

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
2/1/15 – 2/14/15**

**DISTRICT 1**

COs Matthew Eberly, Doug Hermanson, David Miller, Brian Lasanen, Brett Delonge, Elton Luce, Mark Leadman and Sgt. Ryan Aho conducted a group snowmobile patrol in Houghton County. A large number of snowmobiles were contacted and a wide range of violations were encountered. Sound emissions enforcement was conducted in a complaint area and seven snowmobiles that were tested were found to be over 88 decibels. All of the snowmobile operators that were issued sound emissions tickets had snowmobiles that tested in a decibel range that is proven to cause permanent hearing damage. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Elton Luce, Mark Leadman and Dave Miller participated in a search and rescue readiness exercise that simulated a plane crash in a remote area of Marquette County. The exercise was a joint effort with the Marquette County Sheriff's Department, Marquette County Search and Rescue, U.S. Coast Guard and DNR Forest Resources Management. GPS coordinates were given to the group and an outstanding response time was achieved by the responding agencies.

CO Michael Mansell and Sgt. Ryan Aho conducted a snowmobile patrol in Ontonagon County. A high amount of snowmobile activity was observed and numerous violations were encountered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon was patrolling a section of state land when he came across a freshly discarded bag and litter from a fast food restaurant. With a fresh snowfall that morning and only one set of vehicle tracks in the area, the suspect vehicle was located a short time later. Contact with the driver resulted in a confession for throwing the litter out the window of his truck. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brian Bacon responded to the scene of a serious snowmobile accident in Iron County. The operator lost control of his snowmobile on a corner and crashed into a tree. The accident scene was five miles from the nearest road access, and CO Bacon assisted with getting Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel to the scene.

COs Marvin Gerlach, Brett DeLonge, Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy conducted a group snowmobile patrol in northern Menominee and Dickinson Counties. Good compliance was found, with one group commenting they were surprised to see officers on snowmobiles on that section of the trail system.

CO Grant Emery worked snowmobile activity along the trail system near Lake Gogebic. Five subjects were ticketed for unregistered snowmobiles, failure to purchase a trail permit and careless operation.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Michael Evink and Acting Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon conducted a patrol on Little Bay De Noc waters on a busy Saturday. They contacted over 250 anglers and encountered violations including possession of marijuana, unattended lines, fishing too many lines, fishing without licenses, no name on ice shacks, and unregistered snowmobiles. Seven tickets were written and numerous warnings were given out.

Conservation Officers from the Newberry District battled some of the worst weather of the winter this last month. Conservation Officers continued their patrols in sub-zero temperatures even when highways were closed and travel was dangerous if possible at all by conventional automobiles.

Acting area Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon, along with Corporal Shannon VanPatten of the Great Lakes Enforcement Unit, attended a meeting at the Bay DeNoc Sportsman's Club and gave a presentation on enforcement efforts in the area.

CO John Wenzel assisted the US Forest Service in Kenton with a snowmobile safety and winter survival course. Students were taught basic winter survival skills and basic snowmobile operations and recovery.

CO Robert Crisp was the first to respond to a complaint of a woman having a seizure in her car at the Subway restaurant in Munising. CO Crisp provided first aid to the woman and some comfort to the young child that was with her until Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived.

While patrolling Munising Bay, CO Robert Crisp checked an angler who was riding their snowmobile not wearing a helmet. After a brief check it was found that the snowmobile registration had been expired since for several years. Enforcement action was taken on the expired registration and a verbal warning was given on not wearing a helmet as required by law.

CO Jon Busken was patrolling the Newberry area when central dispatch requested an additional unit to back up a Mackinac County Sheriff's Deputy in securing a residence for a search warrant. The deputy had been assisting a social worker on a child welfare visit when he noted a large quantity of narcotics on the kitchen table. The resident was lodged in the Mackinac County Jail on unrelated charges and had indicated that she would have someone return to her residence to destroy the evidence. CO Busken assisted in securing the scene until the Tri- County Drug Enforcement Taskforce (TRIDENT) could execute the warrant. Narcotics, cash, and electronics were seized. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Robert Crisp and Acting Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon checked a group of snowmobiles riding in downtown Munising. None of the riders were wearing helmets and they were all carrying cases of beer, even the 16 and 17 year old operators. The riders stated they were just going from their hotel to the gas station and back. The adult in the group was also driving an unregistered snowmobile and had a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jon Busken was on patrol in Mackinac County when a 911 call came into central dispatch in regard to a snowmobile personal injury accident. CO Busken responded and located the snowmobile crash scene. Two sleds were involved, leaving one subject with severe injuries and broken legs. After the investigation it was determined that the accident was caused by careless snowmobile operation. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hammill participated in a group snowmobile patrol along with the Pictured Rock National Park Rangers whose focus was on safe operation throughout the trail system.

