

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
7/27/09 – 8/9/09**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Grant Emery received information that a subject may have killed a bear last summer. CO Emery, with the help of CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy, investigated and obtained evidence and a confession from the individual for shooting four bears last summer from his yard. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Aho checked a boat on a local lake during a recent rainy evening. The two subjects were found to be in possession of two short bass and did not have fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Trey Luce responded to an ORV personal injury accident over the weekend. Two juveniles were riding double on their ORV north of Ishpeming when they struck a pothole and were launched into the trees off the trail. They were located by Officer Luce who transported them to awaiting Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel. They suffered broken bones and numerous cuts and abrasions.

COs Trey Luce and Sgt. Pete Wright responded to a car/moose accident near Covington. A juvenile bull moose was struck and killed by a passing car. The carcass was recovered and brought to a local meat processor for salvage of the meat. Once processing is completed, the meat will be donated to a local food pantry.

COs Brett Gustafson, Doug Hermanson, and Sgt. Steven Burton assisted in the search for a transient resident breaking into the Porcupine Mountains State Park. Numerous patrols were spent trying to locate the subject. He is believed to have broken into several buildings at the park and a garage in nearby Silver City; and is thought to be hiding out in the park boundaries.

Three car killed wolves were recovered on the west end of the UP this past week.

CO Dave Painter and Sgt. Marc Pomroy conducted a marine patrol on the Michigamme Reservoir. Numerous boats were contacted whose occupants were enjoying the warm temperatures. Violations addressed during the patrol were fishing without a license and failing to provide the proper number of personal flotation devices (PFDs).

CO Brian Bacon contacted the operator of an unregistered boat on a northern Dickinson County Lake. The subject had no PFDs and hadn't purchased a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dave Painter and Jason Wicklund responded to the scene of an illegal wolf kill in Iron County. The investigation is ongoing.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Kyle Publiski was sick at home on a pass day when he was contacted by DNR Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management (FMFM) personnel. The weather was extremely bad and FMFM's vessel had broken free from the Lime Island docks. CO Publiski responded, located the adrift vessel, towed it back to Lime Island and secured it safely in the harbor.

While on patrol, CO Kevin Postma contacted three subjects on an inland trout lake. The subjects had short trout, no trout licenses, and no life jackets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski reports yet another subject evading taxes by documenting his 72 foot yacht in the British Virgin Islands. During contact the owner demanded that the CO talk to his lawyer on the cell phone. The subject indicated that his lawyer would straighten this out. CO Publiski assured the subject he didn't need help doing his job. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hammill attempted to stop two motorcycles that were traveling at a high rate of speed. The subjects failed to stop for the CO. Several agencies became involved in the pursuit and at days end the two individuals were lodged in the county jail.

While on routine patrol, CO Derek Miller observed three subjects on a trout lake in northern Luce County. CO Miller watched as the anglers landed several fish. The CO contacted the subjects at their vehicle as they were getting ready to leave and they claimed that they only caught three fish. CO Miller asked more questions and the subjects denied they had any more fish. One of the subjects sat down a 12 pack of pop that he had been holding. Upon doing so the 12 pack tipped over and presented the flapping tail of a trout. The 12 pack revealed eight more undersized trout. Enforcement action was taken. A third subject accompanying the two had a warrant and was lodged in the Luce County jail.

## **DISTRICT 3**

CO Michael Feagan patrolled the Sturgeon River by kayak and contacted multiple rafters, canoers, kayakers and anglers. Three tickets were issued for vessels without PFDs.

COs Eric Bottorff and Matt Theunick investigated a complaint about a subject shooting squirrels from an apartment complex. After interviewing the subject and receiving consent to check his freezer, the COs found 16 gray fox squirrels. The subject claimed he shot the squirrels last fall during the open season. However, a check of the license system showed he did not have a small game license last year. A ticket was issued for taking/possessing squirrels without a small game license, and the squirrels were seized as evidence.

CO Richard Stowe assisted the Presque Isle County Sheriff's Department with a case that went to jury trial involving recreational trespass along the Ocqueoc River. CO Stowe assisted with the investigation and testified at the trial. The jury found the accused guilty.

COs Michael Feagan, Matt Theunick, Richard Stowe and Sgt. Greg Drogowski teamed up in checking a camp on state land that had been there for almost two months, had trash all over and was generating complaints from nearby landowners. Contact was finally made one morning following an all night party, with subjects found sleeping on the hoods of vehicles, car doors wide open, and beer and liquor bottles everywhere. One subject was arrested on an outstanding warrant, another ticketed for the illegal camp, and everyone took part in cleaning up the entire area of trash. All camping gear, vehicles and campers were evicted.

