

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
9/7/09 – 9/20/09**

DISTRICT 1

CO Dave Painter responded to a complaint of cut trees on state land. CO Painter apprehended an individual and linked the subject to the crime with the use of vehicle parts left behind by his vehicle.

CO Dave Painter contacted a group of individuals in the process of hanging illegal tree stands on state land. The subjects were cutting trees and were illegally operating unlicensed ORVs in a closed area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Trey Luce caught up with a bear hunter who had placed illegal bait out earlier in the summer. When the subject was contacted hunting over the bait, he didn't have a bear license or hunter orange. Tickets were issued.

CO Dave Painter assisted a caller who had a disabled vehicle in the woods along the Iron and Baraga County lines. The caller was not sure where he was and could only state that he left the paved road two hours earlier. After a lengthy search, the subject was located without incident.

CO Grant Emery responded to the scene of a car/bear accident the night before the bear opener. The 570 pound bear was struck and killed by a vehicle near Bergland.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a bear hunter with numerous violations. The subject had an illegal bait, illegal tree stand and had cut trees on public land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett Gustafson and Sgt. Steven Burton checked a bear hunter in Gogebic County on the opener. The hunter was found to be hunting from an illegal tree stand, along an illegal ORV trail on federal lands, and not wearing hunters orange as required by law. He was ticketed for the violations.

CO David Miller responded to a complaint of a dead wolf found in a bear bait. The wolf appears to have crawled into the stump to retrieve food and could not remove itself. Further investigation including a necropsy will be conducted in this case.

CO David Miller ticketed two bear hunters this opener weekend. The first failed to wear orange while hunting with a handgun and the other had a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle.

CO Trey Luce brought a request before the Republic Sportsman's Club. A citizen had lost everything but the clothes on his back this spring during the Black River Falls Fire.

The club agreed to donate a \$100 to the individual to replace all his lost kill tags and provide ammunition and some hunting gear.

CO Mark Leadman finally connected an illegal bear bait that was started early in Marquette County. When contacted, the subject's first words were, "You're ruining my hunt." Things became worse for the subject when it was pointed out that additional violations included no hunter orange, use of an illegal tree stand, and operating an ORV in a prohibited area. CO Leadman also was nearly struck by the subject's empty beer bottle when it fell out of the tree stand. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter responded to the complaint of a wolf caught in a trap near Crystal Falls. With the help of the trap owner, CO Painter was able to release the wolf unharmed.

CO Dave Painter responded to the scene of an injured eagle. The eagle was tangled in fishing line and unable to fly. CO Painter captured the eagle and freed it from the fishing line.

CO Dave Painter contacted two bird hunters on an ORV. Both were found to have uncased shotguns. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Eberly and Sgt. Steven Burton received a complaint of an unlicensed hunter attempting to take bear in the Silver River preserve. After six hours of scouring the area, the hunter was located shortly after dark transporting a loaded, uncased rifle in his motor vehicle. He was arrested for possessing a loaded gun in a motor vehicle.

CO Brett Gustafson responded to a complaint of a hunter taking a cub bear. The bear was found, seized and the hunter arrested for taking a cub bear.

CO Brett Gustafson responded to a complaint of dirty baits near Porcupine State park. A hunter was found placing garbage and litter on state land in an attempt to take bear. He was ticketed for an illegal bear bait and ordered to clean up his mess.

DISTRICT 2

COs Derek Miller and Mike Hammill were checking a local hunting area where illegal bear baits had been established. While walking into the bear bait the COs could hear a vehicle driving in behind them. When the driver and passenger of the vehicle noticed the COs were near their illegal set up they put the vehicle in reverse and accelerated quickly out of the area. COs Miller and Hammill contacted the individuals in the vehicle a short time later. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Derek Miller reports heavy ORV activity in the Luce County area. While patrolling near Seney, CO Miller had a high powered ORV almost hit the door of his patrol vehicle. CO Miller contacted the operator a short time later and issued a ticket for careless operation.

