

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
8/16/15 – 8/29/15**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Brian Lasanen and Sgt. Grant Emery assisted the Porcupine Mountain State Park Rangers with the Pine Mountain Music festival over the weekend. Over 2,000 patrons were in attendance for the three day event. Perfect weather and great music was enjoyed by everyone.

CO Brian Lasanen, while patrolling Lake Gogebic, observed an angler reach into a compartment on his boat and throw a short fish overboard as he approached. CO Lasanen made contact with the angler and asked if he threw a short walleye back. The angler said, "No, it was a short bass." Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen contacted a boater without registration numbers displayed. CO Lasanen asked the boater if his boat had a current registration. The boater advised the boat does have a registration but it was expired. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dennis Gast worked several marine patrols over the weekend in Houghton County. In general, marine activity was light with high winds and the drastic change in temperature - with sunny and warm weather on Saturday to cold and rain on Sunday. Officer Gast contacted occupants of two boats that failed to meet the personal flotation device (PFD) requirements. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Eberly had a very active weekend making contacts with ORV trail users during the Free ORV Weekend. In general the safety compliance was very good with only a few violations of helmets not being used.

Sgt. Grant Emery checked an area in which crop damage permits had been issued. He witnessed an individual shoot from a motor vehicle into a field where he later located two dead deer. Law enforcement action was taken for the violation of taking animals from a motor vehicle, failing to retrieve game and possession of a loaded/uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Brett DeLonge received information that an individual had a wild badger kept in a cage at a residence in Menominee County. CO DeLonge investigated the credible information and located the badger being kept in a rabbit cage at the suspect's residence. After contacting the suspect he explained that the badger was found as a baby and that he wanted to raise the badger as a family pet. The badger was removed from the residence and law enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and CO Mark Zitnik contacted two subjects fishing. One subject was fishing without a license and both subjects were drinking alcoholic beverages. The

subjects left empty beverage containers on the shoreline. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and CO Mark Zitnik conducted a surveillance patrol on a trophy catch and release only lake. One subject was contacted at his vehicle. The subject stated that he did not have a fishing license and was not fishing. The COs advised the individual that they had observed him fishing and provided details of his actions and gear used. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Painter went to hunter safety class in Kingsford where he talked about conservation laws and conservation officer duties to 83 students.

CO David Painter and CO William Haskin were on patrol and observed a car traveling down a dirt road with a person riding on the roof of the vehicle on his belly like superman. The COs followed the vehicle and made a traffic stop. The COs watched as two objects were thrown from the vehicle. Upon approaching the vehicle, the person on top of the vehicle jumped off. The officers searched for what was thrown from the vehicle and located two beer cans. The driver passed a field sobriety test but was charged along with a passenger with open intoxicants in a motor vehicle and litter. The passenger on the roof was charged with failure to wear a seat belt.

CO David Painter and CO William Haskin were on patrol and observed two dirt bikes parked alongside the highway with no ORV sticker on one and a misplaced ORV sticker on the other. The COs pulled up to the dirt bikes and asked why they didn't have their bikes properly registered. The suspects failed to provide a valid answer. While on the stop another individual pulled up on his dirt bike that was also not properly registered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Painter and CO William Haskin responded to a domestic complaint in progress, assisting local deputies and police officers in persuading the suspect to be cooperative. The suspect also had a warrant and was taken into custody.

CO Jason Wicklund and CO Isaac Tyson spent an afternoon checking anglers on Lake Gogebic. One angler told the COs he hadn't had any luck but when he opened his coolers a walleye was discovered. The angler stated the walleye was only 14-1/2 inches, but luckily for him, when the COs measured the walleye on the fish board, it was 15 inches. The angler was educated on fish measuring and honesty.

CO Jason Wicklund and CO Isaac Tyson checked a boat with a registration from 2011. Contact was made and the owner stated that he received a ticket back in 2003 for the same reason. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund and CO Isaac Tyson observed an off road vehicle (ORV) operating on the highway against the flow of traffic. Contact was made with the individual and a total of six violations were discovered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Painter and CO William Haskin attended the Upper Peninsula State Fair at Escanaba. The COs talked with the public with the majority focus on doe hunting in the Upper Peninsula and also concerns about wolves. The COs had a majority of positive contacts and the public was happy to see conservation officers in a non-law enforcement role where they could take time to address questions and concerns.

CO David Painter and CO William Haskin were on marine patrol on the Michigamme Reservoir. They made contact with a couple of anglers who had been having some success. The anglers said they had a few panfish and a couple walleye that were 15 inches. The COs asked to see the walleye to measure them. Both walleye measured at 14 inches. The individuals were not happy and didn't think it was fair that they should get a ticket. They both asked if the COs could just let them go because they felt that one of the fish was going to die anyway and they didn't want to waste the fish. The fish were photographed and released and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson was patrolling in northern Dickinson County when he came upon an individual that had two flat tires on his vehicle. There was no cell service in the area, so CO Ferguson contacted station 20 to make the needed phone calls to assist the driver. The man was very appreciative of the actions of the officer, and commented that he did not mind any license fee increases if this is the quality of COs that are being hired.

CO Jared Ferguson and CO Isaac Tyson attend the Upper Peninsula State Fair and tended the DNR Recruitment booth. Many fair goers stopped by the booth and numerous employment contacts were made.

CO Jared Ferguson received several calls regarding jet skis operating after hours. CO Ferguson tracked down the suspects at a residence and explained the current regulations to prevent further illegal operation.

CO Jason Wicklund and CO Isaac Tyson were driving through the City of Iron River when they observed a driver pass them that looked too young to drive. A traffic stop was initiated and contact was made with a 13 year old boy who was driving his mom around town. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund and CO Isaac Tyson were on patrol when they observed a male subject fishing from a local roadside park. CO Tyson went down the embankment to check the angler while CO Wicklund stayed on the high ground to watch. As CO Tyson contacted the first group of anglers, the male subject quickly reeled in his line and tossed his fishing pole into the woods and slowly walked over to the group. When asked for a license, the male subject denied fishing but quickly changed his story when he was informed that CO Tyson was not alone and observed CO Wicklund right above where he was fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund and CO Isaac Tyson worked Lake Gogebic over the weekend and cited five individuals for fishing without licenses.

CO Jason Wicklund and CO Isaac Tyson were heading home from Lake Gogebic when they observed an ORV coming toward them from a side road. The COs turned around and noticed the ORV was now going the other way. The COs caught up to the operator who was driving down the paved road at a high rate of speed and passed a slower moving SUV in a careless manner. A traffic stop was made and numerous ORV violations were addressed. The driver was also suspended and had two warrants for his arrest. The ORV operator was arrested on the warrants and ticketed for his driving related offenses and lodged in jail.

CO Jason Wicklund and CO Isaac Tyson worked ORV activity in Iron and Gogebic Counties over the weekend. Numerous ORV violations were addressed, including operating ORVs on the highway, operating ORVs with no helmets/eye protection, operating unregistered ORVs, and operating ORVs in a careless manner. Enforcement action was taken and several verbal warnings were given.

CO Jason Wicklund and CO Isaac Tyson dealt with a number of animal complaints in Iron County. The COs were successful in trapping several nuisance woodchucks and skunks, much to the delight of the concerned homeowners.

