

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
September 15-21, 2013

This report is a broad sampling of events that have taken place in the past week, but does not include all actions taken by the Law Enforcement Division.



Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)

BARTOW COUNTY

On September 20th, Sgt. Mike Barr worked assisted the Bartow County Drug Task Force and US Marshalls with the arrest of a wanted person off Calico Valley Road in the area of Pine Log. A previous incident led to multiple arrest warrants for fleeing and attempting to elude a police officer, reckless driving, and other charges. The person was arrested without incident. A subsequent search of the premises revealed a stolen truck taken from Winder, Georgia and suspected methamphetamines at the residence.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On September 16th, RFC Zack Hardy responded by vessel around noon to a vessel fire near the Galt's Ferry area on Allatoona Lake. Once on scene, RFC Hardy located the vessel adrift in the middle of the lake with no occupants, and no flames visible. The vessel sustained a small amount of damage from a fire in the engine compartment. The operator put out the fire with his extinguisher and exited the vessel. The Cherokee Fire Department checked the vessel for any dangers of the fire restarting. No one was injured in the incident.

On September 21st, RFC Bart Hendrix responded to a complaint off Earney Road in reference to someone hunting without permission. RFC Hendrix located a hunter bow hunting on the property. The hunter was charged with hunting without permission and was also found to be hunting without a big game license. The hunter was issued a warning for the license violation.

WALKER COUNTY

From September 19th through 22nd, DNR Rangers along with GSP Troopers and Walker County officials provided security, medical response and traffic control for a reenactment event commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga. Several thousand participants and spectators were on hand. The four day event was held on Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area in the area of Mountain Cove.



Capt. Johnny Johnson watches as Confederate Artillery Troops fire cannons during the reenactment of the Battle of Chickamauga which was held on Pigeon Mountain WMA.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HALL COUNTY

On September 22nd, Sgt. Mike Burgamy was patrolling Hall County, checking baited stands off Whipporwill Road. He located one subject and as he was tracking down a second, RFC Mark Stephens arrived to assist. Burgamy walked out the two subjects and advised Stephens to track the third. He was located and all three were charged with hunting big game over bait. Several warnings were issued for charges such as: non-resident hunting without a license, big game license, deer harvest record, and illegal possession of a firearm while bow hunting.

DEKALB COUNTY

On September 21st, Cpl. Eric Sanders and Ranger Shane Brown checked several baited deer stands. During this patrol the rangers issued citations for hunting deer over bait and hunting without permission. A written warning was issued for hunting without a big game license.

Later in the morning the rangers received a call about illegal hunting on county park property. The rangers responded and through their investigation a citation was issued for hunting without permission and for possession of illegally taken wildlife. Two deer were confiscated.

FORSYTH COUNTY

On September 15th, Sgt. Lee Brown was patrolling the Chattahoochee River. Sgt. Brown issued three written warnings for possession of illegal bait below the GA Hwy 20 Bridge.

GWINNETT COUNTY

On September 15th, Sgt. Lee Brown responded to a call of illegal fishing on the Chattahoochee River at Medlock Boat Ramp. Sgt. Brown issued two written warnings for fishing with illegal bait.

LUMPKIN COUNTY

On September 21st, RFC Mitchell Crump and Wildlife Technician III David Shattuck were patrolling on Corp of Engineer property. The rangers found several subjects that were dredging for gold on the Corp property. The Corp of Engineer was contacted and two of their rangers responded to the scene. The Corp Rangers issued citations to the subjects.

WHITE COUNTY

On September 21st, RFC Mitchell Crump and Wildlife Technician III David Shattuck encountered an illegal burn while patrolling. The rangers issued a citation for unlawful burning of egregious litter.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

WALTON COUNTY

On September 20, RFC Niki Spencer flagged one dove field that was baited with bird seed in Walton County.

On September 21, RFC Phillip Nelson, Wildlife Technician Kevin Von Seggern, and RFC Niki Spencer inspected approximately 30 vessels for registration at the Wildlife Resources Conservation Center.

