

CBks expert uses skills to train area bicycle officers

By Thomas Zimmerman 21 May 2018



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You may have noticed a number of policemen on bicycles last week and wondered what was going on. No, Carlisle Barracks didn't have to give up their Police cars, the riders were here as part of an annual training for local law enforcement bicycle officers.

Led by Svend Sheppard, a Supervisory Police Officer and Detective at Carlisle Barracks, the course has been taught here since 2008 to help area bicycle officers get the necessary training to help do their jobs safely and effectively.

"Bicycle officers need to ride whenever and wherever they are needed," said Sheppard. "Proper training is essential to an officer's on-the-job performance and safety. This Police Cyclist course provides bicycle officers with the skills they need to effectively serve their communities.

Sheppard led the International Police Mountain Bike Association's Police Cyclist Course that has been designed using input from a group of police

bike patrol experts and is based on needs identified by members of active police bike patrols. Attention is given to bicycle patrol procedures and tactics.

The course is divided into eleven units: Bike Handling & Vehicular Cycling, Bike Fit, Group Riding, Hazard Recognition & Common Crashes, Obstacle Clearing & Riding Techniques, Patrol Procedures, Nighttime Patrol, Community Policing, Basic Maintenance, Legal Issues & Traffic Laws, and Fitness & Nutrition. This demanding 32 hour class involves over 20 hours of on-bike time to develop and improve riding skills.

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"I am proud to say we have grown Police Bike Patrols many locations in Central Pennsylvania over the years," said Sheppard. "It's been an honor to do so."