

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
8/13/2017 – 8/26/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Brian Lasanen attended Law Enforcement Response to Active Shooter and Low Light Operator Course this past week held in Houghton, MI. The training course was put on by Strategos International.

CO Ethen Mapes assisted the Michigan State Police in the recovery of a subject who had passed away while camping in Northern Ontonagon County.

COs Ethen Mapes, Doug Hermanson and Brian Lasanen patrolled the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Music Festival. Many general questions were answered and the crowd was happy to see the COs in the area.

CO Brian Lasanen was on routine patrol in the middle of the afternoon passing through the downtown of the village of Ontonagon when he noticed a vehicle traveling toward him as it was being operated down the center of the roadway. CO Lasanen performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and the operators showed signs of intoxication. CO Lasanen ran the driver thru standard field sobriety tests (SFSTs) and the driver did not do so well. The driver was arrested for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI). The driver agreed to take a breath test and blew over three times the legal limit and was lodged at the Ontonagon County Jail.

COs Denny Gast and David Miller worked the Upper Peninsula State Fair. It was a great event with nice weather and good numbers of visitors to the Pocket Park. Both COs were able to meet and talk with numerous individuals, with lots of kids also asking questions.

CO Nathan Sink responded to multiple animal complaints in Gogebic County. One call received by CO Sink involved an injured osprey that was recovered. A second call had CO Sink responding to pick up an eagle that was struck by a car on M-28 and killed.

CO Brian Bacon received a complaint regarding subjects keeping over limits of bluegills in Dickinson County. It was determined that the complaint involved a group of anglers who were cited in 2013 for the same violation. CO Bacon, CO Jared Ferguson and Sgt. Marc Pomroy conducted surveillance on the group and made contact with one of the groups while they were on the water fishing. The four subjects contacted were found to be in possession of 150 bluegills over their daily limit. The subjects were cited for the violation and the illegal fish were seized.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a suspect he developed regarding an illegal bear bait. A short interview resulted in a confession for starting the bait early and enforcement action was taken.

CO Shannon Kritz conducted a joint patrol with WI Warden Kelly Crotty along the Brule River boundary between Michigan and Wisconsin.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Mark Zitnik and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembruell were dispatched to a missing 32 year old male who had walked away from his campsite around midnight the night before. The CO and forest service officer searched areas of southern Alger County and northern Delta County for several hours finally finding the Ohio man late that evening.

CO Mark Zitnik and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembruell assisted park rangers in the Pictured Rock National Lakeshore in search of a family of four who were lost in the remote Chapel Lake area. Around one in the morning the lost hikers were located. They were in good health, but cold and wet from walking in the knee high swamp water.

CO Michael Evink received a call from Manistique Public Safety about a fawn stuck in the Manistique River. Once on scene, Officer Evink realized how fast the river was running. Officer Evink attempted to reach the fawn using waders, but was unable. Using Manistique's swift water gear, along with the assistance of Manistique Public Safety, CO Evink was able to reach the fawn and assist it uninjured.

COs Pat Hartsig and Chris Lynch taught hunter safety to a group at the Pocket Park in Escanaba.

COs Bobby Watson and Calvin Smith took part in a week long active shooter/school shooting response training held at Michigan Tech University in Houghton. Tips and techniques learned will be brought back to district trainings and shared with fellow officers.

CO Tom Oberg was on patrol when he located a live power line that was laying across the road on M-134 just before dark. CO Oberg noticed the wire appeared to be sparking. CO Oberg advised central dispatch while blocking traffic coming from the West. Detour Fire Chief Chuck Lanning arrived on scene shortly after and was able to block traffic coming from the east. CO Oberg and the Detour Fire Department held off traffic until the power company was able to come remove the line from the road.

CO Brett Gustafson received an email from the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department, advising of a boat that was stolen from Little Brevort Lake State Forest Campground. The next day, CO Gustafson located the vessel on the other side of the lake. The vessel was turned over to the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department and returned to the owner.

## **DISTRICT 3**

COs Andrea Erratt, Andrea Albert, Duane Budreau, Chad Baldwin and Sgt. Mike Feagan conducted a two day patrol of the Beaver Island Archipelago. COs utilized both boat patrol and foot patrol on several of the islands.

While leaving Beaver Island heading for port in Charlevoix, COs Andrea Erratt, Andrea Albert and Sgt. Mike Feagan responded to a marine radio call of a sail boat in distress. The vessel had lost all power and there was little to no wind to get the vessel to shore. It was just over a mile from St. James Harbor. COs responded to the vessel to ensure the vessel and its occupants were not in peril. Since there was a storm moving in, officers turned the vessel over to COs Duane Budreau and Chad Baldwin who were staying on the island for another night. They responded from the harbor and safely got the sail boat to shore.

