

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
1/30/2017 – 2/12/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officers (COs) Brian Lasanen and Ethen Mapes were patrolling the Bergland area on snowmobiles when they observed two snowmobilers blow through a stop sign. Once contact was made, the COs could smell the odor of intoxicants emitting from one of the subjects. The subject advised he had consumed three beers in the past hour. Once the standard field sobriety tests were completed, the operator was arrested for operating while intoxicated and careless driving.

CO Ethen Mapes responded to a snowmobile accident where a man lost control of his snowmobile and struck a large tree. The man was transported to the hospital and treated for multiple injuries.

As CO Brian Lasanen was filling up his patrol truck in Mass City, he watched a group of eight snowmobilers approach while riding on the plowed portion of a state highway and against the flow of traffic. Contact was made and one of the riders stated they had only come from around the building. The story changed when CO Lasanen asked if they would like to view the security camera footage together. Law enforcement action was taken for operating a snowmobile on the plowed portion of a state highway.

CO David Miller and Sgt. Emery worked three different areas in Ontonagon County to address complaints of excessive noise, careless operation and speed. Approximately 85 snowmobilers were contacted with six citations being issued for careless operation, expired snowmobile registrations and no trail permits. Several other warnings were given for improper display of snowmobile registrations and trail permits, failing to stop for a stop sign, and excessive noise.

COs Doug Hermanson, Dave Miller, Dennis Gast, Ethen Mapes, Brian Lasanen, Mark Leadman, Sgt. Grant Emery, Sgt. Ryan Aho and a sheriff's deputy from the Houghton County Sheriff's Office conducted a joint group snowmobile patrol over the weekend. The officers worked a trail crossing in the City of Houghton where several loud snowmobile complaints had been received. Over 450 snowmobilers were contacted throughout the afternoon and 15 snowmobiles were ticketed for exceeding the 88 Db sound limit. Several other related snowmobile citations were issued during the patrol: 7 for snowmobile registration violations and 3 for failure to obtain a snowmobile trail permit. 29 warnings were given for various registration and trail permit violations.

CO Ethen Mapes and Brian Lasanen stopped a group of four snowmobiles for failing to stop at a stop sign near Houghton. Through their investigation it was determined that all four operators were operating under the influence of drugs. All four individuals were lodged for operating under the influence of drugs (OUID), two were ticketed for careless

operation of a snowmobile and the prosecutor has authorized charges for possession of marijuana.

COs Nathan Sink, Jason Wicklund and Shannon Kritz worked a group patrol to target snowmobile activity and ice fishing activity in Iron County. The COs targeted snowmobile noise levels and registration compliance. Many contacts were made with good compliance found for the snowmobile checks and ice fishing checks.

CO Nathan Sink was dealing with a group of snowmobilers for not stopping at a stop sign when another group of snowmobilers passed him. CO Nathan Sink observed that several of the snowmobiles did not have trail stickers. When CO Sink finished his contact with the original group, he followed the group for two miles before a stop was conducted. The group stated they passed by several gas stations but did not feel like stopping to buy trail stickers. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Bacon, Shannon Kritz, Nathan Sink, Sgt. Marc Pomroy and GLIFWC Warden Matt Kniskern conducted a group snowmobile patrol in Gogebic County to address snowmobile sound complaints, registration violations, trail permit violations and safe operation. The officers cited operators for registration and trail permit violations as well as careless operation.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy received a call of a snowmobile that was found crashed along the trail near Watersmeet with no one around the scene. Sgt. Pomroy passed the information to CO Nathan Sink to investigate. CO Sink developed a suspect and stopped at his residence to try and locate the snowmobile and identify the operator. CO Sink obtained a confession from the subject for operating the snowmobile the night prior and failing to report the injury accident. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy received a call from a local Michigan State Police Trooper requesting assistance at a residence where a possible illegal deer was found. Sgt. Pomroy arrived on scene and located the freshly shot deer lying in a corn pile behind the residence. After interviewing the three residents of the house, all denied knowing anything about a dead deer laying in the yard. Once presented with the evidence of shell casing found on the steps of the residence and a matching .22 rifle inside, the story changed and a confession was obtained for shooting the deer with the .22 rifle that was purchased the day before. Enforcement action was taken and the deer was seized.

CO Jeremy Sergey participated in a group snowmobile patrol in Marquette County to enforce laws and regulations associated with snowmobile use. CO Sergey saw an individual who failed to stop at a clearly marked stop sign at a railroad crossing. CO Sergey stopped the individual and issued a citation for careless operation of a snowmobile and issued a verbal warning for placing the registration decal on the tunnel.

CO Sergey observed an individual on a snowmobile which did not have a registration. After stopping the snowmobile, the individual stated he borrowed it from his friend and everything he needed was in the saddle. After going through the contents of the saddle,

the registration was not found. CO Sergey investigated further and discovered that the snowmobile had not been registered since 2014. A citation was issued.

COs Jeremy Sergey, Jeffrey Dell, Mark Leadman, Brett DeLonge and Sgt. Ryan Aho conducted a group snowmobile sound patrol near Gwinn in Marquette County. Nine citations were issued for operating a snowmobile exceeding the 88 decibel limit. Multiple registration and trail permit violations were also observed and addressed with enforcement action.

Sgt. Ryan Aho and CO Brett DeLonge conducted a sound enforcement snowmobile patrol near Ishpeming in Marquette County. Two citations were issued for operating a snowmobile exceeding the 88 decibel limit along with several tickets and warnings for other snowmobile related violations.

CO Jeffrey Dell was performing fishing checks on Shakey Lakes when he came upon two ice fishermen with a side-by-side. CO Dell noticed the ORV was not properly licensed. One ice fisherman stated he thought he didn't need one because he only drove it from the shore. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell was working a snowmobile trail crossing when he observed two snowmobiles fail to stop and cross the roadway at a high rate of speed. A stop was made and enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeremy Sergey and Jeffrey Dell observed a snowmobile traveling at a high rate of speed within 100 feet of ice shanties on Shakey Lakes. The rider was contacted and enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeffrey Dell, Jeremy Sergey and Cpl. Marv Gerlach attended two sportsmen's club meetings. One was in Hermansville at the William Anderson Sportsman's Club. The second was in Wilson at the Northern Menominee County Sportsman's Club. The COs answered questions ranging from snowmobile laws and regulations to an upcoming fishing derby.

CO Brett DeLonge responded to a domestic in progress in the City of Negaunee and arrived on scene along with an MSP Trooper. Persons involved were separated and call was turned over to Negaunee City Police when they arrived.

COs Doug Hermanson, Brian Lasanen and Denny Gast attended the Ontonagon Valley Sportsman Club annual predator hunt in Kenton. COs Hermanson and Lasanen reviewed hunting rules and regulations along with hunter safety requirements. They answered several question participants had during the registration meeting prior to the hunt beginning. COs Hermanson and Gast attended the final check in. Overall the hunt was well attended with lower numbers than in the past years on the number of coyote, fox and bobcats being harvested.

## **DISTRICT 2**

COs Michael Evink and Robert Freeborn conducted a joint snowmobile patrol near Grand Maris. The COs ran the sound meter at a high traffic area. Tickets were issued to two sleds failing the sound test. Other issues in the area included careless operation and failing to stop where the trail joins a county road. Numerous warnings were given for "rolling stops" and a few tickets issued for completely blowing through stop signs.

CO Michael Evink received information on a previously lost truck in the woods from late last year. The truck was located and the information was passed on to Michigan State Police Troopers for continued investigation.

COs Robert Freeborn and Pat Hartsig assisted in a snowmobile personal injury accident. The operator lost control of her snowmobile and struck a tree head on. The operator was transported to the hospital with a possible broken leg.

COs Robert Freeborn and Jon Busken conducted a snowmobile patrol and while overall compliance was good, the COs did encounter the following violations; unregistered snowmobile, no trail permit, failure to display trail permit and failure to transfer title within 15 days. Citations were issued for all violations.

