

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
11/8/15 - 11/21/15**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Doug Hermanson had been working a complaint of a suspect hunting deer without purchasing a License. On opening day of the firearm deer season CO Hermanson located the suspect coming out of the woods from his deer stand, and discovered that he had not purchased a deer hunting license for this year. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Doug Hermanson and Sgt. Grant Emery checked one of the local marinas on the opening day of deer season, and observed a few boats out on Lake Superior. CO Hermanson recognized one of the vehicles belonging to a subject who he had ticketed previously for taking over limits of fish. CO Hermanson returned to the marina a few hours later to check the same vessel as it came off the water. He found the occupants to be in possession of four lake trout over their limit. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen and CO Ethen Mapes were getting ready for a shining patrol near Mass City when they observed an ORV pull into a gas station parking lot. Neither of the two occupants was wearing helmets. Contact was made with the driver of the ORV, and it was determined the driver had been drinking. After field sobriety tests were performed, it showed he was three times over the legal limit. He was arrested and lodged in the Ontonagon County Jail. The passenger was also ticketed for no helmet on an ORV.

CO Brian Lasanen stopped an ORV being driven down Highway 45 at a very high rate of speed. CO Lasanen conducted a traffic stop on the side by side ORV and made contact with the driver who acknowledged that he knew he was not allowed to drive on the highway. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen and CO Ethen Mapes made contact with a deer hunter on opening morning who was hunting from an illegal blind and approximately 25 gallons of bait. Upon further investigation, it was determined the same subject had two other stands in the same area with the same violations. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen and CO Ethen Mapes concluded an investigation in which CO Lasanen had an ORV flee from him. The officers were able to locate the suspect. He was arrested on a warrant for flee and elude, and operating an ORV while license suspended.

CO Matt Eberly followed up on an earlier RAP complaint of a felon who was hunting with a firearm. CO Eberly had earlier made contact with the subject in a tree stand over a bait pile, but at that time the subject did not have a firearm. The suspect had told CO

Eberly that he had planned on hunting with a crossbow. On the opening day of firearm deer season, CO Eberly went back to the same location. He found the felon to be hunting in the same stand with a rifle. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen and CO Ethen Mapes responded to a RAP complaint of shots fired well after legal shooting hours. As CO Lasanen and CO Mapes pulled up to the suspect's house, they noticed four deer hanging in the barn. CO Lasanen made contact with the suspect, and was advised his girlfriend had legally shot all four deer. CO Mapes made contact with the girlfriend and after a brief interview, it was determined she had not shot any deer this season, and her tags were at a friend's house. In light of the new information, CO Lasanen re-interviewed the suspect. It was determined the suspect had shot all four deer. The deer and the firearm used were seized. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Lasanen and CO Ethen Mapes stopped at a local gas station/grocery store when they noticed a nice eight point buck in the bed of a pick-up truck in the parking lot. CO Mapes noticed the tag on the deer had a 1961 birth date. CO Mapes made contact with a younger group of kids. The officer started a conversation with them, and one of them stated his mother had shot the deer. Things were just not adding up, and upon asking a few more questions, it was determined the teenager had shot the deer. He still wanted to hunt so he put his mother's deer tag on the deer. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller responded to a RAP complaint of an individual who shot at a deer within the safety zone of a residence. CO Miller was able to locate the suspect, and determined that a spike horn was shot and tagged with a combination license. The subject also admitted to not wearing hunter orange. Finally, he stated he didn't realize that his hunting blind was within 75 yards of a residence. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO David Miller worked a joint patrol with the local Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission officer and deployed a Deer Decoy. Several good checks were made and one individual was found trespassing and not wearing any Hunters Orange, law enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Eberly, despite heavy wind and snow in the Keweenaw, did come across a hunter who was out riding his ORV with a loaded firearm. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Eberly inspected a deer processor. When he was going through the deer that had been brought in to be butchered, CO Eberly came across one deer with a very suspicious tag place upon it. The date on the tag did not coincide with the condition of the deer. CO Eberly made contact with the hunter and determined the deer was shot at a different time than indicated on the tag. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Adam LeClerc was called to assist a local trapper who accidentally caught two bald eagles in two separate traps. CO LeClerc assisted the trapper in removing the eagles from the traps. Both eagles were unharmed and flew away.

CO Adam LeClerc, CO Shannon Kritz, CO Jarrod Ferguson, and Sgt. Marc Pomroy assisted with a hunter safety field day at the United Sportsman Club, where 26 new hunters earned their certificates.

Sgt. Jason Wicklund was on patrol in Iron County on November 14<sup>th</sup> when he observed two subjects dressed in hunter orange, and in possession of scoped rifles. The individuals stated they thought that deer season opened on a Saturday. After it was explained that it always opens on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the hunters quickly changed the story to say that they were "patrolling their land for trespassers." Sgt. Wicklund advised them that it was illegal to be in possession of a firearm during the five day quiet period, and asked them to call someone for a ride. A short time later, a gentleman arrived to pick them up. When he exited his vehicle, the overwhelming smell of marijuana came with him. Once Cpl. Dave Painter arrived to assist, the parties were separated and interviewed. Confessions were obtained for hunting deer during the closed season, possessing firearms during the five day quiet period, possession of marijuana, and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs.

Cpl. Dave Painter and Sgt. Jason Wicklund were on patrol the day before the firearm deer season opener when they observed an individual in a blue jacket walking with a rifle along a ridge. When they stopped the vehicle, the individual noticed them, and immediately turned and ran away. Upon exiting the patrol truck, a foot chase ensued where they quickly caught up to the individual, and took him into custody. The individual admitted that he had been hunting all day, and that he did not have a deer license, but planned on buying one if he had shot a deer. The individual was transported back to camp where they learned that several other members of the camp were still out hunting. Sgt. Wicklund walked the property to find one of the hunters sitting over an illegal bait. The hunter was also operating an unregistered ORV, did not have a case for his bow, and was using an illegal ORV trail on Forest Service land. The other hunter did not show up, and after an hour and a half of waiting, Cpl. Painter and Sgt. Wicklund learned that a member of the camp had texted him to stay away. The hunter was contacted via cell phone, and instructed to return to camp immediately. He arrived a short time later riding his ORV without a helmet, transporting an uncased crossbow, had been hunting out of an illegal blind, and was hunting over an illegal bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint regarding an individual that was trespassing late at night to get around his neighbor's security system. CO Jared Ferguson waited for the suspect throughout the night until he showed up, and was caught in the act. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson and Sgt. Marc Pomroy were following up on a baiting complaint that came in three days earlier. Upon locating the suspect, they found he not only had an over limit of bait still but had four other violations as well. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jared Ferguson and Sgt. Marc Pomroy were patrolling public land when they came across several blinds that had illegal amounts of bait. After an extensive search, they found the people that the blinds belonged to, and enforcement action was taken.

Cpl. Dave Painter and Sgt. Jason Wicklund received a complaint of an untagged buck, and responded to the location. As they approached, the hunter spotted the patrol truck and attempted to place his tag on the deer. The tag was not punched out, and the deer had not been immediately tagged after it was killed. Enforcement action was taken.

Cpl. Dave Painter and Sgt. Jason Wicklund handled numerous Commercial Forest Act (CFA) violations in Iron County. Numerous parties were contacted for leaving blinds and bait without permission, illegal use of ORVs, and litter.

Sgt. Jason Wicklund and CO Shannon Kritz stopped to check a road hunter to ask if he was having any luck. The hunter stated that his camp had shot two bucks, and that he was headed back for lunch. A check of the hunter's cased gun produced a loaded rifle. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy and CO Adam LeClerc were patrolling Gogebic County when they contacted a hunter leaving his hunting location. The hunter had a wheel barrow in his truck that was not there when the officers checked it earlier. A walk into the hunting location found the reason for the wheel barrow. A large bait pile of sugar beets and apples were located. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jarrod Ferguson followed up on an illegal bait pile that was located the day before the deer opener. A 14 year old hunter was utilizing the blind that had been over-baited by his grandfather but no adult supervision was anywhere around. The Grandfather was finally located and enforcement action was taken for the illegal bait pile and unsupervised youth hunter.

CO Jarrod Ferguson and Sgt. Marc Pomroy worked the Ralph area for activity on the deer opener. Numerous illegal blinds, illegal bait piles, and illegal ORV trails were addressed with hunters.

CO Adam LeClerc witnessed two ORVs riding down the shoulder of US 2. After contacting the individuals, a warning was issued for riding on the side of the highway.

CO Adam LeClerc and US Forest Service Officer Drake conducted a joint patrol near Watersmeet where they discovered multiple unoccupied illegal blinds in the area. The Officers will follow-up to see if they can later find any individuals using the blinds.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy received an in progress call of a deer that was shot by two trespassing subjects. Sgt. Pomroy was able to respond and contact the subjects as they loaded the deer into their vehicle. CO Brian Bacon was nearby and responded to assist in interviewing the subjects. The interviews revealed a safety zone violation along with the trespass issue. It was also determined that the subject who shot the deer called his father, who went to the nearby license dealer and purchased a deer license. The father just finished putting his tag on the deer his son shot as Sgt. Pomroy pulled up. Enforcement action was taken and the deer was seized.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a hunter that had cut over thirty evergreens for his shooting lanes. He also had violations for cross county ORV travel, no ORV stickers, over two gallons of bait, and he did not have his kill tags in possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy followed up on a complaint reporting a possible gunshot deer prior to November 15<sup>th</sup>. The officers did not find the reported deer, but a large bait pile was found a short distance from the camp. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy received a call from a subject reporting that he had heard a gunshot at the end of shooting hours the previous night. He took a walk to the corner of his property line, and located a freshly shot doe, and footprints leaving from the deer. CO Brian Bacon responded, and interviewed two subjects at a nearby camp, who stated they knew nothing about a doe that was shot. A few hours later a call was received at the Marquette Customer Service Center by a hunter wanting to report that he had shot the doe by accident. It turned out that the subject was from the camp that CO Bacon was at, but had left that morning to return to Lower Michigan. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon responded to a complaint of an illegal road created on State land. CO Bacon signed the area as closed to vehicle traffic, and placed a trail camera to watch the new signs. A check of the camera a few days later found clear pictures of a subject removing the signs, and driving cross country on State land. CO Bacon identified the subject and the investigation is ongoing.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a hunter exiting the woods with no hunter orange in Dickinson County. A check of his hunting license found him to also be in possession of another person's Wisconsin deer tags. CO Bacon also discovered fresh blood in the back of the pickup truck. A quick interview found that the subject had illegally killed a doe the day prior. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman made contact with a hunter that had cut shooting lanes from his illegal deer blind to his illegal bait pile on State land. The hunter also drove his ORV down an illegal ORV trail to the blind location. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman made contact with several hunters at their deer blinds whom were hunting out of the same deer camp. The hunters were operating ORVs in a closed area, not wearing helmets, and were hunting over illegal bait piles. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CO Elton Luce walked down an illegal ORV trail on State land to make contact with a hunter who was hunting from an illegal deer blind. The deer blind was also overlooking an illegal bait pile. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CO Elton Luce and CO Mark Leadman made contact with a deer hunter that was deer hunting on State land. When asked to produce his deer hunting license, he informed CO Elton Luce that he didn't have one, and that if he shot a deer he was just going to use a tag from one of the other hunters at camp. The hunter was escorted back to camp. Members of the camp were educated by CO Luce and CO Leadman. Appropriate enforcement action was taken with the hunter.

CO Brett DeLonge was patrolling gravel roads in farm country in Menominee County when he observed a hunter unloading an ORV near his truck. Upon contact, CO DeLonge noticed the operator did not have a helmet present, and had large quantities of bait. The operator explained that he was preparing his gun blind for deer season using the ORV. CO DeLonge then asked the individual if he had a gun in his truck, and he explained that he did. CO DeLonge located the gun case in the cab of the truck, and found that it had a loaded shotgun enclosed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and Cpl. Marvin Gerlach received information that a group of hunters had multiple illegal blinds, shooting lanes, and bait piles on State land in Menominee County. The officers located the illegal blinds the day prior to season, and found that the blinds were constructed of live cut trees. Additionally, each blind had multiple shooting lanes, and a large bait pile was located. The officers went to the location first thing on opening day, and observed that the group of hunters were blocking public access to State property, and a youth hunter was hunting unsupervised. The hunters were all located and briefed as a group about all of the violations observed. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and Cpl. Marvin Gerlach received information on the opening afternoon of rifle season that a large group of hunters, on private property, were hunting over large bait piles, and were observed processing untagged bucks. The officers located the gated access to the property, and then checked multiple blinds on the first half of the property. Every blind checked was occupied by hunters that were hunting over bait piles that largely exceeded the legal two gallon bait limit. Further investigation of the private property revealed one buck was tagged illegally, one was not tagged, but both were completely processed. As legal shooting hours came to an end, other hunters in the group returned from their deer blinds, and were surprised to see the officers. Of the group of hunters returning from the field, one hunter was not wearing hunter orange, and did not have a hunting license in possession. The violations were addressed along with the illegally tagged deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and Sgt. Ryan Aho were patrolling a remote section of State land in Menominee County when they observed a truck parked on the side of the road with a lantern glowing next to it. Upon contact with the owner of the truck, the officers observed that he was making space in the rear of his truck. They also noticed an untagged buck lying in woods near the truck. The hunter/owner of the truck did not have a reason as to why the buck was untagged and tucked away in the woods. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and Sgt. Ryan Aho were in route to an illegal deer complaint in northern Menominee County when they observed a group of hunters returning to a boat access point in a canoe near the roadside at dusk. A check of the group revealed that the hunters had no flotation devices on board, and were in possession of an untagged buck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge was patrolling State land near the Menominee River when he observed an ORV with two occupants traveling on the road way. CO DeLonge conducted a traffic stop on the ORV and made contact with the occupants. CO DeLonge observed that both occupants were not wearing helmets, were riding double, had a loaded uncased rifle, and failed to display an ORV registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge and Cpl. Marvin Gerlach were patrolling for road hunters in northern Menominee County when they noticed a vehicle traveling slowly on an old railroad grade. The officers noticed that both front windows were down in the vehicle even though the temperature was well below freezing. The officers conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle, and located a cased rifle in the front seat between the driver and passenger. After interviewing both subjects, the driver admitted he was road hunting, and was going to buy a hunting license after he shot a deer. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Brett Gustafson had an extremely busy opening day of firearm deer season. CO Gustafson handled numerous baiting and blind violations, several hunter orange violations, and a multitude illegal ORV violations. Enforcement action was taken several instances and many verbal warnings were given.

CO Bobby Watson and Sgt. Mike Hammill were conducting an administrative check on a local deer processor. After inspecting one particular deer, it was discovered that the individual who tagged the deer most likely did not shoot the deer. After interviewing the suspects, a confession was eventually obtained. The shooter of the eight point buck did not possess a license at the time. After shooting the deer, she decided to use her son's deer tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bobby Watson, CO Jon Busken and Sgt. Mike Hammill were conducting a deer decoy patrol when a vehicle was observed driving unusually slow as it approached the vicinity of the deer decoy. Upon observing the decoy standing in the field, the driver hit the brakes as the passenger jumped out to load his rifle, and laid across the hood of the vehicle to prepare for a shot. Sgt. Hammill interrupted the suspect's shot before any damage was done to the decoy. The suspect was not wearing any hunter orange clothing, was shooting into private property which he did not obtain permission to hunt, and had not purchased a deer hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken and CO Brett Gustafson made contact with two individuals riding in a vehicle in a remote area of Luce County. CO Busken observed an open beer can in the passenger compartment. When CO Busken asked how much beer was left in the can, the operator stated it was empty. The operator then proceeded to spill beer from the full can on himself while he handed it to CO Busken. A search of the vehicle revealed a spot light, and a shotgun with slugs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken observed a vehicle operating with malfunctioning taillights. A traffic stop was initiated. Upon contact, the passenger immediately demanded to know why they had been stopped, claiming they had been pulled over three times in the last several days for a variety of equipment violations. The vehicle was found to not have valid insurance. CO Busken showed the subjects the taillights at the end of the stop. The passenger agreed that the lights were not working. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken and CO Robert Watson were on patrol in Mackinac County when a vehicle stopped in the roadway in front of their patrol truck. Upon contact, the distinct odor of intoxicants was noted. CO Busken asked the operator how much he had to drink that day. The operator responded, "a couple beers". Sobriety tests indicated that the operator was intoxicated. He then admitted to drinking alcohol all day while setting up blinds. A PBT revealed a BAC of .121. The operator was placed under arrest and lodged in the Mackinac County jail.

CO Jon Busken and Lt Skip Hagy were on patrol in Mackinac County. They made contact with three individuals outside of a vehicle, and noted the distinct odor of marijuana coming from the individuals and vehicle. One of the subjects failed to disclose he had a loaded handgun, even though he did have a Concealed Pistol License. Two of the individuals were found to be improperly transporting medical marijuana, and the third one was found to be in illegal possession of and had used marijuana. One individual had a DNR warrant for hunting waterfowl with an unplugged shotgun. A cash bond of \$250 was collected and a court date was given for the prior violation. Enforcement action was taken on a variety of other violations.

CO Jon Busken made contact with a hunter walking down a set of train tracks in Mackinac County who stated that he did not know that he could not be on the train tracks. The officer and hunter returned to where he had been hunting that day. The blind he was using was illegal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken observed a pickup truck with defective taillights leaving an area frequent by deer hunters. Contact was made with the operator and two passengers. None of the occupants had been hunting. However, the operator's driver's license was suspended. The vehicle did not have insurance and the registration was expired. The occupants agreed to exit the vehicle so CO Busken could search it. Since it was raining, the seven year old passenger thought it was very cool that he was able to wear a Conservation Officer's rain jacket to stay dry. The search also revealed that the operator had marijuana in his possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Panich was working a continuous complaint of over-baiting at a residence that has been an issue for several years. CO Panich was notified that over fifteen tons of sugar beets had been dumped in the fields throughout the property. CO Panich investigated the complaint, and soon located several large piles of beets each over fifty gallons or more. CO Panich made contact with the property owner to explain the issue, and that steps that were going to need to be made to remedy the situation. Enforcement action was taken the night prior to season, as well as numerous follow up visits throughout the firearm season.

CO Jeff Panich was working a heavily trafficked backroad on Drummond Island when a traffic stop was made after shooting hours had ended. After checking the hunters' licenses and firearms, CO Panich addressed the two open beer cans in the center console of the vehicle. The hunters both admitted to being in possession of the alcohol in the vehicle. They discussed the dangers of drinking and driving, along with the safety of themselves and the public when firearms are involved. The two men both stated it was stupid to be driving with any alcohol and guns in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Wenzel attended a meeting put on by the US Fish and Wildlife Service about the numerous feral pigs in the area running at large on public property. CO Wenzel, along with DNR Biologists and a USFWS Agent, spoke to the crowd of approximately 100 people regarding the feral pigs answering numerous questions.

CO John Wenzel was working with a Forest Service Officer when they checked an illegal blind in the Hiawatha National Forest. The two officers had checked the blind in the past years, but had not found anyone hunting there. The blind had a very elaborate

suspension bridge built across a river to access the blind, poles sunk in the ground, and heavy duty wire for the bridge. Upon contacting the hunter in the blind, he admitted he knew the blind was illegal, and thought he would likely get caught someday. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Wenzel, along with a Forest Service Officer, made contact with a subject who had left a camper on the Hiawatha National Forest for several years. The subject stated the bearings had gone out of the camper, so he decided to leave it there. The subject was advised to remove the camper by the end of deer season, or it would be towed out at the owner's expense.

