

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
10/17/11 – 10/30/11**

DISTRICT 1

CO Marvin Gerlach contacted several subjects on a two-track road. Each was in possession of an open beer and the passenger had an uncased shotgun next to him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Eberly checked a hunter who was sitting in his deer blind with a .22 caliber rifle. The blind was baited and he claimed he was shooting squirrels that were stealing his bait. He had neither a small game nor deer license so he was ticketed for hunting squirrels without a license.

COs Dave Painter and Jason Wicklund responded to a wolf poaching complaint in Dickinson County. A juvenile wolf was found dead from a gunshot wound. Evidence was collected from the scene and the investigation is ongoing.

CO Dave Painter worked a complaint of subjects hunting woodcock after hours and possibly while intoxicated. CO Painter located the group in a remote section of Iron County shooting at woodcock well past the close of hunting hours. Numerous other violations were addressed and enforcement action was taken on all three hunters.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy responded to the complaint of a trapper trespassing while targeting muskrat. The trapper was located along a different stream in the area. This stream was also on private property, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy contacted an ORV operator coming out of an illegal ORV trail. The hunter had made his own trail over a berm and then traveled a mile back into the woods to bring in his tree stand and gear. The subject was also not wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon came across two 12 year old hunters who were grouse hunting as they were walking down a forest road. While walking with the two young hunters, they came across their father operating an unregistered ORV a distance down the road. Enforcement action was taken for allowing the youth to hunt without supervision.

COs Trey Luce and Mark Leadman are investigating the apparent poaching of a moose in western Marquette County. A severed head with the antlers sawn off was found propped up on a rock in a prominent location. There was a sign written on cardboard that stated, "The wolfs won't get this one."

CO Denny Gast ran into a 16 year old hunter on an ORV with a loaded shotgun. He escorted him home and wrote his father a ticket for allowing the youth to hunt unsupervised.

CO Doug Hermanson received a call from the Sheriff's Office in Ontonagon County stating they had stopped a vehicle with two deer in it whose occupants were shining . CO Hermanson responded the next morning and interviewed the subjects, who were shining deer with weapons in the vehicle, had taken one doe and one six point buck, and who were drinking while in the vehicle. Local deputies lodged the three individuals for alcohol related offenses and CO Hermanson obtained warrants for the deer hunting violations.

DISTRICT 2

While enjoying a day off in Alcona County, CO Jeff Panich heard a nearby gunshot. Curious, the CO walked out to the roadway and observed a vehicle parked on the shoulder. The CO approached the vehicle and observed two subjects in camo walking into the woods. CO Panich followed them as they continued to track a deer. The subjects never realized they were being followed and, upon finding the deer, a nice eight point, they exclaimed to one another how nice the buck was. At that point, the CO chimed in and agreed that it was a nice deer, which startled both subjects and left them speechless. Further investigation revealed that they were trespassing, neither had a hunting license and weren't wearing hunter orange. CO Panich hailed the local CO, Warren McNeil, who was there in moments. Enforcement action taken.

CO Kyle Publiski responded to a trapping complaint on Drummond Island. Investigation revealed 45 untagged traps, illegal dry land sets and evidence suggesting the illegal disturbing of muskrat dens. A suspect was identified and admitted to the traps.

CO Kyle Publiski was conducting a routine waterfowl patrol in the early morning hours and observed a group of hunters shoot before legal hunting hours. Contact revealed the use of lead shot and one subject didn't have a state license or a Federal waterfowl stamp.

In another incident CO Kyle Publiski was working a late night shift and heard a gunshot. Within minutes a four-wheeler started and headed down the road. Upon contact the subject claimed to be coyote hunting, but had a loaded and uncased rifle on the ORV, and no ORV license on the machine. Enforcement action taken.

CO Robert Crisp received a complaint about shots being heard in a certain location. He contacted individuals in the area and was able to narrow the shots down to one camp. When he spoke with subjects at the camp, he found that they had shot a deer on the night in question; however, the deer was shot somewhere else. The shot that was heard was someone else shooting a .22 near the camp later that night. Warrants are being sought for the two subjects who shot the deer.

