

**Law Enforcement Division**  
**Bi-Weekly Field Report**  
**1/1/2017 – 1/15/2017**

**DISTRICT 1**

Conservation Officer (CO) Ethen Mapes worked a late night fishing patrol which lasted well into the morning on Lake Gogebic. CO Mapes discovered a total of 12 set lines that had been left out overnight. Law enforcement action was taken with two groups of fishermen at separate locations for not having immediate control of their fishing lines.

CO Ethen Mapes assisted the DNR's Wildlife Division with their winter moose flight survey.

COs Brian Lasanen, Ethen Mapes, Dave Miller, Dennis Gast, Sgt. Emery and U.S. Forest Service LEO Josh Lopac conducted a sound meter enforcement patrol targeting loud snowmobilers in the Greenland area. During the 4-hour patrol, over 300 snowmobiles were contacted. Eight snowmobiles were tested for excessive noise, four were ticketed for exceeding the 88 DbA (the highest having a 98 DbA level. Two machines were given warnings for defective equipment and two were tested under the legal limit. Other citations were issued during the patrol included: expired or failure to display snowmobile registrations, failure to obtain a snowmobile trail permit and careless operation of a snowmobile. 35 warnings were also given for other various snowmobile related infractions.

COs Brian Lasanen, Ethen Mapes, Jason Wicklund, and Shannon Kritz worked a joint OWI patrol with the Michigan State Police and Ontonagon County Sheriff's Department, targeting impaired snowmobile operators near Bergland. During this group patrol over 100 snowmobilers were contacted. One individual was arrested for OWI on a snowmobile and two others were ticketed for careless operation of a snowmobile. Several other warnings were given for other minor snowmobile infractions.

CO Ethen Mapes was assisting in a group patrol in Greenland when a snowmobiler who was frustrated about his friend getting a citation started his snowmobile and accelerated at a high rate of speed only a few feet away from bystanders, throwing snow into the roadway. Law enforcement action was taken for careless operation of a snowmobile.

CO Ethen Mapes and CO Brian Lasanen worked a snowmobile patrol near Bergland and targeted an area known for snowmobiles blowing through stop signs. They made a stop when they witnessed three snowmobilers run through a stop sign. Upon contact, two of the three subjects admitted to drinking alcohol. Standard field sobriety tests were performed and both subjects were found to be under the legal limit. Law enforcement action was taken for careless operation of a snowmobile.

CO Jeremy Sergey assisted local EMS and law enforcement during a two vehicle car accident on County Road 577 and Elmwood. One of the drivers was unconscious and taken to a local hospital.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey observed two subjects ice fishing with seven tip-ups. After observing them for a while, the COs made contact with the pair of fishermen who claimed that a third friend had just gone back to the house. Once it was explained to the pair that the COs had observed them for some time they admitted to fishing with too many lines. While dealing with the fishermen, two snowmobilers rode onto the lake. Neither snowmobiler had a helmet, valid registration, or trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeffrey Dell was patrolling a county road when he came upon a subject operating an ORV without a seatbelt or helmet. The subject was on his way to predator hunt on a friend's property. A license and firearm check was conducted. The subject was found to be in possession of a loaded firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeremy Sergey made contact with an individual in an ice shanty on Hermansville Pond. CO Sergey noticed that the ice shanty was not labeled with a legible name and address. A warning was given to the owner to re-label the ice shanty.

COs Jeffrey Dell and Jeremy Sergey noticed a dead deer in a trailer near Hermansville. Contact was made with the person in possession of the deer. Upon investigation, it was determined that the deer had died from being struck by a vehicle. Proper instructions were given to the individual on how to legally take possession of a road kill deer.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Calvin Smith was on routine patrol when he came across an ORV operator who was checking his trap line. A check of the trapper's gun case revealed a loaded shotgun with a live round in the chamber and four rounds in the magazine. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Calvin Smith was on routine patrol when he made contact with a small game hunter driving his vehicle on a forest road. When CO Smith asked the driver if he could check his gun to verify that it was unloaded, the driver asked, "What are you looking for, a loaded gun? I can assure you that this gun is not loaded." A check of the firearm revealed that there was indeed a live round in the chamber. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Calvin Smith assisted a Michigan State Trooper with a domestic assault in a rural part of the county.

CO Calvin Smith made contact with a duo that had made a trip to the U.P to do some scouting for the upcoming firearm deer season. Unfortunately the two eager hunters had committed several violations consisting of ORV trespass, riding double on an ORV manufactured for a single operator, placing out too much bait, operating an ORV with no

helmets and failure to immediately notify of carrying a concealed pistol. Law enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Lynch responded to a call of four duck hunters that got thrown overboard from their boat. On scene, three of the hunters made it back to shore safely and one was still missing. CO Chris Lynch along with a Michigan State Police trooper located the shaken man in a marsh about a quarter mile away from where the other three hunters were. He was taken to the hospital for hyperthermia and other minor injuries.

CO Chris Lynch was on patrol when he observed a truck operating the wrong way down a one way road. A traffic stop was conducted, and upon contact the odor of marijuana was coming from the cab of the vehicle. When asked for a driver's license, the driver stated he didn't have one. Gladstone Public Safety was called to the scene to assist. A search of the suspect's vehicle turned up burnt marijuana residue. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig was patrolling for shining activity when he met an ORV on the road. The operator was stopped because he was not wearing a helmet. While speaking with the individual on safety issues, it was found the ORV was also unlicensed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pat Hartsig was patrolling an area frequented by bird hunters. While driving down a trail, he noticed an individual walking away from the CO with a shotgun in his hands. When stopped and asked why he wasn't wearing orange, the older hunter stated he thought he didn't have to. An orange vest was given to the hunter so he could keep hunting, as well as a current hunting digest and enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken was following up on an illegal timber cutting on state land when he heard an ORV approaching. The rider was not wearing a helmet. Upon contacting the individual, CO Busken found that the ORV had no registration sticker. The individual was returning from baiting an illegal deer blind on state land. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kevin Postma followed up on a complaint of a dog being caught in a trap. CO Postma retrieved the trap from the complainant who advised that his dog was nearly killed by the conibear trap. After examining the trap it was determined that the trap set was legal for private property. The dog owner was encouraged to keep his dog on a leash. The trap was returned to the owner without incident.

