

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
1/3/2016 – 1/16/2016**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Brian Lasanen worked the Lake Gogebic area for snowmobile activities. CO Lasanen contacted numerous snowmobilers and ice fishing anglers. During his patrol, he encountered snowmobiles being carelessly operated, failing to exhibit snowmobile registrations and no trail permits, as well as unlicensed ORVs. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Eberly assisted MSP Calumet Post with a fatal snowmobile accident investigation. A 21-year-old male with very little snowmobile experience failed to negotiate a curve in the trail, leaving the trail and striking a tree. Alcohol was not a factor in the crash.

Sgt. Grant Emery was patrolling the Bergland area when he came across an ORV being operated down M28. The ORV was being operated on a state highway against the flow of traffic; the operator failed to license his ORV and was not wearing a helmet. Law enforcement action was taken.

Area 1 & 2 COs conducted a group snowmobile/sound emission patrol over the Martin Luther King weekend on Lake Gogebic in Bergland. During the patrol, the COs contacted over 200 snowmobilers issuing 12 citations and 36 warnings for the various violations; unregistered snowmobile, no trail permit, excessive noise emissions, careless operation of a snowmobile and operating a snowmobile on the plowed portions of a state highway.

**DISTRICT 2**

CO Mark Zitnik and CO Calvin Smith were on a snowmobile trail north of Shingleton when they came across a group of snowmobilers. While talking with the group, it was discovered that one rider did not have his trail permit on his machine. After advising of the violation, the rider stated he had bought it this morning but forgot to put it on and could not find it. The rider stated, "Do you think I would have a \$20,000 sled and not buy a trail sticker!" After an RSS check, it was discovered that the individual had not bought one since 2013. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik and CO Pat Hartsig were checking snowmobile trail crossings on Hwy. 13 when they observed a snowmobile and rider tumbling down the highway. The COs rendered first aid until the ambulance crews arrived. The snowmobilers were riding down Highway 13 too fast for conditions when the lead rider stopped abruptly after seeing the trail they wanted. The second rider barely came to a stop and the third rider (the rider who was later injured) ran into the back of the second rider, going approximately 55 miles per hour, resulting in her tumbling down the highway. The

injured rider complained of both legs hurting badly. After a follow up at the hospital, it was determined she might have a sprained ankle and severe contusions on the lower half of her body.

CO Christopher Lynch was checking ice anglers in Kipling. Several contacts were made despite the poor ice conditions. The last group of the night CO Lynch checked said they didn't have any luck. When asked to produce their fishing licenses, one subject did and the other didn't. An odor of intoxicants was present on both subjects. After checking identification of the subjects, the subject without the fishing license was not of age to consume alcohol. Further investigation revealed the minor was on probation and was in violation of his probation conditions. The minor took a breath test and blew .123 BAC. Enforcement action was taken.

During a check of ice fishermen on Little Bay De Noc, CO Pat Hartsig and CO Mike Evink contacted numerous shanties. While talking to one fisherman, an odor of marijuana was noticed. The fishermen also had no fishing license. The marijuana was seized and enforcement action was taken.

While working a snowmobile patrol, CO Pat Hartsig and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon contacted many snowmobiles enjoying the fresh snow. Many violations were noted such as operating without trail permits, riding unregistered snowmobiles, and failing to stop for stop signs. Tickets were issued and several warnings as well.

CO Michael Evink participated in a jury trial for two burning violation tickets. The tickets were issued to an individual who choose to deliberately construct two fires on a September evening when no burning was being allowed. He then left the area and the fires unattended, fortunately the fires did not escape. A jury determined, after the course of the trial, that he was at fault and found him guilty on both counts.

CO Michael Evink responded to a recreational trespass complaint. After speaking with the complainant on scene, CO Evink was able to follow tracks under a chain and next to a no trespassing sign. The tracks led to the only group ice fishing on the west half of Indian Lake. The four trespassers admitted to their wrong doing and were dealt with accordingly.

CO Christopher Lynch was on patrol when a rollover accident occurred near his location. CO Lynch responded to the scene and observed the vehicle heavily smoking. CO Lynch had to enter through the back window of the truck and observed the driver unconscious and still strapped into the driver's seat with a dog laying over her. CO Lynch removed the dog from the vehicle to render aid to the driver. CO Lynch removed the driver from the driver's seat and rendered aid. CO Lynch calmed the driver until other emergency services arrived. Once other emergency services arrived on scene, CO Lynch lifted the driver through the passenger door where she was taken into care by paramedics. The driver and CO Lynch went to the hospital to get checked out. The driver had no reported injuries, however CO Lynch had lacerations to his hands and knees.

CO Christopher Lynch was on patrol on the ice in Kipling when he came across a lone ice angler. When asked to produce a fishing license, the subject produced an expired license. The subject was adamant that he purchased a current fishing license. Further investigation revealed the angler never purchased a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken was eastbound on US-2 in Mackinac County when he observed a vehicle quickly gaining on his patrol vehicle. The driver then passed CO Busken's vehicle. The vehicle was paced at 72 miles per hour in a 55 mile per hour zone. A traffic stop was conducted. The operator was also found to also be operating without a proof of insurance or a valid registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken and CO Robert Watson conducted two snowmobile patrols in Paradise. Two citations were issued for careless operation of a snowmobile.

CO Kevin Postma and CO Jeff Panich worked a snowmobile patrol together and encountered multiple violations. Several operators were contacted with violations from operating in prohibited areas to unregistered snowmobiles.

