



Crime Scene



Fall 2010

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A workshop conducted at the NWAFFS meeting in Portland, OR examined the forensic significance of airsoft guns. Because of their realistic appearance, law enforcement is increasingly encountering airsoft guns in situations they are called to handle. Can you differentiate the real guns from the airsoft replicas?

See Page 9 for answers!

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Editor's Message

As I write this message I am thinking about the upcoming NWAFS meeting in Portland. I have identified all the workshops that I will take, have my registration submitted and my hotel is booked for the week. My family is well informed of my travel plans and lucky for me they are supportive in this and will also be joining me in Portland. Now, if I could just make a decision on my outfit for the "Superhero" themed banquet!

This is what I usually think about when I am getting ready to head out for a meeting (with the exception of thinking about an outfit for a banquet). But, we should know that there is always more to it...the Oregon lab personnel have been working tremendously hard. All of their visions, planning and preparation is coming together for the big show. They are now getting all of the last minute details taken care of so that I, and you, can show up, learn and enjoy. I hope that I get to see most of you there and for those that will not be able to attend I will be sharing as much as I can about the meeting in the next newsletter.

As for this issue of the newsletter, there is another article by Jeff Teitelbaum where he takes you through PubMed. There is also some great training announcements. Unfortunately, there was also some sad news to report...please learn more about Vincent Vitale and Chester Park.

Although this issue may seem to be small in content, the NWAFS membership roster will also be coming your way. The roster has all available emails hyperlinked that you can use to contact your fellow NWAFS members. I put this onto my desktop and I know that I'll be using it. Take a look at it and check your information for accuracy, try it out and send me an email to tell me what you think!

*Thank you,
Jeff Jagmin*

About the Newsletter...

The Newsletter is the official publication of the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists. It is published 4 times a year in the months of January, April, July, and October. The Newsletter welcomes submissions from its membership such as technical tips, case studies, literature compilations, workshop or training notifications, reference citations, commentary, historical accounts, and other topics of interest to the membership. While not currently required, please submit material for publication in Microsoft Word for Windows format as an e-mail attachment or on compact disk (CD). For more information regarding the Newsletter contact:

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Asked & Answered

Search tips from a forensic library

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PubMed is undisputedly one of the most valuable public databases available, especially to forensic scientists. In talking to scientists over the years, however, it's been clear to me that many of the most useful and unique features of PubMed go unused. No longer! This column will discuss several search features that I use virtually every day and which should be in every forensic scientist's searching toolbox.

First, a little background about PubMed. Behind the scenes of PubMed is something called **Medline**, which is the actual bibliographic database produced by the National Library of Medicine. There are currently over 20 million citations in the database culled from over 5,000 journals. Now, there are other databases that have gaudier numbers. **Web of Science**, for instance, has material from the 1900's on and draws from nearly 9,000 journals, but you can't really compare the numbers between Medline and Web of Science since the latter contains a substantial amount of material from the arts and the humanities.

PubMed is the free, public interface to the Medline database (Web of Science, by the way, is not free by a long shot!). PubMed is extremely up-to-date, with weekly, if not daily, updates, and provides citation access to new and "early" published articles. By comparison, Google is often months behind tracking new articles. PubMed also contains **PubMed Central**, an amazing repository of over 1.5 million free, full-text articles. The articles from PubMed Central are included in any search results, so for nearly any search you might make, you'll usually be able to download at least a few full-text articles to get you going (see image below).

- [Drinking, drugs and driving in Ireland: more evidence for action.](#)
 - 8. Fitzpatrick P, Daly L, Leavy CP, Cusack DA.
Inj Prev. 2006 Dec;12(6):404-8.
PMID: 17170191 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE] [Free PMC Article](#) [Free text](#)
[Related citations](#)
- 

Although there are a number of important forensic-related journals that are not indexed in PubMed (**Journal of Forensic Identification**, the **AFTE Journal**, to name a few), the number of core journals related to the forensic sciences is impressive, and it is very reassuring to have an authoritative indexing of this material. Here is a partial listing of these titles:

Alcohol and Alcoholism	Journal of Chromatography B
Alcohol, Drugs, and Driving	Journal of Clinical Forensic Medicine
Alcoholism, Clinical and Experimental Research	Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine
American J. of Forensic Medicine & Pathology	Journal of Forensic Medicine
Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences	Journal of Forensic Sciences
Clinical Toxicology	Journal of Studies on Alcohol
Forensic Science International	Journal of Toxicology / Clinical Toxicology
Forensic Science International. Genetics	Legal Medicine
Forensic Science, Medicine, and Pathology	Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol
Human & Experimental Toxicology	Science & Justice
Intl J of Clin. Pharm., Therapy, & Toxicology	Toxicology
Journal of Analytical Toxicology	Veterinary and Human Toxicology
Journal of Chromatography A	

So let's go over some of the primary tools and techniques offered by this database. The arrows in the screenshot below of PubMed's main page indicate the areas that will be discussed in the remaining sections of this column: Main search box, Single Citation Matcher, Journal Database, and My NCBI.