COs Michael Feagan and Eric Bottorff worked the Top 'O Michigan hydroplane boat races over the weekend on the inland waterway, in conjunction with the sheriff's department. The Indian River and Crooked River are closed to recreational boat traffic during the race. Only one accident occurred this year and there were no injuries reported.

CO Richard Stowe reports an ORV fatal accident occurred in Presque Isle County over the weekend. The victim was a middle aged female. Excessive speed, alcohol consumption, and failure to wear a helmet were apparently contributing factors. The incident occurred on a county road. Presque Isle County roads are open with restrictions by county ordinance.

COs Andrea Albert and Steve Speigl checked an angler on Intermediate Lake in Antrim County. The COs observed a stringer hanging off the back of the boat which contained an 11" walleye and a seven inch bass. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Steve Speigl and Andrea Albert contacted the operator of a boat that was taking on water because the transom was made of untreated particle board. The COs assisted the boater and then ticketed him for not having any PFDs on board.

COs Steve Speigl and Andrea Albert participated in Elk Rapids Harbor Days events, including the parade, and enforced marine laws during the fireworks display over Lake Michigan.

CO Andrea Albert was dispatched to a residence at 4:00 a.m. that reportedly had a bear inside tearing up the house. When she arrived there was no bear and the half-asleep owners had no idea what she was talking about. There seems to be a new prank going around that a person can patch into another phone and call 911 dispatch centers.

CO Mark Depew contacted an angler and while he was retrieving his fishing license CO Depew observed a driver's license which was not from Michigan. The angler produced a resident fishing license and then an Indiana license after CO Depew pointed

it out. The angler admitted to moving to Indiana over a year ago. He was issued a ticket for a nonresident purchasing resident licenses. Restitution is being sought.

CO Mark Depew observed three anglers fishing on Bradford Lake and, upon contact, discovered that two of them did not have fishing licenses and their boat did not have enough PFDs. Tickets were issued.

CO Mark Depew contacted three juveniles riding ORVs near Gaylord who were not being supervised. CO Depew called their parents and had them come to their location. The parents were ticketed for allowing their children to operate ORVs without supervision.

CO Mark Depew observed four anglers on Crapo Lake catching numerous bass. When they returned to shore and CO Depew measured their fish, they had caught eleven largemouth bass and eight of them were undersized. The anglers stated they thought the size limit was 12 inches. They were ticketed for retaining the short bass.

CO Nick Torsky was patrolling the special regulation lakes in the Pigeon River area and observed an angler using live bait on a lake restricted to artificial lures. When the angler saw CO Torsky's patrol truck he quickly switched over to a lure. CO Torsky contacted the angler who initially denied using live bait but then admitted to using worms. A ticket was issued.

While on patrol CO Joe Molnar observed a truck attempting to pull a jeep out of a wetland. The jeep had become buried up to the frame of the vehicle. The operator stated it was a stupid thing to do and was ticketed for operating in a wetland.

CO Joe Molnar contacted two anglers on Grass Lake who stated they had not had much luck and had only caught small bluegills. CO Molnar asked if they had caught anything else since the head of a small largemouth bass was sticking out from under a seat. The angler admitted to putting the bass under his seat as the CO approached. The other angler admitted to not have a fishing license. Tickets were issued.

COs Joe Molnar and Bill Webster contacted two anglers on Lake Avalon who stated they had had some luck but had thrown everything back. The COs checked a bucket in the boat and found an undersized smallmouth bass. One of the subjects stated he had caught the fish and wanted to show it to his wife. The COs had the anglers reel up their lines which produced yet another undersized bass attached to a large treble hook. The angler admitted to using the bass as bait for pike and was ticketed for the small bass.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Angela Greenway was on her way to check an active illegal bear bait location in Lake County when she encountered two subjects carrying bear bait food items into a different location. The persons admitted to baiting the location but stated that they

should not be written a ticket because they didn't know the rules because they couldn't read or write.

COs Carolyn Dice and Angela Greenway were patrolling by drift boat on the Big Manistee River near Red Bridge access in Manistee County when they observed the smell of marijuana ahead of them. As they rounded a bend they watched as a woman was attempting to light what appeared to be a joint. When the woman saw the COs she discarded the hand-rolled cigarette into the river, then took a cigarette from a pack and lit it. The COs contacted her and confiscated what the woman admitted was marijuana hidden in the float tube she was on.

