF Ranger of the Year (1997) VJ. Garrison, Fanner Chief of Law Enforcement, was given special recognition for "Career Award in Conservation Law Enforcement" by the Georgia Wildlife Federation. Col. Gamson retired last May and had 25 years on. Joel Brown, present Chief of Law Enforcement was recently named the Officer of the Year by Southern States Boating Law Administrators Association.



PATCHES AVAILABLE

Pictured here is the 1998 NAMEOA 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:

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REGION 7 REPORT

By Lisa Truffelli

Greetings everyone! I hope everyone that attended the Ohio Conference enjoyed themselves as much as I did. The folks in Ohio put on a really good conference. It's been a busy summer for a lot of us folks in the Northeast. I don't know if other regions have them, but the Field Days in the Region 7 have become very memorable experiences. One hundred plus officers from as far away as Ontario and West Virginia attended Maine's first field day in July. New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Massachusetts all had their field days in September.

I would like to welcome Ken Didion as New York's new jurisdictional rep to NAWEOA and to thank Les Wilson for doing an outstanding job. Ken was elected as President of their Conservation Officers' Association in July and is helping New York get ready for NAWEOA-Albany 2000. NAWEOA President, Gary Martin and myself were on hand at the NYCOA annual convention in Lake George in July to offer assistance with conference planning. By the looks of things, New York is really going to put on a good show. The conference will be held at the Omni Hotel from July 10 through July 16, with the Opening Ceremony held on July 13. Ken informs us that there have been some recent personnel changes involving some active NAWEOA members. Captain Les Wilson recently transferred to their Headquarters office in Albany and Carol Drury was promoted to the position of Captain and is now the Chief Environmental Conservation Officer for Region 5, headquartered at their Raybrook Office.

Congratulations are in order and we wish them both the best in their new positions. New York's Emergency Vehicle Operator Course instructors recently conducted two one-week EVOC training sessions for the US Fish and Wildlife Agents from the Northeast Region. Creative Street Productions filmed this training for a segment on their new TV show, Game Warden Wildlife Journal to be televised this fall. The ECO's in Region 6 are currently working closely with the US Fish and

Wildlife Agents on an investigation into the mass slaughter of over 800 cormorants, which occurred recently on Little Galoo Island in Lake Ontario.

Bob Lewis reports that Vermont wardens were recently fitted for body armor. They hoped to receive the vests by October. The vest issue came to light last year after the shooting incident on the Vermont-New Hampshire border involving Carl Drega and his shooting of several officers including a NH game warden. The Vermont Legislature appropriated \$80,000 for vests for the wardens when they learned that they didn't have any. Vermont recently hired two new trainees, Greg Eckhardt and Kim Klein. They are completing their one year field training program and then will be assigned a district. Warden Richard Hislop was recently promoted to a new Administrative Lieutenant's position at Headquarters in Waterbury. Bob also stated that they just got a Vermont Supreme Court decision in favor of the State in regards to shooting from the road.

Don Lauver from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, reports that eleven new Waterways Conservation Officers joined the Commission's Bureau of Law Enforcement. The 14th WCO Class successfully completed 15 weeks of Municipal Police Officer Training at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Campus prior to undergoing an additional 23 weeks of intensive classroom, practical and field training at the Commission's H.R. Stackhouse School of Fisheries Conservation and Watercraft Safety. Selected from a field of more than one thousand applicants, the class convened under the supervision of the Bureau's Training Officer, Jeffrey Bridi. Midway into the training, Jeff assumed the duties as the Southeast Region Manager, and Guy Bowersox was promoted to the Assistant to the Director, Training Officer position. These new officers have been assigned as seasonal WCO's in five of the state's six regions, and will become full-time officers when such positions become available. Their current assignments focus heavily on supporting the Commission's current heavy boat patrol workload.

John Gingerella reports that Rhode Island went through a reorganization this year that resulted in three separate units, upland, marine and response. This reorganization has been received with mixed emotions from officers in the field. Many officers believe that understaffing is keeping this system from operating efficiently. The upland unit is overtaxed with animal/rabies complaints and the marine unit is overwhelmed with PWC complaints and boating accidents, in addition to their typical marine fisheries complaints. On a happier note, they just acquired three new Ford F150 extended cab pickups with the possibility of more in the upcoming year. They are also hoping to purchase a new 30-32 foot diesel patrol boat. They are also awaiting the installation of a dual band radio system which will alleviate some of their communication problems. The response


unit successfully arrested and convicted a trap fisherman who was selling untagged and undersize striped bass. The arrest was the result of twelve days of undercover surveillance by seven officers. The fisherman received a \$10,000 fine and a one-year loss of license. The fine was the largest fine imposed on a fisherman in the state to date. National Marine Fisheries Service agents were also involved and are preparing their case involving the interstate shipment of the illegal bass. John also reported that Jennifer Connors was recently elected as president of their officer's association. She is the first female president in the association's history. Jennifer also received the Torch Award for Region 7 at the NAWEOA conference in Ohio.

Pete Malette reports that Michigan DNR has hired 30 new Conservation Officers since the beginning of the year. The openings were created by the retirement of several officers and a license fee increase. In addition, the Division is now outfitting all of their patrol vehicles with automatic vehicle location/GPS (AVL/GPS) units. These units will enhance officer safety through the ability to locate the officer or their vehicle in emergency situations.