CO Kelly Nightlinger reports heavy bear hunting activity in the Paradise area. While on patrol following ORV tracks, CO Nightlinger came across multiple ORVs with trail sticker violations. Tickets and verbal warnings were issued.

DISTRICT 3

CO Andrea Erratt located a tree stand on state land with screw-in steps. On Friday, opening day of bear season, CO Erratt checked a husband in the tree stand with screw-in steps and the wife hunting without wearing hunter orange. The husband was ticketed for using screw-in steps on state land.

CO Eric Bottorff reports the adjudication from a spring turkey case. CO Bottorff apprehended two individuals who took a turkey in the wrong unit and from a motor vehicle on the opening day of the season. The shooter received \$1600 in fines, costs, and restitution, license revocation, and 100 hours of community service. The subject spent his 100 hours of service cleaning litter sites in the township in which the turkey was illegally taken. A 40 cubic yard dumpster was filled, moving Cheboygan County from #2 down to #10 on the list of counties with the most trash sites on the Adopt-A-Forest list. The driver of the vehicle, who was charged with aiding and abetting, was charged \$500 in fines and costs.

CO Matt Theunick has been busy patrolling the "rail trails," where complaints of motorized vehicles on the non-motorized trail have been received. Two tickets were issued over the weekend to bear hunters using the trail illegally.

While working one of many early bear baits found by Cheboygan County Conservation Officers, CO Mike Feagan contacted a female hunter and her husband hunting over an illegal bait. The male subject has been the source of many recent bear hunting related complaints. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Duane Budreau watched an angler on the Bear River attempting to snag salmon. When CO Budreau contacted the group the subject gingerly set his rod down and blended in with onlookers. CO Budreau ticketed him for fishing without a license and gave a warning for attempting to snag.

CO Andrea Albert checked several bear hunters on opening day. One of her contacts was a hunter who was sitting on bait that had litter strewn about the site and screw-in tree steps on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Albert reports assisting the local deputies on a possible homeless subject residing in the Jordan River Valley. The subject had dug a pit/cave and had it camouflaged well.

An illegal trail through state land led CO Bill Webster to an illegal elevated permanent stand that was illegally baited for deer and bear. Illegal cutting of trees for shooting lanes was also located. After talking with the hunter and discussing the illegal acts, enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Webster received a complaint of hunting deer without a license. Upon investigation, it was learned the juvenile did not have a license to hunt antlerless deer in the early firearm season on private property in Alpena County. The antlerless deer was not in the possession of the juvenile but was at a residence, where the homeowner had tagged the deer with a validated tag. He was ticketed for the violation and the deer was seized.

CO Bill Webster contacted a bear hunter who was hunting after legal hours and ticketed him for the violation.

CO Joe Molnar located a bear bait station before baiting for bears was legal in the Red Oak Management Unit. On opening day of the bear season he observed a hunter tend to the bait station. After some discussion with the hunter, CO Molnar ticketed the subject for the violation.

CO Mark DePew and Sgt. Chris Morris stopped an ORV for illegal operation and learned the operator also had a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Mike Wells, Newaygo County, received a complaint during the early antlerless season where an individual had turned himself in for taking an antlered deer. CO Wells arrived and found a three point buck with seven inch antlers. The subject was shooting an open sight 30-30 and claimed he didn't see the antlers. When CO Wells asked him for his license, he provided him with a resident combination license which was not valid for this early hunt. CO Wells seized the deer and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells responded to complaint of a 15 year old taking an antlered deer during the early antlerless season. CO Wells responded and seized the deer.

CO Brian Lebel responded to a complaint of hunters in possession of firearms wearing no hunter orange in Oceana County. CO Lebel contacted the hunters and found they were hunting with bows, but were 20 miles north of the open area for the early antlerless season. The hunters were also hunting over bait, and were not wearing the hunter orange required during this hunt. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren, Oceana County, was finally able to contact a subject who had been turned in for snagging three days in a row. It seems that the subject was only doing "what his grandpa taught him to do" when he proceeded to snag with a weighted

hook off of a bridge where a large crowd had gathered. The subject had a long history of fish related violations, and CO VanGelderren lodged him for his sixth offense.

