



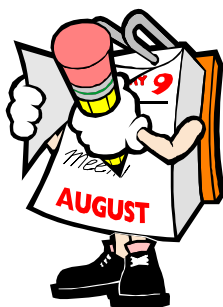
The Informer

Volume 3, Issue 11

August 2004

Special Points

- **NEXT MEETING**
MONDAY August
9th 7:00 p.m.



- **Guest Speaker -**
Chief Bruce Owens
- Concealed Carry
- Golf tournament success
- Corner of History
- Summerville highlight
- Hero spotlight
- Last meeting highlights
- Lodge Renovations

Starting with issue, we have added two new features to the Informer. The first is an overview of a lowcountry police agency and the second is a feature tribute to a fallen lowcountry officer. As always, we respect member comments and ideas for our newsletter.

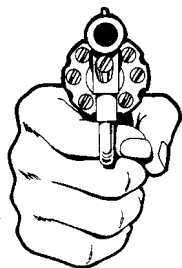
Summerville P.D. Chief Bruce Owens to speak at August Meeting

In May of 2004, the Town of Summerville named their new Chief of Police, Chief Bruce Owens, after the former Police Chief Roy Whitehead left after accepting a Chief of Police job in Snellville, Georgia. Summerville Police Department's new Police Chief, Bruce Owens is a South Carolina native that began his law enforcement career as a South Carolina State Trooper in 1970 after returning from Vietnam in 1969.

After receiving his undergraduate degree, Chief Owens went to work as a civilian special agent for the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service, where he spent several years conducting investigations of felonies committed by U.S. Navy military and civilian personnel. Approximately three years later, he returned to active duty in the USMC as an officer where he completed training as an Intelligence Officer and Counterintelligence Officer. In 1980, Chief Owens made an interservice transfer to the USAF and began a career as a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations until he retired in 1993. Chief Owens has worked in most all, if not all, aspects of law enforcement ... from patrol, to narcotics investigations, general criminal investigations, and currently "management".

Chief Owens attended Charleston Southern University where he graduated with a B.S. degree in Political Science in 1974 while he was still working as a full time S. C. State Trooper. In 1981, Chief Owens completed his Master of Public Administration degree at Golden Gate University. Chief Owens also serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Criminal Justice, Charleston Southern University, and the University of Phoenix, where he teaches several criminal justice courses each year. Chief Owens is married and his second wife Vilma and they have a nine year old son, named Brandon. He also has a 37 year old daughter from his first marriage. His hobbies are walking, surfing the web, fishing when he finds time, and mentoring new police officers.

HR 218 - Concealed Carry Now Law !



On Thursday, July 22, 2004, the President signed into law H.R. 218, the "Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004," which exempts qualified active and retired law enforcement officers from State laws that prohibit the carrying of concealed firearms.

The Fraternal Order of Police has been working toward this day for over ten years. The legislation, sponsored by Representative Randy "Duke" Cunningham (R-CA), was passed by the House in June, and then by the Senate earlier this month. It exempts qualified active and retired law enforcement officers from State and local prohibitions with respect to the carrying of concealed firearms.

For information of this important legislation, go to the National FOP website, www.grandlodgefop.org. You can read the language of the law and also read the frequently asked questions about this law at the site.



Brothers Vic Nico, Bill Lang, Jim Ward and David Lee provided the evening meal. Traditional summer grill staples - hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken breasts and side dishes. Good job gentlemen!

7 names read for new membership. This now puts us as the largest lodge in S.C. (by one member)

Guests: Jimmy Mixon - *President* Berkeley Lodge 19
David Fair - *President* Charleston Metro Lodge 5
Sherri Rowan - *Secretary* Charleston Metro Lodge 5

V. Pres. Blackmon reports that our lodge website had over 7,000 "hits" the previous month.

Brother John Blackmon and Sister Debbie Witz won the prizes in the recruitment drawing.

Brother Tony Rahaim gave legislative report, expounds in HR 218 as it is likely to pass.

The raffle was held for the 12 gauge Mossberg shotgun. Ticket # 1909 was drawn belonging to Raymond Barrett (S.C. Constable) congratulations!

