

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
9/6/10 – 9/19/10**

DISTRICT 1

CO Ryan Aho investigated information he received that a trophy black bear was shot in the wrong Bear Management Unit in 2009. Numerous interviews led to the seizure of a 500 pound full mount bear from a residence. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Ryan Aho ticketed a bow hunter who had freshly baited his bow stand with corn. The subject at first denied there was any bait in the woods, but after a short walk to the pile of corn he confessed to putting it out.

CO Ryan Aho stopped and checked a couple who he thought was finishing up from small game hunting. Turns out the male driver had shot a hen turkey earlier that morning and had failed to tag it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon ticketed one angler who had failed to purchase a fishing license.

CO Dave Painter ticketed an individual who had put out deer bait near his illegal tree stand.

CO Dave Painter responded to a car/moose accident near Crystal Falls. A young calf moose was struck by a Toyota Camry and killed.

DISTRICT 2

CO Kevin Postma conducted several pre-season patrols to locate illegal activity. One such incident involved an illegal ORV trail and an illegal blind. Upon contact the hunter expressed concern that his hunt was disrupted by the CO for a few infractions. The CO then asked if he had any hunter orange as required by law or a helmet for operation of the ORV. The hunter hung his head and was finally satisfied that he probably had enough violations that warranted a visit from the local Game Warden. Enforcement action taken along with many verbal warnings.

CO Kyle Publiski encountered three subjects on a trout stream in Mackinac County. The subjects were fishing in an unusual manner. Upon contact the CO took their fishing equipment along with the ammo. The subjects were utilizing shotguns to shoot at salmon. The subjects were minors who were taken back home. Their father explained that they were supposed to be hunting and not fishing. Tickets were issued for failing to supervise youth hunters.

CO Mike Hammill worked illegal bear bait located at the end of an illegal ORV trail. The subject was riding his ORV with a loaded/uncased firearm, no helmet, and no hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon worked a conflict between bear hunters. One hunter who had hired a guide was sitting at a bait site that was 210 yards away from a hunter who had already established a bait location. The investigation found the guide had over 20 other customers throughout a three-county area. A ticket was issued to the guide for placement of a tree stand without proper name and address. Information on the incident was turned over to the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) for possible permit violations by the guide.

COs Jerry Fitzgibbon and Robert Crisp responded to the escape of elk from a captive cervidae facility in Alger County. The elk were found near the fenced enclosure. During a recent wind storm, a maple tree had fallen on the fence which caused the opening. CO Fitzgibbon drove to his residence which was nearby, grabbed his chainsaw and returned to the enclosure. He removed the tree from the fence and he and CO Crisp repaired the fence, preventing further escapees. Later in the week, CO Reid Roeske and Sgt. Darryl Shann assisted CO Fitzgibbon and Wildlife Division with the retrieval of testing material from three of the elk that had been put down by the owner.

CO John Wenzel ticketed a subject for operation of an unlicensed ORV. The male subject had also established an illegal ORV trail leading to a bear bait. He was given a warning for this violation.

CO Reid Roeske contacted three male subjects in a vehicle on state land after dark. The driver was intoxicated, a passenger was in possession of marijuana, there was an uncased gun in the vehicle and no one had a hunting license. The driver was arrested and lodged, the subject in possession of marijuana was ticketed and turned over to his parents. The driver was also ticketed for the uncased gun and being afield with a firearm without a license.

CO Reid Roeske and CO John Wenzel responded to a complaint on Little Bay DeNoc of two boats ramming each other. Upon arrival at the location with the patrol boat, they found two grown men who wanted to occupy the same fifteen feet of water on the Bay. After a short discussion, neither wanted to make a complaint.

DISTRICT 3

CO Joe Molnar investigated the stoning of a seagull in the Alpena Mall parking lot. A group of kids were throwing rocks at the birds and killed one of the gulls. A very upset bystander confronted the juveniles and obtained vehicle information. CO Molnar followed up and located the youth responsible. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Depew contacted several bear hunters with violations including illegal baits, illegal tree stands, and ORV violations. Several tickets were issued.

