

# Moorhead Police Bike Patrol Unit

## 2008 Year End Summary

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2008 marked the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Bike Unit, it has been an integral part of the department and its popularity only continues to grow. The Bike Patrol Unit continues to be utilized as an effective tool to: deter criminal activity, provide alternate enforcement methods, promote public relations, and for the education of area youth regarding bicycle safety.

In 2008 the Bike Patrol Unit experienced several changes in staffing. Because of transfers to other divisions, promotions, and attrition, several positions changed in the Bike Unit. Three members were reassigned to the Investigative Division and two left for positions with other agencies. At the same time, two Sergeants returned to the Bike Unit after being promoted. The Bike Unit ended 2008 with 9 Patrol Officers, two School Resource Officers, two Sergeants and one Lieutenant that are trained as Police Cyclists under the *International Police Mountain Biking Association* guidelines.



Bike Officers undergo a rigorous training program prior to being assigned to duty on a bike. The Bike Patrol Unit has its own IPMBA Instructor which enables the Moorhead Police Department to become a regional training location for officers desiring this certification. The Moorhead Police Department hosted an IPMBA Basic Course in July of 2008. Three members of the MPD attended and graduated from this four-day course.

Bike Patrol is also part of the Moorhead Police Department's Community Policing Initiative. Officers find policing on bikes has enabled them to interact more closely with citizens allowing them to be better informed as to what problems exist in a particular neighborhood, to address these problems and make neighborhoods in our community safer places to live.

In 2008 a new important emerged for the Bike Unit. As fuel prices reached record highs, a more aggressive approach was taken to placing officers on bikes during their regular shifts. Bike Officers took their bikes with them on their normal shifts assigned to a squad car, and rode when calls for service allowed. In addition, all Officers above minimum staffing were assigned to shifts on bikes.

*This translated to a savings in fuel costs, in addition to reaffirming the Bike Unit as the green friendly entity of the Moorhead Police Department and City of Moorhead.*

***In 2008, Bike Officers made a total of 193 citizen contacts in their tours of duty. Bike Patrol Officers are generally assigned to bike duty when adequate staffing allows. In 2008 Bike Officers rode a total of 359 hours.***

**In 2008, the Moorhead Bike Patrol Unit:**

➤ Alcohol Offenses Charged:	43
➤ Criminal Arrests:	2
➤ Criminal Offenses Charged:	13
➤ Traffic Stops:	24
➤ Routine Calls for Service:	33
➤ Pedestrian Stops:	66

**Events the Bike Patrol Unit was assigned to include:**

- Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> Of July at MSUM
- MSUM and Tri-College Alcohol Enforcement Project
- Block Clubs and Community Events-National Night Out
- Various Bicycle Safety Presentations
- Enhanced Park Patrol
- Law Day-West Acres

