

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
8/22/11 – 9/4/11**

DISTRICT 1

CO Trey Luce assisted local deputies with a report of a deceased person found in the woods near Michigamme. Apparently the subject had accidentally cut himself in the neck and chest while operating a chainsaw.

CO Jason Wicklund was checking late night trout anglers on a remote Iron County stream when he contacted several vehicle operators driving into a gravel pit. The individuals informed the CO that they were just going to start a fire and "hang out". CO Wicklund detected the smell of alcohol and further investigation led to the discovery of a plastic tub and a cooler filled with alcohol, along with numerous other bottles of liquor. During the contact other vehicles pulled in to "hang out" and were detained by the CO. Enforcement action was taken for minors in possession of alcohol (MIP), probation violations, possession of open intoxicants in a motor vehicle, and driving while license suspended (DWLS).

CO Ryan Aho was first on scene of a head on car/motorcycle accident. The driver of the vehicle crossed the center line and collided with the motorcycle. The driver of the motorcycle was killed in the crash and the passenger suffered life threatening injuries.

CO Dennis Gast responded to a hunter harassment complaint regarding one bear guide dumping bleach on another's bear bait. The encounter nearly led to fisticuffs as CO Gast had to separate the guides. The investigation continues into the incident.

COs Mark Leadman and Trey Luce worked a patrol in Chocolay Township near Marquette. They observed two subjects on ORVs and attempted to stop them. One of the subjects sped off, but the subject who stopped was persuaded to call his partner via cell phone and ask him to return. The subject returned and was ticketed for operating an unregistered ORV.

CO Jason Niemi ticketed a subject for baiting deer early. He issued the same subject a warning for placing an illegal tree stand on state land. This same subject had been ticketed for the same thing by CO Niemi a couple of years ago.

CO Jason Wicklund responded to an early morning 911 call in regard to an overdue elderly angler. The CO located the individual's float tube and fishing gear. A search of the area turned up the missing angler, who had become disoriented in the low light conditions the night before and couldn't find his vehicle. The angler was treated at the scene for dehydration and released to a very grateful family.

CO Jason Wicklund was on patrol when he observed an ORV driving down the highway pulling a trailer. The operator of the ORV was not wearing a helmet and garbage was

blowing out of the trailer and onto the highway. The CO followed the ORV through a field and contacted the operator, who was unaware of the garbage issues. In an attempt to identify the operator, the driver verbally gave the CO his name, date of birth, address and wife's name. When his information could not be verified, the CO placed a call to the residence of the operator and spoke with the person he said was his wife. The wife informed the CO that her husband was standing next to her in the kitchen and didn't know who the CO had with him, but it definitely wasn't her husband. Upon hearing the radio traffic, the driver of the ORV decided to come clean about his identity and tell the CO that he had a warrant for his arrest. The driver was charged with several ORV violations and lodged on the arrest warrant.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy and Jason Wicklund were on an early morning patrol when they observed a fire in the woods. A check of the area turned up a group of men burning some "brush and other materials". The "other materials" turned out to be an old mobile home. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon encountered three ORVs operating down the center of a county road. A stop was made on the group and one operator was also found to have a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Reid Roeske worked complaints of boaters operating without navigation lights on Little Bay DeNoc. While contacting one such boat, he asked if they had fish in the live well. The boat operator said it was empty, but then CO Roeske heard a splash sound come from the direction of the live well. When he checked it, he found two short walleyes. Tickets were issued.

CO John Wenzel assisted local deputies and emergency personnel in the recovery of an elderly woman who had fallen 80 feet down a hill in the Gladstone area. The victim was placed on a backboard and hauled up the hill to a waiting ambulance.

CO John Wenzel received a call at home regarding a wolf/dog incident that occurred within two miles of his house. CO Wenzel went to the scene and found that the dog, a mid-sized boxer, had been attacked by what was described as and later confirmed to be a wolf.

Area COs worked the Autrain River, responding to complaints from the local community regarding excessive intoxication, vulgar language and reckless activity involving the tipping over of non-volunteer canoes. Numerous contacts were made and tickets issued for marine violations and possession of controlled substances.