CO Mark Depew responded to a complaint of shining after 11:00 p.m. Follow-up investigation two days later led to the discovery of three subjects hunting in the area over bait, without licenses and during the early antlerless season.

COs Carl Vanderwall and Steve Speigl were watching salmon anglers when they observed a subject snag and retain a foul-hooked fish. When they contacted the angler he stated he hadn't caught any fish. The COs pointed out the fish that he had hidden behind a tree and he admitted ownership. Enforcement action was taken.

While traveling in her patrol truck, CO Andrea Albert had to make a quick evasive maneuver to avoid a head-on collision with a passenger car that made a left turn in front of her patrol vehicle. The driver of the car was answering his cell phone while turning onto a busy highway and failed to notice the patrol vehicle. A ticket was issued for careless driving. The driver and passengers of the vehicle were amazed and very thankful that they were not hit during the extremely close call.

CO Carl Vanderwall was watching salmon anglers on the Bear River and observed one subject attempting to snag the fish. The CO contacted the angler and issued a ticket. During the contact the subject said he was jobless and would lose his home if he received a ticket. He was highly agitated. He said he had three kids and could not afford a ticket. Officer VanderWall advised him that he was also a father and had a job to do. The subject calmed down and apologized.

COs Eric Bottorff, Duane Budreau, Carl Vanderwall, and PCO Quincy Gowenlock conducted a group patrol along the Bear River. The COs issued two tickets for attempting to snag.

CO Michael Feagan caught three subjects fishing within 100' of the weir on the Ocqueoc River, attempting to take salmon. The area is well posted with "No Fishing Within 100' of Weir" signs. Three tickets were issued.

PCO Quincy Gowenlock and CO Eric Bottorff checked an angler directly in front of a DNRE Field Office on the Cheboygan River. The angler had his fishing license, but unfortunately also had two warrants out for his arrest. The COs arrested and lodged the subject in jail.

CO Eric Bottorff and PCO Quincy Gowenlock located small game hunters who were shooting at woodcock prior to the open season, had no small game licenses, and failed to wear any hunter orange clothing. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Michael Bomay was called to a traffic stop in Mecosta County by a local deputy. CO Bomay discovered that two subjects in the vehicle had been goose hunting and drove out of the field onto the road with loaded shotguns. The driver tried to convince CO Bomay that he and his buddy could have loaded shotguns in the vehicle because he had a concealed pistol license. A ticket was issued for transport/possess loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

In Oceana County, CO Troy VanGelderren responded to a complaint and discovered a subject with four captive farm foxes in very poor condition, a live raccoon as a pet, and an illegal deer enclosure with several Fallow deer. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeff Ginn and Michael Wells located a parked vehicle in northern Newaygo County, an area closed to the early antlerless deer season. There were indicators in the vehicle that the subject was probably deer hunting. The COs went on a foot patrol through the woods and located two subjects with shotguns and slugs. The two subjects admitted that they were hunting for antlerless deer. Tickets were issued for the hunting violation.

CO Sam Koscinski located a bear bait placed on public land prior to the thirty-day period before the legal bear season last month. After several attempts, CO Koscinski contacted the subject responsible during the opening week. The subject was ticketed for the baiting violation.

DISTRICT 5

CO Chuck McPherson and PCO Jeff Panich investigated a litter pile on state land and located a receipt and other identifiers in a large pile of construction debris. PCO Panich identified a suspect and upon interviewing him, obtained a full confession to having dumped three trailer loads of construction debris including shingles, drywall, and other building materials.

CO Chuck McPherson and PCO Jeff Panich investigated an illegal burning of construction debris. The subject was ticketed for illegal burning and was given warnings for unattended fire and no burning permit.