Rich Marcou, from New Hampshire, reports that all their officers recently participated in FX Interactive training using simulations equipment manufactured by SNC Technologies Inc. The interactive training enables the officers to react in real time in staged scenarios. All patrol vehicles are currently being equipped with new Motorola radios that have both digital and analog capabilities. Companion portable radios have also been issued to all officers. In addition, all officers will soon be transitioning to a new Ruger Mini 14 semi-automatic rifle. The Mini 14 replaces previously issued 270 and 257 Roberts caliber rifles. Five New Hampshire officers received the NAWEOA Award of Valor at the conference in Ohio for their involvement in the shooting incident in August 1997. The officers awarded were Wayne Saunders, Samuel Sprague, Kevin Jordan, Todd Bogardus, and John Wimsatt.

Tom Brelsford reports that Connecticut's Division of Conservation Law Enforcement began using a state of the art Computer Dispatch System (CAD) this year. This new system was specifically designed for natural resource law enforcement. It tracks categories of enforcement such as shellfish, hunting, inland fishing, boating accidents, etc. as well as being able to determine

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how much time is being spent on each type of enforcement. Networked with this system is a program containing all of our report forms, arrest and search warrant applications, maps, etc. Each officer will be receiving a lap top computer on which they will be able to complete their paperwork while in the field. Their department was hit with a Federal Labor complaint filed by an officer in 1997. Officers are now closely monitored on their hours of work ensuring compliance with federal labor law. The complaint resulted in an audit of all officers' daily activity reports compared to their time sheets. The result was some hefty cash payments to some officers for back pay. Some of these cash payments were over \$19,000. As of July, CT officers began working a forty hour work week. Connecticut officers traded their 9mm Glock semi-auto pistols for 40 caliber models. The new weapons are well liked by the officers and range scores have improved. In June, their new Boating Accident Reconstruction Unit (BARU) officially started. Four field officers and one sergeant were chosen based on their training and experience. So far they have seven boating accidents under investigation, three of which involved fatalities. Major Randolph Dill, CT's Boating Law Administrator and Director of D.E.P.'s Division of Boating for many years, retired on July 31, after twenty-six years of service.

Bernie Schmader, from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, reports that the Governor appointed two people to fill the long vacant seats on the Game Commission, but the Commission's request for a general hunting license fee increase continues to be stonewalled by some Legislative members. As a result, they have had to make cuts in programs including eliminating the toll-free telephone numbers at regional offices and cutting WCO overtime in half. The twenty-fourth training class of wildlife COs is in its fourth month of matriculation at the Ross Leffler School of Conservation. There are more vacancies anticipated in the coming year, therefore, the Commission is planning on conducting another training class in June 1999. In September, Pennsylvania COs erected a grave-site monument for Game Protector L. Seeley Houk. Seeley was the fifth game protector to be hired by the PA Game Commission and was the first PA wildlife officer to give his life for the cause. He was murdered while on duty in 1906.

The Conservation Officers of Pennsylvania Association (COPA) remains active, this year donating \$22,000 to a variety of conservation related programs including numerous Youth Field Day events, Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Youth Hunter Education Challenge, Nature Link Program, Wildlife Action Grant's Program, Conservation Acquisition Program, Northeast Wildlife Conference, 5th Governor's Symposium on North America's Hunting Heritage, Legislative Fund of America, and the NAWEOA 2000 conference. COPA sponsored 14 people to the 1998 NAWEOA conference in Ohio, however, 52 mem-

bers attended. WCO Kevin Thompson received the Torch Award for Region 7 at the NAWEOA conference in Ohio. You can visit the COPA home page at <http://www.pawco.org>. The Pennsylvania Superior Court recently reversed a driving under the influence conviction that was initiated by a WCO. The high court stated that when the WCO drove past a game lands building, where he was delivering a road-killed deer, to stop and apprehend the suspect, he was acting outside the scope of his employment where he would have had the proper authority. Thus, the stop was illegal. Most WCOs do not expect the Commission to take issue with the ruling. A deputy WCO from the Southeast Region was injured recently when he and another deputy found an abandoned car on state game lands. When they looked inside the vehicle, they saw a smoldering cigarette stuck to a book of matches. Just as the deputy stood up from peering through the window, the car exploded, sending broken glass everywhere. The officer was knocked to the ground, but he was wearing body armor

which significantly reduced his injuries from the flying shards. Apparently, the car was stolen and the culprits put gasoline inside the vehicle and fused it with the cigarette/matchbook ignition system.

Mike Massey reports that the newly formed New Jersey Conservation Officer's Association currently has 100 members. Plans for the Association include increasing the membership, giving an award for the Conservation Officer and Deputy Conservation Officer of the Year, and holding a biannual Warden Skills Day beginning next year. Throughout the remainder of this year, they will be doing the preliminary work with the hope of being able to place a bid for the years 2003 or 2004 NAWEOA Conference. New Jersey Officers are optimistic about getting a license increase passed by the legislature. The officers have made a great effort to remain effective over the last several years of the decreased budget and have continued to see quality training and equipment being made available despite the budget constraints.

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:

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Buckle (1993 South Dakota Conference)	\$ 20	\$ 15
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Buckle (1995 Pennsylvania Conference)	\$ 20	\$ 15
Buckle (1997 Colorado Conference)	\$ Call	\$ Call
Ball Cap (Black, Green or Maroon)	\$ 10	\$ 8
Journal of Wildlife Law Enforcement - Vol I	\$ 10	\$ 8
Journal of Wildlife Law Enforcement - Vol II	\$ 10	\$ 8

Some items are in short supply. All promo items will be available at the NAWEOA booth during the 1998 Ohio Conference.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By Randy Hancock



Greetings to everyone! I am sure by the time you get this, fall hunting seasons will be well underway. Stay safe, work hard, be professional and enjoy what has to be the best job on earth!

