

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
9/5/11 – 9/18/11**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO David Miller had a busy bear opener and wrote tickets for illegal tree stands, fail to wear hunter orange, illegal ORVs, and dirty baits.

CO Trey Luce ticketed a bear hunter who had failed to wear any hunter orange. Officer Luce also accompanied the subject back to camp to verify and have him retrieve his license.

CO Ryan Aho investigated an illegal deer bait found on state land. An investigation led to a nearby individual who admitted to putting the bait out in preparation for the upcoming archery season.

CO Jason Niemi worked a complaint of a fishing charter taking overlimits of walleye. He was able to check the charter boat in question when it came in during the early morning hours over the weekend. There were four subjects on board and they were in possession of 24 walleye. The captain of the vessel was intoxicated and failed a breathalyzer test. The overlimit of walleye was addressed and the charter boat captain was lodged for boating while intoxicated.

CO Jason Niemi and Sgt. Pete Wright worked an area of Menominee County in which complaints had been received of unauthorized crop damage shooters. They observed a subject on an ORV who was riding double with no helmets. A stop was made and the operator was in possession of a loaded/uncased .270 rifle. Further investigation revealed that he was an unauthorized shooter attempting to take deer on a crop damage permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund worked the grouse decoy at several problem areas. Several shooters were contacted with violations including no hunting license, loaded/uncased firearms in motor vehicles, and no hunter orange. One individual decided that shooting at the decoys was not sporting enough. He decided to try to catch the bird by running at it, but was intercepted by the CO. The individual explained he knew it was a decoy because his buddies always put them out to try to trick him. The CO informed the individual his buddies were not involved this time.

CO Dave Painter contacted a subject on an ORV attempting to shoot his grouse decoy. The subject did not have any hunter orange with him, had a loaded shotgun on the ORV and was operating without a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery responded to the complaint of a turkey shot within a safety zone. The subject was confronted by the landowner and was still present when CO Emery arrived. The investigation showed the subject did not have a turkey license and thought it was

legal to shoot a turkey for his brother who did have a turkey license. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon contacted a group of bear hunters with numerous violations. The hunters had used barrels for their baits and had litter at the site; they had illegal ORV trails and they were hunting prior to their hunt seasons. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Wenzel stopped a vehicle operator who appeared to be road hunting. On the seat of the car was a shotgun that was properly unloaded and cased. However, the operator of the vehicle was extremely intoxicated. CO Wenzel lodged the driver in the county jail on charges of operating while impaired, transporting open intoxicants and possession of a firearm while intoxicated.

CO Mike Evink received a report of shining and shooting on the Garden Peninsula. He went to the scene and located blood in the field and a nearby parked truck with blood on it. A second vehicle approached and the passenger of that vehicle said the truck was his and it had broken down and was going to be towed. CO Evink asked about the blood in the back of the truck. Through several interviews it was found that four juveniles and one young adult had shot three deer. CO Evink seized the deer including the head of a buck in velvet and four guns. The juveniles were cited into probate court and the adult was cited into district court.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon contacted a group of dog/bear hunters who were operating ORVs cross country, transporting loaded handguns on ORVs and not wearing hunter orange. Tickets were issued.

CO Kevin Postma responded to a complaint that a bear hunter was attacked by a bear near the Trout Lake area. The investigation revealed that a subject hunting from a tree stand was enjoying watching a sow and three cubs eat from his bait station. After a brief period the sow scented and looked up at him then charged up his tree attacking him. The hunter tried to fight off the bear and kicked it down the tree while being swatted by the bear. The bear then came back up the tree and the hunter shot the bear at point blank range when it reached his tree stand a second time. The hunter sought his own treatment at the hospital in Newberry and received several stitches and staples to close up the claw wounds to one of his legs.

CO Derek Miller was conducting a foot patrol when he located an illegal bear bait. He proceeded to a nearby camp to ask if they were the ones responsible for the illegal bait. Everybody in the camp denied any knowledge of the bait. CO Miller set up on the illegal bait and within a few hours members from the nearby camp came to try to clean up the bait that they supposedly knew nothing about. When CO Miller stepped out the surprised camp members admitted to owning the bait. Litter tickets were issued.

