

Richland County Sheriff's Department



Region Two Newsletter



July Issue 2007

Region Commander: Capt. Cole Porter

Volume 7

CONTENTS

New Technology For
Search And Rescue

Spotlight

Crime Trends

Community Events

Crime Stats

SPOTLIGHT

M/D Michael (Doc) Smith



A Dentsville native, M/D Smith has been working with the Sheriff's Dept. since 2000. M/D Smith graduated from Spring Valley in 1978. On duty M/D Smith trains the new Deputies and is a first line supervisor. Off duty, M/D Smith likes to use his metal detector to hunt for treasure, travel and ride his Harley with his wife Sharon. They also both like to cook together and travel to the beach and mountains.

Richland County Sheriff's Department

LEON LOTT

Sheriff

Sheriff Leon Lott announced at Lake Murray the introduction of technology and a partnership designed to assist with the search and recovery of missing persons and evidence in bodies of water. Sheriff Leon Lott stated that the technology was originally designed for fishermen and that the Kristen Foundation, based out of Charlotte North Carolina, has partnered with the Richland County Sheriff's Department to provide this underwater '3D' technology in the form of "the Humminbird". Sheriff Leon Lott stated that the Kristen Foundation purchased one of the units for the Sheriff's Department's Marine Patrol Division and that the Sheriff's Department has purchased one additional unit. The Sheriff stated that the units cost \$1600 each but the small amount of money used to purchase the technology is insignificant in comparison to the pain families feel when they don't know what has happened to their missing loved one. Sheriff Leon Lott added that the hope is that this technology will never be needed but it may be the once piece of technology that will bring some closure to victims families in the event their loved one goes missing. Joan Petruski the Director of the Kristen Foundation stated that they want everyone to have a Humminbird. The Director stated that it's such a valuable tool for search and rescue teams and it makes public safety's job easier so they don't have to use divers to find people who are missing or victims of an accident. The Director added that she never knew how important one piece of equipment could be ...there is a definite need for it and that's where the Kristen Foundation can help.

- The Richland County Sheriff's Department www.rcsd.net
- The Kristen Foundation www.kristenfoundation.org
704-846-7408/2330 Bonnie Butler Way, Charlotte, NC 28270
- The Sheriff's Department has two boats and two part-time officers assigned to the Marine Patrol Division. The Marine Patrol is based out of the Region 4 Headquarters off Beatty Road and they function to prevent property crimes and to improve the safety on the water through enforcement of boating laws and increasing the awareness of the citizens who use the lake.
- Go to http://www.humminbird.com/images/PDF/997_Manual.pdf to learn more about the Humminbird

Crime Trends

Larceny From Motor Vehicle- Region two saw a slight decrease in the number of vehicles broken into during the month of June. The majority of our break-ins occurred in our apartment complexes and in our motels. The suspects in a majority of the cases were busting a window out and taking change and electronic items left in plain view. We are seeing that this crime occurs most often between the hours of 9:00pm and 5:00am. Please don't become a victim of a car-break-in. When items are left in your vehicle in plain view it invites the criminal in.

MVT- Motor vehicle theft was slightly up during June. Our overall thefts for the year are down. The increase was mainly inbound in our apartment complexes with a few occurring in a couple of our motels. Getting out only for a brief moment to run in a convenient store or cranking your vehicle up in the morning to let it warm up are bad practices. We see a lot of vehicles stolen this way.

Burglary- Residential burglary was slightly down for the month and was also spread out within the region. We saw a slight trend in the Trenholm Acres and Shakespeare area at the beginning of the month but was able to put our resources in there to stop this trend. The majority of our cases occurred during the weekdays and most occurred from 7:00am to 5:00pm. Burglars usually hit residential



homes during the day when you are at work. We always recommend protecting your home with an alarm system. We also recommend that everyone have double lock doors. Trimming shrubbery away from windows all the way around the house will expose anyone trying to make entry. Remember burglars do not want to be seen.

Robbery- Robberies during the month of June were down from what we had in May. We are still seeing the majority of our robberies being committed against individuals. We are entering a time of the year in which we see an increase in individual arm robbery. We normally see this happen when people walk to and from their vehicle while shopping. To prevent you from becoming a victim, try not to shop alone and never carry a big purse in the store. Instead, carry your money and ID in your pockets. Remember that showing a bunch of cash only puts you in a position to become a victim.

Community Events/Meetings for July

<u>Date</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
07/05/07	Arcadia Lakes	Judge Newsome Office	6:00pm
07/09/07	Wellesley Place	Office Condo	5:00pm
07/09/07	Greater Woodfield	Peterson Pres Church	7:00pm
07/10/07	Trenholm Acres	Region Two HQ's (Cola Mall)	7:00pm
07/10/07	Lionsgate	Condo 139	6:00pm
07/17/07	Hunters Way Apts.	Office	6:00pm
06/17/07	Newcastle	Parklane library	7:00pm
07/14/07	Springwood Lakes	Keels School	3:00pm

Region Two Crime Statistics

<u>Violent Crimes</u>	Current	Previous
Murder	1	0
Rape	5	1
Robbery	9	13
Aggravated Assault	31	28
Total	46	42

<u>Property Crimes</u>	Current	Previous
Burglary	24	28
Motor Vehicle Theft	21	17
Grand Larceny	5	9
Larceny From Auto	4	8
Total	54	62

Note: The number for Larceny from auto is those cases where the value of the items stolen was over \$1,000.00

**Richland County Sheriff's Department
Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the Richland County Sheriff's Department to Improve the quality of life of the citizens of Richland County by maintaining a high standard of professional accountability, reducing the fear of crime, and reducing the fear of retaliation from those persons who constitute the criminal element within the county. This mission will be accomplished through the collaborative efforts of the Sheriff's Department and the community, by employing effective Community Policing strategies and problem solving techniques, supported by aggressive enforcement of Federal, State, and local laws.

Region Two News Letter

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