

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
August 17-23, 2014

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)

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

WHITE COUNTY

On August 17th, Sgt. Steve Seitz and RFC Anne Britt patrolled Unicoi State Park and located two individuals at the beach who were fishing. The Rangers asked the people to see their fishing licenses. At first, the two subjects said they did not have their fishing licenses on them. The Rangers escorted them back to their patrol vehicle. Upon further checking the Rangers determined the two people did not have a valid fishing license and one of the people was wanted out of Habersham County. RFC Britt confirmed the warrant and placed the subject under arrest. Each person was charged for fishing without a license and the person with the outstanding warrant was taken to the White County jail to bond out for this charge and was later taken to the Habersham County jail for his warrant.

RABUN COUNTY

On August 20th, Sgt. Steve Seitz and Cpl. Jesse Cook participated in the annual lake clean up event on Lake Tugaloo. This annual event is conducted in cooperation with Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division, GA Power Company, South Carolina DNR Law Enforcement and Fisheries, Oconee County South Carolina Sheriff's Office, members of the Chattooga Sounds Camp Ground, and several other volunteers. The group removed 420 pounds of trash and debris from around this beautiful lake.



HALL COUNTY

On August 23rd, Corporal Jason Roberson and RFC Eric Isom responded to a “be on the lookout” call about a possible intoxicated boater in Big Creek on Lake Lanier. They located a PWC that matched the description and attempted to stop the boat. The vessel was very slow to stop and continued traveling towards Van Pugh Park. The operator came within approximately thirty feet on several swimmers in the water and appeared to be having extreme difficulty staying on board his PWC. After a brief investigation, it was determined that he was under the influence. He was charged with BUI, reckless operation, violation of the 100’ rule, operating without a fire extinguisher, and obstruction.

On August 17th, at 2025 hours RFC Kevin Goss stopped a PWC that was traveling south on Lake Lanier for operating after sunset. After speaking to the driver RFC Goss asked if he would step on board RFC Goss’ boat so he could administer field sobriety. After field sobriety testing RFC Goss placed the operator under arrest for BUI. Later marijuana was found in the pocket of the suspect. The suspect was charged with Operating a PWC after sunset, BUI, and misdemeanor marijuana possession.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

ELBERT COUNTY

On August 23rd Sgt. Brian Carter and Cpl. Mark Patterson patrolled State Parks and public boat ramps on Lake Russell. They addressed violations during the patrol to include fishing without a license and towing a skier without an observer on a PWC.

RICHMOND COUNTY

On August 17, Cpl. Ben Payne patrolled Richmond and Burke Counties checking without permission fishing complaints, crop damage permits, and two alligator complaints. He started his patrol late in the afternoon. One subject was cited for fishing without permission. A landowner was checked on a crop damage permit with no violations. And there was no alligator poaching activity at the time of the checks.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the afternoon of August 17th, Cpl. Lynn Stanford and Sgt. Bo Kelly patrolled the Oconee River tail race below the Sinclair Dam. Two fishermen were contacted who did not have valid fishing licenses and were also in possession of a small amount of suspected marijuana. The suspects were issued warnings for fishing without a license and released pending further investigation.

On the evening of August 21st, Ranger Matt Johnson encountered a vehicle and 2 suspects along a foot travel only road on Bartram WMA. The suspects had driven past 3 prominent ROAD CLOSED signs and were issued a citation for driving on a closed WMA road.

LAKE SINCLAIR

On the afternoon of August 23rd, RFC Jeremy Reese and Cpl. Lynn Stanford patrolled Lake Sinclair. Approximately 12 vessels were stopped and 2 citations and 3 warnings were issued for various infractions.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On the afternoon of August 23rd, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and RFC Russell Epps were patrolling Lake Oliver by boat. Numerous vessels were stopped and the two officers issued 2 citations and 3 warnings. The 2 citations were for boating under the influence and child endangerment (BUI). The warnings were for allowing underage person to ride on moving vessel without wearing a PFD and operating a vessel without PFD.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the evening of August 21st, Cpl. Lynn Stanford assisted with a hunter education CD ROM class in Eatonton. A total of 12 students were certified in hunter education.

