

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
2/7/11 – 2/20/11**

DISTRICT 1

COs Brett Gustafson David Miller worked a snowmobile patrol in Mass City over the past week. Numerous careless operation tickets were issued to snowmobile operators failing to stop at road crossings. One operator was observed crossing the county road at approximately 70 mph. After a short distance the COs were able to cut off the snowmobile at the next crossing. The operator stated he didn't think he needed to stop since his track never hit the road. Officers patiently explained that even though he "flew" across the road he still needed to stop.

Sgt. Steven Burton came across a large fire burning near the village of Michigamme. A contractor was ticketed for burning mattresses and building materials from the mobile homes he was hired to remove.

Officers Elton Luce and Mark Leadman assisted with providing security for President Obama's visit to Marquette. The COs helped secure a portion of State Highway 553 to control snowmobile activity along the motorcade route. The detail was successful and no problems were encountered. The COs were able to add something different for the President's visit, as he stated that he had never had snowmobiles in his motorcade before.

CO Jason Wicklund assisted Iron County authorities in the search for a local resident who disappeared from his residence. The deceased individual was located two blocks from his residence lying in a drainage ditch along the trail. Preliminary results showed the individual died from exposure.

CO Dave Painter and Sgt. Marc Pomroy stopped a snowmobile with two subjects operating without helmets. The snowmobile did not have a current registration or trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Marv Gerlach and PCO Todd Thorne worked area lakes in Menominee County, targeting ice shanties to remind anglers of the requirement to affix a name and address on them. One angler with an unidentified shanty was driving with a suspended license, possessed five open bottles of whiskey inside a motor vehicle, and did not have his fishing license in possession. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Trey Luce and Dave Painter tracked down a subject who had several outstanding warrants for his arrest. One of the warrants was for killing a moose with a rifle during the 2009 firearm deer season. The subject was arrested without incident and lodged at the Marquette County Jail.

CO Grant Emery was assisted by the Sheriffs Department with a complaint of an individual shooting a deer from a residence with a bow and arrow. The investigation revealed the nonresident had purchased a resident license for bear hunting, had no deer license and was shooting deer with his bow during the closed season. He also admitted to attempting to take a squirrel without a small game license. The hunting was also occurring within the safety zone of a nearby residence. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter and CO Elton Luce tried to contact a subject who failed to appear on the charge of the illegal taking of a moose. CO Luce knocked on the front door of the residence while CO Painter watched the back door of the house. No one answered the front door, but CO Painter was waiting as the wanted subject tried to flee out the back door of the house. The subject was taken into custody without incident.

CO Dave Painter reports that an individual from a case last deer season was sentenced in Iron County. The subject was caught with an eight point buck he had shot on opening day, while his hunting privileges had been revoked. The subject was sentenced to five to twenty days in jail, further license revocation for five more years, \$1000 restitution for the deer plus fines and court costs.

DISTRICT 2

CO Jeff Panich received information of a deer being poached in the Trout Lake area. CO Panich responded and located the kill scene and collected evidence. CO Panich began working the area and developed a lead on the suspects. His investigation led him to two subjects and the recovery of three illegally taken deer, a new .308 rifle and confessions from two individuals. The poachers have been charged with three illegal deer, trespass and safety zone violations.

CO Derek Miller contacted two subjects ice fishing. The CO detected the smell of marijuana, which led to a bag of dope. Further investigation revealed that one of the subjects had an outstanding warrant out of Eaton County. The subject was arrested and lodged on the warrant.

COs Mike Hammill, Kyle Publiski and Jared Ferguson conducted a patrol in Curtis during the winter carnival. Activity was slow due to the light snow conditions; however, the COs were called upon to rescue a deer that had become stranded on the ice. The deer continued to slip and fall on the bare ice as it had become frightened and confused. COs attempted to direct the deer to shore but, due to the lack of snow on the ice, the deer was unable to stay on its feet. The COs were able to capture the deer and while one held it on an ORV they were able to drive to shore and released it where it ran off, healthy and sure footed. The onlookers applauded the efforts of the Officers.

