

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
8/6/12 – 8/19/12**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Jason Wicklund was on patrol in Gogebic County when he observed an ORV coming toward him. The driver was not wearing a helmet, so the CO stopped to speak with the operator. The CO observed several beer cans and a liquor bottle in the cooler on front of the ORV and the driver admitted to drinking. The driver also informed the CO that his license was suspended for a previous alcohol violation. The driver was given field sobriety tests and was almost three times the legal limit. The driver was lodged in the Gogebic County jail.

CO Brian Bacon worked a complaint of illegal ORV activity in Dickinson County. It didn't take long until the suspects were found operating down a county roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO Mike Evink was in an area where he'd had several complaints of careless operation of ORVs by juveniles when he observed a dirt bike operator without a helmet and an ORV operator and two young passengers without helmets, operating down the middle of the roadway. When the CO turned around to make contact, the subjects fled through a field. CO Evink knew the house they had come from and was waiting in the driveway with their parents when they returned. Tickets were issued to the parents for allowing kids under 16 to operate unsupervised.

COs Robert Crisp and John Wenzel encountered a group camping on the Wyman Grade who were in possession of marijuana and had no licenses on their ORVs. Enforcement action was taken. They later contacted another group riding without helmets and no ORV licenses. Tickets were issued.

CO Robert Crisp received a complaint of deer poaching in Alger County and CO Mike Hammill responded to assist. A conscientious neighbor heard shots and took it on himself to investigate. He took pictures of the suspect vehicle, including the license plate, the deer in the back of the vehicle, and even the footprints around the vehicle. The COs were able to contact the suspect and located parts of two deer at his residence. A confession for shooting two deer was obtained, evidence was seized (including the firearm used) and the subject was lodged in the county jail for the night.

**DISTRICT 3**

CO Andrea Erratt contacted the Captain of an illegal charter boat operation on Beaver Island. The vessel was being operated for public charters without being safety inspected. The captain was ticketed for the violation and given several warnings for

other marine safety violations. He had been ticketed before for advertising charter service on a vessel that was not inspected.

CO Jon Sklba assisted MSP with the apprehension of an armed robbery suspect.

CO Carl VanderWall investigated a party site on state land where a fire was still burning from the night before. There were also beer cans, bottles and other trash strewn about. CO VanderWall investigated and found a bank receipt in the trash and located the subject at her place of work, where he ticketed her for littering.

In Kalkaska county CO Andrea Albert assisted the Michigan State Police (MSP) and local deputies with the two day search of an armed subject who fled into the woods after pointing a firearm at an individual. On the second day of the search COs Albert, Nick Torsky and Mark Depew came across an illegal bear bait. CO Albert followed up with a ticket to the responsible party.

While patrolling Lake Winyah, CO Nick Torsky checked three anglers in a rowboat who were in possession of a couple of fish. They were asked if they knew the length of one of their bass, and they said at least 14 inches. CO Torsky measured the fish at 13.5 inches and seized the fish and gave them a warning and a DNR measuring tape for future use.

CO Mark DePew received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of shining and shooting. CO DePew contacted the suspects and received confessions from three individuals who stated they shined and then shot a large eight point buck still in velvet. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Mark DePew interviewed an individual reference his recent hunting activity and received confessions for tagging a bobcat which was snared by another person, shooting two small bucks in the 2011 deer season contrary to his combination tag, and baiting bear and deer early this year. The investigation is currently ongoing.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Sean Kehoe investigated a complaint of litter dumped at a snowmobile staging area on state land in Grand Traverse County. CO Kehoe located information identifying the responsible parties and interviewed two high school seniors. Both admitted to placing litter at the staging area location as the litter was part of an underage drinking party.

CO Justin Vanderlinde worked two separate litter piles on state land and located information in each to track down the responsible individuals. Both were contacted and ticketed for littering on state land. The subjects had placed household waste and construction material on the public property.

Sgt. Bob Torres investigated a vehicle parked illegally on state forest lands along the Manistee River. Unable to locate anyone associated with the vehicle, Sgt. Torres

backed off and watched the vehicle. After a period of time, two subjects returned to the vehicle after they had been fishing. One subject was unable to produce a fishing license. A record check revealed that one of the subjects had multiple outstanding arrest warrants, including a felony warrant out of St. Ignace. The subject was taken into custody and lodged in the county jail.

CO Brian Brosky assisted the U. S. Coast Guard (USCG), local deputies and other local rescue personnel with the search and rescue of two missing anglers on Lake Michigan. The anglers left for a day of fishing at 5:00 a.m. on Thursday and were reported missing and overdue at 9:30 p.m. that same day. Throughout the day wave conditions were reported between five and seven feet. One of the anglers was found that night, a victim of drowning. The following day CO Brosky located the other angler, another victim of drowning. Only small portions of the boat have been located.