Responding to numerous complaints from the public regarding careless operation of snowmobiles in northern Chippewa County, COs Mike Hammill and Bobby Watson set up in an area where many accidents have occurred over the past month. In a short amount of time, COs Hammill and Watson witnessed numerous instances of careless operation. Enforcement action was taken.

After receiving a tip, CO Mike Hammill was able to follow up on a complaint of a black bear that had been harvested in the 2014 bear season but had not been registered. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Hammill and Bobby Watson participated in a large group patrol with multiple agencies involved. Despite the near -25 degree temperatures many contacts were made and multiple tickets were issued. The violations included no trail permits, careless operation, unregistered snowmobiles and operating on state highways.

CO Robert Watson increased his snowmobile patrols in the Paradise area in response to the complaints that continued to pour in from local residents and business owners regarding careless and high speed operation and disregarding stop signs in town.

CO Robert Watson was picking up a snowmobile part for his patrol sled in Curtis when he observed a snowmobile drive by with an expired registration. Contact was made with the driver who claimed to have forgotten to put the current stickers on the sled, and failed to provide the required registration paperwork. After running the VIN, it was discovered the registration was indeed expired and no alleged current registration was ever issued. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Robert Watson and Mike Hammill were patrolling the Grand Marais area at a heavily used intersection when CO Hammill observed one snowmobile ride off the trail and onto the adjacent county road in order to turn around and avoid contact with the two officers. CO Watson rode his snowmobile a short distance before catching up to the individual who was not displaying a current registration or trail permit. The subject admitted to seeing CO Hammill's patrol truck and not wanting to make contact because he didn't have his trail permit or current registration. The subject was not aware there was also a patrol snowmobile observing activity at the intersection. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Panich was on fish patrol when he came across a subject fishing in a shanty with no name and address permanently attached. Upon making contact with the subject an odor of marijuana was detected by the CO. The subject denied having any drugs. Further investigation revealed a marijuana cigarettes and roaches. Enforcement action was taken.

Conservation officers worked the 2015 Annual I-500 Snowmobile Race in Sault Ste Marie. The patrol was focused on safety and targeted careless and reckless drivers. The COs made 506 contacts, gave out 42 warnings and 18 tickets, resulting in a safe weekend for all as there were no reported accidents.

### **DISTRICT 3**

The 2015 sturgeon fishing season on Black Lake occurred without incident this year. Officers patrolled the lake before, during and after the season. Very few violations were encountered, and COs and Fisheries personnel were able to shut down the season without any additional sturgeon being taken after the quota was reached.

COs Mike Feagan and Carl VanderWall patrolled Burt and Mullett Lakes and came across several unattended fishing lines and a number of snowmobile violations. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Andrea Erratt and Andrea Albert worked a local fishing tournament and checked many ice anglers as well as a number of some very nice walleye and pike that had been caught. A few anglers apparently tried to increase their odds by placing too many lines out. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carl VanderWall followed up on a referral from tribal COs on unattended fishing lines, issuing a ticket to the lakefront homeowner, who wasn't even home at the time.

CO Steve Speigl was checking ice anglers during the early morning on Lake Charlevoix when he found several set lines that were apparently unattended for some time as ice had frozen them in. After waiting for several hours, the angler finally returned to check his lines. CO Speigl made contact and inquired about his absence. The angler said he was fishing in a tournament and had left them out overnight. The subject was issued a ticket for unattended lines and warned on several other violations.

CO Andrea Erratt made several unsuccessful attempts last winter to contact an ice angler whose shanty had no name/address on it, and was left out well after the March 15 deadline. Each year, this body of water has several ice shanty's fall thru the deteriorating ice and become hazards to boating operation in the spring with floating and partially submerged wood remains. CO Erratt was finally able to make contact with the angler, who still hadn't gotten around to putting his name and address on the shanty. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Speigl reports the subject who intentionally killed wild turkeys with his truck was sentenced recently, paying \$1,600 in fines, costs and restitution.

CO Mike Feagan responded to several complaints of snowmobiles running stop signs at trail/road intersections along a certain section of the the snowmobile trail. Five tickets were issued for careless operation when snowmobiles were observed disregarding stop signs at high speed. Additional tickets were issued for expired registrations and trail permits.

CO Nick Torsky contacted a woman who had lost her dog near the Otsego Lake State Park. CO Torsky used his snowmobile and was able to locate the dog and reunite it with the owner.