As I was contemplating what to write about in this article, I got to daydreaming about what NAWEOA really is. You know, we do lots of things in lots of ways as an organization. I will touch on some of these in a few moments, but what really struck me was something my family I talked about on the way to the conference in Ohio this summer. Several of our closest friends that we have met through NAWEOA were not going to be attending. My kids were talking about how they were going to miss seeing their friends, the children of officers from other jurisdictions. My wife and I agreed with the kids and told them how we were going to miss the parents of these kids. It struck me then how NAWEOA is like a family. We meet people with similar interest, make friends, visit at conferences and correspond between conferences. Many of our NAWEOA friends have come to Colorado to vacation and have spent time with us. We have gone to their home states and provinces, spent time with them and enjoyed their company. Personally, we have turned the NAWEOA conference into our family vacation. As such, my kids have traveled through and visited 26 states and 5 provinces. Attending NAWEOA conferences has more benefits than just the training received and the contacts made. NAWEOA is a family event.

Along with the close friendships we have developed with several families are numerous contacts we have made with officers from other jurisdictions. I feel that I can contact someone from nearly any jurisdiction in North America and ask for assistance. I feel comfortable in doing this because I have at least seen these people at a conference, and with a little prompting they will remember me and I feel they will be a little more willing to help me than if I contacted someone out of the blue to ask for assistance. This assistance

may involve such things as finding a violator that lives in their state or province, checking on specific laws within their jurisdiction to see if they guy I have here is telling me the truth, or perhaps something as simple as helping with travel plans. The point is, communication has been increased all across North America because of NAWEOA.

Through this communication, as a group we are coordinating investigations better, we are striving toward better interstate compacts, and even between international compacts. I have heard story after story of violators being caught in one jurisdiction, and because someone had a contact with the violator's home state, more and better investigations were carried out. The cases often turn into larger cases than they looked like originally. We find that serious violators are working numerous states and provinces. The networking that has been set up as a direct result of NAWEOA, is making it much tougher on violators!

Several of the things NAWEOA is doing directly affects these violators. NAWEOA is becoming known internationally as a voice of field law enforcement. Recently the US Fish and Wildlife Service was asked to revisit their laws pertaining to baiting of waterfowl. The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies was then asked to form a "baiting committee", NAWEOA was asked to send a representative to attend these talks whenever the baiting committee met. NAWEOA was one of very few voices on that committee that represented real law enforcement, and acted as a voice for the field officers. IAFWA asked for some major changes in the baiting laws, some of which NAWEOA and field officers in general disagreed with. After the committee made their recommendations to the USF&WS, NAWEOA authored a letter outlining field officer concerns and sent it to the director of USF&WS. We were a powerful voice in this issue. I think we have a lot of credibility as an organization. Many of the most damaging (to law enforcement) changes were not adopted. I think NAWEOA, along with other groups and individuals, had a strong bearing on these decisions. NAWEOA Executive Board members Mary Clawson and Bruce Lemmert did an excellent job representing NAWEOA. Several other board members attended meetings as well.

The field officers of the US Fish & Wildlife Service did an excellent job keeping the board apprised of their position on proposed changes. They would have been most affected by the changes being considered and disagreed with many of them. This issue is still not over. Congressman Young (from Alaska, I believe) is proposing a law change since he did not get a change in regulations. We will continue working on this issue to make sure we retain enforceable laws with regard to baiting of waterfowl.

Another big issue we are participating in is the Wildlife Violators Interstate Compact. NAWEOA supports efforts to get a nationwide compact similar to the driver's license compact. Basically, if a wildlife violator gets suspended from hunting in one state, he would be suspended in any state that is a member of the compact. Right now there are about a dozen western states signed up for a compact. Many other states are in the process of joining. This is an issue that has to be adopted by state legislatures. If any of you out there know that your state is trying to join this compact, and would like a letter of support from NAWEOA, let us know. We are supporting this thing nationwide. In fact, we are trying to look into ways that it can go across international borders and have Canada and Mexico join the compact.

As time goes on, NAWEOA is becoming more influential, and is being recognized as a source of expert information relating to wildlife law enforcement. I think our role in the political arena involving wildlife law will continue to increase. Your organization has the ability and credibility to get things done. If you think of issues that we can lend our support to, contact any board member and we will act upon your request.

Enough of the pep talk. Now I need to get some request out to each and every one of you. Specifically, I am talking about AWARDS! NAWEOA would like to recognize officers for the outstanding work they are doing. We need to hear from you. Nominate people in your organization for some of the awards that NAWEOA gives out. Sometimes I feel like a cross-eyed discus thrower. I may not set any records but I do keep the crowd alert! I need to alert each and every one of you to think of who might qualify for an award. Who was your agency's officer of the year. Should you nominate him or her for the NAWEOA "Officer of the Year" award? Has someone in your agency faced a dangerous situation and handled it well? A shootout, armed assailant; put them in for the "Award of Valor". Nearly every jurisdiction has a lifesaving event happen somewhere with one of their officers. Keep your ears open and send us their name and a brief description of the incident. NAWEOA wants to give these people a pat on the back. How about the "Torch Award" for a young officer who is a real go-getter!

In closing, I would like to thank Ohio for all their hard work putting together this past conference. The training topics were excellent. Those who did not attend rally missed out. Make sure to attend next year's conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Those folks have a conference lined up that you will not want to miss. I am astounded by all there is to do in and around St. Louis. Take your family, take a vacation, make friends, make contacts, network, learn and enjoy. See you in St. Louis!

