



The Mountain Lines

RPEA



Chapter 078

15 October 2026 Volume 1, Issue 24



RPEA MISSION STATEMENT

We are retired California public employees working together to maintain and improve the quality of the lives of our members by protecting and improving our retirement and medical benefits.



"The world will never be a better place if no one is brave enough to do the right thing."

Sargeant Judy Hopps
Zootopia P.D.



For more about policing animals, go to page 6.

From the President/Legislative Chair's Desk by Bob Erickson



Greetings Chapter Members,

There are 183 out of 307 dues paying members who, while locally based, do not participate in our chapter meetings. I'd like to urge you to consider changing that. If you do, I think you'll discover our programs are interesting, the food is good and the human connections are fun.

We meet at 1:00 PM on the second Thursday of every month, except for August, at Casa Las Katerinas on Alta Sierra Drive, Grass Valley. Come on out and enjoy a fuller RPEA experience! I look forward to getting to know you better.

Robert Erickson, Chapter 78 president

NOTICES!!!

If you discard or recycle our paper newsletter in the trash, please shred or burn it as there are email addresses and telephone numbers listed inside it. Our directors are volunteers and we do not want unnecessary solicitations coming our way because of publication of this information.

If you have moved or changed your home address for delivery of this newsletter, please notify RPEA Headquarters. Likewise if you change your email address:

**RPEA Headquarters
300 T Street
Sacramento, CA 95811-6912
or call 916-441-7732**

Save this chapter snailmail costs and receive this newsletter in color. Email us at rpea.chapter.78@gmail.com.



CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

Winter Driving

Officer Sean Armacher, California Highway Patrol—Grass Valley Area. The following are notes from that presentation.

At the RPEA Chapter 078 February 2026 Meeting Officer Sean Armacher started his presentation with a review of Speed Laws In the California Vehicle Code. There are three codes to be aware of. Almost 1/3 of crashes are caused by speeding.

- 22349(a) VC- Exceeding Max 65 miles per hour prohibits driving on most highways at speeds exceeding 65 miles per hour, with lower limits for two-lane undivided highways.
- 22349(b) VC- Exceeding Max 55 miles per hour is the default speed limit on two-lane, undivided highways unless a higher or lower speed limit is posted.
- 22350 VC- The basic speed law which states that no person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent, considering factors like weather, visibility, and road conditions.

Before winter starts always be sure to check your tires, windshield wipers, brakes, and ABS/warning dashboard lights. Make sure your defrost system works, including the AC. This removes moisture that clouds up the windshield.





Hydroplaning



CHAIN CONTROL It means to keep the road open and you **SAFE!** Traction Devices are:



	History	Ups	Downs	Scale
Tire Chains	Most traditional	Work well, Durable	Heavy, expensive	Best
Cables	Long standing	Lighter and easier to store, less expensive.	Does not work as well as chains. Ladder Cables are sometimes not allowed, ie: SR-267.	Better
Snow Socks	Newest, allowed by CalTRANS	Very easy to put on, very light weight.	Can easily fall apart w/ speed or on asphalt.	Good

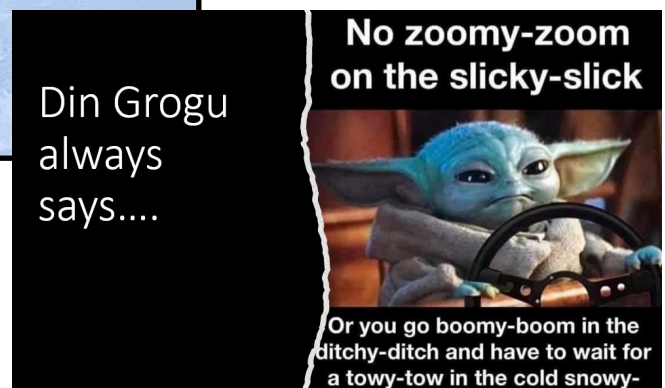


Chains or traction devices are required on all vehicles, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Levels of Chain Control:

R1	Chains are required on all vehicles except passenger vehicles and light-duty trucks under 6,000 pounds gross weight and equipped with snow tires on at least two drive wheels. Chains must be carried by vehicles using snow tires. All vehicles towing trailers must have chains on one drive axle. Trailers with brakes must have chains on at least one axle.
R2	Chains or traction devices are required on all vehicles except four-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles with snow-tread tires on all four wheels. NOTE: (Four-wheel/all-wheel drive vehicles must carry traction devices in chain control areas.)

