

**APRIL, 2009** – The PATROL Task Force (South King-North Pierce Counties) served a joint search warrant with the Pierce County narcotics team on a property in Northeast Pierce County. On the property, detectives found a meth lab and several stolen vehicles including two skid loader tractors, a John Deere tractor and a Harley Davidson motorcycle with a switched vehicle identification number. This culminated a several month-long investigation and resulted in multiple felony counts including 4 for Possession of Stolen Vehicle.

**APRIL, 2009** – The PATROL Task Force detectives were able to arrest a prolific auto thief operating in the South King/North Pierce county area. Task force detectives had been investigating this individual for over two weeks as he was stealing a vehicle per night on average. He was charged with 7 felony counts.

**MARCH 25, 2009** - Detectives arrested a suspect for possession of a stolen vehicle in North Pierce County. From this investigation, detectives gained information on an inter-state child pornography case which was being investigated by local and federal agencies. The South King-North Pierce Counties Task Force case detective worked with these agencies and a federal warrant on additional suspects was obtained in April based on the information provided by the Task Force.

**MARCH 18, 2009** - South King-North Pierce Counties Task Force detectives became aware of plans to steal a vehicle from a vending machine company later in that night. Detectives set up surveillance and were able to observe a suspect drive into the area and then steal a box truck from the business. This suspect was arrested and charged with two counts of Possession of a Stolen Vehicle and Violation of Uniform Controlled Substance Act-manufacturing, as the van he arrived in was also stolen and had a portable meth lab in it. This business had been experiencing numerous prowls to their trucks and one stolen previously.

**MARCH 12, 2009** - The South King-North Pierce Counties Task Force assisted Auburn PD with a buy/bust involving 4 lbs. of meth. This operation involved trailing two vehicles at separate locations and taking them down simultaneously. The operation was completed without any complications and resulted in three arrests.

**MARCH 11, 2009** - The Snohomish County Auto Theft Taskforce (SNOCAT) received information regarding a prolific auto thief who was supposed to be staying at the Travelodge Motel at Silverlake. SNOCAT conducted surveillance at the Travelodge and discovered a stolen Eagle Talon. The suspect they were looking for left his hotel room and entered the Eagle Talon. The suspect was immediately arrested and booked for Possession of Stolen Property 1. SNOCAT then served a search warrant on the suspect's hotel room. As a result of this search warrant SNOCAT found a bag of property that they traced to the victims of a major burglary in Shoreline. They also obtained information from this warrant

that allowed them to obtain warrants for two storage units. They conducted warrants on the two storage units. The second storage unit was so full of stolen property that it took four working days to search and inventory the entire unit. As a result of these warrants the victims of the burglary in Shoreline received almost all of their stolen property back. This included a ring and watch passed down from generations of their family. They had lost \$80,000 worth of property. The total estimated recovery of stolen property from these three warrants is \$200,000. Additional stolen property found in these warrants included: a rifle, a large plasma television, a handgun, power tools, an EPA special agent's vest carrier, a California Police agency coat, DOT and firefighter uniforms, jewelry collections and eight laptop computers.

**MARCH, 2009** - Redmond Police Department detectives worked a case beginning in late 2006 involving two suspects stealing and prowling vehicles, and then using stolen credit cards and creating false driver's licenses from their victim's ID. There were over 120 victims spread across King and Snohomish counties. The US Postal Service considered taking the case, but it was eventually returned to Redmond for filing. Both suspects were recently charged in Snohomish County. The monetary loss exceeds \$100,000.

**MARCH, 2009** - Redmond Police Department detectives conducted an investigation of a suspect who was selling stolen motorcycle parts over the internet. The investigation led to the recovery of 14 stolen guns, 4 stolen motorcycle engines and over 120 suspected stolen motorcycle parts. The suspect and his associates were responsible for scores of motorcycle thefts in the Puget Sound Region.

**FEBRUARY, 2009** – Pierce County – Law enforcement officers converged on four locations in Tacoma, Graham and Seattle, arresting 10 people suspected of stealing and reselling vehicles to buy drugs. Investigators served search warrants at two locations in Tacoma, one in Graham and one in Seattle. Several stolen vehicles, vehicle parts and shaved keys were found. Among the 10 people the Pierce County Auto Theft Task Force arrested were three of the alleged ring's suspected leaders.

