



Montana Trooper



IN UNIFORM

Trooper Josh Giddings received a Hedstrom Award in Belgrade on October 14, 2010. In addition, Trooper Derek Werner was presented a Hedstrom Award, and Trooper Rick Kessner received the Medal of Valor at a very small gathering in Wolf Point on October 18, 2010. Congratulations to each of you!



On July 1, 2009, Trooper Bill Bullock (MHP 187) responded to a tragic incident involving the death of a nine year old boy who had been dragged along by a horse. Trooper Bullock attempted life-saving efforts by assisting with CPR until additional emergency personnel arrived. He then assisted the Carbon County Sheriff's Office with the investigation. For his efforts, Trooper Bullock was presented with a Meritorious Service Award by Colonel Tooley at the District IV meeting on November 17, 2010.



Retired Captain Tom Hamilton received an award for "Swimming Uphill" from the Missoula DUI Task Force for his work with that organization in the Missoula County area. Pictured in this photo taken by Trooper Chris Hamilton

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are Sergeant Ken Breidenbach and Captain Hamilton.

Trooper Patrick Heaney of Detachment 113 was recently nominated for and received the Missoula Exchange Club Officer of the Year Award.

On January 30th, 2010, at approximately 2056 hours, Trooper Tamra Winchell was seated in her patrol car on the side of the roadway in the Town of Darby when an intoxicated male driver crashed into her from behind, completely totaling the patrol car and seriously injuring Trooper Winchell.

Trooper Heaney was the first trooper to respond to the scene and conducted a tireless and thorough investigation which resulted in a successful felony conviction of the suspect. In addition, he took personal care of Trooper Winchell throughout her recovery period.



Pictured from left to right are Sergeant Ken Breidenbach, Deputy Attorney General Tim Burton, Trooper Pat Heaney, Trooper Tamra Winchell, and Attorney General Steve Bullock.

On November 22, 2009, Trooper Shane Warehime (MHP 347) was assisting with traffic control on Interstate 90 when a vehicle drove up and summoned him for help with a medical emergency. Trooper Warehime, an EMT, recognized the victim was not breathing and had a fading pulse. Reacting quickly, he assisted by opening the victim's airway and giving rescue breaths, after which he and another EMT began CPR. Sadly, the victim died approximately twenty four hours later. For his efforts, Trooper



Warehime was presented with a Hedstrom Award by Colonel Tooley at the District IV meeting on November 17, 2010.

On June 24, 2010, Trooper Tony Beehler (MHP 172) was named Officer of the Year by the Montana Association of Chiefs of Police at the 2010 Joint Law Enforcement Convention of the Montana Association of Chiefs of Police and the Montana Sheriff's and Peace Officers' Association. Pictured are Bobbie Beehler, Trooper Tony Beehler, and Colonel Tooley. Congratulations Tony!



Trooper Dan Amundsen (MHP 200) came up with the idea to place a banner on the Interstate 90 overpass at Manhattan in honor of Trooper David



PHOTO BY ROGER RICHARDSON

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DeLaittre. He recruited other area troopers to complete it at Mr. T's Wrecker Service. With MDOT's blessing, it was placed by Troopers Dan Amundsen and Brad Moore and served as a wonderful tribute to Trooper DeLaittre.

Jeff Douglass was a sworn trooper with the Patrol from 1990 to 2000 and has been with the MLEA since 2000. On November 30, 2010, Jeff was admitted to a Billings hospital with a leaky aneurysm at the base of the brain. He has since undergone surgery and was released to recuperate at home in Helena, pending additional surgery. Cards may be sent to the following address and Trooper Jeramy Rice will deliver them to Jeff: Jeff Douglass, c/o Jeramy Rice, P.O. Box 5111, Helena, MT 59604.

On Thursday, December 16, 2010, Troopers Toby Baukema (MHP 318) and Jason Grover (MHP 232) were each presented with the Yellowstone County DUI Task Force Award of Merit by Colonel Tooley for their contributions in DUI enforcement. Troopers Baukema and Grover combined for approximately 83 DUI arrests for the first ten months of 2010.



Local DUI Task Forces in Yellowstone, Big Horn, and Broadwater Coun-



ties, along with a possible donation from the Crow DUI Task Force, are enabling the purchase of a trailer on which to permanently mount the wreckage from Trooper Michael Haynes' patrol car. Once this has been accomplished, the vehicle will be available for display at events across the state and serve as a permanent reminder of the lasting negative impact of DUI in Montana.

Trooper Pat Heaney out busting bad guys with his faithful K-9 partner, Mister, on October 31, 2010. Photo submitted by Trooper Scott Bennett.



The Hike for Heroes was held on July 10, 2010, at the Whitefish Mountain Resort.