CO Mike Hammill investigated an illegal fire in which he located the burnt remains of a bear. Interviews were conducted which led to two untagged bear in a garage freezer. Further investigation revealed that one of the subjects shot a bear before his season started and the other subject shot his bear out of his bear management unit. Enforcement action was taken.

### **DISTRICT 3**

COs Andrea Albert and Andrea Erratt worked a joint patrol at the Boyne and Jordan Rivers issuing several tickets for a variety of violations including possession of illegal devices such as M60 snaghooks, oversized hooks, unbaited hooks, attempting to snag fish and possession of foul-hooked salmon. Several other anglers were ticketed for fishing without a license, trespassing and litter.

CO Andrea Erratt ticketed and evicted a group of anglers who were illegally camping and also trespassing while snagging salmon at the Boyne River. After being evicted from their illegal camp, they set up another illegal campsite and continued to snag salmon, as well as dump fillet carcasses of salmon on private property. One of the subjects also had multiple prior convictions for snagging salmon on his record.

COs Carl VanderWall and Duane Budreau, along with Sgt. Mike Borkovich, worked the Bear River in Petoskey for salmon snagging, spearing and tribal fishing activity. Several tickets and warnings were issued to anglers for a variety of violations. One subject who had three previous snagging violations was ticketed for again snagging salmon. The COs report large numbers of anglers showing up this week due to peak salmon run activity on the Bear River.

While working bear season and patrolling the newly re-surfaced rail trail, CO Matt Theunick found a bear houndsman driving the trail, which is closed to motor vehicles. This particular subject was ticketed driving on the rail trail training his dogs within the last month in the same area. Enforcement action was taken, again.

CO Eric Bottorff handled a trash dumping complaint on state land. The trash consisted of several truckloads of insulation and wall board. CO Bottorff found pieces of the insulation along the roadway, which had apparently blown out of a vehicle. After about two miles, he located a residence where a mobile home was being torn down, with matching insulation and wall board. The elderly resident advised some young men were paid to tear down the mobile home and dispose of it properly. A visit to the responsible party led to a littering ticket issued and a complete clean up of the site and surrounding area.

While patrolling for pre-bear season activity in the Pigeon River Country state forest, Sgt. Greg Drogowski found a metal garbage can and the remains of a dumped burn barrel. A name and address were located in the remains and a visit to the subject produced a confession. The subject was ticketed for littering and will clean up the site, in addition to being called a "dummy" by his wife.

CO Mark DePew responded to a complaint of subjects who were illegally cutting wood on state land. While on scene CO Depew obtained confessions for cutting and selling over 40 cords of firewood from state land. Chainsaws and a wood splitter were seized and are being investigated further for possibly being stolen; and two subjects were arrested on numerous felony warrants.

CO Mark DePew is investigating a complaint of a hen turkey with 10 baby turkeys being intentionally run over by a vehicle in Otsego County. Anyone with information is asked to call the Report All Poaching Hotline at 1-800-292-7800.

CO Mark DePew was patrolling an area where he has received numerous complaints of bear hunters trespassing on private property. Officer DePew located hunters near the property and called for assistance from CO Kelly Ross. The COs contacted the hunters and found one of them in possession of a concealed pistol without having a concealed pistol license. The hunters' dogs were also without any identification tags. The hunter was arrested for the concealed pistol and charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Bill Webster located a truck parked on state land and tracked the hunter to where he was hunting. The hunter was found to be hunting with an antlerless deer license for a different county, no hunters orange, and hunting on state land (the early antlerless season is for private land only). The hunter was cited for no hunters orange and educated on his other violations.

CO Bill Webster found a truck in the ditch on a county road and contacted the driver. CO Webster discovered the truck was not licensed, had no insurance and the owner did not transfer the title when he bought it back in March. The driver was cited for his violations.