JOURNEY TO THE "LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN"

By Lisa Truffelli

Ten seconds - that was all it took for me to decide where I wanted to go on my exchange trip. Ten seconds and I realized that a twenty-year dream was going to come true. Ten seconds, the amount of time it took for my brain to realize that they just called my name as the American winner of the NAWEOA exchange trip. I'll never forget that July night in Saskatchewan in 1996. Likewise, I'll never forget my trip to the Yukon and Alaska.

When I was ten years old, my sister's boyfriend, who would later become my brother-in-law, traveled to the Yukon and Alaska on an extended vacation. He brought back with him hundreds of slides that he had taken. When he would show us the slides, I would lose myself in the landscape of that beautiful and faraway land. He gave me a collection of Robert Service's poetry and several Jack London stories and for the next twenty years I dreamed of going to the Yukon. That night in Saskatoon, I knew my dream was going to come true. My second reason for choosing the Yukon was that after working as a Conservation Officer in New Jersey, I wanted to go as far away and different from New Jersey as I could.

In early April, I contacted Brian Lacy, the Yukon NAWEOA representative. We discussed my plans and Brian asked when I was thinking of coming, I stated that early June would be the best for me. He said that June was fine and that they would probably be busy with nuisance bear problems. I told him that we were facing similar problems in New Jersey and Brian stated that their bear problems were of the grizzly variety. I knew then that I was going someplace very different from New Jersey.

If you have ever wondered how far away the Yukon is, just fly there. I left the east coast at 8:15 am (EST), and after changing planes in Chicago, Seattle and Anchorage, I arrived in Whitehorse, Yukon at 11:00 pm (PST). Conservation Officer Kevin Bowers met me at the airport and brought me back to his home on the outskirts of Whitehorse. After meeting his wife, Tracy and a brief chat we all headed to bed.

I woke up bright and early Monday morning (my internal clock was still on EST) and had breakfast with Kevin and Tracy and their two kids, Kelly and Kyle. After breakfast, Kevin and I headed out to check on a beaver trap he had set the night before. A beaver family had been plugging up a stream that traveled under a railroad bed near Kevin's home. He had used 4 inch square wire mesh around the pipe opening to prevent the beaver from plugging the hole. However, the adult beaver had apparently taught the young ones to swim through the small mesh and plug the hole for them. The trap had worked, an adult beaver had been killed. After resetting the trap, we took the beaver pelt to the Yukon Trappers Association in Whitehorse to be used for their Trapper Education Course. We then went to the Renewable Resources office where Kevin worked. At the office, I was introduced to Kris Gustafson, Ken Knutsen, Tony Grabowsky and Director Dan Lindsey. While Kevin caught up on paperwork and phone calls, I got a tour of the office and Kris loaded me up with souvenirs (a hat, patches, key chains, etc). He then put me to work collating a bear awareness packet to be used at a talk he was giving the next day. Everyone I met wanted to know what New Jersey was like. They were interested in the difference

between the Yukon and New Jersey in population and land size. (New Jersey has 8 million people in 7,800 square miles. The Yukon has 28,000 people in 186,700 square miles.) Another common question throughout the Yukon was: is there any wildlife in New Jersey? My standard answer was: yes, besides the two-legged variety, we have a lot of wildlife! After dinner that night, the whole Bowers family headed out to check the beaver trap. A beaver had tripped the trap, but had gotten away, so Kelly helped her dad reset the trap.

The next day, Kevin and I headed back to the office where I sat in on Kris' Bear Awareness Course (do you climb a tree for a black bear and play dead for a grizzly or the other way around?) After lunch, Kris and I headed out to the airport where we met with biologist Dave Mossop and pilot Karl Ziehe. We boarded a helicopter and headed southwest of Whitehorse for the annual Gyrfalcon survey. We also landed at Rose Lake to inspect a government owned camp. While flying we counted a number of young and adult gyrfalcons, golden eagles, caribou, Dall sheep and moose. After the flight, I was picked up by Ryan Leef, a seasonal Conservation Officer. Ryan, who was from the Yukon had just finished school in Ontario and was hoping for a permanent job. His father, Ross Leef, had been a Conservation Officer in Ontario and was also returning to the Yukon to take over as Director. On the way out of Whitehorse, we had to stop to check on a possible white-tailed deer carcass that had been dumped at a gravel pit. The carcass turned out to be a caribou hide. There is much debate as to whether or not there are any white-tailed deer in the Yukon. Only one has ever been confirmed, and that one was killed by a wolf several years ago. We drove on to Haines Junction where Ryan dropped me off at the home of Conservation Officer Dan Drummond. I was met by Dan's wife, Val, and their two sons, Ryan and Lee. Dan was leading a small group of boy scouts on a canoe trip on the Alsak River in nearby Kluane National Park. Dan has been a Yukon Conservation Officer for twenty-three years, the longest of any warden. He is originally from Ontario. Val, Ryan, Lee and I drove out to the river to meet the rest of the group who had already been on the water for several days. We exchanged their canoes for rubber rafts and Ryan, Lee and I joined the group for the next two days. As we set up our tents for the night on the river bank, I experienced Yukon mosquitoes for the first time. They may be bigger than the eastern variety, but the bites don't itch - I'll take those kind any day! That night laying in my tent with its light gray rain-fly, I realized that I was going to have a difficult time sleeping in the "land of the midnight sun." At Kevin's house, there had been thick curtains on the windows so I hadn't noticed the light. Here there was no escaping it. Near the end of my trip, I finally learned how to sleep with something covering my face.