CO Kevin Postma assisted Wildlife Division with tagging and collaring a wolf that had been trapped by a coyote trapper.

CO Kevin Postma was called to the scene of safety zone violation involving duck hunters. The complainant advised that he thought the hunters were too close and this was a residential neighborhood. CO Postma arrived and determined that the hunters were actually just outside of the safe zone by about 10 yards (160 yards). There were no violations.

CO Robert Watson was conducting routine patrol in a local grouse hunting area when contact was made with a vehicle travelling very slowly down a two-track. After checking the hunters for firearms, it was discovered one of the firearms, located in the front seat next to the passenger, was only partially cased. CO Watson then asked for any ammunition. The hunters informed CO Watson the ammunition was located in a backpack in the back seat. A verbal warning was issued for a partially uncased firearm.

CO Mark Zitnik was checking waterfowl hunters when he observed a motorboat without registration decals. Upon further investigation, it was revealed that the vessel was not registered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Freeborn received a call from a local trapper regarding a wolf in a trap that was already collared. CO Freeborn responded and assisted the trappers in releasing the wolf.

### **DISTRICT 3**

COs Andrea Erratt, Andrea Albert, Duane Budreau, Steve Speigl, Chad Baldwin, and Sgt. Mike Feagan conducted a group snowmobile patrol covering Antrim and Charlevoix Counties. Officers conducted sound meter enforcement as well general snowmobile enforcement. During the patrol no sound emission violations were encountered; however, officers issued ten tickets and six warnings for various snowmobile registration and trail permit violations with hundreds of snowmobiles being contacted.

CO Andrea Erratt was the first on scene of a rollover accident. CO Erratt helped the cold driver into her truck so he could get warm while waiting for other units to arrive. The subject had misjudged an upcoming stop sign and hit a snowbank and rolled his van. The incident was turned over to the Michigan State Police.

While patrolling for snowmobile activity, CO Andrea Erratt encountered a subject operating a snowmobile without any registration. It was also discovered that the VIN on the snowmobile had been covered with graphic stickers. Questioning revealed the subject had purchased the snowmobile last year and never transferred the machine to his name and did not register it. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrea Erratt was on patrol when she encountered a subject operating a snowmobile with a trail permit that had expired in 2013. A ticket was issued for the violation.

While patrolling the Jordan Valley in Antrim County, CO Andrea Erratt was the first on the scene of a snowmobile accident. The subject was riding a rental snowmobile and was operating at a high rate of speed when he lost control and hit a tree. The snowmobile was damaged, but the operator was not hurt. A ticket was issued for careless operation and for speed greater than reasonable.

CO Andrea Erratt was patrolling by snowmobile when she encountered several individuals trespassing on private property on their snowmobiles. The subjects had driven past several no trespass signs and over the top of a fence. CO Erratt made contact with the subjects and issued trespassing tickets to them.

CO Andrea Erratt responded to an anonymous complaint of a subject who had shot three bucks, tagging one of the deer with his girlfriend's kill tag. CO Erratt made contact with the subject who stated that his girlfriend was the one who shot the buck and tagged it. A quick check of the girlfriend revealed that she had never taken hunter safety. Upon questioning the girlfriend, there was a discrepancy to the time she said she shot it and the time given by the boyfriend. CO Erratt was able to locate the private property where the subject stated his girlfriend shot the deer. A search warrant was obtained and the trail camera at the hunt site was seized. Upon review of the pictures from the trail camera, it showed the boyfriend shooting the buck that was tagged with his girlfriend's kill tag. When presented with this information both subjects confessed to the truth. The male subject was charged with taking an over-limit of deer and using the kill tag of another. The female subject was charged with allowing another to use her kill tag and for purchasing a license without having a hunter safety certificate.

While on patrol, CO Andrea Albert was the first on the scene of a snowmobile personal injury accident. On that same day CO Albert was also the first on scene of another snowmobile accident, this one without any injuries to the operator. In both cases aid was given and accident reports filled out.

CO Tim Rosochacki and Acting Sgt. Eric Bottorff responded to I-75 near Indian River to assist with three multiple vehicle accidents that occurred simultaneously due to white-out conditions. COs diverted traffic off of the expressway and positioned stranded traffic on I-75, in order to allow the jaws of life and other emergency personnel to access injured motorists and tow trucks to remove vehicles blocking the roadway.

COs Nick Torsky, Matt Theunick, Mark Depew and acting Sgt. Eric Bottorff worked a group patrol during the Indian River Winter Fest. They checked over a 1000 snowmobilers, issued six tickets and over 30 warning for assorted violations.

CO Matt Theunick assisted the Cheboygan County Sheriff with an investigation involving a coyote hunter shooting a horse near Lee Grande Ranch.

CO Mark Depew approached a fish shanty and noticed the odor of marijuana coming from inside. Two subjects were arrested for possession of marijuana.

CO Nick Torsky and Acting Sgt. Eric Bottorff attended the Michigan Citizen Waterfowl Advisory Council meeting in Gaylord. CO Torsky presented a local law enforcement summary of the 2016 waterfowl season and his observations from the early teal season.

While on snowmobile patrol, CO Tim Rosochacki contacted a coyote hunter who was transporting a loaded firearm on his own snowmobile and also operating on the roadway without helmets for either himself or his passenger. In addition, he did not have a valid trail permit for the snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Tim Rosochacki responded to a complaint of a lost coyote hunter north of Wolverine who showed up at a resident's house after dark, soaking wet in very cold temperatures and carrying a rifle. CO Rosochacki located the subject and got him back to shelter.