COs Mike Bomay, Brian Lebel, Jeff Ginn, Troy VanGelderren, Ken Lowell, Chuck Towns, and Mike Mshar all worked the Hardy Gras event in Newaygo County. The COs worked in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and Newaygo County Sheriff's Department. The COs took three subjects to jail for operating watercraft while intoxicated and encountered numerous other marine violations.

COs Angela Greenway and Carla Soper doubled up for a patrol on the weekend of the bear opener in the Baldwin Unit. The COs encountered a subject in a vehicle who ran off the roadway to avoid contact with them. The COs got the subjects stopped and found that they had an uncased firearm, that one subject who was participating in the bear hunt had been previously revoked from all hunting privileges and had dogs that had not been licensed or immunized. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Sam Koscinski and Carla Soper doubled up for an evening fish patrol in Manistee County to work the salmon runs. The COs checked several vessels and found one group of subjects in possession of weighted hooks, and also in possession of an undersized pike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a shooting complaint in Newaygo County and watched as a subject went to a blind with a garbage bag and shovel. CO Ginn contacted him and found that he was out replenishing his bait pile by his blind. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a litter complaint where a recliner had been dumped on state land. CO Ginn investigated and found that the owner of a rental unit decided to get rid of items that were left behind by his tenants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a complaint of trespassing on a private parcel in Newaygo County. The complainant took him to her property where five pop up blinds had been placed, with bait by each one. CO Ginn also found that the stands had game cameras associated with them. CO Ginn was able to track down the adjacent property owners and they admitted that they were responsible. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a complaint in Newaygo County where a five point buck with a seven inch beam had been taken during the early antlerless season. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jim Espinoza received a complaint from the RAP hotline about two subjects snagging fish from a rowboat under a bridge near Pere Marquette Lake. After speaking with the complainant, he learned the two were heading into a nearby access site with two snagged fish. CO Espinoza met the subjects as they arrived at the site. The CO's investigation resulted in a confession of snagging the fish and the seizure of illegal fishing equipment. It was also found that they had forgotten their life jackets.

COs Angela Greenway and Carolyn Dice received a complaint of snagging occurring near Gleason's Landing in Lake County. The COs responded to the location and found three persons with illegal gear and two snagged fish. The trio was also found to be in possession of marijuana.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling near the weir on the Little Manistee River in Manistee County when he encountered a person fishing on the closed stream. The person, who was on military leave and with his girlfriend, was given a warning and released. A short time later the two were seen again by CO Converse at another location. CO Converse listened as the two warned others that a DNR officer was in the area. A second check of the pair resulted in a ticket being issued to the girlfriend for fishing without a license.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling from concealed locations along Bear Creek in Manistee County when he observed four persons walking through the creek attempting to locate salmon. He followed them to a location where there were several fish in a deeper portion of the creek. It only took about one minute for three of crew members to break out their fishing equipment and begin attempting to take the fish by snagging. The fourth person in the group attempted fishing by legal methods. His fair chase ethic paid off soon thereafter as CO Converse issued tickets to his comrades.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling near Rock Island on the Big Manistee River in Manistee County when he thought he recognized three persons that he had previously written tickets to for snagging. One of the three apparently had not learned his lesson in court, given the fact that he again began taking fish by snagging. CO Converse wrote tickets for second offense snagging to one and first offense snagging to another. It was also found that the third angler was attempting to take salmon without an all species license.

COs Jim Espinoza and Brian Brosky were working a patrol at Indian Bridge in Mason County when they observed two subjects snagging fish and sharing a marijuana pipe. When the COs approached, the pipe was thrown into the weeds in an attempt to conceal it. The pipe was recovered and the two subjects were ticketed for snagging offenses and possession of the drug.