CO Pat Hartsig was on snowmobile patrol in Alger County working at a busy intersection. CO Hartsig witnessed numerous snowmobiles run stop signs at an intersection regularly used by logging trucks. Stops were made, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig heard a call from dispatch of a special needs boy that had run from home and was on Little Bay de Noc somewhere south of the city of Gladstone on the ice. CO Hartsig was in the area and responded on his snowmobile from a public access across the bay from where the boy was last seen. After driving south on the frozen waters for a few miles, the 10 year old boy was located. The child was not wearing any boots and his stocking feet were cold and freezing. The wet socks were removed from the boy, and CO Pat Hartsig placed his boots on the child, as well as his gloves and snowmobile helmet. CO Pat Hartsig then transported the child to the MSP Gladstone post to the hands of a deputy and the boy's mother.

CO Pat Hartsig was patrolling Little Bay de Noc for fishing activity when he noticed a group of tip-ups that were placed in a line outside of a residence on the bay. Closer inspection of the tip-ups showed that snow had drifted over them and made the flag un-useable as ice had built up on the flag not allowing it to spring up. After chiseling the ice from the tip-up, the flag was sprung, and CO Pat Hartsig waited. After 25 minutes and nobody coming to tend the flag, contact with the homeowner that lived nearest to the tip-ups was made. The subject stated he watches the lines 24/7, and if he wasn't home his girlfriend keeps an eye on them. The man said he was at the store this morning to buy more minnows and his girlfriend had watched the four lines while he was gone. CO Pat Hartsig asked to speak with the girlfriend, who emerged from bed in a bathrobe and stated they always watch them, except coincidentally for this time frame when CO

Hartsig had tripped the flag. This was not the first time this individual was cited for this offense. Enforcement action was taken, again.

CO Pat Hartsig was patrolling Little Bay de Noc when he came upon an ice shanty that had 5 tip-ups outside of it. CO Hartsig contacted the occupant, who was fishing with another line inside. He stated he had set the extra lines up in the morning for a friend who was going to meet him there after work. Enforcement action was taken for fishing with too many lines.

CO Pat Hartsig and Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon attended a meeting of the Bay de Noc Great Lakes Sport Fishermen Club. The COs were able to answer questions and provide assistance on a number of topics.

CO Chris Lynch and Pat Hartsig conducted a snowmobile patrol in Alger County. Several contacts were made and some violations addressed were careless operation and fail to affix trail permits. Four citations were issued and several warnings were given.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when he observed a snowmobile operating against the flow of traffic on a county road and the operator wasn't wearing a helmet. Upon contact with the operator, CO Lynch observed there was no registration decal on the snowmobile. The operator was issued a citation for the violations.

CO Mark Zitnik was on snowmobile patrol when he witnessed two snowmobiles drive through a stop sign. CO Zitnik made contact with the riders who stated that no one uses the intersecting road. CO Zitnik proceeded to show the avid riders the fresh snowmobile tracks crossing the intersection. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik assisted the Alger County Sheriff's Department with a snowmobile accident. The individual was transported to Marquette General for a possible broken leg.

CO Mark Zitnik and Alger County Sheriff's Department were on snowmobile patrol looking to address safety issues in Alger County. Multiple citations were issued for failure to obtain a trail permit, improper displaying of registrations and trail permits, and careless operation of a snowmobile.

Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon worked a complaint of snowmobiles speeding through a residential area and running stop signs in Wetmore. Several groups were stopped for ignoring the trail stop signs. A few tickets and several warnings were given out along with a reminder that the cooperation of the residents in areas such as this is important to the future of the trail system.

CO Calvin Smith was working a busy snowmobile intersection when he observed a snowmobile displaying an expired registration. The registration had expired in 2008, law enforcement action was taken.

COs Bobby Watson and Calvin Smith checked several ice fishermen on Big Manistique Lake, as the COs were approaching an angler that was returning to his ice shack, they observed him drop a fishing pole. The angler however did not drop the walleye he had just caught and when contact was made, the individual stated well guys, get your ticket books out I have too many lines in the water which in fact he did. Law enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Mike Hammill handled a snowmobile crash near Tahquamenon Falls. A snowmobiler was operating at a high rate of speed, became air born, sailed past a groomer and hit its rear drag. The snowmobiler and Sgt. Hammill both agreed that a citation was warranted.

COs Bobby Watson, Calvin Smith, Kevin Postma, Tom Oberg, Jon Busken and Sgt. Mike Hammill, along with two Chippewa County deputies, conducted a group snowmobile patrol in the Paradise area. Numerous citations were issued for careless operation, excessive sound, and trail and registration stickers. Over the course of the day the officers contacted over 400 snowmobilers. Numerous residents of the Paradise area thanked us for our presence and offered coffee and snacks any day of the week.

CO Tom Oberg started patrolling Munuscong Bay when the weather immediately turned to whiteout conditions. CO Oberg saw an ice shanty not too far from him with a snowmobile sitting next to it. Contact was made with the individuals and several sub legal walleyes were measured. CO Oberg noticed one was barely 14 inches. When asked if the anglers knew what the legal size limit for walleye is they stated 14 inches. CO Oberg advised them that the legal minimum size limit for walleye is 15 inches. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tom Oberg was working snowmobile patrol when he came across a couple of younger riders not too far from their house around the Kinross area operating without trail stickers. CO Oberg gave a warning to the 16 year old rider and told him how to correct it. CO Oberg then began patrolling the same direction they were heading. CO Oberg witnessed one of the riders from that same group leave the trail to ride on the side of a hill in a careless manner, lose control and hit a telephone pole. CO Oberg stopped and made sure the 18 year old rider was alright and observed the damage on the snowmobile. An accident report was completed and enforcement action was taken.

COs in District 2 including Rob Freeborn, Mark Zitnik, Bobby Watson, Calvin Smith, Jon Busken, Kevin Postma, Tom Oberg, Brett Gustafson, Sgt. Mike Hammill and Lt. Skip Hagy conducted a group snowmobile patrol for the I-500 snowmobile race held in Sault Ste. Marie. Over 500 contacts were made with snowmobilers from several states. During the contacts the COs answered questions, gave directions, advised riders of trail conditions, and discussed operating tips to help promote safe snowmobiling. The COs focused on keeping the trails safe from careless and reckless operation throughout the busy weekend. In all, 66 verbal warnings were given out for various violations, and 20 tickets were issued, three of which were for sound violations.

## **DISTRICT 3**

CO Steve Speigl stopped a group of snowmobilers operating on the shoulder of M-88 in Antrim County. CO Speigl was explaining to the group about the local problems associated with snowmobiles operating in that area. As CO Speigl was issuing the citation, a woman in an adjacent house started yelling at the group of riders that they were trespassing and needed to leave. One of the riders yelled back that they were stopped and couldn't leave just yet. The property owner was pleased at the group being cited and explained the snowmobilers continually filled her driveway in and she had difficulty getting out of her driveway.

CO Steve Speigl presented a trapping safety booth at the Boy Scouts Klondike Derby in Gaylord. Over one hundred boy scouts were educated in trapping safety.

While conducting a taxidermy inspection in Antrim County, CO Andrea Albert came across a thirteen-point set of deer antlers that had a combo tag on them that appeared to be suspicious. A follow up interview with the hunter revealed that he had shot the deer during archery season without a license. After shooting the deer, he went and purchased a tag for it. The hunter, who had been archery hunting for years, stated it was a buck of a lifetime. The antlers and venison were seized and enforcement action was taken

CO Andrea Erratt checked four snowmobilers pulled off the trail in the Jordan River Valley, all of which had registration decals attached to the back of the tunnel. One individual owned three of the snowmobiles. After complaining about getting one ticket and two warnings for improperly placed snowmobile registration decals, the owner admitted he knew the decals were supposed to be on the front.

