

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
11/15/10 – 11/28/10**

DISTRICT 1

CO Ryan Aho contacted a hunter on the second day of the firearm season. While talking with the hunter it was revealed he had shot a buck that morning and was currently hunting without a license while his hunting buddy went to try and buy another license for him.

CO Ryan Aho responded to the complaint of a raccoon left in a trap for more than the 48 hour check requirement. The raccoon was located and follow up was done with the trapper. Further investigation revealed the trapper had a wolf caught in a trap. CO Aho and the trapper were able to free the wolf and enforcement action was taken regarding the raccoon.

CO Ryan Aho while on patrol observed a large cloud of black smoke coming from behind a residence. A large pile of illegal materials was being burned behind the house. Enforcement action was taken on the responsible subject.

While on patrol on the evening before the firearm opener, CO Brian Bacon stopped a vehicle shining a field for deer. The subjects stated they were too excited for opening day and wanted to see what was in the field. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon assisted the Michigan State Police (MSP) with a complaint of a stolen hunting blind. CO Bacon recognized the suspect vehicle from a prior contact and an interview led officers to the missing blind.

CO Brian Bacon investigated a hunter conflict complaint of two landowners. One had a blind 120 yards from the other's residence. After speaking with both parties the blind was moved further from the residence to comply with the safety zone violation.

CO Brian Bacon followed a set of ORV tracks to a blind with a rifle left in it, a fresh gut pile and an oversize bait pile. The ORV tracks then led to a nearby camp with two deer hanging in a tree. One of the bucks was an untagged six point. CO Bacon located the owner of the camp later that day and conducted an interview. It was determined the deer was shot the evening before and the subject purchased a license 15 minutes after he saw the CO on his property. Enforcement action was taken and the deer seized.

CO Brian Bacon received a complaint of suspicious activity at a local hiking trail that is closed to ORV use. A check of vehicles in the parking area revealed gun cases in the two trucks and a set of ORV tracks leading down the hiking trail. At dark two subjects returned dragging a six point and a large eight point buck behind an ORV. After interviewing the subjects it was determined one subject had shot both bucks with a single non-resident firearm tag. The subject had called his brother to buy another tag,

left to pick it up and returned with a friend and his ORV to retrieve both of the deer. Enforcement action was taken and the large eight point buck seized.

CO Jason Wicklund and Lt. Tim Robson worked an area of frequent road hunting complaints. The COs located the gate where the vehicles were exiting the property and set up along the roadway. Just before dark a vehicle approached CO Wicklund, who attempted to make contact. At the window of the vehicle, the CO Wicklund could see an uncased rifle on the passenger seat, but when the CO asked the driver to roll down his window, the driver took off. The COs followed the vehicle back to the camp where the driver was once again contacted and informed the COs that not only was the rifle loaded, but that he had also never bought a deer license. As the COs were talking to the individual at the camp, two other vehicles arrived. Both drivers also had loaded firearms in the vehicle and one of the individuals had failed to purchase a deer license. Further investigation into the camp turned up an illegal deer that was tagged with a non-resident's archery tag.

CO Jason Wicklund received a complaint via 911 of a missing hunter. The CO contacted the missing hunter's brother at the camp and was given directions to a possible blind location. Five blinds were checked before the hunter was located several miles down the road from camp. The tired and cold hunter was reunited with a very happy brother and advised the CO that a GPS and two way radios would be purchased for future use.

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy deployed the deer decoy in an area of frequent road hunting complaints. Occupants of the first vehicle observed by the COs attempted to "look" at the decoy through the scope of their 7mm rifle because they forgot their binoculars at home. They were ticketed for an uncased firearm in a motor vehicle. Occupants inside the second vehicle shot the decoy and took off when the CO attempted to make contact. The fleeing vehicle didn't make it very far, as Sgt. Pomroy was able to block them off.

CO Jason Wicklund overheard a call of a drunk and disorderly person who refused to leave a residence. The CO was only a few blocks from the location and went to investigate. At the scene, the CO observed a highly intoxicated newspaper delivery woman walking down an alley. Several attempts were made to ascertain the identity of the woman but she was not cooperating and attempted to run away. The woman was transported to the Iron County Jail where a positive identification was made. The woman's breath alcohol content was over four times the legal limit and she was taken to the local hospital for observation.

CO Jason Wicklund received information about a suspicious individual walking around the woods behind a residence. The CO located the individual's tracks in the snow and followed a blood trail to a gut pile. The deer was then dragged near a residence where it was partially cut up. The untagged deer was confiscated and further information was obtained by the CO that the hunter is a convicted felon and had not purchased a deer license. The investigation continues.

CO Jason Wicklund and Sgt. Marc Pomroy received a complaint about subjects hunting in the city limits of Iron River violating "safety zone" regulations. The COs located two individuals who shot a trophy buck next to a residence where the buck was known to hang out. The COs seized the deer and enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason Wicklund, Dave Painter and Sgt. Marc Pomroy received information that a hunter who had his hunting rights revoked was planning on hunting this year. The COs set up near the subject's blind and observed him taking an eight point buck back to his camp via an ORV. Once at camp, the COs contacted the hunter and noticed the deer was tagged with another person's tag. After presenting the hunter with the evidence, he admitted to hunting while revoked and taking the deer illegally. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason Wicklund Dave Painter and Sgt. Marc Pomroy checked a remote camp where CO Wicklund had prior illegal deer complaints. At the camp, the COs observed four deer at the buck pole and that two of the deer had antlerless tags for a different management unit. The COs also observed a bait pile with a light and fresh blood on it. The COs contacted the hunters as they returned at dark on ORVs with loaded, uncased guns and no helmets. One of the hunters was a convicted felon with suspended firearms rights, and who had shot two of the deer with a firearm. The other hunter had shot a deer the night before season with his bow at the bait pile and was also in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller issued eight bait tickets to hunters for being either early or in excess of quantity allowed under the law. He also issued numerous loaded and uncased gun tickets in the first week of season.

CO Dennis Gast issued one bait ticket, responded to a trespass complaint which ended in a ticket, and arrested one Wisconsin hunter who purchased a Michigan license.

CO Doug Hermanson issued three loaded gun tickets in a half-hour on a power line road near South Range, Houghton County. All three individuals were road hunting.

CO Dennis Gast and Sgt. Steven Burton worked a hunter harassment complaint in Misery Bay. One landowner was issued a ticket for posting Commercial Forest lands which he owned. All the signs were removed from the property for public access.

COs Jason Niemi and Marv Gerlach contacted a convicted felon who happened to be deer hunting with a rifle. Follow up revealed that he had shot a deer and tagged it using another hunter's tag. While dealing with these violations, another hunter returned to camp dragging in an untagged doe. Action was taken on all violations.

CO Elton Luce responded to a complaint of a 15 year old hunting deer while unsupervised. He located the hunter and discovered that he was also hunting over illegal bait, was missing a name/ address on his blind, and didn't have his kill tags with

him. The responsible parent was found and issued a ticket for allowing his son to hunt unsupervised.

CO Jason Niemi and PCO Thorne contacted a subject on an ORV who was in possession of a loaded gun. While speaking with him, his brother drove up in a truck and was also transporting a loaded gun.

DISTRICT 2

CO Michael Evink received a report from a hunter who said he had unintentionally shot a doe. Upon investigation, CO Evink warned the subject, seized the doe and turned it over to a needy family in the Manistique area.

Following an area baiting flight, CO John Wenzel investigated an illegal baiting site near a camp. After checking the scene, CO Wenzel found there were at least seven truckloads of bait, all within fifty yards of a camp on private land. When contacted, the camp owner stated that he was not hunting over it, he just liked watching deer. He did have a loaded rifle near the window overlooking the piles of bait. The subject received a ticket and was told to either remove the bait or make it inaccessible to deer.

While filling his patrol truck's gas tank at a local station, CO John Wenzel observed a subject nearby filling his truck up as well. The subject appeared to have blood on his hands and on his boots. When CO Wenzel followed him inside to pay for his gas, he observed the subject purchase a deer hunting license as well. CO Wenzel then followed the subject to his temporary camp on federal land. Once there, he contacted the subject about the license purchase and the blood. After a short attempt at lying the subject confessed to shooting an eight point earlier that morning.