CO John Wenzel is investigating a theft of firewood from state land. The area had been part of a timber sale and logger had given the firewood to an elderly man in the area. Over the next few weeks, he spent several hours cutting and stacking the firewood. Another camp owner in the area decided to take the stacked firewood to his camp, even after having been told by the elderly neighbor that it was his.

DISTRICT 3

CO Carl VanderWall is seeking a warrant for the arrest of an individual claiming to be a member of the Mackinaw Tribal Band of Native Americans. The Mackinaw band is not federally recognized and therefore retains no treaty guaranteed hunting or fishing rights. Several violations were observed including possession of fish which were illegally taken, using illegal equipment on a trout stream and fishing without a license.

CO Carl VanderWall ticketed a subject who was hunting deer on state land with too much bait, and also for damaging trees by utilizing screw-in style tree steps. In a separate baiting incident, CO VanderWall is investigating a complaint that someone had cut several trees down and had planted a food plot for deer hunting on state land, while also placing too much bait at the same site.

CO Duane Budreau handled a safety zone violation complaint where someone had placed a hunting blind within 60 yards of a licensed day care facility. The blind, which was placed on a power line, had an excessively large bait pile and was facing a residence less than 100 yards away. Fortunately, the owner of the blind was located before the start of the season and ordered to remove the structure immediately.

CO Andrea Albert and Sgt. Mike Borkovich handled a complaint of several boxes of spoiled meats being dumped on posted private property to use as strike baits for bear hunters using dogs. A conflict had occurred over the use of the property between the landowners and the houndsmen, and a ticket was issued to the subject who had placed the bait without permission of the landowner.

During a group shining patrol for illegal night deer activity, CO Mike Feagan was directed by the Department aircraft to a vehicle shining a spotlight. Upon stopping the vehicle, CO Feagan found the two occupants in possession of an uncased bow and a broadhead-tipped arrow on the dashboard. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Jon Sklba observed a pile of deer bait and a hunter next to it. Upon heading over, the subject took off on foot into a swamp. CO Sklba found the subject's vehicle close by and attempted unsuccessfully to call the subject out. The vehicle which was partially blocking the roadway and was impounded. A short time later the sheriff's department received a call from the subject, stating his vehicle had been stolen. CO Sklba located the subject at his residence, and after a short interview received a confession that he was hunting over bait in a closed area. A ticket was issued.

CO Matt Theunick responded to a complaint of a subject burning tires, and found multiple tires being burned off the rims in order to scrap the rims for iron. A ticket was issued.

CO Eric Bottorff and Sgt. Greg Drogowski conducted an overnight patrol on Bois Blanc Island for small game and deer hunting activity. The COs first patrolled the Island on ORVs and found two ORV operators tearing up the Lake Huron beach shoreline. They were contacted and ticketed.

CO Mike Feagan patrolled a closed trout stream and found two subjects with shotguns and a hand net, looking for salmon. The subjects also weren't wearing any hunter orange clothing. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Jon Sklba and Sgt. Greg Drogowski observed a slow rolling vehicle cruising at dusk. The vehicle was observed for some time and a traffic stop was made. The driver had several firearms in the vehicle, but no hunting licenses. He was also in possession of marijuana, and operating under the influence of it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Sklba interviewed the operator of a 42' vessel at Rogers City Harbor regarding an extensive amount of diesel fuel spilled from his boat at both the Port Huron and Harrisville Harbors. CO Sklba forwarded a report regarding the interview to CO Warren McNeil in Alcona County for possible water pollution charges.

CO Mark DePew contacted two hunters who had each shot two bucks this year; neither hunter had tagged the bucks and intended to continue to hunt. The deer were seized along with equipment, and charges are being sought with the Prosecutor.

CO Bill Webster contacted an individual coming out of the woods shortly after dark who stated he wasn't hunting but his son was hunting raccoon with a .22 after dark. A search of the vehicle produced 30-30 ammunition but no evidence of a .22. CO Webster continued to search the area and finally located the individual hiding in a corn field with a loaded 30-30 rifle, no hunter orange, and no hunting licenses. The hunter admitted he was trying to shoot a buck but did not see any, and he was hiding because he knew the CO was there.

