

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
7/2/2017 – 7/15/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Brian Lasanen checked a family fishing off of the Bergland Bay landing dock. As CO Lasanen was talking with the family the father stated they just got into fishing because their son was interested in learning how to fish. CO Lasanen took a few minutes to show the family how to set the depth for a bobber and a how to tie a few fishing knots for tying on hooks and leaders. The father was very appreciative of the assistance.

CO Brian Lasanen was working a general ORV patrol and observed an ORV rider not wearing a helmet on his ORV. CO Lasanen conducted a stop of the ORV and began to advise the subject of the reason for the stop. The operator interrupted and stated, "Just take me to jail for DUI." The subject refused to do any field sobriety tests and to take a preliminary breath test. CO Lasanen asked the subject if he would operate a car in his current condition and he stated, "No way, I am too drunk." The subject was arrested for operating an ORV while intoxicated and for operating on a suspended license. The subject was lodged in the Houghton County Jail where he agreed to a breath test and was found to be 3 times over the legal limit.

CO Ethen Mapes was on patrol in Rockland when he saw a man operating an ORV without a helmet. After stopping the man, he was found to be intoxicated. CO Mapes arrested the man for operating an ORV while intoxicated.

CO David Miller was working an ORV patrol at the mouth of the Huron River. CO Miller performed first aid on a German Shepard that cut its paw pad almost completely off of its foot when it fell out of the back of a pickup truck.

CO Miller was called to assist with a search and rescue near Mt. Arvon. An individual got lost trying to get to the high point and ended up getting stuck, and spent the night in their car. The vehicle was found by a logger who pulled them out and they followed him back to town.

CO Nathan Sink was on patrol when a call came across central dispatch of a possible drowning. CO Sink responded to the location to assist officers already on scene. CO Sink patrolled the lake in his kayak looking for the victim until darkness set in. The search resumed the following morning and the victim was located.

CO Jared Ferguson was called to a local farm for a personal injury accident involving an ORV. CO Ferguson was able to stabilize and provide medical attention to the victim until paramedics arrived.

CO Shannon Kritz and CO Jared Ferguson addressed an illegal charter boat operating on Lake Gogebic. The operator was conducting charters on a vessel that had not passed the proper inspection. A check of the boat also found violations for no fire extinguisher and failure to provide life jackets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shannon Kritz was on a marine patrol on Lake Gogebic when she observed two jet skis jumping wakes of boats in the area. The jet skis were being operated in a careless manner and eventually jumped the wake of CO Kritz's boat at a distance of less than five feet. A stop was made of the operators and enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy and Michigan State Police Sgt. John Flitton were the first on scene of a call of two young girls in distress while attempting to tube down the Sturgeon River in Dickinson County. Due to recent heavy rainfall, rivers in the area are at near flood stage with dangerous currents. The girls floated only a short distance from their drop off point before being caught in a tree in the middle of the river. One of the victims had fallen out of the inner tube and was hanging onto a branch. The second victim was still in her inner tube, but was caught up in the current against the tree branches. The girls were cold and scared and the officers devised a safety plan to retrieve the girls. Safety lines were attached and one at a time the girls were assisted back to shore with the guidance of Sgt. Flitton who fought the current to get to the girls. Sgt. Pomroy manned safety lines attached to Sgt. Flitton and the girls in case they broke free from the tree being used to combat the strong currents. The girls were returned to shore and waiting EMS to be evaluated for the onset of hypothermia.

CO Mark Leadman arrived at Deer Lake in Ishpeming and located a family stranded at the dock when their boat would not start. The operator had just purchased the boat and this was his first time on any lake with the vessel. His children were anxiously awaiting a boat ride in the beautiful weather. CO Leadman helped the operator change the spark plugs and instructed him on the cold starting procedures of the boat motor. The very appreciative family was soon on their way out on the lake with their new boat.

CO Jeremy Sergey was southbound on M-35 when a northbound vehicle executed a pass on a few vehicles. CO Sergey had to hit the brakes and slow down to avoid a head on collision and to allow the northbound vehicle to get back into its lane. CO Sergey then turned around and pulled the vehicle over for careless driving. Law enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Leadman and Brett DeLonge received information about a subject who had been fishing in Craig Lake State Park. The subject had been observed possessing live bait on Craig Lake where all bait is prohibited. The subject also had managed to get an aluminum boat in to the lake with a gas motor attached. All motors are strictly prohibited at the walk-in lake. Information was obtained that the subject had been camping at Van Riper State Park and had just left the campsite. Knowing the subject lived in Lower Michigan, COs Leadman and DeLonge set up surveillance on US-41 in Marquette watching for the suspect's vehicle to pass. After only 10 minutes, the boat

was spotted. A traffic stop was made on the vehicle and a full confession was obtained by the subject. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell received a complaint of a large amount of litter on state land. The complainant also found a receipt with a name and address in the litter. CO Dell went to the address and obtained a confession. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Mark Zitnik was working late on Saturday night when Park Ranger Amber Tembreull made a traffic stop on a husband and wife for traveling onto prohibited National Park Service property and driving while intoxicated. CO Zitnik arrived shortly after. A short investigation revealed CO Zitnik had stopped the daughters of the two just an hour before for the girls driving an ORV over 60 miles per hour on Highway H-58. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik patrolled the Au Train River for marine violations and made contact with over 300 boaters that day and encountered several violations. In total, 7 citations were issued for use of marijuana, littering, and no PFDs.

CO Mark Zitnik was on his way home for the day when local dispatch contacted him for a nuisance bear in the City of Munising. CO Zitnik responded and helped guide the bear into the woods. CO Zitnik walked to each neighbor's house and advised them to keep food items secured inside to keep the young bear from returning.

Sgt. Mike Hammill and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon, along with COs Brett DeLonge, Calvin Smith, Kevin Postma, Brett Gustafson, Patrick Hartsig, and Mark Zitnik assisted Michigan State Police troopers, along with officers from the Alger County Sheriff's Department and the US Forest Service in patrolling and searching remote areas in Delta, Schoolcraft and Alger Counties in an attempt to locate a convicted sex offender who was holding a girl captive. The search went on for over four days. The subject was apprehended by Michigan State Police troopers in the early hours of Friday morning in the city of Munising. The woman was found restrained but in good condition.

