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# CONTENTS

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## Features

**State Troopers Endorse Schmidt for AG .....5**

**Cover Story: Torch Run on Horseback Kicks Off Special Olympics..... 12**

**Profile of a Retired Trooper  
Technical Trooper George "Nate" Sparks.....13**

**Profile of a Retiring Trooper  
Master Trooper Lonnie Whitten .....18**

**KHP's Highest Honor Given to Two Troopers .....20**

**Annual Events Offer Troopers Something Different to Work With ..... 21**

**Special Event: Kansas State Fair 2010..... 23**

**Special Event: Kansas Speedway ..... 25**

**KHP Golf Tournament Fun for All..... 26**

**Thank You to a Strong Supporter of LE..... 28**

**KHP Property Recovered After 34 Years ..... 29**

**New Troopers ..... 31**



### Departments

President's Message .....4	Snapshots from Troopers ..... 30
Colonel's Corner .....6	Promotions ..... 39
Chaplain's Message .....8	Retirements ..... 40
Executive VP's Message .....10	Business Directory ..... 41
	Advertisers' Index ..... 42

### On the Cover

Kansas Highway Patrol Troopers Steven Sites, Spearville; John Bertram, Haviland; and Ty Lothman, Haviland carry the Kansas Special Olympics Torch on horseback from Dodge City to Wright Park. The 2009 route was 17 miles from Cimarron to Dodge City, but road construction shortened the ride in 2010.

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# Torch Run on Horseback Kicks Off Special Olympics

By Michelle Leatherwood

## “FIRST TO CARRY THE TORCH”

Kansas Law enforcement officers have the bragging rights to this statement in two respects. The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1981 when Wichita, Kan., Police Chief Richard LaMunyon conceived the Torch Run as a way to involve local law enforcement personnel in the community and to support Special Olympics Kansas. The Torch Run is now active in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces and territories, and 35 nations, involving more than 90,000 law enforcement participants from all over the world.

In 2009, Kansas Highway Patrol officers Steven Sites, Spearville and John Bertram, Haviland took Chief Lamunyon’s idea a step further. Steve and John were the first Law enforcement officers to carry the Special Olympics torch on horseback. Steve and John carried the torch 17 miles from Cimarron to Dodge City. Their route down HWY 50 followed the historic Santa Fe Trail. The history of the area makes the torch run on horseback a salute to the past, the present, and the future of southwest Kansas.

In 2010, road construction on Hwy 50 shortened the ride. Steve and John were joined by fellow officer Ty Lothman, Haviland on their ride from the west side of Dodge City to Wright Park. Following the Torch Run, traditional runners, horseback riders, and the Dodge City Law Dogs Motorcycle group joined the Dodge City Special Olympics athletes and their families for an ice cream social. The athletes enjoyed seeing the horses, bikes, and meeting the officers.

In 2011, the Kansas Law Enforcement Torch Run will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. Only Kansas can proclaim *“First to Carry the Torch and Still Lighting the Way!”*

Law enforcement officers wishing to join the torch run on horseback, can contact Steve Sites (roaddog259@yahoo.com) for more information. 🐾



# *KHP's Highest Honor Given to Two KTA Troopers*

**By Mark Engholm**  
**Technical Trooper, K-383**

**Photos by Will Downing**  
**KHP**

On September 14, 2010, two members of the Patrol received the agency's highest honor: the Superintendent's Award for Meritorious Service. The awards were given out during a ceremony at the State Fair in Hutchinson. The Superintendent's Award recognizes officers who perform in a highly meritorious manner under conditions which jeopardize their own personal safety.

At 5:15 p.m. on May 20, 2010, a 53-year-old Wellington man was driving alone south on the Kansas Turnpike near the Mulvane Interchange at Kansas Highway 53 south of Wichita. For an unknown reason, his Ford Taurus left the roadway, entered the ditch, went through a fence, flipped over and came to rest upside down in a sewage treatment lagoon.