In winter weather conditions you should increase your following distance between yourself and the car in front of you by 5-6 times your normal distance.



For More Information on Road Conditions:

- California 1-800-427-ROAD (7623)
- CalTRANS QuickMap
- CalTRANS roads.dot.ca.gov, enter your highway number
- CHP Dispatch <http://cad.chp.ca.gov/>
- Nevada 1-800-877- NV ROADS
- www.magnifeye.com gives you all the CalTrans info for I-80 on one webpage

THANK YOU Officer Armacher!



Mission: The Mission of Rüdiger Foundation is to provide local law enforcement with K9 resources that demonstrate and enhance an appreciated, supportive work environment, encourage constituency education and connectivity, and foster a safer, healthier community.

Vision: A thriving relationship between a community and its law enforcement; fostered, supported, and made safer by its K9 program.

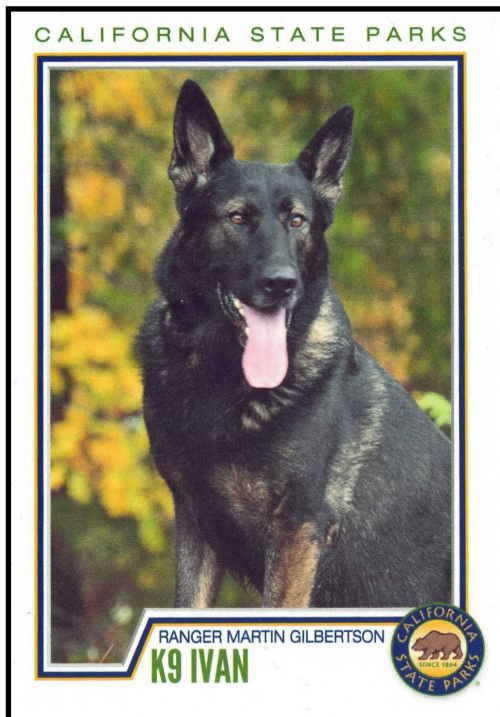
At the April 2026 meeting of the RPEA Chapter 078, Joey Jordan, Director and Ranger Martin Gilbertson, K9 Officer for CA State Parks, gave us a presentation on the history and current workings of this organization.

The Rüdiger Foundation began with a vision in 2015 and although his small budget was unable to provide for a K9 program, former Nevada City Police Chief Timothy Foley recognized the value of K9 resources. Foley gathered together a group of volunteers and formed the Western Nevada County K9 Association (WNCK9A). With support from the Sean M. Walsh K9 Memorial Foundation and a large donation from an anonymous donor, K9 Rüdiger was purchased for Nevada City. With the on-going support of the community, K9 Rüdiger became the 1st 100% community-funded K9 Officer in the nation.

K9 Rüdiger quickly became a local celebrity. As a law enforcement asset trained in detection, apprehension and protection, Rüe turned into a valuable public relations tool. The community loved him, supported him, and demonstrated a desire to provide additional K9 resources to other local agencies. In 2017, WNCK9A created a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation and memorialized our 1st K9 officer by naming it Rüdiger Foundation.

Today, Rüdiger Foundation enjoys strong support from individuals and businesses. Rüdiger Foundation's goal is to achieve 24/7/365 K9 coverage for Nevada County, providing officer and community protection, while enhancing relations between law enforcement and those it serves. Our local K9 Officers have repeatedly demonstrated that a robust K9 program not only enhances community safety — these valuable highly trained K9 partners save lives.

