

Montana Trooper

Editor's Comments



Sgt. Scott Ayers
Editor
Montana Trooper

In April, the AMT hosted the National Trooper's Coalition spring 2010 conference at the beautiful Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish, with troopers from all over the nation in attendance. AMT President Art Collins and Vice President Lath Keith worked tirelessly to organize the event, and all the AMT board members and their significant others in attendance worked long hours to help staff the event.

Thanks go out to Attorney General Steve Bullock for being our keynote speaker, Colonel Mike Tooley for speaking at the opening ceremonies, the Honor Guard for their participation in the opening ceremonies, and to Mark Taylor, Tom Bivens, and Captain Clancy King for each presenting workshops.

Special thanks also go out to all of our very generous sponsors who helped make the conference a reality, which includes CTS-America, GM, On Star, Leupold, McKnight Companies, Fidelity Blue Line Mortgage, Midwest Stitch, Cool

Guy Gear, Panasonic, 5.11, Nomad, Crimson Trace, Stalker, Wilson Arms, Cooper Firearms, BKBH, Sparta Promotions, Sig Sauer, Smith and Wesson, PLEA, Blackhawk, and Danner, as well as many states that contributed extra funds.

The highlight of the event for many was a helicopter ride over Glacier National Park, thanks to Glacier Heli Tours.

Thanks to everyone for your assistance and for coming. We hope you all had a great time.

In May, the AMT was honored to sponsor the Haynes family and their trip

to attend the National Police Week ceremonies in Washington, D.C. Tawny, Taryn, Elias, and their family and friends, along with trooper escorts Dustin LeRette and Lacie Alby toured the capitol and took part in ceremonies honoring Montana Highway Patrol Trooper Michael Haynes, to whom we will be forever grateful.

As we close out 2010 and the 75th anniversary of the Montana Highway Patrol, we honor our past, cherish our present, and look forward to the future.

Until the next issue, be safe. ☐

Submission Guidelines

Montana Trooper welcomes contributions in the form of articles and photographs with captions.

Articles should be submitted in Word and in both upper and lower case, not all caps. The editor reserves the right to edit the text as per content and length in consideration of the style of this publication. Articles may be submitted either on a CD or via electronic mail.

Hard copy photos, digital JPEG photos on CD, or digital JPEG photos via electronic mail may be sent. All photographs should be of the highest possible quality and, if digital,

should be at least 5.1 megapixels for black and white reproduction and at least 7.0 megapixels for color reproduction.

Photos meant for the cover are best displayed when taken vertically, as opposed to horizontal.

Please indicate if you wish for your photo(s) and/or CD to be returned. Each photo should have an accompanying description or caption.

Please do not imbed photos within articles, but rather send text and JPEG photos as a part of separate files.

Send submissions and all other correspondence to: Scott Ayers, 1013 Babcock Blvd., Billings, MT 59105 or e-mail them to montanatrooper@q.com.

Montana Trooper

President's Message



*Sgt. Art Collins
President
AMT*

The last time I wrote to you all, it was winter, and we were starting to get serious about getting some work done for the upcoming NTC Conference. Well, at the end of April the conference was held in Whitefish. By all accounts, it was a complete success. I would like to take this time to thank all you who participated and helped out. Specifically, I would like to thank the Honor Guard, the AMT Board of Directors and family members who volunteered, and all the troops in District 6 who dropped whatever they were doing to help out whenever they were called upon (your kindness was noted by the NTC President). Additionally, I greatly appreciate Attorney General Bullock for making the drive up just to speak to the attendees. Our many sponsors also deserve a big hand. Without them, hosting a national meeting could not have happened without significant cost to our association. A special thank you goes out to Colonel Tooley and Lieutenant Colonel Huseby. The support they provided for this endeavor was vital to its success. I

would also like to express my deepest gratitude to Lath Keith, who did most of the fundraising and to Scott Ayers, who did just about everything else. Last, but not least, thank you to Grouse Mountain Lodge for your outstanding support and professional staff services.

By the time you all read this, it will be fall, and we will be gearing up for the next legislative session. I promise you that we will continue to be vigilant on the political front and ready to defend the hard fought for benefits we now enjoy. However, make no mistake about how important your role is in this process. It is vital that you make contact with your legislators. It is equally important that they hear the same message from all of us. By this fall, everyone should receive a letter with talking points for these contacts. Please do your best to stick to these points. We are most likely to accomplish our goals if we present ourselves as a unit. We anticipate a difficult session. As you are all probably aware, the state is looking at about a \$400 million deficit for the next biennium. Additionally, there are several other retirement systems in the state that are upside down again. This means there is a good chance that when they start looking at retirement systems, ours may be up for a little tinkering. Obviously, we don't want this to happen. We have been successful in the past in stopping any affronts to our retirement system. As I said

before, we will remain vigilant and ready to fight the good fight if necessary.