COs Derek Miller and Mike Hammill assisted local agencies in the search for an elderly male subject who was overdue in the Newberry area. A track was found that led to the subject, who was dehydrated. The COs assisted with re-hydration, and then transported him back to medical personnel and family members.

CO Mike Hammill and CO Derek Miller were checking anglers after dark on a local river when they heard a shot. They hiked to the area of the shot and located a camp. While approaching the camp, on the entrance road, they smelled cigarette smoke. The owner of the camp advised he and his son were the only people there and that they had not shot a gun. The COs went to the area where they had smelled the smoke and found a flashlight on the ground. They then found a male subject with a rifle hiding in the brush. It later came out that he was a guest of the camp owner and had hidden because he was hunting coyotes without a license and without hunter orange. Tickets were issued.

CO Jeff Panich responded to a complaint that two subjects were chasing and shooting geese from a motor boat. Upon arrival the subjects had left the lake; however, CO Panich patrolled the vicinity and located them at a nearby residence. The subjects eventually gave full written confessions. Firearms were confiscated, along with seven Canada geese. Warrants are being sought along with restitution.

CO Jeff Panich encountered two subjects along a local stream who were in possession of fishing gear. One subject presented a fishing license and the other admitted that she did not have a license, but would get one. As the CO was leaving the area he observed a third female subject who appeared to be evading him. Upon contact she persisted that she wasn't fishing. The CO then located a fishing pole hidden in the woods nearby with wet line and a fresh worm still wiggling around. The subject still said that she wasn't fishing. The CO asked to see her vehicle for fish or other fishing gear. She agreed to the search as she told the CO that he wouldn't find any fish. No fish were found, but marijuana was located. Further investigation revealed that the marijuana was indeed hers and that she was indeed fishing. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jeff Panich was conducting an ORV patrol when he came across a truck that had two rifles lying across the hood and nobody around. After searching for some time the CO located two subjects over a one half mile away. The CO explained the dangers of leaving firearms unattended and escorted the two back to their truck. The CO ran a check on the firearms and found that one of the rifles was reported as stolen. Further investigation revealed that the rifle was stolen in a break and entry in Chippewa County. The firearm was seized and the case was turned over to the Chippewa County Sheriff's Department.

DISTRICT 3

COs Andrea Albert and Steve Speigl, along with Sgt. Mike Borkovich worked together on an illegal marijuana growing operation that CO Albert found while checking for bear baits on state land. Twenty-four plants up to eight feet tall were seized and the suspect, who was using an ORV without a helmet and in possession of an open can of beer, was actually caught while tending his illegal crop. A second subject will also be charged as a result of the investigation and the ORV used during the incident was seized and will be condemned.

CO Andrea Erratt investigated a complaint and later ticketed a subject who had cleaned out several older houses and was caught burning mattresses, furniture, and particle board, along with other household materials. The subject was ticketed for burning without a permit and warned for the illegal disposal of construction materials. Incidents involving the illegal burning and dumping of trash on state land is a growing problem COs deal with, and most often results in the arrest of those involved.

CO Andrea Erratt conducted a joint marine safety patrol with local marine deputies. The CO and deputies used kayaks to access remote areas where they issued several tickets for marine safety violations. They also picked up empty bottles and cans as well as other trash they encountered along the river.

COs Carl VanderWall and Duane Budreau were first on the scene of a serious personal injury accident involving a motor vehicle and a bicycle driven by a 13 year old boy. The COs rendered first aid until Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel arrived, possibly saving the life of the young man, who had multiple lacerations and several broken bones.

CO Carl VanderWall ticketed a subject who was illegally baiting bear on state land by placing the bait out before season and for littering by using man-made materials. He and CO Duane Budreau also evicted illegal campers along the French Farm Flooding in Emmet County. COs report that illegal camping on state land has been on the increase throughout the northwest Michigan area.

CO Rich Stowe worked a complaint where a bear hunter had an illegal bear bait, and had blocked access to state land by erecting a locked cable across a trail road. CO Stowe contacted the responsible subject and ticketed him for the offense.