CO Brian Bacon was patrolling Dickinson County when he observed an ORV being operated with a passenger and neither was wearing helmets. A stop of the ORV and check of the operators found the ORV to be unlicensed as well. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon was patrolling Dickinson County when he observed an ORV operating against the flow of traffic on a county road. The ORV had four subjects on it, and a stop was made to enforce the safety violations.

CO Brian Bacon observed a canoe on a Dickinson County lake, battling against the high winds. CO Bacon made contact with the paddlers and found that both subjects did not have PFDs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and CO Mark Zitnik received a call from Station 20 of a car-Moose accident on US-41 near Michigamme. After removing the moose from the roadway they observed a vehicle come unattached from the motor home that was towing it. The vehicle slid out of control into oncoming traffic, almost causing a head-on collision with their patrol truck. The COs held down the accident scene until the Michigan State Police (MSP) arrived. No injuries were reported.

CO Mark Leadman and CO Mark Zitnik attended a Big Bay Sportsman's Club Hunter Safety class. The officers covered the law segment of the class.

CO Brett DeLonge was patrolling on his ORV in northern Menominee County for bear baiting activity when a truck passed him on a remote trail. The driver failed to

immediately stop when signaled. When CO Brett DeLonge finally made contact he observed two open beer cans on the floor. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and CO Marv Gerlach attended a Menominee County Hunter Safety class and covered conservation laws.

## **DISTRICT 2**

The State Fair in Escanaba was well attended again this year with several officers from Districts 1 and 2 covering four shifts a day providing information, answering questions and working recruitment efforts at the Pocket Park. Many positive contacts were made with several hundred visitors.

CO Rob Freeborn received an ORV trespass complaint earlier this spring involving a couple ORVs trespassing in order to get access to a private lake. After several tips throughout the summer, CO Freeborn was able to locate the residents that were responsible. After a brief conversation with the subjects, it was determined it was their grandkids that had been operating the ORVs when they come up on vacation. CO Freeborn educated the grandparents of the ORV trespass as well as basic ORV laws.

CO Rob Freeborn received a complaint of a couple illegal bear baits. The complainant stated the hunters have several illegal baits out on state land and one of the baits has a large amount of corn that has not been made inaccessible to deer. Investigation is ongoing.

CO Kevin Postma and CO Justin Muehlhauser were conducting fishing license checks on the lower St. Mary's River. Upon contact with one of the vessels it was discovered that there were no PFDs on board. The owner was ticketed for failing to provide PFDs and the vessel was escorted to shore.

Chippewa County animal control requested the assistance of CO Kevin Postma and CO Justin Muehlhauser to respond to a complaint of a 13 foot snake at a residence. The officers arrived and assisted in looking for the snake but it could not be found. The man was advised to watch for the snake in the future and take pictures so it could be identified and removed if needed.

CO Kevin Postma and CO Justin Muehlhauser investigated an early bear bait located in the back yard of a residence. The officers contacted the homeowner, who happened to have a third season bear tag. The owner advised that he wasn't intentionally feeding the bear but did notice that some were coming in. The COs questioned the homeowner about the tree stand overlooking the bear bait and also inquired about what type of animals (other than bear) he was hoping to attract with gallons of raspberry pie filling. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bobby Watson was patrolling a local hotspot for ORV activity when he observed a four-wheeler and a dirt bike approaching him. As the four-wheeler came closer CO

Watson observed two riders riding one machine. The riders immediately pulled over as they passed CO Watson's patrol truck and contact was made with the group. CO Watson explained why riding double on a machine that was not intended to hold two passengers was a potential safety hazard. Enforcement action was taken.

While on a night patrol with a ride-along, CO Bobby Watson was dispatched to assist the MSP and local deputy on an SUV that had been customized with an eight foot lift kit driving down a side road within city limits. The driver claimed that the vehicle was an "ORV" and only required the proper ORV trail sticker and registration. The driver had failed to register the vehicle with Secretary of State and lacked proper insurance. It was explained to the driver that the vehicle was in fact still considered a motor vehicle due to its current location within the city and therefore required motor vehicle registration and insurance. The large vehicle was towed and MSP troopers took action.

CO Brett Gustafson has been receiving complaints of dead geese floating near several seasonal cabins in the Cedarville area. CO Gustafson responded to the complaint and interviewed several subjects in the area quickly realizing this was clearly a case of the landowners feeling that the geese are a nuisance. Not all of the neighbors feel this way and the investigation continues.

CO Jeff Panich and CO Jacob Griffin were patrolling the Pine River after receiving numerous complaints of unattended lines in the river. The officers had just launched their boat when they spotted unattended fishing lines in the water. CO Panich and CO Griffin observed the lines for several minutes verifying that no one was tending to them. After documenting the equipment used and the observation time the two officers contacted the angler at his residence. The angler admitted to setting the lines and leaving them unattended; he stated that everyone on the river does this and thought that it was ok. CO Griffin explained the statute and why the law was in effect. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Panich and CO Jacob Griffin received a complaint from the RAP line and CO Jon Busken of a cormorant shot on Drummond Island. CO Busken contacted the complainant who witnessed two suspects shoot a cormorant after the complainant had just moments earlier taken several photos of it on a beaver lodge. The complainant then took photos of the suspects, the vessel and their vehicle and called in the complaint. The complaint was then turned over to CO Panich and CO Griffin who work the area on a regular basis. CO Panich and CO Griffin finally contacted the suspects involved after several unsuccessful attempts. Upon meeting the suspect he stated that he may need to talk to a lawyer. After presenting the evidence at hand, the suspect confessed to illegally shooting the cormorant and verified the accusations presented in the investigation. Enforcement action initiated.

CO Jon Busken was patrolling Mackinac County for ORV activity when he observed a quad being ridden double. Contact was made with the occupants and a second rider in the area. It was found that in addition to riding double, neither ORV was registered and none of the young operators had taken ORV safety. The youths were returned to their

residence and the father was contacted. Upon seeing the officer follow the riders into the driveway the father stated, "I knew it was only a matter of time until we got caught." Multiple warnings were issued and enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Carl VanderWall was on patrol when he witnessed a "mudder truck" type vehicle coming down a two track road at a high rate of speed toward him. The truck entered onto the county road without stopping. In order to avoid an accident the "mudder truck" had to drive into the ditch and CO VanderWall affected a controlled skid. A traffic stop was conducted and it was discovered that the vehicle was not registered, had no license plate, no insurance and was without a required bumper. In addition the passenger in the vehicle had a valid warrant for intimidation. The passenger with the warrant was arrested and turned over to the Emmet County Sheriff's Department. The driver was issued a ticket for fail to yield and had to find a way to transport his vehicle back home.

CO Duane Budreau and CO Brandon Hartleben were conducting an evening fish patrol on Pickerel Lake when they encountered a subject fishing without a license. A ticket was issued.

While on patrol CO Duane Budreau and CO Brandon Hartleben located a large trash pile on state land. After digging through the contents a suspect's name was located. Through follow up investigation the suspect was located and a ticket was issued and the site cleaned up.

CO Steve Speigl and CO Josh Wright are investigating a suspicious fire situation that may involve foul play. Investigative tools are being deployed to assist with the case.

