

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
8/27/2017 – 9/9/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Ethen Mapes was dispatched to a search for a lost hiker along the North Country Trail in Ontonagon County. The young lady had ventured off the trail and could not find her way back. CO Mapes hiked into the area and was able to locate the lost subject.

CO Ethen Mapes was on patrol when a BOL came out for a vehicle the officer had just passed. CO Mapes was able to locate the vehicle, and upon contact the driver was found to be sober. The driver was eating a cheeseburger and trying to open another can of pop when he swerved into oncoming traffic. CO Mapes discussed the dangers of distracted driving with the individual and sent him on his way.

CO Dennis Gast encountered a fisherman in possession of two undersized northern pike (16" and 21"). Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy investigated an illegal bear bait site on the opening day of bear season. As the COs approached the site, they observed two subjects in a ladder stand in full camo. One subject was pointing a shotgun directly at the bear bait approximately 20 yards from the stand. The COs observed the subjects for a short time and only one subject was observed handling the shotgun. The COs announced themselves and made contact with the hunters. Multiple violations were quickly discovered including hunting bear without a license, no hunter orange, illegal tree stand and the illegal bear bait. Both subjects were cited and an investigation is ongoing into the guide hired by the hunters.

CO Jeffrey Dell contacted an angler fishing a river in Menominee County. When asked for his fishing license, the angler produced a Wisconsin fishing license. Enforcement action was taken for fishing without a Michigan fishing license.

CO Brett DeLonge was patrolling public land in northern Marquette County when he observed several ORVs operating along the road way. When the ORVs observed the patrol truck, they made a quick turn and attempted to hide on a short dead-end two track. CO DeLonge was able to locate the group and took law enforcement action for several violations including unregistered ORVs, operating with double and triple passengers, and no helmets.

CO Brett DeLonge was checking anglers on Lake Superior when he observed a small boat with multiple passengers slowly return to the boat launch in what appeared to be an attempt to avoid getting contacted. CO DeLonge made contact and found that the boat did not have the proper number of PFDs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Ryan Aho checked a group of waterfowl hunters in Marquette County. One of the subjects was hunting with an unplugged shotgun. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey received a complaint of an injured eagle near a roadway. The eagle was located and transported to a rehabilitation center where it is being treated for possible lead poisoning.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey conducted a targeted marine safety patrol on the waters of Green Bay. Approximately 20 boaters were contacted. Several boats were found to be not using navigation lights and one boat lacked marine safety equipment. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey instructed at the Menominee County hunter safety law portion to a class of 17 students.

CO Jeffrey Dell observed several people fishing. Upon making contact with two of the three fishermen, the third placed his rod down and sat in the car. CO Dell asked all of the fishermen for licenses. The man in the car stated he was just hanging out and not fishing. CO Dell informed him that he had observed the man cast several times and issued a citation for fishing without a license.

CO Jeremy Sergey and Michigan State Police Trooper Steve Olson responded to a lost individual in the Westman Dam area of Menominee County. The officers located the individual after a few hours of searching. The individual was in good spirits and good health.

COs Jeff Dell and Jeremy Sergey recovered a juvenile eagle that was struck by a truck. The eagle passed away; it is currently being sent to the National Eagle Repository in Commerce City, CO.

CO Brett DeLonge was patrolling an area popular for waterfowl hunting when he heard an ORV approaching his location. CO DeLonge was able to stop the unregistered ORV that was carrying the operator and two passengers. After CO DeLonge made contact and addressed the violations, the operator was under the impression that those rules didn't apply because the ORV wasn't being operated on the roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brett DeLonge was conducting an ORV patrol on a section of trail when he observed an ORV pass his location that appeared to be unregistered. CO DeLonge conducted a stop and upon contact CO DeLonge found that the ORV was indeed not registered and the operator did not have a valid operator's license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mark Leadman and Brett DeLonge worked a late night patrol at the Little Presque Isle tract on the shore of Lake Superior. COs Leadman and DeLonge observed

numerous subjects on the beach violating the posted state land use rules. Camping, fires, alcohol and glass containers are all prohibited. Numerous subjects were ticketed for the violations with many verbal warnings given also.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Chris Lynch was working the early goose season opener watching a group shooting geese in a field. After the hunt was over, contact was made. One hunter failed to produce a state waterfowl license or a federal duck stamp and was in possession of two geese. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch and Pat Hartsig conducted a patrol on Little Bay de Noc. Numerous contacts were made with people enjoying the last holiday weekend of the summer. Numerous violations were addressed for fishing without licenses, no PFDs, and improper display of registration numbers.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol on Little Bay de Noc on Labor Day when he observed a vessel adrift. CO Lynch contacted the vessel and asked the operator what was wrong. The operator stated his engine quit working and he was several miles away from his residence. The operator said he forgot his cell phone that day and was unable to call for help. It was just luck that CO Lynch came across the stranded vessel. After a long tow back to the gentlemen's residence he was very thankful how good things had turned out.

CO Chris Lynch was receiving numerous complaints of hunters driving in a careless manner down a gravel road. CO Lynch was in the complaint area in the early morning hours when he observed such activity. CO Lynch observed a vehicle in oncoming traffic operating at a high rate of speed. CO Lynch turned around and conducted a stop on the vehicle but not before pacing the vehicle at nearly 80 MPH. Enforcement action was taken for careless driving.

CO Lynch was on patrol when he observed an unlicensed ORV being operated down railroad tracks with the operator not wearing a helmet. CO Lynch contacted the ORV and the operator was issued a ticket.

CO Chris Lynch was on his way home after patrol when he observed a vehicle swerving in and out of his lane in a careless manner. The vehicle then took a left turn off the highway and suddenly stopped and now was blocking the roadway impeding traffic. A traffic stop was conducted and contact with driver was made. The driver passed standard field sobriety tests and stated he was just trying to figure out how to change the song on his new radio. Enforcement action was taken for careless driving.

COs Pat Hartsig, Chris Lynch and Sgt Jerry Fitzgibbon taught a hunter safety field day at the Escanaba Pocket Park to 30 youths.

CO Pat Hartsig was patrolling for goose hunters when he heard a shot from his patrol vehicle. CO Pat Hartsig watched a hunter run into a field and retrieve a goose. Upon checking the hunters, it was found that one was in possession of toxic lead shot and another did not have a waterfowl license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig interviewed a subject regarding a bear that was taken at night, out of season, with no license. A confession was obtained and the bear meat, hide, carcass, and skull were recovered from multiple locations. A second warrant is being sought on a subject for aiding and abetting the possession of an illegal bear due to hiding the meat in a freezer in an outbuilding, miles from the shooting location.

CO Pat Hartsig was checking goose hunters in the field. When asked for his license, one hunter stated it was in his truck. He placed his shotgun in his layout blind and shut the doors and tried to lead Officer Hartsig away from it. CO Hartsig thought the behavior was suspicious and a check of the firearm revealed there were five shells loaded in the firearm. Enforcement action was taken for hunting waterfowl with an unplugged gun.

