

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
1/17/16 – 1/30/16**

**DISTRICT 1**

While on patrol in Ontonagon County, CO Ethen Mapes heard radio traffic involving a snowmobiler who had been hit by a car. When CO Mapes arrived on scene, the driver of the snowmobile had already been transported to the hospital by an ambulance. CO Mapes went to the hospital and learned that the driver of the snowmobile had fractured his leg in three places. The driver of the snowmobile said he stopped but never saw the car before he crossed the road. The investigation determined the snowmobile was at fault. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen worked a section of a snowmobile trail where snowmobilers have been failing to stop at a stop sign before crossing a county road. In this same location last week a snowmobiler failed to stop at the intersection and was hit by a vehicle, resulting in the operator of the snowmobile being taken to the hospital for a broken leg. CO Lasanen contacted numerous snowmobilers, who blew the stop sign at a high rate of speed. During these stops, CO Lasanen also addressed violations for expired snowmobile registration, fail to display registration decals, failure to attach trail permit and careless operation of a snowmobile. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen received a complaint of snowmobiles being operated along the highway in Bergland, near Lake Gogebic. CO Lasanen made over 25 contacts with individuals operating snowmobiles along M-28 for various violations. Law enforcement action was taken

CO Brian Lasanen received a complaint of snowmobilers trespassing on private property. CO Lasanen was able to make contact with the suspects and educated the riders that most of the snowmobile trails run through private property, and they need to stay on the trails.

CO Matt Eberly and CO Denny Gast, along with the Houghton County Sheriff Department, worked a snowmobile trespassing complaint in the 11 Mile Lake area. Snowmobilers were tearing up a logging road and entering an active logging site. Several pickup trucks and trailers were parked at the entrance to the logging job blocking access to the logging road for the loggers.

CO Denny Gast reported working heavy snowmobile activity from Thursday – Sunday on Trail 3 in Houghton County. CO Gast was checking on average 100 sleds per hour addressing several snowmobile violations including no trail permits, careless operation of snowmobiles, and excessive noise. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller worked snowmobile activity in Ontonagon and Baraga County, addressing several snowmobile violations including careless operation of a snowmobile

and no trail permits. CO Miller made one of the stops for an individual who failed to stop at a stop sign. The driver told CO Miller, "I know I went through that stop sign at about 80 MPH." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen was on patrol when he observed a school bus stopped with its' red lights flashing and stop sign out. CO Lasanen observed a snowmobile pass the school bus on the shoulder of the road. CO Lasanen made contact with the operator of the snowmobile. He asked the driver if he had seen the school bus and he stated that yes he did, but he thought the red lights were only for vehicle traffic. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen assisted the Michigan State Police with a domestic violence complaint. When the call came out, CO Lasanen was the closest law enforcement officer. CO Lasanen secured the scene until backup arrived. A brother and sister had gotten into a physical altercation. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen, CO Denny Gast and CO Doug Hermanson conducted a sound meter patrol at several intersections along Trail 3 in Houghton County. They contacted over 200 sleds throughout the day; checking for trail permits, registrations and excessive noise violations. Five citations were issued for failing to obtain trail permits, and one snowmobiler was issued a citation for excessive noise.

CO Ethen Mapes was dispatched to a report of a snowmobiler who had gone through the ice on Lake Gogebic. The snowmobiler had struck an old piling from a dock. As a result of the accident, the snowmobile tipped over on its side trapping the driver under the machine. The ice started to crack, causing water to gather under the machine. After a short struggle, the driver was able to wiggle free from the wreckage and was standing up on the thin ice when CO Mapes arrived on the scene. CO Mapes tied his throw rope to an old piling and navigated across the thin ice out to the man. CO Mapes tied the rope around the individual and walked him back to shore. An MSP trooper and Ontonagon County Sheriff's deputy also helped in the rescue.

CO David Miller worked heavy snowmobile activity over the weekend in Ontonagon County. CO Miller took enforcement action for careless operation of snowmobiles; many of these were for failing to stop at stop signs when crossing county roads. CO Miller also addressed several violations for failing to affix trail permits and registrations.

CO Jared Ferguson, Sgt. Marc Pomroy and CO Shannon Kritz participated in a group patrol with emphasis on snowmobile sound meter enforcement and registration compliance. The COs made numerous contacts with overall high compliance from the public. Enforcement action was taken with regard to trail permit violations and operating unregistered snowmobiles.

CO Jared Ferguson and CO Shannon Kritz were on patrol when they observed several snowmobilers that failed to stop when crossing a highway. Contact was made and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson was on patrol when he encountered an unregistered snowmobile. CO Ferguson made contact with the operator who stated he had over 80,000 miles on his sled, had been stopped numerous times and was never told that he had to place his registration on his snowmobile. CO Ferguson, with the assistance from Station 20, were able to verify from the state in which he resides that it must be placed, visible, and displayed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received a call over individuals discharging firearms on a lake during the nighttime hours. CO Jared Ferguson worked the complaint and found that they were lighting off blackjack firecrackers.

CO Shannon Kritz was on snowmobile patrol observing a busy trail intersection. A snowmobile approached the intersection at a high rate of speed and slid through the clearly marked intersection, nearly striking CO Kritz's patrol truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shannon Kritz was patrolling by snowmobile when she observed a group of snowmobiles traveling towards her without trail stickers. A stop was conducted on the group, and she asked the lead snowmobile where his trail sticker was. He pointed to his Wisconsin trail sticker. When advised that he was in Michigan, he was surprised. They had been led into Michigan from Wisconsin by the Michigan residents of the group.

While returning home from a snowmobile patrol, CO Shannon Kritz noticed a snowmobile side panel lying on the side of the roadway. CO Kritz stopped to check the scene and picked up the side panel. A few minutes down the road she encountered two snowmobilers looking for the side panel. A check of the snowmobiles found registration and trail permit violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy received a call of a group of anglers with a fire on a local Dickinson County lake. The COs approached the site after dark and were able to approach undetected. Contact at the ice shack found four subjects smoking marijuana. Enforcement action was taken and the site was cleaned up.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy was working snowmobile activity in Dickinson County when he observed a group of snowmobilers approaching with the lead operator not wearing a helmet. A stop was conducted and it was found that each of the three snowmobiles had violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon was checking ice fishing shacks on a local lake when he contacted one angler with six lines out. He stated that his buddy had left on his snowmobile 20 minutes earlier and had not returned yet. A short time later the subject returned on his unregistered snowmobile to check his unattended lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge, CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Ryan Aho conducted a snowmobile sound meter patrol in Marquette County and tested multiple snowmobiles near a trail crossing. Several snowmobiles tested were in violation of the legal decibel level and enforcement action was taken. The COs received multiple questions about sound problems throughout the trail systems and many thanks were given to the COs for their efforts in keeping snowmobiles within the legal decibel level.

CO Brett DeLonge and Cpl. Marvin Gerlach assisted Wisconsin game wardens over the weekend on a safety detail during the ship launch of the Littoral Combat Ship LCS Sioux City in the Menominee River.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Ryan Aho conducted two snowmobile sound meter patrols in Marquette County. Citations were issued both days for snowmobiles that tested over 88 decibels. Citations were also issued for failing to obtain trail permit and operating an unregistered snowmobile. Numerous warnings were issued for a variety of minor violations as well.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Calvin Smith investigated a tip that deer carcasses, possibly from Wisconsin, were being used as coyote bait. CO Smith met with the complainants and no evidence of coyote hunting or deer carcasses were found. Michigan restricts the importation of certain Deer parts from states where chronic wasting disease have been detected.

Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon, CO Mark Zitnik, CO Calvin Smith and CO Christopher Lynch attended a wildlife coalition meeting in Shingleton that covered the past whitetail deer season. The meeting was attended by over thirty members from the public.

CO Calvin Smith was returning from checking a local lake for fisherman when he noticed a snowmobiler who did not have a trail permit visible. A stop was conducted and after addressing the trail permit, the snowmobiler told CO Smith that he was on his way to buy one. CO Smith advised the snowmobiler that he had just observed him at a local store that sells the trail permits. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Calvin Smith observed a set of ORV tracks heading to a local lake. As it was getting close to dark, the CO waited for the ice fisherman to return. It wasn't long and a group of teenagers returned. Multiple violations were observed that included riding triple on an ORV that wasn't designed for multiple riders, no helmets and no ORV license. The three teenagers were educated on the laws, and a citation was issued for operating an ORV with no ORV license.

Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon and CO Calvin Smith did a foot patrol on Munising Bay and checked several ice fishermen who were enjoying some success. Once on shore, the

COs observed three snowmobilers operating within the railroad right of way. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Christopher Lynch and CO Marc Zitnik conducted a snowmobile patrol that went through Alger, Delta and Schoolcraft counties. Addressed violations included no trail permits, no registration and operating while licensed revoked. Four tickets were issued and several verbal warnings were given.

CO Calvin Smith, CO Christopher Lynch and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon conducted a group patrol on Little Bay De Noc. Observed violations included fishing with too many lines, unattended lines, fishing without a license, no name and address on ice shack, no ORV sticker, no snowmobile registration, use of marijuana, riding double on ORVs, and operating ORVs and snowmobiles with no helmets. Fourteen tickets were issued and several verbal warnings were given for the violations.

A group patrol was conducted on Little Bay De Noc. While contacting several hundred fishermen, numerous violations were observed consisting of fishing with too many lines, unattended (set) lines, fish without license, possessing marijuana, no ORV license, unregistered snowmobiles, no helmets and riding double on ORVs. Sixteen tickets were issued along with numerous verbal warnings.

CO Robert Freeborn and CO Mark Zitnik were the first responders to a one car rollover accident. The vehicle was traveling too fast for conditions and failed to maintain control causing the car to roll over and skid several feet onto the roof. Luckily both passengers were able to escape without injuries.

While on routine snowmobile patrol, CO Robert Freeborn stopped a snowmobile that did not have a registration sticker on the snowmobile. When CO Freeborn asked the operator about the registration, the operator pulled out his cell phone and displayed a picture of a paper registration claiming it was for his snowmobile. The picture of the registration did not contain a VIN. When CO Freeborn did a valid registration check, the snowmobile came back unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn and CO Michael Evink were patrolling Indian Lake. CO Freeborn recognized one of the subjects ice fishing from last winter that he had cited for fishing with too many lines. The subject recognized CO Freeborn as well, and stated that he was staying out of trouble. When CO Freeborn asked how many lines he had, he pointed to his three tip-ups. CO Freeborn then checked his ice shack which had a fourth line in the hole. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn, CO Michael Evink and CO Mark Zitnik were on routine snowmobile patrol when they stopped at a busy intersection between Munising and Grand Marais. As the COs were watching, two snowmobilers failed to stop at the stop sign. Luckily no cross traffic was present. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn, CO Michael Evink and CO Mark Zitnik were on routine snowmobile patrol when CO Freeborn noticed a snowmobile operating without a trail permit. When the CO asked the operator why he did not have a trail sticker, the operator replied that he was just heading to the store to get one. Further in the conversation, the operator stated that he had just come from Grand Marais. CO Freeborn advised that Grand Marais sold stickers as well, and asked why he didn't purchase one there. The operator stated that he just now thought of it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn, CO Michel Evink and CO Mark Zitnik were first on scene of a fatal snowmobile accident involving a vehicle. The snowmobiler failed to stop for a stop sign along a state highway, and was struck by a pickup truck traveling at highway speed. When the COs arrived on scene the subject was unresponsive. The COs performed CPR until EMS arrived on the scene but unfortunately the subject could not be revived. There were no reported injuries from the occupants of the pickup.

CO Robert Freeborn was on a group patrol with several other COs on Little Bay de Noc when CO Freeborn located a portable ice shack that was unoccupied. As the CO walked around the shack, he located four tip-ups that were still active. CO Freeborn flipped up the flags and asked the surrounding fisherman if they had seen anyone at the vacant shack recently. The fisherman stated it was close to an hour since they saw anyone around. After 20 minutes of the flags being still up, CO Freeborn started to follow the 4-wheeler tracks leading from the shack. After following the tracks for well over a mile, CO Freeborn located the fisherman at a residence eating lunch. CO Freeborn advised the fisherman that when they leave for lunch they have to pull their lines. Enforcement action was taken.

While on group patrol with several other COs on Little Bay de Noc, CO Freeborn contacted a group of fisherman. When asked for a show of licenses, all were able to produce a license except one fisherman. When CO Freeborn asked if he had purchased a license, the fisherman stated, "Oh yeah I have one, been fishing all summer and I bought one then." As CO Freeborn was checking on the fisherman's license status, the fisherman stated that maybe he didn't purchase one. Dispatch advised that the subject had not purchased a license this year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch and CO Pat Hartsig were on their way to the Ford River Access to check for ice anglers when they noticed black smoke coming from a residence just off M-35 South. The COs drove to the residence and contact was made with the suspect. The suspect said he was wondering when the COs would show up. The burn pile included large tires fully engulfed in flames. Enforcement action was taken for illegal solid waste disposal.

During a snowmobile patrol in Alger County, CO Pat Hartsig, CO Mike Evink and CO Chris Lynch contacted numerous snowmobilers at a popular intersection. Over 150 snowmobilers were contacted during that time. Numerous violations for no trail permits, unregistered snowmobiles and careless operation were encountered. Enforcement action was taken.

During a patrol of Little Bay de Noc, CO Pat Hartsig noticed an ice shanty that had tip-ups outside of it and nobody occupying the shanty. ORV tracks led away from the shanty and were followed by CO Hartsig. The tracks led to a trailer parked on the ice with two individuals from Wisconsin inside. The two were having lunch and thought it would be alright to leave lines out while they took a "break." Along with the unattended lines, the pair didn't have helmets for the ORV and had too many lines in the water. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bobby Watson was on snowmobile patrol when contact was made with a group of riders. Upon investigation, he discovered that one sled did not have a valid trail permit or current registration and a second sled also had expired registration. After checking on one of the expired registrations, it was discovered that the expired registration that was presented to CO Watson was actually for another sled altogether. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett Gustafson and CO Jeff Panich were working a snowmobile patrol when they were dispatched to a snowmobile accident in Paradise. The COs arrived on scene and assisted the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office with transporting personnel back from the trail head to the accident scene, as well as preserving and marking the accident scene. It was determined shortly after the COs arrived that the victim of the snowmobile crash had died due to the injuries sustained at the scene. CO Gustafson and CO Panich then assisted the accident reconstructionist in determining the cause, and factors involved in the accident.

CO Brett Gustafson and CO Jeff Panich conducted a patrol on Munuscong Bay during a local fishing contest. Warm weather and a weekend event brought out fisherman by the hundreds on the bay. Fishing was slow, at best, due to the rapid changes in weather,

but the warm temperatures had everyone in good spirits. During the multiple days' patrols, several hundred fishermen were checked making sure not only tournament rules were being followed, but also state laws. Numerous verbal warnings were given, mostly for not having their fishing licenses in possession. The weekend ended up going off without any accidents which officers worried about because of the poor ice conditions closer to the shipping channel. Out of the hundreds of checks made by CO Gustafson and CO Panich, approximately thirty verbal warnings were given and four citations were issued. The event continues to grow every year.

CO Brett Gustafson, CO Jeff Panich, CO John Wenzel, CO Jon Busken, CO Mark Zitnik and Sgt. Mike Hammill conducted a group snowmobile patrol in the Grand Marais area targeting sound enforcement and illegal operation. Five operators were cited for being in violation of the sound decibel limits. Each acknowledged they thought their sleds were too loud. Several other operators were cited for registration and trail permit violations.

CO John Wenzel gave a presentation to a group of high school students about the job of a conservation officer. Several students had questions about how to become a conservation officer.

CO John Wenzel assisted the USFS as a guest instructor in a winter survival and off-trail riding seminar. The students, who came from various agencies, including the Minnesota DNR, USFS and Michigan DNR employees, learned emergency shelter building, fire starting techniques, off trail snowmobile operations and other related topics.