This event was organized to honor the sacrifices of all fallen Montana Highway Patrol troopers and to benefit the Montana Hope Project. Trooper Jim Schneider's wife, Lacy Schneider, organized and worked hard to make this event a great success, with the help of her mother-in-law, Becky Sturdevant, along with several other volunteers.

Over one hundred people made the scenic 3.8 mile hike up the Danny On Trail. A wonderful lunch was served, and then most made a relaxing ride down the mountain on the chairs and gondolas. A few celebrities hiked, including Colonel Tooley.

Thanks to all the volunteers and sponsors, the MT Hope Project cleared \$4,225 cash in this event after expenses. Sponsors included:

Gold Medal Sponsors

Sems Carwash, Kalispell Taxi, Sound Solutions, Gold Rush Shirt Co., Whitefish Mountain Resort

Silver medal Sponsors

Brass and Bullets, Plum Creek, First Interstate Bank, Tele-Tech, Triple "D",

Howie Tires of Whitefish, Able Body Collision Repair, Les Schwab Tires of the Flathead Valley, Flathead Fitness, Silver Tip Engraving, Snappy's Sports, Western Business & Tax Service, Evergreen Pharmacy, Hammer Nutrition

Lunch Sponsors

Subway, Super 1, Costco, Rosauers, Gresko's Bakery, Perkin's, Wheat Montana, Safeway of Whitefish



Pictured at the event were: Troopers Jim Schneider, Pat Herman, Tyler Reed, Rick Mehring, and Steve Herman.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SERGEANT STEVE LAVIN

In early spring 2010, a film crew descended on the small south central town of Red Lodge, Montana. They were there to shoot footage for the popular television show "Ice Road Truckers." What better place than a closed for the winter, U.S. 212 and the Beartooth Pass for background scenery? Members of Detachment 423 provided security and traffic control while a semi was driven up and down the switchbacks on the pass. The most interesting event was when the film crew staged a "controlled" crash of the truck they were using in the photo sessions. So the next time you are watching "Ice Road Truckers," see if you can recognize some part of Montana in the footage.



Captain Brad Sangray, District VIII Commander, reported for a fellowship



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position with ATF/BJA in Washington D.C. from November 29, 2010, until the end of May, 2011.

On September 21, 2010, Captain Tom Hamilton (MHP 101) presented Sergeant Ken Breidenbach (MHP 123) with his fifteen year service stars.



Sergeant Scott Hoffman (MHP 147) was presented with his fifteen year service stars by Captain Tom Hamilton.



Captain Keith Edgell presented Trooper Joe Coughlin (MHP 234) with his twenty five year service stars on July 7, 2010.



Trooper Justin Kirchheck (MHP 283) was presented with his fifteen year service stars by Colonel Tooley on November 17, 2010.



Captain Keith Edgell congratulated Troopers Todd Hagenbuch, Chan Barry, and Aaron Freivalds on completion of their first year of service on July 7, 2010.



On October 25, 2010, Sergeant Robert Armstrong presented Trooper Jim Lumsden (MHP 282) with his twenty year service stars.



Trooper Darvin Mees (MHP 304) was presented with his ten year service stars by Colonel Tooley on November 17, 2010.



Trooper Larry Nieminen was presented his twenty year service stars by Captain Michael Reddick at the Bozeman District VII Office.



Sergeant Pete Richardson (MHP 133) received his twenty year service stars from Captain Tom Hamilton. Sergeant Richardson has since retired.



On August 16, 2010, the Washington State Patrol suffered a tragic loss. Recently commissioned Trooper Kristopher Sperry, veteran Trooper Gary Miller, and WSP communications supervisor Anne Hewitt-Miller, were killed in a house fire in Zillah, WA. Gary and Anne Miller, well known for their generosity, had invited

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Article and photographs submitted by Trooper Scott Bennett.

recent academy graduate Trooper Sperry to stay with them at their home while he arranged for housing in his new duty station area of Sunnyside, WA. The fire

apparently started at around 0130 hours in the basement of the Miller's house while the three were asleep.

An impressive triple law enforcement funeral took place at the Yakima Valley Sun Dome on August 27, 2010. Because Trooper Sperry was from Eureka, MT, his family requested that the Montana Highway Patrol participate in the proceedings. MHP Captain Mike Reddick played a role in the flag ceremony while MHP Troopers Neil Duram, Tim Proctor, and Scott Bennett served as three of the six pall bearers for Trooper Sperry's casket.

The following week, on Septem-

ber 4, 2010, Trooper Sperry's remains were brought to his hometown of Eureka, MT, and a second memorial service was held. Trooper Sperry's sergeant and three of his detachment partners travelled to Montana to attend. In addition, the MHP was well represented at the ceremony. The group photograph was taken at the Eureka cemetery shortly after the service.