CO Mike Hearn responded to an ORV personal injury accident. The subject was traveling at a high rate of speed on an ORV trail, lost control, and rolled his ORV. The subject sustained a broken arm and was sent to the hospital. CO Hearn rendered first aid and investigated the accident.

Prior to the opening of bear season, CO Mike Hearn located a tree stand on state land without a name and address that was set up over bear bait. CO Hearn checked the stand on the opener in the Red Oak Unit and located two subjects bear hunting. The subjects had used an ORV to illegally access the stand on state land and had additional ORV violations.

CO William Cherry investigated an environmental complaint with Environmental Conservation Officers regarding an illegal transfer station. CO Cherry issued a ticket for illegal disposal of liquid industrial waste. Warnings were given for other violations.

CO Chris Bowen received a complaint from a hunter who located marijuana plants on state land. CO Bowen followed up and located the plants. Officer Bowen was assisted by the STING Narcotics Team and a helicopter to locate additional plants in the area. A total of 26 plants were removed from state land.

While working the elk hunt, CO Chuck McPherson and PCO Jeff Panich investigated a trespass complaint where the guide put a hunter on private property, who then shot toward a gas pump house where workers were present. During the investigation, a loaded firearm was also discovered in the hunter's vehicle. The elk was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Bowen responded to an ORV injury accident where the subject was trail riding, hit a tree, and broke his leg. CO Bowen located the subject and rendered first aid.

CO William Cherry contacted five ORV operators riding in a closed area of state land; several of whom had unregistered ORVs. One subject did not have identification with him and provided the CO with an incorrect name. After changing the spelling three different times, the subject was informed that he would be taken into custody until his identity could be confirmed. The subject admitted to lying about his name because his driving privileges were suspended and he knew he could not ride his ORV.

CO Becky Hopkins and PCO Cary Foster pulled into the Tawas Harbor parking lot and observed two subjects urinating in public. The subjects were both intoxicated and belligerent. The male subject was in possession of marijuana and cocaine and also had an open container of alcohol in his vehicle. He was lodged in the county jail. The female subject was ticketed for disorderly conduct and turned over to a sober relative.

CO Brian Engelhard received a complaint of an illegal bait pile located just behind a house. CO Engelhard conducted surveillance on the bait pile for a two-week period. He returned to the bait pile early one morning and found a doe lying on the ground. A short time later, a subject came out of the house and began field dressing the deer. CO Engelhard overheard the subject telling a second subject how he had shot the deer with a rifle. CO Engelhard contacted the surprised individual who attempted to tell him that a youth had shot the deer. When the subject learned that CO Engelhard had been watching the whole time, he quickly confessed to shooting the deer with a .22 rifle over the illegal bait pile. The subject was also a convicted felon. Charges are pending.

While on patrol, CO Brian Engelhard observed a very erratic driver. After the vehicle had crossed the center line several times, CO Engelhard stopped the car. The driver was intoxicated as was his passenger. The driver, who was arrested and lodged, had one prior conviction for driving while intoxicated and was currently on bond for the same offense.

DISTRICT 6

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly came across a camp with no camping permit. As the Sergeant walked through the camp, he observed a cooler with part of a squirrel tail hanging out. The cooler was found to contain 14 squirrels. When the hunters returned the Sgt. Kimmerly saw a hunter take one squirrel out of his game bag and the second hunter take 10 squirrels out of his game bag. The hunter with one squirrel said that he only shot the one all day. The other hunter was issued the ticket for taking an overlimit of squirrels. Enforcement action was also taken in regard to no camp permit and the cutting of trees on state land.

CO Dan Lee waited for two hunters to come out of the woods. After checking the subjects, CO Lee found one hunter had no hunting license and the other had a warrant for his arrest. The warrant was firearm related and the firearm was seized and the subject was lodged in the county jail.

CO Dan Lee received a bait complaint in the same area that he worked a bait complaint last year. The suspect was hunting in a legal food plot that he established. The only problem is that he scattered corn and beets throughout it. Enforcement action was taken again this year.