WILKINSON COUNTY

On the evening of August 21st, Ranger Matt Johnson taught a hunter education CD ROM class at BASF plant in McIntyre. Several students were certified in hunter education.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

On August 17th, Ranger Tony Cox and Cpl. Randy Davis responded to a landowner complaint on Spring Creek, in reference to a boater involved in littering. The officers located the boater, and while discussing the littering complaint found him impaired and without a lifejacket. The subject was charged with operating under the influence, littering and operating without a lifejacket.

LAKE WORTH

On August 23rd, Cpl. Robbie Griner, RFC Tony Cox and RFC Jim Atchley participated in a dive team training exercise with search and rescue assets from Lee, Dougherty, Colquitt, and Lowndes counties. The purpose of this exercise was to familiarize each agency with the operational capabilities of side scan sonar, and improve inter-agency communication, efficiency, and effectiveness.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

BEN-HILL/COFFEE COUNTY

On August 24th, RFC Tim Hutto patrolled the Ocmulgee River from the Fitzgerald Landing to the Rocky Hammock WMA Landing for boating and fishing related activity. The patrol resulted in numerous citations and warnings for fishing without a license, hunting hogs without a license, operating a vessel without registration, operating a vessel with insufficient life jackets, operating a vessel without life jackets, and possession/use of drug related objects.

COFFEE COUNTY

On August 22nd and 23rd, RFC Tim Hutto presented K-9 programs to attendees of the Douglas Hunting and Fishing Expo. Approximately two-hundred attendees learned about all aspects of the GA DNR K-9 Unit, such as obedience, officer safety, tracking, wildlife detection, article or evidence recovery, and apprehension. RFC Keith McDonald and members of the Coffee County Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit also participated in K-9 Gauge's demonstrations.

WARE COUNTY

Cpl. Jason Shipes, Ranger Daniel North, and RFC Mark Pool assisted Park Manger Travis Griffin with the triathlon event on Laura S. Walker State Park. The Rangers provided assistance on the lake during the swimming portion of the event. The event was a great success.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On August 6th, Cpl. Eddie Akins received notification from the Ranger Hotline of an anonymous hunting complaint against two individuals in Bulloch County. The complaint stated that the two subjects had been known to hunt out of season, hunt at night, use vehicles to pursue game and that they had killed protected wildlife. Cpl. Eddie Akins and Ranger Jordan Crawford began an investigation that lasted for several days. Their efforts resulted in a violation for taking protected species being documented against each of the individuals. No other violations could be proved at this time.

On the evening of August 14th, Cpl. Eddie Akins was contacted by a deputy with the Bulloch County Sheriff's Office requesting his assistance in trying to locate a missing person that lived near the Ogeechee River. Cpl. Akins took his boat and patrolled the area close to where the individual lived looking for any sign of the missing person. Due to darkness and the late hour the search was called off till the following day. On August 15th, Cpl. Eddie Akins and Sgt. Don Dasher met up at the area at 8:00 a.m. and again patrolled the river in the area where the missing individual lived. The Officers had no success in locating any sign of the missing individual along the river. Sgt. Dasher and RFC. Debbie Brannen then started searching the general area on ATVs for the missing person. The missing individual was found on the edge of Oliver Bridge WMA shortly before noon that day.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On August the 23rd, Ranger Jordan Crawford and SGT Don Dasher patrolled Tuskasee King Landing in Effingham County. Several vessels were checked with two violations documented for operating a vessel without a throwable device.

JENKINS COUNTY

On Saturday August 23rd, Sgt. Don Dasher checked the US 25 Bridge Landing on the Ogeechee River for fishing and boating activity. He checked one boat and four fishermen. He documented two violations for fishing without a license.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On August 21st, CPL Craig Smith and RGR Colte Shaske found 3 separate plots of marijuana totaling 20 plants. The plants were turned over to Brantley County Sheriff's Office.



MCINTOSH COUNTY

On August 23rd, Sgt. Damon Winters and Ranger Jay Bright assisted McIntosh County Sheriff's Office with a missing person case on the Sapelo River. The Rangers assisted using their side scan sonar to search the Sapelo River in an attempt to locate the victim, a 51yo female, suspected of committing suicide. After searching all night, the victim was located shortly after daylight. She was in a wooded area a short distance from the river. She was disoriented but safe.