

LOCALNEWS

Report details permit to carry in MN

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension released its 2013 permit to carry report, summarizing data about applications for handgun carry permits.

The 60,471 permits issued statewide in 2013 are nearly double the 31,657 issued in 2012.

In Koochiching County, there were 198 applications, and 196 five-year permits issued. One current permit to carry license was revoked, and one application is pending. There are currently 582 valid permit to carry permits in Koochiching County, according to the report.

From 2010-2012, all permit to carry applications were approved, with no revocations or denials, in the county. Koochiching County Undersheriff Bruce Grotberg said this is because of the attitudes of the holders of permits to carry.

“I believe most of the people who have licenses respect it and want to keep it,” Grotberg said. “They know if they violate the law, they’ll lose it.”

Some of the more common reasons to deny an application, Grotberg said, are crimes of violence on an applicant’s record, as well as felonies. Also, if a permit holder commits a felony, he said, that’s when a current license will get revoked.

“They don’t have to use the gun in the crime, the fact they did it is enough,” Grotberg said.

According to the report, the reason for the license revocation in Koochiching County from 2013 was “danger to self or others.” The license holder’s license was revoked for one year from Oct. 21, 2013, and the revocation was not appealed.

There’s a broad cross section of permit to carry license holders in the county, Grotberg said. Men and women, married and single, as well as business owners who take money back and forth to the bank, have permits to carry, he said.

The BCA report included a demographic breakdown of permit to carry applicants based on zip code. For zip code 56649, the largest group of applicants was males age 60-69, followed by males age 21-29. Men ages 21-79 in zip code 56649 made up 122 of the 198 applicants. A Minnesota resident must be 21 years old to apply for a permit to carry.

Permit to carry applications benefit sheriff’s offices by providing a source of revenue. Statewide, in 2013 license to carry applications generated \$5.7 million in total revenue, according to the BCA report. In Koochiching County, applications generated \$19,020 in revenue, with \$6,847 in expenditures from that fund leaving a balance of \$12,173.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety gets a percentage of the application revenue, Grotberg said, and a percentage of the sheriff’s office

secretary’s salary is paid through the revenue, as she’s the one handling the applications. The rest is used to buy office supplies, he said, and any surplus funds go into the county general fund.

The permit to carry issue creates adamant opinions on both sides of the argument, Grotberg said, but the sheriff’s office has had a relatively smooth relationship with license holders. He said the office has had very few instances of permit holders confronting other people with firearms, and the situations have been handled without the intervention of the sheriff’s office.

“Those who want to carry are very committed to that, and do what they have to do to continue to carry,” he said.

Private establishments in Minnesota have the right to prohibit a person to carry, and Grotberg said the sheriff’s office has had some issues with permit holders and establishments butting heads. He said they once arrested a permit holder for carrying in a bar while he was intoxicated. If a permit holder ignores a sign prohibiting carrying in an establishment, he said, as long as their handgun remains out of sight, it won’t be an issue.

According to the BCA’s website, the permit to carry law is not a conceal and carry law. The permit holder’s pistol does not need to be concealed, but can be concealed.

Anderson takes third at Can Am

Aili finishes in fourth

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

In each sled dog race Ray mushers Ryan Anderson and Keith Aili have competed in against each other this season, one has always finished one slot higher than the other.

Last weekend was no different.

Anderson came in third and Aili fourth at the Can Am Crown Irving Woodlands 250-mile sled dog race in Fort Kent, Maine.

“This is one of the more difficult races to run,” Anderson told The Journal Monday, just hours after crossing the finish line.

Quebec mushers Martin Massicotte and Andre Longchamps finished the race in first and second place, respectively.

Anderson, who won the Can Am in both 2012 and 2013, was running on little sleep Monday and said his team did well, but dwindled throughout the race.

“I was dropping dogs early and there wasn’t really anything I could do about it,” he said.

While trail conditions were ideal for a sled dog race, Anderson said aside from a hilly course, several moose holes in the trail challenged the dogs.

“I started with 12 dogs and ended with eight,” he said. “I had eight for the last 100 miles or so. I knew



Ryan Anderson



Keith Aili

towards the end that I had to give up on the competition and used the last leg of the race as more of a training run...So to end up where I did is good.”

Aili, who said this is his first time in about eight years competing in the Can Am, said it was good to be back in action out in Maine.

“I got to see a lot of old friends,” he said.

While he was happy with fourth place, Aili admits there were mistakes made on his part when entering the race.

“When I came out here, I thought the dog team was recovered,” he said. “They have just run too many races in the last month... They lost their edge... On the last run, I ended up having to carry a dog half way.”

Next year, he said he knows what changes he needs to make in order to perform better.

“If I come to this race, I won’t do the Beargrease and the U.P. 200,” he said. “That way, my dogs will have a longer break in between.”

Aili added some mushers who run the Can Am

don’t compete in other long races to preserve their dog teams.

“It’s a lot harder to race against fresh dog teams,” he said.

Anderson, too, said he didn’t put too much pressure on his team that would result in injuries and force him to drop out, or scratch from the race.

“I had to tone it down a lot,” he said. “I told myself, realistically, there is going to be a bad race, and this was a difficult race. The dogs were falling off my team right and left and I was just trying to patch things up to get to the finish line...I’m happy with my dogs, though. They’re young and they made it.”

The musher will be back in action next week to compete in the Hudson Bay Quest Sled Dog Race in Manitoba.

“I’m going to go, I just am not sure what I’ll have for a dog team,” he said. “The team looks good though, they should be OK.”

Aili, however, is calling it a season.

“I have the best race record as of right now in the lower 48 so I’m happy with the season for the small amount of dogs I have in my kennel,” he said. “I’m going to work on acquiring more dogs this year to build the kennel up a bit.”

Now, Aili said, he is anxious to get home and start seeing some warmer weather.

“I’m ready for spring,” he said with a laugh.

Official says gas prices could rise again

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Average retail gasoline prices in Minnesota have not moved in the past week, averaging \$3.46 per gallon Sunday, according to GasBuddy’s daily survey of 2,856 gas outlets in Minnesota. This compares with the national average that has increased 3.2 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.44 per gallon, according to gasoline price website MinnesotaGasPrices.com.

Regular gas prices in International Falls, according to the site, ranged from \$3.45 to \$3.54. Local prices for premium fuel were listed at \$4.09 per gallon and diesel fuel ranged from \$4.24 to \$4.33. Prices for midgrade

fuel were not listed on the site.

Including the change in gas prices in Minnesota during the past week, prices Sunday were 23.1 cents per gallon lower compared to the same day one year ago and are 27.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased 17.6 cents during the last month and stands 26.7 cents per gallon lower than this day one year ago.

“Gasoline prices, as expected, continued their rise over the last week,” said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Gregg Laskoski. “The pace in the increases slowed somewhat versus the week prior, but motorists shouldn’t get ex-

cited over the one week slow down in the rise in prices. We fully expect that as refineries get into the prime of maintenance season, gasoline prices nationwide will continue to rise, and perhaps at the fastest rate we could see in 2014. We’re starting to see cleaner burning summer gasoline come in to view across the nation, and with lower production as refineries prepare for an increase in demand and for summer spec gasoline, price spikes can occur,” Laskoski said.

GasBuddy operates MinnesotaGasPrices.com and over 250 similar websites that track gasoline prices at more than 140,000 gasoline stations in the United States and Canada.



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