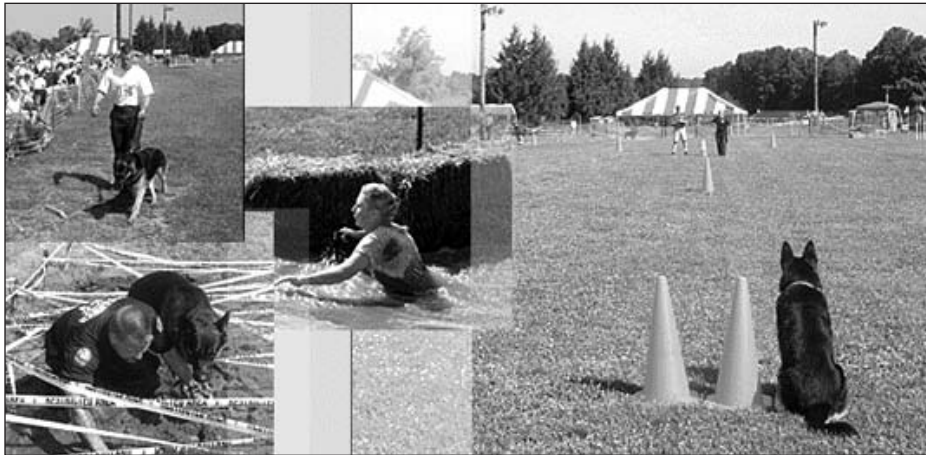


# The Connecticut State Police Union Supports

*the following community events and charities through generous contributions made by supporters of this magazine:*



benefit raised money to help cover the enormous medical expenses the family now faces.

- ❑ **Sergeant Steven Hall** through **TFC Jeremy Powell** (Central District Area Rep). A Benefit BBQ was held for Steve Hall (Troop H). This benefit was held at Wickham Park in Manchester. Steve was injured when he had a head on collision with a wrong-way drunk driver on the Interstate while he was working.

- ❑ **Connecticut State Police K-9 Unit** through **TFC Mike Real**. The K-9 Unit competed in the annual Connecticut K-9 Olympics.
- ❑ **Troop F's Annual Summer Picnic** through **Trooper Rich Burgarella**. This was the 5th year for the picnic, which is open to all Troop F personnel and their families.



Charlotte Rae Wesoloski

- ❑ **Connecticut State Police Women's Softball Team** through **TFC Wendy Delehanty**. The CSP Women's Softball Team participated in the "Canines for Disabled Kids" softball tournament. This organization provides service dogs to children under the age of twelve. Since 1998, Canines for disabled Kids has sponsored over ninety assistance dogs to children with different disabilities.



- ❑ **Captain John F. Keane Memorial Golf Tournament** through **TFC James Taylor** (Troop W Steward). Captain John Keane of the Waterbury Fire Department was killed responding to a call. He was the brother of **TFC Dennis Keane** (Troop A). Participating in the tournament were: **TFC Jim Taylor** (Troop W), **TFC Jeff Keegan** (Troop W), **TFC Ed Peshka** (Troop W), **TFC Lance Becker** (Casino Unit).
- ❑ **Troop F Columbus Day Luncheon** through **Sergeant Sal Calvo**. This annual luncheon benefits the Pancreatic Cancer Foundation. Pancreatic cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer death in the United States as well as around the world. Its incidence cuts across all racial and socio-economic barriers and is nearly always fatal. Despite the continued diligent efforts of the medical community, it is estimated that 25,000 people may die from this disease this year.
- ❑ **Connecticut Aids Bike Tour** through the **Union's Board**

**of Directors.** This Bike Ride raises funds and public awareness about how crucial the struggle to treat HIV/AIDS and prevent its spread is to our state and to the world community. It is a way of making a difference in people's lives, while at the same time sending a message of hope, love, and the power of the struggle for justice. Participating in this Bike Ride was **Dan Livingston** (CSP Union Attorney).