CO Michael Evink and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembreull responded to a marine PI accident in Alger County. One individual was taken to the hospital with bruising after being hit by a pontoon boat. The officers are using the information they have to identify the driver of the pontoon boat. The investigation continues.

CO Michael Evink and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembreull responded to a request for assistance from National Park Service rangers. The rangers were dealing with an intoxicated individual who had operated his vessel on Lake Superior and was in the process of attempting to load his boat on its trailer. The officers performed roadside sobriety tests and determined the individual was beyond the legal limit to operate anything with a motor. He was also found to be in possession of marijuana. The individual was arrested and lodged in Alger County Jail.

CO Mark Zitnik was checking anglers along the Laughing Whitefish River when one angler noticed the CO approaching and dropped her fishing pole. Upon contact, the angler would not admit to fishing, even after CO Zitnik explained he had been watching her for quite some time. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembreull were checking campsites along the Indian River. When checking the last campsite of the day, they came upon a group of young campers who were smoking marijuana and consuming alcoholic beverages. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Zitnik and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembreull were checking areas for the upcoming bear hunt when they came upon a hunter leaving his blind. While at the blind, the officers noticed several violations including an illegal corn feeder, more than two gallons of grains/fruit, apples and corn accessible to deer, and no helmet on his ORV. The hunter also admitted to baiting deer early. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kevin Postma responded to a hunter harassment complaint involving three groups of goose hunters in one field. Upon arrival, CO Postma could see one goose hunter sitting in a lawn chair in the middle of a cut barley field. The complainant advised that the goose hunter now sitting in the middle of the field was also shooting at any geese that flew even remotely close. The complainant advised he wants to press charges against the hunter in the chair for hunter harassment. After interviewing individuals from all three of the hunting parties it was determined that the complainant's party didn't have permission from the proper land owners and several in the party were missing hunting licenses. Due to these important details, the hunter sitting in the field could not be prosecuted for hunter harassment. Several juveniles were warned with regards to not having their hunting license. The complainant was advised how to seek permission from the rightful owner of various parcels of property and the harassing hunter was encouraged to use better discretion when resolving hunting conflicts.

COs Kevin Postma, Tom Oberg and Brett Gustafson assisted with a marine patrol on the Labor Day Bridge Walk Event.

COs Bobby Watson and Calvin Smith taught a hunter education class to 30 students at the Newberry High School. A joint field day was provided on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club with help from volunteers on the club.

CO Brett Gustafson taught a hunter education class in Engadine and participated in the joint field day.

COs Bobby Watson and Calvin Smith were on routine patrol when they came across an elderly couple that had driven their minivan into a large mud hole and became stuck. The COs assisted the couple with removing their van and helped them on their way. The couple was very appreciative and told the COs that they thought they were going to have to spend the night, as they did not have cell phone coverage to call for help.

CO Bobby Watson handled a dirt bike vs. motor vehicle crash in North Luce County. The motorcycle was being driven by an inexperienced rider on the opposite side of a two track on a blind corner. The dirt bike hit a truck head on; the operator was transported by ambulance to the hospital.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Steve Speigl received a 'Text to RAP' complaint of two anglers who were possibly keeping undersize smallmouth bass from an Antrim County lake. After researching, CO Speigl found the anglers lived in Genesee County, so he contacted CO Travis Dragomer for assistance on interviews. CO Dragomer found that the anglers were unclear on species identification. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Lake Michigan, CO Andrea Albert contacted a subject fishing for trout and salmon without a license; he was observed reeling in a line from a downrigger. After receiving a citation, the angler asked if they just needed enough fishing licenses

on the boat to cover the rods that were out. CO Albert explained that anyone fishing in the boat, which includes handling lines, casting and netting, needs a license. It was explained that fishing licenses don't cover the lines that are in the water - they are needed for everyone who is fishing.

CO Steve Speigl was patrolling the Jordan Valley in Antrim County when he came across a Jeep and a truck that had just spun 'doughnuts' in a grassy and sandy area right next to the Jordan River. Both drivers immediately denied causing the damage, but CO Speigl quickly pointed out the matching tire tracks leading from the damaged area to the rear tires of both vehicles. Both drivers then admitted to creating the damage, agreeing it was a dumb thing to do. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Speigl assisted the United States Marshall Service by supplying marine support to a security detail they were performing on Lake Michigan near Petoskey.

CO Bill Webster was working Fletcher's Pond in Alpena County on Memorial Day when he came across a couple anglers who were having some luck. One angler was in possession of a largemouth bass that was undersized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kelly Ross was patrolling in Montmorency County when he observed several ORVs operating carelessly on a public roadway. CO Ross noticed several violations in the group such as no helmets, no ORV decals and riding double. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kelly Ross was patrolling a local lake in Montmorency County when he encountered a subject who was fishing. A check of the subject revealed he did not have a valid driver's license. CO Ross continued his patrol only to then observe the same subject operating a motor vehicle on a public roadway after leaving the lake. A traffic stop was made and enforcement action was taken.

District 3 COs took part in the first hunt period of the 2017 Elk Season. Area officers worked in shifts to patrol the open and closed hunt area as well as conduct field checks of elk that were harvested. COs reported no violations and good success rates in the field. COs also assisted with tracking and recovering several elk. One highlight of the early hunt involved CO Kelly Ross and Sgt. Mike Mshar who assisted a young man in a wheelchair in harvesting a cow elk with his crossbow. CO Kelly Ross's intimate knowledge of his work area was the major factor in the young man being successful.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Sean Kehoe participated in the hunter safety class at the Cedar Rod and Gun Club. There were approximately 120 students in attendance.

CO William Kinney and Sgt. Dan Bigger patrolled the Betsie River in Benzie County for salmon fishing activity. The COs made multiple contacts throughout the evening with

anglers along the river and several citations were issued for attempting to snag and using illegal tackle.

CO William Kinney was patrolling the Betsie River in Benzie County for fishing activity over the holiday weekend. CO Kinney observed one angler catch a large salmon and add it to his stringer. CO Kinney then checked the individual to make sure he had a current fishing license. After several minutes of looking, the individual was unable to provide a valid 2017 fishing license to the CO. Enforcement action was taken for fishing without a license.

CO William Kinney received a complaint at the Hoosier Valley Gun Range in Grand Traverse County of people target shooting on Sunday. At the gun range, target shooting on Sunday is prohibited and is an ongoing issue. CO Kinney arrived on scene and found two individuals target shooting. Both individuals admitted to not reading the state land use rules and paid no attention to the sign that read "No Shooting on Sundays." Enforcement action was taken.

COs Colton Gelinis and William Kinney patrolled the Betsie River and Platte River looking for illegal salmon fishing activity. The COs made numerous contacts during their patrol and enforcement action was taken on two individuals for snagging and using illegal lures.

CO Colton Gelinis was on patrol on the Platte River checking salmon fishermen when he encountered two anglers who were excited to show him their catch of the day. CO Gelinis observed twelve salmon in a cooler. CO Gelinis asked the suspects if they knew the limit for salmon. The suspects believed the limit was ten salmon per person. CO Gelinis seized the additional two fish and enforcement action was taken.