CO Steve Converse made several arrests over the weekend for subjects fishing within 300' of the weir and snagging on the Little Manistee River. Additional violations included fishing without a license, fishing with illegal gear and unbaited hooks, oversized hooks and retaining foul hooked fish.

CO Mike Wells was conducting surveillance on illegal bear bait in Newaygo County. CO Wells, along with other area officers had been spending considerable time sitting on several illegal strike baits. After several hours early one morning, CO Wells heard a vehicle approach and stop in the vicinity of the bait site, where a subject ran up and freshened the bait. CO Wells contacted the subject who admitted to the illegal bait site and stated, "I knew I was busted when I heard you come crashing out of the woods". CO Brian Lebel was stationed nearby and assisted with photographs and evidence seizure. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 5**

COs Chris Bowen, Matt Liestenfeltz, Bobbi Lively, and Jon Warner, along with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) law enforcement officers, local deputies, and a MSP trooper, participated in a joint enforcement patrol on the Au Sable River below Mio. The patrol was in response to the complaints of drunk and disorderly problems, assaults, narcotics use, nudity, marine violations, and conflicts with anglers. The Officers worked a zero tolerance patrol and concluded the patrol at the local access site to address litter, disorderly conduct, traffic flow conflicts by livery pick-ups, and offered first aid to the highly intoxicated.

CO Mike Hearn reports that after three separate complaints of a dog running at large and chasing deer, the dog was picked up and held at the local shelter. After the owner retrieved his dog, the activity resumed. On the fourth complaint of the dog at large and running deer, the dog was again held and the owner ticketed.

## **DISTRICT 6**

At 1:00 am, Conservation Officer Nick Atkin was requested by the US Coast Guard to assist a 17.5 foot vessel with two occupants in distress on the Saginaw Bay. The US Coast Guard was unable to assist the vessel in distress and advised the CO that a bad storm was in the immediate area of the vessel in distress. The CO listened to the marine radio while responding to the vessel in distress and found that there was a small craft advisory involving a storm that was capable of producing 60 mph gale force winds nearing the area of the vessel in distress. The CO knew that the small vessel would not fair well in those conditions and rushed to locate the vessel and occupants. Using GPS coordinates given by the US Coast Guard, the CO located the vessel in distress. At the same time the CO located the vessel in distress, the storm hit the area. The CO was able to navigate through the dangerous conditions and get everyone to safety unharmed.

CO Nick Atkin responded to an ORV complaint where subjects were possibly operating on closed state land without helmets. The CO located the subjects and found both subjects failed to have helmets, ORV licenses and one of the operators was operating on a suspended drivers' license. Enforcement action was taken.

While working at Sleeper State Park, CO Bob Hobkirk was contacted by a camper who was trying to send a research paper to a college professor, but was unable to since the Parks internet was not working properly. The camper was quite upset since the deadline set by her professor was only a few minutes away. CO Hobkirk allowed the camper to send her research paper using his computer.

While CO Bob Hobkirk was at Sleeper State Park, a highly intoxicated male had come into the campground office. He advised that he had become separated from his friends while at the Cheeseburger Festival in Caseville. He had taken a bus out to the campground thinking that he could walk the rest of the distance to his friend's cottage. Once at the campground the intoxicated man realized that he was still a long way from his friend's place. Once CO Hobkirk finished his duties at the park, he transported the man about five miles to his friend's cottage to keep him from possibly walking in traffic. The man was quite grateful, but complained that there should be taxi cabs and better cellular service in Huron County.

CO Joshua Wright was working a marine patrol on the water during the annual Cheeseburger Festival in Caseville when he watched a person being towed behind a jet ski without an observer. While he was on that stop with the blue lights activated, another person went by him towing a person behind a jet ski without an observer. Both operators were issued tickets.

CO Phil Hudson assisted local deputies with an anonymous tip pertaining to a marijuana grow in a wooded area. Several hundred plants were recovered with an estimated street value of nearly \$600,000.

CO Scott Brown received a complaint of a subject illegally burning. Upon arriving, CO Brown found that the subject had knocked down an old barn and was burning it. The subject told the CO he had a permit to burn but after looking at the permit, it was only to burn brush and natural materials. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a complaint from Isabella Central Dispatch reference a large illegal burn. The CO met the fire chief at the scene who advised that this was the third time they had been called to this residence in regard to illegal fires. The items being burned ranged from tires and clothes to building materials. The resident advised the CO that she did not know how the fire was started and that someone else must have started the fire. Enforcement action will be taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock observed a subject riding an ORV down the shoulder of the road without a helmet. When contact was made the subject was determined to be too young to operate the ORV. The juvenile advised he was just checking the river. The juvenile stated his mother knew he was riding the ORV. The CO contacted his mother and explained the rules pertaining to ORV operation and the four violations. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Clifford Lake in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell watched three anglers fishing from a bass boat. When the CO approached he saw one of the anglers put down his fishing pole. The angler stated that he had a license and produced a license from last year. It was found that the angler did not purchase a fishing license for this year and had two warrants for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Jeff Robinette had received information from CO Chris Holmes about an illegally taken deer. CO Holmes had discovered on Facebook that a subject posted pictures and made statements about taking a buck last fall. Investigation revealed that the deer had been taken without a deer license. CO Robinette located and interviewed the suspect and obtained a confession that the subject had taken a buck four days before buying any type of deer license. Enforcement action will be taken.