CO Steve Speigl and CO Josh Wright received a statewide BOL for an armed and dangerous parolee who had just stolen a vehicle and robbed a store. The suspect was known to have ties to the Ellsworth area in Antrim County. Using confidential informants, the officers were able to determine the location of the suspect's ex-wife's house and several close acquaintances. After checking these locations without any success the officers were able to develop another lead that led them to the Walloon Lake area. There they met with a county deputy and MSP trooper to check the residence. Through the use of night vision goggles, officers were able to ascertain that the suspect was not at this residence. The search for the suspect continues.

CO Steve Speigl and PCO Josh Wright responded to a complaint of a subject who had just shot a deer on his property. Upon arriving, the officers encountered a subject up to his elbows field dressing a deer. Through interviewing the suspect it was determined that he had a crop damage permit and could legally shoot the deer. The deer was given to a needy family in the area.

CO Andrea Albert and CO Jill Berry were on patrol when a UTV was spotted operating illegally on a snowmobile trail along US 131. The subject was stopped and stated he didn't know he couldn't be on the trail. Officers explained where he could legally operate and issued a ticket for the violation.

CO Andrea Albert and CO Jill Berry were on patrol on state land and found a car parked with two subjects, a male and female who appeared to be arguing. Both subjects had suspended drivers licenses and smelled of intoxicants. The male subject, who was identified as the driver, was on felony probation for his third offense of operating while impaired (OWI). Alcohol and marijuana were found in the vehicle. The male subject was lodged for the probation violation, OWI, driving while license suspended (DWLS), and possession of marijuana. The female subject told officers they were on a first date.

CO Andrea Albert and CO Jill Berry attended "Pop with a Cop" at the Harbor Springs High School Football game. It is an event where local and state law enforcement agencies interact in a causal setting with citizens talking about their concerns and needs.

While working the recent elk hunt CO Paul Fox located a dead bull elk near the location a hunter had harvested a 5 X 5 bull elk. The bull that CO Fox had discovered was a 6 X 7 bull; with the assistance of CO Mark DePew the officers conducted a necropsy of the animal and recovered the bullet that killed the elk. The officers interviewed the hunter and submitted a report to the prosecutor.

CO Mark DePew had State Representative Tristin Cole ride with him during the elk hunt. Representative Cole assisted in the necropsy of the above illegally shot elk, recovering a bullet.

CO Mark DePew, with Representative Cole, received a complaint of a subject that had just shot a deer. Upon contact with the suspect, they found an elk hunter with a legally taken small elk calf.

COs Matt Theunick and Mike Haas worked the elk hunt, registering/sealing elk in the field and assisting a hunter in attempting to locate an injured elk.

CO Nick Torsky taught at a hunter safety class with about 30 youth in attendance.

CO Nick Torsky received a complaint of a subject taking and keeping an undersized sturgeon on Otsego Lake. CO Torsky is currently investigating.

COs Eric Bottorff and Kip Maher located four ORVs operating in a closed area on state land. Four tickets were issued.

CO Mark DePew stopped four ORVs on the roadway after dark, finding them with open intoxicants. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Matt Theunick, Eric Bottorff, Kip Maher and Mike Haas participated in an ORV group patrol addressing problem areas on state land. Several tickets and warnings were issued.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski was doing paperwork behind three "No ORV" signs on an illegal trail on state land, when an ORV came through. After stopping the subjects, they stated they never saw any signs. Upon taking them back and showing them the signs, they embarrassingly stated, "We see them now". Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Bellville assisted local deputies with a complaint of an individual with a rifle in a church parking lot. The individual was contacted; he stated the minister of the church had received threats so members of the church decided to guard the church.

CO Brad Bellville received a complaint that two deer were shot at after leaving the complainant's yard. CO Bellville talked with the surrounding neighbors and they all stated the children in the neighborhood had been shooting off bottle rockets.

CO Paul Fox made contact with an individual who had dumped his household garbage on state land. The suspect was issued a ticket for littering and was ordered to clean up the litter.

CO Paul Fox was driving on a county road when he had an ORV pass by him, operating at a high rate of speed. A traffic stop was conducted and the ORV was also found not to have an ORV license. The operator was issued a ticket for the unlicensed ORV and received a warning for his speed.

COs Andrew Monnich and Bill Webster observed two individuals fishing at a dam site on the Thunder Bay River. The officers had to drive around to the other side of the river as the anglers were leaving. The anglers did not have fishing licenses and when asked about what they had caught stated they had left their fish back at the dam. Upon looking at the six bass it was determined that five of them were undersized. The anglers were issued tickets for fishing without licenses and warned for the short fish and fishing within 100 feet of the posted dam.

COs Andrew Monnich and Bill Webster observed an ORV operating at a high rate of speed on a state highway. The officers were able to track the ORV back to a residence and made contact with the operator. The operator was issued a ticket for operating an ORV on a state highway and warned for his speed.

COs Andrew Monnich and Bill Webster were requested to transport paramedics to a boat 15 miles out in Lake Huron to a sailboat whose operator was having a heart attack. The Coast Guard and sheriff deputies were already with the disabled vessel in five to 10 foot waves. The officers were able to get the paramedics on board and the victim was airlifted by the Coast Guard to the hospital. The operation was assisted by a freighter in the area that positioned itself so block the waves for the rescuers.

CO Tim Rosochacki contacted two individuals in a small boat with an electric trolling motor coming into a launch site after dark. The vessel was not registered and did not have navigation lights. The operator of the boat stated he did not think he needed to have them because he was just using an electric motor. CO Rosochacki explained the laws to him and issued him a ticket for failing to have navigation lights after sunset.

COs Kelly Ross and Robert Slick stopped a vehicle for suspected drunk driving. Upon making contact with the driver he was found to have an open beer, no insurance, and a suspended driver's license. The officers conducted sobriety evaluation on the driver and arrested him for drunk driving. While transporting the suspect to the jail he became combative and was then put into a deputy's vehicle for rest of the trip.

COs Kelly Ross and Robert Slick were patrolling on ORVs when they watched a truck drive around a curve at a high rate of speed on an ORV route, causing the officer to drive off the trail to avoid being hit. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was ticketed for reckless operation of a motor vehicle.

COs Kelly Ross and Robert Slick watched an ORV riding the trail system at a high rate of speed go from inside corner to inside corner on an "S" curve. The operator was issued a ticket for careless operation of an ORV.

COs Kelly Ross and Robert Slick investigated an ORV accident where the operator lost control of the ORV as she drove through a mud puddle, causing the ORV to roll over on top of the rider, breaking her leg.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Rebecca Hopkins and CO Hugh McMath investigated a complaint of a suspected marijuana grow on state land. The officers located the suspected grow location, and took photographic evidence, along with detailed location information. The investigation was turned over to the Traverse Narcotics Team.

CO Rebecca Hopkins and CO Hugh McMath responded to a complaint of deer blinds on state property before September 1. The complainant showed the COs locations of several blinds that seemed to be abandoned. Locations of the blinds were noted, and follow-up patrols will be conducted during deer hunting season in attempts to contact the owner.

CO Rebecca Hopkins and CO Hugh McMath heard a motor vehicle crash that occurred just outside the Traverse City DNR Field Office. COs responded via foot. One car had been rear-ended near an intersection by another who blamed slippery roads as the cause. The COs ensured nobody was injured, took the drivers' information and assisted the responding Grand Traverse deputy who had been called to the scene.

