

## Who Says Bike Aren't Useful?

**By Brad Miller, PCI #928**

*Lewisburg Police (PA)*

I work in the town where Bucknell University is located. The university is actually divided into two halves. One half is in the Borough of Lewisburg and the other is in East Buffalo Township. Both Lewisburg and East Buffalo Twp. have police departments with jurisdiction on campus. Bucknell University also has a Department of Public Safety (BUPS).

I was on duty, riding with an officer whom I had trained in August. We decided to roll onto campus to chat with one of the Bucknell officers who was also in my August class. He was the only BUPS officer on bike that night. We met in a part of campus that was in East Buffalo Twp. While we were chatting, another university officer called for assistance. Someone had just smashed out some windows at a fraternity, and the suspects were running along "Frat Road". Well, there we were....three bike cops, only about 100 yards away. My partner and another BUPS officer, who was on foot, took off for the bad guys. The other BUPS bike officer and I spotted a second person that we were going to deal with for public drunkenness, but he went into a dorm before we reached him, so we decided to let him go in favor of assisting the other officers.

My partner called on the radio and exclaimed, "They're heading towards the place where we had our class!" Of course, this meant nothing to the officers in cars, but the bike cops knew! The BUPS officer raced for that location to bring up the rear. As a veteran officer, I realized that playing catch-up isn't the best option, so I let my partner know that I was staying on the road in case they doubled back. I spotted someone who did not match the description of the actors, but I asked what he was doing. He told me that two guys wearing red shirts had just run past his window. They were our actors. I called my partner and told him where the actors were headed. As I rode in that direction, there one was...walking in the middle of a wide open field!! It was about 1:00am, dark and quiet... I headed full speed for the perp and contemplated how I was going to take him down. The phrase "swift and silent" came to mind. He never even heard me coming!

I rode right up on him and grabbed him with a flying dismount. I took him into custody and called for a car to pick him up. We now had two East Buffalo Twp. PD (EBTPD) officers (in cars), three Lewisburg PD officers (in cars) and four Bucknell University PS officers (imagine this...in cars). We exchanged information (and "high-fives"), but we didn't know what happened to the other guy. I decided to ride back towards the frat to find my partner (who crashed his bike in a muddy field **snicker**). As I began to ride past a building, a BUPS car pulled alongside. Right then, I heard something in the bushes. That's right. I HEARD something that the officer in the car would never have heard.

There are a lot of skunks on campus, and I didn't want to go rolling in and find myself face-to-face with one, so I ditched my bike and peeked around the corner to see....yep, actor #2. I grabbed him and, after a brief struggle, took him into custody. At this point, an EBTPD officer arrived at my location. EBTPD does not have bike officers. He exited his car and yelled, "WHO SAYS BIKE PATROL ISN'T USEFUL!!!" I was too busy doing my happy dance at that point to really pay attention to him.

Moral of the story:

Three bike cops corral and catch two bad guys...

Nine patrol officers in cars can only watch...

Quoting an obviously intelligent person, "Bike cops rule!"

There was a lot of talk about that incident and how useful the bike patrol units were in this situation and other cases. We're here to stay!

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