CO John Wenzel was on snowmobile patrol when he was almost hit head on by a snowmobile operating on the wrong side of the trail around a blind corner. CO Wenzel stopped the snowmobiler who stated, "Yeah that was close". Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Wenzel and CO Bobby Watson responded to a call for help from a snowmobiler who had sunk his snowmobile in a beaver pond. The rider had made it safely out of the beaver pond, but his sled was in about 3 feet of water. CO Wenzel and CO Watson assisted the subject with securing a rope to the front of the sled and pulled it from the beaver pond. The COs then towed the dead snowmobile to a local gas station.

CO Jon Busken was dispatched to a lost hiker at the Tahquamenon Falls State Park. CO Busken used his patrol snowmobile to locate the lost man and transport him back to his vehicle. A Michigan State Police trooper and park staff also assisted in the search.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Steve Speigl and CO Chad Baldwin were on snowmobile patrol when they noticed a snowmobile with expired tags. When the COs tried to stop the snowmobile to address the violations, the driver tried to flee and elude the COs at high speeds. After a short distance, the driver realized he was not going to be able to outrun the COs so he stopped and put his hands up. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt assisted Wildlife Division by retrieving a snowy owl that was found dead at the airport on Beaver Island. The bird was transported to Charlevoix, where CO Erratt picked up the bird and took it to be tested.

While on snowmobile patrol, CO Andrea Erratt encountered a large group in the East Jordan area. All of the snowmobiles were registered except for one. The subject tried to tell CO Erratt that he did not know he needed to have his sled registered. He later admitted he only rides the sled once a year and didn't want to register it.

While patrolling by snowmobile on the state snowmobile trails, CO Andrea Erratt encountered a group of snowmobiles that did not have trail permits. The first sled in the group had an orange trail permit from a previous year and had tried to alter it to make it look current. The falsified sticker was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt was on patrol in the Jordan Valley when she noticed a group of snowmobiles off the trail system, which is illegal in the Jordan Valley area. CO Erratt made contact with the subjects, warning them for being off the trail. In the process of talking with the subjects, it was discovered one of the snowmobiles was unregistered.

CO Nick Torsky, CO Matt Theunick, CO Bill Webster, CO Kelly Ross and Sgt. Greg Drogowski participated in Operation LifeSaver which is a joint operation with Lake States Railway and Michigan State Police with the focus on enforcement efforts and railroad safety. COs issued multiple tickets on the snowmobile trail adjacent to the railroad tracks in Otsego and Crawford Counties for careless operation, registration and trail permit violations, but snowmobile-railroad violations were non-existent that day. MSP issued tickets for motor vehicle violations at railroad road crossings.

CO Nick Torsky attended the Northern Fur Harvester Association meeting, answering multiple questions for trappers.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski ran a booth at the annual Christian Sportsmen's Banquet in Cheboygan. Approximately one hundred people were contacted, with many questions answered and information passed out.

CO Matt Theunick is assisting an Alaska State Trooper/Wildlife Officer with an investigation regarding a Michigan resident possibly hunting and/or guiding in Alaska with resident licenses.

CO Mark Depew observed a car operating in an erratic manner during heavy snowfall near the snowmobile trail. A traffic stop was made and the driver was found to be in possession of marijuana and open intoxicants. CO DePew arrested and lodged the driver of the vehicle.

CO Brad Bellville was the second officer on scene of a head on crash involving a sports car and large truck hauling two cars. The sports car had been reported passing other vehicles at a high rate of speed, lost control and slid sideways into the oncoming truck. CO Bellville assisted emergency responders to extricate the driver from the car.

CO Paul Fox was on patrol when he observed a vehicle parked on the side of the road. Upon contacting the driver, who was coyote hunting, an uncased and loaded shotgun was found in the front passenger seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox and CO Eric Bottorff responded to a possible trespass complaint involving coyote hunters. While CO Fox contacted one of the subjects, a loaded and uncased shotgun was found in the rear seat.

CO Paul Fox, CO Brad Bellville, and CO Kelly Ross assisted the Montmorency Sheriff's Office with patrols for the Snow Drift Rally. Multiple contacts were made. Various snowmobile, ORV, and motor vehicle violations were observed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kelly Ross received a complaint of a gunshot deer lying next to a county road. CO Ross located the deer and followed a blood trail to a nearby house with a bait pile behind it. He then interviewed the homeowners and received a confession that they had shot it earlier in the week. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office for taking the deer during the closed season.

CO Kelly Ross contacted a group of people during the Snow Drift Rally at a location where a large amount of trash had left behind at the event last year. The spectators were advised to keep the area clean and pick up the trash that was on the ground or they would be re-contacted and charged with litter. CO Ross checked the area after the race and the area had been cleaned up.

CO Kelly Ross investigated a dead bull elk which appears to have been from the December elk season.

CO Jon Sklba contacted a fisherman on Grand Lake who had just finished packing up his gear and showed CO Sklba five walleye in his bucket. CO Sklba then checked his ORV and ice shanty. Two more walleye were found which had been hidden in a storage compartment of the ORV and another walleye hidden in the shanty. The fisherman had previously received three other citations for too many lines and an over-limit of fish. The fisherman was issued a citation for his violations.

CO Bill Webster contacted two individuals riding an ORV and motorcycle on the ice after dark. Both operators were riding without helmets and not equipped with lights. The operators were issued citations for riding without helmets and warned for not having running lights.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Sean Kehoe participated in a Career Day at Traverse City West Middle School. CO Kehoe spoke to approximately 125 kids about a career as a Michigan Conservation Officer.

CO William Haskin was checking ice fisherman on Lake Cadillac when he noticed two anglers reeling in a tip-up and pulling a pike out of the ice. CO Haskin counted the tip-ups and noticed seven with only two anglers. CO Haskin made contact with the anglers and while measuring their fish, one of the anglers removed a tip-up from the water. CO Haskin let them know they were only allowed to have three lines per angler and that he had counted them before making contact. The anglers admitted to having four lines and knew it was against the law. CO Haskin asked for their identification and fishing licenses. One of the anglers could not provide a fishing license claiming he must have lost it. After further investigation, it was found that the angler did not have a fishing license for the current year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin was checking ice fisherman on Lake Cadillac when he noticed a single person shanty with three tip-ups set nearby. CO Haskin contacted an angler who was fishing inside of his shanty and this individual admitted to fishing with four lines. CO Haskin made him remove one of the lines and enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin and CO Ethan Gainforth were working a snowmobile patrol together in Wexford County. They noticed an individual driving his snowmobile down the road with no helmet and no trail sticker on the sled. An attempt to stop the snowmobile was made, but the individual fled. The COs were able to locate the snowmobile at a residence by following the track marks left in the snow by the fleeing driver. Upon making contact with the operator, the COs also discovered that the snowmobile registration was expired. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin was working snowmobile patrol in Wexford County when he observed a snowmobile operator run a stop sign across a county road. A stop was made on the snowmobile and the driver stated he never saw the sign. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin and CO Patrick McManus talked to students from the Public Safety and Agricultural Science classes at the Wexford/Missaukee Career Technical Center. The COs advised the students on the career of a Michigan conservation officer, including what it takes to become a conservation officer. CO Haskin and CO McManus covered several recent cases and discussed laws that COs enforce. The staff and students were very involved and the overall day was very successful.