The next morning we launched the rafts and headed downstream at a leisurely pace. When Brian Lacey had described the rafting trip, I pictured a group of rowdy ten-year old scouts and whitewater rapids. Luckily, the boys were 15-16 years old along with two fathers and the water was very calm. Along the way, we spotted two trumpeter swans, a harlequin duck, two cow moose with calves,

and several bald eagles. We stopped at one point to check out a moose that had been killed by grizzly bears. There were two sets of bear tracks all over the area. It was amazing to see the size of the tracks. We stopped for the night around 4:30 pm and set up camp. After a great dinner of caribou steak, rice and broccoli, we took a walk upstream and saw more grizzly and moose tracks. In bed at 10:30 that night, I fell sound asleep (still suffering from jetlag) and dreamed of grizzly bears all night.

Thursday morning we woke to rain, the first of my trip. The wind had picked up and the paddling was difficult. Despite the rain, wind, my frozen feet, and aching back, I still was feeling the excitement of finally being in the Yukon. During the two days on the river, I never saw anything that was related to human beings except for our little group. I have never been that far from civilization in my life and it felt wonderful. That afternoon, the rain let up and we stopped near some sand dunes that had been left by a glacier. I spotted three sets of wolf tracks in the sand and lots of bear sign. I was told that if I was going to see a grizzly bear, it would probably be in Kluane Park which had the highest concentration of grizzlies in the Yukon. I was bound and determined to see one while I was there. Late that afternoon we reached Lowell Lake and the Lowell Glacier, the end of our trip. We landed across from the glacier where we were to be picked up by helicopter. After dinner, we climbed part way up Goatherd Mountain where we spotted some mountain goats and got a good view of the glacier. We flew back into Haines Junction and spent the night at the Drummond's home. That night, after a long hot shower, we sat around drinking beer and talking about life in the Yukon. Val was getting set for a 260 kilometer bike race from Haines Junction, Yukon to Haines, Alaska on the summer solstice. I found out that the summer solstice is a big holiday in this part of the world. Back home where the day is only about a minute longer than the day before and after, it's hardly acknowledged. All over the Yukon (and Alaska) there are major celebrations planned. Dan also showed me pictures of their recent trip to Sweden where he had gotten to work with a Swedish Game Warden.

The next morning Dan and I headed to the Haines Junction Renewable Resources field office where we picked up his boat. We headed south on the Haines Highway and checked several lakes for fishermen. I was amazed that nobody was fishing. Dan explained that right now most of the fishermen are locals who fish on the weekends. The tourists begin to show up in the next couple of weeks when the schools are out in the U.S. We put the boat in on Dezadeash Lake where we had seen a truck and trailer. This lake is known for its Lake Trout. The lake was large and the water was rough so we pulled out after not finding the boat. We continued south and visited Kluksu Village, a First Nations fishing village. The village was empty but will fill up when the salmon begin to run. Further down river, we stopped at a Federal Fisheries salmon weir. According to the fisheries personnel, the first salmon had arrived the day before. Next we drove to the intersection of the Kluksu and Tatshenshini Rivers at Dalton Post. The land is owned by the Champagne-Aishihik and fishing is open from June 1 - October 1 from Saturday 6 am to Tuesday 12 pm. Dan told me that in couple of weeks, at the peak of spawning, there will be hundreds of fishermen at this spot trying to catch one salmon apiece. It was hard to imagine. Back out on the Dalton Post Road, Dan stopped to check

out an area where a bear had been illegally shot several weeks earlier. Headed north later in the day, we finally spotted the fishermen we were looking for earlier. They turned out to be three men from Switzerland and their local guide. The Yukon gets a lot of foreign tourists, especially from Germany and Switzerland. They all had licenses and had not caught any fish. After a moose dinner back at Dan's house, the whole family headed into town for the Alsak Music Festival where Lee was performing with the Senior Band. It was a relaxing way to end the day.

Saturday morning, Dan drove me out of town where we met up with Kevin Bowers. I hopped in with Kevin and we went and checked a local farm where they raise bison. Kevin needed to inspect the fence enclosure. We then headed north on the Klondike Highway. We made several stops at town dumps to inspect the electric fence and make sure they were working. The Yukon has spent quite a bit of money enclosing all the dumps in the territory and putting up bear-proof garbage containers along all the highways. In Carmacks, we met up with Brian Lacey. I hopped in with Brian and we continued on north. We stopped in McQuestin to check for bear activity. Brian loaded his 12 gauge shotgun with slugs before we headed out on the trail. There was a sow with her two, three-year old cubs that she was ready to kick out, in the area. Brian was worried that when she did, the cubs were going to cause problems at the local mining camps. We only found one set of prints. Brian has been a Conservation Officer in the Yukon for seven years. Prior to that, he worked in the Eastern Arctic. He and his wife, Laurie, have a 3 year old son, Brandon. Near the McQuestin River, we met up with Conservation Officer Torrie Hunter for the last leg into Dawson City. Torrie dropped me off at Conservation Officer Kirby Meister's house. Kirby was away on holiday, but was letting me stay at his house. I walked around Dawson City, did a little souvenir shopping and had dinner.