CO Kevin Postma was patrolling in the Trout Lake area on the day before the firearm deer season opener when he checked a group of individuals cutting pine boughs on Federal land. CO Postma accompanied one of the individuals back to his vehicle to retrieve his driver's license. CO Postma noticed an uncased/cocked crossbow in the back seat. CO Postma also noted a quiver of crossbow bolts in the front seat. The owner of the vehicle advised he must have forgot to take it out after his hunt on the previous afternoon. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kevin Postma followed a juvenile riding an ORV unsupervised to the location where his father was. His father happened to be working on a deer blind that was heavily over baited. The youth and father were warned, and arrangements were made to meet with the property owner about removing the excess bait.

CO Kevin Postma checked a hunter on opening day to discuss a large bait pile. After several minutes of discussion about the bait and the illegal blind, CO Postma detected the unmistakable odor of marijuana. The subject eventually handed a marijuana joint to CO Postma. The subject was warned about the bait and blind violations, and a warrant will be requested thru the Prosecutor's Office for the possession of marijuana.

Sgt. Mike Hammill received a tip of a potential deer tagging violation from a traffic stop made by a Luce County Sheriff Deputy. Sgt. Hammill followed up on the complaint, and made contact with the individual from the earlier traffic stop. Sgt. Hammill was able to eventually get a confession from the hunter. As it turned out, the hunter took his daughter's hunting license from home before heading to the Upper Peninsula for deer season. When the third spike horn buck presented itself for a shot, he killed the deer, and placed his daughter's tag on it. The suspect continued to hunt for his next two bucks on the combination license that he was also in possession of. Enforcement action was taken.

During the firearm deer opener, CO Pat Hartsig followed-up on an area largely over-baited that he and Sgt. Fitzgibbon had discovered. When the owner of the bait was asked what the legal limit of bait was, he said “five gallons” but it is actually only two gallon limit. His pickup truck load was well over that. Enforcement action was taken.

During a patrol, CO Pat Hartsig noticed a trailer parked in front of a gated area on CFR land. There were ORV tracks leading around the gate onto the land. After following the trail, an ORV was met head-on. The driver and his passenger were riding double without helmets, had no ORV sticker, and were operating illegally on CFR land. The driver stated he came to the Upper Peninsula to teach his daughter how to hunt correctly. Enforcement action was taken.

While working firearm deer opener, CO Robert Freeborn and CO Michael Evink worked an ongoing complaint of local camps using zip lines to cross a river to where their ORVs were staged in a closed area on State land. The officers traveled several miles on the network of illegal ORV trails that mostly traveled through swamp land, and located all of the responsible parties involved. Several violations were found including operating an ORV in a closed area, failure to remove blind after season, no hunter orange, hunt deer with no license on person, and over-baiting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Michael Evink and US Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Dave Tembruell were on patrol in southern Schoolcraft County when they observed an ORV operating on a public roadway without a helmet. The officers made contact with the operator, and noticed an uncased crossbow strapped to the front of the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn and CO Michael Evink doubled up on the opening morning of firearm deer season. While dealing with an illegal ORV trail network, they came upon a camp that had a bait pile that was clearly a dump truck load of bait. It had been spread around using a front end loader. They also discovered a previously unidentified illegal ORV trail through State land. Enforcement action resulted.

CO Michael Evink and US Forest Service Officer Dave Tembruell were patrolling adjacent to Forest Service land when they made contact with a vehicle that was “late” heading out to the blind. Upon contact, Officer Evink saw a gun case that was partially unzipped in the front passenger seat of the vehicle. In the process, CO Evink noticed an open bottle of Crown Royal Whiskey next to the operator. The driver admitted to drinking some whiskey before heading out to hunt. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Robert Freeborn contacted a hunter that was hunting alone, who appeared to be quite young. The hunter stated that he was 15 years old. CO Freeborn asked if he had anyone else in the area that was hunting with him. The hunter stated that he did not, and thought he was of age to hunt alone with his hunter's safety card. The CO walked the hunter back to his truck where the hunter was able to call a family member to pick him up. CO Freeborn explained youth hunting and driving laws to both the hunter and adult family member.

CO Robert Freeborn and Cpl. Steve Martin were on routine patrol when they heard local dispatch advising of a hunter in cardiac arrest only a few miles from their current location. The officers located a family member that was waiting out at the end of a Forest Service road to direct the responding units to where the hunter had walked into the woods. It was determined that the hunter, along with two other hunters, walked several miles to a very remote location with no trails leading to them. The officers, along with Michigan State Police, walked in on foot through the dense forest and swamp. After nearly an hour, the group was located where CPR was in progress. The officers took over CPR until EMS arrived at their location with an AED. Unfortunately, the hunter was pronounced dead shortly after. Due to the well below freezing temperatures and loss of daylight, the officers were able to get a fire started to warm and dry out the responding units while they waited for additional man power. CO Michael Evink, CO John Wenzel and CO Pat Hartsig arrived on scene to assist carrying out the deceased hunter. After several hours and very late into the night, the hunter was removed from the woods to the waiting ambulance.

CO Mark Zitnik and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon worked a waterfowl patrol on Forest Lake Basin on Veterans' Day. Five groups of hunters were checked. A ticket was issued for possess toxic shot, and two tickets and several warnings were given for marine safety violations.

On the opening day of firearm season, Cpl. Shannon VanPatten and CO Calvin Smith came across a group of bough cutters. The individuals did not have a permit to cut the boughs, and one of the individuals had two warrants out for his arrest. The subject was lodged in the local jail, and a warning was given for cutting boughs without a permit.

Cpl. Shannon VanPatten and CO Calvin Smith came across a group of hunters preparing for the evening hunt. One of the individuals stated that he had forgot his deer license back at camp but actually had failed to purchase his deer license all together. Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon and CO Calvin Smith came across several illegal ORV trails on public land. They followed the trails and located an illegal stand at one of them, and a

large bait pile at the next. Later in the day, the responsible hunters were found, and enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon and CO Mark Zitnik worked opening day contacting over forty hunters. Several violations were encountered, including an uncased gun in a motor vehicle, non-resident possessing a handgun without a Concealed Pistol License, open intoxicants, illegal ORV trails, too much bait, and illegal blinds. The day resulted in five tickets and several warnings being given.

Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon came upon a vehicle parked sideways across a public road into a wildlife opening on State land. A ¼ mile walk on the road the hunter was found occupying an illegal constructed blind. Enforcement action resulted, including the hunter removing his vehicle from blocking the State road.

CO Calvin Smith and CO Mark Zitnik had a complaint of a wolf caught in a trap. They responded to the location and found it to be a coyote. They contacted the owner of the trap. The trapper was very happy that he had caught a coyote and not a wolf.

CO Calvin Smith and CO Mark Zitnik were patrolling the day before deer season when they came upon two ORV riders without helmets or ORV registration stickers. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Lake 25 Fields, CO Mark Zitnik came upon a deer hunter without wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik and CO Patrick Hartsig were checking hunters in the areas around Grand Marais. They encountered several ORV violations for no helmets, no ORV license, and operating over berms on CFR land. Several warnings and a few tickets were given.

CO Mark Zitnik and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon found ORV tracks in the snow driving through the woods, making their own trails. While driving to a nearby camp, they saw a four wheeler coming up behind them. The ORV rider was not wearing a helmet, and admitted to driving through the woods. Enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

After receiving a complaint about illegal ORV traffic in the Jordan Valley coming from a local hunting camp, CO Andrea Albert was able to catch the suspects operating the ORVs illegally on State land. Tickets were issued for the violations. CO Albert warned hunters at the same camp for illegal ORV use two years ago.

CO Andrea Albert stopped a vehicle pulling a trailer with a deer wrapped up in a tarp so the antlers could not be seen. The deer was a spike horn shot in Antrim County where antler point restrictions are in effect. The hunter had just shot it and was transporting it out of the county. The illegal deer was seized and a ticket was issued for the antler point violation.

While patrolling State land, CO Andrea Albert came across an abandoned ORV. A file check found the ORV to be stolen in August. The owner was contacted and came out immediately to retrieve the ORV.

CO Steve Speigl and CO Andrea Albert followed up on an excessive deer baiting complaint in Antrim County. The officers made contact with two hunters who were hunting over ten times the legal limit of bait each. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Speigl responded to a complaint of hunter harassment in Antrim County where the suspect was honking the horn of his truck, and chasing deer off the road to prevent another hunter the opportunity to take any deer crossing the road. The case is being forwarded to the prosecuting attorney's office for review.

CO Steve Speigl responded to three antler point restriction violations, all of which involved the hunters taking four point deer (2x2). The deer were seized and donated to local needy families. Tickets were issued for the violations.

CO Steve Speigl conducted a deer processor inspection which resulted in several violations being found. The suspect hunters were all contacted. Tickets were issued for several violations, including purchasing licenses after the fact, and antler point restriction violations.

CO Steve Speigl responded to a complaint of malicious destruction of a deer blind and trespass in Antrim County. On scene, CO Speigl found the permanent deer blind had been tipped over and damaged. Contact was made with the suspect and charges are pending.

CO Andrea Albert stopped a vehicle in Jordan Valley in the middle of the deer season. The driver first stated they were just scouting for deer. After a check of his rifle, and the passenger's rifle and deer license, he finally admitted he had not purchased a deer license yet this season. A ticket was issued for being afield during deer season without a deer license.

CO Steve Speigl and CO Andrea Albert were running the deer decoy in a heavy road hunting area, when a pick-up truck drove by, then stopped and backed up. The passenger shot a rifle out of the passenger side window of the truck at the decoy twice. When they realized it was a decoy, the vehicle took off at a high rate of speed. The officers stopped the vehicle, and found the shooter's gun still loaded. The driver of the

vehicle was also in possession of a loaded rifle in the vehicle. Tickets were issued for the violations and the shooter's rifle was seized for condemnation.

CO Steve Speigl and CO Andrea Albert were working a deer decoy in a remote area of Antrim County when a subject drove by and saw the decoy. The driver exited the vehicle with a loaded gun not wearing any hunters orange and quickly fired two shots at the Deer decoy. After realizing it was a decoy, he took off at a high rate of speed. Officers stopped the vehicle and found an uncased loaded rifle on the passenger seat. The subject was cited for loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, and no hunter orange.

CO Andrea Albert and CO Steve Speigl checked a hunter with over fifty gallons of bait out at two separate blinds. He was also in possession of a handgun, and marijuana which he said he smoked earlier. The hunter was cited for using over two gallons of deer bait, and for the marijuana violation.

CO Chad Baldwin and Sgt. Mike Feagan were patrolling after dark, when they encountered a vehicle parked near the Boyne River. Upon pulling in next to the vehicle, the driver began to act nervously and started the vehicle. As officers approached the vehicle, the driver attempted to put the vehicle in drive, but instead put the vehicle in neutral and revved the engine. He was then able to locate drive and sped away from the scene. Officers made pursuit and stopped the vehicle at the next intersection. Upon making contact with the operator, a strong odor of intoxicant was present, and an open bottle of beer was located in the vehicle, along with several empty ones. A sobriety examination was conducted with failing results. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Duane Budreau and CO Carl Vanderwall located a subject hunting from an illegal blind with too much bait. Upon making contact, it was learned that the subject was a member of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indian Tribe. A tribal conservation officer was contacted, and enforcement action was taken.

While following up on an illegal hunt site that officers have been working for several years, CO Duane Budreau and CO Carl Vanderwall were finally able to make contact with the subject. The subject was found to have an illegal amount of bait, and screw-in tree steps on State land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Duane Budreau continues to follow up on several deer carcasses located partially processed, and all appearing to have the same time of death. The carcasses were located on Blackbird Road, just outside of Petoskey.

CO Andrea Albert responded to a trespassing complaint. The officer contacted the suspect to see if he had permission from the landowner to hunt on a section of property he was observed on earlier in the day. When contacted at his residence, the hunter had a deer on a hitch hauler completely wrapped up in a blue tarp. When CO Albert asked what he shot, he stated an antlerless deer. After unwrapping the tarp it was discovered the deer was actually an untagged spike horn buck which he had shot the day before. The illegal deer was seized, and a ticket was issued for the antler point violation. After

contacting the property owner, it was found that the hunter did have permission to hunt the property in question.

While dropping off a deer for donation to the Mana Project, CO Carl Vanderwall noticed a deer with a purple kill tag on it instead of orange. Upon inspection, it was discovered the tag was from 2010. An interview of the subjects bringing in the deer, revealed that their uncle from Minnesota had shot the deer, and was now on his way back to Minnesota. CO Vanderwall got the phone number of the suspect and called him. It was learned that when the subject came to Michigan he could not find his Sports ID Card, so he brought one of his old licenses to purchase his new ones. He still had the tag with him when he shot his deer, but accidentally used the old one instead of the current year tag. A check revealed that he did have current licenses. The subject was told to send his valid license to the officer and was given a warning.

While on patrol during the firearm opener, CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint of late shooting and of possible trespass. The officer responded to the location and made contact with the suspect. The suspect explained that she did have permission to hunt the property, but was very vague about the shot. Initially, the suspect stated she shot at a deer, but it ran off, and she did not know what it was or if it was hit. After further questioning, the subject admitted to shooting a doe without having a valid license. The officer followed the subject to the deer that was left with a light hanging over it so it could be found. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt was on patrol when she encountered a truck driving carelessly on a county road. A traffic stop was conducted, and it was learned that the subject had just purchased the truck. The truck still had the previous owners' expired plate, and was never registered into his name. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt responded to a complaint of illegal dumping of trash on State land. Upon arriving at the scene, the officer located approximately ten yards of solid waste dumped on State land behind a residence. Through interviewing the adjacent home owner, it was learned the subject's brother was hired to remove the solid waste. He thought he was placing it on the homeowner's property. However, through investigation it was determined that the trash was 200 feet onto State land. It was also explained that dumping that amount on one's personal property is illegal in and of itself. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt and CO Chad Baldwin responded to a complaint of Antler Point Restriction violations and baiting issues in Charlevoix County. Upon arriving at the suspect site, the officers made contact with two subjects, one being a passport holder from the country of Romania. The two subjects were both hunting over too much bait. As for the deer, it had already been taken by two other individuals down state. CO Ray Gardner from the Detroit District made contact with the subjects, and was able to obtain confessions of an antler point restriction violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt received a self-reported antler point restriction violation from a subject who had been hunting on Beaver Island. CO Erratt met the subject at the ferry dock when he returned to the main land. The subject thought he was shooting at a doe, but it turned out to be a four point. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint of subjects possibly shooting from the roadway onto private property. CO Erratt responded to the area and was able to stop the vehicle. Through interviewing the subjects, it was learned that they did not have binoculars, so they were looking through the scope of the gun to see the deer. CO Erratt explained the recreational trespass laws to the subject, and gave a warning.

CO Andrea Erratt received a complaint of a merganser stuck in a fenced in area unable to escape. The officer responded to the scene. She was able to capture the merganser and release it onto Lake Charlevoix unharmed.

CO Andrea Erratt responded to a complaint of a possible trespass. Upon arriving at the scene, the officer located a subject hunting on top of an old motorhome with hay bales. It was determined that there were no trespass violations. Through conversation however, it was learned that the subject, who only had an antlerless tag, had shot at a deer earlier in the season, but missed it. CO Erratt asked how he knew he missed it and the subject stated because it ran off. The officer and the subject looked around the area. After locating several bait sites, CO Erratt observed an area where the leaves looked disturbed. Upon further inspection, a spike deer was located. Faced with this, the subject admitted to shooting the spike thinking it was a doe. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark DePew and CO Nick Torsky contacted repeat customers at a camp that had received multiple tickets last year for shooting antlerless deer in Otsego County, and tagging them with Montmorency County antlerless tags. This year on opening morning, the officers found eight hunters with four untagged antlerless deer, excessive bait, illegal blinds on State land, ORV violations, and no hunter orange. Increased enforcement action was taken this time, and the deer were seized.

CO Mark DePew received a complaint of a lost hunter and responded to the area in Otsego. CO DePew began his search and was able to locate the subject shortly after dark and lead them to safety.

CO Nick Torsky and Sgt. Greg Drogowski patrolled the Pigeon River Country State Forest. The officers contacted a hunter shortly after dark at his vehicle, with blood on his hands. The subject wasn't very happy to see the officers and didn't want to talk. An untagged doe was found in the woods about fifty feet from his truck. The subject was cited and the deer seized.

CO Eric Bottorff and CO Chris Lynch worked the Pigeon River Country, contacting hunters in illegal blinds, driving around berms, no hunter orange, and hunting over excessive amounts of bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Bottorff and CO Chris Lynch met hunters coming into a camp after dark. Several subjects were found in possession of loaded firearms in motor vehicles, and others possessing loaded firearms well after legal hunting hours. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark DePew came across a subject who parked their vehicle in the middle of the road on State land preventing access to others by blocking the roadway. CO DePew was able to track down the responsible party and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark DePew stopped an ORV whose operator had a loaded rifle, no deer license or ORV license, and was operating in a closed area on State land. He was also on his way to an illegal blind. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling for deer hunters, CO Mark DePew found an ORV operating in a closed area on State land. The officer attempted to stop the ORV for about ½ mile. Finally, after getting the operator's attention, the 4-wheeler was stopped. CO DePew found a 13 year old with ear-buds in, playing loud music, and unable to hear the patrol vehicle's siren. The youngster was taken home and turned over to his mother's custody.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski observed a truck roll through a stop sign on a back rural county road. The operator was found to be driving while suspended, and the rifle on the front passenger seat was loaded. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Bottorff, CO Matt Theunick and CO Chris Lynch responded to a recreational trespass complaint with multiple hunters involved. Although property lines were not clear, and recreational trespass was not valid, the subjects were ticketed for an excessive amount of deer bait, not wearing hunter orange, and cutting live trees on State land.

CO Mark DePew along with several other Conservation Officers organized a joint patrol along southbound I-75 with the Michigan State Police. The patrol targeted motorists with traffic violations or excessive speed and who were transporting Deer. After the traffic stops were made, the Deer were checked for proper tagging.

CO Mark DePew handled a complaint where a gunshot doe was found in the complainant's back yard. A nearby hunter was later checked, and found to be in possession of marijuana, not wearing hunter orange, using another's deer license, and

had a warrant out for his arrest. He was arrested and lodged in jail. Another suspect was developed, and a confession obtained from a young man regarding shooting the doe. A warrant for the illegal killing of a deer is pending.

CO Mark DePew took a complaint just into Montmorency County where a hunter had a four point buck hanging with his combo tag on it. Regulations in Montmorency County include the regular combination tag valid only for a buck with three points on one side or more. A confession was received that the deer was taken in Montmorency County. A ticket was issued and the buck seized.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski responded to a complaint of illegal firewood cutting on State land. Upon contacting the fuelwood cutters, and addressing the issue, one was found to have a warrant out for his arrest. He was arrested and lodged in jail.

CO Brad Bellville, CO Tim Rosochacki and CO Kelly Ross responded to a complaint of a deer having been shot on private property and drug off. When the officers responded, they found where a deer had been shot, and then drug underneath a fence onto the neighboring property. The officers found a tree stand on the adjoining property where the deer was drug. The officers contacted a hunter at the hunting camp, and were told who had been hunting the blind. Contact was made with the hunter who admitted to shooting a large nine point buck on the neighboring property. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Brad Bellville and CO Kelly Ross responded to a complaint of a bull elk being shot. The hunter had thought he was shooting at an eight point buck, and after following the blood trail, found he had shot the elk. He called in to report his mistake. The hunter was cited for taking an elk in the closed season.

