

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
12/17/2017 - 12/30/2017**

DISTRICT 1

Conservation Officer (CO) Ethen Mapes conducted a public service announcement with a local radio station in Ontonagon County following a string of snowmobiles going through the ice. Luckily no serious injuries were reported. CO Mapes reminded listeners venturing out on the ice that they need to check ice conditions before recreating on it.

CO Ethen Mapes assisted in a Be On the Lookout (BOL) for two overdue travelers trying to reach the Porcupine Mountains State Park. The travelers tried driving into the park along a seasonal road and became stuck. The park visitors were located and no injuries reported.

CO Brian Lasanen was traveling down M-45 when he located one snowmobile towing another but stopped in the middle of the highway. CO Lasanen stopped and assisted with removing the snowmobile from the travel lane of the roadway. While assisting the driver, CO Lasanen noted the driver was talking with slurred speech and had the odor of intoxicants emitting from his person. At one point the driver tried to grab the front ski of the snowmobile to pull the snowmobile closer to the side of the highway, losing his balance and going head first into the snow bank. CO Lasanen arrested the driver for operating a snowmobile with a blood alcohol content twice the legal limit.

CO David Miller received a complaint of a social media post with a photo of an individual cutting a lock on a gate with the caption "Can't keep us out". CO Miller was able to collect enough information from the post to determine the location of the gate and identify who made the post. Contact was made, and CO Miller was able to identify the suspect who cut the lock. CO Miller interviewed the suspect, obtaining a full confession. Law enforcement action was taken and the suspect is also replacing the lock for the gate owner.

CO Ethen Mapes stopped a snowmobile in Bergland after the operator ran a stop sign, drove through private property then rode down the rail road tracks. The operator was cited for careless operation of a snowmobile.

CO Ethen Mapes saw a subject resetting a tip-up. Upon contact, CO Mapes discovered what appeared to be a short pike on the ice next to the hole. When CO Mapes asked the subject if he had measured the fish, the subject stated he did not and didn't think there was a size limit on pike for Lake Gogebic. CO Mapes educated the angler and allowed the new angler to release the fish.

CO Shannon Kritz is following up on two separate fatal snowmobile accidents in Gogebic County. The first accident claimed the life of a 51-year-old Wisconsin woman after she lost control of her snowmobile and rolled into a ditch. She was subsequently struck by another member of her group. The accident occurred along the unplowed right away of a highway. The second accident claimed the life of a 52-year-old Wisconsin man when the snowmobile he was operating was struck by a pickup truck as he attempted to cross US-2. It appears that weather and visibility were significant factors in the accident.

CO Mark Leadman and PCO Jessica Curtis investigated a complaint of a subject shooting a deer during the opening day of archery deer season without a license. The complainant stated

the juvenile subject shot a 7-point buck and used her mother's kill tag on the deer. An RSS check of the juvenile subject showed she had not purchased any deer licenses for the 2017 season. RSS showed her mother purchased a single deer license in the evening of the opening day. Both subjects were located at their residence and after a very short interview, both parties admitted to the deer being shot without a license. The mother admitted that she stopped at a nearby store and purchased a single deer license that was placed on the buck. Enforcement action was taken, and the deer head/antlers were seized.

CO Jeremy Sergey received a complaint of an injured eagle that looked very sickly and wasn't walking or flying. When the complainant showed CO Sergey where the eagle was located, the eagle flew away and it looked very healthy. CO Sergey explained to the complainant that sometimes an eagle won't fly for several hours if it eats a large meal.

COs Jeremy Sergey and Jeff Dell were checking ice fishermen on Shakey Lakes. CO Sergey observed an individual pulling a pike out of the water from a distance. Later, CO Dell asked the individual if he has had any luck. The individual said he had just put his lines in. CO Sergey asked, "What about the pike I saw you take out of the water?" The fisherman produced the pike at which point the officers seized it and issued a citation for keeping an undersized 21" pike.

CO Jeffrey Dell located a suspicious deer head in a local taxidermy. A follow-up interview with a witness indicated that the deer had been taken before the license was purchased by a suspect. Enforcement action taken.

DISTRICT 2

CO Mark Zitnik responded to a complaint of livestock depredation. CO Zitnik met with the farmer who showed him the two sheep that had been killed. After investigating the site where the animals had been killed, it was determined to be coyotes that had taken the two sheep. A report was sent to the local biologist for follow-up.

CO Chris Lynch was doing follow-ups from meat processor inspections when he noticed a suspicious license purchase. Follow-up revealed he shot an eight-point buck then bought his license after the fact. COs Lynch and Watson interviewed the hunter and received a confession on the violation. The hunter was issued a citation for the violation.

