

No. 1

MAY 1999

MONTANA NARCOTICS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
A NEWSLETTER PRODUCED ESPECIALLY FOR OUR MEMBERS

1999 MNOA CONFERENCE

This year's conference is planned for the week of September 13-17 and will be held in Helena.

The conference kicks off Monday evening with early registration and a hospitality room.

Tuesday (the 14th) will be classroom training in legal updates, Racketeering Records Analysis training by the FBI's Quantico training staff, raid planning and training by DEA/ATF.

The second day will involve practical, hands-on, raid training using FATS (Firearms Assimulated Training System) training and simunitions.

On Wednesday evening (the 15th), a boat trip through the Gates of the Mountain is scheduled on the Gates of the Mountain boat tour. Included with this boat trip is a dinner that will be catered and served at a campground along the Missouri River. Some members plan to bring their personal boats and/or various other watercrafts.

On Thursday morning (the 16th- final morning) will be the closing business meeting, election of new officers, presentation of the MNOA Officer of the Year award, and raffle gifts which includes a Glock .40 caliber Model 27 handgun.

There are no motels/hotels in Helena that will accommodate lodging for the conference, so attendants will need to secure their own lodging arrangements for the conference.

Registration, vendor displays, and the hospitality room will be at the Best Western Cavanaughhs-Colonial Inn, 2301 Colonial Drive, (406) 443-2100. Other nearby motels include the **Aladdin Motor Inn**, 2101 11th Avenue, 443-2300; **Comfort Inn**, 750 Fee Street, (406) 443-1000; **Days Inn**, 2001 Prospect Avenue, (406) 442-3280; **Fairfield Inn**, 2150 11th Avenue, (406) 449-9944; **Holiday Inn Express**, 701 Washington, (406) 449-4000; **Jorgenson's Holiday Motel**, 1714 11th Avenue, (406) 442-1770; and **Super 8**, 2201 11th Avenue, (406) 443-2450;

Classroom training will be at Fort Harrison, and the practical simunitons scenarios will be conducted at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy.

Additional information will be forthcoming regarding the conference, and can be obtained from any MNOA officer.

Registration will be \$75.00 prior to August 31, and \$85.00 after that date. Send the attached application form and payment (made out to M.N.O.A.) to Secretary/Treasurer Vance Gehringer, Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Office, 221 Breckenridge, Helena, MT 59601.

EASTERN MT NEWS

In January 1999, Dawson County Sheriff's Office conducted a search of a rural residence on the outskirts of Glendive. Deputies discovered an underground marijuana grow. During an interview with the defendant, the defendant admitted to attempting to manufacture methamphetamine. A subsequent search revealed modified mason jars with tubing. Most chemicals required to manufacture methamphetamine were also found at the scene. The defendant admitted to starting at least two fires while setting up the Acook@.

Methamphetamine manufacture cases are at all time high levels throughout the state. Increased interest in manufacturing and usage as well as better-trained officers, who are recognizing newer methods of methamphetamine manufacture, may be the reason. Officers are encouraged to attend as many methamphetamine investigations training classes as possible and then share the information with other officers.

LEGISLATION

In the fall of 1998, the MNOA drafted two pieces of legislation with the intent to

introduce both to the 1999 legislature.

The first dealt with improving on the existing statute dealing with possession of precursors used in the manufacture of dangerous drugs, M.C.A. 45-9-107.

The second draft legislation dealt with creating a new statute authorizing the use of the PEN register, Trap & Trace, & Dialed Number Recorder (DNR) technologies in Montana.

Through the efforts of the Cascade County Undersheriff and MNOA Past-President Kent Funyak, Republican Senator Don Hargrove (Belgrade) agreed to sponsor both.

Various other individuals were instrumental in preparing the draft legislation including Scott Rogstad (of the Missouri River D.T.F., at that time), Joe Thaggard of the Montana Attorney General's Office, Judy Hoffmann from the crime lab, and Mark Long from DCI, to mention a few. Senate Bill 6, and Senate Bill 8 were created.

Both pieces of legislation passed, signed by the Governor and will become law effective October 1, 1999. The text of both laws are too lengthy to include in this newsletter, but are available off of the legislature's web page, or copies can be requested from MNOA, if desired. MNOA Regional Directors will make copies available to members who request them.

Briefly, SB 6 expanded the precursor law (45-9-107) to include the more commonly used items in methamphetamine production, such as ephedrine, pseudo-ephedrine, anhydrous ammonia, lithium, red phosphorus, and iodine.

