



Editor's note: You'll notice that we've folded the May/June issue into the July/August issue! We're devoted to excellence in training, and that excellence took us away in May for the success of this year's Police on Bikes Conference, which you can read about in both the May/June insert as well as July/August. We haven't missed a beat in bringing you the latest in information, as you'll read. Look in your mailboxes in early September for the September/October issue of IPMBA News.

The 7th Annual Police on Bikes Conference-A Kickin' Good Time

Nashville Police Department is host to the biggest Police on Bikes Conference to date.

By Jennifer Horan
IPMBA Director
(Portions of this article from the July/August issue of *Bicycle USA*)

Wow! It just keeps getting bigger and better! We're talking about the 7th Annual Police on Bikes Conference. If you haven't been to Nashville lately, it's a thriving little city, with high energy and booming country music on every corner. (Even if you're not a country music lover, you can't help but appreciate this distinct atmosphere.) Add over 450 bicycle officers from around the globe to the mix, and you have quite an exciting event on your hands.

The participants of this year's conference came from the United States, Canada, Panama and Australia, representing 134 police agencies, 19 colleges campuses, 7 park and recreation departments, 3 military installations, 2 emergency medical departments, and 1 border patrol; we even had a couple of Secret Service officers! Thirty-three states were represented in all. Large contingencies came from Florida, Texas, Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania, and of course from the good old state of Tennessee, but we had officers from as far away as Alaska and Hawaii join us, too.


Between the pre-conference certification courses and the conference workshops, over thirty-eight informative and important sessions were offered. Among the new entries to this year's conference was a four day Emergency Medical Services Certification Course that certified 12 participants from 7 states. EMS on bikes is the newest way to use a mountain bike for public safety purposes. By all accounts EMS will be growing in popularity over the next couple of years as emergency medical personnel recognize the advantages of riding a bike through heavy crowds and heavy traffic. IPMBA will be right there, training this important contingent of public safety personnel on bikes.

The conference always ends on a community-oriented note, and this year was no different as the Nashville P.D. invited local children for a Saturday of fun. The kids came to examine the department's high-tech equipment (like the SWAT vehicle and a police helicopter), participate in a bike rodeo, and, as a special treat for the children, to pair up with a police officer and ride throughout the park and the surrounding area. One officer was spotted amusing a little girl by demonstrating for her how to properly fall off a bike, while other officers showed the kids

how to properly wear their helmets. Afterward, the officers competed in the conference's annual mountain bike competition. For the third year in a row, our friends from "Down Under" were on the winning team (they're just winding down their riding season, as most of our officers are just gearing up for the summer — at least that's what we like to think!) Prizes were awarded and raffled off, and the conference ended with big smiles as all came together to pose and say, "Tacoma!" — the sight of next year's conference.

A lot of people worked very hard making this conference happen, either in the planning stages or as instructors to the courses themselves. We'd like to take this opportunity to give them a great big thanks: **From our Board:** Officer Kirby Beck (MN), PPO Stuart Bracken (WA), Officer Allan Howard (OH), Cpl. Andy MacLellan (MD), Sgt. Joe Martin (CA), Officer Gary McLaughlin (CA), Sgt. Tom Northfell (IL), Lt. Tom Woods (TX). **From our Education Committee:** Officer Mike Goetz (WA), Officer Steve McCauley (CO), PPO Gene Miller (WA), Officer Kathy Vonk (MI), Officer Terry Welshan (TN). **Guest Instructors:** Officer Dominic Angiolillo (FL), Senior Constable Maree Burn, (Australia), Officer Artie Gonzales (KS), Officer Bruce Hopfengardner (OH), Officer Don Hudson (CA), Cpl. Chris Hunt (TN), Officer Karen Kalta (WA), Officer Dwayne Killian (IL), Sgt. Tom Madrid (CO), Cpl. Greg Outten (VA), Officer Stephen Saunders (OH), Officer Al Simpson (FL), Officer Dave Simpson (OH), Officer Warren Wilson (KS)

We would also like to recognize and thank our exhibitors from this year's conference. They support IPMBA and IPMBA supports them! They are: Aerospoke, Bratwear, Cascade Wear, Cale Cooler, Chainwheel Inc., DSR Creations, Fehhheimer, Fuji America, Giani Suspension, Global Sports, GI Bicycles, Heckler & Koch, Inc., J. Marcel Enterprises, Kitaro Policewear, Law and Order Magazine, Michaels of Oregon, Marwi, Mocean, Niterider Lighting Systems, Patrol Bike Systems, Performance Bicycle, Inc., Phoenix International Trading, Inc., Pro-Tuff by Werner Works, Raleigh USA Bicycle Co., Rapid Rotation Baton, Shimano, Smith and Wesson, Trek Bicycle Corp., Turner Drive Systems, Inc., Veltec Sports, Inc., Zap Law Enforcement. (You can get contact names, addresses and phone numbers for these exhibitors by looking at our web site at <http://www.bikeleague.org>)

We'll see YOU in Tacoma, Washington, next year! 

