

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
1/25/10 – 2/8/10**

DISTRICT 1

District officers continue to crack down on careless snowmobile operation within the northwest Upper Peninsula. COs David Miller and Brett Gustafson worked two group patrols during the weekend and ticketed 10 snowmobile operators for careless operation. CO Dennis Gast issued one ticket for careless operation and gave numerous warnings. CO Doug Hermanson and Sgt. Steven Burton also issued several tickets for careless operation, operating without valid driver's licenses, no trail permits, and unregistered snowmobiles. Continued patrols will target careless operation, distance violations on lakes and sound enforcement in dense areas.

CO Dennis Gast checked 150 anglers on Portage Lake this past Saturday during the Michigan Technological University Ice Fishing contest. A few minor warnings were given but overall he reported good compliance with fishing regulations.

District officers conducted routine taxidermy inspections on a select number of taxidermists throughout the Keweenaw Peninsula this past week. Officer Dennis Gast and Sgt. Steven Burton inspected a Houghton taxidermist and found four untagged/unsealed bobcats. The bobcats were tracked down to the owners and they were ticketed for failing to use their kill tags. The taxidermist was also ticketed. CO Matthew Eberly and Sgt. Steven Burton inspected a Laurium taxidermist and found an untagged fisher and an untagged moose rack. The investigation continues in tracking down the owners of the animals.

CO Doug Hermanson received reports of an angler shooting at other anglers in Baraga County in a blatant fishing harassment complaint. Before COs were able to find the subject, local deputies stopped the man in his vehicle and seized a loaded 12 gauge shotgun. The individual was arrested on numerous charges and is being questioned in the recent shooting of a residence in the area. The subject was transported to the hospital and charges are pending a mental evaluation for competency.

CO David Miller wrote four snowmobile operators in Gogebic County for careless operation of a snowmobile.

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy watched two anglers hop in their truck and drive away from the six tip-ups they had set out. The COs watched as the anglers drove out of sight and returned 20 minutes later. The anglers stated they had driven to the other side of the lake to visit with friends and to check how the fishing tournament was going. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Wicklund responded to a complaint of a cougar track in town. The CO responded with the local police department and confirmed that the track was not a cougar but rather the heel print of a “meter reader’s” boot.

DISTRICT 2

COs Jared Ferguson, Kevin Postma, Derek Miller, Kyle Publiski, Reid Roeske, and Gerald Thayer conducted group patrols in the Sault Ste. Marie area in response to the I-500 snowmobile race. The COs also conducted sound meter enforcement for loud snowmobiles throughout the weekend. Several warnings and tickets were issued for excessively loud snowmobiles along with multiple warnings and tickets for unregistered snowmobiles, trail permits, railroad trespass, and careless operation.

Also during the I-500 weekend COs Reid Roeske and Jared Ferguson responded with their patrol snowmobiles to a snowmobile accident in a remote part of Chippewa County. The COs were first on scene and proved to be an essential asset as they were able to direct emergency crews to the location. No other law enforcement agencies were available with the right equipment to respond at the time. Despite efforts by the COs, the snowmobiler succumbed to her injuries and passed away several hours later at the hospital.

CO Kevin Postma conducted a fish patrol on Munuscong Bay of the St. Marys River system. The CO encountered a group of anglers who claimed they had not caught a single fish all day. The CO then observed what looked to be a fish hidden under a truck. Further investigation revealed a short pike that had recently been filleted. When asked, the anglers had no idea where the mysterious fish had come from. CO Postma then observed a plastic bag hanging near the tailgate of a truck. Closer observation revealed northern pike fish fillets that were an exact match to the carcass located earlier. The anglers finally remembered where the fish had come from. A confession was obtained and the responsible subject was issued a ticket for possession of the undersized northern pike, and given a warning for mutilating (filleting) fish on the ice.

While on patrol on Munuscong Bay, CO Kevin Postma observed the tail of a northern pike lying under fishing gear in a sled. The angler claimed he had no luck so far. When asked about the fish in his sled, the subject admitted he had kept a short pike. A ticket was issued for possession of the undersized northern pike.