COs Brian Brosky and Jim Espinoza contacted four subjects near Indian Bridge in Mason County after they had watched two of the crew take two salmon using snag hooks and place them on a nearby stringer. One CO contacted the subjects while the other walked over to the stringer. The CO was somewhat surprised when he had difficulty pulling the stringer out of the water due to the weight of nine other fish that had been taken prior to their arrival. All fish were found to be taken by snagging. Restitution is being sought for 140 pounds of fish.

COs Angela Greenway and Carla Soper watched as three persons operating carelessly on ORVs nearly had a pileup on the ORV trail in Lake County. One of the operators

was found to have a revoked driver's license. Tickets were issued and the operators were reminded to operate safely while on the public ORV trail system.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling on foot near Tippy Dam in Manistee County when he observed a person intentionally snag a salmon, bring it in and put it on a stringer. CO Converse listened while the angler's friends warned him to not keep the fish. When contacted, the angler attempted to plea the case that he was from Florida and just wanted to take a fish home.

CO Steve Converse was attempting to contact two persons openly snagging on the coffer at Tippy Dam in Manistee County with illegal gear when the pair decided to try to and get rid of the evidence before wading to shore. One of the subjects ended up hooking on the bottom and breaking his fishing rod while in an attempt to "lose" his gear in the river. The other unsuccessfully attempted to "accidentally" release his stringer of snagged fish so that it could float away. Tickets were issued to both subjects.

COs Steve Converse and Sam Koscinski ticketed a number of person snagging fish near Tippy Dam in Manistee County who were partying with marijuana and openly tossing trash into the weeds.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling near Tippy Dam in Manistee County when he observed two persons attempting to take fish with weighted hooks. The two Detroit residents ignored CO Converse and refused to come out of the water until they saw that not having waders wouldn't stop the CO from coming out to get them. The two were ticketed for illegal gear and left the area. Eight hours later the two offenders were caught once again by CO Sean Kehoe fishing the Boardman River with the same type of gear. Tickets were issued once again.

COs Brian Brosky, Angela Greenway and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth ticketed a pair of subjects who had the unfortunate luck to be snagging salmon on the Pere Marquette River behind the residence of a local district judge. The judge informed the COs of the incident and gave an accurate description of the offenders shortly after they had left the scene.

COs Brian Brosky, Jim Espinoza and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth videotaped several subjects snagging fish at Indian Bridge and Maple Leaf Landing in Mason County. In one instance, a snagger had been warned for the offense on Friday, ticketed for the offense on Saturday and jailed for the offense on Sunday. In another instance, a subject was videotaped cutting a hook from the body of a snagged salmon and placing another hook in the fish's mouth to make it look like it had been legally taken.

CO Sean Kehoe ticketed two Detroit area men who were snagging salmon in the closed area near the weir of the Boardman river in Grand Traverse county. One of the men threw his rod complete with an M60 snag hook into the river upon seeing the CO approaching. Fortunately, CO Kehoe was able to retrieve the rod which still had the snagged salmon hooked. After relaying this information to CO Steve Converse, CO

Converse advised him that he too had ticketed the same men the night before at Tippy Dam for snagging salmon.

CO Jair Kollash followed up on a partial license plate number along with the instinct to meet with a local ordinance enforcement officer while investigating a litter complaint on state land involving three large tractor tires and pile of drywall. The subject was located, interviewed and ticketed a short time later.

CO Jair Kollasch backed up local deputies on a domestic disturbance call and ended up arresting the male subject for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and possession of two uncased firearms. Michigan State Police troopers arrested the female subject for disorderly conduct. Both subjects were lodged in the Wexford County Jail.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mike Hearn contacted three juveniles who were paddling a canoe out to a boat to see their friend. The juvenile subjects had alcohol with them and there were no PFDs on board. The subjects told the CO they were taking the alcohol to their friend on the boat.

CO Bobbi Lively worked with a U S Forest Service (USFS) officer on bear bait and bear hound hunting problems on USFS and state lands. The work resulted in ten illegal roads being closed, six illegal baits located, and drags confiscated from public land.