COs Calvin Smith, Patrick Hartsig, Mike Evink, Mark Zitnik and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon assisted the Park Service in conducting a search for a missing hiker. The search started in the Beaver Basin area of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Northern Alger County. The search has been joined by Alger County Sherriff's Department, Michigan State Police and US Forest Service. Efforts are still being conducted to find the missing 57 year old who suffers from a prior brain injury.

COs Mark Zitnik and Robert Freeborn assisted a Munising City officer requesting back up due to a verbal dispute following a property damage accident. The COs arrived on scene within a few seconds of the call and helped separate both parties while the city officer dealt with the accident report.

CO Pat Hartsig was patrolling inland lakes in the Hiawatha National Forest for marine activity. While speaking with a boater whose registration was expired, CO Hartsig noticed a subject fishing from a dock reel in his line and hide his fishing rod on his dock behind some chairs. Once CO Pat Hartsig cleared the initial contact he drove his boat to the subject on his dock. When asked for a fishing license, the subject stated it was in his truck near his cabin. After another minute of talking, it was found the subject had lied and did not have a fishing license. Further, the subject who's been coming to his camp and fishing on the lake for over 20 years never bought a fishing license in any of those years. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Pat Hartsig and Mark Zitnik held a hunter safety class at the U.P. State Fairgrounds Pocket Park in Escanaba. 16 students attended.

CO Calvin Smith used his ORV to search for an overdue runner that was participating in a race at the Tahquamenon falls. The search lasted nearly six hours before the runner was located.

CO Bobby Watson was just beginning his shift and was fueling his truck up when he witnessed an ORV attempt to cross M-123 to get to the same gas station where he was pumping gas. The ORV rider was not wearing a helmet and the ORV had no visible ORV stickers. The ORV was nearly hit by a vehicle travelling on M-123 after the ORV stopped suddenly in the lane of travel to pick up a 12-pack of empty beer cans he had dropped while crossing the highway. CO Watson made contact with the ORV rider who appeared to be very intoxicated. SFSTs were conducted in the gas station parking lot and CO Watson was able to determine the operator was very much under the influence. Enforcement action was taken and the subject was lodged in the Luce County Jail.

### **DISTRICT 3**

Sgt. Mike Feagan and CO Duane Budreau patrolled Lake Michigan during the Boyne Thunder off shore boat charity poker run event, helping to keep spectators away from the mouth of the Pine River channel as it enters Lake Michigan. This allowed for the large boats to enter Lake Michigan without having to weave through the spectator vessels. Numerous contacts were made and several marine violation verbal warnings given.

While patrolling Torch Lake over the holiday weekend, CO Andrea Albert and Adam LeClerc watched a pontoon boat traveling from the sandbar area. The boat went dead in the water and COs observed the operator trying to wave down other boaters for help. When the COs went to assist the boater and his eleven passengers they noticed the operator appeared intoxicated. CO Albert administered sobriety tests and the boat operator was arrested for drunk driving. Additional charges for child endangerment are pending as three children were on board the vessel. COs were assisted by the Kalkaska County marine patrol.

While walking the sandbar on Torch Lake during the busy holiday weekend, CO Andrea Albert was advised by the Antrim County marine patrol of a subject with two warrants for his arrest out of Antrim County. CO Albert found and arrested the highly intoxicated subject on the warrants. CO Albert was assisted by the Antrim County marine patrol and the Michigan State Police dive team.

During the 4th of July Torch Fest, CO Andrea Albert responded to a complaint from an off duty Kalkaska County Sheriff deputy who observed a subject throw a beer can into the Torch River while walking over the Torch River bridge. The subject who was highly intoxicated was cited for the litter violation.

CO Chad Baldwin responded to a call about an individual lost in the woods near the Jordan River. CO Baldwin responded with local police and the fire department. The lost individual had poor cell phone reception but stated that he was canoeing with a group when a strong thunderstorm approached and turned over all the canoes. They were unable to bring them to shore so the individual started walking towards where he thought was the quickest way out to the road and called 911. The individual was able to intermittently stay in contact with a dispatcher while the first responders utilized the sirens on their emergency vehicles to see if he could hear them. Eventually the caller was able to make his way out by following the sirens and was treated for by medical personnel for bug bites due to the fact that he travelled through the woods and marsh with only a pair of shorts on.

CO Andrea Albert received a complaint of boaters arguing at the congested south Torch Lake boating access site. When CO Albert arrived the suspects were gone, but several parking violations were noticed. CO Albert issued several citations for parking in a no parking area blocking boating access and for failing to purchase the required recreation passport.

CO Andrea Erratt of Charlevoix County gave a safety speech to 110 Boyne Thunder drivers before the off shore boat charity poker run. CO Erratt and CO Baldwin patrolled Lake Charlevoix using radar to assure the Boyne Thunder participants obeyed the 55 MPH speed limit. The 14th annual Boyne Thunder event ran safely as the boats collected cards in Elk Rapids, Northport, Bay Harbor, Harbor Springs, and Horton Bay.

While on marine patrol on Torch Lake during the annual "Torch Fest", CO Steve Speigl was contacted by a family letting the CO know that a group of partiers were smoking marijuana nearby. CO Speigl watched the group and noticed one smoking what appeared to be something other than a standard cigarette. When CO Speigl approached the raft, the suspect tried hiding the marijuana behind her leg. The marijuana was seized and field tested. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Baldwin responded to a call about an injured peregrine falcon hiding under a spruce tree. CO Baldwin, along with the help of the homeowner and her sister, were able to flush the bird out from under the tree into an open grass field. CO Baldwin recovered the bird and patrolled to a safer area in order to check for injuries on the

falcon and to call a local rehabilitator. CO Baldwin noticed that the falcon was a juvenile and did not appear to be seriously injured. CO Baldwin decided to release the bird and see if it could fly. The falcon took a few hops away from the CO and then flew away into the safety of the trees.