In the past couple of years, I have become much more involved with the Montana Hope Project. I must report that it has been a great experience. I have met some very incredible people, both people who support the project and those who benefit from the project. I can assure you that the Hope Project is in very capable hands right now as Richard Hader works tirelessly to ensure its mission is carried out and its reputation remains intact. I ask each of you to do yourself a favor and get involved in this worthwhile project. Fundraising is a constant with the Hope Project. However, we hope to someday be in a financial situation where we never have to ask for help again. We are about halfway there after only 25 years, and we are picking up steam all the time. We expect to reach our goal much quicker than another 25 years. You can also help by constantly listening and looking for children whom we can serve. If we run out of children to grant wishes to, then we no longer have a reason to have the Hope Project around. So please, if you know of any children who may be deserving of having a wish granted, contact Richard or your local Hope Project Coordinator.

Until next time, be safe, and as Murph up in supply always says, "Be blessed." □

Montana Trooper

From the Attorney General

75 Years: A History to be Truly Proud of



Montana
Attorney General
Steve Bullock

This May, I was honored to participate in the Montana Highway Patrol's 75th Anniversary celebration. Although it was a rainy morning, the sun broke through just as Governor Schweitzer noted that Montana's Patrol troopers are among the most highly respected of any profession in the state. Senator Mike Cooney, whose grandfather Frank Cooney was governor when the Patrol was initially created in 1935, and I also

joined Col. Tooley in addressing the crowd gathered to honor the Patrol.

The Patrol was created in response to our state leading the country with a 74% increase in highway fatalities. In the 75 years since then, the generations of men and women who have served as Patrol troopers have dedicated their lives to the public safety mission for which this organization was created. That is something of which to be truly proud.

In the first decade of the 21st Century, Montana has again led the nation in highway fatalities, but this time in the number of deaths caused by drinking and driving. In response, this past May we launched a 24/7 Sobriety pilot program in Helena. The pilot is the result of a collaborative effort between my office, Lewis & Clark County, the City of Helena, the Justice of the Peace

and City Judge, the area's District Court Judges and the Highway Patrol.

Based on South Dakota's 24/7 program, we require as a condition of bond that defendants totally abstain from the consumption of alcohol. And they have to prove it by showing up twice a day, every day, between 7- 9 a.m. and 7-9 p.m., and blowing a clean breath test. If they don't, they go straight to jail and wait to see a judge.

Early this summer, we had six repeat DUI offenders in the program. By starting small, we can work out any glitches before we include a statewide 24/7 Sobriety Program in the larger DUI package we will propose to the 2011 Legislature. I'm hopeful that, when it comes to highway safety, the legislators who meet in Helena next year will respond with the same foresight their counterparts showed in 1935. □

Montana Trooper

Colonel's Message



Colonel
Mike Tooley

As you read this magazine, we are approaching the fall of 2010. I remember that at this time last year, we had just finished a legislative session and were planning our 75th anniversary celebrations.

Now those celebrations are behind us, and another legislative session looms. While I anticipate that the 2011 session will be one of the more difficult of my tenure, I am comforted with the knowledge that the relationships that the patrol has established will be helpful. The work that the AMT and others have done to foster those relationships becomes even more important in tough times.

We have seen our share of tough times during our history. While I was preparing remarks for the 75th anniversary celebration, it struck me how 2010 is a reflection of 1935. In 1935 the world was struggling to emerge from the Great Depression, and unemployment in the United States hovered around twenty percent. There were rumors of war that were going to be realized in just a few short years.

Today, we struggle with the current economic downturn, war, and uncertainty. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

And that makes what the MHP does even more important. Thanks to the hard work that the AMT has done in the past, we are in a position to maintain or increase our field forces when other public safety agencies are laying people off

or leaving positions unfilled. The Massachusetts State Police for example has not held a recruit academy for four years, and has 400 unfilled positions.

Here at home, the Attorney General has included in his executive proposals an increase of nine uniformed MHP positions. This supports the AG's safe communities initiative by increasing public safety through a consistent and visible presence of MHP troopers throughout our state.

Experience has taught us that a visible, active force reduces death and injury on our highways. What we are learning through our collaborations with other state and national law enforcement groups is that the same visibility helps to reduce all crimes. Safe communities are a major component of economic recovery, and the MHP plays an important part in that. We always have.

Even though we know that the patrol and the members of the association do important work and have established great relationships, there is still

work to be done. I encourage the members of the association to continue to monitor issues of importance to them and contribute to the discussion. It is more critical than ever to be a part of the debate and to make sure your story is told effectively.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the association for a very successful National Trooper's Coalition conference in Whitefish. I heard absolutely nothing but rave reviews over the choice of the location, the hospitality, and the AMT members who were on hand to assist the delegates. It made me proud to see our association show what it was capable of doing on a national level. Well done! You set the bar very high for the hosts of the next NTC conference.

Until next time, be safe in your travels or activities, and thank you for all that you do to support the patrol and improve public safety in Montana. □