CO Chris Lynch received a complaint of a hunter from Wisconsin that shot a doe without a license in Delta County. CO Lynch received pictures and copies of the hunter's email from the complainant on the violation and turned the information over to the Wisconsin game wardens for a follow-up investigation. The Wisconsin wardens contacted the hunter and received a full confession on the violation. A report will be turned into the Delta County Prosecutor's Office with a warrant request on the subject for taking an illegal deer.

Ice formed on Munising Bay just after Christmas. Only a few days later, a few portable shacks started to appear. Sgt. Jerry Fitzgibbon was watching fishermen near the L-dock trying to decide if the 1 ½" of ice was really enough to go out on when he observed two individuals walking toward the ice. The lead individual walked quickly, pulling his sled. The second individual walked carefully using an ice spud to check the ice. Only 100' from shore the spud went through the ice with only a light tap. The individual froze in his tracks and the two "would-be fishermen" debated for 10-15 minutes which direction to go before turning around and coming back to their trucks. First ice is always good fishing, but caution should always be taken when venturing out on the ice.

DISTRICT 3

While checking coyote hunters in northern Emmet County, CO Budreau observed two snowmobilers travel through a busy roadway intersection at a high speed without slowing down. CO Budreau caught up with them several miles later. Enforcement action was taken.

In late December, CO Andrea Albert and Probationary CO (PCO) Stephen Butzin followed up on a deer taken during firearm deer season that had a suspicious tag on it at a local deer processor from an inspection by CO Albert back in November. CO Albert and PCO Butzin contacted the subject whose tag was on the 8-point deer at the processor. The tag owner said he had not been deer hunting at all this year and he admitted that another subject had shot the deer and gave it to him. He then purchased a tag to take the deer to the processor. A follow up with the shooter of the deer confirmed his story. Both subjects were cited for lending and borrowing a deer tag.

In late December, CO Andrea Albert and PCO Stephen Butzin contacted an archery deer hunter who had taken an 8-point deer in early November. After a short interview, officers found that the hunter was bow hunting without a deer license and had taken the 8-point buck during archery season without a license. Five days later he purchased a license to take the deer to get it processed. Enforcement action was taken for taking a deer without a license, hunting deer with no license, and fail to immediately tag a deer.

During the late antlerless season, CO Andrea Albert received a Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint of subjects shooting near a residence and possibly trespassing the day before. CO Albert checked the area and found evidence of two deer being shot the day before at a hunting blind on a nearby property. Tracks in the snow showed one deer was retrieved by the hunters. A blood trail from a second deer being shot at the same location went past the complainant's residence and continued a long distance through the woods. While following up at the suspect's hunting property, CO Albert contacted a hunter carrying a shotgun dressed in camouflage. He stated that at first he was small game hunting, not deer hunting, until CO Albert unloaded three slugs from his shotgun. He did not have a valid antlerless permit for Antrim County. During this time a second subject pulled up in a truck and he was found to have a loaded and uncased rifle in his vehicle. Then a third subject walked up carrying a rifle and admitted to shooting two does the day before. He had not purchased any antlerless licenses for the season. He had shot and retrieved one doe and never tagged it and admitted to shooting the second doe and tracking it, but never finding it. The deer taken without a license was seized and enforcement action was taken with all three subjects for taking deer without a license, hunting deer with no license, no hunter orange, and a loaded uncased firearm in a motor vehicle.

CO Andrea Erratt received a call from a hunter hunting with a special deer management assistance permit who had shot at a deer that he thought was a doe. The deer ran onto the neighbor's property and died; when he was retrieving the deer he discovered it was a 5-point buck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt participated in an Eagle board review where a Boy Scout earned his rank as an Eagle Scout.