Prayers out to Charleston County Detention Officer - Salaam (involved in serious car accident,) Officers Tarsha Harris, Gibbs, Ladson who all had to deal with family deaths, and Officer Heyward with ailing family member.

** Please keep these officers and their families in your prayers.**

Highlight - Summerville Police Dept.

The Summerville Police Department serves the citizens of the Town of Summerville which is populated with over 32,000 residents and lies in between the borders of Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester Counties. The Town of Summerville was first inhabited in the late 1700's as Charlestonians and other inhabitants of the SC Lowcountry sought respite from the summer heat, mosquitos and disease. Summerville became incorporated in 1847 and is one of the oldest established towns in South Carolina.

The Summerville Police Department currently serves its community with 65 sworn police officers and 15 civilian staff members who include victim's advocates, dispatchers, and records clerks. The starting entry level salary for all police officers is \$26,000 with the issuance and use of a take home vehicle. Officers assigned to the Uniformed Patrol Division work twelve hour shifts and enjoy the luxury of having every other weekend off.

The Summerville Police Department has numerous units within their organizational structure that specialize in several disciplines of law enforcement. The Patrol Unit, General Investigations Unit, Crime Scene & Evidence Unit, Traffic Safety & Enforcement Unit, the K-9 Unit, Narcotics Investigations Unit, School Resource Officers Unit, Warrants Unit, Emergency Services Unit, and Victim's Advocate Unit. The Summerville Police Department also takes great pride in its award winning law enforcement explorer post that is well known for teenage mentoring and role modeling.

The Town of Summerville was the fourth fastest growing municipality in the State of South Carolina in 2003. The Summerville Police Department is expected to mirror its growth over the next several years. We ask you to visit our website to see and learn more about the fine men and women in our organization that serve the citizens in the Town of Summerville at www.summervillepolice.com.

"First Annual" Distressed Officer Golf Tournament - resounding success !

Tri-County Lodge 3 had its first Distressed Officer Fund Golf Tournament on July, 19th at the Harbor Course in Wild Dunes Resort on the Isle of Palms. Eighteen teams participated. The tournament began with a shotgun start at 1 PM after a *Chick-Fila* lunch. There were prizes for "closest to the hole" and first, second and third place finishes.

The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office team came in first place. **Jones Ford** sponsored a "hole in one challenge" with a Ford Mustang as the prize. At the conclusion of the event, awards were given out -along with numerous raffle prizes. This tournament was held to raise money for the Distressed Officer Fund. This fund was created to assist officers and their families in times of crisis, such as in the line of duty deaths and serious injuries. Since it's creation in 2001, our lodge has given thousands of dollars to officers and their families. These officers are from across South Carolina and many are not members of any FOP lodge. Just since the tournament, the lodge has assisted four officers and their families from around the state.

We would like to thank our sponsors. We offered a full sponsorship for \$500 and a half sponsorship for \$250. The following businesses were full sponsors: **The South Carolina State Fraternal Order of Police Lodge, The Berkeley County FOP Lodge 19, Electronic Merchant Systems, Gedney Howe III Law Firm, Bill Green Law Offices, On Guard Services, Columbia National Mortgage and Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts.** The following were half sponsors: **Coastal Carolina FOP Lodge 12, Low Country FOP Lodge 16, The Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Gerald's Tires, J. Henry Stuhls, Attorneys Frank McCann and John Crumrine.** * Special thanks to **Wild Dunes, The Plex and Cat Country 107.5** for their assistance.

This tournament could not have been possible without the hard work of the tournament committee chaired by David Lee and assisted by Jim Ward, Tony Rahaim and Dwayne Peters. Due to the success of this tournament, this will become an annual event for our lodge. Thanks again to one and all!

Lowcountry Hero Spotlight



Leon W. Gooding

Charleston County Police Department

End of Watch: Saturday, March 27, 1948

On Saturday, March 27, 1948, at approximately 7:02 pm, Sergeant Leon W. Gooding and Patrolman Robert McNaughton responded to a disturbance on the Johns Island railroad tracks. Upon arrival, they encountered 30 year old Oscar E. Schneider who was armed with a rifle. The officers were able to disarm the man and take him into custody. During the transport, Schneider produced a .22 caliber pistol and shot Sergeant Gooding in the head and Patrolman McNaughton in the face. Sergeant Gooding died from his wounds.

