



Times Tribune file photo

Sea Scout leader [redacted] o Park is free on bail after being charged with lewd and lascivious acts with children and false imprisonment of a 12-year-old boy.

# Scouts 'devastated' by molest charges

By Zoe Francels  
Times Tribune staff

A Sea Scout leader charged last week with child molestation is under investigation for similar incidents dating back more than 30 years, Redwood City police said Monday.

[redacted] Menlo Park is free on \$15,000 bail. He is charged with lewd and lascivious acts with children and false imprisonment of a 12-year-old boy. His arraignment has been set for June 21.

Since [redacted] at least six people have called Redwood City police alleging they also were molested by Stenger, said Lt. Bill Pratt. One man said Stenger allegedly molested him in 1958.

Police will interview callers to confirm their allegations, they said. [redacted] was a skipper for the San Mateo-based Sea Scouts, said Scout executive [redacted]. It is a branch of the San Mateo Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

"I feel very bad for the young men involved, for their families, for the Boy Scout program," Gorman said. "When something like this happens, it's just devastating." [redacted] house Monday, refused to comment.

[redacted] recent years the scouts have tightened standards for choosing troop leaders. The new standards include always having at least two leaders present

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If Stenger has been a Scout leader [redacted] said, he would have filled out an application more than 30 years ago when the screening process was less strict.

[redacted] how long Stenger had been involved with the Scouts. Local records go back to 1971, he said.

Court records show [redacted] pleaded guilty in April 1972 to contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He originally had been charged with three counts of child molestation, according to San Mateo County Superior Court records.

In the 1972 case, three San Carlos boys — two 11-year-olds and one 9-year-old — were allegedly molested by Stenger at his former San Carlos residence, records show.

Stenger allegedly put the children in harnesses and chained one boy to a bed, records show. The boys testified in a preliminary hearing in early 1972 that they had been fondled by Stenger.

Evidence seized by police in the 1972 case included leather harnesses, chains, a book about pedophilia and pornographic magazines, records show.

[redacted] was fined and served more than two years of his four-

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year probation sentence, records show.

In the most recent case, police seized from [redacted] several restraint devices, drawings of children in bondage and a photo of a blindfolded boy tied to a bed, police said.

Police got a search warrant for [redacted] after being tipped by Boy Scout officials.

[redacted] allegedly used a harness to strap a 12-year-old boy to a bed, police said. Police said [redacted] apparently enjoyed watching the boy try to free himself, police said. The alleged incident happened on the Sea Scout boat, docked in Redwood City.

The Scouts found out about the alleged incident from one of the two boys who witnessed it, said [redacted]. A friend of the boy's family came forward with the claim.

[redacted] took the accusations and suspended the Scout membership, he said. He then notified police.

[redacted] declined to comment on whether the Scouts knew about the 1972 case against [redacted] before allowing him to continue serving as a Scout leader. He also declined to comment on the current charges against S [redacted].

One of [redacted] Sanjo Park neighbors, [redacted] not to be identified, said [redacted] was a loner. He has not talked to her in the 18 years he has lived in the area.

"He was very unfriendly," she said. "We used to just think of him as being a very private person who didn't socialize. But I guess he had his reasons."

Neighbors occasionally saw [redacted] boys, she said, but they never thought anything about it since he was a Scout volunteer.

"As far as the children in the neighborhood, there was never an incident of any kind," she said.

Staff writer Michael McGuire contributed to this report.

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