

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
3/9/08 – 3/22/08**

DISTRICT 1

CO Marv Gerlach reports that a case regarding a nonresident subject who had purchased several resident hunting licenses and violated the tagging laws, was adjudicated. The subject entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to approximately \$3000 in fines, costs, and restitution.

CO Brian Bacon contacted two subjects hunting coyote who were operating an ORV on the roadway while riding double, without helmets, and in possession of an uncased, loaded rifle. The subjects also were not wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a subject who was operating a snowmobile with an expired registration on the highway. The subject was also operating while suspended and was wanted on an outstanding warrant. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

COs Trey Luce and Reid Roeske contacted a non-resident subject wanted on two outstanding warrants from the local court. The warrants were for assault and possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Webster was at an intersection of two snowmobile trails when a snowmobile, traveling too fast for conditions, slid sideways past the stop sign through the intersection. A second snowmobile also drove through the intersection without stopping. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 3

CO Andrea Albert reports that an angler on Torch Lake died when he failed to vent his shanty and succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning.

CO Marc Pomroy assisted Antrim County Sheriff deputies with a complaint involving snowmobile operators who fell through the ice on Elk Lake. Both were rescued and taken to the hospital, with one subject listed in critical condition. The second subject's blood alcohol level was .10 over four hours later. Warrants are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Bobbi Bashore received a complaint of a gunshot deer in which the complainant heard a gunshot, and then observed a wounded deer running behind his residence. CO Bashore located a suspect and obtained a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Andrea Erratt and Michael Feagan responded to a complaint of several tip-ups left unattended for several hours on Black Lake. When the COs arrived they observed numerous subjects fishing with too many lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Molnar found two subjects on Tomahawk Flooding who were in possession of seven bass during the closed season and an overlimit of bluegill. One of the subjects attempted to hide the illegally possessed fish when contacted by CO Molnar. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Stowe investigated a multiple kill elk case. With the help of the Michigan State Police crime lab, a ballistic match between the killing bullet and the suspect's rifle was confirmed. A warrant request has been submitted to the prosecutor's office.

DISTRICT 4

CO Troy VanGelderren came upon a subject with a large pile of housing demolition material that he was attempting to dispose of illegally. The subject had just set the pile on fire, so the fire department was called to extinguish the blaze. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren contacted a subject whom he observed littering by emptying trash from his vehicle and throwing it on the ground. Enforcement action was taken.

Retired CO Charlie Turk found a subject trespassing while hunting coyotes with dogs in the middle of a large, private hunt club. CO Ryan Rademacher was contacted and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Bomay was stopped at a gas station when a frantic subject pulled up and advised that several subjects were stuck on an ice flow in the Muskegon River. CO Bomay responded to the scene and threw the subjects life jackets and boat cushions from his vehicle. The subjects were removed from the ice flow unharmed.

DISTRICT 5

CO Jason McCullough contacted a complainant who witnessed a subject steer his truck into another lane of traffic to kill a turkey and then pick up the illegally killed bird. CO McCullough's investigation led him to a subject who admitted to hitting the turkey, saying it was an accident. Other witnesses revealed to CO McCullough that the subject started to clean the bird but when he saw the CO's vehicle, the subject hid the turkey in the woods. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell contacted a subject who admitted to leaving his tip-ups out overnight and unattended. The subject was also in violation of failing to place names on his tip-ups, attempting to take trout without an all species license, leaving a fishing shanty overnight after the required removal date, and failure to immediately attend to his fishing lines. Enforcement action was taken.

After the close of pike and walleye season, CO Jason McCullough contacted an angler who was using three jigging rods and reels. When asked if he had caught anything, the subject told CO McCullough he had caught 16 pike but only kept one. The fish was returned to the water and enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Hearn noticed a dark plume of smoke and followed it to a residence where he discovered a homeowner disposing solid waste illegally by burning an old shed, including shingles and insulation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg responded to a burning complaint and noticed dark smoke coming from a yard. Upon further inspection, it was learned that illegal material from a mobile home was being burned. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 6

COs Larn Strawn and Jay Person were on patrol when they observed flames shooting from the chimney of a house. The homeowner was contacted and didn't seem too concerned when he looked at the fire and said "well, it should burn itself out". As sparks were falling on the shingles, the COs convinced the owner to get a fire extinguisher and put out the fire.

