

California State Parks
K-9 Program
Since 1969



40th Anniversary

By James Burke & Michael Lynch





California State Parks

K-9 Program

40-Year Anniversary

1969-2009

Goals:

- To highlight and celebrate the accomplishments and history of the California State Park K-9 Program.
- Capture and document, ideally in a publication, the history of the K-9 Program.
- Reunite and network former K-9 handlers and others associated with the K-9 Program.

Costs:

- No direct costs to the department
- Program and event expenses to be born by participants, donations and volunteer efforts.

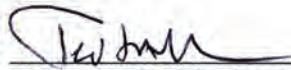
Specific Goals:

- Kick-off event of an initial reunion of K-9 handlers and others associated with the program to be held in conjunction with the Fall 2008 K-9 training program.
- Identify all K-9 handlers and others that participated in the K-9 program
- Develop a written history of the K-9 Program
- Develop a photo collection of the K-9 Program
- Produce promotional anniversary items including a badge, patch, pin, T-shirt, etc.
- Final "Super" reunion to be held in conjunction with the Fall 2009 K-9 training session.

State Parks Commitment:

- Recognize and promote the K-9 Anniversary
- Authorize the K-9 Handler Reunion to be held in conjunction with the Fall 2008 and 2009 K-9 training program, at no direct cost to the department
- Approve and authorize a K-9 anniversary badge for wear during the anniversary period
- Seek a Governor's Proclamation for the K-9 Program Anniversary

Concept Approval:


Ted Jackson

Date: 4-15-08

California State Parks K-9 Program Since 1969 40th Anniversary

By James Burke and Michael Lynch

K-9 Anniversary Committee



K-9 Anniversary Committee. L-R: Ted Jackson, Scott Liske, Randy Trefry, Brian Robertson, Mike Lynch and Jim Burke.

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K-9 Handler Dave Berry sends Bax on Rick Royer during training.



K-9 Handler Terri Osborne introduces Catja to school kids.

Introduction

The job of state park canine handler is a unique one requiring a special dedication and commitment. On this 40th anniversary of the California State Park K-9 Program, we want salute this dedication and highlight the history and achievements of this unique program and the people who have made it a success. Over 70 rangers and one lifeguard (Randy Trefry) and a wide variety of others have contributed to the program over the years.

The seeds of the K-9 Anniversary were planted in February 2006 when Deputy Director **Ted Jackson** wrote an email to **Jim Burke** and **Bill Berry**. In it he asked them, "...when was the department's canine program started?" "Who was the first canine ranger?" "why hasn't anyone written a history of the department's canine program (maybe a project for **Mike Lynch**)?" This seed languished for nearly two years without any signs of life.

Early in 2008, on a completely separate track, Mike Lynch and **Brian Robertson** were working on a project to highlight the accomplish-

ments and history of state park staff. Mike had a picture of **Ron McCall** and a canine handler making an arrest at Big Sur, which was marked as 1969. To try to confirm this, Mike and Brian got a hold of Ron McCall and he identified the canine ranger as

Dick Edwards. He said that Dick had stopped by just a few months before while headed to his volunteer summer job at the Alpine County Museum.



The K-9 Anniversary Committee at work. L-R: Brian Robertson, Ted Jackson, Randy Trefry and Mike Lynch.

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Ron had Dick's contact information and Brian got a hold of him. He was a wealth of information. He had kept a diary and had even written stories of his years as a state park ranger. He confirmed that he had been the first state park canine handler starting at Big Sur in 1969 and thus the 40th K-9 Anniversary was born.

Eventually a K-9 committee was formed and a K-9 Program Anniversary Reunion was planned for October of 2009. As a part of the anniversary effort, this history of the California State Park canine program was developed and published.

Acknowledgements

The following people and organizations contributed to this history of the California State Park K-9 Program: Andrew Ahlberg, Pam Armas, Bob Bambauer, Bill Berry, Bob Breshears, Jim Burke, California State Park Rangers Association, California State Parks, California State Parks Foundation, Rob Chambers, Al Chavez, Dick Edwards, Larry Frole, Mike Gleckler, James Grennen, Kent Gresham, Mimi Guiney, Nan Haynes, John Irwin, Laura Itogawa, Ted Jackson, Brett King, Rich Lawton, Dana Long, Todd Lewis, Tom Lindberg, Scott Liske, Mike Lynch, Ron McCall, Rosanne McHenry, Vern McHenry, Randy Pench, Tony Perez, John Pfaehler, Karl Poppelreiter, Jeff Price, Darrell Readyhoff, Lynn Rhodes, Brian Robertson, Mario Rodriguez, Rick Royer, John Russo, State Park Anniversary Committee, State Park Peace Officers Association of California, Jeanne Sisson, Mike Smittle, Todd Thames, Randy Trefry, Andrew Urlic, Witmer-Tyson Kennels, and Aaron Wright.



First K-9 Handler Dick Edwards and Sam at Big Sur State Park around 1970. The van on the right was the first state park "paddy wagon" used to transport the many "hippie" violators at the time.



Dick Edwards, Sam and Ron McCall make an arrest at Big Sur and are getting ready to load the suspect into the "Paddy Wagon".

History of the California State Parks K-9 Program

By Jim Burke

It was the late 1960's and the Big Sur Area was being inundated with people of the counter-culture persuasion (commonly referred to as "hippies or flower children"). These people felt that public land, including State Parks, was just that, public land, and that they could do whatever they wanted to do while on it. And they did. They illegally camped, had illegal ground fires, trashed large areas and used drugs.

According to **Ron McCall**, it all started in the spring of 1969. At the time, State Park Rangers did not have full police powers nor were they armed, and they could only enforce park rules and regulations. Because of the extreme danger of wildfire and other resource damage from the "hippies" and because the rangers were typically working by themselves at night when making enforcement contacts, it was felt that a K-9 would be a very beneficial and protective tool for the rangers. **Dick Edwards** was interviewed along with other State Park Ranger applicants and Edwards was selected for the job.

Joe Simpson was the dog trainer that was chosen to provide the dog and the training for Edwards. Simpson lived on a small ranch in Danville, CA at the time and trained a limited number of dogs for law enforcement. His background was primarily military, where he was a K-9 Corps trainer, training dogs in detecting hidden explosive devices and as sentry dogs.

The dog that was selected to work with Edwards was picked by Simpson. He found the dog, "Sam," a blond German Shepherd, in the Bay Area. Sam was in the Guide Dogs for the Blind program and was being trained for that use. However, Sam was too aggressive to be a guide dog for the blind and was given to a family for personal protection. This also did not work out, so Simpson took Sam with the intent of training him for park enforcement work. He worked with Sam for six weeks and then brought Edwards to Danville for two or three weeks of training with the dog.