CO Andrea Erratt checked several bobcat hunters early Sunday morning in Charlevoix County. Later that afternoon while on snowmobile patrol, CO Erratt contacted the hunters attempting to retrieve their dogs. CO Erratt cut through private property where she had permission to ride, located the walker hound, and led it out to a main road where the grateful hunters picked up their dog.

While conducting an evening patrol on Crooked Lake in Emmet County, CO Duane Budreau approached a shanty with six tip-ups out. As CO Budreau approached and identified himself, there was a long delay in response to the door. When the anglers finally exited the shanty, they immediately retrieved their fishing licenses. CO Budreau checked the two walleye on the ice and then asked about the number of lines they had out. Initially they stated they had two in the shanty in addition to the tip-ups outside; however, when CO Budreau pointed out that they had too many lines out they retracted and stated that the lines in the shanty were not in the water. After looking inside the shanty and noticing the live minnows on the hook and line attached to the poles next to the chair and open hole, law enforcement action was taken.

Most district COs patrolled Black Lake during the winter sturgeon spearing season. The season lasted just over one hour. When the season was concluded, COs assisted Fisheries Division staff with notifying anglers that the season was over for sturgeon after the quota was harvested. COs also conducted pre-season and post-season sturgeon patrols on Black Lake, resulting in five citations being issued for various snowmobile and ORV violations.

CO Mark Depew was stationary on a snowmobile trail when a snowmobile operator came around a corner too quickly and failed to stop in time to avoid striking his patrol snowmobile. CO Depew pursued the snowmobile, which initially failed to stop after the minor collision. The operator was cited for careless operation and a registration violation. Luckily, neither CO Depew nor the suspect was injured and neither of the snowmobiles was damaged during the incident.

CO Mark Depew patrolled Bass Lake in Otsego County and encountered a husband and wife fishing with eight lines. CO Depew cited one subject for the violations and two additional subjects for fishing with no licenses elsewhere on the lake.

CO Mark Depew was patrolling an area where COs had received multiple snowmobile complaints related to excessive speed on a residential road in Gaylord. CO Depew stopped a subject who admitted to operating well over the speed limit for the residential road. A citation was issued for careless operation on a snowmobile.

CO Tim Rosochacki contacted a subject fishing with four lines on Mullett Lake and issued a citation for fishing with more than three lines.

CO Brad Bellville, Montmorency County, and CO Paul Fox, Presque Isle County, continue to investigate a downstate subject that shot multiple deer on state land during the closed season. Multiple charges are pending in both counties.

CO Adam LeClerc, Alpena County, worked a snowmobile patrol in the Lewiston area and wrote several citations for careless operation. Multiple warnings were also given. COs Bill Webster and Adam LeClerc are both currently working on background investigations regarding hiring potential new recruit conservation officers.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Sean Kehoe and CO Rich Stowe participated in a question and answer session at the annual East Bay Calvary Church Sportsman's Banquet. Over the two day event the COs spoke to a crowd of over 1,400 people.

COs from around the area worked with sheriff's deputies and U.S. Forest Service officers patrolling Wexford County during the North American Snow Festival. The COs made contact with numerous snowmobilers and ice anglers in the Cadillac area for the festival. Several citations were issued for violations as well as numerous warnings. CO Troy Mueller witnessed a snowmobile collide into a tree causing a minor collision and

was first on scene to assist. CO Scott MacNeill was a first responder to a snowmobile through the ice complaint where the operator was treated for hypothermia.

CO William Kinney stopped a snowmobile for displaying an expired snowmobile registration. After further investigation, it was found that the operator had not registered the snowmobile since 2012 and the snowmobile had not had a valid trail permit since 2013. In addition, CO Kinney discovered multiple other violations and enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney and CO Colton Gelinias were patrolling Lake Mitchell in Wexford County for snowmobilers and ice fishermen. During the course of checking fishermen, the COs came across an individual who could not locate his fishing license. A check was run to see if the fisherman had in fact purchased a license for the year. The man came back with having two outstanding warrants for his arrest and no record of having a current fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Colton Gelinias and CO Scott MacNeill were on Cadillac Snow Festival detail when the two COs observed a snowmobile operating without a trail permit. The two COs made contact with the driver who had a suspended driver's license, as well as numerous snowmobile violations. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Patrick McManus and CO Colton Gelinias were on patrol in Benzie County when they were dispatched to a truck stuck on a designated snowmobile trail. The two COs made contact with the driver who stated he was following his GPS. The driver was also in possession of marijuana along with several motor vehicle violations. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney was at the boat access ramp at Mitchell State Park in Cadillac checking fishermen as they exited the ice. CO Kinney observed an ORV exiting the ice with the driver not wearing a crash helmet. CO Kinney stopped the individual to address the issue and also discovered the ORV did not have a current ORV license. The individual driving the ORV was also driving on a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott MacNeill worked a group snowmobile patrol with CO Ryan Andrews, CO Steve Converse, CO Sam Koscinski and Sgt. Carla Soper in Wexford County for the Snow Festival. During his patrol, CO MacNeill witnessed several snowmobile violations; including riding without a helmet, improper registration, no registration, no trail permit, and operating while license revoked. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott MacNeill and CO William Kinney responded to a 911 call of a snowmobiler who went through the ice of Lake Cadillac near Lake Mitchell State Park late Saturday night. The incident occurred where the canal enters the lake causing open water. Dispatch informed that the operator of the snowmobile was still in the water. The COs arrived first on scene where they found a woman being carried to shore by her husband. Both had been riding their own snowmobiles when she fell through. The COs

provided first aid and took steps towards preventing hypothermia before medical personnel arrived and took her to the hospital. The snowmobile was unrecoverable due to the depth, distance from shore, and time of night the incident occurred. Local law enforcement took over the incident and recovery of the snowmobile.

CO Ryan Andrews and Sgt. Carla Soper were working on snowmobiles near Caberfae when they witnessed a snowmobile coming towards them with a flashing green light. The COs stopped the operator and found that he had affixed an LED strip light above the visor on his helmet. The light being projected forward, along with him bouncing on the trail, gave an overall appearance of law enforcement lights. The COs quickly realized that the snowmobile also had an expired registration and when they ran the operator in LEIN they found that he was suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Andrews was patrolling Lake County snowmobile trails when a snowmobile approached without any registration stickers visible on the machine. Upon investigation, the machine was borrowed and there was no copy of the paper registration with it. The owner was contacted to verify the story and a check of the VIN revealed the registration was expired as well. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews observed a snowmobile that appeared to have plain white stickers instead of colored registration decals. A stop of the snowmobile was made and it was determined that the snowmobile did not have a valid registration. Additionally, another snowmobile in the group was also discovered to have an expired registration. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking ice fishermen in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews contacted a pair of anglers fishing in a shanty. One of the anglers admitted to not having previously purchased a fishing license. A routine check with local dispatch also revealed a warrant for the individual's arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse and CO Sam Koscinski worked a snowmobile patrol on Portage Lake on Friday that resulted in citations issued for an over-limit of fishing lines and for failing to register an ORV.

CO Sam Koscinski worked the Cadillac Snow Festival in Wexford County and found one subject operating his snowmobile without a trail permit and also witnessed an operator who was operating his snowmobile in a careless manner. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky stopped three snowmobiles operating against the flow of traffic on US 10. Upon making contact with the operators, the COs discovered that none of the snowmobiles had trail permits and one of the drivers had a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Lake County on snowmobiles, CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky worked an area where they have had problems with careless snowmobile operation.

While sitting on a snowmobile trail that merged onto a county road, the COs watched a snowmobile operating at a high rate of speed that failed to stop before entering the roadway. CO Publiski activated the emergency lights on his sled and finally got the sled stopped about one mile from where the violation occurred due to the high rate of speed. Upon making contact with the driver, CO Publiski smelled a strong odor of marijuana. A search of the driver located a bag of marijuana and pipe. Further investigation determined that the driver of the snowmobile had a suspended operator's license. The operator of the snowmobile was lodged in the Lake County Jail for the violations and his snowmobile was towed.