COs John Wenzel and Reid Roeske contacted one person fishing on Little Bay DeNoc who had multiple violations. The subject had six lines, no license, was denied and revoked to operate an ORV, no name on his ice shanty, no helmet and no ORV license. The COs ticketed him for fish with too many lines and fishing without a license.

DISTRICT 3

CO Andrea Erratt stopped two snowmobilers operating off the trail in the Jordan River Valley. One of the snowmobiles was a rental sled that had a registration expiring in

2007. CO Erratt warned the juveniles for operating off trail and contacted the owner of the rental company. He said he had forgotten to register the snowmobile. He was ticketed for the unregistered snowmobile and warned for failing to transfer the registration into his name.

CO Andrea Erratt checked two anglers on Deer Lake in Charlevoix County. The anglers said they were using six lines, but on closer inspection CO Erratt located 11 lines. They said they knew she would be back. CO Erratt ticketed the anglers for fishing with too many lines.

CO Andrea Erratt stopped two snowmobiles in the Jordan River Valley with registrations that had expired in 2005 and 2006. The operators said they had not ridden their snowmobiles in a while and thought they only needed trail permits. They were ticketed for operating unregistered snowmobiles.

COs Carl VanderWall and Duane Budreau conducted a snowmobile patrol in Emmet County. During that time numerous snowmobilers were stopped and ticketed for careless operation and failure to stop when crossing roadways. One snowmobiler complained about having to stop at the road crossings and COs explained the dangers of snowmobiles and vehicular traffic mixing. Later that evening both COs responded to a snowmobile accident two intersections away, where a snowmobiler ran a stop sign at approximately 60 mph and jumped a snow bank. The snowmobile and rider flew approximately 200 feet and then rolled to a stop. The rider was taken to the hospital with severe injuries. The COs assisted Emergency Medical Services (EMS) with the injured victim.

COs Carl VanderWall and Duane Budreau were conducting a snowmobile patrol in Emmet County when they observed a group of snowmobilers run a road crossing without stopping. The snowmobilers observed the COs turn around on them and stopped at a restaurant. The snowmobilers hoped that if they hid inside the COs would not come in and ticket them. They were mistaken.

COs Steve Spiegl and Mike Hearn were on a snowmobile patrol in southern Antrim County where the trail runs next to US 131. They were first on scene at a roll over accident on the highway. The COs conducted traffic control of automobiles while on snowmobiles.

District COs provided law enforcement support for the Black Lake Sturgeon spearing season. This year new regulations went into affect changing the season from a lottery system to an open all licensed anglers' event. The season is scheduled to last five days or until five sturgeons are taken. The event produced large number of anglers with over 250 the first day and approximately 150 the second day. The season ended early on the second day when the 5th fish was taken.

COs Mike Feagan, Richard Stowe, Kelly Ross and Joe Molnar conducted a group fishing patrol on Grand Lake and Long Lake, in conjunction with a fishing tournament

being held in the area. A large number of anglers were contacted and three tickets were issued for fishing with more than three lines, one ticket for fishing without a license and one ticket for operating an ORV without a helmet. Numerous ORV and snowmobile warnings were given.

CO Eric Bottorff reports the following warrants being issued from the Cheboygan County Prosecutor's Office stemming from illegal activity on Christmas Eve Day. The charges of taking game from a road right-of-way, possessing a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, taking a grouse without a license and possessing a treble hook with a weight permanently attached. Additional warrants for felony weapons charges sought by the sheriff's department were also issued.

The Cheboygan County court has sentenced a subject arrested by CO Eric Bottorff during the firearm deer season for illegally taking a deer. The defendant pled to the charge and was ordered to pay \$1000 in restitution with an additional \$200 in fines and costs. The defendant also had his hunting privileges revoked for three years.

CO Matt Theunick assisted with the eviction of a subject who has been sleeping in the pit toilet facility at the Forks Boat launch on the Cheboygan River. The Michigan State Police (MSP) are following up on additional complaints for the same individual.

