



# **NEW YORK STATE PARK POLICE**

## **DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Chief's Bulletin**

December 2013

### ***Life Saving Rescues***

Members working at both of our Robert Moses State Parks – one on the Atlantic Ocean and the other on the Canadian border – made dramatic lifesaving rescues. Officers Nathan Sibenik (recently graduated from the Park Police Academy) and Jessica Bottega (his field training officer) were on beach patrol at Robert Moses State Park on Long Island when they learned of a group of swimmers in distress in the ocean. The officers entered the water and assisted several swimmers out and then observed one 17 year old going under. Officer Sibenik and an off duty lifeguard swam out to the unconscious victim and brought her to shore. Park EMTs and rescue personnel treated the victim and flew her to a trauma center. A well coordinated effort between police, EMTs and local rescue personnel and the Suffolk County PD Aviation Unit got the victim to medical care as soon as possible. The victim was treated and recovered. The victim told reporters “I felt like I was going to die...it was just black”. A joyous reunion was held between the rescuers and the victim and her mother. All involved did a tremendous job under dangerous and chaotic conditions.



**Officer Nathan Sibenik (far right) and Officer Jessica Bottega (standing)**

## River Rescue in the Thousand Islands

Officers John Friot and Dustin Lottie were on patrol at our northern Robert Moses State Park in the Thousand Islands Region when they were notified of a vessel operator in distress on the St. Lawrence Seaway. The officers searched the waterway and located the vessel. The officers pulled alongside the vessel and observed an elderly male operator alone aboard the cabin cruiser. The operator indicated that he was heading back to the marina at the park. The officers decided to follow the vessel to port and then observed the vessel being driven erratically and heading toward a major dam nearby. The officers also observed that the vessel operator was slumped over. The officers pulled alongside the cabin cruiser and Officer Friot jumped from the Park Police vessel to the cabin cruiser. The vessel operator became aware of the officer and struggled with him for control of the cabin cruiser. Officer Friot was able to gain control of the cabin cruiser and pilot it out of the dangerous waters and back to port. The vessel operator was transferred to an ambulance and treated for carbon monoxide poisoning. The vessel operator recovered and publicly thanked both members for their decision to follow him back to port and for making the jump to come aboard and prevent his vessel from reaching the dam. Officers Friot and Lottie were awarded the New York State Liberty Award by Senator Patty Ritchie. Senator Ritchie described the award as the highest non-military award bestowed by New York State.



Officer John Friot, Senator Ritchie and Officer Dustin Lottie

## **Intervention at the Brink of Niagara Falls**

**On the far western edge of the state at Niagara Falls, Dispatcher Stephanie Price was monitoring a video feed from the approach to the brink of the American Falls. She observed a 39 year old male enter a closed area and approach the brink. Sgt. Thomas Franz and Officers Jesse Mack and John Perry responded to the area. The officers approached the subject who physically resisted and the officers subdued him and took him into custody. This was a great observation by Dispatcher Price and great teamwork by the responding officers. This was a particularly busy period for suicidal subjects at Niagara Falls and without doubt a life saved.**



**Officer John Perry, Dispatcher Stephanie Price and Sgt. Tom Franz**

## **Hudson Valley Rescues**

**In the Hudson Valley District at Harriman State Park, officers and park forest rangers conducted a large area search for two subjects reported to be very ill and in need of rescue due to an overdose of LSD. The subjects were located and had to be extracted from deep in the woods in a lengthy rescue operation.**

**Officer Timothy Meade investigated a report of a despondent male atop Bear Mountain in a vehicle on the Perkins Memorial Drive. Officer Meade tried to talk the**



subject out of his vehicle but the man refused and a struggle ensued. Officer Meade sprayed the subject with OC spray during the struggle but the subject put his vehicle in drive and drove over a stone parapet wall and down the mountain for 200 feet. The subject then fled the vehicle on foot. Officer Meade and Sgt. Mark Whalen were able to restrain the subject and take him for evaluation.