At the end of the training period, Edwards returned to Big Sur and brought Sam into the park office on lead. The dog seemed to be okay around the men, who had buzz cuts, but when Sam saw the secretary he became very aggressive and had to be taken outside. It was later determined that Simpson had trained Sam to react to long-haired individuals (hippies) but hadn't thought about long-haired females. Sam was taken back to Danville for some retraining. Later, another problem was discovered



Dick Edwards and Sam.

when Edwards went on patrol - Sam would ignore people in sleeping bags because he didn't recognize them as a threat. So, another trip to Danville where Simpson trained Sam to react to people in sleeping bags. The Big Sur K-9 team gained a reputation in the hippie community ... "Watch out for the state parks, one of the rangers has a dog that will tear you to shreds."

One incident involved a call-out from the U.S. Forest Service. They reported a campfire at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park. Four rangers responded, including Edwards and Sam. When they got to the house they split up and approached from different directions. Before anyone could say anything, Sam started barking and lunging. The campers immediately sprang up, one of them jumping up and down and screaming at the top of his lungs. After he was calmed down, he said that he thought Sam was a wolf and that they were all going to be eaten. Turned out they were college kids from New Jersey and they probably never returned to Big Sur. After Edwards transferred, Bob Breshears became Sam's second handler.

During this time, District Superintendent **Milt Frinke** and Safety and Enforcement Specialist **Warren Douglas** approached **Bob Bambauer** to become involved in the K-9 training for Big Sur. Bambauer was working as a Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Lieutenant but had worked as a K-9 handler and trainer for the Sheriff's Office from 1966-69. Bambauer trained **Bob Breshears** the 2nd State Park K-9 handler (1973-75) and his replacement, **Jim Burke** (1975-78). Bambauer was hired by the department as a Safety and Enforcement Specialist in 1978, which included being



Jim Burke was the third handler of Sam at Big Sur. He is pictured here with Safety and Enforcement Specialist Warren Douglas in 1977.

K-9 Program Coordinator/Trainer.

Bambauer was instrumental in getting the Department to contract with Tyson Kennels (owned by **Randy Tyson**) in 1978 to provide pedigreed German Shepherd K-9's and initial handler training for the program. Tyson Kennels, now Witmer-Tyson Imports, have continued to provide canines and training to state parks for over 30 years. Bambauer retired in 1986, but continued working for another three years as a part-time retired annuitant as Chief Armorer and Patrol Dog Coordinator/Trainer.

Witmer-Tyson Kennels & Imports is a well-known and well-respected business that has been training and selling K-9's for law enforcement agencies for over 40 years. Owned and operated by **Dave Witmer** and **Randy Tyson Witmer** (a married team), their four-week basic handler course teaches the handler and canine to work as a team. They also offer courses in narcotics detection and explosives detection. The German Shepherd K-9's, almost all of which are imported from Europe, are trained in obedience, handler protection, tracking and searching. Randy Tyson-Witmer has been training dogs for over 45 years. Dave Witmer, a retired police officer, worked with a K-9 for 11 of his 18 years on active duty and has been training dogs for many years.

Bambauer, in conjunction with **Broc Stenman**, also developed the first State Parks Patrol Dog Handbook. He and **Susan Ross** later revised and rewrote the handbook to include a section on Hearst Castle handlers and qualification requirements.

Hearst Castle is filled with priceless works of art, so part of the operation there included having night watchmen, who would patrol the castle and grounds during the night checking for fires, intruders and other problems. In 1971 discussion began of using a patrol dog to assist the watchmen with their duties. The dog would be used as an extra pair of eyes and ears (and nose) and would

be useful in alerting the watchmen to any problems. One of the watchmen owned a dog and he was authorized on a trial basis to bring the dog with him on his rounds. He reported that he felt much more secure when he had the dog by his side. Further discussion with district personnel resulted in the verbal approval to obtain a dog for patrol purposes. After discussion with the handler at Big Sur and a professional dog trainer, Hearst purchased Cyd, a female German Shepherd, from a private party in 1972. **Lloyd Geissinger** assumed the role of trainer for Cyd, seeking the advice of professionals for training. **Dean Allman**, a dog trainer, worked with Geissinger and Cyd at the start. Geissinger also received advice and assistance from the trainer for the Big Sur K-9 team. He purchased the book *The Koehler Method of Dog Training* by **William Koehler** which he and the rangers who worked with Cyd used. That same year, Folsom Lake SRA also established a K-9 team, comprised of Ranger **Ed Williamson** and Ralph.

February 12, 1976 was a major turning point in the evolution of the K-9 program. This was the date that the New World Liberation Front bombed the Casa del Sol, guest house at Hearst Castle, missing a tour group by seconds. Six days later, the K-9 teams from Folsom (Williamson and Ralph) and Big Sur (Burke and Sam) were instructed to report to Hearst Castle for after hours security patrol. One team worked 4 p.m. to midnight and the other worked midnight to 8 a.m. This continued for three weeks while management put together a more permanent solution to the security issue, which included increasing the number of rangers and dogs. Bob Bambauer initiated a K-9 Handler Training Program for approximately six Hearst Castle rangers who were or were to be assigned as K-9 handlers for night security at the hilltop. Eventually one of the K-9's at the Castle became trained as an explosive detection dog. In 1986 it was decided that the K-9's would have individual handlers to create more effective teams.

Around the same time as the bombing, Huntington State Beach experimented with the use of K-9's. The dogs were kenneled at the SPCA shelter, which was across the street from Huntington SB. The three dogs, leased from a kennel in



Randy Tyson of Tyson Kennels is working one of the pedigreed German Shepherds supplied to state parks since 1978.



Bob Bambauer (left) was the first Patrol Dog Program Coordinator. He is putting Ranger Rich Lawton and Ajax through some of the newly developed K-9 training program.

THE CAMBRIAN - November 16, 1976



Rick Royer and Josh make the rounds near the Neptune pool.

Castle Canine Corps Puts Some Bite Into Security System

Long Beach, were rotated among five handlers, who went through a training program. The handlers were **Lance Parr, Steve Chaney, Walt Saylor, Rich Robbins** and **Larry Froy**. The K-9 teams were used primarily to keep control of large party groups on the beach and were generally quite effective.

A K-9 accomplishment that caught the attention of other law enforcement agencies and put our K-9 program "on the map" happened at the 1980 Police Olympics. Because no one can better describe the events of that day in August than **Mario Rodriguez**, the handler representing State Parks in the K-9 competition, here is the description of what happened that day in his own words:

The Police Olympics...August, 1980...that was one of my life's most memorable days...the way the other participants would not talk to me in the morning session...not even the guys from San Jose PD...and how the day progressed...

Anyway, when Dux "aced" the Obedience - I mean, he was sharp and happy - I KNEW we were in the medal contention...if he would only "pass" the "Call Off."