CO Brad Bellville and CO Kelly Ross contacted a hunting camp whose hunters were using bait in a closed county. Upon checking the hunters, it was discovered two of them had shot three deer. Neither of them had purchased a license and had used another person's tag. Citations were issued for hunting over bait and taking deer without licenses.

CO Paul Fox responded to a trespass complaint where a subject shot a deer from the roadway. The subject did not have permission from the landowner to hunt from the roadway. Charges are being filed with the prosecutor's office.

CO Paul Fox checked a private hunting camp where he discovered deer baiting and feeding violations a couple months prior. Over limits of bait were discovered again. As he was discussing the issue with the camp owner, another subject was returning to camp on an ORV. The subject was observed operating in a closed area, and operating without a helmet. Tickets were issued for the bait and ORV violations.

CO Paul Fox and CO Jon Sklba addressed several violations of the 5 day quiet period prior to the firearm deer opener. The majority of the subjects that were target shooting on State land stated that they did not want to disturb their own hunting area, so they decided to shoot on State land. CO Fox and CO Sklba advised that there are others who hunt in this area, and that the excessive shooting was disturbing those who hunt on State land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox was patrolling a remote section of State land when he observed three subjects near their vehicle attempting to locate a deer they shot at. A check of their vehicle revealed an uncased and loaded shotgun. In addition to the weapons violation, CO Fox also located marijuana and drug paraphernalia in the vehicle. When questioned, the subjects admitted to smoking marijuana prior to hunting. The firearm and drugs were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox was on patrol just before dusk, when he observed a vehicle driving slowly down a back road. The vehicle was also driving on the wrong side of the road coming toward CO Fox's patrol vehicle. Once the driver noticed the patrol vehicle, he attempted to throw a jacket on an uncased and loaded rifle. The rifle was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Paul Fox was on patrol near the Tomahawk Flooding area when he observed a truck driving slowly down the road towards him. CO Fox checked the two hunters in the truck. They advised that the hunting was slow and that they were just out looking for deer. When asked to check if their rifles were properly cased and unloaded, the subjects became nervous and did not want to answer right away. Upon checking the vehicle, a loaded rifle was discovered in the bed of the truck, and a loaded uncased rifle in the cab. In addition to the weapons violations, the driver was operating on an expired driver's license. The firearms were seized and enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Joe Molnar was patrolling State land where a cow elk was shot during the 2013 firearm deer season. Upon checking two hunters in the area, Sgt. Molnar received a confession from one of the hunters who said he shot the elk thinking it was a doe and left after discovering it was an elk. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

Sgt. Joe Molnar was at a deer check station when a hunter came in to have his ten point buck checked which he had shot on opening morning. While talking with the hunter, it was determined that he shot the buck, and then purchased his hunting license. The hunter had only bought an antlerless deer license. A citation was issued for taking a deer without a license.

CO Tim Rosochacki checked a hunting camp which had an antlerless deer hanging at the camp on State land. The tag had not been validated, and the hunters were found to be hunting over bait. A citation was issued for failing to validate the tag and a warning was given for hunting over bait in a prohibited bait area.

CO Bill Webster was patrolling State land when he contacted a hunter driving slowly with his window down. CO Webster checked the hunter's rifle and found it to be loaded. The hunter stated that he forgot to unload the rifle after he finished hunting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Webster was investigating a complaint of recreational trespass when he watched a hunter shoot a duck on a nearby lake. One of the hunters went out in a canoe to retrieve the duck while the other got a coffee can of corn and threw it into the water. The hunters were contacted and admitted to bait waterfowl, because one of them had just bought a new shotgun and wanted to shoot ducks. Enforcement action was taken.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

On opening day of firearm deer season, CO Sean Kehoe located an ORV parked on a powerline in a closed area for ORV operation. CO Kehoe located one hunter not too far away who was not wearing hunter orange, and then located another hunter a short time later. Both hunters admitted to driving the ORV in the closed area and riding double. An investigation revealed one hunter had an over-baited location, and an illegal tree stand along with a legally shot/tagged buck. Upon returning to the ORV, CO Kehoe asked if they had ridden their ORV without helmets. Both hunters indicated they had helmets and that they were sitting on the seat when they went hunting but somehow now they were gone. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sean Kehoe and CO Rich Stowe responded to a complaint of a snowmobile driving through private property during firearm deer season. CO Kehoe tracked the snowmobile down a variety of county roads, and finally caught up to the snowmobile 5-6 miles from private property. The operator admitted to being in a variety of different places in the area of the trespass. In addition, the snowmobile was unregistered, did not have a current trail permit, and had operated through State land during the times prohibited for snowmobile operation on public lands open to hunting for firearm deer season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni made contact with a vehicle that was not displaying a license plate. The vehicle was parked on public land. CO Pennoni made contact with the occupants who were in possession of open alcohol containers. Both occupants were suspended from driving, and were unable to produce a vehicle registration or proof of insurance for the vehicle. The driver also had outstanding warrants.

CO Holly Pennoni initiated a traffic stop on a hunter not wearing a seatbelt. Investigating, CO Pennoni observed there was an uncased rifle lying on the back seat. The hunter said he had just shot a seven point buck, and was so excited that he failed

to case his firearm. There was no case inside the vehicle. The seven point buck was in a truck which was following behind him. CO Pennoni was able to flag down this vehicle as it approached her location. Checking the deer taken by the hunter she first contacted, she observed that the deer kill tag was attached, but not validated as required. The driver of this second vehicle was also in possession of marijuana, and had an uncased firearm in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Stowe located an unoccupied vehicle, which was unlocked and running with the headlights shining into the woods, while patrolling on State land near Lake Dubonnet in Grand Traverse County. CO Stowe located subjects who had been exercising their dogs when one of the dogs became impaled on a large stick. CO Stowe, along with the dog owners and a veterinarian, extracted the dog from the wooded area where treatment could be sought.

Opening day of firearm deer season, CO Rebecca Hopkins was called to investigate a trespass and safety zone complaint. While interviewing the suspect, CO Hopkins observed blood on the suspect's clothing. When asked about his clothing, the suspect appeared to become nervous and stated he helped his brother with a deer he had shot not far from the residence. CO Hopkins inspected and confirmed the deer was not taken in the area of the trespass, but the suspect's nervousness was suspicious. CO Hopkins went to the location where the first suspect had indicated his brother's deer would be hanging. The officer observed a pickup truck pull in sharply. The subject in the truck was the brother of the trespass suspect, and did not immediately exit his vehicle. As CO Hopkins approached the subject in the vehicle, she observed him searching his wallet. Upon contact, the subject admitted he did not tag his deer immediately when he had shot it five hours earlier. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin received a complaint of an antler point restriction deer that had been shot on the opening day of firearm deer season. Sgt. Robert Torres and CO Haskin responded to the location finding a gut pile hidden under a pine tree. The officers were able to track the drag line to a kill site and located a tree stand. A vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle was located nearby. After the evidence from the investigation was revealed, the suspect admitted that he had shot the deer and took actions to cover up his crime, and hide the evidence as he knew it was not legal to possess. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin received a complaint of a safety zone violation. Sgt. Robert Torres and CO Haskin responded to the location, and found a hunter engaged in hunting approximately 61 yards from a residence. The hunter was informed of his violation, and advised that he would have to move his deer blind or receive written permission.

While patrolling State land, CO Justin Vanderlinde and CO Benjamin Weber found an ORV designed for two, but had three helmets. CO Vanderlinde and CO Weber followed the operator's trail. They discovered a hunter in the act of chopping down a shooting lane, an over-baited site, had no name on his tree stand, and that he had used screw-in steps in the tree. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling State land in Benzie County, CO Justin Vanderlinde and CO Ben Weber checked a deer blind that had been there for over a year. The owner was inside hunting. He had driven his ORV in a closed area to get to the illegal blind. He had also shot a deer that had not been immediately retrieved or tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

While looking for a trespassing hunter in Leelanau County, CO Justin Vanderlinde and CO Ben Weber found a young hunter that was unsupervised. The young hunter did not have his license in his possession. The father was on the other side of a valley, with sections of trees between them. Both were outside the unaided sight and sound requirement. They also discovered both to be over-bait at their hunting sites. Upon checking licenses, the father did not purchase a deer license this year. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a shining patrol the night before the firearm opener, CO William Kinney and Sgt. Carla Soper witnessed a vehicle driving rather suspiciously down a two-track. The officers followed the vehicle for a while, and observed the car pull into a field, and use the vehicles headlights to shine for deer. The passenger was also working a small hand light out the window, and opening and closing the front passenger door. After stopping the vehicle, the officers found that the occupants were in possession of marijuana, and had recently been smoking it. The occupants admitted to shining and knew that it was illegal, but said they wanted to check on carrot fields where they used to get their bait. When Sgt. Soper asked them why they were opening the vehicle door as they proceeded down the roadway, they informed that none of the windows on the vehicle functioned and they were trying to "air out the marijuana smoke." Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney was speaking to the successful hunters that were at the deer check station at the Baldwin Field Office. One hunter advised CO Kinney that he wished to donate his seven point buck and only keep the head. CO Kinney checked the tag to see if it was properly validated, but noticed that it was purchased the same day the deer was shot. CO Josiah Killingbeck and CO Kinney performed a time of death check which indicated that the deer was deceased prior to the tag being purchased. The individual was interviewed and a confession was obtained. The hunter stated that he hunted that morning, didn't think he was going to see anything, and then was surprised

by the seven point. He said that he took the buck and then went to the store to purchase the license. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO William Kinney received a complaint from a Lake County Deputy advising that he found an antlerless deer lying dead off the side of the road. CO Kinney and the deputy examined the deer. CO Kinney removed a piece of an arrow with a broadhead sticking out the other side of the deer. The officers tracked the blood trail to a residence located across the road, and found an oversized, lighted bait pile with deer hair on it. The officers questioned the homeowner, and a confession was obtained for taking the deer without having purchased any deer tags. The homeowner also confessed to taking the deer after legal hunting hours, and using the aid of the yard light. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and Lieutenant John Jurcich were on patrol the night before the rifle season when they came upon an ORV that was shining and operating in a closed area. Lt. Jurcich and CO Killingbeck stopped the ORV and found the occupants in possession of an uncased rifle. The occupants advised the officers that this was their first year of deer hunting, and thought opening day was always on a Saturday. An adult and a juvenile on the ORV admitted that they had been hunting with a firearm all day. They also advised that the juvenile had shot a six point buck that they were not able to find. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and Lieutenant John Jurcich were patrolling for illegal shining activity on November 14<sup>th</sup>, when they observed a slow moving vehicle ahead of them. As they approached, the vehicle pulled over to allow them to pass. After they passed, the officers observed the vehicle now turning around and heading away from them. Becoming suspicious of the vehicle, they turned around to follow it, and found that the driver had stopped in the oncoming traffic lane with all lights extinguished. As CO Killingbeck and Lt. Jurcich approached them, the vehicle again sped off. After the lights and siren were activated, they observed a subject throw something from the vehicle prior to getting it to stop. As they approached, three subjects stood up in the bed of the truck where a loaded and uncased 30-30 and 12 gauge shotgun were found, along with a tree stand. With the assistance of Sgt. Soper and CO William Kinney, interviews were conducted. It was determined that the subjects were afield with the loaded firearms, and had just stolen the tree stand from private property. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck took a complaint of hunters trespassing on posted private property without permission to retrieve a deer. CO Killingbeck arrived to find two subjects with an ORV who were trespassing, and in possession of a spike horn deer. The hunter advised that she had shot a deer the night before with a crossbow, but could not find it and had come out this morning to look again. She also advised that she was under the impression that antler point restrictions were only applicable during firearm deer season. CO Killingbeck examined the deer and determined that a bullet had killed the deer, and confronted the hunter about it. The hunter initially denied responsibility for the deer saying that it was now not her deer. CO Killingbeck and CO Kinney located a

blood trail from the bait pile to the deer, and after interviewing the hunter again, she admitted to shooting the spike knowing that it was illegal due to the antler point restrictions. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and Lieutenant John Jurcich checked a hunter for a license during a routine check. CO Killingbeck asked the hunter for his date of birth. The hunter gave CO Killingbeck a different date than what was printed on the hunting license. The hunter initially said that he and his brother had purchased their hunting licenses at the same time and "must have mixed them up." CO Killingbeck checked the subject through the Retail Sales System, and found the hunter had not purchased any licenses since 2012. CO Killingbeck conveyed this information to the hunter. He admitted that he was an out-of-state resident, and had his brother buying him Michigan resident licenses for years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was checking successful hunters at the Baldwin Field Office, when he found a large eight point with a license that had been purchased on November 15<sup>th</sup> late in the afternoon. After questioning the hunter about when he had shot it and estimating a time of death, CO Killingbeck was able to determine that the deer had been killed before the license was purchased. After apprising the hunter of the information that he had, the hunter advised that he had seen a buck on November 14<sup>th</sup>, but was too intoxicated to drive to purchase a license for the morning hunt. So instead, he went hunting the next morning, shot the buck, and then bought his kill tags later. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was called out at 1:30 a.m. to assist deputies on a traffic stop in Lake County where an uncased 30-06 was found in the front seat of a vehicle, and the two occupants were covered in blood. One occupant told deputies that he had shot a spike horn deer in the antler point restriction area, and had put a doe tag on it. Also, he advised that he had taken it with a crossbow, because he does not rifle hunt. CO Killingbeck arrived, and after further questioning, found out the subject was a convicted felon who could not possess a firearm. CO Killingbeck and the deputies followed the subjects back to a residence where the deer were supposed to be hanging. When CO Killingbeck arrived at the residence, the deer was gone. The hunter advised that his buddy "must have picked it up." After further investigation, it was determined that the subject had used the passenger's cell phone to text his girlfriend to tell her to get rid of the deer, because the game warden was coming. The girlfriend had taken two deer across the street and both were found untagged. It was discovered that the hunter also took a doe without a license, along with the apparent antler point restriction violation. The felon was arrested and lodged in the Lake County jail for felon in possession of firearm, as well as taking two illegal deer.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and Assistant Chief Dean Molnar went on a complaint of shots fired after dark. The officers pulled into the suspect residence and located a lighted bait pile with nobody around. Shortly after their arrival, a vehicle pulled in behind them and three subjects got out. CO Killingbeck questioned them about the shot that was fired and asked if they had taken a deer. One individual admitted that he shot a deer after

dark over the lighted bait pile. The individual also admitted that he didn't have a license, has never had hunter's safety, and advised his uncle was supposed to buy him tags to use for the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was sitting near a vehicle parked off the road in Lake County waiting for the hunters to come out of the woods so that he could check licenses. Shortly after shooting hours had ended, CO Killingbeck observed the subjects coming towards him. When CO Killingbeck stepped out of his vehicle, one hunter quickly turned around and threw his gun in the woods. CO Killingbeck made contact and determined the subject was hunting without a license. The officer advised the subject of the dangers of throwing a loaded firearm, and issued the subject a citation for hunting without a license.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski worked a night patrol targeting illegal shining and deer poaching activity along with Lake, Manistee, and Wexford officers. The officers made a traffic stop on a vehicle that had some motor vehicle equipment violations, and discovered that the driver had a loaded firearm in his vehicle. The driver blamed the loaded firearm on his wife stating that she forgot to unload it after they were target practicing. The officers also noted a hand held spotlight next to the firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski followed up on baiting violations in Lake County on the firearm opener. The officers contacted over a half dozen hunters who were hunting illegally with bait piles in excess of a hundred pounds. One bait pile was estimated to have over a half ton of miscellaneous deer bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski followed up on a complaint of tree stands left in the woods from the 2014 season. Upon making contact with the suspect at his camp, they noted an antlerless deer hanging that was tagged with a private land tag. The officers questioned the individual as to the location that the deer was shot, and he claimed it was taken from a ground blind on the property he owned. The individual was informed that the blind he hunted from was well within the safety zone of another residence. The individual remained adamant that he shot the deer on his own private property. As CO Brosky began to walk to the coordinates of the subject's illegal blind on public land, CO Publiski informed the subject that CO Brosky knew the location where the deer was shot on public land, and said he was going to locate the gut pile for the deer in question. The individual changed his story and admitted to shooting the deer on public land. He then took the officers to the location where it was shot, which just happened to be the same GPS coordinates of the illegal ground blind on public land.

While attempting to follow up on complaints, CO Brian Brosky and CO Kyle Publiski arrived at a residence to determine the address of the whereabouts of suspects that might be shooting excess deer with no licenses. Upon arrival, the officers noted a button buck hanging in a garage without a tag. They questioned the home owner about the untagged deer. She stated that her 16 year old son shot the deer and knew it didn't

have a tag on it. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the 16 year old had shot the antlerless deer the night before, failed to tag it, and did not have a valid license to shoot the deer. The deer was subsequently seized, and the parent was issued a citation for allowing a minor to hunt unsupervised.

CO Sam Koscinski checked a river guide fishing on the Big Manistee River and asked him how the fishing was going. The guide advised that he thought he had three fish and CO Koscinski asked to see them. When the guide opened the cooler, CO Koscinski found four steelhead. Now knowing that he was clearly over-limit, the guide went on to say that he had passengers onboard prior to the officer's arrival, and began to yell out the names of his clients. He advised that they had been dropped off to use the bathroom. Shortly after, two individuals appeared on the shoreline ready to be picked up by their guide. CO Koscinski ascertained that they had been fishing, and had taken the four steelhead onboard the boat. When he asked for licenses, neither angler had purchased a license for 2015. The steelhead were seized, and the anglers were issued citations, including a warning to the guide to ensure that his passengers were licensed before taking them out.

Following up on information that had been gathered from a deer processor inspection, CO Steve Converse and Sgt. Carla Soper went to a residence in Manistee County to speak with a hunter. When the officer's arrived, they spoke to a female who provided detailed information about an eight point buck she had taken during bow season. CO Converse pointed out that he had information to believe she had secured a license for the deer after she had killed it. The hunter admitted that she only had a doe tag, and didn't think she would have the opportunity to take a buck. When the eight point came in while she was hunting, she made the decision to kill it even though she didn't have a license for it, and then purchased a combo tag later. Enforcement action was taken, and the eight point buck was seized.