COs Kevin Postma and Jeff Panich attempted to contact a group of hunters who were in violation of the baiting regulations. The bait piles were large enough to be measured by the yard rather than by the gallon. Once the hunters were aware of the COs' presence they utilized radios and cell phones to alert each other, which sent them all running into the woods. The COs continued to work the area for five hours, which resulted in seven tickets being issued for various violations such as illegal bait, hunting without licenses, illegal ORV operation and loaded/uncased firearms.

COs Derek Miller and Mike Hammill contacted hunters at a deer camp where they found an untagged deer. Further investigation revealed the shooter never bought a license. The COs issued a ticket and also addressed other violations at the camp. Upon leaving the area they met the complainant who drove up on an ORV with no helmet and a loaded/uncased firearm. Enforcement action taken.

CO Kyle Publiski contacted a hunter who cut trees, operated a motor vehicle in an illegal area and was in violation of the baiting regulations. As the CO issued several warnings and a ticket for the illegal bait the subject complained that the DNRE should just let him hunt however he wants to.

DISTRICT 3

CO Andrea Erratt was checking a camp on Slashing Road when two vehicles sped into the campsite. The first truck contained partially empty bait bags and the second SUV had a loaded and uncased rifle in the back, pointing toward the driver. CO Erratt ticketed the driver for transporting a loaded and uncased rifle in a motor vehicle and warned him for hunting deer with no license in possession. The campers were warned that baiting deer is illegal in the Lower Peninsula.

CO Andrea Erratt checked a hunter on the road with three bags of carrots on the front of his ORV. The hunter said he was not baiting but going to feed a relative's pigs. The hunter was also in possession of a loaded muzzleloader and was ticketed for it. He was warned for no helmet, no ORV license, and baiting deer.

CO Andrea Erratt was patrolling in an area where she had received complaints in the past about kids tearing up the roads with ORVs. CO Erratt observed fresh ORV tracks in the snow which had been fishtailing up and down two roads. CO Erratt followed the tracks to a hunting camp and up a long driveway, where she observed a large pile of sugar beets and corn underneath a spin feeder near a blind. CO Erratt contacted the landowner who admitted he and his son had been riding their ORVs in the roadway. He also admitted dumping the large piles of sugar beets at both of his deer blinds. CO Erratt issued a ticket for baiting deer and warned the man and his son for operating an unlicensed ORV in a careless manner and tearing up the roadway.

CO Carl Vanderwall found one hunter hunting a baited, permanent blind on state land, who stated that it was not his blind, nor his bait. The hunter said the apples had fallen off from the tree. The bait consisted of apples and squash. Since squash doesn't grow on trees the hunter was ticketed for the baiting violation.

CO Carl Vanderwall and Cpl. Brad Dohm were patrolling state land when they encountered two individuals who were road hunting. Neither had hunter orange, both had suspended driver's licenses and enforcement action was taken.

CO Carl Vanderwall and Cpl. Brad Dohm were patrolling state land when they observed a man sitting in his truck on the side of the road. As the COs approached the man was scrambling with something on his front seat. The COs checked the man and asked if his gun was unloaded and the reply was, "it should be." The man had scrambled to unload the magazine, but did not unload the chamber. He was ticketed for the violation.

COs Andrea Albert and Steve Speigl set up a deer decoy the day before the firearm opener in an area where they had received road hunting complaints. A total of 31 vehicles drove past the decoy without noticing it. Vehicle number 32 stopped and shot the decoy. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Speigl encountered a man who had purchased seven antlerless licenses for a county that only allowed two. He had filled more than the two allowed, putting him over the limit and in possession of a ticket.

CO Steve Speigl received a complaint of two waterfowl hunters who were chasing birds with a boat and shooting at them while underway. CO Speigl located the pair and observed their illegal activities from a concealed location. When he contacted them they had a total of seven violations between them.

CO Kelly Ross was standing on a gas line on private and fenced property, and observed a vehicle stop on the other end approximately one-quarter mile away. No one exited the vehicle and a shot rang out. The passenger jumped out of the vehicle and the vehicle drove off. CO Ross ran to his patrol vehicle and attempted to make contact. The vehicle had left the scene, but there was a fresh drag mark and blood in the road. CO Nick Torsky was called over to assist. COs Ross and Torsky followed the tire tracks on roads and two-tracks to a fresh gut pile. The tire tracks continued and three miles later the COs contacted the suspect vehicle and found a freshly killed six point buck. After a very short interview, confessions were obtained and the deer and the rifle were seized.

CO Joe Molnar was directed into a baited blind by DNRE aircraft, and as he approached he observed a dead bobcat, obviously gunshot. After watching the camp for several hours two subjects returned to hunt that evening. CO Molnar obtained a confession from the shooter of the bobcat. Additional tickets were issued for baiting and other warnings were given.

CO William Webster was called out on his day off to a landowner holding two trespassers at bay until the DNRE arrived. CO Webster found two subjects had trespassed and shot a seven point buck. The deer was seized and trespass as well as bait tickets were issued.

CO Mark DePew investigated a spike bull elk shot in the neck on the second day of firearm deer season. Follow-up resulted in investigation and interviews by COs Kelly Ross, Mike Mshar, and Det. Jason Haines. The lead did not pan out and the investigation continues.

CO DePew contacted a hunter hunting over bait and said he had no luck. CO DePew noticed dried blood on the license he produced. After a short conversation the subject admitted the blood had come from a six point buck he had shot with a firearm in October. Enforcement action taken.

CO Mark DePew received a complaint about a subject shooting two antlerless deer in Otsego County without valid antlerless tags. CO DePew interviewed the shooter and witnesses and discovered the deer were shot in Crawford County and tagged with DMU 487 tags belonging to others. The shooter was also a convicted felon and could not possess a firearm. Enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 4

CO Sean Kehoe assisted local deputies with a hunter harassment complaint that concluded with an arrest for felonious assault. The arrest stemmed from a subject who attempted to evict other hunters from state land. The subject started by threatening the other hunters with a knife and then a firearm. The subject was arrested at his residence without incident.

CO Sean Kehoe, along with Commercial Fish Specialist Steve Huff, contacted hunters at three blinds identified by a flight patrol to be baited. Along with the baiting violations the COs addressed an untagged deer, no hunter orange and no hunting license.

CO Mike Borkovich contacted two juveniles hunting over illegal bait piles without supervision. The parent was issued a ticket for allowing a minor to hunt unsupervised.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling near Federal land in Manistee County when he encountered a minor hunting unsupervised. After speaking with the young lady he learned that her aunt was hunting nearby. Upon contacting the aunt it was found that she was from out of state and was hunting without a license. Tickets were issued to the minor's parent for allowing a minor to hunt unsupervised and to her aunt for hunting without a license.

CO Steve Converse was working a joint patrol with the MSP along a Wexford County highway when he contacted a person who was transporting a doe tagged with a sheet of paper. The paper turned out to be a copy of an antlerless license application. Further investigation revealed that the application belonged to someone other than the person who had taken the deer. The illegally taken deer was seized along with the firearm and the person was ticketed for the violations.

CO Steve Converse was driving along a rural Manistee County road when he observed what appeared to be an untagged doe hanging behind a residence. The homeowner was contacted and the deer was checked. A concealed combination license was found on the female deer and the person who admitted taking the deer was identified as a person with multiple felony convictions. The deer and a firearm were seized and the subject was ticketed for taking a doe without a license. The possession of the firearm by a felon issue is being turned over to the local prosecutor for review.

CO Jim Espinoza backed up a county deputy on a complaint reference a person who had been threatened by a trespasser. The person approached the trespasser to ask her if she knew she was hunting without permission. After being questioned by the person, the woman began swearing and threatened to "blow his head off". CO Espinoza interviewed the subject and found that she had failed to purchase a license prior to hunting. A ticket was issued for the license violation and the felonious assault case was turned over to a trooper who was hunting with the original complainant at the time of the incident.

CO Brian Brosky received a report from a hunter who found a new ORV out in the middle of a large section of public land in Lake County. The hunter happened across the machine while tracking a deer he had shot. An investigation of the incident revealed that it had been left in the woods after a person had driven it off trail and had gotten lost last June. The person abandoned the vehicle and eventually found his way to a road. The ORV was deemed lost by the insurance company and reimbursed the policy holder.