CO Chad Baldwin received a complaint from a source on Beaver Island earlier this Spring about multiple hunters with loaded shotguns in a vehicle and road hunting wild turkeys. CO Baldwin contacted the local Sheriff's Deputy on the island to see if he could find a vehicle matching the description. The deputy was unable to locate the vehicle so CO Baldwin continued his investigation until it led him back to a group of individuals who lived in Ohio. CO Baldwin enlisted the help of Ohio State Wildlife Officer Jason Keller who covers the county where several of the individuals CO Baldwin was looking for resided. With the assistance of Wildlife Officer Keller, CO Baldwin was able to secure evidence, statements, and a confession of an illegal turkey being possessed by one of the individuals while on Beaver Island. Law Enforcement action has been taken.

CO Paul Fox and CO Kelly Ross were patrolling state forest campgrounds near the Tomahawk Flooding in Montmorency County late one evening when they observed a vehicle pass them with an equipment violation. A traffic stop was conducted and upon investigation, it was found that the driver was operating on a suspended driver's license. The driver had multiple prior DWLS arrests. The driver was arrested and lodged for driving while license suspended.

CO Paul Fox was patrolling Cheboygan County late one evening when he observed a pickup truck with multiple passengers riding in the bed. The passengers were not riding in conformance with Michigan vehicle code and attempted to hide in the bed of the truck when they saw CO Fox's patrol vehicle. A traffic stop was conducted and the passengers were found to be in possession of open intoxicants. In addition, one of the passengers was a subject that the CO had issued a ticket to a couple weeks prior for littering in the very location that the CO stopped the vehicle. In the prior contact, the CO warned the subject for failing to change his address on his license. The subject did not heed the CO's warning and still did not change his address. Tickets were issued for open intoxicants in a motor vehicle.

CO Jon Sklba received a Report All Poaching complaint of a subject keeping a very large quantity of rocks from state land. CO Sklba investigated the complaint and discovered the subject was on a privately owned quarry. The subject had permission from the facility to take the rocks.

CO Adam LeClerc patrolled Torch Lake over the 4th of July holiday weekend. Numerous contacts were made during the weekend. Tickets were issued for failure to have enough PFDs on a vessel, operating at greater than slow no wake, and operating an unregistered vessel. The subjects on the lake enjoyed seeing the increased police presence by the COs.

Sgt. Michael Mshar responded to a complaint from the Montmorency Sheriff's Department in regard to subject removing stumps from a closed trail. Sgt. Mshar responded and made contact with two subjects on a Kubota tractor. At first the subjects stated they were just volunteering their time to assist the DNR with erosion control. However after a short interview the subjects stated that they had been riding ORVs in the area for years and didn't think the trail should be blocked. Sgt. Mshar had the subjects replace the stumps and berm that were removed and educated the two on the laws of ORV use in the area.

CO Eric Bottorff responded to assist the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department to a domestic assault complaint. One suspect was arrested and lodged.

CO Nick Torsky received information from an Otsego County deputy who had recovered a dead bald eagle. CO Torsky recovered the eagle and investigated the scene on a rural road, finding no apparent cause of death. The eagle has been sent to the wildlife lab for cause-of-death determination.

CO Nick Torsky is investigating a significant timber theft case in the Pigeon River Country State Forest. During a post-cut inspection of a recent timber sale, the local forester discovered that close to 1,000 extra trees had been removed from a red pine thinning. CO Torsky is currently interviewing employees of the forest products company, while forest management staff determines a value for the wood.

CO Nick Torsky investigated a complaint of angler harassment on a local lake that is surrounded by private land ownership, but can be accessed by an outlet stream. Two individuals had legally gained access to the lake, but were harassed by an individual from the private property, who believed the lake to be private. During the investigation, violations by both parties were discovered, including unregistered watercraft, fishing without licenses, and careless PWC operation. Follow-up interviews are being conducted.

CO Tim Rosochacki responded to a complaint of an intoxicated individual attempting to back-up a trailer to load his boat at the Mullet Village boat launch. A Cheboygan County Deputy arrived there first and was talking with the individual. The subject would not perform the field sobriety test and when told he was under arrest refused to comply and resisted. He was eventually forced into handcuffs after a brief struggle and taken to jail. Three counts of resisting and obstructing an officer and one count of operating while intoxicated are being sought.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Colton Gelinis made contact with a subject fishing on Victoria Creek in Cedar, Leelanau County. Upon further investigation, the subject did not obtain a 2017 Michigan fishing license; however, wanted to know if a Florida fishing license was acceptable. CO Gelinis issued the subject a citation for fishing without a license. Two days later, CO Gelinis was on South Lake Leelanau and noticed the same individual fishing. CO

Gelinas made contact with the subject who stated that he still did not obtain a fishing license. Again, CO Gelinas issued the subject a citation for fishing without a license.

CO Colton Gelinas and CO Rebecca Hopkins participated in a multi-agency patrol on the Platte River in Benzie County. The patrol was productive with numerous citations for life jackets, operating while intoxicated, and possession of marijuana.

Upon clearing a marine patrol on a local lake, CO Sean Kehoe was approached by a man and a woman seeking help. The lady was clutching her hand and was shaking. CO Kehoe looked at her hand and learned that while the couple was launching their boat, her hand had gotten tangled in the line while launching. The lady suffered deep bruising all across her hand and a laceration on one of her fingers. CO Kehoe administered first aid while her husband put the boat back on the trailer.

CO William Kinney and CO Colton Gelinas were patrolling Lake Leelanau in Leelanau County when they came across a boat displaying an expired registration. The COs stopped the boat for the violation. After contact was made with the operator, the COs discovered multiple marine violations. In addition, the operator was found to be in the possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the floodwaters of Tippy Dam in Manistee County, CO Scott MacNeill encountered an individual fishing without a license. While checking the individual's fishing license purchase history, CO MacNeill learned that the subject had not purchased a license since 2009 and had several DNR priors. Enforcement action was taken.

CO MacNeill responded to a possible suicide attempt with the assistance of the Michigan State Police and local law enforcement. The individual was hiding on public land and officers used the help of his friends and family, who knew where he hunted on the property, to locate him. Officers knew the individual was in possession of a shotgun, but were not sure of his condition at the time. After approximately two hours of searching, officers heard a gunshot in the direction of one of his hunting spots. After officers responded to the scene, they found the individual had sustained a gunshot wound to his shoulder that appeared to have been self-inflicted. Officers took control of the shotgun, without resistance, and performed first aid care to the individual until EMS arrived. He was transported to Traverse City Hospital for further care.