While patrolling Lake Michigan near Northport on a very windy day in rolling waves, CO Andrea Albert heard on the marine radio a report of a vessel that was sinking and the elderly operator was not feeling well. When CO Albert arrived on scene, another boat had already taken the male subject to shore for medical attention. The man's 16 foot salmon fishing boat was half filled with water and was sinking quickly as waves were going over the sides. The motor and stern were completely under water and the boat's contents were starting to float out of the boat. CO Albert quickly hooked up the boat and towed it to Northport Harbor before the boat and all of its fishing equipment were a total loss. At the harbor, citizens assisted in pumping out the boat and found the owner's trailer and loaded the boat onto the trailer. CO Albert got a message to the owner that his boat would be on his trailer at the harbor.

COs Tim Rosochacki, Paul Fox, Matt Theunick, Eric Bottorff and Sgt. Mark DePew conducted a dedicated marine OWI (operating while impaired) enforcement detail on the Cheboygan River in Cheboygan County. During the patrol one marine OWI arrest was made.

Sgt. Mark DePew assisted with the much-anticipated semi-annual hunter safety class at the Northland Sportsman's Club in Otsego County. The two-day class had over 50 students in attendance. The hunter safety instructors provided an excellent blend of hands-on learning and classroom instruction.

COs in Cheboygan County assisted the Michigan State Police and Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department with the recovery of the body of a kayaker who overturned on Burt Lake several days prior. The facts surrounding the death are still being investigated, however; it is believed the kayaker was not wearing a life jacket at the time the boat overturned.

CO Bill Webster responded to a complaint in Alpena County of an owl that was injured on the side of the roadway. CO Webster responded to the area and located the injured owl. The owl appeared to have a broken wing and an injury to its left foot. CO Webster made contact with a local bird rehabilitator and turned the owl over to them for treatment.

CO Bill Webster assisted the Alpena County Sheriff and the Alpena State Police in attempting to locate a suicidal subject. Alpena Central Dispatch was able to get a general location of the subject from the cell phone towers. CO Webster located the vehicle on a two track in the area given by dispatch. The vehicle was idling with a hose attached to the muffler running into the driver's side window. CO Webster opened the door of the car and shut off the vehicle. The subject had a pulse and was breathing but was incoherent. CO Webster directed EMS to his location and the subject was taken to the local hospital and treated.

CO Adam LeClerc was on patrol in Alpena County when he observed a vehicle driving in a very careless manner. The subject operating the vehicle was passing vehicles, cutting them off and then slamming on his brakes once in front of them. CO LeClerc made a traffic stop and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Sklba was patrolling on state land in Presque Isle County when he noticed ORV tracks that led thru a creek and wetland. CO Sklba followed the tracks which lead to a husband and wife who were trespassing on another person's property. When contacted they stated they were just curious what was behind the gate and posted Keep Out signs. In addition to crossing the creek on ORVs and trespassing, the couple had operated their ORVs in a closed area, failed to purchase decals for one of the ORVs, and were not wearing helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Michael Mshar responded to a complaint in Montmorency County involving numerous large turtles stuck in a culvert on a local lake. Sgt. Mshar responded to the area and was able to get down inside the culvert in chest deep water and retrieve four large snapping turtles that were stuck in grates. The turtles were released back into the lake unharmed.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

COs Colton Gelinis, William Kinney, Ryan Andrews, Scott MacNeill and Josiah Killingbeck hosted a hunter safety field day at the Carl T. Johnson Center in Cadillac. All participants in the class went through various hunting/safety stations, which will help them all in the field. The COs administered the hunter safety test to the participants.

COs Colton Gelinis and William Kinney patrolled South Lake Leelanau. The COs observed an amphibious car on the water; however, it was not displaying any Michigan watercraft numbers. It was determined that the registration had expired several years ago.

CO Colton Gelinis and Sgt. Rebecca Hopkins spoke at a hunter safety class in Leelanau County. There were 125 participants in this class. They spoke about laws and safety to the class.

Sgt. Rebecca Hopkins responded to five different fishing complaints of snagging, retaining foul hooked fish, and persons fishing in the closed waters of Homestead Dam

on the Betsie River in four days. Over 100 contacts were made. The new single hook regulation has cut down some of the complaints; however, the large size and population numbers of the salmon in the river keep the anglers coming back.

Sgt. Rebecca Hopkins attended the Benzie Ducks Unlimited Banquet and collaborated with many from the constituent group.

Sgt. Rebecca Hopkins presented at hunter safety classes in Benzie and Leelanau counties, and assisted on the rifle range at the Benzie Sportsman's Club, hunter safety field day.

Sgt. Rebecca Hopkins conducted follow-up on a boat moored of the dock of the Crystal Lake public access site, after the owner had advised dispatch that his trailer broke and he need time to get replacement parts. Noting the boat was still at the dock after 9 days; Sgt. Hopkins contacted the owner at his residence and observed the repaired trailer in the yard. She advised the owner that the boat needed to be removed and he pled for more time indicating he preferred to load it when the launch was not busy. Sgt. Hopkins explained to the elderly man that he had well exceeded his time to leave property on state lands and offered to assist him with loading the vessel on the trailer. The man agreed and they immediately went to the launch. Sgt. Hopkins observed that the man was a very poor boat operator, which explained his hesitation to try and load the boat with other traffic around the typically busy access site. Sgt. Hopkins assisted the man with loading his vessel and securing it to the repaired trailer. The man was given a verbal warning for storing property on state land.