- ❑ *Connecticut Chapter of the Men and Women for Justice* through **TFC Fred Abrams. Master Sergeant Randy Howell** (Troop A) and **Retired Trooper Errol Goffe** were honored at this year's annual gala.
- ❑ *Connecticut State Police SWAT Team* through the **Union's Board of Directors.** This year the CSP SWAT Team had two teams participate in the "Connecticut SWAT Challenge". They took first place in the competition.
- ❑ *The Family of TFC Geoffrey Schweitzer* through **TFC Andy Matthews** (Union Secretary).
- ❑ *Hartford Wolf Pack Community Foundation Golf Tournament* through **TFC Christopher Ganzer.** This tournament raises money for the Children's Cancer Fund in association with the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.
- ❑ *The 4th Annual Pig Palooza* through **TFC Tony Cipriano** (Troop I). This annual pig roast benefited the Connecticut State Police Troopers in the military who are serving overseas.
- ❑ *Hispanic Heritage Luncheon* through **Sergeant Luis Rosa** (BCI).
- ❑ *Connecticut Marine Corps League Ball* through **John Kolosky** (CSP Union Director of Political Affairs).
- ❑ *East Hartford Police Officers Association Memorial Fund* through **TFC Ron DeMaine.**
- ❑ *Mark Greco Memorial Fund* through the **Union's Board of Directors.**
- ❑ *Troop G Family Christmas Party* through **TFC Rachael Van Ness.**
- ❑ *Annual Soccer Match at Oliver Wolcott Tech School for Troopers and students* through **Sergeant Greg Kenney** (Union Treasurer).
- ❑ *Troop H Children's Christmas Party* through **TFC Jeremy Powell** (Central District Area Representative).
- ❑ *Troop K Halloween Party* through **TFC Joy Occhialini.**

- ❑ *Troop K Annual Children's Holiday Party* through **Sergeant Jim Keeney.**
- ❑ *Troop F Thanksgiving Troop Dinner* through **TFC Judson Howes** (Troop F Steward).
- ❑ *Food Share* through **TFC Sharon Cheeks** (Troop H).
- ❑ *The Troop H Toy Drive* to benefit the Connecticut Children's Medical Center Foundation through **TFC Michael Pendleton** and the **Union's Board of Directors.**
- ❑ *Officer Jay Silva Fundraiser* through **TFC Tony Cipriano** (Troop I). Officer Silva, a 30-year veteran of the Shelton Police Department, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The Connecticut State Police participated in a basketball game with the Harlem Court Jesters at the Shelton High School.



- ❑ *St. Vincent's Swim Across The Sound* through the **Union's Board of Directors** to benefit Connecticut's First Responders and Correction

Officers battling cancer. The David Felner Caregiver Award Recipients were: **Sergeant John Albanese, Sergeant Troy Anderson, TFC Kenneth Dillon, TFC Reginald Ligon, Sergeant Andy Matthews, TFC Peter Marcucio, Sergeant Donna Tadiello, TFC Mark Wyler** and Lieutenant Clifford Thermer.



- ❑ *Connecticut State Police Basketball Tournament* to benefit "Operation Care" in Afghanistan through **Trooper Christopher Ganzer.** This charitable organization provides humanitarian relief and is comprised of volunteer service members and civilians assigned to duty in the Afghanistan Theater of Operations.