COs Rebecca Hopkins and Colton Gelinis investigated an over-limit of salmon complaint. The subjects brought their own chest freezer to a rental cabin and filled it with salmon caught during their stay. Admissions of the number of fish caught and sorting through over one hundred-thirty packages of salmon fillets resulted in one subject being cited for possessing an over-limit of salmon.

Patrolling Mason County, COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky were parked waiting for ORVs operating in an illegal area of federal forest when they heard loud music and the sound of a vehicle motor revving. The COs headed towards the loud music and came across two trucks mud-bogging on federal land and an ORV operating in a closed area. The COs made contact and explained the rules on public land and issued tickets for operating in closed areas and creating erosive conditions. It was also determined that the driver of one of the trucks had a suspended driver's license and one of the passengers, who CO Brosky had previously cited for similar violations, had a warrant for his arrest out of Manistee. The subject with the warrant was arrested and transported to the county line and turned over to Manistee City Police to be lodged in Manistee County Jail.

Working the Indian Bridge area of Mason County, COs Kyle Publiski and Brian Brosky were addressing parking issues that included vehicles impeding the flow of traffic. As CO Brosky was citing vehicles for violations, CO Publiski was standing at a vehicle parked on the bridge when he notice the subject had an extraordinary amount of vehicle scent wafers placed over the vehicle and the smell was very strong. As the subject opened his door, CO Publiski also detected the smell of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. CO Publiski then explained to the subject that even with all the scent wafers he could still smell marijuana. A search of the vehicle resulted in marijuana, drug paraphernalia and a pistol under the back seat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Andrews was on patrol along the Pere Marquette River in Lake County in an area of catch and release only when he received a complaint from an angler who had witnessed another person catch a chinook salmon and place it in a cooler in his boat. Due to dealing with the same group earlier for other violations, the CO recognized the physical description of the group and was able to locate them farther down the river as they left the landing in their motor vehicle. CO Andrews followed the vehicle to a residence where he made contact with the group and gained consent to search their coolers and discovered the 25 pound king salmon. The suspect then confessed to taking the fish and said it was because it was his first king salmon and because it was so big.

CO Josiah Killingbeck heard a call being dispatched of a stolen semi that had been taken from a gas station and then crashed into a fence across the street. CO Killingbeck was the closest law enforcement unit and responded. CO Killingbeck arrived on scene and found a male lying on the ground below the driver's door of the semi. The subject attempted to walk away when he saw CO Killingbeck. CO Killingbeck stopped the subject and found him to be intoxicated. The subject would not admit to taking the semi, but numerous witnesses said the man was the driver. The subject refused sobrieties, but submitted to a PBT where he was found to be three times over the legal limit. CO Killingbeck also discovered that the subject had an expired driver's license and no endorsements to drive a semi. The subject was arrested and lodged in the Lake County Jail for OWI and numerous other violations.

COs Josiah Killingbeck and Ryan Andrews assisted the Lake County Sheriff's Department with an accident where a subject had hit a tree and then was hit by a passing car after running out into the roadway. The COs assisted EMS in caring for the critically injured victim who was airlifted to a trauma center.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was pulling up to a stop sign in Lake County when an ORV turned onto the same road while fish tailing and tearing the roadway up. The ORV came within 15 feet of CO Killingbeck's truck as the driver had lost control of his ORV. CO Killingbeck stopped the ORV and the subject immediately told CO Killingbeck "I'm just having fun." CO Killingbeck asked the subject if he was familiar with rules for operating on the roadway. The subject told CO Killingbeck that he was from downstate and not familiar with rules for operating in Lake County. CO Killingbeck explained that Lake County Roads have the same rules as roads down state and that careless driving is

unsafe and unacceptable. The subject was also not wearing a seatbelt. Numerous violations were addressed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck observed an ORV operating in a closed area on state land in Lake County. As CO Killingbeck activated his emergency lights, the passenger attempted to hide an open beer. CO Killingbeck made contact with the occupants and was told that they had no idea of rules for operating ORVs in Michigan. No one in the ORV was wearing seatbelts and there were more people in the ORV than designated. CO Killingbeck explained rules for operating ORVs in Michigan and enforcement action was taken for open intoxicants and operating in a closed area.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he observed an ORV leave the roadway and drive down a closed U.S. Forest Service road that was closed to all motor vehicle traffic. CO Killingbeck was able to catch up with the ORV and made contact with the driver. CO Killingbeck asked the driver if he was familiar with ORV regulations pertaining to where ORVs could be operated. The driver told CO Killingbeck, "Everyone else drives two tracks around here so I figured its okay." Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively was patrolling northern Oceana County and was on a traffic stop with an ORV when he was passed by two subjects riding double on a four wheelers at a high rate of speed and none of the occupants were wearing helmets. CO Shively was able to obtain a speed of 63 mph in a 25 mph zone using his department issued radar unit. The two 16-year-olds were escorted back to their cabin and turned over to their parents.

CO Ben Shively spoke and instructed 31 students for hunter safety at the Ruby Creek Conservation Club.

COs from District 4, with the assistance of COs from District 7, patrolled a large scale marine event known locally as the Hot Boat on Hardy Pond part of the Muskegon River system in Newaygo County. The COs made hundreds of contacts and provided support to emergency medical services by making multiple transports to the command center for various medical conditions. COs also conducted arrests for boating under the influence of alcohol (BUI), minors in possession of alcohol, various marine safety and revenue violations, and arrested individuals on outstanding warrants. One subject was arrested for a child support warrant after he was unable to post a \$38,000 bond. Over all, the COs reported a good turnout of boaters with no critical incidents reported.

CO Angela Greenway, along with COs Casey Varriale and Jeff Ginn, were working the Hardy Hot Boat patrol and located a very sick individual who was hanging off the bow of a boat laying in his own vomit. Upon investigation, it was learned the subject had been drinking liquor all day. He was somewhat responsive but EMS felt he was too incapacitated to make his own decision to seek treatment. The COs provided transport to the ambulance for evaluation.

COs Angela Greenway, Casey Varriale and Jeff Ginn responded to a complaint of a male subject who was recovered from the water and CPR was being performed. Upon arrival, the victim was breathing on his own but unresponsive. The COs assisted EMS in back boarding and transferring patient to the DNR boat for transport to ambulance.

CO Angela Greenway, CO Casey Varriale and CO Jeff Ginn responded to a complaint of a patient having seizures. The COs assisted EMS in transferring him to the patrol boat and then to the ambulance for evaluation.