The next day, I met up with Conservation Officer Vince Travis. Vince has been a seasonal officer for two years. He and his wife, Rose, have a young son, Dustin. Vince and I crossed the Yukon River by ferry and headed out on the Top Of The World Highway that leads to Alaska. We drove down to the mining camps along the Sixty Mile River. We stopped in at one camp where we met the couple who run the camp. We were interested in seeing if they had experienced any bear problems. They had seen bears in the area but they weren't causing any problems. We were invited in for coffee and dessert. I didn't want to be rude when they offered me coffee, so I drank it. I told Vince later that he witnessed me drink my first cup of coffee (it was horrible!) We drove out to the Alaska-Yukon border where we stopped in to talk with the customs agents. During our drive, Vince and I had some great conversations about being conservation officers and why we both got into the field.

Monday morning, Torrie met me bright and early for a boat patrol on the Yukon River. We headed downstream, which is actually north of Dawson, in his 15 foot Gregor motorboat. Torrie explained that they fish the river for Chinook salmon using cotton gillnets set in the eddies created by the river. At each eddy there is a number painted on a rock indicating where a person is fishing. There are two fisheries, a commercial fishery and a native subsistence fishery. Every so often we would see a cabin along the river bank. In the Yukon, you can build on Crown land if you have a le-

gitimate landuse claim, such as fishing or trapping. All along the river are steep rock faces, home to nesting peregrine falcons. Near the Alaskan border, we came across a crew from Fisheries and Oceans constructing a fish wheel. The wheel rests in the water and scoops up the salmon so that they can be counted and tagged. Usually, the first fish of the season gets eaten. The trip back upstream was slow due to the Yukon's swift current. Along the way, we watched a young bull moose swim across in front of us. Back in Dawson City, we met up with Brian and we headed over to Torrie's house for dinner - moose, caribou, and Dall sheep shiskabobs. After dinner, Brian let me borrow his truck so that I could drive up to Midnight Dome to see the view and take pictures. The next morning, Brian and I headed north on the Dempster Highway. This road runs all the way to Inuvik in the Northwest Territories, as far north as you can go by road. The scenery along this highway was unbelievable and we spotted a variety of wildlife including: moose, Dall sheep, cross fox, ptarmigan, spruce grouse, bald and golden eagles, jaeger, trumpeter swans, short-eared owl, and snowshoe hare. We stopped in Eagle Plains, the last town on the highway in the Yukon for gas and to reserve a hotel room. The hotel was packed. The ferry service along the road in the NWT was out due to the heavy rains, so all the tourists were stuck in town. We continued on to the Arctic Circle crossing and on to the border with the NWT where we checked on a couple camping. They turned out to be from Connecticut and after a short conversation, I realized that we knew some of the same people (talk about a small world). Brian and I had planned on having a caribou dinner at the Arctic Circle, however, the mosquitoes were horrendous so we headed back to the hotel in Eagle Plains and ate there. After dinner Brian informed me that I had to try an Eagle Claw. I had found that the beer is all different in that part of the world, so I figured it was just another type of beer, that is until the bartender poured out two shots. It's a very appropriate name for a shot which hits you just like an eagle claw! We ended up having two and I was feeling them all night long.

The next morning we headed south and stopped for a late breakfast of caribou steak and eggs in the Blackstone Highlands region. We got to Mayo, his hometown, that afternoon and had an early dinner with his family and Conservation Officer Ken Frankish. After dinner, Ken and I headed south to his home in Faro where he lives.

The next morning, we headed south on the South Canol Highway towards Whitehorse. In Whitehorse, we stopped to meet his father who had been a Conservation Officer when the position was first started and now works for Yukon Parks. We did some shopping in town and spent the night at his mother's home. Unfortunately, I had a very early flight out the next morning.

I was headed to Alaska, and for the first time in my life, I wasn't looking forward to going - I didn't want to leave the Yukon. I had never seen such beautiful scenery. I believe that I got as close to heaven as I could without dying. The people that I had met were so friendly and the officers that hosted me were incredibly gracious. However, I had promised Ken Hansen, National Marine Fisheries Agent, that I would visit he and his family in Kodiak, Alaska after I went to the Yukon. I spent a day and a half in Anchorage before I could get a flight to Kodiak. After spending two weeks in the Yukon, I was somewhat shell-shocked by all the people in An-

chorage. I landed in Kodiak around 7:30pm on June 21, the summer solstice, and Ken, his wife Debbie and sons, Jake and Cole, were having a party at their home. I collapsed at 1:30 am, but the party went on till about 5:00 am.

Sunday morning we all slept late and then drove around the town of Kodiak and the areas accessible to cars. Kodiak is a huge island, but only has about 18 miles of roads. Kodiak's largest industry is fishing and most of the fishing fleet was in the harbor due a strike at the salmon processing plants.

Monday I went to the office with Ken where I met Agent Ron Nelson, Agent Todd Dubouis, Officer Mike Adams, and Officer Ron Volk. Mike and I went out to do two Halibut boat boardings and then met Ron Volk to check the logbooks of one of the processing plants. After dinner that night, Ken and I had a banya (sauna) at his neighbor's house.

The next morning we headed out to the Coast Guard Station where we boarded a C-130. We flew out of Kodiak at and headed northwest to the US/Russian Convention Line. We flew over the Katmai Range and St. Lawrence Island and we could see Siberia. It took us two hours to reach the Convention Line. We headed south along the line and marked the location of 8-9 Russian fishing vessels right along the line with another 15-20 well west of the line, they are not allowed to fish in US waters. We then flew up above the clouds, out of radar range, and stayed in a holding pattern for about an hour, then went back down. At this point, there was one boat over the line, but he wasn't fishing. After a halibut dinner and a couple of beers, back at Ken's house, we called it a day.