While checking lakes in Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski walked out on the ice to check a fisherman that was just pulling up his tip-ups. CO Publiski asked the angler how he was doing and the angler didn't respond and acted like the CO wasn't even there. CO Publiski again asked the angler to see his fish and asked how many fish he had. The angler replied "four" and CO Publiski located four northern pike on his sled. CO Publiski asked why the angler was over his limit and the angler stated that "his grandson had just left a few minutes before the CO got there." CO Publiski then asked the fisherman for his license and the angler replied "I don't have one." A check through retail licensing revealed the angler had not purchased a license since 2000. CO Publiski got the angler's identification and then asked the two anglers fishing nearby if the man had been fishing by himself. They informed that the man had been fishing alone all day long. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski followed up on some information he had received where a hunter had tried to seal a bobcat sealed that he had shot out of season. CO Kyle Publiski met the hunter at his residence and discussed the incident with him. The hunter informed he was hunting coyote at night when a bobcat came in to his call. He admitted shooting the bobcat, thinking the season was still open. CO Publiski agreed with the subject that mistakes can certainly happen, but advised that not only did he take the bobcat out of season; but that he also took the bobcat several hours after legal shooting hours had ended. Enforcement action was taken and the bobcat was seized.

Working near Hamlin Lake in Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski watched a subject operating an ORV without a helmet on a county road. The operator failed to stop at a stop sign and then turned into the parking lot and began doing donuts all over the parking lot. Further complicating the operator's problems, CO Publiski found the operator failed to purchase an ORV registration and also failed to title his ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway contacted two non-resident snowmobiles. One snowmobile was expired. The operator told CO Greenway that they don't have to register snowmobiles in their home state and that the expired registration was in the name of the person he purchased the snowmobile from. CO Greenway checked the registration ownership and it returned to the operator. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was on foot patrol on a lake when he made contact with two subjects fishing in a portable shanty with several tip-ups set up around the shanty. CO Wells noticed a northern pike lying on the ice next to one of the tip-ups. CO Wells made contact and requested licenses from both subjects, one of which had left his license at home. He also admitted that he had caught the pike lying on the ice. CO Wells asked the subject if he knew the legal size limit for northern pike and the subject responded 15 inches. Measurement of the fish revealed it to be 22 ½ inches in length. When CO Wells advised him of the correct 24 inch minimum size limit, the subject advised that the fish had swallowed the hook and he did not want it to go to waste. Inspection of his tip-ups also revealed that he had failed to mark them with his name and address. A citation was issued for the undersized fish, and warnings issued for the no license in possession and no name/address on tip-ups.

CO Casey Varriale observed an angler operating an ORV on a frozen lake. CO Varriale was conducting stationary surveillance when the ORV traveled toward his direction. CO Varriale made contact with the ORV operator that immediately informed the CO that he had an over-limit of blue gills. A citation was issued for the over-limit.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Craig Neal was patrolling Houghton Lake when he observed three tip-ups with no angler in sight. CO Neal tripped a flag on one of the tip-ups and waited 15 minutes for the angler to tend to his lines. When the angler arrived in the area on his ORV, CO Neal noticed he wasn't wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn responded to a 911 call of a vehicle in the ditch off M-72 near the Village of Kalkaska. When CO Hearn made contact with the driver, he stated he was distracted while on his cell phone and lost control of the car. Further investigation determined the driver was highly intoxicated and wanted on an outstanding warrant. The driver was arrested and lodged in the Kalkaska County Jail.

COs Sam Schluckbier and Mike Hearn conducted a taxidermy investigation where they determined a large 8-point buck had been killed before the hunter had purchased a license. An interview with the hunter led to a confession for the violation. He claimed that he wanted to make sure the buck was big enough to take to the taxidermist before he bought his license. Charges are being sought through the Kalkaska County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Sam Schluckbier made contact with two adults and a child who were ice fishing on a local lake in Kalkaska County. One of the adults stated they were only helping the child bait and set the hook. After CO Schluckbier explained that he had been watching all three subjects fishing, the adult confessed to fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

While on snowmobile patrol in Ogemaw County, CO Kyle Bader located an abandoned snowmobile that had crashed into a tree. He conducted an investigation and developed

a suspect. The suspect initially denied being involved in the accident, even after CO Bader pointed out a glove next to the suspect's snowmobile suit that matched one left at the scene. The suspect contacted CO Bader at a later time to confess. The man claimed he had been knocked out when he hit the tree and was found by a passerby who offered him a ride home. Charges are being sought through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office for driving while license suspended and failing to report an accident.

COs Kyle Cherry and Jon Warner conducted a group snowmobile patrol in Iosco County with US Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Justin Repine. They contacted several groups of snowmobilers at a popular intersection. One of the operators did not have a trail permit or a valid registration for his snowmobile. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the operator also had a suspended license and a warrant for his arrest. He was arrested and lodged in the Iosco County Jail.

CO Ethan Gainforth responded to a complaint of trespass near a lake in rural Clare County. It appeared the anglers had walked across the property owner's land in order to take a short cut to their favorite fishing hole. They walked right past the "No Trespassing" signs on their journey to head out fishing. CO Gainforth was able to track down the anglers and issue citations for trespassing.

CO Nick Atkin was working a fish patrol on Houghton Lake when he stopped to check two anglers on the ice. The first angler told CO Atkin about a nice walleye that his buddy had caught earlier in the day. Unaware the officer already knew about his walleye, the second angler initially denied having caught any fish. By the end of the interview, the angler admitted to catching the walleye. He reached into a side pocket of his coat and pulled out an undersized walleye that was wrapped up in a plastic bag. A citation was issued for the violation.

CO Nick Atkin was pulling up to the edge of Saginaw Bay in his patrol truck when he noticed a snowmobiler starting to exit the ice up onto shore. Seeing the CO, the operator quickly turned around and drove back out onto the ice in an attempt to "dodge" the officer. CO Atkin quickly left the area and hid his patrol truck. After a short wait, the snowmobile operator decided the "coast was clear." When he returned onto shore, CO Atkin was quick to initiate a stop. Several violations were present, including no helmet, improper placement of registration decal and no trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Lockwood stopped an ORV operator for riding double. Apparently, the operator was giving his brother a ride because his ORV had broken down. CO Lockwood noticed the operator was acting strange. He was showing signs of intoxication and admitted to having a couple alcoholic drinks earlier in the day. After being ran through sobriety tests, the operator was arrested for operating an ORV while under the influence of alcohol. He was transported and lodged in the Gladwin County Jail.

## **DISTRICT 6**

While reviewing a list of hunting licenses purchased by individuals, CO John Byars made contact with several of the subjects. CO Byars found that one of the subjects had been obtaining a Michigan hunting license illegally for the last three years. The subject had left the military three years ago and decided to continue showing old leave papers in attempts to receive free licenses. When the CO asked the subject why he has purchased licenses for the last three years illegally, the subject stated he knows other people that have purchased licenses illegally. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joe Myers and Will Brickel were conducting a night patrol in Saginaw County. The COs were dispatched to a call of a suspect shooting a deer from a vehicle. The COs arrived on scene and conducted an investigation. The investigation is still pending.

CO Ken Lowell conducted an ice fishing patrol on Big Whitefish Lake in Montcalm County. While conducting the patrol, CO Lowell located multiple ORVs that were not licensed. The CO also contacted one angler that was fishing without a fishing license. Tickets were issued for failing to license ORVs and fishing without a license.

CO Josh Russell was patrolling Duck Lake in Montcalm County when he observed two anglers fishing. One angler was looking around very suspiciously. CO Russell made contact with the anglers and found a 19.5" northern pike on the ice. Further investigation provided they had not measured the fish and it had been on the ice for about 30 minutes. A ticket was issued.

