



# Seldovia Gazette

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Saturday, July 31, 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 6/02/10 -6/30/2010

- Gas was reportedly stolen from a residence and one of the two containers was also reported missing.
- A couple was contacted and asked to extinguish their brush fire following a report that no water was available to extinguish the blaze if it got out of hand.
- A local resident was contacted and asked to turn down her music after a neighbor complained.
- Two fishing poles were found abandoned at the Outside Beach Park. The owners later inquired about the poles and they were returned.
- Three Eskimo masks were reportedly stolen from the display case at the Seldovia House.
- A man was contacted following a report he was observed at a vacant residence. The man was contacted by the Police and it was found the man had a reason for being at the location.
- A burglary of the Boy's and Girl's Club was reported and \$150.00 was reported to have been taken. The money was recovered and a report charging burglary has been referred to the Juvenile Intake Office.
- A lady was stopped for speeding on Jakolof Bay Road. A verbal warning was given.
- A report of a party wherein minors were consuming alcohol was received and the subsequent investigation resulted in three minors being charged with Minor Consuming Alcohol and an arraignment date was set.
- A man was stopped at the Outside Beach Park for erratic driving of a 4-wheeler. He was verbally admonished and made aware of the laws concerning his violations.
- Police assisted an EMT III in the medi-vac of a local lady via helicopter to Providence Hospital in Anchorage.
- An oil slick in the Seldovia Slough was reported and the subsequent investigation resulted in the findings that a man was having lower unit problems with his boat and had lost some oil. Clean up efforts were conducted to stop the oil sheen.
- A dead eagle was found in the Seldovia Lagoon by a local resident and turned in at the Police Department. The bird was sent to the US Fish and Game in Homer.
- A citation was issued to a lady after her dog was found at large on the Seldovia Airport. Warnings had been given and the dog was still at large.
- A local man was given a Trespass Order following his being observed on a fishing vessel by the Captain and following the Captain's orders to the man that he was not to be aboard the vessel in the future.
- A man suffering from Alzheimer's disease was the subject of a search by Police and volunteer personnel after he walked away from the residence he was visiting. He was found unharmed at a neighbor's home.
- Police assisted a local contractor by directing traffic while the contractor hauled derelict vehicles to the commercial boat ramp where they were loaded on his barge and transported to Homer.
- A man was stopped from entering his vehicle and driving home after Police observed him to be in an intoxicated state. The

man was transported to his residence and given firm warnings against driving when under the influence.

- Police were given a Writ of Assistance from the Anchorage Court ordering that assistance be given by the Police in a man's being given his two children from their Grandparents. A phone call to the Grandparents resulted in the children being reinstated with their father without incident.
- A rod and reel found abandoned at the Outside Beach Park was turned in. Anyone missing a rod and reel should contact the Police and describe the fishing pole to have it returned.
- A set of keys with the name "Eddie" and the number "3513A" written on the name tag have been turned in. Call the Seldovia Police to retain your property.
- A man reported his Yamaha Big Bear 4-wheeler is missing from where it had been stored. It could have been taken within the last two years. Anyone having information regarding this green machine is asked to contact the Police Department
- Police delivered a letter to a visitor after it was emailed to the Police Department and requests made for its delivery.
- A local resident has been contacted and told of her dog having barked all night after a complaint was lodged. Police were assured it would not happen again.
- The report of a pickup camper being forcibly entered has resulted in a charge of burglary being forwarded to the Juvenile Intake Office.
- Two ladies came to the Police Department requesting their fingerprints be rolled for employment purposes.
- Juvenile Intake was contacted following a confrontation between a boy and his parent. Charges are pending in this matter and the case has been referred to the Juvenile Intake Office.
- A vehicle was reportedly stolen from the parking lot at the Post Office sometime during the nighttime hours of 6/27/10. After a lot of searching the vehicle was located. It was not damaged and the investigation revealed who had taken the vehicle. The owner, upon being told who was responsible, chose not to pursue charges against the man.
- A man was given a ride to his residence after he was going to drive home while intoxicated. He was verbally chastised and told he would be charged if he is to drive his vehicle while intoxicated.
- A report of a person shooting a pellet gun in the City limits. Warnings were given and the practice was stopped. Any future violations of this nature will result in a citation being issued.
- A lady parked her car in such a manner that it was disruptive to the flow of traffic and she was contacted and told to move the vehicle.
- Two 4-wheelers and a motorcycle were asked to move their vehicles after they were observed parked on the Seldovia Slough Bridge. The two 4-wheelers were not registered and the owner was told to register the vehicles with the State if they were going to continue to drive them on the roadways in the Seldovia area.
- Police were called into a civil disturbance and responded to keep the peace between the involved parties.

NOTE: Some dog owners are again getting lax in restraining their animals. Citations will again be issued to violators who refuse to contain their animals. With the influx of people for the Holidays it is even more important to keep your animals on a leash or at home. Visitors bring their animals as well and loose dogs create problems. As they say about the seat belts folks, regarding the dog leash, "Click it or Ticket".

## 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](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.