CO Kelly Ross, Montmorency County, continues to work on investigations from the fall, including deer and elk poaching incidents.

CO Kelly Ross contacted a teen-aged ORV operator driving carelessly and riding double in the town of Lewiston. The subjects advised CO Ross that they would go home and said they appreciated the break. One hour later CO Ross stopped the same two subjects operating carelessly and against traffic on snowmobiles. This time enforcement action was taken.

COs Kelly Ross and Brad Bellville, Montmorency County, report a 44-year old Marlette man pled guilty to taking an elk during the deer season. He fled the area after shooting the cow elk, and did not report the incident. He paid nearly \$6,000 in fines and costs and his hunting privileges were revoked for 15 years. He is the first to be sentenced under the new increased elk poaching penalties enacted last year.

CO Brad Bellville continues to work on an illegal deer complaint involving cell phone records and other investigative leads. Significant progress is being made.

COs in Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties worked snowmobile enforcement this week reporting significantly more activity.

CO Paul Fox was doing snowmobile patrol on Trail 99 in Presque Isle County over a busy weekend. Weather and snow conditions were favorable and numerous people were enjoying the trails. Multiple violations were addressed; however, including no trail permit, fail to display registration, and trail permit, improper display of registration, and ORVs operating on a snowmobile trail. Tickets and warnings were issued for the violations.

CO Jon Sklba, Presque Isle County, is investigating a subject that has been obtaining free military hunting and fishing licenses after being discharged from the military for over two years.

CO Bill Webster was working in Montmorency County and came across a group of snowmobilers, all with expired registrations. They also had expired hunting licenses displayed as their trail permits. Tickets were issued.

COs Bill Webster and Brad Bellville were working on snowmobiles on the trail system this weekend and issued several citations for careless operation and running stop signs.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CO William Haskin took a complaint that an individual was fishing on the Hodenpyl backwaters with too many tip-ups. CO Haskin responded to the area and found that the individual had left, but his six tip-ups were still set. CO Haskin waited over thirty minutes for the individual to return. The suspect said that he didn't think he was doing anything wrong. Enforcement action was taken.

CO William Haskin, CO Richard Stowe, CO Ryan Andrews and CO Colton Gelinias all represented DNR Law Enforcement Division at the 3-day, second annual Cadillac Outdoor Show.

CO William Kinney and CO Ryan Andrews were checking ice fishermen on Lake Cadillac in Wexford County. After several checks, CO Andrews made contact with an angler and discovered he was fishing with extra lines. CO Andrews then noticed the man grew nervous when he was asked if he caught and kept any fish. That angler and another had caught two undersize pike and attempted to hide them in the bottom of their fishing bucket. Enforcement action was taken for undersize pike and fishing with too many lines.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky followed up on information they acquired at a taxidermist. The COs made contact with a hunter who had some discrepancies regarding the date his deer was brought in and when his tag was purchased. The hunter admittedly went hunting without a license and shot an 8-point deer and purchased his license after the fact. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Publiski and CO Brian Brosky were checking fishing activity on Hamlin Lake when they encountered two individuals exiting the ice. The COs talked to them and asked how fishing was. Only one admitted he was fishing and the other said he was only there to hang out. The COs saw the same angler from the day prior as he was walking on the ice and CO Publiski accompanied him back to the shanty. This time, CO Publiski was able to catch the individual from the day prior as he was reeling up a line. Enforcement action was taken. Later in the day, the same two individuals were stopped in their vehicle for an equipment violation. During the third contact, CO Publiski and CO Brosky smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. An investigation revealed drug paraphernalia. Warrants are being sought.

While on a stop with snowmobiles in Manistee County, CO Steve Converse observed two additional snowmobiles rounding a corner and coming at him. The two operators quickly stopped and turned around in an obvious effort to evade the CO. CO Converse could hear the two snowmobiles that turned around as they were taking an alternate route to get around him. CO Converse cleared the original stop and was able to cut off the two subjects at the next intersection, only to have them again turn around and take off at a high speed. CO Converse followed their tracks for a while and determined they were potentially heading back to the parking lot which was approximately 15 miles away. CO Converse made his way to the lot and found both operators loading their snowmobiles on a trailer about thirty minutes later. CO Converse positively identified the snowmobiles and asked the subjects why they were so determined to avoid him. Both explained that they didn't have trail permits and had been unable to find any place that sold them. CO Converse then pointed to the gas station 100 yards away and advised that trail permits were sold there. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on snowmobile patrol in Lake County when he observed two snowmobilers as they took off from an intersection two abreast. After following the snowmobiles for a short distance, one snowmobile began operating against the flow of the traffic on the opposite shoulder. CO Killingbeck stopped the snowmobile and asked the subject if he was familiar with regulations pertaining to snowmobile operation. The subject told CO Killingbeck he did not know there were any rules for riding snowmobiles. After a lengthy conversation about the rules of operation, numerous violations were addressed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he observed a vehicle with a front head light that was not working properly, creating a safety issue due to snowy and low visibility conditions. CO Killingbeck stopped the vehicle and discovered that the driver was suspended. The driver handed CO Killingbeck a proof of insurance that was valid on its face, but further investigation proved the driver had stopped paying the insurance months ago. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and Sgt. Meyers of the Lake County Sheriff's Department were on snowmobile patrol when they were advised by a snowmobiler that a large box truck was stuck in the middle of the trail several miles from their location. They investigated and found a 26,000 pound truck blocking the trail. CO Killingbeck discovered that the driver had been following GPS directions which took him down the snowmobile trail as the shortest route. The driver said he follows his GPS implicitly as it "never lets him down." A check through Michigan SOS records revealed that the driver had numerous commercial vehicle violations and that he currently had no CDL endorsements to drive the large truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck and Sgt. Meyers of the Lake County Sheriff's Department were on snowmobile patrol when they observed a snowmobile as it ran a stop sign at a high rate of speed. The snowmobiler was stopped and CO Killingbeck asked the operator if he had seen the stop sign. The snowmobiler said that he had but wasn't paying close