CO Steve Converse was driving down the road when he noticed a man butchering two deer in a garage. CO Converse stopped to check the deer for tags, and found that one was a doe and the other a four point buck that was in violation of the Manistee County antler point restrictions. CO Converse did not see any tags on the deer and asked the hunter where his hunting licenses were. The hunter stated that he forgot to tag the deer. When CO Converse questioned why he had an antler point restricted deer, the hunter informed that he thought it was bigger when he shot it, but didn't intend to take such a small deer. CO Converse looked at the hunter's licenses and also found that he didn't have a doe tag either. He also located a loaded gun in a motor vehicle in the driveway. The deer were seized, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse noticed a bright light coming from the woods over 35 minutes after dark in Manistee County. CO Converse waited for the light to approach him and eventually stopped the subject who was carrying a firearm to check for a license. When CO Converse checked the hunter's license, he discovered that the hunter's firearm was still loaded. The officer questioned the hunter as to why he hadn't unloaded it at the close of hunting hours. The hunter responded that he thought he was allowed to keep it

loaded until he got to his car. Just then, a vehicle pulled up to check on the hunter and CO Converse found an untagged six point in the bed of the truck, as well as an uncased gun between the two passengers on the front seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse noticed headlamps in the woods 45 minutes after dark and decidedly waited to see what was going on as there was no vehicle in sight. CO Converse was able to walk up undetected, and found two guys who were dragging an eight point buck through the woods. CO Converse watched as they extinguished their headlamps, and used a cell phone to call someone to pick them up. CO Converse made contact with them as they got to their pick-up vehicle and identified himself. The deer was untagged and no tag was validated. When CO Converse asked them why they didn't tag the deer, they replied that they didn't want to lose the tag dragging it through the woods. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse was working a night patrol when he watched as three individuals with headlamps went into the woods and pulled out a deer to a truck that was waiting for them. The subjects loaded the un-gutted deer. CO Converse stopped to check them and found an untagged doe. CO Converse asked who had shot it, and one individual claimed the deer. He stated that he was certainly going to tag the deer once he got back to camp. CO Converse ran a check of the individual and found that he hadn't ever taken hunter's safety. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway and CO Brian Lebel received an anonymous tip of the shooting of a deer that did not meet the antler point restrictions in Lake County. When the officers arrived to the suspect's camp, they were greeted by a very upset female who was crying. When asked what was wrong, she told the officers there had been a family disagreement at camp due to her husband shooting an illegal deer. After waiting for the husband to arrive back at camp, it was discovered he had shot a small spike horn buck that did not meet the antler point restrictions. When the subjects returned with the deer, which was also not tagged, they were in possession of two loaded and uncased rifles on the utility vehicle used to retrieve the deer. The deer was seized, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway and CO Brian Lebel received information of several deer and buck heads lying around the yard of a residence in Mecosta County believed not to have been tagged. CO Greenway was familiar with the subjects, as she had been there earlier that summer on an investigation where a subject was charged with shooting protected Sandhill Cranes. Upon the officers' arrival, a lengthy investigation revealed multiple violations. In the end, it was found that two of the bucks, a ten point and an eight point, had been taken by a subject who had not bought any licenses. CO Jeff Ginn followed up in Newaygo County with the suspect, and received a full confession from the subject that had shot the deer without licenses. The subject had went and purchased a combination license 12 minutes before he was to meet with CO Ginn at his residence to interview him about the deer. While CO Lebel was on the phone working on the two unlicensed bucks, CO Greenway discovered other bucks in the subject's freezer, determined he was also doing taxidermy work without a license, and several of

the deer were without tags or proper documentation. CO Greenway also noted two muskrats lying on the counter that one of the subjects had trapped that morning without a fur harvester's license. After several follow up calls, it was determined the subject was taking money for the taxidermy work. Multiple citations were issued as well as the seizure of all the illegal game.

CO Angela Greenway and CO Brian Lebel responded to a safety zone violation in Mecosta County. While the officers were taking action on the violation, they noticed fresh hair in the suspect's truck. When asked about the deer, the suspect said he helped his neighbor haul an antlerless deer that morning. CO Lebel had recalled a past dealing with these subjects from a processor inspection. The officers went to that processor where CO Greenway located an antlerless deer tagged with a buck tag belonging to the neighbor. A follow-up interview with the neighbor showed that was the only license he had bought, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a trespassing complaint early on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Upon arrival, he located six subjects hunting on land they had once leased from the land owner. The land owner was out of town, but the caretaker advised no one was given permission to hunt the land during the 2015 season. CO Ginn made contact with all the subjects involved and found one male subject hunting without a license. CO Ginn was able to obtain a confession from the man, and recovered the firearm which was hidden under leaves forty yards from the hunting blind. The man stated his birthday was the 17<sup>th</sup> and wanted to wait to get his senior license at a reduced price instead of paying the full amount. CO Ginn assured the man the citation would cost more than the regular license.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a property line dispute on the opening day of firearm deer season. Upon arrival to the suspect's camp, he observed several subjects standing around a whitetail doe which had been field dressed and hoisted into the tree near the cabin. As the CO approached, he observed the shooter reaching for his tags. CO Ginn asked why the deer was not tagged and the suspect advised he was just getting ready to do that as he drove up the road. CO Ginn explained the meaning of immediately attaching a kill tag to the shooter, which did not include field dressing nor transporting the deer to camp. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was on patrol in Newaygo County on opening day of the firearm deer season when he drove into a camp to check on hunting success. Upon walking up to knock on the door, he observed a quad around the backside of the building coming out of the woods with a deer across the front of the ORV. Upon contact, CO Wells observed a large twelve point buck on the machine. Officer Wells immediately noticed that this large deer was missing the required kill tag. Upon contacting the successful hunter, he explained that he did not tag the deer because he was afraid the tag would have fallen off and gotten lost due to the thick swamp the deer was located in. When CO Wells mentioned the fact that the deer was on an ORV and not being dragged, the hunter finally admitted he should have tagged the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells inspected a Newaygo County deer processor during the earlier part of the firearm deer season. He located a four point antlered deer tagged with a combination restricted license. A check of the license owner revealed it belonged to an elderly female. Upon arriving at the hunter's residence, CO Wells was met by her son who said that his mother was not at home, and that she had shot the deer behind the house with a .308 rifle. The elderly female arrived at the residence. CO Wells asked her about the deer. She advised that the deer was a five point and that she shot it with a .30-06 rifle. When CO Wells pointed out her false information, she finally admitted that her son had shot the deer and used her license on it. The son gave a full admission when he learned his mother had come clean regarding the deer. The son was cited for using the kill tag of another person, with a warning issued to his mother.

During the inspection of a Newaygo County deer processor, CO Mike Wells located a six point buck tagged with a combination regular license. Inspection of the deer revealed it to be an archery kill, and the processor verified that deer was dropped at the facility on the night of November 14<sup>th</sup>. Inspection of the kill tag revealed that it was validated for November 14<sup>th</sup>, but was purchased after legal hunting hours that same day. CO Wells interviewed the license owner, resulting in a full admission that he had taken the deer during the evening hunt on November 14<sup>th</sup> with his crossbow and without a license. He explained that he was under the belief that he did not need a license if he was hunting on his private property. Enforcement action was taken.

Several days into the firearm deer season, CO Mike Wells inspected a Newaygo County deer processor. CO Wells located an antlerless deer tagged with a combination restricted license and validated for November 14<sup>th</sup>. Inspection of the wound on the deer revealed it to be a gunshot wound. Upon contact with the license holder, she gave a full admission that she had accidentally shot the antlerless deer while trying to harvest another antlerless deer during the opening morning on November 15<sup>th</sup>. She explained that she only had obtained one antlerless license for the area. She tagged the accidentally taken deer with her combination license and validated it for November 14<sup>th</sup> in hopes that it would look like an archery kill. Enforcement action was taken. And the deer was seized.

CO Mike Wells responded to a trespass complaint at a Newaygo County residence during the firearm deer season. Upon checking the license of one of the suspects, he admitted to taking of a five point buck with his crossbow on November 6<sup>th</sup>. CO Wells asked him if he was sure he had taken the deer on that date. He stated that he was positive because he had taken the biggest buck of his life, an eleven point, two years ago on the same date. CO Wells pointed out to the subject that he had purchased his license on November 6<sup>th</sup> after legal hunting hours. The subject gave a full admission to the taking of the five point without a license, and was cited for the illegally taken deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells was conducting a processor inspection when he was approached by a subject that wished to speak with him. The subject explained that he had shot an antlered deer by accident, thinking it was antlerless. He admitted that the only license

he had was an antlerless license, and that he purchased his combination license after he had shot the buck. Inspection of the kill tag on the deer revealed that this subject had also failed to validate his kill tag. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CO Van Gelderen was conducting a processor inspection in Oceana County when he came across a doe with a tag for a DMU that was two counties away. The tag was purchased right before the hunter had dropped the deer off. CO Van Gelderen checked the telephone number that was used to buy the license, and realized that it belonged to a hunter that lived right down the road. After an interview, it was determined that the hunter had shot a doe, and then went to the store to get any available over-the-counter antlerless license. Enforcement action was taken.

An MSP Trooper called CO Van Gelderen to advise of two untagged deer at a residence where the Trooper was. CO Van Gelderen arrived and discovered that both of the deer were road killed. It was determined that neither deer was reported when the residents picked them up. Enforcement action was taken.

In October, CO Van Gelderen received a call of a suspicious rifle shot at a residence. An investigation at the residence produced no evidence of a dead deer or animal, but CO Van Gelderen found evidence of hunting equipment and a hanging gambrel hidden behind a large maple tree. CO Van Gelderen checked the names at the residence and found that no one had bought a deer license in several years. On opening day, CO Van Gelderen stopped by the residence and found a large eight point buck hanging behind the maple tree without a license on it. An interview of the residents revealed that the father of the house had shot the deer, and the officer confirmed that he has not bought a license in several years. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating another complaint, CO Van Gelderen found a 14 year old female hunting in a field. CO Van Gelderen checked the hunter and found out that her father was hunting in a nearby woodlot. CO Van Gelderen stayed with the hunter for fifteen minutes until her father came out before dark. While talking with the 14 year old, it was determined that she did not even know what gender of deer she could shoot with the licenses she had. The father walked up to them and argued that the girl was supervised, because she was still safe. The father was issued a ticket for allowing the girl to hunt unsupervised. It was later determined that the female had been out on opening day without supervision also.

Acting Sgt. Ben Shively was following up on a safety zone complaint that was going to take place on the firearm opener, and was scouting the area for the subject's three blinds, when he located a hunter in one of the blinds. CO Shively explained that one of the blinds was placed within 60 yards of a barn that housed horses, and that the blinds were required to have a name and address placed on them since they were on public land. While talking with the hunter, CO Shively checked the bait pile the hunter was hunting over, and found it to exceed the two gallon limit. The hunter agreed to remove the blind from the safety zone, and he was cited for failing to place name and address

on deer blind on public land. He also gathered up the excessive bait, using his coat, and removed it from the area.

Acting Sgt. Ben Shively was patrolling Federal land when he made contact with three subjects standing near a camp that were wearing hunter orange and carrying firearms. CO Shively asked to check their licenses. Two of the subjects stated that their wives were bringing their licenses up to the camp. When asked what they were going to tag their deer with when they shot one, they stated that they would just have their wives drive fast up to the camp. A check of the Retail Sales System showed that neither subject had purchased a deer license for 2015. Both subjects were cited for hunting deer without a license.

Acting Sgt. Ben Shively was patrolling Oceana County after the end of hunting hours when he observed a vehicle driving back into an orchard. After a short period of time, the officer observed the vehicle leave the orchard and drive to a barn on the property. CO Shively made contact with two subjects just as they were leaving the barn. The officer observed blood and hair in the bed of the truck. One of the subjects stated that he had shot a deer and had just hung it up. CO Shively asked to check the deer and found a six point hanging in a side room of the barn untagged. The subject was cited for failing to immediately attach a kill tag, and was warned for transporting an untagged deer.

CO Gainforth was on patrol for shining activity on the Missaukee/Osceola county line, when he conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle with a headlight out driving down an unimproved road. After contacting the two subjects in the vehicle, it was found that the driver possessed an uncased crossbow in the backseat covered with a sweatshirt. After discussing the subject's deer season, the driver admitted to shooting an eight point buck. The subject showed CO Gainforth pictures of the buck on his phone. It was apparent that the buck was not tagged in any of the pictures. CO Gainforth asked to see the subjects hunting license, and he produced both of his combination tags. When CO Gainforth asked the subject what he tagged his deer with, the subject stated that he did not tag the deer because it was wounded, and he thought it was going to die anyway. After more questioning, the subject admitted that he did not tag the deer because he filled both of his tags last year during the archery season, and did not have any tags left for the firearm season. CO Gainforth followed the subject to his residence where he produced the antlers from the eight point deer. CO Gainforth seized the antlers, restricted tag, and the crossbow used to take the deer. A citation was issued for the untagged deer, and a verbal warning was given for the uncased crossbow.

CO Gainforth received a call from the Report All Poaching Hotline at 3:00 a.m. that a deer had been shot, and local officers had followed vehicle tracks to a hunting cabin where a freshly shot deer was found lying in the open doorway. When CO Gainforth arrived, it was apparent that the deer had been transported there in the vehicle sitting in

front of the cabin, as there was fresh blood and hair on the trunk, and bumper of the car. The local officers believed they saw a suspect flee the scene when they arrived at the cabin. With the help from the local officers, CO Gainforth found one suspect upstairs on the second level of the building pretending to be sleeping. The subject was found to have felony drug warrants, and was in possession of marijuana. The subject was questioned about the deer, but would not supply any information to the officers. CO Gainforth observed that the subject had fresh blood on his shoes, and mud on his jeans. The four point deer, a spotlight, and shotgun were seized as evidence. The subject was lodged for possession of marijuana and the felony drug warrants. The car was towed for evidence. Later in the day, interviews were conducted after CO Gainforth was contacted by the registered owner of the vehicle, and received a confession from the brother of the lodged subject, who was the suspect that fled from the cabin. CO Gainforth re-interviewed the subject that was lodged earlier in the morning. The subject confessed to driving the vehicle with a suspended license, and shining the light while his brother shot the deer. Warrants will be sought for both of the subjects.

## **DISTRICT 5**

While checking hunters on State land in Gladwin County, CO Mark Papineau was advised about some suspicious activity on an adjacent parcel of private property. CO Papineau was informed that numerous shots had been heard on opening day. Soon after, a truck was observed dropping off three deer inside the pole barn and quickly leaving. The next day the same activity occurred. After checking a plat book, CO Papineau discovered a parcel of property down the road with the same landowner information as the suspect parcel. CO Papineau made contact with several deer hunters around camp. The hunters complained about how slow the deer season was and they had not shot any deer. As the discussion continued, CO Papineau was able to confirm that the hunters were in fact connected to the pole barn. The hunters were very surprised when CO Papineau asked them about the four deer hanging in the pole barn down the road. A consent search of the barn revealed four untagged bucks, one of which was shot by an unlicensed hunter. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Lockwood and CO Josh Wright responded to a report of lost hunters in the middle of the night. As it turned out, a hunter had wounded a deer, and called for a canine blood tracker to assist. Both subjects got turned around and lost their way. The officers responded at 1:00 a.m., along with the Gladwin County Sheriff's Office. After a couple hours, the deputies had to resume their normal duties and responsibilities. CO Lockwood and CO Wright continued the search and were able to locate the missing subjects around 6:00 a.m. that morning. All were in good health and thankful for the officers' perseverance.

CO Nick Atkin responded to an area that had reports of illegal bait piles. The officer was able to locate the blinds. On the evening of November 14<sup>th</sup>, CO Atkin responded to one of the blinds, only to find it empty. Suspicious of the situation, he backed out of the woods and waited until after dark. Pretty soon, he saw a camouflaged subject sneaking out of the woods with just a backpack. Upon contact, the subject assured the officer that he was not hunting, but rather out in nature taking pictures of deer. When asked about the camera, the subject paused, and then stated that he was using his trail camera to take the pictures. CO Atkin quickly called his bluff and the man admitted to hunting deer without a license. He further admitted to hiding from the officer when he was in the woods. After a short hike, CO Atkin located the hidden crossbow in the woods. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Lockwood was patrolling during a recent snowstorm in rural Gladwin County, when he noticed a slow-rolling vehicle operating with both back windows down. Contact with the occupants revealed a loaded and uncased 7mm Mag rifle. It appears as though the subjects wanted to do a little hunting without getting out in the weather. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau investigated a complaint regarding a subject who had been trespassing on farm property leased by several hunters. The hunters advised that they were hunting the leased farm, when a subject from a neighboring property shot a deer that was standing on the property. CO Papineau responded and made contact with the suspect who was in the process of hanging a seven point buck. The suspect informed CO Papineau that he had permission to hunt the farm property, and that the complainants were actually the trespassers. Unknown to the suspect, CO Papineau was familiar with the landowner, and a quick telephone call confirmed his suspicions. Ultimately, the suspect confessed to trespassing and illegally shooting the seven point buck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau, CO Phil Hudson and CO Nick Atkin assisted the Arenac County Sheriff's Department with an injury traffic accident near Au Gres. CO Atkin, being first on scene, was able to locate several witnesses and secure the scene. Shortly thereafter, CO Papineau and CO Hudson arrived and quickly began first aid on one of the drivers. Arenac County Sheriff's Office continues the investigation.

While on patrol in Clare County, CO Steve Lockwood and CO Josh Wright noticed a vehicle operating without taillights. The driver took a long time to stop the vehicle when signaled by the officers, and the passenger appeared to be frantically moving things in the back seat. Officers quickly secured the scene and located the source of excitement

in the back seat. It seems the men were trying to hide a cocked and loaded crossbow. Officers took the appropriate enforcement action.

Opening morning of firearm deer season had CO Steve Lockwood, CO Josh Wright and Sgt. Jon Wood checking hunters on a 400 acre hunt club. A complaint had been filed that detailed numerous hunting locations with bait piles in excess of the legal limit. During the check, numerous hunters were located and issued citations for the illegal bait piles. Some of the bait piles were truckload in size. As the officers left, the hunters were beginning their 'clean-up' in hopes of hunting the evening hunt.

CO Nick Atkin checked a group of waterfowl hunters returning to shore in the mid-afternoon of the rifle opener. The hunters in the first boat he checked had surprised looks on their faces when the officer made his approach. Unfortunately, the hunters were operating their vessel with loaded firearms aboard. In addition, there were Federal stamp violations found. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Wright and Sgt. Jon Wood checked an ORV operator as he left a remote area of State land after dark on the opener. In addition to the uncased firearm, the operator also had a suspended operator's license. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Wright received information that a subject had killed three bucks already this year. CO Wright and Sgt. Wood responded to a local deer processing facility and began to gather information. Officers then responded to the suspect's residence. The suspect was adamant that he had only killed two bucks. Eventually, the suspect admitted that he had used his mother's kill tag for the third buck. An interview with the suspect's mother confirmed his story. Enforcement action was taken.

During an evening patrol, CO Nick Atkin made contact with two hunters illegally operating an ORV down the road. In addition to the ORV violations, the hunters were in possession of a loaded and uncased firearm. CO Atkin addressed the safety violation at hand.

CO Josh Wright received a complaint during archery season about a subject who was possibly hunting without a license. Unfortunately, each time CO Wright checked the blind, it was empty. Fast forward to firearm season, and the officer decided to check the blind yet again. This time, CO Wright found the subject asleep in his blind. The subject had purchased a license just prior to season, but he was not wearing any hunter orange, and was hunting over an illegal bait pile. Enforcement action was taken. Sgt. Jon Wood was responding to a complaint in northern Clare County when he noticed fresh blood and drag marks in the snow along the edge of the road. Within a

very short distance, Sgt. Wood caught up to the vehicle. The driver had stopped to pick up his friend. When asked how many deer had been taken that day, the group of hunters became very quiet. As it turned out, the blood and drag marks were from an untagged antlerless deer that was lying in the back of their vehicle. They were in such a hurry that no one field dressed the deer. It appears the shooter did not have a valid tag for the deer, and one of his buddies planned to tag the deer. When asked why they had not carried through on their plan to loan and borrow a license, one of the subjects stated that they could not find any string. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader saw a group of hunters standing around a truck full of deer on November 15<sup>th</sup>. While checking the deer in the truck, CO Bader located a buck at the bottom of the pile that was not tagged. When the hunters were asked why it wasn't tagged, one of them said, "I know we tagged it, because Joe had to put his doe tag on it. He didn't see the antlers when he shot it." A closer look revealed another deer shot by the same hunter had kill tags on both of its' front legs, however neither tag would have been valid for the other deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader conducted a meat processor inspection and located multiple suspicious deer tags. During a follow-up interview, one hunter told CO Bader that he went to get his tag the day before season, but the line was too long so he didn't buy one. Instead he purchased a tag after he killed the buck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader checked a deer hanging at a hunting camp. The deer had no antlers on its' head, but there was a deer license and one 5" spike zip tied to one of the legs. An interview revealed that the antler broke off in transit to camp. Further investigation revealed that the license was not purchased until after the deer was killed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader located a suspicious deer tag at a meat processor inspection. During an investigation, CO Bader learned that the deer license was purchased a day after the deer was killed. It also was not purchased by the hunter that killed the deer. The hunter was cited for borrowing a license from another person. His remaining unused hunting license was seized, as he had already killed his statutory limit of two bucks for the 2015 deer season.