DISTRICT 4

CO Steve Converse and PCO James Garrett were working together when they came across a vehicle moving very slowly through Tippy Dam State Campground at the end of shooting hours. Upon making contact with the subjects in the vehicle, the COs immediately smelled marijuana and observed that both occupants were wearing hunting clothes. When the COs asked where their firearms were, the occupants initially denied having any weapons, but eventually admitted that they had loaded handguns stuffed in the seats between them. Both hunters were removed from the vehicle and taken into custody for the felony CCW violations and were found to be in possession of marijuana. A check revealed that one of the subjects had a prior CCW violation, as well as prior drug convictions. Both were lodged in the Manistee County jail.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he observed a vehicle in front of him with an expired registration. CO Killingbeck ran the plate through LEIN and confirmed that it had been expired for several months. CO Killingbeck stopped the vehicle and asked the driver if they were aware that their license plate was expired. The driver told CO Killingbeck that she was aware, but did not have money for the plates. CO Killingbeck asked the driver if there was insurance on the vehicle. The driver told CO Killingbeck that she could not afford insurance either. CO Killingbeck asked the driver where she was headed and the driver said that she was coming from a nearby gas station because she needed cigarettes. CO Killingbeck advised the driver that it was illegal to operate the vehicle and told her she would need to find a legal way to get to the store. The driver then stated, "We don't know many people here and I need my cigarettes, so I have to go when I'm out!" Citations were issued for no insurance and for displaying an expired registration.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and a Lake County Sheriff Deputy were on snowmobile patrol when they observed a group of snowmobiles operating without trail permits and one snowmobile was displaying an expired registration. Contact was made with the snowmobiles and the riders told CO Killingbeck that it was too cold to stick on the trail permits. CO Killingbeck pointed out that he had put his on that morning and it was sticking just fine. CO Killingbeck then asked why one of the snowmobiles had an expired registration. The rider said that he went to Secretary of State and where he found it closed, stating he could not understand why they would be closed on a holiday weekend. The riders said that they were from out of state and were bringing "thousands of dollars" to the economy and told the CO that they should be left alone. CO Killingbeck told the subjects that he had a hard time believing that between September when the snowmobile expired and now that they couldn't have found the time to get it legal to operate. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and a Lake County Sheriff Deputy were on snowmobile patrol when they observed a snowmobile operating in the center of the roadway with no working tail light or brake lights. Contact was made with the operator who said he'd just gotten it going and was excited for the first ride of the year, thus the reason for operating in the middle of the roadway. The rider did not know what was wrong with his lights and was told by CO Killingbeck to take the snowmobile back home and get it fixed before riding as it was a safety issue. The rider said he would get it fixed and no citations were issued. Approximately 25 minutes later, in the northern half of Lake County, CO Killingbeck observed the same snowmobile drive past him with no working tail light again. CO Killingbeck stopped the rider and asked why the tail light was not fixed. The rider said that he was just following his friends and did not know where he was, but thought he was headed back towards his truck. CO Killingbeck was not believing this story and the rider finally stated that after CO Killingbeck gave him three warnings, he decided to disregard CO Killingbeck's order and just keep riding. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Micah Hintze noticed a deer hanging in a tree next to a residence. While pulling in the driveway, the COs also noticed a corn feeder in the side yard of the residence with a screen removed from the window that was facing the corn feeder. CO Publiski went and checked the tag on the deer while PCO Hintze went to the house to make contact with the owner. The owner of the house followed PCO Hintze to where CO Publiski and the deer were. CO Publiski asked the subject if he had harvested the deer, the subject stated he did, and he had shot the deer down the road on public land. Skeptical of his story already, CO Publiski backed tracked the faint snow covered drag marks in the snow and located a gut pile about 15 yards from the corn feeder. Looking at the deer hanging in the tree, CO Publiski believed it to have been shot in the spine, so CO Publiski walked over to the feeder and began removing the layer of snow from last night and located a large blood stain. CO Publiski asked the subject why he lied about where he harvested the deer and the subject stated he wasn't sure he could shoot out of his house. Wondering what else he was lying about, CO Publiski asked the subject if he had shot any more deer and the subject stated no. CO Publiski then asked for the subject's identification to verify the tag on the deer was actually his tag. The subject had the COs follow him into the house to get his identification, where CO Publiski noticed a pair of deer legs in the sink. When CO Publiski asked the subject about the deer legs, he stated he shot a doe a couple days earlier. CO Publiski asked for the tag for that deer and the subject stated he didn't tag it. CO Publiski asked the subject where the rest of the body was for the deer in the sink and the subject stated he threw it out along the side of the road a couple miles away. Not believing any of his stories anymore, CO Publiski asked to see the inside of the barn next to the house. The subject stated "Okay, but you're not going to be happy." Inside the barn was the head of a 3-point buck that belonged to the legs in the sink. The subject was charged with taking and illegal deer.

CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Micah Hintze followed up on a complaint from deer season that CO Publiski and CO Brian Brosky had been working on involving a hunter that shot a deer without a license. The COs eventually discovered a picture with the hunter

holding an 8-point buck that was clearly shot without a license. CO Publiski and PCO Hintze met with the hunter, and after a short interview, he confessed to shooting the deer without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

While working snowmobiles in Lake County, CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Micah Hintze noticed a snowmobile with an expired registration. PCO Hintze stopped the group to address the expired registration. While CO Publiski was talking to the owner of the sled, he noticed that the trail permit sticker had clear box tape over it. CO Publiski took a closer look at the sticker and noticed the right-side line on the sticker was not cut straight. CO Publiski peeled the sticker off the front of the snowmobile and found a very good copy of a fake Michigan Snowmobile Trail Permit. CO Publiski asked the owner of the sled why he was making fake trail permits and he stated he didn't ride that sled very often. After peeling off the 2018 fake permit, CO Publiski discovered more fake trail permits from past years. Enforcement action was taken.