CO Chad Foerster was working duck hunters on the youth hunt opener when he observed an adult shooting at a duck. The CO contacted three adults and two youths. The adult who shot at the duck advised that he was snipe hunting. The CO then advised him of what he witnessed. The hunter then admitted to shooting at the duck. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeremy Payne, Phil Hudson and Nick Atkin were working a group patrol in Arenac County when they witnessed a pick-up truck driving by. The tailgate was down and there was a subject sitting on the tailgate drinking a beer. The COs stopped the vehicle, which was occupied by three adults and three young children. All three adults had open intoxicants in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken

COs Jeremy Payne and Jason Haines were working in Isabella County when they came across a parked vehicle occupied by a driver who acted intoxicated. Further investigation revealed the driver was having a diabetic reaction. An ambulance was called and the driver was taken to the hospital where he was later released.

While working marine patrol over the Labor Day weekend, COs Jason Smith and Seth Rhodea contacted two anglers trolling off of Port Sanilac on Lake Huron. The anglers were using too many lines and were ticketed.

CO Seth Rhodea checked a goose hunter who did not have a plug in his shotgun. The hunter also had a loaded firearm after legal shooting hours. Enforcement action was taken on the violations.

CO Joshua Wright stopped a woman riding an ORV down the middle of the road with a 10 year old child sitting on the front rack and a seven year old child sitting on the seat of the ORV with her. None of the individuals were wearing helmets and the machine was unlicensed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright conducted a patrol on his enduro bike and made several contacts involving goose hunters afield, illegal ORVs operating in closed areas and illegal golf carts on the roadway. Several verbal warnings were given and tickets were issued for various ORV violations.

COs Nick Atkin and Philip Hudson stopped an ORV with an adult and two young children riding down the middle of the road not wearing helmets. The adult did not have identification and asked if he could go back to his cabin and get it. The COs followed the subject and found a pile of corn and a salt block at the cabin. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Nick Atkin and Philip Hudson stopped an ORV that was swerving all over the roadway. The driver did not have a helmet and neither did the young passenger. When questioned about the erratic driving, the subject appeared to be confused and would not look directly at the COs. The subject admitted to being legally blind and stated he uses the ORV to get to work. The subject's driving privileges were also suspended and the ORV was not licensed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Hobkirk was patrolling the Rush Lake State Game Area (SGA) and located a subject sighting in his newly purchased pistol. Unfortunately the subject was using two large, healthy oak trees as a target. The subject was ticketed for damaging live trees on state land. CO Hobkirk also issued tickets to ORVs illegally operating in the game area.

After receiving a complaint about goose hunters shooting within the safety zone of a residence, CO Seth Rhodea responded and observed the hunters continue to hunt well after legal shooting time. After contacting the hunters and asking to see their licenses, one hunter did not have a Michigan waterfowl license or a federal stamp. Enforcement action was taken on the violations.

CO Jason Smith received a safety zone complaint where a tree stand was within the safety zone of the adjacent landowner and had an illegal bait pile. After checking the area, the tree stand was determined to be 250 yards from the complainant's residence. A check of the area around the blind also revealed planted corn, but no apples or carrots as the complaint suggested. No enforcement action taken.

While on patrol, CO Jason Smith came across a three-wheeled ATV being operated on the roadway at a high rate of speed. After activating his emergency lights, it took the 3-wheeler about a half mile to stop. The operator, who had a broken shoulder from an ORV accident days earlier, was taking the ORV to a friend's house. The ORV did not have any brakes or ORV license; the operator was not wearing a helmet and was operating on the roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Mike Mshar and Sgt. John Jurcich patrolled the Silver Lake State Parks dune ORV use area, using 4 wheel ATVs. While the conditions remained cold and windy, ten riders were ticketed for disregarding regulatory signs relating to directional travel, speed, exhibition driving and other violations. They assisted park officers with a large group in possession of alcohol in the dunes and with a very serious injury accident involving a cycle and jeep. One operator was arrested for operation while intoxicated.