The screenshot shows the PubMed.gov homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'NCBI Resources' and 'How To' menus. The main header features the PubMed logo and a search box containing 'PubMed'. Below the search box are links for 'Limits', 'Advanced search', and 'Help'. A 'Search' button and a 'Clear' button are also present. On the right side of the header, there is a user account section with 'jtbaum My NCBI Sign Out'. The main content area has a 'PubMed' title and a brief description. Below this, there are three columns of links: 'Using PubMed' (including Quick Start Guide, Full Text Articles, FAQs, Tutorials, and New and Noteworthy), 'PubMed Tools' (including Single Citation Matcher, Batch Citation Matcher, Clinical Queries, and Topic-Specific Queries), and 'More Resources' (including MeSH Database, Journals Database, Clinical Trials, E-Utilities, and LinkOut). Four red arrows point to the search box, the 'My NCBI' link, the 'Single Citation Matcher' link, and the 'Journals Database' link.

Searching PubMed: just like Google or any other search engine, simply enter your search terms into the main search box, hit “search,” and examine your results. The primary thing to remember when searching in PubMed is that PubMed does not search the full text of the articles in the database – just the terms used to describe the article. Virtually every single article in PubMed has been read by an **Indexer**, and this person assigns keywords to the article based on the content. So you are searching the keywords (although this does include the complete text of the article’s abstract). As you type in your search terms, PubMed will prompt you with suggestions, making it more likely that you will receive relevant results.

The image below shows the type of record you will get for nearly any article. Much of the information pertaining to the article itself is self-explanatory, but let’s go over some of the added features:

The screenshot shows a PubMed record for the article "Unusual suicide with a chainsaw". At the top left, there is a "Display Settings" dropdown menu set to "Abstract" and a "Send to" dropdown menu. A "FULL TEXT ONLINE" button with the Wiley InterScience logo is visible. The citation information includes "J Forensic Sci. 2008 Sep;53(5):1174-7. Epub 2008 Jul 4." The title "Unusual suicide with a chainsaw." is highlighted in yellow. The authors listed are "Tournel G, Dédouit F, Balgairies A, Houssaye C, De Angeli B, Bécart-Robert A, Pety N, Hédouin V, Gosset D." The abstract text describes a case of suicide with a chainsaw. On the right side, there is a "Related citations" section with three entries, each with a "Review" label. At the bottom of the page, there are links for "Publication Types, MeSH Terms" and "LinkOut - more resources".

First, off to the right side of the page, notice at the top a link that will take you directly to the journal’s website where you can, if desired, purchase the article.

Just below that journal link, notice the “**Related Citations**” section. PubMed has provided other articles that it considers to be related to the primary article, and they are often very good choices. Generally 3-5 articles are shown, but make sure that you click on the “See all” link below the articles to view the complete list.

And notice the drop-down box under the “**Send to:**” link (see image above and below). From here, you can send the citation to a text file (to save it for later use), add it to a Collection (see the **My NCBI** section later in this column), email the citation, etc.

This screenshot is similar to the one above but shows the "Send to" dropdown menu open. The menu is titled "Choose Destination" and contains five options: "File", "Clipboard", "Collections", "E-mail", and "Order". The "File" option is selected. The background shows the same article information as the previous screenshot, including the title and abstract.

Single Citation Matcher: this is just a fantastic tool that allows you to input however much (or little) information you might have about a reference and, if it's indexed, it will give you the result. Or, just type in an author's name to see everything she/he has published. Or enter the name of the journal and a word in the "Title words" box to see if anything has been published in that journal on that particular topic. As you type in the "Journal" or "Author name" boxes, PubMed prompts you so that you can select the exact name you want. Play around with this tool a bit and you'll be hooked.

