

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
2/22/10 – 3/7/10**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Brett Gustafson responded to a call of a dead Great Horned Owl on private property. He found the owl had flown into a stationary camper just above the snow. It appears the owl was chasing a rabbit when it collided with the camper.

COs Jason Wicklund, Dave Painter and Sgt. Marc Pomroy conducted a group snowmobile enforcement patrol in Iron County. Good compliance was found with the trail system starting to deteriorate.

CO Dave Painter contacted a husband and wife sitting in their truck watching six tip-ups. The husband searched and searched for his wife's license, finally admitting she did not have one and that he was in control of the six lines. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dave Painter and Brian Bacon contacted a group of anglers fishing in Iron County. While talking with the group, a young lad was happy to show the COs the fish his dad had caught. The subject lifted up a tarp and then asked his dad, "Where did the big one go?" The dad had moved the short pike to a nearby snow bank when the COs were approaching. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dennis Gast received a complaint of a subject leaving his tip-ups out overnight on Otter Lake. CO Gast conducted a patrol on Otter Lake and ticketed one individual for unattended lines.

CO Brett Gustafson handled a report of a head-on snowmobile accident near Bergland. Neither subject was injured, but the sleds had not fared as well and were towed from the scene.

CO Dave Miller ticketed a snowmobile operator for careless operation after he failed to stop for a road intersection with the trail. The subject thought "slowing down" to 50 mph would be close enough.

COs Mark Leadman and Trey Luce were checking anglers over the weekend when they observed a subject operating an unregistered snowmobile. When contacted, they discovered he had a warrant out for his arrest. He was lodged in the Marquette County Jail.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO Derek Miller was on routine patrol when he was run off the road by a motor vehicle operating without headlights. Investigation revealed that the driver and passengers were drinking alcoholic beverages and smoking marijuana. Arrests were made.

COs Kyle Publiski and Gerald Thayer conducted an ice fishing patrol on Brevort Lake. The COs encountered several subjects using too many fishing lines and took enforcement action. One subject was wanted on an outstanding warrant and was lodged in the Mackinac County Jail.

CO Mike Hammill encountered an angler who failed to produce a fishing license. The subject stated that he left his fishing license at home and that he would never fish without a license. He further explained that he has bought a fishing license every year for over ten years. Investigation revealed that the subject has never bought a license. The subject was issued a ticket for fishing without a license.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Duane Budreau conducted an ice fishing patrol on Walloon Lake. He reported that walleye fishing was good and encountered one subject fishing with eight lines and another who was fishing without a license.

CO Andrea Erratt found a man cutting down two trees at the Dutchman's Bay access site. The subject was making a trail for his son to ride his snowmobile around in a loop. CO Erratt warned the man for allowing his six year old son to ride his snowmobile unsupervised, operating a snowmobile without a helmet and cutting down trees on state land. He agreed to plant two trees at the access site in the spring and his son will help him water them.

CO Andrea Erratt stopped a snowmobile in the Jordan River Valley operating without a trail permit. The snowmobile was a rental and the registration did not come back to the rental company. CO Erratt met the owner of the rental company who said he had bought the snowmobile two years ago. CO Erratt ticketed him for no snowmobile trail permit and warned him for failing to transfer the registration.

CO Mark DePew reported the courts had fined a firearm deer hunter who shot an antlerless deer outside of the proper management unit \$1,400 dollars plus loss of his hunting privileges for one year and his firearm was also condemned.

CO Richard Stowe and Sgt. Greg Drogowski responded to a complaint of a subject shooting a neighbor's house. The subject shot a black squirrel and hit the residence next door with shot. In addition to careless use of a firearm and the safety zone violation, squirrel season was also closed. Enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Brian Brosky assisted local deputies on a case involving a person who was operating a vehicle while intoxicated. A search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of a bobcat carcass in the vehicle's toolbox. The subject admitted to possessing the bobcat after finding the carcass along a rural stream. A ticket was issued for the illegal possession.

CO Brian Brosky was patrolling a rural Lake County location when he observed a person cutting wood along the road on state property. After speaking with the person about the activity it was found that he had not purchased a wood cutting permit. A ticket was issued for cutting wood on state land without a permit.

CO Brian Brosky received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint about persons trespassing and fishing on a closed portion of the Little Manistee River in Lake County. By the time CO Brosky arrived, the persons had left the scene. Identification of the subjects was made by using their vehicle registration information and a call was made to COs Greg Patten and Chris Simpson in Muskegon County. COs Patten and Simpson located the subjects and received confessions related to their illegal fishing activities. One subject also posted bond for an outstanding arrest warrant. A report will be submitted to the prosecutor's office to address the violations.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling Portage Lake in Manistee County when he encountered two subjects smoking marijuana in an ice shanty. The subjects were too involved in their activity to notice the CO as he drove up on his snowmobile to ask them about their excessive number of lines. The subjects were ticketed for their violations.