NEWTON COUNTY

On September 21, RFC Niki Spencer cited one individual for hunting big game over bait.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On Sunday the 22nd, Cpl. Ryan Swain performed a concentrated patrol of the Upper Savannah River Area of Clarks Hill Lake. The patrol was conducted to detect early waterfowl violations. Several hunters were checked with only two found to be in violation of license requirements. Two verbal warnings were given.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On Saturday the 21st, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin and Cpl. Ryan Swain conducted an I and E program at Wildwood Park. The event was a Kids Fishing Event for the Fish for Life Foundation. Chaffin and Swain set up and ran the departmental fishing simulator for the event. Approximately 150 people were on hand to participate in the event.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On Saturday the 21st, Cpl. Brian Hobbins, RFC Leroy Ficklin and RFC Grant Matherly performed HIN inspections at the Thomson Office. Approximately 20 vessels were inspected.

WILKES COUNTY

On the morning of September 21st Cpl. Mark Patterson checked a dove shoot documenting one instance of hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the morning of September 21st, Ranger Matt Johnson, Cpl. Josh Copelan and Cpl. Lynn Stanford assisted the Milledgeville Kiwanis Club with its annual River Rat Race on the Oconee River. Over 30 people competed in the event that lasted several hours.



Later that afternoon, Cpl. Lynn Stanford patrolled the Jones/Baldwin County line for hunting activity. Cpl. Stanford located a small dove shoot and after further investigation determined it was baited with wheat and 2 hunters were charged with hunting doves over bait.

BLECKLEY COUNTY

On September 21st, while on routine patrol of the Archery Only area of Ocmulgee WMA, Cpl. Robert Stillwell encountered two individuals who were riding the area and smoking marijuana. As there were no game and fish violations, the two subjects were turned over to the Bleckley County Sheriff's Office.

FAYETTE COUNTY

On Saturday September 21st, Cpl. Keith Waddell presented a program to a cub scout group in Peachtree City. About 40 adults and cub scouts learned about DNR Law Enforcement Division and its mission as well as the habits and life of wood ducks. Sgt. Brent Railey assisted in this program.

HOUSTON COUNTY

On September 19th, Cpl. Stillwell received a landowner complaint regarding hunting without permission, and the following day the Ranger, conducting a foot patrol of the property, located several baited deer stands – no one was supposed to be hunting the property. On the morning of the 21st, Stillwell and Ranger Fisher returned to the area and apprehended two individuals hunting from the stands. Both were charged with the offense of hunting without permission.

JONES COUNTY

On the morning of September 21st, Ranger Jeremy Reese checked 2 dove hunters on a small field. It was determined that milo was scattered in the cut corn field and both hunters were charged with hunting doves over bait.

MONROE COUNTY

On the morning of September 15th, RFC Keith Page and Sgt. Tim Kendrick checked a dove field on Oxford Road. RFC Page let Sgt. Kendrick out of his patrol vehicle on one end of the field and he drove to the other end of the field where the hunter's vehicles were parked. Sgt. Kendrick immediately saw two men run from the field into the woods. Sgt. Kendrick found a shotgun lying in the field where one of the men had been standing. Kendrick called RFC Page to let him know he might need the assistance of K-9 Drake to find the suspects who fled. Kendrick walked to the back of the field to a creek and found one of the men crouched down against a steep bank in the creek. Kendrick got the man out of the creek and determined the other subject who ran was his sixteen year old son. The father called to his son and got him to come out of the woods. The father and son stated they ran because they didn't have a hunting license. The sixteen year old was also found to be hunting with an unplugged shotgun. RFC Page issued the father who ran off the field, citations for hunting without a license and hunting without a H.I.P. permit. The son was verbally warned for hunting without a license, hunting without a H.I.P. permit, and hunting with an unplugged shotgun, because he was a juvenile. Another hunter that RFC Page checked on the field was also charged with hunting without a license.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the morning of September 15th, Ranger Derek Cobb and Cpl. Lynn Stanford checked several dove shoots in Putnam County. A total of 24 hunters were checked and several hunters received warnings for license violations.

On the afternoon of September 17th, Ranger Jeremy Reese checked a dove shoot in northern Putnam County. Two hunters were cited for taking over the daily bag limit and 45 doves were confiscated.