COs Eric Bottorff and Nick Torsky responded to a complaint of illegal horseback use in the Pigeon River Country State Forest, a couple of days prior to elk season. The riders were contacted, and were well aware they were riding in a closed area to horseback use. Three tickets were issued.

CO Matt Theunick reports the subject responsible for the abandoned, sunken, and beached tug and ferry vessels in Duncan Bay was sentenced this past week. The vessels have been ordered removed within six months, or they will be forfeited.

CO Michael Feagan found three ORVs tearing up an ORV restoration area on state forest land that was well posted and barricaded against motor vehicle use. Enforcement action was taken, including tickets for operating in a closed area and operating while driver's license suspended.

CO Matt Theunick and Sgt. Greg Drogowski patrolled Bois Blanc Island on ORVs, and contacted several tourists and residents. Campers, ORV operators, anglers, mountain bikers and hikers were checked. The patrol focused on shoreline damage from unlawful

ORV use, and tickets were issued for illegal ORV activity, including operating on the Lake Huron shoreline.

CO Eric Bottorff patrolled ORV damaged, erosion areas on state land and issued several tickets and warnings. On one patrol, Sgt. Greg Drogowski and CO Bottorff teamed up to protect an ORV restoration area where the area had been blocked off, posted closed to ORVs, and re-seeded. One CO operating the ORV and one in the patrol truck proved to be effective when a group of ORVs (quads, a dirt bike and a side-by-side) were apprehended just prior to entering the restoration area. They were already operating unlawfully on state land and were ticketed.

COs Mike Feagan and Matt Theunick patrolled the Black Mountain Recreation Area for ORV activity and found multiple ORVs operating unlawfully behind posted and bermed areas, causing vegetation damage and erosion on state forest land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark DePew watched a vehicle shining a field looking for deer, a traffic stop was performed for a traffic violation and the occupants were found to be in possession of a .17 caliber rifle and open beers. The individuals were ticketed for their violations.

CO Nick Torsky was patrolling the Pigeon River Country when he located three vehicles and horse trailers parked in an area which is not open to horseback riding. CO Torsky waited for the riders to return to discuss their riding in a prohibited area. At first the six riders denied knowing they could not ride there, but then admitted they knew better. Tickets were issued.

CO Nick Torsky received a call from the Michigan State Police (MSP) that they had pulled over an individual who was in possession of a loaded .22 caliber rifle, a spotlight and a knife covered in deer hair and blood; and there was also blood and deer hair in the back of the truck. Upon CO Torsky's arrival at the scene the subject continued to deny shooting a deer, but eventually confessed to holding the spotlight while a friend shot the deer. CO Torsky seized the deer and evidence and the investigation is ongoing.

CO Bill Webster received a call of ORVs trespassing on private property and driving through the owner's food plots. The landowner was able to get a picture of the subjects on his trail camera. The riders were identified and then contacted about the trespass which they admitted to riding on the property and they were also found to be in possession of marijuana. The riders were ticketed for their violations.

DISTRICT 4

COs Sean Kehoe and Justin Vanderlinde floated the Betsie River that is experiencing one of the heaviest salmon runs in recent history. Numerous tickets were written for snagging, possessing overlimits and illegal fishing gear. Several positive comments were received concerning their efforts.

COs Steve Converse, Angie Greenway, Carla Soper and Acting Sgt. Brian Brosky, along with law enforcement officers from the MSP and the United States Forest Service (USFS) participated in a group patrol on the Pine River in Manistee County. It was estimated that in a four hour time span 200 vessels were contacted on the river and multiple tickets issued for various marine safety, alcohol/drug and Federal Land rule violations.

While on routine patrol at the weir on the Little Manistee River, CO Carla Soper encountered one subject snagging within the closed 300 foot area below the weir. When CO Soper attempted contact with the subject, he threw his rod in the water and fled into the woods, leaving behind his vehicle and cell phone. CO Soper obtained his identity and found that he was on parole and that he had driven an unregistered and uninsured vehicle to that location while his driver's license was suspended. CO Soper had the subject's vehicle towed and went to his residence and informed his girlfriend that the vehicle was being held until he contacted her. Two days later the subject called and apologized and turned himself in. He was lodged on a parole detainer and a warrant was issued for snagging, fishing in a closed area, felony resist and obstruct and littering.