The next event was the call off...Randy Tyson was soooooo strict... "Only one command"...so Dux takes off after the "suspect" at full speed...I gave one command... he heard me but he did not even slow down...he ran up to the suited "suspect" and skidded into him and bumped him BUT DID NOT BITE (we used to practice this...)...it was a long walk to the suspect and dog...Dux was sitting against the suspect staring at him...waiting for any movement... The crowd suddenly cheered and Dux glanced back at me for a moment (hearing the crowd), then he looked back at the "suspect"...I kept praying - don't move, don't move...I walked up within about 10 feet...called Dux to me...he jumped away from the suspect and came to

heel position and started looking back and forth - at me, then the suspect, at me, then the suspect... "plots" (I never learned how to write "German"!)... he laid down; I went up and "handcuffed" the suspect - Dux was barking... I called Dux to me...and we walked the "suspect" a little ways when the judge called the exercise "finished"... I remember how ecstatic I felt inside and Dux could tell. The suspect walked away...we were standing for a moment...and I yelled - "good boy"... Dux jumped to my eye level and licked my face in a split second...and again, the crowd suddenly cheered...it was the perfect "call off"...

I specifically remember this event as the only one where we were all in uniform - Stetson hat and Class A's. I felt such "pride" in being in the STATE PARKS uniform and knowing we had done well...

But as they announced the medals...starting from 5th place...I kept waiting to hear my name...I remember the older San Jose PD team, they fin-



MEDALISTS MARIO RODRIGUEZ AND DUX
... brought home gold from San Diego

Marina Ranger, Dog Win Two Medals at 'Olympics'

ished 4th. They announced 3rd...then 2nd...I thought...we either finished 1st or not at all...then..."from the California Department of Parks and Recreation..." I screamed! I could NOT believe it.

It is a moment I will NEVER forget...it's etched in my spirit forever...And the weird thing, all of a sudden, all of the other competitors were "my best friend"...giving me their cards, shaking my hand...you don't want to know what I was thinking at that moment...

By winning the gold medal in the K-9 Police Olympics competition, Rodriguez and Dux earned a new-found respect for the state parks from all the other K-9 law enforcement agencies.

Over the years state park K-9 teams have apprehended armed robbery suspects, burglary suspects, rape suspects and other criminals as well as tracking and finding lost and injured members of the public. The following are examples of K-9 teams successes.

First, Mario Rodriguez and Dux were requested by the Marina P.D. to assist in a search for a armed robbery and rape suspect within the city limits of Marina. The suspect had used a small caliber automatic on a woman in her apartment. She fought him off and he then fled. Rodriguez and Dux were led to the last known location of the suspect. A nearby resident asked that her backyard and garage be searched because she had noticed the window in her garage open. After a search of the garage, Dux located the suspect on the floor of the rear passenger area of the car. Rodriguez and a Marina P.D. officer ordered the suspect out at gunpoint. The suspect was searched, cuffed and taken to jail. A 9mm automatic and bullets were found on the suspect.

Second, **Roy Burner** and his K-9 were requested by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office to help in the search for a auto burglary suspect. The building was a two-story residence. Burner was accompanied by two deputies while doing an off-lead search of the building. The suspect was located in the second-floor bedroom by the K-9 and was taken into custody without incident.

Finally, **Rick Royer** and Dolf, while working at Marina SB, were contacted for assistance in locating an escapee from Soledad prison. When Royer arrived, there were what seemed like hundreds of law enforcement personnel on scene. The escapee was serving a 13+ year sentence for two counts of armed robbery, battery on a peace officer and assault with a deadly weapon with great bodily harm. It was believed that the escapee was within a two-block residential area, which had been cordoned off. Royer was given instructions to start searching the area near his location. As he and Dolf started down the

first driveway Dolf keyed on a crawl space with a plastic tub in front of it. When Royer moved the tub, he saw two hands and arms with tattoos on them. It was the escapee. He immediately drew his weapon and told the escapee to come out. When the man's head was at the opening Royer allowed Dolf close to the escapee and told him, "If you try anything, the dog will bite you." The escapee replied, "I won't try anything." He was taken into custody without incident and returned to prison. The trained dogs have proven to be tools of incomparable value in assisting their handlers in accomplishing the mission of the department.

Over 70 rangers and one lifeguard have served as K-9 handlers since 1969. As of 2009, there are 15 State Park K-9 positions located throughout the state.

Longest Serving K-9 Handlers

John Russo – 19 years
1985-2004

Mike Smittle – 18 years
1991-present (2009)

Don Bowman – 18 Years
1975-1993

Roy Burner – 16 years
1988-2004

Al Chavez – 14 years
1995-present (2009)

(as of 2009)



Ranger K-9 Handler Darrell Readyhoff and his canine partner Xirr are one of 15 K-9 positions stationed state-wide.

The Story of Big Sur Sam

By Dick Edwards

Kismet

Odd word for a California State Park Patrol Dog story, but not really, as it has a lot to do with fate and since the Big Sur Sam story revolves around the late 1960's and has four worlds coming together in one specific spot, namely Big Sur, California it fits perfectly. The players are a Ranger Dick Edwards from San Diego, a beautiful golden German Shepherd named Sam, a trainer named Joe Simpson and a multitude of individuals known as Flower Children or Hippies.

The Ranger

Why I was chosen as the first dog handler I will never know, but I was at the San Diego Coast Area at San Elijo State Beach doing what beach park rangers do, keeping the campers happy and the drug dealers and users off the property. I began my career at Leo Carrillo State Beach in Malibu, California at the time when rangers had little in the way of police powers beyond calling the local sheriff and bluffing your way through a situation. In those days law enforcement training consisted of a week in Sacramento ending with a pep talk by Department Chief Jack Knight telling us to take our ticket books home and put them in a desk drawer. None-the-less, by the time I was chosen as handler, I had gone through the Riverside Sheriff's Academy 80 hour course. At any rate, I was the chosen one and soon was on a plane on my way to Monterey to meet with the Big Sur staff and travel to Danville, California to meet Sam and the Trainer Joe Simpson.

Big Sur Sam

The Big Sur Area Manager Jack Stowe, Ranger Ron McCalland I met Sam and Joe in the driveway of Joe's ranch in Danville. He and Sam were standing waiting for us and we were taken back by Sam's golden coat, instead of the traditional black and tan of Shepherd's. Joe asked us not to try and pet Sam, but to let him get used to us. He got no argument from us. We toured the training area, had a long talk with Joe, but were never able to touch Sam, but Sam kept a watchful eye on us. It would be about a month before I would return to begin one of the best times of my life.

During my training, I was housed in Mt. Diablo State Park just outside of Danville, living in the stone building on the top of the mountain. The view was great, looking east to Sacramento, north to Mt. Tamalpais and west to the Golden Gate Bridge when it wasn't foggy. Here Sam and I spent many a day staying above the fog.



Sam



Dick Edwards and his canine partner Sam at Big Sur S.P.

The Trainer

I never did know how the Department chose Joe, but I am thankful that they did as the rapport between Sam, Joe and I was a bond made in heaven.