PubMed Single Citation Matcher

- Use this tool to find PubMed citations. You may omit any field.
- Journal may be the full title or the title abbreviation.
- For first and last author searching, use smith jc format.

Journal:

Date: (month and day are optional)

Volume: Issue: First page:

Author name (see [help](#))

Only as first author Only as last author

Title words:

Citation Sensor: This is really just a short-cut for looking up a citation record, rather than using the Single Citation Matcher. In lists of bibliographic references, you're often given just the bare-bones of the citation. For ex: **Exp. Clin. Endocrinol. 85: 245, 1985.** You could go to the Single Citation Matcher and plug in each element, but PubMed is very good at parsing the various parts of a citation. So just plug in the entire line right into the main page search box, and you'll get the following:

[Exp Clin Endocrinol. 1985 Apr;85\(2\):245-8.](#)

Plasma oxytocin concentrations in man after different routes of administration of synthetic oxytocin.

[Landgraf R.](#)

Abstract

Plasma oxytocin was determined by RIA in three male subjects under basal conditions and following administration of synthetic oxytocin. As compared to basal levels (below 10 pg/ml), plasma oxytocin was found to be elevated markedly (36 to 85 pg/ml) in response to application by nasal spray (total dose: 65 to 100 micrograms). Intramuscular injection (25 micrograms) resulted in very high oxytocin levels (360 to 480 pg/ml), whereas buccal administration (70 micrograms) was proved to be ineffective (levels below 10 pg/ml plasma). In each case, plasma vasopressin remained unchanged.

PMID: 4018162 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Journals database: This is a very useful tool for figuring out the abbreviations that are commonly used in references and citations, as well as for finding information about the journal itself: the start/end date of publication, publisher, changes to the journal title over the years, etc.

I was once asked to retrieve the following article:

Arch Toxicol 2004 Nov;78(11):617-28

I felt sure that the journal in question was **Archives of Toxicology** and promptly went scurrying through the stacks of my local university library in search of the title...and found nothing. Had I entered **Arch Toxicol** into the Journals Database, I would have quickly learned that the journal was not **Archives of Toxicology** but rather the **Archiv für Toxikologie** – which is not quite the same thing! Abbreviations are quite often very non-intuitive: “Pharm” could mean Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical, Pharmacology, Pharmacal, etc. The Journals Database is a very handy tool to have.

My NCBI: This is your own personalized space where you can create and save information about searches that you have conducted. Yes, they could have come up with a better acronym (it stands for National Center for Biotechnology Information), but it is a terrific feature that almost nobody utilizes. If you do literature searches on a variety of subjects, this is an invaluable tool as it allows you to group your searches by topic and to access these groups from any computer.

You must first register. It’s free, and simple...basically providing your email address and a password. Just click on the “My NCBI” link at the top right side of the page, and follow the prompts.

Once you’re registered with your own account, go ahead and run your searches. When you come to a page of citations that interest you:

- Check the box next to the citations you want to save
- Click on the “Sent to” link (discussed earlier in this column)
- Choose “Collections”, then “Add to Collections”
- Name your new collection, then click “Save”

And that’s it. Now, whenever you click on the “My NCBI” link, you’ll see the list of collections that you’ve created.

I’d recommend just taking one feature at a time and play around with it until you get comfortable using it. There are enough other features of PubMed for many other columns, but the ones discussed here are easy to use and will absolutely enhance your searching efforts.

I’ll make librarians out of you yet!