CO Richard Stowe continues to follow up on feed site complaints from the winter feeding flights. He recently contacted a landowner who is currently in Florida and a confession was obtained. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Molnar located three protected species at a local taxidermist's shop in Alpena County. Most of the animals possessed by the taxidermist were not identified as required by law. After a thorough investigation, CO Molnar ticketed the taxidermist for possessing northern flying squirrels and for not having proper identification on animals held at his business. CO Molnar also noted a possible deer violation while investigating the taxidermist. CO Bill Webster assisted and through their investigation obtained confessions from three subjects who violated laws concerning taking a big buck without a license and improper tagging of deer. Charges pending.

CO Joe Molnar notes that two subjects charged with taking an overlimit of otter and taking a bobcat during the closed season paid \$594 in fines and \$1500 in restitution for their illegal activity.

CO Bill Webster was checking anglers on Long Lake when he came upon a fisher who produced a 2008 fishing license. When informed it was last year's license the angler said he thought the license was good for one year from the date of purchase. CO Webster explained it was not and then checked the license system and found out the subject had recently purchased a 24 hour fishing license. CO Webster issued a ticket to the dejected angler.

CO Mark Depew observed occupants of a shanty that had no name and address as required by law. As CO DePew attempted to contact the subjects they headed for the shanty. CO DePew found that five of the occupants were juveniles who had all been consuming alcohol; the only adult was 21 years old. CO DePew will be pressing charges against that individual for providing alcohol to minors. A warning was given for no name and address on the shanty.

While on patrol on Long Lake, CO Bill Webster observed two anglers fishing with six lines. Upon checking the subjects, one of the anglers stated he was not fishing. CO Webster recalled last year ticketing this angler for fishing without a license. The second subject stated all the tip-ups were his and took the ticket for fishing with more than three lines.

CO Bill Webster checked a lake where he approached two anglers with their six lines fishing for pike. One of the anglers stated he had been back in Michigan and living here the last four months after being in Alaska. The subject decided he would wait until he had a permanent address before he purchased a fishing license, as he did not wish to pay for a non-resident license. CO Webster issued a ticket for fishing without a license.

CO Nick Torsky checked an angler leaving Cornwall Flooding at dusk who had been fishing for panfish. The angler acted nervous and did not want to talk with CO Torsky who was questioning him about his fishing success. Upon checking the angler's catch, CO Torsky learned why the angler did not want to stop and talk with him. The angler had kept 30 bluegill, five over his limit. Enforcement action taken.

CO Nick Torsky reported that he charged a hunter with taking an elk and a deer out of season. The elk was believed to have been shot near the family's farm. The hunter eventually pled to taking a whitetailed deer out of season, paid approximately \$1400 in fines and lost his hunting license. The hunter must also take a hunter safety course, participate in community service work and is on probation for a year.

DISTRICT 4

CO Jeff Ginn was checking ice fishing activity on a Newaygo County lake when he contacted a subject with four tip-ups and one jigging rod. The angler explained that his daughter was fishing with him and that she had gone back to his residence to use the restroom. CO Ginn made contact at the residence and discovered that the daughter in question was still asleep in bed. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jeff Ginn contacted two subjects on a single snowmobile along a Newaygo County road. Neither were wearing helmets. The snowmobile had not been registered nor did it display a trail permit. A check of the operator revealed he was suspended on his driver's license and also had an outstanding arrest warrant. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jeff Ginn was conducting ice fishing checks on a Newaygo County lake when he observed two subjects on an ORV leaving the lake. He conducted a stop on the ORV

as it drove down the center of a roadway. The two subjects were riding double and not wearing helmets. Further investigation revealed the subjects to be in possession of mutilated fish. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jeff Ginn assisted a City of Newaygo officer who located two subjects walking down a railroad grade carrying archery equipment late one evening. Investigation revealed that the subjects had shot at a deer earlier but missed. Due to the fact that the deer season was closed, enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller responded to a complaint of a subject who had found a blood trail with footprints following the blood. CO Mueller followed the blood trail and footprints to a point that the footprints turned around with the blood trail continuing on. Unable to locate any drag marks, CO Mueller followed the trail to a local residence. Contact was made and an admission was received from a subject of the shooting of a deer with archery equipment a few days earlier. The subject advised that he did not recover the deer. Enforcement action was taken for the out of season violation.