CO Brian Brosky received a complaint that a subject was hunting in Mason County who had already taken an overlimit of deer. CO Brosky located the subject's truck and watched as a person entered the vehicle and left the scene without casing his firearm. A stop on the vehicle resulted in a ticket being issued for transporting an uncased firearm. CO Brosky asked the subject if there was any bait at his hunting blind. The subject vehemently insisted that there wasn't. CO Brosky later checked the blind and located corn, salt and sugar beets scattered about. CO Brosky visited the subject's residence two days later and wrote a second ticket after obtaining a confession to the bait.

CO Jim Espinoza received a complaint from a camper at Ludington State Park who reported that he had observed a subject drag a doe from State Park property. The complainant stated that he had contacted the subject and told him it was illegal to take a doe at that location. He further stated that he stopped the person a little later when he attempted to retrieve it. CO Espinoza collected the deer, visited the subject's camp and obtained a confession. A ticket was issued for the illegal taking of a deer.

CO Jim Espinoza and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth encountered a person who informed them of a subject who was hunting while revoked and hunting over multiple bait piles. CO Espinoza was familiar with the individual's hunting status due to the fact that he had written the subject last year for taking a deer illegally and baiting. The COs responded to the complaint location and found the subject hunting near two bait piles. Tickets were issued for hunting while revoked and second offense baiting.

CO Angela Greenway was patrolling for road hunters when she observed a subject slow rolling and backing down a remote roadway. The driver was contacted and an uncased firearm was located in the passenger seat along with ammunition in the console. A ticket was issued for the safety violation.

CO Angela Greenway and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth contacted a person walking with a firearm down a remote forest road. The subject stated that he had forgotten his hunting license back at camp. The COs seized the firearm and followed the subject back to his nearby camp. After arriving back at camp the subject admitted to not having a license and borrowing a friend's shotgun without his permission to go hunting while they were away getting supplies. The firearm was returned and a ticket was issued for hunting without a license.

CO Carla Soper was checking a blind on opening morning when she found two occupants hunting over a bait pile. During the contact one of the subjects became loud

and belligerent. After a short time, the uncivil subject became so distraught that he walked away from the scene and fled in his vehicle. CO Soper called the MSP for backup. As the trooper was responding to the scene he was almost hit head on by the subject. The trooper activated his emergency equipment and a short pursuit ensued. The subject refused to stop, circled the section, came back to his blind and continued to be disorderly and refused to obey the officers. Ultimately, a TASER was utilized to subdue the hostile subject and he was lodged at the Manistee County jail on multiple charges.

CO Carla Soper was walking toward a baited blind in Manistee County when the occupants of the blind exited and fled. CO Soper walked beyond the blind to the bait and discovered a freshly taken eight point buck lying on top of the beets and carrots. CO Soper managed to locate the subjects who admitted to having just shot the deer. The deer was seized and tickets were issued for the untagged buck and bait.

CO Carla Soper was patrolling along a rural road when she observed a person dressed in orange walking with a rifle. CO Soper stopped to check the hunter's license. The hunter advised that she had left her hunting license back at camp in her purse. CO Soper accompanied the hunter to her camp and found a doe hanging without a tag. A ticket was issued for failing to immediately tag the doe.

CO Michael Bomay was patrolling in Mecosta County when he stopped to check a pickup truck with a topper parked on the road with state land on both sides. There was a subject sitting in the bed of the truck with a loaded firearm hunting out of the back hatch. The subject's only field of view was down the road. The man requested a warning since CO Bomay had issued him a ticket two weeks earlier for baiting deer. A ticket was issued for loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and a verbal warning for no hunter orange. CO Bomay also had dealt with the subject in 2003 on another violation.

CO Jeff Ginn and Acting Lt. Dave Shaw responded to a hunter casualty accident on November 15th. The victim was hunting in a dense area when a bullet hit the tree in front of him. The victim got up to flee the area when he was hit in the arm by a second bullet. The victim was transported to a hospital in Grand Rapids and released in stable condition several days later after several surgeries. Using the evidence at the scene the COs were able to develop a shooting suspect. The subject later admitted to shooting twice at a doe on the adjoining property. A report has been filed with the prosecutor's office for possible charges.

In Newaygo County, CO Jeff Ginn and Acting Lt. Dave Shaw followed ORV tracks with deer drag marks to a house. The COs observed two untagged does in the back yard. Acting Lt. Shaw kept watch on the residence as CO Ginn located the ORV and two subjects with another doe. The homeowner claimed that his tag must have fallen off. Acting Lt. Shaw backtracked with the subject looking for the absent tag. Acting Lt. Shaw came upon three additional hunters in the woodlot with one subject tossing a rifle in the brush. This subject had taken one of the untagged does at the residence. This subject only possessed a Kent County antlerless tag. Enforcement action taken.

On the morning of November 15, CO Michael Bomay checked an untagged button buck hanging from a tree. CO Bomay also located a hunting blind and deer bait with no one around. CO Bomay returned to the scene at 2:00 p.m. and found the subject sitting in his vehicle. When the subject saw CO Bomay, he tried to tag the deer with an antlerless deer tag. Tickets were issued for failing to immediately tag a deer and baiting. The subject did not want to waste his deer tag on the small deer.

CO Troy Vangelderren responded to a hunter trespassing complaint in which the same subject has trespassed for three years in a row. The subject claimed to be uncertain of the property line but agreed to leave. The subject asked CO Vangelderren if he could first go get the buck that he had shot. CO Vangelderren went with the subject to check his buck and found a total of three dead untagged bucks. The subject only had a firearm deer license. Two bucks and the firearm were seized with tickets issued for two illegal deer and failing to immediately tag the other. The actual property line was later determined to be correct. A trespassing charge is pending.

A local deputy requested CO Troy Vangelderren respond to a residence where the deputy was attempting to serve papers. CO Vangelderren went to the residence and located four untagged does hanging in the pole barn with the door open. Two subjects later returned to the residence and admitted to shooting the four does and only possessed one antlerless deer tag. The deer and firearms were seized with tickets issued for the illegal deer and tagging violation.

CO Michael Wells conducted a deer processor inspection and observed a junior deer tag that had not been validated. CO Wells interviewed the now 17 year old young man at his residence. The young man stated that he did not buy any licenses, did not go hunting and did not shoot any deer. The young man said that his grandfather probably purchased the license. The grandfather admitted to purchasing the license but did not shoot the deer. The trail then led to the young man's mother. An interview with the mother resulted in a confession of her shooting the deer without any deer licenses. The mother also stated that her husband worked at the deer processing place. The mother was issued tickets for an illegal deer and borrowing a deer tag, and was given a warning for deer feeding at her house.

While inspecting a deer processor, CO Michael Wells observed a doe tagged with a combination license and validated for November 15. CO Wells interviewed the subject but had not informed him of why he was there. CO Wells was surprised when the subject admitted to shooting a 12 point buck on November 15 at 8:30 a.m. A check of the license showed that it had not been purchased until 11:17 a.m. on November 15, after the 12 point had already been shot. The subject later admitted that he shot the doe in the evening and did not have an antlerless tag. The gun and deer were seized with two tickets issued for illegal deer.

DISTRICT 5

COs Chuck McPherson and Chris Bowen received a complaint the day prior to the firearm opener in which the subject saw deer heading into the woods and moments later heard a gunshot. Officers searched the area and located two subjects. One of the subjects admitted to shooting an eight point buck from a tree stand and the second subject said he had come to assist in dragging and loading the deer.

CO Mike Hearn received a safety zone complaint and located three hunting blinds on private property that were all within safety zones. None of the hunters at the blinds were wearing hunter orange and there was a significant amount of bait at the blinds.

CO Jon Warner was patrolling a remote area several hours after dark and located a freshly killed deer lying in the weeds along a two-track. CO Warner only had to hide and wait a short time before a vehicle rapidly approached and came to a quick stop. The subjects jumped out, grabbed the deer and quickly loaded it into their vehicle and left. When stopped, the subjects told the CO they just stumbled upon the deer and picked it up. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Bowen responded to a call of a 16 year old hunter shot in the foot. The young hunter, who was hunting unsupervised, had lowered his firearm from the stand and climbed down. He was untying the firearm from the rope when it discharged.