Wednesday, Ken had arranged for us to meet Alaskan State Trooper Andy Blank and have Andy fly us to the southwestern end of the island in his Cessna 185 float plane. While flying, we saw mountain goats, bears, Sitka deer, and bald eagles. We landed in Olga Bay where we were picked up by one of the fisheries observers who runs the salmon weir on Dog Salmon Creek. There is a lot of Kodiak bear activity in the area and we were rewarded with having a young male bear come out onto the weir. Andy had promised me that he would get me "up close and personal" with a Kodiak bear. This bear ended up coming within three feet of me, which was a little too personal! On the way back into Kodiak, Andy let me take control of the plane and I fell in love with flying, it's such an incredible feeling. The next morning after saying my good-byes to everyone, I headed back to Anchorage.

It wasn't until after I had gotten home from the conference in Colorado Springs, that I was able to sit down and contemplate my experiences in the Yukon and Alaska. To say that it was a trip of a lifetime, seems to be an understatement. Before I left, I worried that because I had dreamed of going for so long that I might be disappointed with what I found. On the contrary, it was everything that I imagined and more. But what really made it special were the officers that I met and stayed with. Without them, I could not have brought my dream to reality. Their gift of time to show me the place they call home was priceless. What was so amazing was that even though we were on opposite sides of a continent, our jobs are very similar as is our love of what we do. I would like to thank NAWEOA for sponsoring my trip, the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources, the Yukon conservation officers and their families, and especially, Brian Lacey, Ken Hansen and Andy Blank.



Dear Conservation Professional:

It is a pleasure to invite you to Missouri for the 18th Annual North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Conference from July 26 through August 1, 1999.

The conference will be held at the Regal Riverfront hotel. Truly THE PLACE to host the NAWEOA conference. Participants will enjoy first class accommodations and will be treated like royalty during their stay. The Regal offers something for everyone whether it is the spectacular view from the world renowned revolving dining facility at the top of the Regal to the relaxed comfort of one of the three other dining facilities within the hotel. We have managed to reserve 350 guest rooms for the conference with a special incentive to our Canadian friends of thirty rooms at Canadian currency rates. We sincerely look forward to having our Canadian friends in Missouri in '99. *The Cardinals will be playing a home stand against the Colorado Rockies that weekend so all area lodging facilities will be filled. Please make your reservations early! Call us for special ticket prices for the Sunday ballgame.*

At past conferences discussions have centered around a facility large enough to accommodate over 1,500 participants at the banquet. The Regal can do that with room to spare. The Grand Ballroom with its magnificent decor will seat in comfort up to 2,000 for our banquet and can seat up to 2,200 if the need arises.

Activities planned for the conference are numerous. They begin with the early bird specials that include the traditional NAWEOA Golf Tournament, Sporting Clays, and a special incentive to arrive early - a Meramec River float trip. This beautiful stream will give participants an opportunity to relax in a canoe and travel approximately ten miles in the quiet serenity of an Ozark stream. Lunch is provided and Missouri Conservation Agents will be on hand in jet boats with refreshments for your trip down the river. So don't be satisfied to let someone else tell you about the Meramec River float trip, register early and let them know what they missed.

The planned day trips will be fun filled. Those choosing the Six Flags trip, have a treat in store; a day of fun and games at a truly remarkable amusement park. There are so many rides and events within Six Flags that you will have to hurry to get them all in and will wonder where the time went when the signal to load the busses is given. Even hardened, grizzled old wardens will come away wondering why they hadn't tried this before.

The Mississippi River barge trip will be a truly unique experience. Very few of us have ever had the opportunity to lock through on the Mississippi River. If you don't understand what that means come to Missouri and find out. A Missouri style fish fry will be hosted on this trip.

Many other trips are scheduled during the conference with family as the foremost consideration. The St. Louis Zoo will be the site of one of these trips, and is one of the top ten Zoos in the world. Trips to Grant's Farm, the Magic House and the St. Louis Science Center will also be available. Numerous other activities are being organized and we feel confident that when you leave Missouri, you will have fond memories to sustain you on your journey home and a renewed dedication to the position of CONSERVATION PROFESSIONAL that we all cherish so much.

So on behalf of our Director, Jerry Conley, our Protection Division Administrator, Ron Glover, and the rest of the Missouri Department of Conservation Team we are excited and are looking forward to your participation at the 18th Annual NAWEOA Conference in St. Louis, July 26 through August 1, 1999. See you in '99.

Because we care,

Gordon Jarvis, Conservation Agent
President, Missouri Conservation Agents Association

NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Conference - St. Louis, Missouri

July 26 - August 1, 1999

***** DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM AFTER JULY 1, 1999: ON SITE REGISTRATION ONLY AFTER THOSE DATES*****

REGISTRATION FORM

DELEGATE - SPOUSE/GUEST

DELEGATES NAME:		SPOUSE/GUEST NAME:	
MAILING ADDRESS:		PHONE:	
CITY:	STATE/PROVINCE:	ZIP:	

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

(TOTAL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM. PLEASE REMIT IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY - SEE REVERSE SIDE)