Jeff Teitelbaum
September 14, 2010
Jeff.Teitelbaum@wsp.wa.gov



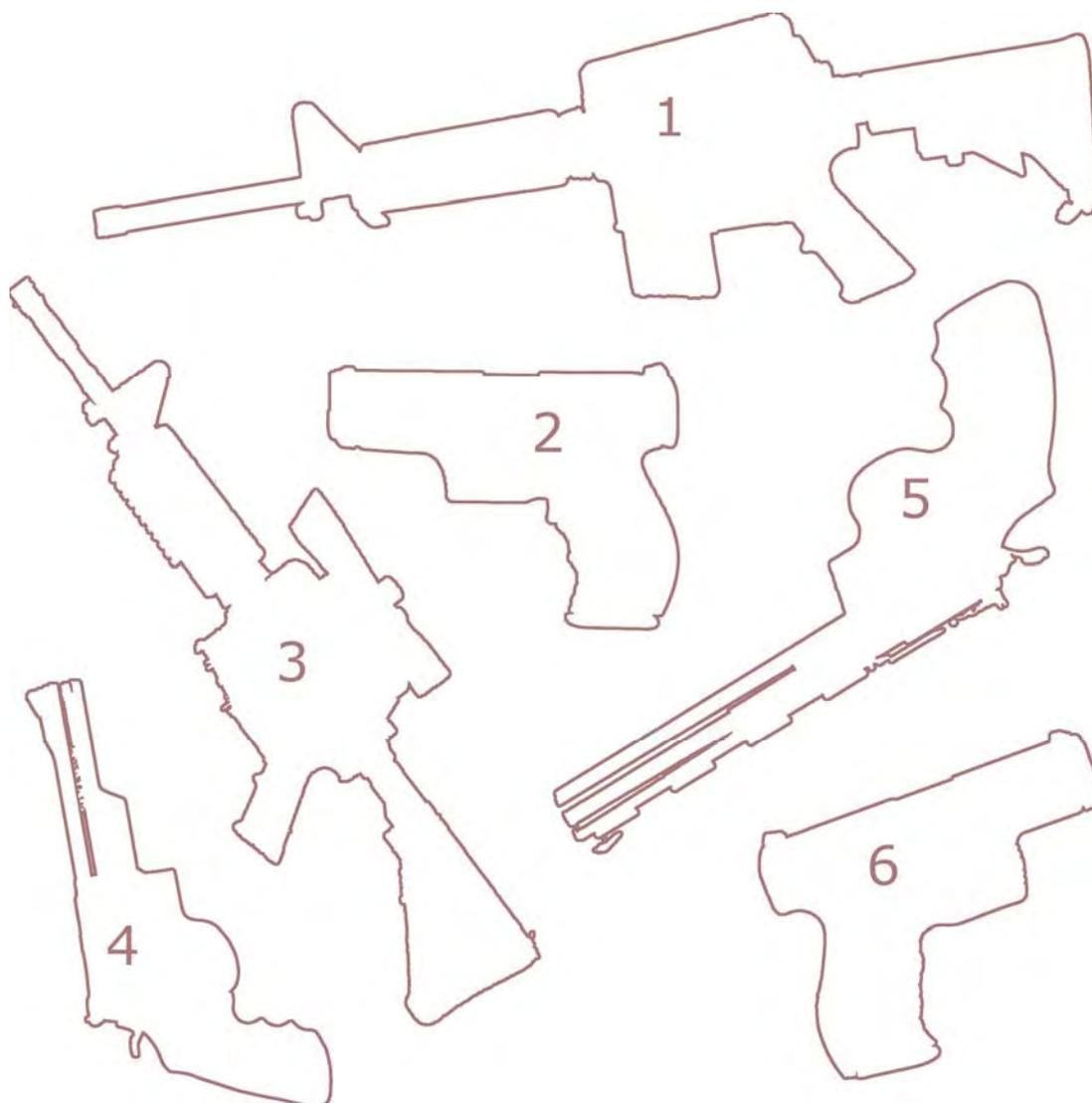


Image gunz-result caption:

1. Real Colt AR-15
2. Airsoft replica Pistol
3. Airsoft replica rifle
4. Real S&W revolver
5. Airsoft replica revolver
6. Real Walther pistol



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Association of Blood Pattern Analysts Annual Conference

October 5-8, 2010

Atlantic City, NJ

<http://www.iabpa.org/conferen.htm>



Detection, Recovery and Examination of Footwear Impression Evidence

November 1 - 5 , 2010

Hosted by the Salt Lake City Police Department

wbodziak@earthlink.net

The 3rd International Conference on Criminal and Environmental Soil Forensics

Sponsored by the California Association of Criminalistics and the California Department of Justice

November 2-4, 2010

<https://www.acsmeetings.org/>

2011 ACSR Annual Training Conference

February 8-10, 2011

Jacksonville, FL

<http://www.acsr.org/>



AAFS 63rd Annual Meeting

February 21-26, 2011

Chicago, IL

<http://aafs.org/>



Bloodstain Pattern Analysis for Crime Scene Reconstruction

hosted by the Oregon State Police,
Forensic Services Division

The training will be instructed by Dan Christman, a police officer currently employed by the city of Bothell, WA. Mr. Christman is also owner of an independent forensic science consulting firm which provides case investigation, consultation, examination of evidence, expert testimony and forensics education. www.ChristmanForensics.com

This 40 hour basic course will be a combination of lecture and hands on training. Space is limited to only 25 people.

