

100 NEWS RELEASE

From: Rockford Park District – Park Police
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For Additional Information Contact:
Jerry Venable, Chief of Police
815-987-8698; jerryvenable@rockfordparkdistrict.org

Park Police Officer Places Second in Police Motorcycle Training & Skills Competition

ROCKFORD, IL – Rockford Park District Police Officer Wes Symonds took second place in the Expert Division in the New York City Metro Police Motorcycle Skills Competition held September. Officer Symonds represented the Rockford Park District Police, and competed against some of the best motorcycle riders, including motor officers from the New York City Police Department.

Officer Symonds has been working as a Certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation Instructor since 2004, teaching basic, intermediate, and advanced courses through Northern Illinois University's Motorcycle Safety Project. In 2008, Symonds also became a Certified Harley-Davidson Rider's Edge Instructor through Kegel Harley-Davidson/Buell in Rockford. He has worked as a Rockford Park District Park Police Motorcycle Officer since 2008. His duties include work as a part-time patrol officer and event officer.

Symonds also conducted a police motorcycle riding skills demonstration at the Great American Biker Jam at Kegel Harley-Davidson/Buell in June, and placed first in the Novice/Fairing Division and fourth in the Expert/Fairing division at the Mid-South Police Rodeo competition held in April in Memphis, TN.

Officer Wes Symonds Bio:

- April 2008, graduated first in class at Midwest Motor Officer School
- August 2008, competed at Harley-Davidson's 105th Anniversary/100th Anniversary of Police involvement Competition in Milwaukee, WI. Finished 49th out of 200 Officers from the United States, Canada, and France.
- April 2009, competed at the MidSouth Motor Officer Training and Skill Competition in Memphis, TN. Finished first in the Novice division, fourth overall. (42 competitors)
- August 2009, competed at the Midwest Motor Officer Training and Skill Competition in Bloomington, IN.
- Finished first in the Barrel event, Second in the slow ride, tied for Eighth in the skills event, finished third overall out of 26 competitors.
- September 2009, competed at the New York City Motor Officer Training and Skill Competition. Finished fifth in the slow ride, second in the skills event, and second overall out of 45 competitors.

For more information, contact Jerry Venable at 815-987-8698 or jerryvenable@rockfordparkdistrict.org.

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