

Interagency Cooperation to the Rescue

by Sgt. Jim Byers
El Dorado County Sheriff's Office

Labor Day weekend was a busy one in the Tahoe Basin and on all of the waterways throughout the county, with more tourists than you can shake a stick at, all trying to get that last summer weekend in. Unfortunately, the weekend ended on a tragic note, when late on the Sunday afternoon, a subject using a rope swing in the Rubicon Point area on Lake Tahoe, hit the water wrong after falling 50 to 70 feet and never came up.

State Parks and El Dorado County Sheriff's Marine Unit, South Lake Tahoe PD Marine Unit, and Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe responded, but were unable to locate the subject during a hasty search as darkness fell.

State Parks was the investigat-

ing agency, and requested the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Dive Team respond at first light the following morning, in an attempt to locate the victim. Easier said than done, with the depth in this area going from 35 feet, to the abyss (1200 feet), in less than 100 yards from shoreline. Add Labor Day boating traffic into the mix, and you can imagine how difficult this was going to be.

Come first light, the dive operation had a State Parks Boat, Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe, El Dorado Sheriff's Marine Unit, and South Lake Tahoe PD Marine Unit assisting with scene security, making for a safe diving area of operation.

The victim was located on a ledge just before the abyss and recovered without incident.

A very big thank you goes to



El Dorado Sheriff's Marine Unit hard at work over Labor Day Weekend

Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe, State Parks, South Lake Tahoe PD Marine Unit, and of course, the El Dorado County Sheriff's Marine Unit for their assistance in

making this difficult dive operation that much safer — and for showing how interagency cooperation can really make a tough job much easier!

Collision results from "Poker Run" event in Contra Costa

by Sgt. Will Duke
Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office

On August 8, 2006 at around 1045 hours, seven off-shore Catamaran vessels participating in a "Poker Run" collided on New York Slough, east of Pittsburgh Marina in Contra Costa County.

A total of 132 vessels were participating in the non-sanctioned event originating from the Pittsburgh Marina. The first two vessels involved in the collision were travelling at approximately 100 miles per hour. One person was ejected into the water. Two persons escaped into the water from underneath their capsized vessel. Several persons jumped into the water to avoid being hit from approaching vessels.

USCG and Contra Costa Sheriff Marine Patrol vessels responded. All persons in the water were accounted for - two persons were transported to a local hospital, one via helicopter and one by ambulance for injuries sustained during the accidents. One hospitalized accident victim suffered a broken back.

One of the vessels involved fled the scene. The operator of the vessel was arrested the following day for H&N656.2. The operators remaining at the scene were not under the



Contra Costa Sheriff Marine Patrol vessel towing a skater vessel involved in the accident. USCG personnel attempted to dewater the vessel with a pump. The vessel sank and was later salvaged and impounded at the Maine Patrol facility at Oakley.

influence of alcohol. Local media responded and Sgt. Will Duke, made a brief statement.

One of the vessels sank and that vessel

was later impounded at the Contra Costa County Sheriff Marine Patrol facility. The accident is still under investigation.