

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
8/23/10 – 9/5/10**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Jason Wicklund assisted local Wisconsin Game Wardens working the bear dog training season along the border. Several groups were contacted and one person was ticketed for running bears without a license.

CO Brian Bacon contacted an ORV operator with numerous violations. Further investigation led to an illegal deer bait pile. Warnings were given for the ORV violations and a ticket was written for establishing an early deer bait.

CO Brian Bacon is investigating the complaint of a pickup truck stuck in the Groveland Mine State Land Complex. The operator went around posting signs in berms and became stuck in a wetland area. The driver has been identified and is attempting to find a removal service for the stuck vehicle.

CO Dave Painter contacted a group of hunters setting up for the upcoming bear season. The subjects had cut numerous trees, placed illegal tree stands and had multiple ORV violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter responded to the complaint of a litter pile dumped in Iron County. After multiple interviews a confession was obtained from two subjects who admitted to dumping the litter. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Pete Wright worked a marine patrol on Deer Lake near Ishpeming. Out of 11 people contacted, there were seven violations relating to the taking of fish or game. Enforcement action was taken.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO Mike Hammill assisted in evacuation of the Muskallonge Lake State Park due to inclement weather. The safety measure was taken due to extremely high waves crashing in from Lake Superior and high winds blowing over trees. The Michigan State Police (MSP) and local deputies were called upon to evacuate over 300 campers staying at the Park. Some campers spent the night at Newberry High School. The Red Cross assisted Saturday morning by returning to the Park to gather required medications for the campers.

The early season scouting tactics of COs Mike Hammill and Derek Miller prevailed as they located several illegal bear baits. Dogged persistence and surveillance skills by the two COs resulted in tickets being issued to three subjects.

CO Kyle Publiski observed three subjects fishing in a boat. After watching with binoculars the CO contacted the anglers. As CO Publiski approached, one of the subjects broke down his fishing pole and tried to hide it under the seat. He was issued a ticket for fishing without a license.

CO Kyle Publiski interrupted two subjects as they were running 4x4 jeeps through a wetland. The subjects were issued tickets for the illegal operation of a motor vehicle in a wetland.

In another incident CO Kyle Publiski was called upon to rescue an eight-point buck. The deer had become stuck in the mud from a nearby dredging operation at a local boat launch in Cedarville. After an hour long effort, the deer was rescued and ran off in good health.

CO Derek Miller contacted two goose hunters on opening day of the early goose season. The contact went well with no violations encountered. As the CO left the area he observed another group of hunters in a nearby field. While in the process of checking this second group of hunters, CO Miller saw geese flying toward the two hunters he had just checked. The CO knew they already had killed nine geese and could not believe it when they killed more than their daily limit with their volley of shooting at the flock of geese. By the time CO Miller was able to re-contact the two hunters, they had already packed up their gear, but CO Miller stopped them while they were riding back on their ORVs. The hunters thought the CO was long gone. Enforcement action was taken for taking three geese over the limit.

CO Derek Miller contacted a subject operating an ORV with no helmet. The subject was carrying a cooler full of brook trout, and was in possession of twelve brook trout over his limit. CO Derek Miller had observed another set of ORV tracks and asked the subject to direct him back to his partner. They proceeded back to the stream and contacted the subject's friend, who also had plenty of brook trout in his possession. Although his friend was not over his limit, he had several undersized brook trout and was ticketed.

CO Kevin Postma was in the area of a "be on the lookout" for a subject driving a four-wheeler with a blue cooler. The subject drove through the complainant's front yard and tore up the lawn. Moments later CO Postma spotted a large blue cooler on a four-wheeler that matched the description. Upon contact the driver was arrested for a suspended driver's license and drunk driving, with preliminary results indicating his blood alcohol was three times over the legal limit.

CO Reid Roeske contacted a subject on an ORV and later followed the ORV tracks and located an illegal ORV trail, and eventually an illegal tree stand and an illegally set up bear bait. Follow-up to be conducted during bear season.

CO Robert Crisp stopped two persons operating ORVs for not wearing helmets. When he ran a file check of both subjects, one came back with a felony warrant out of Colorado. The subject was arrested and lodged in the Alger County jail pending pickup

by Colorado authorities.

### **DISTRICT 3**

COs Kelly Ross, Chuck McPherson and PCO Jeffrey Panich worked a trespass and careless discharge of a firearm complaint. An elk hunter was being guided on private land when a bull elk came out of the woods. The hunter shot four times at the elk, eventually killing the animal. The guide or hunter did not have permission to hunt on the private land or the property the elk was on, when the hunter shot. The hunter shot in the direction of buildings and within 450' of a high pressure gas facility. When the COs contacted the subjects, there was also a loaded rifle in the vehicle. Charges are pending against the hunter and guide. COs Nick Torsky and Mark Depew also assisted in the investigation.