CO Andy Bauer was on marine patrol when he observed a boat that appeared to be having engine problems. CO Bauer contacted the occupants and discovered that the engine would not start, the battery was almost dead, and after a recent service on the boat, the plug had been left out. The water in the boat was up to the occupant's ankles and getting deeper, and the bilge pump wasn't keeping up with the influx of water and the boat was sinking. CO Bauer quickly hooked up a line and towed the boat to the public access and assisted the gentlemen with getting the boat safely out of the water onto the trailer.

COs Jeff Robinette and Andy Bauer were on patrol on the St. Joseph River system for fishing and boating activity when they observed a man and a woman on the other side of the river stop fishing and begin packing up. The COs contacted the two subjects and

asked if they had caught any fish, and they were told no. One of the subjects did not have a fishing license, and a check of their cooler led to the discovery of an undersized bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Cary Foster of Ionia County responded to a complaint of subjects trespassing at the Portland Dam. Two persons had scaled the fence and were bow fishing for carp below the dam in an area closed to the public. Upon contact, CO Foster determined the adult was fishing without a license and trespassing, while the 12 year old juvenile had been encouraged to follow the adult onto the property. A ticket for fishing without a license was written and each was warned on the dangers of trespassing at this location.

CO Ivan Perez worked to solve an out of season turkey shooting that involved two unsupervised juveniles hunting woodchucks. After the investigation, CO Perez warned the young hunters and their parents of the laws relating to supervision and the serious nature of taking game out of season. The juveniles were turned over to their parents.

## **DISTRICT 8**

COs Dan Bigger and Todd Thorn responded to a complaint that a landowner had placed wire and wooden posts in a local lake to keep other anglers and boaters away from his dock. The landowner was contacted and told to remove the wire and posts.

CO Todd Thorn had four warrants approved in charges sought against a local angler who was fishing with a net in the Grand River in Lansing. The angler was found with 32 fish caught using the illegal fishing method, including 10 short bass and two short channel catfish. All of the fish, as well as the net, were seized. Charges include take/possess fish with an illegal device, take/possess over limit of bass, take/possess short bass, and take/possess short channel catfish. The angler is also facing restitution fines and loss of fishing privileges.

CO Dan Bigger received a call by an anonymous complainant about a farmer in Shiawassee County violating the use of his deer damage crop permits. CO Bigger interviewed the farmer and a designated shooter. CO Bigger was able to get a confession and recovered a twelve point buck which was illegally shot. CO Bigger will submit a report for a warrant request to the prosecutor's office.

While checking anglers near the Oakgrove Mill Pond in Livingston County, CO Daniel Prince contacted a subject who was fishing without a fishing license and claimed not to speak English, and whose name was not found in LEIN. The subject was identified through fingerprint records. It was learned that the subject had illegally entered the United States and had a criminal history in Texas, West Virginia, and Michigan. The subject was lodged at the Livingston County jail for fishing without a license. Immigration officials were notified and the subject will be deported.

COs Daniel Prince and Jeff Walker conducted marine patrols in Livingston County. Thirty marine contacts were made. Two subjects were issued tickets for operating

unregistered watercraft; and one of the subjects had not registered their boat since 2001. Numerous warnings were given for marine violations.

While patrolling the Oakgrove State Game Area (SGA), CO Pete Purdy observed several people fishing on a small lake. During his contact with the anglers he learned that they had driven to the SGA in an unregistered vehicle with no proof of insurance. One person also had multiple probation violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Fish overheard radio traffic from the local county dispatcher indicating there was a burglar alarm at a home near Lee Lake. Since CO Fish was close to the location he responded to assist the MSP trooper just leaving Battle Creek. Upon arrival, CO Fish found that a subject had gained entrance by breaking in a pet door then kicking in the door to the home. CO Fish maintained watch on the entry points and kept the key holder from going into the residence while awaiting the arrival of the trooper. The two then searched the residence for the subject(s), who had left the home. The investigation was turned over to the MSP.