CO Rebecca Hopkins and CO Hugh McMath were patrolling near the Homestead Dam when they observed three juveniles operating a side-by-side ORV on the road. They

were followed back to a residence, where all three juveniles quickly ran inside. As the COs got up to the front door, a family member greeted them and apologized for the juveniles. COs investigated and action was taken.

CO Rebecca Hopkins and PCO Hugh McMath were assisting a group patrol of the Platte River with the National Park Service when an undercover park ranger observed a group of people making their way down the river smoking suspected marijuana. The COs apprehended the suspects as they reached their location. One of the suspects threw a container into the bushes as he landed his canoe, which was later retrieved and contained suspected marijuana. He was issued a ticket for possession of marijuana. Park rangers issued tickets to other members of his group for a minor in possession of alcohol, and possession of glass on the river.

CO Rebecca Hopkins and CO Hugh McMath found anglers on the railroad trestle of Betsie Bay. The anglers were juveniles with their mother and were all visiting from out of town. A verbal warning was given for fishing in prohibited area, and they agreed to find a different spot.

CO Rebecca Hopkins and CO Hugh McMath found three anglers on the Betsie River using lures with treble hooks over 3/8 inch. When contacted about the illegal equipment, the anglers agreed to stop fishing until they could get appropriate tackle. A verbal warning was given.

CO Sean Kehoe was requested by Parks Division to assist with an intoxicated subject at a local state forest campground (SFC) in Grand Traverse County. Park staff contacted the nude camper lying in his tent with the door wide open; however the camper was too intoxicated and was not cooperating. When CO Kehoe and the Park Ranger arrived, the subject was sleeping and thankfully in a pair of boxer shorts. CO Kehoe woke the subject up and questioned him regarding his camp registration. The camper advised that he had not registered yet despite the fact that he had been camping there for four days. When asked if he had been contacted by the DNR that day, the camper informed CO Kehoe he was the first DNR person he had seen. A file check revealed the subject was on parole for several prior OWI issues. The camper was ticketed for having an unregistered camp and follow up continues with his parole officer.

CO Ben Shively of Oceana County was assisting with an intoxicated couple at the Silver Lake State Park ORV Area when he observed a UTV that was not street legal exit the park. CO Shively was able to catch up to the utility vehicle on the roadway and conduct a traffic stop. The operator stated that he didn't want to go back to his residence to get a trailer and decided to chance it and drive back to his residence. The subject was ticketed for operating an ORV on a public roadway.

CO Ben Shively of Oceana County was conducting stationary surveillance of the entrance ramp to the ORV Area at Silver Lake State Park. CO Shively stopped a dirt bike that was travelling at twice the posted speed limit. When asked for his license the

operator stated that he had left it in the parking lot. A check with local dispatch revealed that the subject's driver's license was revoked from multiple drunken driving arrests. The subject was ticketed for operating an ORV while driver's license revoked.

CO Brian Lebel of Mecosta County received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of illegal ORV use on a county roadway. CO Lebel spent multiple patrols in the area and was able to locate three ORVs operating illegally in the vicinity of the complaint. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County and CO William Kinney responded to a complaint of a subject that was raking the bottomlands of his beach area to clean up the vegetation. The suspect wouldn't remove the debris but rather deposit it on his neighbor's property. The complainant advised that this has been an ongoing issue. Officers attempted to contact the suspect at his residence and he became belligerent toward the officers, using profanity and telling them to get off of his property. A few days later the complainant called officers back and advised that the suspect was up to the activity this morning and that she attempted to video the violation. When the subject observed her with the camera he proceeded to drop his shorts exposing his bare buttocks to her. Review of the video revealed the subject and the indecent exposure violation. Report will be completed and submitted for warrant issuance on the violation.

CO Mike Wells of Newaygo County and CO William Kinney were on foot patrol monitoring a Newaygo County river for fishing and marine violations. The COs observed three subjects fishing across the river and two of the subjects were observed trespassing on the concrete portion of the dam walking past a "No Trespassing" sign several times. After surveying the subjects for a period of time the subjects began to pack up to leave. Officers hurried to the parking lot and made contact with the three subjects. Admissions were received from the two subjects involved in the trespass and it was determined that one of them was fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was patrolling along the Pine River when he encountered two kayakers floating without any lifejackets. A file check revealed that one of the kayakers had a warrant out of Ludington. Enforcement action was taken and the subject was lodged.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was working near an ORV intersection in Lake County when several cycles came through operating erratically. CO Killingbeck attempted to catch up to them without success. Knowing the trail system better than most who visit the area, he was able to get ahead of the operators just as they were entering an illegal sand bowl. After stopping the riders, one operator uttered, "I had a feeling we were going to get stopped again." CO Killingbeck asked if they had been stopped before and the group admitted they had been issued tickets already that day by Lake County Sheriff's Deputies for speeding and riding on the wrong side of the road, only 45 minutes prior. Enforcement action was again taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was going through an intersection on the ORV trail when he observed a vehicle that was stopped, blocking the entire trail. CO Killingbeck went to find out what the vehicle was stopped for and found the driver outside of the vehicle cutting standing trees. Upon further investigation it was found that the woodcutter did not have his permit in possession, had expired plates on his vehicle, had no operator's license in possession, and had no vehicle insurance. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Sam Koscinski, Kyle Publiski, Steve Converse, Chad Baldwin and Patrick Hartsig attended numerous Bear Hunting Clinics hosted by the DNR at the Carl T Johnson Center. The COs discussed regulations, hunter behavior and ethics, as well as hunting tips and techniques to over 100 students.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Chad Baldwin were checking people along the Pere Marquette River when they observed anglers in a vessel who were attempting to snag fish. The COs approached the occupants of the boat and found they didn't have PFDs on board. When asked why they didn't have any flotation devices, the anglers said the boat was brand new and advised that they hadn't had time purchase any. The registration paperwork revealed it had been owned for over four weeks. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Chad Baldwin approached the Custer Fishing Access Site when they saw a large cloud of dust coming from the lot. As they neared the entrance, a Ford Mustang, driving at high speed, entered the paved roadway driving erratically. The COs stopped the car for the apparent operation violation and asked the driver why he was operating so recklessly. The driver claimed his car wouldn't come out of first gear and therefore could not help the way he was driving. The COs ran the plate through LEIN and discovered that the plate on the vehicle was for a Chevy truck and that the operator had no insurance. After taking enforcement action, the COs noted that the driver had no problem taking the car out of first gear to get it started again so he could leave.

CO Brian Brosky and PCO Chad Baldwin were working a patrol at Indian bridge when they identified numerous anglers fishing along the river bank. As they approached the anglers to check licenses, one handed his pole to a small child and claimed he was just helping him fish. The COs advised otherwise, and when they ran him in LEIN discovered that he had a felony warrant out of Indiana and a misdemeanor warrant out of Muskegon. The subject was lodged in the Mason County Jail.