CO Mike Bomay was on patrol at a Mecosta County public access site when he came across four subjects near the edge of a river. When the subjects observed CO Bomay's approach, one of the subjects dropped something into the water. A check of the area revealed a marijuana pipe lying in the water just off from the bank. The subjects admitted to the use of marijuana with one of the subjects still being on probation for a drug offense. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Bomay was on patrol when he located a vehicle parked along a Mecosta County river. By following tracks in the snow, CO Bomay was able to locate two subjects trespassing to fish on the private property. CO Bomay determined that one of the subjects was also fishing without a license. Verbal warnings were issued for the trespass and the subject without a fishing license was ticketed for the violation.

## **DISTRICT 5**

COs Chris Bowen and Chuck McPherson conducted a patrol on Higgins Lake that resulted in numerous tickets for unattended fishing lines, fishing with no license, and fishing with too many lines.

CO Mike Hearn located several tip-ups that had been left out unattended and were frozen into the ice. CO Hearn followed ORV tracks in the snow to a residence a few

streets off the lake. Contact was made with a subject who admitted they were his tip-ups but indicated he had asked someone who lived along the lakeshore to keep an eye on them for him. That subject could not be located and had not been home.

CO John Huspen responded to a litter complaint on state land and located a large pile of bags containing household trash including a family name and address. Officer Huspen contacted the homeowners and discovered the parents had asked their 19 year old son to take the trash to the transfer station in their township. The transfer station was closed when the subject arrived so he decided to throw the trash on state land instead of returning when the station was open.

CO William Cherry reports that an illegal turkey case from 2009 resulted in a subject having to pay \$200 in fines, \$1000 in restitution for the turkey and losing his hunting privileges for one year.

CO Warren MacNeill was watching a subject who was ice fishing. When the subject saw the CO approaching, he immediately started emptying fish out of his bucket back down into the hole in the ice. CO MacNeill stopped the subject before he could get the last closed-season bass down the hole. The subject was ticketed.

COs Joel Lundberg and Brian Olsen investigated a complaint regarding a subject who had shot a bear last summer during the closed season. The COs contacted the subject and conducted their investigation. Shortly thereafter, the subject confessed to shooting the bear last August. He told the COs that his dog had chased the bear up a tree near his backyard and he didn't want it hanging around so he shot and killed it. He then processed the bear and kept it for personal use. Charges are pending for the illegal killing of a bear.

CO Brian Engelhard approached an angler on Hubbard Lake and thought he saw movement suggesting he had hidden a fish. Upon contacting him, the subject had one keeper walleye and stated that was the only fish he'd caught. CO Engelhard then asked him if he also caught the undersized walleye that he watched him bury under the snow. The subject admitted to keeping the short walleye and received a ticket.

CO Brian Engelhard stopped five snowmobiles that were operating as a group after observing them finish their beer break and throw their empty cans into the woods. Before getting them stopped, he observed them run a stop sign. After stopping the group, CO Engelhard determined that one of them had a suspended driver's license. He also determined that while they were not intoxicated, they were operating carelessly. Multiple tickets were issued.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Chad Foerster and Sgts. Ron Kimmerly and Tony Soave worked a complaint where a boat just coming off the Saginaw Bay was seen with a bag of walleye fillets. The complainant gave the COs a good vehicle description and a traffic stop was made on

the vehicle. The three subjects had an overlimit of walleye; some of which were whole and in the live well and others that were filleted in a cooler. The overlimit also included short walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

On the way home from a group patrol on the Saginaw Bay, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly observed a vehicle pulling a snowmobile trailer that he recognized from earlier in the day. The Sgt. ran the trailer plate through the LEIN system to obtain a name, but the plate came back with no record and was improper. The vehicle was stopped and the two occupants advised that they were walleye fishing on the Saginaw Bay and caught their 10 walleye. After further investigation the Sgt. discovered more walleye in a small cooler in the back of the truck. The additional walleyes were all fillets. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Lee, Jeremy Payne, Det. Bob Mills and Sgt Ron Kimmerly conducted a group patrol on the Saginaw River targeting anglers who were taking limits of walleye in the morning and coming back in the afternoon. The first two anglers were stopped in the evening and were in possession of eight walleye. After the investigation concluded it was found that the two anglers had taken home 10 walleye earlier in the day. The next two anglers who were stopped advised that they got their 10 walleye. A search of the vehicle produced 10 more walleye that were all fillets and in a cooler. Enforcement action was taken on the overlimits and numerous short fish that were taken.