CO Bobbi Lively contacted a subject driving on an illegal road. The driver was suspended, had been drinking, and had warrants for his arrest. The passenger had also been drinking so he could not drive the vehicle. The passenger also had a loaded .357 handgun in the front seat of the vehicle, and while he did have a CPL, he failed to announce he was carrying and was carrying while under the influence.

CO Chuck McPherson located a subject who was operating an ORV in a wetland area of state land, taking bear bait back to a blind. The subject had no ORV registration and was riding without a helmet. The operator was also a suspect in an ORV trespass complaint that CO McPherson was working on.

CO Steve Lockwood received a complaint of late shooting for geese. He responded and found three subjects coming off the water. CO Lockwood checked the subjects at shore and found they had several geese and two of them had unplugged guns and were in possession of lead shot.

CO Steve Lockwood assisted CO Nick Atkin with an investigation of a complaint of recreational trespass by early antlerless deer hunters. The two trespassers were deer hunting but failed to buy any deer licenses and failed to wear hunter orange while hunting. CO Lockwood observed blood on the bumper of the car which led to a

confession of a third subject who shot two bucks with a spotlight two nights prior. Several charges are pending.

CO Joel Lundberg located marijuana plants on state land and followed a trail back to a house. He enlisted the assistance of the Michigan State Police (MSP) and they obtained a search warrant for the house. The search turned up more marijuana inside the residence and the subject confessed to planting the marijuana on state land.

CO Brian Olsen found some fresh ORV tracks leading into the woods. He followed the tracks and located the operators along with the illegal bait piles they were establishing for deer season. Tickets were issued.

CO Brian Olsen checked three subjects fishing, all of whom claimed they were not old enough to need a fishing license. Suspecting they were older, CO Olsen kept digging and determined they all needed fishing licenses. Tickets were issued for fishing without licenses and one of them had a warrant for his arrest and was lodged in the county jail.

DISTRICT 6

CO Jason Smith received a RAP complaint involving a group of goose hunters. Upon locating the hunters, he found that one hunter failed to have a small game license and did not have his shotgun plugged. The hunters were also short one required PFD. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking a complaint at the Fish Point managed waterfowl area, CO Jason Smith watched a group of early season goose hunters shooting at ducks. Upon checking the hunters after shooting hours ended, CO Smith found one of the hunters in possession of lead shot and too many shot shells. The other hunter was found to be in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Smith contacted three anglers in a boat on the Cass River. After confirming the identity of the anglers from the false names given to CO Smith, all three anglers were discovered to be fishing without a valid license. The anglers received tickets for fishing without a license.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a recreational trespass complaint where an elderly woman had observed a vehicle pass her home and stop down the road. She followed the vehicle and observed a subject in her field carrying a firearm. When she contacted the subject, she recognized him as a person she had denied permission to hunt her property on the first day of the early goose season. A warrant has been submitted for recreational trespass.

While working the youth waterfowl hunt, CO Robert Hobkirk was patrolling Saginaw Bay when he conducted a check of one youth and his father. CO Hobkirk checked for shot birds and observed a grebe in the bottom of the boat. When asked, neither the youth

nor the father could identify the bird. A verbal warning was given and the grebe was used as an educational tool as CO Hobkirk continued to check young hunters.

COs Holly Pennoni, Larn Strawn, Nick Atkin, Robert Hobkirk, and Sgt. Tony Soave investigated a complaint of a minnow bait dealer selling perch and walleye in the Saginaw Bay area. The COs conducted retail minnow inspections at several locations around the bay and found several walleye and perch fingerlings being sold as minnows in the dealers bait tanks. Warrant requests are being sought at the prosecutor's office for selling sport caught fish.

Sgt. Tony Soave from Bay City received information from an informant that was cultivated from a prior arrest by CO Joel Lundberg in Gladwin County. Information was received about several sections of corral gate that was stolen from a northern campground that was under construction. With Sgt. Soave working with the MSP, the stolen fence was recovered and a warrant request for larceny is pending.