Joe was a World War II K-9 handler and trainer who was a standout in the Army K-9 cadre so much so he spent his career training new recruits. It was at this time he met his future wife, the daughter of the training facility commandant. The commandant had escaped from Germany when the Nazis took over and brought his dog training skills to the United States and put them to use with the Army.

Joe had an excellent grasp of what it would take to train a ranger and a dog to handle the problems in Big Sur. Joe was what my parents called a "Shanty Irishman" full of Irish wit and stories, but all business when the training collar was on Sam. He was a great teacher with a philosophy that fitted his style of training.

The Training

I reported to Joe's ranch early in the morning and was met by him and Sam in the driveway. Once again Joe told me not to try to pet Sam, but let him get to know me. Our first training session was a long walk through Joe's 40 acre ranch. It was spring and the area was shamrock green and in the center was a 3 acre pond Joe used to train water dogs. Joe brought a sausage shaped training

device mainly used for water dogs and handed it to me and told me to throw it and tell Sam to fetch. I tossed it and called out "Sam fetch." Sam ran to grab the device and brought it back to me, sat and held it until I took it from him. This toss and fetch went on for quite awhile and soon Sam was my friend and looked forward to me stroking his golden coat. From then on, each training session began with a walk to the pond and a pitch and toss of the sausage, returning to the ranch complex to do the serious training. Joe's training schedule comprised of an hour and a half in the morning and another hour and a half in the late afternoon, which left a few hours for other things. Joe was also a horse trainer and had a barn with horse stalls which needed cleaning each day. We walked to the barn and Joe introduced me to a hay fork and wheel barrel, which I used to clean the barn daily. True, stall cleaning was not in the training specs, but I believe that it was a test to see if I had the right stuff, and I spent a lot of time behind the wheelbarrow.

All work and no rest makes for a dull handler and Joe and his wife had me for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. The time spent training was the greatest experience of my life and is still fresh in my mind forty years later. We went over all aspects of K-9 work and Sam and I soon became a team that would keep us safe for the duration of our stay at Big Sur. No need to go into details here as all K-9 handlers know the story.

The Flower Children

They came from all over, but a majority came from the two universities to the north, UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz. Now for the most part they weren't bad kids,



Dick and Sam off duty.

but they sure made life miserable for the rangers and staff of the Big Sur Area. These kids for the most part didn't have any idea about camping beyond how to buy a sleeping bag, boots and bring wine and pot to their camp. They did understand that they were limited in their activities if camping in the Big Sur campground so they went off into the redwoods illegally and built illegal campfires on the redwood duff which could lead to disaster.

The worst thing about their illegal camps was that the

superior court judge in Monterey would not accept citations for illegal camps and fires, "Put them in jail or let them go" was his order. The reason for the judge's stand was that an illegal campfire was responsible for burning down his cabin in the Big Sur. Therefore, we had to use the "attitude test" to decide who went to the Monterey County Jail in Salinas and who was sent down the road.

Big Sur State Park in this era was the most unique unit in the system. A chain link fence circled the entire perimeter, campground, lodge and day use. Not what you might consider a pleasant introduction for visitors to the State Park System. But it kept some sense of order within. And it was here that the first patrol dog and ranger took up residence and tried to keep the peace.



Ranger Dick Edwards, Sam and Ranger Ron McCall arrest a "flower child" at Big Sur about 1970.



Ed Williamson and Ralph, February 1972.

Ralph & Ed Williamson: The Second State Park K-9 Team

By Dana Long

Ralph and Ranger Ed Williamson were the second K-9 team in State Parks (after Dick Edwards at Big Sur) starting at Folsom Lake in early 1972. Ralph was a great dog and loved by all except the bad guys. Ralph and Ed were a wonderful PR team. They performed at schools and special event programs around Placer, Sacramento and El Dorado Counties. Most importantly, Ralph did a great job at what he was acquired to do, which was enforcement duties at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.

Local enforcement agencies, including the CHP, would call our dispatch to see if Ralph was available as his appearance on scene would change the situation dramatically. I know he could sure sober up a gang of drunk teenagers in a hurry at Folsom.

I personally had a fear of German Shepherd's as when I was a kid one bit me up pretty bad. Just ask Dick Edwards, whose dog Sam was first trained at a kennel near Mt Diablo State Park. Dick would bring Sam to the park quite often and brought him into my Diablo office on occasion. Believe me I froze at the sight of Sam and

I just knew that dog was going to eat me up if he had the chance. I told Dick please get him out and don't rattle the chain, which was the signal to attack. On the other hand, Ralph and I got along just fine at Folsom and I didn't have the same fear.

There is a great, little known, true story about Ralph. He was acquired from the Stockton Police Department. I could never understand why they would want to sell State Parks such a well trained police dog. We found out after we had Ralph a few months. Ralph was with us one day when Ed and I were sighting in our Dan Wesson revolvers. When the first shot was fired, Ralph took off running and hid under Ed's trailer. Ed's jaw dropped and I said "Oh Oh" or was it Oh S----. Anyway we kept it a secret as Ralph was such a great law enforcement dog otherwise. I think Ron McCullough was the only one we eventually told and no doubt the District probably heard the story, but never said anything about it. So Ralph stayed working at Folsom and did an outstanding job for his whole career.



Ralph & Ed in 1972, probably training.



K-9 Handlers List

First Name	Last Name	K-9 Partner	Years	Location
Andrew	Ahlberg	Urban	2000-2002	San Diego
Andrew	Ahlberg	Urban	2002-2007	Inland Empire
Andrew	Ahlberg	Urban	2007-2009	Ocotillo Wells
Andrew	Ahlberg	Artez	2009-present	Ocotillo Wells
Bob	Aldrich	Bear, Josh*	1978-	Hearst
Ed	Barsley	Cyd, Bear, Engle, Crook*	1978-1982	Hearst
Bill	Berry	Crook	1980	Big Sur
Bill	Berry	Utz	1980-1982	Big Sur
Dave	Berry	Bax	1984-1987	Pismo Dunes
Dave	Berry	Bax	1987-1988	Gold Mines
Don	Bowman	Cyd*	1975-1978	Hearst
Don	Bowman	Cyd, Bear, Engle, Josh, Catja, Crook*	1978-1986	Hearst
Don	Bowman	Catja	1986-1991	Hearst
Don	Bowman	Nick	1991-1993	Hearst
Bob	Breshears	Sam	1972-1975	Big Sur
Jim	Burke	Sam	1975-1978	Big Sur
Roy	Burner	Kay	1988-1991	Pajaro Coast
Roy	Burner	Canto	1991-1995	Pajaro Coast
Roy	Burner	Yari	1995-2002	Pajaro Coast
Roy	Burner	Sam	2002-2004	Pajaro Coast
Mike	Callen	Pardo	1986-1991	Folsom
Mike	Callen	Watz	1991-1992	Folsom
Rob	Chambers	Gerry	1998-1999	Hearst
Rob	Chambers	Dino	1999-2007	Hearst
Rob	Chambers	Argos	2007-present	Hearst
Steve	Chaney	Dillinger/Baron/Kelly	1975-1976	Huntington Beach
Steve	Chaney	Crook	1978-1980	Big Sur
Andrea	Chapman	Asta	1987-1989	Hearst
Andrea	Chapman	Asta	1989-1992	4 Rivers
Andrea	Chapman	Nick	1992-1994	4 Rivers
Andrea	Chapman	Aero	1994-1998	Folsom
Al	Chavez	Eick	1995-1998	4 Rivers
Al	Chavez	Eick	1998-1999	San Diego
Al	Chavez	Zamb	1999-2001	San Diego
Al	Chavez	Tarzan	2001-2002	San Diego
Al	Chavez	Tarzan	2002-2005	Pajaro Coast
Al	Chavez	Indrina	2005-present	Pajaro Coast
Dan	Cohen	Danko	1978-1980	Folsom
Dan	Cohen	Dano	1978-1980	Folsom
Sherman	Cunningham	Cyd*	1973-1978	Hearst
Sean	Donahue	Cyd	1979	Hearst
Dick	Edwards	Sam	1969-1972	Big Sur