While checking fishermen along the Pere Marquette River in Mason County, CO Kyle Publiski overheard on his radio as a Mason County deputy attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic infraction and what the deputy believed was a drug transaction on a dead end road. The vehicle was failing to stop for the deputy and was attempting to get away at a high rate of speed. CO Publiski was able to get in front of the chase and wait for the pursuit to arrive at his location. CO Publiski eventually spotted the vehicle heading towards him and he began pursuit. At one point, CO Publiski lost sight of the vehicle but was able to follow the vehicle's tracks and skid marks on the dirt roads. CO Publiski followed the vehicle tracks to a residence and located the fleeing subject trying to hide the vehicle behind a house. The vehicle continued to flee, failing to stop for CO Publiski. The pursuit was now approaching the Lake/Mason County line where a Lake County deputy was waiting with spike strips to stop the vehicle. The suspect, upon seeing the deputy waiting for him, turned around and headed back toward CO Publiski, nearly hitting his patrol vehicle. CO Publiski continued to pursue the fleeing vehicle until the vehicle was unable to make a sharp turn and crashed into trees alongside the road's edge, bringing the over 20-minute chase to an end. With CO Publiski being the only law enforcement vehicle on scene, CO Publiski ordered the subject out of the vehicle until a Lake and Mason County deputy arrived and the subject was taken into custody. Charges included operating a motor vehicle on a suspended license, flee and elude, and after searching the vehicle, possessing illegal drugs with intent to distribute.

Responding to a snagging complaint on the Pere Marquette River in Mason County, COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky located and watched four subjects for snagging activity. The anglers kept several fish that were foul hooked and not returned to the river. The COs made contact with the anglers to address the keeping of foul hooked fish and littering. The anglers denied retaining the foul hooked fish and stated every fish was "hooked in the mouth." The COs explained to the subjects they had been watching them for over an hour and enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky were working a night shift at the Indian Bridge area of the Pere Marquette River and were able to sneak under the bridge and watch several of the anglers fishing. While watching for snagging activity, CO Publiski looked down and saw three subjects smoking marijuana and talking about how much additional marijuana they had in their vehicle. The COs made contact with the anglers, seized their marijuana and enforcement action was taken.

Patrolling the Whiskey Creek area of Mason County, COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky located two jeeps coming off a federal forest road covered in mud. The COs stopped the jeeps for traffic violations. After making contact with the subjects in the Jeeps, the COs located open cans of beer along with other motor vehicle violations. The COs explained to the Jeep operators the importance of not destroying the forest service roads and issued citations for the open intoxicants and motor vehicle violations.

CO Scott MacNeill was dispatched to an address where the residents allegedly had a raccoon in captivity. After arriving at the address of the suspect, CO MacNeill found an adult raccoon being kept in an old bird cage in a shed. The suspect stated she was rehabilitating the raccoon back to health although she was not a licensed rehabilitator. CO MacNeill also learned the subject had the raccoon in captivity for approximately three months. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Josiah Killingbeck, Ryan Andrews, Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky were patrolling along the Pere Marquette River in Lake County when they observed several subjects fishing. Contact was made with the subjects and two of them were found to have warrants for their arrest. They also found open intoxicants in their vehicle and two subjects had marijuana in their possession. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ben Shively and Jeff Ginn were working an area on a shining complaint in Oceana County when they watched a vehicle come down the road and make a u-turn, throwing gravel in the intersection as they sped off. The COs were able to catch up to the vehicle which was now travelling 78 mph in a 55 mph zone and conducted a traffic stop. The driver was in possession of marijuana with an expired medical marijuana card, had no proof of insurance and had been drinking. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively was patrolling near the Silver Lake State Park ORV area when he stopped a dune vehicle for no driver's side mirror and a plate violation. Upon running the plate, it came back with a mandatory confiscation through Secretary of State for

fraudulent insurance application. The plate was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Casey Varriale was on marine patrol on Big Lake in Osceola County where he witnessed two girls having engine issues on their boat. Upon contact, CO Varriale noticed that the two girls on board the boat appeared to be too young to operate the boat without parental supervision. In addition, the two girls did not have a boater safety certificate. CO Varriale assisted the individuals back to shore and made contact with the parent who admitted that he allowed them to operate the boat without proper supervision.