CO Jonathan Warner investigated two hunting-related accidents in Iosco County. In one of the incidents, the hunter shot himself through his hand while crow hunting. In the other incident, an archery hunter was climbing a tree stand when his crossbow discharged and the bolt nearly missed lodging in his head. The subject ended up cutting a large portion of his face when the broadhead of the bolt passed by.

While running a deer decoy in the Roscommon District before the firearm deer season, some of the local deer camps got word there was a decoy in the woods nearby. However, the subjects didn't know it was Conservation Officers running the decoy. They showed up on scene, took pictures by the decoy, and then attempted to get back in their vehicle and leave the area. When contacted by officers, it was discovered that the subjects had a loaded firearm in their vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

On the opening day of firearm deer season, CO Warren Macneill made contact with a few fourteen year olds who were hunting in full camouflage, without licenses, on Federal land. When he asked who was supervising them, they brought CO Macneill to a few adult groups hunting nearby. Those individuals were also hunting in full camouflage, baiting in a closed county, and one subject had no hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Warren Macneill and CO Casey Pullum assisted the MSP Fugitive Team with a case involving a subject who was hunting at a deer camp in Alcona County. The individual was wanted on a case involving production of child pornography, and the officers had also recently received a complaint involving hunting violations at the same camp. The investigation and search warrant of the property lasted three days, and the subject was eventually apprehended while travelling back toward his home in southeast Michigan. He was in possession of an illegally tagged deer at the time of arrest.

CO Josh Russell was checking a hunter along a forest trail when he saw a truck pull up behind them. The truck quickly turned around and sped off. CO Russell finished the contact and attempted to catch up with the vehicle. When the truck failed to signal at the next intersection, CO Russell conducted a traffic stop to make contact with the occupants. They both had an uncased firearm in the back seat of the truck, and one of the firearms was loaded. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josh Russell received a complaint of a deer being shot with a firearm prior to the firearm deer season. On the way to the complaint, Sgt. Brandon Kieft jumped in the truck to assist CO Russell. As they arrived at the property where the shot was heard, the officers saw a trailer and John Deere Gator. The Gator had fresh blood in the back. A short time later, a truck pulled up in the driveway, and the officers made contact with a husband and wife. While interviewing the couple about their recent hunting, the husband stated, "My wife shot a doe with a crossbow earlier and I shot at a coyote. That's the gun shot people heard." When the officers asked to see the deer, the couple consented. As they exited the vehicle, CO Russell heard the husband tell his wife, "We are in trouble." As the officers were about to enter the cellar where the deer was being kept, the husband stated, "I want to be honest with you guys, I shot a bobcat tonight

too.” Once inside the cellar, the officers examined the bobcat and doe. It was evident that both had been killed with firearms. After some interviewing, the wife confessed to shooting the deer with a .270 rifle, and the husband confessed to shooting the bobcat out of season with a 30-06 rifle. The animals and rifles were seized. Enforcement action was taken.

While heading to a deer carcass complaint, CO Casey Pullum came up behind a John Deere Gator traveling on the roadway. The two occupants were each holding an uncased rifle. CO Pullum activated his emergency lights, and conducted a traffic stop on the gator. While questioning the occupants, it was determined that the driver’s weapon was loaded, and he did not have a deer hunting license. The ORV did not have appropriate ORV stickers, neither person had on a helmet, and they were actively baiting in a closed county. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Casey Pullum and Sgt. Brandon Kieft were patrolling Federal land two-tracks, and came upon a hunting camp. Sgt. Kieft knocked on the door of the camper and spoke with a female who was inside. While talking with the female, Sgt. Kieft noticed sled tracks in the snow behind the camper. CO Pullum followed the tracks that led him to three hunters, a sled, and a deer. They were using the sled to haul the recently killed deer out of the woods. One person had a loaded rifle after hunting hours, and the deer was not tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Brandon Kieft noticed a small pop-up blind in a farm field with an SUV nearby on the opening day of firearm deer season. While looking closer with binoculars, Sgt. Kieft discovered the vehicle was running with two occupants inside. When he made contact with the occupants, he noticed that the vehicle was pointed at a bait pile with an uncased gun sitting in the backseat. Neither occupant had any deer hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Brandon Kieft was driving backroads after dark on November 15<sup>th</sup>, and noticed two subjects skinning deer in a farm barn. When he pulled into the driveway and made contact with the men, he noticed two skinned deer hanging from the ceiling of the barn, and one button buck lying on a piece of plywood. No hunting licenses were visible on any of the deer. Sgt. Kieft called CO Kyle Bader to assist at the scene. The farmer stated that he was just getting ready to tag the deer when Sgt. Kieft arrived. CO Bader also noticed an uncased firearm in a truck nearby. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Crawford County, CO John Huspen contacted a deer hunter. The subject was not in possession of any identification or hunting licenses, and had been hunting out of an illegal ground blind. The subject also had an illegal tree stand nearby.

Neither blind had a name and address on them, and there was an excessive amount of bait at the site. While dealing with this subject, another subject from the hunting party arrived in a truck. Upon further investigation, CO Huspen determined the second subject driving the truck had a suspended driver's license, and was under the influence of a controlled substance while hunting with a firearm. The second subject lead CO Huspen to his hunting location. Both blinds there were illegal, and an excessive amount of bait was being used. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben McAteer and CO John Huspen received a complaint from central dispatch regarding a stolen tree stand on State land. The officers made contact with the complainant who had the foresight of taking down the license plate of an individual he had a verbal altercation with earlier in the week. Contact with the suspect was made, and after a brief interview, the individual confessed to taking the stand and throwing it in the woods in different locations across Crawford County. The entire stand was recovered, returned to the owner, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson and CO Ben McAteer responded to a complaint of a stolen vehicle on State land in Crawford County. After a brief search, the officers followed the footprints of the hunter back to his misplaced vehicle. Unfortunately for the subject, he had been hunting in a State game refuge where hunting is prohibited. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn received a complaint back in August of a hunting site that was being established and baited early. Just before the firearm opener, CO Hearn checked the site and noticed recent activity. Through surveillance, the officer was able to observe the hunter as he walked in for the evening hunt. The hunter was observed with a crossbow, and was also carrying a shotgun that ended up being loaded with slugs. Several other violations were found when the hunter was contacted. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn and CO Stephen Speigl conducted an inspection on a local meat processor. CO Hearn followed up on several tagging issues that were located during the inspection. One of the cases associated with the inspection was a deer that was tagged with a kill tag purchased two hours prior to the inspection time. Following up on the suspicious tag, it was determined that a subject had purchased a combo tag. He gave one of the tags to his father, who had shot a deer. His father didn't want to tag it with his own firearm tag, because he wanted to continue hunting. The pair was cited for the lending/borrowing tag violation.

CO Mike Hearn and CO Sam Schluckbier made contact with several members of a deer camp in Kalkaska County as they returned to camp from the evening hunt. Complaints

about the camp in the past had raised suspicion on the type of hunting activity in the area. Citations were issued for children hunting unsupervised, children riding ORVs with loaded firearms, firearms being transported in vehicles uncased/loaded, and people hunting without licenses.

CO Mike Hearn assisted Kalkaska County Sheriff's Department and Michigan State Police for the search of a missing eleven year old child with autism that had run away from the family home. Officers were able to establish a perimeter around the home, and the child was located without incident.

CO Sam Schluckbier was dispatched to a Report All Poaching complaint on the evening of firearm deer season opener. The complainant stated that he observed a hunter shoot an antlerless deer, field dress it, and left it lying in the woods untagged. CO Schluckbier was able to locate the suspect attempting to drag the untagged carcass through the woods. The suspect advised that he shot the doe without having an antlerless deer tag, but planned on keeping the meat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz was given a Facebook investigation from the Report All Poaching Hotline in reference to a female hunter taking a six point buck without a license. CO Liestenfeltz interviewed the female suspect, which resulted in a confession of taking a six point buck with a bow, while only in possession of a doe tag, during the month of October. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz followed up on a complaint of a suspicious gun shot after dark. The next morning, CO Liestenfeltz made contact with a hunter at the suspected residence and interviewed him. The interview ended in a full confession of an illegally shot doe and a lead to a second untagged deer belonging to another family member. The second untagged deer was a seven point buck. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Matt Liestenfeltz observed ORV tracks leading from a residence to an area of State land closed to ORV traffic. CO Liestenfeltz surveilled the residence until after dark, and intercepted the ORVs leaving State land. The occupants of the ORVs were transporting uncased guns, operating without helmets, operating in a closed area, and were in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal was out on patrol on opening day, and came across three hunters at their vehicle. All three hunters admitted to hunting that morning, however when asked for their hunting licenses, none of them could provide one. Citations were issued to all three hunters.

CO Chuck McPherson and CO Craig Neal followed a subject “slow-rolling” down a county road after dark. The subject used an artificial light to shine on two-tracks and openings along the roadway. The subject was stopped, and enforcement action was taken for shining in the month of November.

CO Chuck McPherson was called to assist Michigan State Police on I-75 with a subject possessing a ten point buck with no kill tag. Officer McPherson arrived and conducted an interview. Enforcement action was taken for the untagged deer.

While patrolling county roads in Crawford County, CO James McAteer and Sgt. Jeremy Payne stopped a vehicle for a motor vehicle code violation. Blood was located on the tailgate of the individual’s vehicle. The subject stated he had shot a deer during archery season, a few days prior. Further questioning of the driver revealed inconsistencies with his original statements, and lead officers to the subject’s residence. Inside the garage, an untagged button buck was located. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal and Sgt. Jeremy Payne received information that a deer had been poached from a roadway. The officers were able to locate the deer with the help of the complainant. They decided to wait for the suspect to return for the deer. After four hours of waiting in the woods, CO Neal radioed to Sgt. Payne that the suspect returned, and was next to the deer. Sgt. Payne responded to the scene, and activated his emergency lights and spotlights on the suspect’s vehicle. The suspect ran out of the woods, tripped on the road, got back up on his feet, ran to the driver’s side door and attempted to open it. The officers were able to gain control of the suspect, and obtained a full confession. Multiple charges are being sought at the Missaukee County Prosecutor’s Office.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Bob Hobkirk and CO Seth Rhodea conducted a waterfowl patrol on Rush Lake in Huron County. The officers contacted fourteen hunters, and issued three citations for transporting loaded firearms in a motor boat, littering (of waterfowl carcasses), and failing to provide a personal flotation device. Warnings were given for rallying waterfowl and unregistered trailer.

While patrolling on the opening day of the 2015 firearm deer season, CO Bob Hobkirk observed a hunter along a fence row not wearing hunter orange. When CO Hobkirk contacted the hunter he was wearing an orange coat. The hunter admitted to putting on his orange coat when he saw CO Hobkirk approaching. The hunter was cited for the safety violation.

CO Bob Hobkirk observed a truck stopped on a road near the Rush Lake State Game Area. The vehicle sped forward and stopped in the road a second time. As CO Hobkirk

pulled up to the vehicle to see what they were doing, the driver spotted the patrol truck and began to pull away. CO Hobkirk pulled alongside of the vehicle and observed the passenger casing a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling northern Tuscola County, CO Bob Hobkirk observed a hunter walking along a set of railroad tracks. When confronted by CO Hobkirk, the hunter could not locate his deer license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling northern Huron County, CO Bob Hobkirk and CO Kyle Bucholtz observed two hunters walking through a field without hunter orange clothing. The officers contacted the two hunters and cited them for the violation. The hunters felt they didn't need orange clothing since they were on private property, but conceded that a safety issue did exist.

While checking waterfowl and deer hunters coming into the Fin & Feather Access, CO Bob Hobkirk checked six hunters on two Argos. They were operating on the bottomlands to reach their hunting spot, but felt they were legal since they had left from an access site. Unfortunately, they did not leave from the access ramp, but chose to cut through the marsh. A citation was issued to the lead Argo operator.

On the opening day of firearm deer season, Sgt. Scott Brown, CO Seth Rhodea and CO Kyle Bucholtz contacted multiple subjects who had been exceeding the bait limit. A search warrant was prepared and multiple subjects were contacted reference the complaint. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bucholtz spoke with a subject who appeared to be hunting from his vehicle. Upon speaking with the subject, CO Bucholtz learned there was a loaded firearm in the vehicle. The subject stated he had just purchased the firearm and was unsure of how to unload it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bucholtz responded to a complaint of a subject hunting in the limited firearm zone with a rifle. CO Bucholtz contacted the subject and located a .308 rifle in the subject's blind. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bucholtz contacted a group of hunters pushing a wooded area. CO Bucholtz checked a deer the group had taken. One subject admitted to taking the deer earlier in the morning before his license was purchased. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bucholtz contacted an individual who claimed to have taken a deer on private land using his private land tag. Speaking with the subject further, CO Bucholtz learned the deer had been taken on public land. The subject was attempting to hide the fact he had improperly tagged the deer. Upon discovery of the truth, CO Bucholtz seized the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bucholtz responded to a hunter harassment complaint. Multiple callers stated someone was in the area repeatedly sounding a vehicle horn. CO Bucholtz located a suspect vehicle, obtained confessions, and ended the incident within minutes of the complaint. The suspect admitted he was upset with an area hunter and was attempting to disrupt his evening hunt.

CO Joshua Wright received a complaint that there was a person out deer hunting on opening day without wearing hunter orange. When CO Wright arrived in the area, he made contact with three hunters that were field dressing two deer. While checking licenses, it was discovered that one of the hunters did not purchase a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was watching a couple of hunters in a field, when he witnessed one of them shoot a deer. CO Wright made contact with the lucky hunter who took a nice ten point. While he was checking some other deer that were taken in the area, he noticed that one of the tags on a deer was just purchased 45 minutes prior. While questioning the person that shot the deer, it was discovered that the hunter had bought the license after they had shot the deer. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

While patrolling a game area in Tuscola County, CO Joshua Wright stopped a person on an ORV without a helmet on. The person was hauling a canoe, and had several traps and muskrats with him. CO Wright discovered that the person did not have a fur harvester license, and that there was a bucket with several untagged traps inside of it. Further checks revealed that the person had prior tickets for trespassing and untagged traps. Charges are being sought for habitual offender.

CO Joshua Wright was patrolling the Tuscola State Game Area when he stopped a person on a UTV. The person had a loaded shotgun beside him, and did not have a license on him. They went back to the person's residence to retrieve identification and hunting licenses. The hunter told CO Wright that he had already taken a three point on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and only had his restricted license left. CO Wright noticed that the licenses were bought on the 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. After a short conversation, the hunter admitted that he shot the three point, and then bought his license. Charges are being sought.

CO Joshua Wright saw a vehicle shining their headlights into the woods. When CO Wright got closer, the operator took off around a corner. CO Wright made a traffic stop on the vehicle, and quickly realized that the operator may be intoxicated. Field sobriety tests were performed, and it appeared that the operator was under the influence. After tests were done at the jail, the operator came back three times over the legal limit.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted two hunters in the afternoon of the firearm deer opener. One of the hunters told the officer he had shot a deer early in the morning. When CO Rhodea went to check the deer, it was found to not be tagged. The hunter was only able to show CO Rhodea one deer license, and he admitted to continuing to hunt after he tagged out. An uncased and loaded firearm was also located in the hunter's vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea was working a shining patrol the night before the firearm deer opener. Before CO Rhodea was able to get to the area he planned on working, a vehicle was observed head lighting deer multiple times. A traffic stop was made and open intoxicants were located in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Seth Rhodea and CO Mark Siemen followed up on a bait complaint that involved hunters putting out in excess of two gallons of bait. Upon making contact with the hunters, all three were found to be hunting over excessive bait piles. Also, none of the hunters had any deer licenses in their possession. Tagging violations were discovered with deer that they had shot, and two hunters were not wearing hunter orange when contact was made. Additionally, one of the hunters was found to have hunted deer in the morning, but not purchased any hunting licenses until the afternoon. Numerous citations were issued to address the violations.

CO Mark Siemen responded to a complaint in the Sandusky State Game Area involving two hunters arguing over a dead eight point buck. The caller stated he shot and killed the deer, and another subject took the deer from him, claiming he shot it. Investigation at the location by CO Siemen led him to believe the deer would have died from the first shot fired. The deer was left with the subject that originally claimed it, not the caller.

CO Seth Rhodea and CO Mark Siemen responded to a location in Sanilac Township for possible over-baiting. Three suspects were located hunting over three different bait piles of carrots, corn, and sugar beets. After locating the three suspects, the officers responded back to a hunting cabin on the property with them. Further investigation at the cabin resulted in two illegally taken deer. After the investigation was complete, citations were issued to all three suspects. Citations were for over-baiting, two illegal deer, and hunting without a license. Warnings were given for hunting without a license in possession. The illegal deer was seized by the officers.

CO Mark Siemen assisted the Sanilac County Sheriff's Office in Custard Township with a possible trespass complaint involving the shooting of a six point buck. Investigation by officers determined that the hunters were not trespassing when they shot the deer. However, the deer ran across the road, and died on private property. The property owner did not allow the hunters to retrieve the deer.

CO Mark Siemen made contact with a first time hunter in Delaware Township who had shot a six point buck. CO Siemen assisted the hunter with field dressing the deer by explaining and showing him how to properly field dress a deer.

CO Jill Berry received a complaint from a hunter that the six point deer he had just shot was stolen when he went back to his truck to get a knife. The complainant and his brother-in-law followed the drag marks and found where they came out to the road. The two then saw the suspect load a deer into his truck. When CO Berry made contact with the suspect he advised that he shot the deer behind his house and took the deer to a processor. He then told the CO that if she had any more questions, she could talk to his

attorney. CO Berry checked with the processor to match the antlers to those taken at the scene by the complainant and his brother-in-law, but found that the six point antlers had already been cut off. CO Berry and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly then obtained and executed a search warrant at the suspect's residence. Not only did the officers find and seize the six point antlers and his cell phone with evidence, but also found a large amount of marijuana and two green houses. The officers then made contact with the local drug team. All the marijuana and growing implements were seized by the drug team. The officers then collected blood for DNA testing from the suspect's trunk at the scene and from the deer at the processor. Photos were taken. Warrants are pending.

While on patrol, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly drove by a barn and observed what he thought was a deer hanging. Sgt. Kimmerly turned around and checked again with his binoculars and found that it was in fact a deer. The officer drove into the driveway and noticed two subjects standing by two hanging bucks, through the open barn door. He asked if he could check the deer for tags and the subject said "yes." The six point was tagged legally with a non-restricted combo tag. When he checked the spike, he noticed that it was tagged with an antlerless tag. The older man that shot the six point became very nervous and advised that a friend shot it. When he could not name the friend, he admitted to shooting it. The officer advised that the only buck tag he still had was a restricted combo and he could only take a deer with at least four points on one side. He advised he thought it was a doe, and that he had doe tags. Upon further investigation of the tag on the deer, it was found that the tag was a 2009 tag, which is the exact same color as the 2015 tags. Sgt. Kimmerly also found that the tag had already been used in October of 2009. The spike was seized and tickets were issued.

