

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
5/18/09 – 5/31/09**

**DISTRICT 1**

Marquette County conservation officers assisted with the Black River Falls fire that burned 800 acres and destroyed 33 structures in western Marquette County. Approximately 500 people were evacuated during the wildfire. The fire was started by a jack pine falling on power lines and quickly spread due to high winds, temperatures and a predominate forest cover of jack pine.

CO Trey Luce followed up on a substantial litter case in which a subject was paid to haul approximately three truckloads of garbage to the landfill. Instead, he pocketed the cash and dumped his garbage on private and public lands. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller responded to a call at midnight from regional dispatch. He searched along with other law enforcement agencies in the Baraga County area for a father and son missing from a fishing trip. A sheriff's deputy found the pair the next morning, covered in wood ticks but doing ok.

COs David Miller, Doug Hermanson, and Sgt. Steve Burton responded to and worked numerous hours on the Pinery Lakes fire this past Memorial Day weekend. The fire claimed numerous vehicles, a boat and a mobile home. The fire investigation was turned over to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for investigation.

CO Dave Miller and Sgt. Steve Burton worked a marine patrol on the Ontonagon River this past Sunday. One subject was ticketed for fishing without a license. Two juveniles were apprehended for throwing large rocks at Canadian geese and their goslings. Two other juveniles were instructed in the proper way to read a fishing guide book. After the session, the two released three 12" walleye from their live well.

CO Dennis Gast and Sgt. Steve Burton worked a marine patrol on Memorial Day. Two subjects were ticketed for using live bait on a Class D trout lake. One of the two didn't have a fishing license.

CO Brian Bacon contacted three anglers fishing in a boat and found that no one had purchased a fishing license, they did not have any life jackets on board, and the marine registration on the boat was expired. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon assisted Forest, Mineral and Fire Management (FMFM) Division with the investigation of a string of fires along the railroad track near Amasa. Investigation revealed the ignition source to be a passing train. CO Bacon contacted the train operator and provided the necessary information to FMFM for follow up.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Reid Roeske and Sgt. Darryl Shann contacted a subject driving a bench seated ORV on a forest road. The operator was traveling 40 mph and had two kids with him. Both of the kids were buckled in but the operator was not. The ORV was not licensed. A ticket was issued for the licensing violation.

CO Kyle Publiski issued tickets to operators of ORVs being operated in Bay City Lake. The operators explained the purpose was to wash the mud off of their machines.

CO Robert Crisp ticketed a woman who drove her vehicle on the beach near Grand Marais. A resident called and reported the violation. CO Crisp contacted the subject and issued a ticket for prohibited operation.

CO Mike Hammill was traveling the back roads in northern Luce County and was almost run off the road by two ORVs traveling in the opposite direction. Officer Hammill turned around and caught up with the subjects and enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 3**

CO Eric Bottorff and Sgt. Greg Drogowski worked an ORV restoration area on state land where ORVs had breached the blockades. Four ORVs were caught in the very obviously prohibited area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Feagan worked a complaint area on state land and issued six ORV tickets for operating in a closed area and related ORV violations. In a different area nearby that is posted against ORV use, CO Feagan issued four ORV tickets for operating in a closed area.

CO Eric Bottorff assisted a lost mushroom hunter. A 9<sup>th</sup> grade class went on a mushroom hunting field trip when one youngster got separated from the others and ended up over two miles from where the group had started. CO Bottorff transported the juvenile home and advised the parents of the situation.

CO Eric Bottorff is investigating a forest fire that burned approximately 90 acres and damaged personal property on an adjacent property owner's land.

CO Richard Stowe received a complaint of a subject shooting a hawk. Due to his long distance away from the complaint, he contacted CO Craig Milkowski. CO Milkowski investigated and recovered a possible peregrine falcon that had been shot. The subject admitted shooting at the bird because it was eating his songbirds at his bird feeder. The investigation continues.

CO Andrea Erratt responded to a call from the East Jordan Fire Department for assistance at a fire on Advance Road. A homeowner was burning a huge pit full of

household trash including aerosol cans and a mattress. He was ticketed for burning without a permit and warned for illegal disposal of solid waste.