CO Jeff Ginn responded to a call of a man waving a gun around at a boat access site along the Muskegon River. Upon arrival, CO Ginn observed frantic people running from the river. One man came to CO Ginn explaining the suspect was down by his camper pointing his gun at people threatening to kill them. CO Ginn quickly made his way down toward the man and identified himself. With the suspect at gun point, CO Ginn gave loud verbal commands ordering the man to drop the weapon. The suspect turned toward CO Ginn and refused. The suspect eventually placed the gun on a nearby chair. CO Ginn detained the suspect until other responding officers arrived and was placed in custody. It was later determined the man had been drinking excessively and smoking marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO John Huspen responded to a state land litter complaint in Crawford County. CO Huspen located an address on a piece of trash that matched another address in a separate litter complaint he was investigating. CO Huspen had been attempting contact with that suspect without any luck. After locating the second pile of litter, CO Huspen went by the suspect's house and observed a van pulling into the driveway. He made contact with the suspect who admitted to dumping both piles on state land. The suspect was cited for both litter piles and agreed to clean up the mess.

CO Sam Schluckbier contacted an angler while working the upper stretch of the Boardman River in Kalkaska County. The angler had a minnow bucket with two shiners and an undersized largemouth bass inside. The man claimed that he was fishing for suckers and denied having any bass. He even claimed that he wouldn't "lie to a DNR officer." After asking to see a fishing license, it was discovered the angler had failed to purchase one in 2017. The fish were confiscated and enforcement action was taken.

COs Jon Warner, Kyle Cherry, Jeff Panich, Casey Pullum, Brad Bellville, Ben McAteer, Craig Neal, and Sgt. Bobbi Lively worked the 2017 Mud Jam Event in Iosco County. Attendance at the event was estimated in excess of 10,000 people. The COs assisted the Michigan State Police and the Iosco County Sheriff's Department during the event by patrolling the Hale area targeting Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) violations. The COs wrote 138 tickets and made three custodial arrests during the four day event. Two arrests were for operating under the influence of alcohol. They also recovered stolen United

States Forest Service property during the event and are seeking charges through the 81<sup>st</sup> District Court.

CO Casey Pullum wrapped up an investigation from a 2016 case in Oscoda County by obtaining a 12 count arrest warrant on an individual who is a resident of Genesee County. Charges include multiple counts of taking a deer without a license as well as loaning and borrowing deer licenses. The investigation also led to the successful prosecution of the individual in Montana for taking a Mule Deer without a license. If convicted, the individual will be responsible for \$20,000 in reimbursement to the fish and game fund for the deer taken illegally.

CO Ethan Gainforth was patrolling a tract of state land in northern Clare County when he heard a call from central dispatch about a missing 15-year-old girl. The girl had gotten lost after she rode her bike up into a maze of natural gas pipeline roads. CO Gainforth and Sgt. Jon Wood assisted the Clare County Sheriff's Department with search efforts. After approximately an hour and a half of searching, the girl was finally located on a nearby paved road.

During the early morning hours, CO Steve Lockwood assisted Gladwin County Sheriff deputies with a call of an unconscious subject lying in the road. CO Lockwood and sheriff deputies responded to the area; however, the subject had wandered off into a field prior to their arrival. With temperatures in the low 40s, authorities continued to search the area for the subject. After searching the area for a couple of hours, CO Lockwood heard a disturbance in the backyard of a nearby residence. Upon arrival, CO Lockwood discovered the highly intoxicated subject arguing with the homeowner. The intoxicated and hypothermic subject was secured in CO Lockwood's patrol truck where he waited for EMS. The subject was later transported to the hospital where he was treated for hypothermia and minor injuries sustained from walking through a barbed wire fence.

While on patrol, CO Josh Wright received a call from the Clare Police Department regarding subjects who had been observed fishing and using illegal drugs at a local dam. Upon arrival, CO Wright contacted the anglers who both admitted to using illegal drugs and fishing. The anglers claimed they had been fishing for roughly a half hour and forgot to purchase fishing licenses. After checking license purchase records, CO Wright discovered that the men had never purchased any licenses. Both subjects also had outstanding warrants and were arrested and lodged in the Clare County jail on numerous criminal charges.

While patrolling a rural section of Clare County, CO Josh Wright located a truck that was running while parked in the middle of a dirt road. The truck had a flat tire and appeared to have been driven for some distance on the bad tire. The driver was incoherent and slumped over the steering wheel. CO Wright also observed a used, bloody needle/syringe that had been recently used by the driver. CO Wright immediately called for advanced medical personnel and a unit with NARCAN to respond. The subject was transported to the local hospital and treated for a drug

overdose. A search warrant for a blood draw was executed by CO Wright and charges are pending for operating under the influence of drugs.

CO Phil Hudson was patrolling the Au Gres River when he checked a vessel with a registration that had been expired for five years. The captain of the vessel stated that he purchased it in 2009 and wasn't sure if he was going to keep it. During the contact, the man repeatedly argued with CO Hudson indicating that he only went a short distance in the water and he should be given a warning. A citation was issued for the violation.

