

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
1/27/08 – 2/9/08**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Chris Holmes assisted area law enforcement agencies with a barricaded gunman situation after the subject attacked a local officer with a sword. The attack resulted in serious injuries to the local officer. The Michigan State Police Emergency Services team took the subject into custody and lodged him in the local jail.

CO Doug Hermanson encountered a snowmobile traveling on the highway at a high rate of speed. CO Hermanson stopped the operator, and his investigation revealed the operator was under the influence of intoxicants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Doug Hermanson was checking anglers on Lake Gogebic when one subject quickly pulled up two extra lines. The subject had been arrested for this same offense in past years. Enforcement action was taken.

**DISTRICT 2**

COs Kyle Publiski, Derek Miller and Sgt. Wally Binder, along with COs John Morey and Shannon VanPatten of the Commercial Fish Unit, patrolled the trail activity associated with the I-500 snowmobile race. Tickets were issued for safety, registration, and license suspension violations.

COs John Morey, Derek Miller and Kyle Publiski recovered a snowmobile that had been stolen from southern Michigan a few years ago. The investigation continues.

COs Reid Roeske and Steve Speigl investigated a loud noise and found that the noise came from a subject firing a homemade cannon at his residence. During the investigation, the COs observed an untagged deer and found that subject had shot the deer illegally and did not possess a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

**DISTRICT 3**

While on snowmobile patrol, CO Andrea Erratt encountered two subjects hunting coyotes. Both subjects had uncased and loaded rifles in the front seat of their vehicle, and neither had hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Molnar received DNA results back from the lab on an illegal deer case involving multiple deer and a stolen snowmobile. The DNA test resulted in a positive match on the illegal deer. CO Molnar is seeking warrants through the prosecutor's office.

CO Duane Budreau responded to a complaint where a subject hunting coyotes was riding a snowmobile when he trespassed on private property. CO Budreau's

investigation revealed that the subject wasn't paying attention to his location when the trespass occurred. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Albert followed up on a fatal snowmobile accident which occurred in Charlevoix County. A 15 year old was killed while crossing a busy road on a snowmobile.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Steve Converse responded to a complaint of a subject operating a snowmobile at a high rate of speed near ice shanties. CO Converse contacted the snowmobiler, who had a suspended driver's license. CO Converse's investigation revealed that the subject had killed an antlerless deer last season but had not purchased a hunting license. Further investigation resulted in the seizure of the illegal venison and a confession for taking an antlerless deer without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Brosky and Jim Espinoza observed an undersize northern pike lying next to an ice shanty. The occupants of the shanty were contacted and admitted to spearing the undersize pike. The investigation also revealed an illegal largemouth bass in a cooler. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jair Kollasch was on snowmobile patrol when he observed two snowmobile operators disregard a stop sign at a trail crossing. CO Kollasch contacted the two snowmobile operators, one of whom attempted to flee the scene. CO Kollasch's investigation revealed that both operators were under the influence of intoxicants. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Dohm and Steve Converse observed several snowmobiles stopped at an intersection along a snowmobile trail in Benzie County. One snowmobile left the group, drove down the roadway, and returned at a high rate of speed. The same operator was observed jumping the snow berms at the intersection. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Torres was talking to two snowmobilers when they heard another snowmobile running nearby. CO Torres' investigation found that the throttle had been tied down and the snowmobile was purposely run off the trail into the trees. CO Torres checked the identification number and learned that the snowmobile had been stolen from the Clio area. The investigation continues with the assistance of the Michigan State Police.

While on a snowmobile patrol in Osceola County, CO Troy Mueller came upon two subjects hunting small game. Upon seeing CO Mueller, the subjects attempted to walk away because neither possessed small game licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells responded to a complaint of coyote hunters shooting near a house from the road. The investigation revealed that the subject was shooting within a safety zone, trespassing, and did not possess the proper license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells did an inspection on a Newaygo County deer processor and found illegally tagged deer on the premises and improper record keeping. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Murray Cherry contacted a group of coyote hunters who found a bobcat that was not properly tagged and a subject not wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking a group of anglers on a local lake, COs Jon Wood and Jason McCullough observed two snowmobiles being operated at a high rate of speed within 100 feet of anglers. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Wood checked a group of anglers on a local lake. CO Wood's investigation led to an undersized pike buried in the snow beneath a sled. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Engelhard observed a snowmobile operating on a roadway against the flow of traffic in Alcona County. The operator also disregarded three different stop signs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Hearn and Sgt. Chris Morris contacted a group of people fishing on Mio Pond who were using more than the allowed two lines apiece. The investigation revealed that one of the subjects did not possess a fishing license, and another subject was wanted on a warrant. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Hearn checked a group of houndsmen and found one of the subjects to be in possession of a loaded firearm in the bed of the truck. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers on an Iosco County lake, CO Tami Pullen observed a snowmobile operating too close to the anglers. CO Pullen contacted the snowmobile operator and found that he was operating under the influence of intoxicants at twice the legal limit. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Glenn Gutierrez and Brian Olsen checked a group of anglers at a local access site and observed a subject hide an illegally taken fish in the woods. The investigation proved the fish to be an undersize largemouth bass taken during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Olsen received complaints on a woodcutter who was cutting trees on state land without a permit. CO Olsen contacted the subject, on state land, while engaged in the illegal activity. Enforcement action was taken and restitution for the damaged trees will be sought.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Nick Atkin stopped an ORV operating in the roadway and found the operator to be operating an unlicensed ORV with a revoked driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Isabella County, CO Larn Strawn observed three snowmobiles drag racing down the center of the roadway. After a short pursuit, CO Strawn contacted two of the offending snowmobile operators. The third was contacted as he was trying to get back to his residence. Enforcement action was taken.