K-9 Handlers List (Continued)

Steve	Finch	Engle, Bear, Crook*	1981-1983	Hearst
Larry	Froley	Kelly, Dillinger, Baron	1975-1978	Huntington Beach
Terrell	Fry	Bear, Engle, Crook*	1982-1983	Hearst
Mike	Gleckler	Thor	2009-present	Capital
Dave	Graham	Xito	1994-2000	Hearst
James	Grennen	Sam	2003-2006	Hearst
James	Grennen	Drako	2006-present	Hearst
Kent	Gresham	Turbo	2002-2005	Millerton lake
Kent	Gresham	John	2005-present	Millerton lake
Mimi	Guiney	Bear, Josh, Engel*	1978-1980	Hearst
Nan	Haynes	Bear, Josh, Engel*	1979-1982	Hearst
Terri	Jensen	Bear	2001-2005	Caswell/Four Rivers
Daniel	Kenney	Kilo	2007-present	Santa Cruz
Brett	King	Cir	2004-present	Hearst
Suzanne	Knapp	Bear, Engle, Crook*	1982-1986	Hearst
Rich	Lawton	Ajax	1979-1984	Pismo Dunes
Laura	Larton (Itogawa)	Bear, Engle, Crook*	1978-1980	Hearst
Ken	Lee	Bear, Crook, Engle*	1984-1985	Hearst
Todd	Lewis	Ilan	2003-2006	San Diego
Jose	Lopez Jr.	Erik	1986-1991	Hearst
Noah	Martin	Gorbi	2002-2005	Hearst
Vern	McHenry	Bear, Josh, Engel*	1977-1980	Hearst
Robert	McKnight	Urik	2003-2005	San Diego
Rick	Morales	Bear, Engle, Crook*	1980-1983	Hearst
Dave	Norby	Cyd	1974-1978	Hearst
Terri	Osborne	Catja	1984-1987	Hearst
Lance	Parr	Dillinger/Baron/Kelly	1975-1978	Huntington Beach
Bill	Payne	Bear, Josh, Engel*	1982-1983	Hearst
John	Perez	various*	1983-1985	Hearst
John	Pfaehler	Nuck	2001-	Los Lagos
Chalone	Rhea	Derryk	2003-	Los Lagos
Raymond	Phelps	Cyd*	1973-1977	Hearst
Darrell	Readyhoff	Xirr	2003-2009	Angeles
John	Rivera	Bear, Josh, Engel*	1978-1982	Hearst
Rich	Robbins	Dillinger/Baron/Kelly	1975-1978	Huntington Beach
Mario	Rodriguez	Dux	1979-1981	Marina Beach
Mario	Rodriguez	Dux	1981-1982	Pajaro Coast
Mario	Rodriguez	Dux	1982-1984	Folsom
Mario	Rodriguez	Dux	1984-1987	Carnegie/Hollister Hills
Phil	Rovai	Katja	1984-1986	Hearst
Rick	Royer	Bear, Josh, Engel*	1978-1981	Hearst
Rick	Royer	Dolf	1981-1986	Pajaro
Phil	Rumni	Catja	1984-1986	Hearst
John	Russo	Marek	1985-1986	Hearst
John	Russo	Marek	1986-1988	Pismo Dunes



K-9 Handlers List (Continued)

John	Russo	Marek	1988-1991	Gold Mines
John	Russo	Marek	1991-1993	Hearst
John	Russo	Watz	1993-1998	Hearst
John	Russo	Cimbo	1998-2004	Hearst
Raphael	Samuel	Luigi	1994-2000	Los Lagos
Walt	Saylors	Dillinger, Baron	1975-1978	Huntington Beach
Jack	Shiple	Cyd*	1977-1978	Hearst
Jeanne	Sisson	Dino	1999-2007	Folsom
Jeanne	Sisson	Zorro	2007-2008	Folsom
Mike	Smittle	Bessy	1991-1999	Gold Mines
Mike	Smittle	Kahn	1999-2006	Gold Mines
Mike	Smittle	Ali	2006-present	Sierra Gold
Randy	Trefry	Aero	1999-2005	Folsom
Bob	Turner	Bear	1983-1985	Hearst
Robert	Ulanoski	Josh	1980-	Pajaro Coast
Andrew	Urlie	Bear, Crook, Engle*	1981-1985	Hearst
Drake	Van Camp	Danko	1980-1982	Folsom
Al	Vosher	Bear, Josh, Engel*	1978-1980	Hearst
Bill	Walling	Chief	1976-1978	Folsom
Ed	Williamson	Ralph	1972-1976	Folsom
Bill	Wisehart	Bear, Engle, Crook*	1983-	Hearst
Cheryl	Wilson	Canto	1987-1988	Hearst
Aaron	Wright	Drak	2006	San Luis Reservoir
Aaron	Wright	Drak	2006-present	Oroville

* Hearst multi-handler canines: Cyd (1973-1978), Bear, Engle, Josh (starting in 1978) - Utz, Rau, Crook



K-9 Handlers 2001. L-R: Coordinators Jim Burke and Bill Berry, and K-9 Handlers Noah Martin, Jean Sisson, Andy Ahlberg, Terri Jensen, Roy Burner, John Russo, Dave Graham, Rob Chambers, Al Chavez, Randy Trefry and Mike Smittle.

