



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2018

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Fugitive Flees Traffic Stop Prompting Slow Speed Chase and K9 Taking "Bite Out of Crime"

At 5:30 PM on Monday a Flagler County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Deputy attempted to make a traffic stop at the corner of Seminole Woods and State Road 100 for a driver he recognized as being wanted as a fugitive for multiple felony violation of probation warrants. The driver, Richard Knoblauch, refused to pull over and led FCSO deputies on a chase that lasted over 30 minutes.



LEFT: Vehicle driven by Knoblauch that came to rest in the middle of the yard. RIGHT: Sheriff Staly on scene with FCSO deputies where Knoblauch's chase ended in the front yard of his residence on Coolidge Court.

When Knoblauch refused to stop deputies maintained a safe distance while following him as he led them onto I-95 where he was driving at 73mph while being followed by Sheriff's deputies. When Knoblauch approached, the Palm Coast Pkwy exit ramp deputy has deployed stop sticks in an attempt to disable his vehicle. The stop sticks were successful in flattening two of Knoblauch' tires but he continued to flee but at much slower speeds.

Stop sticks were deployed a second time as Knoblauch' vehicle approached Palm Harbor Parkway and successfully struck the two remaining tires but Knoblauch continued his attempt to escape arrest.

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Deputies followed him from a safe distance while Flagler County's FireFlight helicopter kept an eye on him from above and provided patrol units with constant updates enabling them to converge on him.

Knoblauch made his way to a home on Coolidge Court where he had been living and deputies were waiting for him. His vehicle came to a stop in the middle of the front lawn. Knoblauch ran into the residence with K-9 Valor in pursuit. Knoblauch, who resisted the K-9 apprehension, was bitten and apprehended.

"This guy was a wanted fugitive with active felony warrants," Sheriff Staly said. "I'm proud of our deputies for bringing this chase to a successful arrest without any of our deputies or citizens getting hurt. I was monitoring the pursuit and our supervisors and deputies conducted a textbook pursuit taking precautions to make sure citizens were not hurt by this dirtbag's driving or actions."

After his arrest, Knoblauch was transported to Florida Hospital Flagler and later Halifax Hospital for treatment of the wounds he received because of resisting the K-9 take down. Knoblauch has an extensive criminal history dating to November 2008 and involving 10 arrests.

Subsequently Tanya Follmar, another resident of the Coolidge Court address, was also arrested and charged with possession of methamphetamine. Follmar is being held on a \$2,500.00 bond.

"This house has been a problem house for some time with the owners enabling these offenders under the guise of trying to help them," said Sheriff Staly. "We have received numerous complaints from the neighborhood on the activities of this house."

Robert Knoblauch is being charged with knowingly driving while license is suspended or revoked, aggravated fleeing and eluding, resisting arrest without violence, leaving the scene of an accident with property damage, and will also answer for his three violation of probation felony warrants. Knoblauch will be booked into the Flagler County Detention Facility once treated for his injuries.

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