CO Jeff Ginn was patrolling a Newaygo County lake when he observed a subject with fishing equipment standing alongside the road. As he spoke with this subject, CO Ginn observed a pickup truck leave an access sight a short distance down the road and drive past CO Ginn's location. CO Ginn left the area and then returned to discover the vehicle had returned and was now picking up the subject CO Ginn had contacted. A check of the driver of the vehicle revealed him to be suspended on his driver's license and a valid warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action taken.

COs Angie Greenway, Troy Mueller, Jeff Ginn and Michael Wells conducted a group patrol during the Hess Lake Winterfest in Newaygo County. A sound enforcement station was set up on the lake and several snowmobiles were tested with a large number over the legal decibel limit. Several tickets were issued for violations of expired registrations, no helmets, sound and no trail permits.

COs Steve Converse and Carla Soper were patrolling the ice on Portage Lake when they encountered two persons fishing from an ice shanty. When they opened the door they noticed a cloud of smoke billow out from inside. After being questioned about the source of the smoke, each occupant retrieved baggies of marijuana from their pockets. Each person was charged for having the illegal substance. It was also found that they both had been previously caught with marijuana.

CO Steve Converse was working near Hamlin Lake in Mason County when he observed a person spinning doughnuts on the ice with a utility vehicle. A check of the driver resulted in a sobriety assessment. The driver was found to be intoxicated and was lodged in jail.

While patrolling a Manistee County lake, CO Steve Converse contacted a person who had forgotten to bring his fishing license. While checking on the radio it was discovered that the person had purchased two firearm deer licenses last fall. A discussion with the

person resulted in the admission that he had purchased the second license after using the first tag. The person also admitted to hunting during the archery season without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling state land in Benzie County on a snowmobile, CO Justin Vanderlinde observed a vehicle parked in an area that had seen some rabbit hunting activity. After a brief wait, CO Vanderlinde checked two subjects who were hunting rabbits with dogs. Upon checking the subjects for licenses it was revealed that one subject was still under a hunting revocation from a previous deer violation. Enforcement action taken.

COs Jair Kollasch, Steve Converse and Sean Kehoe worked a joint patrol with the US Forest Service (USFS) and Wexford County Sheriff's Department during the Cadillac Snowmobile Festival. Numerous snowmobile violations were encountered such as registration and trail permit violations, excessive speed, careless operation for running open water, operating while suspended, possession of marijuana and operating within 100 feet of fishing activity. One notable investigation involved one subject for running the open water, doing doughnuts and finally rolling his sled as he lost control. An additional investigation involved a group of riders who had made copies of one trail permit and taped the copies to the remaining sleds. Several tickets, warnings and contacts were made all weekend. Despite the violations noted, it appears that the increased enforcement posture provided for a very safe weekend.

DISTRICT 5

COs Chris Bowen, John Huspen, and Chuck McPherson, with assistance from the Crawford County Sheriff's Department, conducted a night snowmobile OUIL patrol in northern Crawford County. COs issued tickets for unregistered snowmobiles, railroad trespass and failing to stop before crossing a public highway.

CO Bobbi Lively reported that two subjects from last deer season pled guilty to baiting deer in a closed county and hunting deer without a license. CO Lively checked the location the day before the hearing and found a new blind with the name and address of one of the suspects on it and residual bait at the site.

CO Bobbi Lively was called to assist a local deputy on a domestic violence call. The deputy was struggling with a subject when Officer Lively arrived. CO Lively and the deputy were able to take the subject into custody.

COs Brian Olsen and Joel Lundberg patrolled a small inland lake that was receiving a high amount of use due to a large party on adjacent private property. Several tickets were issued for various violations including licensing of ORVs and snowmobiles, no helmets, and careless operation.

COs Tami Pullen and Rebecca Hopkins patrolled Tawas Bay during the Perchville Festival. They assisted local police with fights in progress and also policed the Tawas Harbor during the event.

CO Jason McCullough investigated a complaint of a subject who had shot a bobcat without a license. The investigation showed that the subject was also a convicted felon who could not legally possess firearms. Charges are pending.

DISTRICT 6

CO Seth Rhodea was patrolling in the southern part of Sanilac County when he stopped to check two hunters who were rabbit hunting. Both hunters showed CO Rhodea the rabbits they harvested that day but when asked to show the CO their hunting licenses, only one hunter had a valid small game license. The unlicensed hunter was ticketed for hunting without a license.