CO Brian Fish located a subject fishing with his grandson on the Kalamazoo River. As CO Fish approached, the adult stood and kicked a stringer containing a very short bass into the river. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens was contacted by the MSP requesting his assistance in attempting to locate an elderly man who was last seen walking his dogs in a wooded area paralleling the Grand River. CO Owens searched nine winding miles of the river with his kayak from Jackson County to Ingham County resulting in 3.5 hours of paddling and portaging over obstacles while navigating through the slow moving river. Once completed, CO Owens then was requested to utilize his ORV to assist MSP and the K9 team to search several acres of the thick wooded terrain. Intense efforts of the team resulted in locating the body of the missing person in the dense wooded area.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While on marine patrol on Potter Lake, CO Linda Scheidler observed a male subject fishing from shore. When the CO contacted the subject he admitted to not having a fishing license. The CO confirmed his statement and enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a joint marine patrol with a US Border Patrol agent, CO Ben Lasher contacted a Canadian resident who had a warrant out of Michigan. The warrant was valid and the subject had cash so bond was taken.

While conducting a late night fishing patrol in Port Huron, CO Ben Lasher encountered a subject fishing with too many lines. The subject also had a Friend of the Court warrant out of Macomb County. The warrant was valid and the CO was asked to lodge the subject in St. Clair County. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in the evening hours, CO Ben Lasher observed a golf cart being operated on the roadway. The CO stopped the cart and contacted the operator. When the CO started to explain the violations the operator stated he did not care what the laws were. Enforcement was taken.

COs Lacelle Rabon and Mike Drexler were on marine patrol on the Detroit River and checked two anglers in a 16 foot motor boat. When questioned about their personal flotation devices (PFDs), the two of them looked at one another and the owner of the watercraft admitted there were no PFDs aboard the watercraft, nor did they have a throwable seat cushion or fire extinguisher. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler was on patrol on the Huron River when he contacted one angler for fishing with too many lines. When the CO asked if the angler had any luck, he replied "little ones." CO Drexler agreed with the angler when he found an undersized channel catfish in his basket. The angler received a ticket for the undersized fish and a verbal warning for fishing with too many lines.

CO Mike Drexler patrolled a section of undeveloped property known for ORV trespass. After hearing a truck on the property the CO waited at one entrance for the vehicle to exit. When the vehicle approached the entrance, CO Drexler had to activate his emergency lights and siren for the vehicle to finally stop. The operator received a ticket for ORV trespass and follow up will be conducted as the operator was on probation.

While on marine patrol of Belleville Lake, CO Mike Drexler checked an angler who was found with an undersized smallmouth bass. In addition to the fishing violation, the vessel was missing required safety equipment. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler was checking shore anglers along the Detroit River when he contacted three anglers who were fishing without licenses. One of the anglers stated that he purchased a license but it was at home. A computer check revealed that he hadn't purchased a license in several years. In addition to the fishing violations, two subjects were wanted on several outstanding warrants. Tickets were issued for the fishing violations and enforcement action was taken on the warrants.

While on patrol with Sgt. Tom Wanless in St. Clair County, CO Todd Szyska contacted an angler at the Marysville boat launch. The angler was casting with one rod and had his appropriate fishing licenses. While checking anglers in the same location Sgt. Wanless found two unattended fishing poles and another makeshift line made out of 30 pound monofilament rigged to an Edison pole. When questioning the other anglers Sgt. Wanless discovered that the extra three lines were owned by the subject CO Todd Szyska was talking to. Enforcement action was taken for fishing with too many lines.

While working a midnight shift on Saturday COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska responded to radio traffic of an officer involved in a foot chase at Metro Beach who needed back up. An intoxicated male subject had just caused a disturbance which involved two female workers. When questioned by a Metropolitan Park Police Officer the subject

became belligerent and ran from the officer. The officer advised the subject to stop several times prior to becoming involved in a physical altercation with the subject. The officer ultimately pepper sprayed the subject as he ran across the parking lot. The pepper spray proved ineffective resulting in the subject running off into the dark. CO Kris Kiel exited the patrol vehicle and took the subject to the ground as he attempted to flee. CO Szyska assisted CO Kiel and the Metropolitan Park Police Officer, and a local deputy in attempting to take the subject into custody. Multiple charges are being sought on the subject (resist and obstruct, assaulting a police officer, possession of a controlled substance, etc.).

CO Brandon Kieft followed up on a complaint of full-size trucks "mud running" in the Bald Mountain Recreation Area. The complainant was able to provide partial license plate numbers and two suspects were located in the Lake Orion area. Interviews were conducted and the young subjects admitted to the violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft was on marine patrol on Maceday Lake when he contacted an individual operating a pontoon boat that hadn't been registered since 2010. The male subject stated that he was buying the boat from a neighbor and had been "test driving" it for the weekend. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft contacted a shore angler fishing along the Clinton River who had a bucket of fish, but no fishing license. When CO Kieft checked the fish in the bucket, a six inch largemouth bass was also found. Enforcement action was taken and the bass was released.