Lieutenant Phil Bostian (Troop G- Wichita) was on patrol on the Turnpike and arrived within a minute. Witnesses told Lt. Bostian the crash had just occurred and that no one had come out of the vehicle. He reported the accident to Turnpike Dispatch and began to remove his duty belt and other equipment to enter the lagoon. At this point, Master Trooper Dallas Gilmore (Troop G-Wellington) arrived to assist Bostian. He also removed his duty equipment and the two officers waded into the sewage lagoon.

The vehicle had come to rest upside down in the middle of the lagoon, with only the rear undercarriage and trunk protruding from the sewage. Bostian and Gilmore arrived at the vehicle and worked together to open the front passenger side door of the car. While Gilmore held the door open, Bostian entered the submerged car and was able to retrieve the unconscious driver from his car. After checking the car for more victims, the two troopers pulled the driver to the edge of the lagoon, discovered that he was not breathing and began CPR until responders from Mulvane Emergency Services arrived. Emergency Medical personnel were able to resuscitate the victim in the ambulance on the way to Wesley Medical Center, however he later succumbed to his injuries.

The officers left the scene to shower and don clean uniforms, then returned to complete their accident investigation.

Colonel Maple recognized Bostian, who has served since 1984, and Gilmore, who has served since 1996,

for their quick thinking, decisive actions, and bravery in entering the lagoon, pulling the driver to safety, and administering CPR under difficult and dangerous conditions. 🏆



*Master Trooper Dallas Gilmore, Superintendent Terry Maple, and Dallas' wife, Peggy*



*Lieutenant Phil Bostian's wife Diane, Lt. Bostian, and Superintendent Terry Maple*

# Kansas State Fair 2010



## More Than an Assignment

By Alex Taylor  
Trooper, K-410

Photos courtesy of KHP

On Sept. 9, 2010, troopers from around the state reported to Hutchinson, Kan. for the Kansas State Fair. This was my first experience working the State Fair, but I had an idea from my co-workers on what to expect. However, I was still unsure on how the week would go. I'd heard that the week gets long, but yet, I couldn't help but notice that everyone who had arrived at the meeting was in high spirits. Jeremy Taylor and Brian Horney particularly had an infectious positive attitude that spread through the room. The meeting began and assignments were explained before everyone congregated back at the hotel. Stories were told, laughs were shared, and many people stayed up way too late enjoying the company of their co-workers who they rarely get to spend time with outside of work. All this was despite the lack of air conditioning in the hotel this year.

The following days came as a relaxed work week from the normal day's work. All assignments, except one, allowed you to use a golf cart to maneuver through the fair grounds. While working the carnival grounds, it was obvious that walking it was much easier. Working sectors inside the fair required you to be a visual presence to the people in the fair, handle all the calls within the fair grounds,

and provide a security escort for the money transfers from the gates to the office/bank. Few reports were required, but you would catch one once in a while. If a major case came up, an investigator was assigned. These troopers wore civilian clothes, and were used to research incidents that required more time, such as, counterfeit bills that we encountered this year. Troopers were also assigned to work road duties around the fair ensuring traffic compliance to and from the fair. Others were assigned to the grand stand, which entailed providing security, law enforcement, and medical assistance for the people enjoying each of the venues within the Grand Stand. Dispatchers were also sent specifically to work the state fair. They ran the lost and found, as well, as dispatched reports from people arriving at the Highway Patrol Office.

Typically, contact with attendees was through either a friendly conversation or a forced one. The shifts would joke with each other about how many times you would hear the same comments from people, such as: "Busy Day huh?," "Slow Down, you're not wearing your seat belt," "Can I get a ride?," or the surprisingly frequent "Where is the Krispy Kreme hamburger?" But for as many people who

# SPECIAL EVENTS

made comments that grew old, you would receive an equal “thank you” for the job that you did. While there, you would meet interesting people who you did care to have a conversation with. While patrolling the R.V. Lot on the north end, we drove by a couple local people who lived just north of Hutchinson, but stayed there during the state fair. They were outside watching the Notre Dame Football game and had yelled at us as we passed by. We stopped and talked to them, enjoying our conversation with them, and of course watching the end of the game.