### **DISTRICT 3**

COs Andrea Albert, Duane Budreau, Andrea Erratt, Steve Speigl and Sgt. Mike Feagan conducted a snowmobile group patrol in Antrim County on Saturday of the Martin Luther King Holiday weekend. Due to finally having rideable snow, large numbers of snowmobiles were encountered. Several hundred snowmobiles were contacted with 13 tickets being issued for various snowmobile violations and 48 warnings.

While working snowmobile activity in Emmet County, CO Carl Vanderwall observed a snowmobile blow through a stop sign at a high rate of speed. CO Vanderwall was able to chase down the snowmobile and stop it. A ticket was issued for careless operation.

COs Eric Bottorff, Matt Theunick, Nick Torsky, Mark DePew, Paul Fox and Sgt. Greg Drogowski conducted a group snowmobile OWI patrol on the North Central Snowmobile Trail. Multiple contacts were made and tickets issued for careless operation (running past stop signs at road intersections at high speed), trail permit and registration violations and operating after midnight on the restricted hours portion of the trail.

CO Eric Bottorff and CO Paul Fox responded to a hound-hunter trespass complaint. The COs located the suspects and although they were not trespassing, they were however in possession of a loaded and uncased firearm in their vehicle.

CO Mark DePew and Sgt. Greg Drogowski responded to a deer stuck in a fence complaint. The deer's hind leg was entangled and pierced by the wire fence. The COs were able to cut the deer free and remove the wire from the deer's leg. The deer recovered and bounded off.

CO Mark DePew and an MSP trooper worked on a stolen tree stand complaint. Investigating together, they developed a suspect and conducted an interview with him. A warrant for larceny is being sought.

CO Matt Theunick received a complaint of an abandoned campsite on state land where the people had apparently been living for some time. Left behind were large amounts of food, trash and personal belongings. Through evidence found at the scene, an interview was conducted at a local restaurant where one of the suspects was believed to work. The interview resulted in a confession and enforcement action is pending clean-up of the site, which is in progress.

Due to complaints of ORVs and trucks operating on the North Central Trail (only non-motorized activity permitted), Sgt. Greg Drogowski deployed a trail camera while there was no snow in December. Amongst dozens of photos of bicyclists, runners and walkers, a photograph of a subject on a red 4-wheeler was captured. After a little investigation, a suspect was developed. After an interview and look at the 4-wheeler, it was determined he was not the responsible person. Information from the contact led to another nearby suspect who had the matching 4-wheeler in his garage and admitted to operating on the trail after a short interview. In addition to operating the ORV in a prohibited area, his driver's license was suspended, he had no helmet and no ORV license on the quad. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Bellville was driving behind a vehicle when he noticed it had an expired registration and pulled the vehicle over. While contacting the occupants in the vehicle, CO Bellville learned the passenger had five warrants out of an adjacent county. The passenger was arrested on the warrants and turned over to troopers from the Michigan State Police.

CO Paul Fox was on snowmobile patrol near Onaway when he observed two snowmobiles without a valid trail permit pass him. CO Fox conducted a stop on the two snowmobilers. Neither one had a valid trail permit, no registration displayed and did not have proof of registration with them. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki stopped to assist two individuals who had gotten their truck stuck in a ditch. CO Rosochacki checked the individual's files while waiting for a tow truck, found the driver to have a local child support warrant, and was turned over to the Sheriff Department.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Rich Stowe and Sgt. Bob Torres conducted snowmobile patrols in Grand Traverse County, issuing five tickets for unregistered snowmobiles or trail permit violations. CO Justin Vanderlinde and CO Patrick McManus conducted patrols in Benzie County. They issued tickets to two riders for snowmobiling without valid registrations. CO Kyle Publiski and CO Josiah Killingbeck were working on snowmobiles in Lake County when they were nearly struck by a reckless driver. The COs were stopped with

several snowmobilers on the side of the roadway when a vehicle crested a hill and began spinning out of control and bounced between both snowbanks before coming to a stop. When the COs approached the now stopped vehicle, the occupants rolled down the windows and the COs immediately smelled freshly burned marijuana. A bag of marijuana cigarettes was found in the vehicle. Both subjects were lodged for the narcotics violation, along with the driving offense.

CO Brian Brosky was the first on scene where a 14 year old female went off trail on her snowmobile, impacting a tree. CO Kyle Publiski and CO Josiah Killingbeck also responded, assisted with securing the scene and providing first aid until the victim was transported to the hospital.

CO Brian Brosky was working a trespass complaint where snowmobiles had been traversing through a farmer's field without permission. CO Brosky responded and found two snowmobiles operating in the field, one without a current registration displayed, and he attempted to stop them. The lead operator with the registration violation fled, leaving a 12 year old rider behind to answer to CO Brosky. After speaking to the child, CO Brosky discovered that it was the child's father who had left the scene. The father eventually came back to the scene stating that he wasn't aware that his child wasn't behind him, and said that a neighbor had called him to let him know that the child was potentially broken down in a field. CO Brosky asked the adult where his snowmobile was, to which the man responded that it was at his home. CO Brosky followed him back to his residence where he was shown a registered snowmobile covered in snow in the middle of the driveway. CO Brosky advised that he was not convinced by his story as the sled obviously hadn't been driven for quite some time. The man finally confessed, and said he took off because he knew he was trespassing and wasn't registered. He then showed CO Brosky the unregistered snowmobile in the garage. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky followed up on information that had gathered at a local taxidermist and found that a hunter had taken a buck prior to purchasing his deer licenses. A warrant is being sought for the violation.