enough attention to stop and opted to run it instead of attempting to slow down. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on snowmobile patrol in Lake County when he observed a snowmobile operating with an expired registration. CO Killingbeck stopped the snowmobiler who wanted to argue with CO Killingbeck that he was sure he had registered his machine. The snowmobiler explained that he was not the type to drive around with expired registrations. CO Killingbeck ran the registration and the VIN to the snowmobile only to discover that the snowmobile was indeed expired. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck, CO Brian Brosky, CO Kyle Publiski and Sgt. Meyers of the Lake County Sheriff's Department were sitting stationary watching for snowmobile violations in Lake County when they observed two snowmobiles operating at a high rate of speed, carelessly and against the flow of traffic. Sgt. Meyers was able to get a radar reading of 90 mph on the lead snowmobile. The snowmobiles were stopped and numerous issues were addressed, including careless operation, fail to transfer ownership and no registration paperwork. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck reported that a subject, who had shot an 8-point buck during firearm deer season and bought a deer license after the fact, was found guilty in Lake County. The subject was sentenced to pay \$6,000 in restitution and lost all hunting privileges for the next five years.

CO Josiah Killingbeck received a tip from Sgt. Carla Soper of a subject that was in possession of a bobcat that was trapped out of season in Manistee County. CO Killingbeck made contact with the trapper at his residence. It was determined that the subject had been attempting to trap coyotes without a license and had caught a bobcat in an illegal body gripping trap that was set on land several days after bobcat trapping season had closed. The subject told CO Killingbeck that he had attempted to contact the DNR, but claimed he could not get ahold of anyone at the Report All Poaching Hotline. The subject then decided to skin the bobcat out and keep it. CO Killingbeck also noted that the subject had never obtained bobcat tags and had been trapping for several days without any type of fur harvester license. The bobcat was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he observed a group of snowmobiles drive past him. One snowmobile had a registration that CO Killingbeck did not recognize as a valid registration. CO Killingbeck stopped the snowmobile and determined that the registration on the snowmobile had expired in 2005 and the trail permit had expired in 2003. The operator told CO Killingbeck that he normally just uses the snowmobile at home downstate and because it was a holiday weekend he hoped that the COs would not be working. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he stopped to check four snowmobiles sitting at a trail crossing in Lake County. Two of the snowmobiles had no registration decals

showing and one snowmobile had a 2012 registration decal displayed. CO Killingbeck determined that the snowmobiles had recently been purchased, but the riders were unable to show any paperwork to confirm this. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he observed two snowmobiles operating in the center of a county roadway and one snowmobile operating on the wrong side of the road and at a high rate of speed. Several miles later, CO Killingbeck was able to stop the snowmobiles and made contact with the operators. CO Killingbeck determined that the snowmobiles had been purchased months before, but the titles had never been transferred. In addition, the trail permits were improperly displayed behind the windshields. CO Killingbeck educated the riders on riding safely and rules when riding on the roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol when he observed a snowmobiler operating without a valid trail permit. CO Killingbeck stopped the snowmobile along with two other snowmobiles. CO Killingbeck discovered all three snowmobiles had expired trail permits, one of which was in 2009. The subjects said that they had forgotten about getting trail permits this year before riding. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he observed several snowmobiles pulling over onto the shoulder of the roadway to let him drive by. CO Killingbeck slowly passed only to discover one snowmobile was expired and had no trail permit. CO Killingbeck stopped and spoke to the operators. When questioned about the registration, the owner admitted he had not registered it or purchased a trail permit yet because he was trying to see if his son liked snowmobiling before he spent money on them. A second rider told CO Killingbeck that he had bought the snowmobile over a year ago and had not transferred the title yet. CO Killingbeck asked the subject how far they were from home and the subject said about 40 miles. CO Killingbeck advised the subject on rules for registration and needing a trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was on patrol in Lake County when he saw the operator of a side-by-side ORV operating an ORV without using a seatbelt. CO Killingbeck stopped the ORV and discovered the operator was also in possession of open intoxicants. The operator told CO Killingbeck he was headed down to the bar and that he did not know he needed to wear a seatbelt. CO Killingbeck explained the rules of operation to the subject and also advised that it was illegal to drink and drive. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating an illegally killed deer along the Lake County and Mason County border, CO Ryan Andrews found a lost beagle approximately a half a mile from the nearest road. After CO Andrews finished gathering evidence from the deer investigation, he stopped at several nearby homes. Eventually tips lead CO Andrews and the dog to its owner. The investigation of the deer case is ongoing.

While on patrol in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews made contact with an ORV operating after dark on county roads. The ORV did not have properly working lights and the driver was operating in a careless manner on the roadway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Andrews was on patrol in Lake County when he received a complaint of a deer stuck in a fence. After a short search, the deer was located and eventually efforts to release the deer were successful.

While on patrol in Lake County, CO Ryan Andrews observed two snowmobiles on the trail without trail permit stickers. A stop was made and contact with the operators revealed that they had not purchased trail permits and one machine had an expired registration. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively and Sgt. Mike Bomay had just finished checking anglers on Silver Lake in Oceana County when they observed a subject operating an ORV the wrong way on a one-way road and not wearing a helmet. They watched as the operator continued out to the main road and entered into Silver Lake State Park. A traffic stop was conducted and the operator was advised of the multiple violations, including operating on a public roadway, operating in closed area, operating without a helmet, and no ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Shively responded to a missing 88-year old woman with dementia who had not been seen for three hours. Temperatures were 15 degrees with a wind chill of -5 degrees. CO Shively utilized his snowmobile to check the backroads and fields around the residence and was unable to locate her. Shortly after responding to the residence, the missing woman arrived at the scene with a friend.