CO Ryan Andrews and CO Sam Koscinski patrolled Silver Lake Sand Dunes over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend. Throughout the day, the COs contacted numerous people and dealt with dozens of violations ranging from no seatbelts to ORV operators not wearing helmets and riding double on machines not designed for passengers. The COs also responded to a side-by-side rollover injury accident in the dunes parking lot. Enforcement action was taken numerous times for different violations.

While patrolling Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky were driving to Gun Lake for a marine patrol. CO Publiski noticed a mud covered truck come to a stop



at a stop sign and made a turn south bound toward them. The COs noticed as the truck drove by, there was a large hole through the wind shield, the driver wasn't wearing a seat belt, and was drinking a can of beer. The COs turned around and stopped the vehicle. It turns out that along with the smashed windshield and no seat belt, the driver also was suspended, had no insurance, no valid plate, and he was in possession of open intoxicants and marijuana. A search of the vehicle also uncovered an uncased bow. The driver was lodged in the Mason County jail on his various charges.

CO Kyle Publiski noticed several fresh spin out marks from a truck on a dirt road in Mason County. CO Publiski followed the tracks to a camping area along the PM River. At the camping area, the truck did several more donuts in the parking area causing deep ruts. While listening, CO Publiski could hear the truck being operated closer to the river in area that the U.S. Forest Service had closed off with a large fence that the vehicle had drove around. CO Publiski backed down the road and watched the area for the truck to come back out, after only a couple minutes the truck came back out to the parking lot where CO Publiski stopped the truck. CO Publiski issued the driver a ticket for the illegal operation. A check of the passengers revealed that one of the passengers had a statewide warrant. The passenger was arrested and lodged in the Mason County jail on his warrant.

While checking a small Mason County lake, CO Publiski noticed a boat loading up at the ramp. CO Publiski made contact with the subjects at the ramp. The subject operating the boat stated they were just trying out the boat. CO Publiski noticed two things right away. First, the subjects had fishing gear in the boat and second, the boat had an expired registration from 2006 displayed on the side. CO Publiski asked the operator if he had any fish on board the boat, the subject was reluctant to answer, but said yes. A check of the boat revealed the subject was in possession of four undersized bass, the biggest being 13 inches the smallest being 10 inches. CO Publiski asked the subject if he knew how big bass had to be to keep and the subject's wife, who was standing up by the truck, stated "14 inches." Enforcement action was taken.

Working a Muskegon River task force shift in Newaygo County, CO Kyle Publiski and Sgt. Mike Bomay were checking and talking a group of kayakers. CO Publiski noticed a group of tubers and one of the tubers was fishing. After clearing the group of kayakers, CO Publiski drove the boat over to the group of tubers to check the subject for a fishing license. While approaching, CO Publiski noticed one of the other tubers was now holding the fishing pole. CO Publiski asked the subject for a fishing license, and the subject denied fishing. CO Publiski explained to the subject that he had watched him cast and reel the rod. The subject then changed his story and said that he had only made one cast with the rod. The subject then stated to the COs that he did not have a fishing license. The subject gave Sgt. Bomay a false name and date of birth. When confronted on the false information by Sgt. Bomay, the subject stated he had never had a driver's license and that is why his name didn't come back. The subject finally came clean about his name and a file check on the subject revealed he had three warrants for his arrest, including one for being a parole absconder. The subject was arrested by CO

Publiski and Sgt. Bomay and transported to the boat ramp where a Michigan State trooper was waiting to transport him the Newaygo County jail.

Working a Muskegon River task force shift on the Muskegon River in Newaygo County, CO Kyle Publiski and Sgt. Mike Bomay came across a couple of kayakers that had no life jackets on board their vessels. Sgt. Bomay explained the importance of having life jackets on board and asked for the subjects' names. While getting the subjects' name and date of birth, CO Publiski asked one subject if he was giving his correct name and date of birth, because he seemed to be having trouble remembering it. The kayaker assured he was giving the correct information. CO Publiski ran a file on the subject and asked the subject for his date of birth one more time. The kayaker gave CO Publiski yet another different date of birth. CO Publiski then placed the kayaker under arrest for furnishing false identity to a peace officer. The kayaker was then transported back to the boat launch to be transported to jail. Before being transported to jail by a Michigan State trooper, Sgt. Bomay located the kayaker's identification in his back pocket. The name the kayaker gave CO Publiski wasn't even close to his actual name. When asked why he kept giving a false name, the kayaker thought he had warrants for his arrest and didn't want to go to jail. Turns out he had no warrants. The subject was lodged in the Newaygo County Jail.

While working the Pere Marquette River in Scottville, CO Kyle Publiski and a Mason County marine deputy were checking to make sure all vessels had the appropriate safety equipment, including and most importantly, life jackets. While anchored in a section of river, a group of kayakers floated by and were pulled into a downed tree, causing one of the kayakers to get hung up in the tree upside down and not allowing the rest of the kayakers to free the overturned vessel. The Mason County deputy maneuvered the patrol boat in place, and after a couple minutes, CO Publiski was able to free the kayak from the tree before it sank. CO Publiski and the Mason County deputy were able to drag the overturned kayak onto the patrol boat and dump the water out in order to refloat the kayak. CO Publiski then helped the kayaker, who was safely straddling the large tree get in the patrol boat back in her kayak and on her way.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Kyle Publiski were working the Muskegon River Task Force in Newaygo County when they observed a subject fishing from his tube. Upon making contact, it was determined the subject did not have a fishing license and provided the COs with false information about his identity. The COs were able to obtain truthful information and dispatch revealed the subject had Officer Safety cautions and multiple warrants for his arrest, including resisting police officers and absconding from parole with a statewide pick-up. The subject was arrested and transported to the Newaygo County Jail to be returned to prison.