CO Bill Webster received a call of a shot being fired at 8:07 PM which was the end of shooting hours. CO Webster went to the location and found 3 people looking for a deer. They stated another person had shot at a deer and had left but they were still looking for it. None of the individuals had an antlerless deer license. After further investigation one of the hunters admitted to having shot at a deer. CO Webster continued to search the area and located a four point buck under a pine tree. The hunter was cited for taking a buck outside of the legal hunting season.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

After observing several very fresh salmon carcasses dumped in the Boardman River, CO Sean Kehoe contacted a group of nearby anglers. When questioned, the subjects admitted to catching some salmon. CO Kehoe asked to see their fish and the subjects showed him some fresh fish fillets at their vehicle. CO Kehoe asked if they had dumped the carcasses in the river and the subjects stated, "No we would not do that, we know it is illegal". CO Kehoe then asked the subjects where they had put the fish carcasses. The subjects replied, "A trash can". CO Kehoe asked the subjects to take him to the

trash can. The subjects broke down and admitted they had actually thrown the fish carcasses into the river. Enforcement action was taken.

While off duty, Lt. Dave Shaw and two conservation officers from Ohio stopped at the Homestead Dam on the Betsie River just after nightfall. Lt. Shaw wanted to show the out-of-state COs the river salmon run after a day of trolling on Lake Michigan. As the COs walked to the river pathway, they observed a subject cleaning several salmon in the parking lot. While standing in the dark below the dam, the officers observed the subject from the parking lot come down to the river and throw the filleted salmon carcasses into the river. Lt. Shaw identified himself and had the subject retrieve the carcasses from the river. CO Justin Vanderlinde, who was patrolling in the area, stopped by and took enforcement action as well as providing the subject a trash bag in order to dispose of the fish remains properly.

Sgt. Robert Torres responded to a complaint regarding subjects camping at the Arbutus Lake State Forest Campground (SFC) without paying their camping fees. Sgt. Torres contacted the campers and was met with verbal resistance from one of the parties. The campers stated they had no money and no place to live and wanted to be able to camp there until they could get some money. Running some checks on the campers revealed outstanding felony and misdemeanor warrants out for their arrest. Sgt. Torres turned the fugitive over to the local deputies.

Acting Sgt. Brian Brosky was checking a complaint of subjects snagging salmon along the Pere Marquette River. After checking several lawful anglers, Sgt. Brosky located the subject who was attempting to snag fish. From Sgt. Brosky's surveillance position, he was able to observe the subject for 30 minutes attempting to snag salmon in a deep pool with an unbaited treble hook. Upon contact, the subject admitted to fishing without bait, as he just liked to fight the fish and then release them. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Brian Brosky, Steve Converse, Angela Greenway, Sam Koscinski and Carla Soper, along with additional law enforcement officers from the U.S. Forest Service and MSP conducted a group patrol along the Big Manistee River below Tippy Dam. The patrol was partially in response to a large volume of calls and complaints related to numerous fishing violations and general disorderly person complaints. Over the course of the patrol, over two dozen tickets and numerous warnings were issued for various fishing violations including snagging fish, retaining foul hooked fish, fishing with illegal gear, attempting to snag fish, overlimits of fish, taking fish by illegal methods, littering, alcohol/motor vehicle violations, drug use/possession and resisting and obstructing officers while performing their duties.

Responding to an early morning snagging complaint at Tippy Dam on the Big Manistee River, CO Carla Soper was able to identify multiple violations above the coffer dam. CO Soper, in a short amount of time, issued nine tickets for violations including snagging, littering, retaining foul hooked fish, recreational trespass and using illegal fishing gear.

While working a group patrol on the Big Manistee River, CO Carla Soper was contacted on the radio by CO Steve Converse who, from a position on the opposite side of the river, advised of a possible snagging suspect. CO Soper located and observed the subject attempting to snag salmon. Upon making contact, CO Soper recognized the individual as someone they had dealt with before. A record check showed that the subject had previously been ticketed for snagging and possession of an overlimit of salmon. The subject was issued a ticket for second offense snagging of fish.

CO Steve Converse was watching a subject fishing along the Bear Creek in Manistee County when the subject decided to try a dandelion for bait. The dandelion did not last very long on the subject's hook and the subject decided that no bait worked better to snag fish. After watching the subject for a period of time he was finally contacted by CO Converse and issued a ticket for snagging fish.