CO Mark DePew was filling up his truck with gas and went in to pay for it when the staff of the gas station was refusing to sell alcohol to an intoxicated individual. CO DePew followed the suspect out of the store a short distance and conducted a stop. After conducting field sobriety evaluations, CO Mark Depew arrested the individual for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

CO Mark DePew was driving on a state highway when he saw snowmobiles operating against the flow of traffic and within the right of way. The first subject lost control of his sled and was thrown from it and was then run over by his friend. CO DePew contacted the individuals and the rider was miraculously okay. They were ticketed for operating within the right of way of the highway.

CO Brad Bellville gave a presentation for the Montmorency County Conservation Club.

CO Brad Bellville stopped a snowmobile which was not displaying registration or a tail permit. Upon stopping the sled the operator displayed a paper registration and showed an ORV sticker which was stuck to the storage compartment of the seat. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 4**

COs Sean Kehoe, Rich Stowe and Justin Vanderlinde attended the annual East Bay Calvary Sportsman's Banquet. The officers discussed laws and answered many questions. The banquet was held on two different nights and approximately 1300 people attended this event.

CO Steve Converse was checking a local lake in Manistee County where he has had ongoing fishing violations in the past. CO Converse arrived and located four unattended tip-ups, all with their flags up. CO Converse waited approximately 45 minutes before a subject arrived in a truck and walked out to check the tip-ups. CO Converse approached the subject who immediately stated that he wasn't responsible for all the tip-ups. When questioned further, the subject advised that his "friend" was with him earlier but had to leave. CO Converse obtained the name of the "friend" and ran a license check which revealed that the supposed missing angler had not purchased a current fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.

While working the Cadillac Snow Festival, COs Sam Kosciński, Troy Mueller and Sgt. Bob Torres responded to a complaint of an ice angler who may have been suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning in his shanty. An angler who was fishing nearby noticed an ice shanty tipped over and the angler inside, unresponsive. The angler walked over to investigate and found the man, lying on the ice surface, inside the tipped over shanty. The angler contacted 911 and the officers were the first to arrive on the scene. It appeared the man in the shanty had been consuming alcohol as well. Medical personnel arrived and checked the man for hypothermia. The subject refused medical treatment and was released to the care of a family member.

COs Brian Brosky and Kyle Publiski worked the trails in Wexford County during the Cadillac Snow Festival, checking hundreds of snowmobilers in the area for the weekend. The officers took enforcement action for several violations that included careless operation, no trail permits and failure to register a snowmobile. Overall, the officers observed a high rate of compliance with the snowmobile laws by those checked.

COs Josiah Killingbeck and Holly Pennoni responded to an accident at the Cadillac Snow Festival where a snowmobile operator had crashed his snowmobile into a berm of snow. The snowmobiler was utilizing the drag racing strip that was set up for a permitted event held earlier that day and disregarded warnings from event planners that they were closing down the event and were in the process of removing the berms. The snowmobile operator told event officials warning him that he could "operate wherever he wanted" and took off at a high rate of speed down the drag strip. The subject eventually came to the end of the course where a very large berm was formed, which he hit, resulting in him being ejected from his snowmobile and landing several hundred feet from the point of impact. As the officers were investigating this accident, a second accident occurred near their location. The operator of a snowmobile had been driving recklessly and at a high rate of speed which caused his snowmobile to lose contact with the ice surface which eventually landed on top of the operator. One operator was air-

lifted to a hospital in Traverse City and the other operator was transported there via ambulance. Neither subject sustained life threatening injuries. The officer's investigation into careless/reckless operation continues.

CO Josiah Killingbeck was first on the scene of a snowmobile accident where the operator struck a tree while attempting to negotiate a curve. The injured operator sustained numerous injuries and first aid was provided by CO Killingbeck until EMS arrived.

While on routine patrol, CO Josiah Killingbeck observed a subject cutting firewood on State Land. Upon noticing that the CO had observed him, the subject threw his saw into a trailer and attempted to drive away. CO Killingbeck stopped the vehicle and during his investigation, discovered that the subject did not have a fuelwood permit. Further investigation revealed that the subject was also illegally selling the wood taken from State Land. The subject had no insurance on the vehicle he was driving and had failed to renew the vehicle registration. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Josiah Killingbeck were working snowmobile patrol when they encountered two snowmobilers riding against the flow of traffic on M-37. As the officers approached, they observed one of the operators hit a tree with his sled. The two operators had traveled from northern Michigan with both snowmobiles being unregistered and no trail permits. One of the operators was also driving on a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Mike Bomay and CO Angela Greenway stopped a snowmobile operating against the flow of traffic. The operator was with a group of five snowmobiles and the other operators continued on past the officers. Upon making contact with the operator, he admitted to trespassing on a business property to get to the location of the stop. The operator was 15 years old, possessed no snowmobile safety certificate and was operating without adult supervision. The officers followed the minor operator back to his residence. The remaining five operators, all minors and none of whom possessed a snowmobile safety certificate, also returned to the residence. The officers met with the parents and provided education on safe operation and the age requirements.