There was an open house at the Montana Highway Patrol District IV office in Billings on May 20, 2010, to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Montana Highway Patrol. The event was well attended, most notably by our distinguished retirees. There was a lot of history in the office that day, and it really showed how much the Montana Highway Patrol means to so many. Thanks to all of those that attended, which included: Mary Lou Bickford, Ella Marie Mickel, Jack Kenyon, Smoky



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Owen, Jack Westrope, Jeff & Karen McLaughlin, Ralph & Mary Snodgrass, Larry Eckhart, Ralph Guy, Ken & Carol Hoefner, Greg Szudera, Thomas Rieger, Jerry Rowe, Robert Clark, Lance Bourquin, Walt Miller, Kerry Keyser, Tom Carranco, Darvin Mees, Brian Sampson, Mark Olson, and Bill Bullock.

Trooper Tony Beehler (MHP 172) and his wife Bobbie are the proud parents of a healthy baby boy, Austin James. Austin was born on July 22, 2010, at 0943 hours, weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces, and was 20 ¼ inches long.

Mat Christensen and his wife Allissa are the proud parents of a 7 pound 4 ounce baby girl named Claire Elizabeth, born at 1615 hours in Bozeman, on Saturday, December 4, 2010.

Trooper Aaron Day and his beautiful wife Shaudin are the proud parents of a new baby boy. Ethan Kenneth Day

joined his big brother Owen as a member of the Day family on July 5, 2010, at 1740 hours. Ethan was born one month early and weighed in at 5 pounds 6 ounces and measured 17 ¾ inches.

Sergeant Jeff Kent and his beautiful wife Heidi are the proud parents of a baby girl, Maia Elaine Kent. Maia was born Monday, October 25, 2010, and weighed 8 pounds 2 ounces and was 20 ½ inches long.

Jay and Catherine Nelson are proud to announce the birth of Alexa Catherine Nelson. Alexa was born August 7, 2010, at 0556 hours. She weighed in at 6 pounds 7 ounces and was 18 inches long.

Trooper Jade and Ruth Anne Shope are the proud parents of daughter Abigail Anna Shope. Abigail was born on October 19, 2010, at 1610 hours, weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces and was 20 ½ inches long.

Please keep these MHP families in your thoughts and prayers as they suffer the loss of these family members:

Trooper Bob Hensley of District VI with the loss of his father on November 19, 2010.

Trooper Steven Downs of District V with the loss of his grandmother on November 19, 2010.

Trooper Shawn Fowler of District VII with the loss of his grandfather on November 22, 2010.

Trooper Ace Meskimen of District VII with the loss of his father on November 23, 2010.

Trooper Alex Betz was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assumed the Training and Research Section Supervisor position at Headquarters effective July 17, 2010.

Trooper Dustin LeRette and Trooper Marvin Reddick were each promoted

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to the rank of Sergeant in the Dignitary Protection detail effective September 25, 2010. A promotional ceremony was completed on November 16, 2010.

Lieutenant Greg Watson was promoted to Captain and assumed the District I Commander's position on December 21, 2010.

Trooper Zechariah D. Browning submitted his resignation effective January 24, 2011. He had been stationed in Miles City. His sworn service time with the Patrol was from January 22, 2010, to January 24, 2011.

Trooper Joshua D. Clark submitted his resignation effective November 20, 2010. He had been stationed in Libby. His sworn dates of service were from January 22, 2010, to November 20, 2010.

Trooper Christopher L. Costello had been stationed in Butte. He submitted his resignation effective July 19, 2010. His sworn dates of service were from July 14, 1990 to July 19, 2010.

Trooper Mark Hall (MHP 265) submitted his resignation effective December 31, 2010. He had been stationed in Whitehall, and his dates of sworn service were from September 24, 1990, to December 31, 2010.

Captain Tom Hamilton submitted his resignation effective October 14, 2010. He had been District Commander stationed in Missoula. His sworn dates of service with the Patrol were from July 1, 1988, to October 14, 2010.

Trooper Adam Olivas submitted his resignation effective December 31,

2010. He had been stationed in Columbus. His sworn dates of service with the Patrol were from June 29, 1999, to December 31, 2010.

Sergeant Michael G. Swingley submitted his resignation effective December 17, 2010. He had been stationed in Helena. His sworn dates of service were from June 30, 1989, to December 17, 2010. Sergeant Swingley is the newly elected Justice of the Peace in Lewis and Clark County.

Sergeant Steve Wisniewski submitted his resignation effective December 17, 2010. He was most recently stationed in Livingston, and his sworn dates of service with the Patrol were December 20, 1993, to December 17, 2010. □