CO Chad Foerster was working fish patrol on the Saginaw River when he was contacted by central dispatch advising that the sheriff patrol vessel had a vessel stopped with small walleye aboard. The CO responded to the scene and found the subjects to be in possession of four undersized walleye ranging from 12 inches to 14 ½ inches. The subject stated that he just wanted a good fish dinner. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was on patrol when he came across a camp on private property with a large freezer in the bed of a pickup truck with a lot of blood surrounding it. The CO was able to locate the hunters and found three subjects in possession of three antlerless deer. The heads were legally tagged and validated; however, there were four headless bodies of deer in the freezer not yet processed. One subject admitted to shooting a six point buck and burying the head after removing the antlers. The head was dug up, antlers were located, and all were seized. Enforcement action for the illegal deer was taken.

CO Vicki Goss located a juvenile riding his dirt bike in a closed area on state land. Contact was made with the juvenile's mother. A verbal warning was issued with the understanding that the juvenile would be attending an ORV safety course later in the week. The juvenile failed to attend the course. Enforcement action was taken.

On routine patrol CO Vicki Goss observed a subject processing a deer in his front yard. The CO stopped and contacted the subject. The CO found the deer being processed had not been tagged. During the investigation that followed, the CO located two additional illegal bucks in the subject's possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Vicki Goss investigated a RAP complaint of an individual who shot a buck during the early antlerless season. During the investigation that followed, a deer carcass with the top of the head cut off was located near a garage at a residence. The CO

interviewed subjects at the residence and found the carcass was an illegal buck carcass, confessions were obtained and enforcement action was taken.

CO Vicki Goss investigated an anonymous RAP complaint where a subject had an eight point buck hanging in his garage. During the investigation that followed the CO located the illegal deer. The subject stated that the buck was shot by a trespasser, and he just kept the buck. The CO informed the subject that he could not legally possess the buck and that he should have reported the incident. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Lockwood and CO Nick Atkin investigated a trespassing complaint. During the investigation two subjects were located trespassing, not wearing hunter orange, and hunting without licenses. While interviewing the subjects information was obtained for two illegal bucks killed a few days earlier by another individual. Contact was made with that person and a confession was obtained for two illegal bucks. The carcasses, antlers, and marijuana were located on the property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin responded to a complaint of a subject who was stopped in the roadway that led into Wigwam Bay. Upon checking the vehicle the CO found the driver passed out in the driver's seat and a deceased subject in the back seat. An ambulance was called; however, the subject had been deceased for awhile. The driver was arrested and the investigation is continuing.

DISTRICT 7

CO Chris Holmes followed up on a trespass and an untagged deer complaint. After speaking to many witnesses, the suspect found out that CO Holmes was looking for him so he called the officer. He confessed to shooting a deer then purchasing a license while trespassing.

CO Patrick McManus was called by another law enforcement agency about a deer hanging at a house before the season. COs McManus and Chuck Towns stopped at the residence and found it was killed illegally. A ticket was issued.

CO Jeff Rabbers and Sgt. Dave Shaw worked on a complaint of a subject in possession of a bobcat and a coyote without a permit. The subject had an exhibition permit but had obtained the animals illegally. The subject was ticketed for the violations.

COs Chuck Towns and Patrick McManus worked a large marine event on Hardy Pond in Newaygo County. Multiple local, state and federal agencies were involved. COs Towns and McManus ran radar on boaters and found one going 80 mph. They stopped the vessel and found the operator was intoxicated. The subject was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol.

CO Zach Doss responded to a trespass complaint from a local farmer in Van Buren County. Upon arrival, CO Doss observed that the farmer's hayfield and soybean fields

were torn up and severely damaged. CO Doss located the trespassers down the road with soybean plants still stuck in the grill of the vehicle.

COs Zach Doss and Steve Mooney contacted three subjects in violation of railroad trespass. The subjects were searching a local stream for salmon. One of the subjects had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant.