CO Sean Kehoe and Sgt. Bob Torres observed an angler fishing on a lake in Grand Traverse County. The angler was first observed fishing four lines and then was observed putting out a fifth line. When contacted by CO Kehoe, the angler advised that his wife had been fishing with him earlier. It was established that she left almost two hours earlier, but he never pulled the extra lines because she was supposed to come back, but did not. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was contacted by Lake County Central Dispatch advising that an ORV had gone through the ice on a local lake the day prior. CO Killingbeck then tracked down the operator who had left the area without reporting the incident. The operator stated he could not find a non-emergency number for dispatch to report the crash because he had not sustained any injuries. CO Killingbeck determined that the subject also had an expired license, and had left the scene of an accident causing damage. Enforcement action was taken and a dive team was called to remove the ORV at the owner's expense.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and CO Ethan Gainforth were on snowmobile patrol when they observed several snowmobiles disregard a stop sign at a road intersection. The snowmobiles were stopped and one rider was operating while his license was suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

While on snowmobile patrol in Lake County, CO Josiah Killingbeck observed two snowmobiles operating on the roadway against the flow of traffic. CO Killingbeck stopped the snowmobiles and asked them why they were operating in such a manner. The operators informed him that no one has ever stopped them before, and they do it all the time. CO Killingbeck discussed the safety concerns with them. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was working the Lake County snowmobile trails near a busy intersection when a snowmobiler disregarded a stop sign at a high rate of speed. CO Killingbeck was sitting at the intersection with a patrol truck in plain view, along with other uniformed officers, when the violation occurred. CO Killingbeck stopped the snowmobile operator who stated she was “too distracted looking at the COs to notice the stop sign”. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck, Lake County, checked a snowmobile that was displaying a registration that expired in 2006. The operator advised he recently purchased the snowmobile and had not transferred the title or registered the machine. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling a busy snowmobile intersection, CO William Kinney noticed a snowmobile approaching that was displaying an invalid registration decal. CO Kinney signaled the individual to come to a stop. As the operator came to a halt, he immediately flipped his helmet up and stated, “You got me.” The individual realized that his registration was expired when he pulled his snowmobile off the trailer to ride for the day, but decidedly took a chance riding without it since he had travelled to Lake County from downstate. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney and CO Josiah Killingbeck were working a snowmobile patrol in Lake County when they had two snowmobiles approach the intersection they had been monitoring. CO Kinney made contact with the second snowmobiler for displaying an expired registration decal. Upon contact, it was determined that the registration was for a snowmobile from Indiana and had not been registered since 2012. The owner also stated to CO Kinney that he rode that snowmobile all last year, and forgot to renew the registration as well. Enforcement action was taken. Also, CO Killingbeck made contact with the first snowmobiler and found similar violations. Enforcement action was also taken.

CO William Kinney was working a popular snowmobile intersection with a student who was participating in a job shadow program. A snowmobile was stopped that did not have a current trail permit attached to the windshield. Upon contact, the individual stated he left his trail permit in his car along with the paper registration for the snowmobile. After further investigating it was determined that the individual also neglected to transfer the title over after purchasing the snowmobile a few months prior.

CO Sam Koscinski and CO Steve Converse worked a joint snowmobile patrol in Manistee County issuing numerous citations for no trail permits, operating while suspended, failing to stop at stop signs and careless operation.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky have been working an ongoing complaint of snowmobile trespass in Mason County. In the past week they have issued twelve citations.

CO Kyle Publiski worked a complaint of a suspected fisherman who may be routinely taking an over limit of bluegills in Mason County. CO Publiski made contact with the fisherman on the ice and when his fish were counted, the angler was found with several fish over the legal limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky had been called to assist with a bomb threat in the Mason County schools. The COs assisted in securing the scene while escorting and moving the children to safety.

CO Brian Brosky conducted a lengthy investigation into a Mason County man who had allegedly been conducting an illegal taxidermy business. CO Brosky obtained a three count warrant for the individual for doing the taxidermy work without a state license.

While patrolling the White Pine Trail, CO Ethan Gainforth and CO Troy Mueller had a distressed snowmobiler contact them on the trail. The snowmobiler told the COs that his wife had hit a deer on the trail just south of their location. Both CO Gainforth and CO Mueller rode to the location and checked on the snowmobiler. Fortunately the snowmobiler was not injured in the accident. The snowmobile was towed and the couple was escorted safely off of the trail.

While on snowmobile patrol, CO Gainforth and CO Mueller decided to check anglers on an Osceola County lake. The anglers checked by CO Gainforth were fishing with tip-ups as well as jigging for Northern pike. One angler had a pike lying on the ice next to their tip-up. When CO Gainforth asked the angler if they had measured the fish, the angler responded that he had used his hand to measure the fish. CO Gainforth measured the Northern pike using a tape measure, and the pike measured well short of the legal 24 inch size limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol CO Gainforth and CO Josh Wright contacted many anglers out enjoying the nice weather. Two anglers were contacted just before sunset ice fishing. While talking with the anglers, a snowmobile drove out onto the lake and up to the fishermen. To the COs surprise, the snowmobile was not registered. The owner also failed to transfer the registration of the snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was on snowmobile patrol in Newaygo County when he observed a snowmobile operating with only one registration sticker, and which was also expired.

CO Wells conducted a stop on the snowmobile, and while investigating the violations found that the operator had failed to transfer ownership of the snowmobile through Secretary of State. The operator was cited for operating an unregistered snowmobile and warned on failing to transfer ownership through Secretary of State.

Acting Sgt. Ben Shively conducted a group snowmobile patrol with an Oceana County Sheriff's Deputy, focusing on a poker run that was covering two counties and registration/trail permit enforcement. While working a trail intersection, they were citing a subject for expired registration when a snowmobile approached them with expired 2006 registration and no trail permit. The snowmobile was stopped, and it was found that the operator had failed to transfer ownership through Secretary of State, was operating with a suspended/revoked driver's license and was in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Hart-Montague Rail Trail, Acting Sgt. Shively and an Oceana County Sheriff's Deputy were nearly hit and run off the trail by a group of four snowmobilers who were operating at a high rate of speed around a corner on the trail. The group was finally stopped three miles later once exiting the trail into a gas station. While attempting to stop the group, they were observed failing to stop at road intersections and were operating at over 70 mph. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 5**

While patrolling during Tip Up Town, CO Mark Papineau and CO Warren MacNeill made contact with a group of anglers that appeared to be fishing with too many lines. As CO Papineau and CO MacNeill performed interviews of the various subjects, it was determined that two anglers had left to go drive around the lake, leaving their tip-ups at the mercy of the other anglers. Upon their return to the area, the COs issued citations for the unattended lines, and an additional citation for fishing without a license.

While patrolling during Tip Up Town, CO Mark Papineau and CO Warren McNeill contacted an angler with two undersized walleye. The angler attempted to inform the COs that he just landed them, and was about to measure them, when the COs pulled up. The walleye were frozen solid and had obviously been lying on the ice for an extended period of time. After confronted with the evidence, the subject confessed to keeping undersized walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Phil Hudson and CO Chris Bowen were checking anglers on Houghton Lake during the busy Tip-Up-Town weekend. During one of the checks, the COs discovered a subject with an over-limit of northern pike. The subject told CO Hudson and CO Bowen

that he left his tape measure at home for the day. Unfortunately, he was in possession of two pike over his daily limit.

CO Phil Hudson and CO Nick Atkin were checking ice anglers on Saginaw Bay recently when they discovered a subject with nineteen perch over the limit. The angler admitted he knew the law and knew he had over the legal limit, but kept them anyways. CO Hudson and CO Atkin issued a citation for taking an over-limit.

While checking a subject recently on Saginaw Bay, CO Nick Atkin found a subject in possession of too many perch. The subject knew what the limit was and stated he had plans to sort the fish and throw the extras back down the hole. Unfortunately, the subject was 32 perch over his limit and it was way past the point of sorting fish to throw back. CO Atkin took enforcement action.

CO Josh Wright and CO Ethan Gainforth teamed up to work ice fishing enforcement in Clare County recently. While checking one of the lesser travelled local lakes, the COs encountered two ice shanties joined together in the middle. As CO Gainforth made initial contact, one of the anglers immediately dropped his ice fishing pole. The angler immediately stated that he was not fishing. Unfortunately for him, CO Wright watched him drop the pole from the other end of the shanty. Once the angler realized there were two COs, and one watched him drop his pole, he hung his head, and admitted to fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Trail 6, CO Kyle Bader and CO Nick Atkin stopped a snowmobile displaying a 2009 registration. The operator said he had recently purchased the snowmobile, but failed to transfer the registration. It turns out the person he bought the machine from failed to register it as well. The man was issued a citation for operating an unregistered snowmobile. His riding partner was very happy to end the contact and ride the trail back to their truck. He was only wearing two long sleeve t-shirts, a Carhartt coat, and tennis shoes.