CO Nick Torsky was contacted by employees of the Otsego Lake State Park. The neighbor had cut trees on state park property to improve the view from his house. Enforcement action taken.

CO Joe Molnar was returning home from patrol one night and observed a four wheeler and a three wheeler on the state trail, each carrying three occupants and only one of the three wearing helmets on each machine. Enforcement action taken.

CO William Webster was delivering tickets to the court when he observed two ORVs operating on US-23 at a high rate of speed and against traffic. A traffic stop was affected and he found the operators to be 14 years old and one of the machines was not registered. Tickets were issued to the parents.

After working a dirty bear bait for three years, CO William Webster finally contacted the responsible individual. The subject tried to deny the barrel and bait was his, even though he was standing only 15 feet from the bait, with more bait and a bear dog in hand.

COs William Webster and Kelly Ross were working together and came across four ORVs in a prohibited area. Upon contact they said they had never had a run-in with the DNRE before. There was an outstanding DNRE warrant for one of the subjects for operating an ORV in a prohibited area and three of the subjects had prior DNRE convictions for operating an ORV in a prohibited area. Enforcement action taken.

While at the Petoskey State Park, CO Carl Vanderwall was dispatched to a swimmer who was struggling in the water. CO Vanderwall arrived on scene and assisted with getting the victim out of the water and immediately began CPR, as the subject had no pulse and was not breathing. After Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived, witnesses on the beach observed what appeared to be another victim. People started to shout that another body was in the water. CO Vanderwall removed his duty gear and swam over 100 yards in three to four foot waves to check on the object. Fortunately the object was a floating log. The victim could not be revived.

After observing a subject attempt to snag salmon for 90 minutes, CO Carl Vanderwall contacted the angler. The subject's excuse was that his hook was getting caught on sticks in the river. A DNRE prior check found the angler had been previously ticketed for snagging. Enforcement action taken.

COs Duane Budreau and Carl Vanderwall conducted a traffic stop on an ORV operator riding double without helmets on the roadway. Enforcement action taken.

Cpl. John Morey found out information regarding a subject possibly in possession of two recently illegally taken deer and contacted Sgt. Greg Drogowski. The subject had just been lodged in jail on other charges. The next day PCO Quincy Gowenlock and CO Mike Feagan interviewed the subject while still in jail and received a confession regarding illegally taking the two deer in August. A warrant is being sought.

All area 3-2 COs worked the August elk hunt. The weather was hot and overall activity slow. Recreational trespass and unlicensed guides were issues. Twenty-four elk were taken – 12 bulls and 12 cows.

CO Eric Bottorff and PCO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a Pigeon River Country state forest complaint of illegal horseback riding. The COs combined the patrol with illegal ORV use, and are continuing to patrol the area.

CO Rich Stowe and Sgt. Greg Drogowski responded to a Lake Huron incident on Labor Day, where a 22-foot boat sunk quickly and one subject was missing, possibly clinging to a flotation device, and adrift on Lake Huron with an off-shore wind pushing him further out into the lake. The COs searched the area along with COs Bill Webster and Joe Molnar, in three different patrol boats. The sheriff's department and U. S. Coast Guard (USCG) also had boats searching the area. CO Molnar and the USCG boat found the missing subject still alive, 3 ½ hours after his vessel sunk.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Jair Kollasch was patrolling U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands in Wexford County when he contacted two brothers operating dirt bikes in a closed area. The younger brother was 14 years old and had been taken out to ride by his older brother. Neither dirt bike was licensed, both riders lacked proper safety gear and the juvenile had not taken an ORV safety class. CO Kollasch ticketed the older brother for the safety violation and issued verbal warnings for the remaining violations.

CO Sam Koscinski was conducting a fish patrol on the Manistee River when he observed two subjects attempting to snag salmon. CO Koscinski observed the subjects make several attempts to sight snag fish before he made contact. Tickets were issued for the snagging violation.

While patrolling the Manistee River, CO Sam Koscinski attempted to check a group of anglers. While doing so, one of the subjects started walking away from the CO. After getting him to stop, the subject became verbally abusive. A record check revealed the subject had outstanding warrants for his arrest. CO Koscinski took the subject into custody and he was lodged on the warrants and ticketed for fishing without a license.

