

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
8/8/11 – 8/21/11**

DISTRICT 1

CO Brian Bacon contacted a group of anglers fishing in a bay off of Way Dam. The driver initially stated that they had only caught a few perch. However, a check of the live well revealed two short walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy checked bear hound hunters training in Dickinson County. A check of the area resulted in enforcement action being taken on a strike bait that was placed out two weeks early.

CO Jason Wicklund was checking anglers on a local lake when he observed a vehicle pull out of the parking lot, look at the CO, and then pull back in. The CO contacted the individual and found that the operator was suspended and in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter completed the investigation of a large litter pile found on state land. Evidence led to a subject who was interviewed and confessed to dumping the litter. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Eberly assisted in the search for two missing and overdue hikers in the Keweenaw Point area. The hikers failed to meet their completion time and family called about their disappearance. After a three day search, the civil air patrol located the hikers in a remote swamp. Ground crews reached the hikers an hour later. The hikers had lost their compass and did the right thing by staying put and building a fire until found.

CO Matthew Eberly is assisting local authorities with locating a woman who may be suicidal and disappeared. She was last seen two days ago and her things were found in a stolen boat that had washed ashore in a canal. The search continues.

CO Mark Leadman responded to a complaint of reckless boating on West Bass Lake in the Gwinn area. When contacted, the boat had four adults and four children on board without the proper number of life jackets. Additionally, the owner had purchased the boat earlier in the year and had failed to register it in his name. Enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Derek Miller was flagged down by an ORV operator and was asked if he was there to handle the motorcycle accident. Just up the road from that location was a motorcycle accident where a husband and wife had laid the bike down and crashed into the woods. CO Miller assisted with various injuries until an ambulance arrived at the scene.

CO Derek Miller responded to a call from a citizen watch group attempting to protect the shoreline area on Lake Superior. The caller advised there were ORVs operating on the shoreline. When contacted, the operator said he was only trying to deliver gasoline to personal watercraft (PWCs) on the beach. He had driven past several signs and a barricade.

CO Derek Miller assisted Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers with a complaint of a subject waving a gun around near a residence. A check of the scene found the subject inside his residence and intoxicated. No further incidents occurred.

CO Mike Evink arrested an ORV operator after finding him driving down a state highway with no ORV license. After trying to hide in a random driveway, contact was made with the subject who was having difficulty standing. Not only was the subject too drunk to drive, he was also suspended.

CO Derek Miller observed a three-wheel ORV on a roadway with a number of violations. When CO Miller turned around, the subject drove into a nearby residence and attempted to hide the bike. He left it running with his girlfriend on it. The subject did not know who lived there and was hoping to get out of a ticket. When the CO directed the subject to turn off the bike, he accidentally turned the twist-style accelerator, sending his girlfriend into the woods, nearly striking two large trees, before going into the brush and knocking her off. She had minor scrapes and several choice words for her boyfriend.

CO Mike Evink ticketed a male subject who was operating an ORV on a state highway, carrying his eight year old son on the ORV with him, and operating without helmets on either of them.

DISTRICT 3

CO Steve Speigl worked with the Traverse Area Narcotics Team on a marijuana observation flight. After the narcotics grow operations were discovered from the air, MSP troopers, local deputies, COs and other enforcement personnel held down the sites until the TNT unit arrived on scene to take over the investigation.

COs Mark DePew and Kelly Ross interviewed two individuals about bobcats they claimed to have harvested in the Upper Peninsula. The hunters admitted to shooting them in the Lower Peninsula and tagging them with the Upper Peninsula tags so they could continue hunting in the Lower Peninsula. The bobcats were seized and charges are being sought for their violations.

CO Bill Webster was parked on the side of a county road and observed the operator of an ORV travelling down the road without a helmet. CO Webster motioned for the operator to stop, but he failed to do so and fled into a nearby wooded area. CO Webster contacted the landowner who gave him permission to look for the ORV on his property. CO Webster located the ORV operator who admitted to fleeing because he was not

wearing a helmet and his machine was not registered. He was ticketed for the violations.

CO Bill Webster was checking anglers in the City of Alpena and saw an individual frantically looking for a spot to put his fishing pole and then walk away. The individual initially denied fishing but finally admitted to not having a license and did not want to get in trouble since he just got out of jail and was on probation. He was ticketed for fishing without a license.