### **Niagara Members Rescue Suicidal Jumper**

The New York State Police received a report of a suicidal subject attempting to jump into the Niagara River near Niagara Falls State Park. The State Police requested the Park Police to send a unit to check the area. Sgt. John Marcyan and Officer Jeffrey Eckert responded and upon arrival in the area observed the subject. The subject ran and jumped on to a railing in an effort to get to the river. Sgt. Marcyan and Officer Eckert subdued the subject and brought him back over the railing and into custody.



## **Niagara Staff Intervene and Save a Life**

Niagara dispatcher Marcellus Hogan received an alert about a suicidal subject en route to the falls. The dispatcher obtained critical information and alerted Sergeants Brian Russell and John Marcyan and Officers Michael Cali and John Perry to initiate a search. All hands were well aware of the value of timely intervention and the need for prompt action near the falls. The subject was located by Sgt. Russell and taken into custody.

## **Mid-State Technical Rescue**

In the Mid-State District at Taughannock Falls State Park an intoxicated subject who had fallen into the gorge had to be rescued from the gorge in a lengthy technical rescue operation.

## **Manhunts for Homicide Subjects**

Numerous members and park forest rangers participated in a large scale search operation for a 71 year old suspect who killed his daughter in law and fled into the vast Harriman State Park. The suspect was armed with a long gun and was a lifelong hunter and believed to be potentially suicidal and certainly dangerous. Despite a grueling search effort the suspect was never located and remains a wanted person.



**Members, rangers and K-9 search detail at Harriman State Park.**

A suspect in the shooting of two persons (one fatally) on Long Island was believed to be in the Hudson Highlands State Park after his vehicle was found abandoned nearby. Park Police personnel and rangers joined with the FBI and state and local law enforcement to search the areas nearby. Park Police marine patrol

**officers recovered the suspect's body from the Hudson River. The suspect had taken his own life.**



**Park Police marine units in body recovery effort. Storm King Mountain in rear.**

### **Suicidal Subject Rescued at Camp Hero**

**Officer Nathan Sibenik on patrol at Camp Hero (Montauk) came upon a vehicle reported earlier as being driven by a suicidal subject. Officer Sibenik located the subject on the brink of the bluff overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The subject was highly intoxicated. The subject was removed from the edge by Officer Sibenik and taken for medical care.**



### **Valley Stream Rape First Degree**

Long Island patrols and detectives responded to Valley Stream State Park for a report of a sexual assault during midday on a crowded summer weekend. A massive search effort was conducted with numerous personnel from Nassau County PD and the State Police also joining the search. Troop L BCI personnel performed forensic work on scene and coordinated efforts with Park Police detectives. A composite sketch developed by Park Police investigators and Nassau County PD detectives was instrumental in identifying a suspect. The incident generated substantial media and public interest and the investigation concluded with the arrest of a 17 year old suspect who was charged with rape first degree for the state park case and with other charges for incidents that occurred in the surrounding community. Long Island detectives and officers worked tirelessly to close this case.

In December the suspect pled guilty to the charges and was sentenced to twenty years.



**Rape suspect with identity covered, led by Long Island members to arraignment.**

## **West Harlem Robbery Arrest**

Recently graduated Police Officer Gabriele Caputo was on patrol near Riverbank State Park in West Harlem (Manhattan). The officer observed several people chasing a subject and shouting for help in catching the “thief”. The suspect ran through a wooded area of Riverside Park (a large NYC park), climbed a fence and jumped off a retaining wall on to the very active Amtrak train tracks. The suspect then crossed the tracks and climbed another fence and made his final mistake. The suspect entered Riverbank State Park and climbed the north tower to escape. Officer Caputo never gave up the chase and captured the suspect at the traffic circle within the park. The suspect had forcibly robbed the victims of cash.