Working a patrol in Lake County for illegal ORV activity, CO Brian Brosky and CO Chad Baldwin wrote eight tickets to subjects operating in a prohibited area. Several subjects argued that the area should be posted and the officers advised that the erosive damage they were creating should have been obvious enough.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Chad Baldwin were working Indian bridge in Mason County when they observed a subject snagging fish. They also watched the subject throw two cigarette butts on the ground and one into the river. When they contacted the angler

about his method of fishing, he said he was not snagging. The COs also pointed out to him the litter that he had discarded on the riverbank. The angler was very adamant that he could jerk one time per cast, and insisted that it was in print in the fishing guide. The COs afforded ample time to the angler to locate the law in the fishing digest, to no avail, and then enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Joshua Jackson assisted Wildlife Division employees with a violation noted on a returned crop damage permit. The COs responded to the property where the permits had been given and found that the permittee had taken an eight-point buck with an antlerless only permit. They asked the permittee why they had taken a buck and the shooter advised that it was "very dark and hard to see." The COs advised of the apparent safety issue and enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Brosky, Kyle Publiski, Sam Hartsig and Chad Baldwin responded to a violation of crop damage permit rules in Mason County. It was reported that two subjects had recently killed a spotted fawn and were hunting without any orange. When the COs arrived, they found that the permit holders were not wearing orange and in fact were in possession of a spotted fawn that had not been tagged. The permittees also failed to contact law enforcement to notify that they were hunting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Sam Hartsig were working in Lake County when they came across eight ORVs operating in a closed area without current ORV trail permits. The COs made contact with the operators and asked why they hadn't purchased their ORV stickers. The group advised that they thought it was Free ORV Weekend. The COs advised them that they were off by several days and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Sam Hartsig were working a detail on the Muskegon River when they were called to assist with an intoxicated woman in the river. The COs arrived and found that she had fallen into the water and ingested water, causing her to vomit. The COs took her to the launch where she was treated by medical personnel.

CO Kyle Publiski was riding next to a motorcycle on a four lane roadway when he noticed that the plate on the cycle was expired. The operator quickly turned off the roadway and into a driveway. CO Publiski turned around just as the cycle was getting back on the road to go the opposite direction. CO Publiski stopped the cycle and found that the plate was definitely expired, but that the driver also had no insurance or cycle endorsement.

CO Steve Converse and CO Sam Hartsig were at Tippy Dam when they observed an angler using illegal gear to snag fish and watched him land a salmon and put it on a stringer. As the COs approached, the angler quickly removed his gear and began fishing legally. The COs pointed out to him that they already knew that the salmon he possessed was snagged and foul hooked, and that the gear he was using was illegal. The angler had no rebuttal. Enforcement action was taken and the 14 pound salmon was seized.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Steve Lockwood received a complaint regarding possible illegal activity regarding deer crop damage permits. It seems many neighbors were upset that the subjects with permits were acting in an unsafe manner by shooting at deer from inside their vehicles, contrary to state law. The alleged activity had been occurring for several weeks. CO Lockwood was able to respond quickly and followed the suspect vehicle as it pulled into one of the affected crop fields. CO Lockwood was able to apprehend the shooter with a loaded and uncased firearm in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken, along with a strong reminder about the requirement to follow the provisions of the permit.

COs Bobbi Lively, Warren MacNeill, Shannon Kritz and Sam Schluckbier responded to a call from Alcona Central Dispatch about an overdue tuber on the Au Sable River. The COs used their knowledge of the area and river to locate the subject and return him to his party without incident or injury.

While patrolling Lake George, CO Kyle Bader and CO Brad Silorey checked a boat with three anglers fishing in a small hidden cove. Initially, the man sitting closest to the cooler told the COs they had only caught one bluegill. When he opened the cooler to take out the fish to show the officers, they could see more fish inside. The man was asked a second time. This time he said, "Well, we have five or six bluegills." Further investigation revealed a nine inch largemouth bass. It was also determined that he didn't have a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader and CO Brad Silorey spoke to a group of trappers at a Trapper Education Field Day at the Rifle River Recreation Area. There were approximately 30 in attendance. The COs answered many questions on trapping laws and practices.

CO Kyle Bader and CO Brad Silorey contacted four minors who were riding the same ORV at the same time, COs witnessed the four individuals get on the ORV in possession of two uncased firearms. The guns were not present when the COs made contact; however three of the four kids were extremely disrespectful with the officers. CO Bader contacted one of the mothers of the minors and decided she would dish out a punishment more fitting than any ticket he could issue. The four kids were warned and sent on their way home. By the end of the contact, all of them were very respectful and shook the officers' hands.

COs Jonathan Warner, Kyle Bader, Brian Olsen, Warren MacNeill, Bobbi Lively, Mark Papineau, Sam Schluckbier, Brad Silorey, Shannon Kritz, and Sgt. Brandon Kieft assisted Iosco County Sheriff's Deputies with a search for an inmate who escaped custody. The suspect broke out of a patrol car and fled into the woods. The search led through farm fields, wooded areas, and into a swamp before the subject was surrounded and eventually taken into custody by the COs without incident or injury.

CO Warren Macneill and CO Sam Schluckbier responded to a litter complaint on public land that was forwarded to them by the MSP. The original complaint had provided a vehicle description and license plate number for the possible involved party. The COs interviewed the subject, who was initially evasive. Eventually, the officers were able to obtain a confession and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling a bridge access, CO John Huspen and CO Matt Zultak identified two kayakers without PFDs. The officers loaned two PFDs to the kayakers so they could finish kayaking to their residence. The life jackets were retrieved from the subject's residence and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO John Huspen and CO Matt Zultak stopped an ORV for not operating on the shoulder of the roadway. Upon contacting the operator it was determined the subject was 12 years old, did not have an ORV safety certificate, was by himself, and operating over three and a half miles from his residence. Contact was made with the juvenile's parents, who stated they knew he was operating the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen and CO Matt Zultak received a complaint that a pontoon boat had been tied off to a tree along the shoreline of a SFC for over a week. The investigation revealed that the boat did not belong to anyone in the campground. Contact was made with the owner at their residence. The subject admitted to having left it there unattended for over a month. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen and CO Matt Zultak received a complaint of an osprey caught in a fence. The officers responded to the residence and investigated. Contact with the subject revealed that they had found a juvenile turkey vulture three weeks prior and were keeping it in a pen on the property. The resident did not have a rehabilitation permit. The bird was seized, and enforcement action was taken.

COs John Huspen, Mike Hearn and Matt Zultak instructed at the Hunters Safety Class for the Walton Junction Sportsman Club in Grand Traverse County.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz assisted the Missaukee County Sheriff's Department with a bar fight. The confrontation resulted with the male suspect running from the bar, and once outside his residence the suspect brandished a pistol and shot three times into the air. The suspect re-entered his residence hiding the gun and escaped from the house through another exit. The loaded pistol was located in the basement of the residence. The suspect was located a short time later attempting to return home. He was arrested and lodged in the Missaukee County jail.

CO Chris Bowen was working ORVs in a closed area of state land. CO Bowen witnessed two dirt bikes operate up a closed hill. One of the riders was not wearing a helmet. The riders saw the CO's patrol vehicle and quickly left the area. CO Bowen tracked the dirt bikes for several miles and finally caught up with them on another closed road. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Bowen participated in a group "Safety Day" at the Houghton Lake Community Center with the Roscommon Sheriff Department and the MSP. Agencies were on site answering questions and displaying different pieces of equipment that each agency uses.