UPSON COUNTY

On September 21st, RFC Keith Page, Sgt. Tim Kendrick and K-9 Drake located a truck on John B. Gordon Road. The Rangers observed two empty corn sacks and one full bag of corn in the back of the truck. The Rangers decided there was a strong probability the owner of the truck was hunting deer over bait. The Rangers followed tracks from the truck and located an ATV. K-9 Drake was then commanded to track the hunter from the ATV. Approximately 200 yards from the ATV, K-9 Drake located a hunter and his son that were found to be hunting deer over bait. The man was charged with hunting big game over bait.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

EVANS COUNTY

On September 18th, RFC Debbie Brannen patrolled the Evans County Public Fishing Area. Numerous licenses were checked resulting in violations for possession of illegal size fish, fishing without a WMA license on a PFA and fishing with more than 2 poles and lines.

On September 18th, RFC Brannen checked landings along the Canoochee River. One violation was written for operating a vessel without a PFD.

On September 20th, RFC Brannen checked creel limits and boating activity along the Canoochee River. Violations of possession of illegal size fish, possession of over the daily creel limit and operating a vessel without PFD's were documented.

On September 21, 2013 RFC Clint Jarriel and SGT Jon Barnard were on patrol in an effort to detect dove hunting activity. Some shots were heard and tracked to a corn field that was occupied by three hunters. The field was baited with cracked corn and sunflowers. Citations were written for hunting over bait to all subjects. These violations will be tried in federal court.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On September 16th, Ranger Patrick Gibbs and SGT Jon Barnard conducted a program at Jeff Davis High School in reference to career opportunities. There were 27 students in attendance. Later that evening Ranger Gibbs and SGT Barnard taught a Hunter Ed class at Towns Bluff Park. Six students received their Hunter Ed certification.

On September 20th, Ranger Patrick Gibbs and CPL Kevin Joyce patrolled Bullard Creek WMA for GORP compliance at both the rifle range and the archery range. No activity was recorded. Ranger Gibbs and CPL Joyce also checked Towns Bluff River Landing for fishing activity. One fishing license was checked and no violations were recorded. While patrolling the management area for hunting activity two vehicles were located containing opened bags of corn and a bucket of pears. CPL Joyce utilized K-9 Briar in tracking the two individuals to their stands to check for bait on the WMA, but no violations were recorded.

On September 21st, Ranger Patrick Gibbs and RFC Debbie Brannen checked Hinson's Landing and Burkett's Ferry Landing for fishing and boating activity. 13 licenses were checked resulting in one violation for nonresident fishing without a license.

CLINCH COUNTY

On September 21st, Cpl. Jason Shipes and RFC Mark Pool assisted the Clinch County Sheriff's Department with their annual fishing rodeo in Homerville. Over one-hundred participants were in attendance. Parents and children enjoyed the event that included trophies and prizes awarded to the anglers with the heaviest "bucket" of fish in their age class. A picnic-style lunch was provided also.



RFC Mark Pool weighing the catch at the Clinch Sheriff's Fishing Rodeo.

LAURENS COUNTY

On September 21st, Cpl. Dan Stiles, Cpl. John Stokes, RFC Allen Mills, and RFC Rodney Horne conducted a HIN inspection site in Laurens County. Twelve vessels were inspected and registration issues resolved.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On Saturday September 21st, Cpl. Eddie Akins checked Oliver Bridge Landing and Steel Bridge Landing on the Ogeechee River for boating and fishing activity. His actions resulted in one violation being documented for operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's.

DODGE COUNTY

On September 16th, RFC Allen Mills responded to a littering complaint. After arriving on scene, RFC Mills was able to locate multiple items with a suspect's name and address including canceled checks and prescription bottles. Because the individual lived in the adjacent county of Bleckley, RFC Mills contacted RFC Ronnie Beard to assist him in the case. After interviewing the suspect, a case for littering was documented.



On September 17th, RFC Allen Mills spoke at a Future Farmers of America meeting. The topics included the new Law Enforcement Division's power point presentation, Hunter Education requirements, and the new changes in the either sex deer days.