COs Angela Greenway and Carolyn Dice were on a drift boat patrolling the Big Manistee River in Manistee County when they observed a swamped personal watercraft (PWC) trapped by the current under a tree branch with no persons around it. The registration was checked and found to be stolen. COs Greenway and Dice called CO Steve Converse and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth who were patrolling downstream in a jet boat. The COs picked up CO Sam Koscinski at a nearby access site and responded to the location. As the conservation officers arrived, a woman on a float tube got caught up in the swift current, became stranded in a log jam and was in danger of being pulled under into the deep water. The COs operated their boat to the woman, threw her a rope and pulled her to safety. It turned out that the woman had just recently received a ticket from COs Greenway and Dice after having attempted to conceal marijuana that she had hidden on her float tube. The PWC was dislodged, bailed out and towed back to the access site where it was transported to an impound lot and transferred to the Michigan State Police (MSP) as evidence in an ongoing investigation.

CO Troy Vangelderren received a complaint from an Oceana County resident about two subjects in a truck who were driving around on her property apparently shooting at deer. As CO Vangelderren was enroute, Oceana County deputies located the suspect vehicle. One rabbit and one mourning dove were found in the bed of the suspect's pickup truck. CO Vangelderren spoke with the driver of the truck and obtained a confession.

COs Sam Koscinski and Steve Converse were observing persons attempting to snag fish from the "tubes" near Stronach in Manistee County. While filming the offenders, CO Converse recognized a person attempting to snag a salmon. It turned out that he had written the person a ticket six days prior for attempting to snag from the same place, using the same equipment and wearing the same clothing. A second ticket was issued and this time the gear was confiscated.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling near Red Bridge in Manistee County when he observed a vehicle parked near the bridge. He stopped and contacted a person who was fishing without a license. As the CO was writing the ticket, the person stated that his friend was just downstream and was also fishing without a license. CO Converse walked downstream and spoke with the person who was ultimately also ticketed.

CO Carolyn Dice was patrolling in eastern Mason County when she observed a large 4WD pickup truck spinning donuts at an intersection. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was contacted. The vehicle was not registered and did not have insurance. The driver stated that he should not be issued a ticket for any of his offenses because it would affect his commercial driver's license status. A ticket was issued despite the driver's reasoning.

CO Mike Borkovich handled several complaints over the weekend in Leelanau County related to persons storing boats and equipment on state access site property as well as parking-related issues.

CO Brian Lebel had a dirt bike operating on Mecosta County state land run from him. CO Lebel was able to track the motorcycle to a residence and obtain a confession from the subject who ran. The man stated he "just got exticketed". The man was lodged in jail.

CO Mike Wells was walking through a state access site in Newaygo County when he came upon a couple having a very heated argument. The argument did not cease until CO Wells arrested the male subject for disorderly conduct.

## **DISTRICT 5**

District officers participated in a marine safety patrol along with local law enforcement agencies on Houghton Lake during the annual Bud Bash event. Arrests were down from previous years. Area officers also assisted in a search for two swimmers who drifted from their disabled vessel. The subjects were eventually located safe on shore.

CO Mike Hearn continues an investigation of destruction of state property involving toilets and bulletin boards that were spray painted with graffiti.

District 5 officers, along with a US Forest Service (USFS) officer, county deputy, and a District 3 conservation officer, conducted a marine safety patrol on the Au Sable River. The patrol resulted in arrests for littering, disorderly person, and illegal narcotics. Over two hundred contacts were made with people on the river.

COs Warren MacNeill and Brian Engelhard responded to three separate incidents of distressed boaters on Lake Huron. One incident involved a subject who had overturned his 17 foot sailboat and had been in the water for over an hour in 3-4 foot rollers. COs Engelhard and MacNeill were able to get the subject out of the water and also get a towline on the sailboat and get it upright. Both the subject and his boat were returned safely to shore.

CO Brian Engelhard was conducting a river patrol on the Au Sable in Alcona County and observed a couple pull their canoe along shore and begin smoking marijuana. CO Engelhard contacted the subjects and recovered the illegal marijuana along with a confession. The subjects were arrested on the illegal drug charges.