Checking snowmobiles in Lake County, CO Kyle Publiski and PCO Micah Hintze stopped a group of snowmobiles for failing to display their trail permits. Upon making contact with them, it was determined that several of the subjects were in possession of marijuana and one of the subjects had two warrants for his arrest and was suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a complaint of a rifle shot fired well after dark during the antlerless only season in Mecosta County. An interview of the suspect revealed that the deer was shot 45 minutes after legal shooting hours and was a small spike horn buck. The subject did not possess a license and had used his brother's license to tag the deer. The several violations were addressed and the illegally taken deer was seized.

CO Jeff Ginn and CO Mike Wells responded to a complaint that a subject had chased a deer down with an ORV and shot it with a rifle. Follow-up interviews revealed the suspect did indeed shoot an antlerless deer during the antlerless only season, however the subject did not possess a license to do so. The violations were addressed and the illegally taken deer was seized.

CO Michael Bomay received a tip that a subject had shot a large 8-point buck without a license in Mecosta County. An interview resulted in the suspect confessing to shooting the buck without a license and purchasing it later so he could take it to a taxidermist to be mounted. The buck was located at the taxidermist and seized. Enforcement action was taken for illegally taking the buck without a license.

DISTRICT 5

CO Kyle Bader interviewed a hunter on a tip provided by a Report All Poaching (RAP) dispatcher. The hunter told CO Bader about the nice 8-point buck he shot opening morning behind his house in Ogemaw County. The DNR Retail Sales System (RSS) showed the hunter had not purchased a deer license in 2017. During the interview, the hunter admitted to not tagging the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

While on his way to a complaint in Ogemaw County, CO Kyle Bader stopped an ORV that was operating along a roadway against the flow of traffic. Aside from that violation, the operator was also carrying a passenger illegally, operating an unregistered ORV, operating after dark without lights, and driving on a suspended operator's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader responded to a complaint in Iosco County where a man was working in his yard during muzzleloader season and heard the crack of a rifle shot. The complainant contacted the hunter on the adjacent property and observed the hunter sitting in a deer blind in possession of a rifle. During the interview of the hunter, he told CO Bader that he was just sitting in the woods to watch squirrels, and he brought the .30-06 with him for protection. When asked about the shot he fired, he said he shot at "A tree or leaf or something." In continuing his investigation, CO Bader located fresh deer blood and hair on a large bait pile near the blind. Charges are being sought through the Iosco County Prosecutor's Office for taking a deer with a rifle during the muzzleloader deer season.

CO Casey Pullum was on patrol in Oscoda County when he observed a snowmobile with a colored headlight lens cover operating on a snowmobile trail. CO Pullum initiated a traffic stop and discovered the driver was operating with a suspended driver's license. The subject was arrested and lodged in the Oscoda County Jail for the violation.

CO Steve Lockwood was patrolling rural Gladwin County when he noticed a vehicle operating on private property after dark. Having received numerous trespassing complaints from the property owner in the past, CO Lockwood proceeded to investigate the vehicle. Right away, CO Lockwood noticed the vehicle had been operated around a closed gate to get onto the farmer's field. Upon contact with the parked vehicle, it was discovered that there were four occupants in the vehicle, three of which were in the back seat. The fourth occupant was in the front passenger seat. None of the occupants admitted to operating the vehicle. Further investigation revealed open intoxicants in the vehicle. In the end, the owner of the vehicle was arrested and transported to the Gladwin County Jail for trespassing and open intoxicants in a motor vehicle. A second occupant was also cited for open intoxicants in a motor vehicle.

CO Mark Papineau received a tip on a subject who had been bragging about shooting a 9-point buck in Bay County during the firearm deer season. CO Papineau was also advised that the subject did not purchase a license until after the buck had been shot and that it went untagged in his garage for over a day. During an interview, CO Papineau was able to obtain a confession on the illegal taking of the 9-point buck along with other tagging violations. The subject also directed CO Papineau to an unlicensed taxidermist in Macomb County where the buck was being mounted. With assistance from CO Kris Kiel, the antlers were seized and action was taken against the unlicensed taxidermist. Warrants are being sought regarding the numerous other violations.