CO Steve Converse received a complaint from a local tree farm of high numbers of snowmobiles trespassing on the property and causing significant damage. CO Converse responded to the complaint location and in less than ½ hour, made contact with ten snowmobilers who were trespassing. All of the trespassers admitted to seeing the signs and knowing that they were trespassing. Enforcement action was taken. CO Steve Converse was working routine snowmobile patrol when he observed four snowmobiles disregard a stop sign where it crossed a county roadway. CO Converse was able to cut the subjects off at the next intersection and asked if they had observed the stop signs at the previous intersection. All four admitted they had observed the signs. When asked how fast they believed they were traveling when they ran the stop sign, they admitted to 80-90 mph. Enforcement action was taken.

While off-duty, CO Steve Converse observed a subject in full snow camo, with a long gun, walking through a red pine stand on public land. An hour later, CO Converse returned to the location, on-duty, to track the subject down. CO Converse found the hunter and asked what he was hunting for, to which the man replied, "opossum and red squirrel". The CO asked why he was not wearing hunter orange, and the subject said he didn't think he needed it for predator hunting. CO Converse explained that neither red squirrels nor opossum are considered predators, and also explained the requirement of using a call and sitting stationary when actually pursuing predators. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he observed a vehicle on a road known for road hunting. After observing several motor vehicle violations, CO Killingbeck ultimately stopped the vehicle and found an uncased handgun between the front seats of the vehicle. The subject claimed he was out recently target shooting and said he had forgot to take it out of the vehicle. The subject did not have a concealed pistol license and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck received a complaint of a bobcat that had been checked in at the DNR Field Office that was potentially trapped out of season. Upon investigation, CO Killingbeck determined that the bobcat was taken in Mason County but tagged with a upper peninsula tag, and that the tag had only been partially validated. With the assistance of CO Brian Brosky, they tracked down the suspect who said he believed the season was open and referred to his hunting guide. CO Killingbeck asked the subject for his guide and the man produced an outdated 2014 guide. CO Killingbeck showed the subject where the season dates were located, and informed him that he had indeed trapped the bobcat out of season. The bobcat was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking bobcat kill tags at the Cadillac District Office when he came across a kill tag that was not validated. CO Killingbeck was able to talk with wildlife personnel that had checked the bobcat and learned that the subject told them he shot it the day before purchasing his license. CO Killingbeck tracked down the hunter who greeted him by saying, "I knew you'd be coming." The hunter said he was out coyote hunting when the bobcat came in to his call. He also said the "temptation was too much" and he shot it knowing it was illegal. CO Killingbeck seized the bobcat, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on routine patrol when he observed a vehicle missing a headlight and swerving within the traffic lane. CO Killingbeck stopped the vehicle, and immediately smelled a strong odor of intoxicants. An investigation revealed open alcohol in the vehicle as well. The driver admittedly stated that they couldn't pass sobriety tests as they were definitely intoxicated. The subject was found to be over the legal alcohol limit, and was arrested and lodged at the Lake County Jail.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was sitting at an intersection watching snowmobile traffic when he observed two snowmobiles completely disregard a stop sign before crossing a public

roadway. CO Killingbeck was able to stop the operators who said that they did not see anyone around, and did not think it was that big of a deal. CO Killingbeck also found that one snowmobile had an expired 2014 registration on it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and CO Kyle Publiski were on snowmobile patrol when they observed a snowmobile operating at a high rate of speed. The operator was not able to stop at an intersection, and skidded past it for approximately 100 yards. The snowmobile was stopped, and CO Killingbeck noticed that the subject did not have a trail permit displayed. The snowmobiler claimed that it had blown off earlier in the day, but insisted that he did purchase one this year. CO Killingbeck checked through Retail Sales, and found the subject's last purchase was in 2014. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was sitting at a snowmobile trail crossing where snowmobiles are required to stop before crossing a County road. CO Killingbeck observed three snowmobiles completely disregard the stop sign without even slowing down from the high rate of speed they were travelling. CO Killingbeck stopped the snowmobilers who said they had just been stopped by a CO several miles back because of their expired registrations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney was working a heavily travelled snowmobile intersection when he noticed a snowmobile that was displaying an expired registration. Contact was made with the operator, and it was determined that he did not register the snowmobile yet this year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney and CO Josiah Killingbeck were working a heavily travelled snowmobile intersection when they observed a snowmobile operating with an expired registration. They stopped the operator, and a check through LEIN revealed the operator was suspended. He was placed under arrest for a third offense suspended driving.

CO Brian Lebel and CO Angela Greenway were checking local lakes in Mecosta County when they observed a vehicle with smoke coming from the taillight. CO Lebel ran down to the lake and yelled to the anglers in an attempt to locate the vehicle's owner, while CO Greenway monitored the starting fire. A subject ran up and opened the hood for CO Lebel, and he disconnected the battery stopping the electrical fire in the taillight, and preventing further damage to the vehicle.

CO Brian Lebel and CO Ethan Gainforth met with and interviewed a suspect in a recreational trespass complaint and the suspect admitted to the trespassing. A file check of the suspect resulted in three outstanding warrants for the suspect's arrest. The suspect was lodged on the outstanding warrants and ticketed for recreational trespass.