CO Kellie Nightlinger encountered two subjects fishing without fishing licenses. It was learned that one of the subjects was the owner of several convenience stores in which

fishing and hunting licenses are sold. In the subject's own words he admitted that he was without excuse. CO Nightlinger issued tickets for fishing without licenses.

CO Robert Crisp assisted the Alger County Sheriff's Department at a house fire. The occupant was able to escape the residence, but his dog was trapped in the basement of the building. CO Crisp assisted the owner of the residence by helping him access the basement, retrieving the dog and then pulling the owner out of the basement. The fire was primarily at the other end of the building when this occurred. Owner and dog are both in good health.

CO John Wenzel responded to a complaint of a wolf that was hit by a car. After driving to the scene he found the "wolf" was a mix Chow breed dog.

DISTRICT 3

CO Steve Speigl responded to a 911 distress call from two teenage cousins who were fishing on a small wooden raft attached to a dock that broke loose and drifted out from shore on North Torch Lake. They were unable to paddle back into winds averaging 40 MPH with waves of three to five feet and temperatures hovering around the 32 degree mark. After struggling while paddling with a 2x4, both boys were brought in safely by Antrim County rescue personnel and CO Speigl, prompting a safety reminder from the local U.S. Coast Guard on wintertime ice and water safety

CO Speigl watched as two snowmobiles operated against the flow of traffic on a busy highway. CO Speigl stopped the operators to address the violations and discovered that one of the subjects had his operator's license suspended several times over. He was promptly lodged in the Antrim County Jail.

Emmet County COs Carl VanderWall and Duane Budreau worked snowmobile complaints in sub-zero temperatures and issued multiple warnings along with several tickets for high speed operation and failing to stop at crossroads and state highways. A lack of snow combined with extremely cold temperatures and high winds have created very icy snowmobile trails and road shoulders. COs are patrolling roadways and the snowmobile trails to ensure safe operation until more snow and better conditions arrive.

While on patrol on Lake Charlevoix, CO Andrea Erratt contacted a subject who was smoking marijuana while ice fishing in his shanty and after sorting out the details and seizing the contraband, the subject appeared to be more concerned about losing his prized deer antler pipe than the fact that he had been smoking the dope. CO Erratt took enforcement action.

CO Andrea Erratt contacted a snowmobile operator who failed to transfer his snowmobile registration when he purchased the machine in 2006, thereby avoiding paying Michigan Sales Tax. The subject also failed to register the sled and his operator's license was suspended. CO Erratt issued a ticket and two warnings to the subject.

CO Eric Bottorff had received information that local deputies had received a complaint of ice shanties that were broken into and fishing equipment stolen on Black Lake. While patrolling Black Lake and checking anglers, CO Bottorff observed a spear and radio in a shanty that possibly matched the description of property missing from the complainant's shanty. CO Bottorff identified the subject and transported a deputy to the scene by snowmobile. He also transported the complainant, who identified the spear and radio as his. Deputies from the sheriff's department followed up by checking the subject's residence for further stolen property, and will be pursuing charges. The subject happened to be the same person CO Matt Theunick and Sgt. Greg Drogowski arrested in November for killing a deer before the season and for felon in possession of a firearm.

In an attempt to assist an elderly lady living in town and reporting a red fox continually killing songbirds at her bird feeder, CO Rich Stowe set a live trap. Sure enough, the lady called CO Stowe the next morning to report a red fox in the trap. What CO Stowe found was the neighbor's large orange cat in the live trap. It was released unharmed and neighbors were advised.

CO Mark DePew received a complaint of a deer with two broken legs on Otsego Lake. CO DePew contacted CO Kelly Ross for help removing the deer from the lake. The deer's legs were not broken and they were able to get the deer off the ice and to a wooded area. CO Depew came back a short time later and the deer had gone back on the ice. CO DePew removed him one more time.