CO Steve Converse watched five subjects foul hook salmon along a portion of the Big Manistee River. One of the subjects downstream would receive the other subject's fish that were snagged, remove the hooks from various locations on the fish with a pair of pliers and then use the pair of pliers to re-hook the fish in the mouth to make it appear that the fish were lawfully taken. The subjects were contacted and tickets were issued for snagging fish.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of a subject hunting with a crossbow for deer during the closed season. CO Wells responded to the complaint and located a subject in a ground blind hunting over a spincast feeder. The subject informed CO Wells that he wasn't hunting deer and produced a fall turkey license with a smile. CO Wells inquired how long the subject had been baiting the turkeys. The subject responded since July. CO Wells informed the confused subject that baiting turkeys is illegal. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Wells responded to a complaint of shots fired near a local flooding area and contacted two early goose hunters who were hunting with toxic shot and unplugged shotguns. The minor subjects were also trespassing and in possession of alcohol. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeff Ginn and Mike Wells received a complaint in Newaygo County of a subject shooting a deer during the early antlerless season with no deer license. The COs responded and located three bait piles and one gut pile with blood drag marks to a residence nearby. Upon interviewing the subject, a confession was obtained, including information of another subject who had hunted the property earlier that day. A follow-up interview with the second individual revealed two additional deer were taken without any licenses. The second subject attempted to tag the illegal deer with tags from friends and family before the COs arrived. A confession was obtained from the second subject as well. A total of three illegal deer were taken. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller was patrolling the Pere Marquette River system when he observed two subjects in the river. One subject was in the river with a large landing net attempting to

net salmon as they swam upstream. The second subject was attempting to snag salmon in the same stream section. After a short amount of time, one of the subjects received a text message and shouted over to his partner that the DNR is in the area. Both subjects exited the stream only to be greeted by CO Mueller. It seems one of their friends had arrived late and attempted to alert the two fish violators. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy VanGelderren was on patrol along the White River when he encountered a subject asleep with a full stringer of salmon. The CO woke the subject and while checking his identification was informed by dispatch that the subject had several outstanding arrest warrants. The subject was arrested and lodged in the Oceana County Jail.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO John Huspen reports that a subject who was arrested for setting arson wildfires pled guilty to one count of felony arson. The subject was sentenced to six months jail time with work release. The subject must pay \$6,000 in suppression costs along with fines and costs.

CO Jon Warner received a complaint of subjects who had removed barrier posts and driven into an area along the North Branch of the Au Sable River to camp. CO Warner located the camp and found the subjects who were in the area to fish the river. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn acted on a complaint of ORVs doing damage on state land and found the site where a race track with jumps for ORVs had been created. The adjacent property owners were found to be responsible for the damage. Juveniles as well as adults had been operating on the homemade race track. Enforcement action was taken and the subjects decided to repair the damage.

CO Mike Hearn stopped several ORV operators in a residential area who were operating carelessly, racing, speeding, and doing wheelies down the main road of a subdivision. One subject had several previous contacts and three tickets issued by CO Hearn.

While working on state land, COs Jon Warner and Bobbi Lively were contacted by an ORV operator who was riding in a closed area. His driving privileges had been suspended and while they were working on this contact, a second ORV operator stopped by. This subject had no helmet and was also operating in a closed area.

Following up on a bear complaint, CO Warren MacNeill followed a fresh set of ORV tracks in the area of the alleged bait. Officer MacNeill located the subject operating the ORV where prohibited with a loaded, uncased rifle.

COs Jason McCullough and Steve Lockwood attempted to stop two ORVs being operated illegally on state land. The subjects fled and led the COs on a short chase. One of the subjects crashed his ORV into the trees but was unharmed. The other temporarily escaped but was later located and arrested at his residence. When asked why they attempted to elude the COs, the subjects stated they didn't want a ticket for operating where prohibited.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO Jason A. Smith assisted local deputies with retrieving a boat from the Cass River after two subjects fell into the water. One of the subjects drowned in the incident.

CO Jason A. Smith assisted CO Seth Rhodea with a trespass complaint. The subject was located and, although trespass charges did not apply, the subject was hunting over an illegal bait pile and it was revealed that there were also tagging violations with an antlerless deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni issued a ticket to a subject who dumped three pickup truck loads of household items onto public land.