CO Mark Papineau completed an investigation regarding a subject continuously burning illegal materials. In 2016, CO Mark Papineau and the Secord Township Fire Chief investigated numerous complaints regarding the subject burning tires, chairs, and

construction materials. Enforcement action was taken as a result of that investigation and a warning was issued to cease the illegal burning. In August of 2017, CO Mark Papineau again observed a large bonfire in the backyard of the residence. During follow up, it was discovered that under the cover of darkness, the subject was continuing to burn illegal materials. Discovered in the fire pit were numerous tires, couches, microwaves, televisions, and more construction materials. The subject has continually avoided CO Papineau's numerous attempts for an interview. Warrants are being sought through the Gladwin County Prosecutor's Office for numerous environmental violations.

DISTRICT 6

CO John Byars was on patrol and observed headlights coming down the road spread too far apart to be a vehicle. CO Byars noticed they were two snowmobiles riding side by side and conducted a traffic stop. During the stop, CO Byars observed both snowmobiles had expired registrations and no trail permit. Warnings for not riding in single file and expired registrations were issued along with citations for no trail permits.

CO John Byars observed a vehicle coming out of a boat launch in the Maple River State Game Area. CO Byars made contact and noticed fishing gear in the rear of the vehicle. The occupants of the vehicle stated they were looking for minnows. CO Byars asked the operator of the vehicle for his driver's and fishing licenses. The operator could not produce either. The passenger could not produce a fishing license either. Further investigation determined that both men were fishing, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Lowell and Probationary CO (PCO) Zach Painter were checking ice fishermen on Half Moon Lake in Montcalm County. The COs observed an ice shanty with fresh tracks around it but nobody inside of it. They could see three poles in the shanty with lines in the water. They followed the tracks to a residence on the lake and made contact with a subject who admitted to fishing but hadn't been out for an hour and a half. A citation was issued for unattended lines.

CO Seth Rhodea stopped to check several deer hanging at a campsite in the Minden City State Game Area. Upon checking the tag on one of the deer, he observed the tag had only been bought a couple hours prior to his arrival. Upon questioning the hunter, a confession was obtained for shooting the deer without a license and then purchasing the license after the fact. Enforcement action was taken and the deer was seized.

CO Mark Siemen received information about a female subject who had shot an 8-point buck during the firearm deer season without a deer tag. CO Siemen contacted the subject who stated she went hunting with her boyfriend who told her to shoot the deer. The female subject stated after she shot the deer her boyfriend gave her his tag and they tagged the deer with it. After tagging the deer, they went to the store and bought her a tag for her boyfriend to use. CO Siemen interviewed the boyfriend and he provided the same story. Enforcement action was taken and all evidence was seized.

CO Mark Siemen, while on patrol in Sanilac County, saw a vehicle ahead of him stop on the road. CO Siemen saw an elderly man throw multiple bags of garbage on a large burn pile next to the road. CO Siemen followed the vehicle to a residence and made contact with him. The man stated he has been burning his garbage there for a lot of years. CO Siemen advised that he can no longer burn his garbage, tractor filters, or any other items in the county ditch and that all the garbage needed to be picked-up and disposed of properly. The next day CO Siemen drove by the dump site and found it was still burning. Contact was again made at the residence with the son of the elderly man. He stated that he burned the garbage and was going to clean it all up and not burn garbage there anymore. CO Siemen advised him that it would be checked and if not cleaned-up he would be cited.

CO Mark Siemen received information about a subject in Sanilac County who had shot three bucks during the 2015 deer season. CO Siemen responded to the subject's residence and spoke with the subject. He stated he shot an 8-point buck and the bullet passed through the buck and hit a second 8-point buck. After killing both deer, he stated he used his friend's tag on the second deer. He then stated he shot an 11-point later in the season and tagged it with his last tag. The 11-point deer was mounted and hanging in his dining room. He stated it was the biggest deer he had ever shot. CO Siemen advised him the deer was taken illegally, along with the 8-point. Later during the investigation, the subject changed his story and stated he only wounded the other 8-point and his friend finished it off and tagged it. CO Siemen contacted the friend who advised he was not getting into trouble for his buddy and that he did not kill any deer, but did give his friend the tag to use. He stated his friend killed all three deer. Enforcement action is pending.

CO Mark Siemen received information about a female hunter who had shot a 5-point buck during the firearm deer season without a tag. CO Siemen was able to locate the subject in Allen Park. The female subject stated she shot the deer and then they went to the store and bought a tag for the deer. She stated she did not think she had done anything wrong, because she had never hunted before and never had hunter safety. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was patrolling in Northern Bay County when he noticed three deer hanging in a garage. No one was home at the time, so he waited for the homeowner to return and was shown the deer. During the investigation it was revealed that the subject shot the deer in Bay County and tagged it with a license from a different deer management unit (DMU). Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jill Miller received a complaint from the Report All Poaching hotline (RAP) about a gut pile and trash with a name and address on a cardboard box. After some interviews, CO Miller was able to track down the subject who dumped the items. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Haas received a complaint late in the evening that snowmobiles were driving through private property and had destroyed some vegetation. CO Haas made his way