- ❑ *Clinton Police Staff Sergeant Russ Marchant Benefit* through **Sergeant Ken Kelly** (Division Sergeant Representative). Russell Marchant retired from the Clinton Police Department after 29 years of loyal service. He was involved in a serious motorcycle accident. A 16-year-old girl who just had obtained her license pulled out in front of Russ leaving him nowhere to escape. He rode directly into the side of the girl's vehicle. As a result, Russ sustained serious injuries, including a shattered left tibia and fibula as well as his knee cap. He broke his left hand, and left collar bone. Luckily Russ was wearing a helmet, which probably saved his life, considering his head smashed the back window of the car. After multiple surgeries at Yale New Haven (and more are scheduled) and a stay at a rehab hospital, Russ is now home convalescing the best he can. The prognosis is good but it will take a considerable time. Clinton Police Officers DO NOT receive Blue Cross medical insurance as part of the benefit package at retirement. Although Russ does have major medical, that does not cover 100% of the bills. As a result, Russ is currently incurring very large medical bills.
- ❑ *TFC Tim Lehane Welcome Home Party* from active duty in the military through **TFC Kevin Reed** (Troop K Steward) and the **Union's Board of Directors**.
- ❑ *Black History Luncheon* through **Sergeant William Kittle** (HQ).
- ❑ *CSP Emerald Society Dinner/Dance* through **Sergeant Ken Kelly** (Division Sergeant Steward). The CSP Emerald Society is a non-profit organization and a portion of the funds raised at the event will be donated to other good causes such as the Jimmy Fund and the Connecticut Special Olympics.

## From the President's Desk



In preparation for this issue of Trooper Magazine, I began reflecting on what it means to be a Connecticut State Trooper. Everyday throughout the State of Connecticut, Troopers risk their lives serving and protecting others in our state. The Connecticut State Police is a full service law enforcement agency, the largest police department in Connecticut. Our Troopers,

now more than 1200 strong, are the first line of protection for nearly half of the towns and cities in Connecticut. We also patrol our highways, and offer statewide coverage to assist municipal departments with our Major Crime, specialized Bureau of Criminal Investigation Units, and our Emergency Services Unit with its K-9, Aviation, Bomb, Dive and Tactical Teams. Troopers serve 24 hours a day, even during their off duty time. Our Troopers are trained and equipped to handle any eventuality they encounter.

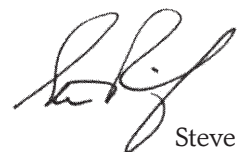
In reading through a summary of incidents involving Troopers throughout the state during a recent week in April 2008, I found the following: an alert Troop G Trooper taking a highway post in Fairfield located a wanted and dangerous fleeing felon from Maine operating a pickup truck on I-95. The subject was wanted by the Maine State Police for a homicide and kidnapping, and was still accompanied by his hostage (a former girlfriend) in his vehicle. After attempting to stop the vehicle and being led on a high speed pursuit on I-95, this Trooper was able to conduct forced stop maneuvers and stopped the vehicle in Norwalk with the assistance of Westport Police Officers. The hostage was rescued after a brief and tense standoff. The subject then took his own life, of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head; a tanker tractor trailer truck reported as overdue by the trucking company, located in Wethersfield by alert Troop H Troopers on I-91. Troopers were led on a pursuit which culminated in forced stop maneuvers on I-691 in Cheshire and the arrest of the truck operator; the statewide narcotics task force continues to lead the state in their suppression of crimes involving narcotics and associated crimes, executing a number of search and seizure arrest warrants weekly of illegal narcotics and weapons possession and sales in Bridgeport, Hartford and throughout the state; a Trooper stopped to assist an apparent disabled motorist on I-84 in Waterbury, which turned out to be a stolen vehicle from Waterbury and later apprehended the fleeing subject with the assistance of Waterbury Police Officers; a Trooper making a motor vehicle stop in Old Saybrook for equipment violations which resulted in a sizeable marijuana arrest; Troopers from Troop C Tolland and the Central District Major Crime Unit assisted Coventry Police Department with an attempted murder and hostage situation stemming from a domestic dispute in Coventry. The subject shot his girlfriend in the head with a firearm,

and took her child as a hostage. After a standoff the subject was taken into custody by assisting municipal police departments. Central District Major Crime was assigned the entire investigation by the Tolland State's Attorney.