CO Phil Hudson was contacted at approximately 9:00 p.m. by Arenac County central dispatch advising that a vessel was adrift on Saginaw Bay with two of its three occupants in the water. CO Hudson launched his patrol boat and with the aid of a volunteer fire fighter, began a lengthy search for the disabled vessel and its passengers. At approximately 1:00 a.m., CO Hudson located the vessel and its passengers, all of which appeared in good health. After an inspection of the disabled watercraft, CO Hudson discovered that there were no life jackets, no flares, no working navigation lights, no fire extinguisher, no horn and numerous other navigational violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Papineau was dispatched by Gladwin County central dispatch in regard to a boating accident with injuries on Wixom Lake. According to central dispatch, one watercraft was taking on water and in the process of sinking. Prior to arrival, several good samaritans had rescued the subjects and towed both vessels to shore. The investigation by CO Papineau revealed that a medium-sized ski boat being operated at an excessive speed had struck a small fishing boat from behind. Luckily, the injuries were minor; however, the small fishing boat's extensive damage resulted in a total loss. After review by the Gladwin County prosecutor, charges were filed for careless operation of a watercraft.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Joe Myers was on patrol in the City of Mt. Pleasant when he came upon a fisherman. The fisherman was drinking and throwing cans in the weeds. When CO Myers encountered the fisherman, the fisherman indicated that he was not fishing because his fishing lure was dry. The suspect continued to deny fishing activity and lie to CO Myers. Further investigation revealed that the suspect did not have a fishing license. CO Myers removed the cans from the weeds and enforcement action was taken.

COs Josh Russell, Mike Haas, Joe Myers, and Will Brickel assisted the local CMET team in a drug operation. The operation led to several violations including illegal grows, too many plants, and other medical marijuana issues.

CO Josh Russell and CO Joseph Myers received a complaint from the Report All Poaching hotline late one evening about a possible party occurring in the Flat River

State Game Area. The COs located the “party” and educated the subjects of the camping rules on state game areas. As they were dealing with the subjects, a call for a lost person came out just down the road. CO Russell and CO Myers, along with two Michigan State Police troopers, located the lost woman. She claimed her car had been stolen. The subject also claimed to have just been at a party in the woods. No other parties were located and she was taken home.

CO Will Brickel and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly noticed a man and woman fishing in the Spaulding Drain. When the male angler saw the COs he quickly broke off the line of one pole and sat it down by another pole that was on the bank. He advised he was not fishing until the COs stated that they had observed him fishing. Both were issued tickets for fishing without license.

While working a night patrol in Huron County, CO Robert Hobkirk received a call from park staff at the Port Crescent State Park. They had requested CO Hobkirk’s assistance with some uncooperative campers who they had contacted for smoking marijuana on their camp site. CO Hobkirk responded to the park and contacted the campers. Two of the campers were written citations for disorderly conduct on state land and were evicted from the park.

While conducting ORV patrol in Sanilac County, CO Mark Siemen stopped multiple subjects for ORV violations. Multiple warnings and citations were issued. During this patrol, CO Siemen stopped a subject on an ORV for operating on a state road and not having an ORV license. During the stop the subject’s driving status was checked which came back denied and revoked for multiple drunk driving charges. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was on marine patrol in Huron County near Sand Point when he observed people being pulled on a tube behind a jet ski without an observer. Upon checking the tubers it was discovered that one of them was not wearing a life jacket. There was also a safety equipment violation discovered on the PWC. The operator of the PWC was given a citation and several warnings.

CO Chad Foerster investigated a complaint involving the shooting of deer on a deer damage permit with the suspect not picking up the deer for human consumption. All permits were pulled from the suspect at this time for failing to comply with permit regulations.

During a marine patrol on the Chippewa River, CO Mike Haas witnessed a subject fishing from a bridge. As CO Haas exited the river, the subject put down his fishing pole and stepped away from the fishing gear. CO Haas asked how the fishing was and the subject stated that he was not fishing. After CO Haas notified the subject that he had witnessed him fishing for some time, the subject changed his story and stated he was helping his children fish. CO Haas pointed out that the children were nowhere near him and were playing in the woods. The man then stated he had purchased a fishing license, but he couldn’t find it. When CO Haas checked the man’s fishing license

purchases through the DNR dispatch, the subject was found to have not purchased a fishing license since 2012. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.

While on patrol in northern Isabella County, CO Mike Haas activated his emergency lights as an ORV sped towards him down the middle of the road. The ORV operator pulled over to the side of the road and immediately told CO Haas that he knew he was in trouble because he wasn't wearing a helmet. CO Haas also informed the man that he could not operate down the middle of a public roadway, exceeding 25 mph and needed a valid ORV license on his 4-wheeler. After further discussion, it was discovered the operator also had a suspended driver's license due to numerous past alcohol violations. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Haas, Josh Russell and Dan Robinson conducted a river patrol on the Chippewa River in Isabella County. The COs set out to target fishing violations, littering and marine violations. Many contacts were made with people using the river system. Tubers, canoeists and kayakers were checked as well as several anglers. One citation was written for failing to provide sufficient PFDs in a canoe. Otherwise, the COs found that most people were making an attempt to follow the marine rules, especially those related to safety.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson assisted the Isabella County Sheriff's Department with two different incidents. One involved a young individual who was seen on M-20 acting strange and walking out into traffic. CO Robinson was first to the scene and made contact with the individual who was confused and appeared to be under the influence of drugs. It appeared that the individual had driven to the area from another state but he did not have a driver's license. The individual was given a ride to a local restaurant where he could get a ride.