CO Angela Greenway reported being flagged down by some recreational boaters of a subject on their vessel with a laceration to his foot. CO Greenway boarded their vessel and assessed the injury. She was able to bandage the wound and control the bleeding. The patient refused to seek any more medical treatment offered.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Chuck McPherson received an ORV trespass complaint from a landowner in Roscommon County. The property was properly posted and existing trails had been blocked off. However, the trails continued to be opened up, fences taken down and trespassing signs removed by people riding their ORVs. While working the complaint, CO McPherson was able to catch several ORVs in violation of ORV trespass. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal was patrolling a small lake on the west side of Missaukee County when he noticed a boat with a registration that expired in 2012. He contacted the boat at the launch to investigate the registration and check fishing licenses. After checking a fishing license, CO Neal began counting bluegills that were in a bucket on the boat. After counting 31 bluegills, CO Neal looked at the second angler and asked if she had a fishing license. She stated that she did not and admitted to fishing a little bit. The over limit of bluegill were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal was patrolling Reedsburg Dam in Missaukee County when he noticed several anglers fishing. CO Neal watched an angler catch a largemouth bass that was obviously short. The angler looked around, grabbed his bucket, filled it with water and tossed the short bass in the bucket. CO Neal made contact with the angler. The angler stated he didn't know why he was keeping the fish. The largemouth bass measured in at 10 inches. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Craig Neal was patrolling a gravel pit in northeastern Missaukee County for illegal ORV use. After sitting there for just ten minutes, a group of four ORVs climbed the hill on the backside of the gravel pit and raced through it. CO Neal activated his emergency lights and stopped the four riders. CO Neal explained to them that the gravel pit is a closed area to ORVs as well as climbing the hill on the backside is illegal because it is not a designated trail and causes erosive conditions. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Craig Neal and Ethan Gainforth responded to a complaint of bird shot BBs hitting a house in Missaukee County. Upon arrival, feathers were scattered all over, the hunters had what appeared to be dove decoys on a pole, and there were several mourning doves flying around the area. CO Neal made contact with the suspects who stated they were hunting feral pigeons. CO Gainforth questioned the hunters further indicating their story didn't make sense. The hunters quickly began pulling mourning doves out of the tall grass and weeds. All guns were photographed as evidence, the mourning doves were seized, and citations were issued to all parties involved.

CO Phil Hudson received a call from Arenac County Central Dispatch at 1:30 a.m. on Labor Day advising that four children, ages 5-10 years old, and two adults had been missing somewhere on the Rifle River since the previous day. The group had been on a tubing adventure and failed to return home in the evening. CO Hudson kayaked the river throughout the night while local volunteer firefighters, Arenac County Sheriff deputies and the Michigan State Police conducted foot patrols in wooded areas along the river. All subjects were located in good health at approximately 8:30 am the next morning.

CO Mark Papineau investigated reports of an abandoned pedal boat on Smallwood Lake in Gladwin County. CO Papineau was advised by the caller that two young adults had tossed the pedal boat into the lake and, after it began to sink, intentionally abandoned it. The pedal boat began to drift downstream and eventually got lodged underneath another property owner's dock. After several days, the pedal boat had not been recovered and remained lodged under the dock. CO Papineau was able to track down the suspects by talking with neighbors. The suspects immediately confessed and stated that they had forgotten to recover the boat. Upon further questioning, it became apparent that the suspects had no intention of retrieving the abandoned boat. A citation was issued for littering and the subjects were instructed to remove the pedal boat from the lake.

CO Jon Warner was patrolling for goose hunting activity on the opening weekend of early goose season in Iosco County when he noticed a lot of geese circling in the same area. CO Warner went to investigate and found a disked wheat field next to standing corn with hunters set up in the corn rows. CO Warner made contact with the six hunters. While doing so, he noticed corn spread among the goose decoys. Upon further investigation it was evident the hunters had taken ears of corn from the field and spread it among the decoys. CO Warner also noticed none of the corn was pressed into the soft disked ground and was lying on top of the hunters own foot and vehicle tracks. Enforcement action was taken against all six hunters for hunting waterfowl over a baited area. The geese that were shot were also seized.

CO Jon Warner assisted US Forest Service law enforcement who was investigating a suspicious person/situation spotted the previous day in Iosco County. CO Warner and USFS Law Enforcement Officer Justin Repine were able to follow the suspicious person's tracks from where he entered the woods to an illegal deer bait and then into a swamp where 17 marijuana plants were located. Using previously obtained information,

CO Warner and USFS LEO Repine were able to locate and interview the suspect where they obtained a confession to growing marijuana on US Forest Lands. Enforcement action is being taken by the USFS Law Enforcement.

CO Casey Pullum responded to a call of a male subject highly intoxicated and suicidal in Oscoda County. He was reported to be in the garage with a rope around his neck. CO Pullum was first on scene and found the male subject in the wood shed sitting on a stool speaking with his wife. The suspect was extremely intoxicated and had removed the rope off his neck just prior to CO Pullum arriving. With some coaxing, the subject voluntarily went with EMS to be admitted to the hospital for a mental health evaluation.

CO Kyle Bader manned the DNR hunter safety laser shot trailer at the inaugural "Outdoor Extravaganza" at the YMCA Camp Timbers near Clear Lake in Ogemaw County. The event was organized by the Ogemaw County Conservation District. Other exhibitors included the local Jack Pine Chapter of QDMA, local honey and maple syrup producers, a local trapper and taxidermist, as well as representatives from licensing and hunting access program (HAP) program from the DNR. Activities included: boating, archery, a rock wall, fly tying, woods walk, and yarn spinning. Approximately 120 people attended the event.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO John Byars was watching several anglers fishing from a boat on Rainbow Lake. The CO made contact and determined that one of the anglers did not have a fishing license. The angler refused to admit he was fishing and told the CO he was wrong. The angler was highly intoxicated and threw an anchor into the water to purposely splash the CO. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Myers received a complaint of a deer shot and left next to the road way. The CO arrived on the scene to find two antlerless deer that had been shot. The deer had been gutted and back straps taken out. The investigation is ongoing and suspects have been identified.

CO Joe Myers was patrolling the Maple River State Game Area for the opening weekend of teal and goose season. The CO made contact with numerous hunters. The CO made contact with one group that had failed to secure the proper lifejackets for their hunting trip. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joe Myers was contacted by the Isabella/Gratiot Conservation Nature Preserve Association regarding a possible recreational trespass issue on the preserve. The CO made contact with the manager of the preserve who found bait and trail cameras on the property. The investigation is ongoing.

Sergeant Ron Kimmerly took a call of an injured bald eagle in Montcalm County. The eagle had a broken wing and the injury appeared to be at least a week old. Sgt. Kimmerly took the eagle to his office for some food and water while attempting to find a

rehabilitator or a veterinarian on the busy holiday weekend. The choices for the eagle were either, steak, perch or catfish. The eagle chose catfish and gobbled down 6 pieces along with some water. The sergeant was able to get the eagle to a rehabber later that day, but unfortunately the majestic bird passed later that night. The sergeant will be attending the eagle's necropsy in attempts to rule out any foul play.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a waterfowl complaint in progress. Unable to respond, CO Hobkirk remained in contact with the caller and advised Sgt. Scott Brown and CO Kyle Bucholtz of the situation. Upon receiving the information, Sgt. Brown and CO Bucholtz responded to the area. The anonymous complainant stated multiple suspects had been targeting out of season waterfowl. On scene, the COs located three hunters and a deceased wood duck. One of the hunters eventually took responsibility after initially attempting to deny involvement. The suspect later stated he believed the duck to be a teal when he shot; however, his description of a teal was not that of the deceased duck. Enforcement action was taken.