CO Holly Pennoni located two hunters on public land who were getting ready for the upcoming deer season. The hunters had placed tree stands without their names attached and also had placed bait prior to the legal date. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster received a complaint regarding a possible recreational trespass complaint. CO Foerster arrived on scene and found eight hunters afield deer hunting for the early doe season with permission to hunt the property, although none of the deer hunters were wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling state land in Tuscola County, CO Seth Rhodea stopped an ORV after seeing the operator riding without a helmet. Upon contacting the operator it was discovered that the rider had put an illegal license plate on the dirt bike to avoid purchasing an ORV license. Several warnings were given to operator and tickets were issued for failing to wear a helmet and failing to license his ORV.

CO Seth Rhodea received a complaint that a property owner was watching a subject trespass on his property during the early antlerless season. Upon arriving at the location, CO Rhodea contacted the hunter and in addition to the trespassing violation, the hunter failed to have his hunting license in possession. A ticket was issued for trespassing and a warning given for failing to have his license in possession.

CO Nick Atkin encountered a juvenile operating an ATV on the roadway. Upon stopping and making contact, CO Atkin located an unplugged shotgun that the youth had been using earlier for the early youth waterfowl season. The juvenile's parents were

contacted and CO Atkin explained the laws on supervising the youth while hunting and the plug requirement for firearms for waterfowl hunting.

CO Dan Lee received information on a subject putting bait out too early. The CO went to the residence but no one came to the door. A quick walk around the yard revealed a feed pile within 100 yards of the residence. The feed pile also showed evidence of a deer being shot on the spot. The landowner eventually returned and confirmed that he had shot a deer from the tool shed in the back yard over the corn they had put out for recreational viewing. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a complaint on neighboring property, CO Dan Lee located several bait piles. All the bait was fresh and each bait pile was over the two gallon limit, besides being on the ground before October 1<sup>st</sup>. The CO returned on a morning during the early antlerless season and contacted two hunters. One was not wearing hunter orange, neither had a valid license for the season and both were hunting over the bait piles. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee received a complaint about a subject showing off a seven point buck he shot on opening day of the early antlerless deer season. The CO responded to the residence and contacted the subject. The man showed the CO the carcass of a deer in a shed. When asked where the head and hide were he first said in the woods, then he said in the garden, then he said the head was gone, then he said he burned it, then he produced a seven point rack from the freezer. The man had tagged the deer with a combo tag and validated it for 10/01/11. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Larn Strawn received a complaint of trespass and illegal deer. While investigating the complaint, the CO was able to track a blood trail through a dense swamp to a field. After tracking the blood trail, the CO located a truck, gut pile, hunting blind and ultimately a hunter. The hunter admitted to killing the deer and trespassing. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Phil Hudson and Quincy Gowenlock were on a joint patrol in Gratiot County when they observed a vehicle parked along the shoulder near a bridge. The COs exited the patrol truck and observed two subjects fishing under the bridge. As the COs looked over the railing, CO Hudson saw a stringer which appeared to have two short bass attached. One of the anglers advised that he was told that bass had to be 12 inches in length to be legal. The bass measured 13 and eight inches. CO Quincy then asked the angler about the eight inch bass. The angler had nothing to say. Both anglers were issued tickets for possessing short bass.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Cary Foster received a baiting complaint from the staff at the Ionia Recreation Area that had been passed on by a hunter. Upon investigation CO Foster located the bait pile and a camouflaged hunter seated about 30 yards away hunting squirrels after removing his orange vest. The hunter was ticketed for not wearing hunter orange.

CO Gary Raak contacted three subjects riding their horses on the North Country trail through the Barry State Game Area (SGA) right past a sign informing them not to. One of the subjects attempted to flee and when apprehended initially provided a false name.

CO Ken Cerny was on patrol when a vehicle crossed the center line and ran him off the road. CO Cerny attempted to make a traffic stop and the vehicle fled. After an eight mile pursuit, CO Cerny, with assistance from local police officers, was able to stop the vehicle. The driver was intoxicated and was lodged for felony flee and elude police and operate while intoxicated.

CO Mike McGee was on patrol on an inland lake in Cass County when he began to approach a boat where a subject was fishing. As he approached, CO McGee observed the angler begin frantically throwing fish into the water. Once reaching the boat, CO McGee recovered three dead bluegills floating on the surface and found 28 bluegills in the subject's boat. The subject was ticketed for overlimit of panfish.