CO Dan Robinson participated in the Public Safety Night at Mt. Pleasant City Hall. The event is a time for community members to talk to, connect and learn something from area public safety organizations. CO Robinson answered many questions related to marine safety and conservation law. CO Robinson brought an ORV, patrol vessel and fur kit for people to check out up close.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood were conducting a patrol on Wixom Lake when they encountered two individuals going to the launch in their fishing boat. CO Lundberg and CO Lockwood checked the two individuals who stated they caught their limit of pan fish. The COs let the anglers load the boat on their trailer, then went up to the parking lot and checked their fish. One angler began to count the fish from the live well where their limits of fish were (50 total). The COs then began to look around the vessel where a small bucket was located in the very back of a closed compartment of the vessel. The bucket contained an ice pack, cold water, and an additional 15 fish hidden inside. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

While patrolling Barry County, CO Richard Cardenas received a complaint from Barry County Central Dispatch of an ORV that was stuck near Deep Lake on an unmaintained portion of the roadway. Central also informed CO Cardenas that marijuana was possibly involved. COs Cardenas and Justin Ulberg located the vehicle stuck in the roadway. A marijuana bowl was visible inside of the vehicle and the COs found additional drug paraphernalia in the vehicle after conducting a consented search of the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Barry County near Dagget Lake, COs Rich Cardenas and Justin Ulberg observed a subject fishing. Upon contact with the angler, it was found that the subject was in possession of an undersized smallmouth bass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck Towns was working the Allegan State Game Area for illegal ORV operation when he stopped a vehicle for driving in a prohibited area. During the contact, it was determined that the vehicle was unregistered, uninsured and displayed an improper plate. The driver was suspended and also had an outstanding warrant for driving on a suspended license violation. The driver stated he just wanted to get out of the house. Enforcement action taken.

COs Jeff Robinette and Zach Bauer attended an all-day hunter safety day at Edwardsburg Conservation Club. The event went off well and the COs spoke to a large number of both youths and adults.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Andrew Monnich was on patrol checking fishermen on Devils Lake when he noticed a large group of anglers fishing at the public launch. CO Monnich made contact with the large group of fishermen and asked to check everyone's licenses. Four out of the dozen individuals were unable to produce a fishing license. A quick check to the retail sales license system showed that three of the individuals hadn't purchased licenses at all. Enforcement action taken.

CO Pete Purdy taught the legal portion of a hunter safety class at the Whitmore Lake Rod & Gun Club. There were 14 total students in attendance.

CO Brandon Hartleben was patrolling the Halfmoon Chain of Lakes when he observed a pontoon boat operating on Watson Lake that had two subjects bow-riding with their feet in the water. The vessel was stopped and the operator and passengers admitted that they knew it was wrong for them to be riding on the front of the vessel. Enforcement action taken.

CO Chris Reynolds conducted a presentation on Monday, August 14 for Boy Scout Troop 390 and some of the other campers at St Francis Camp on Goose Lake in Jerome. The CO gave a presentation on tracking and had one of the camp counselors go into a wooded area next to the camp. He explained what to look for while tracking, and the counselor was located after a short distance into the woods. The scouts were

working towards their tracking patches. A total of 20 scouts and campers were present during the presentation.

CO Chris Reynolds attended Kid's Day on Saturday, August 19 at the Red Fox Sportsmen Club in Jonesville. He helped with the fishing contest and other events. He also answered questions from the children and parents regarding hunting, fishing, ORV, and hunter safety for the 50 people in attendance.

On marine patrol shortly before dark CO Jason McCullough smelled burning marijuana from a boat that was traveling in the middle of a Calhoun County lake a short distance away. CO McCullough observed the operator smoking while operating his boat. CO McCullough stopped the vessel and contacted the occupants. The operator was surprised to learn he had been smoking within such a short distance of CO McCullough but had not seen him. Further investigation revealed various marine safety violations in addition to the operating under the influence. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling a lake in Hillsdale County, CO Carter Woodwyk observed a boat from a distance with multiple anglers casting rods and lines. The CO also noticed that the occupants were passing beer around the boat. When the CO made contact with the anglers, he asked to see all of their fishing licenses. One of the anglers advised that they were planning on getting licenses, but arrived to the lake later than expected and did not have time to purchase them. The anglers were advised that fishing licenses can be purchased online at any time. It was discovered that one subject was under 21 years of age and admitted to drinking earlier in the day. This subject submitted to a preliminary breath test and it was determined he had more than just one drink. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols worked with a ride-along from DTMB. During the patrol, CO Nickols was checking access sites in the Maple River State Game Area and located a small pile of trash. CO Nickols discovered a bank receipt with a subject's name on it. The subject was located at a residence nearby. During a follow-up interview, the suspect admitted to dumping the trash. The suspect was 16 years old and was told to clean up the site.