COs Josh Russell, Michael Haas, Joseph Myers and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly worked a group patrol on Crystal Lake for the annual Winter Fest. A total of nine citations were issued for ORV and snowmobile violations. Numerous warnings were also given throughout the day.

CO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a call to assist CO Joe Myers regarding a trapper who had caught a bobcat in a foot hold trap and did not know how to release it. Upon arrival, the COs devised a plan to get the bobcat out of the foot hold trap. While releasing the bobcat, the COs realized the cat was not breathing anymore. Within a few seconds that bobcat started breathing on its own. The COs stood by as the bobcat slowly came to and was completely surprised when it jumped five feet straight into the air and ran off. The trappers thanked the COs for assisting them and stated they did not expect to trap a bobcat in Gratiot County let alone successfully release one.

CO John Byars and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly assisted the Saginaw County Sheriff's Department detectives and a Michigan State Police dog handler in attempts to recover evidence that was hidden by a murder suspect on state land.

While on patrol in Huron County, CO Kyle Bucholtz assisted Harbor Beach Police Department with a felonious assault. The suspect assaulted multiple people while at a party the night before. The case is ongoing.

In Huron County, while checking walleye fishermen returning to a private marina, CO Robert Hobkirk contacted a fisherman whose snowmobile registration had expired. When asked about the registration, the fisherman informed CO Hobkirk that he had purchased the snowmobile two years ago and had been using the "good" registration that the previous owner had purchased. CO Hobkirk explained to the individual that he was required by law to notify the secretary of state within 15 days of purchase. A citation for unregistered snowmobile was issued to the owner and he was warned for failing to change ownership.

At an access site in Huron County, CO Robert Hobkirk contacted a snowmobile operator for not wearing a helmet. When contact was made, it was also discovered that the snowmobile had an expired registration. This snowmobile owner was cited for not wearing a helmet and warned for the expired registration.

While checking ice fishermen at the Sumac Island Access in Huron County, CO Robert Hobkirk contacted two individuals riding on ORVs who were not wearing helmets. Both individuals were cited for the violation.

COs Robert Hobkirk, Kyle Bucholtz, Seth Rhodea and Mark Siemen patrolled Huron and Sanilac County using an unmarked vehicle. The COs focused the patrol on hound hunters who were hunting fox and coyote. Throughout the patrol, four separate hunting groups were located and contacted. The COs issued three citations for loaded firearms in motor vehicles and two citations for uncased firearms in motor vehicles.

While working a plain clothes patrol checking ice fishermen in Huron County, CO Seth Rhodea contacted one fisherman who was in possession of an over limit of perch. After a short time, CO Robert Hobkirk arrived to assist. While CO Hobkirk was speaking with the fisherman, he recognized him from a fishing check earlier in the year. On that check, CO Hobkirk observed the fisherman putting fish back into his hole prior to being contacted and once contacted he was only two fish under his limit. This time the fisherman had also put fish into his ice fishing hole, but he was still in possession of nine fish over his limit. The fisherman was cited for the violation.

CO Mark Siemen was contacted by the Sanilac County Sheriff's Office to assist with coyote hunters trespassing on private property. CO Siemen responded to the location just outside the village of Peck and made contact with the hunters while the deputy spoke with the property owner. The hunters were questioned and identification was taken by officers. The driver stated a subject was dropped off and he walked into a woodlot to locate coyotes and that he would be coming out on the other side of the mile section. While speaking with the road hunters they radioed the guy trespassing and told him the DNR was wanting to talk with him. The guy trespassing snuck out of the woods and was picked up by other hunters and contact was not made. The driver of the truck was issued a citation by the deputy for driving on an expired license.

CO Mark Siemen worked ice fishermen on the Saginaw Bay in Tuscola County. Multiple contacts were made with a number of warnings given to snowmobile and ORV operators for no helmets and for having too many passengers on a machine.

In Sanilac County, CO Mark Siemen checked numerous coyote hunters over the last two weeks. Coyote hunter activity was high even with the small amount of snow on the ground.

CO Jason A. Smith had a deer hunter from Fish Point Managed Waterfowl Area who did not return his permit after his hunt ended. After several attempts to reach him by phone and a warning letter was sent, the subject was issued a citation for the violation.

CO Joshua Wright was patrolling in Tuscola County when he saw a vehicle in front of him cross the center line several times. CO Wright stopped the vehicle and questioned the operator why they were crossing the center line and they said that they were messing with their seatbelt. When asked for their license the driver said that he forgot it and when the registration was looked at it was discovered that it had been unregistered for over six months. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking ice fishermen on the Saginaw Bay area in the Tuscola County, CO Joshua Wright made contact with three anglers coming in and discovered a short walleye in one of the buckets. One of the individuals admitted that he was the one that caught it. When CO Wright checked the individual's history it was discovered that he had three prior fishing violations. When CO Wright talked to him about the past violations, the subject stated that he was trying to stop violating. A citation was issued for the short walleye.

CO Chad Foerster was on patrol in Bay County when he came across an ORV being operated on the roadway with the operator not wearing a helmet. Further investigation revealed that the subject was just coming in from ice fishing the Saginaw Bay and had done pretty well on perch. CO Foerster inspected the angler's perch he caught and found an undisclosed northern pike that measured 19 inches, falling short of the 24 inch legal limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Robinson and Mike Haas conducted a taxidermist inspection in Isabella County. During the inspection, the COs discovered a set of antlers with a suspicious tag. CO Haas later interviewed the owner of the antlers and questioned him about his hunt. It was determined the hunter had shot his deer prior to having a valid hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jill Miller located a hunter during the 2016 archery season who had harvested a nice eight-point buck. CO Miller suspected the hunter had purchased a deer license only after shooting the deer. Recently, CO Mike Haas caught up with the hunter and interviewed him about his deer season. Ultimately the subject admitted to hunting without a license and shooting his buck prior to having a valid deer license. During the

interview it was also determined that the man had been fishing regularly the past year without a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson made contact with a group of young ice anglers. The group was just coming off the ice when CO Robinson asked if they had any luck and they stated that they had caught one. CO Robinson could see one of the individuals holding a pike that appeared at first glance to be undersized. After talking to the group, the CO decided that this would be a good opportunity to educate the anglers on legal size limits and being sure that they familiarize themselves with the fishing rules before going out. The fish was confiscated for being under the legal size limit and warnings were given to the group and they were given fishing guides to review.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson made contact with two subjects fishing. One of the individuals stated that he did not have a fishing license. The two subjects had five active lines in the water. CO Robinson double checked to confirm if the subject truly did not have a license. After talking to the anglers, the first subject also admitted that he had two tip-ups that belonged to him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg assisted Midland City Police Department and Midland County Sheriff's Department with a traffic stop. The occupants had been trespassing, had been found to have uncased guns in their vehicle and using artificial lights to attempt to shoot deer. One subject had no licenses at all and was afield with .30-06 rifle after dark. They had shot at multiple deer in woods and fields in the surrounding area that they did not have permission to be on to begin with. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jay Person and a Midland County Sheriff's Deputy were dispatched to a piece of state land to assist a woman who called in to report her dog was caught in a leg hold trap. The woman was very distraught on the phone and it was hard to get directions to her location. The woman hung up and would not answer the phone on the callback attempt. Following tracks from the woman's residence, the officers were able to track the woman in the snow. After a lengthy search, the woman called back into 911 and advised she was returning from the vet and the dog was fine and on antibiotics. CO Person made contact with the woman at her house to find the dog running and playing with a toy in the front yard. The woman apologized numerous times for not calling back and that she got a neighbor to help release the dog and she raced to the vet. CO Person inquired about the trap, to which the woman said the dog got too far ahead of her and on to private property. Upon further investigation, the trap was found to be legal.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Zach Bauer was on patrol when he noticed a subject illegally using a cast net on an inland lake. Contact was made and the cast net was seized. A citation was issued for fishing for shad on inland waters with a cast net.