COs Brian Brosky, Angela Greenway, PCO Mike Evink and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth worked several complaints of persons illegally taking customers out on unlicensed charter boats from the Ludington Municipal Marina. The COs utilized plainclothes, recording equipment and interviewing techniques to obtain confessions for offering boats for hire. A total of three cases of offering to hire were successfully completed and an additional investigation is underway.

CO Steve Converse was observing the Little Manistee weir from a concealed location when he observed a person walking with a fishing rod and looking nervously around. When the subject was sure no other person was present, he began casting into a school of Chinook salmon close to the weir. After a few casts, the subject stopped fishing and walked back to his vehicle. CO Converse contacted the subject at his vehicle and ticketed him for fishing in closed waters. The person stated that he got nervous and stopped fishing due to being ticketed the previous day by CO Carla Soper for the same violation.

CO Steve Converse received a call from a MSP trooper requesting assistance locating two persons who had turned their canoe over several times and were stranded after dark somewhere along the Little Manistee River in Manistee County. The couple had managed to call 911 dispatchers who obtained a rough estimate of the cell phone position. CO Converse utilized his vehicle AVL to get as close as possible by two track to the location. From there, the officers were able to get what they believed was a response to a signal made by CO Converse's vehicle siren and air horn. CO Converse used his knowledge of the area to drive a two track to within 250 yards of the stranded pair. CO Converse continued his search on foot, found the two and assisted them back to the awaiting MSP unit. The two wet and cold canoeist were transported to the closest road and evaluated by EMS personnel.

CO Brian Brosky and PCO Mike Evink were patrolling Silver Lake State Park Dunes in Oceana County when they received a complaint reference an injury accident. The COs responded and found a young lady who had been thrown from her ORV after driving too fast over a dune and landing front-first into the sand. The COs called for EMS and began treating the driver after determining that she had broken her wrist and injured her ankle. The victim was transported to a local hospital for further treatment.

CO Brian Brosky and PCO Mike Evink were patrolling near Indian Bridge in Mason County focusing on illegal fishing activity on the Pere Marquette River when they observed a subject in a vehicle disregard a stop sign and continue driving erratically. They stopped the vehicle and contacted the two occupants. Inside the vehicle were several empty beer cans, spilled beer and other open intoxicants. The driver admitted

to drinking at least ten beers and was evaluated for sobriety. The testing resulted in the driver being lodged for driving while intoxicated. Blood alcohol level was determined to be over the legal limit.

CO Angela Greenway encountered two persons operating ORVs off the ORV trail system near the Lincoln Hills while conducting a patrol targeting the illegal activity. Illegal off-trail operation is a continual problem in this area and tickets were issued in both cases.

CO Jim Espinoza was patrolling on USFS lands in Mason County when he encountered two persons operating an ORV in a restricted area without helmets or an ORV license. The driver was ticketed for a safety violation.

While working a patrol at the Little Manistee Weir, COs Angela Greenway and Carla Soper encountered a subject fishing within the restricted section. When they contacted the subject, CO Soper recognized the individual as the same individual written by her in that same location last year for snagging. A ticket was issued to the subject for the new violation.

COs Angela Greenway and Carla Soper were working the Little Manistee Weir when they came across a subject fishing within the 300-foot closed section. A record check of the subject revealed that he had an outstanding arrest warrant. Enforcement action was taken for the fishing violation and he was lodged on the arrest warrant.

COs Steve Converse and Carla Soper, Manistee County, worked a joint marine patrol on the Big Manistee River. During the patrol, the COs encountered several subjects fishing without licenses, unregistered boats, vessels operating with insufficient personal flotation devices (PFDs) and one subject who had retained a foul-hooked salmon.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Steve Lockwood received information regarding a subject who was growing marijuana at his residence. After sharing the information with the local police, CO Lockwood went to the residence and was able to see the marijuana plants from the driveway. A search warrant was obtained for the house which produced more plants being grown in the basement. Over 90 plants were seized and charges are pending.

CO Steve Lockwood received information regarding the location of a stolen PWC. A search warrant was obtained and not only did it produce the stolen PWC, it also produced a stolen ORV and a stolen snowmobile and trailer. The investigation continues and charges are pending.

CO Joel Lundberg investigated a complaint of goose hunters who shot some ducks while goose hunting in the early season. When Officer Lundberg went to the scene and located a dead mallard that had been shot, one hunter quickly confessed to shooting the duck.

CO Joel Lundberg is investigating a boating accident in Gladwin County that resulted in potentially life threatening injuries to one of the victims. The investigation continues.