While on patrol, CO Andrea Erratt observed an unregistered camper at Graves Crossing State Forest Campground. Fire officers from the Bellaire office had left a blank registration envelope as a hint, to no avail. CO Erratt returned that night and ticketed the campers for failing to register and pay for the campsite they had occupied for two days.

CO Andrea Erratt ticketed an ORV operator near Slashing Road for failing to license his ORV. He was warned for no helmet, riding double, operating an ORV in a closed area on state land, and no camp card permit.

Sgt. Jim Gorno was in the Mancelona area and observed a large plume of black smoke rising from behind a residence. Sgt. Gorno contacted the property owner tending the large blaze which contained two sofas, a sofa bed, several lazy-boy chairs, and many other furniture items. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Duane Budreau stopped an unregistered personal watercraft (PWC) in the river between Pickerel and Crooked Lakes. The operator stated he was working on it and just testing it out. However, he was many miles from the access site with a passenger on the back. The operator was ticketed.

CO Bill Webster, while making a marine check on Fletcher's Pond, observed a family fishing nearby. The father, upon seeing the CO, immediately started the engine to leave the area but the boat was stuck on a stump. CO Webster contacted the boat operator and asked how the fishing had been. Upon investigation, CO Webster discovered the three boat occupants had kept 85 pan fish - 10 over their limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Webster observed a jeep making its own road on state land in southern Alpena County. Unable to follow them in his patrol vehicle, he took off on foot and gave chase. Thanks to a lot of trees and vegetation, CO Webster was able to finally apprehend the subject, who explained, "jeeps can go anywhere". CO Webster issued a ticket for the closed area operation. CO Webster also stopped an ORV for operating in a closed area and ended up lodging the operator for driving while license suspended.

CO Joe Molnar ticketed two separate individuals for possessing undersized bass.

CO Mark DePew, working ORV patrol in closed areas, stopped four motorcycles riding together who were operating illegally in the closed area. Three of the four ORV operators had suspended driver's licenses. CO DePew explained the laws and took enforcement action.

## **DISTRICT 4**

COs Angela Greenway, Brian Brosky and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth conducted a group patrol with FMFM personnel over the Memorial Day weekend to address ORVs operating illegally on state land in Lake County. Several persons were apprehended in violation of a variety of ORV laws. A number of individuals were found taking advantage of the open county roads to access locations on public lands where they were not allowed. Tickets were issued for riding double, failing to wear a helmet and operating in unauthorized areas.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling on foot near Tippy Dam in Manistee County when he observed a person catch an undersized brown trout. The person looked around and then walked to a concealed location and hid the fish in the tall grass. CO Converse contacted the subject and told him to retrieve the fish. The angler stated that he was not trying to hide the fish and that he thought it was legal to keep a fish of that size. A ticket was issued for the violation.

CO Jim Espinoza received a complaint of high speed boating on a small lake in Mason County. CO Espinoza arrived just in time to see a person speeding around the small lake in a medium-sized boat. The operator was found to have several equipment violations along with violating the no-wake rule and 100 foot rule.

CO Angela Greenway was patrolling Carrieville State Forest Campground when she observed a pickup truck with wood driving slowly through the campground. CO Greenway contacted the subjects in the truck just as they were selling some of the wood to one of the camps. Follow-up interviews revealed that not only were the subjects selling wood illegally in the campground, but the wood had been taken from state forest land under a non-commercial wood cutting permit.

Area conservation officers worked enforcement patrols at Silver Lake State Park. CO Mike Bomay reported he made approximately 75 contacts. One contact involved the driver of a large pickup truck with paddle tires that was throwing sand on other park users and had open intoxicants in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken. CO Mike Wells also made numerous contacts and tickets were issued for operating while license was suspended, no eye protection and improper direction operation.

COs Sam Koscinski and Steve Converse ran a jet boat patrol on the Manistee River from Red Bridge to the Hodenpyl Backwaters. Upon contacting one subject they observed fly fishing, the angler advised them he did not have a license because he was just learning to fish. The subject was ticketed for fishing without a license. Further upstream the COs contacted five more anglers, only one of whom had a fishing license. A kayaker was ticketed for not having a life jacket and his passenger was ticketed for not having a fishing license.