Area conservation officers worked the Top O' Michigan International Hydroplane Boat Races on the Inland Waterway in conjunction with local deputies. Officers gave a presentation on regulations and safety to the race boat drivers, cleared the rivers of recreational boaters prior to the race, and kept them back from the river mouths during the race. COs assisted several race boat operators when their boats flipped or capsized, and blocked them from collision with other race boats. Enforcement action was taken against three race boat operators who drove out of the buoyed course and into close proximity of recreational boats and spectators and continued at a high rate of speed, after being advised specifically of this issue at the presentation.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski stopped a "mudder" truck for not completely stopping at a stop sign on the ORV Route. The driver had been drinking, but was not intoxicated. A cooler in the truck was full of beer on ice. The driver assured the CO that he had stopped and drank a beer outside his vehicle along the trail road. The problem was there weren't any empties in the truck. The subject accompanied Sgt. Drogowski back down the trail, where his empty beer can was found. A littering ticket was issued.

DISTRICT 4

CO Sean Kehoe observed a subject fishing from a boat using four lines on Long Lake in Grand Traverse County. The subject appeared nervous and was frequently looking around. CO Kehoe observed a group of kayakers paddle near the subject without the subject getting nervous. CO Kehoe then launched his kayak and paddled out to the subject without the angler noticing who he was. Upon contact, CO Kehoe found that the subject had kept several undersized walleye and was fishing with too many lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky worked surveillance on the Pere Marquette River. During a short period of time he observed four subjects each commit fishing violations. Two of the subjects snagged and retained salmon, one subject attempted to foul hook salmon and the fourth subject assisted by netting the illegally taken fish. When contacted, one of the subjects requested a break due to the fact that he attempted to catch the fish legally and only resorted to snagging when his legal attempts failed. Enforcement was taken on all subjects.

CO Brian Brosky returned to a location on the Pere Marquette River where he had earlier observed snagging activity. CO Brosky observed one subject snag a salmon

and place it on a stringer already containing a salmon. When contacted, the subject admitted to foul hooking both salmon, stating that he got too excited because the fish were running early. Enforcement action was taken with the subject being thanked for his honesty.

CO Troy Mueller responded to a complaint of a bear bait site established before the legal date. CO Mueller located the illegal bait station several days before the legal date, and on the opening day to establish bait stations, revisited the area and observed a vehicle parked nearby. CO Mueller contacted a subject returning from the direction of the illegal bait site who stated he had just established a bear bait on this, the opening day. CO Mueller asked the subject to take him to the newly established site. The subject took CO Mueller to the illegal bait station. When he was advised that the site had already been documented as illegal, the subject admitted to the illegal baiting. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Jason McCullough responded to a complaint of several geese being killed by a boat operator. After interviewing witnesses, CO McCullough determined that two unsupervised minors were operating the boat and had intentionally hit the geese. Charges are being sought against the parents for allowing the minors to operate the boat without supervision.

DISTRICT 6

COs Joshua Wright and Seth Rhodea were working state land in an area closed to ORVs when they observed a Jeep trying to climb up a sand hill. The COs contacted the driver; and his wife, who was in the vehicle, stated, "I told him that we should not drive in here." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright investigated a suspicious fire that he observed while on patrol in Tuscola County. When he pulled up to the fire he saw that someone was burning the remains of a trailer house. The fire department was called to put out the fire and a ticket was issued for illegal disposal of solid waste.

CO Hudson investigated a complaint of an abandoned boat on Saginaw Bay. The boat was registered in Arizona and the owner did not have a current address in Arizona or Michigan. CO Hudson had the boat removed and conducted a lengthy investigation. The subject was finally located and enforcement action was taken

CO Seth Rhodea responded to a complaint about a subject who had tried to burn a mobile home that he was disassembling in order to scrap the metal on the trailer. The owner showed CO Rhodea a burn permit he had gotten earlier in the day which, the CO pointed out to the subject, stated the only thing that was to be burned was brush. A ticket was issued for the violation.

During the last couple of weeks, CO Seth Rhodea has made numerous contacts with ORVs that were being operated in violation of safety and licensing laws. Several tickets have been issued for failing to wear helmets on ORVs and failing to license ORVs. Numerous warnings have also been given for speeding, carrying passengers and underage operation.

CO Jeremy Payne organized a group patrol in Mt. Pleasant to address a large number of college students aiming to 'Fill up the Chip'. The event drew 3400 RSVPs to canoe and tube the Chippewa River into Mt. Pleasant. On a normal summer weekend the Chippewa River sees disorderly conduct, alcohol violations, drug use and littering issues. Officers were in place to address the large influx of returning college students. Mother Nature did not cooperate however, and the event was mostly a rain out. The Officers did contact several hundred tubers and assisted those who were not prepared for the thunderstorms.