While they were pulling their patrol vessel out of the Muskegon River for the day, Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Kyle Publiski were contacted by an elderly woman. She stated that her husband and a small child were a couple of hours past due to return to the ramp and were in an inflatable boat. The COs launched their patrol boat and travelled several miles upstream and located the exhausted elderly male paddling. The COs loaded the

inflatable boat and provided PFDs to the elderly male and child transporting them back to the access site. The float would have taken them another four hours.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Kyle Publiski were working the Muskegon River task force and made contact with over 100 kayakers. Approximately 75 of them had PFDs, 25 did not. Citations were issued to 8 and verbal warnings were provided to 16.

CO Ben Shively and CO Troy VanGelderren provided security and a safety zone in Lake Michigan for the Pentwater fireworks on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. When the fireworks were over, the COs responded to complaints of illegal camping in the Pentwater State Game Area. Numerous camps were contacted and enforcement action was taken for illegal camping and operating motor vehicles off roadway.

CO Ben Shively assisted the Oceana County Sheriff's Department's Marine Division with providing security and a safety zone for the Silver Lake fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Oceana County.

CO Brian Lebel was on marine patrol over the holiday weekend. CO Lebel observed a PWC operating at a very high rate of speed on a very busy Newaygo County lake. As CO Lebel was trying to reach the access site to address the individual, a call of an injury accident came in. CO Lebel was on scene in a few minutes where he provided first aid to the subject observed earlier who collided with another PWC and suffered a badly broken leg and hip. CO Lebel took the report and the investigation remains open.

CO Jeff Ginn and CO Brian Lebel were patrolling the Muskegon River on a very busy day with tubing activity. The COs came upon a group of tubes tied together, stuck on a tree in fast moving water. One female was unconscious. The group was freed from the tree and ordered to shore, where the COs were still unable to get a response from the female. The subject was loaded onto the COs boat showing weak vitals and vomiting and was rushed to an access site downstream where EMS was waiting. The still unconscious subject was transported to the hospital and it was learned she had drank almost a liter of hard alcohol.

CO Brian Lebel observed a subject hide a can behind his back while patrolling Silver Lake State Park ORV area where alcohol is prohibited. Upon contact, it was discovered the subject did indeed have a beer as well as his friend. One subject was on probation, which prohibited him from drinking or possessing alcohol. The subjects were cited, the alcohol was seized, and the probation violation is being addressed.

CO Angela Greenway responded to a sick deer complaint in the CWD surveillance area. CO Greenway dispatched the sick and unresponsive deer and provided it to the DNR Wildlife Division for testing. The lab results returned CWD negative and it was determined that the deer had been hit by a motor vehicle.

## **DISTRICT 5**

While conducting marine patrol on Torch Lake, COs John Huspen, Sam Schluckbier and Mike Hearn initiated a stop on a boat where the operator was showing obvious signs of intoxication. During field sobriety tests, the operator showed further signs of impairment. As a result, the operator was taken into custody and a chemical breath test was administered at the Kalkaska County Jail. The results of that test showed the operator had a blood alcohol content (BAC) well over twice the legal limit allowed by Michigan law. He was lodged in the Kalkaska County Jail.

CO Mike Hearn was working alcohol enforcement as canoers and tubers were leaving the Manistee River in Kalkaska County. A passing motorist was observed not wearing a seatbelt and driving erratically past the access site and a traffic stop was initiated. When the driver was contacted, CO Hearn recognized some signs of intoxication. Field sobriety tests were conducted and the driver displayed significant signs of impairment. The driver was taken into custody and transported to the Kalkaska County Jail. A chemical breath test confirmed that the subject had a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .11%. He was lodged in the Kalkaska County Jail.

CO Mike Hearn responded to Torch Lake with the Kalkaska County Sheriff's Department and Kalkaska Village Police for a report of an assault in progress. Upon arrival, it was determined that an intoxicated male and female were both assaulting one another. The male also allegedly assaulted another female and did severe damage to a car while he continued his tirade. The two aggressors were taken into custody and lodged in the Kalkaska County Jail.

Lt. Jeremy Payne, Sgt. Brian Olsen, Sgt. Bobbi Lively and COs Ben McAteer, Phil Hudson, Mark Papineau and Kyle Bader represented the Law Enforcement Division at the Academy of Natural Resources held at the Ralph A MacMullan Conference Center in Crawford County. The COs had the opportunity to introduce conservation law to teachers from around the State of Michigan. The teachers were instructed on the origins of the department, patrol tactics, observation techniques and conducting interviews. In the afternoon, the group was put through scenarios to implement the techniques they had learned.

CO Sam Schluckbier made contact with an individual and his son placing deer bait and hanging a tree stand on state land in Kalkaska County. The two subjects stated they wanted to get an early jump on the deer season in order to acquire the best spot. CO Schluckbier educated them on the laws for placing bait and stands on state-owned lands. The subjects were unaware of the regulations and immediately removed the items.

While patrolling state land in Ogemaw County for illegal ORV activity, CO Kyle Bader stopped a pickup truck in an area that is closed to motor vehicle traffic. While contacting the occupants, CO Bader witnessed the front seat passenger put something in the center console. Further investigations revealed that the occupants were in possession of marijuana, open intoxicants, and had an improper plate on a vehicle that was neither registered nor insured. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Lake St. Helen in Roscommon County, CO Kyle Bader checked a group of anglers that had been fishing most of the day. In total, the group of three anglers had 118 sunfish, making them 43 over their total allowable limit. Enforcement action was taken and the excess fish were seized.

COs Kyle Cherry, Kyle Bader, Jeff Panich, Casey Pullum, Jon Warner, Sam Schluckbier, and Sgt. Bobbi Lively participated in a multi-agency joint patrol on the Au Sable River in Oscoda County. COs, US Forest Service law enforcement officers, and Oscoda County deputies addressed multiple safety and criminal issues along that section of the river. Twenty-five citations were issued and five custodial arrests were made. Many families made comments they were grateful for the extra law enforcement presence on the river.

CO Nick Atkin assisted the Michigan State Police and Arenac County Sheriff's Department in search of a stolen vehicle. CO Atkin was able to locate the vehicle at a campsite on state land. The vehicle was recovered and turned over to the Michigan State Police for further investigation.

