



THE SUMMIT COUNTY
SHIELD

A Community bulletin from the Summit County Sheriff's Office

JULY 2020



**FROM SHIP
TO SHORE**

SINCE YOU ASKED . . . THE SHERIFF ANSWERED

Nathan in Coventry submitted this comment and question: *There was a time when jails fed prisoners nothing but bread and water, locked them up in solitary confinement, and gave them no television, exercise, or other privileges. Wouldn't this form of punishment teach people a lesson and discourage them from returning to the Summit County Jail?*



Sheriff Barry answered: "It is not the duty of the Summit County Sheriff's Office to inflict punishment or treat people inhumanely. People who are incarcerated are already punished by loss of freedom, loss of livelihood and income, loss of contact with family, and sometimes loss of reputation. If inmates are isolated, ignored, and underfed, they may become sick. Then it is up to the jail to care for them, which is costly. Exercise programs, proper nutrition, proper housing, and humane treatment keeps the Summit County Jail in full compliance with State mandates. In short, the sort of deprivations you suggest are the least effective means to bring about rehabilitation and reduce recidivism in our jails."



Gabrielle in Uniontown had this question for the Sheriff: *How long does a person have to be missing before I can file a missing person report with the Sheriff's Office?*

Sheriff Barry explained: "Movies and TV shows have convinced people there is a 24 hour waiting period to report a missing person, but that is simply fiction. As soon as you know that someone of any age is missing, you should notify your local law enforcement. Children, the elderly, or individuals who are mentally or physically impaired face greater danger the longer they go missing. We need you to provide as much information about the person as possible, including photographs, physical description, medical information, list of friends and family, habits, and anything else that will help us find them."



Wayne in Mogadore wrote: *Sheriff Barry, what is the difference between a criminal case and a civil case?*

Sheriff Barry replied: "A criminal case is brought by the local, state, or federal government in response to a suspected violation of criminal law, and seeks restitution or a jail sentence. Civil cases are private disputes between individuals or corporations seeking to collect monies owed for physical damages."

Got a question? Get an answer! Write to the SHIELD today.

Questions should be brief, clear, and relevant. They should pertain to the agency itself and its services or functions. The most interesting questions will be answered by Sheriff Barry in future issues.

Submit your question by sending an email to shield@sheriff.summitoh.net.

**The Summit County Shield is a publication from the Office of Summit County Sheriff Steve Barry
The Shield is written and photographed by Paul Matulavich**

SUMMER VACATION SAFETY TIPS FROM THE SHERIFF

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, and in many ways because of it – countless Americans are craving to leave their homes and get back to traveling on vacation. And why not - we've all had enough stress in our lives these past few months due to the virus. But while you're packing that swimsuit and suntan lotion, remember to bring along these simple tips designed for carefree trips suggested by Sheriff Steve Barry and his staff.



BEFORE YOU GO . . .

Travel safety begins at home. Statistics show that burglaries increase during the months of July and August, which are also the peak summer vacation months. Avoid giving thieves the impression you've gone away by making sure someone picks up the mail and newspapers, or have delivery stopped. Arrange to have someone mow your lawn and otherwise keep the property from appearing neglected. Ask a trusted friend, neighbor, or relative to check on your home periodically. Have them walk around the property, especially behind the house, where a break-in would most likely occur. Check for trampled flowerbeds, footprints in the mulch, or other signs that someone has been snooping around. Make sure no prankster has turned on your outdoor faucets. A week of running water could be very expensive, and so could a flooded basement.



DON'T FORGET TO . . .

Thin down your wallet or purse. Only carry the credit card or cash that you'll need on your trip. Make two copies of your driver's license, credit cards, passport, airline tickets, and any other personal identification. Leave one set of copies at home and bring the other copies with you. Resist the temptation to boast about your travel plans on social media sites, telling the world your leaving town, and how long you'll be away. Of course inform close relatives of

your destination, itinerary, and expected date of return. If driving, tell them the route you'll be taking, and any side trips. Give them your license plate number and make and model of your vehicle.

ONCE YOU ARRIVE. . .

Always be aware of your surroundings, no matter where you're on vacation. Keep in mind that local criminals can always spot a tourist, so refrain from asking strangers for directions or looking at maps while out in the open. Only carry with you the money you'll need for that day, and keep all other valuables in the hotel safe. Ask the hotel management if there are areas or neighborhoods to be avoided.

Never travel alone, especially at night, in an unfamiliar city or place. Regardless of your financial status, it's never a good idea to publicize your personal wealth. Boasting about your bank roll, flaunting your finest jewelry, or 'acting rich' will only make you an attractive target, and possibly cost you far more than you can afford.