While patrolling state land, CO Jeremy Payne observed an ORV operated by an adult with two kids on board. When CO Payne attempted to stop the ORV the operator fled. The three ditched the ORV on private property and ran. CO Payne tracked them through the woods to a residence and made contact with the adult operator. Charges are being sought for operating an ORV on state land where prohibited, operate ORV with passengers, flee and elude and child endangerment.

DNR Wildlife Division employees alerted CO Quincy Gowenlock of a large pile of trash dumped in the Gratiot Saginaw State Game Area (SGA). CO Gowenlock responded and located evidence in the trash that led to an address in Montcalm County. CO Gowenlock went to the address and discussed the issue with the residents. They admitted to dumping their trash, were ticketed for the violation and were ordered to clean it up.

DISTRICT 7

CO Mike McGee was on marine patrol when he observed a PWC being operated without registration numbers. Upon contact it was found that the operator did not have a boater safety certificate as required. CO McGee followed the operator to shore, ticketed the operator for the safety certificate violation, and explained to the owner about the safety certificate requirements and warned him for failing to display registration numbers. A short time later, CO McGee observed a PWC operate at high speeds within 50 feet of a swimmer, and stopped the PWC. It was the same PWC that he had talked to the owner about a short time prior; the owner had placed numbers on the machine and had then allowed his 16 year old son to operate without a safety certificate. CO McGee followed the 16 year old to shore and issued a ticket to the owner of the watercraft for allowing the 16 year old to operate without a safety certificate.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss were on marine patrol on Lake Michigan when they observed a 36 foot boat without any type of registration displayed. When contacted, the

owner stated that he was a documented vessel, therefore did not need any state registration. Further investigation found that he had not paid sales tax on the boat. The registration laws were explained and enforcement action taken.

CO Mike McGee was at a boating access site when an ORV pulled into the access with two occupants on the machine, neither of whom were wearing helmets, and the ORV had illegally operated on the road. Contact was made with the operator who had his young granddaughter on the back. The ORV rules were explained and enforcement action taken.

While working the Silver Lake Dunes, CO Greg Patten reported a very busy patrol making 27 contacts and giving 13 warnings for various ORV violations at the park. Two parents were issued tickets for allowing unsupervised minors to operate without safety certificates and three were ticketed for failing to wear eye protection.

CO Dave Rodgers was on patrol in downtown Grand Rapids when he observed three persons begin fishing along the river and share a marijuana pipe. While the CO observed the activity, a person riding a bicycle alerted the anglers they were being watched by CO Rodgers. CO Rodgers quickly returned to his vehicle and stopped the trio as they were leaving the river. Two were ticketed for fishing without licenses and one was ticketed for litter after he threw a drug pipe into the river.

CO Patrick McManus responded to a trespass complaint received by the MSP along Lake Michigan in Saugatuck. After following tracks through private property, contact was made with the subjects who were camping illegally on the Saugatuck Dunes State Park.

DISTRICT 8

CO Dan Bigger and a MSP trooper were successful in removing a suicidal subject from a highway overpass where he was threatening to jump.

While on marine patrol, CO Shane Webster encountered many violations including a vessel towing a skier without an observer, vessels without the required PFDs on board, no fire extinguisher on board, improper registration, and fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

CO Todd Thorn observed two ORVs operating illegally on the highway. Upon contact, the CO noted that the operators were 14 year old juveniles who were not being supervised by an adult and who had never taken an ORV safety class. The juveniles' parents were contacted and enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens reports that an illegal deer case from last November finally received a disposition. The case involved two subjects who illegally killed a deer in the City of Jackson and tried to hide the crime. The two subjects were found guilty on all charges

and paid \$2,500 in fines, costs and reimbursement. They also served 90 days in jail and had their hunting privileges revoked.

