



P.O. BOX 616 / 100 BRYANT STREET • BRIDGEPORT, CA 93517 • (760) 932-7549 / FAX (760) 932-7435

Ralph Obenberger
Sheriff/Coroner

MONO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
- PRESS RELEASE -

Robert Weber
Undersheriff

To: All News Outlets

From: Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

Date: January 16, 2013

RE: Sheriff Ralph Obenberger lends a helping hand to stranded motorists

On the evening of Friday, January 11, 2013, at approximately 5:00 pm, Sheriff Ralph Obenberger was traveling home to June Lake after work when he noticed a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department vehicle stranded on the northbound lane of Hwy 158. Sheriff Obenberger turned around to see if he could lend any assistance to the stranded vehicle. When Sheriff Obenberger made contact with the vehicle, it was occupied with two female Search and Rescue volunteers from the Montrose Search and Rescue team in town finalizing details for a Mountain Rescue Association training to be held in March for over 300 Search and Rescue volunteers. The volunteers had already checked out of their hotel, hoping to make it back to Southern California that night, when their vehicle just quit on them. Their vehicle became inoperative due to an unknown problem. The volunteers were in contact with their agency watch commander and were trying to figure out how to handle the situation. The volunteers stated that their agency was contemplating sending a tow truck from the Los Angeles area to help them and the volunteers would just need to wait until the tow truck arrived.

The temperature at this time of the evening was in the mid-teens and snowing. Sheriff Obenberger told the volunteers that he would have a local tow company, Lee Vining Shell, tow the vehicle and try to at least determine what the problem was. Sheriff Obenberger didn't want to leave the volunteers in the cold, snowy conditions, so took the volunteers to his house for a safe, warm place to stay while their vehicle was being inspected. Sheriff Obenberger told the volunteers not to worry and that he would pay for the vehicle tow charges, if necessary, just to avoid any delays in getting the problem solved.

The volunteers stayed with Sheriff Obenberger and his family until the next morning, Saturday, January 12, 2013. The volunteers were taken to their vehicle at Lee Vining Shell where it was ultimately determined that the vehicle could not be repaired due to some major mechanical issues in the engine. Lee Vining Shell safely transported the vehicle and the volunteers back to Southern California. The volunteers were shocked with the hospitality they were shown by Sheriff Obenberger and Lee Vining Shell. "This is just what people in Mono County do ... we take care of people and get things done," said Sheriff Obenberger.

Written and prepared by Jennifer Hansen, Public Information Officer

The law requires that arrest information be made available to the public. This publication may contain suspect information about individuals booked by the Mono County Sheriff's Department recently. Names of juveniles (under 18-years-old) are not public. Suspect information and ongoing investigation details are also withheld. Since most cases have yet to be adjudicated, all charges should be considered allegations. For questions/concerns regarding any information contained in this publication, contact Undersheriff Robert Weber at (760) 932-7549.