CO Jason A. Smith observed a group of anglers on an inland lake and watched a young boy take a bucket of pike to a subject on shore. CO Smith contacted the subject and found an over limit of undersized pike. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Scott Brown and Nick Atkin investigated two different illegal burning complaints. One subject was illegally burning tires while the second subject was found burning plastic from a silage pile. The silage fire spread and caught the farmer's calf hutches on fire, killing several calves. Enforcement action was taken in both instances.

CO Nick Atkin was dispatched to an accident where the operator of a dirt bike collided with a parked car on the roadway. CO Atkin's investigation found that the subject, who was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident, was intoxicated. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn Strawn discovered a large abandoned camp site deep in the woods in a rural area of Isabella County. The camp was constructed of wood, tarps, and weather seal, but the roof had collapsed under heavy snow and was deteriorating. The site included hunting clothes, bunk beds, gun racks, coolers, several hundred cubic feet of litter, and debris. CO Strawn's investigation led him to the responsible parties who attempted to destroy the evidence by burning it late one night. CO Strawn contacted the subjects and required that they put out the fire and clean up the debris. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Greg Patten conducted a taxidermy inspection and discovered several violations including improper records and untagged specimens. A red-tailed hawk was located in a freezer containing numerous untagged animals. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Jurcich responded to a complaint of subjects shooting recklessly in the Muskegon Marsh. Several complaints were taken of over 100 shots fired. CO Jurcich contacted one subject walking out of the marsh carrying a large duffle bag which contained two shotguns and a loaded, unregistered handgun with the serial number ground off. Further investigation revealed the subjects had tossed a .22 caliber rifle in the marsh. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Mshar was the first on the scene of an armed robbery of a party store. By the time CO Mshar arrived at the store, the subject was gone. CO Mshar broadcast an accurate description of the suspect, resulting in the apprehension of the suspect by the Allegan County Sheriff's Department.

COs Mike Mshar and Chuck Towns observed two subjects snagging walleyes after dark on the Kalamazoo River. The investigation showed that the subjects were using two bare treble hooks tied above a lead weight. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn investigated the source of a large amount of black smoke coming from the back of a farm. CO Ginn discovered a large amount of black plastic hay mound cover being burned. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8

CO Ben Black reports that a subject who was convicted for trespassing as a repeat offender was sentenced to serve 10 days in jail and pay \$1500 in fines and costs.

CO Troy Bahlau investigated a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of a picture in a local publication showing a subject with two deer and a rifle, with the caption reading that the deer were taken in the shotgun zone. CO Bahlau's investigation revealed that the subject had killed the deer illegally and did not purchase deer hunting licenses for the year. The subject had tagged the deer with his son's kill tags. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols was dispatched to an ORV personal injury accident, where investigation revealed that the ORV operator and accident victim were under the influence of intoxicating liquor. The subject's blood alcohol content was .14%. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Wright was the first on the scene of a fatal shooting situation where an AK 47 was used on the victim. CO Wright secured the scene, and along with COs Jason J. Smith and Troy Bahlau, assisted the MSP in searching for the suspect. The investigation continues.

CO Damon Owens responded to a complaint of shots being heard on county property closed to hunting. CO Owens located two subjects illegally hunting who admitted they knew they were not allowed to hunt in the area. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Todd Szyska received a RAP complaint of subjects keeping northern pike, placing them in bags, and hiding them in their vehicle. CO Szyska's investigation led him to a log where he found an undersized, out of season northern pike. CO Szyska located the subject who took the illegal pike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ennett contacted a snowmobile operator who was operating illegally on a railroad right of way. The snowmobile was unregistered and did not have the proper trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 25

CFS Steve Huff reports that a charter boat operator who failed to report his monthly catch as required by law was sentenced in District Court. The operator was assessed \$500.00 in fines and costs and placed on probation for six months.