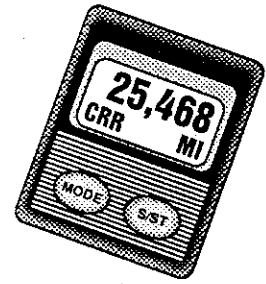




June 1993



Rideable

Bike Cop Rides Down Criminals

by Santiago Esparza

Pontiac police officer James Purdo has one of the state's newest police cruisers, complete with racing rims and tires, a fancy paint job and air conditioning.

Purdo isn't driving a Chevy or a Ford - he's riding a 1992 Schwinn Mountain Bike.

Pontiac and several other Metro Detroit police departments are using the sturdy bikes to wage an environmentally friendly war on crime. The bikes, which cost \$350 to \$1000 each, need no gas or oil and very little maintenance.

"I think it's real effective, it brings you closer to the community you serve," said Purdo, named Pontiac's Policeman of the Year by the Pontiac Kiwanis Club for his efforts as a bike cop.

"In a car you are isolated. On a bike, you are able to pedal up a curb and go places a car can't go," said the only Pontiac officer to qualify for the bike cop program so far.

Pontiac was the first police department in the state to train its officers on the bikes in April and its program is certified by the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Training Commission. Several departments, including Troy and West Bloomfield Township, have since adopted similar programs.

Applicants for bike patrol receive extensive training. Officers must ride between 5 and 20 miles a day, be able to subdue a suspect while riding and accurately shoot while pedaling. Train-

ing lasts about one week and costs about \$500 an officer.

"The public loves it," said Ken LaPlace, Pontiac's police training coordinator. "you don't find too many pot-bellied cops on these bikes because you have to be in shape. On the first day of training they had to go 20 miles, and exercise comes after that."

Purdo likes using the bike because he can take his bike off a rack and rides behind apartment buildings looking for unsuspecting drug dealers.

Purdo said he usually is able to ride up behind a suspect and make an arrest before the suspect knows what is going on.

"It's like being a beat officer and moving 20 to 25 miles per hour," he said. "You can do it with a motorcycle, but not have the same degree of stealthiness." Purdo likes his bike so much that he rode it in the winter. "The bike is designed with knobby tires so snow isn't a problem," he said. "My face and fingertips would get cold, but when you exercise, you create body heat."

"The Detroit News," June 3, 1993

NEXT MEETING:

**Monday July 12, 1993, 7:00pm
at the Mount Clemens Recreation Center
300 Groesbeck at Lafayette.**

President: Bill Duemling	752-6310
Ride Director: Doug MacDermaid	774-0295
Secretary: Laurie Brickner	375-1204
Treasurer: Pennie Morauski	773-2213
Editor: Lorie Kamm	777-8726
Assistant Editor: Vicki Malloch	979-4076
Assistant Editor: Mike Kiefer	884-1052
HOTLINE:	792-4670

Ride Schedule

Call the hotline (313) 792-4670 for updates.

Recurring rides for June

Tuesdays, 6:00pm. Meet John Payne at Pavlat's Two Wheel Auth. in Royal Oak for a varied mileage ride. Pace 13-15.

Tuesdays, 6:00pm. Meet Gary Haelewyn at the original Pavlat's in Clinton Twp. for a 25 mile ride to Metro Beach. Pace 16-18. Rotating pace lines.

Tuesdays, 6:30pm. Meet Warren Berthelsen at the Original Pavlat's Bike Shop (Clinton Twp) for a ride to Metro Beach. Pace 14-16, 20-25 mi. Join us for ice cream afterwards.

Wednesdays, 6:15pm. Meet Rick & Sue Moorman at 17 Mile/Garfield behind the doctors office for a ride out to Stoney Creek. Pace 16-18, 30 mi. For a slower speed ride, meet Doris Mulligan for a pace of 13-17.

Thursdays, 5:00pm. Meet Gary Haelewyn at KMart Headquarters back parking lot (Big Beaver & Coolidge) for a ride to Bloomfield Hills and back. Pace 16-18, 30 mi.

Thursdays 6:00pm. Meet Diane Baker and at **6:30pm**, Jackie Kray at Pavlat's Two Wheel Authority in Royal Oak for a beautiful ride through Oakland County's posher suburbs. Plenty of shaded, winding roads lead you up and down towards Cranbrook and afterwards hang out for ice cream. Pace 14-16, 25 mi.

Thursdays, 6:15pm. Meet Rich and Pam Dyer for a ride from the Water Tower in New Baltimore. Pace 18-20, 30 mi.

Fridays, 6:30pm. Meet Kirk & Katie Carolan, Doug MacDermaid, or John Kamm at Marter and Jefferson for a ride through Grosse Pointe. Pace 16-18, 20-25 mi.

Saturdays, 8:00am. Meet Doug MacDermaid, Bill Duemling, or Oscar Balmaceda at the Stoney Creek Boat Launch for a ride to Armada for Breakfast. Pace 16-18, 45 mi.

Saturdays, 12:30pm. Kathy LoPiccolo & Vicki Malloch lead a ride from Kathy's home in Sterling Heights. Pace 16-18, 30-40 mi. Call Kathy for directions.

Sundays, 8:00am. Meet John Payne at Pavlat's Two Wheel Authority in Royal Oak for a breakfast ride. Route varies. Pace 13-15.

Scheduled rides for June/July

Saturday and Sunday, June 26-27, MS150 weekend. The Clinton River Riders will be participating as tour leaders for this event.