DISTRICT 4

CO Sean Kehoe investigated a complaint of bass being released into Spider Lake. CO Kehoe discovered that the bass were caught during an organized fishing tournament where anglers fished several local lakes and on East and West Grand Traverse Bay. The fish were brought back to Spider Lake for the weigh-in and subsequently released into the lake and not taken back to the body of water in which they were caught. Enforcement action was taken for the releasing of fish without a proper permit due to the VHS concerns.

CO Rich Stowe contacted a subject who had baited his improperly marked tree stand with approximately three wheelbarrows of apples. Enforcement action was taken on the baiting violation.

CO Brian Brosky responded to a complaint of shots fired in Oceana County. While en-route to the complaint he was advised by a deputy that he had taken a separate complaint of shots fired in the area that involved a smaller car. The officers were assisted by a Pentwater Police Officer with all three taking up surveillance positions in the complaint area. A short time later the Pentwater Officer radioed that another shot was fired with a small car observed headed toward the other two officers. A traffic stop was made of the suspect vehicle that contained two subjects with fresh blood on their clothing. A search of the vehicle located an uncased shotgun and a bloody tarp. When faced with the evidence, a confession was obtained that the two subjects had shot a button buck earlier in the evening and that it was located at the driver's residence. The illegally taken deer was seized and tickets issued for the poaching incident.

CO Steve Converse located a large bait pile behind a cottage that several subjects were working on. Lt. Dave Shaw and Sgt. Bob Torres arrived at the scene to assist with the numerous subjects who were present. One of the subjects had set several coyote traps on nearby Federal land, and at the first trap site the COs located an untagged, illegally sized body gripping trap. The trap was set in front of some deer parts under a stump. When asked about the deer parts, the subject stated that it was a gut pile from a road kill on the nearby highway. Lt. Shaw retrieved a deer heart from under the stump that contained an arrow wound along with a deer leg. When shown this evidence, the subject quickly admitted to taking an antlerless deer with a crossbow and failing to tag it. When the investigation was completed, CO Converse identified 14 different violations including illegal traps, illegal snares, tree stand violations, untagged deer and baiting violations. Tickets were issued.

While at a road crossing, CO Steve Converse observed two vehicles operate through the intersection in a careless manner. CO Converse was able to catch up to the second vehicle and observed an uncased bow bouncing around in the back of the vehicle. The first vehicle continued on and turned into a nearby driveway. CO Converse followed the detained vehicle to the drive where he contacted the driver of the first vehicle who was operating on a suspended driver's license. An uncased crossbow was located in this vehicle. Further questioning determined that there were two deer at the premises, one that was not tagged and one that was tagged with an un-validated tag. Enforcement action was taken on the deer violations.

CO Carla Soper was checking a closed trout stream when she encountered a subject trying to club fish with a stick. After expressing his impatience to another subject, he decided that taking the spawning fish by hand would be easier. When contacted it was determined that the subject also did not possess a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lebel was patrolling state land late in the evening when he came upon eight subjects who appeared exhausted from dragging three deer out of a thick swamp. The two antlerless deer had not been tagged. The other deer, a large buck, was tagged with a license purchased after dark that same evening. A check of the retail sales system confirmed the subject who claimed to have shot the large buck had not purchased any deer licenses since 2007. The subject admitted that he had gone to town to buy his licenses after he shot the buck. The large buck was seized and tickets were issued for failure to immediately tag game and take deer without a license.

CO Brian Lebel received information that a subject had shot four deer by the second week of October. CO Lebel interviewed the subject who admitted to shooting three eight point bucks and an antlerless deer. The subject stated that the third buck he shot, while only having antlerless tags left, was so large that he could not resist. All of the deer were seized and the case is being forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office pending multiple charges.

CO Brian Lebel received a call from a landowner who witnessed a subject drag two big eight point bucks off his property and hide them in the brush along a river. While the CO responded to the area, the landowner went back to the deer and recorded the tag numbers. A short time later the subject loaded the bucks into a canoe and transported them downstream. CO Lebel located the subject at his residence as he was hanging the deer. After an interview, a confession was obtained from the subject to trespassing and taking three bucks, including one that had earlier been processed. The deer were seized and enforcement action taken.