CO Mike Wells was on patrol along a Newaygo County Snowmobile trail, when he observed two snowmobiles parked at a stop sign, one of which was not displaying a valid trail permit. CO Wells made contact with the operators and inquired as to the missing trail permit. The operator displayed an unused trail permit that was in his pocket, stating he had just purchased it and forgot to put it on the snowmobile. During this conversation, two more snowmobiles arrived at the location; one of which was not displaying a headlight and was also missing a valid trail permit. A check of the second snowmobile's registration revealed that it was still issued to the previous owner of the snowmobile and that the operator had purchased the machine over a year ago. A warning was issued to the first subject and he affixed the permit to the snowmobile. The second subject was issued ticket for failing to obtain trail permit with warnings issued for the other violations present.

CO Mike Wells was completing paperwork in his patrol truck at a local Newaygo County business when a female approached him and asked if it was legal to tag a roadkill bobcat with her trapping license. The female seemed nervous and CO Wells asked her for her driver's license. A check of the Retail Sales System (RSS) revealed that the female had no license purchase history in RSS. She then advised that it must be under her husband's name. CO Wells obtained her husband's name and a check revealed that her husband has never purchased a fur harvester license. The female admitted that she hit the bobcat with her car and picked it up earlier this month. She was at the business to obtain a fur harvester license for the bobcat when she saw the DNR truck, and stopped to check if it was OK to keep the bobcat. CO Wells explained to her that road kill law makes it illegal to possess a bobcat struck with a motor vehicle. The female immediately returned to her residence, and turned the cat over to CO Wells. CO Wells issued a warning regarding possession of a roadkill bobcat and educated the individual on the road kill laws.

Acting Sgt. Ben Shively was finishing up with assisting with a personal injury snowmobile accident at a trail intersection in Oceana County, when he observed a snowmobile pass the crash scene with an expired registration and no trail permit. Once passing the scene, the snowmobile took off at a high rate of speed on the trail. Acting Sgt. Shively attempted to catch up to the snowmobile, found that it exited the trail, and went into a neighboring subdivision. Acting Sgt. Shively followed the tracks to a residence where he located the snowmobile sitting in the driveway. Contact was made with occupants at the residence, and the operator was found hiding in the back of the trailer. A file check of the operator found him to be operating a snowmobile with a suspended license. The subject was ticketed for operating a snowmobile with a suspended license, and warnings were issued for failing to register his snowmobile and not obtaining a trail permit.

## **DISTRICT 5**

While patrolling, CO Mark Papineau observed two subjects on ORVs operating in a closed area within the Gladwin Field Trial Area. One of the subjects was also not wearing a helmet. CO Papineau was able to get both operators stopped. While



addressing the issue regarding the operation without a helmet and closed area, CO Papineau also discovered that both drivers were operating on a suspended driver's license and both had outstanding warrants for their arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Wright received a complaint about a litter pile dumped on state land. The only piece of evidence was a sales receipt from a big box store in a nearby community. CO Wright was able to make contact with a loss control specialist within the store and they were able to pull the original receipt. Luckily, due to a purchase of allergy medicine, the suspect's name had been captured for proper documentation. Upon arriving at the suspect's house, CO Wright was met with a response of denial. After presenting the evidence, the CO quickly obtained a confession for the illegal dumping. Charges were issued and clean-up will be part of the sentencing.

While on patrol CO Brian Olsen conducted a traffic stop of hunters in a vehicle that he had witnessed actively hunting for coyotes. Upon making contact with the driver of the vehicle, CO Olsen was also met with an unmistakable odor of marijuana. CO Olsen investigated and the driver turned over a bag of marijuana and a pipe. The driver was subsequently arrested and lodged for possession of marijuana.

During patrol, CO Brian Olsen witnessed two UTVs pop out in front of him operating in a closed area. CO Olsen stopped the ORV and determined that one of the operators had a suspended driver's license. The suspended operator was arrested and lodged for DWLS.

While patrolling for snowmobile activity on the state trail system, CO Kyle Bader came upon two riders whose machines broke down. One of the riders blew a belt and had been trying to install the new one for quite a while. His hand was also bleeding from injuries sustained while trying to install the belt. CO Bader was able to get the new belt installed and get them on their way so the man could take care of his hand.

CO Bader observed an ORV operating on the side of the road occupied by two riders. By the time CO Bader turned around, the ORV took off. CO Bader followed but lost them for a short time when they started going through yards in a subdivision. After a short search, CO Bader located the ORV and riders in a back yard. They said they went into the back yard because they knew the CO was looking for them. The driver was 14 years old and had been spoken to by CO Bader at least two other times for similar issues. Besides riding double and attempting to evade the CO, the operator also didn't have a current ORV license and was too young to ride alone. The subject's father was contacted the next day and law enforcement action was taken.

CO Russell assisted the Michigan State Police with a domestic violence investigation in Iosco County. The male half of the incident had left the residence, but CO Russell located him and turned him over to MSP to finish the investigation. Further investigation revealed his girlfriend pulled a gun on him. MSP completed the investigation and this matter is pending charges.

Charges have been filed against a suspect involved in a trespass complaint during the fall deer season in Kalkaska County. CO Mike Hearn, CO Pullum and CO Ulberg were all involved in an investigation which led to the charges being filed against a suspect who was photographed on a private property trail camera dragging a deer from the property. Through multiple interviews, the suspect was identified and interviewed at his residence downstate. Additional evidence was obtained and it was determined that the suspect had also failed to tag the deer.