CO Dan Lee received information about a deer hanging in a pole barn. The resident showed the CO the antlerless deer, which had obviously been there for quite a while, but it was not tagged. Examination of the deer showed it had been shot by a small caliber firearm. The homeowner indicated he had shot it with a .22 sometime in November. The subject had not purchased an antlerless license last fall. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Vicki Goss was patrolling Stanton State Game Area (SGA) when she observed a pick up truck containing several fresh cut logs. Following the tracks left in the snow, the CO came upon an individual walking toward her with her dog. She was acting strangely holding the bottom of her coat. Upon further investigation the CO found she was hiding a hand saw underneath her coat. The woman had an officer safety caution for a prior conviction of assaulting her parents. Enforcement action taken.

CO Chad Foerster was patrolling the Saginaw River system when he observed a small boat with two occupants coming into the launch. When the vessel was in sight of the launch, one of the occupants stood up and retrieved a walleye from inside a cooler and threw it overboard. The subjects were contacted and told the CO that one of them threw a sheephead over. The anglers were in possession of 10 walleye. After a short conversation with the subject, he admitted to throwing out the walleye because he knew they were over their limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling in Sanilac County, CO Seth Rhodea contacted a hunter who had just harvested a raccoon. The hunter was surprised to learn from CO Rhodea that raccoon

season had been closed for over a month. The hunter was ticketed for taking a raccoon out of season.

CO Seth Rhodea worked plainclothes in an attempt to locate anglers taking lake trout out of season. Although the fishing was slow and the CO did not see anyone catching lake trout he did issue a ticket to an angler who had been using five lines for over two hours.

CO Seth Rhodea worked with local deputies to check a group of coyote hunters. One of the hunters had an uncased firearm in his pickup and was ticketed by CO Rhodea for the violation. He was the same hunter that CO Rhodea had ticketed three weeks earlier for having a loaded and uncased firearm in his truck.

COs Dan Lee and Seth Rhodea checked snowmobilers on the Sanilac County trails during the Family Fun Run at the end of February. There was a good turnout with most snowmobilers found to be in compliance with the laws. The COs did ticket several snowmobilers for failing to have trail permits and valid registrations on their sleds and one snowmobiler for operating a snowmobile while suspended.

A patrol on Saginaw Bay by COs Joshua Wright and Seth Rhodea to check anglers resulted in several tickets being written. Violations encountered were for fishing with too many lines, snowmobile registration violations, unregistered ORVs, overlimit of perch, fishing without a license and no name and address on tip-ups. Several verbal warnings were also given.

CO Joshua Wright received a RAP complaint of a woman who illegally possesses raccoons at her residence. Upon contacting the woman, she told CO Wright that she knew she would get caught eventually. She also told the CO she uses the raccoons in her practicing of witchcraft rituals. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Holly Pennoni, Nick Atkin and Sgt. Tony Soave responded to a complaint of a group of anglers running overlimits of walleye in from Saginaw Bay. Sgt Soave followed the subjects in an unmarked vehicle until COs Pennoni and Atkin could stop the vehicle. Upon contacting the subjects and searching the ice shanty and vehicle, the COs seized approximately 35 walleyes from two anglers. Tickets were issued for possession of an overlimit of walleye.

COs Holly Pennoni and Chad Foerster issued tickets to a father and son for possessing an overlimit of walleye. While working a plainclothes patrol, Sgt. Tony Soave observed the anglers filleting a large amount of walleye at a local motel. The COs contacted the anglers who were getting ready to go back out fishing again for the afternoon. The two anglers were in possession of an overlimit of walleye. Both of these individuals were also recently written tickets by COs for separate fish violations.

CO Holly Pennoni issued a ticket for recreational trespass to an angler and his son who were fishing within the closed barriers at the Hot Ponds on Consumers Energy property in Bay County.

While patrolling in the Rush Lake SGA, CO Robert Hobkirk was approached by three snowmobilers. They stated that while they were coming down the road, a truck with a plow had met them and the driver had thrown a beer can out of his window. The snowmobilers also reported that the truck operator and passenger had open intoxicants in their vehicle. CO Hobkirk located and stopped the truck about two miles down the road. Both the driver and passenger had open intoxicants and were ticketed for the violation.