After returning home from a Belle Isle shift, CO Robert Hobkirk heard a number of shots being fired to the north of his residence. Knowing that there was a pond in the middle of the section and never hearing shots from that location in the past CO Hobkirk decided to investigate further. CO Hobkirk contacted four waterfowl hunters at the end of hunting hours. Violations encountered were two individuals who were hunting with unplugged shotguns and a hunter who did not have his state waterfowl license or his federal waterfowl stamp. Enforcement action was taken on the violations.

CO Seth Rhodea was checking hunters in the Fish Point Waterfowl Managed Area when he contacted several hunters to conduct a license and equipment check. Upon checking the hunter's licenses, it was discovered that one of the hunters did not have all the licenses he needed to waterfowl hunt and he was cited for the violation.

CO Mark Siemen assisted the Sanilac County Sheriff's Office with a complaint involving multiple goose hunters. CO Siemen responded and once on location, the complainant stated that earlier this morning some goose hunters were hunting behind his place of business. He stated that the BBs came down and hit some of the vehicles he was working on and one of his employees was hit by some of the BBs. Other information was obtained by the Deputy and CO Siemen. CO Siemen responded to the field and found the location in the field where the goose hunters were hunting. CO Siemen used his range finder and found that the hunters were outside the 150 yard safety zone. Follow up will be conducted.

CO Joshua Wright was patrolling the Quanicassee River when he encountered a vessel not displaying any registration numbers. After contacting the occupants, it was discovered that none of the three occupants had a PFD nor was the vessel registered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was traveling on M-25 in Tuscola County when he saw some people walking around a vehicle that was part way in the road. CO Wright turned around to

check on the occupants and discovered that the driver hit some mail boxes. After sobriety tests were given, the driver was arrested for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

CO Chad Foerster patrolled Nayanquing Point State Game Area on the morning of the early youth waterfowl season. He attended the morning draw and spoke with several of the young hunters in attendance about the laws and identification of waterfowl and wished them luck during their hunt.

During a patrol through Isabella County state land, CO Mike Haas encountered a group of ORVs. CO Haas stopped the group and notified them of the multiple violations; they were operating in a closed area, none of them had ORV licenses, and two of the individuals were not wearing a helmet. CO Haas asked one of the operators why he looked familiar and the man stated that CO Haas had warned him last summer for the same violations. Enforcement action was taken and citations were issued.

CO Mike Haas was conducting a marine patrol on Littlefield Lake and checked a group of anglers on a small fishing boat. The owner of the boat told CO Haas that he had just purchased the boat and it was his first time using it. After ensuring everyone had their fishing licenses, CO Haas asked to see lifejackets for everyone on board. The owner of the boat stated he didn't know he needed to have lifejackets on his boat. A citation was issued for failing to provide a PFD for everyone on board.

CO Mike Haas made contact with a group of individuals in a small truck that was operating through Isabella County state land. The truck did not have a license plate, registration or insurance. The owner of the truck told CO Haas that he was classifying his truck as an ORV and had purchased an ORV license. CO Haas notified the owner of the truck that putting an ORV license on a motor vehicle did not make the truck an ORV. CO Haas also informed the operator that even if it was legal to reclassify his truck as an ORV, ORVs are not allowed on state forest land. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson received a Report All Poaching complaint that an individual had shot and killed a red fox. CO Robinson made contact with the suspect at his residence. During the interview, the suspect admitted to shooting the fox several times with a pellet rifle. CO Robinson and the suspect searched the property for the animal, but were unable to locate it. The suspect assumed that he had killed it but wasn't sure. He stated that the fox was chasing wild turkeys that were coming to a pile of corn they had out for wildlife watching. The subject attempted to kill the fox out of season and did so without a base license or fur harvester license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Robinson, Josh Russell, Ken Lowell and Mike Haas taught a hunter education day in Montcalm County. The COs were also assisted by several volunteer instructors. Thirty-three students attended the class and passed. Some of the students took the full class and others attended just the field day activities.

CO Dan Robinson was called to a residence where a fire was burning in a dumpster and producing a lot of black smoke. Upon arrival, CO Robinson could see that the dumpster was fully engulfed in flames and was full of various materials. The homeowners admitted that the dumpster was full of household trash and other stuff. After the fire was out, the other stuff turned out to be used large oil filters, fiberglass materials, insulation and paint cans. The subject admitted that he was going to burn out the dumpster and another person was coming to pick it up in the morning. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 7**

While working nature preserve lands on Thornapple Lake in Barry County, CO Richard Cardenas observed a vessel underway without navigation lights. Upon contact, it was determined the subject did not have permission to hunt the property, was hunting without a waterfowl stamp, and was also transporting a loaded firearm while underway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Holmes was one of the first officers to respond to a fatal single car accident in Kalamazoo in which five teens were killed. The vehicle was estimated at speeds of 100 mph prior to hitting a tree and exploding into flames. The driver of the vehicle was determined to be 15 years of age.

CO Chris Holmes presented an Environmental Law class to the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Police Academy. The two hour class is required through the Michigan Commission of Law Enforcement Standards for graduation.

While on a group ORV patrol in Muskegon County, CO Cary Foster observed a golf cart driving down a trail closed to ORVs. CO Foster observed the female passenger consuming a can of beer. When she observed the CO, she quickly put the can down and then picked up the can sitting next to the driver who turned out to be her 21-year-old son. The golf cart was stopped. The driver admitted to having an open beer along with an unsealed bottle of whiskey. The golf cart did not have ORV stickers and a LEIN check of the driver showed his driver's license to be suspended and on probation. Enforcement action was taken.

On the same group ORV patrol, CO Cary Foster was heading back to the trails when he observed a rider come out of a driveway on an ORV without a helmet on. The rider turned and accelerated down the middle of the roadway at a high rate of speed. Upon catching up to and stopping the ORV, CO Foster observed the ORV was not registered and the operator had a pistol holstered inside his waistband. Upon making contact, the operator disclosed a valid CPL and that he had just done some work on the ORV and was testing it out. After discussing the several observed violations, the subject was cited for operating an ORV without a helmet.

COs Greg Patten and Chris Simpson attended Muskegon County Sportsman's for Youth Day. Over 4,500 youth were attended this event.

CO Zach Bauer was off duty when he was notified of a possible snagging complaint. CO Bauer just happened to be driving through the area where this angler was located. CO Bauer met the lieutenant at the location from the Berrien County Sheriff's Department to assist. CO Bauer proceeded to the river and located the anglers. From what CO Bauer saw it did not appear that these anglers were snagging, but they were using illegal treble hooks for the creek they were fishing. The gear was seized and a citation was issued for the illegal gear.