COs Seth Rhodea and Jason Smith teamed up to work coyote hunters in Sanilac and Tuscola Counties. Several groups of coyote hunters were checked during the patrol with most hunters following the rules. One hunter was in possession a loaded shotgun in an unzipped case sitting next to him in his pickup. The hunter was ticketed for possessing a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

While patrolling in Sanilac County, CO Seth Rhodea received a complaint of a group of coyote hunters shooting from their vehicles. The CO used his ORV to locate and get close enough to make contact with the group. Upon stopping and speaking with a couple of the hunters, the CO found a loaded and uncased firearm in one of the pickup trucks. The hunters were a father and daughter team and were ticketed for having a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

COs Phil Hudson and Nick Atkin assisted local drug units after game violations were located during the execution of a search warrant. The COs conducted their own investigation and are submitting warrant requests for multiple charges including feeding deer in closed counties, failing to immediately validate deer kill tags, and multiple illegal deer that were taken.

A group patrol was organized by Sgts. Tony Soave and Ron Kimmerly on Saginaw Bay focusing on fishing violations like taking overlimits and possessing undersized walleyes. COs Dan Lee and Nick Atkin wrote tickets for multiple ORV violations as well as taking short walleyes.

While checking ice anglers at Rose Island in Huron County, CO Robert Hobkirk observed two anglers come into the parking area riding ORVs without wearing helmets. After speaking with them, CO Hobkirk also discovered neither ORVs were licensed. Both subjects were issued tickets for not wearing helmets and agreed to purchase their ORV licenses.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a phone call from a local coyote hunter. The man stated he thought he had found an eagle carcass along the Saginaw Bay shoreline but wasn't completely sure. CO Hobkirk met the man the following morning to look at the carcass.

The remains were of a bald eagle and were turned over to the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The same group of hunters called CO Hobkirk one week later and advised that they had found a personal watercraft (PWC) that was mostly submerged and frozen into the ice in Lake Huron. The information was also called into the Bad Axe MSP Post. A trooper initially walked out to the PWC, but was unable to get any information from the machine since it was almost completely submerged. CO Hobkirk assisted, and with the use of an ice spud was able to get the registration numbers which were given to the trooper.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a call from an individual stating he had just photographed a coyote hunter who was trespassing on his land. The complainant wanted the individual prosecuted for trespassing. Prior to tracking down the hunters, CO Hobkirk met with the complainant and downloaded the photograph of the trespasser onto his computer. When CO Hobkirk met up with the coyote hunters, he showed them the picture. The hunters then called the suspect and had him come to CO Hobkirk's location. When the suspect arrived and saw the picture he admitted to being on the complainant's property and was issued a ticket for recreational trespass.

During the last two weeks three subjects have brought bobcats into the Bay City District office to register the animals. When asked where and when the animals were killed the hunters could not supply correct information. After further investigation, all three admitted to killing the animals during the closed season, or before purchasing their licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Huron County, CO Robert Hobkirk observed a large cloud of dark smoke. When he arrived at the origin he found that a subject had knocked down an old barn and was burning the debris. The individual was issued a ticket for unlawful disposal of solid waste.

While checking ice anglers coming off Saginaw Bay, CO Holly Pennoni contacted two subjects who told the CO they caught six walleye. Upon searching the shanty, CO Pennoni found 10 walleye in their possession. After finding the fish, she rechecked the shanty and buckets and located another walleye that was undersized and put the anglers over their legal limit. Enforcement action was taken and the fish were seized.

CO Holly Pennoni signed two separate warrants at the district court. The first was for careless use of a firearm where a subject was hit by a stray bullet while a different subject was target shooting. The second warrant was for OUIL on an ORV. The second incident involved a subject riding his ORV after dark on Saginaw Bay while intoxicated. The subject had his six year old son riding with him when they broke through thin ice a half mile off shore.