COs Robert Hobkirk and Seth Rhodea received a RAP complaint of a subject shooting a turkey out of season from his yard. When the complainant was contacted, he alleged that he had heard 5-6 shotgun shots from his neighbor's yard and then observed the subject in his yard with a firearm. He also directed the COs to a dead bird behind the neighbor's residence. When the COs interviewed the subject, he neither denied shooting a firearm in his yard nor even possessing a shotgun. When the COs checked the dead turkey which was about 200 yards behind the subject's residence, it was determined the bird had been recently killed. All evidence around the turkey carcass indicated it had been killed by a large bird of prey.

While patrolling Saginaw Bay for fishing activity off of Geiger Road, CO Robert Hobkirk stopped two ORVs for operating without helmets. The subjects stated they were not wearing their helmets, which were strapped to the back of their machines, because of laziness. The subjects were on their way into shore after a morning fishing trip. As CO Hobkirk checked one of the individual's limit of walleye, he observed that the second individual had what appeared to be an overlimit of walleye. As CO Hobkirk approached the second subject to check his fish, he advised the CO that he had caught 10 walleye. Tickets were written for the overlimit of walleye and operating ORVs without helmets.

CO Jay Person was the first on scene of a snowmobile accident on state land. None of the first responders could locate the scene by the description from the caller. As soon as the caller stated they were near where the new culvert had been placed, CO Person knew exactly where they were. The victim, a 15 year old boy, lost control on the trail and struck a tree and was ejected off the snowmobile. At last report from the hospital, it appeared the minor had been very lucky and only suffered a minor concussion.

COs Holly Pennoni and Nick Atkin checked a large group of anglers who were on snowmobiles and ORVs leaving Saginaw Bay heading back to their campsite. COs found none of the subjects were wearing helmets and a few of the machines did not have valid registrations. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

COs from the Plainwell District conducted a patrol directed to an organized rabbit hunting tournament which takes place each winter in the Allegan and Ottawa County area. Reports of trespassing and road hunting violations have occurred in the past involving this event. COs Patrick McManus, Jeff Rabbers, Steve Mooney and Jeff Robinette issued several tickets during the one day event including enforcement actions for no hunting licenses and no hunter orange. During one incident, COs observed two persons leave a vehicle with guns that had not been cased and enter private property. When COs approached on foot, one subject slowly reversed his coat to display the hunter orange side of the garment. As the COs returned to the hunter's vehicle, they discovered an uncased and loaded .22 rifle on the floor of the vehicle that appeared to be used for road hunting of rabbits.

CO Mike Mshar worked on removal of ice shanties left on Allegan County lakes after the deadline date, as ice is deteriorating rapidly. After spending considerable effort to remove a shanty that was going through the ice and gaining little cooperation from lake residents. The owner contacted CO Mshar to recover his seized equipment. The subject was ticketed for failing to place his name and address on the shanty and failure to remove his shanty from the lake by the deadline date.

CO Chris Holmes of Kalamazoo County reported a plea agreement and sentencing this week on an arrest from the fall of 2009 where he contacted and investigated a convicted felon who used a firearm at night to take a six point and a doe over a lighted bait pile. CO Holmes reported the subject pled guilty to the killing of the two deer and was sentenced to 10 days in jail, \$2500 in fines and restitution, loss of hunting privileges through 2015 and the condemnation of the .22 rifle used in the crimes.

While on patrol, CO Greg Patten located a subject who drove off-road in the Muskegon State Park. The subject drove a four-wheel drive jeep on to a three foot high sand dune adjacent to a parking lot and became stuck. The subject claimed he thought it was part of the parking lot.

While on patrol CO Ivan Perez and Sgt. Dave Shaw located a garbage pile in the east unit of the Muskegon SGA. CO Perez and Sgt. Shaw found mail in the garbage, then contacted the addressee and eventually located the person who dumped the trash. The subject was paid to take the trash to a landfill but dumped it in the game area instead. The subject was ticketed for littering.

CO Chris Simpson and Sgt. John Jurcich responded to a complaint of a subject who shot a deer at night in January. CO Simpson and Sgt. Jurcich were assisted by COs Gerard Goulette and Greg Patten. The COs found that the subject shot two bucks with a rifle from his window over a bait pile. The subject shot the deer in January then tagged the spike buck with a restricted deer license.

Several subjects were fishing in a closed section of the Manistee River and trespassing. The subjects left before a CO arrived. When a CO did arrive he obtained the subject's license plate number and found that it came back to a subject in Muskegon County. CO

Chris Simpson responded to the truck owner's residence and obtained confessions from three subjects who were trespassing and fishing in closed waters. One subject was arrested on a snagging warrant from last year.