CO Todd Thorn contacted a subject who was fishing near the Moore's River Dam in the Grand River. The subject could not produce a fishing license and stated that he had never heard of one and didn't know he needed a license to fish. CO Thorn checked his history and noted that he had purchased a license in 2010. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

When launching onto Holloway Reservoir, CO Linda Scheidler observed several sail boats that appeared to be in a race. The CO contacted the operators of several boats and found that they were racing and did not have a permit. The CO shut the race down and enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich investigated a complaint of an unlicensed wildlife rehabilitator rehabilitating animals. When the CO inspected the facility he found the subject was unlicensed and in possession of several fawns and migratory birds. The subject stated she was acting as a sub-permit holder under the authority of another rehabilitator. An inspection was conducted of the second rehabilitator's facility and he was also in violation by having migratory birds, and did not have the first subject on his permit. Enforcement action was taken. CO Borkovich then contacted the complainant, who was a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. When he arrived at her facility he found she was also in violation of her permit by possessing migratory birds and animals not listed on her permit.

CO Ken Kovach was the second officer on scene of an accident where a subject with a medical emergency drove a tractor into a lake. The CO was requested to attempt to pull the tractor out of the lake. The victim was still on the tractor and appeared to be unconscious. The victim was transported to the hospital by helicopter and was later pronounced dead at the hospital. It appeared the subject died of a heart attack.

CO Ken Kovach was called to investigate a vessel which was in the permitted swim area of a Genesee County park. CO Kovach contacted the operator of the vessel and a ticket was issued for the unsafe violation. CO Kovach also contacted several other vessels in the area of Holloway Reservoir and issued several tickets including one for an expired registration, no life jackets, and no life jacket on a child under the age of six.

Working a group patrol on the Detroit River, COs Dan Bigger and Dan Walzak contacted two anglers with several fish in their live well. While checking the fish, CO Bigger pulled out five undersized smallmouth bass. One of the subjects kept asking "What kind of fish is that?" even though the fish all looked the same. While CO Bigger was checking the fish, he observed the subject trying to push something out of sight with his foot. This turned out to be a miniature version of the fish being removed from the live well. CO Bigger removed a four inch smallmouth bass that the other subject

had caught and impaled on his hook as bait to try and catch larger fish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Lacelle Rabon received a complaint of two subjects who were keeping undersized smallmouth bass. CO Rabon checked the area and found the two subjects fishing where they were reported to be. Investigation revealed that one of the subjects took and possessed three undersized smallmouth bass. The subject stated he did not intend to keep the fish and was going to measure and throw them back into the water prior to leaving the park. He was ticketed for take/possess undersized smallmouth bass.

CO Mike Drexler checked anglers along the Detroit River in Ecorse. The first angler CO Drexler contacted had some luck with four fish on his stringer. When the CO asked for the angler's fishing license the subject stated he left it in his friend's car. A license check revealed the subject had no license history at all. The subject stated he did not think CO Drexler was going to check. After releasing the fish the subject received a ticket for fishing without a license.

While patrolling Maceday Lake, CO Brandon Kieft made a stop on a watercraft towing a skier with no observer. The operator admitted he knew his actions were illegal and was also unable to provide a valid registration for the watercraft. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Lake Oakland, COs Brandon Kieft and Kris Kiel contacted the operator of a small motorboat being operated with an expired watercraft registration. The most recent registration decal on the watercraft was from 1998. The operator claimed he was just "testing out" the vessel. However, he later slipped up and stated he had owned it for about two years. A ticket was issued for operating an unregistered watercraft.

While checking anglers on Lake Oakland, COs Brandon Kieft and Kris Kiel checked a vessel with three male anglers on board. The subjects stated that they had been catching bluegills but had a few largemouth bass in the live well near the front of the boat. CO Kieft checked and measured the fish with no violations present. However, CO Kiel discovered another live well in the rear of the boat that contained an undersized largemouth bass. Enforcement action was taken.

While heading to Kearsley Lake one morning to address a marine safety complaint, CO Linda Scheidler observed a man and his daughter on a Gator UTV in a front yard. As the CO passed the residence the subjects pulled out and proceeded down the road. The CO turned around and followed the Gator a short distance until the operator stopped. Both subjects had t-shirts on that said "Security" on the back. The operator informed the CO that they were headed to the Genesee County Fair, six miles away, to work security. When the CO explained the numerous violations, including operating on the roadway, the operator stated when he had contact with other police agencies, they did not mind as long as he was not operating in the middle of the road. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Schwiderson observed a subject without a helmet on an ORV operating illegally down a busy road. The CO stopped the operator based on the safety concerns and found the ORV did not have an ORV license. As the CO was addressing the issues, the father and grandfather of the subject pulled up and tried to use the "farming" exemption as an excuse. When the CO explained that the ORV was not in compliance for the exemption, they complained about government regulations and told the CO that other police officers from other law enforcement agencies have never made issue with their illegal practices. Enforcement action was taken.