CO Zach Bauer was on patrol when he was contacted by central dispatch to assist another agency with coyote hunters hunting with dogs, who were possibly trespassing. CO Bauer arrived on scene and further investigation revealed a hunter possessing an uncased loaded shotgun in their vehicle. A citation was issued for possessing an uncased loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Zach Bauer was on patrol when he was contacted by central dispatch about a possible safety zone violation by goose hunters. CO Bauer arrived on scene and an investigation revealed that the hunters fired a shot at a goose approximately 50 yards from a residence. CO Bauer notified the hunters that firearm hunters need to be 150 yards from a residence. A citation was issued for violating a safety zone.

CO Andy Bauer gave two presentations held at Lake Michigan College to a group of 28 students who are enrolled in Career Technical Education, which is a high school class of students that are interested in a career in law enforcement.

CO Andy Bauer spoke at a New Buffalo public school as part of "Envirothon" about conservation officers' role in dealing with invasive species and CWD. The nine students were very interested in the upcoming Wardens show that was filmed in Berrien County regarding the importation of deer from CWD positive states.

CO Matt Page conducted several taxidermy inspections. Some minor violations were observed and the taxidermists were warned and educated on the proper documentation procedures. While conducting the taxidermy inspections, CO Page observed a large 9-point buck that was suspicious. Upon further investigation, it was apparent that the deer was killed without a license. CO Page obtained a confession from the suspect who admitted to not purchasing a hunting license since 2011 and using another person's tag on the deer. The case will be turned over to the prosecutor for review. The suspect could face up to \$6,500.00 in reimbursement.

CO Richard Cardenas was patrolling the Barry State Game Area when he noticed two dark colored SUVs with no visible license plates driving on a public road. CO Cardenas conducted a traffic stop and found the subjects had been off-roading in the State Game Area while suspended. CO Cardenas also discovered that several subjects in the vehicles were wanted on warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Mshar was observing several subjects fishing in a closed area on the Kalamazoo River due to an ongoing environmental cleanup project. Prior to approaching the subjects, CO Mshar observed one subject catch a small northern pike and place it on a stringer. CO Mshar contacted the anglers and asked if anyone had any luck. All of the subjects stated they had not caught anything and that they were not aware of the river being closed at that location. CO Mshar then pointed out the stringer tied to the riverbank. After a long silence by the group, one individual admitted to keeping a sub-legal northern pike. CO Mshar then pointed out the three large signs that the subjects walked past to get to the river. The subjects were advised to leave and enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Mike Mshar was returning from a river patrol when he encountered a Yamaha UTV being operated in the Allegan State Game Area, as well as on a county roadway. CO Mshar made contact with the driver and discovered that the subject had driven the UTV over 12 miles from his residence. A trailer was brought to the scene for removal of the UTV and enforcement action was taken for the violation.

CO David Rodgers received a complaint last fall of an individual who had gone out of state hunting in 2015. Apparently the subject from Michigan went to Wyoming and shot two nice bucks and only had a license for one buck. The complainant had indicated that the subject had used someone else's tag for the illegal deer to transport it back to Michigan. The complainant also said that the subject violates in Michigan. During a recent taxidermy inspection, CO Rodgers came across two nice deer racks that had 2015 tags on them among all the 2016 racks. One tag was from Wyoming and one was from Michigan. Both bucks were from the suspect CO Rodgers received the complaint on last fall. After calling the complainant to refresh his memory, CO Rodgers interviewed the suspect at his residence. After a couple different stories, CO Rodgers was able to get him to finally confess to shooting the deer without a license in Wyoming. Contact was made with the Wyoming Fish and Game and charges are pending.

While patrolling near the Rogue River State Game area, CO David Rodgers located a truck parked along a stream. In the open bed of the pickup were several traps without any markings on them. CO Rodgers walked the stream and eventually made contact with the trapper. He was carrying a pack with about another dozen traps without any tags on them. Back at the trapper's truck an uncased firearm was located as well as a small amount of marijuana. Enforcement action taken.

CO David Rodgers observed a subject who was fishing with four lines along the riverbank on the Grand River. Contact was made with the fisherman and he stated he was told he could fish with four lines and has always done it. He went on complaining that people at the 6th Street dam are always fishing with four or five poles. When CO Rodgers asked about the strong marijuana smell coming from the individual he admitted to smoking some at his house but did not have any now. CO Rodgers explained that if he searched him and found any he would be taking a trip to the county jail. The subject produced a pipe and marijuana from inside of his coat. Enforcement action taken.

While patrolling in the Rogue River State Game Area, CO David Rodgers located a truck parked along a county road loaded with wood. Inside the game area wood line were three individuals with a chainsaw cutting downed timber. The subjects were approached and files ran on all three subjects. All had officer safety cautions. One subject had a prison record for B&E and escaping prison. That subject's son was with him and he had a warrant for his arrest for operating while intoxicated. The subject was taken into custody and lodged at the Kent County Jail.

CO Justin Ulberg investigated a tip provided by CO Griffin reference a 10-point buck that was illegally taken during the 2016 deer season. A photograph was located on a social media site of the subject posing with the buck. DNR records showed that the

hunter did not have a license at the time the deer was killed and had not purchased any deer licenses since 2013. CO Ulberg investigated further and found a picture of another buck that was killed in 2014. CO Ulberg interviewed the subject and received confessions on both deer being taken without the hunter having deer licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Ulberg investigated a complaint of a hunter illegally shooting an 8-point buck in Muskegon County. A photograph of the hunter was located posing with the buck on a social media site. DNR license records showed that she purchased an apprentice deer license the next day. CO Ulberg interviewed the hunter and determined she was hunting with her boyfriend and it was her first time ever hunting. It was apparent that the hunter was unaware of the game laws. CO Ulberg interviewed the boyfriend and discovered that he had not purchased any deer licenses since 2010. The investigation took a twist when the boyfriend stated he didn't believe his girlfriend ever hit the deer. The boyfriend claimed that when he, his father, and girlfriend went to track the deer they never found any evidence of the deer being hit. The boyfriend stated that the group eventually found the buck standing up and the deer didn't move when approached. The boyfriend stated that his father proceeded in shooting the deer, while the deer was being shined with a flashlight. Upon skinning the deer, the subjects were only able to find the fatal bullet wound from the father's gun. None of the subjects who "shot" the deer had a valid deer license, so another family member was contacted to tag the buck. A report is being submitted to the Muskegon County Prosecutor on numerous charges.

CO Greg Patten reported checking an area of a baiting complaint on Muskegon County property to see if it was still active. The property is posted "No Trespassing". CO Patten came across a husband and wife who drove in to the property to run their dogs, which did not have permission to do so. CO Patten asked the male subject if he was the one putting out deer bait on the county property, and he said that he wasn't. CO Patten told the subject that he had to leave after he retrieved his dogs. CO Patten checked the area further and located a corn pile, exceeding two gallons that was not reported on the original complaint and seized a trail camera pointing toward the bait. CO Patten then contacted the suspect's wife who was waiting for her husband to retrieve the dogs and she denied that the camera was theirs. CO Patten then checked the spot of the original complaint and found new corn piled up there and another trail camera. CO Patten seized the second camera and contacted the suspect again. The suspect then admitted that the cameras were his, but denied putting out the corn. CO Patten pointed out that the cameras take photos of the people who put them out and asked what they thought he would find if he searched them. The suspect then admitted to putting out the corn to find shed antlers. Enforcement action was taken for recreational trespass and unlawful deer feeding.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Mike Drexler was patrolling through Ingham County when he contacted a group of coyote hunters parked on the shoulder of a road. CO Drexler contacted two hunters standing outside of their vehicle as the hunters were trying to locate their dogs. After a

quick license check, the CO asked about firearms and the hunters admitted they were sitting on the front seat of the pickup truck. CO Drexler located two uncased rifles on the front seat. The CO then learned that both were loaded and neither rifle had the safety engaged. The hunters were each issued citations for possessing loaded, uncased firearms in a motor vehicle.