CO Brian Olsen observed a truck illegally climbing a hill. He stopped the truck and found four subjects with five loaded, uncased firearms in the vehicle. During the interview, the subjects told him of their deer season success which led them back to their cabin where CO Olsen found three illegal deer hanging. While CO Olsen was issuing tickets, the other half of the hunting party pulled into camp in their truck where two more loaded, uncased firearms were found. Several tickets were issued.

Sgt. Glenn Gutierrez responded to a trespass complaint where the complainant was sitting in his hunting blind watching deer in his field when he heard a shot and saw one of the deer he had been watching drop to the ground. The subject didn't see the shooter and nobody came out to retrieve the deer. Sgt. Gutierrez set up surveillance on the deer and, about an hour after dark, two subjects came and retrieved the deer. Sgt. Gutierrez stepped out of his hiding spot and contacted two very surprised trespassers. The actual shooter of the deer had received a ticket from Sgt. Gutierrez the previous day for an illegal bait pile.

CO Rebecca Hopkins responded to a complaint of shots fired on Thanksgiving night. The complainant saw a vehicle stop and then heard the shots. CO Hopkins worked surveillance on the area where the shots were fired. A few hours later, a truck pulled up and stopped right where the shots had been fired from and turned off their headlights. CO Hopkins pulled up to the truck and found blood and hair in the bed. A short interview led to a confession from the driver indicating his passenger, who happened to be his father, had shot the deer. A trip back to the house led to the freshly killed doe that had already been retrieved.

CO Joel Lundberg observed a car he suspected of road hunting. The vehicle was slow rolling down a back road with the windows down. Officer Lundberg hid and was able to meet the car at a stop sign where he could see the passenger holding an uncased rifle. Further investigation showed that the gun was still loaded and the subjects were indeed road hunting.

DISTRICT 6

On opening day CO Robert Hobkirk observed two subjects field dressing a deer in the middle of a field. When they had finished, they loaded the deer onto an ATV and drove the deer to a nearby residence. Upon checking the hunters and the deer, the deer was untagged and the subject who shot the deer had left his licenses in the residence. A ticket was issued for failing to immediately attach a kill tag. A short time later CO Hobkirk observed a hunter dragging a deer from an open field onto a fence line. The hunter then went back to his blind and continued to hunt. A check of the deer found it to be untagged. This hunter was also ticketed for failing to attach a kill tag.

CO Robert Hobkirk responded to a trespass complaint where two subjects had retrieved a deer from property where they did not have permission to be. When contacted by the landowner they dropped the deer from their vehicle and took off to one of the subjects' residences. They returned a short time later with different vehicles. With the assistance of local deputies, CO Hobkirk ticketed both subjects for recreational trespass and each for an untagged deer.

While checking an illegal stand in the Rush Lake State Game Area (SGA), CO Robert Hobkirk observed a subject climbing down from the stand. The stand had been left up since last deer season and had no name, screw in tree steps, and trees had been cut around the stand which was also baited. The subject denied owning the stand but admitted to shooting a deer during archery season from the stand. He was ticketed for baiting and screw in steps on public land.

On November 16th, CO Robert Hobkirk responded to a recreational trespass complaint where three witnesses observed a subject shoot a deer from his vehicle. The hunter left the area and returned a short time later and attempted to take the deer when he was contacted by the landowner. CO Hobkirk arrived, seized the hunter's firearm, a large nine point deer and ticketed the subject for recreational trespass as well as for taking a deer from a motor vehicle. Later in the day, CO Hobkirk responded to another recreational trespass complaint where a subject had trespassed onto two properties and shot a large eight point buck. This subject was charged with two counts of recreational trespass.

CO Scott Brown stopped to talk with the occupant of a vehicle parked alongside the road in the Verona SGA. There were four deer in the back of the pickup truck; two of them were antlerless deer that were taken in the SGA. One deer had a Macomb County DMU private land tag and the other had a 486 private tag. When the rest of the hunting party came out dragging a five point buck, CO Brown noticed it was tagged with

a restricted buck tag, the only one the hunter had left. After a brief investigation, it was determined that the tags for the antlerless deer had been borrowed from yet another member of the hunting party, as the shooters didn't have doe permits and the illegally tagged buck was taken by a hunter who the week before had been ticketed for illegally hunting over bait in Lapeer County. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott Brown was speaking with a deer hunter in the Verona SGA when a van stopped in the road to pick up another hunter. CO Brown watched the hunter climb into the van with an uncased gun and begin to drive away. When the vehicle was stopped, the passenger still had the gun uncased and loaded with buckshot, pointing toward the back seat where two children were seated. The hunter was 15 years old and the driver was his grandmother. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott Brown checked on an illegal baiting complaint where seven bait piles were located near four blinds. Two of the hunters were under the age of 17 and the grandfather was supervising the juveniles. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott Brown observed a vehicle headlighting a field not far from his residence. While conducting the stop, a definite odor of marijuana was detected. There were two shotguns in the vehicle with loose shotgun shells on the console and passenger floorboard. The passenger said he was having a smoke to celebrate the first deer he had ever shot. The driver was ticketed for shining while in possession of a firearm.

On November 14th, while talking with a lessee of property where shining and shooting complaints were common, CO Scott Brown and the lessee observed a vehicle headlighting a field. During the stop, it was determined that there were three shotguns and a crossbow in the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle had six prior driving suspensions and the passenger was a convicted felon. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Scott Brown stopped to check a deer in the back of a vehicle in the Verona SGA. When he approached the truck, one of the hunters hurried to put a tag on the deer which was already loaded into the back of the truck. While talking with the hunters, it was clear that the deer had been taken on the SGA with a private land tag. The father of the group commented that his son had shot it and didn't have a tag so he was tagging it to be legal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright received an anonymous tip that a person had several untagged deer in a barn at their residence. When CO Wright went to investigate, he observed a large bait pile behind the house underneath a light but could not see any deer. CO Wright came back later that day and talked to the owner of the house. The owner would allow CO Wright to look in all places except for one windowless barn that had dried blood on the bottom of the door and sidewalk. CO Wright called on the MSP to come and watch the residence while he went to obtain a search warrant. CO Wright arrived back at the residence several hours later with another trooper, CO Seth Rhodea and a search warrant. After the search was completed, a total of nine untagged antlered deer, a bear

skull and 22 weapons were seized. The subject was taken to jail and is facing twelve different charges.

CO Joshua Wright received a complaint that a person was shooting geese during the closed season at Fish Point. CO Wright was able to sneak up on the hunter and caught him with an illegal goose. A total of three different violations were discovered and enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted three deer hunters over a half hour after shooting time ended and after checking the hunter's firearms, discovered that all three firearms were still loaded. When CO Rhodea explained to the hunters that they were going to be ticketed for having loaded firearms after hours, the hunters became very upset and demanded to know how they were supposed to know when shooting time ended. CO Rhodea explained to them that the shooting times were listed in the hunting guide but the hunters told him that it was ridiculous that they would be expected to look every day to find out what time shooting time ended

On opening day of firearm season, CO Seth Rhodea contacted two hunters hunting over bait. Both hunters said they had no idea how the bait got there even though they had raked paths from their blinds to the bait piles. One hunter also failed to tell CO Rhodea that he had a CPL and was carrying a pistol at the time. Both hunters were ticketed for baiting deer and the hunter with the CPL was also ticketed for failing to notify a law enforcement officer that he was carrying a concealed pistol.

COs Larry Deslover and CO Seth Rhodea contacted several hunters who were hunting over bait, not wearing any hunter orange and two hunters who were hunting without licenses. Tickets were issued for the bait, hunting without licenses and failing to wear hunter orange.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted a subject driving his pickup with two small children in the vehicle. After asking the subject if he had any firearms in the vehicle, the operator told him there were three guns in his truck. CO Rhodea checked the firearms and found that two of the three were loaded. A ticket was issued for having loaded firearms in the vehicle.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted a deer hunter that he had observed transporting an uncased firearm on an ORV and failing to wear hunter orange while participating in a deer drive. While checking several of the deer that had been harvested, CO Rhodea also located a fox that had been shot by the hunter. The hunter failed to have a fur harvester license and was ticketed for taking a fox without a license and transporting an uncased firearm on an ORV.