Course Purpose and Objectives:

The basic bloodstain pattern course will provide a fundamental working knowledge of bloodstain pattern analysis for crime scene reconstruction. This course will enable participants to identify, document, examine, and preserve bloodstain evidence at crime scenes.

Course Description:

This basic, yet comprehensive, forty-hour course is designed for criminal investigators, forensic scientists, medicolegal death investigators, forensic specialists and technicians, criminal attorneys and others involved in criminal investigations and crime scene reconstruction.

Providing theory, study, and practice as follows:

1. Flight Characteristics and Specific Bloodstain Patterns.
2. Examination and Interpretation of Bloodstain Evidence.
3. Documentation of Bloodstain Evidence.

Course Dates: November 1-5, 2010

Cost: \$425.00

Location:

OSP Portland Metro Forensic Laboratory
13309 SE 84th Ave. suite 200
Clackamas, Or 97015

Second floor conference room. Please park on the road in front of the laboratory and enter the building from the north side.

Dress:

Business casual and bring a lab coat and/or field investigation clothing.

Course Questions:

If you have any questions about the course please contact Emma K. Dutton at 503-934-0240.

How to Enroll:

Use the registration form below. Enrollment requests accepted through October 25, 2010.

Contact: Emma K. Dutton
Oregon State Police, Forensic Services Division
255 Capitol St., N.E., 4th Floor
Salem, Oregon 97310
emma.dutton@state.or.us
503-934-0240

Nearby Hotels: Courtyard Marriott - Portland Southeast
9300 SE Sunnybrook Blvd
Clackamas, OR 97015
(503) 652-2900

Monarch Hotel
12566 SE 93rd Ave
Clackamas, OR 97015
(503) 652-1515

Airport: Portland International Airport
7000 NE Airport Way
Portland, OR 97218
<http://www.portofportland.com>

Bloodstain Pattern Analysis for Crime Scene Reconstruction

Registration Form

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Agency: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Payment in the form of a check must be received prior to the date of the course.
Checks should be made payable to Christman Forensics.

Seats will be reserved on a first come basis and will be guaranteed only with full payment.

Send registration form to:

Emma K. Dutton

Oregon State Police, Forensic Services Division

255 Capitol St., N.E., 4th Floor

Salem, Oregon 97310

emma.dutton@state.or.us

503-934-0240

NWAFS NOTES

Ken McDermott
Washington State Patrol
Crime Laboratory -
Vancouver

Ken, the Laboratory
Manager, retired on August
1st, 2010 after 30 years of
service.

Ken served as our
NWAFS President in 1993.



So, do you have anything interesting going on in your laboratory or have information in which you wish to share with our membership? If so, please submit to:

Jeff.Jagmin@wsp.wa.gov

Vincent Vitale

NWAFS member 1975-2010

After a period of declining health, Vincent Vitale Jr. entered eternal life while at home on Sunday, April 11, 2010, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Verona, NJ, June 1, 1931 to Rose Calvano and Vincent Vitale. His family moved to North Carolina in 1946, where he later graduated from Elon College with a B.A. in chemistry. He began service in the Army in 1952, graduating Officers Candidate School achieving rank of Lieutenant, and serving in the Korean War. Upon completing his tour of duty he returned to North Carolina and met his soul mate, Anne Broadhurst at a state college. They were married November 28, 1957.

He and his wife embarked on the first of many adventures, moving to Reno, Nevada in 1958. Vincent graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a M.S. in biochemistry, and his thesis was internationally published.

Vincent was sought after to establish and direct a new crime lab for Washoe County Sheriff Department and Northern Nevada where he was a deputized criminalist. In 1980 they moved to Ventura where he worked in the Ventura County Crime Lab for the next 16 years as a Firearms and Tool Mark Examiner, and served on the Arson Task Force.

Vincent was a member of numerous scientific organizations including Sigma Xi, Association of North West Forensic Scientists, Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners, and was a charter member of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors. He was also involved with Nevada Boys State and the Boy Scouts of America.

Vincent enjoyed many outdoor activities, including hunting, trap and skeet shooting, scuba diving and swimming. He also took pleasure in fencing, opera, classical music, the performing arts, traveling and spending time with his grandchildren.

Vincent was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Lawrence Vitale, of New Jersey.