CO Phil Hudson was contacted by the Arenac County Sheriff's Department to assist with locating two subjects that had been involved in an automobile accident in a remote area. CO Hudson was able to locate the subjects, both of which had minor injuries, and they were transported to the local hospital by ambulance.

CO Mark Papineau conducted an early morning marine patrol on Lake Lancer to address numerous complaints of high speed boating in violation of the local watercraft control. During the two hour enforcement period, CO Papineau issued four separate citations for high speed boating. The majority of the citations issued were to residents living on the lake who indicated that they were aware of the special watercraft control but decided to ignore it.

COs Steve Lockwood and Josh Wright were checking a remote stretch of the Muskegon River in Clare County when they came upon a large camp. In addition to several campers fishing without licenses, the COs located a glass container filled with marijuana hash oil. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 6**

While patrolling Muskellunge Lake in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell made contact with an angler in a small cove. The angler held up a stringer that contained a couple nice largemouth bass. When asked if he had any more fish in the boat, the angler took the lid off a bucket that contained a few bluegills and a short bass. The angler stated that the short bass swallowed the hook and was not going to make it. The bass was only 12 inches long and the angler was ticketed for possessing a short bass.

While on Muskellunge Lake in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell located a boat that was showing an expired registration. Upon contact, the boat operator admitted that he

had not registered the boat this year. He explained that he waited five hours at the Secretary of State on Friday to try and get it registered but left before he completed the process. He was issued a ticket for failing to register the watercraft.

While on Crystal Lake in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell observed a couple of jet skis that had operators who looked to be too young for solo operation. Shortly thereafter the jet skis disappeared. Later the CO located the same jet skis with adult operators. The CO had the operators take him back to their dock. It was discovered that the two boys that were operating earlier were 12 and 14 years old. Neither had a boater safety certificate and both of the jet skis were unregistered. The owner was cited for failing to register the watercraft and warned for allowing underage operation.

COs Josh Russell, Quincy Gowenlock, Dan Robinson, Sergeant Ron Kimmerly and Sergeant Tony Soave conducted a group ORV patrol in various state game areas in Montcalm County. Multiple citations for operating in the closed state game area were issued as well as warnings for camping in the game area during closed camping season. The patrol also led to a warrant arrest where the suspect was lodged in the county jail.

COs Josh Russell and Dan Robinson were patrolling the Flat River State Game Area when they saw an SUV drive into a mud hole just off the side of the road and spin their tires. The vehicle repeated this several more times. A traffic stop was conducted and the driver admitted that he was on the road to "play" in the mud holes. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Josh Russell and Michael Haas were patrolling the Flat River State Game Area and saw vehicle tracks that led off a trail. The officers followed the tracks to where a couple was camping. Enforcement action was taken for camping during the closed season.

CO Josh Russell was patrolling Horse Shoe Lake in Montcalm County when he saw a PWC towing tubes behind it without an observer. The CO made contact and the operator insisted all he needed was a mirror to tow tubes. A ticket was issued for no observer.

COs Quincy Gowenlock, Will Brickel, and Joe Myers were on marine patrol on the Saginaw River when they observed three large racing boats traveling abreast at a high rate of speed. The operator in the middle began to carelessly operate his vessel by turning in front of the other boats causing them to launch out of the water. He then began to play a game of "chicken" veering toward another boat. The operator was stopped and stated he didn't know that it was illegal to do that. When asked if he would have done that in a car he said "no." A ticket was issued for careless operation.

COs Quincy Gowenlock and Will Brickel were patrolling the Saginaw River near Skipper Buds in a no wake zone. A vessel went by at a high rate of speed, passing the patrol vessel within 10 yards. The officers stopped the vessel and the operator stated he did

not know that it was a slow no wake zone. The subject was issued a citation for the violation and warned for the careless operation.

COs Will Brickel and Quincy Gowenlock were conducting a marine patrol on the Tittabawassee River when they came upon two subjects fishing. As the COs pulled alongside they noticed a stringer with several fish. The subjects were contacted and when asked the size of his fish, the angler stated 15 inches. CO Brickel pulled the stringer out of the water and noted three smallmouth bass. As he measured the fish one measured 12 inches and the second measured 12.5 inches. When asked what he used to measure the fish with, the subject stated he uses his foot. The subject was issued a citation for possessing the short bass.

CO Kyle Bucholtz spoke with multiple subjects who had limits of walleye taken on the east side of Huron County. One individual had taken a short walleye. The subject's passenger later admitted there was no measuring tape on-board their vessel, so they measured the fish by laying it next to their boot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bucholtz assisted the Huron County Sheriff's Office with a personal injury accident. A small pick-up truck was struck broad-side by a semi-truck after failing to yield. All parties survived the crash.

CO Seth Rhodea followed up on a tree stand complaint in a local game area and found a tree stand that had been left out months past the deadline. A suspect was identified and contacted. The suspect knew right away why CO Rhodea was getting ahold of him and was cited for the violation.

CO Mark Siemen received a complaint from a subject that was camping in Sanilac County's Forester Campground. The camper stated that a baby falcon had fallen from its nest and was found on the ground. The camper stated she picked the bird up and put it in the camper so that it would not get hurt. CO Siemen confirmed the story and contacted a rehabilitator who provided information on how to return the bird to its mother. The camper advised she would be camping all week and would call if there were any further problems.

CO Mark Siemen received information about a subject that had a spotted fawn living in his house. CO Siemen and a local animal control officer responded to the residence and located the fawn. The fawn was removed and the subject was educated on the laws of possessing a spotted fawn.

CO Chad Foerster gave a presentation on marine safety & fishing rules and regulations at a youth fishing clinic hosted by the Saginaw Bay Walleye Club. Approximately 25 youths and 5 adults were in attendance.

CO Mike Haas observed an ORV operator pass him on the road. He noticed that the operator was not wearing a helmet and appeared to have a small child on her lap. CO Haas stopped the 4-wheeler and the woman driving stated she had just bought her

ORV license and wasn't aware of the rules for operating an ORV on public roadways. Enforcement action was taken. A friend of the woman came to deliver a helmet and pick up the juvenile.