While checking ice fishermen on Hubbard Lake, CO Casey Pullum noticed a person on an ORV at another shanty doing doughnuts. There were two people on the machine, and neither one had on a helmet. CO Pullum made contact and discussed the safety issues involved. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Russell made contact with the operator of a 3-wheeler that had four people riding on it. Two of the four individuals did not have crash helmets while riding. The owner of the machine did not have an ORV license for the machine. Enforcement action was taken.

While working snowmobile activity in the Frederic area, CO John Huspen observed five snowmobiles operating between the rails of the Lake State railroad tracks. CO Huspen contacted the subjects, and enforcement action was taken.

CO John Huspen responded to a snowmobile accident on Houghton Lake during Tip Up Town. The subject was thrown from the machine after hitting a pressure crack. The subject was taken to a local hospital and the crash is under investigation. Alcohol and speed are believed to be contributing factors.

CO Ben McAteer and Sgt. Greg Drogowski worked Operation Lifesaver, a joint collaboration with the MSP and the railroad company, in an effort to bring awareness to railroad safety. During this operation, approximately 82 people were contacted on snowmobiles. Issues, such as operating on the railroad right-of-way, were addressed and two citations were issued for violations.

CO Mike Hearn responded to a report of a snowmobile/deer accident in Kalkaska County. Upon arrival, CO Hearn observed that the snowmobile had rolled several times, ejecting the driver. No deer tracks were observed anywhere along the road where the operator had lost control. Once confronted with possible charges for filing a false police report, the driver admitted that there wasn't a deer. He lost control on the straightaway due to careless operation. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling near Manistee Lake on a snowmobile, CO Mike Hearn observed a snowmobile operating along the road. Upon passing the machine, the CO observed that the operator was transporting a child on the snowmobile. The child was not wearing a helmet and a traffic stop was made. During the contact, it was determined that the operator had two outstanding warrants for his arrest. With the assistance of Kalkaska County Sheriff's Office, the operator was arrested on the warrants and additionally cited for the safety violation. The child was returned safely to his home.

CO Mike Hearn was dispatched to a snowmobile fire on snowmobile trail 55 just outside of Kalkaska. The fire was investigated and was determined to be caused by a mechanical malfunction. Kalkaska Township Fire Department extinguished the fire and the snowmobile debris was removed from the trail. The rider was uninjured in the accident.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz and CO Josh Wright were working an evening OUIL patrol during the Tip Up Town Festival when they contacted four subjects in a side-by-side ORV being operated across Houghton Lake. During the contact it was found that the driver

was intoxicated. The driver was arrested for ORV OUIL, and lodged in the Roscommon County Jail.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz was working bobcat hunters in Northern Missaukee County when he contacted a group of hunters running hounds. During the contact, it was found that one of the hunters was hunting without a license and failed to wear hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal and CO Chris Bowen observed a group of people fishing on Lake James. Upon making contact, one angler asked if they really needed fishing licenses on that lake. He was the only one of the five to have a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn and CO Chuck McPherson stopped a snowmobile operator without a helmet while working Houghton Lake during the Tip Up Town Festival. Further investigation found the subject to be under the influence of alcohol, and to be operating while suspended. Subject was lodged in the Roscommon County Jail.

While working the Tip of Town site where a truck broke through the ice, CO Chuck McPherson witnessed an SUV operating in a careless manner on the ice. The driver was doing "doughnuts" with his SUV. When CO McPherson contacted the driver, he could not believe he was stopped for careless operation of a motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While working Sunday afternoon at Tip Up Town, Roscommon Central Dispatch reported that two subjects were stranded on state land, and did not know their location. Due to their cell phone call, central dispatch was able to ping their approximate location. CO Chris Bowen, CO Craig Neal, CO Ben McAteer, CO John Warner and Sgt. Jeremy Payne responded to the area. The COs were able to locate the subjects using their GPS and snowmobiles. The subjects spent Saturday night and most of Sunday in their stuck vehicle before calling central dispatch. The subjects were in good health when located. A file check of the subjects discovered the male subject had three outstanding warrants for his arrest. He was taken into custody.

While working the trail system south of Houghton Lake during Tip Up Town, Sgt. Jeremy Payne witnessed a large group of snowmobiles cross a main road. When crossing, most of the group did not stop or look for other traffic before crossing. Sgt. Payne was able to stop three snowmobiles from this group. All three operators were cited for careless operation of a snowmobile.

Sgt. Jeremy Payne responded to the scene of an ORV fire near Reedsburg Flooding. The fire was extinguished by the local fire department and the operator was unharmed. The debris was removed from the roadway, and the operator was returned to his residence.

## **DISTRICT 6**

COs Joel Lundberg and Jill Berry worked with a Missouri game warden on a case where a deer was taken illegally in Missouri. CO Lundberg and CO Berry interviewed the suspect and obtained a confession about the 10-point buck that was shot without a tag. The case was turned back over to the Missouri Game Warden and enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a complaint of a deer carcass which had been dumped underneath the I-675 overpass and the Saginaw River. Upon arrival, the CO conducted a quick search of the area and located a processed deer carcass with a kill tag still attached. The CO conducted a file search from the kill tag and obtained a suspect's name. Upon contacting the suspect and questioning him about the carcass, the suspect advised he gave the deer to a friend and he must have dumped it there. With the new suspect information, the CO responded to his residence and made contact. The suspect admitted to dumping the deer, with an explanation that he processed the deer himself, and put the carcass in the trash for pickup. The trash man came and refused to take the deer, so he didn't know what he was supposed to do. He then drove to the overpass and dumped it near the river. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received notification from the St. Charles Field Office Wildlife Division staff that a subject who was issued a hunting permit for November of 2015, failed to return his permit, which is required by law at the end of the hunt. Several attempts had been made to contact the subject via telephone, but the numbers had been disconnected. A letter was sent to the subject advising him that he had until December 29<sup>th</sup> to return the permit. The deadline passed without the permit being returned. Enforcement action was taken.

One of CO Ken Lowell's deer cases went through the court system. The suspect was ordered to pay over \$4,000.00 in reimbursement for three illegal deer that he shot this past fall. The suspect also had to pay a \$1,000.00 fine and had his hunting license suspended until 2020.

CO Ken Lowell finished up a case where a felon shot a large buck on November 14<sup>th</sup> with a rifle. The suspect was arrested, has been charged with a felony for possessing the firearm, paid \$5,000.00 in reimbursement and a \$1,000.00 fine for the buck he shot.

CO Mike Haas was checking western Isabella County for snowmobile activity when he observed a snowmobiler stop at a stop sign with an expired trail permit. After contacting the individual, it was determined he did not have his registration or ID with him either.

CO Haas then followed the snowmobiler back to his residence and noted that the snowmobile did not have a working taillight. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers on Lake Isabella, CO Mike Haas and CO Dan Robinson observed an individual on an ATV violating the 100' law while performing doughnuts and not wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

During a patrol in southern Isabella County, CO Mike Haas noticed snowmobilers driving through numerous farm fields and crossing public roadways. One of the snowmobilers was not wearing a helmet; however CO Haas was unable to stop the individual. Following the snowmobile tracks, CO Haas was able to determine what residence the snowmobiles came from, and left his business card at the house. The following day, CO Haas received a call from the snowmobiler who confessed he was the one without a helmet. He also told CO Haas that he did not have a valid trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

As CO Mike Haas was checking a public fishing pond in Isabella County, he observed two young boys ice fishing. CO Haas talked to them and noticed a largemouth bass flopping on the ice next to their fishing gear. The boys could identify the fish, but were not aware that it was not bass season. The fish was returned to the water and the boys were educated on what fish were in season.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson was following a truck that had trash blowing out of the bed. CO Robinson initiated a traffic stop and found that the subject had a substantial amount of loose trash in the bed of the truck. The subject stated he knew he was going to get stopped after he saw it blowing out, but claimed that he didn't know that it was back there when he left his house. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol CO Mike Haas and CO Dan Robinson were called to assist the Michigan State Police and the Isabella County Sheriff's Department with a snowmobile accident. The subject was on private property and was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. The subject was transported to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

CO Bob Hobkirk, CO Josh Wright, CO Seth Rhodea and CO Kyle Bucholtz patrolled the Saginaw Bay ice as a group. Over one hundred contacts were made and many warnings were given. Together the group wrote six citations for fishing, ORV and other violations observed. Although the bay has been slow, multiple perch, walleye and pike were taken by fishermen that day, with a few people at or above their limit.