He is survived by his wife and soul mate, Anne; son, Vincent III, his wife, Tiffany, and their children, Gabrielle and Anthony, all of Cranston, Rhode Island; and his son, Michael, and wife, Kacy, of Thousand Oaks, as well as many friends and family. Vincent will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Vincent's name to the Boy Scouts of America, St. Jude Children's Hospital or a charitable organization of your choosing.

A memorial service was held on Friday, April 16, 2010, at the Ted Mayr Funeral Home, 3150 Loma Vista Rd., Ventura, with the Reverend Steve Davoren of Our Lady of the Assumption Church officiating. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, will occur on a later date.



Chester Park NWAFS member 1983-2002

Chester (Chet) Arthur Park, 66, of Rathdrum, passed away on Aug. 27, 2010. He was born in Her-miston, Ore., on Sept. 3, 1943, to Naomi J. Park (Neely) and Chester Roy Park.

Chet graduated from Rathdrum High School in 1961 and went on to attend college where he earned a Master of Science in Chemistry. He served in the Air Force from 1963-1971. Chet was an educator and a scientist and his career path included teaching, coaching and Forensic Chemistry. He worked as a Criminalist for the state of Washington ('82-'93), and a Firearm and Toolmarks Ex-aminer for the state of Idaho ('93-'03). Chet was later hired by a private British company to estab-lish firearm and toolmarks laboratories in Northern England. While there, he and Diane lived aboard a Narrowboat on the canals from 2003-2007. He then retired from his position in England and moved back to Rathdrum where he continued to consult on several existing ballistic cases.

He also volunteered at the Rathdrum library and enjoyed as much time as possible with his grand-sons and other family and friends. He was a member of many professional associations including AFTE (Association of Firearm and Toolmark Examiners), ARRL (American Radio Relay League) and the CSFS (Canadian Society of Forensic Scientists). He had many hobbies, including operat-ing his Ham Radio (call sign NO7E), hunting, meteorology, genealogy, an insatiable passion for books and most of all; he was an avid student of life.

Chet is survived by his wife, Diane; daughters, Heidi and Holly; son-in-law Shawn; grandsons, Ty-ler and Brenden; brothers, Dan and Doug; sisters, Kathryn and Elizabeth, and numerous cousins, in-laws, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his eldest sister, Helen.



Chet and his wife Diane at his ISP going away party before he left for England to work for Forensic Alliance LTD. Picture taken on June 13, 2003.



Stuart Jacobson, Aaron Brudenell and Chet Park posing for a picture in Idaho.

Stuart Jacobson was kind enough to provide a communication between he and Chester, below:



Work is increasing in firearms here as we take on more and more of the pie. We will be working half of all of the Metropolitan Police Forces firearms cases as of 1 September. Ed Wallace (the Scotsman) and I had to go to Jamaica for a week to assist Scotland Yard in an investigation coordinating with the Jamaican Constabulary Force a couple of weeks ago (the attached photo is looking out over Kingston from “Beverly Hills”). Chester is in the blue uniform.

JOB OPENINGS

Forensic Scientist I, II or III

Mesa Police Department

Salary \$47,424.00 - \$90,979.20 per year

Application period opened August 6, 2010 until sufficient applications are received

<http://www.mesaaz.gov/jobs/>

DNA Laboratory Supervisor

City of Glendale, California

Salary \$7,374 - \$9,140 per month

Application period opened on August 30, 2010

<http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/job.asp>

Forensic Laboratory Director

Oregon State Police - Central Point

Salary \$61,812 - \$91,020 per year

Applications will be accepted through October 31, 2010

<http://www.oregonjobs.org/>

CAPTION THIS!



The best caption submitted for this photo will win a \$20 iTunes gift card!



Congratulations to our last newsletter's winner:

"What's so special about this guy? Nobody ever has a camera on me when I'm using the litter box."

**Chris Hamburg
Oregon State Police - Forensic Lab**

FREE REGISTRATION!

Got an interesting technical note, informative article
or research project?

Make a submission to the NWAFS newsletter, and you could win
FREE REGISTRATION to an upcoming NWAFS meeting!

The officers vote for the “Best Independent Newsletter Submission”
once per year and award a **FREE REGISTRATION** to the winner.



Help keep the NWAFS newsletter interesting and informative by
sending your submissions to:

Jeff Jagmin, NWAFS Editor
Jeff.Jagmin@wsp.wa.gov
2203 Airport Way South
Seattle, WA 98134
206.262.6109