Sheriff Barry wants you to be safe this summer. So whenever you travel, always pack some common sense.



MEET THE SHERIFF'S MARINE PATROL

People call it the Summer Playground of Summit County, with nine main lakes, 2,000 acres of water, 32 miles of shoreline, 3,000 boat docks, several bars, restaurants, beaches, and 22,000 residents. Collectively they are the Portage Lakes, and working hard to keep them safe is the responsibility of the Sheriff's Marine Patrol Unit. Sergeant Mike Walsh supervises the team, whose 2020 roster is comprised of the following deputies: Chris Bickett, Bill Liska, Stacey Campbell, Steve Norman, Robert Davis, Dale Grugle, and new to the team - John Sim.



Together, these men have nearly 100 years of experience patrolling the Portage Lakes, and are as well known to the local residents as any neighbor. Equipped with three boats and a jet ski, their job is to enforce the laws of Summit County as well as the rules and regulations of Portage Lakes State Park, often in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. This includes responding to any emergency on the lakes such as reported drownings, assisting disabled watercraft, performing safety checks, encouraging boater education, as well as providing escort for special events like the Annual Boat Parade.



The Marine Patrol Unit comprises the Water Rescue Branch of the Summit County Special Operations Response Team (SORT) and can perform SCUBA Dives, Ice Dives, Swift Water and Surface Ice Rescues. A 12-foot inflatable raft with outboard motor can be deployed in case of floods.

While spending a day on the lakes can be very relaxing, for members of our Marine Patrol, it is anything but a pleasure cruise. Each man must know every inlet, island, cove, and channel so he can respond to any call at a moment's notice. With hundreds of boats, and everything from kayaks to canoes on the water, the job requires absolute focus at all times, and total awareness of your surroundings. This diligence and dedication has brought aid and comfort to countless boaters and their families over the years. Yes, the Sheriff's Marine Patrol may be our smallest Unit, but it has one of the biggest jobs in Summit County - keeping everyone safe on the lakes.



Basic Rules and Regulations for Boating on the Portage Lakes

Thousands of people flock to Portage Lakes State Park every summer, and that number is expected to swell this year because so many people are eager to get back to a post Covid-19 way of life and leisure. The Summit County Sheriff's Office encourages every visitor to go out and have a good time, but we want you to do it safely, sensibly, and responsibly. Whether you're new to the lakes or a seasoned skipper, we thought it would be a good idea to remind everyone of the "do's and don'ts" while boating in the Park.

These are general guidelines, and are meant to help you enjoy your visit. Don't hesitate to contact members of our Marine Patrol with any questions about the laws, rules, or boating in general. Our deputies are anxious and eager to help you.



With the exception of Activity Zones, all areas are NO WAKE (idle speed). Activity zones are located in Turkeyfoot Lake and the East Reservoir. Activity hours are the same for both areas, and are in place from Memorial Day thru Labor Day.



Daily Hours (except Sundays and Holidays) are as follows: Skiing from 9am to Noon and 5pm to 6:30pm. Speeding is permitted from Noon to 5pm and from 6:30pm to 8pm.



Sunday and Holiday Hours: Skiing from 9am to 10am and from 5pm to 6:30pm. Speeding from 2pm to 5pm and from 6:30pm to 8pm. Sailing from 10am to 2pm.



Boaters must travel in a counter clockwise direction only while speeding or skiing and must stay within the buoy line. No spinning, wake jumping, or cross-cutting movements while speeding or skiing.



Swimming is only permitted at the State Park Beach, in the Boat Swim area, or from residential properties. A boat swim area is provided in Rex Lake and Cottage Grove Lake but is limited to the area inside the buoys. Please obey any posted Covid-19 instructions.



A wearable life preserver must be provided for every person in the boat, and there should be a throwable life preserver onboard. All children under the age of ten, when riding in a vessel under 18 feet in length must wear a flotation device that is Coast Guard approved.

Consuming alcoholic beverages in the Portage Lakes State Park is strictly prohibited, and strongly enforced by the Sheriff's Office. Violators are a danger to themselves and others.

Buzzed boating is drunk boating and every member of our Marine Patrol is trained to spot it, so please don't do it. The life you save may be your own.

NEVER BUI

Alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; where the primary cause was known, it was listed as the leading factor in 21% of deaths. Safe boating means never boating under the influence (BUI).



BATS, BALLS, BOYS, AND BROTHERHOOD

When it comes to sports, nothing is more American or traditional as the game of baseball. Add to that a beautiful summer day, a ballfield, and some boys eager to pit their prowess against the Summit County Sheriff's Office, and you have the blueprint for building bridges with the youth in our community.

