

Mobile Meth Lab Found; Two Arrests

Written by WCSO Press Release
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On January 8th, 2011, officers with the Watauga County Sheriff's Office discovered a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory inside a vehicle during a routine traffic stop. A Deputy with the Watauga County Sheriff's Office noticed a vehicle driving carelessly around 10:00 pm Saturday night in the Zionsville, NC community. When the vehicle was stopped by the Deputy it was discovered that the driver didn't have a driver's license and the passenger had a warrant for his arrest in Ashe County, NC.

Both individuals were arrested and a K-9 officer deployed his dog around the vehicle and the dog alerted to narcotics. When officers searched the vehicle they found methamphetamine as well as chemicals consistent with the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Officers from the Watauga County Sheriff's Office Special Operations Unit responded and confirmed the presence of precursor chemicals. The NC SBI Clandestine Laboratory Response Team was contacted and responded the next day. A search warrant was acquired and agents and officers dismantled and cleaned up the precursor chemicals and a contract agent for the United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration disposed of the waste.

Charged in connection with clandestine methamphetamine laboratory were Jason Morisette, 31, of 189 Glade rd. Boone, NC and Michael Peterson, 19, of 1026 Rainbow rd. Mtn. City, TN. Both individuals were charged with possession of precursor chemicals with intent to manufacture methamphetamine. The investigation is ongoing and more arrests are expected.

Information supplied by one of the responding SBI agents from the NC SBI states this is the fifth clandestine laboratory response in the state of NC, thus far for 2011.

This is the first response for Watauga County, who led the state in Clandestine Laboratory responses last year (2010).