SB 8 succeeded in establishing a new statute (as yet not numbered), which allows law enforcement and the prosecuting attorney's office to obtain a court order, for the use of DNRs such as PEN registers, and trap and trace devices, to monitor phone numbers dialed to or from a suspect's house.

This investigative tool had previously been available only through federal law enforcement agencies within Montana. Now it is available to local law enforcement also. The Montana law very closely follows the federal statute; however, there are some subtle but very important differences.

The MNOA membership, as well as all Montana law enforcement, owe a great deal of thanks to Senator Hargrove for his work on this legislation, and anyone who could

pass their support and thanks to the Senator, should do so.

Montana Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation Administrator Mike Batista also spent a great deal of time and energy testifying at the various hearing regarding both of these laws, and also deserves our appreciation.

The Montana Sheriffs & Peace Officers Association, Montana Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Montana Police Protective Association also had representative who testified for this bill.

The support of all of these organizations and individuals was greatly appreciated by the MNOA, and necessary for the passage of these two important pieces of legislation.

AUGUST 9 - 13, 1999

MNOA and Montana Marijuana Eradication Program (MMEP) are hosting training in Lewistown during the week of August 9 - 13, 1999, in conjunction with the U.S. Army's Advanced Law Enforcement Training Division of their Military Police School. This week long course is entitled, AField Tactical Police Operations@ and deals with several aspects of police operations in rural settings.

Training is limited to **30** officers and topics taught include: Manufacturing of Drugs, Booby Traps, Officer Survival, Criminal /Tactical Intelligence, Risk Management, Operations Planning, Land Navigation (Day/Night) Tactical Patrolling, Grid Search, Survival Medicine, and Re-con/Raid Practical Exercises.

Extensive hands-on and outdoors training scenarios.

This is excellent police /military training for all law enforcement officers and those involved in tactical operations especially.

The fee for this course is \$100.00 and includes lodging at the Yogo Inn (Park Inn) in Lewistown.

Again, class size is limited and will fill up quickly. Reservations need to be made through Paulette Miller, at DCI's Missoula office (721-8305).

Payment will be required prior to August 1, 1999.

Please send payment(made out to MNOA) to Paulette at DCI, P.O. Box 8357, Missoula, MT 59807.

Initially, reservations will be limited to no more than two (2) officers from the same agency. Additional officers from the same agency may be considered, if space allows.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Since the first of the year, MNOA has provided a variety of training to law enforcement in several locations throughout the state.

Regional Director Greg Tadman (Cascade County Sheriff's Office) coordinated two training sessions in Great Falls dealing with vehicle interdiction of dangerous drugs. This training was primarily for patrol officers and was well attended at both sessions. Greg is planning another in the not-too-distant future. He can be contacted at the CCSO in Great Falls at 454-6820 for details.

Also in January (Great Falls), the MNOA and the Montana Marijuana Eradication Program (MMEP) and the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression program sponsored an indoor marijuana grow investigation school. RCMP Officer Les Kjemhus instructed this class and it was extremely well-received, as his classes always are, and was attended by approximately 80 officers.

With the significant increase in methamphetamine labs in Montana, over the past year, there has been a tremendous demand for up to date training in that area. Most of the previous training relating to clandestine meth labs has dealt with the P2P and Ephedrine/Red Phosphorus methods. Current trends are away from those type labs. (See related Meth article.)

MNOA sponsored clan-lab training last fall in Helena, which was attended by over 60 law enforcement personnel from throughout the state. Since that time, requests have been steadily increasing for more of that training.

On April 6 (in Missoula) and on April 8 (in Billings), MNOA coordinated the same 8-hour lab training course that had been offered in Helena last fall. Two state agents from Idaho, with vast experience in dealing with modern clan lab methods, were brought to Montana to again provide this training.

In Missoula, Mineral County Sheriff's Office Sheriff Anita Parkin and MNOA sponsored the training. It was hosted at the Montana National Guard and was attended by about 50 area law enforcement officers.

The Billings session was sponsored by the Musselshell County Sheriff's Office and MNOA. This class was taught by the same two instructors and attracted close to 90 participants.

These two classes, as is all MNOA sponsored training, was P.O.S.T. certified and provided in conjunction with the Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA).