While patrolling on a snowmobile, CO Mike Hearn observed a snowmobiler operating carelessly upon a county road in the middle of the afternoon. A traffic stop was made on the snowmobile and contact was made with the operator. CO Hearn observed signs of alcohol impairment. The operator subsequently failed multiple sobriety tests. The operator was arrested, and with the assistance of the Kalkaska Sheriff's Office, was transported to the Kalkaska County Jail. A breath test was conducted and the operator was found to be more than twice over the legal limit.

CO Craig Neal watched an angler set three tip-ups and then head into his shanty. CO Neal checked the angler in his shanty where he had two more lines in the water. The angler stated he was just saving his minnows by keeping them in the water. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal stopped an ORV operating down the middle of the roadway. The operator claims he was not aware that he had to operate on the shoulder of the right-of-way and also had an expired ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Bowen assisted local agencies with the search for a lost hiker. The hiker left his house on foot and became lost in a large swamp area. The hiker started to have chest pains and called for assistance. CO Bowen responded with local law enforcement units. Ultimately, an airboat was needed to gain access to the remote location. The hiker was recovered and transported to the hospital for evaluation.

CO Chris Bowen located three snowmobiles crossing a limited access highway. CO Bowen was only able to get one of the snowmobiles stopped. The other two snowmobiles left the area. CO Bowen, with assistance from a local police department, was able to locate the other two snowmobiles. Once again, only one of the two snowmobiles would stop. The final snowmobile was located the following morning. Enforcement action was taken with all three with failing to stop and charges for the two who fled.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Bob Hobkirk and Sgt. Scott Brown were at the Port Crescent State Park when a roll-over injury accident was reported just a few miles away. Both CO Hobkirk and Sgt. Brown responded to the accident scene to assist local fire and EMS personnel. Fortunately the driver of the vehicle only suffered minor injuries.

CO Bob Hobkirk and CO Kyle Bucholtz received a trespass complaint regarding coyote hunters who shot and retrieved a coyote on property where they did not have permission. CO Hobkirk was not able to respond at the time of the complaint, but interviewed both parties involved the following day. A report will be turned into the county prosecutor for review.

Upon responding to an illegal wood-cutting complaint, CO Kyle Bucholtz located two subjects with warrants and a third in possession of marijuana. CO Bucholtz also located stolen lumber in addition to a loaded firearm in one of the suspect's vehicles. The Huron County Sheriff's Office assisted on scene. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bucholtz responded to a trespass complaint involving area coyote hunters. CO Bucholtz located the hunting group near the complainant's property and spoke with them there. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea was patrolling when he observed a large plume of black smoke coming from behind a residence. Upon checking the fire, the subject was found to be burning tires, an old desk, and multiple other illegal items. A citation was issued for the illegal burn.

CO Mark Siemen assisted the Sanilac County Sheriff's Office with a two vehicle traffic crash. Due to icy and snowy road conditions, the two vehicles collided and CO Siemen was the first responder on scene. Aid was rendered to one of the injured drivers and all information was given to the deputy once on scene.

CO Mark Siemen has been having contact with large numbers of coyote hunters in Sanilac County. CO Siemen made contact with a coyote hunter that was in his vehicle at an intersection waiting for the dogs to chase the coyote out of a small wooded section. After making contact and speaking to the hunter, his weapons were checked, and located in the vehicle was a loaded rifle. Enforcement action was taken by CO Siemen.

CO Will Brickel was on patrol when he came across a group of teens shooting sporting clays. During contact with the group, an odor of marijuana was smelled. After a short interview, the subjects admitted to having a small amount of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Robinson made contact with four rabbit hunters along the road on private property. Only one of the hunters had his license with him, two of them had not purchased a hunting license, and the fourth individual had violated his probation by hunting with a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Richard Cardenas and CO Justin Ulberg were patrolling state land in Kent County when they came across a group of small game hunters. The COs spoke with the

hunters who advised that they had been hunting squirrels and rabbits for the past couple hours. One hunter was not wearing any hunter orange. CO Ulberg explained the importance of wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg followed up on a complaint he received from CO Christopher Holmes about an individual who killed a bobcat in Osceola County without having a bobcat kill tag in his possession. CO Ulberg interviewed the subject who advised he was out coyote hunting when the bobcat came into his predator call. The subject shot the bobcat claiming he did not know that a bobcat kill tag was required. CO Ulberg educated the hunter on the responsibilities of knowing the fish and game laws prior to going out hunting.

While on patrol in Barry County, CO Richard Cardenas located a vehicle parked in the Barry State Game Area. CO Cardenas noticed that the vehicle contained a number of traps in the bed of the truck as well as one muskrat. CO Cardenas was unable to locate any tags on any of the traps. CO Cardenas was able to locate the owner of the traps out in the field. The subject admitted he has been trapping for the last couple years and that he had not tagged any of his traps. The subject was in possession of untagged colony, foothold, and conibear traps. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Greg Patten went to a residence in Muskegon to follow up on a deer complaint. When CO Patten went to the door, he saw a skinned out raccoon lying next to the front door. There was also a bucket with raccoon entrails sitting next to the hide. The resident told CO Patten that a friend of his shot the raccoon while out hunting. The resident said that his friend dropped the coon off for him to skin out. A records check on the friend showed no fur harvester license had been purchased. The subject at the house did not have a fur harvester license either. Contact was made with the friend who dropped off the raccoon who said he did not drop it off and did not kill any raccoons. The friend also said the suspect told him about trapping raccoons near his house. CO Patten returned to the suspect's residence and took enforcement action.