CO Mark DePew had been watching a portable ice shanty for over two weeks that had been left out on the ice with no name and address on it. CO DePew seized the shanty and the items inside it, which included three fishing poles that were still in the water. CO DePew was able to find information in the shanty that identified the owner, who was then contacted and discovered not to have purchased a fishing license. The owner was issued a ticket.

CO Bill Webster and Sgt Joe Molnar contacted two anglers coming off of Fletchers Pond, who stated they had done all right and produced a bucket containing 42 panfish. CO Webster asked if they had any more fish, and they then pulled out a second bucket containing an additional 83 panfish. The subjects later stated they thought the limit was 50 fish. The CO pointed out they still would have been over their limit at 50 apiece; tickets were issued for taking an overlimit of panfish.

DISTRICT 4

While patrolling Lake Leelanau via snowmobiles, CO Justin Vanderlinde and Sgt. Bob Torres came across an angler landing a northern pike on his tip-up. The COs observed 11 additional tip-ups set out with just the one subject present. After landing the fish, another subject drove out to the location on an ORV and advised the COs that he was

also fishing and helped set the tip-ups. The subjects were still six lines over the legal limit. A check of the subject's residence turned up an undersized walleye. Tickets were issued to address the extra lines and the illegal walleye.

CO Sean Kehoe patrolled Long Lake for fishing activity during the Free Fishing Weekend and checked two subjects targeting walleye. Although no fishing license was needed the subjects were ticketed for the nine undersize walleye they possessed.

CO Sean Kehoe followed up on multiple deer license purchases for the 2010 hunting season. One subject purchased two combination deer licenses giving him a total of four buck kill tags. When questioned, the subject claimed he lost his first set of combination licenses. CO Kehoe had also noted that the subject's wife had purchased a combination deer license but had not done so in previous years and had never completed hunter safety classes. Further interviews produced a confession from the husband that he had harvested a buck and used his wife's combination license to tag the deer. A ticket was issued to the subject for the tagging violation.

CO Carla Soper was patrolling near the weir on the Little Manistee River when she observed a vehicle containing a fishing rod and a pair of boots inside. CO Soper followed tracks from the vehicle and contacted the owner as he was leaving the river with fishing equipment. The subject stated that he had been unsuccessful in the open portion of the river at the river mouth. He then decided he would chance fishing the closed portion of the river. A ticket was issued for fishing in a closed trout stream.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling near a road intersection where a person had been fatally injured during a vehicle/snowmobile accident the week before. As CO Converse approached the location, a person on a snowmobile sped by at over 40 mph through the intersection without stopping. The operator was contacted and ticketed for careless operation.

CO Steve Converse conducted a foot patrol on Portage Lake during a recent fishing tournament. While on patrol, he contacted three subjects fishing with too many lines. One of the subjects was ticketed by CO Converse previously for the same violation. The subject admitted to using too many lines and stated that he would take a chance that a CO would not show up.

COs Jeff Ginn and Troy VanGelderren were patrolling in Newaygo County when they observed a subject getting into a vehicle with an uncased firearm. As the COs approached the vehicle, two additional subjects were observed inside holding uncased and loaded firearms. In addition to the firearm violations, all subjects had been hunting rabbits without hunter orange and two of the subjects did not possess small game licenses. Enforcement action was taken on the multiple violations.

CO Brian Lebel was on a snowmobile patrol in Mecosta County when he observed two subjects exit a vehicle, one of whom possessed an uncased firearm. The two subjects crossed over a fence and ran onto the posted private property. CO Lebel radioed Sgt.

Mike Bomay to assist at the scene, while CO Lebel used his snowmobile to round up the two subjects in the deep snow. The subjects were coyote hunting and had trespassed on the private property to shoot the animal being pursued by hounds. Both subjects in the field failed to wear the required hunter orange. Two subjects in the vehicle acknowledged that all were trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Warren MacNeill was attempting to stop a snowmobile that did not have a registration. The operator decided to throw his beer cans into the woods before stopping and when he did stop, he received a ticket for littering.