While working Crystal Lake in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell located a truck parked on the ice away from the other anglers. The CO watched as the angler from the lone truck put out four tip-ups around his vehicle. When the CO contacted the angler he was

sitting in his truck drinking a beer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell watched three anglers come out of an ice shanty, get on an ORV, and start heading for shore on Muskellunge Lake. The CO stopped the ORV and advised the operator that the ORV was designed for one person only. The CO also discussed the violations of not wearing helmets. Upon further investigation, the CO found that there were two tip-ups that were set up in the empty shanty. The ORV operator was issued a ticket for leaving lines unattended.

CO Phil Hudson was sent to a complaint of a deer on someone's porch that would not leave. Upon arriving the deer was laying in the yard eating some corn. The corn was supposedly for squirrels. The deer ran off and the CO advised not to put the squirrel feed on the ground and gave suggestions on how to put the squirrel feed out of reach.

COs Phil Hudson and Dan Lee found that anglers on the Saginaw River weren't having much luck. Most of the walleye that the anglers were catching were under the 15 inch size limit and were being thrown back. At dusk the COs checked a shanty set off by itself. This angler had not thrown back the small walleye he had caught during the day. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Steve Orange responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of timber theft in the Rogue River State Game Area (SGA) and apprehended two subjects as they were removing a large quantity of illegally cut wood. The subjects used a plastic sled to move the larger sections of trees to their vehicle. The vehicle had been modified with wooden side racks. Days after the first encounter, another complaint was called in with a vehicle description matching the vehicle CO Orange had dealt with previously. Inspecting the new complaint location there was evidence of the use of a plastic sled leading to and from several illegally cut trees. CO Orange will follow up with interviews and seek warrants for the new violations.

CO Mike Mshar concluded two cases in Allegan County from 2009 where a subject was fined \$2310 for taking a deer while his hunting license was revoked. In another case a subject was fined \$1310 for taking a deer with a firearm during the closed season.

CO Patrick McManus investigated a complaint of a subject who operated a snowmobile through the Allegan SGA after the machine was identified using registration numbers observed by SGA staff. Records indicated the registered owner was a suspended driver. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Rabbers is seeking warrants from the Barry County Prosecutor's Office for various violations during the 2009 deer season. Charges sought include hunter harassment, using a rifle in a shotgun zone, several recreational trespass, and hunting without a license.

CO Gary Raak is seeking warrants in Barry County to include an incident where an individual convicted of three previous felonies was contacted while hunting deer with a firearm, which led to charges of a felon in possession of a firearm. A warrant was also sought for baiting violations in a separate incident.

While on patrol, CO Steve Mooney observed a vehicle in a field and then heard shots near the vehicle location. CO Mooney investigated and observed a subject small game hunting without any hunter orange. Investigating further, CO Mooney discovered the subject also had two outstanding warrants for his arrest.

DISTRICT 8

CO Rich Nickols secured a three count warrant for a subject who took an overlimit of deer and was hunting without a license last deer season.

COs Damon Owens and Shane Webster checked numerous subjects ice fishing while patrolling inland lakes. The COs encountered many violations which included possession of short fish, fishing without licenses, fishing with too many lines, possession of mutilated fish on the ice, fail to identify tip-ups and fail to register an ORV. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

While working ice fishing patrols, COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy encountered a subject with undersized pike and other subjects fishing with too many tip-ups. The subjects claimed the fishing devices were not theirs as there was no identification on the tip-ups as required by law. During the investigation, the COs were able to prove who used the illegal tip-ups. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy observed two subjects hunting small game with .22 rifles. Upon contact the subjects admitted they were hunting. When asked for their hunting licenses, the stories changed. One subject had purchased a license but did not have it with him. The other subject decided he wasn't hunting, just carrying the loaded gun as he was walking in the woods, therefore he felt didn't need a license. CO Purdy explained the law to the subjects and took enforcement action.

CO Shane Webster encountered two subjects hunting small game. One subject did not have a hunting license and told CO Webster that he didn't think he needed one as he had not yet taken any game. When CO Webster explained how the law was enforced the subject stated his friend told him he needed a license but thought he would never get checked. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Bigger and Dan Lee secured a warrant for a subject who took an illegal deer last year. CO Bigger received a complaint that a deer had been shot illegally at night and took blood samples at the location of the killing. CO Bigger had information on a vehicle and CO Dan Lee was able to locate the vehicle with a fresh gut pile in the bed of the truck. The blood samples from both locations were taken to the lab and a positive

match of the DNA confirmed that both samples were from the same deer. The deer was seized and the DNA match was instrumental in securing the warrant.