CO Jason A. Smith was checking the state game area deer camps and came across a hanging buck that had a firearm deer tag that was purchased in the afternoon of November 15th. After an informal interview of the hunter in the camp, CO Smith contacted the owner of the deer tag in the field. A more extensive interview with him

confirmed that the deer was shot the morning of the 15th. The tag was then purchased and later put on the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith checked a hunter who had been issued a baiting ticket earlier this hunting season. The hunter was again hunting over illegal bait and was not wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith was watching a hunter on the shoulder of the road. He observed a pick-up truck pull up to the hunter and as Officer Smith approached the vehicle, the hunter unloaded the shotgun and put it in the backseat of the truck. The subject who was hunting had also failed to purchase a deer hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith contacted a hunter as he was driving out of a field shortly after dark. The hunter had an untagged doe in the back of the truck. The hunter also had a .243 rifle in the passenger seat of the truck with a round still in the chamber. The hunter also admitted to the CO that he had forgotten to wear his hunter orange for the evening hunt. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason A. Smith observed a vehicle shining during the month of November. After stopping the vehicle, an uncased shotgun was observed in the back seat. After taking possession of the firearm, Officer Smith confirmed that the firearm was loaded in both the barrel and magazine. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Nick Atkin contacted subjects outside a hunting camp with bait out in plain view from the roadway. While talking with the subjects, CO Atkin observed blood on one of the subject's clothes. The CO asked the subject where the deer were. The subject took CO Atkin to a small shelter with two deer hanging. One of the deer was not tagged. CO Atkin started questioning the subject about the untagged deer and the subject stated that the hunter who killed the buck was still out hunting. CO Atkin located the hunter in the woods hunting with no hunter orange. Upon questioning the subject about the untagged deer in the shelter, the hunter advised CO Atkin that he did not have a hunting license. During the investigation, it was also found that the other deer located in the small shelter at the beginning of the contact was shot over bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Atkin was on patrol when he passed an ORV driving on the roadway. As CO Atkin passed the ORV, the operator was observed taking a drink from a beer while driving the ORV. When the operator saw CO Atkin, he threw the can of beer and sped off. CO Atkin stopped the ORV and during the investigation that followed, the operator was found to be operating while suspended and in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni observed a vehicle parked along the roadway with the driver's side door left wide open on the opening day of firearm deer season. Further investigation revealed that the hunters were okay, just very excited to get out in the woods. So

excited that not only did they forget to shut the door, they also forgot to purchase a deer hunting license and forgot to wear their hunter orange. Tickets were issued for hunting without a valid license and for not wearing hunter orange.

CO Holly Pennoni observed a suspicious vehicle whose occupants appeared to be road hunting. The vehicle was swerving on the roadway, stopping on the roadway and driving very slow. Upon stopping the vehicle, CO Pennoni located a loaded firearm next to the driver. The driver stated he was looking for deer since he just got kicked out of a tree stand by another hunter located in a state game area that is closed to firearm deer hunting. The driver told the CO where the subject was hunting and said he needed to be written a ticket for hunting in a closed area. CO Pennoni issued the driver a ticket for possession of a loaded firearm and then went to locate the hunter. CO Pennoni located the hunter who was not wearing hunter orange and issued him a ticket for the violation.

CO Holly Pennoni contacted a hunter walking down a power line heading back toward his vehicle. Upon contact, the hunter stated that he wasn't hunting and that he went to get the firearm that his cousin had left in his blind. The hunter told the CO that he had purchased a license but left it at home. CO Pennoni checked the license system and the hunter had not purchased a deer license. CO Pennoni issued a ticket to the hunter for hunting without a license.

CO Holly Pennoni observed a few hunters who appeared to be tracking a deer after dark. CO Pennoni met the hunters as they were driving out of the woods and found a loaded firearm, possession of open alcohol in the motor vehicle and several empty bait bags. The CO went back to the deer blinds with the hunters and found illegally placed bait with blood from the deer they had just shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni contacted a 15 year old who was driving an ORV on the roadway with four other kids under the age of 10 as passengers. They did not have an ORV license, were operating on the roadway, riding with more passengers than designated, operating without parental supervision, without an ORV safety certificate and without helmet/eye protection. The CO contacted the father to come and get the children and issued the father a ticket for allowing the juvenile to operate.

CO Holly Pennoni was patrolling the state game area when she observed a few vehicles arrive at a nearby farm. The CO observed the hunters get out and shoot at least 500-600 yards out into an open field at some deer. The hunters were not wearing any hunter orange and were carelessly shooting out into the field in the direction of the CO. This continued after legal hunting hours had ended. The vehicles sped off and when they returned, CO Pennoni issued tickets for hunting after legal hunting hours and for not wearing hunter orange.

A plane flight was conducted in Tuscola and Sanilac Counties by Sgt. Tony Soave, COs Seth Rhodea, Joshua Wright, Scott Brown, Bob Hobkirk and Jason Smith. The flight was targeting illegal road hunting activity, firearms and license violations and illegal shining activity. Numerous tickets were written for possession of untagged deer,

transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, no hunter orange, and hunting without a license. Tickets were also issued for alcohol violations.

CO Dan Lee and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly contacted a deer hunter who was arrested last year for hunting deer with no license in possession, hunting with a rifle in the shotgun zone and no hunter orange. The COs asked the hunter for his deer tag. The hunter handed the Sgt. a deer tag that was already punched out. He explained that the tag must have ripped in a few places. After a little talk the subject changed his story. He then advised that he shot a spike a few days prior and punched out the tag before he went to look for the deer, which he never found. When the COs asked the subject how many deer he shot this year, he advised that he only found one deer and tagged one deer this year. At this point, the subject realized that all the lies were just digging him a bigger hole. He then confessed to shooting two bucks and attempting to take a third deer with the used tag. The subject was again issued tickets, one for hunting deer without a license and one for baiting. The COs seized another firearm from him this year.

Lt. Ron Utt observed a couple of hunters in a field with a freshly taken buck. When the Lt. pulled into the field and approached the hunters, one of the hunters attempted to tag the deer while the Lt. walked up to them. While talking to the hunters he discovered the hunter who killed the deer did not have a license to hunt. The Lt. called CO Larn Strawn to assist with the investigation. The CO responded to the hunter's residence nearby and interviewed his wife. Initially she denied any involvement in the situation; however, when pressed with the overwhelming evidence they both admitted she went to a license agent and purchased the license in her name after he called her and told her he just killed a buck. She then gave him her license to tag the deer. A check of their previous season's license purchases suggests this activity is common practice for the duo. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Isabella County, CO Larn Strawn was dispatched to a report of breaking and entering and larceny from a hunting blind. Among the property stolen were the hunting licenses of a husband and wife, their digital camera, two sets of binoculars and all of their snacks and drinks. While investigating the complaint the CO inspected a hunting blind on a nearby property that appeared to have been broken into as well. The CO discovered the empty candy and jerky wrappers as well as one of the deer calls taken from the other blind. While examining the items the CO observed an apparent last name written in marker on a blanket. A data search revealed a person nearby had the same last name and an extensive criminal history of burglary. The CO contacted the suspect and interviewed him. Ultimately the CO discovered the stolen property in a camouflage backpack in the suspect's living room. The CO arrested the thief for the burglary and lodged him in the Isabella County Jail.

While on patrol in the Gratiot Saginaw SGA, CO Dan Lee watched a small doe cross the road and head into the woods, and shortly after the CO heard a shot. After dark the CO contacted three hunters near the same location where a youth hunter was dragging out a small doe. The deer was gutted but not tagged. The father, who had been

checked by CO Lee earlier at a different location, had all the youth's tags with him but not one for a doe on public land for the DMU. The CO provided information on the various violations as well as tickets.