## **Stolen Car Recoveries and Foot Pursuits**

Officer Stephanie Pileski (a recent graduate of the 10<sup>th</sup> Session) was involved in two stolen car recoveries where the suspects fled on foot when stopped by the police. At Jones Beach Officer Pileski was on patrol with Officer Kiel Mecum when they observed a stolen Infiniti flee from a parking field and travel against the flow of traffic on the Bay Parkway. The suspect’s vehicle crashed off the roadway and the suspects fled on foot and hid in the underbrush. Officers Pileski and Mecum located one suspect and the second suspect was located by a K9 officer. A short time later, Officer Pileski was on patrol at Hempstead Lake State Park with Officer Timothy Rizzuto when they observed a vehicle reported stolen from Jones Beach a short time before. The officers attempted to stop the vehicle but the suspect fled on foot crossing back and forth across the very crowded Southern State Parkway. Officer Rizzuto was able to catch up to the suspect and assisted by Officer Pileski took the suspect into custody.

## **Missing Person Search Hempstead Lake**

A prolonged search and investigation was initiated when a homeless subject reported that his female companion had gone missing from the park. The search involved multiple agencies and resources including divers, aviation, K9 and foot searches by officers and rangers. Members and rangers involved worked in high heat and humidity to search the swampy area. Ultimately, the missing subject was found deceased in a pond in the park.

## **Niagara River Searches**

Park Police personnel at Niagara Falls have been busy with a series of subjects who have been swept over the falls. Major search operations were conducted and investigations initiated for each case. Niagara personnel also investigated two separate accidental drownings of subjects who were swept into the Niagara River rapids at Whirlpool State Park.





### **Thousand Islands Marine Rescue / BWI Arrest**

**Officers Stew Wilson and Nick Shaw responded to a report of an unoccupied vessel running in circles near Round Island in the St. Lawrence River. Upon arrival the officers determined that the vessel operator had been ejected from his vessel and was not wearing a PFD. The water temperature was fifty degrees. Sarah Gillette, a resident of a nearby island, heard the boater calling for help and went out on her own boat and rescued him. Officers Wilson and Shaw then arrested him for boating while intoxicated.**

**Sarah Gillette was recognized by Thousand Islands Regional Director Kevin Kieff and Commission Chairman Harold Johnson who presented her with a lifesaving award.**

### **Fatal Marine Accidents on the Hudson River**

**Sgt. Ryan Clancy (Palisades) and Detective Donald Stretz have been working on two fatal marine accident reconstruction cases at the request of local law enforcement agencies in the Hudson Valley. Both cases were the subject of intense media coverage during the peak boating season. Rockland County Sheriff Louis Falco III commended both members for their valuable assistance.**

### **Missing and Endangered Adult Rescued**

**Long Island residents woke to see broadcast warning notices looking for an endangered adult as they drove to work. A male suffering from a dementia type disorder was reported missing to a local PD by his family. Officer Jessica Bottega spotted the subject's car at Robert Moses State Park and an intense search was initiated. The subject was found alive the following morning and reunited with his family.**

## **Two Officers Struck by DWI and Injured**

**Officer Rishinand Basdeo and recent academy graduate Christine Carollo were on patrol in a marked SUV. They were attempting to stop a vehicle in traffic at Jones Beach State Park when they were struck from behind by a fast moving vehicle. The Park Police SUV was flipped over and both officers were injured. The operator of the vehicle that struck the police vehicle was arrested and charged with DWI.**



**Rolled over Park Police SUV and the vehicle that hit them from behind.**

## **Fatal Motorcycle Accidents**

Members investigated fatal motorcycle accidents in the Palisades and Saratoga Zones. In Harriman State Park a van collided with three motorcycles causing the death of one motorcyclist and seriously injuring one other. Responding members came upon a chaotic scene as passengers and persons passing by tried to assist the motorcyclists who were trapped under the van or severely injured.

Saratoga patrols responded when a fatal motorcycle / vehicle collision occurred during the exiting traffic flow from one of the largest events at Saratoga. The accident and investigation required the closure of the primary route of egress and thousands of vehicles had to be rerouted. Patrols developed an alternate traffic plan and coordinated an orderly flow of exiting traffic.

Palisades members also investigated a fatal motorcycle accident involving one motorcycle and one vehicle making a turn on a winding road.