CO Carla Soper responded to a complaint at the weir on the Little Manistee River where two subjects had gone downstream to fish into the closed portion after being told by several anglers that it was closed. CO Soper was stopped four times in a two mile stretch leading to the weir by individuals advising that the subjects had not taken heed to warnings and that the subjects had told them to "mind their own business". CO Soper located the pair and they admitted that they were told not to fish and yet still did. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a late night patrol at Tippy Dam on the Big Manistee River, COs Steve Converse and Sam Koscinski observed a subject catch and retain a snagged salmon while using illegal gear. CO Converse had to wade out into waist deep waters to contact the subject, who became resistant and attempted to destroy the evidence of his illegal gear and the fish he had put on the stringer. CO Converse was able to recover the subject's fishing rod and illegal gear, but the subject was able to release the fish that was still attached to the stringer. The subject was eventually escorted to the riverbank by the COs and denied any wrong doing. The subject was issued tickets for snagging fish and using illegal gear. Additional charges have been submitted to the prosecutor's office, including resist and obstruct an officer.

Acting Sgt. Brian Brosky was patrolling the Pere Marquette River when he observed a subject land and possess a foul hooked Chinook Salmon. When the subject was informed that he would be receiving a ticket for retaining a foul hooked fish, the subject's grandson spoke up reminding his grandfather that he told him to let it go or he might get caught. The subject agreed that his grandson was correct and used receiving the ticket as a learning opportunity.

CO Troy VanGelderren received a litter complaint and was able to locate a name and address in the debris. CO VanGelderren interviewed a subject at the residence who stated he had never heard of the individual. Unsatisfied with the response, CO VanGelderren began to canvas the neighborhood inquiring of the subject's residence. All those interviewed pointed back to the original address. CO VanGelderren re-interviewed the subject at the original address and discovered the name in the trash that was dumped was his father's. It was determined that the son was responsible for dumping the trash. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn stopped a vehicle leaving state game area for a traffic violation and discovered the subject was in possession of several state snowmobile trail signs that the subject had just stolen from the trail posts. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of illegal wood cutting on state land. CO Ginn was able to locate the subjects actively cutting wood in a closed area. The subjects had created an illegal trail nearly a quarter of a mile onto the state land. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 5

CO Bobbi Lively contacted several subjects fishing on a local lake. When asked for his fishing license, one subject indicated he had a license but did not have it with him. A quick check revealed the subject did not have a current fishing license. The subject was ticketed and taken into custody on a felony warrant out of Tennessee.

CO Murray Cherry contacted an ORV operator in violation and while running a check for warrants on the subject, the information included the subject had an expired concealed pistol license. CO Cherry asked if the subject was carrying a concealed pistol and the subject showed the CO a loaded pistol he was carrying in his boot.

CO Joel Lundberg was the first person on scene of a rollover personal injury accident. He administered first aid until EMS personnel arrived and then assisted them until the victims were transported to the hospital.

CO Steve Lockwood assisted the sheriff's deputies in investigating a boating/tubing accident on Secord Lake. The victims were being pulled on an inner tube when it was struck by another boat. Both victims were minors and were airlifted to a hospital but are expected to fully recover from their injuries.

CO Brian Olsen reports the conclusion of a case which involved a subject videotaping his illegal exploits and putting them on YouTube. As a result of posting his videos, the subject was charged with several different violations including the illegal taking of game. The subject paid \$4,000 in fines and costs and was sentenced to 45 days in jail.

DISTRICT 6

While patrolling the Rush Lake State Game Area (SGA) at night, CO Robert Hobkirk observed an SUV travelling down an unimproved road at a high rate of speed. There were two individuals standing on the side step of the vehicle holding onto the roof rack. When the vehicle was being stopped, the two individuals tried to get into the vehicle without being seen. The operator of the vehicle was ticketed for careless driving and all occupants left the scene inside of the vehicle.