RESERVATIONS	CONFERENCE FEES		QUANTITY	SUB-TOTAL
REGISTRATION TYPE	THROUGH JUNE 1, 1999	AFTER JUNE 1, 1999	NO. OF PERSONS	NO. PERSONS TIMES DOLLAR AMOUNT
FULL REGISTRATION NAWEOA MEMBER (INCLUDES ALL DAY PASSES AND BANQUET ONLY. DOES NOT INCLUDE SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)	\$95.00	\$130.00		
NON-NAWEOA MEMBER (INCLUDES ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN NAWEOA)	\$125.00	\$150.00		
SPOUSE/GUEST (DOES NOT INCLUDE SATURDAY LUNCH)	\$55.00	\$80.00		
CHILDREN (16 & UNDER) (NO CHARGE UNLESS ATTENDING BANQUET)	\$10.00	\$20.00		
DAY PASSES				
UNIFORM DAY (INCLUDES LUNCH) (THURSDAY ONLY)	\$25.00	\$35.00		
WARDEN SKILLS DAY (INCLUDES BBQ & TRANSPORTATION) (FRIDAY ONLY)	\$35.00	\$45.00		
PROGRAMS/PRESENTATIONS DAY (INCLUDES LUNCH) (SATURDAY ONLY)	\$25.00	\$35.00		
SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET ONLY (INCLUDES EVENING ENTERTAINMENT)	\$35.00	N/A		
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES				
GOLF TOURNAMENT (INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION) (TUESDAY ONLY)	\$40.00	\$45.00		
SPORTING CLAYS (INCLUDES TRANSP. & LUNCH) (TUESDAY ONLY)	\$25.00	\$30.00		
MERAMEC RIVER FLOAT TRIP (INCL. TRANSP. & LUNCH) (TUESDAY ONLY)	\$45.00	N/A		
SIX FLAGS ST. LOUIS (INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION) (WEDNESDAY ONLY)	\$25.00	\$30.00		
MISSISSIPPI RIVER BARGE TRIP (INCL. TRANSP. & LUNCH) (WEDNESDAY ONLY)	\$30.00	N/A		
GRANT'S FARM/THE MAGIC HOUSE (INCL. TRANSP.) (THURSDAY ONLY)	\$10.00	\$15.00		
ST. LOUIS ZOO (INCLUDES TRANSPORTATION) (SATURDAY ONLY)	\$10.00	\$15.00		
ST. LOUIS SCIENCE CENTER (INCL. TRANSPORTATION) (SATURDAY ONLY)	\$10.00	\$15.00		
GRAND TOTAL				

North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association

Annual Conference - St. Louis, Missouri

July 26 - August 1, 1999

***** DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM AFTER JULY 1, 1999: ON SITE REGISTRATION ONLY AFTER THOSE DATES*****

HOW TO REGISTER

BY MAIL: Protection Division
Missouri Department of Conservation
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180
Attention: NAWEOA Conference

BY FAX 573-751-8971

BY PHONE: Telephone registration will be taken only after January 1, 1999. (Details will be available at a later date.)

The first 100 registrations received by March 1, 1999, will receive a special gift of a knife engraved with the NAWEOA logo.

PAYMENT METHOD

Check # _____ (Please make checks payable to: NAWEOA Conference '99)

Visa _____

MasterCard _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _ Exp. Date _ / _

Name as it appears on card: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The official travel agency for the 1999 NAWEOA Conference is Travel, Etc., phone: 800-844-8382. Through Travel, Etc., we have negotiated a contract for discounted rates with Trans World Airlines (TWA) for conference travel. Please make reservations by calling Travel, Etc.

A shuttle operates on a regular basis from the St. Louis International Airport to all hotels in the downtown St. Louis area for a reasonable fee. Call the Regal Hotel for further information. In addition, the Metro-Link light rail transportation service operates from the airport to downtown St. Louis as well.

All travel provided during the conference will be provided by Mid-American Coaches, Inc. on air-conditioned luxury touring busses.

NAWEM NEWS

By Del Tibke

* The North Dakota Game Warden Association has completed the 1998 Moose Raffle. The museum board thanks the association members for their effort the past several years to raise money for the museum project. Also, a big thank you goes out to the wardens who purchased tickets and sold them around the USA and Canada. The winner of the moose hunt in North Dakota this year is Joann McBride, a Deputy Sheriff from Tama, Iowa. Congratulations Joann, and good hunting. We look forward to you coming to North Dakota this fall to bag a moose.

* We have hired a professional fund raiser from Brandon, Manitoba to raise funds for the museum in the Canadian Provinces. She is already busy on this project in Canada. By the time you read this we will have hired a professional fund raiser in the USA.

* In late April 1998, we sent out a mass mailing to all NAWEOA members in the USA. This letter explained the purpose and progress of the museum. It also requested the members to at least become an individual \$25 patron member of the museum. We did receive back several of this type of memberships, and did receive five new Patron Life Memberships. We expected many more NAWEOA members in the USA to purchase memberships in the museum. There is still time to do it. A mass mailing was also sent out to NAWEOA members in Canada. We now have 27 Patron Life Members who either paid up or who are paying on an installment basis at \$75 or more per year.

* Jan and Ken Maw are busy working on the cookbook for the museum. We expect to have this project done by the St. Louis conference or at least be able to take orders for the book there. However, we need many more of the recipes that I'm sure you folks would have available for them to use. This can be a big fund raiser for the museum.

* At the museum board annual meeting in March 1998, a motion was made and passed to change the name of the corporation to The North American Wildlife Enforcement Memorial Museum and Educational Center. This change has already been done by the Canadian Corporation and is progressing in the USA. Several consultants have told the board that this change would make it much easier to obtain grants from several sources.

* Finally, we hope and pray that the NAWEOA members who have not yet become a member of the museum, would please consider purchasing a membership in the museum. We need help from every member to complete this project. The museum will be a place to honor our fallen officers and show what our profession is all about.....for our own and future generations.

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 * receive an additional benefit of a certificate. Individual Life Members have a choice of a certificate, plaque or jacket. Memberships marked by a # receive a plaque*

- () 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.

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"WORKING FOR WILDLIFE"

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