## **Fatal Rock Climbing Accident**

Saratoga personnel investigated a fatal climbing accident at Thacher State Park. A male victim was located at the base of the 180 foot escarpment.

## **Drowning Investigations**

Officers and detectives investigated a number of drownings including two at Bear Mountain and one at Silvermine in Harriman State Park. Taconic Zone personnel investigated a drowning at Fahnestock State Park. These events are highly emotional for all personnel involved and the first responders come upon frantic scenes of distressed family members and friends. The initial search and rescue operations often involve officers, park staff, and visitors and are always challenging.

## **Lightning Strike**

Taconic Zone personnel responded and investigated when a young man was struck by lightning near a lake. Tragically, the man's injuries were too severe and he subsequently died.

## **Search for Homicide Suspect in Fort Montgomery**

Palisades Zone personnel responded to nearby Fort Montgomery when a subject being sought for a homicide was reported to be barricaded in a nearby home. After a lengthy investigation and deployment of a robot to enter the home it was determined that the suspect was not present.





**Officer Brandon Bates (10<sup>th</sup> Session) and Trooper Scott Gregson (5<sup>th</sup> Session)**

### **Twin Emergency Landings on the Same Day**

**A light plane made an emergency landing on the Lake Ontario State Parkway. Officer Brandon Bates from the Genesee Zone responded and coordinated with New York State Trooper Scott Gregson at the scene of the landing. Trooper Gregson is a former member of the Park Police and a graduate of the 5<sup>th</sup> session. They closed the parkway and arranged for the removal of the aircraft. On the same day, a light plane made an emergency landing at Robert Moses State Park (LI). Long Island personnel diverted traffic and had the plane removed.**

## **Special Recognition from STOP-DWI and MADD – Officer Nelson Marti**

**Officer Nelson Marti (Taconic Zone) was the recipient of a 2013 Recognition Award from the NYS STOP-DWI Foundation and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Officer Marti was nominated by his supervisor Sergeant Thomas Schillinger. Both members attended the awards ceremony conducted by STOP-DWI. Congratulations to Officer Marti for this special recognition. He was one of only twenty six officers (from any agency) in the state to be recognized.**



**Officer Nelson Marti (sixth from the right) with other award recipients.**



## ***EVENTS AND SPECIAL DETAILS***

### **CONCERTS, CONCERTS and MORE CONCERTS**

Our three major concert venues were operating at full capacity this summer. We hosted seventy seven concerts across the state during the summer season. Members and rangers crisscrossed the state traveling to concert details and protected more than 820,000 concert spectators.

The biggest logistical challenge was three days of Phish at SPAC during the Fourth of July weekend. Despite record demand for police services throughout the state we were able to deploy a substantial detail to SPAC for the Phish concerts. Massive traffic and heavy crowds made for long days and nights including multiple arrests and medical emergencies (including at least one fatality). Major performers sold out our venues and kept our concert details busy throughout the state.

We closed the concert season with Farm Aid at SPAC which attracted 25,000 spectators.

---



**Art Park drew huge crowds**





**Summer beaches were packed with visitors.**



**Our Mounted Unit at SPAC for the Dave Matthews Band.**

## **Buckle Up New York – Safe Parks Initiative**

**We partnered with the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the New York State Police to conduct a targeted seatbelt and child safety seat enforcement effort for travelers coming to state parks. Our observations of large numbers of visitors traveling with unbelted children caused us to focus attention on park roads and adjoining highways. We conducted a media event at Jones Beach kicking off the campaign. We were joined by DMV Commissioner Barbara Fiala, Shannon Purdy of NHTSA and Major Joseph Tripodo of Troop L. Throughout the summer season our members and troopers conducted seat belt checkpoints and issued tickets for seatbelt and child safety seat violations.**



**Buckle Up New York media event at Jones Beach State Park.**



**Members participated across the state during our annual I Love My Parks Day.**

**Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Harvey attended ceremonies at FDR State Park in the Taconic Zone. Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy attended ceremonies at Letchworth State Park in the Genesee Zone.**



**Officer Brent Hawxhurt and Lieutenant Governor Duffy.**



## NYC District Events

I had the pleasure of attending the unveiling of a statue of Roberto Clemente as part of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of this great park in the Bronx. I also enjoyed attending the 20th anniversary of Riverbank State Park. The ceremonies at Riverbank were a big attraction in the community and we were joined by Governor Cuomo and his father former Governor Mario Cuomo.