CO Kyle Bucholtz assisted Harbor Beach Police Department with a medical issue. The subject had been consistently fainting and was in need of medical care. CO Bucholtz and a HBPD officer provided care until the ambulance arrived on scene.

CO Joshua Wright received a complaint from Tuscola County Dispatch of a person who was shining from their vehicle and shooting. CO Wright responded to the area and

found a spot to hide to see if anyone would return. A little over two hours later, two subjects returned from a residence with flashlights and walked out in the field to a dead deer. CO Wright made contact with him and quickly received a confession that he was with his buddy who had shot the deer from his truck and they were coming to pick it up. The suspect who shot the deer was caught a year and a half earlier by CO Wright for taking a deer from a motor vehicle. Charges are being sought.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted a group of anglers fishing near Sebewaing. When CO Rhodea asked one of the anglers for his fishing license, the angler told the CO he did not have it with him, but he had one. CO Rhodea ran the angler through the DNR licensing system and came back showing to not have a valid fishing license. When CO Rhodea informed the angler he did not have a license, the angler said "Ok, I was kind of hoping I had one." He was cited for the violation. Another angler in the group was cited for having an unlicensed ORV.

CO Mark Siemen stopped a four wheeler in Sanilac Township for operating on the road without an ORV sticker. Further investigation was done during the stop and the operator/owner did not have the four wheeler properly titled or registered with the state of Michigan. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Siemen attended a wildlife dinner at the Marlette Sportsmen's Club. CO Mark Siemen gave a presentation on how to become a Michigan Conservation Officer and explained what recruit school was all about.

CO Mark Siemen was called to a possible trespassing complaint in Sanilac County, Township of Sanilac. Once at the location, CO Mark Siemen and CO Seth Rhodea made contact with seven subjects that stated they were coyote and small game hunting. Further investigation and on scene photos from trail cameras showed that the subjects were trespassing and hunting without wearing any hunter orange. After the COs searched the two vehicles that the seven subjects were in, CO Siemen and CO Rhodea located two pheasants, one male ring neck and one hen. Also located in the vehicles were two loaded rifles and a small amount of processed marijuana. After the investigation was complete, all subjects were issued citations ranging from hunting without a license, taking pheasant out of season, recreational trespassing, possessing a loaded rifle in a motor vehicle and for not wearing hunter orange while hunting.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Greg Patten worked the snowmobile trails this weekend. Three tickets were issued for no trail permits.

CO Greg Patten responded to a report of a snowmobile on fire a mile away from his location along a snowmobile trail in Muskegon County. CO Patten arrived on scene at the same time as the fire department. The snowmobile was fully engulfed and mostly destroyed by the time he arrived. The burned up sled was removed from the trail by the fire department.

CO Greg Patten received a RAP complaint of a dumped deer carcass with the tag still on it in the Muskegon State Game Area. CO Patten tracked the hunter down who said that he paid a subject to cut the deer up. CO Patten contacted that subject who said his father took care of the carcass for him, as he was sick at the time. CO Patten contacted the father who admitted to dumping the deer. He said that he didn't think it was illegal to dump deer carcasses on state land. Enforcement action was taken for littering and a warning was given to the deer processor for not keeping records for his processed deer.

CO Richard Cardenas was working a patrol targeting ice fishing on Payne Lake in Barry County when he noticed a tip-up flag set off. Approximately 10 minutes later, an angler finally came out of a house, near the lake, and tended the line. CO Cardenas made contact with the subject who informed CO Cardenas that he knew he is supposed to be in immediate control of the line. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas located a subject wanted in a case related to a vehicle that had gone through the ice on Barlow Lake in Barry County. The subject allegedly "fled the scene" after driving a vehicle on unsafe ice. The subject was located walking down a nearby road and turned over to MSP.

CO Richard Cardenas located a vehicle parked in the Barry State Game Area containing a number of untagged traps in the bed of the truck, as well as one muskrat. CO Cardenas tracked down the owner of the traps in the game area. The subject admitted he had been trapping for the last couple years with the untagged traps. The subject was in possession of untagged colony, foothold, and conibear traps. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss conducted a snowmobile patrol in VanBuren County and contacted over fifty snowmobiles. Compliance was very high with a few warnings being issued for minor violations.

CO Tyler Cole contacted three fishermen on a Cass county lake that were ice fishing. Upon checking for licenses, it was discovered that all three men did not have fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Saykham Keophalychanh and CO Tyler Cole attended an event at the Midwest Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids and spoke with numerous subjects about the career of a conservation officer.

CO Andy Bauer assisted Niles Police Department with an eleven year old runaway child. CO Bauer was able to track the child in the snow and helped coordinate units until the child was located and returned to his parents.

CO Tyler Cole stopped by at the Dowagiac Conservation Club during their annual Hunter Rendezvous and spoke with a number of the participants.

CO Saykham Keophalychanh completed an investigation of a barge that had been left just off shore of the public access on Paw Paw Lake in Coloma. The owner of the barge will be cited for leaving the barge on state property without permission.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Rich Nickols swore to a two count warrant for illegal baiting and taking a deer without a license from last firearm deer season.

CO Matthew Neterer responded to a RAP complaint of a deer that had been dumped at a park in the city of Lansing. The complainant stated that the same deer had been hanging in the back yard of a nearby residence since hunting season. CO Neterer followed up with the homeowner who said that there was a deer hanging in his back yard, but that it was his friend's deer, and his friend had picked the deer up a few days prior. Upon completing an investigation, it was discovered that the suspect took the buck without a license. Charges are being sought through the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Matthew Neterer checked a group of anglers at Milliken State Park and found no violations, but noticed two unattended rods. CO Neterer left the area and returned a short time later to find a subject fishing with the previously unattended rods. After checking the subject, it was discovered that he hadn't purchased a fishing license since 2011. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Neterer responded to a call of several hunters standing near the road. The caller stated that she was in fear for her safety. CO Neterer arrived on location and found several trucks parked around the mile. The hunters were running coyotes with dogs and no violations were found.

CO Chris Maher, while conducting fishing license checks, noticed a man riding an ORV with no helmet. Upon contact, CO Maher determined the ORV did not have the necessary permits to be riding on the lake. CO Maher explained the importance of proper safety equipment and licensing ORVs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher conducted several patrols on Wamplers Lake in support of the annual Midwest Open Fishing Tournament. Anglers came from all parts of the country and Canada, in an attempt to win their share of over a \$20,000 grand prize. CO Maher, along with CO Andy Monnich, CO Chris Reynolds and CO Brandon Hartleben contacted numerous anglers over the course of several days while stressing the importance of proper safety while on the ice. Several verbal warnings were given on

various minor violations, but the majority of participants followed all laws. The tournament was a success and there were no incidents to report.

CO Chris Reynolds, while pulling into a parking area on a local lake, observed an angler eager to get off the ice. When contact was made, the angler stated that he had a limit of fish. CO Reynolds had the angler dump his fish and found that the angler had several fish over his limit. The angler stated that he forgot to count the fish in his bucket. Enforcement action was taken for possessing more than 25 pan fish.

CO Chris Reynolds, while on patrol, observed an angler operating an ORV on a lake. When contact was made the subject was argumentative about having to wear a helmet, and have an ORV decal while operating his ORV on the ice. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Jackson responded to a complaint of coyote hunters running dogs on private land. While talking with the complainant, it became clear that the coyote hunters were not hunting on this private land, only attempting to retrieve the dogs. Both the complainant and hunter acknowledged the hunter was in possession of a loaded firearm while attempting to retrieve the dog. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Jackson responded to a complaint of goose hunters within city limits, met with a local city officer, and made contact with the hunters. They had two geese in possession, steel shot, and plugged guns. However, they were within the city limits when they shot the birds. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Jackson made contact with an ice fisherman who told him that he caught his limit that morning. He did so well that he brought his two sons out to try their luck that afternoon. He was jigging a pole during the conversation so CO Jackson educated and informed him that he should no longer be fishing. He agreed to teach his sons the techniques instead.