CO Tyler Cole attended a hunter safety class at the Coloma Rod and Gun Club in Berrien County. CO Cole spoke to the students about conservation laws and regulations and then assisted with the field day, where students got the opportunity to shoot clays and various types of firearms. Approximately 60 students were in attendance.

COs Tyler Cole and Matt Page were patrolling northern Van Buren County for ORV activity when they spotted two ORVs operating on a public highway. Upon initiating a stop, one ORV stopped and the second fled. The COs made contact with the ORV operator who had not fled. While interviewing the subject that had stopped, the second ORV had a change of heart and returned to talk with the COs. The operator of the ORV who fled was 16 years old and stated that he "was scared to get a ticket". After investigating and making a phone call to the parents, citations were issued for operating an ORV on a public highway and fail to license an ORV.

While patrolling Big Fish Lake in Cass County, CO Tyler Cole made numerous contacts with fisherman. While conducting a check, CO Cole noticed two fishermen in the vicinity immediately reel in their lines and proceed to head towards shore upon seeing that a CO was near. CO Cole cut the contact short with the boat he was with and caught up to the boat heading towards shore. Upon investigation, both subjects were found to be fishing without licenses. Both subjects were cited for fishing without licenses.

CO Tyler Cole received a tip of possible waterfowl hunting violations at a popular hunting spot in Cass County. Upon making contact with the hunting party in question, numerous violations were found, including hunting without a license, hunting waterfowl over bait, and hunting with unplugged shotgun. One of the subjects was found to have taken 4 Canada geese illegally. The subject who took the geese was cited for hunting without a license, taking waterfowl with the aid of bait, and for using an unplugged shotgun. The geese and the subject's shotgun were seized.

CO Matt Page and Sgt. Zach Doss conducted a marine patrol on Lake Michigan from South Haven to St. Joseph. While near the port of St. Joseph, the officers observed a charter boat fishing that was on a list of charter boat captains that have failed to submit the required monthly fish catch reports. The boat was followed back to the slip at the end of the charter and contact was made with the captain. The charter boat captain was asked to provide the daily fish catch report that is required to be kept on board and available for inspection. The captain was unable to produce the catch report and admitted to having failed to submit fish catch reports for the last couple of months. The captain was cited for failing to complete/submit the required fish catch reports.

## **DISTRCT 8**

CO Dan Prince talked with 80 students and parents at a hunter safety class which was held at the Livingston Conservation and Sports Association in Brighton. CO Prince talked about the duties of a Michigan conservation officer and also talked about firearm safety and fall turkey hunting.

COs Andrew Monnich, Chris Reynolds, Brandon Hartleben and Pete Purdy conducted a group patrol along the Huron River focusing on both marine and ORV activity along the railroad tracks. A number of people were contacted along the river and adjoining railroad tracks. Violations such as rail road trespass and no life jackets were addressed during the patrol.

CO Andrew Monnich patrolled Lenawee County on the early goose opener. Many successful hunters were contacted during the patrol and enforcement action was taken on a number of hunters who failed to have plugs in the firearms and hunters that failed to purchase federal duck stamps.

COs Andrew Monnich and Chris Reynolds were on marine patrol when they noticed a boat pass them with a registration sticker that was so faded that it was unreadable. The COs made contact with the boat operator and before they could say anything the operator shouted that "my boats expired isn't it?" CO Monnich agreed with the operator after he noticed that the faded sticker was from 2013. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brandon Hartleben and Pete Purdy were patrolling Runyan Lake when they observed a jet-ski being operated by a juvenile with two passengers displaying a 2016 registration. The COs made contact with the jet-ski and escorted it to a nearby residence and met with the parents. It was determined the 14-year-old operator had never taken boater safety, was operating unsupervised with two other 14-year-olds on board, and the father had failed to attach the current registration. Enforcement action taken.

CO Brandon Hartleben checked Four Mile Lake at Chelsea State Game Area for waterfowl hunting activity at the end of legal shooting hours. CO Hartleben observed a row boat slowly moving across the lake after sunset that was not displaying a white light. CO Hartleben made contact with the subject at the launch and discovered that the man had been out fishing and had been somewhat successful. A check of his catch revealed he was in possession of a 12 inch largemouth bass. Enforcement action taken.

CO Eric Smither spoke at a hunter safety class at the River Raisin Sportsman's Club. Approximately 30 students and parents attended. CO Smither covered hunting laws and regulations and answered questions.

Sgt. Jason J. Smith was on marine patrol when a park employee advised him that a couple waterfowl hunters camping at Green Lake had shot a wood duck during the early teal season a couple days prior. The park employee stated that they had also found a

mallard in the trash can when they were dumping trash. Sgt. Smith went to the campground and spoke with wives of the hunters who stated that their husbands were hunting on Green Lake. Upon leaving, Sgt. Smith saw them get their cell phones out and start dialing. Sgt. Smith located and talked with two of the hunters who denied everything and stated it must have been another hunter. Sgt. Smith asked where the third hunter was and they stated he was down the road. Sgt. Smith located the third hunter who was in the process of hiding his shotgun. Sgt. Smith learned that the third hunter had been hunting without a license and later confessed to shooting the wood duck. Sgt. Smith reestablished contact with the two other hunters who ultimately admitted to shooting the mallard during the closed season. Both ducks were recovered from the trash. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jason J. Smith attended an outdoor event at the Venture Church in Howell. The event had hunting clinics for a variety of things like waterfowl and archery deer hunting. Sgt. Smith spoke with all the attendees about laws and hunting safety.

CO Jeff Goss assisted with a hunter safety field day at Branch County Sportsman's Club certifying many new hunters.

CO Jeff Goss responded to a complaint that came over Calhoun County central dispatch of a subject fishing without a license. Upon arrival at the complaint, CO Goss located two subjects fishing. After watching them fish for a while, CO Goss made contact. One of the subjects had the same name as the suspect from the original call; however, he claimed that he was only fifteen years old. Upon running the name through dispatch, it was discovered that he was actually seventeen. After explaining this to the suspect, the suspect told CO Goss that he had a brother with the same name and he was seventeen, but he had died a few years ago. CO Goss then placed him in handcuffs and explained that they would be going to the county jail in order to figure out the truth. The subject quickly admitted that he was seventeen and said he didn't want to go to jail. CO Goss was issuing a ticket for fishing without a license when the suspect's buddy showed up on a bike holding a fishing pole. The suspect said to CO Goss, "There's my buddy, he's nineteen." The buddy approached CO Goss to find out why the suspect was in handcuffs. After explaining it to him, CO Goss asked him if he had a fishing license. The man said "No, I'm not fishing". CO Goss explained that he was just inquiring because it looked like he was intending to fish. The man said "No, I just brought the fishing pole for another buddy that's on his way down here." CO Goss, being suspicious of the man decided to leave and circle the block to see if the man would start fishing. While CO Goss was making a large loop, he approached an intersection and observed a man clearly flipping his middle finger out the window towards his patrol vehicle. CO Goss decided to follow the car and paced it at ten miles per hour over the posted speed limit. CO Goss initiated a stop and discovered that the subject had an expired registration. When asked why he flipped CO Goss the middle finger, the subject said "I don't really like cops that much." After issuing a ticket, CO Goss headed back to check on the man along the river. Upon arrival, he observed the 19-year-old fishing with the man who had just received the ticket. CO Goss made contact and issued the nineteen year old a ticket for fishing without a license.