CO Chuck McPherson, Casey Pullum and Sgt. Jeremy Payne responded to a wildfire adjacent to the North Shore Campground on Houghton Lake. Due to the remote location, the officers assisted with extinguishing the fire by using buckets and water from the lake.

## **DISTRICT 6**

While returning to Huron County from the Detroit area, COs Robert Hobkirk and Kyle Bucholtz observed an ORV travelling on a state highway in Lapeer County. The operator was not wearing a helmet and upon stopping the ORV, it was also noticed that the ORV was not licensed. The operator was ticketed for operating on a public highway.

During a marine patrol, Sgt. Scott Brown and CO Robert Hobkirk came upon a kayaker in Lake Huron who had fallen out of her kayak. The kayak had filled with water and the female was unable to climb back into the boat. Officers were able to empty the water out of the kayak and assisted the female in climbing aboard their patrol boat. She was then able to climb back into her kayak and head into shore.

While working a marine patrol during the Caseville Cheeseburger in Paradise Festival, CO Robert Hobkirk and Sgt. Scott Brown contacted many boaters during the evening patrol. A number of warnings were issued as well as tickets issued to an operator of an unregistered vessel and to another personal watercraft (PWC) operator for towing with no observer.

CO Robert Hobkirk observed vehicles parked at the Port Crescent State Park day use area well after the park had closed. With assistance from park employees, CO Hobkirk located 10 subjects at a campfire on the park property. Five of the individuals were minors who had been consuming alcohol. All individuals assisted in putting out the fire and cleaning up the area. They were escorted back out to the parking area where parents of the underage individuals consuming alcohol were contacted and transportation arrangements were made. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a marine patrol during the Caseville Cheeseburger in Paradise Festival, CO Joshua Wright encountered a PWC operator with no boater safety certificate. Enforcement action was taken.

While on a recent marine patrol COs Robert Hobkirk and Kyle Bucholtz spoke with the operator of a PWC. The operator was towing a skier without an observer. Upon approaching the PWC the COs overheard the operator tell the skier they were being stopped because there was not an observer. The operator then admitted knowledge of the law. Enforcement action was taken.

While on the above stop, CO Robert Hobkirk and CO Kyle Bucholtz observed two young males waving the officers down from their small boat. The COs approached the subjects and learned the boat motor had fallen from the boat into the lake. The young males were drifting further out when the COs spotted the subjects and towed them to safety.

CO Jason A. Smith and PCO Christopher Lynch were checking shore anglers and boats coming back to the launch at Quanicassee River launch. One shore angler, when asked to produce a fishing license, failed to do so and a check in the system revealed he hadn't purchased one. A ticket was issued for fishing without a license.

CO Jason A. Smith and PCO Christopher Lynch conducted a marine patrol in the bay at Caseville during the annual Cheeseburger Festival. While there the COs observed a PWC on fire just off shore. Nobody was injured in the accident and multiple agencies were on scene. The fire department was able to safely put out the fire and clean the water of oil and other debris.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly received a complaint of an injured Canada goose from a boat owner at the Bay Harbor Marina in Bay City. The complainant advised that the goose had been in the harbor for weeks and had something tied around its leg. The complainant advised that the goose would walk a few feet and fall over. Upon the COs arrival and approaching the injured goose, it hobbled into the water where it slowly started to swim away. Sgt. Kimmerly lay down on a low bridge while Sgt. Tony Soave and Randy Clarke slowly walked and directed the goose toward the bridge. Sgt. Kimmerly was able to grab the goose after it swam under the bridge and came out on the other side. The goose not only had fishing line wrapped around its leg almost to the bone, but was completely missing the other foot. Sgt. Kimmerly used a knife to remove the deeply imbedded fishing line while Randy Clarke assisted by holding its head and keeping its eyes covered. The wound was treated with an antibiotic and the goose was then returned to the water. About 15 of the marina members came over and thanked the COs and Randy Clarke. Several members advised that they had no idea that a CO would take the time for one goose. Sgt. Kimmerly advised that any suffering animal is a priority with any CO.

After a late night shift on Belle Isle and while heading home, COs Quincy Gowenlock and Will Brickel were traveling I-75 when a vehicle passed them at well over 100 mph. The COs attempted to catch up to the vehicle but lost it in the traffic. About 30 minutes later and while approaching a construction zone near M-46, the same vehicle passed them at approximately 90 mph. This time the COs were able to stop the vehicle. When questioned, the driver advised he was late to his friend's wedding in Traverse City. CO Gowenlock told the driver that his driving was reckless and that this was the second time that he had passed the officers. When asked, the driver advised that he had stopped to get gas and something to drink and that's why he passed the COs twice. The driver was issued a ticket for excessive speed in a construction zone while workers were present.

CO Chad Foerster was working northern Bay County when he observed an ORV operating on the roadway with three very young men aboard. None of them were wearing helmets and the ORV was unlicensed. The CO stopped the young men and followed them back to their residence and made contact with dad. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was working northern Bay County when he observed two four wheelers operating on the roadway with a total of five people riding on them. No one was wearing a helmet and both machines were unlicensed. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol near Dublin Road, CO Joel Lundberg and PCO Benjamin Weber encountered a group of ORVs tearing up state land. A minor was also found to be in possession of alcohol. Enforcement action was taken.

Near Hope Road, PCO Benjamin Weber and CO Joel Lundberg discovered a man camping without a posted camp registration card. The COs informed the camper of the requirements for camping and issued a warning.

PCO Benjamin Weber and CO Joel Lundberg stopped a vehicle driving on state land near Burns Road. The vehicle did not have a license plate or registration, and the driver had no valid operator's license. Enforcement action was taken.

On a joint marine patrol with Midland County Marine Deputies on Wixom Lake, CO Joel Lundberg and PCO Benjamin Weber stopped a boat for improper and unreadable registration decals. Upon further investigation CO Lundberg discovered the operator to be under the influence and over the legal limit. With the assistance of the marine deputies, the operator was lodged at the Midland County jail.

## **DISTRICT 7**

While patrolling the Grand River in Ottawa County, CO Justin Ulberg observed two subjects fishing in a boat. When CO Ulberg made contact with the anglers, one of the subjects denied fishing. CO Ulberg pointed out that he had observed the individual with binoculars from a distance. The subject then admitted to fishing and advised that he did not have a fishing license. The anglers also did not have the required number of PFDs on their boat. Enforcement action was taken.

PCO James Zellinger and CO Justin Ulberg checked two individuals who were fishing from shore along the Grand River in Kent County. Neither subject had a fishing license and stated that they had not caught any fish. While speaking with the anglers, CO Ulberg noted a small piece of rope tied to a tree root along the bank of the river. Closer observation revealed four fish tied to the rope, two of which were undersized bass. When the subjects were questioned about the fish, both denied catching them and claimed that another individual had been fishing, caught the fish, and left them tied up.

After further questioning, the subjects admitted to catching the fish. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg patrolled the Lowell State Game Area (SGA) regarding a complaint of ORVs driving into the SGA and causing damage. While in the area, CO Ulberg observed an ATV being driven down the roadway. There were two subjects riding on the ATV and neither was wearing a helmet. The ATV also did not have an ORV permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten completed a boating accident investigation where a subject towing tubes came too close to an anchored pontoon boat and a dock along the shoreline at a high rate of speed. The waves created by the high speed boating activity resulted in a wheelchair-bound subject falling onto the deck of the pontoon, injuring her head and neck and having to be hospitalized. Charges are pending.