COs Brian Lebel and Angela Greenway along with Sgt. Mike Bomay participated in a kids fishing derby during the free fishing weekend at Canadian Lakes. Hundreds of children and adults braved the extremely cold temperatures to take part in the 11<sup>th</sup> annual event. Officers assisted the children in catching bluegills and Northern Pike while providing literature from the DNR on different techniques to catch fish.

CO Troy Mueller was checking two anglers on a local lake and observed both subjects in possession of undersized Northern Pike. One of the subjects had two outstanding warrants for failure to appear on undersized bass tickets issued in the past. Tickets were issued for the current violations and the subject with the warrants was lodged in the Osceola County Jail.

## **DISTRICT 5**

While patrolling Crawford County, CO John Huspen observed a UTV doing “doughnuts” in the middle of a county road intersection. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn made contact with a group of anglers fishing a designated trout lake. Upon checking the shanty, two rainbow trout were located near one of the anglers. The fish were measured and determined to be undersized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn made contact with a suspect cutting wood illegally on state land. This was not the first time the suspect had been caught for this violation. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling a problem area for trespass, CO Mike Hearn observed a snowmobiler cross an open farm field. Upon stopping the operator, he stated that he had permission from the owner. However, the name he gave was not the correct owner and a trespass ticket was issued.

CO Chris Bowen and Sgt. Jeremy Payne patrolled Houghton and Higgins Lake during poor weather conditions. The COs checked several anglers and snowmobilers during this patrol and issued several tickets for no ORV license, no helmet on an ORV, and no snowmobile trail permits. Many other warnings were given.

CO Chuck McPherson was working Higgins Lake and observed two anglers fishing with too many lines. When CO McPherson made contact he discovered both subjects were fishing with five lines apiece. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson contacted an angler using six tip-ups. The subject advised CO McPherson that his father had gone to shore to get a face mask and would be back shortly. CO McPherson waited and the father returned approximately ten minutes later. When CO McPherson asked the father for his fishing license he indicated that he did not have a license and was not fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers at the North Higgins Lake boat access site, CO Chuck McPherson and Sgt. Jeremy Payne witnessed a snowmobiler operating without a helmet. Sgt. Payne contacted the operator who was returning to his truck to retrieve his helmet. Sgt. Payne took this opportunity to educate the young operator on the importance of wearing a helmet.

While patrolling near Meads Landing in Roscommon County, CO Chris Bowen and Sgt. Jeremy Payne observed one snowmobile with a snowmobile registration that had been expired for over 10 years. The officers stopped the operator and made contact with him. Enforcement action was taken.

While on snowmobile patrol, COs Brian Olsen and Kyle Bader observed strange tracks in the snow along a snowmobile trail. Following the tracks, they eventually located a

snowmobile pulling an old bed liner from a pickup truck. There was a person sitting in the bed liner with a chainsaw. After conducting a stop, the COs interviewed the subjects and informed them that the season for cutting firewood in that area was closed. The snowmobile was also not properly registered and had no snowmobile trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kyle Bader stopped to assist a motorist who ended up in the ditch. While checking the vehicle for damage, he smelled the strong odor of marijuana coming from the back of the truck. There were two 55 gallon drum liners along with enough plant material to fill a third in the back. It was all stalks and stems of marijuana plants. The driver claimed not to know what it was. His story of why he was driving around in a snow storm in the middle of the night didn't add up either. He was headed to dump the stems on state land. The Michigan State Police (MSP) assisted at the scene. Charges are pending through the Ogemaw County Prosecutor's Office for the possession of marijuana as well as a firearm possession violation.

CO Kyle Bader assisted Ogemaw County Sheriff's Office with a subject who allegedly threatened his girlfriend with a gun. The man was ordered out of the house and detained without incident.

COs Jon Warner, Kyle Bader, Brian Olsen, Warren MacNeill, Bobbi Lively, Josh Russell, and Sgt. Brandon Kieft worked the annual "Perchville" event in the Tawas area. Numerous tickets were issued for snowmobile, ORV, and fishing violations. The COs also assisted local law enforcement a number of times to include traffic stops, helping locate a subject who had resisted police, disorderly persons, and a medical emergency.