## State Fair

I traveled to the State Fair with Colonel Gregory Stewart and had the opportunity to publicly commend Sgt. Ed Gonzalez of the Finger Lakes Zone for his steadfast service as the acting commanding officer of the zone. I also had the chance to present Lt. Tom Fischer with his certificate of promotion recognizing his recent promotion to lieutenant.

Our exhibit at the State Fair looked great and was being manned by Officer Dan Matthews and Sgt. Thomas MacDonald (and Captain Jack Adams). We had strong visitation at our exhibit and our visitors (particularly the youngest visitors) loved our ATVs, snowmobiles and PWCs on display. While at the fair I also had the chance to meet with some of our senior staff from the Mid-State and Western Districts including Majors Dave Page and Rudy Schneider as well as Captain Richard Smith from Communications.



**Colonel Greg Stewart, me, Sgt. Ed Gonzalez and newly promoted Lieutenant Tom Fischer at the Fair.**



**I joined Captain Jack Adams, Captain Dick Smith, Major Rudy Schneider, Lt. Tom Fischer, Major Dave Page, Colonel Greg Stewart and Sgt. TJ MacDonald, Sgt. Ed Gonzalez and Officer Dan Matthews at the fair.**



**Officer Dan Matthews at our exhibit at the State Fair with some young visitors.**



## Long Island Air Show

The Long Island Air Show at Jones Beach was our first major event of the season and kicked off the summer with huge crowds. Personnel from many commands participated in the detail and the event was a great success.

## TRAINING



*Commissioner Rose Harvey, Executive Deputy Commissioner Andy Beers and I congratulate Officer Tiffany Van Alstyne a graduate of the 10<sup>th</sup> Session basic School.*





***Basic School 10<sup>th</sup> Session graduation ceremonies at our Academy.***

### **10<sup>th</sup> Session Basic School**

**Our trainers and Academy staff have been running full throttle since last November. In November 2012 I had the pleasure of swearing in a class of forty recruit Park Police Officers. Commissioner Rose Harvey made the hiring of replacement police officers a priority and secured the funding and approvals to make it a reality. Our first new police officers since 2008 came on board and commenced a grueling training program at our Academy. Our Basic School staff led by Lieutenant Walter Schedel and Sergeant Jason Jones managed a great school and we graduated the class on May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Other Basic School staff members were:**

**Officers Jeffrey Santor, John McGuire, Craig Reichert, Mark Whalen, Larry King and Julie Malysa.**

**Class members were also recognized with the following awards:**

**Firearms Proficiency Award: Officer Michael DeRosa  
Academic Achievement Award: Officer Sarah Bohlin  
Physical Fitness Award: Officer Christine Carollo  
Leadership Award: Officer Stephen Campbell**

**Other graduates were:**

**Anthony Agrisano  
Joshua Austin  
Sarah Baire  
Brandon Bates  
Constantino Berkeitis**

**Lucy Brough  
Ryan Cady  
Jerald Calmes  
Stephen Campbell  
Gabriele Caputo  
Mark Castiglione, Jr.**

**Luis Cortes  
Cheryl Crayford  
Jenine Ditzler  
Daniel Dockery  
Matthew Gibbins  
Raymond Gibbins  
Raymond Gilman  
Scott Goldman  
Kyle Herrick  
Noah Lange  
Bryon Lewis  
Steven Lodolce**

**Raymond Lund  
Joseph Pepper  
Stephanie Pileski  
Andrew Ramos-Dillinger  
Stephen Scaramuzzino  
Kenneth Schafer  
Nathan Sibenik  
David Szprygada  
Tiffany Van Alstyne**

**We also conducted a Field Training Officer's School (FTO), an Instructor Development Course (IDC) and Physical Fitness and Defensive Tactics Instructor Courses.**