CO Brian Lebel checked a bow hunter coming out of the woods who stated he had not yet purchased a hunting license. CO Lebel recognized the last name of the subject and questioned him about past contacts with a Conservation Officer. The subject told CO Lebel that CO Angela Greenway had dealt with him last year for purchasing too many deer hunting licenses. The subject also had a LEIN warrant for his arrest. CO Lebel took enforcement action and lodged the subject on his outstanding warrants.

CO Jeff Ginn was patrolling for shining activity when he located a subject shining and driving erratically. CO Ginn followed the subject a short distance to his residence. While in the drive, CO Ginn observed a fresh deer in the bed of the pickup truck with no license attached. The subject was also shining with a weapon in the motor vehicle. The subject admitted to taking the deer without a license. Enforcement action was taken on multiple charges.

CO Troy Mueller was patrolling state land and located a father and son dressed in camouflage and blaze orange. The father stated he was just taking his son out with his BB gun to shoot at some blackbirds. Even though the father stated he was not hunting, he carried a shotgun loaded with birdshot. The father stated that the loaded shotgun was to protect his son from bears and cougars. A check with the retail sales system confirmed that the father had not purchased a small game license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells seized two trail cameras from an illegal deer bait pile last week. CO Wells re-entered the hunting property and located a father and son hunting over more than 100 pounds of bait. CO Wells also located a second hunter on the property with no license and in possession of a .22 magnum caliber handgun. The young adult claimed he had been hunting since he was 12 years old. A check of the retail sales system confirmed that the subject has never purchased a hunting license in Michigan. Multiple tickets were issued to address the violations.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of carcasses being dumped and shots fired during the evening hours in the area. CO Wells requested the assistance of CO Jeff Ginn and his expertise using the newly purchased metal detector to recover evidence from the carcasses. CO Ginn was able to locate small caliber firearm shell fragments, confirming a gunshot deer. Upon interviewing a suspect, the COs determined that the subject dumping the carcasses had shot one of the deer while squirrel hunting with a .22 caliber rifle. The other two carcasses were confirmed road kills that the subject possessed without a road kill permit. Enforcement action was taken including seizing the firearm and venison from the illegal deer.

DISTRICT 5

CO Matt Liestenfeltz was first on scene of an accident in which a subject had fallen from a tree while taking down his tree stand. The hunter sustained injury and needed to be transported from the scene to the hospital.

CO Mike Hearn observed fresh tire tracks that caused ruts in a gravel road. CO Hearn followed the track and caught up to a truck towing a trailer with flat tires and no license plate. The driver had a fugitive warrant for his arrest and a suspended operator's license. He was taken into custody and arrangements were made for the passengers in the vehicle. While at the jail, CO Hearn received a call from the owner of the trailer informing him that the trailer being towed had just been stolen from his property.

CO Mike Hearn located 15 bags of trash that had been dumped along a one mile stretch of a two-track on state land. CO Hearn located information in the trash that provided a possible suspect and he went to the residence. Upon contact, the suspect indicated she had asked someone to take her trash, but refused to provide the CO with the subject's name. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Warner located an illegal bait pile in Oscoda County and an illegal ORV trail to the stand. CO Warner went to the stand and located fresh blood on the bait pile and a dead deer hidden in the woods. A short time later, CO Warner heard an ORV drive up to the stand. A subject retrieved the deer and was dragging it out of the area when CO Warner made contact. The deer was not tagged and the hunter did not have a license. The hunter also admitted to having an additional baited hunting location.

CO Chuck McPherson responded to an excessive bait complaint and located a parked vehicle near the area. The truck contained additional bait along with a dead doe. In

addition to litter, bait, and blind violations, the tag on the deer that had been shot that morning had not been validated.

CO Jason McCullough located an illegal dumping site on state land. He was able to locate a name and address in the pile which led him to a house that was listed for sale by a local realtor. Follow-up with the realtor produced the name of a subject who had been paid to clean the house. An interview with the contractor led to a confession of dumping the litter and a ticket for same.

DISTRICT 6

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a complaint of an abandoned vehicle on state land. The CO located a Jeep which was stuck in the woods off the road. The Jeep had no plate and the VIN number came back with no record. The CO left the vehicle there for about a week to see if anyone would come back for it and when no one did, the CO had the Jeep removed.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood stopped a suspicious vehicle around 1:00 a.m. and located an untagged deer in the vehicle. After a brief interview with the driver, the COs responded back to the deer camp the driver came from and discovered another untagged deer. Enforcement action was taken with the driver of the vehicle and the hunters who shot the deer.