Individual K-9 Handlers Photos



Andrew Ahlberg



Bill Berry



Dave Berry



Don Bowman



Bob Breshears



Jim Burke



Roy Burner



Mike Callen



Rhea Chalone



Rob Chambers



Steve Chaney



Andrea Chapman

Individual K-9 Handlers Photos



Al Chavez



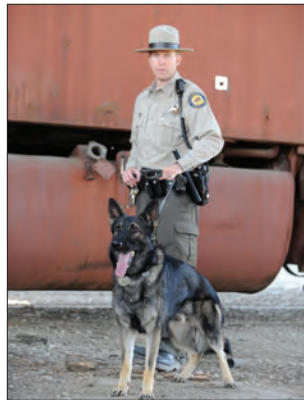
Dick Edwards



Steve Finch



Larry Froley



Mike Gleckler



Dave Graham



James Grennen



Kent Gresham



Mimi Guiney



Nan Haynes



Terri Jensen



Daniel Kenney

Individual K-9 Handlers Photos



Brett King



Suzanne Knapp



Rich Lawton



Laura Larton - Itogawa



Todd Lewis



Noah Martin



Vern McHenry



Terri Osborne



Lance Parr



Bill Payne



Darrell Readyhoff

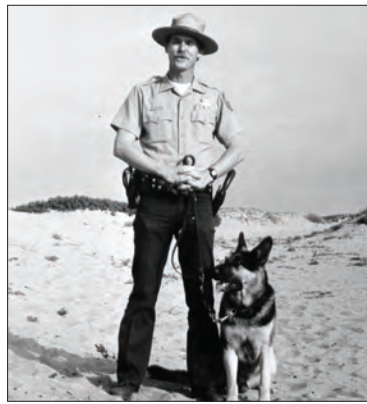


John Rivera

Individual K-9 Handlers Photos



Mario Rodriguez



Rick Royer



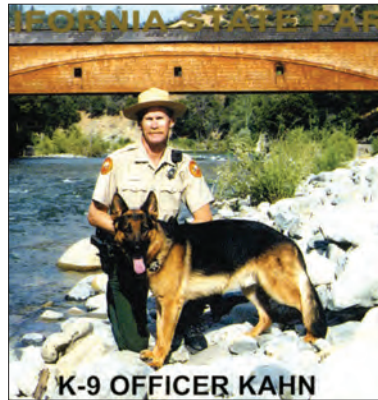
John Russo



Raphael Samuel



Jeanne Sisson



Mike Smittle



Randy Trefry



Bob Turner



Andrew Urlie



Ed Williamson



Cheryl Wilson



Aaron Wright

K-9 Photo Gallery



K-9 Handlers at Hearst Castle 1982. L-R: Rich Lawton, Rick Royer, Bill Berry, Mario Rodriguez, Steve Finch, John Rivera and Rick Morales.



Ed Williamson with Ralph at Folsom Lake in 1972.



Jim Burke and Sam about 1977 at Big Sur.



Mario and Dux at Folsom Lake about 1983.



Ajax's first day at Pismo Beach 1979



Bill Berry with Utz in 1982.

K-9 Photo Gallery



This was the state park ranger crew in the late 1970's at Huntington State Beach, which included five K-9 handlers. L-R are Lance Parr (with canine Baron), Dave Dosch, Bill Miller, Mark Katz, Walt Saylor, unknown, Dave Ruger, Craig Burke (with the superman T-shirt), Doug Kauffman, Rich Bobbins, Bob Robbins, John Kalko, Larry Froy, Lew Myer, unknown, Paul Mills and Joanne Karlton. Kneeling in front with canine Dillenger is Steve Chaney. There was another shepherd canine Kelly, who is not pictured here.



Roy Burner and Kay about 1989.



Ken Lee at Hearst Castle.



Robert McKnight and Urik.



The current K-9 hand-book.



Dave Graham Achievement Award



Rob Chambers and Argos with the current 2009 Top Dog Team Award.



Darrel Readyhoff and Zirr with the Top Dog Team Award for 2008.

K-9 Photo Gallery



K-9 group with Hearst Castle staff about 1991. L-R: Debbie Weldon, Maintenance Supervisor Kramer, Steve O'Brien, unknown, Chief Deputy Director Jack Harrison, Don Bowman, Steve Chaney, Mike Callen, Chief Ranger John Horn, Donna Pozzi, Rick Royer, Jose Lopez, Garth Tanner, John Russo and Bob Bambauer.



Hearst Castle Ranger John Russo gets a kiss from his dog Cim before a training exercise at Hearst State Beach.

Canines aid in park security

DOGS ARE A LITTLE-SEEN BUT CRUCIAL PART OF THE OPERATION

HEARST CASTLE
By DAVID SNEED
THE TRIBUNE

"State park police! Come out or I'll send in the dog!" shouted Ranger Dave Graham. Hearing no response, Graham unleashed his patrol dog Xito and the 8-year-old German shepherd lunged into the ornate rooms of the Casa del Mar guesthouse of Hearst Castle. Oblivious to the opulence sur-

rounding him, the breathtaking view of San Simeon Point from the veranda and the strains of Big Band music coming from a boxy radio, Xito was intent on only one thing: Find the bad guy. With minimal prompting from Graham, the dog methodically worked his way through the first floor and scrambled up a narrow marble stairway. With a fit of barking, Xito announced he had found the bad guy hiding in a huge fireplace in the Hearst

bedroom. The "bad guy" was really a dog trainer, and the after-hours search of the building was only a drill. Graham and Xito, as well as seven other canine ranger teams from as far away as Riverside County, participated in a day-long training session Thursday at Hearst Castle. Canine units are a little-seen but crucial part of the operation of Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument. They provide a variety of law-enforcement services, but the most important is being available to immediately handle bomb threats, lost children or other problems that

Please see CANINES, B2



Dave Berry and Bax wearing the badge below.



Some of the various K-9 badges that have been used over the years.

K-9 Photo Gallery



James Grennen with President George Bush.



Andrew Ahlberg on duty at a demonstration.



Handler Jeanne Sisson puts on a K-9 demonstration for a school group. Ranger Brian Robertson, a certified K-9 agitator, takes a bite from Dino.

Dave Graham and Xito with kids.



Andrew Ahlberg's canine partner comes on a run.



Mike Gleckler and Thor at the Railroad Museum yard.

K-9 Photo Gallery - Cards



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
Hearst San Simeon SHM
DINGO
Registered Name: Dingo Z Polvaner
Handler Name: Ranger Jim Chambers
Breed: German Shepherd Dog
Weight: 90 Lbs.
Sex: Male
D.O.B.: 6-11-98
K-9 Certified: 5-25-00

Dingo was born in Praguy, Czechoslovakia. He came to California in 1999 to work for the State Park Service. Dingo is trained in Searching, Tracking, Protection and Obedience. He enjoys patrolling Hearst Castle™ and other State Park Areas to help keep them safe for you and your family. When Dingo is not working he lives with Ranger Chambers and his family.