While conducting an ice fishing patrol, COs Steve Lockwood and Joel Lundberg apprehended two subjects for fishing with too many lines and for possession of undersized walleye.

DISTRICT 6

After a recent snowstorm in Tuscola County, CO Joshua Wright received numerous complaints of snowmobiles operating on the roadways. Officer Wright conducted a patrol and issued six tickets and over 10 warnings in two days. The activity slowed down once the plows had cleared the roads.

COs Joshua Wright and Seth Rhodea were working a tip of illegal ice fishing activity on Saginaw Bay when they checked a snowmobile operator who had a suspended license. The operator had multiple suspensions from the Secretary of State over the last 15 years. Enforcement action was taken.

While traveling on a state highway, CO Seth Rhodea watched as the operator of an ORV approached the highway from a side road and failed to stop at the intersection, cutting across the highway at a high rate of speed. The operator was stopped and also found to not have a helmet or an ORV license. A ticket was issued.

CO Robert Hobkirk had a trial with two defendants who were charged with angler harassment. The incident took place last spring on the Willow River in Huron County. The defendants had harassed two anglers by throwing rocks into the river and following them on motorcycles. After a short deliberation, the jury found both defendants guilty of angler harassment. Sentencing for the subjects will be in March.

While on patrol, CO Robert Hobkirk observed two subjects operating snowmobiles against the flow of traffic in the Village of Pigeon. Prior to stopping the snowmobiles, they began to ride down the sidewalk. Once stopped, the operators were given direction on proper operation and warnings for their traffic violations. One of the operators was ticketed for his unregistered snowmobile.

CO Robert Hobkirk issued a ticket for recreational trespass to a coyote hunter, after trail cameras photographed a group of hunters who were trespassing. The hunter who was ticketed had advised the other hunters that they had permission to hunt the property but the subject who leased the land disagreed.

A sanctioned snowmobile racing event took place on Saginaw Bay in Standish over an entire weekend in February. Sgt. Tony Soave, COs Chad Foerster, Joshua Wright, Seth Rhodea, Jay Person, Dan Lee and Michael Drexler worked the event on snowmobiles and ORVs. Close to 1000 contacts were made over the weekend with 11 tickets being issued for various snowmobile and ORV violations. Several verbal warnings were also issued. Two snowmobile accidents were policed by the COs, including one racer who sustained multiple injuries after being ejected from her machine when a belt broke while traveling at speeds in excess of 120 mph. A Poker Run associated with the event also took place with over 1000 sleds participating. Numerous assists to broken down snowmobiles were handled by the COs. All in all, approximately 3000-5000 spectators showed up at the event on ice with minimal problems encountered.

DISTRICT 7

CO Chris Holmes received the final sentencing on three cases from the 2010 deer season with \$4600 in restitution and a four year loss of all hunting licenses for the three subjects along with probation and five days in jail.

DISTRICT 8

While checking anglers on Livingston County lakes, COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy contacted one subject who was wanted on a child support warrant, two groups of people illegally operating ORVs and two subjects fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Pete Purdy and Todd Thorn observed four subjects ice fishing. When contacted one of the subjects stated he wasn't fishing. When that excuse didn't work he stated he left his license at home. When that excuse didn't work he admitted to fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy contacted two subjects riding double on a three wheeler across a frozen lake. The juvenile subjects were not wearing the required helmets and did not possess the required safety certificates. The ORV was also unlicensed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy contacted a snowmobile operator who was operating a snowmobile without wearing a helmet. When CO Purdy asked the subject where his helmet was he replied that he had his helmet on when he rode his snowmobile to the ice fishing spot but had walked back to shore to put his helmet inside the house to keep it warm. The

subject was also fishing with tip-ups that were lacking the proper identification. Enforcement action was taken.