CO Patrick McManus ticketed one subject for open intoxicants and one subject for litter after witnessing the passenger of a truck throw a beer bottle out the window of a moving vehicle in the Allegan SGA.

COs Patrick McManus and Damon Owens observed two intoxicated subjects at a gas station smash a bottle and leave the business in a vehicle. The COs contacted the Sterling Heights Police Department and provided information that led to the arrest of the operator for operating while impaired.

DISTRICT 8

No report.

DISTRICT 9

CO Mark Ennett assisted on a Monroe County complaint of a man found in a field, suffering a gunshot wound to the chest. Initial indications showed the man committed suicide using a shotgun.

CO Mark Ennett followed up on an ongoing RAP complaint of walleye overlimits by a known suspect. One of three complainants called Station 20 to say the suspect was out fishing, and would probably be over her limit as was the usual case with her. CO Ennett immediately went to the marina and conducted surveillance until the boat came into the dock. When he contacted the subject, she said she had not been fishing, but only swimming and cleaning her boat. CO Ennett asked her how many walleye she had, and she said "a few", just seconds after she denied fishing at all. A check of her cooler revealed she had a total of 15 walleye on board. CO Ennett allowed her to keep one limit and seized the other 10. She "must have lost count" was the only reason she could give. Several complaints have been lodged recently on her, including one by a person talking to CO Ennett in person as he was waiting for her to return to the dock. A ticket was issued and restitution will be sought on the 16 pounds of walleye.

While on patrol of a marsh in Luna Pier on the first day of the early goose season, CO Jonathon Sklba observed a group of hunters with considerable amount of geese in the air above them. As he neared the location of where they parked, he could see a mechanical feeder in the water with corn at the base. While watching flocks of geese fly in, the group began to open fire taking two from the flock. CO Sklba stood on the bank

and watched as a young hunter ran out to recover the down birds. One bird still alive was shot as the hunter neared. The shots pelted CO Sklba's patrol vehicle and the buildings nearby. He contacted a group of five hunters 140 yards from the feeder. The group had taken eight birds at that point. After checking licenses CO Sklba had the oldest member of the group walk over to the feeder with him. As they neared the feeder, all of the corn at the base could be seen just under the surface of the water. The hunter advised that he thought the feeder was off. The path to the blind was almost directly in line with the feeder. The eight geese were confiscated and tickets issued.

CO Jonathon Sklba contacted a group of hunters at Halfway Creek. The group had a vessel with an expired registration and both the decal and registration numbers were not visible as they had been painted over. Two of the members of the group had been hunting with shotguns that were not plugged and had camped on state land without a permit. The group was ticketed for the unplugged shotguns and warned on the marine and camping violations.

COs Brandon Kieft and Ben Shively assisted local deputies working the White Lake Mardi Gras. The COs issued four tickets for trespass, one minor in possession, and one disorderly person was lodged in the Oakland County Jail. The deputies issued six tickets and had a near drowning incident. A 19 year old female had to be transported to the hospital where they found her blood alcohol level was well over the legal limit and she had methamphetamine in her system.

CO Kris Kiel responded to a baiting complaint and located a large pile of corn. As he approached the bait pile, CO Kiel noticed a trail camera and moved around to examine it. He removed the trail camera and left his business card. A few days later, CO Kiel received a voice message from the subject stating, "I believe that you have my trail cam and a ticket for me." CO Kiel met the subject and returned his trail camera and issued a ticket for baiting.

CO Kris Kiel checked two early goose hunters at Wetzel State Park and found they had 30 rounds of buckshot and one unsigned federal stamp. One subject did not have a small game license but he had a hunting preserve license. The subject stated he told the clerk at Meijer's to give him everything he needed for waterfowl hunting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel responded to a complaint of a group of hunters shooting at ducks and located three subjects. As they were packing to leave, CO Kiel found the first subject did not have a license, the second subject only had a small game license and two shotguns, and the third subject did not have a license and had an unplugged shotgun. Five tickets were issued and 10 warnings were given.