CO Steve Mooney has been actively working anglers on Lake Michigan, specifically targeting subjects using extra fishing lines. Over a short time, CO Mooney ticketed four different subjects using extra lines, including a subject he had seen the day before in St. Joe with 11 rods on board, but the angler pulled the lines before he could be contacted. The next day, CO Mooney observed the same subject in a boat in South Haven fishing with three extra lines. The subject was ticketed and informed about the previous days observations.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss responded to a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint of subjects trespassing at a low head dam and snagging fish. Upon arrival, two subjects were observed snagging and one of the subjects attempted to net a fish off of the step of the low head dam. Both subjects were ticketed for fishing violations and trespass after going past a well-posted fence. CO Bauer continued to work the dam during the following days, and ticketed a number of people for fishing and trespassing, including subjects who had walked onto the very dangerous spillway of the low head dam.

CO Ken Cerny received a RAP complaint of baited hunting sites on hunter access property. CO Cerny, along with CO Paul Higashi, investigated during the early antlerless season and located a subject hunting without hunter orange and over a large bait pile. The subject admitted that he and his father had placed illegal bait piles at three other locations on the property. The subject was ticketed for the violations and will clean up the other illegally baited hunting sites.

CO Steve Mooney was on patrol near a parcel of township owned property, when he contacted a subject who had a private land fall turkey license. Upon checking the subject's shot shells, it was discovered that he was using illegal shot size for turkey hunting. CO Mooney explained that the subject's turkey license was not valid on public property and issued the subject a ticket for the illegal shot size violation.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Jason J. Smith contacted two subjects who were fishing without licenses. One of the subjects had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith contacted a subject fishing on a remote lake who, upon noticing the CO, attempted to throw the fish he had caught back into the lake. The subject was properly licensed and had caught legal fish yet asked if he was going to jail. Sensing something awry, CO Smith ran a check on the subject which revealed an outstanding arrest warrant. The subject was indeed going to jail.

CO Rich Nickols contacted a subject hunting on state land during the early antlerless firearm deer season. The subject had an antlerless deer license so he thought he was legal until the CO informed him that the early antlerless season is for private land only. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens received information that three subjects trespassed onto private property to gain access to a river. Upon investigation it was revealed that the subjects admitted to trespassing so that they could launch their flat bottom boat in search of "the big one". The subjects were also fishing without licenses and did not have any personal flotation devices (PFDs) aboard. Enforcement action was taken.

During the early antlerless firearm deer season, CO Dan Bigger received complaints from three separate landowners that subjects were trespassing on their private property. CO Bigger was able to track down the subjects and take enforcement action.

While investigating a suspicious vehicle parked in a corn field after dark, CO Todd Thorn located a subject hunting without the required hunter orange garment. The subject was hunting with his son who also was not wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader received a complaint of a subject keeping undersized bass. CO Bader located the subject cleaning the undersized fish at his dock with more undersized fish still in his bucket. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Bigger, Jeff Walker, and Jason J. Smith worked a late night complaint of a subject illegally netting fish in the Grand River. The COs located the subject who was using an illegal gill net to take fish out of the river. The subject was in possession of undersized walleye when contacted by the COs. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason J. Smith received a late night complaint that a subject was seen dragging a buck whitetail into a shed on private property. CO Smith arrived on scene and located two subjects in the shed smoking marijuana. CO Smith's investigation located four illegal deer, two illegally killed bucks and two untagged antlerless deer. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Al Mendez responded to a trespassing complaint where a landowner heard a shot and located a subject dragging a deer off of his property. CO Mendez located the subject and took enforcement action.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Linda Scheidler conducted a marine patrol on Kearsley Lake where she observed a subject towing a skier without an observer. After conducting surveillance on the situation, the CO contacted the operator of the vessel who stated his son wanted to go skiing but they did not have a third person as an observer. The father said he decided to roll the dice and bet on not running into a CO. The dice didn't roll in his favor. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett responded to a report of a possible illegal hunter at Sterling State Park. Park staff saw a goose hunter in a closed section of the park and managed to bring him to a parking area. CO Ennett talked to the hunter who did not know the dates of the hunting seasons and was goose hunting several days after the early season closed and was using an unplugged shotgun. The subject was ticketed for the shotgun violation and warned about hunting during the closed season.