The real treat in the whole presentation, that went on for longer than any other that we have had at a meeting, was the live introduction of K9 Ivan. K9 Ivan was born in the Czech Republic and received his early training in Holland, before coming to California in September 2020. K9 Ivan and his partner, Ranger Martin Gilbertson, are assigned to the Sierra District and patrol South Yuba River, Empire Mine and Malakoff Diggins State Park. K9 Ivan is trained to protect Ranger Gilbertson, find and apprehend criminals, and search for lost persons. He is certified in tracking and narcotics detection. K9 Ivan lives with Ranger Gilbertson and his family, and when he is off duty, he enjoys swimming in the Yuba River,



playing “Tug of War” and playing with his big brother, retired K9 officer Miro. Like Miro before him, Ivan is a German Shepherd that came from the Czech Republic. His commands are in the Czech language.

Shepherd K9 officers generally come from European countries and understand foreign language commands. This is so that no one but the officer on duty can give the dog commands that others standing around cannot. Other Shepherd K9 officer dogs in service in Nevada County come from European countries such as Czech Republic, France, Slovakia, and the Netherlands. Most of the dogs are Shepherds: there are two German Shepherds (Ivan with State Parks and Riggs NCSO), and four Belgian Malinois Shepherds (Odin and Vito NCSO, Dash and Kano GVPD) on the team. The Nevada County K9 Team also has other breeds including Ruby the Bloodhound serving Nevada City PD and Nugget the Golden Retriever at Grass Valley PD . If it seems out

of character to have a Golden Retriever as a K9, Nugget is a therapy dog and the breed is known to be the best breed for avalanche rescues. Three German Shepherds: Ranger NCSO, Miro CA State Parks and Rüdiger himself, are living retirees and still cared for by the Foundation.

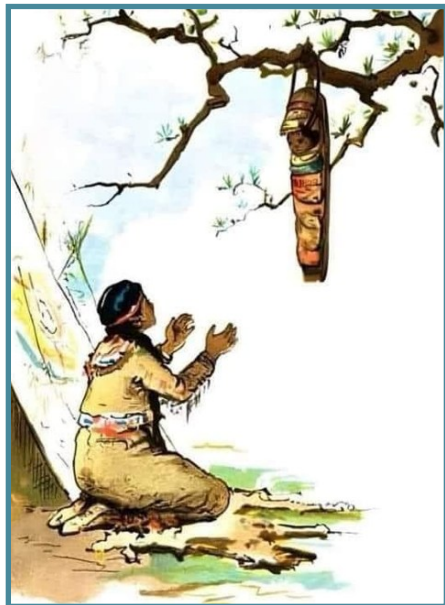
The Foundation holds an annual fundraiser called the Paw & Order Dinner & Auction—An evening to benefit our local law enforcement K9 program. It is a dinner, raffle, and live auction always held in the month of September. Tickets go on sale third week in June. It is always a sellout.

Rüdiger Foundation
P.O. Box 2174
Nevada City, CA 95959

Webpage: <https://rufk9.org>
(530) 210-1748



Indigenous Insights



The Origin of America's Favorite Nursery Rhyme: Davy Crockett's older sister, Effie Crockett was invited to help some mothers in the Muskogee Tribe. Once she arrived at camp, Effie laughed at what she saw. The Muskogee Tribe had a custom of cradling their pappooses among the swaying branches of birch trees. This protected their babies from ground insects, the sun, and wild animals.

After first finding it funny, she soon learned all the great reasons for this practice and marveled at the beauty of it.

Effie watched the swaying and soothing motion of the topmost branches of the trees. She loved how each baby enjoyed nature, how they listened to the songbirds, observed every ladybug, and smiled at the colors of a butterfly, every little

breeze was felt and enjoyed by these young ones; each babe seemed perfectly content.

