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Wednesday, June 30, 2010

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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 4/30/10 -6/02/2010

- A report was received of a lady with three youngsters on a side-by-side ATV on Jakolof Bay Road and two of the children were riding in the bed of the vehicle. This is unsafe and is not allowed.
- A written notice for tabs not being adhered to the license plate was left on an unattended vehicle.
- A report of two trees being cut down and taken for firewood was reported. The property owner did not give anyone permission to take the trees off his property. If anyone observed people cutting trees in the area just past Jakolof Bay Harbor you are asked to contact the Police Department.
- Police assisted in a Civil Dispute and deterred problems that would have occurred had there been no Police involvement. A person's personal property was regained through channels that avoided a confrontation.
- Warnings were given after Police received a report of music so loud that it disrupted a family over the sound of the television set. The warning was not sufficient to deter the music for long and Police took a second report that led to charges of Disorderly Conduct being charged. At arraignment the man pled Guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 10 days in jail with the unsuspended 5 days to be served at the direction of the jail facility. A remand hearing was set for 9/07/2010 at 0830 hours. The man was ordered to perform 40 hours of community work service and, if completed before the 9/07/10 remand hearing, the work will satisfy the unsuspended jail time. He was ordered to pay \$150 with \$100 suspended, to have no contact with the Complainant and he was placed on probation for 1 year. In that time he is to have no jailable offenses and comply with all orders of the Court.
- A man reported his pickup camper was forcibly entered while it was parked inside a shop on Main Street between April 26th and May 1st. Damage was sustained to the vent access on top of the vehicle but nothing has been found missing.
- A man reported that he had walked approximately a block on Anderson way, between Young Street and Winifred Avenue and picked up numerous beer bottles and cans that had been discarded.
- Police contacted the owner of a dog that was at large and the dog was picked up and taken home.
- Police responded to assist EMT's after a call for assistance. The medi-vac was completed with the Police lighting the airstrip for the departure and return of the aircraft.
- A Summons Complaint was served on a man after the Police received it from the Court.
- The owner of a dog was contacted and told the dog could not be exercised along side their vehicle. Municipal law forbids this activity.
- A small boat trailer was stolen out of a yard on Shoreline Drive. The trailer had a flat tire and was parked in the driveway at the Seaport Cottages. Anyone having any information regarding this theft is asked to contact the Police Department.
- While on the subject of trailers we should inform the public that the Airport Parking lot is off limits to trailers. The reduction in size, due to the new DOT shop construction, requires only motor vehicles can be parked there. The trailers are subject to

impound at the owner's expense if parked at that location.