CO Nick Atkin received a call from an off-duty officer about a group of anglers who appeared to be keeping too many walleye while fishing on Saginaw Bay. CO Atkin was able to run his snowmobile out to the area and make contact with the group in question. In addition to the overlimit of Walleye that was found, CO Atkin also addressed a snowmobile registration violation within the same group.

COs Steve Lockwood and Nick Atkin were patrolling Saginaw Bay on snowmobiles when CO Lockwood contacted a small group of anglers, one angler possessed an undersized walleye, was fishing with too many lines and had driven an unregistered snowmobile out on the lake. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Nick Atkin was checking anglers on a local Arenac County lake when he encountered a large group of anglers participating in a local 'fishing derby'. One of the anglers the officer checked was in possession of 40 pan fish. The anglers quickly informed the CO that he had help catching all the fish and that they did not all belong to him. The only problem, his companions did not back up his story and were not going to go along with the ruse. Realizing his friends were not coming to his aid, the angler confessed to catching and keeping the overlimit all by himself. CO Atkin issued a ticket for overlimit of pan fish.

COs Phil Hudson, Nick Atkin, Steve Lockwood and Kyle Bader participated in a group patrol focusing on Walleye and Perch fishing enforcement on Saginaw Bay. Numerous groups of anglers were checked throughout the course of the patrol. In one instance, the officers attempted to check a shanty that was positioned a long distance from the rest of the fishing groups. The COs found that the shanty was not occupied. However, all the equipment, including one snowmobile was still at the shanty. Officers decided to keep an eye on the shanty while checking other anglers in the area. Eventually, two subjects returned to the shanty. COs Lockwood and Hudson waited until dark and followed the two anglers back to shore and checked them at their vehicle. A very short interview found that both anglers, a husband and wife, were fishing without licenses. In addition, officers located nine walleye, all of which were caught by the husband. It seems that when the COs first located the shanty without occupants, the two anglers were busy running their first batch of Walleye up to their vehicle in preparation for going back and getting their next batch. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jon Wood and CO Jason McCullough were both working snowmobile enforcement in rural Clare County. Sgt. Wood was sitting at a busy intersection in a patrol vehicle while CO McCullough was working from a snowmobile. Shortly after splitting up, Sgt. Wood had a snowmobile approach the intersection with what appeared to be an expired trail permit and an improperly placed registration decal. The operator refused to stop after being signaled by hand as well as activation of emergency lights. Unfortunately for the operator, his two riding buddies were quick to inform Sgt. Wood of his identity. While interviewing the two buddies, CO McCullough was able to make contact with local law enforcement officers, who were in turn able to respond to a possible suspect address several miles away. The suspect was not at the residence long when local agencies knocked on the door and were able to secure the suspect until Sgt. Wood arrived. As it turns out, the suspect had an outstanding warrant for his arrest and was no stranger to law enforcement. After a brief interview, the suspect confessed to seeing both the hand signals and emergency lights from Sgt. Wood. Enforcement action was taken, including disposition of the outstanding warrant.

## **DISTRICT 6**

COs Seth Rhodea and Joshua Wright conducted a snowmobile patrol on the trails in Sanilac County. Activity was high on the trails and most people were in compliance with registration and trail permit laws. Six tickets were issued for no trail permits and unregistered snowmobiles and numerous warnings were also issued.

CO Jason A. Smith received a complaint of fox hunters shooting at dogs, transporting uncased/loaded firearms and threatening other hunters. Complainants and suspects were interviewed and information is being submitted to the prosecutor's office.

CO Chad Foerster was ice fishing on his day off on Saginaw Bay when he received a call from a bordering officer, CO Nick Atkin, wondering how much ice fishing activity he had near him. CO Foerster had friends who had all caught limits of walleye near him and had already left, except for one lone ice shanty that had been there all day. CO

Atkin was advised of the lone shanty still out and headed in that direction on his snowmobile. Upon checking the anglers, he discovered they were in fact over their legal limit of walleye. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bob Hobkirk issued a ticket to an angler for failing to transfer ownership of his snowmobile. CO Hobkirk contacted the owner of the snowmobile who stated that he had just purchased the snowmobile and had not had time to register the machine. Upon inspection of the individual's paperwork, it was determined that the snowmobile had been purchased more than a month earlier.

While patrolling the Verona State Game Area (SGA), CO Bob Hobkirk observed a snowmobile with no registration stickers. When the CO attempted to catch up with the snowmobile the operator turned into a field. Approximately an hour later, CO Hobkirk observed the same snowmobile at a gas station; the operator was ticketed for operating against the flow of traffic. A warning was issued for failing to display his decals.