COs Dan Robinson and Mike Haas were called to an area of the Chippewa River where a young child was separated from his family after flipping his kayak on the river. The COs learned that the child had capsized in the river and the rest of his party was farther down river trying to get back to him. The subjects were reunited and the COs assisted with retrieving one of the kayaks.

CO Dan Robinson received a complaint that a subject had shot two geese at a local Isabella County lake. CO Robinson identified a suspect who admitted to shooting the geese. The subject stated that a neighbor took the geese and dumped them for him. It was determined that the subject shot the geese well within the safety zone of several residences. The subject was cited for three of six violations and his shotgun was seized. Charges are pending for the individual who assisted in disposing of the birds.

CO Joel Lundberg conducted an OWI Marine patrol with the Midland County Sheriff's Department. CO Lundberg made 2 OWI marine arrests during the patrol on Wixom Lake. One of the intoxicated boaters had a B.A.C. of .15, almost twice the limit to legally operate a boat.

CO Joel Lundberg worked a patrol in the Black Creek State Forest Campground and located a camp that was being loud. CO Lundberg watched as two individuals got out large metal boxes filled with marijuana and rolled marijuana cigarettes and smoked them with the rest of the group. CO Lundberg walked up and took one of the joints right out of the hand of one of the unsuspecting individuals. The individual's 12 year old son was sitting next to the adults as they smoked. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jay Person was called to locate an elderly man that got his vehicle stuck on state land and was lost. Midland County 911 gave CO Person directions that were coming from the lost man, but he was not familiar with the area and directions were very broad. CO Person having knowledge of the area in question took a guess at a possible location. As CO Person entered the trail to the possible location, he located the elderly gentleman walking. The subject was over-heated due to the weather and covered in mosquitos, but otherwise unharmed. The vehicle was located a mile and half from where the subject was found severely stuck with water up to the floor boards. The man advised that he should not have trusted his GPS as it was telling him the trail came out to a main road. Both the vehicle and the subject were removed from the area without incident.

## **DISTRICT 7**

While on ORV patrol in the Manistee National Forest, CO Greg Patten encountered two motorcycles operating on a forest road closed to ORVs. CO Patten attempted to stop



the motorcycles and one fled. The subject who stopped said it was his brother. CO Patten continued on and again saw the fleeing motorcycle with a subject riding an ORV with no helmet on the closed road. Another attempt to stop resulted in the ORV stopping and the motorcycle fleeing. The subject riding the ORV turned out to be the father of both motorcycle riders. The fleeing 15 year old son was located in the parking area. Enforcement action was taken.

While observing anglers along the Grand River near the Webber Dam in Ionia County, CO Cary Foster located two subjects using cast nets, which is illegal on inland waters. Further investigation revealed a walleye, twenty-one undersized largemouth bass, and five blue gills among 59 fish taken illegally. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten stopped a PWC being operated on Mona Lake in Muskegon County with the rider not wearing a PFD. The PWC had improper numbers and the operator did not have a boater safety certificate as required. Further checking revealed the PWC was rented from a subject who does not have a boat livery license. Enforcement action was taken. A follow up investigation will be conducted on the illegal boat livery.

CO Justin Ulberg responded to a complaint of subjects keeping undersized smallmouth bass along the Flat River. Ulberg was able to locate the anglers and a stringer with 5 undersized bass. One of the anglers admitted to knowing the size limit, but claimed other anglers were keeping undersized fish, so he thought he could. Enforcement action was taken.

While watching Sixth Street Dam along the Grand River, CO David Rodgers observed two subjects hooking a tow strap to a large boulder. They attempted to move the large rock to make shoots for when the salmon and steelhead run up the river. This creates areas that they can easily snag the fish when the high water increases the current. Enforcement action was taken.

While working the Flat River, CO David Rodgers came across individuals fishing near Fallasburg Park covered bridge. While checking a stringer with two short bass, another member of the group paddled up in a canoe. CO Rodgers noticed a stringer and had the person held up the stringer. It had 4 bass on it as well and they appeared to be less than 14 inches. As CO Rodgers was getting to the canoe, the subject untied the stringer and two fish "accidentally" got free before CO Rodgers was able to handle it. The 2 fish left on the stringer were both undersized. Both subjects were cited for keeping undersized bass.

CO Paul Higashi issued a citation to a subject who was licensed to rehabilitate wildlife for violating conditions of her permit. An inspection was made after a complaint that resulted in a search warrant for the property. Forty-eight raccoons were removed from the property. Permit sanctions are pending due to the poor conditions at the property. CO Zach Bauer was on patrol near a local river and observed an older pickup truck sitting on the other side. After about ten minutes of observation, CO Bauer saw one of the occupants begin smoking out of what appeared to be a meth pipe. Upon contact,

the individuals stated there were no narcotics in the vehicle. CO Bauer informed them he had watched the passenger smoking from a pipe. Both occupants admitted to smoking methamphetamine, but said there was no more in the vehicle. CO Bauer detained both subjects and called for another unit. The vehicle was searched and the pipe for smoking methamphetamine was seized. One of the occupants had a warrant and was lodged in the county jail.

## **DISTRICT 8**

COs Andrew Monnich and Brandon Hartleben were patrolling Devils Lake and stopped a PWC that did not have a registration. The officers noted the individual was slurring his words while talking. The operator stated that he had been drinking. The officers conducted sobriety tests and determined the operator was more than three times over the legal limit. He was arrested for boating under the influence and lodged in the Lenawee County Jail.

COs Andrew Monnich and Chris Maher were checking fisherman on the Raisin River when two individuals came to shore in kayaks. When asking the individuals if they had any type of PFD on the kayaks they stated that they didn't need them. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben made contact with a fisherman on the Portage Lake Chain. When asked for his fishing license, the subject stated that he did not have it on him, but that CO Hartleben could look it up on "Our Google thing." CO Hartleben ran the subject through the retail sales system and learned that he last purchased a fishing license in 2015. CO Hartleben informed the subject that "Google" showed that he did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben attended a Cub Scout day camp in Grass Lake to speak with the scouts about marine safety. Over 30 scouts and parents were in attendance for the presentation. The scouts were able to ask CO Hartleben questions and also check-out his patrol boat.