Sgt. Joe Kellam and COs Jason J. Smith, Rick Villerot, Brad Brewer and Kyle Bader worked the Devils Lake festival over the weekend and encountered numerous violations including careless operation of motor vehicles, operating ORVs and snowmobiles without the proper safety equipment, registration violations, violating the 100 foot rule, and open intoxicants in motor vehicles. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

CO Bader was the first on the scene of a car versus horse-drawn buggy accident. CO Bader secured the scene and attended to the injured until the emergency medical technicians arrived.

DISTRICT 9

Sgt. Arthur Green conducted a group patrol on Lake St. Clair with COs Mark Ennett, Danny Walzak, Brandon Kieft, Ben Shively, Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska. The COs made over 100 contacts with ice anglers and issued 18 tickets for fish with no license and some ORV violations. Several verbal warnings were given and one subject was arrested and taken to Roseville Police Department for five outstanding warrants with bond totaling \$6750.

CO Brandon Kieft interviewed a subject to close a RAP complaint and obtained a confession for illegally taking a deer and seized the head and cape of the nine point buck. While checking the location, CO Kieft observed a small bait pile in the subject's yard and a loaded crossbow in the window of a shed that overlooks the bait pile.

CO Kris Kiel was watching an angler walking off of Lake St. Clair and as he got to the shoreline, he disappeared behind a berm. CO Kiel caught the subject hiding about a dozen large panfish in the rocks. CO Kiel made him retrieve the fish and counted the total catch. The subject was issued a ticket for possessing an overlimit of panfish. The angler told CO Kiel he knew he was over the limit but he did not know by how many.

CO Todd Szyska assisted a subject who drove off the icy road at the Lapeer SGA and stood by until a tow truck arrived. The subject was rabbit hunting and did not have four-wheel drive and could not get his vehicle out of the ditch.

CO Mark Papineau was contacted to assist the Argentine Police Department with an unpermitted event on Lobdell Lake that drew over 800 people. COs Papineau, Brandon Kieft, John Borkovich and Al Schwiderson, along with Sgt. Tom Wanless worked the event. A total of 17 tickets were issued for various snowmobile and ORV violations. In addition, one subject was arrested and lodged for domestic violence, disorderly person, and felony resist and obstruct. This subject was extremely intoxicated and continued to aggressively resist even after being placed in handcuffs. Later in the night COs Papineau and Kieft assisted with a water rescue. Two subjects on a snowmobile

attempted to cross open water and did not make it. Both subjects were transported to the hospital and treated for hypothermia.

CO Ben Lasher assisted local police officers with a snowmobile personal injury accident. It was believed that the female operator was attempting to avoid open water and lost control in some cattails. The machine flipped and the operator was thrown. Alcohol was not a factor and injuries were minimal.

While working on the ice from the Fair Haven Public Access, CO Ben Lasher contacted two subjects operating double on an ORV. The CO also observed that the ORV did not have a valid ORV license. Upon talking with the subjects, CO Lasher remembered them from the previous weekend where he gave them a warning for an expired license. The subjects also admitted to being previously warned. This time a ticket was issued.

CO John Borkovich reports that a subject involved in an investigation the CO initiated last fall was sentenced to 84 months in federal prison. The subject, a convicted felon, bought a set of elk antlers from a game farm that was under quarantine. During that investigation, COs Borkovich, Mark Papineau, and Kris Kiel, along with Chesterfield Township Police Department, executed a search warrant on the house and recovered the illegally obtained antlers and several illegal guns, including full automatics, firearms with serial numbers filed off and silencers.

CO Ken Kovach reports that two subjects pled guilty and were sentenced to \$500 each in fines and costs for bringing deer carcasses into Michigan from a CWD positive state. CO Kovach also reports the subject from an illegal deer case he investigated in St. Clair County during firearm deer season was convicted and sentenced to fines and costs, plus \$1000 restitution and loss of hunting privileges for four years.