Due to the recent snowfall, COs Damon Owens, Shane Webster, Dan Bigger and Sgt. Troy Bahlau contacted numerous snowmobile operators who were operating on the roadways, operating without helmets, and operating without the proper registration and trail permits. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy investigated a complaint that an ice shanty with no name and address had an unattended line inside. The investigation led to a subject who stated that he should get a break, as he was a good friend of CO Purdy's. CO Purdy asked how good of a friend he was and the subject concocted quite an elaborate story. When CO Purdy had heard enough he took enforcement action.

While working snowmobile complaints, COs Damon Owens and Shane Webster recovered a stolen snowmobile. The snowmobile was turned over to the proper authorities and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

Sgt. Arthur Green and CO Mark Ennett stopped two snowmobiles operating on a road in Monroe County. After getting identification from the operators, the COs followed the riders to the end of the block to the owner's residence to verify ownership. One rider dropped a glove and stopped to retrieve it. After the rider dismounted the sled, it started moving down the road unmaned. The COs maneuvered their patrol vehicle ahead of the runaway sled and Sgt. Green was able to catch and stop the snowmobile before it caused an accident or damaged any property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett issued four tickets for operating snowmobiles with no trail permits and one for operating on the roadway. He gave 26 verbal warnings in one day for snowmobile violations, including roadway operation, expired registrations, and parents allowing minors to operate in violation of the law. One sled had not been registered since 1995. After watching a subject ride down three different roads and trespass across several parcels of private property, CO Ennett stopped him and found that he was unfamiliar with the regulations and told the CO, "I thought if it snowed, I could ride on the road".

Responding to a complaint of shooting after dark on the Detroit River, CO Dan Walzak, with assistance from Gibraltar Police, observed a 16' vessel with two subjects cast a spotlight onto Humbug Island and take several shots. The subjects returned to Gibraltar and were surprised to be greeted by CO Walzak and Gibraltar Police officers. In addition to shining with firearms in possession, the subjects took several shots from the boat while it was still moving, the owner did not have a throwable life preserver or the registration certificate to the vessel and was operating the vessel well after sunset without navigation lights. CO Walzak issued tickets for shine with firearm in possession and for operating a motorized vessel after sunset without navigation lights.

CO Jonathon Sklba patrolled Halfway Creek as they had an ORV and snowmobile poker run. He contacted over 50 people and issued a number of warnings for operation without trail permits, and no ORV licenses. For those who had expired/no trail permits or expired/no ORV licenses, CO Sklba had them walk to the local store (about 150 yards) and purchase the permits.

CO Kris Kiel finished a case from Ohio by interviewing a subject who gave a written statement in a case where he bought a license after shooting a deer. He stated that he found the deer that had been shot by someone else and covered it up with some brush and went and bought the license and returned and tagged the deer. The rack was seized and returned to the Ohio officer.

COs Kris Kiel, Ben Lasher and Ken Kovach conducted a group patrol at St. John's Marsh for snowmobile and ORV activity. They contacted 42 people and issued 12 tickets for operate in a closed area, operate while suspended, unregistered snowmobile, and no trail permit. They also gave 35 verbal warnings.

When CO Todd Szyska stopped a snowmobile operating on the roadway, the operator told CO Szyska that the Governor had issued a snow emergency and it was ok for him to operate on the roadway. CO Szyska issued a ticket for the violation.

COs Ben Lasher, Mark Papineau, Kris Kiel, and Todd Szyska conducted a group patrol in St. Johns Marsh and Anchor Bay. Now that the area COs have been working the marsh over the last few weeks, illegal activity has slowed down in the area. The COs issued four tickets for ORV and fishing violations.

COs Mark Papineau, Ben Lasher, Kris Kiel, and Todd Szyska conducted a group patrol on the Salt River and Lake St. Clair, utilizing snowmobiles and ORVs. The COs checked over 200 anglers and numerous subjects on snowmobiles and ORVs. The crew issued 11 tickets for various ORV, snowmobile, and fishing violations. One subject contacted on a snowmobile had not registered his snowmobile in over 20 years and never transferred ownership when he purchased it.