CO Greg Patten and Sgt. Jeff Rabbers attended a youth waterfowl presentation put on by the local Michigan Duck Hunters Chapter at the Muskegon Field Office. Numerous contacts were made with local youth being introduced to waterfowl hunting.

CO Greg Patten assisted the MSP with a local drug flight identifying illegal marijuana grow operations in Muskegon County. Fifteen illegal grow sites were located and contact was made with many individuals related to this incident. Enforcement action will be taken by the MSP.

CO Greg Patten contacted two subjects riding double on an ORV in a closed area along power lines in northern Muskegon. The subject was taking his daughter for a ride on the ORV without helmets, and no ORV safety certification. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Cary Foster and PCO Raymond Gardner received a complaint of a subject who appeared to have shot a turkey, along with information that the subject did not have a license. A video was obtained through social media showing the illegal activity. Contact was made with the subject who initially denied any wrongdoing. After reviewing the video a full confession was obtained. The firearm used in the incident was confiscated and charges are pending in the incident.

While on patrol checking for fishing activity in Ottawa County, CO Ivan Perez and PCO Ethan Mapes located two juveniles walking along the road with fishing equipment, as well as a lawnmower, luggage cart and a cased chainsaw. Contact was made and a confession was obtained by the juveniles for breaking into a nearby residence and stealing the property. The incident was turned over to the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department. Contact was made with the landowner who indicated that the juveniles had broken all the windows out with a baseball bat and done extensive damage to the interior of the home. The landowner was very appreciative of the officers' apprehension.

Sgt. Kevin Hackworth was driving on I-94 near the Custer State Recreation Area when he encountered an overturned vehicle with several persons standing around. The driver was pinned in the vehicle and had suffered a severe injury to his head. Sgt. Hackworth unsuccessfully attempted to free the victim and attempted to provide medical assistance from outside the vehicle. Sgt. Hackworth assisted Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel reach the driver with the aid of the Jaws of Life. Unfortunately the victim did not survive.

CO Richard Cardenas was on marine patrol on Fish Lake in Barry County when he encountered four kayakers. Two of the kayakers did not possess PFDs and enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Higashi ticketed a subject after an investigation involving Wildlife Division employees finding trash in the Gourdneck SGA.

CO Paul Higashi participated in the Constantine Back to School Days in Kalamazoo County. CO Higashi explained the role of a CO and helped cook and serve 500 hotdogs.

CO Chris Holmes and PCO Raymond Gardner stopped a vehicle in Kalamazoo County for excessive speed and erratic driving. One of the passengers was on parole and the other on probation. Open intoxicants and marijuana were found in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken. After clearing this traffic stop the officers observed another vehicle in the same area traveling at a high rate of speed and failing to yield for stop signs. The officers pulled the vehicle over and it was found that the pregnant female passenger's water had broken, and she was in labor. The officers escorted the vehicle to Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo and assisted the woman into the Emergency Room.

CO Chris Holmes and PCO Raymond Gardner responded to an armed robbery at a Kalamazoo gas station where the cashier was beaten and slashed with a cutting instrument. The officers assisted with the establishment of a perimeter and searching the area for suspects and evidence from the crime.

COs Jeff Robinette and Matt Page attended Dowagiac Conservation Club's Youth Day, operating the Departments hunting simulator and speaking to over 100 kids about hunting and hunting safety.

CO Andy Bauer received a RAP complaint of a trespassing hunter and responded and met with the complainant. A truck was parked on the property and the complainant was supposedly the "caretaker" of the property. CO Bauer waited for the subject to return to the truck and found that the hunter had permission to be on the property, but CO Bauer also discovered a large empty corn bag in the subject's hands. It was learned that the subject was baiting deer before the legal time to bait deer. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Saykham Keophalychanh and Andy Bauer were working together when CO Keophalychanh received information from an officer on the east side of the state about a subject who may have taken a deer in the fall of 2014 without a hunting license. The COs contacted the subject and obtained a confession that he had taken an eight point buck without a license. The subject also turned over the rack to the officers. A warrant is being sought for the subject with reimbursement for the deer estimated at \$6000 with the enhanced penalties enacted last summer.

CO Brad Brewer and PCO Ben McAteer conducted multiple marine patrols with several anglers being contacted. The officers issued three tickets for fishing without licenses and gave a warning for failing to have a PFD.

COs Andy Bauer and Saykham Keophalychanh spoke at two hunter safety classes; one at Coloma Rod and Gun Club, and a second at Watervliet Rod and Gun Club. The officers spoke to a total of approximately 75 students and their parents about hunter safety and regulations.

CO Brad Brewer and PCO Ben McAteer attended a career day at Constantine High School meeting many students with questions about a career with the DNR. The officers also assisted with a training station about how to properly use an infant car seat.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Chris Reynolds observed an angler fishing and as the CO approached the subject quit fishing and started to leave the area, trying to hide the fishing pole. The officer asked the subject if he was having any luck. The subject said that he was only picking up the fishing pole to put it away. The officer advised the subject that he had observed him cast several times before contact was made. The subject then stated that he always buys a license but had forgotten this year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds had a ride along and during the patrol the CO answered several questions related to the hiring process, the academy and duties of a conservation officer.

CO Chris Reynolds, while returning home after a Belle Isle shift, was passed by a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. The officer made a traffic stop on the vehicle. The subject said that he had to go to the bathroom and was trying to hurry to get to the next exit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn and PCO Mark Siemen worked ORV patrol in the Dansville SGA. During their patrol, the COs came across a vehicle occupied by three adult males. After making contact with the subjects, and further investigation by the COs, two of the subjects were arrested and charged for possession of marijuana.

CO Todd Thorn and PCO Mark Siemen observed a small boat on an inland lake in the Dansville SGA. The COs could see that there were two male subjects in the boat who

were fishing. They waited on shore until dark when the two subjects came in from fishing. Contact was made with the two subjects and the COs could smell a strong odor of alcohol coming from both. Further investigation revealed that one subject was a 16 year old. He was issued a ticket for minor in possession and for having an unregistered vessel. The second subject was 13 and was issued a ticket for minor in possession of alcohol. After the investigation was complete both juvenile subjects were released to their parents.

While on a marine patrol on the Grand River in Lansing, CO Todd Thorn and PCO Mark Siemen observed a man fishing from a secluded location on the shore. Upon contact it was found that the man did not possess a fishing license and was in possession of an undersized bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn and PCO Mark Siemen checked a popular fishing location in Lansing and contacted approximately eight anglers. One of the anglers was acting particularly nervous. Upon investigation he was found to have two warrants for his arrest. The man was arrested and lodged at the local jail.

CO Shane Webster and PCO Jason King investigated a complaint in the Waterloo Recreation Area of an abandoned vehicle found stuck on a horse trail. They were unable to contact the registered owner and the vehicle was impounded. The investigation continues with charges pending.

While on patrol, CO Pete Purdy observed a vehicle with a defective driver side brake light and an expired registration. CO Purdy conducted a traffic stop and discovered the driver had a suspended license, no insurance on the vehicle and two misdemeanor warrants for his arrest. CO Purdy arrested the subject and impounded his vehicle.