- Two visitors were told to pour the beer out they were drinking on Main Street. The City has an "Open Container" law which forbids the drinking of alcoholic beverages on City property.
- Police proctored an EMT III test for a member of the Fire Department.
- A pair of ski boots, some insulated overalls, a pair of snow goggles and a rain coat were brought to the Seldovia PD after they were found at the turn around area just past the old camp site at Jakolof Bay. It appears to be a child's gear.
- Police found a cabin had burned to the ground at approximately 6.5 mile, Jakolof Bay Road. The owner was contacted and was unaware of the loss. He felt he had inadvertently left a propane heater on when he left the cabin. It was a total loss.
- An investigation is underway regarding the possible theft of prescription medicines taken from medicine cabinets after a person visited numerous homes and asked to use the bathroom. The case will be forwarded to the District Attorney for review.
- A man reported a burglary to his home after he returned from fishing and found entry had been made through the window. A number of items were reportedly missing. The investigation into this burglary continues.
- An empty 55 gallon drum was reportedly taken from a man's garage area.
- A lady was arrested on an outstanding warrant after Police were made aware of its existence. The lady was booked and then made bail and was released with a promise to appear for her arraignment.
- A burglary was reported at the Library. Entry was made and approximately \$200 and a set of keys were reported to have been taken. The subsequent investigation revealed a juvenile had entered the Library through a window and had taken the money and the keys. The keys and money were recovered and the case has been referred to the Office of Children's Services.
- A report of boys bullying another boy was addressed and the parents of the children involved were notified and they met and, hopefully, a solution was reached. Police will be monitoring the situation.
- Reports are being received regarding the snagging of King Salmon in the Seldovia Slough near the bridge. It is ILLEGAL to snag King Salmon until later in the month and the fishing pole and the fish can be confiscated and a rather heavy fine can be levied. Other people fishing legally do not appreciate those persons snagging. When stirred up the fish quit biting. Keep it legal and have a good time. This goes for adults and children alike.
- A flyer was placed around town inviting people to a bonfire at the Outside Beach. Due to a burn ban being in place the organizer of the event was contacted and told a bonfire was not allowed. The lady stated it was only a camp fire that was going to be burned, not a bonfire, even though the sign stated bonfire. She was told to have water at the campfire to put it out and to keep the fire in a fire ring. It was suggested that the word "Bonfire" not be used as it suggests a very large fire.
- Police were called to a roll over accident on Kachemak Street, near Alder Street. The subsequent investigation resulted in a man being arrested for DUI and given a citation for "Failure to Carry and Show Proof of Insurance". No injuries occurred in the accident and, thanks to a large Spruce tree the vehicle did not go into the Seldovia Slough. Arraignment on the charges will be held in Homer Court on July 8th at 0900 hours.
- A cell phone, Nokia, was turned in to the Police Department after it was found on Kachemak Street near Alder Street. The owner can pick it up at the PD.
- Police responded to a vacant residence in the Barabara Creek Subdivision after receiving a call that a vehicle was at that location. Because the residence is vacant the Police responded and contacted the people at that location and found persons who were looking for property looking over the property. No action was taken by the Police.
- An excessive smoke report in the East Addition was taken and the Police responded to ascertain the source of the smoke. The smoke was found to be coming from a controlled burn that hadn't been called in. The Police alerted the Fire Department of the situation. If you are planning a controlled burn please contact the Fire Department at 234-7812 or, if no one answers, call the Police Department at 234-7640. Leave a message if no one answers at that number.
- A lady reported her car had been keyed while it was parked at her residence. She did not have any idea who would have done this.
- A report was received that trash, beer cans and debris were thrown around at the RV Park in the area behind the second outhouse and down over the embankment. It appears a party was held and those participating discarded the trash with no regard for the area. Littering fines can be quite costly and the Police will not hesitate to cite offenders who have no regard for our park. If anyone has information regarding this violation we at the Police Department would like to hear from you.
- A man who was cited with three counts of Driving While License Revoked agreed to a plea bargain with the District Attorney's Office. For a guilty plea of one of the charges the DA agreed to dismiss the other two. The Judge sentenced the man to a \$500 fine with -0- suspended, a \$50 Police training surcharge, 90 days in jail with 80 days suspended with the 10 days to be served starting on 06/25/10 at 0900 hours. He is to perform 80 hours of community work service which is to be completed by 10/15/10, his operator license was revoked for 90 days and he was placed on 1 year probation during which time he shall complete all the Court's orders and he can have no jailable offenses during his probationary period. These charges stem from the man ignoring the Court's orders that he was not to drive a motor vehicle after being found guilty of DUI.

- The Police sealed 5 black bear, assisted 2 people in need of assistance and fingerprinted 5 people who needed fingerprints for employment purposes.

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.

Jury Duty Scam

Alaska State Troopers are warning the public against a scam hitting the nation aggressively pursuing identity theft through jury duty summons.

The caller claims to be a jury coordinator and states that you failed to show up for jury duty. If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your Social Security number and date of birth. The caller claims they need the information to check their system for an error and so the fictitious arrest warrant can be cleared. **DO NOT COMPLY!!!** By providing the caller with your personal information, you become the victim of identity theft.

Most of us take summonses for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty that this new scam has surfaced. This scam has been reported in 11 states. The scam is particularly insidious because the callers pretend to be with the court system and use intimidation tactics over the phone to try to bully people into giving information. The FBI and the federal court system have issued nationwide alerts on their web sites, warning consumers about the fraud.

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.