While on patrol in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell checked a hunter going out to hunt deer with a crossbow. When the CO asked for a hunting license the hunter could not produce one. The hunter stated that he had bought a combination license and just forgot it. A check of the retail sales system showed no license had been purchased. Enforcement action was taken

CO Jay Person is investigating a complaint of damage to a vehicle on state land. Two small game hunters returned to their vehicle at dark to find an arrow had been shot into one of the passenger doors. The hunters advised that there was a second vehicle parked in the area when they went in hunting. Shortly after they began hunting, they heard the vehicle start and peel out of the area. It's believed that this individual was bow hunting the same property and was upset about the small game hunters being there and decided to take his frustration out by delivering an arrow into their vehicle.

COs Joel Lundberg and Jay Person received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint from a bow hunter who heard a single gunshot right at dusk on the property adjacent to that which he was hunting. The COs investigated and located evidence of small blood drops. Interviews were conducted with possible suspects which led to the seizure of a seven point buck that was shot with a rifle. The subject advised that he was having no luck with his bow, so he thought he would use his 30/30 to increase his odds. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee received a RAP complaint that somebody had shot a swan in the Shiawassee River State Game Area (SGA). The CO responded and contacted three hunters. When presented with the information that several people had seen a swan go down at their location the hunters produced a Mute Swan they had hidden in the corn. The three told the CO that the contact had been therapeutic and that it felt good to own up to their mistake. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol COs Jeremy Payne and Brian Label found a number of traps set before the trapping season opened. The COs confiscated the traps and found all to be untagged but one. The COs then went to the suspect's residence and found an improperly tagged seven point buck hanging in the garage. The subject told the COs he thought trapping season was open but had no excuse for the deer. Tickets were issued.

CO Jeremy Payne and the Michigan State Police (MSP) were dispatched to an area in the Gratiot/Saginaw SGA for a complaint of hunter harassment and a malicious destruction of personal property. Three hunters pulled into a parking area and were approached by another hunter who advised them there were already too many hunters in this area. The three hunters advised it was state land and continued with the planned hunt. When the hunters returned they found their truck was freshly keyed all along one of the sides. When the officers arrived they contacted the hunter who approached the other three hunters. The suspect hunter advised that he knew nothing about the damage to the car. The CO then asked where his camp permit was. He advised he did not have one. The officers then searched the trailer and found he was illegally in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking waterfowl hunters on Saginaw Bay, COs Bob Hobkirk and Seth Rhodea contacted two hunters who were having a very successful morning hunt. Upon locating all the harvested ducks, the COs discovered they were 16 ducks over their limit. When asked why they had shot so many ducks, the hunters said they did not get to hunt very much and were making up for lost time. Both hunters were ticketed for their overlimits and had their firearms seized.

During a waterfowl patrol on Saginaw Bay, COs Bob Hobkirk and Seth Rhodea contacted several hunters in blinds. Upon checking their ducks, the COs found the hunters had their limit of redheads plus an additional redhead hidden under their blind. One hunter admitted to shooting the overlimit and was ticketed for the violation.

COs Bob Hobkirk and Seth Rhodea contacted two waterfowl hunters just as they were about to head to the boat launch after their hunt. Both said they had shot their limit of redheads and showed them to the COs. While checking hunting equipment on their boat, CO Rhodea located an extra redhead hidden in a box, as well as lead shot on the boat, and six ducks that did not have a fully feathered wing attached. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea responded to a trespassing complaint involving a hunter parking on private property and trespassing across a farm field to get to state land. The subject was hunting over an illegal bait pile and using a stand without his name and address, as well as using illegal screw-in tree steps. The hunter was ticketed for trespassing and the illegal bait and given warnings on his other violations.

CO Jason A. Smith received a complaint of small game hunters who were trespassing. After responding to the area, it was discovered that the trespassers were neighbor kids of the complainant and the property owner was not as eager to prosecute. The young hunters had also failed to purchase a small game license. Because of the age of the hunters, Officer Smith spoke with the hunters and their parents and it was agreed that in lieu of prosecution, they would pick up trash in several of the SGA parking lots.