CO Casey Varriale was on patrol when he received a call about a missing individual in the Evert Block of state land. CO Varriale searched the state land and surrounding areas. After two hours, the missing individual was located by a sheriff's deputy riding an ORV just outside the perimeter of state land. The individual suffered no injuries and was returned safely.

CO Jeff Ginn and CO Brian Lebel made contact with some ice anglers and located a group of anglers that were fishing with too many lines and in possession of an under sized northern pike.

CO Jeff Ginn and CO Brian Lebel assisted with a taxidermy inspection resulting in a deer from a CWD positive state being located and seized for disposal. Enforcement action is pending for the taxidermist and the hunter bringing the deer into Michigan.

## **DISTRICT 5**

CO Sam Schluckbier made contact with a snowmobile operator leaving a Kalkaska County lake without a helmet. CO Schluckbier also determined that the man was operating an unregistered snowmobile without a valid trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Hearn and Sam Schluckbier were involved in a search for a couple of missing snowmobilers. The two snowmobile operators, who were lost, contacted Kalkaska County Central Dispatch by cell phone but were unable to describe the area where they were located. COs Hearn and Schluckbier located both snowmobilers operating down M-72 and attempted to make contact. One of the operators left the roadway in an attempt to flee the scene. The man was located inside the wood line at the top of a hill with his lights off, hiding behind his snowmobile. Further investigation determined that he was highly intoxicated with a blood alcohol content (BAC) three times above the legal limit. The snowmobile operator was arrested for snowmobile OUIL and lodged in the Kalkaska County Jail.

CO Craig Neal made contact with an ice angler on a local Missaukee County lake who had been cited the previous year for fishing with more than three lines. This year's ice fishing check produced the same results in the same location. The angler was again cited for fishing with too many lines.

CO Ben McAteer responded to a personal injury (PI) accident involving three snowmobiles in Frederick Township of Crawford County. One snowmobile operating at a high rate of speed lost control while negotiating a curve. The snowmobile struck two other snowmobiles that were operating in the opposite direction. There were only minor injuries and damage reported. Speed and alcohol were both factors in the crash.

CO Kyle Bader checked the only angler on a small lake in Mills Township of Ogemaw County. The angler had two tip-ups outside his shanty. When asked to see his fishing license, the man opened his shanty and placed a lid from his gear pail on top of his second pole inside the shanty. CO Bader asked the man if the pole he just covered up had a hook on it in the water. The man looked down and said "Yes." The man was cited for fishing with four lines.

CO Brian Olsen followed up on a late season deer complaint in Ogemaw County. The complainant advised that an individual had taken a doe with a .30-06 rifle during the closed season. After further investigation, CO Olsen determined the suspect lived downstate. He contacted CO Matthew Zultak in Lapeer County to assist with follow up on the case. CO Zultak was able to locate and interview the suspect. A confession on

two antlerless deer taken with a .30-06 rifle during the closed season was obtained. Charges are pending through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office.

COs Steve Lockwood and Josh Wright made contact with an angler coming off the ice from a long day of fishing. The angler had a very respectable bucket full of fish. After a few minutes of bragging and joking, the angler was asked to provide his fishing license. He was unable to locate the license and put on a good show of searching through his wallet and interior of his truck. After allowing the angler to search for a few minutes, the COs ran the angler through the licensing system. They determined he had not purchased a fishing license for the current year. He was issued a citation for the licensing violation. After the man left, another angler was more than happy to tell the COs that the angler had been routinely fishing without a license.

While checking ice anglers, CO Nick Atkin contacted one angler who was operating an ORV without a helmet or ORV license. During the contact, CO Atkin found the operator and his partner were also in possession of undersize northern pike. Citations were issued to the anglers for the undersize pike and warnings were given for the ORV violations.

CO Mark Papineau responded to a complaint of an active structure fire which appeared to be suspicious in nature. CO Papineau responded to the area and made contact with several firefighters who were in the process of extinguishing the burning remains of a barn. CO Papineau was informed by the firefighters that the fire appeared to have been deliberately ignited with fuel oil. After talking with the property owner, it was discovered that he paid some local men to dismantle the barn and discard the waste. Follow-up interviews with the 'hired' crew led to a confession that it was easier to burn the barn than it was to dismantle it. Charges are pending through the Gladwin County Prosecutor's Office.

## **DISTRICT 6**

CO John Byars noticed an untagged deer hanging from a fork lift on private property and made contact. The suspect stated it was hit by a car, but did not have a salvage tag. The CO asked if he had made contact with the local police department. He advised no and that he just picked it up off the road. The subject was educated about the new salvage law.

CO John Byars checked licenses through the retail sales system in an attempt to locate any license violations. The CO made contact with a suspect who had been using false information to purchase licenses at a discounted rate. The suspect admitted to the illegal purchase. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Quincy Gowenlock assisted Saginaw County Sheriff's Deputies with a double fatal collision. While assisting with traffic control, central dispatch broadcasted another personal injury collision. With all units tied up with the double fatal accident, the CO responded to the second collision. Upon arrival, the CO secured the scene and tended to the driver who had minor injuries.

CO Quincy Gowenlock was returning to his residence late one evening when he heard a call for an attempted suicide in the city of Freeland. The responding officer informed dispatch that he was familiar with the suspect and that he had been extremely violent in the past and requested a second unit. The CO responded, and upon arrival made entry into the subject's apartment. The subject was calmed down by the officers while medical personnel tended to him and transported him to the hospital for an evaluation.

While on patrol in the Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area, CO Quincy Gowenlock heard a call from central dispatch regarding a domestic violence incident which had just occurred a few mile away. With only one deputy available the CO responded. While in route, central dispatch advised that the female had fallen sustaining injuries. The CO was first to arrive on scene and found the woman lying on the ground. After securing the scene, the CO provided medical attention and kept the woman warm until MMR arrived on scene. The CO then assisted the Saginaw County Sheriff's Deputy with the investigation and interview of the other party.