In April, Regional Director Roy Tanniehill (Helena Police Dept.) coordinated another 8-hour P.O.S.T. certified AUse of Force@ class. The turnout (about 50) and favorable response at this training has prompted Roy to begin planning another, probably in early June. Contact Roy at the Helena Police Dept. For more on this great training.

Additional meth lab classes are being considered in the Kalispell area.

Training still in the planning stages including interdiction, co-sponsored by EPIC. Dates & time unknown.

SUGGESTED PROTOCOL FOR CLANDESTINE METH LABORATORIES

- A.** Information or discovery of a Clandestine Meth Laboratory by law enforcement.
- B.** Contact DEA RAC Craig Williams or S/A on Call at (406) 657-6020:

If a clan lab is discovered, an immediate notification is required.

Information from source or informant that requires follow-up investigation:

1. Notify DEA at the beginning of the investigation to ensure that the law enforcement agency does not incur the cleanup cost.

- OR -

2. Contact MT Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) narcotics agents at their respective regional offices. The agent will then contact DEA.

- OR -

3. Notify multi-jurisdictional drug task force, if within their jurisdiction. Task force agents will then contact DEA.

- OR -

4. Notify the initial agency's narcotics officer, who will notify DEA.

C. Incidental Discovery of a Clandestine Lab Site.

a) Treat as a Hazardous Material Site.

b) Secure the scene; remove suspects and other persons out of the immediate area.

c) Limit all exposure to anyone. Do no re-enter the site without proper safety equipment.

d) Notify Fire Department and have EMS alerted.

e) Do not try to stop process if it is an operational lab.

f) Do not turn any electrical items on or off, leave them as found.

g) If there are a lot of chemical fumes and odor, you may have to evacuate persons located downwind of the site.

h) All personnel who have entered the lab site need to be decontaminated, at the very least the soles of their foot gear needs to be washed.

I) Notify DEA immediately.

j) Secure the scene as a crime scene.

CONTACTS:

DEA: RAC Craig Williams

Office: 657-6020

S/A Bill Mountsier

Office: 657-6020

Big Muddy River D.T.F.:

Office 653-1852

Eastern MT D.T.F.:

Office 233-3411

Missouri River D.T.F.:

Office 582-2110

Northwest MT D.T.F.:

Office 758-5878

Operation Crackdown:

Office: 721-5700, Ext. 3323

Southwest MT D.T.F.:

Office 723-7461

Tri-Agency D.T.F.:

Office 265-1192

DCI: Central & Eastern

Lee Cornell:

Office 896-4383

Pager: 238-8208

MHP Dispatch 24 hours

896-4353

Jeff Faycosh:

Office 896-4387

Cellular: 698-2117

MHP Dispatch 24 hours

896-4353

Western Montana

Rick Lueck

Office: 721-8305

Cellular: 544-5825

Pager: 531-4145

Central Montana

Joe Wodnik:

Office: 453-6215

Cellular: 788-9819

Pager: 630-2119

Methamphetamine is the most common dangerous drug being manufactured; however, a variety of other drugs may be manufactured, the response is similar.

BOARD MEETING

The next MNOA board meeting is scheduled for 10 o'clock on Tuesday, June 8, 1999 at the Cascade County Sheriff's Office, 3800 Ulm North Frontage Road, Great Falls.

Any member wishing to attend is encouraged to do so, and any member who can not make it, but would like input, should contact any of the board members listed in this newsletter.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

1999

President:

Lee Cornell, Agent

D.C.I.

P.O. Box 31094

Billings, MT 59107

(406) 896-4383

Vice-President

Scott Rogstad, Agent

D.C.I.
P.O.Box 8357
Missoula, MT 59807-8357
(406) 721-8305

Secretary/Treasurer:

Vance Gehringer, Det.
Lewis & Clark Co. S.O.
221 Breckenridge
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-3855

Past - President:

Kent Funyak, Undersheriff
Cascade Co. S.O.
3800 Ulm N. Frontage Rd. Great Falls, MT 59404
(406) 454-6820

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1:

Bill Buzzell, Deputy
Roosevelt Co. S.O.
201 4th Avenue South
Wolf Point, MT 59210
(406) 653-1061

Counties: Sheridan, Daniels, Roosevelt, Richland, McCone, Valley, Garfield, Phillips, Blaine, Prairie, Wibaux, Dawson and Petroleum

Region 2:

Jeff Faycosh, Agent
DCI, P.O. Box 31094

Billings, MT 59107-1094

(406) 896-4376

Counties: Carbon, Stillwater, Sweetgrass, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Yellowstone, Treasurer, Rosebud, Powder River, Carter, Custer, Fallon and Big Horn