There are many more incidents that occur each day involving State Troopers and the dedicated, professional, and often times heroic, work they do. As you look in this edition of Connecticut Trooper Magazine I encourage you to read each article. Our cover story is of the Connecticut State Police Tactical Unit-West (SPTU) which won the 2007 Connecticut SWAT Challenge in the fall 2007. This was the third year of the Connecticut SWAT Challenge, one of the best competitions of its kind in the country and hosted each year by our friends and colleagues of the West Hartford Police Department who truly run a first class event. Also featured in this edition are: members of the State Police Traffic Unit-Truck Squad who happened across a rollover on I-95 in Stonington enroute to a joint commercial motor vehicle enforcement operation with Massachusetts and Rhode Island Troopers. Our Troopers provided immediate first aid and summoned emergency medical services, saving the life of the pinned vehicle operator; Trooper Jim O'Donnell of the Tolland Barracks recognized for his continued outstanding work with his police K-9 Arek, both of whom will be recognized this May for their work when they represent Connecticut at the national Top Cops Awards in Washington, D.C.; the continued community service of our Troopers such as the annual Troop H Hartford Holiday Fundraiser benefiting the Connecticut Children's Medical Center with toys and monetary donations collected from civic minded residents, the Troop K Colchester Community Halloween Party held at the barracks providing a safe and festive event for families living in the Colchester Community, the food and coat drives held at Troops D Danielson and E Montville during the holiday seasons, and the Touch-a-Truck event involving businesses in the surrounding northeastern Connecticut community, Troopers from Troop L Litchfield, Litchfield Police Explorer Post #074, and Emergency Services Unit to benefit the American Cancer Society.

In closing and on behalf of our Connecticut Troopers, I would like to thank our generous business and individual supporters of Connecticut Trooper Magazine for their continued donations and sponsorship. Your continued support directly benefits Connecticut Troopers, their families, and the communities in which we serve. Thank you and be safe!

Fraternally,



Steve

# COVER STORY

## CSP SWAT Team West Wins 2007 Challenge

Story by TFC Joseph Voket, Emergency Services Unit    Photos by TFC Steven Rief, Union President

In September 2007 the members of the "West Team" competed in and "Won" the annual Connecticut SWAT Challenge. Competing West Team members were; Snipers: **Sgt. Mike Alogna** and **TFC Chick Bistany**. Operators: **TFC Chris Alex**, **Sgt. Jeff Covello**, **TFC Jeff Dubuc**, **TFC Chris Lunz**, **TFC Joe Voket** and **TFC Mark Wyler**. The 2007 CT SWAT Challenge was once again sponsored by the West Hartford Police Department and was held at the CSP Range, Metacon Firing Range and West Hartford Reservoir. The 2007 challenge was a three day event where 25 teams from Connecticut and 1 from Massachusetts competed against each other in events that tested each team's physical fitness, organization, tactics and marksmanship abilities. Teams were comprised of 8 team members, 6 Operators and 2 Snipers. Teams competed in the following challenges; Sniper Challenge, Handgun and Rifle Challenge, Bus Assault, Hostage Rescue, 3-Gun Challenge and PT Challenge. The Sniper Challenge tested the ability of each sniper team to effectively identify and engage targets within a specific scoring area under time constraints and physical and mental stress. Snipers

fired shots during several courses of fire at known and unknown distances. Cold bore, coordinated fire, through intermediate barriers, varied position and varied distance were the areas and conditions the snipers teams competed in. The remaining events tested each team operator's handgun, rifle and shotgun marksmanship skills to effectively engage targets while under physically induced stress and under time constraints. For all operator events full tactical equipment was worn. Several of the events required team operators to carry a 185 pound dummy, negotiate obstacles (6' and 8' foot walls), while wearing gas masks. The Physical Fitness Challenge proved once again to be not only physically demanding but mentally tough as well. The 6.2 mile course was conducted at the West Hartford Reservoir and required all 8 team members to run the course and negotiate all obstacles with a 25 pound ruck-sack. The event began with a Puggle-Stick joust to determine who would begin the course first. Throughout the course team members paddled canoes, climbed hills, monkey bars, ropes and peg boards, traversed cables, rolled 750 pound tires, carried 185 pound dummies, overhead pressed team mates



CSP SWAT Team West before PT Challenge.