Photo by: Vickie Garagliano, State Parks
This card is a gift to you from: Hearst Castle, California 516



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
K-9 UNIT
AERO 1998
Handler Name: Andrea Chapman
Breed: German Shepherd
Weight: 95 Lbs.
Sex: Male
D.O.B.: 08-11-94
K-9 Certified: 11-28-96
Patrol & Tracking 11-28-96

AERO SAYS:
"PLAY SAFE AND KEEP PARKS CLEAN."
In November, 1996 AERO became a State Park K-9 partner with Ranger Andrea Chapman. Together they patrol the Folsom Lake State Recreation area. AERO receives his commands in German and is trained in criminal apprehension, searching and tracking. AERO is used to find lost or missing persons, as well as, stop criminals who fight or flee arrest. When AERO is not riding in his patrol vehicle, he can be found walking park trails and beaches with Ranger Chapman.

This card is sponsored by: Granite Bay Lions Club 420



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
K-9 UNIT
XITO
Registered Name: Xito von Waldorf-Ernst
Handler Name: Ranger Dave Graham
Breed: German Shepherd
Weight: 80 Lbs.
Sex: Male
D.O.B.: 5-29-92
State Certified K-9: August 1994 Patrol Dog (Explosives Detection)

Xito received his early training in Germany. Since he started working with Ranger Dave he has learned to track for lost people, search for bad guys, and protect Ranger Dave. But, his favorite job is Explosives Detection.

XITO SAYS: "Always do your best, and give it all above the rest."
Xito and Ranger Dave are available for public demonstrations and to assist other agencies.
San Simeon State Park (805) 927-2068
Photo by: Vicki Garagliano
This card is a gift to you from: Hearst Castle, California 459



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
Hearst San Simeon SHM
SAM
Registered Name: Sam Z Dubalovic
Handler Name: Ranger James Greenan
Breed: German Shepherd
Weight: 85 Lbs.
Sex: Male
D.O.B.: 7-22-99
K-9 Certified: 2-28-03
Badge #1043

Sam was born in Prague, Czech Republic. He became Ranger Greenan's partner in February of 2003. Sam is trained in Searching, Tracking, Protection, and Obedience. Sam enjoys patrolling San Luis Obispo District's coastline and other State Parks.

When Sam isn't working, he enjoys spending time with Ranger Greenan and his family.

Photo by: Vickie Garagliano, Hearst Castle
This card is a gift to you from: Hearst Castle, California 570



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
BEAR
Handler Name: Ranger Tami Jensen
Registered Name: Bury Von Alan
Fosterhandler
Sex: Male
Weight: 90 Lbs.
Breed: German Shepherd
K-9 Certified: 2-22-01

Bear was born in Germany on March 31, 1998. He received Police K-9 training in the San Francisco Bay Area. Bear also has a Schutzhund Title in Obedience, Protection, and Searching for Bad Guys. He became Ranger Jensen's partner in February of 2001. Bear enjoys patrolling the park and going on nature hikes.

Off-duty, Bear lives with Ranger Jensen at Cavalier Memorial State Park. Bear loves to play tag-the-long, run swim in the river, and snooze in the sun on the lawn in the forest.

Bear says: "Parks are forever with your life."

This card is sponsored by: FOUR SEASONS NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION 3100 Geneva Road, Quakertown, CA 95321 208477-4670 3



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
K-9 UNIT
RANGER KING & CIR
Registered Name: Cir J Ulova Jovita
Handler Name: Ranger Greg King
Breed: German Shepherd
Weight: 85 Lbs.
Sex: Male
D.O.B.: 3-30-02
K-9 Certified: 7-30-04
Badge #1147

Cir was born in the Czech Republic. He arrived in California and became Ranger King's partner in June, 2004. Cir is trained in Protection, Obedience, Searching, Tracking and Explosives Detection. Cir enjoys patrolling and protecting Hearst Castle and other State Parks and campsgrounds to keep them safe for you and your family.

When off-duty Cir likes to roll in the grass, run, and take walks with Ranger King and his family.

This card is sponsored by: Hearst Castle and Friends of Wolf
Vickie Garagliano, State Parks 626



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
K-9 UNIT
GORBI
Registered Name: Shorhat Gorbis
Handler Name: Ranger Noah Martin
Breed: German Shepherd Dog
Weight: 80 Lbs.
Sex: Male
D.O.B.: 11-29-99
K-9 Certified: 8-29-01

Gorbis was born in Erd, Hungary. He became Ranger Martin's partner in May of 2001. Gorbis is trained in searching, tracking, protection, obedience and apprehension. He enjoys patrolling and protecting the San Simeon District's coastline, campgrounds and Hearst Castle. When off-duty Gorbis loves to play, run and go on hikes with Ranger Martin.

Contact Gorbis and Ranger Martin: (805) 927-2068, Hearst Castle (805) 927-2068
Photo by: Vickie Garagliano, Hearst Castle
This card is a gift to you from: Hearst Castle, California 536



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
OFFICER RHEA & K-9 "DERRICK"
Derrick was born in the Czech Republic March 6, 2001. He came to live with his partner, Officer Rhea, in May 2003. Derrick loves coming to California's parks. Whether it's patrolling, creating his downie, swimming in the ocean or climbing the many mountains that beautiful California has to offer.

When Derrick is not at work, he lives with Officer Rhea and his family. He enjoys swimming, chewing toys and playing with kids of all ages.

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
K-9 UNIT
WATZ
Registered Name: Watz von Schotzbach
Handler Name: Ranger John Russo
Breed: German Shepherd
Weight: 97 Lbs.
Sex: Male
D.O.B.: 4-8-90
State Certified K-9: April 1993 Patrol/Explosives Detection

Watz is trained in protection, searching, tracking, obedience and explosives detection. Watz completed his early training in Germany. In the USA, Watz trains in explosives detection and can detect different explosives, chemicals, and their combinations. Watz has a strong work drive and with his handler, patrols the Castle grounds and the nearby coastal parks. Watz lives at home with Ranger Russo and his family.

This card is sponsored by: Friends of Hearst Castle and Friends of Wolf
Vickie Garagliano, State Parks 330



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
K-9 UNIT
CIM
Registered Name: Cimbo von Takeman
Handler Name: Ranger John Russo
Breed: German Shepherd Dog
Weight: 87 Lbs.
Sex: Male
D.O.B.: 11-29-95
K-9 Certified: Sept. 1998 Patrol/Explosives Detection

Cim was born in California and received his training in the San Francisco Bay Area. Cim is trained in Protection, Searching, Tracking and Explosives Detection. He can detect different explosives, chemicals, and their combinations. Cim enjoys working with his handler as he patrols the Castle grounds and nearby coastal parks.

Off-duty, Cim loves to play and roll around in tall grass. He lives with Ranger Russo and his family.