CO Jason A. Smith received a complaint of vehicles operating on the exposed bottomlands of the Great Lakes. Officer Smith responded to the area and located two dirt bikes, only one of which was working. The subject who was riding the working dirt bike received a ticket for no ORV license.

On the second day of waterfowl season, COs Bob Hobkirk and Scott Brown were checking field hunters on the east side of Huron County. Three hunters were checked in the Port Hope area with numerous violations. Two of the hunters were in possession of lead shot, all three firearms were unplugged, neither of the hunters had a Federal Stamp or a state waterfowl license and one subject did not have his small game license. These subjects were well known to the COs and numerous tickets were issued.

COs Bob Hobkirk and Seth Rhodea teamed up to check waterfowl hunters by boat in Huron County. On the second check of the day, the COs contacted two hunters who had 25 ducks in their possession, 20 of those birds being redheads. Tickets were issued and the birds and firearms were seized. Before the day was finished, two additional hunting groups were contacted with overlimits of redheads, two subjects were in possession of lead shot and a blind was checked where the subjects were in possession of unidentifiable birds. Seven tickets were issued for the day, 27 birds were seized and 51 rounds of lead were taken. The only downfall to the day was that the weather had gotten so bad that the COs were unable to make it by water to where they had launched their patrol boat. With assistance from local deputies, the boat was picked up at a different launch.

CO Chad Foerster was patrolling the road ends on Saginaw Bay when he came across a stolen vehicle. With assistance from the local police agency, two subjects were located walking down the road several miles from the vehicle. Both were taken into custody and lodged at the Bay County Jail for stealing the vehicle.

While checking duck hunters, CO Joshua Wright came upon a hunter who said that he was done hunting early because his gun was jammed. CO Wright checked his gun and observed a bottle of liquor in his gear bag. A breathalyzer test was given and the subject was found to have a preliminary blood alcohol level well over the legal limit.

A search of the subject's vehicle revealed a bag of marijuana. The subject was arrested and charges are being sought.

CO Joshua Wright followed a motor home leaving a game area parking lot without any working tail lights. CO Wright made a traffic stop on the motor home and found that the plates on the vehicle were improper. Upon a search of the vehicle, several containers of marijuana were discovered. During the stop, the vehicle's battery died. When a friend showed up to help the subject, CO Wright located additional marijuana in his vehicle. Charges are being sought for both subjects.

CO Phil Hudson was on foot patrol checking waterfowl hunters when he contacted a subject operating an ORV in the wetlands along Saginaw Bay. The subject also did not have a Federal Waterfowl Stamp and was using an unplugged gun. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Phil Hudson and Nick Atkin responded to a complaint of ORVs operating in the wetlands of Saginaw Bay. CO Atkin used his mud buddy boat in shallow water to locate the subjects along the shore while CO Hudson patrolled on foot. Three subjects were contacted who were in violation of hunting waterfowl with an unplugged gun, hunting without a license and no helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni followed up on a complaint she received of an unlicensed taxidermist. Officer Pennoni was assisted by COs Chad Foerster and Dan Lee when they executed a search warrant of the business. Numerous protected birds were discovered in his freezers along with several animals to be mounted that were illegally taken. The illegal items were seized and several charges are pending with the prosecutor's office.

DISTRICT 7

CO Mike Mshar witnessed two subjects cutting up a wooded blockade used to prohibit people from operating off road illegally in the Allegan SGA. Attached to the blockade was a state sign to warn people from accessing the area illegally. Contact was made and the subjects stated they were cutting the blockade to use as firewood. One of the subjects was ticketed for the illegal cutting of firewood and the other subject was lodged on an outstanding warrant.

CO Gary Raak investigated a complaint of illegal ORV activity on state land in Barry County. An abandoned camper was located with a stolen plate where the illegal ORV activity had occurred. Evidence found in the camper led to the location of a subject who admitted to the illegal activity. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jeff Rabbers assisted local deputies with a complaint of shots fired on a local private lake. Four subjects were located leaving the area after waterfowl hunting that morning. None of the subjects had plugged their shotguns, one hadn't purchased a state waterfowl hunting license, one possessed lead shot and one of the ducks killed was found in the vehicle already breasted out without a wing attached for identification.