While on patrol enroute to Muskegon State Park to drop off paperwork, CO Greg Patten saw where vehicles were fishtailing up and down the roadway. After dropping off paperwork at the park office, CO Patten saw two vehicles enter the park parking lot. Both vehicles fishtailed and spun doughnuts throughout the lot. CO Patten stopped both vehicles and took enforcement action.

CO BJ Goulette and CO Ivan Perez responded to a complaint by a local landowner of coyote hunters trespassing on his property. The COs were able to locate the hunters leaving other property nearby, discussed the incident with them and gave a warning. Later that day, another complaint was received of the same group of hunters trespassing again on the complainant's property. The subjects were located as they were leaving the area. One was seen trying to hide an uncased firearm as they left the area in their vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO BJ Goulette and CO Ivan Perez responded to a complaint of a subject trespassing on Grand Haven Public School property during deer season. Contact was made with the subject's wife who stated her husband had indeed been hunting the property and had harvested two deer. When contact was made with the husband, he still had both of his kill tags in his pocket. He indicated he had tagged one with his father's tag, never tagged the other one, and had trespassed on school property. Enforcement action was taken for the tagging violations and a warning was given for the trespassing.

CO David Rodgers and CO Cary Foster responded to a trespass complaint where a subject was located gutting a large antlered buck during the closed season on the complainant's property. The complainant had been told by the subject that he had shot it with a bow the previous night, but the entrance hole looked too small to the complainant. Contact was made by CO Foster as the subject loaded the deer into his truck and a full confession was obtained for shooting the antlered deer with a muzzleloader during the closed season. While enroute to the subject's residence to retrieve the muzzle loader used in the incident, a confession was obtained for taking three antlerless deer during the season while trespassing as well. It was also determined through a records check that the subject only had two antlerless kill tags. Enforcement action was taken for the illegal deer and the trespass violation.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Rich Nickols finished an investigation into a trespass complaint from the firearm deer season. In addition to the trespass, the suspect was also found to be baiting in a closed area and shot a doe without having an antlerless deer license. While conducting follow-up, CO Nickols discovered the suspect's step-mother has been purchasing deer tags for the last several years without having ever taken hunter safety. A warrant request is being submitted.

CO Rich Nickols attended the annual Clinton-Ionia Chapter Quality Deer Management Association deer jaw aging night along with several biologists and wildlife technicians from Wildlife Division. The CWD topic was addressed and many questions were answered about CWD and other general law questions. The event continues to have good attendance with about 80 people this year.

Assistant Chief Dean Molnar, CO Larn R. Strawn, CO Rich Nickols and Sgt. Troy Bahlau attended a town hall meeting at the DeWitt Township Community Center. The meeting was sponsored by the Department and focused on a public presentation about chronic wasting disease in the whitetail deer of Michigan. The COs contacted several community members, answered questions and assisted in legal research regarding the disease control permit and the permit regulations. There were approximately 80 people in attendance.

CO Larn R. Strawn, DNR Deer Specialist Chad Stewart, and DNR Research Specialist Brent Rudolph conducted a surveillance flight operation surveying the Chronic Wasting Management Zone. The flight was piloted by Michigan State Police pilot Sgt. Jerry King.

During the flight the team observed, counted and mapped over 1,300 deer and several possible unlawful feeding sites within the CWD Area. CO Strawn documented the sites of interest and will conduct follow up investigations.

CO Matthew Neterer responded to a RAP trespass complaint where a subject had set a foothold trap on the complainant's property without permission. The complainant found a coyote that had been caught in the trap the night before, had already dispatched the coyote and removed the trap. The complainant was very upset and requested to press charges for trespassing. After running the suspect's record, it was determined that this was not his first DNR related violation. A report is being forwarded to the prosecutor.

CO Matthew Neterer was in the area and assisted the Ingham County Sheriff's Department with a possible intoxicated driver who had driven through the complainant's lawn before going into the ditch. Upon arrival, an elderly man was located in his brand new pickup truck still enjoying his lunch and coffee, despite being trapped in the frigid water. It was determined that the man wasn't intoxicated, but was suffering from a medical condition. He was very weak, confused and didn't remember where he was or how he got there. CO Neterer assisted the deputy in removing the subject from the truck and getting him to safety.

CO Matthew Neterer worked an internet case where the suspect posted pictures of two antlerless deer he had taken on the last day of the season. His RSS records showed that at the time of the picture, he only had one antlerless deer tag. When confronted with the evidence, the suspect hung his head and admitted to the violation. Charges are being sought through the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Chris Maher received a call about a deer hanging at a residence on January 9th. The caller was concerned because the late deer season ended the week prior. CO Maher went to the residence to investigate. After investigation, CO Maher determined the deer was properly tagged and taken legally during the season.

CO Jason King assisted MSP, Clinton County, Gratiot County, and other local officers in the search in apprehending a subject that committed a felonious assault on his girlfriend. The subject was placed under arrest by the local officers and law enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol when he heard gun shots coming from a wood lot. CO Slick saw tracks going back into the field and followed them. They led to a truck parked at the edge of the field with two sets of tracks going into the woods. CO Slick followed the tracks through the woods and located two hunters. Neither were wearing hunter orange and one could not produce a valid hunting license. CO Slick issued citations for all violations.