COs Joel Lundberg and Dan Lee were checking ice anglers when a snowmobile passed within 50 feet of a shanty at a high rate of speed. It took the COs all of three miles just to catch up to the snowmobile. The man said he didn't think he was going that fast. Tickets were issued.

CO Dan Lee stopped a snowmobile on the Saginaw River without the required trail permit. While speaking to the man about the violation, the rest of his group returned to see what the holdup was. As they approached the man started to wave them away from the CO and all returning snowmobilers turned around. CO Joel Lundberg caught up to the group and found they did not have the required trail permits either. More tickets were issued.

CO Joel Lundberg worked the Saginaw Bay and Saginaw River this past Saturday. The CO worked ongoing complaints of snowmobiles traveling at high rates of speed within the safety zone of ice anglers. The CO issued 22 tickets for various snowmobile, ORV, and fishing violations.

COs Joel Lundberg, Dan Lee and Quincy Gowenlock conducted a late night snowmobile patrol in Bay County. The COs worked the area of the Saginaw and Kawkawlin Rivers and out into the Saginaw Bay. Numerous snowmobiles were stopped throughout the patrol for violations of the 100' rule, registration violations and trail permits violations. In total, 33 tickets were issued and numerous verbal warnings were given.

## **DISTRICT 7**

CO Mike Mshar traveled to Nashville Tennessee to attend the annual National Wild Turkey Association Convention where he received recognition as the NWTF Michigan Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer of the year.

CO Jeff Robinette assisted the Cass County Sheriff's Department with road closures over the weekend due to the high winds and snow.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Chris Reynolds checked various small groups of snowmobiles. The riders had everything in order except one of the riders had most of his registration torn off his machine. A verbal warning was given to the rider and he was advised to get a replacement.

While checking anglers on a local lake CO Matt Page came across one subject who was fishing with a child-sized little mermaid pole. The subject stated that he did not have a fishing license because he had been out of state and didn't think he would be able to go fishing this year. A further check showed that the subject had a valid warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Mike Drexler was working with Area 2 Officers on Whitmore Lake for an annual pond hockey tournament when he observed a snowmobile pass by displaying an expired registration. A stop was conducted and it was learned that the snowmobile had not been registered since 2007, did not have a trail permit, and the owner failed to transfer the title into his name. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger worked a snowmobile patrol the day after a snowstorm and encountered many sleds operating illegally on the roadways. Most of the operators thought it would be ok to take a cruise because it had just snowed, but they were informed of the laws regarding operation on the roadways. Along with operating on the roadway, a few tickets were also issued for operating an unlicensed snowmobile and for failing to wear a helmet.

CO David Schaumburger was on patrol and encountered an ORV on the roadway. When he asked where the operator was going, he responded, "Just to the gas station to fill up, that's ok right?" CO Schaumburger informed him of the laws regarding operation on the roadways and also inquired about why his ORV was not licensed. Enforcement action was taken.

CO David Schaumburger and CO Kris Kiel checked ice anglers as they were coming off the ice in Macomb County. Very few fish were caught, but the officers encountered a few snowmobile violators. One operator was on the roadway, did not have a snowmobile trail permit, and his registration expired in 2011. The operator said that he "...was just in the wrong place at the wrong time." Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol at the Tipsico Lake Access site, CO Jason Becker observed an ORV operating on the lake. The ORV drove up the launch and right to CO Becker's patrol

truck with two people on the ORV. CO Becker signaled for the driver to stop. A ticket was issued for transporting a passenger on an ORV not designed to carry a passenger.

COs Jason Becker and David Schaumburger conducted a joint patrol on Cass Lake where many snowmobile and fishing contacts were made. Two subjects were observed operating an ORV and a snowmobile without helmets. The COs also addressed the expired registration and lack of trail permit on the snowmobile. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol of the Tipsico Lake Access site, CO Jason Becker encountered two subjects in a vehicle about to go fishing. When asked if they had fishing licenses, both stated they did but not with them. A check of the license system and LEIN check revealed one subject had a fishing license, neither of them had a valid driver's license, and one had multiple warrants. That subject was lodged in the Livingston County Jail and a licensed driver came to remove the vehicle from the access site.

CO Richard Cardenas received a complaint showing that a subject potentially shot a doe during the 2014 bow season before purchasing a deer license for the season. CO Cardenas arrived at the residence and found that the subject had shot one doe during the 2014 archery deer season. CO Cardenas obtained a written confession from the subject admitting he had shot the doe with his crossbow before he had purchased any deer licenses for the 2014 deer season. A report will be prepared and submitted to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office requesting charges.