While on patrol, CO Isaac Tyson decided to check a local channel that has been getting a lot of fishing pressure. Two fishermen were seen packing up their gear. A check of the fisherman's bucket revealed 26 pan fish, one fish over his limit. A check of the fisherman's other bucket revealed 4 more pan fish. The fisherman claimed that the four fish were being saved for pike bait, and he didn't count them as part of his limit. CO Tyson informed the fisherman that all pan fish in his possession are included in his daily limit. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking ice fishermen on Noble Lake in Brighton in Livingston County, CO Dan Prince took enforcement action on a subject who was ice fishing without a fishing license.

CO Pete Purdy and CO James Zellinger assisted MSP with a car/semi injury accident. A State Trooper stopped to assist a subject who was attempting to change a tire on the left shoulder of I-96. Once the tire was changed, the driver pulled onto the freeway into

the path of a semi-truck. The driver was severely injured. The COs assisted with blocking the freeway until other units arrived on scene.

CO Pete Purdy made contact with an ice angler. CO Purdy recognized the angler from previous complaints and contacts of unattended tip-ups, no name and address on tip-ups, and ORV violations. Upon this contact, CO Purdy noticed the subject's ORV was unlicensed. The subject advised he forgot to purchase an ORV sticker. CO Purdy asked the subject if he had a helmet to operate the ORV. He stated it was in his shanty. CO Purdy asked to see the helmet. The subject opened his shanty and advised it was in a bucket. CO Purdy told the subject he couldn't see it. The subject then confessed that he was lying and didn't wear one. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler followed-up on a complaint where a subject was leaving tip-ups unattended for hours at a time and occasionally overnight. After checking the area several days in a row, CO Drexler found two tip-ups on the lake with nobody around. CO Drexler attempted contact at the residence, but nobody was home. After seizing the tip-ups and leaving a property seizure receipt and business card at the address, the suspect finally called back the following morning. A citation was issued for unattended lines.

CO Mike Drexler and CO Brandon Hartleben were checking anglers on Joslin Lake. After a short surveillance, the COs noticed an issue with the number of tip-ups surrounding two anglers. After counting eight tip-ups and a jigging rod, contact with the anglers was made. The anglers stated they did not know how many lines they could have out. Citations were issued for exceeding three lines.

CO Mike Drexler and CO Pete Purdy conducted an investigatory interview with a suspect who illegally transported two whitetail deer from a CWD positive state. The suspect was very cooperative. CO Drexler will be submitting a warrant request this week for the illegal importation.

CO Brandon Hartleben and CO Andrew Monnich worked a Saturday morning ice-fishing patrol in Lenawee & Hillsdale County. Over 150 contacts were made throughout the patrol. While most people were in compliance with the law, there were numerous violations associated with ORV & snowmobile use. The most common were no registration, operating without a helmet, and riding double (or triple) on a single. Enforcement action was taken for some of the violations, but there was a strong emphasis on education throughout the patrol.

CO Andrew Monnich and CO Brandon Hartleben were patrolling some local lakes in Lenawee County for fishing activity, and came across a group of ORV riders racing on the ice. The COs observed an individual riding double on a single seater ORV while not wearing a helmet. The subjects were contacted and the COs observed no ORV licenses on any of the ORVs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich was traveling to work a Belle Isle shift when a vehicle passed him at a high rate of speed. A traffic stop was made and the driver was questioned as to why he was going 30 mph over the posted speed limit. The driver stated that he had just bought the car and had not become familiar with how fast it would go. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While checking for angling activity at Bolles Harbor Access Site, CO Dan Walzak contacted two individuals who braved the cold and only 3 inch ice thickness to try to catch a few fish. CO Walzak asked one of the subjects for his fishing license and he began patting down his pockets to find and produce it for the CO. The subject then began digging through his truck and explaining to CO Walzak that it is in his wallet and the wallet has to be in his vehicle. Upon locating his wallet, the subject looked through it and exclaimed that he could not find it. CO Walzak requested his driver's license and ran a license check. Dispatch advised that the subject had not purchased any fishing licenses since 2011. After explaining that there was no record of a license purchase in the last 4+ years, CO Walzak asked again if he purchased a license. The subject finally responded that he had not. When asked why he didn't just admit to not having a license, the subject explained that he did not want to get into trouble. He further added that he normally tries fishing a few times, and if it looks like it's going to be a good year, he goes to the store and gets his license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Monroe County, CO David Schaumburger and CO Dan Walzak observed three vehicles in the middle of an agricultural field. CO Schaumburger was suspicious and thought the vehicles were possibly out "mudding". The COs' suspicions were confirmed upon making contact with the drivers. The drivers of the vehicles stated they had just fixed the 4 wheel drive, and thought that this field would be a good place to test it out. However none of the drivers had permission to be on the property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner, CO David Schaumburger, CO Dan Walzak and CO James Zellinger were conducting taxidermist inspections and found multiple questionable deer tags that were indicative to possible violations. The next day, CO Gardner and CO Walzak were able to make contact with one of the individuals whose deer tag fell into that category. After interviewing the individual, CO Gardner made contact with the individual's father, who verified the information given to the COs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett responded to a RAP complaint of a Peregrine falcon found dead on someone's property. It did turn out to be a tagged bird and was indeed a Peregrine. CO Ennett retrieved the bird from the complainant. It apparently had flown into a window

and killed himself. Raptor rehabilitator Dave Hogan did research on the bird after CO Ennett turned it over to him. It was banded in 2004 in Lima, Ohio, which made him 12 years old, very respectable for a wild bird. He was named Alan, as the Peregrine falcon program keeps a history on all such birds. According to Mr. Hogan, this was the only known update on Alan since the original banding.

CO James Zellinger and CO Mark Ennett continued investigating an anonymous RAP complaint identifying a subject for allegedly taking an antlerless deer without a valid license. Through interview and investigation, the COs obtained a full confession of the violation. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO James Zellinger and CO Pete Purdy followed up on a set of antlers, tagged with an antlerless kill tag that CO Zellinger had seized from a taxidermist. While interviewing the suspect it was determined the antlerless tag was mistakenly placed on the deer due to the excitement of the harvest. The suspect will be providing CO Zellinger with both unused combo deer tags as evidence of the tagging violation. Enforcement action will be taken once the combination tags are provided.

While patrolling Oakland County, CO Christopher Knights stopped by Oakland Lake boat launch to check the ice depth and fisherman that might be out there. CO Knights just got back to his truck when he observed a three wheeler go by on the ice with an adult driver, a kid on the back and a kid on the front. CO Knights followed the ORV on the main road until he could get access onto the lake. CO Knights found a resident outside and asked to use his yard to get onto the lake. The resident granted him access and CO Knights made contact with the individual. After talking with the driver, CO Knights noticed no helmets for the driver and one of the children. He also noticed no ORV sticker on the 3- wheeler. CO Knights educated him on the importance of helmets, and not having more than what the manufacturer deems safe for the amount of passengers. Enforcement action was taken.

During a patrol in Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers received a complaint that a group of goose hunters were using bait. The complaint stated the subjects were seen spreading corn around their decoys. CO Beavers responded to the area where the subjects were hunting. When CO Beavers arrived, two subjects immediately began walking to where he parked. CO Beavers exited his patrol truck and met the subjects in the field. CO Beavers explained to the subjects that he had a complaint regarding their group and asked if they were using bait. One subject then stated that there is corn in the area. He went on to say that they have corn stalks attached to their layout blinds and some of the corn cobs fell off. He then said that they spread around the cobs that fell off, but it was not intended to be used as bait to lure geese. All three then walked to the

blinds where two more hunters were located. It was immediately clear to CO Beavers that the subject was not completely honest regarding the corn. There were corn cobs everywhere and several of the decoys were set up directly over top of the cobs. CO Beavers then explained to all four that they are clearly using the corn to lure the geese. He then photographed the area and checked all hunters for additional violations. CO Beavers cited the group for hunting geese over a baited area.