**Field Training Officer's school at Long Island HQ.**

## **Fitness Challenge 2013**

**Our physical fitness trainers conducted the annual fitness challenge training program. This year's challenge was held at Allegany State Park and was coordinated by Officers Andy Avery and Christopher Booker. The Allegany Zone team won the competition. All the participants had an opportunity to use their rescue skills in a high stress environment and to demonstrate their personal commitment to remain fit.**

## **Firearms Training**

**In the fall we returned to the United States Military Academy at West Point for our annual firearms training program and competition. The shooters from the Thousand Islands Zone won the team prize for the third consecutive year. The firearms training was conducted at a state of the art shooting facility at Harriman State Park. Detective Don Stretz coordinated an excellent instructional program and competition for teams from every district. We were grateful to West Point for allowing us to use their lodging facilities for this training program.**

## **In-Service Training**

**During the same period our trainers also conducted multiple sessions of annual in-service training for field personnel. Members traveled to the Academy for a dynamic in-service program that included a full spectrum force scenario based use of force training component.**

**Our training program is an intense collection of programs offered at multiple locations and often during very busy periods. We provide training to hundreds of officers, rangers and staff. Training programs are hands on and require skilled trainers willing to work outdoors in difficult conditions, at remote sites a long way from home and willing to learn their craft so they are prepared to instruct. I commend all of our trainers for all of your efforts during 2013.**





**2013 State Park Forest Ranger training class graduation at Bethpage State Park.**

### **Ranger Training**

**Almost immediately after the Basic School graduation we shifted gears and conducted ranger training schools at two sites.**

**Captain Michael Cappuccilli and trainers conducted Public Safety Ranger training schools for returning rangers and for newly hired rangers at our academy.**

**Captain Joseph Reyes, Lt. Anthony Astacio and Sgt. Keith Renner planned and presented a four week peace officer training school for Park Forest Rangers at the SUNY Farmingdale campus.**

**The ranger training programs were conducted with the assistance of many members and staff that provided training or logistical assistance. More than one hundred rangers were deployed across the state to supplement our police and ranger ranks.**



**New recruit police officers being sworn in for the 11<sup>th</sup> Session Basic School.**

### **11<sup>th</sup> Session Basic School**

**On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 we commenced the 11<sup>th</sup> Session Basic School with a new class of thirty five recruits who are scheduled to graduate in May 2014. I had the pleasure of teaching at the Academy for several instructional units and swearing in the recruit class.**



# ***PERSONNEL MATTERS***

## **Retirements**

**Colonel Gregory Stewart retired after forty years of service. The Colonel began his career as a Park Forest Ranger and served in every rank in the Park Police during his career. The Colonel was a key player in every aspect of the Park Police and was a familiar face throughout the state at our major events and details. Former Chiefs Michael Daly and Jim Warwick joined me to wish the Colonel the best atop Bear Mountain.**



**Retiring Colonel Greg Stewart joined by me and former Chiefs Jim Warwick and Mike Daly at Bear Mountain State park.**

**On Long Island we had seven members retire including Captain Bruce Marx the District Commander, Sgt. Dan Lammens, Sgt. Bill Borthwick, Detective Sergeant Tom Duignan, Sgt. Chris Bergman, Detective Ruth Sundstrom and Officer Vance Horah. A huge body of institutional knowledge and experience was lost but our members moved on to enjoy well deserved retirements.**





## Promotions

I was happy to announce the promotions of eleven members. They are listed below with their new ranks:

**Captain Stanley Wishinski**

**Lt. Thomas Fischer**

**Lt. Jeffrey Eveleigh**

**Lt. Rhonda Wallach**

**Lt. Jason Jones**

**Sgt. Trevor Young**

**Sgt. Nicholas Shaw**

**Sgt. Frank McGarity**

**Sgt. Daniel Welch**

**Sgt. Brian Matteo**

**Sgt. Mark Whalen**

**Congratulations to our retirees and newly promoted members.**



**In Memoriam**

During 2013 we mourned the passing of retired Captain Joseph Demarco. Captain Demarco served as the commander of the Niagara Zone for many years and was a legendary figure. A distinguished veteran of World War II, Captain Demarco was a powerful influence on numerous members who worked with him in Niagara or who interacted with him throughout the force.