Later in the week, we were approached by retired K-147 John Ramsey and his wife. He approached us to just converse, but we were pleasantly surprised to find out who he was. As he walked away, I decided to give him the only KHP piece of flare I had on me., which was a KHP key chain. He was extremely grateful as we talked for nearly an hour, and spoke about how the Highway Patrol is now. He talked about how back in the day, Highway Patrol worked all the accidents, and you were always being called out. There were as few as 200 troopers when he was on the Patrol. We swapped stories of gruesome accidents we worked and experiences we’ve had. He spoke with a sense of pride as to having met several previous presidents like Eisenhower, Ford, Nixon, Reagan, and Johnson. He told me how he medically retired, and that he still thinks of it as the best job around. I came to find out that his son is carrying on his badge now




Photo by Amanda Couch



as the current K-147, James Ramsey. I greatly enjoyed speaking to them. When I was leaving to continue patrolling the grounds, John asked me to sign the key chain I had given him so that he could remember who he spoke with, as I made sure that I remembered who I spoke with.

I thought about the conversation we had, and how many troopers quickly realize as they begin working in the field, that many of us are very opinionated, and we complain frequently. So, you might sit in a room and listen to troopers complain about how few miles they have, money, technological mishaps and benefits, or the contradictions in troops, lieutenants, or disciplines. But then you realize that at the beginning or the end of each conversation, you typically hear one of two comments like: “now don’t get me wrong. I love my job” or “but this is still the best job ever.” Master Trooper Brian Quick helped point that out as we spoke about the changes in the agency. For better or worse, this is still the best job ever because of benefits like having a car to take home, gas being paid for, and being given the freedom to go where you want.

The week served as a welcome break from the road. I enjoyed my time at the State Fair with my co-workers, and brought home some truly unique experiences. The Fair provided a great time for me to recharge my battery before I returned to my normal duties. The camaraderie and uniqueness of the Fair is an experience that each trooper should have at least once in their career. 

# Kansas Speedway Traffic Control is Vital

Article & Photo by Mitch Mellick  
Master Trooper, K-381

NASCAR Sprint Cup is back at the Kansas Speedway, and bringing in fans from across Kansas and the nation. Fans approach the Kansas Speedway hoping to get a bird's eye view to see their favorite drivers up close and personal, and cheer them on to victory lane. However, this would be complete chaos and would not be possible, without the support of KHP troopers and Kansas Department of Transportation workers.

Before fans invade the stadium parking lot and arena, troopers and KDOT get prepared for their arrival. During the early morning hours, troopers and KDOT personnel arrive at the command center to be briefed. Then they are assigned to post to handle the traffic for those patrons who are attending the race, and those who are just passing through the area.

The Kansas Highway Patrol and KDOT usually have around 50 to 80 personnel to handle the large influx of traffic, in and out of the speedway. The sole purpose is to ensure smooth transition for those arriving and leaving the Speedway as troopers and KDOT personnel man the main arteries of the surrounding roadway to help

with traffic. This is just one way that troopers partner with another agency and serve the citizens of Kansas throughout the year.

The first race at the Kansas Speedway was in April 2001, and since that first race, the Kansas Speedway has put their foot on the gas. In 2010, the Kansas Speedway took their track to victory lane by getting a casino hotel to build onsite in corners one and two. With the addition of the casino, and the Kansas Speedway winning the bid to get a second Nascar Sprint Cup Race, Kansas will once again see waves of fans pouring into the speedway to get their fix of horsepower and speed.

The Kansas Speedway holds a lot of events throughout the year including other races, car shows, concerts, driving schools, and BBQ competitions. There is always something going on. The Kansas Speedway is able to hold about 82,000 screaming fans and park about 65,000 vehicles in their parking lot. During the Nascar Sprint Cup Races, troopers and KDOT personnel have to be on their game to handle the mass volume of traffic. And traffic wouldn't flow smoothly without these workers. 🏠



Photos by Mark Engholm  
Technical Trooper, K-383