## **DISTRICT 6**

COs Joshua Wright and Seth Rhodea worked a marine patrol on PWCs during the Cheeseburger Festival in Caseville. With the temperatures near 90 degrees, the boating activity was high and COs made a lot of contacts and issued several tickets for unregistered PWCs. The COs also checked a vessel where the anglers were proud to show off their catch. After checking the three bass on board, it was discovered that none of the fish were of legal size. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol CO Joshua Wright could see a large plume of black smoke in the distance. After travelling fifteen miles toward the smoke, Officer Wright found the source. There was a large fire of trash in a sand pit and with no one around. After the fire department put out the fire, the CO found tires, mattresses, furniture and garbage. The owner of the fire was located and issued a ticket for unlawful disposal of solid waste.

CO Jason Smith and CO Seth Rhodea doubled up for a Labor Day marine patrol. Officer Rhodea wrote two tickets for fishing with too many lines. Several warnings were given for various marine violations. A complaint was also received of a PWC in need of assistance. Due to heavy seas it took the COs over an hour to respond to the area. The PWC operator solved his own problems before they arrived on scene and was able to make it to shore.

COs Phil Hudson and Nick Atkin were working an ORV patrol in Arenac County when they observed two juveniles not wearing helmets who were riding ORVs down the middle of the road. Upon contacting them, they followed the juveniles back to their residence where illegal bait for deer was found on the property that had been placed by the parents. Enforcement action was taken.

Before approaching, CO Vicki Goss watched an angler fishing off different sides of his pontoon. After noticing the CO, the angler handed the fishing pole to his wife. The investigation revealed that the wife had purchased the 24 hour daily license but the husband failed to purchase a license. A ticket was issued for fishing without a license.

CO Dan Lee was on marine patrol watching two anglers on the banks of the Saginaw River and witnessed one throw a styrofoam bait container into the river. The CO contacted the subjects and asked about the container. The angler admitted he threw it in but it wasn't his, he was just trying to clean up the area where he was fishing. A littering ticket was issued.

## **DISTRICT 7**

In the spring of 2010, CO Steve Mooney contacted an angler fishing on Maple Lake without a license, so a ticket was issued. A few weeks later that same subject was accidentally shot in the back by his girlfriend, who was turkey hunting under an apprentice license. The subject was not seriously injured. At that time he was afield with a firearm but did not have a turkey kill tag for that hunt period, nor did he have a small game license so a ticket was issued for that violation. In August, CO Mooney again encountered this same subject fishing on Maple Lake, and again this subject, like four months ago, did not have a fishing license. CO Mooney issued him another ticket for fishing without a license. When asked why he had not picked up a fishing license the subject replied he didn't have the money. He did however pay over \$100 for the first ticket.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Jeff Goss contacted two subjects who were keeping fish from a catch and release only lake. The subjects were not happy about being caught, threw the fish basket full of fish overboard and tried to explain to the CO that were just bringing the fish in closer to shore so they could be released in clearer water. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Damon Owens and Jonathan Warner were the initial first responders to arrive at the scene of a personal injury roll over vehicle accident. The COs were able to render first aid until EMS arrived.

COs Damon Owens and Jonathan Warner contacted a subject who was fishing without a license. Upon further investigation it was revealed that the subject was wanted in Wayne County on three different warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

While working marine patrol, Sgt. Troy Bahlau and CO Dan Prince encountered a subject who was operating an unregistered vessel. The vessel had not been registered since 1992. Further investigation showed that the subject had five warrants for his arrest and had been a fugitive from the law for the past seven years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger heard radio traffic from the county central dispatch to be on the look out for an erratic driver on one of the local roadways. CO Bigger located the vehicle in question and noted that it was travelling approximately 34 miles per hour (MPH) on a 70 MPH limited access highway. CO Bigger contacted the driver of the vehicle who was in possession of marijuana and had taken over a dozen prescription medications. The juvenile in the vehicle was turned over to the grandmother. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger responded to a complaint regarding hunter harassment. CO Bigger observed that every time a group of waterfowl hunters called the geese, the harasser

would stop working on his welding project and shoot his shotgun in the direction of the goose calls. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a marine safety check and discussing a marine violation with the vessel operator, CO Pete Purdy observed a handgun under the console of the vessel. After securing the handgun CO Purdy questioned the vessel operator about the handgun. The operator confessed to CO Purdy that he held a valid concealed pistol license, but chose not to disclose that information to CO Purdy at the onset of their contact. Further investigation revealed that the handgun was not properly registered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith assisted the MSP on an investigation where two individuals were seen dumping a deer from an ORV into a ditch on the side of the road. The two subjects were interviewed and admitted to dumping a road-killed deer in the ditch, riding double on the ORV, operating the ORV on a roadway without helmets, and trespassing on private property. The subjects did not have a permit for the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols was the first on the scene of a personal injury accident and provided medical assistance and traffic control until EMS arrived. After clearing the scene of the accident, CO Nickols witnessed a car/deer accident and took the report for the local officers as they were still tied up at the accident scene.

