

## Deputy's Actions Save Water Skier's Life

On June 10, the Lake County Dispatch Center received a 911 call reporting a man had been run over by a boat and was bleeding badly. The location of the accident was reported to be south of Konocti Harbor Resort on Clear Lake. The operator of the involved boat and fiancé of the injured man who called was not familiar with Clear Lake, thus causing some difficulty in locating the injured man.

Paramedics from the local Fire Department were dispatched to the resort, along with two Marine Patrol Deputies. When first responders were unable to locate the injured party at the resort, Deputy Gavin Wells called the cell number of the reporting party and learned that the man was accidentally struck by the boat that had been towing him while he water skied. Based on his conversation, he was able to locate the involved vessel and injured man, who was still in the water. Wells single-handedly pulled the large man into his patrol boat - despite the protests of the victim's fiancé, who believed the bleeding would be less if he were left in the water. He quickly assessed the extent of the injuries and headed for shore, while coordinating the paramedics response and requesting an air ambulance.

The victim was air lifted to a trauma center and underwent emergency surgery to control the bleeding. He suffered a compound fracture and had spiral full thickness laceration to his left leg. He had lacerations to his right leg and right arm. After spending several days in the intensive care unit, his condition was stable, but he will require future surgeries to repair the injuries sustained when his body was struck by the vessel's propeller.

Deputy Wells took control of an obviously chaotic situation and acted without hesitation. The victim's injuries were so severe and life threatening, that without Deputy Wells quick and decisive intervention, it is clear he would have most certainly lost his life.

*Submitted by Sgt. Dennis Ostini, Lake Co. Sheriff's Dept. Marine Patrol Unit*

## New Skiff for Plumas County Crew



On April 24, The Plumas Co. Sheriff's Office Boat Patrol Division took delivery of the Aluminum 22' Boulton Skiff that was on display at the CBSOA conference. With a hard top built to specification, the boat is equipped with an 8.1 liter engine and the Volvo/Penta duo-prop outdrive. The new boat will be assigned to Boat Patrolman Otto Brackett and utilized at Bucks Lake near Quincy, California.

Patrolman Brackett has been with the Plumas County Sheriff's Office for over 18 years, he put over 4,000 hours on his last boat and, according to colleagues, it was like "pulling teeth" to get him to go for a new boat, which he is now very pleased with. The Plumas County Sheriff's Boat Patrol Division patrols the seven major lakes in Plumas County during the summer months. They conduct routine patrols, boater education, appear at public functions and conduct enforcement action, boating accident investigations and boat inspections. Patrolmen are part-time employees during the season and are a great asset to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Plumas County.

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