CO Vicki Goss responded to a complaint that a deer had been shot from a vehicle and left in the field. The CO set up surveillance and listened as the vehicle pulled up, dropped off an individual and dragged the deer to the roadway. The CO then observed the vehicle return, shut off their lights and watched them drag the deer across the roadway and throw it in the back of the pick up. The CO surprised the two subjects when she pulled out and stopped them before they could leave. Both individuals were charged with possession of the illegally taken deer.

CO Vicki Goss worked with District 7 COs during a night flight for shining activity. CO Goss followed the directions from CO Steve Orange who was conducting surveillance from the plane to the location of a pickup truck shining from both sides of a vehicle in Kent County. The CO turned off her vehicle lights and pulled off the road to watch the individuals shine before making a stop. A loaded firearm was found in the vehicle. The driver was issued a ticket for shining with a weapon in possession and the passenger was issued a ticket for shining during the month of November. Condemnation will be sought on the firearm.

COs Chad Foerster and Jeremy Payne were working an area of known shining activity when they heard a shot after shooting hours. While checking the area, the COs came into contact with two subjects at a residence. One of the subjects had a large amount of blood on his clothing and both were acting a bit nervous. Further investigation revealed six illegal deer taken without licenses inside the attached garage of the house. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster received a complaint of two subjects in a canoe on the Shiawassee River who had just shot a deer on private property without permission. Not only did the hunters trespass when they shot the deer, the shooter did not possess an antlerless license for the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster watched as two hunters loaded a five point buck into the bed of their pickup truck. Upon contacting the hunters, the CO found the deer to be tagged and validated. One of the hunters said that his wife shot the buck but had already gone home. He advised that he just loaded it up for her. After a short conversation, the hunter decided to tell the CO the truth, and stated that he shot the deer and used a tag that his wife purchased for him. He said he just wanted to put more meat on the table. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell stopped and checked a buck hanging in a tree. The buck was tagged with an antlerless tag. When the hunter was asked why he used a doe tag the hunter claimed that he was excited and that it was dark. The CO made the hunter put his buck tag on the deer and enforcement action was taken for the tagging violation.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint of a large buck that was shot buy a hunter who used his wife's tag. The hunter had entered the 13 point into a couple of buck contests and was showing it off all over town. The CO located the deer at a processor and ran the tag. The tag belonged to the subject's wife and was bought after dark on November 16th. The subject confessed that he was only doe hunting and when the large buck walked out he could not help himself. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell was following up on a complaint of a nine year old boy who shot a big buck with a firearm. After talking with the family it was determined that the boy's grandfather had shot the buck. The grandfather was interviewed and admitted that he shot the big buck on his property. Everything looked to be okay until a check of the tag showed it to be his wife's tag. The hunter had already filled his firearm tag opening day and bought his wife a tag for this deer. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Quincy Gowenlock and Jeremy Payne watched two hunters, a father and his son, pull a deer out of the woods, gut the deer and then attach it to the back of an ORV. The CO never saw the hunters tag the deer. The COs then watched the ORV drag the deer toward a residence. At this time the COs split up. One followed and watched the hunter on the ORV with the deer and the other watched the hunter walking back to the residence. CO Payne contacted the walking hunter who appeared to be upset that the CO was on their property and was very vocal. The hunter then grabbed his cell phone and called his father and told him to hurry up and get the tag on the deer because a CO is walking toward him. As the hunter on the ORV started to pull the tag out of his wallet he was contacted by CO Gowenlock, who was watching from about three feet away. The surprised hunter was issued a ticket for failing to tag the deer.

CO Jeremy Payne received a complaint of a hunter who was scattering something around his blind. As the CO walked toward the blind he came across a trail of peanuts. He followed the trail, which led right to the blind. The CO contacted the hunters and asked if deer liked the peanuts. The hunter advised that he was not sure but he was sorry for putting the peanuts out. The CO then noticed that the trail of peanuts headed in another direction. The CO followed the trail which lead to a larger pile of peanuts and sugar beets. A ticket for baiting was issued.

DISTRICT 7

CO Ken Cerny observed a pontoon boat being operated without a boat registration on a lake in St. Joseph County. When CO Cerny tracked down the owner to ticket him for an unregistered watercraft, he located an untagged deer in his possession as well.

On opening day of firearm deer season CO Mike McGee and Sgt. Bob Torres observed a hunter in a stand not wearing hunter orange. CO McGee recalled that in the past he had gotten complaints on this particular individual for hunting from an ORV. The COs contacted the hunter and found he did not have a kill tag in his possession, had no helmet and had operated the ORV on the roadway to get to his hunting location.

CO Andy Bauer responded to a baiting complaint on the firearm deer season opener and wrote tickets to two hunters for using bait, one hunter for not having a license, and contacted yet another hunter not wearing any orange.

On the second day of firearm deer season CO Steve Mooney went on two complaints of hunters killing turkeys. The first complaint was in Van Buren County where CO Mooney collected two dead turkeys and got a confession to the killings. The second complaint was in Cass County and involved a non resident who was trespassing and had killed a turkey. CO Mooney contacted the subject with the bird who was using turkey loads and was not out hunting deer.

While traveling a back road in Cass County CO Steve Mooney came over a hill and observed a vehicle in the road. There was a subject at the vehicle and two subjects just off the road with a deer still kicking at their feet. CO Mooney contacted the subjects and found that the deer had been shot. CO Mooney observed a firearm in the vehicle and upon racking the gun a spent shell came out of the chamber still smoking. A person hunting nearby came forward and advised CO Mooney he had witnessed the subjects shoot the deer from the vehicle about 10 seconds before CO Mooney had crested the hill.

CO Jeff Robinette and Sgt. Bob Torres responded to a late shooting complaint that occurred in Cass County the night prior. COs responded to the location where the late night shooting had occurred and observed a parked vehicle. No late shooting was heard but two hunters came out of the woods after legal hunting hours with their guns still loaded in the chamber. Both hunters were interviewed about the late shooting that occurred the previous night. The pair gave different stories as to what happened and eventually confessions were attained. One of the hunters had shot an antlerless deer after hours the night before and did not have an antlerless kill tag. The subject borrowed a kill tag from yet another person. COs followed up and discovered that in addition to hunting after hours, no antlerless kill tag, possession of a loaded firearm after hours and borrowing a tag of another, that the hunter had a PPO condition that prohibited him from possessing a firearm.

A property owner in Berrien County observed a vehicle in his field and discovered three guns in the vehicle but no occupants. The property owner took the vehicle keys and contacted law enforcement. CO Andy Bauer was called out on the trespass complaint. With the aid of local law enforcement three subjects were located, two of whom were felons. One of the subjects was located in a swamp with an eight point buck he'd shot.

DISTRICT 8

While on patrol, CO Jeff Walker was passed by a motor vehicle driven at speeds in excess of 90 miles per hour. Upon contact the driver of the vehicle stated "You can't write me a ticket, you're a Conservation Officer". Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols heard a gunshot after the close of shooting hours on opening day of firearm season. CO Nickols located the shooter who stated that he was just trying to “do the right thing” by shooting at an injured deer that he saw in his headlights. The “injured” deer was never recovered. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Rich Nickols heard the radio traffic BOL (be on lookout) come across his county radio. The BOL was for a vehicle very near his location whose occupants were throwing trash out the window. CO Nickols located and stopped the vehicle in question and one of the backseat passengers admitted to the littering. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the local game area, CO Rich Nickols observed two subjects in a vehicle with both doors wide open. Upon further investigation it was determined that the subjects were smoking what appeared to be marijuana. The investigation also revealed a fair quantity of marijuana inside the vehicle, with one of the subjects wanted on three outstanding warrants. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens located two subjects on opening day of firearm season who were hunting over bait, trespassing, hunting without wearing hunter orange, and hunting without licenses. The subjects were very surprised to see a CO at their location. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Damon Owens, Jeff Walker and Sgt. Troy Bahlau contacted subjects at a residence where numerous violations were found, including overlimit of untagged deer, hunting license violations, and tagging violations. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy contacted two subjects who were hunting after the close of legal hunting hours and had no hunting licenses in their possession. Enforcement action was taken.