COs Jeff Goss and Jason McCullough worked marine patrol and checked several local lakes. Tickets were issued for expired vessel registration, undersized bass and fishing without a license.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While patrolling parts of the Port Huron SGA, CO Ben Lasher stopped a subject driving a four-wheeler down the road. The subject was not wearing a helmet and after being stopped turned over a small amount of suspected marijuana and a pipe used to smoke it, from his front pocket. The suspect had never been issued a driver's license. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jeremy Beavers patrolled the Holloway Dam on foot to check anglers. While checking anglers fishing along the south side of the dam, CO Beavers contacted a subject who stated he was fishing for catfish. The subject had a cooler and stated that he had some fish in the cooler. CO Beavers looked in the cooler and saw that he had six channel catfish. Two of the fish looked small so CO Beavers measured them and found both fish were less than 12 inches, the required minimum length for channel

catfish. CO Beavers then asked for the subject's fishing license and identification. The subject stated that he did not have his fishing license with him but turned over his identification card. At that time, CO Beavers informed the subject that he was going to hang onto his ID as he checked the other anglers. While continuing his checks, CO Beavers learned that the subject with the short channel catfish had an additional cooler in his vehicle. CO Beavers returned to the subject and told him he wanted to see the cooler of fish that he had in his truck. CO Beavers and the angler then went to the vehicle to check the second cooler. The second cooler was full of channel catfish. In all, the subject had 30 channel catfish, 20 more than the legal limit. Eleven of the fish were shorter than the required minimum length of 12 inches. The fish were seized and the subject was ticketed for both violations.

CO Jason Becker was at the Loon Lake access site and observed a boat coming toward the launch. CO Becker looked at the three men in the boat and noticed that the man in front was releasing fish before reaching the boat launch. CO Becker was able to tell that he released two largemouth bass. CO Becker met the men at the launch and checked licenses and two fish buckets. CO Becker found one short bass in each of the two fish buckets. CO Becker ran a LEIN check of the three subjects and found one of the subjects had a warrant. Enforcement action was taken for the short bass and the subject with the warrant was lodged at the Oakland County Jail.

CO Kris Kiel and PCO Dan Robinson attended a Hunter Safety course in Shelby Township. The COs had the chance to talk to 88 students about the laws and talked through the hunting guides with the group. That same day the COs attended Heritage Days at the Huron Point Sportsman Club and again answered many questions.

Sgt. Todd Szyska was notified by Station 20 of a pending prisoner transport from Macomb County Jail to the 42<sup>nd</sup>-2 District Court in Macomb County. The subject being held was wanted for failure to appear on a bench warrant for OWI on an ORV that Sgt. Szyska had processed a few years ago. The subject was transported and stood for arraignment. The Judge upheld a \$2,000 bond no 10% and a final sentencing is scheduled for September. The subject was then transported back to Macomb County Jail to await sentencing, as he had no funds to bail out.

CO Ken Kovach and PCO Matthew Neterer assisted CO Al Schwiderson with a meeting at the MSP Lapeer Office to update the troopers on some of the recent fish and game law changes. The troopers seemed receptive to the information and eager to assist in any way they could. The meeting was strategically planned due to the fall hunting seasons that are quickly approaching.

CO Ken Kovach and PCO Matthew Neterer attended a Bassmaster tournament meeting in Dearborn where 109 bass fishing pros were being briefed on tournament rules, state fishing laws and marine laws. The COs fielded questions from the pros and spoke briefly on restricted areas and speed limits on the water. The tournament director and pros seemed appreciative of the COs' presence.

While on patrol on the St. Clair River, CO Ken Kovach and PCO Matthew Neterer came upon a boat that was fighting a fish. The COs watched as one of the anglers landed and released a nice smallmouth bass. When asked for their fishing licenses, the three anglers produced Canadian fishing licenses. The anglers seemed surprised when they were told that they were several hundred yards into American waters. The captain didn't seem to believe the COs because he was still in line with the red buoy in the river. He was informed that the buoys mark the shipping channel and not the international border. After conducting a safety inspection, the anglers were told to return to Canadian waters and keep a closer eye on their GPS unit.

While on patrol on the St. Clair River, CO Ken Kovach and PCO Matthew Neterer passed a dock that had unattended fishing poles with lines set in the water. The COs pulled alongside the dock and waited for several minutes to see if the anglers would come out to check the lines. When the anglers failed to show, PCO Neterer went to the house to investigate. No one answered the doorbell, so PCO Neterer went to the garage where he found a man who admitted that the fishing poles were his. The man claimed that he was perch fishing and had just left the rods for a few minutes and intended to return to the dock shortly. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in the Lapeer SGA, CO Ken Kovach and PCO Matthew Neterer came across two golf carts traveling down the roadway. A traffic stop was conducted and the occupants stated that they traveled the road frequently to get from their homes to the local party store. After being informed that ORVs are illegal in the game area and on the roadway, enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach and PCO Matthew Neterer attended the Bassmaster tournament weigh-in held at Metro Beach Park. There the COs fielded many fisheries, marine safety and recruiting related questions from the public. While patrolling back to St. Clair County, a pickup truck passed the COs at a high rate of speed and began weaving in and out of traffic. After following the truck for a short time, two items flew from the bed of the truck onto the roadway. A traffic stop was conducted to address the speeding and unsecured load. Enforcement action was taken.

## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Greg Patten made contact with two beach goers on Belle Isle who had a dog where it is prohibited. It was discovered they also had alcohol, which is illegal in the State Park. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas was working on Belle Isle when he heard a call informing all Belle Isle Officers that a multiple vehicle shoot-out involving the U.S. Border Patrol was approaching the island. CO Cardenas responded to the McArthur Bridge. No vehicles fitting the description given by dispatch were located on Belle Isle. Border Patrol then requested back up at Jefferson and Dickerson Road in Detroit. CO Cardenas and the Michigan State Police responded to the request and backed up Border Patrol Agents. Multiple vehicles were stopped. A witness in one of the vehicles described and pointed

out a vehicle that was suspected to be involved with the shootings. A single male passenger exited the vehicle. CO Cardenas ordered the subject to stop and detained the suspect for investigation. It was later found that the vehicles were not shooting at one another but were shooting into the air celebrating a wedding ceremony. Multiple police agencies were involved. The suspect was turned over to Border Patrol Agents for further investigation.

While on a Belle Isle morning patrol, COs Jeff Robinette and Mike Drexler observed a subject urinating in public along a busy road. The subject was in possession of alcohol in violation of park rules and insisted he was not urinating. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling on Belle Isle, Sgt. Dan Bigger observed a vehicle operating at a high rate of speed and passing other vehicles. It took the length of the Island to catch up and stop the vehicle. Upon further investigation it was found that this same vehicle was involved in a complaint in previous weeks for operating in the wrong direction and for speeding. Enforcement action taken.

While on patrol on Belle Isle, CO Kris Kiel and PCO Dan Robinson were flagged down by a family who were canoeing and had made a wrong turn. The family was too tired to continue. The COs went to the boathouse and contacted the staff. The family and the canoe were picked up and returned to their vehicle.

CO Jason A. Smith and PCO Christopher Lynch had a special assignment on Belle Isle for the hydroplane boat races. The COs were tasked to keep visitors out of the water while the races were underway.