CO Chris Reynolds, while on patrol, noticed a group of hunters walking through a thick wooded area. When the CO made contact and asked for hunting licenses, one of the hunters became quiet and handed CO Reynolds his driver's license. CO Reynolds

checked and the hunter had not purchased a hunting license in two years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds and CO Andy Monnich made contact with two anglers in a shanty while checking ice fisherman. One angler was using one fishing pole, the other using two. The COs checked four tip-ups just a short distance from the shanty. When the COs checked the fishermen's licenses, he noticed that two of the tip-ups belonged to the angler using the two fishing poles in the shanty. A citation was issued for fishing with four lines.

While on patrol, CO Isaac Tyson stopped to check fisherman on a local lake. CO Tyson contacted the first fisherman and asked to see his fishing license. The fisherman said he did not have one. CO Tyson ran the suspect's information and discovered that the suspect had two warrants for his arrest. CO Tyson asked if the fisherman had caught any fish. The fisherman stated he had about 20. A count of the fish showed that the suspect was two fish over his limit with 27 pan fish. Enforcement action was taken and the suspect was lodged in the county jail on the arrest warrants.

CO Pete Purdy was requested to assist MSP on a traffic stop of a truck pulling a snowmobile trailer with three snowmobiles and an improper plate. The three snowmobiles were suspicious and the driver of the vehicle couldn't explain why the snowmobiles weren't registered to him. After ensuring the three snowmobiles on the trailer weren't in LEIN as stolen, the driver was questioned on why the registrations were never transferred after several years of ownership. The snowmobiles and the trailer were impounded until the driver of the vehicle could prove ownership and provide proper registration.

CO Daniel Prince and CO Pete Purdy received a complaint from Pinckney Recreation Area Staff of several butchered deer carcasses dumped on state land. One of the carcasses had a kill tag on it. CO Purdy contacted the owner of the kill tag, who gave the name of a processor where the deer was taken. CO Purdy made contact with the processor who advised several people helped him process deer and also disposed of the carcasses for him. An inspection of the processor's required records revealed that he didn't maintain adequate records of the deer he took in. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler was on the way to a morning Belle Isle shift when he was passed by a vehicle going 100mph. CO Drexler activated his emergency lights and siren and after approximately three quarters of a mile the operator finally noticed he was behind her. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich and CO Chris Reynolds noticed a group of shanties while patrolling Lenawee County. Upon contact with the group of ice anglers, it was noted that a few of the anglers had not purchased licenses before enjoying the first ice of the season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich and CO Chris Reynolds observed a rather large group of individuals racing dirt bikes on a makeshift track on the ice of a public lake. While making contact with the group, it was observed that a number of the ORVs were not displaying proper registration stickers. Enforcement action was taken on the non-registered ORVs, the racing was stopped and the participants educated on how to obtain the proper permits.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While on patrol in Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers checked anglers ice fishing at Buell Lake County Park. CO Beavers made contact with one subject who was unable to provide a fishing license. During the contact, the subject claimed he had a license but must have left it at home. CO Beavers asked if he was positive he had one, since he had all of his hunting licenses in his wallet. The subject stated he was positive, but believes he left it on his night stand at home. After a quick check, it was discovered the subject did not have a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker and CO Chris Knights conducted taxidermy inspections in Oakland County focusing on illegal activity. The COs located several deer that seemed suspicious and interviewed the hunters. In all the cases, the hunters purchased licenses after they had harvested the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Becker was patrolling in White Lake and noticed an empty White Lake Police Department patrol vehicle parked along the road near an area that is known for off road activity. When CO Becker met up with the officer, the officer stated he observed a pickup truck enter the area, but was unable to locate it. CO Becker was able to drive his patrol vehicle into the off road area. Two subjects were located with a pickup loaded with wooden pallets. The subjects stated they intended to have a bonfire with some friends. The subjects were advised they were not going to have a bonfire and to relay the message to their friends. CO Becker explained that the area was private property, and that it is posted with no trespassing signs along the road where the subjects entered. Enforcement action was taken.

Several anglers took advantage of the milder weather during the last week and tried their luck on the lower Detroit River. Checking anglers at one of the popular launch ramps, CO Dan Walzak made contact with two subjects that didn't bring in any fish, but spent the better part of eight hours trying. During the routine vessel inspection, CO Walzak asked if there was a throw-able life preserver on board, and the vessel owner responded "No, I took it out at the end of summer." CO Walzak explained that the life preserver was required on his 21 foot vessel, and that it was especially important with the water temperatures being in the mid-30s. When enforcement action was taken, the vessel owner asked how he could appeal the citation. The CO asked him if he had located the required equipment and the subject replied "No, but I usually use a rope." CO Walzak advised him that he needed a device that was designed to keep a person afloat until that person could be removed from the water. The vessel owner showed the



CO a round vinyl covered piece of wood made to fit over a five gallon bucket. The search ended at that point.