On Memorial Day, CO Sam Koscinski contacted two anglers on the Hodenpyl backwaters in Wexford County. Neither subject had a fishing license and one subject

had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. CO Koscinski transported the subject to the launch where a local deputy met them and transported the subject to the Wexford County jail. The rash of subjects fishing without licenses continued when the CO checked several more anglers and several more tickets were issued for fishing without licenses.

CO Mike Borkovich ticketed a turkey hunter for discharging a firearm from the roadway without the permission of landowner.

CO Jair Kollasch was checking camps along the Manistee River in Wexford County when he came across a large unattended fire in one of the camps. As the CO started to get out to extinguish the fire, two males and two females returned to the camp. The CO noted there were several empty beer cans on the ground, and no camp registration posted. After obtaining identification from the subjects, it was determined that all the individuals were under 21 years of age. One of the subjects had attempted to give CO Kollasch false identification and this subject was trying to hide the fact that he had an outstanding warrant. A second subject was on probation with a stipulation that no alcohol was allowed. Officer Kollasch was assisted by Wexford County Sheriff's Department deputies who transported the two subjects to jail. Charges will be sought through the prosecutors office for minor in possession, camping without permit, unattended fire, and resisting & obstructing a peace officer.

COs Justin Vanderlinde, Steve Converse, Sam Koscinski and Sgt. Michelle Wiegand worked a group patrol in Benzie County. A local radio station and a local private campground along the Betsie River have sponsored a gathering over the past few years that have resulted in complaints of noise, litter and illegal ORV use. This year the sheriff's department warned the sponsors of the gathering that patrols by the sheriff's department and DNR would be increased. Activity was pretty quiet as a result, although late Saturday afternoon CO Vanderlinde ticketed three subjects for ORV trespass and one for operating an ORV with more passengers than permitted. Numerous verbal warnings were also given.

CO Jim Espinoza was conducting a joint patrol on Hamlin Lake with a Mason County sheriff's marine deputy when he encountered a pair of anglers in a boat. A check of the cooler on board revealed three short northern pike. When asked about the size of the fish, the anglers stated they did not know the size limit for the fish but took the chance that they were long enough.

CO Brian Brosky was working on the dunes at Silver Lake State Park in Oceana County when he observed a person operating a sand rail run a stop sign. The driver stated he didn't understand why he was being ticketed since he had not stopped at that particular sign in 20 years.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Chuck McPherson responded to a complaint from a property owner who had observed a subject shooting a turkey on his property near his house within the safety zone. CO McPherson contacted the subject and located the spot where the turkey had been shot. The turkey was seized and warrants have been issued.

CO Chuck McPherson attempted to stop several subjects operating ORVs in a closed area of state land. The subjects were not wearing helmets and failed to stop for Officer McPherson and fled the scene. The subjects eventually stopped and it was determined they were minors operating without adult supervision. The parents were contacted and ticketed.

CO Mike Hearn assisted deputies in an attempt to locate an elderly man who left his residence on a golf cart after an argument that reportedly left him distraught. After five hours, the subject was located over ten miles from his residence.

CO Chuck McPherson ticketed a subject who had driven his truck around a gate on state park property to get to a pit where he could climb hills. The subject became stuck in the pit and had to be removed by a wrecker service.

CO William Cherry observed a subject operating an ORV and recognized him as the same person who had recently asked if he could operate his ORV while his driving privileges were suspended and was told no. CO Cherry contacted the subject who told Officer Cherry he would continue to ride his ORV now that the roads were open.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood responded to a complaint of an illegal burn of building materials. When the COs arrived at the scene, the subject fled on foot through the woods. CO Lockwood followed and caught up to the individual who was very intoxicated. The subject was the owner of the shed being burned and was also violating his probation by being in possession of alcohol. Once arrested for burning solid waste, the subject then attempted to assault the COs by kicking. The subject was lodged on various charges and his probation officer was notified.

CO Warren MacNeill responded to a call regarding a subject who got lost while picking mushrooms. Other agencies had searched for the subject for five hours. Within minutes of joining the search, CO MacNeill drove directly to the lost subject and returned her to her family.

