



# Safety First

## A Monthly UW-Whitewater Police Services Publication

Officer Stephen Hanekamp, Editor



May, 2009

### Bicycle Safety

by Officer Jason Burt

With the weather warming up, people are dusting off their bicycles and using them more. UW-Whitewater Police Services wants to make sure everyone is safely and legally using their bicycles around campus, so below is a short true and false quiz. See how well you do.

1. When riding a bicycle on a street, you must ride against vehicle traffic.

*False. When riding a bicycle on a street you are a vehicle by WI State Laws and must ride the same direction as traffic. This still applies when riding in a bicycle lane.*

2. When riding at night, there is no need to use a headlight since a bicycle does not have a motorized engine.

*False. By WI State Statutes you must have a headlight that can be seen at 500 feet. Although not required by law, a flashing or solid red light on the rear is a good idea because on dark and rainy spring nights a driver may not be able to see you. You do need a red reflector on the rear of your bicycle.*

3. A bicycle must obey all traffic signals, just like a motorcycle and car.

*True. A bicycle must obey all traffic signals. This includes stop signs, red lights and speed limit signs.*

4. You can ride a bicycle everywhere on the UW-Whitewater Campus.

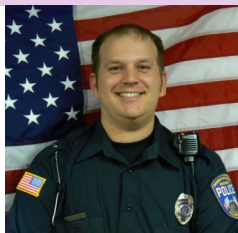
*False. A bicycle cannot be used on stairs, in buildings and in parts of the Prairie Reserve Trail System marked by signs.*

5. An officer can give you a speeding ticket for riding too fast on a bicycle.

*True. Since a bicycle is treated as a vehicle on the road you have all the privileges and restrictions that a vehicle does. In case you wonder, the fine is \$135.60 for speeding on a bicycle.*

Some other good safety tips are to wear bright colored, or even better, reflective clothing while riding at night. While riding on a sidewalk remember that pedestrians have the right of way and that some cities restrict bicycle riding in certain area, such as the downtown area.

### UW-Whitewater Police Services—Feature Staff



Officer Jeff VonAlven

Officer Jeff Von Alven began as a part time officer with our department in February of 2007. Ofc. Von Alven was promoted to full time on July 1, 2008. You may have seen Ofc. Von Alven working the many sporting events on campus as he is an avid sports fan and grew up in the area. Ofc. Von Alven currently works the 11:00pm to 7:00am shift. Ofc. Von Alven is one of three Evidence Custodians at our department. Ofc. Von Alven will be attending International Police Mountain Bike Training (IPMBA) in May and is looking forward to the new adventure. Ofc. Von Alven can be reached at vonalvej@uww.edu or by calling 262-472-4660 between 11:00pm and 7:00am. He would be happy to talk with you and answer any questions you may have.

### March Incident Summary

UW-Whitewater Police Services contacts involving an incident number being taken for March, 2009.

- Activated Fire/Burglar Alarm - 3
- Animal Complaints - 0
- Assaultive Behavior - 1
- Assist other Agency - 0
- Assist Whitewater Rescue - 11
- Battery Investigations - 0
- Check Person Welfare - 1
- Criminal Damage to Property - 4
- Disorderly Conduct - 3
- Drug Investigations - 4
- Harassment Investigation - 1
- Misuse of Telephone Services - 0
- Solicitation Complaints - 0
- Theft Investigations - 10
- Traffic Accident Reports - 3
- Traffic Citations - 25
- Underage Alcohol Consumption Citations - 27
- Vandalism - 2
- Warrant Service - 2
- Welfare Checks - 1

### Click It or Ticket

**DAY & NITE.**

**BUCKLE UP OR PAY UP.**

UW-Whitewater Police Services will once again team up with hundreds of law enforcement agencies throughout Wisconsin for the Click It or Ticket safety belt enforcement mobilization from May 18 to May 31, 2009.