COs Mark Papineau and Todd Szyska observed a snowmobile at a gas station in Richmond. When the COs turned around to make contact with the operator, the operator took off at a high rate of speed through some fields. The COs paralleled the subject on side streets. When the subject got to a parking lot, the COs activated the emergency lights on the patrol truck. The subject shook his head as if to say "no" and took off in another direction. Unfortunately for the subject, he turned into the path of a state trooper and had to stop. Enforcement action was taken. While the COs were talking with the subject, it was determined the subject had pending cases in the local court from CO Kris Kiel. CO Kiel arrested the subject last fall for recreational trespassing and hunting without wearing hunter orange.

CO Al Schwiderson and Sgt. Tom Wanless inspected a permitted snowmobile race track on Holloway Reservoir in Columbiaville. While there, the COs contacted several snowmobile operators whose sleds had expired registrations and no trail permits. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler observed a pick-up truck in a ditch and stopped to make sure no one was injured. The male driver was not acting normal so CO Scheidler requested assistance. When the state trooper arrived he performed sobriety tests on the subject. CO Scheidler questioned the female passenger and found needles on the subject. Both the passenger and the operator admitted to using heroin within the last two hours. The trooper arrested the operator for operating while impaired-drugs.

CO Ken Kovach checked numerous small game hunters during the warmer weather. He reports hunting activity was up with fishing activity down. He contacted two subjects on the railroad tracks that were small game hunting. Neither subject was wearing the required hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively attended a pre-trial hearing on a subject who took a shot at a deer with a 30-06 rifle during the archery season in the shotgun zone. The subject pleaded guilty, was fined \$400, and lost his hunting privileges through 2012. The firearm was also condemned.

CO Dan Walzak contacted three subjects who got their vehicles stuck in the mud on private property. One subject was operating in an area he should not have been on, became stuck, and called a friend to come pull him out. That person also became stuck and called a third person, who was subject to the same fate. In addition to trespassing, none of the subjects had ORV licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to complaints of largemouth bass being taken during the closed season on a local Oakland County lake. While examining the suspect vehicles, the CO observed a largemouth bass that had flopped out of the bag it was concealed in. After contacting three suspects out on the ice and observing nine lines, including tip-ups without names and addresses, the CO received consent to search the vehicles. A total of 12 largemouth bass were found, including one trophy sized fish that stretched 22 inches and weighed over five pounds. Ten of the twelve bass were undersized. The bass were seized, tickets were written for taking bass during the closed season, and warnings were given for the tip-up violations.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel observed two subjects taking turns operating what looked to be an older, hoodless snowmobile on the frozen surface of Lake St. Clair. The snowmobile did not display a headlight, registration, or trail permit. The COs watched as one of the subjects operated without wearing a helmet. While the second subject took his turn, he flipped the sled over onto himself then proudly stood up to display the "thumbs up" sign to his buddy. The COs had seen enough and made contact. The owner of the snowmobile could only produce a two month old bill of sale

for \$25. The other subject was found to have a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 21

Detective Tim Shuker of the Environmental Investigation Section reports that on February 7, 2011, a Manistique man pled guilty to two Above Ground Storage Tank violations in Schoolcraft County. The investigation originally started with a request for assistance from the Schoolcraft County Sheriff's Department in an unrelated violation on the suspect's property. While at the property Detective Shuker observed the storage tank and later determined that there were storage tank violations. As a result of his plea, the suspect was sentenced to pay \$580.50 in fines and costs. The court also ordered that the suspect will serve 30 days in jail beginning on February 22 should he fail to pay his fines and costs by that date.

Detective Ford reports that on February 9, 2011 the Berrien County prosecutor's office issued a misdemeanor warrant charging a Niles veterinarian with 4 counts of violating air quality rules. Arraignment is set for February 26, 2011. This case stems from a complaint to Kalamazoo district staff by the Niles Township Fire Department complaining that the veterinarian used an unpermitted crematorium to dispose of a horse carcass. A similar complaint was made in June resulting in warning not to burn again without a permit.