CO Lacelle Rabon was on routine patrol in relationship to a RAP complaint received regarding ORVs and snowmobiles trespassing on private property. While checking a nearby subdivision, an individual operating a snowmobile drove directly toward CO Rabon. He activated the emergency lights on his patrol vehicle and directed the snowmobile operator to stop. The operator complied and immediately asked questions as to what he had done wrong. The operator was informed of the first violation of operating on the roadway and secondly the snowmobile did not have a registration. The operator argued that he was not aware nor did he realize that he had committed any violations. The snowmobile operator was instructed regarding snowmobile operations and enforcement action was taken.

COs Derek Miller and Shane Webster patrolled Devils Lake in Lenawee County over the weekend, looking for careless operation of snowmobiles and ORVs. COs Miller and Webster observed a careless operator early in their shift, driving a snowmobile at a high rate of speed, without a helmet. A stop on the snowmobile also revealed the operator had never registered his snowmobile and did not have a trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Derek Miller and Shane Webster stopped a pair of snowmobile operators in Lenawee County for what appeared to be expired registrations. Investigation revealed the subject had never registered his snowmobile nor had he transferred ownership and

did not have trail stickers for either snowmobile. The subject was also transporting an open bottle of liquor. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Mike Drexler and Justin Ulberg followed up with the owners of fishing tip-ups that had been left unattended on Whitmore Lake in Washtenaw County for over a week. Both subjects admitted to leaving the tip ups in place after participating in a fishing tournament in mid-January. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Kevin Hackworth, COs Derek Miller, Chris Knights, Shane Webster, and Justin Ulberg worked during the annual "Tip Up Festival" on Devils Lake in Lenawee County. The COs made numerous contacts during weekend patrols. Multiple warnings and tickets were issued for equipment and registration violations on ORVs and snowmobiles.

CO Justin Ulberg responded to a complaint of snowmobilers trespassing across a farmer's winter wheat field. The farmer was concerned that the large amount of snowmobile activity would damage his crop. CO Ulberg and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth patrolled the area and contacted and issued tickets to several snowmobilers trespassing on the property.

CO Justin Ulberg was called out by Lenawee Central Dispatch to a fatal snowmobile accident on Devil's Lake. CO Ulberg assisted the Lenawee County Sheriff Department with the investigation. CO Ulberg was able to utilize the DNR's newly acquired Polaris Ranger to transport emergency personnel and equipment out on the ice.

CO Mark Ennett was patrolling several high-use areas of illegal snowmobile activity near Newport in Monroe County. Recent heavy snows brought a lot of sleds out, including children, due to school closings. CO Ennett was able to locate a trio of machines filling up with gas at a local station. All three had been operating on the roads or private property. While the sleds were properly licensed, they all had expired trail permits and had been operating illegally on the roads. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett was checking ice-fishing at the DNR Bolles Harbor boat ramp on LaPlaisance Creek in Monroe County when he encountered a person illegally carrying a passenger on an ORV. Neither person was wearing a helmet and the vehicle was unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Al Schwiderson, Kris Kiel, Ken Kovach, and Sgt. Todd Szyska conducted a group patrol to address complaints on Anchor Bay about illegal snowmobile/truck drag strips on the ice. The COs contacted many snowmobilers, ORV users, and ice anglers during the patrol. Eight tickets were issued for snowmobile and ORV violations. Violations ranged from not wearing helmets to never registering or having expired registrations on snowmobiles. Several subjects were also issued tickets for illegal entry into the St. John's Marsh refuge by motorized vehicle.

While checking ice anglers on Lake St. Clair, Sgt. Todd Szyska observed a snowmobile operating with an expired 2010 registration. Upon catching up to the machine, Sgt. Szyska questioned the operator about it. The operator stated, "You can issue me a ticket if you want, but I am not going to register the machine because this is the only time I was using it". After explaining the law, enforcement action was taken.

While conducting an ice fishing patrol, CO Daniel Prince observed only one subject fishing on Lake Chemung due to the cold weather. CO Prince made contact with the anglers and discovered the subject was fishing without a fishing license. CO Prince issued the man a ticket for ice fishing without a license.

CO Pete Purdy contacted two snowmobiles at Island Lake Recreation Area. Both machines were registered to one of the operators. Both registrations and trail permits had expired. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Pete Purdy and Jeremy Beavers interviewed a subject in reference to a tip that a nine point buck was taken without a license on November 15, 2014. Extensive interviews and research were conducted by COs Purdy, Beavers, and David Schaumburger in Oakland, Livingston, and Shiawassee Counties. With the assistance of Station 20, COs were able to finally locate the suspect. He was interviewed and confessed to shooting the buck then going out and purchasing his combo tags after the kill. The firearm used and antlers were seized and a report is being submitted to the prosecutor's office for charges.