With the assistance of the sheriff's department, CO Chad Foerster contacted an individual who was predator hunting at night with a rifle larger than a .22 caliber rimfire and was transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith received a complaint of a subject chasing down a deer with his snowmobile. CO Smith's investigation found a deer hanging inside the subject's garage and damage done to a snowmobile consistent with hitting a deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bob Hobkirk observed smoke coming from a residence and found that the homeowner was burning processed wood materials, insulation, and vinyl siding. The homeowner had rented a dumpster on site, but thought it was legal to burn these items. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Jeff Rabbers checked an unmarked ice shanty and discovered two baited set lines and a burning candle inside. The investigation continued and it was discovered that the owner was fishing on a different lake. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn was checking ice anglers when he heard radio transmission of a breaking and entering in progress at a nearby residence. CO Ginn apprehended two subjects as they were exiting the residence. The subjects were turned over to Michigan State Police Troopers and lodged in jail.

CO Paul Higashi contacted a subject leaving his ice fishing area with a bag laden with fish. The investigation revealed the subject was 20 bluegills over his limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andy Bauer received a complaint of a turkey shot from the road but was not recovered by the shooter. CO Bauer located a vehicle similar to the description given by the complainants. CO Bauer interviewed the owner of the vehicle who admitted to shooting the turkey during the closed season. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Bob VerBerkmoes followed up on information obtained by law enforcement officers in Indiana in which a subject was found to have a Michigan driver's license but actually lived in Indiana. Sgt. VerBerkmoes interviewed the individual and obtained an admission that the subject had been living in Indiana for more than 10 years while continuing to purchase resident licenses in Michigan. The subject had purchased 21 different licenses in the past three years. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Josh Wright observed an ORV operator towing three subjects on sleds in the roadway. The operator accelerated at a high rate of speed when he saw CO Wright, causing one of the sleds to overturn, throwing the rider into the street. CO Wright picked up the uninjured rider and contacted the operator of the ORV at a residence in Waterloo. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer followed up on a hunting accident where a 19 year old subject slipped while rabbit hunting and dropped his shotgun, causing it to go off. The blast caused extensive tissue damage to his upper left chest and the left side of his face. The victim was transported to a Toledo hospital where he was in critical but stable condition.

COs Eric Bottorff and Brad Brewer contacted two non-resident subjects fishing who were unlicensed. The subjects were also fishing with too many lines and were in possession of an out of season, undersize bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols responded to a complaint of a deer that appeared to have been caught in a snare. CO Nickols was able to approach the deer, cut the snare, and free the deer. The illegally set snare was set on the complainant's property without his permission. The investigation continues.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Brandon Kieft assisted the Oakland County Sheriff's Department with a snowmobile accident where the operator fled the scene before police could arrive. However, broken snowmobile parts found at the scene contained information that was tracked back to the owner of the snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft stopped two snowmobiles for operating on the roadway. Further investigation revealed that one of the snowmobiles had an expired registration and the operator of the other snowmobile had a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Gerard Goulette and Sgt. Tom Wanless responded to a snowmobile personal injury accident. The operator was traveling at a high rate of speed, failed to negotiate a curve, struck a guard rail, went airborne, and was thrown several feet into the woods. Speed and alcohol appear to have been factors in the crash.

CO Ben Lasher received a complaint from coyote hunters of illegally set snares that had caught four of their dogs. Further investigation revealed several more untagged and unrestricted snares, one with a deer caught in it. CO Lasher freed the deer, then observed a subject with a .22 rifle not wearing hunter orange and carrying traps and snares with no identification on them. The subject admitted the illegally set traps and snares belonged to him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach concluded an investigation of a subject trapping on private property without permission and using untagged traps. After several interviews, CO Kovach obtained a confession from a subject who stated he did not think the owner of the property would care if he trapped on his property. Enforcement action was taken.

While watching a subject ice fishing, CO Todd Szyska observed the subject toss a styrofoam cup into the wind and watch while it blew across the lake. The subject was also tending three fishing poles. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a railroad trespassing complaint, CO Pete Purdy contacted a subject who was small game hunting on railroad property. The trespassing subject was a felon in possession of a firearm and had driven to the location on a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher investigated his second illegal snaring case of the winter. CO Lasher found eight illegally set snares on private property. None of the snares had identification tags or stops. CO Lasher interviewed a subject and obtained a full confession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint of a subject who shot a seven point buck in late January. CO Kovach interviewed the subject who admitted to taking the deer out of season. The subject is a convicted felon who was wanted on several misdemeanor warrants for assault and domestic violence. CO Kovach also confirmed the subject had three felony warrants out of Alaska and the Alaska State Police indicated they were willing to extradite the subject. The subject was lodged in the Lapeer County jail to answer to the Michigan charges and then he will be extradited to Alaska.