CO Brandon Hartleben conducted a traffic stop on an individual that was operating a John Deere Gator along a paved county road. The operator had a suspended driver's license, no ORV registration and was illegally operating on a public roadway. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Brandon Hartleben attended a bench trial for a subject that he arrested for running 21 set-lines for turtles at Big Island Park on Ford Lake. At trial, the subject pleaded nolo contendere to the charges against him and was ordered to pay fines, fees, and court costs. During the trial the Judge also ordered that the subject's fishing license be revoked.

COs Andy Monnich and Eric Smither were checking ice anglers when they observed a subject on an ORV across the lake doing donuts on the ice without a helmet. The COs made contact with the individual and asked him about his helmet and he advised he had one, and it was lying on shore. He stated he took it off once he got on the ice since he didn't think he needed one while driving on the lake. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Andy Monnich and Eric Smither observed two individuals operating ORVs recklessly through a swamp without helmets on. Contact was made with the individuals as they entered the roadway, driving recklessly on a county road. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Andy Monnich and Eric Smither were patrolling through the Onsted State Game Area late at night when they came across a truck parked on a dead end road. Upon contact with the two occupants, the COs encountered open intoxicants and determined one of the subjects had a warrant out for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken and the warrant subject was lodged in the Lenawee County Jail.

CO Dan Prince talked with 51 Cub Scouts and parents from Fowlerville Pack 330 at St. Agnes Catholic Church. CO Prince talked about the duties of a Michigan conservation officer and the importance in protecting our State's natural resources. CO Prince also did a short presentation on how different animals survive the winter.

CO Pete Purdy made contact with an ice angler at Milliken State Park in Detroit. The angler advised he forgot his fishing license and identification at home. An RSS checked revealed the angler did purchase a fishing license, but a file check revealed the angler had a DNR misdemeanor warrant for fishing without a license out of the 36th District Court in Detroit. The angler advised the warrant was from a ticket he hadn't taken care of yet. He was ticketed for fishing without license in the same spot. CO Purdy arrested

the subject and lodged him at the Detroit Detention Center. He was also issued a citation for failure to exhibit a fishing license.

CO Pete Purdy observed a rabbit hunter at the Oak Grove State Game Area, who wasn't wearing hunter orange. When the subject saw CO Purdy he bent over and set his shotgun down on the ground, then exited the woods. CO Purdy asked the subject if he set his gun down and the hunter advised he did. CO Purdy asked to see the subject's base license, and he advised he didn't have it with him. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Devils Lake Area, COs Eric Smither and Andy Monnich observed an ORV with two individuals on it operating on the road at a high rate of speed with no helmets on. COs Smither and Monnich stopped the ORV and enforcement action was taken.

COs Chris Reynolds and Carter Woodwyk interviewed an individual who had shot a trophy buck during firearm season but only possessed an antlerless license. The individual said he usually only sees does so that's why he only bought the antlerless tag. He stated when he saw the buck coming he just couldn't help but shoot the deer. The hunter was advised that charges would be sought through the prosecutor's office for taking an antlered deer without a license.

COs Chris Reynolds and Carter Woodwyk interviewed an individual who had shot a deer then purchased their hunting license later in the day. Initially the hunter said that he had shot the deer later in the afternoon after the license was purchased. During the interview the COs asked the individual if anyone had taken pictures of the deer. The individual advised that a family member had taken pictures of the deer. The COs interviewed the family member who showed the COs original pictures showing the time and date the pictures were taken. A follow-up interview with the hunter led to a confession of not having a license when the deer was taken. The hunter was advised that a report would be submitted for hunting and taking a deer without a license.

COs Chris Reynolds and Carter Woodwyk interviewed an individual about a suspicious deer license purchase. During the interview, the individual was willing to show pictures from the day the deer was taken, which were time stamped before the deer license was purchased. When the COs advised that he knew when the license was purchased, the suspect said that he'd only sat out for ten minutes before shooting the deer and then bought his license. He was advised that a license is required prior to hunting. The hunter was advised that charges will be sought through the prosecutor's office for taking an antlered deer without a license.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling Hillsdale County when he encountered a pickup truck in one of the state game area parking lots. The CO noticed a dead deer in the back of the truck and a fresh gut pile on the edge of the lot. The CO made contact with the owner and determined the deer was salvaged lawfully as road kill. As for the gut

pile, the CO educated the subject on proper places to dispose of such materials. The subject picked the pile up and transported it back home.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling Hillsdale County when he observed an operator of a three-wheeled ORV doing wheelies in the middle of a gravel road. The CO also observed the operator not wearing a helmet. Contact was made with the operator and his group of friends. Several other violations were present: failure to license the ORV, and a person under 16 operating a three-wheeled ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn responded to a RAP complaint about a man trapping raccoons and leaving them in traps for multiple days without checking. CO Thorn contacted the trapper and found the subject not only leaving his traps unattended but also operating an unlicensed nuisance animal control business. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Thorn found a woman in a vehicle that had spun out of control and ended up in a ditch. The woman had called for a tow truck and said that she was not hurt. CO Thorn requested to see the woman's ID and was told that she didn't know where it was. Further investigation revealed that the woman had a suspended driver's license, no insurance, and her registration was expired. Enforcement action was taken and the car was towed.

COs Todd Thorn, Matt Neterer, Robert Slick, Troy Ludwig, Brad Dohm and Jason McCullough executed a search warrant at a residence where there was suspected to be an illegally taken 8 point antlered deer. The subject known to be living at the residence was a convicted felon with a lengthy criminal history. A search of the house revealed the 8 point antlers, quartered-out venison from three additional deer taken without licenses, and an illegal marijuana grow operation. The local narcotics enforcement team was contacted to assist with the marijuana grow. Charges for the illegally taken deer are being sought through the local prosecutor's office.

COs Todd Thorn and Matt Neterer conducted an inspection at an Ingham County taxidermist. While checking some trophy bucks, the COs located some deer kill tags that looked suspicious. An interview of one of the individuals whose tag was attached to a deer hide at the taxidermist produced a confession of purchasing a tag after shooting the deer. The shooter's boyfriend had recently been a complainant in another poaching case, and had been complaining to the COs that there was a lot of poaching going on in the area. Further investigation revealed a second deer taken by the girlfriend without a license with the help of the boyfriend. Charges are being sought through the local county prosecutor's office.

CO Jason King received a complaint from his county dispatch about snowmobiles trespassing on private property. CO King responded to the area and located the suspects still operating on private property without permission. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason King responded to a Shiawassee County call of a male subject that attempted suicide. Officers arrived on scene and the subject was found without a pulse and not breathing. CO King assisted local EMS and MSP troopers with CPR. After a short time a pulse was regained. The patient was stabilized and transported to the local hospital.

While on patrol in Jackson County, CO Chris Maher stopped in to talk to a local taxidermist about the 2016 hunting season. While looking around, CO Maher noticed a tag that looked suspicious. CO Maher contacted an individual who witnessed the shooting of the deer. After interviewing the witness, CO Maher determined the 9-point buck may have been taken in the neighboring county. CO Maher, with the help of CO Chris Reynolds, conducted several interviews and gained a confession of loaning and borrowing kill tags and taking a deer without a license. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Rich Nickols responded to a call from Clinton County 911 of a "rolling domestic." CO Nickols was first to arrive and found the vehicle parked on the side of the road. CO Nickols also found the subject that reportedly jumped from the vehicle and took off into the woods. Another subject in the vehicle lost consciousness due to an anxiety attack. CO Nickols assisted in conducting interviews and directing traffic. It was determined that no assault had taken place but rather just a verbal dispute.