While patrolling Woodland Lake in Livingston County, COs Dan Prince and Jonathan Warner contacted many vessel operators. The COs observed the following violations: a boat towing a skier without an observer; a personal watercraft (PWC) spraying docks and operating well within the 100-foot distance; illegal bow riding; a PWC operator doing hole-shot take offs from the boat launch; and a man fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

CO Dan Bigger was called out at midnight to assist local deputies with a complaint of barking dogs in a wetland area. Unknown as to the reason for the barking, CO Bigger was called to the scene and responded with his kayak. Due to the low water levels, an island had been created in the middle of the wetland. CO Bigger maneuvered his kayak to the island where a large dog was trapped as his leash had become entangled in the brush. After he had cut the dog free CO Bigger coaxed the wet and very muddy dog into his kayak. A very wet and muddy CO Bigger returned the dog to the grateful owners.

CO Pete Purdy was just completing a boat patrol at Island Lake Recreation area when he received a distress call where a vehicle had struck a bicyclist and fled the scene. CO Purdy was the first law enforcement on the scene provided first aid to the bicyclist while the local officers located the suspect vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol on Kent Lake, CO Pete Purdy assisted the Huron-Clinton Metro Park Police with a distress call of an overturned sailboat. The two occupants, only one of

whom was wearing a PFD, were exhausted from trying to stay afloat. The officers hailed a passing pontoon boat who rescued the exhausted occupants while the officers righted the boat and towed it to shore. A little later in the day the same two officers received another distress call that the same sailboat was stranded on a sandbar and about to capsize. The officers again provided assistance. The sailboat operator stated that he just got the boat and didn't know how to sail. Later that day it was reported that the same boat was located in the middle of a marked swim area.

CO Pete Purdy contacted a PWC operator who was operating the watercraft without wearing required PFD and had improper registration. The operator didn't think he needed a PFD since he was just doing a few laps around the lake while waiting for his friends. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers on the Portage River, CO Shane Webster contacted a group of people that had not yet begun fishing. One subject stated that since he was a non-resident the license was too expensive so he wasn't going to fish, he would just watch. CO Webster left the area for a short time but returned to the area and watched the non-resident begin fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While returning home after a patrol, CO Mark Papineau heard a call for an officer needing assistance. The local officer was a few miles from CO Papineau's residence and had three subjects on a felony stop on Consumers Energy property and a possible stolen vehicle. CO Papineau and other officers responded. When the scene was secured, it was determined the subjects had just purchased an old, run-down vehicle and were going to go off-road to beat it up some more. Their plan was to abuse the vehicle until it did not run anymore and then burn it. The recently purchased vehicle did not have valid registration and the operator had a suspended driver's license. CO Papineau worked with the local officer to address the ORV violations.

CO Mark Papineau and Sgt. Tom Wanless contacted three of the six liveries in Genesee County and none of them had valid livery inspection decals. CO Linda Scheidler contacted the other three, none of which were valid. Those three had been operating for several years without being inspected. Warnings were given along with time to get into compliance. Follow-up inspections are planned.

CO Linda Scheidler assisted the MSP with the investigation of a head-on ORV crash. Neither operator was wearing a helmet. The injuries to both were minor, with the exception of one operator who had a broken ankle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received a complaint of a subject operating an ORV on the roadway and trespassing on Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) property, which was posted. CO Lasher contacted the subject and advised him of the violations.

CO Ben Lasher received a safety zone complaint during the early goose season. The CO contacted the two subjects, who were both under the age of 17. The complainant did not want to prosecute so CO Lasher gave the subjects a stern lecture and released them.

While working in Macomb County, COs Todd Szyska and Mark Papineau stopped a truck for spilling debris from an unsecured load. The operator had a suspended driver's license and the passenger was an illegal immigrant from Mexico. The illegal immigrant was turned over to Border Patrol and enforcement action taken on the driver. The COs also contacted an angler near Metro Beach who stated her fishing license was in her vehicle. As the COs escorted her back to her vehicle for verification, the subject explained that she did not have a license; however, she was glad to see the COs. Apparently, an unknown male sitting near the female had just solicited her for sex. The COs contacted Metro Parks Police Officers and the subject was taken in for questioning.