CO Andy Bauer conducted surveillance on several anglers fishing on a lake near Buchanan. CO Bauer observed one of the subjects catch and keep a largemouth bass on a tip-up. Upon contact with the subject, CO Bauer located five largemouth bass in the angler's possession. The subject also was fishing without a license and was using too many lines.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Kyle Bader and intern Joe Pena conducted a taxidermy inspection where they found a suspicious specimen. It was determined that an elderly woman bought a deer license and gave the license to her adult son so he could tag the deer he shot illegally. The son could not legally kill a deer with a firearm as he is a felon and therefore could not be in possession of the firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader checked several anglers with legal limits of panfish. However in two separate instances CO Bader contacted two subjects who were well over their limit of panfish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader assisted the MSP in apprehending a female subject who had stabbed her husband and fled on foot. Once located, the female subject was taken into custody without incident.

CO Brad Brewer responded to a RAP complaint where there were 10 unattended tip-ups on a small inland lake. CO Brewer's investigation led him to a house where the homeowner stated her son had set up all the tip-ups before he left for work. CO Brewer tracked down the son and enforcement action was taken.

COs Shane Webster, Rich Nickols and Dan Prince all received and investigated complaints about ice fishing shanties still on the lakes past the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

CO Dan Prince contacted six juveniles who were operating ORVs illegally. The juveniles were operating without adult supervision, were not wearing helmets, operating the ORVs on the roadway and riding two people on a machine designed for one. Four of the six juveniles were ten years old or younger. The owner of the ORVs was contacted and enforcement action was taken.

Island Lake Recreation area continues to be a hot spot for illegal snowmobile and ORV operation. COs Pete Purdy, Jason J. Smith, and Damon Owens contacted numerous individuals who were operating snowmobiles with no trail permits or registrations, operating while their operator's licenses were suspended, operating in prohibited areas,

and two of the subjects were wanted on outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster located garbage dumped in the local recreation area. CO Webster's investigation led him to a homeowner who stated she had paid two subjects to properly dispose of her trash. She was very cooperative and gave CO Webster the names of the two individuals. CO Webster tracked down the subjects who illegally dumped the trash and made them clean up the mess. Enforcement action was also taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Ben Lasher investigated a RAP complaint of illegal snares. The CO found multiple illegal snares without identification and a raccoon bucket trap baited with a mourning dove. The raccoon trap did have an identification tag on it. During the investigation, CO Lasher found the subject also purchased too many combination deer hunting licenses. CO Lasher will be seeking warrants for trapping and the license violations.

A group patrol was conducted by COs Ben Shively, Mark Ennett, Jonathon Sklba, Dan Walzak, Todd Szyska and Ken Kovach on White Lake in Oakland County during their annual motorcycle and ORV races. The COs made over 200 contacts and issued five tickets for unregistered snowmobiles, five tickets for transporting passengers on ORV, one for operate ORV no helmet, one for fail to transfer title and one for no trail permit. They also had two LEIN arrests and gave 44 verbal warnings.

CO Ben Lasher reports that a subject who was arrested after a three year investigation involving illegally taken and commercialization of fish and game and illegal charters received his sentence. He received 30 days in jail, lost his driver's license for six months, his hunting licenses were revoked for five years and was ordered to pay over \$5000 in fines and costs.

CO John Borkovich responded to a call where the caller observed someone walk into the St. Clair River, go under, and not come back up. While first responders were checking the area, another witness showed first responders a photograph of a subject in a dry suit with an air tank on his back going into the river. CO Borkovich and other responders headed downstream and found the subject when he surfaced. The subject stated he wanted to swim with the ice chunks.

CO Mark Ennett responded to a complaint of a hunter without hunter orange trespassing on railroad property in Erie Township. CO Ennett located the hunter on the railroad tracks after following his footprints through a nearby cornfield and into the back yard of a local residence. He was less than 50 yards from the house by the time he was contacted. The hunter was ticketed for railroad trespass and warned for the recreational trespass in the corn field and the safety zone violation.

CO Ken Kovach assisted local deputies with a call of suspicious persons. CO Kovach was able to track the individuals down who were trespassing on the railroad tracks. One of the subjects was previously arrested by CO John Borkovich for trespassing and COs Kris Kiel and Peggy Ruby for baiting. The repeat offender and crew were issued tickets for trespassing on railroad property.

CO Ken Kovach stopped an ORV illegally operating on the roadway and found the operator had four outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken and the subject was lodged.