**FEBRUARY 20, 2009** - The King County Sheriff's Office warrant team discovered a chop shop operation in eastern King County and requested assistance. The South King-North Pierce Counties Task Force responded and took over the investigation which yielded four arrests, two stolen vehicles (a chopped Honda and a motorcycle), and plates from two additional stolen vehicles. This investigation also led to another location where parts from the chopped Honda were being placed on another vehicle and additional stolen parts were recovered, including two performance racing seats stolen from an auto dealership prowl.

**JANUARY 27, 2009** - The South King-North Pierce Counties Task Force assisted Auburn PD in the investigation of a home invasion robbery involving a known prolific auto thief, who the Task Force was already investigating. After following numerous leads, the suspect was located and arrested at a location with an active meth lab. In all, 5 people were arrested on charges including warrants, DOC violations, VUCSA (meth lab), VUFA, and the robbery. During this incident, no K9s were available in King County so a PATROL detective from Sumner requested a PCSO K9, which responded immediately and was present for the entry and arrest. Additionally, the Pierce County meth lab team responded to conduct an initial assessment of the apartment and then dismantled the lab the next day. Both of these events are unprecedented and resulted in jurisdictional boundaries being broken down for the betterment of capturing criminals regardless of where they are.

### **SNOCAT Investigation Leads to Narcotics Arrests (October 2008)**

In October 2008, the Snohomish County Auto Theft Taskforce (SNOCAT) investigated a possible motorcycle chop shop. They recovered one stolen motorcycle and discovered a drug house. SNOCAT worked with the Regional Drug Taskforce and as a result the following were seized or recovered:

- Over \$32,000 in cash
- 7 firearms (4 of them stolen), including 2 assault rifles
- Over 3 lbs of Marijuana
- Over 1,200 Oxycontin pills
- 109 grams of base cocaine

At the end of October, SNOCAT recovered two stolen snowmobiles and a trailer. The suspect, a felon in possession of a firearm, has agreed to a plea agreement and will receive a sentence of 53 months in prison.

### **Six Suspects Arrested As a Result of Yakima County Bait Vehicle Deployments**

A recent bait vehicle deployment in the Yakima area resulted in the arrest of four auto theft suspects by the Yakima County Sheriff's Office. In another case, a bait vehicle deployed in the Sunnyside area resulted in the arrest of an auto theft suspect within 45 minutes of deployment.

In late December, a bait vehicle deployment at a Yakima area mall led to the arrest of one of the area's more prolific thieves. He approached the vehicle, removed some property then jumped in the car and drove off. He was subsequently stopped and arrested. At the time of his arrest, he was out of jail on bail from another vehicle theft charge. This incident was well covered by the media and generated many accolades from the community.

## **SNOCAT Vehicle Theft Investigation Leads to Marijuana Grow (January 2009)**

This investigation was initiated when a stolen tractor was purchased at far less than its actual value. Follow-up by Snohomish County Auto Theft Taskforce detectives led to the surveillance of a residence in Whatcom County. After obtaining a warrant and with assistance of the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office the residence and its outbuildings were searched. A marijuana grow of 500 plants and a large amount of stolen property were discovered.

Recovered property included two stolen pick-up trucks, a stolen license plate, a stolen generator, a suspected stolen trailer, a van and equipment related to the grow operation, \$1,100 cash as well as numerous credit cards and mail in various potential victims' names. Over \$150,000 worth of stolen property and money was recovered in this case.

Two suspects were booked on felony charges.

**JULY 13, 2008** - Trooper G. Trevino was involved in a pursuit with a stolen vehicle in south Spokane County. Eventually the vehicle stopped and the driver escaped on foot. Trevino arrested a female passenger and located stolen property from vehicle prowls inside the vehicle. The Washington State Patrol Spokane Regional Auto Theft Unit took over the case and conducted an extensive investigation, identifying the driver and linking both suspects to numerous auto theft crimes, burglaries, vehicle prowls, another eluding and distribution of Methamphetamine. The driver was eventually arrested and remained in jail until adjudication, which occurred on 3/25/09. The driver of this vehicle pled guilty to two counts of Possession of Stolen Property (PSP) 1, three counts of PSP 3 and two counts of Attempting to Elude, which maxes out his offender score. He received a sentence of 50 months in state prison, but will only serve 25 months through the Drug Offenders Sentencing Alternative (DOSAs).