

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
3/8/09 – 3/21/09**

DISTRICT 1

With warming weather officers have been concentrating on making sure remaining ice shanties are properly identified. CO Jason Niemi ticketed a subject for failing to place his name and address on his ice fishing shanty.

CO Brian Bacon contacted the driver of a truck that was stuck in a mud hole off of the Norway Truck Trail. The operator left the roadway to try and drive through a muddy area and was stuck up to the truck windows. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery contacted a group of anglers on Lake Gogebic who appeared nervous and met the CO by his snowmobile when he pulled up. One angler continued talking on his cell phone while CO Emery checked the rest of the group. A check of an angler still in his shanty found him to be fishing with too many lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter reports that the ice conditions are deteriorating fast. CO Painter received reports of a few anglers and one dog falling through the ice this past weekend. No injuries were reported.

DISTRICT 2

CO Gerald Thayer responded to a complaint of caribou remains in the wild. Information was developed that led to a subject. It was confirmed that the animal was lawfully taken out-of-state, lawfully imported and the post-process carcass was disposed of on land owned by the hunter.

CO Kevin Postma responded to a complaint from a dog owner who stated the animal returned home with an untagged 330 conibear on its head. The dog survived and attempts to ascertain ownership of the trap are underway.

CO Gerald Thayer's persistent attempts to contact a local farmer finally paid off and resulted in the removal of a livestock carcass that had been found on the ice of a public lake.

Sgt. Dave Rantanen found two ice shanties that were set up 100 feet apart while checking lakes in Schoolcraft County. One of the anglers observed Sgt. Rantanen coming toward them and quickly entered his shanty. Sgt. Rantanen stopped outside his window and observed the angler lifting a fishing line out of a hole. Two tip ups were set up not too far from the shanty. The second angler came out of his shack and picked up a tip-up that was set a short distance from his shack. Sgt. Rantanen could see two other tip-ups set on the other side of the shack. The CO walked over to him and asked

for his fishing license and continued to walk toward his shanty. The closer they got to the shack, the more nervous the angler became. At the shack, the angler stated he didn't have any fish inside, but admitted he was fishing with three lines. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

While on patrol, CO Matt Theunick found unattended fishing lines on Black Lake and Burt Lake. CO Theunick contacted those responsible for the unattended lines and issued three tickets.

CO Richard Stowe continues to follow up on winter deer feeding complaints. Several more tickets have been issued, as well as agricultural referrals. Legitimate versus illegitimate "wild turkey feeding", where deer are also feeding, has become more of an issue. Verbal warnings and tickets have been issued, depending on the circumstances.

CO Carl Vanderwall received information from a local law enforcement officer about illegal deer feeding behind a house that could be seen from the road. Investigation revealed large amounts of loose corn and heavy deer activity in the area around the house. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Carl Vanderwall and Steve Speigl were targeting land damage issues on a large tract of state land in Charlevoix County when they heard several ORVs near them. The ORVs were observed operating on a forest road closed to the use of ORVs and a stop was made. Eight violations were noted and several tickets were issued.

CO Joe Molnar wrote a ticket to a hunter who brought in his bobcat for sealing eight days after the last date for registering bobcats. The hunter admitted to shooting the cat in late February.

CO Kelly Ross investigated a complaint of an ice shanty that had been burned recently on Twin Lake in Montmorency County. The complainant knew whose name had been on the shanty. CO Ross visited the angler and obtained a confession from the angler and his buddy. Enforcement action was taken and they were told they needed to clean up the litter left behind as the shanty was partially frozen in the ice.

DISTRICT 4

CO Mike Wells was working along a closed Newaygo County trout stream when he came upon a beaver trapper. CO Wells examined his trapping basket and discovered a steelhead. The trapper had no fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carolyn Dice was patrolling state forest property in Lake County when she observed a person cutting firewood. She stopped to speak with the subject and discovered that he had been cutting on state land this season without purchasing a permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling a two track road in Manistee County when he observed two empty beer bottles in the road. The bottles looked as though they were just thrown out so he stopped and noted the brand and collected them as evidence. A little farther down the road he was flagged down by two subjects in a truck. As CO Converse was speaking to the subjects he observed they were concealing open bottles of beer inside the truck. The brand of beer they were drinking matched the bottles he had picked up earlier. The subjects both admitted to having thrown the beer bottles out the window and were ticketed.

