



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

34 °F / 1 °C

Light Snow
at 3:42 AM



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Saturday, May 1, 2010

Just another day in paradise

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Our Local Police Report

Submitted by Andy Anderson - Seldovia Chief of Police

PO Box 85, Seldovia, Alaska 99663

Office # 907-234-7640 Fax # 907-234-7883

Email: selpd@xyz.net

Call 911 for emergencies or assistance

The following report covers Police related business for the time period of 2/27/10 -3/30/2010

- A vehicle was reported to be in a ditch on Frank Raby Drive. Investigation revealed the vehicle had been backed into that position on the previous night. A citation was written to the owner/operator for "Failure to Have Liability Insurance".
- Police were called to a Domestic Disturbance when a lady called reporting her boyfriend would not let her take her personal belongings from his home. Upon Police arrival the man agreed to give the lady her belongings. Police stood by while her personal belongings were loaded into her vehicle.
- A trespass warning was given to a woman by the owner of the property and Police advised her she could not return to the property and that doing so would result in arrest and "Criminal Trespass" charges being brought.
- An eagle was found dead under power lines off Main Street. It was assumed the bird had been electrocuted. The remains were sent to the US Fish & Wildlife in Homer.
- A number of dogs have been observed running at large again. The owners have been contacted and told to contain their animals but I have no doubt citations will have to be written before the law is taken seriously.
- A lady was stopped and warned after she was observed to be exercising her dog from a moving vehicle. The City Ordinance is specific in this area and this activity will not be allowed.
- A mountain bike that was flown to Seldovia was gone from Smoky Bay Airlines when the owner went to pick it up. The bike is a THSSAJARRA Model and is solid blue in color. The theft was reported on March 5th.
- A death investigation was conducted with the passing of Patty Lu Bowdon. Following the investigation the remains were shipped to the Peninsula Memorial Chapel at the request of the family. (We would like to extend our condolences to the family of this long time friend.)
- A report was received that a small bull moose was becoming aggressive toward vehicles on the Jakolof Bay Road after exiting the roadway became difficult due to the depth of the snow. Police responded to the area but were unable to locate the animal.
- A report of a snow machine being driven erratically on Main Street was taken. Police responded but the machine could not be located. City law requires the snow machines speed limit is 15 mph.
- Police received a report that two dogs, belonging to neighbors, were in the complainant's yard. The dogs had attacked the complainant's dog previously, which resulted in the surgery to the complainant's dog, and the dogs in question were deemed vicious and were ordered confined or muzzled. The Police contacted the owner and told them of the complaint and was told the dogs had accidentally gotten out. The owner responded and the dogs were again contained without further incident.
- A phone malfunction resulted in the Police responding to an elderly couple's home to give assistance. The malfunction alerted Lifeline personnel who, in turn, alerted people in Seldovia and Police were contacted to investigate. Thankfully no one was in need of assistance.
- A man reported finding numerous short pieces of wood, which had been taken from a residence and piled up in the driveway

near the Russian Orthodox Church. It appeared, by the small footprints in the area, kids had taken the wood and were planning to have a campfire.

- 22 – 25 gallons of gas were reportedly stolen from the gas tank of a box van that was left parked at the Seldovia Airport over the weekend of March 15th–16th. The gas cap was broken off but the gas could not be siphoned so the thief dismantled the filler hose and went directly to the tank. Investigation continues in this matter.
- Another report of 10 gallons of gas being taken, and damage to the float valve in the gas tank of a car, which was parked in the 30 day parking lot at the Airport, was received. This is alleged to have occurred between 02/28-03/15. Due to the float damage the gas gauge is no longer functional.
- A report of the theft of a stereo and approximately 10 gallons of gas was received and was said to have been taken between 03/02-03/07. This vehicle was also parked in the 30 day parking lot.
- Police called EMT's and a man was transported to the South Peninsula Hospital in Homer, after he was found in need of medical assistance.
- Approximately 10 gallons of gas was reportedly stolen from a vehicle parked at Smokey Bay Airlines over the weekend of 02/27-03/01.
- A man requested Police search an area in the 30 day parking lot at the airport where he thought he had lost his cell phone. A search of the area was made but no cell phone was found.
- Police, City Fire/EMS Department and the SVT Fire Department responded to a fire call at 3 mile, Jakolof Bay Road. A stack fire was contained and extinguished before it could break out of the stack. Some smoke and water damage did occur but no one was injured.
- A complaint of threats and harassment was taken and Police contacted the accused parties. Their side of the story was taken and all parties were warned against further activities of this nature. Police intervention could very well bring all parties before the Court to explain their activities to the Judge.
- A man reported someone had stolen 5 gallons of gasoline off the porch of his residence. He further reported the gas can was returned empty to the porch.
- A young man was contacted by the Police after a number of complaints of his erratic driving had been taken. He neither admitted nor denied the allegations but was forewarned that citations would be issued, which would greatly impact his insurance rates, if he was observed by the Police to be driving erratically or in the event that some citizen wanted him cited and agreed to testify in Court as to their observations.
- The City Maintenance crew delivered a sail boat to the landfill where it was destroyed. Police flagged traffic for the crew to and from the landfill.
- Police contacted some residents to ask that they move their vehicles off the street so the snow removal efforts could continue. They responded and the snow removal was completed.
- Police provided transportation from Jakolof Bay Harbor to Seldovia for two HEA employees after they had to take a boat over from Homer due to weather. After they finished their duties they were taken back to the Jakolof Bay Harbor for their return.
- A man was stopped and verbally chastised after he was observed driving a vehicle with only a small area of visibility. By driving with limited visibility we endanger pedestrians and vehicles alike. When frost or snow is obscuring your vision, take a couple minutes and remove the obstruction.
- Police fingerprinted three people as required by their employer and assisted two people when they requested assistance.

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.

Keeping Records Safe

[Click Here to Go Directly to Social Security Online Website](#)

[Click Here for Article about Keeping Your Records Safe - Jean Chatzky](#)

[A Letter From A Corporate Attorney To The Employees of His Company](#)

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put 'PHOTO ID REQUIRED.'
2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the 'For/Memo' line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
3. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks. (DUH!) You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.
4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a Name, address, Social Security number, credit cards. In case your luggage is lost, take another list in your carry on bag, especially if you are abroad and need immediate access to those numbers.

Unfortunately, I, an attorney, have first hand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more. But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

5. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important of all: (I never even thought to do this.)

7. Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them dead in their tracks.

If you are willing to pass this information along, it could really help someone that you care about.

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

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. 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.

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