CO Jill Berry received information of an eight point buck that was taken without a license. CO Berry met with the subject and questioned him about the buck. He admitted to shooting the buck and then purchasing his license after it was shot. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jill Berry backed up a Sheriff Deputy on a trespass complaint a few days before the rifle opener. The two subjects had an eight point buck that had been shot with a firearm. The buck was untagged. Both subjects were charged with recreational trespass and possession of an illegal deer.

While patrolling on State land, CO Jill Berry made contact with two different subjects whose kill tags were not properly validated. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock was checking the Shiawasse River State Game Area when he observed three subjects walking in the woods with shotguns and not wearing hunter orange. The officer made contact and asked what they were hunting. The subjects advised they were hunting small game. When asked what they were supposed to be wearing, they had a blank look on their faces. CO Gowenlock informed the subjects that they were required to be wearing hunter orange. The subjects advised that they were not hunting deer and didn't understand why they were supposed to wear hunter orange. They were advised of the law and issued tickets.

CO Quincy Gowenlock responded to a trespass complaint. Upon arrival, the complainant advised he was sitting at home the previous night and heard dogs barking. When he looked outside, he could see lights back in his woods. The complainant then got on his ORV and drove out to see what they were doing. When he made contact, he noticed that the subjects had a rifle and had treed a raccoon. When CO Gowenlock arrived and made contact, the hunters admitted to being on the private property, and to having a gun. The law only allows someone to retrieve a lost dog on private property without a firearm, and only if the hunters have not been previously told to stay off the property. When asked why he drove onto the private property with a gun in the vehicle while retrieving his dogs, he replied, "I didn't want to leave my gun up against a tree and not be able to find it." The subject was then asked why he didn't leave the rifle in his vehicle when he walked up to the treed raccoon. The trespasser didn't have an answer. Tickets were issued, and the hunters were advised that they could no longer use the dog exception to enter the private property.

CO Ken Lowell responded to a complaint of a hunter putting out a truck load of bait on private property. The officer located the bow hunter and the large bait pile that he was hunting over. When CO Lowell asked the hunter how much bait he had put out, the hunter said a truck load. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint on November 14<sup>th</sup> of a subject who shot a buck with a rifle. The complainant told CO Lowell that he had watched a big eight point all day in the swamp with a doe. He stated that while he was watching the big buck, he heard three rifle shots, and watched the buck tip over. CO Lowell and an MSP Trooper made contact with the suspect at his residence. It was determined that the suspect was a felon who is prohibited from possessing a firearm. The firearm was seized, and enforcement action was taken for a felon in possession of a firearm and taking a deer out of season. The officers recovered a large eight point buck in the swamp.

On opening day of rifle deer season, CO Ken Lowell responded to a trespassing complaint. When the CO made contact with the suspect, he admitted to being a felon. Enforcement action was taken for felon in possession of firearm and trespassing.

CO Ken Lowell stopped to check a deer camp on the opening day of firearm deer season. CO Lowell located a buck that was hanging behind some campers. The buck was untagged. The hunter told CO Lowell that he had lost his license sometime during his hunt. With a quick check through RSS, it was determined that the hunter never bought a buck license. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell witnessed a hunter with no hunter orange. Upon contact it was determined that he was a felon in possession of a firearm and was hunting deer without a license. Enforcement action was taken on felon in possession of firearm and hunting deer without a license.

CO Ken Lowell received a complaint of a hunter who shot three bucks. The officer made contact with the hunter who confessed to shooting a five point with a bow, and then two more bucks on opening day. A large nine point buck was seized and enforcement action was taken for the over limit of bucks.

While on patrol in the Flat River State Game Area, CO Ken Lowell made contact with a hunter who stated that he had shot a buck that morning. A check of his licenses showed that he still had two buck tags. When asked why he did not tag his buck, the hunter stated that he had not moved the deer from where he shot it. The officer walked back and located the deer which was gutted and drug over 100 yards from the gut pile. The hunter was issued a ticket for failing to immediately tag his deer.

CO Will Brickel received information that a deer may have been shot in Saginaw at 4 a.m. on November 14<sup>th</sup>. CO Brickel passed the information onto CO Dan Lee in Saginaw County. The information included a location, a vehicle description, and a license plate. CO Lee contacted CO Jeremy Beavers to check on the residence of the registered owner. Meanwhile, CO Lee continued to check the area for additional evidence. While in the area on the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>, CO Lee saw the suspect vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. The back of the car had blood along the back bumper and trunk. When the officer asked the driver about the deer, the driver said "What deer?" Inside the trunk was a doe that had a gunshot wound to the neck, and was untagged. The driver admitted to shooting the deer in the early morning hours of the 14<sup>th</sup> with a shotgun. Enforcement action was taken.

While working the Shiawassee River State Game area on the firearm deer opener, CO Dan Lee found a car with a deer strapped to it. The tag on the deer came back to a hunter who did not have a permit to hunt the State land. CO Lee, along with CO Quincy Gowenlock, waited well after dark for the hunter to return. When the hunter arrived, he had a large buck in his boat. The hunter was not the same as the one from the first tagged deer, but this hunter did not have a permit to hunt the State land either. The buck he had brought in was also not tagged. The hunter was operating a vessel with his 13 year old daughter, without life jackets or navigation lights. The buck was seized and enforcement was taken.

CO Chad Foerster worked Bay County on the rifle opener when he came in contact with a hunter field dressing a seven point buck behind a residence. During the conversation with the hunter, it was determined that the hunter had shot the deer prior to purchasing his kill tag. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster worked Nayanquing Point State Wildlife Area for waterfowl hunting activity. During his patrol he came across a hunter possessing more than the allowed twenty-five shotgun shells inside the game area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Will Brickel noticed a vehicle that was traveling down the road at a slower than normal speed. Not having any violations that were noticeable, CO Brickel pulled up next to them to talk. During the conversation, it was noted that there was a rifle in the vehicle.

After further investigation, it was found that the rifle was loaded and uncased sitting next to one of the back seat passengers. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Will Brickel was conducting a deer processor inspection for tagging violations when he noticed a tag on a buck that appeared suspicious. After investigating a little more, CO Brickel suspected that the individual had shot his deer and then bought the tag. CO Brickel interviewed the hunter and after a short interview the hunter admitted to shooting the deer at 4:15 p.m., and bought his tag at 5:00 p.m. The ten point buck was seized and enforcement action was taken.

While responding to a recreational trespass complaint, CO Mike Haas interviewed the two possible trespassers. During the interviews it was determined that both individuals had shot a buck, during the archery deer season, while trespassing. After further questioning it was discovered that one of the individuals had also shot two additional bucks on State property and tagged them with someone else's licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

During a routine patrol, CO Mike Haas noticed a deer in the back of a truck next to a barn. A man and woman were preparing to load the deer into the barn as CO Haas approached them. When asked who the lucky hunter was, the woman stated, "He shot this last night!" The man then said, "No, I shot it this morning, well this afternoon." After questioning the individuals, it was determined the deer had been shot during the afternoon the previous day, but the man had just bought his license a couple hours prior to the contact. The man stated he had a valid antlerless license, and fell asleep in his blind. He woke up when he heard a deer, and shot it quickly thinking the deer was a doe. The man found the deer the following morning. He was surprised it was not a doe, but a large twelve point buck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Haas was responding to an over-baiting complaint when he contacted two firearm deer hunters in a blind overlooking a large truckload size pile of sugar beets. When the hunters were asked why they thought the officer was there, they stated they had an idea. CO Haas asked them how much bait was allowed to be used and one hunter replied two gallons. When CO Haas asked how much bait they had out, the hunter responded, "Way more than two gallons." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Haas spoke to a group of Boy Scouts and their families at the Shepard Middle School for their annual Rubber Band Gun Turkey Shoot. The presentation was focused on firearm and hunter safety.

While on patrol on State land, CO Dan Robinson received information about trash bags that had been dumped. CO Robinson responded and found three bags of trash just off the trail. Mailings were found in all three bags. The subjects were interviewed and confessed. Enforcement action was taken

CO Dan Robinson, Sgt. Tony Soave, and CO Mike Haas, while conducting processor inspections made several illegal deer cases where subjects were hunting prior to

purchasing licenses or harvested deer that they did not have tags for. Enforcement action was taken in these cases.

CO Joel Lundberg and Fire Officer Jerry Turner worked a secluded section of State land in Midland County. The officers made contact with multiple hunters using the State land, and issued tickets for loaning and borrowing hunting licenses, failing to tag deer and hunting without a license.

CO Joel Lundberg saw an MSP Trooper on a traffic stop during a late night patrol. CO Lundberg backed the Trooper up on the stop. The Trooper had just given a warning and a citation to the driver. The Trooper advised the CO that the driver did have an uncased firearm. CO Lundberg got the driver out of the vehicle and interviewed him. It was determined he had shot a doe with his friend that night and the driver shot a doe the day before. CO Lundberg followed the driver to the building where the deer were. The friend had bought his doe license that evening, well after dark, and still had not put it on the deer so he could "get another doe." Enforcement action was taken.

Chief Gary Hagler worked in Midland County with CO Joel Lundberg the second day of firearm deer season. During the afternoon patrol, two individuals were lodged in jail on warrants. The officers also located a building on fire, assisting the Fire Department, seized multiple bucks, and issued six deer citations.

CO Jay Person was called to a section of State land in Midland County by a concerned hunter who was watching a subject cutting timber. Upon arrival, CO Person found a subject who had cut six live trees and was loading them in his truck. The subject was educated on the laws regarding wood cutting on State land and enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

While patrolling Kent County on the firearm deer season opener, CO Justin Ulberg observed two subjects with his binoculars hunting without wearing any hunter orange. CO Ulberg watched one of the subjects raise a pair of binoculars, and both subjects immediately duck down after seeing the officer's truck. CO Ulberg made contact with the hunters. The officer found that both were juveniles hunting without any adult supervision, neither subject had any orange, and one of the hunters did not have his hunting license in his possession. CO Ulberg spoke with the juveniles' parents and addressed the violations.

CO Justin Ulberg received a phone call from a Kent County Sheriff Deputy regarding a subject hunting on railroad tracks. CO Ulberg responded to the area where he discovered the subject was hunting without any orange, did not possess any deer licenses, and admitted to trespassing on railroad property. Enforcement action was taken.

While working an evening patrol in Kent County, CO Justin Ulberg observed a truck driving in a circle out in a field. It appeared the subjects were trying to locate deer with the vehicle's headlights. CO Ulberg waited for the truck to come to the road and contacted the driver of the vehicle. CO Ulberg discovered a loaded, uncased rifle in the front seat sitting between the driver and the passenger. Enforcement action was taken for the violations.

CO Dave Rodgers and CO Justin Ulberg checked a group of hunters near their vehicles on a roadway. The hunters advised that they had some luck and shot a couple deer. Further investigation revealed that the hunters had already field dressed the deer, but had failed to tag any of them. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ivan Perez and CO BJ Goulette responded to a complaint of a subject shooting an antlered deer with a rifle in the shotgun zone, without a license. Contact was made with the subject at his residence. He stated that his son had shot the deer with a .410 slug. The officers were shown a large six point buck hanging in the subject's pole barn. After inspecting the tag, it showed that his son had placed an un-validated restricted tag on the deer. The son was interviewed and confessed that his father had shot the deer with his rifle. After confronting the father with his son's statements, the father confessed. The son was issued a warning for loaning the tag and the father was cited for the illegal deer. The rifle used in the incident was confiscated along with the deer.

CO Ivan Perez and CO BJ Goulette responded to a complaint of over limits of bait. A total of five locations were located and contact was made with the hunters. One of the hunters took responsibility for the violation for all the illegal bait piles. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Cary Foster and Sgt. Jeff Rabbers responded to a complaint of a subject trespassing and hunting while revoked. Surveillance was conducted near the location where the incident occurred and three hunters were located after coming out of the woods after legal hunting hours on a different piece of property that they didn't have permission to be on. All three subjects were intoxicated and had loaded firearms after legal hours. The firearms were seized and enforcement action was taken on all three suspects.

CO Robert Crisp contacted a hunter in Barry County on opening day who was not wearing hunter orange. The hunter was near the shoulder of the road and had harvested a doe. The hunter stated that he left his hunter orange back where he had shot the doe. CO Crisp and the hunter returned to the location. The hunter produced a

pair of orange latex gloves and other items he had buried. Enforcement action was taken, and the hunter picked up his trash.

CO Richard Cardenas received a complaint that an individual who lives next to the Middleville State Game Area in Barry County was riding an ORV and cutting wood. CO Cardenas made contact with the subject who admitted to riding his ORV and cutting wood for his wood stove. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Richard Cardenas received a complaint that a deer carcass was dumped in the Barry County State Game area. CO Cardenas found the deer carcass and located a kill tag on the deer. CO Cardenas also located two five gallon pails, latex gloves, and other miscellaneous litter in the area. CO Cardenas located the suspect and a citation was issued for littering. The subject was also instructed to clean up the area, and to properly dispose the carcass and other trash.

CO Paul Higashi was on patrol when he noticed a vehicle with numerous persons in it stop in a State game area parking lot, and one passenger was covering something in a hurry. Further investigation revealed that the person had attempted to conceal three loaded firearms. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Mshar received a RAP complaint in reference to a subject trespassing and killing a large buck on private property in Allegan County. The complainant stated that he witnessed the suspect shoot the buck on his property, at which time he grabbed his video camera to record the incident. CO Mshar made contact with the suspect. The suspect stated it was the largest deer he had ever seen and he just could not help himself. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Mshar and Lt. Gerald Thayer were patrolling the Allegan State Game Area, when they witnessed two vehicles being carelessly driven. Both vehicles were stopped. During the investigation, it was discovered that both parties were involved in a road rage incident at a local gas station and one vehicle was chasing the other. One subject was also in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck Towns and CO Mike Mshar responded to a RAP complaint of trespass in Allegan County where a subject had shot a buck and retrieved it on the complainant's property. The landowner was only able to get a last name of the subject. The officers were able to use the Retail Sales System to locate a suspect. A subsequent interview led to a full confession to the trespass and shooting the deer without a license. The suspect initially tagged the buck with an antlerless tag to remove it from the property, and then purchased a proper license after he left the scene. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andy Bauer, CO Jeff Robinette, CO Steve Mooney and CO Saykham Keophalychanh organized and worked a group patrol near the Indiana/Michigan border. They were targeting the illegal importation of deer into Michigan. During the patrol the officers made multiple stops, and located six deer carcasses being illegally imported into Michigan. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Page noticed a subject driving in a field. When the subject saw the officer he exited the vehicle and began walking back and forth appearing very nervous. CO Page approached the subject, who advised he had shot a nice ten point. When the subject was asked to see his license, he handed CO Page an unused single buck tag. The officer asked the subject why he did not tag the animal and the subject asked to see the officer's badge or some kind of credentials. CO Page was in full uniform and drove up in a fully marked patrol truck. After all of this was explained to him, the subject stated that he didn't know he had to tag the animal right away. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Page located a subject in a tree stand on opening day of gun season without hunter orange. Upon spotting the officer, the subject pulled out some hunter orange. CO Page advised the subject that the orange needed to be worn on the hunter's body. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Page was patrolling Van Buren County when he observed a subject wearing camo walking towards a mobile home. The subject was attempting to conceal a shotgun behind his leg, and not wearing any hunter orange. CO Page initially passed the residence. When the officer backed up to the driveway, the subject ran behind the residence out of sight. CO Page ran around the back of the residence and observed the subject walking unarmed towards the officer. When CO Page asked the subject where the firearm was, the subject stated that he panicked and stashed the weapon behind the residence. The firearm was located under a vehicle in the back yard. The subject, who was not wearing any hunter orange, stated that he didn't buy his deer licenses this year because he did not think he would have time to get out hunting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Page observed a subject skinning a buck in a tree at a residence. When approached, the officer noticed a doe in the bed of the truck, and a six point buck that had both been shot that morning. Further investigation showed that there were a total of nine deer hanging in the subject's garage that had been skinned and quartered. The subject stated that he was hunting with his wife that morning, and that she had shot the buck and an additional two does this year. Upon contact, the wife initially stated that she had shot the deer. After being presented with the story her husband told, she admitted that she had not shot any deer all year. The male subject was cited for three illegal deer that he admitted to shooting and tagging with his wife's tags. Seized from

the subject were the two does and a small six point buck where the wife's tags were used, as well as the firearm in this incident.

CO Tyler Cole and Sgt. Zachary Doss worked together for the firearm deer opener in Cass County. During the patrol, CO Cole cited two individuals that had loaded firearms in motor vehicles. In addition, two other subjects were located that were transporting uncased firearms in vehicles. Enforcement action was taken for the observed violations.

CO Tyler Cole and CO Jeff Robinette followed up on a RAP complaint of a subject hunting over a large over-limit of bait. The officers located the subject hunting over a five gallon pail of apples, and approximately fifty pounds of corn. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Saykham Keophalychanh and CO Andy Bauer contacted a hunter that had left his kill tags at home, but decided to go hunting without the licenses. The subject subsequently killed an antlerless deer, but obviously had no way to tag the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Saykham Keophalychanh contacted a hunter who had taken a nice 10 point buck and had dragged the deer about a mile back to his vehicle. The hunter failed to validate the kill tag in any way before placing the tag on the deer. Enforcement action was taken for failing to validate the kill tag.

During the week after opening day, CO Saykham Keophalychanh located two separate hunters who were hunting without licenses, one subject failing to wear hunter orange, and one hunter who killed a deer, but failed to tag the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

Approximately an hour and a half after dark on opening day of firearm deer season, CO Steve Mooney stopped a suspicious vehicle leaving an orchard. Upon contact with the vehicle, an untagged doe was located on the trunk lid. In addition, when asked where the firearm was located, the back seat passenger stated she was sitting on it. When CO Mooney looked in the back seat, he observed her sitting on an uncased shotgun. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Mooney was responding to a bait complaint when he saw a subject in a tree stand not wearing any hunter orange. When CO Mooney stopped his vehicle, the subject climbed out of his stand and disappeared into the woods behind the stand. When CO Mooney reached the subject, he discovered that he had stashed a .338 Remington rifle in the bushes behind his stand. The subject was also hunting over a gross over-limit of bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Mooney responded to a trespass complaint and made contact with the suspect. Initially the suspect stated that his uncle had killed a four point buck, but then when telling the story, the suspect slipped and stated that he had shot the deer. When CO Mooney confronted him with the conflicting story, the subject admitted to killing the four point buck, even though he had already filled his regular deer license with a small buck. The subject then explained that he had contacted his uncle who had tagged the deer for him, and was in possession of the deer. The deer was located and the uncle, whom has prior convictions for tagging violations, admitted to tagging the deer illegally. Charges will be sought at the prosecutor's office.

CO Jeff Robinette and CO Tyler Cole checked a group of hunters that reportedly had hunted without hunting licenses during prior years. After hunting hours, the officers made contact with one of the hunters and was speaking with him, when a side-by-side ORV approached their location. Just before the ORV reached them, it stopped and a shot rang out into the night air. The officers immediately made contact and discovered that the subject driving the ORV was hunting with a .223 rifle for deer, and had shot in the air to show off the gun to his friend. The subject with the rifle also did not have a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andy Bauer was busy the second morning of firearm deer season. CO Bauer located two subjects with uncased firearms in motor vehicles, one subject with an untagged deer, and another subject hunting without being in possession of his deer kill tags. Enforcement action was taken.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, CO Bauer received a RAP complaint from a woman who stated that she had shot a big buck with her crossbow when another subject came along and stated that he shot the buck. He had already tagged and gutted the deer. Not wanting to get into a confrontation, she left and then called the Report All Poaching Hotline. The woman had videotaped the deer just before she shot it, and had also gotten the license plate number of the vehicle. Sgt. Zach Doss and CO Saykham Keophalychanh responded to assist CO Bauer. CO Bauer initially met with the woman, and then made contact with the other hunter who had taken the buck. CO Bauer tried to interview the subject about the situation, but he became very argumentative and evasive. CO Keophalychanh arrived and the officers again tried speaking with the subject. He was more cooperative and finally agreed to go back to the location, in an attempt to sort the situation out. Sgt. Doss met the officers at the location and located a blood trail within six feet of where the woman stated she shot the deer, which led directly to the gut pile. An examination of the wound on the deer positively proved that the woman had shot the deer due to the differences in the types of broad heads both hunters were using. The subject finally agreed that the woman had shot the deer. CO Bauer was able to retrieve the deer and give the woman her first buck, which was a very large thirteen point deer.