While checking anglers at Long Lake, CO Jason Becker noticed tracks from the access site cross the road going out onto Cooley Lake. CO Becker followed the tracks and met up with a group of five anglers. CO Becker asked if they had fishing licenses and all of the anglers stated they did not have it with them. After running a check through the license system, only one of the subjects had a valid fishing license. While talking to the anglers, it was determined the licensed subject was fishing with two lines and three tip-ups, totaling five lines, and one of the unlicensed anglers kept an undersized pike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker was patrolling Wolverine Lake checking anglers when a group of snowmobilers came riding through the large group of anglers, making evasive maneuvers to dodge tip-ups. CO Becker made contact with seven snowmobiles. Only two of the seven had proper registration and trail permits attached. CO Becker addressed the registration violations and the safety concerns for anglers on the lake. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker was checking anglers on Wolverine Lake and made many contacts even though the fishing action was slow. CO Becker checked two anglers that were fishing in an ice shanty. As CO Becker approached, he could smell marijuana. CO Becker asked for fishing licenses. Neither of the two had licenses in their possession. A license check revealed that only one subject had a valid fishing license. The unlicensed subject was found to be in possession of marijuana and both subjects rode ORVs to access their shanty on the lake. CO Becker found that neither ORV had the proper ORV sticker, nor did either operator have a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser was patrolling Lobdell Lake for snowmobile activity when he observed a dirt bike operating on the ice. Upon closer observation, CO Muehlhauser noticed that the dirt bike did not have an ORV permit as required to operate on the ice. CO Muehlhauser stopped the operator and educated him on the regulations pertaining to ORV permits on frozen surfaces. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol at Wolverine Lake checking ice fisherman when he observed one angler entering a small ice shanty and three set tip-ups around it.

Suspecting that too many lines were being used, CO Griffin approached the shanty. After identifying himself, CO Griffin realized two subjects occupied the shanty. Although the correct number of lines was being used, CO Griffin found that one of the anglers was fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol at Wolverine Lake, CO Jacob Griffin noticed five anglers fishing with numerous tip-ups. CO Griffin approached the subjects and asked to see everyone's fishing license. While three anglers displayed their fishing license, one angler claimed to not be fishing. When CO Griffin asked the fifth angler for his license, he stated that he was 17 years of age, while the angler who was not fishing simultaneously stated he was 16 years of age. CO Griffin verified that he was 17 years of age and informed the group that once you reach 17 years of age a fishing license must be purchased to fish. In addition to the two anglers who did not have a fishing license, CO Griffin counted 15 tip-ups being used. CO Griffin informed the group that since the one subject is not fishing, they are in violation of fishing with more than three lines per person. The angler who claimed not to be fishing admitted he was fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was checking ice fisherman on Cass Lake when he spotted a large group of fisherman. As CO Griffin conducted a routine check, he noticed one subject who was intoxicated. After CO Griffin verified the subject was not driving home, he later noticed the same subject walking to his vehicle to load his equipment. The subject backed his vehicle up to the boat launch running over his own ice shanty. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on foot patrol at Crescent Lake when he noticed a group of snowmobiles. CO Griffin walked over to make sure that everyone had the proper safety equipment when he noticed multiple snowmobiles without registration and trail permits. CO Griffin informed the group that a valid registration and a trail permit is required to operate the snowmobiles on Crescent Lake. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel received a RAP complaint about two subjects fishing without licenses on a small, private access lake in Macomb County. The complainant was angry because he warned the two subjects that the ice was unsafe due to him bubbling around his property. They told him in explicit language to mind his own business. The CO responded and made contact with the two subjects. One of the subjects was indeed fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel contacted all 13 charter boat captains for District 9 reference being delinquent on their monthly catch reports. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking ice anglers in Macomb County, CO Silorey decided to check down a secluded subdivision. On the very last street, tucked away in the back, were two anglers on a canal. CO Silorey contacted both anglers and asked how the fish were biting. CO Silorey then requested to see the fishing license of both men. Only one of the two could produce a license. The angler without the license stated that he did have one, but not on him. After a brief check, CO Silorey was informed that the subject did not purchase a license for this year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher was investigating a shots fired RAP complaint when he observed two ORVs driving down a gravel road. CO Lasher was able to stop the ORVs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher and CO Brad Silorey patrolled the area around the Fair Haven Access site for fish and ORV activity in St. Clair County. Numerous vehicles were operating carelessly on the frozen surface of Lake St Clair. Numerous warnings were given for doing "donuts" (careless) and illegal drag racing in a heavy traffic area. A pick-up with a large lift kit was observed by the COs driving through the side of the access site where there was no road or trail. CO Lasher was able to get out to the M-29 roadway to stop the driver as he came out of the closed area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was contacted by Oakland County Sheriff's Department regarding a subject that they made contact with during firearm deer season. The Sheriff's Department contacted this subject at a local tavern and observed a 7-point antlered deer in his truck that he claimed to have shot the previous day. The suspect did not have any deer kill tag attached to the deer when the officers made contact with him. The information was then handed over to CO Silorey for a follow-up. After many attempts to contact the subject at his residence with no luck, CO Silorey finally did contact him at his home. The subject admitted to not tagging the deer immediately and stated he did not have the tag on him at the time. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey observed two ice anglers on a four wheeler returning from their day fishing. Upon contact with the anglers, neither of them was wearing a helmet and they were riding double on a machine intended for one rider. The subjects also did not have an ORV sticker on the quad. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Brad Silorey received a RAP complaint through DNR dispatch regarding a subject who was live trapping squirrels and shooting them with a pellet gun. CO Silorey contacted the complainant to gather additional details regarding the situation. After gathering info from the complainant, CO Silorey arrived at the residence of the trapping subject and located the traps in question. CO Silorey attempted to

contact the subject at his residence but had no luck in doing so. The investigation continues.

CO Brad Silorey observed a snowmobile that was operating on the ice upon Lake St. Clair. Upon contact with the operator, CO Silorey asked where the registration sticker was for the machine. The operator stated that he purchased it earlier in the year but never registered it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was on patrol checking ice anglers near a popular DNR access site in Fair Haven. Many anglers were parking near shore on the ice to gain access to the bay. It was evident that with the warmer temperatures throughout the day, many vehicles were beginning to slowly push the ice down. In total five vehicles required to be towed out of the ice with assistance from the local fire department and ice rescue. The fire department and local salvage companies were not able to retrieve one vehicle that night and it remained partially submerged until the next day. Investigation continues in determining if charges will be sought by the state.

CO Ken Kovach has been following a lead on a subject who trespassed on the last day of the deer season. CO Kovach has conducted several interviews and was finally able to obtain a confession from a subject. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach has been investigating a subject who took an over-limit of whitetail deer during the season. CO Kovach was able to obtain a full confession to the violation and recovered the illegal deer. The deer was donated to a family in need in the local community. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach has been busy this past week with several coyote hunting complaints. CO Kovach has received multiple calls of hunters on their property trying to retrieve their dogs. The property owners have been extremely upset as the hunters appear to be going where ever they want. One group of hunters only had permission on a very small parcel of land, nearly a mile away from where CO Kovach made contact with them. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Hadley Recreation Area and the Ortonville Recreation Area for snowmobile activity, CO Al Schwiderson caught a subject operating an ORV without a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Zultak observed a truck parked off the side of the road in the Lapeer State Game Area. CO Zultak observed three hunters coming out of the woods with firearms. Two of the hunters were not wearing hunter orange. The subjects stated they were

rabbit hunting. Upon further investigation, one subject did not have a base license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Zultak swore to three warrants from cases he investigated during deer season this week in the Lapeer County Court.

CO Matthew Zultak assisted the Lapeer County Sheriff's Office in locating four rabbit hunters who were recreational trespassing on property belonging to the Lapeer County Road Commission. The hunters were located and the issue of the recreational trespass was addressed. All the hunters had a valid base license.

CO Matthew Zultak continues to check fishermen ice fishing. Enforcement action has been taken on multiple occasions for failure to display registration on snowmobiles, failure to display ORV stickers, and riding without a helmet.

## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Al Schwiderson attended a court hearing in the 36<sup>th</sup> District Court in Detroit over a citation he had issued to a subject for MDOP of park property. Earlier in the summer, a subject had run off of the roadway and destroyed a picnic table with his car. CO Schwiderson reports the subject was found guilty.