COs Chris Reynolds and CO Carter Woodwyk attended a hunter safety class at the Red Fox Sportsmen Club in Jonesville. The officers reviewed laws pertaining to hunting, fishing and trapping and answered questions regarding hunting, fishing, marine and ORV from the 67 students and parents in attendance.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling a local lake in Hillsdale County when he observed two anglers fishing in a quiet cove. When the anglers spotted the CO, they immediately put their poles down and attempted to move locations. The CO stopped the vessel to check for their fishing licenses. Neither angler could produce a fishing license. The CO also discovered that the fire extinguisher was inoperable. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carter Woodwyk received felony warrants for two suspects related to an ongoing timber theft investigation in Hillsdale County. One of the suspects has been arrested and lodged in the Hillsdale County Jail. The other suspect is currently outstanding.

While patrolling the Grand River CO Troy Ludwig contacted two anglers fishing from a boat near Gale Road. After checking their fishing licenses, CO Ludwig was getting ready to check the anglers' catch when one angler stated that there may be a bass less than 14 inches in their fish basket. Upon further inspection, the bass in question was found to measure 11 inches, 3 inches short of the legal limit for bass. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Todd Thorn and Troy Ludwig followed up on a baiting complaint in Eaton County. The COs made contact with an individual who had placed bait on his hunting property. The COs explained that due to chronic wasting disease the use of bait to aid in deer hunting was not legal. The subject admitted to placing the bait and enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling the Grand River in Grand Ledge, CO Troy Ludwig contacted an individual fishing the river. When asked for his fishing license, the angler stated it was on his phone and began to search his email for the proper documentation. Unable to find the license, CO Ludwig checked the angler through the DNR dispatch, which showed that the man had not purchased a 2017 license and had a prior conviction for fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

On general patrol in Eaton County, CO Troy Ludwig received a complaint via Eaton County dispatch of a PWC operating carelessly on Narrow Lake. The violations that were described by the caller included harassing waterfowl, operating too close to non-motorized boats, and operating too close to shore. The CO contacted the operator of the PWC at her friend's residence and interviewed her about her operation of the PWC. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Todd Thorn and Matt Neterer arrested and lodged a man who had seven DNR warrants for violations committed last deer hunting season. Seven counts were

approved by the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office, including six counts of taking deer without licenses.

COs Todd Thorn, Matt Neterer, and Troy Ludwig held a hunter safety online field day course at Charlotte Assembly of God in Charlotte on Saturday. There were 11 students who took the course.

CO Todd Thorn transported a man on a DNR warrant from the Eaton County jail to the Ingham County jail. The man's warrant was from a case involving CO Thorn from 2013, which included the man running from him and eventually being caught during a foot pursuit.

Acting on a Report All Poaching complaint, CO Todd Thorn arrived at a residence in Lansing and found a skunk in a live trap. CO Thorn learned from witnesses that the skunk had been in the trap for over a week. The skunk was still alive and CO Thorn was able to release it. The resident admitted to leaving the skunk in the trap for over a week. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Neterer was working marine safety patrol on Michigan Center Lake when he encountered a vessel operating well after sunset without navigation lights. Upon making contact, he observed two subjects fishing in a small aluminum boat with an electric trolling motor. The boat did not have a current registration and there were no PFDs on board. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Neterer encountered a vessel with a hunting blind crossing Michigan Center Lake without navigation lights after sunset. CO Neterer made contact and found three subjects on board that were heading in from goose hunting. The hunters had the proper licenses, plugged shotguns and steel shot, but no PFDs. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Matthew Neterer and Jason King were preparing to launch their patrol vessel on Lake Ovid when they were flagged down by a disabled woman who had locked her keys in her car. The woman and her dog had been locked out of the vehicle for quite some time. She stated that she had contacted a towing company but they provided a 4-hour ETA. COs Neterer and King were able to use a boat hook to unlock her vehicle through the partially open sunroof just prior to a rainstorm passing over the area. The woman was very appreciative of the assistance.

CO Matthew Neterer responded to a Report All Poaching complaint of a farmer using fly bait poison near a cornfield. CO Neterer located several foam containers with the poison, a dead coyote and a dead opossum. The suspect was not home when CO Neterer attempted contact. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Chris Maher received a complaint of an opossum in a trap for nearly four days. During CO Maher's investigation he found that the individual was taking payment for his

trapping services. After an interview, the suspect admitted to not checking his traps every 24 hours as is required by law.

While conducting patrol within Shiawassee County, CO Jason King noticed a black cloud of smoke coming from a burn pile near a residence. Officer King made contact with the homeowner and noticed that they were burning solid waste. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick was on patrol in Shiawassee County when he observed goose hunters out in a field. CO Slick watched them for a while then made contact. Upon making contact CO Slick learned that they were both juveniles and checked all their gear to discover that the two guns were unplugged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick spoke at a hunter education class at the Looking Glass Sportsman Club in Shiawassee County. CO Slick spoke about how to be an ethical hunter and went through the Hunting and Trapping Digest. There were 20 students in attendance.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While patrolling a canal near the seven sisters in the St. Clair Flats, COs Joseph Deppen and Sgt. Todd Szyska observed a freshly breasted blue winged teal carcass floating in the water. CO Deppen followed the feathers on the water back to a residence where it had originated. On the dock was the suspect filleting the breasts off of a second blue winged teal. CO Deppen confronted the hunter and explained why the discarded carcass could not be thrown into the waterway. The hunter had no clue and only offered he thought he was feeding the turtles. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel, Brad Silorey, and Matthew Zultak checked a vessel on Lake St. Clair that was two PFDs short for four people. The COs also discovered five under-sized largemouth bass in a cooler that one of the occupants was sitting on and claimed had no fish in it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel checked three goose hunters on a golf course that had just finished getting their limit and were packing up. One of the shotguns was found to be unplugged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher conducted a marine patrol in and around the St. Clair Flats looking for slow/no wake violations in the area. CO Lasher made numerous contacts and enforcement action was taken. CO Lasher's observations will assist him in buoy and slow/no wake applications from the local municipalities.

CO Ben Lasher heard shots coming from an area in the Port Huron State Game Area near the Black River. CO Lasher located three vehicles and walked into the game area to locate the subjects. After locating and watching the subjects, CO Lasher made contact. Enforcement action was taken for camping violations, littering and a lengthy

discussion on firearm safety after watching the subjects act like they were playing a video game with loaded shotguns.

