



# Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

31 °F / -1 °C

Light Snow  
at 10:53 PM



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Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010

Just another day in paradise

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## Our Local Police Report

Submitted by Andy Anderson - Seldovia Chief of Police

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Call 911 for emergencies or assistance

The following report covers Police related business for the time period of 1/14/10 -1/28/2010

- A lady was contacted after he dog was observed running at large on Main Street.
- A man was chastised by the Police after he was observed driving his vehicle while the windows on the vehicle were fogged and frosted over. A verbal warning was given. (We have a walking town and this will not be tolerated.)
- A call was received reporting persons too intoxicated to drive their vehicle. Contact was made and arrangements were made for transportation so as to avoid criminal charges being brought.
- A lady reported she had been assaulted by another adult and wanted to press criminal charges of Assault. The matter is under investigation.
- A young man was contacted after he displayed suspicious behavior. The subject had drug paraphernalia on his person which was confiscated by the Police. No charges were brought in the matter.
- A report of two dogs attacking another dog on private property was received. The dog that was attacked was injured which resulted in an operation having to be preformed. The owner of the two dogs was contacted, in writing, as well as by phone, and the two dogs were deemed vicious. They now have to be restrained at all times when out in public. If they are observed at large they can be put down by a Police Officer. The Police are mandated to protect all life, be it human or animal and often desperate measures have to be taken to accomplish this. Hopefully those responsible will take this seriously and will do whatever is necessary to keep the animals from running.
- A man reported that he had found two of his tires slashed on his vehicle while it was parked beside the Linwood Bar. The incident occurred sometime during 01/13 and 01/14/10. He found the damage on the morning of 01/15/10 when he went to pick up his vehicle.
- The owner of a dog that was reported to have chased a lady on a 4-wheeler was contacted and told of the incident and the Animal Control Laws. She apologized and stated she would see that it didn't happen again.
- A burglary of a residence was reported with a number of items being taken. The case is under investigation at this time.
- A report of a furnace running in a vacant residence resulted in the Police contacting the summer resident and relaying the information to him. He said they keep the furnace on low for moisture suppression purposes.
- Two dogs were reportedly chasing a vehicle on Rocky Lane. The owner was contacted and the dogs were picked up.
- The owner of two black labs was contacted and told to keep his dogs contained after they were observed to be at large on Main Street.
- A woman reported the theft of jumper cables from her vehicle while the car was parked at the Homer Air parking lot on 01/25 - 01/27/10.
- A man was approached and given a verbal warning after he was observed riding on the running board of a vehicle on Airport Avenue.

As you can see by the Police Report many people are getting lax again with regards to keeping their animals from running at large. If needed, citations will be issued to curtail this practice. We hope a warning will suffice and citations will not be necessary but everyone is aware of the rules. If you choose to ignore them then you are now making an informed choice.

## Tips From Andy...

The "Tips from Andy" are provided as information, to our citizens and friends to be alert to potential situations that may arise. Both the Chief and I have checked on the reliability of the advice through sources like Google, BreakTheChain, Hoax-Slayer or Snopes, etc. But it is important to note, that even with the checking of this information, we are relying on the truth of yet another internet source.

### BEWARE - New Credit Card Scam

Snopes.com : <http://www.snopes.com/crime/warnings/creditcard.asp>

About.com: [http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/bl\\_credit\\_card\\_fraud.htm](http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/bl_credit_card_fraud.htm)

This one is pretty slick since they provide YOU with all the information, except the one piece they want.

Note, the callers do not ask for your card number; they already have it... This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & Master Card Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself.

One of our employees was called on Wednesday from 'VISA', and I was called on Thursday from 'Master Card'.. The scam works like this: Caller: 'This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a Marketing company based in ?'

When you say 'No', the caller continues with, 'Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?'

You say 'yes'. The caller continues - 'I will be starting a Fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1- 800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800 -VISA) and ask for Security.'

You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. 'Do you need me to read it again?'

**Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works.** The caller then says, 'I need to verify you are in possession of your card'. He'll ask you to 'turn your card over and look for some numbers'. There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are part of your card number, the next 3 are the security Numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card. These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the 3 numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, 'That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?' After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, 'Don't hesitate to call back if you do, and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The REAL VISA Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card.

Long story - short - we made a real fraud report and closed the VISA account. VISA is reissuing us a new number. **What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card.** Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or Master card directly for verification of their conversation. The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit.

However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a 'Jason Richardson of Master Card' with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a police report, as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening. Please pass this on to all your family, friends and neighbors. By informing each other, we protect each other.

### Good Advice about emails

A friend who's a computer expert received the following from a system administrator for a corporate system. It is an excellent message that absolutely applies to all of us who send emails. Please read the short letter below, even if you're sure you already follow proper procedures. Do you really know how to forward emails? Only 50% of us do.

Do you wonder why you get viruses or junk mail and hate it? Every time you forward an email there is information left over from the people who got it before you. Namely their email addresses and names. As the messages get forwarded along, the list of addresses build and build, until all it takes is for some poor sap to get a virus and his/her computer can send that virus to every email address that has come across his computer. Or, someone can take all of those addresses and sell or send them junk mail in the hopes that you'll go to the site and he'll make five cents for each hit. That's right, all of that inconvenience over a nickel! How do you stop it? There are several easy steps. Try the following if you aren't doing it already:

(1) When you forward an email, delete all of the addresses that appear in the body of the message (at the top). That's right, delete them. Highlight them and delete them, backspace them, cut them, whatever it is you know how to do. It only takes a second. You must click the 'Forward' button first and then you will have full editing capabilities against the body and headers of the message. If you don't click 'Forward' first, you won't be able to edit the message at all.

(2) Whenever you send an email to more than one person, do not use the To: or Cc: fields for adding addresses. Always use the BCC: (blind carbon copy) field for listing the addresses. This way the people you send to will only see their own email address. If you don't see your BCC: option click on where it says To: and your address list will appear. Highlight the address and choose BCC and that's it, it's that easy. When you send to BCC your message will automatically say 'Undisclosed Recipients' in the 'TO:' field of the people who receive it.

(3) Remove any 'FW ' in the subject line. You can rename the subject if you wish or even fix spelling.

(4) Always hit your Forward button from the actual email you are reading. Ever get those emails that you have to open 10 pages to read the one page with the information on it? By Forwarding from the actual page you wish someone to view, you stop them from having to open many emails just to see what you sent.

(5) Have you ever gotten an email that is a petition? It states a position and asks you to add your name and to forward it to 10 or 15 people or your entire address book. The email can be forwarded on and on and can collect thousands of names and addresses. A FACT: The petition is actually worth a couple of bucks to a professional spammer because of the wealth of names and addresses contained there. Do not put your email address on any petition. If you want to support the petition, send it as your own personal letter to the intended recipient. Your position may carry more weight as a personal letter than a laundry list of names and addresses on a petition. (And don't believe the ones that say that the email is being traced, it just ain't so!)

Some of the other emails to delete and not forward are:

1. The one that says something like, 'Send this email to 10 people and you'll see something great run across your screen.' Or sometimes they'll just tease you by saying 'some-thing really cute will happen.' IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN! (We're still seeing some of the same emails from 10 years ago!)

2. I don't let the bad luck ones scare you, they get trashed.

3. Before you forward an 'Amber Alert', or a 'Virus Alert', or some of the other emails floating around now-a-days, check them out before you forward them. Most of them are junk mail that's been circling for YEARS! Just about everything you receive in an email that is in question can be checked out at Snopes. Just go to [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com). It's really easy to find out if it's real or not. If it's not, don't pass it on.

Another way to check if a real virus exists is to pull up Google as a web browser and type in the title of the suspect virus, ie: mad cow virus, then enter it. Google will display a number of sources that will verify it as a virus or as a hoax.

So please, in the future, let's stop the junk mail and the viruses and be a good email neighbor.