CO Kyle Bucholtz contacted multiple subjects fishing on Saginaw Bay. Multiple citations were issued to the subjects who failed to wear their helmet while riding either their snowmobile or ORV.

While on patrol in Huron County, CO Kyle Bucholtz observed a large passenger vehicle run a stop sign at a major intersection. Upon stopping and speaking with the driver, CO Bucholtz also noted the registration was expired on the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken on disregarding the traffic control device and failing to register the motor vehicle.

While checking ice fishermen near Sebawaing, CO Robert Hobkirk checked a fisherman who was in possession of an over limit of perch. The fisherman had 14 fish in a bucket and an additional 19 smaller fish in his minnow bucket. He stated he planned on taking the smaller fish to his pond. The fisherman was cited for taking an over limit of perch.

While checking ice fishermen in Wildfowl Bay, CO Robert Hobkirk observed a subject operating an ORV with three passengers. Neither the operator nor the passengers were

wearing a helmet and the ORV was not licensed. CO Hobkirk cited the operator for no helmet and warned him on the other violations.

CO Robert Hobkirk received a complaint from the Port Crescent State Park that someone had driven across the lawn at the Port Austin Harbor to drop off an ice fishing shanty. There was concern that there was damage done to the landscaping and the sprinkler system at the harbor. The following day, CO Hobkirk checked the harbor and found a vehicle parked on the ice that had also been driven across the lawn. When the offender was contacted, he admitted to dropping off the shanty on the previous day. CO Hobkirk cited the man for the violation.

CO Seth Rhodea was patrolling around the Minden State Game Area when he found rabbit hunters in a thick brushy area. One of the hunters was found to be hunting without hunter orange and was cited for the violation.

CO Mark Siemen received information from a meat processor in Sanilac County about a sick deer. They stated a deer was brought in by a hunter and after field dressing the deer they noticed lumps on the rib cage and internal organs. CO Siemen contacted Wildlife Division and the deer was taken to the Cass City Field Office for further investigation.

CO Mark Siemen received a complaint involving a hunter who video taped himself trespassing on the complainant's property. CO Siemen reviewed the YouTube video and watched the suspect shoot an eight-point deer on property he was not allowed to hunt. CO Siemen located the tree stand and collected evidence and took photos for possible charges. The investigation is pending.

CO Mark Siemen received a RAP complaint about a subject who had shot an owl while rabbit hunting in Sanilac County. CO Siemen made contact with multiple witnesses and interviewed them about the owl. It was reported to CO Siemen that the owl was shot in late December and then tossed out the window of a vehicle while the suspect was driving down the road. CO Siemen searched the side of the road and was able to locate the dead owl, frozen in the ditch. All evidence was collected and photographed. Multiple attempts were made to make contact with the suspect. It is believed the suspect is avoiding contact. This investigation is pending and charges will be sought on the suspect.

CO Joshua Wright received a complaint from Tuscola County Dispatch of an owl that was caught in a fence. CO Wright located the owl and was able to cut it away from the

fence. The owl had some wounds to its wing and was turned over to a local rehabilitator.

While on patrol, CO Dan Robinson observed a vehicle driving erratically and the vehicle also had an expired registration. CO Robinson initiated a traffic stop and made contact with the driver. CO Robinson noticed that the driver had signs of intoxication but stated that she might be having a medical issue. CO Robinson and the assisting Michigan State Trooper called an ambulance to the scene to rule out a medical issue and determined that there was probable cause to arrest the driver for operating under the influence. The driver was arrested and charges are pending while the blood work is processed.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Scott MacNeill came across a personal injury accident in which a pregnant woman was involved in a head-on crash. CO MacNeill contacted local dispatch and then cut the woman from her seat belt and rendered first aid until EMS arrived. CO MacNeill assisted at the scene until his presence was no longer needed.

CO Jeremy Beavers located an antlerless deer hanging from a tree in a subject's front yard that did not appear to have a kill tag attached. Contact was made with the wife of the subject who killed the deer. A tag was located on the deer that indicated it was purchased at 9:55 am on the same day it was harvested. When asked when the deer was killed, the wife produced a text message that verified that the deer was killed before a valid license was purchased. CO Beavers made contact with the husband who stated he shot the deer and thought he had an antlerless tag on him but must have forgotten it. He went on to say that once he realized he forgot the tag he purchased another one. CO Beavers then checked the subject's purchase history and discovered that he did not purchase an antlerless deer tag for the current hunting season. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Zach Bauer was on patrol checking ice fishermen in St. Joseph County when he came across a subject fishing on a lake. The subject met CO Bauer as he was walking out to his fishing location and said he had caught a few fish. After CO Bauer asked where these fish were, he stated they were back at his sled. Further investigation revealed 30 bluegill and one black crappie. The subject was cited for possessing an over limit of sunfish.