CO Kris Kiel responded to a trespass, baiting / feeding complaint and located two large piles of carrots, a tree stand and a trail camera. The last name and phone number of the subject was on the camera. CO Kiel called the subject and met him and issued a ticket for baiting and had him clean up the bait and remove his tree stand.

CO Kris Kiel received a call from a woman from Ohio who found a man's wallet with credit cards and various items including one of CO Kiel's business cards, spread all over a parking lot. He got the address from the caller and went to the owner's home and the neighbor told him he was at a baseball tournament in Ohio. The owner called CO Kiel back and said his wallet was stolen out of his hotel room and CO Kiel passed on the phone number of the caller and he got his wallet back.

CO Mark Papineau received a complaint from an off duty police officer of two subjects trespassing and fishing on a lake in Grand Blanc Township. When the CO arrived, the subjects saw him, dumped their bucket of fish back into the lake and took off. As the subjects were crossing a canal on a log, they both fell into the water. A short time later, CO Papineau found their vehicle and waited for them to show up. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler received a complaint of a subject trapping nuisance animals on his property. The subject had a live trap as well as a leg hold trap with jagged teeth to allegedly hold the animals better. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received two different baiting complaints and so far was able to catch one of the subjects. A ticket was issued. The CO is still working the other complaint.

CO John Borkovich followed up on a tip of three subjects who had been shooting deer, possibly bucks, during the early antlerless season close to the road and while not wearing hunter orange. CO Borkovich set up in a concealed location and observed the subjects until the end of hunting hours. As the subjects loaded up their truck and tried to leave, the CO contacted them. The dad and two adult sons were shocked to see the CO and tried to keep the CO from looking into the vehicle. CO Borkovich found two loaded shotguns and a loaded uncased pistol in the vehicle. The dad, who was a CPL holder, tried to say his CPL authorized him to keep his firearms loaded at any time. Enforcement action was taken on the subjects.

CO John Borkovich was working a shining patrol in the late night hours in northern St. Clair County. The CO followed a suspicious vehicle for a few miles as the vehicle drove very slowly at times and stopped sporadically. CO Borkovich stopped the vehicle and the operator admitted to looking for deer. The CO observed a .45 caliber pistol on the front seat. After securing the subject, the CO inspected the firearm, which was loaded. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Schwiderson was investigating a deer baiting complaint when he parked his vehicle in some bushes to watch the area. Within 15 minutes, the CO observed a male subject carrying a bag of apples. The subject walked up to the already illegally baited area and dumped the bag. CO Schwiderson started to approach the subject and whistled. When the subject turned around, he was surprised to see the CO. He lowered his head and admitted his guilt. The bait was cleaned up after the ticket was issued.

CO Al Schwiderson was working an illegal deer baiting complaint when he observed a subject in the tree stand over the bait. When he approached the subject, the subject was not hunting; however, there was a bow and arrows on the ground below him. The subject stated the bow belonged to his father who was walking his five year old daughter through the woods. His story panned out; however, enforcement action was still taken for baiting.

CO Ken Kovach received a RAP complaint from a hunter who found multiple marijuana plants growing in a remote area of the Lapeer SGA. CO Kovach met the complainant who was concerned for his safety in case the subjects returned while he was out hunting. After locating the plants, the CO pulled all 21 of them and turned them over to the Lapeer County Sheriff's Department for disposal and follow up investigation.

CO Ken Kovach received a safety zone complaint where a subject shot a doe during the early antlerless season. During the investigation, the subject admitted to shooting the deer the evening before from his house. The deer was still hanging in a barn and did not have a tag on it. When CO Kovach went to measure the distances for the safety zone complaint, he found shelled corn all over the back yard. Enforcement action was taken.