to the location and caught up with the subjects matching the complainant's description. CO Haas followed the sleds for several miles and witnessed several violations. Both sleds were operating in the middle and wrong side of the roadway, crossing roads without coming to a stop, and operating carelessly. CO Haas initiated a stop and contacted the operators. It was then discovered that both sleds had expired registrations from 2011, expired trail permits from 2004, one of the operators had a suspended operator's license, and neither operator had transferred the titles. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Robinson was contacted by a subject who had items stolen from his hunting property. The complainant also said that several neighbors in the area had items stolen from their properties as well. CO Robinson made follow up contact with the complainants and was provided a trail cam picture of the front of a vehicle that could be a possible suspect. After viewing the photo, CO Robinson realized the truck in the photo was also a truck belonging to a possible shining and shooting suspect in the area who CO Robinson had identified, but was unable to catch in the act. CO Robinson contacted Isabella County deputies who took the original report and together they went to the subject's residence. While in-route, the deputy spotted the suspect vehicle and made a traffic stop. The subject was in possession of marijuana in his vehicle. After taking the subject into custody, an interview was conducted and the COs searched the property with consent. Almost all the items stolen from area hunting camps were recovered and returned to the victims, and the subject admitted to additional unreported break-ins. The case is still open with charges pending.

CO Dan Robinson responded to a trespassing complaint in Midland County. After arriving, CO Robinson waited for the suspect to return to his truck. The suspect emerged from the woods with a cased bow, appropriate clothing, and his licenses were in order. The subject also said that he had permission from the landowners. CO Robinson followed up with the landowners and, as it turned out, the neighbors reported the incident based on the fact that they didn't recognize the vehicle parked in the yard. No violations were found, and CO Robinson wished the hunter a successful season.

DISTRICT 7

COs Justin Ulberg, Richard Cardenas, and James Zellinger conducted a snowmobile patrol in Barry and Allegan counties. A couple dozen contacts were made during the patrol. One subject was cited for operating carelessly on the snowmobile trails. Multiple subjects were found to not have valid trail permits and a few subjects were found to have unregistered snowmobiles. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Richard Cardenas and James Zellinger conducted a snowmobile patrol with a Barry County sheriff's deputy. A few dozen contacts were made during the patrol and one new snowmobile owner was found to be displaying an expired trail permit resulting in a warning being issued.

DISTRICT 8

CO Mike Drexler responded to a Livingston County complaint involving snowmobile activity in the Island Lake Recreation Area. While the original complaint was unfounded, CO Drexler observed one subject who was not wearing a helmet start down the mountain bike trail from the trail head parking lot. After waiting at the trail head for a while, CO Drexler observed the subject coming back to the parking lot, but turn off the machine and walk back to his vehicle. CO Drexler contacted the subject and asked why he walked the rest of the way to the parking lot, to which the subject responded, "Because I saw you sitting here." Enforcement action taken.

CO Mike Drexler responded to a Washtenaw County complaint of three subjects who trespassed to ice fish a private pond in a subdivision. CO Drexler contacted the subjects who claimed to have not seen a large sign that stated, "No fishing, no trespassing" in front of where they accessed the pond. Enforcement action taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben assisted a Washtenaw County Sheriff's Deputy who had responded to a call of shots fired after dark and was out with a suspect with a gunshot 8-point that the suspect claimed he shot earlier that day with a bow and arrow. CO Hartleben spoke with the suspect and informed him he had one last chance to be honest with the officers. The suspect admitted he had shot the deer with a firearm. CO Hartleben rolled the deer onto its other side to look for an exit wound and noticed a bulge under the skin on the front shoulder. CO Hartleben cut the skin back and located a 12GA sabot resting underneath the hide. After showing the suspect his slug that was still in the deer, CO Hartleben and the deputy questioned the suspect about when the deer was shot. The suspect was adamant that he shot the deer at 4:45 p.m., but did not have a good explanation for why he was still in the field over two hours later. CO Hartleben then had the suspect show him where his stand was and where the deer was shot. After checking the area around the stand for the shell casing, the suspect led CO Hartleben to where the deer was shot next to a bait pile. CO Hartleben noticed a trail camera overlooking the bait pile and seized the SD card. CO Hartleben and the deputy then escorted the suspect to his residence to retrieve the shotgun. The loaded shotgun was resting against the wall in the garage and a quick comparison of the recovered sabot and the unspent shell removed from the firearm were a visible match. A quick review of the SD card while at the suspect's residence showed the 8-point alive and on camera at the bait pile at 6:43 p.m., the apparent time of kill at 6:46 p.m., and the suspect dragging out and posing with the deer in front of the camera at 7:35 p.m. Legal hunting hours ended at 5:31 p.m. The deer, SD card, and shotgun were seized and charges are being submitted to the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office.