CO Brandon Kieft was patrolling the Bald Mountain Recreation Area when he observed two younger males carrying firearms without any hunter orange clothing. When CO Kieft approached the two individuals, they stated they had been target shooting near the parking lot. CO Kieft asked them what direction they were shooting and where their targets were located. The individuals were trying to make up a quick story when CO Kieft noticed fresh bullet holes that had caused damage to the recreation area signs. The subjects eventually admitted to shooting at the signs. CO Kieft informed them that the area was closed to target shooting and the subjects were issued tickets for the violations.

CO Brandon Kieft responded to a RAP complaint involving a homeowner who shot a Canada goose from his back sliding door. The goose was killed within the safety zone of neighboring houses with a .22 caliber rifle. The area is also closed to hunting by a local hunting control and the subject did not have any current hunting licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brandon Kieft contacted two individuals hunting small game in the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area. One of the two subjects did not have any current hunting licenses. CO Kieft recognized him as the son of a suspect from one of his previous cases. The subject was issued a ticket for the violation and told to purchase a small game license before hunting in the future.

CO Ben Shively contacted two subjects fishing on a local lake in Oakland County. Both subjects were fishing without licenses and had accessed the lake by trespassing across private property that was posted. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively located four subjects trespassing in a gravel pit in southern Oakland County. The subjects had parked along the road and trespassed over a large berm onto the property to play paintball. The subjects stated they did not have permission to be on the property but thought it was okay. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler received a baiting complaint from the RAP hotline. The complainant said he saw a harvested yearling doe which he knew had to be taken over bait. CO Scheidler located the hunter's blind and bait. She then questioned the suspect about taking a fawn with spots. He denied it, and showed her photos on his cell phone of his deer without spots and the same blind where the CO had located bait. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking subjects near the South River Road fishing site, CO Kris Kiel observed a subject walking across the parking lot with a fishing pole and a garbage bag with something in it. The CO contacted the subject and asked what was in the bag. The subject stated that he thought it was a northern pike. Upon inspecting the fish it was a 28 inch musky. Enforcement action was taken.

While working the early antlerless deer season in St. Clair County, CO John Borkovich heard several shots from within a nearby wooded area. The CO observed a vehicle parked along the edge of the woods so he waited until the vehicle came out onto the roadway. He contacted the two occupants, who first stated they did not get a deer; however, CO Borkovich was not convinced. After additional questioning, the CO obtained consent to search the vehicle. In his search, he found a small doe wrapped up in a trap hidden under luggage and hunting gear in the back of the SUV. The deer was not tagged. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich received a complaint of a large dead sturgeon on a stringer tied to a dock in Algonac. The CO responded and set up surveillance on the dock for several hours. No one returned so the CO seized the 66 inch fish. The CO plans to interview several local anglers to see if they know anything. The investigation continues.

CO Ken Kovach assisted with a few car crashes over the week. Two of them were car/deer accidents and the third was a head-on collision. A mother was trapped in the vehicle. CO Kovach assisted with stabilizing two young children and the dad who were also in the vehicle. The female was flown to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. The children were treated and released from Hurley.

CO Ken Kovach observed a dad and two young kids without helmets on an ORV traveling at a high rate of speed illegally on a paved road. The CO turned around to stop the ORV and it took off down a side road kicking up gravel. The CO followed the tracks to a residence where he saw the garage door shutting. As he approached the door, he heard a male's voice yell "shut up" from within the house. The CO ran the registration numbers on a couple of vessels that were in the driveway and got the name and description of the owner which matched the description of the subject who fled. No one was answering the door when a subject pulled into the driveway. The CO

contacted this subject who was friends with the resident. The friend called the subject on his cell phone and allowed the CO to talk to him. A short time later, the subject came out of the house and was quite belligerent. After some discussion, the subject calmed down and admitted he was wrong. The subject explained to the kids his wrong doings and the safety concerns of the CO. Interestingly enough, both boys were in a hunter safety class where CO Kovach is presenting. Enforcement action was taken and all were taught a valuable lesson.