CO Zach Bauer was on patrol when he noticed a vehicle parked alongside the road. CO Bauer pulled up to the vehicle and started talking to the occupants. The subjects in the vehicle stated they were running dogs for coyotes. Further investigation revealed that they had loaded firearms in the dog box in the bed of the pick-up truck. The operator of the vehicle was cited for transporting a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Mike Drexler was checking ice anglers on Silver Lake when he contacted one angler who stated the CO would need to check the system for his fishing license as he did not have it on him. CO Drexler first explained it was required for the angler to have his license with him while he was out fishing before performing a computer check on the individual. A computer check revealed the subject never purchased a fishing license. The CO also pointed out that the group of anglers were all using tip-ups, none of which had the owner's name and address on them as required by law. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking ice fishermen in the Tecumseh Community Center, CO Eric Smither contacted two individuals who were avoiding questions and acting suspicious. Upon further investigation, CO Smither found that one individual did not have a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andrew Monnich received a complaint of a hunter posing with a large whitetail buck with no tags attached to the deer in the photo. CO Monnich did some investigating and found that the hunter posing with the buck also made several posts on a social media site on opening morning posing with the same buck. CO Monnich checked the license sales system and it showed the hunter bought his hunting licenses on opening afternoon. CO Monnich drove to the individual's address and made contact with him. While questioning the hunter, CO Monnich asked when he shot the buck and the hunter stated that he shot it around 4:00 pm that day right after he bought his license. CO Monnich showed the hunter the post on social media and asked him to explain how his picture was posted over five hours before he harvested the buck. The hunter then confessed to shooting the deer and not having his license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Andy Monnich and Chris Reynolds were checking ice anglers on Devils Lake when they noticed a snowmobile heading towards them. Neither rider was wearing a helmet. CO Monnich flagged the snowmobile down and asked them why they had no helmets. Both individuals stated they were from Ohio and in Ohio they didn't need to wear helmets while on the ice, they even went on to say they have been on Michigan waters on Lake Erie without helmets and never had a problem. CO Monnich advised them of the laws and enforcement action was taken.

CO Andy Monnich received a call from an individual who was plowing snow and noticed two antlered deer heads sitting in a driveway with no tags on them. CO Monnich went to the residence where he located the antlered deer. Contact was made with the homeowner who stated those were his son's deer from this past hunting season. After obtaining a name of the son, CO Monnich ran the name in the DNR license sales system and found the hunter had only bought a firearm deer license for the year. The next afternoon CO Monnich and CO Reynolds stopped back by the father's home and were able to make contact with the subject. The hunter stated that he did shoot the first deer during the firearm deer season which he had a tag for. When the COs asked

about the second buck, the hunter stated that he picked the deer up on the side of the road and took it home. While continuing the conversation on the second buck the hunter changed his statement and stated that he found the buck lying in his woods dead while he was heading to his stand to hunt. With the multiple stories about the second buck the CO was convinced that the suspect did shoot it. After finishing the interview, the man confessed to shooting the second buck without a tag. Enforcement action was taken for harvesting a deer without a valid kill tag.

COs Chris Reynolds and Carter Woodwyk held a presentation at the Hillsdale Career Center located at 279 Industrial Drive in Hillsdale on January 9th for the public safety class. The COs went over the hiring process, job functions, training, and showed the Recruit School 5 video for the 49 students. The COs also answered several questions on hunting, fishing, and ORV laws.

CO Chris Reynolds, while on patrol with CO Andy Monnich, noticed a snowmobile coming towards them on a local lake. As the snowmobile came closer, it was observed that the two occupants were not wearing helmets. When the stop was made it was also found that they had no registration. During the stop, all violations were explained to the owner and operator of the snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough concluded an investigation into a deer hunter who shot a deer on New Year's Day. The investigation revealed the hunter had killed a deer without a license and purchased a license after the fact. The hunter stated he just didn't have time to buy a license before going hunting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough was watching some ice fishermen at dusk on a local lake. CO McCullough contacted the anglers at the access site as they were coming off the ice on their snowmobile. While talking about fishing CO McCullough noticed the snowmobile registration was expired. Further investigation revealed the snowmobile did not have any working lights, the snowmobile operator had a suspended driver's license and he had failed to transfer the title over into his name. A citation was issued.

CO Jeff Goss conducted an interview of a subject suspected of killing a deer prior to purchasing his license. Upon making contact, the subject admitted to taking a nine point buck while hunting on only a doe tag. Further investigation revealed the subject's brother tagged the buck with one of his combo tags. When asked why he didn't have a buck tag, the subject explained that he usually doesn't fill all of his tags, so he didn't want to spend the money. Enforcement actions were taken.

While on patrol, CO Isaac Tyson checked an ice fisherman on a local lake. While checking the suspect's license, CO Tyson smelled the odor of marijuana. CO Tyson asked the suspect if he had any drugs on him and the suspect pulled out a container of marijuana. CO Tyson remembered that he had given the suspect a warning last winter for using tip-ups with no name or address affixed to them. CO Tyson asked if he had his name on all of his tip-ups. The suspect said that he did not. After further discussion, the

suspect admitted to driving to the lake with a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carter Woodwyk was patrolling Hillsdale when he observed a vehicle parked on the side of the road. The CO went to investigate the vehicle for hunting equipment and noticed a container of suspected marijuana. CO Carter Woodwyk waited for the hunters to return to the vehicle to inquire about the container. The container was found to have marijuana inside of it. A further search of the vehicle produced approximately 16 grams of marijuana. Charges are being sought through the prosecuting office.

CO Carter Woodwyk assisted in a multi-agency effort to capture multiple fleeing suspects of a breaking and entering in Hillsdale County. The suspects were not located after exhausting multiple efforts to locate them.

While on routine patrol in Eaton County, CO Troy Ludwig observed four individuals ice fishing. Contact was made and one fisherman admitted to not having a license, but had fished earlier in the year and thought he may have purchased a license then. A check of the licensing system showed the individual did not have a 2016 fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Robert Slick and Pete Purdy conducted an ice fishing patrol on local lakes in Livingston County. While on the ice, CO Slick and CO Purdy made contact with a group of two anglers that were beginning to pack up. CO Slick and CO Purdy noticed that the group had a large number of bluegill on the ice. As CO Slick was checking the anglers' licenses, CO Purdy began to count the fish. CO Slick asked how many they caught. The anglers stated they were in the 40's and close to the limit. Once CO Purdy finished counting, it was determined that the fishermen were well over the legal limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Slick was checking ice fishing activity on patrol. CO Slick observed one angler sitting farther out from the main group, fishing alone on a local lake. After a carefully concealed approach, CO Slick contacted the angler. The fisherman stated that his father had his license even though his father was nowhere around. CO Slick ran the individual through RSS and found that he did not have a license. Additionally, the subject had not purchased a license in several years. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster checked a group of anglers' ice fishing who all claimed to have their fishing licenses. A check revealed one of the subjects did not have a fishing license and had not purchased one for several years. The subject stated he was fishing on his wife's license. As CO Webster began to explain that each person needed their own license, the fisherman admitted that he knew that was the case all along. Law enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

While checking anglers in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen noticed an ice shanty isolated in a corner of a local marina. Upon checking the anglers, one angler was on parole and the other angler had a warrant for failure to appear and pay his court costs associated with fishing without a license from the previous year. The angler was informed of his warrant status and was able to come up with bond money on the spot. The angler is expected to appear in court within ten days to pay the remainder of his costs and fines.