Region 3:

Roy Tanniehill, Officer
Helena Police Department
221 Breckenridge
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 442-3855

Counties: Butte Silverbow, Powell, Deer Lodge, Lewis & Clark, Jefferson, Meagher, Broadwater, Beaverhead, Madison, Gallatin and Park

Region 4:

Greg Tadman, Deputy
Cascade County S.O.
3800 Ulm N. Frontage Rd.
Great Falls, MT 59404
(406) 454-6820

Counties: Cascade, Teton, Choteau, Pondera, Glacier, Toole, Liberty, Hill, Judith Basin, Fergus and Wheatland

Region 5:

Mark A. Long, Chief
D.C.I.
P.O. Box 8357
Missoula, MT 59807
(406) 721-8305

Counties: Lincoln, Flathead, Lake, Sanders, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Granite

FOR SALE

MNOA caps and T-shirts are available at all MNOA sponsored training and from Sec./Treas. Vance Gehringer. Give Vance a call if you are interested!

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Anyone wishing to submit articles for the newsletter, please contact any of the MNOA officers listed in this newsletter, or send them to Sec/Treasurer Vance Gehringer.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

We are still actively soliciting nominees for the Officer of the Year Award to be awarded at the MNOA annual convention in Helena this September.

This award will go to any officer, agent, or investigator that does an outstanding job. This can be for any one incident or from one person that shows an outstanding work ethic by consistently doing an excellent job. This does not have to be a drug case or a large case, it can be in any area of law enforcement, local, state or federal.

If anyone has any nominations for people to be considered for this award, you will need to submit a letter outlining why you think that this person should receive this award and give some examples of what this person has done.

We will be accepting nomination from the dates of September 1, 1998 to September 1, 1999. Please keep this in mind throughout the year, and if you have someone in mind, please send it to Secretary/ Treasurer Vance Gehringer, 221 Breckenridge, Helena, Montana 59601.

Once all nominations are in, they will be voted on by all attending MNOA members the first day of the September conference, and the award will be handed out on the final day of the conference. It should be noted that all nominees must be current MNOA members.

MEMBERSHIP AND BENEFITS

MNOA is an association that was formed for all levels and areas of law enforcement. This includes patrolmen, detectives, administrators, corrections, state wildlife officers, state land officers, highway patrol, and federal agents from all branches.

Established in 1995, the MNOA has subsequently grown in size to include over 100 members from throughout Montana.

During the past couple of years, the MNOA has sponsored numerous training seminars, as well as two annual conferences which have resulted in providing various types of training to over 100 law enforcement officers within the state.

This is not an organization devoted solely to law enforcement officers who are full-time narcotics investigators. All of us in law enforcement become involved in narcotics investigations at some time.

Let's face it, each and every traffic stop is a potential drug bust.

Also drug use and sale has become such an omnipresent part of life today, that all law enforcement officers must possess some degree of expertise in this area. This organization is designed for all of us in the field of law enforcement.

MNOA offers invaluable training for all of these areas of law enforcement. Types of training include, but are not limited to traffic interdiction and safety, handgun retention, raid planning and execution, interview techniques, drug identification, legal updates, along with numerous other formats that may come up. Anyone having any training suggestions, can contact their regional officer or any of the board members.

MNOA was also formed to attempt to make any necessary changes that may be due to change the current state laws. This attempt is made through several resources and is ultimately taken to the legislature for proposal.

MNOA also offers one of the most important tools that law enforcement can have and that is networking with all areas of law enforcement throughout the state and sometimes into other states. This is made largely possible through the regional schools and the yearly conference.

By being a member of MNOA and attending the schools that are hosted and co-hosted by the MNOA members, we are able to share valuable information with other members. It is imperative that we, as law enforcement officers, have a better communication network than that of the people we deal with.

Past and present members, who are unsure of their current status, are reminded to check their membership cards to determine if they are current members. Those without cards, or whose cards do not have >99 stickers on them, need to check with Vance Gehringer as they are probably not current.

1999 MNOA CONFERENCE/TRAINING
Helena, Montana

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

AGENCY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **TELEPHONE** _____

FEE: **\$75.00(Prior to 8/31)** **\$85.00(After 8/31)**

Send form/payment to: Vance Gehringer, Detective(MNOA Sec./Treas.)

**Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Office
221 Breckenridge
Helena, MT 59601**