CO James Zellinger contacted a subject on a snowmobile failing to display a trail sticker and without his paper registration on his person. The subject claimed it had been too cold for the trail sticker to stick to his sled since he had been in the UP. When asked how long he had been in the UP, the subject said 4 days. CO Zellinger informed the subject that he put a trail sticker on a patrol sled the night before and it stuck without any problem. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger followed up on a possible illegal deer investigation where a subject may have purchased a hunting license after-the-fact of taking a deer. CO Schaumburger met the subject at his residence for an interview. The suspect was not cooperative, so CO Schaumburger interviewed two other eye-witnesses. After the CO looked over his notes from the interviews, things just did not seem to add up. One particular piece of evidence the CO gained was a picture that was time stamped at 5:09 p.m. with one of the eye-witnesses posing with deer in question. The piece of evidence did not match any of their stories, especially since the deer license was purchased at 4:51 p.m. That left the hunter only 15 minutes to drive from the store, park his vehicle, load his gun, walk in the woods, shoot a deer, and call his friend over to take a picture with the deer. CO Schaumburger decided to call the one of the eye-witnesses back and set up another interview for the following day. When the CO met the eye-witness, the witness stated, "I need to tell you the truth right now." The witness stated that he had, in fact, shot the deer and had his friend, the original person of interest, go buy him a kill tag to put on the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Harrison Township, Sgt. Todd Szyska was flagged down by a subject stating that there was a guy walking around the shoreline behind Gino's Surf with a shotgun. The complainant stated he knew duck season was over and wondered what the subject could be doing. Given this information, Sgt. Szyska responded to the foreclosed piece of property and made contact with two subjects trying to ice fish off of the boat wells. One of the subjects had a large long tree branch in his arm, which he was using to make a hole in the ice so they could fish. The long tree branch was mistaken as a shotgun from a distance and no weapons were present. However, both subjects were trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel was on patrol in Macomb County when he observed an ORV being operated at a high rate of speed on the roadway. CO Kiel stopped the operator. He was found to be not wearing a helmet, operating an unlicensed ORV, and operating against the terms of his restricted license, along with operating on the roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel has been conducting an investigation and interviews on two deer that were taken while trespassing. One rack has been seized from a taxidermist. The suspect is a convicted felon and one of the deer was taken with a firearm. The investigation continues.

CO Brad Silorey and CO Kris Kiel were checking ice anglers when they came across a group that was catching fish at a very high rate. After a brief amount of time of watching the anglers, it was clear that one of the anglers was close to his limit. Upon arrival to the location where the anglers were setup, the fisherman of interest began to kick all the fish around the hole back into the water. Despite verbal commands by COs Silorey and Kiel, the man continued to release the fish back into the water. CO Silorey inspected the remaining fish in the angler's bucket and they totaled 24 perch. However, the angler did not have his fishing license on him at the time. CO Silorey took the angler's information and contacted DNR dispatch to check to see if the angler had bought a fishing license this year. Dispatch returned stating that the last purchase from the angler was in 2014. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey was contacted by Sgt. Todd Szyska regarding a subject that was being detained by Home Land Security in Detroit. The subject had a DNR warrant dating back to 2008, for fishing without a license. The subject failed to appear at his court date, resulting in a warrant for his arrest. CO Silorey travelled to Detroit to pick up the subject and brought him to court to be arraigned. The Judge of the 42-2 District Court set a bond amount, which the subject could not post, and was ordered to two days in jail. CO Silorey then transported the subject and lodged him at the Macomb County Jail.

CO Matthew Zultak responded to a recreational trespass complaint in Lapeer County. The suspect had shot a 7-point whitetail deer and went on his neighbor's property to recover it without permission. The subject shot the deer over a truck load of sugar beets and carrots. He also shot the deer while in the safety zone of the complaint's barn. The suspect's father admitted to over-baiting for recreational viewing purposes. A file was run on the suspect and the suspect's father. Both subjects had misdemeanor warrants. The father posted bond and the son was transported to the Lapeer County Jail. A report will be submitted to the county prosecutor.

CO Matthew Zultak was informed of a hunter casualty accident via information obtained from CO Ken Kovach. The incident is still under investigation. CO Zultak is working jointly with the Lapeer County Sheriff Department. The incident occurred in Silverwood on private property. While four hunters were rabbit hunting, three hunters stayed on one side of a brush pile, and the fourth hunter stayed alone on the other side of the brush pile. Upon walking the brush pile area for rabbits, the fourth hunter, all by his lonesome, tripped on a log and discharged a .22 pistol, which he had been carrying on his person. The .22 hand gun discharged and the bullet entered the subject's arm pit, bounced off of his shoulder bone, ricocheted down hitting a rib, then went into his lung, and finally came to rest somewhere by his back. The subject is still in McLaren Lapeer after having underwent surgery, is expected to be hospitalized and not discharged until next week. When the incident occurred, one of the other three hunters fled the scene as he had a valid warrant for taking an illegal white tailed deer, which had been obtained by CO Kovach and CO Zultak. One of the remaining hunters called Lapeer County 911 Dispatch to request assistance.

While checking ice fisherman coming off Lake St Clair, CO Ben Lasher found an angler who had a large number of blue gill in his bucket. CO Lasher asked how many he had. The angler stated 30 some and a couple of perch. CO Lasher then asked if he knew what the possession limit was for blue gill, and the angler stated 50. Upon further investigation and counting the fish, the angler was found to have 12 fish over his 25 pan fish limit. Enforcement action was taken.

## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Chris Maher worked first shift on Belle Isle where he assisted the Detroit Police Department with a possible suicidal subject. CO Maher received a call from Station 20 stating there was a car parked and a man standing by the bridge. Upon arrival, the subject was sitting in his car where he explained he was having a fight with his girlfriend. The subject was escorted to Detroit Receiving Hospital, with no incident, for further evaluation.