DISTRICT 8

Sgt. Troy Bahlau and CO Damon Owens received a late night complaint about a subject who killed a deer with a firearm in a farmer's field. The COs interviewed the subject at his residence and he confessed to illegally killing the deer. The COs recovered the deer meat which was already butchered and in the freezer. The COs also recovered the carcass which the subject had buried. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy contacted a subject fishing without a license in his possession. A check of the computer system revealed that he had purchased a 2009 fishing license but it also revealed that he was wanted on two valid misdemeanor arrest warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger stopped a vehicle that was attempting to locate deer by means of an artificial light. The subjects had a 44 handgun, a 30-30 rifle, and a 12 gauge shotgun in the vehicle while they were shining. The passenger was also wanted on a warrant out of the Wayne County court. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy were investigating a complaint of a subject hunting in a tree stand over a large bait pile when they located a vehicle in the area and a subject who appeared to be sweating profusely but was wearing only a lightweight shirt. When the subject's story didn't add up, the COs called in the K9 unit for assistance. The K9 located a pile of hunting clothes and a 12 gauge shotgun hidden in the woods. With the evidence stacked up against him, the subject stated he was looking for the deer that his non resident girlfriend had shot the day before. The girlfriend wasn't too happy that her boyfriend had snitched on her, so after she showed the COs her untagged deer she stated that her boyfriend placed and hunted over the illegal bait pile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster responded to a complaint of a freshly killed deer dumped in the Waterloo State Game Area. CO Webster's investigation led him to the subject who dumped the deer who stated that he was embarrassed by how small the deer was and that he figured the meat was spoiled after a day in the heat so he threw it away. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster contacted a subject who was hunting a field with a 12 gauge shotgun with slugs who was not wearing any hunter orange and did not possess an antlerless license. The subject stated he wasn't really hunting but was just carrying the

loaded gun to “get in shape”. After further discussion with CO Webster, the subject confessed to hunting without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

CO Linda Scheidler received a RAP complaint of a subject shooting an eight-point buck out of season. When CO Scheidler pulled into the yard of the suspect, she observed an eight-point deer decoy standing in front of the bar door. When she made contact with the subject and his wife, it was determined there were some issues with one of the neighbors, who may have been the anonymous complainant.

CO Linda Scheidler received a hunter harassment complaint from goose hunters in southeastern Lapeer County. While the hunters were attempting to hunt geese, the neighbor next door continued to honk the horn and flash the lights on and off on her motor vehicle. When local authorities arrived she admitted to them that she was causing the commotion to keep the geese away from the hunters so they would not get shot. It appears the local police knew the female causing the problems and advised the hunters they needed written permission to be on someone else's land. CO Scheidler will be following up with the local police and seeking charges against the female.

CO Mark Papineau was contacted by CO Jason Smith in Tuscola County about a subject who lives in Flint who allegedly shot an eight point buck during the early antlerless firearm season. CO Smith asked CO Papineau if he could attempt to contact and interview the subject. Within seconds of seeing CO Papineau at the front door, the subject confessed to shooting the large buck. The subject also had not purchased any hunting licenses. A warrant is being sought on numerous violations.

CO Ben Lasher observed a dirt bike and a couple of ORVs being operated on the roadway. The operator of the dirt bike was not wearing a helmet. CO Lasher stopped the subjects and found that the operator of the dirt bike was the father of the other subjects. Other ORV violations were also found and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher assisted with an ORV personal injury accident on private property. The accident occurred well off the road and most rescuers were unable to get to the scene. CO Lasher loaded the ambulance crew up in his truck, along with a stretcher and other medical supplies, and drove the crew off road to the accident. The 11 year old boy had a severe laceration to his head. CO Lasher transported the victim, his mother and the paramedics out of the woods and back to the ambulance waiting along the road.