Vickie Garagliano, State Parks
This card is a gift to you from: Hearst Castle, California 404



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
K-9 UNIT
LUIGI
Luko Peris S.R.A.
Registered Name: Luigi Von Der Burg Bismarck
Handler Name: Raphael L. Shamael
Breed: German Shepherd
Weight: 100 Lbs.
Sex: Male
D.O.B.: 10-27-91
K-9 Certified: 4-29-04 Badge #: R 594-K

Luigi was born, raised, and trained in Germany and he only understands German commands. Luigi is trained in Obedience, Tracking, Searching and Handler Protection. Luigi is a Schutzhund Level III nearly the highest level of training. Luigi loves to go on Patrol. He loves to search for anything. Luigi loves the water and he learned to swim at Lake Perris. When he is not working he is gentle and fun. His diet is a non-meat, non-fat diet that is imported from Germany. Luigi is a great jumper and can jump a six foot fence.

This card is sponsored by: Friends of Alhambra & Friends of Raphael and Luigi 208



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
K-9 UNIT
DINO
Registered Name: Dino von Armanenberg
Handler Name: Joanne Slason
Breed: German Shepherd
Weight: 85 Lbs.
Sex: Male
D.O.B.: 9-27-99
K-9 Certified: 12-9-99

Dino was born in Germany where he received his initial training to prepare him for his career as a patrol dog. He is trained in obedience, protection, apprehension of criminals, searching and tracking. Dino likes meeting park visitors while on patrol at Folsom Lake. Ranger Slason and Dino work closely with Folsom Lake Equestrian Trail Patrol to help keep Folsom Lake safe place to visit.

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916-988-0205
PHOTO BY: ROBI LEE 527



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
K-9 UNIT
BESSY 1993
Registered Name: Bessy Von Boothhaus
Handler Name: Mike Smittle
Breed: German Shepherd
Weight: 70 Lbs.
Sex: Female
D.O.B.: 2-3-88
K-9 Certified: 11-27-91

Bessy was born, raised and trained in Germany. Bessy is trained in obedience, protection, searching and tracking. Bessy is also a Schutzhund III Trained Dog which is the highest classification of Schutzhund training. Bessy loves to go on patrol - both foot patrol and vehicle patrol.

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CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
K-9 OFFICER BESSY
Registered Name: Bessy Von Boothhaus
Handler Name: Mike Smittle
Breed: German Shepherd
Weight: 70 Lbs.
Sex: Female
D.O.B.: 2-3-88
K-9 Certified K-9: 11-27-91

Bessy likes to meet the Park visitors along the South Yuba River. She helps keep the Park safe for you and your family to enjoy. Bessy loves to go on Foot Patrol along the South Yuba River. She was born in Germany, where she received her training in obedience, searching, tracking and protection. She lives with Ranger Mike and his family at their home.

This card is sponsored by: THE ORIENT DOG & BRIGHTON GREENS VETERINARY HOSPITAL
Photo by: PICTURE IT! NORTON CITY, CA 316



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
K-9 UNIT
AERO
Registered Name: AERO
K-9 Breed: German Shepherd
Weight: 91 Lbs.
Sex: Male
D.O.B.: 9-11-94
K-9 Certified: Search & Tracking 11-28-96

AERO and Bessy became the first State Parks (Alphard & I) Alert on 10-99. They patrol Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. AERO receives his commands in German and is trained in criminal apprehension, searching and tracking. AERO is used to find lost or missing persons, as well as, to find and track down criminals, search for bad guys, and protect Ranger Mike and his family. AERO and Bessy are both concerned about water and fishing safety. They know that swimming is the primary cause of death for California children under the age of 15.

AERO SAYS:
"Please have fun, and please wear a UCC approved life jacket!"
This card is sponsored by: FOLSOM LAKE JUNIOR LIFEGUARDS
Photo by: Ron Worman, President
FOLSOM LAKE JUNIOR LIFEGUARDS
www.lifeguard-coug.com

K-9 Program Awards

By Randy Trefry



**“Mike Callen”
Top Dog Team Award**

The **Top Dog Team Award** goes to the K-9 Team that demonstrates the best discipline and teamwork during the annual State Park Certification which takes place each year during the early spring. The K-9 certifiers are usually comprised of a supervisor who has been a handler and the coordinator of the K-9 Program, like Bill Berry, Kirk Sturm and currently Todd Thames. The certifiers, with written input from each of the handlers, select the Top Dog Team Award. After Mike Callen passed away in 1992, the Top Dog Award was re-named in his honor.

In 2004, it was decided that we should honor another K-9 team that probably was never going to be the “Top Dog” but had obviously worked extremely hard over the last year and shown vast improvements. This award was named the **Dave Graham Achievement Award**, after handler Dave Graham who had recently passed away.

This award tries to recognize that some dogs like Xito were very easy to work with and did almost everything to perfection year after year. Others dogs were more difficult to work, even though the handler spent hundreds of hours working with them. They were great dogs, but they just weren’t perfect for certification. The Dave Graham award goes to the team that has worked hard and shown major improvements from the year before. Observation of the team throughout the year can be considered for this award, not just the performance during the Annual K-9 Certification. This award is voted on by the K-9 Teams.

Top Dog Team Award

<u>Date</u>	<u>Handler</u>	<u>Dog</u>	<u>District</u>
1988	Roy B. Burner	Kay	Pajaro Coast
1989	Mike Callen	Pardo	American River
1990	John P. Russo	Marek	Gold Mines
1991	Jose R. Lopez Jr.	Erik	San Simeon
1992	Mike Smittle	Bessy	Gold Mines
1993	Andrea Chapman	Nick	Four Rivers
1994	Mike Smittle	Bessy	Gold Mines
1995	Andrea Chapman	Nick	American River
1996	Al Chavez	Eick	Four Rivers
1997	David F. Graham	Xito	San Simeon
1998	Raphael L. Samuel	Luigi	Los Lagos
1999	David F. Graham	Xito	San Simeon
2000	David F. Graham	Xito	San Simeon
2001	Jeanne Sisson	Dino	Gold Fields
2002	Roy B. Burner	Sam	Santa Cruz
2003	Rob Chambers	Dino	San Simeon
	David Graham	Xito	San Simeon
2004	Jeanne Sisson	Dino	Gold Fields
2005	Kent Gresham	Turbo	Central Valley
2006	Andrew Ahlberg	Urban	Inland Empire
2007	James Grennan	Drako	San Luis Obispo
2008	Darrell Readyhoff	Xirr	Angeles District
2009	Rob Chambers	Argos	SLO Coast



Bill Berry makes the 2003 presentation of the Top Dog award to Rob Chambers and David Graham

Dave Graham Achievement Award

2004	Todd Lewis	Ilan	San Diego
2005	James Grennan	Sam	San Simeon
2006	Kent Gresham	Johnny	Central Valley
2007	Brett King	Cir	SLO Coast
2008	Daniel Kenny	Kilo	Santa Cruz
2009	Mike Smittle	Ali	Sierra

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www.cspra.com

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Ranger Mike Gleckler and his K-9 partner Thor



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by Mike Lynch.