CO Brad Brewer observed a hunter walking out of the woods at the end of the day. As CO Brewer approached, he observed that the subject magically didn't have a weapon anymore. A short interview with the subject led to an admission that the subject had hidden his firearm in the snow because he didn't have a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Jeff Goss and CO Jason McCullough located a buck at a local processor which had been tagged by a local hunter. CO Goss, using some basic forensic evidence gathering techniques, determined the deer was killed before the subject had purchased the deer license. Upon contacting the hunter, CO Goss and CO McCullough were able to confirm the deer was shot without a license. Additionally, the hunter confessed that his father had actually shot the deer. After contacting the father, CO Goss and CO McCullough verified the father shot the deer without a valid buck license, and had his son purchase a kill tag for the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss and CO Jason McCullough contacted a hunter who had killed a nice buck. The officers noticed the tag was purchased after the buck had been killed. A follow up interview with the shooter confirmed the officers' suspicion. The subject stated he was just trying to "save a little money" and not purchase a deer license until after he killed a deer. CO Goss and CO McCullough explained the importance of purchasing a hunting license before going afield, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Goss and CO Jason McCullough located a hunter, on opening day of firearm season, hunting from his vehicle next to the highway. The officers asked the subject if he knew who the landowner was, knowing that hunting was not allowed on the property. The hunter informed the officers that he had been hunting in that location, off and on, for the last couple of years. The officers informed the subject he could not hunt from his vehicle and he was trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

After checking some private property for trespassers, CO Jeff Goss and CO Jason McCullough turned a corner on a two-track and ran into two hunters. The hunters stated they were tracking a wounded deer, which one of the hunters had shot. While talking with the hunters, a shot came from the area where the two officers had just been. The officers were able to track down two additional hunters, who had just killed a buck. After talking with all the hunters, it was determined that the hunters had watched a buck jump the fence. The hunters crossed the fence, and were in the process of driving the deer out when CO Goss and CO McCullough contacted them. The hunters were informed of the trespass law, and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Tamarack State Game Area, CO Al Mendez contacted a subject who was in possession of a .22 rifle, with ammo, during the quiet period. The subject stated he was moving his tree stand, and said he was going to hunt squirrels too. The quiet period law was explained, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Mendez made an attempted warrant pickup on a subject from a pending deer case. After knocking on the subject's door for several minutes the subject appeared on the side porch. He was advised of the outstanding warrant in his name, and that he was going to jail if he did not have the required \$500 bond. He stated he had the money inside the house but the officer advised him that he could not return inside his house. The subject saw his neighbor outside and asked CO Mendez if he could ask the neighbor for the bond money. The officer and the subject walked over to the neighbor's house and the \$500 bond was borrowed so the subject wouldn't go to jail.

CO Al Mendez received and responded to a RAP complaint about a subject who was hunting without hunter orange. CO Mendez met the subject at the residence where he was field dressing a buck. The subject had used his daughter's tag, while having his tag in his wallet upstairs in his house. Enforcement action was taken for the tagging and hunter orange violations.

CO Al Mendez contacted two minors, ages 15 and 16 years old, hunting unsupervised. Both minors, who were cousins, advised that their parents were at work. The following day CO Mendez made contact with the parents and enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Jackson and CO Isaac Tyson looked into a case referred to them by CO Shane Webster. During the investigation they conducted an interview with the subject who ultimately confessed to shooting a trophy buck without a proper license. The subject admitted to purchasing the license after the deer was shot. Evidence was seized and a report is being submitted to the prosecutor's office.

CO Isaac Tyson and CO Jason McCullough located a deer camp with multiple deer hanging from the buck pole. While looking over the deer, an untagged doe was discovered. One of the hunters arrived and admitted to killing the untagged doe. Further investigation revealed that the subject had also shot a buck and tagged it with his teenage daughter's tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Isaac Tyson received information that a hunter was in possession of an untagged deer. CO Tyson contacted the subject and asked about the deer. The subject claimed that he forgot to tag the deer. A check in the subject's barn revealed two untagged deer, and a third deer tagged with a 2014 kill tag. The deer were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Isaac Tyson and CO Jason McCullough received a trespass complaint. After interviewing the complainant, the officers contacted the suspects. Eventually the suspects admitted to trespassing, not wearing hunter orange, along with other violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Isaac Tyson located a hunter who had just shot an antlerless deer. A check of the hunter's licenses revealed that he did not have an antlerless tag for Branch County. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Isaac Tyson and CO Joshua Jackson received a trespass complaint regarding snowmobiles. After some investigation the subjects were located. Neither of the snowmobiles had trail permits and both registrations were expired. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols was on patrol when he observed two subjects hunting on the Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee (CIS) Rail Trail. CO Nickols contacted the subjects and found one of them was a young adult and the other was a juvenile. When asked for a hunting license the juvenile provided CO Nickols with a private land antlerless deer license with a date of birth that would have made him 51 years old. It was the only license the subject had. CO Nickols followed up with the subject's father who was not aware of his son's whereabouts, but did admit to buying the license, and giving it to his son. The father was educated on the appropriate laws and enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols observed two subjects riding on a quad with two deer on it. CO Nickols stopped the ORV and observed that the deer were untagged. CO Nickols followed the subjects back to their residence which was about a mile away and confirmed that there were properly licensed to possess the deer. Violations included operate ORV on roadway, riding double, no ORV license, no helmets, and transport untagged deer. Enforcement action was taken for the untagged deer.

CO Rich Nickols was investigating a complaint of someone hunting with an illegal firearm. The complainant heard about eleven shots in rapid succession and provided a direction where they came from. CO Nickols followed up and located several hunters in blinds on private property. The hunters were checked and all had legal firearms, however one did not have a deer license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols was contacted by a subject who wanted to confess that he allowed his minor child to shoot a deer without first obtaining a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster was patrolling when he noticed several individuals carrying firearms across a cut corn field on opening day. CO Webster drove around the block to make contact with them at the residence they were walking towards and noted one of the subjects had handed his firearm off to another member of the group. When the non-resident was asked for hunting licenses he stated that he wasn't hunting. When confronted about being in possession of a firearm while afield, he attempted to state that he was just helping the other person carry the firearm because one was used for short range and the other for longer range. CO Webster pointed out that it was unlawful to be afield with a firearm without a hunting license and wasn't swayed by the unlikely story. Enforcement action was taken.

Acting on a RAP complaint that was received earlier in the day, CO Todd Thorn conducted a foot patrol of private property in Meridian Township. While on the patrol CO Thorn found a hunter who was walking the property. CO Thorn contacted the man and found that he was the trespassing subject. CO Thorn was able to locate the spot

where the man had shot and killed a deer well onto the complainant's property. CO Thorn gained a confession that the man knew the deer was not on his property, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Neterer was patrolling a dead end road for hunting activity shortly after the close of shooting hours. After checking two hunters, a third came out of the woods on an ATV. CO Neterer noticed that the subject was not wearing a helmet and had a loaded shotgun on the front rack of the machine. Enforcement action was taken for transporting a loaded firearm on an ORV.

CO Michael Haas informed CO Todd Thorn of a possible illegal deer that was found on a popular social media site. CO Thorn investigated the case the day after the deer was supposedly taken and found it hanging in a tree behind the hunter's parent's house. The deer was a large ten point buck. CO Thorn was able to gain a confession from the hunter that he had shot the deer without having a license and then purchased one after the fact. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn Strawn conducted a follow up investigation of a complaint of nighttime shining and deer poaching activity. While conducting surveillance on the farm field where the previous activity had occurred, CO Strawn noticed several subjects using flashlights and moving through the woods and across a field. CO Strawn contacted the would-be poachers only to find out they were the original callers out tracking a deer that one had shot while archery hunting. After a good scare and a few laughs the hunters thanked CO Strawn for being in the area and provided him with some additional information regarding the real subjects and a vehicle of interest.

While patrolling Clinton County, CO Larn Strawn observed two hunters field dressing a buck. CO Strawn watched the hunters leave the field in a truck but didn't observe them load the buck. CO Strawn contacted the hunters and discovered the hunters were on their way to dress a second buck across the field. While checking the hunters CO Strawn discovered several violations. Neither of the bucks were tagged, the hunter's guns were not cased and they were hunting over bait in a closed area. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a previous complaint involving an untagged buck, CO Larn Strawn discovered the shooter did not have a hunting license. The shooter had left the field dressed deer tucked away in a corn field while he went to run some family errands. Meanwhile, CO Strawn documented the incident, conducted interviews, seized the buck and continued on with his day. While patrolling the rest of the morning, CO Strawn periodically checked the licensing system to determine if the hunter had yet purchased a license, and not surprisingly, the transaction was eventually made at a local retailer. Unfortunately for the shooter, the license was obtained after the buck was loaded into CO Strawn's truck and was on its way to a local food charity. CO Strawn caught up to the shooter in the evening and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Clinton County in the prime time closing hours of opening day CO Larn Strawn was looking for road hunters. Just as predicted, CO Strawn observed a truck slowly moving down a back road. The truck had two hunters riding in the open cargo bed. When CO Strawn stopped and contacted the group he discovered the hunters in the back of the truck were both in possession of uncased shotguns. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher responded to a complaint of a deer being taken with a firearm during closed season. After investigation, the subject was not in possession of a firearm but did have an uncased bow in the cab of his vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher was on patrol during the opening day of firearm deer season when he noticed two individuals walking out to their blinds. After conducting a check it was determined that they had loaded weapons prior to hunting hours. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher received a call from Station 20 regarding the taking of an illegal deer. During initial questioning the subject stated he shot the deer with buckshot and a single BB penetrated the head killing the deer. CO Maher asked to see the gun and ammo used in the taking of the deer. The subject could not produce any buckshot ammo. After further questioning, the subject admitted to taking the deer with a .22 caliber rifle from the back of his house over a lighted bait pile. The deer and the gun were seized. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking hunters in Waterloo State Game Area, CO Chris Maher observed an individual get out of his truck and walk toward him. After checking his license CO Maher asked to see what he was hunting with. The individual had an uncased, loaded gun in the front seat of his vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason King conducted a follow up investigation of a possible illegal deer taken without a license. CO King made contact with the subject at her residence. After interviewing the subject CO King was able to obtain a confession and seized a seven point white-tailed deer rack.

CO Jason King responded to a complaint on a subject that lost control of a brush pile that he was burning on his property. The local fire department arrived on scene and extinguished the fire. CO King determined that the subject had not acquired a local burn permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick followed up on a complaint of carcasses dumped in a field outside of Byron. The individual that was responsible for dumping the carcasses was found and enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick received a call about an individual that he had been trying to locate. CO Slick went out to the property and found the individual hunting. CO Slick questioned him about a stand that he had taken down a few days prior. The individual admitted to

taking the stand down that was on another's property, as well as baiting the stand. CO Slick ran the individual through LEIN and the subject came back with a warrant. Enforcement action was taken for baiting in a restricted county for CWD and the individual was lodged in the Shiawassee County Jail.

CO Matt Neterer checked an illegal bait pile in the CWD core area that could be seen from the expressway. CO Neterer walked in on the hunters and located two men sitting in the blind. When asked for their hunting licenses, only one of the hunters produced a license. The other hunter stated that he was just out observing. Upon checking the blind, a shotgun and a .30-.30 rifle were located. The unlicensed hunter admitted that it was his rifle and that he had been hunting. Both hunters claimed that the bait belonged to the neighbor. CO Neterer informed them that regardless of who placed the bait out, it was still illegal to hunt over it. Enforcement action was taken for hunting without a license, hunting over bait in the CWD core area, and hunting with a rifle in the limited firearm zone.

CO Pete Purdy assisted Michigan State Police and Livingston County Sheriff Department with a 911 call of a missing eighteen month old child. A search of the area was conducted and the child was located unharmed in a field near the house.

CO Daniel Prince, while doing follow up on a trespass complaint, observed a deer hunter hunting from a ladder stand without wearing hunter orange. CO Prince was able to make contact with the hunter who did not have his kill tag with him, in addition to the hunter orange violation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Daniel Prince observed a subject operating an ORV across a field with a shotgun slung across his back. CO Prince was able to make contact with the hunter. The subject was not wearing a helmet and did not have his kill tags with him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Drexler and CO Brandon Hartleben were on patrol in Waterloo Recreation Area when they contacted two firearm deer hunters just getting back to their vehicle, one hour after hunting hours had closed. The first issue the officers noticed was that neither hunter was wearing hunter orange. CO Drexler and CO Hartleben then learned both hunters were still in possession of loaded firearms, an hour after hunting hours had closed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben and CO Mike Drexler stopped an ORV in Sharon Township. A father was taking his 14 and 15 year old daughters on a Sunday joy ride on a county road on three wheelers, without helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben and CO Mike Drexler received a complaint from Washtenaw County Metro Dispatch of a man hunting on Washtenaw County Parks' property near Manchester. CO Hartleben, CO Drexler and Sgt. Dan Bigger made contact with a separate complainant in the area who indicated the individual was still hunting on the property. The officers made contact with the hunter and noticed he had an untagged ten

point buck lying next to his truck. After a lengthy interview, and some less than truthful statements, it was determined that the man had shot the deer on Washtenaw County Parks' property. The deer and the gun were seized, and multiple charges are being sought through the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Brandon Hartleben, CO Mike Drexler and Sgt. Dan Bigger contacted numerous hunters at pull-outs and parking areas throughout the Sharonville State Game Area. One hunter had a loaded firearm laid across his toolbox well after hunting hours. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben stopped at the Sharonville State Game Area and met with the program coordinator for Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors. In the second year of operation, the program aims to provide a quality hunting experience for disabled Veterans and others with health challenges. Numerous hunters were out at different stand sites throughout Sharonville for the day hunt, with nine hunters scheduled to come out on the following day.

CO Andrew Monnich and CO Chris Reynolds worked a trespassing and illegal deer complaint near the Onsted State Game Area. Upon arrival a local landowner supplied the officers with important pictures of the incident, since it was committed days earlier. With the pictures, the officers were able to determine that trespassing took place to harvest a whitetail. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich and CO Chris Reynolds paired up for deer processor inspections. The officers found a number of tagging violations with deer that were brought in from opening day of firearm season. The officers conducted many hunter interviews and enforcement action was taken on several violations.

CO Andrew Monnich did a processor inspection and noticed a doe that was just brought in the night before. After looking at the tag it was determined that the tag was purchased after the legal hunting hours on the day it was validated. The hunter was interviewed and confessed he shot the deer and then bought his tag that evening. He stated that he didn't think it was illegal to hunt without tags since he was on private property. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Dan Bigger and CO Andrew Monnich were patrolling northern Lenawee County when they observed a hunter standing over a deer in the corner of a field. Upon contact they noticed the hunter was standing over an untagged five point buck, and his hunting partner was bringing the truck back to pick up the deer. While checking for licenses, the men stated they didn't think they needed to have them since they were on private property, and the unsuccessful hunter in the truck thought he could drive his truck with a loaded shotgun. Enforcement action was taken. The deer was donated to a local family in need.

Sgt. Dan Bigger and CO Andrew Monnich were on the way to a complaint when they came across an ATV driving down the road with two hunters. Contact was made by the officers and a loaded firearm was located on the ATV. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Dan Bigger was patrolling when an oncoming vehicle was flashing his bright lights at the vehicle in front of it. The vehicle in front pulled over but the operator of the vehicle that had been flashing its lights, kept his high beam lights on. Sgt. Bigger attempted several times to get the vehicle to dim his lights, unsuccessfully, before making a traffic stop. Upon making contact, it was found that the driver's license was suspended several times. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Dan Bigger was taking a complaint when he noticed a subject in hunter orange walking down the road. After finishing taking the complaint, contact was made with the subject. During general conversation regarding the deer season, the subject was happy to tell the story about an eight point buck he had shot earlier in the archery season. Sgt. Bigger asked the subject if he had his license available to look at and the subject handed the folded up licenses over. Upon looking at the licenses, Sgt. Bigger noted that the subject was in possession of a deer license. When asked how he had tagged the eight point, the subject stated that after he shot it, he had a friend purchase a license. He wanted to continue to hunt as hunting is a passion of his. Charges are pending prosecutor review and authorization.

Sgt. Dan Bigger took a complaint from a subject who claimed his neighbors had shot his trailer. An investigation revealed that the shots were actually fired by the complainant into his own trailer while sighting in his firearm.

CO Andrew Monnich was responding to a complaint about safety zones when he observed a hunter in a stand with no hunter orange. Upon contact, the hunter stated he didn't know he needed any once he was in the stand. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds observed several vehicles parked in a State game area well after hunting hours had ended. Two subjects were observed coming out of the hunting area with flashlights. When contacted, one hunter had his gun unloaded. The other hunter said he usually hunts until dark and didn't want to unload his gun in the dark so as to not lose any shells. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds noticed a vehicle parked next to the road and checked the woods for the hunter. He noticed a hunter dressed in full camouflage. The officer walked along the field and made contact with the individual. Once the hunter noticed the officer, he pulled an orange hat out of his pocket and put it on. The hunter was a little upset that his hunt had been disturbed, asking "Why did you have to come out now during prime time?" CO Reynolds responded to the hunter that if he would have been wearing hunter orange, he would have waited until after the hunt. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds noticed two hunters come out of the woods in his rear view mirror. The officer turned around to check the hunters and watched them head back into the

woods. After trying to find the hunters with no luck, he called CO Monnich to assist. CO Monnich located the hunters who ran back into the woods after seeing him. The officers decided to park their patrol trucks and wait for the hunters in a small wood lot, since the hunters were always trying to go in one direction. After waiting for approximately 30 minutes, the hunters reappeared, and were confronted by CO Reynolds and CO Monnich. The hunters stated that they weren't hiding from the officers, just going a different way. The officers checked the area and found two deer, one of which didn't have a tag. A confession was given on the illegal deer, and enforcement action taken.

CO Chris Reynolds noticed a hunter walking behind a house into the field. When contact was made, the hunter said, "I have my licenses" and pulled out a 2014 hunting license. The officer explained to the hunter that these are last year's licenses. The hunter sighed and said, "I'll be honest with you. I don't have 2015 hunting licenses." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Reynolds responded to a complaint in which the officer recognized the name. CO Reynolds looked through his notes and realized that the complainant was a suspect on an illegal deer investigation. The officer set up an interview and interviewed the complainant on the deer he had shot earlier in the year. The subject told CO Reynolds the story of taking a nice buck and started showing the officer pictures of the deer on his phone. The officer then confronted the individual with his RSS history, showing that he had purchased his license two days after taking the deer. The subject gave a full confession on taking the deer without a license. A report will be submitted for the illegally taken deer.