On opening day of firearm deer season, CO Dan Prince responded to an illegal baiting complaint and located a subject hunting from a tree stand over bait. The subject was not wearing hunter orange nor had he purchased a hunting license. The subject thought that he would never get caught. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy responded to a complaint of two subjects hunting within the safety zone of a residence. The COs located the subjects who were also hunting without hunter orange garments and did not have any hunting licenses in possession. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy were investigating an illegal baiting complaint when they observed a subject get down from a tree stand that was overlooking illegal bait and run from the COs. The COs called the landowner on their cell phone and told them to call the subject who was hunting over the illegal bait to tell him that if he didn't return to

the COs, they would impound his vehicle. The subject returned and the COs took enforcement action.

While on foot, Sgt. Bahlau heard a number of gunshots on opening morning of firearm deer season. When back at his vehicle, Sgt. Bahlau drove in the direction of the shots and observed two subjects dressed in camouflage loading firewood onto a tarp in the back of a pick up truck. Sgt. Bahlau contacted the subjects and asked them if they had any luck deer hunting to which they responded "no". When Sgt. Bahlau asked what the blood on their hands and boots was from they had no response. Sgt. Bahlau's investigation revealed four untagged deer under the tarp, one subject hunting in the shotgun zone with a 30-06 rifle, two subjects hunting without hunter orange, and three subjects hunting without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader located a deer tagged with a suspicious looking tag. CO Bader interviewed the tag owner and she seemed very nervous and told the CO that she was not going to lie to the CO anymore when she realized what the penalties are for illegal deer. She told CO Bader that her husband shot the deer and used her kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a trespass complaint, CO Brad Brewer interviewed a subject about the trespass, hunting without a license, and not wearing hunter orange while hunting. During the interview CO Brewer observed the subject's dog chewing on a fresh deer hide. The subject stated that he shot a doe the day before. CO Brewer's investigation showed that the deer was a buck and not a doe, that the deer was taken on property that the subject didn't have permission to be on, and that the subject was hunting without a license and without hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

While working an area that has recurrent trespassers, CO Jeff Goss heard a shot close to his location. On the way to investigate the shot, CO Goss located a subject in full camouflage who was trespassing. CO Goss continued on and as he approached the area of the shot he located a second subject also dressed in full camouflage who had shot a deer over bait. Enforcement action was taken in both instances.

CO Jason J. Smith responded to a call from the county dispatch center that the MSP needed assistance with a shots fired complaint. The troopers had a suspect in custody with two illegal deer taken at night. CO Smith recognized the suspect as someone he arrested three years prior with an illegal deer. Enforcement action was taken...again.

CO Jason J. Smith contacted a subject hunting and asked him for his hunting license. The subject, a Maryland resident, stated that he left his license "back at his house". CO Smith knew the subject had not purchased a license and the subject confessed that if he got a deer he was going to tag it with his cousin's kill tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith had help from CO Danny Walzak in the investigation of a turkey taken out of season. The subject illegally shot the turkey on Thanksgiving Day in

Ingham County and transported it to Wayne County. The COs were able to get a full confession about the illegal activity. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith observed a subject hunting in a tree stand without hunter orange. As he made contact with that subject a second subject came out of a barn carrying a firearm. As CO Smith watched the subject near the barn he observed a deer hanging. The investigation revealed an untagged deer, the hunter orange violation, and no kill tags in possession for either of the subjects. Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

CO Jason J. Smith was investigating a complaint of two subjects hunting for deer with rifles. CO Smith contacted two subjects in a van with an untagged deer. One subject stated that they were going to his residence to get his tag. The second subject, an Ohio resident, stated that he wasn't hunting but just helping out his buddy. The Ohio resident admitted he was hunting when CO Smith pointed out the camouflage paint on his face. A 30-30 rifle was recovered along with the illegally taken deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger worked an area on opening morning of firearm deer season where he had complaints of subjects hunting before legal hours. Over 30 minutes prior to legal shooting hours, CO Bigger was able to walk up to a group of locals who all had loaded guns. No one noticed the CO standing among them until he asked if the firearms were loaded. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger observed a truck driving down the road with blood leaking from the bed. CO Bigger contacted the driver of the vehicle at his residence and asked to look at the deer. The driver showed CO Bigger the deer which had an un-validated tag on it. When CO Bigger asked the subject why he didn't validate the tag, the subject stated that he was trying to get the deer home so he could reuse the tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster observed two subjects at a residence with a deer in the back of a pickup truck. When CO Webster contacted the subjects he observed two more deer hanging from a tree. CO Webster's investigation found that none of the deer were tagged and that none of the subjects had purchased hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster stopped to check a deer that was hanging in a pole barn. The subject who shot the deer told CO Webster that he shot it about 8 a.m. that morning and he was about to tag it with the kill tag he had in his hand. CO Webster noted that the tag was purchased at 11 a.m. that day. When this was pointed out to the subject he confessed to killing the deer without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Jackson County for illegal shining activity, CO Shane Webster heard a report about a rollover accident near his location that other law enforcement agencies were handling. A short time later, CO Webster observed a vehicle travelling toward his

location at a slow rate of speed. As the vehicle passed by CO Webster noted that the windows were all broken out, the front bumper was dragging, and the rear tire was bent. CO Webster immediately recognized that this was the vehicle from the rollover accident. CO Webster pursued the vehicle to the driver's residence where the investigation showed that the driver was intoxicated. The MSP and other emergency personnel assisted and enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 9

Area 2 COs worked a group patrol under an airplane in Lapeer County. Seven tickets were issued for no hunter orange, hunt without a license, overlimit of bucks, possess deer without a license, and uncased and loaded .30-30 in a motor vehicle. Several warnings were also given for baiting and other violations.

CO Mark Papineau received two complaints from hunters on a property in Argentine Township. One subject reported that he located several stands and bait piles on his property. The subject removed the stands since the responsible person had trespassed to put them there. The owners of the stands reported that their stands had been stolen. CO Papineau responded and contacted all parties involved and informed the subjects that they could no longer hunt the area until the property line was professionally surveyed. The following day, the same subjects were found trespassing on the same parcel of property and again confronted by the property owner. One subject raised his shotgun and threatened the property owner with physical harm. The subject was subsequently arrested and lodged in the Genesee County Jail on multiple charges including felony assault.

Specialist Peggy Ruby and CO Linda Scheidler responded to a baiting complaint where it was alleged the subjects were shooting from a small window in the garage with a firearm during the archery season. While making contact with the homeowner, the COs found a pile of bait directly behind the garage near a tree stand. They also found the small window. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Schwiderson was following up on a baiting complaint when he observed turkey legs on a table in the subject's yard. The CO checked the computer and found that the subject had not purchased a fall turkey license. During the interview, the subject stated that his wife shot the turkey. The CO interviewed the wife and a couple of neighbors and confirmed the subject's story; unfortunately for the subject, the CO still took enforcement action on the baiting violation.

COs Ken Kovach and Mark Papineau, along with Sgt. Tom Wanless, assisted MSP in a search for a missing hunter in the Ortonville Recreation Area. The search started Saturday evening when the 72 year old dialysis patient did not meet up with his son at the end of hunting for the day. Three MSP K-9 units, a helicopter, CO Kovach and other law enforcement searched for the subject unit approximately 2:00 a.m. A few officers continued to search until daybreak when three fresh K-9 units, state troopers, and the COs returned. The subject was located deceased shortly after 10:00 a.m.

CO Ken Kovach and Sgt. Tom Wanless observed a pickup truck coming out of a field with two deer on the tailgate on opening day. The COs stopped the subjects and found that one of the does was tagged; however, the tag was not validated. The other small doe was not tagged and the subject who shot it tried to borrow a license from his father. The subject also had a warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking hunters in the Lapeer SGA, CO Ken Kovach and Sgt. Tom Wanless were flagged down by hunters who stated that a subject had a large amount of bait off Long Lake Road and was hunting over it. The COs checked the bait; however, the hunter was not there. The subject had several small piles of carrots, sugar beets, and corn. The subject also took apples and hung them in trees in the area by poking branches through the apples. The COs checked the bait later in the day and contacted the subject, who thought you could have five gallons. A ticket was issued and the bait cleaned up.

CO Ken Kovach was the second officer on a barricaded gunman call where the subject was threatening to kill his wife and himself. CO Kovach started to set up a perimeter until reinforcements arrived. A short time later, the subject came outside and gave up.