While checking anglers at St. Clair Metropark in Macomb County, CO Joseph Deppen saw a lone ice shanty with fish scattered all around it. The anglers had two tip-ups and one was tripped with the flag up. After approximately ten minutes, the line was still not checked by the anglers. CO Deppen approached the anglers and asked why they were not paying more attention to the tip up. The anglers said it was broken and they check it periodically. Upon further inspection of the anglers, the fish were counted and no other violations were present, however one angler had four outstanding warrants. The warrants were confirmed and enforcement action was taken.

CO Travis Dragomer received a complaint from Station 20 of a person possibly snagging at the Holloway Dam in Genesee County. CO Dragomer located an individual fishing on the downstream side of the Holloway Dam. CO Dragomer observed the individual cast a lure and make jerking motions which are consistent with snagging. The individual repeated this motion approximately five times per cast. CO Dragomer observed the individual snag two fish. The fish were hooked near the tail and the individual immediately cut the fish into chunks. CO Dragomer made contact with the individual who had a bucket of 10 mutilated Channel Catfish. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel and Brad Silorey were asked to interview a subject in Macomb County about suspicious circumstances surrounding a very large buck that was taken in Livingston County. CO Silorey looked the subject up on a social media website while in route. It was found that the subject had taken a turkey at the same time as his son, but only the son had a license. After interviewing the subject about the buck, which turned out to be legal, he was asked about turkey hunting. The subject admitted to doubling up on turkeys with his son this spring. The subject was then told by the COs that they already knew he did not have a tag. A report will be submitted to the prosecutor for prosecution.

CO Christopher Knights received a complaint from a home owner on Williams Lake in Oakland County. The complainant watched ice fishermen just behind his home until the later hours of the night. The next day he looked outside of his window and noticed large amounts of garbage left behind. CO Knights made contact with the resident who had already taken the initiative and picked up all the trash and placed it into garbage bags. CO Knights went through the bags and located a tip-up with a name on it and came up with an address. CO Knights made contact with the individual and after interviewing him, identified other individuals who had also been fishing. CO Knights made contact with all the anglers to find out why the trash was left. Not one of them

had a good reason for it, so CO Knights issued all of the fisherman involved littering tickets and gave warnings for leaving a tip-up unattended.

CO Ken Kovach completed a littering case investigation that was generated earlier this fall. The suspect had been evading contact by the CO, but after several attempts, CO Kovach located the suspect as he was walking out of his residence. CO Kovach obtained a full confession to the illegal dumping. The subject commented to the CO that he thought he was in the clear as he hadn't seen him at his residence in some time. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher was following up on an ORV trespass complaint from deer season. When contacting the subject, an untagged deer was found in the back of his side by side ORV. The subject denied trespassing but was unable to produce the proper tag for the deer. The first tag belonged to another subject, the second tag belonged to the suspect but was not an antlerless tag and the third belonged to another subject for a different county. Ultimately, the subject was not able to produce his unused antlerless tag for the antlerless deer in his ORV. Enforcement action was taken.

Genesee County 911 put out a call regarding an ORV that went through the ice on Lake Fenton. Two people were in the water. CO Justin Muehlhauser and Fenton Twp. Fire Dept. were first on scene. The CO grabbed his ResQ Disc and headed out on the ice to locate the accident. As the first responders arrived it was determined that everyone was out of the water and there were no injuries. The two men who had gone in the water were evaluated by paramedics on scene. Interviews of the party determined that two of the men were returning to the boat launch on the ORV when they misjudged the ice over a large pressure crack and went in. One of the men stated that they had found a safe place to cross earlier but crossed at a different point on the return. The ORV was safely recovered by a local towing company.

CO David Schaumburger was traveling down the road when he came upon a vehicle doing approximately 10 MPH in a 45 MPH zone. While following the vehicle, the driver pulled onto the shoulder of the road and stopped. The CO made contact with the driver and asked what he was doing, the driver said he was letting the CO pass; the driver did not appear to be in a proper state of mind so the CO asked him to pull into a nearby parking lot. Upon making contact with the driver in the parking lot, the driver was unable to answer basic questions such as the date. The CO requested an ambulance to check the driver out when they arrived; he was hooked up to a heart monitor and showed a heart rate of 33. He was given a breathing treatment because he stated he had COPD and his condition eventually improved however he was still taken to the hospital for additional treatment.

CO Brad Silorey was on patrol when he received an in-progress RAP complaint that stated there were hunters with dogs actively trespassing on a county trail closed to hunting. CO Silorey arrived at the location described by the complainant, and with his binoculars he observed four hunters approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile down a trail. CO Silorey

continued down the trail and contacted the subjects. Several subjects were on the trail and several were on posted private farm property with their dogs. All four subjects had firearms and stated that they were rabbit hunting. CO Silorey obtained IDs and hunting licenses from all subjects. CO Silorey advised the subjects that they were currently trespassing on private property, and hunting in a prohibited area. One subject stated that he knew it was illegal to hunt there, but they have hunted that area for 15 years and have never had a problem. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a recreational trespass complaint, CO James Zellinger located a very large bait pile comprised of apples, corn, and mineral blocks. The bait pile was also out during a closed time. The owner of the bait was located and enforcement action was taken.