COs Angela Greenway and Carolyn Dice responded to a complaint of illegal burning in rural Lake County. When they arrived they located a pile of burning mattresses and oil filters. The COs interviewed the homeowner and obtained confessions for the illegal disposal of the items. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jair Kollasch and Diane Drogowski executed a search warrant on a residence in Wexford County where the occupants had picked up a fawn last spring and rehabilitated it without a permit. CO Kollasch had received information that the deer had been living in the home and outbuildings and had become a pet. The deer was seized and prosecution is pending.

CO Mike Borkovich ticketed a subject for an unregistered ORV. The subject's driver's license has been suspended several times and the subject was using his ORV to get to work.

CO Sam Koscinski received a complaint of a fresh deer carcass in a cardboard box that was dumped on private property in Wexford County. Information from a label on the box led CO Koscinski to a subject who admitted the deer was a road kill for which he had a permit. The subject was ticketed for littering.

DISTRICT 5

CO Brian Engelhard was on patrol when Central Dispatch put out a BOL for a vehicle that had "turfed" the airport runway and done significant damage. A short while later, CO Engelhard observed the suspect vehicle and stopped it. Assisted by the Alcona Sheriff's Office, the minor driver was arrested for driving while intoxicated along with the turfing charge, and the three passengers were issued minor in possession of alcohol citations.

CO Mike Hearn assisted local deputies with a snowmobile injury accident where two snowmobiles collided on the trail. CO Hearn assisted with the rescue and the investigation, which showed that one operator took a corner too fast and struck an oncoming sled.

CO John Huspen responded to a shooting complaint and located a subject. The investigation revealed that the subject had been shooting squirrels at a bird feeder

because he did not like the squirrels eating his bird seed. He had taken five squirrels out of season and had no hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn observed a pile of debris burning at a house that was no longer occupied. The burning debris contained computers and other electronics. He observed a single set of foot prints in the snow that led to the burn pile from the road. He contacted a neighbor who provided information on the responsible individual. Enforcement action was taken

CO Bobbi Bashore reports follow up from an arrest in deer season for illegal possession of a deer, placing bait, and possession of marijuana. The subject pled guilty to all charges, and along with jail time and fines, will have his firearm condemned.

DISTRICT 6

CO Vicki Goss signed an eight count warrant on a subject who was harassing a deer hunter during the late firearm deer season. Five of the counts are for interfering with one's hunt.

CO Ken Lowell reported court proceedings regarding a subject he arrested for being a felon in possession of a firearm who took two illegal deer in the late firearm season. The subject received 10 months in jail and paid over \$3000 in restitution and fines and costs.

CO Chad Foerster received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of several individuals on the Saginaw River for fishing and keeping walleye after the March 15th closure. The CO located three subjects who were using illegal fishing lures and were in possession of illegal walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was patrolling the banks of the Saginaw River when he observed an individual fishing. As the CO was approaching the angler and before he was able to make contact, the angler threw what appeared to be an undersized walleye back into the river. After contact, the angler stated he was unsure if the walleye would have measured 15 inches so he threw it back when he saw the CO. Further investigation revealed the subject did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a large litter pile on state land, CO Jay Person heard a vehicle honk its horn from a nearby trail. The CO located the vehicle occupied by three males parked next to numerous rotting deer carcasses. Upon contact, the CO detected the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. A large baggie of marijuana, numerous pipes, and several joint butts were seized from the individuals. Each was charged for possession of marijuana and one was lodged in the county jail for an outstanding warrant.

CO Jay Person interviewed a property owner regarding a fire that had escaped his control. The property owner was burning household debris in a barrel with no grate covering the top. The fire escaped the barrel and burned within a few feet of another

residence. Due to the quick actions of the local fire department, all structures were saved. The property owner was issued a ticket for allowing a fire to escape his control.

CO Nick Atkin was contacted by his local dispatch regarding what was believed to be an angler trapped on the ice on the Saginaw Bay. Upon arriving at the scene the CO immediately contacted the US Coast Guard (USCG) for support after locating what looked like a shanty trapped on both sides by open water. The USCG sent a helicopter and two rescue teams. Upon further investigation from the air, the USCG helicopter found that the shanty was empty. CO Atkin tracked the owner down by getting the name off the shanty. The angler apologized and stated he was going to get the shanty but the ice conditions got bad very quickly. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Nick Atkin and Phil Hudson were in the area of a reported reckless vehicle. The COs located the vehicle in the ditch with the subject attempting to pull the vehicle out. The COs started the investigation and held the scene until the Michigan State Police (MSP) arrived.

