

## Cops On Bikes

Written by Tallboy on 01 June 2015.



Quick! What's the weirdest thing your riding partner ever brought along on a ride? ... pizza? ... a tutu?... mismatched socks? ... a trail dog? ... see-through shorts?

How about a gun, handcuffs, mace and a bulletproof vest? Better yet, how about 8 SETS of guns, handcuffs, mace and bulletproof vests all on the trail at one time?

Over the winter, Lt. Brian Gould of the Cheektowaga Police Department contacted WNYMBA with an unusual request. Brian is charged with the responsibility for Cheektowaga's Police Bike Patrol and had the idea to change up their annual refresher training day with some real off-road mountain bike riding. Not knowing what the reaction would be within his group, Brian's first request was for one day of WNYMBA involvement. He definitely underestimated the resilience of his own guys though - the idea proved to be so popular that a second ride day had to be arranged and eventually, a third.

On May 19th Todd Fiore and Jerry Barbour escorted the first five cops through the best trails that Sprague Brook has to offer. On May 22nd, Todd, Jerry and Jim Allen did the honors with six more officers and on May 29th, Jim and Melissa Melnik completed the Trifecta, introducing the final eight new riders to "real" mountain biking.

These guys were unbelievable! WNYMBA didn't take it easy on them, but in three days of riding on the most difficult trails that Sprague Brook can serve up, these nineteen different officers, on 38-pound bikes and riding in full police uniforms, turned in no serious crashes, only a few minor tip-overs and not one arrest! OK, OK, so there was that one gun, firmly attached to a certain officer and safely tucked into it's holster, that slid along the ground a bit and got jammed up with mud. But it still pretty much shoots OK, right Brian?

Congratulations to all the Cheektowaga Police officers that took part. You guys rock!