CO Brandon Hartleben was attempting to contact a suspect in a trespass complaint at his residence when he observed an untagged deer hanging in the garage. No one was home at the time, so CO Hartleben photographed the untagged deer for follow-up later that day. CO Hartleben and CO Mike Drexler were able to contact the suspect and his father later that afternoon when they attempted to turn the untagged deer over to law enforcement after the neighbors alerted them that the DNR had been at their house. The subsequent investigation revealed an additional illegal deer that had been taken

while trespassing on ITC property. The deer were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich was on his way back from Belle Isle when he noticed what looked like a hunter in a tree right next to the highway. CO Monnich turned around and drove by again, this time confirming that it was indeed a muzzleloader hunter not wearing any orange. CO Monnich contacted the hunter who stated he didn't believe he needed orange on private property. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol at Island Lake Recreation Area, CO Pete Purdy observed a pickup truck and trailer in an area closed to motorized vehicles. CO Purdy made contact with five individuals who advised a snowmobile broke down so they drove the truck on the trail to retrieve it. When asked why they didn't use the other four operational snowmobiles to tow it out, they didn't provide a reason. All five snowmobiles had no trail permits and one was unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol at Island Lake Recreation Area, CO Pete Purdy observed snowmobile operators in the Spring Mill Pond parking lot. Upon contact, one of the snowmobiles no longer had an operator. CO Purdy located the subject hiding in a vehicle because he had three misdemeanor warrants and was operating on a suspended license. Another subject in the snowmobile party had revoked OPS. In addition, there were several registration and trail permit violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Eric Smither assisted Blissfield Police Department and Lenawee County Sheriff's Deputies on a domestic disturbance involving a mentally ill individual. Officers were able to get the subject under control and calmed down so that he could be transferred by Blissfield Fire Department to the University of Michigan hospital for evaluation.

CO Pete Purdy checked two ice anglers on Lake Chemung. They advised the CO how much they love ice fishing. They were excited to show the CO their new shanty, new ice rods and reels. One angler advised he had also purchased new cold weather gear. They advised this was the second day fishing on the lake. When asked for their fishing licenses they stated they failed to purchase them. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Neterer was checking ice anglers on Hewes Lake when he observed a truck in the parking area with an Indiana license plate. A check of the Retail Sales System (RSS) revealed that the owner had purchased a hunt/fish combo in April and two resident antlerless deer licenses in December. Upon making contact with the subject, he stated he had purchased his licenses prior to moving to Indiana in the spring but failed to mention the deer licenses that he had purchased two weeks prior. CO Neterer contacted the Indiana DNR and they advised he had purchased a resident Indiana fishing license prior to when he purchased his Michigan licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Schluckbier and CO Troy Ludwig followed up on a trespass complaint in Eaton County. During the investigation, COs found a deceased 10-point buck lying in the

complainant's field and tracks leading from the adjacent property. The tracks led to a hunting blind, an illegal bait pile of corn and a second deceased 6-point buck. Both deer were found with the backstrap tenderloins cut out of them. Further investigation revealed that a friend of the property owner shot the 10-point buck. He then trespassed onto the neighboring property to retrieve the loins, leaving the remainder of the deer to rot. The hunter was charged with recreational trespass and failure to tag the harvested deer. The property owner faced additional charges, including trapping without a furbearer license.

CO Sam Schluckbier and CO Troy Ludwig located a hunter who had posted his deer on Facebook a few hours into opening day of firearm deer season. During the interview of the subject, a confession was obtained to shooting an 8-point buck, then purchasing his hunting license afterwards. The antlers and meat were confiscated from the hunter. Charges are being sought through the Eaton County Prosecutor's Office.

DISTRICT 9

CO Jacob Griffin was patrolling Oakland County for duck hunters and located a subject was in possession of lead shot while duck hunting. The subject stated he was aware he could not legally possess lead shot while hunting waterfowl. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Christopher Knights was patrolling White Lake in Oakland County and noticed multiple snowmobiles in the middle of the lake. CO Knights didn't have his snowmobile with him, but was able to follow them on the roads keeping them in sight going across the lake. After a short drive, CO Knights located where the snowmobiles and ORVs were getting on the lake. CO Knights positioned his truck off to the side and waited for more to return. After a few minutes, multiple sleds approached CO Knights and were all stopped before they exited. CO Knights checked all the snowmobiles and ORVs and witnessed multiple violations. Enforcement action was taken.