CO John Borkovich was checking an area known for illegal activity when he observed a parked vehicle in a remote area with the windshield and side window shot out. CO Borkovich confirmed no one was in the vehicle then started to look in the area for the owner. A short distance away, he found the registered owner hunting. The owner explained that when he was getting ready to go hunting, he had his shotgun loaded with the safety off. He placed the firearm on the driver's seat to get his gear in the back seat. When he picked the firearm up to remove it from the vehicle, the trigger got stuck on the seatbelt causing the shotgun to go off inside the truck. The slug went through

the windshield shattering it and the wad deflected and hit the passenger's window shattering it as well. Luckily the passenger was already out of the vehicle when it happened.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint of a subject who shot an eight point buck during the early antlerless firearm deer season while trespassing in St. Clair County. The complainant stated he observed the subject shoot the deer. When the complainant confronted the subject, the subject left. He later came back and retrieved the deer. CO Kovach contacted the subject at his residence and as he pulled into the driveway, he observed the subject walking out of a barn with blood on his hands. When asked about the blood, the subject stated the complainant took the deer from him. The CO then inquired about the blood trail going into the barn. The subject's response was that the complainant drove to his house and took the deer. After a few more questions, the subject confessed and turned over the deer.

CO Ken Kovach received a RAP Complaint from the father of a subject who allegedly mistook a five-point buck for an antlerless deer. After interviewing the subjects, it was apparent to the CO that the subject was not being ethical or safe and did not know what he was shooting at. Enforcement was taken.

CO Ken Kovach caught a subject on an ORV trespassing on a parcel of private property where the CO had received complaints. While talking with the subject, the subject admitted the ORV belonged to a friend. CO Kovach recognized the ORV and the name of the friend as a subject who trespassed in the same spot with the same ORV two years ago.

COs Danny Walzak and Jon Sklba conducted a patrol on the Huron River using kayaks. The COs issued a ticket for fishing without a license, arrested another subject for possession of cocaine and contacted two others who had five misdemeanor warrants between them.

CO Jon Sklba was checking early goose hunters and issued one a ticket for hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

While off duty, CO Jon Sklba received a RAP complaint of an individual shining and shooting. CO Sklba responded to the complaint and went to patrol the area. He contacted an ORV operating on the roadway and while talking to the operator, CO Sklba observed a shotgun on the back of the ORV. The shotgun was partially in a case but had the zipper down and firearm exposed. CO Sklba also observed three empty shotgun shells in the rear of the ORV. The complainant had stated that three shots were fired. CO Sklba interviewed the subject and determined he had recently purchased the firearm and said he just wanted to shoot it. CO Sklba informed the subject of the violations and advised him of the complaint. The subject denied ever shooting at an animal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft checked two anglers on a fishing pier in central Oakland County who were very excited to show off the 20 inch channel catfish they had on their stringer. However, their excitement turned to disappointment when CO Kieft located two undersized northern pike wrapped in a towel and hidden under some rain gear at the bottom of one of their buckets. Both anglers were ticketed for possessing undersized northern pike.

COs Ben Shively, Kris Kiel, Brandon Kieft, and Jon Sklba worked a group marine patrol on White Lake in Oakland County for the annual Mardi Gras that attracts over 250 vessels. The COs contacted well over 100 boaters and anglers and issued tickets for reckless operation of a vessel, unregistered watercraft, failure to provide life jackets, and minor in possession of alcohol. Numerous verbal warnings were given.

CO Ben Shively issued tickets for recreational trespass to two subjects who were fishing in a boat on a private lake. The subjects brought their boat in with their truck and trailer through the cut fencing, hid the trailer in the weeds and drove the truck back to their residence down the street and returned on foot to fish from the boat.

CO Todd Szyska recovered a stolen burned out pickup truck in a private gravel pit in Washington Township. The vehicle was towed away and turned over to the Macomb County Sheriff's Department for further investigation.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel were checking goose hunters in Macomb Township when they discovered that one of the hunters was in possession of lead shot and had an unplugged shotgun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Szyska responded to a hunter casualty incident at the mini game area in Chesterfield Township. Two hunters who were in ground blinds on the public land were shot by two other hunters in the same field hunting from an old fence row. Apparently, a goose landed between the two hunting parties and the hunters who were in the fence row shot at the goose and peppered the ground blind hunters with steel shot. One victim had to be taken to the hospital where he underwent surgery to remove the pellet lodged in his forehead near his left eye. The second hunter was hit in the leg and the pellet did not penetrate his clothing. The injured victim is recovering and the investigation continues.