While checking the Pinnebog River, CO Robert Hobkirk observed an individual smoking marijuana near the mouth of the river. Prior to leaving the mouth of the river, the subject was observed putting the marijuana and pipe into a tackle box. About 45 minutes later, CO Hobkirk contacted the canoeist near the canoe livery. The subject was informed that he was observed smoking marijuana and asked if the marijuana was still in the tackle box. When he was being ticketed for this activity, he asked CO Hobkirk how he knew about the subject's every move.

CO Phillip Hudson was on a late night patrol when he contacted several subjects in a pick up truck. CO Hudson located a rifle with a spent round in the chamber along with a spotlight. An antlered deer with a bullet wound to its head was also found in the bed of the truck. Enforcement action was taken.

Over the Labor Day weekend, CO Joshua Wright impounded two different vehicles from the same location from two different incidents. The first one was found broken down and no one around and covered in mud on a popular state land mudding spot. The owner showed up as the vehicle made it onto the tow truck and was later released to the owner. The second vehicle was also broken down, but the owner was present for a few moments until he slipped away in the woods when the CO was busy with another matter. There are multiple warrants being sought for the driver of the vehicle.

On the opening day of early goose season, CO Seth Rhodea contacted a hunter after watching him shoot at but miss a red-winged blackbird. Upon contacting the hunter and checking his hunting equipment, it was also discovered that the hunter had lead shot in his possession. A ticket was issued for possessing lead shot and a warning given for shooting at the red-winged blackbird.

CO Jay Person assisted the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with the investigation of an eagle's nest that was cut down in a logging operation on private property. The nest was active this spring according to neighbors in the area. Due to the timber sale being set up back in 2007, and the nest being constructed after that time, the loggers had no idea the nest was there. The property owners knew there were eagles in the area, but did not know the nest was on their property. Due to heavy leaf cover, the nest was very hard to spot. The USFWS is handling the disposition of the case.

CO Vicki Goss was first on scene of a personal injury accident where the driver of one vehicle suffered a compound fracture to his leg. The CO was able to stabilize the victim and treat him for shock until EMS arrived.

While checking several lakes within the SGAs, CO Vicki Goss found several illegal camps. Enforcement action was taken for minor in possession, fishing without a license and no boat registration. One camp harbored a young teen run-away and she was returned to her parents.

CO Larn R. Strawn heard several gunshots well after dark while patrolling the Au Sable State Forest in Isabella County. Upon locating the responsible parties, the CO discovered a group of subjects carelessly handling and discharging a semi automatic pistol. The subjects were intoxicated and unlawfully possessed the firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 7

CO Patrick McManus and Sgt. Jeff Rabbers assisted Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Officers with an investigation of four subjects taking overlimits of small mouth bass from a remote region of northern Ontario waters. Interviews were conducted and confessions obtained for the violations. One of the subjects had been ticketed at the border for attempting to conceal the fish by having them filleted and processed. The subjects were in possession of 32 fish over their limit.

While on patrol along the Kalamazoo River, CO Mike Mshar observed an unregistered watercraft with a trolling motor heading downstream as he was heading upstream. At the end of his patrol CO Mshar again caught up to the unregistered boat, which was now being towed by another boat, with the trolling motor now unattached in the bottom of the unregistered boat. When contact was made the subject stated that he wasn't using the motor, and was just transporting it for a friend while he was fishing. CO Mshar addressed the marine violation as well as ticketing one of the subjects for not having a fishing license. One of the subjects also had two outstanding felony warrants and was taken into custody and lodged in the county jail.

CO Mike Mshar assisted local deputies with an ongoing investigation of stolen archery equipment from a local outdoor store. Interviews were conducted in Van Buren County and some of the equipment was recovered. Felony charges of breaking and entering will be pursued.

Sgt. Jeff Rabbers conducted surveillance on two subjects goose hunting in an area where the landowners have had issues with trespassing. When contact was made it was determined that the individuals did not have permission to hunt. They also did not have flotation devices for their boat, waterfowl licenses or federal licenses; and neither of their shotguns was plugged. One of the subjects also had a conservation warrant out of Florida for trespassing while hog hunting.

CO Gary Raak located a large pile of household trash in the Barry SGA, and evidence that led to a suspect. When interviewed, he initially claimed it must have been placed there by another family member. After a second interview, the subject admitted responsibility.