**On November 20, 2013 at Letchworth State Park members of the New York State Police Special Operations Response Team were conducting a rescue training exercise in the gorge. Trooper Ross Riley, a decorated military veteran and experienced Trooper, fell into the gorge and suffered fatal injuries. Our members and staff know that high angle rescue work is dangerous work and every rescue operation requires courage and skill. A detail of Park Police personnel attended Trooper Riley's funeral service. We mourn the tragic death of Trooper Riley.**



**Major David Page and our detail at the funeral of Trooper Riley.**

## ***NEW ACQUISITIONS***

**Major David Page and the senior staff from the Niagara Zone are working with the Western District Director Mark Thomas and the Western District capital facilities staff as well as Agency capital projects staff to relocate the Park Police Niagara Station from the Cave of the Winds Building to a new station to be constructed in the park. This is a huge capital project for the Division of Law Enforcement and the Western District. We are anxiously awaiting the construction of this state of the art facility.**



**Artist's rendering of our new station at Niagara Falls State Park.**

### **Border Security**

**Commanders and members working along the northern border have been actively involved with several border security initiatives. One program, Operation Stonegarden has multiple law enforcement agencies working together to secure the northern border and to detect illegal activity including terrorist related activity, contraband smuggling and general criminal conduct. We have recently acquired some excellent patrol equipment to support this effort including snowmobiles, ATVs and support gear. Our principal partner in this operation is the U.S. Border Patrol.**





**Officer Bill Jorgensen, USBP Agent in Charge Matt Roggon, Major Rudy Schneider (Mid-State) USBP Assistant Agent in Charge Dave Bova and Sgt. Nick Shaw.**



**This new sled courtesy of Operation Stonegarden will keep our winter patrols moving.**

**Our partners in the Marine Services Unit and Snowmobile Unit continue to support our boat and snowmobile patrols through their programs.**

**The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee has been a long term supporter of our traffic enforcement and highway safety programs and we are looking forward to a continued relationship with them this year.**

**In the Finger Lakes Zone we recently accepted a donation from Whitetails Unlimited (a conservation organization). The group donated a mechanical deer decoy for use in illegal hunting enforcement. We appreciate the support of Whitetails Unlimited and their members. Within days of acquiring the deer decoy, Officers John Malysa and Mike Daddona arrested two subjects and charged them with six offenses for shooting the decoy at Sampson State Park (Finger Lakes).**



**Our partners from Whitetails Unlimited Allan Lowman, Derick Alexander and Shawn Bell joined Officer Phil Merrill, Lt. Tom Fischer and Regional Director Fred Bonn at Finger Lakes HQ for the donation.**

### **NEW PATROL CARS**

**We recently placed an order for replacement patrol vehicles. For the first time since 2004 we have ordered Ford Interceptor sedans instead of the Chevrolet Impalas. We are looking forward to accepting delivery of these highly rated patrol vehicles.**

### **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

**I wish everybody the best for the holiday season and look forward to a great year in 2014. Thank you for all of your hard work during 2013. I owe a special thanks to Greg Stewart for all of his years of service but particularly for his service as the Assistant Director during recent years. Special thanks to all of our recent retirees including many who I started with and worked with for many years on Long Island. Best wishes to our newly promoted commanders and supervisors. We rely upon you for so much and we appreciate your attention to all of the details that make the Division of Law Enforcement work. I am happy that we have the support of Commissioner Harvey and that her efforts have allowed us to hire seventy five new officers in two years. Rebuilding our patrol strength has been our priority need for several years and we are making steady progress. Finally, I owe a special thanks to Major Dave Herrick for taking on the added duties of acting Assistant Director while still serving as the District Commander for the Hudson Valley. Happy holidays and stay safe.**

**Chief Richard K. O'Donnell**