CO Jason McCullough was traveling down the highway on his way to meet another officer when he observed a subject in a tree stand in full camo. CO McCullough stopped and made contact. The subject stated that a small four point had just walked by his stand. The hunter took his hunter orange off so the deer would not see him. CO McCullough stressed the importance of wearing hunter orange during the firearm deer season and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough contacted a subject that dropped two deer off at a local processor. CO McCullough noted the tag on the second deer was validated the day before the tag was purchased. The shooter stated he had shot the first deer and thought he missed, so he shot a second deer. After retrieving the second deer, the shooter realized he had killed the first deer as well, and just never bothered to check for blood. The shooter then went and bought a kill tag for the first deer that he killed. CO McCullough educated the shooter on making sure he checked for blood before shooting a second animal that he did not have a tag for. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Jackson responded to a complaint regarding recreational trespassing. He made contact with the complainants who were upset with a neighbor that had walked onto their property while they were hunting. CO Jackson patrolled to the subject's house, encountering the subject on the road on an ORV. Upon contact, CO Jackson discovered a loaded firearm in the back of the ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While checking waterfowl hunters on the Detroit River and Lake Erie, CO Dan Walzak, CO David Schaumburger and CO Raymond Gardner checked a vessel coming in from Lake Erie. The vessel was not displaying registration numbers or a registration decal, and the owner did not have the registration with him. CO Walzak explained that the vessel numbers served the same purpose as a license plate on a motor vehicle, and ownership of the boat was impossible without either the numbers or the paper registration. The owner was asked how long he owned the boat, and he stated that he had owned it for about a year. A check through dispatch revealed that the owner had registered the boat almost exactly a year ago, just never attached the numbers. Also, during a check of the hunters' equipment on the boat, CO Schaumburger turned up a shotgun that was loaded while the vessel was under way. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Walzak made contact with a deer hunter, at the end of his hunt, for a routine check. As CO Walzak approached, he noticed that his shotgun was leaning against the side of his small pickup, and the subject was getting in and out of his vehicle to secure his hunting gear. Upon contact, the officer asked the subject to immediately put the firearm away, and pointed out that leaning firearms against a vehicle is courting an accident. CO Walzak asked "It is unloaded, right?" The subject responded "Uh, no..." At this time, it was 28 minutes after the close of legal hunting hours. When CO Walzak asked why the shotgun was still loaded, the subject responded that he "just didn't think about it." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett worked a RAP complaint involving the possession of untagged deer. Investigation revealed one deer license purchased by the subject was in question. Upon interviewing the subject, it was explained that only one of the deer was his, and that he simply did not know how to properly tag the deer. This was in spite of directions in the Hunting and Trapping Guide, as well as printed instructions on the license itself. The second deer was supposedly shot by his son, except the son didn't have any hunting licenses at all. An elaborate mix-up was claimed, in which he thought the second deer was his sons, but was actually a road-kill without a permit or tag. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a reported high-powered rifle hunting complaint, CO Ennett checked a pair of hunters on an adjacent property. One hunter had everything proper. The other hunter, however, made a production of not finding any license other than an OTC for a different County. Upon checking his information through Station 20, it was quickly determined that he had just handed over a license belonging to another person. When asked, he admitted that his deer license had already been used, and he had borrowed one to continue hunting. The subject was cited for hunting without a valid hunting license. CO Ennett seized the borrowed tag, and is continuing the investigation.

CO David Schaumburger, with assistance from CO Dan Walzak and CO Raymond Gardner, obtained a confession from a subject who shot a four point deer before buying

his license. He stated that he shot the deer in the morning, and then on the way home, he bought the tag at a gas station. A warrant request will be sought.

CO David Schaumburger and CO Dan Walzak followed up on a lead from a taxidermy inspection where it appeared a subject bought a license after the deer was shot. After interviewing the suspect, he admitted to shooting an antlerless deer, and then buying an antlerless tag. CO Schaumburger stated to the subject that he could have tagged the antlerless deer with his combo tag, since it was during the archery season. The suspect replied, "I didn't want to use a buck tag that early in the season." Enforcement action was taken.

CO James Zellinger, CO Raymond Gardner and CO David Schaumburger were checking waterfowl hunters at Pointe Mouillee managed waterfowl area following multiple complaints of subjects shooting before hunting hours and carrying more than the 18 shot shell limit per person. One hunter was found to be in violation of the restricted 18 shot shell limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO James Zellinger and CO Mark Ennett continued to follow up on an illegal deer investigation from Petersburg State Game Area. The subject was located at his residence and through an interview with officers, confessed to failing to notify the Department of his intent to possess a roadkill deer. Enforcement action was taken.

In a joint District investigation, CO Raymond Gardner and CO Dave Schaumburger assisted CO Chad Baldwin (Charlevoix County) and CO Andrea Erratt (Charlevoix County) on two antler point restriction violations. CO Gardner and CO Schaumburger were able to interview two hunters and get them to admit that they took a spike buck and a four point buck. The venison from both animals was seized and donated. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Detroit River for waterfowl hunters, CO Raymond Gardner, CO David Schaumburger and CO Danny Walzak approached a boat occupied by three hunters. While checking licenses, firearms, and ammo, CO Schaumburger found that one hunter did not have a waterfowl license, and CO Gardner found seven rounds of lead shot in the ammo bag. Enforcement action was taken for both violations.

CO Raymond Gardner received a complaint from Station 20 about a deer being dumped in a trash can at a carwash. While at the carwash, CO Gardner met with the owner of the carwash, and was able to obtain surveillance footage of the possible suspect and suspect's vehicle. Upon further investigation, CO Gardner met with a subject matching the description from the surveillance footage and asked about the deer that was dumped. The individual stated that he did not dump any deer at the car wash, but did admit to dumping trash and collecting cans there. CO Gardner obtained consent to look in the suspect's refrigerators and freezers. CO Gardner did not find any deer parts in either refrigerator in the house, but did in the freezer of the subject's basement. The officer also located two grocery bags with marijuana inside them. CO Gardner is seeking enforcement action through the prosecutor's office.

While patrolling parts of Wayne County, CO Raymond Gardner, CO Danny Walzak, CO Dave Schaumburger and Sgt. Damon Owens conducted a deer processor inspection. Upon making contact with the owner, it was discovered that no records were available for review from previous customers. Officers explained to the owner the regulations for keeping records. CO Gardner will conduct a follow up inspection at a later date to ensure regulations are being followed or enforcement action will be taken.

CO Jason Becker responded to a RAP complaint in Highland Recreation Area of a hunter not wearing hunter orange. The complainant stated that the subject would carry an orange item to his hunting location and then cover it up with camouflage. CO Becker located the subject in a pop-up blind and could not see any orange. When the subject saw CO Becker approaching, he placed a small piece of orange cloth over his ball cap. CO Becker advised the subject that wearing the small piece of cloth intermittently was not sufficient. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers checked Consumers Energy property in Flint Township for deer hunting activity. During a previous patrol, CO Beavers was informed that an unidentified person was hunting from a homemade tree stand in the area. CO Beavers walked the property in question at the beginning of archery deer season and located a blind along with an extremely large bait pile, consisting of carrots, corn, and apples. CO Beavers returned to the location on multiple occasions, but no one ever came to hunt. On the morning of November 21<sup>st</sup>, CO Beavers returned and found the stand occupied. CO Beavers ordered the subject from the stand. The subject explained to CO Beavers that he has lived in the area and has been hunting in that spot for years. CO Beavers explained that he is trespassing and can no longer hunt from the location. CO Beavers then informed him that he has committed three other violations as well. The subject was not wearing hunter orange, did not have his hunting license in possession, and was hunting over bait that exceeds two gallons. Enforcement action was taken.

During a patrol in Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers investigated a shots fired and over-bait complaint in Flint Township. CO Beavers went to the reported location and searched the area. While there, CO Beavers located the bait, and it did exceed the two gallon maximum. The bait consisted of corn, carrots, and sugar beets and looked to be approximately 15 to 20 gallons. CO Beavers was unable to find evidence that a deer was shot during his search of the area. CO Beavers made contact with the suspect and enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser and CO Jeremy Beavers interviewed a woman who was suspected of taking a deer without a license. The woman had purchased her license at 5:00 p.m. on opening day. When the officers interviewed the woman, she said that she had shot the deer at 11:07 a.m. on opening day in Alcona County. The woman produced pictures that also showed that the deer was taken at approximately 11:00 a.m. on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser was on the way home at the end of his shift when a large fire caught his eye off of Ray Road in Genesee County. Initially the officer thought that a house or a barn was on fire. CO Muehlhauser turned around to investigate. When the CO arrived, there was a bon fire stacked about 7-8 feet high and about 15 feet in diameter. The fire consisted of lumber, cabinets, boxes, etc. CO Muehlhauser told the man that he couldn't burn this type of material and that he had to put the fire out. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol of Holly State Game Area, CO Christopher Knights came across a father and son who were just walking into the woods. CO Knights caught up with them and asked to see their licenses. The father stated he didn't know his 15 year old son needed a license to hunt. CO Knights advised that he did. After further investigation, CO Knights found that the father had not purchased a hunting license since 2013. The father was educated on youth hunters, as well as the hunting laws. Law enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Lake Orion, CO Christopher Knights was passing a major intersection when he noticed a snowmobile riding along the side of the main road. CO Knights followed the sled for approximately a mile until he crossed the road into a subdivision. CO Knights continued to follow the sled throughout the subdivision until it went into the woods. CO Knights stopped and was about to turn around and cancel the track until the lights of the sled turned around in the woods. CO Knights repositioned his truck and turned off his head lights. The sled came back out of the woods and CO Knights initiated his emergency lights. The sled came to a stop and CO Knights made contact. The suspect stated he wanted to get his sled up and running, and was enjoying the fresh snow. CO Knights advised him of the laws. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin and CO Chris Knights received a complaint that two subjects shot and killed a deer within the Highland Recreation Nature Preserve. CO Griffin and CO Knights immediately responded to find three subjects loading up an eight point buck on top of their vehicle. CO Griffin took possession of the suspect's firearms and identification. The officers questioned the suspects about the taking of the deer. The three suspects admitted to taking the deer within the nature preserve. The suspects stated that the map they looked at showed the area to be open for hunting. With no map in the suspect's possession, CO Knights gave one suspect a map of Highland Recreation Area showing that the nature preserve area is, in fact, closed to all hunting. The officers educated the subjects on the current hunting regulations and the importance of knowing where one can and cannot hunt, and the violations involved with the illegal taking of a deer. CO Griffin seized the deer and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on foot patrol investigating a deer baiting complaint when he spotted one subject on the back side of the property walking with a firearm. As CO Griffin walked passed the subject's vehicle, he noticed an uncased firearm in the back seat. CO Griffin confronted the subject and asked to see his hunting license. The subject stated that his license was in the truck. CO Griffin explained to the subject the

issues with the uncased firearm in the truck. CO Griffin checked the Retail Sales System to verify if the subject purchased a license. CO Griffin was able to verify that the subject did not have a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin spotted a subject walking with a firearm who was not wearing any hunter orange. As CO Griffin walked towards the subject, he attempted to hide his firearm under a log beneath some brush. When CO Griffin asked the subject if he had seen anything today, he stated that he was not hunting. The subject then stated he was just walking around. After further questioning, the subject admitted he was hunting and that he did not have a hunting license. CO Griffin educated the subject on the importance of wearing hunter orange, the issues with not having a hunting license, and the issues with not being entirely honest with a law enforcement officer. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol in Macomb County, Sgt. Todd Szyska received an anonymous complaint that a hunter was dressed in full camouflage and had just shot a buck that dropped in a field in Chesterfield Township. Sgt. Szyska responded, found the residence, and made contact with the homeowner. The homeowner stated the hunter was not there presently and must have left. The homeowner did contact the hunter to have the hunter return to the property. Sgt. Szyska interviewed the hunter and determined that the hunter was not wearing hunter orange when he had shot the deer. The hunter stated he thought it was a doe and could not find it. The hunter walked Sgt. Szyska to the point that he had shot the deer, and stated he looked for blood and could not find any, so he left early. Sgt. Szyska walked the hunter around a weed line into the open farmer's field where the deceased six point buck was lying. When Sgt. Szyska asked the hunter for his tags, the hunter only had a restricted tag left (four points or better on one side). The buck was harvested illegally without a proper license, and was left due to not having the proper license. A multiple count warrant will be submitted to the Macomb County Prosecutor.

CO Kris Kiel teamed up with the Consumer's Energy land manager on the second day of the firearm deer season to patrol Consumer's Energy property in Macomb County. The team patrolled a section of land on an ORV and on foot. They came across a male subject in a deer blind hunting for deer. The subject admitted to shooting an eight point buck on the opener from the same blind. Enforcement action was taken. On the same patrol, the team found a gut pile, a drag trail, and other evidence that another buck was taken in a different area of the property. The investigation continues.

CO Kris Kiel was patrolling Richmond Township for deer hunters. As the officer crossed a set of railroad tracks at dusk, he noticed a subject walking in his direction along the tracks. The subject looked to be carrying a firearm and was not wearing hunter orange. CO Kiel hid his patrol truck down the road until the subject emerged in the back yard of a residence along the tracks. Along with railroad trespass and failing to wear hunter orange, the subject had no permission to hunt the farm fields where he admitted coming from, and failed to purchase a deer hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

On the opening morning of the firearm deer season, CO Kris Kiel walked in on a deer blind located on ITC property. The officer discovered a nice eight point buck dragged to the area of the blind, without a tag. Three hunters were contacted in the blind, including the subject who shot the buck. Along with trespassing on ITC property, the trio was hunting over too much bait and one of the hunters did not have a deer license. CO Kiel said he would meet them at the house. The trio drove up in an ORV with the deer and uncased firearms. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel and CO Brad Silorey were flagged down by an excited motorist in Lenox Township. The motorist stated that guys without hunter orange jumped out of their vehicles on the side of a very busy road and were shooting into private property. The officers arrived soon after. CO Silorey located one subject hiding in some brush while CO Kiel chased after two others back in the property. The subject that CO Silorey located had just shot, in the closed season, a rooster pheasant and a deer. CO Kiel located one other subject hunting without hunter orange who had not purchased a deer license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey and CO Kris Kiel were dispatched to a complaint in reference to a safety zone violation and over-bait complaint. Upon arrival to the suspect's home, CO Silorey and CO Kiel were able to interview the suspect and obtain a confession regarding hunting in the safety zone of their neighbor's home. The issue of over-baiting was also addressed with the suspect. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking waterfowl hunters in Macomb County, CO Brad Silorey observed a group of four hunters in the bay hunting from a boat. As the hunters were underway following a wounded duck, they were driving the vessel and shooting at the duck at the same time. After hunting hours ended, CO Silorey made contact with the subjects, and enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol for opening day of deer firearm season, CO Brad Silorey and Sgt. Todd Szyska received a RAP complaint regarding an early shooter. After contacting the complainant for additional information the officers were able to make contact with the suspect. The suspect was interviewed and admitted that he did, in fact, shoot prior to opening hours. The suspect had taken a deer, and walked CO Silorey and Sgt. Szyska out to the site. CO Silorey and Sgt. Szyska examined the tag on the deer and noted that the suspect had failed to immediately validate the tag. The violations were addressed with the suspect. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey and CO Kris Kiel were on patrol for opening day of deer firearm season when they observed a subject coming out of the woods without hunter orange. CO Silorey made contact with the subject who stated that he jumped out of his truck after seeing a deer and shot at it. CO Kiel and CO Silorey also observed several other violations within the hunting party. All violations were addressed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher stopped an ORV on the roadway in St. Clair County. The operator was riding with his dad, who was operating a road bike. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach was requested to assist the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department on a subject that was believed to be trespassing and shot a buck. Once on scene, CO Kovach was able to interview all parties involved, and was able to determine the deer had been involved in a car/deer accident. The owner had brought it home to gut it. The subject thought it would attract too many wild animals to his back yard if he were to gut it there, so he trespassed onto his neighbor's property to gut it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach was patrolling northern St. Clair County when he saw several subjects wearing hunter orange, looking into the back of a pickup truck. CO Kovach made contact to check the subjects' hunting licenses and to see if the subjects had a successful hunt. Once to the truck, CO Kovach observed an untagged doe and several hunters frantically looking for a tag to place on the deer. One subject came running across the yard holding up a partially notched tag saying, "Here is the tag, Officer." The tag was inspected and the hunter was asked the story behind his successful hunt. The subject happily told the story to CO Kovach, thinking he had no violation since he was able to produce a tag. CO Kovach broke the news to the subject that he did not have a valid antlerless tag for the deer. Enforcement was taken.

CO Ken Kovach was dispatched to a group of hunters who appeared to be shooting at each other in the middle of a field. Upon arrival, CO Kovach observed a group of hunters walking towards their vehicles. Once they saw the approaching officer, they decided to separate. Two subjects began walking quickly away from the officer. CO Kovach was able to make his way to the subjects as they were frantically searching for a tag. The subjects had already shot and field dressed a deer and dragged it several hundred yards to the edge of a woodlot before stopping to go and buy a tag. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach was contacted by an off-duty police officer who was out hunting in reference to a pair of hunters who were trespassing to track a large buck. When the off-duty police officer made contact with the trespassers, they appeared nervous, were not wearing hunter orange, and were carrying rifles. To the surprise of the trespasser, CO Kovach was waiting for the subjects as they dragged the trophy buck out of the woods. Enforcement action was taken.

On opening day of deer season, CO Ken Kovach was dispatched to a subject who was hunting within a safety zone. Upon arrival, CO Kovach observed a popup blind on the edge of the complainant's tool shed. Contact was made with the hunter who said he was hunting close to the shed to be in the shadows to try and keep cool as the temperatures were in the high 60's. CO Kovach explained the safety zone law and discussed the lack of a loop hole for warm temperatures. Enforcement action was taken.

While CO Al Schwiderson was in route to a deer carcass complaint in the Lapeer State Game Area, he observed some duck hunters along Five Lakes Road. CO Schwiderson checked all of the hunters and found that one of them was hunting without a waterfowl license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Zultak responded to a shooting-after-hours complaint in Lapeer County. CO Zultak located the suspect, along with an untagged whitetail buck. The suspect admitted to shooting the deer twenty minutes after legal shooting hours closed. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Lapeer State Game Area, CO Matt Zultak came across a car parked alongside the road. Upon investigation of the vehicle, unsealed alcohol bottles could be seen inside. The vehicle also had a strong smell of marijuana. CO Zultak waited until the vehicle's suspected driver exited the woods. CO Zultak contacted the subject, who identified the location of the marijuana. Marijuana was seized and a report will be submitted to the Lapeer County Prosecutor's office.

CO Matt Zultak received a complaint of over baiting on private land. Upon investigation CO Zultak located three piles of bait in very close proximity to each other, all over two gallons. One bait pile was a pickup truck bed sized pile of sugar beets. Contact was made with property owner who identified the individual responsible for the bait. Contact was made with the suspect, who confessed to over baiting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Zultak responded to a trespassing complaint. Contact was made with the suspected trespasser. After further investigation it was determined that the suspect was not trespassing, but was in violation of the hunter orange law, and was hunting within the safety zone of a residence. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating tree stands on private property, CO Matt Zultak and Sgt. Todd Szyska heard a shot within very close proximity. The hunter and the shot deer were located. The hunter was hunting over an illegal amount of bait. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Zultak assisted CO Ken Kovach on a suspected illegal deer. The officers arrived at the location and identified the suspect and witnesses. Between the confession of the suspect and statements of the witnesses, it was determined that the ten point deer hanging in the pole barn had been illegally taken. The deer was confiscated and enforcement action was taken.

## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Todd Thorn checked a fisherman who had five warrants and was lodged.