When coaches with the Kenmore Astros youth baseball team contacted our agency in June with hopes of having their kids play a friendly game with some of our deputies, Sergeant Mike Walsh was quick to arrange it. Before you could say 'batter up', several of our deputies (and members of their families) showed up ready to take the field. In the end, the Sheriff's whammers couldn't overcome the younger, faster, far-more athletic Astros, but still came out smiling despite their 5 – 4 loss. Our thanks to all the kids and their coaches Tommy Parker, Chris Bailey, and Mike Schroeter for a great game, and showing our 'boys' Mike Walsh, Aaron Piekarski, Roger Morgan, Dave Bailey, and Jess Danner a really fun time.





- A PEEK INTO OUR PAST -

Sheriff's **RADAR** then – and **Now**

The first traffic arrest for a speed violation was on May 20, 1899. Nine years before Henry Ford would unveil his Model T, battery operated taxi cabs raced through the streets of New York City. One driver in particular threw caution to the wind, risking the lives of his passengers and himself when he rocketed down Lexington Avenue at the blistering speed of - 12 miles per hour! Believe it or not, bicycles could travel faster than taxis, so police used those to chase down speeders and 'quickly' respond to crimes. Because tickets hadn't been invented yet, the reckless driver was simply thrown into jail. After all, the posted speed limit was 8mph. Perhaps the phrase 'like a bat out of hell' was coined that fateful day, as these early battery operated taxi cabs were called 'Electrobats' by the company that invented them.



As cars got faster, so did drivers. Eventually motorcycles and prowl cars took the place of bicycles, but aside from visual evidence, there was no way to accurately tell how fast a driver was going. Radar would be the answer, but prior to 1940, the word 'radar' did not exist. Following experiments with Doppler shift wave principle in 1941, the U.S. Navy created the acronym for radar from radio detection and ranging. Radar works by bouncing radio waves at the speed of light off of a reflective object at a specific frequency.

However, it wasn't until 1947 that the very first radar unit was manufactured for law enforcement. Two years later, there were Electro-Matic Radar Speed Meters in 12 states, including Ohio. But it would be another fifteen years before radar would come to Summit County. Shown in these archival photos is Sheriff Robert D. Campbell and others putting a brand new Electro-Matic unit through its paces in September of 1964.



Flash forward to 2020 and we show Summit County Sheriff Sergeant Mike Walsh demonstrating today's version of the radar gun. The 'gun' is merely a sophisticated hand-held equivalent of the dash-mounted radar unit.

Its accuracy and reliability is quite remarkable. So, if you insist on driving like a 'bat out of hell', please keep in mind that we no longer use bicycles to chase after you.



If you like history, you'll enjoy the March 2020 issue of the Shield which chronicles the 180-year history of the Summit County Sheriff's Office. (Just click on the clock above to read it.)



know the facts & stay safe this **Summer**

people older than **65,** infants, & young children are most **at risk for HEAT STROKE**

along with people who are ill, have chronic health conditions, are overweight or on certain medications.



Staying adequately hydrated should be a priority during all seasons, but in the summertime, you need to compensate for the extra fluids your body loses when you sweat during high heat and exercise. As a general rule, you should strive to get



8x8
ounces per day

...but if you're still thirsty, drink more.

Road trippin'

the summer months bring a definite increase in the number of **ATV, biking, horseback riding, motorcycle and car accidents.** We all know the rules of the road and how to take extra precautions, we just need to put those rules into practice.



- Wear helmets and appropriate gear
- Follow traffic rules
- Drive or ride defensively
- Don't drive or ride when you're not well rested
- Don't drive or ride while impaired.

Wear sunscreen

Choose a Broad Spectrum Water Resistant SPF of 30 or higher for any extended outdoor activity. Apply it 30 minutes before getting in water and reapply every 2 hours or after swimming or sweating. Seek shade, wear protective clothing, hats and sunglasses.



TRAIL MIX

Hiking-related injuries like broken or sprained ankles, Poison Ivy and snake bites are also more common.



never hike alone.

30,000

is the number of Lyme Disease cases reported each year from tick bites, which have steadily increased over the past 25 years.

Poison Ivy is easier to prevent than it is to treat. Recognizing and avoiding it is the most important step to reduce your risk.

Each Poison Ivy leaf has 3 leaflets.

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death among children **1-4 years old.**

Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death among children 5-9 years. More than 60% of fatal drownings of 0-4 year-olds occur in swimming pools.

NEVER SWIM ALONE.

