

## The Gift of Time

### The Official Watch of the Montana Highway Patrol Honors Fallen Officers

By Jessica Bayramian Byerly

Dave Berghold's passion for horology, the study of time and timepieces, is palpable as he fingers the delicate filigree of a hand-tooled vintage gold pocket watch and relays the story of its origin with the same enthusiasm one might lend the retelling of the origin of the earth. Cradling the remarkable, golden disk in my hand, I am surprised not only by its physical weight, but by the weight of history contained in every engraved groove. And I understand the excitement that emanates from Dave's very pores, am equally intoxicated by the timeless ebullience intrinsic in man living his passion.

Recently, Berghold decided to employ that passion in the betterment of an arguably deserving population, the families of fallen Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) officers. Dave first became involved with the MHP through the "Going to the Sun Rally," a major beneficiary of which is the MHP Fallen Officer's Fund. The Rally is comprised of automobile enthusiasts who share a love for wide open spaces and giving back to the local communities through which they travel during their multi-day, and sometimes out-of-state, drive through beautiful parks and breathtaking landscapes. The Rally has provided over \$320,000 in donations to Montana communities during its six years of charitable giving and has consistently provided financial support for the Fallen Officer's Fund. The Fund helps Montana families who have lost loved ones in the line of duty. Since becoming involved with the Rally years ago, Berghold has always committed a piece to the event auction, providing an annual donation to the Fund. This year, however, Dave decided to create a custom timepiece that could provide year-long financial support to Fund beneficiaries, recognizing their loss and the sacrifice of their loved one more than just annually.

Few can forget the tragic death of 23-year-old trooper, David J. Delaitre, who was shot and killed near Three Forks on December 1, 2010. Delaitre was the eighth MHP trooper to die in the line of duty; the MHP website features an "End of Watch" tribute page to the fallen troopers. As Chris Cosgriff, founder of the Officer Down Memorial Page,

remarks, "When a police officer is killed, it's not an agency that loses an officer, it's an entire nation." With a mission of "safeguarding the lives and property of the people using the highway traffic system of Montana through education, service, enforcement, and interagency cooperation," MHP troopers cover great distances to police Montana's highways, assist other law enforcement agencies and help motorists in need. Each year, the men and women of the MHP drive more than 5.5 million miles and respond to over 70,000 calls for service, consistently sacrificing their own welfare for Montana motorists' safety.

Berghold's creation, the "Official Watch of the Montana Highway Patrol," is custom-made on-site and currently available to the public. Twenty percent of each sale will benefit the Fund. With a scratch-proof, sapphire crystal face and luminous hands and numerals, these watches are not only strikingly attractive, but durable. Water resistant up to 100 meters and available with leather or stainless steel bracelets, each watch provides a truly unique opportunity to give back to those who risk their lives daily to ensure our safety. "Priced at \$150," Berghold points out, "the watch is very affordable and makes a great gift; a gift that

not only gives lasting value to the wearer, but also the Montana Highway Patrol."

Dave opened The Last Wind-Up in downtown Bozeman in November of 1990 and has been unerringly providing exceptional retail sales, customer service and comprehensive repair services to local and national customers since that date. With over 25 years of experience in the repair and restoration of watches, Dave specializes in vintage pocket watches and wrist watches from the 1700s to 1900s. In addition to vintage timepieces including wrist/pocket watches and clocks, The Last Wind-Up offers new wrist watches, estate jewelry, handmade knives, money clips and writing instruments. Most importantly, they service what they sell.

For further information regarding the "Official Watch of the Montana Highway Patrol" or any of The Last Wind-Up's products or services, contact Dave at (406) 587-7209, check out his website at [www.lastwindup.com](http://www.lastwindup.com) or visit his shop at 11 East Main Street in beautiful downtown Bozeman.

Sources:  
Officer Down Memorial Page - <http://www.odmp.org/>  
Montana Highway Patrol website - <http://www.doj.mt.gov/enforcement/highwaypatrol/>

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