CO Brad Silorey was working an early morning shift patrolling state land checking early season goose and teal hunters. While CO Silorey was checking a lone hunter, he spotted a single cormorant that flew directly over where he was standing. After the cormorant flew over, CO Silorey heard several gun shots in the direction the cormorant flew. CO Silorey immediately turned around and watched the cormorant fall from the sky approximately 75 yards from where he was standing. CO Silorey ended his current contact and rushed over to the area where the cormorant fell. As CO Silorey crouched down into the tall vegetation, he observed several hunters looking for the downed bird. While observing, CO Silorey overheard one hunter tell the other "I don't think that was a goose." The hunters searched the area for several minutes then began to walk back to their seats. At that point, CO Silorey stepped out of the tall vegetation and identified himself. With a look of shock, the hunters knew that they had made a big mistake. CO Silorey had all five hunters in the group unload their firearms, and advised them that their hunt was over until they located the cormorant. One hunter walked directly over to the location where it fell, and retrieved the protected bird for CO Silorey. CO Silorey knew that two hunters had shot at the Cormorant based on the timing he heard when each shot was fired. The two suspects in violation immediately admitted to shooting the cormorant. After a complete check of the rest of the hunter's equipment and licensing, no other violations were found. CO Silorey seized the cormorant as evidence and enforcement action was taken on the two hunters. In Michigan, cormorants are non-game birds, and are protected under state law.

CO Brad Silorey was patrolling state land in Macomb County checking waterfowl hunters when he made contact with an individual who still had his goose decoys out and was not packing up well after legal shooting hours had ended. CO Silorey contacted the hunter, and immediately asked to see his firearm. The man stated that it was still loaded, and that he was just going to start packing-up. As CO Silorey was speaking with the man, several geese flew in near his decoys. The suspect made the comment "Awe you came several minutes too early." CO Silorey smiled and politely told the suspect that he would be in a lot more trouble if he had shot the geese after hours. CO Silorey asked the suspect if he knew when legal shooting hours ended, to which he responded that he did not. Along with hunting after hours, the suspect also had an unsigned federal duck stamp. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brad Silorey, Matt Zultak, and Kris Kiel were on marine patrol checking vessels on Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair Flats. The three COs conducted a stop on a vessel that was returning from duck/goose hunting that morning. After checking all the hunters licensing, CO Silorey asked to check the hunter's ammo box. While CO Silorey was checking the ammunition in the box, he found several boxes of "game load." CO Silorey immediately knew that the rounds were not steel, but made of lead. One box of the ammunition was full and the other was half empty. The suspect stated he "forgot" that the lead shot was in his ammo box. CO Silorey handed one round to CO Kiel to test the

round with a device that detects lead. The round came back positive for being lead. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner was checking fishermen in Brownstown Township at Hull's Trace. While checking one fisherman, CO Gardner found that the man did not have a valid fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking waterfowl hunters in the Erie State Game Area, CO James Zellinger encountered one subject hunting without a waterfowl license or a federal migratory bird hunting stamp. CO Zellinger also checked three waterfowl hunters in vessels without a PFD onboard. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Raymond Gardner and Dave Schaumburger were checking fishermen on the Detroit River near the River Rouge. While checking one fisherman, the COs found an undersized walleye in the live well. When COs Gardner and Schaumburger asked the man why he had it, the man replied he thought it was big enough. Enforcement action was taken.

During a waterfowl patrol, COs Dan Walzak and Dave Schaumburger made contact with a subject who took two youths out for youth waterfowl hunting weekend. During the contact it was found that one of the youths had hunted with an unplugged shotgun and the other was hunting with lead shot in possession. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Walzak contacted a subject who had taken his son out hunting for the youth waterfowl hunting weekend. Checking licenses, the youth stated that he could not find his hunting licenses. His father asked him if he had bought the license and his son answered that he had. CO Walzak checked the youth for retail sales purchases and found that there were no license purchases made for this year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO James Zellinger conducted a waterfowl patrol at Pointe Aux Peaux State Game Area during the youth waterfowl hunt. During the patrol, CO Zellinger observed a group of hunters shoot two mallards and one Canada goose. Contact was made with the subjects in the group. The group was composed of four subjects, none of whom were youth hunters. CO Zellinger asked the subjects how the hunt was going so far. The subjects replied they had shot one Canada goose and pointed to a goose in their boat. CO Zellinger checked the subject's firearms for plugs first; three of the four firearms were capable of holding more than three shotgun shells. While checking the subjects' hunting licenses, CO Zellinger determined two of the subjects were not properly licensed, one subject failed to purchase a federal migratory bird hunting stamp, and one had failed to purchase any licenses at all. CO Zellinger asked the subjects where the two ducks he had watched them shoot at and drop from the sky earlier in the morning were. The subjects denied having shot at any ducks. After further questioning, the subjects claimed to have shot two teal, but were unable to recover the teal in the thick marsh. CO Zellinger informed the subjects he had been watching them since daylight

and he had watched them shoot at and knock down two mallards. Two of the subjects then confessed to having shot the mallards. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer received a captive wildlife complaint from Station 20 of a fawn being kept on a farm in Gaines Twp., in Genesee County. CO Dragomer located the fawn in a fenced-in area and spoke with the suspect who stated he had the fawn for approximately three months. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer and Sgt. Stephen Mooney observed an individual operating a mini-bike on the roadway in the City of Davison. The COs conducted a traffic stop on the mini-bike and it was determined that the individual was operating on the roadway, not wearing a helmet, and did not have an ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Justin Muehlhauser and Travis Dragomer checked anglers on Mott Lake. The COs noticed three anglers in a small aluminum boat and after checking the fish they had caught the COs conducted a marine safety inspection. The anglers only had two out of the three PFDs they needed. The COs also noticed the vessel was operating with an electric trolling motor on an expired registration. The COs addressed the violations and enforcement action was taken.

CO Justin Muehlhauser stopped a vessel on Lake Fenton which displayed an expired registration. When the vessel stopped, the operator held up a temporary placard with a dealer registration on it. The CO inquired if the operator was the dealer. The operator explained that he works for the dealer and has permission to use the dealer registration for personal use. The CO explained it is not the purpose of a dealer registration to use for personal use. The CO spoke with a representative of the dealer who confirmed that they allow employees to use the dealer registration to “test out the boats” and he knew the operator was in possession of the vessel. The CO explained that personal use was a violation of the dealer registration and that the dealer must be onboard or the operator must have written permission from the dealer according to the law. Enforcement action was taken.

## **BELLE ISLE**

CO Chris Reynolds, while working a Belle Isle 2nd shift, assisted MSP and park staff with a group of individuals who broke into the zoo and spray painted some of the buildings. CO Chris Reynolds and a trooper were able to separate and question the individuals. Ultimately, the bag and spray paint were found. Parks staff issued citations for the vandalism and trespass.

While working Belle Isle, Sgt. Ron Kimmerly observed a vehicle blow through a stop sign at approximately 15 mph. Sgt. Kimmerly stopped the vehicle and when contact was made the driver threw his hands up and said, “NO ENGLISH”. Sgt. Kimmerly asked the driver for his driver’s license, registration and proof of insurance. The driver just sat there. The sergeant then said, “JAIL?” The driver then provided his driver’s license and

registration and told the sergeant that he did not have any insurance. A ticket was issued for disregarding a stop sign and for no insurance.