CO Gary Raak patrolled Gun Lake over the holiday weekend for excessive speed violations. One subject was ticketed for operating at 73 miles per hour.

COs Steve Orange and Dave Rodgers were on patrol during the early goose season opener when they each set up separately to observe a large group of field hunters who had staked out their location the previous day at the Rouge River SGA. The COs maintained positions and used text messaging to communicate while watching the group of 13 hunters. Upon making contact, six tickets were issued for possession of lead shot, unplugged guns, no Michigan small game license, no federal waterfowl stamp and no state waterfowl stamps.

CO Dave Rodgers patrolled on the goose opener along the Grand River using a personal watercraft (PWC). CO Rodgers observed hunters moving along in a boat and was able to quickly move up alongside the vessel and identify himself. CO Rodgers discovered the occupants had loaded firearms and were attempting to take geese from a moving motorboat. Tickets were issued.

CO Andy Bauer was contacted by an off duty park ranger from Warren Dunes State Park about a suspicious subject. CO Bauer, with the help of park personnel, located a non-resident who had removed 101 ginseng roots, a threatened species of plant in Michigan.

DISTRICT 8

CO Kyle Bader received a report about a subject taking an overlimit of fish. Upon investigation CO Bader located the subject in question who did have 44 bluegills over his limit. CO Bader's investigation revealed that the subject was arrested for the same offense last year. The subject stated that since he was only able to fish once every two weeks, he thought it was ok to take more than allowed in one day. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader observed a subject throw an object into the water at a local fishing site. When contacted the subject stated he threw a rock into the water. CO Bader questioned the subject about the beer can, which was the same brand the subject was drinking, located in the water. When the subject admitted that the beer can was his, enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Fish was the first on the scene of a vehicle that had been crushed by a tree that crashed onto the car during a high wind storm. The occupants of the vehicle, a twelve year old boy and his father, were scratched and bruised but not seriously injured.

CO Fish assisted at the scene until the debris was cleaned up and the occupants of the vehicle were safely transported away.

CO Brian Fish contacted a group of goose hunters on board a vessel well after the close of hunting hours. The vessel was not properly registered, did not have navigation lights displayed while under power, the occupants did not have any personal flotation devices (PFDs) on board, and the firearms were loaded while the vessel was under power. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Mendez contacted a subject fishing without a license. The investigation showed that the subject was wanted on nine warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith contacted a subject fishing that was wanted on a number of warrants, including one that was a \$28,000 Friend of Court warrant. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason J. Smith and Dan Bigger contacted a subject on the Huron River who was fishing without a license. The subject did not have any identification on him so he provided his information verbally. CO Smith sensed a problem and asked dispatch for all information on the subject. The subject was described as four inches taller and 60 pounds heavier than the subject in custody. The subject in custody finally admitted to having four outstanding warrants for his arrest, including one for resisting and obstructing a police officer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith responded to a complaint of a number of gunshots heard on the local game area. When CO Smith arrived on scene he located two subjects who were shooting at whatever they saw, including animals, trees, mushrooms, and butterflies. The subjects had no hunting licenses or hunter orange and stated they didn't need them because they were on state land. Enforcement action was taken and an education on the proper laws was given.

CO Rick Villerot responded to a complaint where a tractor trailer overturned and was leaking hydraulic fluid and diesel fuel. CO Villerot stayed on scene until he was assured that the pollution was properly cleaned up.

CO Dan Prince reports that a subject arrested for killing two deer without licenses, killing a turkey out of season, killing a protected Sandhill crane and a protected turkey vulture was found guilty of all charges. The subject paid over \$3,000 in fines, costs, and restitution, the firearm was forfeited to the state, and the subject lost his hunting privileges for three years.

CO Shane Webster assisted local deputies with a subject who was boating while intoxicated. The subject ran his boat aground right in front of the deputies. The subject had a blood alcohol content of over twice the legal limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn contacted a subject who was in possession of an undersized bass and a second subject who was fishing without a license and in possession of six undersized catfish. Enforcement action was taken in both instances.