CO Nick Atkin received a complaint of a subject taking firewood from state land without a permit. CO Atkin located the subject, who admitted to the violation. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Steve Orange and Larn Strawn assisted Ontario Conservation Officers with investigations and interviews of Michigan residents involved in unlawful outfitting operations for moose hunting in Ontario, Canada. The interviews were the culmination of joint operations between the law enforcement agencies involving surveillance, information sharing, and the coordinated efforts to contact the persons involved. The project was a success and highlights the outstanding professionalism of both the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division and the Ontario Natural Resources Enforcement Branch.

COs Jeremy Payne and Phil Hudson assisted local deputies with a rollover accident that occurred in a ditch filled with flowing water. It was determined that the passengers were able to exit the vehicle and left the scene. It appeared the driver of the vehicle was attempting to drive around a locked gate when the truck slid down into the ditch.

CO Jeremy Payne assisted local law enforcement agencies with a domestic assault. Two brothers were engaged in a fistfight after losing money at the casino. The intoxicated brother was arrested and lodged at the county jail.

COs Jeremy Payne and Phil Hudson checked a group of anglers on the Pine River near Alma. The anglers did not have fishing licenses and possessed smallmouth bass and a pike out of season. The anglers also did not have life jackets on board their boat. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeremy Payne and Holly Penonni assisted the MSP in locating a reckless driver who was driving northbound in the southbound lane on I-75. Numerous complaints

were reported by concerned citizens. CO Payne was able to catch up to and stop the drunk driver. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Jeff Robinette located a large amount of litter on state land in Cass County. After searching through the debris, CO Robinette located possible suspect information. Contact was made with the subject, a ticket was issued and the trash was removed.

CO Jeff Robinette conducted an inspection of a local taxidermy business. CO Robinette observed improper record management. CO Robinette cited this individual for the same violation a few years ago. The taxidermist was issued another ticket for the same violation.

CO Steve Mooney and Sgt. Robert Torres observed three subjects along a closed trout stream. Upon contact, one of the individuals was found to be in possession of a landing net. This subject's shoes and blue jeans were wet up to the knees. The subject had been attempting to scoop up the fish but was unsuccessful. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Gerard Goulette and Sgt. Dave Shaw worked RAP complaints of illegal fishing in Ottawa and Kent Counties. While investigating the complaints, they found one subject with a 28" northern pike, out of season, and another subject who had taken a steelhead with a landing net from a closed stream. Both individuals were ticketed.

CO Steve Orange assisted the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources with interviews of an illegal outfitter. The subject was charged with 17 counts of illegal moose guiding in Ontario.

CO Greg Patten responded to a RAP complaint of illegal wood cutting in the Manistee National Forest. CO Patten contacted and ticketed two subjects for removing wood without a permit.

CO Greg Patten assisted local fire authorities at a fire where a subject, who was burning garbage, allowed the fire to escape and burn over onto the neighbor's property. This occurred on a high fire day, and a ticket was issued for illegally burning solid waste.

CO Mike Mshar conducted a plainclothes patrol along Allegan County streams using a motorcycle. CO Mshar was able to stand next to and observe an individual snagging for steelhead. This individual had arrived driving a vehicle while on a suspended driver's license. COs Mshar and Patrick McManus contacted the subject, who had no fishing license. Enforcement action was taken and he was lodged at the Allegan County Jail for multiple offenses.

COs Patrick McManus and Gary Raak responded to a trespassing complaint, and upon arrival, discovered both the trespassing hunter and his vehicle were gone. They did,

however, find a squirrel dog with a tagged collar running along the road. The COs followed up using the information obtained from the collar to meet with the owner and return the dog. Enforcement actions were taken.

CO Gary Raak observed two hunters shoot a raccoon then throw the carcass to the side of the road and drive away in their vehicle. CO Raak contacted the subjects, who were found to have an uncased .22 rifle in the vehicle who stated they were hunting squirrels. CO Raak advised the subjects that the seasons for each animal were closed at this time and issued tickets for the violations.

CO Chris Holmes, while patrolling along the Kalamazoo River, located a cash register that had been tossed over the bridge into the river. A check with area law enforcement agencies found the register had been taken during a local robbery. CO Holmes assisted with the recovery of the item and the investigation continues.

DISTRICT 8

CO Jeff Walker stopped a vehicle for careless operation of a motor vehicle and found the operator to be operating with a suspended license and with a valid warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rick Villerot was behind a vehicle on the highway when he observed several objects being thrown out the windows. CO Villerot stopped the vehicle and found that the occupants were throwing books from the moving vehicle. Enforcement action was taken and they were instructed to pick up the littered items.

