

Meth Lab on the Move Busted

Written by Steve Frank

Monday, 20 September 2010 13:04

A mobile meth lab on the move was discovered Saturday by Deputies from the Watauga County Sheriff's Office, Patrol Division, as a traffic stop unfolded into the drug arrest. Deputies discovered a large clandestine methamphetamine "mobile" laboratory in a vehicle on NC 105 By-Pass after stopping the vehicle displaying a fictitious tag. Jacob Kent Stanberry, 32 years of age, was stopped just after noon following a computerized check on the license tag, and during the traffic stop, officers observed various chemicals inside the vehicle and detained Stanberry until Detectives from the Watauga County Sheriff's Office Special Operations arrived and quickly determined the chemicals were precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Because of the volatility of these chemicals, officers secured the vehicle and applied for, and received, a search warrant for the vehicle.

During the execution of the search warrant the following day, components of two separate clandestine methamphetamine laboratories were discovered. The components for one—of two—of the clandestine methamphetamine laboratories were located in the front passenger area of the vehicle, and the components for another larger clandestine methamphetamine laboratory were located in the trunk of the vehicle.

During the execution of the search warrant a chemist from the NC SBI Laboratory which was on scene, to assist with the search, collected approximately 1500 milliliters of "meth oil," which is the form the methamphetamine deemed to be the last stage prior to finishing the process of manufacturing methamphetamine – which could yield approximately two and one-half (2 ½ Lbs.) pounds of finished product. The "street value" of the final product is estimated at over \$100,000.00.

More arrests are expected and the far reaching investigation is still ongoing.