One of the Tribal mothers began to sing a song to the children in her native tongue. As the Muskogee mother sang, Miss Effie observed a small tear running down the mother's cheek.

Lulu se pepe i le pito i luga o le laau,

A agi le matagi e luluina le moega pepe,

A gau le lala e pa'u ai le moega pepe,

MEffie translated the words and kept the tune. She shared it with everyone, and it soon became a wildly popular nursery rhyme among the Colonies.

The English translation:

Rock-a-bye baby on the treetop,

When the wind blows the cradle will rock,

When the bough breaks the cradle will fall,

And down will come baby, cradle and all.

Why did the Muskogee mother cry?

A "bough" is simply a tree branch, and its breaking was used by the Muskogee mothers as an analogy of their little baby growing up.

Their little baby would soon outgrow his cradle. With each gently rocking wind, time was passing. One day, little baby will no longer need the protection of his mother. One day, the "branch" would break because her little baby had become too heavy. The "cradle" would fall to the earth – the child, no longer a baby, would dust himself off and grow into a man.

The now famous lullaby was first printed in Mother Goose's Melody. The rest is history.



Password Best Practices

Length is key – Aim for at least 12–16 characters. Longer passwords are much harder to crack.

Mix character types – Include uppercase, lowercase, numbers, and symbols.

Avoid obvious info – Don't use names, birthdays, or common words like password123.

Unique for each account – Never reuse passwords across sites.

Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) – Whenever possible, turn on 2FA/MFA for accounts. Even if your password is compromised, 2FA adds an extra layer of security via a code or authentication app. [Not sure what 2FA or MFA even are? Go here](#)

Use a password manager – Programs like 1Password, Dashlane, LastPass, Firefox, or Apple's built-in password management tool can:

- Track all your passwords securely
- Automatically enter them when needed
- Generate very strong, unique passwords on your behalf

Rather use your own your secure passwords? Here are two different approaches to creating secure, memorable passwords:

- Take a sentence you can remember and use the first letters, numbers, and symbols as your password. Example: *I adopted 2 cats in 2021, and they are amazing!* → *la2ci2021&taA!*
- Or, a phrase you can remember and replace all vowels with numbers/symbols. *redracecar* → *R3dR@c3c@r*

Need password help? [Quietech can help, reach out!](#)

Chapter 078 Notes:

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE:

Our local chapter has a Sunshine Committee. The purpose of this team is to respond to news of illnesses or deaths among our members. Carol Jordan is the chair. If you know of anyone that should be sent a get well card or of any family that should be sent a sympathy card, please get in touch with Carol. Carol can be reached by emailing rpea.chapter.78@gmail.com or call 530-470-0575.

EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Receive this newsletter in living color. We mail fewer than we email and those with email get to see the better looking chronicle. If you would like to join this group send us your email at rpea.chapter.78@gmail.com. That way we can collect your email address and save money sending the semiannual newsletter to you. You will enjoy it a lot more that way.

Scholarship Account Contributions to account number, **210179**.

The Sierra College Foundation's mailing address is 5100 Sierra College Blvd., Rocklin, CA 95677.

Thank you so much for your interest in contributing to Chapter 78's Scholarship Fund.



Address: P.O. Box 2086, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Email: rpea.chapter.78@gmail.com

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Our File Cabinet is on Google Drive. Visit our Chapter 078 File Cabinet at this location:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1hrletvx0GsyJ76dVa9zqn3cVDvjpP_uF



Chapter 078 By-Laws



Chapter 078 History



Minutes—Board Meetings



Minutes—Member Meetings



Newsletters



Scholarship Fund

Local Chapter Luncheon and

Meeting

Thursday, October 8th at 1:00 p.m.

Casa Las Katarinas

**10100 Alta Sierra Dr, Grass Valley
(530) 274-1447**

Menu to be Announced

Retired Public Employees' Association
P. O. Box 2086
Grass Valley, CA 95945

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