On September 18th, RFC Allen Mills participated in a live interview on a local radio station. Topics that were discussed were the new changes in the either sex deer days, Hunter Education requirements, fluorescent orange requirements, and other topics of interest.

On September 19th, RFC Allen Mills received a complaint via an E-mail from an employee of the EPD in reference to someone burning the 'plastic' off of copper wiring. RFC Mills responded to the complaint site and discovered that an individual had been burning pine cones along with some 'bailing twine'. No action has been taken.

On September 21st, RFC Allen Mills was patrolling North Dodge county listening for dove hunting activity. RFC Mills located a field planted with corn and sunflowers. Five individuals were checked for license requirements and bag limit compliance. Violations for hunting without a license and failure to participate in the migratory bird program were documented.

ATKINSON COUNTY

On September 18th, at around 3:00 a.m., Sgt. Damon Winters and RFC Tim Hutto responded to a call from the Pearson Police Department of a subject who was possibly involved in night deer hunting. Officers with the Pearson PD stopped the subject's vehicle in Pearson and discovered deer legs in the bed of the pickup and fresh deer blood. Sgt. Winters and RFC Hutto made contact with the subject and began an investigation. After talking with the driver of the truck and his passenger, it was determined that the two subjects had killed a doe deer on the highway with a .22 caliber rifle at around 2:00 a.m. Sgt. Winters and RFC Hutto arrested the two individuals after gaining written confessions and finding the deer carcass on the shoulder of Axson Road. The subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, possession of illegally taken wildlife, and unlawful dumping.

On September 19th, Sgt. Damon Winters and RFC Tim Hutto responded to a drowning in Atkinson County at a private pond. There was one victim that didn't make the swim to the bank after the boat he was fishing from capsized. The victim was recovered by the Coffee County Dive Team. Jeff Davis County and Atkinson County Rescue units also assisted in the recovery effort. No personal flotation devices were present.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Sept. 21st, Ranger Jason Miller, Cpl. Phillip Scott, and Cpl. Jay Morgan checked a dove shoot in northern Bryan County, citing one hunter for hunting doves with an unplugged shotgun. Later that morning, the rangers conducted a HIN/registration inspection at Richmond Hill Hatchery, helping 21 boaters with the registration of their boats.

CHATHAM COUNTY

September 22, 2013 at 1039, Corporal Bill Bryson and Ranger Kiel Toney responded by water to the Savannah River at River Street in response to a drowning. Savannah Chatham Metro Police Marine Patrol and DNR Rangers worked together in the search. Rangers remained on scene for almost three days until the victim was recovered just after 0930 on September 24, 2013. Rangers involved include: Sgt. Cindy Miller, Cpl Phillip Scott, Cpl Chris Moore, Cpl Bobby White, Ranger Jordan Crawford, Ranger Jason Miller, and Ranger Colt Shaske.

September 23rd, Corporal Chris Moore and Ranger Jordan Crawford arrested one individual in the Savannah River for boating under the influence at midnight. Other charges were operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness, expired fire extinguishers, and operating vessel without registration.

On September 14, 2013 at 2300hrs Ranger Jordan Crawford and Corporal Bill Bryson was checking boat ramps in Chatham County when they arrived at Bells Landing. A group of people was gathered at the boat ramp. As the Rangers were talking with the family they stated that their family members who included a husband, wife, and 4 year old boy were long overdue in their boat. The family stated they called the US Coast Guard at around 1900 hrs. there was no response. Corporal Bill Bryson called Savannah Chatham County Metro Police Dept. Marine Patrol advised about the missing boaters. Savannah Police activated their helicopter that is equipped with FLIR. They started to search the area from the air, while Ranger Jordan Crawford and Corporal Bill Bryson searched from the boat. A boat matching the description was found in Ossabaw Sound half sunk. The family was found on Ossabaw Island safe and sound.

On September 16, 2013 Ranger Jordan Crawford, Rangers First Class Jack Thain, David Brady, and Corporal Bill Bryson were assigned to work on a security detail for Vice President Joe Biden's visit to the Georgia Ports and Hutchinson Island.