During a joint patrol in Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers, Saykham Keophalychanh and Dan Lee checked anglers ice fishing on Lake Fenton. During their checks, the officers witnessed a subject operating a snowmobile without a helmet. There was a small child on the snowmobile who was not wearing a helmet as well. After flagging the subject down, CO Beavers informed the subject of the requirement for the operator and passenger to wear a helmet. The subject stated he was aware of the regulation. After further inspection, the officers realized the registration on the snowmobile was expired and it did not have a valid snowmobile trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling a heavy traffic area for snowmobile activity in Genesee County, CO Jeremy Beavers stopped two subjects at the entrance of the Richfield County Park. CO Beavers initiated the stop after he observed one snowmobile was missing a valid registration. During a check of both machines, CO Beavers found that both were missing 2015 snowmobile trail permits. While questioning the subjects, one claimed to have purchased one. CO Beavers informed the subject that he could verify if one had been purchased. After running a check of the subject's purchases, CO Beavers confirmed no permits had been purchased since 2011. Both subjects were ticketed for their violations.

While on patrol, CO Jeremy Beavers received a complaint that a dog had been trapped in a snare in Genesee County. The complainant stated that he discovered his dog in a snare after it had run away. The snares were set between bales of hay and were

located on Consumers Energy property. CO Beavers responded to the location and discovered the snares. The snares appeared to be set according to regulations but were missing the required identification tags. After talking to a neighboring property owner, CO Beavers was told who was responsible for farming the property. The subject told the CO that it was likely a sheep farmer who lives in the area. The subject told CO Beavers that the sheep farmer has had issues with coyotes killing the sheep. After obtaining the name of the sheep farmer, CO Beavers went to the residence. CO Beavers made contact with the farmer at his residence and explained why he was there. The farmer told him that the traps belonged to his son. Contact was made with the son and CO Beavers explained the requirement for marking the traps with identification tags. Enforcement action was taken.

On Saturday, COs Jeremy Beavers, Dan Prince and Sgt. Dan Bigger worked the Chili Cook Off held on Lobdell Lake in Genesee County. The event is held annually and typically draws a large crowd. This year's attendance was estimated in excess of 500 people. People arrived on multiple forms of transportation, including snowmobiles, ORVs, trucks and SUVs. Violations among the attendees were quickly observed from the beginning of the patrol. Several people were ticketed throughout the event for operating snowmobiles and ORVs without helmets. A large number of snowmobiles were missing the required trail permits and Michigan registrations. Due to the large crowd, the officers put an emphasis on enforcing safety regulations. While talking to attendees, many told the officers that the event tends to get "rowdy" and their attendance was appreciated.

While on patrol, CO Jeremy Beavers contacted two subjects on snowmobiles at a gas station in Genesee County. CO Beavers quickly noticed that one snowmobile was missing a current registration and a snowmobile trail permit sticker. After obtaining the subject's driver's license, CO Beavers told the subject that the snowmobile must have a snowmobile trail permit and current registration if used on public land and roadways. The subject was ticketed for the violations.

## **BELLE ISLE**

While on patrol on Belle Isle COs Jason Becker and Josiah Killingbeck observed two snowmobiles operating without trail permits. The COs contacted the operators and addressed registration and trail permit violations. Two people in the group were attempting to ride as passengers without helmets. The COs advised them that it was not safe or legal to do so. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Rich Nickols and Richard Cardenas were working a 3rd shift on Belle Isle when they observed a vehicle come on the island around 6:00 a.m. The driver was driving erratically and then stopped to ask for directions how to get off the island. CO Nickols gave directions and watched as the driver continued to drive in circles. CO Nickols re-contacted the driver and detected the odor of intoxicants. A file check showed the driver had four warrants and was suspended. CO Nickols conducted sobriety evaluations and arrested the subject for OWI and lodged the subject at the DDC. The

subject took a breath test and had a .18 BAC. It was later found that the subject had been arrested just two days prior in Kentucky for the same offenses.

COs Dave Schaumburger and Matt Liestenfeltz were patrolling Belle Isle when they made contact with two subjects during a traffic stop. The driver of the vehicle was file checked and found to have an outstanding felony warrant from the State of Nevada for Non-Sufficient Funds totaling \$201,000. Warrant confirmation found that Nevada would seek extradition. The subject was lodged in the Wayne County jail.