New Chair Elected to IPMBA's Governing Board

Greetings from ten thousand feet over Nashville! As TWA carries me westward from the Bell South "Bat-Towers" and the home of country music, and with our seventh annual conference behind us, I'm composing my first column as chair of your Governing Board. I have to admit I'm in awe of the impending responsibility, but I readily accept the assignment knowing that I will still have one of the best teams of talent at the table with me.

We 'still' have a great team although this year two of our eight members felt it was time to move on and have left the board. We last saw our first Chair, Allan Howard, and our Secretary, Joe Martin, heading out into the Nashville night for a well deserved celebratory farewell together. Oh, we'll probably see them again in Tacoma, but what they've left us with this year is much more than camaraderie and friendship and a few laughs.

As founding members of IPMBA, Allan, Joe, (and, founding member ret., Gary Gallinot), are part of the foundation of the police on bikes movement in the U.S. as I'm sure many of you reading this newsletter were. The difference, as I interpret it, is these men took action on a concept few believed was more than a fad: Cops in shorts...on bicycles...doing what? Not to discount the contributions of others, but these boys were "off the front" leading the break-away group which now has well over 2,000 riders.

They knew it was a sound and viable method of patrol and worked hard to make it clear in the minds of their motorized brethren and doubting administrators that "cops on bikes" is a reality. They heaped a lot of dedication and hard work on this association in the last seven years and we're on top as a result. "Huckleberry Hound bike schools" be damned! (that's an "Allanism," for those who may not have heard that before).

Over the last seven years they've made great efforts toward putting us the police cyclist—in the mainstream of modern policing and in making IPMBA the invaluable resource to bike officers it is today. We should all know that Allan and Joe are largely responsible

for IPMBA "products": the *Police Cyclist™* Course, and *The Complete Guide to Police Cycling*, and their leadership on the board has always been a driving force toward continued improvement and innovation.


So, next time you see them, or have the pleasure of attending a PC Course they're teaching, give them the high-five and say thanks. We all owe it to them—each and every one of us who rides the streets a little safer and a little smarter these days.

Speaking of thank you's, I'd like to thank our IPMBA Director, Jennifer Horan; our conference coordinator Tom Northfell; the pre-conference course coordinators Stu Bracken and Gene Miller (the hardest working man in the organization); and Natalic Kartalia, Donald Tighe, the governing board, the education committee, and all our great PCIs for putting together the pieces that made Nashville the great conference it was.

And, Nashville Metro, what can I say?! It takes enormous resources and commitment to host an IPMBA conference. Both were present as was the willingness to "make it happen" when things didn't go exactly as planned. (What do you do with 250 bicycles in a hotel with four elevators?) Great job folks! We had a great time and appreciate your and your city's hospitality for what turned out to be an event to remember.

I've heard a motion to name Stacy Mitchhart's blues band, "Blues You Can Use," the official IPMBA house band! I'll vote for that!

In closing let me say that our past chair will be a hard act to follow. Although I neither have the quick wit of a Robin Williams, (Howard) nor can I employ the vernacular of the street as aptly and entertainingly as he does. I will continue to provide leadership as he did in achieving new goals and success for IPMBA's future.

My last thank-yous of this column go to my partners on the board for having confidence in me, and for affording me the honor of serving as chair of a such a great organization. 

Announcing: September 30 - October 3, Chicago

Maintenance Officer Certification Course (MOCC) and the Police Cyclist Instructor Development Course (PCID)



(MOCC)



(PCID)

The four day IPMBA MOC Course was designed by the IPMBA Education Committee in cooperation with major bicycle and component manufacturers. Upon successful completion of this course, the Maintenance Officers will be able to do all but the most serious repairs to their department's bicycles, thereby saving two valuable resources: time and money.

The savings and benefits of an in-house maintenance officer doing maintenance and repairs are obvious: there is less down time, less cost and more standardization. *This course is a must for larger agencies, and a boon for smaller agencies!*

Call 410-539-3399 ext. 223 and leave your name, address and request for MOCC info to receive a registration packet.

Developed especially for *current* IPMBA Police Cyclist Instructors and Police Cyclist Instructor Candidates, this course will allow you to enhance your confidence level, your riding techniques, and your teaching skills.

It takes special skills to be able to teach beginning and novice cyclists how to safely and effectively use bicycles for patrol purposes. This course will expose you to different methods of instruction and show you how other instructors approach difficult teaching situations. You will learn what to look for on the practice drills and how to successfully help students overcome their individual difficulties.