Lengthy discussions of the regulations were presented to the hunters and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Holmes contacted two subjects who were out shining. A crossbow was located in the truck with the bolt lying next to it. A compound bow was in the bed of the truck, and open intoxicants were in the vehicle. One of the subjects had been charged for killing an antlerless deer from a motor vehicle the previous year.

CO Chris Holmes responded to a complaint of shots fired in Kalamazoo County. A large 10 point buck was located and the CO was able to follow tracks back to a nearby residence. Contact was made with the landowner and the suspect was located at another family member's residence. A confession was obtained of shooting the deer with a .30-.30 rifle, out of season. The deer was taken as evidence and the meat was donated to a local family.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zachary Doss investigated the capsizing of a Sheriff's Department patrol boat that occurred during an attempted body recovery on Lake Michigan. A rogue wave hit the patrol boat and the two deputies were trapped underneath the boat, but fortunately were able to escape.

CO Ken Cerny checked a subject just beginning to turkey hunt at a state game area. Upon contact, it was discovered that the hunter was using a private land turkey license to hunt on public land and had never taken hunter safety. The subject was ticketed for the hunter safety violation and warned on the other violation.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zachary Doss were on patrol and observed a subject goose hunting in a cut cornfield. The hunter was subsequently observed hunting for geese 22 minutes after hours, did not have a state waterfowl license, and was hunting with an unsigned Federal waterfowl stamp. Enforcement was taken on the hunting hours violation and warnings were given for the other issues.

DISTRICT 8

CO Kyle Bader located one hunter afield and while checking his license discovered that his hunting rights were revoked. It seems he had not paid his child support and the courts revoked his hunting privileges.

CO Jason Smith conducted a foot patrol in an area of state land closed to hunting. CO Smith located two stands and sat on them hoping the hunters would come in for the evening hunt, which they never did. CO Smith, along with CO Damon Owens, checked the area the following day and found two hunters occupying both of the stands, one without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Smith observed a truck leave the roadway and almost hit three kids walking along the side of the road. CO Smith conducted a traffic stop and the operator, who also was a high school student, claimed to be joking around. CO Smith explained how

he watched the three walkers jump out of the way to keep from being hit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rick Villerot responded to a waterfowl trespass complaint where, just prior to his arrival, the subjects had run from the property owner. CO Villerot located the subjects and issued tickets for trespassing and hunting without a Federal waterfowl stamp. Two geese were also seized from the subjects.

CO Rich Nickols followed up on a tip of marijuana growing on state land in the Portland SGA. Officer Nickols located and pulled three plants. As CO Nickols was leaving the game area, he found a "mudder" truck stuck in the middle of a two-track road. There were areas of damage caused by similar vehicles nearby. The driver admitted to mud-bogging in the game area among other careless activities. A wrecker was called to tow the vehicle out and the driver was ticketed for careless driving.

CO Rich Nickols, while on patrol, responded to a medical call from central dispatch for an adult choking victim. Officer Nickols was first on scene and found the adult patient unconscious, not breathing, and in full cardiac arrest. CO Nickols could not find a pulse on the patient and began CPR. Officer Nickols performed CPR for about five minutes until EMS arrived. An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was used to establish a heart rhythm. Officer Nickols assisted in ventilating the patient until she was loaded in the ambulance.

While on shining patrol CO Rich Nickols observed a vehicle drive down the road, stop, turn off its lights and turn off the engine. CO Nickols listened for a while but eventually contacted the occupants of the vehicle. Officer Nickols found two subjects who were out hunting raccoons and attempting to locate their dogs. The subjects were not sure where they were and could not provide a name for anyone giving them permission to hunt the area. A file check of both subjects found they each had two misdemeanor warrants, and neither had a valid driver's license. One subject did not have a hunting license and the other was intoxicated. Tickets were issued.

COs Daniel Prince and Pete Purdy, while working a night time shining complaint area, observed a vehicle shining just after midnight. Upon making contact it was determined that a 15 year old on a learners driving permit was operating the vehicle while his father was hanging out the passenger window shining the fields. Enforcement action taken.