While on fisheries patrol in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen was checking an angler who recently walked out onto the ice. During the check CO Deppen looked in the angler's bucket and noticed there were quite a few bluegills on the bottom, below the perch he was catching. A count revealed an over limit of bluegills. When questioned about the over limit, the angler said "I didn't really catch those, I grabbed a few extra on the ice and threw them in my bucket." Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers on the Clinton River in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen noticed anglers catching a good amount of walleye. CO Deppen stopped two anglers returning to their trucks. As soon as one angler saw CO Deppen, he let out a large sigh and said "Dad, the conservation officer is here." While checking the fish, CO Deppen noticed they were in possession of multiple short walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen checked anglers in a shanty and neither had a license in their possession. During verification, it was found that one angler had multiple warrants for his arrest. The angler was lodged at Macomb County Jail and further enforcement action was taken regarding his fishing license and fish in his possession.

CO Pat Hartsig was checking ice fishermen when he smelled the odor of burnt marijuana after exiting his patrol vehicle. The occupants of the lone ice shanty were contacted and one of the fishermen was fishing without a license while the other was in possession of a large glass bong and marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig contacted two snowmobiles coming off the ice of Lake St. Clair and determined the operators were 13 and 14 years old without any adult supervision and were planning on operating their snowmobiles on the road. After asking how they did fishing, the pair produced over 80 perch. One youth claimed he only caught 23. The other youth possessed an over limit. The pair were warned and turned over to their parents.

CO Pat Hartsig and CO Kris Kiel checked anglers in a marina on Lake St. Clair. Most anglers caught their limit of perch, except one juvenile who had taken over his limit of 50 perch and had hidden extra fish in the snow near him. The fish were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher followed up on a shots fired complaint and contacted loggers working in a large woodlot. Two deer had been shot earlier in the day, but the shooter only had one valid antlerless license and borrowed another St. Clair County DMU tag from a co-worker. Enforcement action was taken.

A report of a personal injury accident was called out in the area CO Ken Kovach was patrolling. CO Kovach responded to the rollover accident and discovered the driver entrapped. CO Kovach was able to remove the windshield of the car and safely assist the driver from the wreckage. The driver was treated for her injuries at a local hospital.

While working a late-night patrol in the game area, CO Ken Kovach came across an unoccupied vehicle running. CO Kovach tracked the subject's footprints in the snow to an edge of a stream where the subject was located attempting to commit suicide. CO Kovach talked with the subject and, after a short time, was able to take possession of two loaded handguns. The subject was transported to a local hospital where he is undergoing evaluation.

CO David Schaumburger observed three anglers leaving a local ice fishing spot along with a young angler. The young angler was almost to the parking lot when the CO asked if they did any good. The angler stated they had nineteen perch. The CO contacted the other anglers and asked them if they did any good and they stated they did not catch any. The CO suspected neither of the anglers had a fishing license and,

after questioning, his suspicions were confirmed. He located 19 perch in one of the angler's buckets. Enforcement action was taken and the perch were seized.

CO David Schaumburger made contact with a pair of out of state anglers at Bolles Harbor who stated it was their first time ice fishing this season and they made a last second decision to come out. Only one of the anglers had a fishing license. The other stated he did not have time to get his license; however, the CO noted that he had time to get minnows before he came out. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger walked up to a group of five ice shanties and had to decide which one would be the best to check first. He walked around them and smelled the odor of burnt marijuana coming from one of the shanties. The CO contacted the angler and asked him to produce any and all of his marijuana. The angler stated he did not have any. It was only after the CO told him that if he found any marijuana on him or in his shanty that he would be given a ride to jail that he produced a small roach and a baggie with marijuana residue inside.

CO Dan Walzak talked to a subject that was off-loading an ORV he was going to use to make his way out onto the ice to fish. Noticing that the individual was missing a helmet, CO Walzak advised the subject that it was a necessary piece of equipment and would need to get one before he ventured out onto the ice. The subject asked, "You mean you would write me a ticket for not wearing a helmet just to go fishing?" When CO Walzak answered that he would, the subject thought about it for a second and said, "Well, I guess I don't want to go fishing that bad." He packed his gear back into his truck and thanked the officer for the warning and assured him that the next time he came out he would have his helmet.

BELLE ISLE

While on general patrol on Belle Isle, CO Joseph Deppen observed a vehicle speeding and drive through a four way stop sign. As CO Deppen pulled behind the vehicle, a man jumped out and started urinating on the side of the road. The man said, "I can't hold it." CO Deppen pointed to the bathroom less than fifty yards away. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Silorey worked a midnight shift on Belle Isle and the island was very cold and quiet until the barricade was removed from the bridge early. At that point, motorists began to come onto the island while the park was closed. Several contacts were made for being in the park after hours.