CO Joel Lundberg heard a complaint dispatched to the MSP of a PWC accident on Wixom Lake. According to witness statements, the female driving the jetski hit a dock at full speed, totally destroying the dock. The driver was relatively unharmed in the collision. COs Lundberg and Steve Lockwood conducted the investigation on scene and determined the subject had been drinking. She was arrested for drunk boating in connection with the accident. At the same time, one of her friends came along on a PWC to check on her. After making contact with the COs, it was determined that the friend had been drinking, and after sobriety tests, was also arrested for drunk boating.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood responded to a complaint of a downed plane on state land. The plane's crash signal had been tracked by the FAA and Civil Air Patrol to a rough location. Both COs spent several hours on foot in a heavily wooded area during a rain storm searching for the pilot and his plane. COs Lockwood and Lundberg located the plane but, unfortunately, the pilot was killed in the crash.

CO Tami Pullen checked an angler on the pier who immediately asked her to measure the bass in his bucket to see if it was big enough for him to keep. She did measure it for him; however, the bass was not big enough and it was also quite dead. Officer Pullen ticketed the angler for keeping the short bass.

COs Tami Pullen and Rebecca Hopkins both responded to complaints of recreational trespass on the railroad trestle resulting in 13 arrests being made for recreational trespass.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Hobkirk assisted the Port Crescent State Park ranger with locating and interviewing a male subject who was allegedly looking into cars in the parking lot as well as going into the women's restroom. Information was gathered and the subject was escorted from the park.

CO Seth Rhodea responded with the United States Coast Guard to a sailboat that had caught fire on Lake Huron. The sailboat was returning from Port Huron to the Mackinaw Race. All people onboard were rescued, but the boat was a total loss and sank.

CO Seth Rhodea checked a boat that had a 1995 registration decal displayed on the boat. Upon checking the anglers in the boat, neither had a fishing license in possession. Both anglers were checked in the license system with only one showing a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Smith located a litter pile and followed up with information he obtained from the pile of trash. A subject was contacted and issued a ticket for littering.

COs Holly Pennoni, Seth Rhodea, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly, and Sgt. Tony Soave were present at the Saginaw Bay Waterfowl Festival that took place at the Bay City State

Recreation Area. The COs answered many questions and reported a large number of visitors attended the festival.

CO Holly Pennoni responded to a complaint of a hunter taking an antlered deer with a crop damage permit. The complainant stated he had in his possession the proof that a male deer was taken. Upon investigation, CO Pennoni contacted the suspect and discovered that an antlerless deer, a button buck, was shot. The suspect had processed the deer and thrown the carcasses on the side of the road in an area where the CO has received numerous deer carcass littering complaints. CO Pennoni issued a ticket for littering.

CO Jay Person received a complaint of a subject dumping trash on state land. The complainant was able to get a license plate which led CO Person to a residence. Visible inside the residence was a man with a long gun. CO Person approached cautiously and knocked at the door. At that time the CO heard the bolt of the gun rack shut and the man came around the corner with a shotgun in hand. The subject was expecting a friend to stop by to go target shooting and was startled when he saw the CO and quickly put the gun down. CO Person explained how close this situation had been to being more serious than a litter violation. The subject admitted to the litter and apologized for the gun.

While working the Bud Bash on Houghton Lake, CO Ken Lowell observed a subject fill an empty glass beer bottle with water and sink it in the lake. Upon contact, the subject denied doing such a thing and stated all his empty bottles were on board the vessel. A count of the bottles on board came up one short. The subject, feeling foolish, admitted to the violation.

While fueling his patrol boat in a slow, no-wake section of river, CO Nick Atkin was rocked violently by the wake of a boat violating the posted no-wake zone. CO Atkin quickly finished fueling and caught up to the vessel, which had been rocking docked boats for the entire length of the no-wake zone.

CO Nick Atkin was called to state land by a MSP trooper who was with a subject shoveling sand into his pickup. The subject stated he needed the sand because his four wheel drive truck was stuck. CO Atkin found that the pickup was not stuck at all; and a check of DNR priors showed the man to have several convictions for illegally taking state forest products. Another charge is pending.

While on marine patrol on the Saginaw River, CO Dan Lee observed two subjects swinging golf clubs along the river bank. The subjects were working a community event in the city which is held to revitalize downtown. CO Lee then saw both subjects hit several golf balls into the river, and just short of a restaurant on the other side. Upon contact, the subjects first claimed to be practice swinging and had hit nothing. They then stated they had hit rocks, which isn't litter. After pulling the clubs out and examining them for marks made by hitting rocks, which there were none, and a small

crowd gathering to see what was up, the subjects shamefully admitted to the act and recognized the contradiction with the purpose of the event.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Jeff Rabbers, with the assistance of Wildlife Division, conducted an investigation into a subject in possession of three whitetail deer without a proper permit. During the course of the investigation, the operator moved two fawns to another facility and released a deer which was recaptured during the investigation. CO Rabbers took enforcement action against the unlicensed facility for accepting wild fawns for rehabilitation without a permit.