CO Damon Owens and Sgt. Troy Bahlau investigated a subject for purchasing a hunting license while revoked. The investigation showed that the subject also had a valid warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Pete Purdy, Dan Prince, and Kyle Bader investigated illegal dumping complaints on state land and located numerous piles of deer carcasses. The COs investigated the complaint and identified the subjects responsible for the illegal activity. Enforcement action was taken in each instance.

CO Shane Webster and Sgt. Troy Bahlau assisted the local deputies with a domestic violence call. One subject was transported to the hospital with nearly three times the legal limit of intoxicants in his system. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer reports that a subject arrested last deer season was found guilty at trial for hunting with a shotgun during the muzzleloader season, hunting without wearing the required hunter orange, and failing to register a pistol.

DISTRICT 9

CO Mark Ennett investigated a complaint of a barrel of "toxic waste" that had washed up onto the beach at Sterling State Park. Luckily the drum was an empty plastic unmarked barrel that had a few rocks in it that made a rattling sound.

CO Lacelle Rabon received a complaint of someone dumping wood burned debris from a barrel into Fox Creek Canal off of the Detroit River. He checked the location and observed the debris in and on the ice in the canal. CO Rabon stepped over a small fence to get a closer look and was contacted by the property owner. The subject stated two weeks ago he had a wood fire on the ice for his kids to stay warm while they were ice skating and forgot to clean up after the fire was out. CO Rabon issued a ticket for littering.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a complaint of a deer carcass being dumped on state land in northeast Oakland County. When the carcass was located, he was able to collect evidence leading to the subject who dumped it. When CO Kieft interviewed the individual, he confessed to the violation. A file check on the subject revealed a warrant for failure to appear on a ticket written by another conservation officer. CO Kieft ticketed the man for littering and transported him to the local court for arraignment on the warrant. He posted bond and was eventually released.

CO Brandon Kieft assisted CO Matt Theunick on an interview with a subject in Madison Heights who had purchased a firearm deer license while revoked. CO Kieft obtained a written and verbal confession and seized the hunting license. The information will be passed on to CO Theunick to assist him with his warrant request.

CO Ben Shively contacted a subject who was hunting squirrels during the closed season. CO Shively encountered the subject exiting the woods dressed in all black and wearing a faded orange glove on his left hand. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively was checking vessels at a small Oakland County lake in the Highland Recreation Area when he observed a pickup truck pull into the lot and quickly leave. CO Shively observed three large garbage bags in the bed of the pickup. The area has a high number of subjects dumping on the state land. CO Shively returned to his truck and followed the tracks in the mud from the pickup to a dead end road. As he was nearing the end of the road, he met the pickup, now without the bags in the bed of the truck. The subject admitted to dumping the bags at the dead end. CO Shively followed the subject back to the site of the litter and had the subject pick up the debris he had dumped. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel were checking anglers on Lake St. Clair when they observed three anglers fishing on poor lake ice. The COs watched the anglers through binoculars and noted that all subjects were using three lines. One person was using three jig poles plus a tip up and the other two subjects had no fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau checked the Holloway Reservoir Dam two days in a row last week. On the first day, he observed three subjects fishing with illegal tackle during the walleye closure. Before he could contact the subjects, one of them fled. CO Papineau took enforcement action on the other two. The following day the CO set up surveillance in the same spot. A short time later, he observed a subject fishing with illegal tackle and catch and release three walleye. When the CO contacted the subject, he realized it was the subject who fled the previous day. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich assisted the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department with a report of a capsized canoe on the St. Clair River. The two subjects attempted to swim toward shore while wearing life jackets. With the help of a nearby rowboat, CO Borkovich and other rescuers were able to bring both subjects safely to shore and provide basic first aid until the ambulance arrived on scene.

CO Lacelle Rabon worked a group patrol assisting officers in Macomb County and issued a ticket for operating an ORV on the roadway. While moving to an observation point near the spillway dam, Sgt. Arthur Green and CO Rabon observed an ORV being operated on a street in the city of Mt. Clemens. The officers circled the block and stopped the ORV. The operator was not wearing a helmet or eye protection, had an expired driver's license and the ORV had not been registered since 2006.

CO Kris Kiel attended a trial on a case of a fox that was seized from a taxidermist. The subject was found guilty of taking the fox without a fur harvester license.