CO Dan Prince assisted at the scene of an accident on I-96 where a MSP trooper was critically injured by a motorist while on a traffic stop.

CO Shane Webster reports that on the early goose opener he checked a group of people hunting who were not in possession of the proper licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Linda Scheidler observed a subject on a side-by-side ORV operating on a busy roadway without a helmet. The CO stopped the subject and was informed the subject was on his way to work in the City of Lapeer. He explained he was using his battery powered ORV to drive back and forth to work to save money on gas; a distance of 25 miles. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel reports a disposition on a case where the operator of an overloaded vessel carrying 10 passengers with only five PFDs and no Type IV PFD paid \$375 in fines and costs.

CO Kris Kiel contacted two subjects on the fishing pier at Metro Beach Metropark. One subject possessed three live gobies in a minnow bucket and the other was fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Ennett and Dan Walzak participated in "Operation Vigilant Enforcer" which was a joint operation with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). Patrols of the United States / Canadian border were conducted by vessels on Lake Erie and the Detroit River. Members of the USCG augmented the crew of DNR vessels to enforce Federal regulations while State laws were handled by DNR Conservation Officers. Due to the limited number of boats on the water, only a few vessels were contacted with no violations present.

CO Mark Ennett contacted the operator of a vessel in the Plum Creek area off of Lake Erie. As the vessels came together, a female angler on the vessel made a joke about CO Ennett's boat scaring all the fish away. A verbal warning was given to the boat operator for a registration violation. A fishing license check revealed the female angler with the sense of humor was fishing without a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett contacted a vessel whose occupants were fishing for catfish. The vessel owner received a warning for no paper registration on board. There were two people on board with five fishing poles in use, but only one angler admitted to fishing. It was the vessel owner, and he was issued a ticket for fishing with too many lines.

CO Jon Sklba contacted anglers at the Luna Pier launch site. While talking to the group they decided to power load their vessel. The anglers had been fishing with limited success. One of them advised that he had only caught and kept six perch. When CO Sklba asked for a fishing license the angler replied that he was 65 and did not need a license. CO Sklba advised him that all anglers 17 years and older are required to have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

During the Early Goose Season opener CO Jon Sklba contacted three hunters that were returning to their vehicle. As they paddled their canoe toward shore, one of the hunters decided to shoot a bullfrog. CO Sklba contacted the group and the hunter who shot the frog quickly admitted to it. As the check continued, the hunters were unable to produce Federal waterfowl stamps. The group was also unable to produce enough PFDs for the number of hunters using the canoe. Enforcement action was taken and the remains of the frog were seized.

While checking hunters at Halfway Creek CO Jon Sklba encountered a group of out of state hunters. One of the out of state hunters had failed to purchase a Michigan waterfowl hunter license. The laws were explained to the group of hunters and enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Walzak, with assistance from U.S. Border Patrol and Wayne County Sheriff's Department deputies, contacted numerous subjects on Celeron Island to address continued problems with violations of game area rules, (Celeron Island is part of the Pointe Mouillee SGA). State land issues that were addressed included camping on game area lands, occupying the game area after hours, ground fires and alcohol possession. In addition, local deputies addressed issues concerning underage drinking.

CO Lacelle Rabon was on routine patrol when he saw an ORV operating on the streets in the city of Westland. CO Rabon observed a youth riding through three stop signs, without slowing his speed or stopping. The rider had no helmet or eye protection on for safety. Upon stopping the youth and questioning him about the ORV, he stated his father bought the ORV for him and gave him permission to ride it on the streets throughout the neighborhood. The youth walked the ORV back to his house and CO Rabon met and spoke with his father who admitted to allowing his son to operate the ORV on the neighborhood streets. CO Rabon took enforcement action.

COs Mike Drexler and Dan Walzak conducted a marine patrol of Belleville Lake and issued one ticket for a safety equipment violation and one ticket was issued for fishing without a license. During the patrol CO Drexler observed three fishing poles with lines in the water at one of the residences on the lake. After pulling up to the residence the CO found the lines unattended with live bluegills as bait. Later in the evening CO Drexler contacted a subject at the residence who admitted to leaving the lines in the water while he ran a few errands. A ticket was issued for leaving the lines unattended.