CO Tami Pullen checked anglers in a boat on a lake who were in possession of an undersized pike and bass. One of the subjects was more than happy to point out who actually caught the undersized fish. The subject who caught the fish didn't see anything wrong with keeping them.

CO Rebecca Hopkins investigated a complaint of an illegal goose killing. CO Hopkins contacted the subject who told her he was just trying to scare the geese off his lawn by shooting a .22 rifle in their direction and didn't mean to hit them. Warrants are being sought.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Nick Atkin responded to a complaint of a subject driving a tractor cross country on state land to gather firewood. CO Atkin, along with a fire officer, located the individual, who admitted he had been previously warned he could not gather the wood with the tractor cross country on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was on patrol when an oncoming ORV pulled a wheelie on the roadway in front of him. The CO stopped the subject for reckless operation and also found he did not have an ORV license on the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was contacted by the local dispatch regarding three subjects who had capsized their boat in the Saginaw Bay. The CO responded and located the subjects on a local commercial fishing vessel. The commercial fishermen heard the men yelling for help and responded. The three men were brought to shore, examined by the local emergency medical personnel and released on the scene. The owner of the vessel was found to have four outstanding warrants and was advised that he is responsible to get the vessel out of the water. Enforcement action was taken in regard to the warrants.

While on marine patrol and conducting an inspection of a vessel, CO Daniel Lee observed a second boat approaching his location. When the operator of the second vessel spotted the patrol boat he quickly changed directions and headed back the way he had come. The CO caught up to the boat and found a father with his young son and a boat with almost none of the required safety equipment on board. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Daniel Lee and Josh Wright were conducting a check of a vessel on a very calm and quiet day on the Saginaw Bay. While checking the vessel, the COs overheard the rambling discussions taking place by the passengers of a nearby boat trolling for walleye. The discussion, including many choice words, covered the merits of the DNR and its employees. Contact was made with the vessel and it was found to be short on life jackets, a horn, flares, vessel registration, and one fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason Smith and Seth Rhodea were on marine patrol on Lake Huron and contacted several people in a boat trolling off Port Sanilac. Upon checking the boat, numerous violations were encountered, including a child not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD), no fire extinguisher, and no type IV throwable life jacket onboard. Enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol on Lake Huron, COs Jason Smith and Seth Rhodea observed an individual reeling in a fishing line as they approached his boat. Upon contacting the angler, it was discovered that he was using too many lines. A check revealed that the subject had received prior tickets for fishing with too many lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright worked the Sebewaing bow fishing tournament and came across a 12 ft. aluminum boat with two individuals on board, approximately 400 lbs. of fish, fishing gear, and a cooler full of beer. The anglers were unable to produce any safety equipment for the boat, nor did they have valid fishing licenses. The subjects were concerned they would not make it back to the weigh-in in time due to the amount of water they had taken on in the boat caused by the four foot waves on the bay. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright responded to a boater in distress call he heard on his marine radio while at the marina. Upon arriving at the location where the boat was taking on water in three to five foot waves, he found that the victims were already on board the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) vessel that had arrived minutes earlier.

## **DISTRICT 7**

While launching his boat on a lake in Van Buren County, CO Steve Mooney observed a boater contact an angler in another boat on the water to discuss something. The angler in the contacted boat proceeded to cut a fish basket after the discussion. CO Mooney was able to retrieve the fish basket prior to contacting the angler. It was ascertained the angler was 21 bluegills over the limit counting the fish in the discarded basket.

COs Steve Orange and David Rodgers investigated a complaint by Wildlife Division of illegal camping on state game area lands in Kent County. The COs located the camp site and found four new travel trailers and a large cargo trailer. Although no one was located at the site, the site contained personal property along with trash scattered about the scene. A record check of the travel trailer's VIN numbers revealed that all trailers were reported stolen. The Kent County Sheriff's Department assisted at the scene and obtained evidence left at the site. The COs assisted until all of the property could be secured and removed from the camp site. Kent County Sheriff Department's detectives will follow up on the larceny investigation.

CO David Rodgers patrolled a local Kent County lake in response to complaints of subjects catching and possessing overlimits of panfish. CO Rodgers contacted one subject in a boat who was in possession of 92 crappie and bluegills. The subject was ticketed for the overlimit.