Call 410-539-3399 ext. 223 and leave your name, address and request for PCID info to receive a registration packet.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

1. Student in the popular pre-conference *Maintenance Officer Certification Course*; 2. The conference's Maintenance Course is the most popular course; here, Terry Welshan instructs; 3. Nashville Officer poses with one of the participants of the kid's rodeo; 4. After a quick dash and a flight of stairs, competitors in this year's Mountain Bike Competition wind through cones before the next obstacle;



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.

5. One of those obstacles was called the "patch collector"; 6. Future bike cop on training wheels; 7. The end of the competition is a sprint to a cone—there weren't many who had their legs left at this point; 8. The winners of this year's mountain bike competition, team and individual; 9. Smile! Can you find yourself in this not-so-complete shot of conference attendees? 10. IPMBA Governing Board, l-r: Andy Muelellan; Terry Howell (newly elected); Allan Howard (outgoing Board Chair); Kirby Beck (new Vice Chair); Tom Northell; Gary McLaughlin; Joe Martin (outgoing Secretary); Tom Woods (new Board Chair); Stu Bracken; 11. Nashville's Planning Committee, l-r: Sgt. Paul Harbin (with son Kevin); Officer Judy Burns, Officer Cindy Huffines; Officer Chris Hodges.

(All photos by Donald Tighe or Jennifer Horan, except for photo number 5, sent in by Chief David Slusser from Celina, Ohio.)

It's Easy to Become Involved

By Officer Mike Goetz
Seattle Police Department

Well, the 1997 conference has come and gone and a lot of people like me are just sitting back relaxing now. There were countless people who put out 200% to make this conference a success and to those people I want to say THANK YOU! I hope that in the long run you get 400% back; I know that I will.

I wanted to take a moment to talk education. The education of our members is one of the primary reasons IPMBA exists. This year IPMBA presented four certificate level classes at the pre-conference: the Police Cyclist Certification Course (PC), Police Cyclist Instructor Development Course (PCID), the Maintenance Officer Certification Course (MOCC) and the Emergency Medical Services Course (EMS). In three years we have introduced three new certificate level courses

(PCID 1995, MOCC 1996, EMS 1997). This has been an enormous amount of work, but judging by the membership response, all of these courses have been unqualified successes.

I have had the pleasure of being one of the first instructors to teach the MOCC and the EMS courses. I had a great time and I also learned a tremendous amount from those I instructed.

This is what I wanted to talk about this month. IPMBA is an organization that needs to be ever changing and growing. The only way this can happen is with constant input from its members. We need to hear from you to stay current and to grow. You can get involved by doing one of the following.

1. Write an article for the next IPMBA News. (You don't need to be a board member, education committee member or a PCI!)
2. Present a proposal for a seminar at

the Tacoma conference.

3. If you're a PCI, apply for an instructor position for one of the four certificate level classes in Tacoma.
4. Send Andy information/products for the product review. (See page 11 of July/August for address.)
5. Send IPMBA your department policies and procedures for the bicycle unit.
6. Support your local cycle advocacy group as an IPMBA member.
7. Work to get IPMBA courses POST in your state.
8. Work to get your department to require IPMBA training.
9. Develop a continuous training program using IPMBA standards.
10. Network with other IPMBA members and non-member bike cops to learn as much as possible, then pass it on!

Remember—in order for information to be useful, it must be shared!

Ride safe- Mike Goetz 

A Spoke Wrench is More Dangerous Than an UZI in the Hand of an Untrained Bike Cop

This is just one of several bike mechanic "maxims," offered by lead instructor Terry Welshan, to officers attending this year's IPMBA pre-conference Maintenance Officer Certification Course (MOCC), in Nashville, TN.

Twenty-one officers participated in the rigorous 4-day training, which included bicycle mechanics, troubleshooting and assembly. As a result of their successful completion of this course, these officers (and their agencies) are now able to take advantage of a special discounted bicycle purchasing program through Trek and GT.

A special thanks to Trek and Raleigh for providing bicycles, and Finish Line, Crack Wax and Trek for providing their products for use in this course.

The cadre of instructors also included Vance Blume—

instructor for the Chicago Area Bicycle Dealer's Association (CABDA) Service School; James Sharpe—Trek Wrench Force; and IPMBA Governing Board members Andy MacLellan and Tom Northfell.

An advance 4-day course for MOCC graduates, concerning wheel-building and suspension repair/maintenance, is currently being developed for a future pre-conference.

Note: This course is being offered in Chicago September 30 - October 3, 1997. For more information, call 410-539-3399 ext. 223 and leave your name, address and request for "MOCC Registration Packet."