In coming issues, we will attempt to highlight a fallen lowcountry officer each month. We would ask that you explore the section of our website devoted to fallen officers. It is possible that someone may know some details or personal histories that could help us enhance our tribute to these officers. Feel free to share any information you feel could help us in this endeavor. May their sacrifices never be forgotten.

South Carolina - Perspective from a Yankee transplant

Bill Van Horn's



Corner
of
History

After attending several lodge meetings, I have noticed quit a few members and including myself are not originally from South Carolina. I would venture a guess that most of us are from up north. Yes, we have all heard the yankee jokes....

South Carolina has a great deal of history and has played a major role in the Revolutionary War, Civil War and is still a factor today. When the American Revolution began, South Carolina was a large contributor to the war effort. South Carolina was one of the wealthiest colonies in America. Interestingly, South Carolina had more battles fought here than in any other colony. On May 23, 1788, South Carolina ratified the Constitution and became the 8th state to join the union. Fast forward about seventy years and South Carolina once again plays a major role in our history. SC was the first southern state to secede from the union. On April 12th, 1861, Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter, starting the Civil War. Go forward another 100 plus years and SC once again is in the spotlight. On September 21st, 1989, Hurricane Hugo hit the SC coast causing major damage. I think this piece of history is one event that I was glad I missed. One fact in history that I hope does not repeat itself, is the record high temperature of 111 degrees on June 28th, 1954-Camden. On the flip side, the record low was -19 degrees on January 21st, 1985-Caesar's Head. It would be nice if the summer temperature was somewhere in the middle. Today SC continues to play a vital role in the history of America- good and bad.

The Informer

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Tri - County Lodge # 3

"Serving the Lawmen of the Lowcountry"

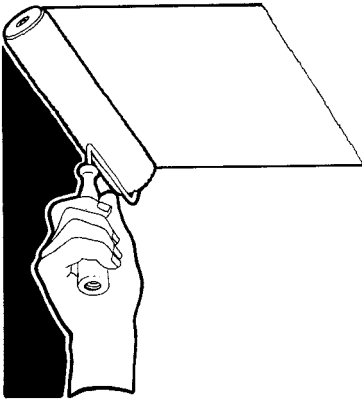
We are on the web!
www.scfop3.org



The Tri-County Lodge (founded in 1976) is chartered to serve those law enforcement officers working in Charleston, Dorchester and Colleton Counties. Currently we have 416 active members and we are steadily growing. Our mission - both local as well as national, is to better our profession through fraternalism and legally by way of legislation. We work from the bottom to the top and value the ideas and opinions of all our members.

The "Informer" is an evolving lodge endeavor. Any comments, criticisms, ideas for improvement or member submissions are welcomed. ****Disclaimer**** This publication does not necessarily represent the views of any or all of our members or affiliated lodges. Editorial comment solely that of the editor.

Lodge Renovations continue



Having paid off our mortgage several months ago, we have freed up some funds that will allow for improvements to the lodge building and its amenities. The first stage of major overhaul has been completed with the men's restroom. The main meeting hall has been repainted thanks to the Hanahan Police Explorers Post. The women's restroom will follow shortly as the next major project.

Prior to our next meeting, we should have new tables and matching chairs for the meeting hall. The old ones have sufficed, but an upgrade has been long coming. (If you would like some of the old tables and chairs, bring a truck to the next meeting, first come first served.) We have also purchased a new couch to replace the old battered one we had been using for so long at the TV area.

Response has been great on the call for police patches. Many members have donated patches for our border type display project (thanks to all.) It looks like we may have enough to begin the project, but we will still need more. * Remember that it will wrap the entire inside perimeter of the meeting hall*

Plans are in the works to install a permanent PA system for use during the meetings. We also plan to overhaul the kitchen layout as well replace all the appliances. As mentioned in earlier newsletters, we will also improve the outside of the lodge with upgrades to the landscaping.

It is important to remember that every member has an equal voice in all of our lodge activities and expenditures. The lodge facility is solely owned by you the membership and is for your enjoyment. The direction we take and the things we do are directed always from bottom to top. If you have any ideas on any of the plans mentioned, please share them. Just as important, if you can assist in any of the projects, please step forward - we can use all the help we can get.