CO Shane Webster checked a popular ORV trespass area and encountered two young individuals four wheeling with their Jeep Cherokee. The operator claimed he had just fixed it and wanted to make sure it was running right. Evidenced by the ruts they had made throughout a wet area, the vehicle was running fine. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Dansville SGA, CO Todd Thorn checked a location known for having a large number of illegal tree stands left up permanently in the game area. Officer Thorn found two individuals in tree stands at that location. One was hunting

without a license, and both were hunting in tree stands that had no name or address, and the hunters were using screw-in steps. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

While patrolling Lake St. Clair for waterfowl hunters, COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska contacted four subjects in a hunting party. One subject was very excited that he had just shot his first duck. Unfortunately, the hunter had an unplugged shotgun and was in possession of 13 rounds of lead shot. One other hunter in the party was unable to produce a Federal stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska observed a tender boat towing a lay-out boat to the launch with a subject riding in the lay-out boat. Upon contact, the COs found the vessel was two personal flotation devices (PFDs) short. Also, neither of the two lay-out boats had PFDs in them. The reason the group had stopped hunting is because the wind had picked up and the lay-out boats had taken on water. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher worked the managed area on Harsens Island over the weekend. Several hunters took advantage of the large population of ducks in the area. The CO contacted a group of three hunters. Two of them had too many shells and one had an unplugged firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher responded to a request from the sheriff's department of recreational trespassing. A deputy was called out and had detained both parties, and requested the assistance of CO Lasher. Apparently, the same parties were involved in a similar incident a week prior that was handled by another CO. Due to the complainant only having verbal permission to hunt, he did not have the authority to prosecute. Since then, the complainant got written authorization to act as caretaker and wanted to prosecute the subject who was trespassing. CO Lasher will be seeking a warrant.

CO Mark Ennett checked three different groups of waterfowl hunters at Sterling State Park during the week. One hunter failed to obtain a small game license, another hunter was using an unplugged shotgun, and the third hunter had his shotgun loaded after hunting hours. Enforcement action on each of the offenders was taken.

CO Mike Drexler was on patrol when he observed an ORV operating on the roadway. He activated his emergency lights and siren to initiate a traffic stop and the operator looked back over his shoulder and began to flee down the roadway. After a short pursuit the CO apprehended the operator when his ORV became stuck in the ditch while attempting to flee through a farm field. In addition to operating on the roadway and failing to stop for a police officer, the subject was carrying an uncased bow and could not produce the ORV registration or his hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brandon Kieft and Kris Kiel followed up on a trespassing complaint involving two neighbors and a 12 point buck. While checking the deer and the area where it was killed, the COs located evidence that the large buck was shot at night. Further

investigation revealed that the deer was shot within the safety zone and over an excessive bait pile. The deer was seized and warrants will be sought for taking a deer after legal hours, excessive baiting, hunting in the safety zone, and trespass.

COs Kris Kiel and Brandon Kieft responded to a complaint of shots fired after legal hunting hours. The COs interviewed a subject who admitted to shooting two large beavers after legal hunting hours with his .308 rifle. The subject had used solar-powered lighting to illuminate the beaver dam area so that he could see the animals after dark. Warrants will be sought for the violations.

CO Ben Shively responded to a railroad trespass complaint from the MSP. He contacted a subject at his vehicle and saw that he had a cocked crossbow leaning against the vehicle. The subject stated he had permission to hunt the adjacent private property; however, a check of the license system revealed he did not have a hunting license. Enforcement action taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska observed a cable down on a two track going into a parcel of property that had been vacant for some time. The COs investigated and found a vehicle parked on the property, and at 11:00 p.m. there was a bow case in the vehicle. The COs set up on the vehicle and a few minutes later another vehicle dropped off a subject. The COs contacted the subject who stated he was at his friend's house. The subject admitted to hunting a few times over the last week and did not have a hunting license. Enforcement action taken.

CO John Borkovich investigated an incident where subjects conspired and shot a deer at night with a firearm and the use of a spotlight. CO Borkovich used a thermal imager to observe and track the subjects and retrieve evidence. The CO interviewed five subjects at different locations and was able to get confessions.

CO Ken Kovach wrapped up an investigation on an illegally taken moose from Saskatchewan. He seized the shoulder mount and got confessions from both subjects.