While on an evening marine patrol of Belleville Lake COs Mike Drexler and Ben Shively observed one vessel with five occupants, one of which exhaled some smoke while driving past the COs vessel. The COs could smell the distinct odor of burning marijuana and a stop was made. The COs found two of the subjects were using marijuana, one of whom had several outstanding warrants, one for a drug related crime. Both subjects received tickets for use of marijuana and the subject was advised of his warrants as the issuing department was unable to pick up.

CO Mike Drexler was patrolling for hunters on the early goose opener when he came across two young hunters about to set out decoys. After checking licenses the CO found one hunter was 17 years old and the other was 16 years old. The CO talked with the young hunters for a while but informed them that they needed to pack up until an adult was hunting with them.

Sgt. Arthur Green and CO Brandon Kieft were patrolling Maceday and Lotus Lakes when they observed a subject towing a water skier from a PWC without an observer onboard. Further investigation revealed that the operator had just been issued a marine ticket by another conservation officer within the last month. The COs also checked a vessel operated by the subject's wife that was unregistered, without registration numbers and decals, and had not been titled within the required time frame. This vessel also had an inadequate fire extinguisher and not enough PFDs aboard. Enforcement action was taken.

While stopping a vessel on Big Lake in Springfield Township, CO Brandon Kieft asked the operator why their vessel was not registered through the Secretary of State. The operator indicated that since the vessel was compact with a small motor, he didn't believe it required registration. When CO Kieft asked him why there were no PFDs onboard the vessel, the operator stated that he had no good excuse for that. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ben Shively and Mark Papineau conducted an evening marine patrol on Pontiac Lake and White Lake in Oakland County. The COs contacted numerous vessels and issued three tickets for fishing without a license and two marine verbal warnings were given for no Type IV throwable PFDs and failing to display current registration sticker.

CO Ben Shively came across a golf cart operating on the roads in Highland Recreation Area. When CO Shively advised the female driver that she could not operate on the roads, she stated she could because the golf cart was plated as a low-speed vehicle. CO Shively obtained her registration and pointed out that the golf cart could not be a low-speed vehicle because it was gas powered, the tires were not D.O.T. approved, she had no shoulder seat belts, no roll bar, a two piece plexi-glass windshield, and she was operating a low speed vehicle on a road posted greater than 35 mph. CO Shively educated the female on the requirements of a low-speed vehicle and advised her that he would cancel the plate at the Secretary of State.

Sgt. Arthur Green and CO Ben Shively conducted a marine patrol on Cass Lake over the Holiday weekend in Oakland County. The COs contacted 45 people on the water and issued tickets for towing without an observer, failing to display valid registration and expired registration. Verbal warnings were given for failing to provide paper registration and slow, no-wake violations. The COs also towed in a disabled pontoon to dry dock that was experiencing electrical problems and was inoperable in the middle of the lake.

COs Ben Shively, Brandon Kieft, and Mark Papineau worked the annual White Lake Mardi Gras on White Lake in Oakland County. The COs contacted over 175 people during the event and issued tickets for unregistered watercraft, operating within 100' of a moored vessel or shore, and failure to provide PFDs. Eight verbal warnings were given on marine safety.

CO Linda Scheidler and Sgt. Tom Wanless were on marine patrol on Holloway Reservoir when they came across an abandoned canoe floating down the slow, no-wake channel. The COs towed the canoe upstream and searched for the owners but had no luck. The canoe was not registered and the HIN came back no record. The COs seized the canoe and notified local businesses to spread the word of the found canoe.

CO Linda Scheidler found a sailboat where the operator was teaching a young female how to operate a sailboat. There were no life jackets on board. The CO explained the safety issues of not having and not wearing life jackets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel and Sgt. Tom Wanless worked Macomb County for early season goose activity. The COs contacted a group of three hunters and one of them was in possession of lead shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint of a subject selling 13 snapping turtles on Craig's List. CO Kovach contacted the 17 year old subject by phone and got more information on the case. He then responded to the subject's residence and talked with her and her father about the violations. The turtles were released back into wild.