CO Ken Kovach followed up on a deer case from a processor inspection. CO Kovach determined the deer was shot with a .17 caliber then the buck was tagged with an antlerless kill tag for the wrong DMU. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett watched a hunter exit the woods several hours after legal hunting hours on opening day. When asked about his equipment and licenses, the hunter sighed, and under his breathe said, "Ooh boy". He had not purchased his hunting license yet and said he was planning on buying it right after he had hunted that morning. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett was patrolling the refuge area at Pointe Mouillee SGA when he located two people walking a dog along the Banana Dyke. When the three signs posted at the entrance to the Refuge were pointed out that state "STOP DO NOT GO PAST THIS POINT", the pedestrians claimed it was not clear enough. Both were ticketed for entering a closed area.

After several foot patrols into the Erie SGA following confirmed reports of baiting and unmarked tree stands, CO Mark Ennett located a hunter using one of the tree stands. The hunter denied being the owner of the stand and had merely begun using it to hunt that day. CO Ennett pointed out the stand was unmarked and that corn was still spread around the area at the stand. He issued a warning for hunting over the bait and issued a ticket for using the unmarked tree stand on state land. The hunter was not pleased and asked if he could now take the stand. He was told no and CO Ennett pointed out that the person responsible for the tree stand would also be held accountable for the bait.

While checking for deer hunter activity, CO Dan Walzak observed a pickup truck with two occupants drive down a stretch of road that had been closed by the county to vehicular traffic for several years. Stopping the vehicle, CO Walzak asked the driver of the pickup what he was doing in the area. The driver, who is a local resident, stated that he was familiar with the roads in the area and said that he wanted to go to a nearby restaurant. CO Walzak then asked the driver why he chose this particular road to be part of his route – pointing out that there were two fairly large signs placed at the beginning of the road by the county stating “No Trespassing” along with two huge concrete barriers completely blocking the road which the subjects had to drive off road for about 60 yards to get around. There was also a traffic sign stating “No Outlet” at the beginning and a locked gate at the other end. The driver answered that he had turned down this road to avoid a train but conceded that the barriers and signs were a strong indication that people were supposed to stay out of the area. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brandon Kieft and Ben Shively responded to a shots fired complaint on the 14th and saw ORVs operating through wetlands on state land. The COs contacted the subjects and discovered they had been target shooting and then decided to take an ORV ride. Both subjects were issued tickets for operating ORVs in a closed area. One was also issued a ticket for operating without a helmet and the other was given a ticket for the bait pile the COs found in his yard.

COs Brandon Kieft and Ben Shively were following up on a complaint on opening day when they checked the woods behind the subject’s house and located him in his tower blind with a loaded crossbow one hour after legal hunting hours hunting over bait. After a long interview, the subject admitted to tagging a six point and a button buck with the same tag. The COs went to the processor and recovered the tag that was on a button buck but was validated for a six point. Enforcement action was taken and the deer was donated to sportsmen against hunger.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel were following up on a complaint when they located two hunters in different tree stands. Neither were wearing hunter orange, both were hunting over large bait piles and they had only purchased archery licenses this year. While interviewing them in the field, they told the COs they had cut the head off of an eight point they found laying on the side of I-94. The hunters took the COs to their home and surrendered the eight point head. Both were issued tickets for baiting and hunting without a license.

While working with intern Brandon Szyska, Sgt. Tom Wanless checked a vehicle that was parked along I-69 in Lapeer County. There was a well worn path in the weeds from the vehicle to the fence, which was cut, and there were three long gun cases on the ground just inside the fence. Sgt. Wanless and the intern located a hunter in a tree stand not wearing hunter orange. They continued to search the area and located two subjects wearing minimal orange. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Papineau and Brandon Kieft responded to a trespass complaint in Holly Township. The complaint stated that two subjects in a vehicle drove through his yard past several "No Trespassing" signs to access a secluded area of Holly Recreation Area. COs Papineau and Kieft responded and contacted the subjects who were waterfowl hunting on the lake within the recreation area. The subjects stated that they did not see the signs and that a friend told them they could access the lake from this property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher and Sgt. Tom Wanless received a trespassing complaint on Columbus Township Park property where several hunters were staging a deer drive. As the complaint was being aired over the radio, the COs contacted some of the subjects and the complainant. The COs spent the next several minutes rounding up the rest of the subjects. The COs located 15 subjects. There were several violations including trespassing, hunt without a license, no hunter orange, and an untagged doe. Many of the subjects were also consuming alcohol. Five subjects were ticketed for the various violations and numerous warnings were given.

While enjoying his day off hunting with family, CO John Borkovich heard a gun shot on his property. He and his brother, a retired CO, investigated the shot. After several minutes of looking, the brothers located two subjects who were trespassing. When CO Borkovich attempted to stop the subjects, the subjects attempted to elude him. Finally, with the assistance of his brother, the CO caught the subjects and enforcement action taken.

CO Jonathon Sklba received a call from a local deputy that he witnessed a group of hunters in the national wildlife refuge. The deputy advised that the hunters had shot a deer on the property and then drove away. After checking the three major processors in the area, CO Sklba contacted additional help to patrol the refuge. CO Ben Shively assisted and they were able to locate the kill site and track it back to a local residence. At this time, Sgt. Arthur Green arrived and the three COs conducted an interview of the people at the house. The residents identified the hunters who advised that they went onto the property and that a third subject harvested a deer. The subject also stated that they were not on the refuge property but rather a private parcel near the refuge. The COs asked if they had permission from the landowner and they advised that they had permission for themselves and their party 15 years ago. It was determined that the landowner they had permission from had not owned the property in 14 years. The current landowner told the CO that no one is allowed on the property. Enforcement action was taken.

While doing a follow up patrol of the national wildlife refuge, CO Jonathon Sklba was advised by Sgt. Arthur Green that a group of hunters were on a nearby railroad. CO Sklba responded and contacted a group of hunters on the tracks. CO Sklba checked the group for warrants and was advised that one of the members was a convicted felon. The subject was released in 2007 and had not attempted to obtain his firearm rights. The subject was arrested and lodged on a five year felony charge for felon possessing a firearm.

CO Ben Shively was behind a van driving down a dirt road that pulled off to the side and then stuck his arm out the window. CO Shively stopped behind the vehicle and contacted the driver and occupant and observed an uncased firearm lying on an open hard case in the rear of the van. CO Shively had the driver exit the vehicle and open the rear doors of the van and discovered a .50 caliber muzzleloader loaded with the cap still in place that was aimed right at the back of the front seat passenger. The cap was removed and the firearm secured in the case and the driver was ticketed for loaded/uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Ben Shively was checking hunters at Bald Mountain Recreation Area and contacted a firearm hunter who could only produce an archery license and an antlerless license for a DMU in the northern part of the state. A computer check revealed that the subject had also purchased a combination deer license but had neither in his possession. The subject was ticketed for hunting deer with a firearm with no license in possession and the extra archery license was seized.

CO Ben Shively responded to a Report All Poaching complaint in the Highland Recreation Area of a Canada goose being shot during the closed season. CO Shively set up in the access site and observed decoys and a dead goose floating in the water. CO Shively watched the hunters pick up their decoys and the goose and head to shore. He contacted the hunters as they pulled up to the launch. One subject immediately stated that he had made a mistake. He stated that he thought that today was the last day of the season on the Canada goose season, shot the goose, and then looked on his blackberry and found it ended a week ago. The subject was also in possession of lead shot. The goose was seized and the subject was ticketed for taking a Canada goose during the closed season and given a verbal warning for possessing toxic shot.

CO Todd Szyska responded to assist Chesterfield Township Police on a waterfowl hunter who was hunting in a canal that does not face Lake St. Clair. The subject discharged a firearm within the safety zones of six houses. CO Szyska is seeking a warrant for hunting with a firearm in a closed area, hunting waterfowl with an unplugged shotgun and an unsigned federal stamp.

CO Todd Szyska and Sgt Arthur Green stopped a subject who was trespassing and who admitted he was out hunting earlier that day. The subject could not produce a hunting license and said he had his father's license but couldn't find it. A computer check showed the subject had not purchased a license since 2003. Enforcement action was taken.