CO Mike Drexler responded to a citizen assist call where a young fawn had its leg caught in a farm fence. CO Drexler located the spotted fawn with its leg tangled in the top strand of a barbed wire perimeter fence. CO Drexler used a pocket tool to cut the strands of barbed wire and the deer fled the area.

CO Pete Purdy responded to a 911 call of a subject walking on the shoulder of I-96. CO Purdy located and contacted the individual laying in the ditch. He had no shirt or shoes on and was suffering from dehydration and sun exposure. He claimed he was with the internet school and was doing jumping jacks along the freeway as an initiation. He went on to say that they were watching with a satellite. He agreed to go with EMS to the hospital for an examination.

CO Carter Woodwyk responded to a complaint of a Copperbelly Water Snake being killed. The Copperbelly Water Snake is a species that is listed as endangered in Michigan and threatened in the United States. The suspect admitted to shooting the snake with a shotgun. This information is being passed on to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and charges are being sought through the Hillsdale County Prosecutor's Office.

Co Shane Webster and Sgt Troy Bahlau assisted an elderly gentleman whose sailboat overturned in the middle of a busy Jackson County lake. The officers were able to get him and his sailboat safely to shore where he was assisted in getting his vessel turned over and drained out.

While working together on Lake Lansing on July 4th, COs Todd Thorn and Matt Neterer received a complaint of an intoxicated man at the boat launch causing problems. The COs responded and noticed a man matching the description being helped into a boat. They then watched as the man climbed into the driver's seat of the vessel and drove past the officers toward the center of the lake. A stop of the vessel was conducted and the operator was ultimately arrested for boating under the influence. The man had a BAC of .15 and was lodged at the Ingham County jail.

CO Todd Thorn took a Report All Poaching complaint of a partially submerged boat on Lake Lansing. CO Thorn kayaked to the complaint location and found a boat resting on the bottom of the lake with water over most of the hull. The owner of the vessel was contacted and the vessel was removed before any contamination of the lake occurred.

CO Todd Thorn checked activities at Lake Interstate and contacted two adult individuals fishing. Neither had a license and one had a warrant with an \$11000 bond. Enforcement action was taken including the subject being lodged in the Ingham County jail.

CO Todd Thorn swore to a felony warrant for possession of controlled substance, then went to the subject's residence where he was let in by the mother of the subject. CO Thorn found the man in the basement, hiding behind some curtains and arrested him and lodged him on the warrant.

CO Todd Thorn followed up on a Report All Poaching complaint involving men in an unregistered vessel on South Lake in Washtenaw County. The complaint was received two days prior. CO Thorn arrived at the location and was surprised to find the suspect vehicle in the parking lot of the access site. CO Thorn launched his patrol boat and located the suspects in the vessel. The men were again operating an unregistered vessel, only had one PFD, one of the men was fishing without a license, and the same man also had three warrants for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken, including lodging the man on his warrants.

While conducting marine safety patrol on Lake Lansing, CO Matthew Neterer observed a subject operating a PWC with a young child on his lap wearing the wrong type of PFD.

The subject was also towing another child in a tube with no observer and operated too close to the swim area at greater than slow no wake speed. Upon making contact, CO Neterer discovered that the subject had a warrant for his arrest for assault and battery. The subject was able to post bond but was cited for the marine safety violations.

CO Matthew Neterer met with WILX TV10 news at the Lansing Customer Service Center and discussed ORV safety. The news station was working on a story related to recent ORV related injuries and deaths.

COs King and Robert Slick conducted marine patrol on Scenic Lake. The officers observed a vessel with an expired registration. Enforcement action was taken. Many other contacts were made on the self-proclaimed private lake with many residents stating it was the first time they had seen law enforcement on the lake in 20 plus years.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Kris Kiel responded to a tip of two subjects keeping undersized walleye on Lake St. Clair. The CO was unable to make it to the launch in time so he headed straight to the subject's address he got from the registration numbers of the vessel. The fish were checked and of the twelve walleye, three were found to be under-sized. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey worked a late night marine patrol on the St. Clair Flats and the St. Clair River and came upon a vessel that was packing up after fishing. When asked how the fishing was, the subjects stated they had a two man limit of walleye. After a routine check of their safety equipment, fishing licenses and fish, it was found the subjects had a total of 14 walleye in their cooler. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey stopped a 54 foot vessel on Lake St. Clair. The vessel was undocumented and was displaying a 2013 registration decal. The vessel's owner told the COs that he already received a citation in Huron County for not registering his vessel. Enforcement action was taken, again.

CO Matt Zultak observed a truck "framed out" on an earthen barrier surrounding a parking lot in the Lapeer SGA. The Driver was contacted, and explained to CO Zultak, he had made a poor decision to drive the truck onto the berm. There were violations regarding damage to vegetation, erosion, and operating a vehicle in an improper manner on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Justin Muehlhauser and Travis Dragomer patrolled Lake Fenton and passed a pontoon with several people on board with one of the occupants waving his middle finger at the COs. Officers noticed that the vessel did not have any MC numbers and did not display a current registration. The COs stopped the vessel and addressed the violations. The occupant stated he thought the COs were one of his friends. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Holloway Reservoir, COs Justin Muehlhauser and Matt Zultak contacted a group of fishermen at Zemmer Park. Two in the group were fishing without a license. The group became agitated and felt that they were being harassed. The COs explained the laws about licensing and ran files on the fishermen. One had a felony warrant as a parole absconder and was arrested and lodged in the Lapeer County Jail.

## **BELLE ISLE**

While patrolling Belle Isle, CO Richard Cardenas observed a subject driving at approximately 60 mph in a 25 mph speed zone on the island. The subject was stopped and CO Cardenas discovered that the operator of the motor vehicle was driving on a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol on Belle Isle, CO Joseph Deppen stopped a vehicle that was speeding and noted the odor of intoxicants coming from the vehicle. The occupants were all under 21 years old with one passed out and slumped over in the back seat. All occupants initially denied drinking but a search revealed numerous empty alcohol containers. Parents for each were contacted and enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas assisted Detroit Police Department with a traffic stop while working a Belle Isle patrol. Open intoxicants and firearms were discovered in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.