CO Chris Maher checked Norvell Dam in Jackson County to check for fishing activity. CO Maher saw a vehicle parked along the road and a man fishing. On his way to check the angler, CO Maher heard a voice coming from under the bridge. CO Maher contacted the man and asked to see his fishing license and if he knew the individual under the bridge. The man stated he came alone and did not have his fishing license with him. CO Maher asked for ID and the subject produced an identification card and not a driver's license. A file and RSS search showed the man did not have a valid driver's or fishing license. CO Maher asked again whose car it was parked on the road and the man stated it was his friend's car, the man fishing under the bridge. A file and RSS search of the second individual showed he did not have a fishing license and had a felony warrant out of Hillsdale County. Enforcement action was taken for the fishing without a license and the man was taken into custody on the felony warrant and turned over to the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Department.

CO Chris Maher was working marine patrol on the Center Chain of Lakes in Jackson County when he contacted three individuals fishing from a boat. CO Maher recalled a contact with the same individuals a week earlier. During their previous encounter, CO Maher noticed they did not have life jackets and informed the group that they needed one life jacket per passenger before going out. While checking the group on Center Lake, CO Maher found again there were no lifejackets on board. CO Maher reminded them of their previous conversation and escorted the individuals to shore. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Maher gave a hunter education presentation at the Brooklyn Sportsman Club in Jackson County. During the presentation, CO Maher spoke about a wide variety of topics ranging from CO duties to the most common hunting violations and ways to avoid them.

CO Robert Slick was on marine patrol at Lobdell Lake when he observed a pontoon with two individuals fishing on it. As CO Slick approached the boat, he watched as they cut their lines and dumped their gear into the water. CO Slick made contact with the boat and asked how the fishing was. The two individuals stated they weren't fishing. CO Slick informed them that he saw them fishing and asked for licenses. Neither individual could produce a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol in Shiawassee County when he received a call of an injured hawk. CO Slick responded to the area and found the hawk alongside the road. The hawk wouldn't fly away when CO Slick approached it. CO Slick captured the injured bird and took it to a rehabilitation center in Ingham County to recover and later be released back into the environment.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While patrolling Lake Saint Clair for the Selfridge Air Show, COs Jason Becker and Joseph Deppen contacted a boater who had an expired registration. CO Becker ran the registration number through LEIN to confirm the decal was expired. Upon further inspection, the COs noticed there were different decals attached to the vessel in another location that showed valid. CO Becker asked the subject where he got the valid decals. The subject stated that the boat belonged to his girlfriend and she must have mixed up the decals. It was revealed that the girlfriend bought the vessel several years ago and never registered it with the Secretary of State. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer and Sgt. Stephen Mooney were on marine patrol on the Holloway Reservoir in Genesee and Lapeer County when they observed four individuals fishing from a bridge in Columbiaville. After conducting a fishing check on the individuals, an undersized 9.5 inch smallmouth bass was located in one of the angler's fishing bucket. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer and Sgt. Stephen Mooney observed an individual operating a PWC with no life jacket while patrolling the Holloway Reservoir in Genesee County. The

COs observed the two individuals on the PWC fall overboard and into the water. Once contact was made, it was determined the operator was not wearing a personal floatation device. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin and Sgt. Stephen Mooney were on patrol in Oakland County searching for illegal ORV activity. The COs spotted a suspicious ORV on private property near a public roadway. After passing the private driveway, the COs turned the patrol truck around. The COs found the subject operating the ORV down the county road. CO Griffin activated the patrol vehicle's emergency lights and siren to stop the ORV. The subject explained that he was just out testing his ORV. CO Griffin discovered that the subject lived about four miles from their location. The COs informed the subject that ORVs cannot be operated on the roadways of Oakland County, his ORV was not registered in any way, and the passenger of the ORV was not wearing any eye protection. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he heard an Oakland County Deputy call out a pursuit. CO Griffin was in the immediate area the pursuit was occurring. When CO Griffin turned onto the highway he noticed that the suspect vehicle and the Deputy's patrol vehicle had collided. CO Griffin exited his patrol truck to find the deputy taking one subject into custody. The deputy informed CO Griffin that a second subject fled on foot. CO Griffin quickly searched on foot for the fleeing subject in the direction the deputy indicated. CO Griffin located the subject approximately 360 yards from the scene of the crash trying to hide in a group of trees and brush. CO Griffin took the subject into custody and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jacob Griffin was on patrol in Oakland County when he spotted a personal watercraft (PWC) operating on plane at a high rate of speed close to a shoreline and a boat access site. CO Griffin spoke with the operator of the PWC in addition to other family members and discovered that none of the subjects had taken a boater safety class. All subjects stated that they did not know there were laws on the water. CO Griffin explained some of the laws and enforcement action was taken.