Sgt. Dave Shaw was returning from a late night patrol when he observed a vehicle parked along the side of a dirt road. When the vehicle passed Sgt. Shaw's location, the CO noted the description of the vehicle. Sgt. Shaw then drove to the location where the vehicle was first observed and noted a new dune buggy just off the roadway. Sgt. Shaw turned around and located the previously observed vehicle several miles away. The three occupants at first denied seeing the out-of-place ORV; but later admitted to pulling over and looking at it. Identification was obtained from the subjects and they were allowed to leave. Sgt. Shaw met with an Ottawa County sheriff's deputy at the location of the ORV and it was determined that the ORV had been stolen the day before. Sheriff's department deputies will follow up on the larceny investigation.

## **DISTRICT 8**

While patrolling the Island Lake Recreation Area, CO Pete Purdy observed two male subjects enter the recreation area through a hole in the fence to avoid paying the entrance fee. The subjects spotted CO Purdy and tried to hide their cooler and blend into the crowd. CO Purdy picked up the cooler, which was full of beer, and located the teenagers who entered the area unlawfully. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Damon Owens and Shane Webster were patrolling an inland lake when they contacted two subjects who were fishing without licenses. Both subjects were from Florida and didn't want to spend the non resident prices for fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger responded to numerous complaints on Bennett Lake of boaters continuously violating the no wake regulation in the channel. In a matter of minutes, CO Bigger witnessed two boats violate the no wake rule. Enforcement action was taken to the delight of other boaters in the area.

CO Pete Purdy received a complaint from central dispatch where the complainant stated he heard several shots coming from his neighbor's property. Upon investigation, CO Purdy located several goslings dead from gunshot wounds. CO Purdy interviewed the subjects and seized a firearm used in the killings. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss assisted the Calhoun County marine deputies on a call of a B&E in progress at a house located on an island. The neighbors reported that four individuals were seen crawling in through a window. The officers arrived on scene and observed four subjects inside the residence. The officers secured the subjects and cleared the residence. The four subjects were juveniles, two of whom were sons of the owner of the residence. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While patrolling on Holloway Reservoir, CO Linda Scheidler observed a subject operating a stand-up PWC at a high rate of speed within a few feet of a marked swim area. She contacted the operator along with another operator of a second PWC at the boat launch, neither of whom had a boater safety certificate. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt Arthur Green organized a group patrol with COs Brandon Kieft, Ben Shively, Kris Kiel, and Todd Szyska. They patrolled shore fishing spots along the Detroit River from Lake St. Clair to Lake Erie. The COs issued 22 fishing tickets; two for undersized walleye, three for bass out of season, and 17 for take over limit of white bass. The COs seized 325 fish for which restitution will be sought. Three marine violations were issued and one marine accident report was taken.

CO Mark Ennett investigated and ticketed an illegal charter boat. The captain was advertising on Craig's List for fishing lessons on Lake Erie. For a small fee, he would take you out onto Lake Erie for a teaching experience in catching walleye. CO Ennett met the boat at the dock armed with a printed version of the Craig's List advertisement. He interviewed the captain and his clients, and issued a ticket for operating an unlicensed charter boat.

CO Brandon Kieft assisted the Michigan State Police (MSP) on a suspicious vehicle complaint. CO Kieft located the vehicle and conducted a stop for a minor traffic violation. The driver of the vehicle turned out to be operating on a suspended driver's license. The driver was ticketed for the violation and his vehicle was impounded.

CO Kris Kiel received a complaint of a person catching and keeping gobies at the 9 Mile pier on Lake St. Clair. The subject told the complainant that he was going to take them to a park near the north end of Lake St. Clair and use them for bait. CO Kiel went to the park and contacted the subject as he was fishing for pike and using the gobies for bait. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol on Lake St. Clair, CO Kris Kiel contacted an angler who had one undersized and out of season smallmouth bass in his possession. The angler claimed he thought the fish was a bluegill, but when asked to identify the other fish that were in his bucket, he correctly identified a white bass, a white perch, a sheep head, rock bass and pumpkinseed sunfish. CO Kiel issued a ticket for possess smallmouth bass out of season.