CO Rich Nickols assisted Bath Township Police Department on a call of a structure fire. When the officers arrived on scene, flames were visible on the exterior of the home. CO Nickols and the township officers gained entry to the home and ensured no one was inside. CO Nickols also was able to hook a tow strap to a pickup truck parked within a few feet of the home and pull it a safe distance away using his patrol vehicle. The home appeared to be a total loss.

While conducting a taxidermy inspection, CO Matt Neterer located a large set of 8 point antlers that were tagged suspiciously. A check of the license system showed that the hunter lived less than two miles down the road. CO Neterer and CO Todd Thorn went to the subject's residence to ask a few questions about the buck. Upon arrival, the suspect was not home but his family members were happy to provide the officers with pictures of the buck. The pictures showed the buck had been killed by the suspect prior to obtaining his license. Charges are being sought through the local prosecutor's office.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While checking anglers in Macomb County, COs Joseph Deppen and Brad Silorey entered a local marina to observe anglers. While observing anglers, CO Deppen and Silorey encountered two anglers who were trespassing on marina property in order to gain access to another marina. When confronted with the information, both anglers claimed they were dropped-off and their friend has a boat slip in the marina. Neither angler could provide the friend's name, vessel name, or phone number. During a

license check, one angler had a previous trespassing and fishing violation, as well as other outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking ice anglers on Lake St. Clair in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen came across anglers with fish piled up on the ice around their buckets. All fishing licenses were accounted for, except one angler. The angler claimed their fishing license was at home. A license check revealed that the angler lied to CO Deppen and did not have a fishing license. When questioned about lying, the angler was hoping he would not be checked in the licensing system. Further checks revealed that another angler had two felony warrants. Fish caught by the angler fishing without a license were seized and enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a taxidermy inspection in Macomb County, COs Joseph Deppen and Brad Silorey found multiple violations stemming from a single business. The owner/operator failed to provide accurate documentation about the game associated with his taxidermy business. The owner/operator also failed to tag multiple species found in the business. There were more than fifteen different species that were unaccounted for. The owner was educated on future business practices and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen saw a vehicle run a stop sign while entering an intersection. CO Deppen conducted a traffic stop. During the traffic stop, the vehicle was found to have no insurance, improper plates, and no registration. The plate was confiscated and the owner was given forty eight hours to remove the vehicle off the street before it would be impounded.

CO Kris Kiel checked a local marina and located an angler tucked away in a warm ice shanty. When asked for his fishing license, the subject told CO Kiel that he thought that you did not have to keep it on you anymore. The CO corrected him and ran his information through RSS. The subject had not purchased a fishing license since 2015. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher was patrolling a local shooting spot in the Port Huron Game Area and found three teenagers ice fishing on a small pond. The teens were in possession of a 30 pack of beer, a bottle of whiskey, a largemouth bass out of season and one was fishing without a license. The bass was able to be released back into the water and enforcement action taken on the violations.

CO Ben Lasher was on an ice fishing patrol in St. Clair County, when he observed three anglers on a remote pond. CO Lasher watched to see what they did with the fish caught on their tip-ups. The anglers returned two largemouth bass to the water but an undersized northern pike was thrown on shore away from where they were set up. Upon contacting the anglers, they stated they did not keep any fish and only returned a couple of largemouth bass. Upon further checking, CO Lasher found the two adults who were from Ontario, Canada, did not have fishing licenses and the third

subject who hid the northern pike was a juvenile just doing what his dad told him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received information of a local resident who went to Ohio during their deer season and shot a trophy buck. The subject failed to purchase an Ohio tag and register it in the state of Ohio. When CO Kovach recovered the rack at a local taxidermist, the deer had a 2016 Michigan deer tag attached to it. An interview was conducted and the subject admitted to shooting two Michigan bucks, an Ohio buck and two Ohio does. Only one Michigan buck was tagged and the subject stated he failed to buy a tag and register the Ohio buck. Warrants will be sought for the violations.

CO Jason Becker was on patrol in Proud Lake Recreation Area and noticed three subjects walking along the railroad tracks. CO Becker observed that all three were carrying shotguns and one of the subjects was not wearing hunter orange. CO Becker traveled the railroad tracks to contact the hunters. When the subjects noticed CO Becker's patrol truck, they jumped down a steep embankment and started making their way into the woods. CO Becker stopped the subjects and had them come back. CO Becker checked the hunters who stated they were rabbit hunting. CO Becker asked why they ran into the woods when they saw the patrol vehicle. The hunters stated that they thought it was the railroad police and were going to run from them, but once they saw it was a conservation officer, they decided to stop. A LEIN check revealed that one of the hunters had four outstanding felony warrants. CO Becker advised the hunters they were trespassing on the railroad and that all of the hunters needed to wear hunter orange at all times while afield. The subject was arrested for his warrants and enforcement action taken on the other hunters.

COs Travis Dragomer and CO Justin Muehlhauser patrolled Lobdell Lake for the annual Chili Cook Off event. CO Dragomer made contact with an individual who was riding a snowmobile. The individual had an expired registration and no snowmobile trail permit. Enforcement action taken.

COs Travis Dragomer and Justin Muehlhauser conducted a traffic stop on a golf cart that was traveling on the shoulder of the road after dark. The golf cart had no rear taillights or brake lights. The COs explained the danger of them being on the roads with no taillights. The COs also explained to the individuals that the roads are closed for the operation of ORVs. Enforcement action taken.

On the last day of late goose season, CO Justin Muehlhauser checked a group of hunters in the Fenton area. The group reported they had some luck that morning and just needed five more geese to limit out. While checking each of the hunters, the CO discovered that one of them did not have a plug in his shotgun. The man said that he usually shoots 3 ½" shells and the gun only holds 3 rounds. The CO asked him for the shells that he was using. The man produced 3" shells which the CO loaded into his magazine. The firearm was capable of holding more than 3 rounds. The CO then discovered that another member of the party did not have a federal duck stamp. He

said that he just turned 16 and didn't buy one yet. The juvenile was warned for the stamp violation. Enforcement action taken.

While on patrol in Oakland County CO Jacob Griffin received a tip about a subject wanting to get a marten sealed. Knowing that the deadline to have a marten sealed was in December of 2016, CO Griffin made contact with the subject. CO Griffin explained to the subject that he was in possession of an unsealed marten. Furthermore, CO Griffin discovered that the subject did not place a validated kill tag on the marten. Enforcement action taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was requested by Oakland County to investigate the scene of a vehicle that drove into a local lake. When CO Griffin arrived at the scene he discovered that the vehicle did leak oil into the water. Oakland County had the vehicle removed and were going to follow up with the subjects that fled the scene of the crash. CO Griffin was advised that the DEQ was notified of the spill.

CO Jacob Griffin was on snowmobile and ORV patrol in Oakland County. While patrolling a lake CO Griffin spotted two subjects on one ORV. One subject was riding backwards on the ORV and both did not have helmets. As CO Griffin came closer to the subjects he discovered that they were tending to multiple tip-ups on the ice. CO Griffin asked how many tip-ups the two subjects were fishing with. Both subjects stated they had 5 tip-ups in the water. When asked, the subjects stated they were both fishing. Upon the request to see the subject's fishing licenses, CO Griffin discovered that one subject never purchased a fishing license for the 2016/2017 fishing season. Enforcement action taken.

COs Raymond Gardner and Danny Walzak assisted Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources conservation officers with an ongoing investigation for violations committed in Ontario by Michigan residents.

## **DISTRICT 21**

Detective Ken Cerny reports that a Quincy man plead guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Part 117 Septage Waste Servicers. The plea was made in the 3A District Court in Branch County before Judge Coyle. The fine was \$175 for transporting and disposing of septage waste without a valid septage license.