While on marine patrol on Lake St. Clair in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen was monitoring a slow no wake zone and stopped multiple vessels transiting through the area at greater than slow no wake speed. Other violations found during the stops were vessels without registration, no fire extinguisher, no fishing license on person, and lack of safety equipment on board. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking for fishing activity in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen walked up on a group of anglers at a local marina and asked if they were having any luck. One of the anglers excitedly said, "Yes, I got a muskie", and pointed to a tail sticking out of a five gallon bucket. CO Deppen asked if the angler knew the tagging requirements and what the legal size of a Muskie needed to be, and the angler said "No". CO Deppen took the dead muskie out of the bucket and it only measured 32 inches. The angler was given a copy of the fishing guide and enforcement action was taken.

While working the Selfridge Air show, COs Brad Silorey and Joseph Deppen noticed a vessel operating at greater than slow no wake through a congested area filled with anchored vessels and swimmers. The vessel pulled into a local marina and contact was made. The vessel owner was educated on the 100 foot rule and enforcement action was taken.

On the way out of the Black Creek for a marine patrol at the Selfridge Air Show, COs Kris Kiel, Matt Zultak and Sgt. Todd Szyska observed two shore anglers catch what looked to be an undersized largemouth bass. One angler then took out a garbage bag to place the fish in so the COs decided to conduct a check. CO Zultak jumped out on shore and made contact. Not only was the original bass undersized, but CO Zultak also found another largemouth bass, under nine inches, and a goby in the angler's bucket. Also one of the anglers did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

After completing a Belle Isle shift, CO Ken Kovach was travelling back to St Clair County when a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed passed him and several other vehicles in a no passing zone. The speeding motorist was paced at over 100mph. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher worked with CO Matt Zultak for the 2017 St. Clair River Float Down. Many contacts were made for suspected smoking of marijuana, littering and assisting event goers with water safety issues. COs Lasher and Zultak assisted two males who over turned their canoe in front of the patrol boat. Both subjects were not wearing their life jackets. As they hung onto their canoe, COs Lasher and Zultak were able to get the subjects to the ladder onto their boat and with assistance from the U.S. Coast Guard, were able to get the water out of the canoe. One subject stated that the COs got there just in time because he didn't think he could hang on much longer.

CO David Schaumburger was on ORV patrol when he located an individual operating on a mini bike on closed township property. The ORV stopped when the CO activated his emergency lights and while the CO was on the stop, he observed a second ORV enter the area and turn around and exit. The CO was not able to make contact with that ORV but the suspect gave the CO a name and a phone number. The first operator was in violation of ORV trespass, operating an ORV on the roadway, and was not wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

## **BELLE ISLE REPORT**

While working on Belle Isle, Sgt. Todd Szyska was stopped at The Strand flag pole when a vehicle passed by at a high rate of speed. Sgt. Szyska activated his emergency lights on the patrol vehicle and speed paced the vehicle at 70 mph plus. When the vehicle finally stopped, it crossed over multiple lanes of traffic from the far left bound lane in front of another vehicle in order to pull over to the right curb. Sgt. Szyska made contact with the occupants which stated they were in a hurry to get to the beach. Sgt. Szyska asked the driver what the posted speed was on the island which she replied 25

mph. Further investigation revealed that the driver did not have a valid proof of insurance on the vehicle, as it was only good for one week two months prior to the date of contact. When asked if the driver had insurance, she stated no and that she could not afford it. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the casino building area on Belle Isle, Sgt. Todd Szyska observed a white Audi doing doughnuts in the parking lot (squealing/squawking tires). Upon witnessing this, Sgt. Szyska activated the emergency lights of the patrol vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. The vehicle was occupied by a male and a female, with the male driving. When asked why the driver had done what he did, he simply stated he was just testing out the car to see how it would handle. Upon further investigation, the passenger of the vehicle was found to be in possession of open intoxicants in a motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt Troy Bahlau led a patrol on Belle Isle with COs Dragomer, Patton, Becker, Monnich, Foster and Russel targeting alcohol violations. The Island was extremely busy with overflow parking taking over many of the open fields. The patrol resulted in eight open intoxicants citations being issued and six verbal warnings for traffic offenses. The group also encountered subjects with four misdemeanor warrants and one felony warrant.

While patrolling Belle Isle, CO Kyle Bucholtz and CO Jason Becker contacted a subject about excessively loud music. Upon contact, CO Bucholtz learned the subject had open intoxicants in an area closed to alcohol and was without a valid driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Belle Isle, CO Richard Cardenas observed a vehicle drive across two lanes of traffic, hit a curb, drive onto the grass, and return back to the roadway. CO Cardenas conducted a traffic stop and it was found that the operator of the vehicle was driving under the influence of alcohol. The subject was arrested and transported to Detroit Detention Center. At Detroit Detention Center the subject was found to have a blood alcohol level of .22. The subject was lodged for the offense.