Saturday and Sunday July 10-11, Pinery Camping trip. Ride to London, Ontario, stay overnight, and then back to the Pinery Sunday. 60 miles each day.

Sunday, July 11, 8:00am. Meet Dave Switney and Sharon Wiseman at the Stoney Creek Boat Launch for a tandem led ride (singles welcome) to New Baltimore for breakfast. Pace 16-18, 55 mi.

Sunday, July 18. RAT... Ride Around Torch Lake.

Children's Cycling Program

Hey guys I'm looking for volunteers to do some investigative research.

Macomb County keeps mentioning "liability" as the reason for not thinking about bicycles on its roads.

We need to get the facts on this.

I'd like to know how many lawsuits have been filed against the county by bicyclists, the awards, and when they were filed.

Some places to look would be the County Bldg, Macomb County library, maybe even the County Road Commission on Groesbeck. If

you can't get the information, maybe you could find out where I could go to get it, or, put me in touch with someone who could either get it or tell me where.

Thanks Guys, and Girls,
Gary Halewyn

Birthdays



Susan Bennett 7/4,
Christi Loehr 7/5,
Matt Barton 7/9,
Kathy George 7/9, Paul Angst 7/11,
Steve Angst 7/11, Gary Szostak 7/11,
Teri Prentis 7/14, Rebecca Duskey 7/18,
Emmett Mulligan 7/19, Robin Barton 7/20,
Mark Beaujean 7/20, Paul Smith 7/20,
Patrick Sheehy 7/22, Wes Nichols 7/23,
Linda Morrison 7/24, Peggy Ondre 7/26,
George Zloistro 7/26, Kristin Berthelsen 7/27,
Caroline Grescoviak 7/28, Donna Pearson 7/30

Welcome new members:

The Clinton River Riders proudly welcome the following new members:

Robert Butts, Peter Del Favero, Glen & Marilyn Drellishak, Gary Green, Jerry Lazar, Rachel Zachariah
We hope you enjoy this and many future seasons cycling with us.

CRR Jerseys

We have enough requests to place an order. For those members who have signed up, please send a \$20 deposit for each jersey to Steve Morauski. Make checks out to the Clinton River Riders A.S.A.P. The remaining balance will be less than \$15 on each. 773-2213.

Leader of the Month

This month it's Ray Dominick.

Children's Cycling Program

Diane Bake will be holding her first safety class at Eisenhower H.S. (25 Mile Rd. Est of Mound) on June 26th from 9:00-12:00. Open to all kids.

BWR Steering Committee

The committee meeting has been changed from 6/14 to 6/28. Call Oscar for details. 731-3929

EC Notebook #4-GROUP RIDING

by Franklin Prosser

Riding in a group is one of life's most enjoyable activities. Cycling with friends, traveling rapidly and safely with confidence in your companions, is a joy. However, there is a certain cycling etiquette, or rules of the road, of which you should be aware whenever cycling in a group.

Be Predictable-Group riding requires even more attention to predictability than riding alone. Other riders expect you to continue straight ahead at a constant speed unless you indicate differently.

Use Signals-Use hand and verbal signals to communicate with members of the group and with other traffic. Hand signals for turning and stopping are as follows: left arm straight out to signal a left turn; left arm out and down with your palm to the rear to signal slowing or stopping; and for a right turn, put your right arm straight out (in states where this is legal) or put your left arm out and up.

Give Warnings-Warn cyclists behind you of changes in your direction or speed. To notify the group of a change in path, the lead rider should call out "left turn" or "right turn," in addition to giving a hand signal. The lead rider should announce the turn well in advance of the intersection, so that members of the group have time to position themselves properly for the turn.

Change Positions Correctly-Generally, slower traffic stays right, so you should try to pass others on their left. Say "on your left" to warn the cyclist ahead that you are passing. If you need to pass someone on the right, say "on your right" clearly since this is an unusual maneuver.

Announce Hazards-When riding in a group, most of the cyclists do not have a good view of the road surface ahead, so it is important to announce holes, glass, gravel, grates, and other hazards. Indicate road hazards by pointing down to the left or right, and

by shouting "hole," "bump," etc., where required for safety. Everyone in a group should be made aware of hazards, however, everyone does not need to announce them.

Watch For Traffic Coming From The Rear-Even when you are occupying the proper lane position, it often helps to know when a car is coming. Since those in front cannot see traffic approaching from the rear, it is the responsibility of the riders in back to inform the others by saying "car back." Around curves, on narrow roads, or when riding double, it is also helpful to warn of traffic approaching from the front with "car up."

Watch Out At Intersections-When approaching intersections requiring vehicles to yield or stop, the lead rider will say "slowing" or "stopping" to alert those behind to the change in speed. When passing through an intersection, some cyclists say "clear" if there is no cross traffic. This is a dangerous practice that should be abandoned. It encourages riders to follow the leader, letting others do their thinking for them. Each cyclist is responsible for verifying that the way is indeed clear.

Leave A Gap For Cars-When riding up hills or on narrow roads where you are impeding faster traffic, leave a gap for cars between every three or four bicycles. This way a motorist can take advantage of shorter passing intervals.

Move Off The Road When You Stop-Whether you are stopping because of mechanical problems or to regroup with your companions, move well off the road so you don't interfere with traffic. When you start up again, each cyclist should look for, and yield to, traffic.

Ride One Or Two Across-Ride single file or double file as appropriate to the roadway and traffic conditions and where allowed by law.

"Effective Cycling Notebook,"
LAW Bicycle USA magazine.