CO Chris Simpson was working at Grand Haven State Park during the Coast Guard Festival and found several subjects in possession of alcohol in the beach parking lot. He was in the process of issuing tickets to the subjects when a fight broke out right next to his truck between another group of subjects. CO Simpson broke up the fight and took enforcement action against the combatants.

While on marine patrol, CO Mike McGee and Sgt. Robert Torres observed a subject fishing off a private dock. Upon contact the angler advised he was a non resident and was a relative of the owner of the residence/dock. The COs had the subject retrieve his ID, which was in the residence. When the angler came back he gave the COs his relative's fishing license stating he was told as long as the homeowner bought a fishing license he could fish off their dock. COs advised the angler he was misinformed and issued him a ticket. A warning was given for loan/borrow a license.

While on marine patrol after dark, CO Ken Cerny and Sgt. Robert Torres observed a boat running without navigation lights. The vessel was stopped and when asked about the navigation lights the operator advised the COs she didn't know how to turn on the navigation lights. In addition the COs found that eight people were on board and they only had five PFDs.

CO Andy Bauer observed two anglers fishing for summer run steelhead on a stretch of river in Berrien County that has single point hook restrictions. CO Bauer observed one of the anglers using a fly rod with three unbaited single point hooks. The other angler was using an unbaited treble hook. Both anglers were attempting to snag the fish.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Rich Nickols assisted the local township fire department with an illegal fire that was unattended. CO Nickols followed up a few days later and found that the fire had reignited and was still unattended. CO Nickols' investigation led to the responsible party. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Bigger and Jeff Walker assisted the marine deputies while on patrol during a local lake festival. The COs found two subjects floundering in the water and rescued

them by pulling them out of the water and onto the patrol boat. The investigation revealed there had been a domestic incident on a vessel and the first subject, who was bleeding profusely, was thrown from the vessel. The second subject, who almost drowned while trying to save his friend, was under the influence of alcohol. The COs located the vessel where the domestic incident occurred and rendered first aid to the subjects left on board. Enforcement action was taken.

In a separate incident at the same lake festival, CO Dan Bigger was assisted by the marine deputies in the rescue of another subject who was trying to swim across the lake but was too intoxicated to complete the task.

COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy conducted PWC patrols on inland lakes and observed many violations including: failing to provide PFDs on board vessels, towing persons without an observer, fishing without licenses, and failing to register watercraft (including one that had not been registered since 1995). Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster contacted two PWC operators who were operating in a careless manner. Upon further investigation it was revealed that there was a misdemeanor warrant for one of the operators. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the annual Clark Lake raft-o-rama in Jackson County, Sgt. Troy Bahlau and CO Shane Webster encountered a pontoon boat that was overloaded. The boat was so overloaded that the pontoons were completely submerged and the gas tank was floating in the water. The boat was carrying 14 subjects and only three PFDs on board. There was also no throwable PFD on board as required. The COs took some of the occupants onboard their vessel and towed the disabled pontoon boat back to shore. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Linda Scheidler conducted several marine patrols on various lakes in Genesee County. She contacted a subject she observed fishing from shore who admitted he did not have a fishing license because he was only going to catch and release the fish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach assisted in a multiple agency search for a mentally challenged seven year old near Imlay City. After a few hours, the boy was located unharmed, approximately a mile from home in a field. CO Kovach also assisted with a suicidal subject who claimed that responding officers would have to shoot him. When CO Kovach arrived on scene with other officers, the subject was taken into custody without incident.

CO Linda Scheidler received a complaint that a subject was killing hawks and other birds of prey that were nesting in the area of his pigeon farm. With assistance from USFWS, a federal search warrant was obtained for the residence and out buildings.

COs Linda Scheidler and Dan Lee, Sgt. Tom Wanless, two MSP troopers and a USFWS agent executed the warrant. A bird perch made of PVC that was mounted above one of the bird houses was seized along with a couple firearms. The perch had bare wires wrapped around it and an electrical current. Charges are pending the review of the federal prosecutor.

COs Ben Lasher, Ken Kovach, Todd Szyska, Kris Kiel and Ben Shively conducted a late evening patrol targeting OUIL and fishing violations on Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River.