

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
August 31-September 6, 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)

BARTOW COUNTY

On September 6th, Sgt. Mike Barr responded to a boating incident at Allatoona Landing. A woman had pulled into the gas docks to refuel. The attendant tied a rope to the pole of the boat's canopy as there was a missing cleat on the boat. When the woman attempted to leave, the boat gave resistance due to the rope tied to the dock. Not realizing the rope was tied, she increased power tearing off the canopy and half of the windshield of the vessel. The operator was hit above the eye by objects torn from the boat.

On September 7th, Cpl. Lee Burns was contacted to witness a potential new flathead catfish record caught from the Etowah River in Bartow County. The catfish was weighed on certified scales at 22.3 pounds. The fish was caught on September 6th, by Joseph Agan and kept alive to be released back into the Etowah River.



Joseph Agan with 22.3 lb. Flathead Catfish

CARROLL COUNTY

On September 6th, Cpl. Eric Brown and Cpl. Wil Smith patrolled Carroll County for Dove hunting activity. During the day 5 fields were checked with one of which being baited with wheat. Hunters on several fields were cited for hunting without HIP permits, hunting with unplugged gun, hunting without a license, and hunting over bait.

GORDON COUNTY

On September 3rd, Cpl. Shawn Elmore received a call from an anonymous complainant about a deer that had been shot at night. Cpl. Elmore also received a photograph of the deer in the bed of a pickup truck. The young

buck was still in velvet. After a three day investigation, Cpl. Elmore was able to locate all four suspects and they have been charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting from a public road.

On September 5th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore assisted the Georgia State Patrol in a pursuit with a motorcycle. The motorcycle had fled from GSP and travelled at extremely high rates of speed through the city of Calhoun and through several schools zones during the morning drop off times for the schools. The motorcycle wrecked on Sugar Valley Rd after making an attempt to turn into a cemetery. The suspect was arrested and charged with numerous traffic violations as well as drugs charges. No one was injured during this high speed pursuit.



The chase ended with the motorcycle wrecking in the grass along Sugar Valley Rd.

On September 6th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore contacted Cpl. Lee Burns about a dove shoot on Pearl Johnson Rd in Fairmount. Cpl. Elmore had received a call from a retired DNR LE officer about hearing shots in the area. Cpl. Burns was in the area and went to the area locating two subjects hunting in a baited field. Both were charged with hunting doves over bait and four dove were confiscated.

On September 6th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore contacted Cpl. Lee Burns in reference to a possible illegal dove field close to the Cherokee County Line. Cpl. Burns responded to the field and found two subjects hunting over scattered wheat and sunflower seeds. Both subjects were charged with hunting over bait.

HARALSON COUNTY

September 6th, RFC Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray checked a dove field in Haralson County with 11 hunters. The field was baited with sunflower seeds and corn. 42 doves were confiscated and one citation was written to the owner of the field for unlawful enticement.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

JACKSON COUNTY

On September 6th, I RFC Kevin Goss and RFC Eric Isom patrolled Jackson County looking for dove hunters. On two different fields, hunters were found to be hunting doves over bait. RFC Goss and Isom issued 11 citations in total for hunting over bait.

HART COUNTY

On August 31st, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Tim Vickery patrolled Hartwell Lake for any boating safety/fishing activity. Several fishing licenses and boats were checked for proper safety equipment. A total of six citations and warnings were issued. The violations consisted of failure to obey regulatory marker, operating vessel within a 100 foot of object, and allowing underage child to ride in moving vessel without wearing PFD. One subject was tested and determined to be boating under the influence. The subject was arrested and transported to the Hart County Jail for booking. They were issued citations for allowing a person to ride on the bow/gunwale and operating a vessel under the influence.

On September 1st, RFC Brandon Pierce and Cpl. Craig Fulghum responded to a call from Hart County 911 in reference to a boating incident. A total of two vessels were involved in the collision. Two subjects were transported to the hospital for injured sustained. Both subjects are expected to make a full recovery. One subject was charged with violation of rules of the road.

On September 6th, RFC Brandon Pierce patrolled Hartwell Lake for any hunting/boating safety activity. A total of two hunters and one boat were checked for proper safety equipment. As a result, two warnings were issued. The violations consisted of operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's and operating a vessel without registration number displayed.

MADISON COUNTY

On Sept 1ST, RFC Shane Sartor, RFC Tim Vickery, and Sgt. Stan Elrod patrolled the Broad River for possible violations. A total of seven violations were documented throughout the day. Six violations of the Georgia Controlled Substance Act for marijuana possession and one violation for litter.

STEPHENS COUNTY

On September 6th, RFC Brandon Pierce, Cpl. Craig Fulghum, and Sgt. Stan Elrod responded to a call in reference to possible shooting doves before legal hours. Being that on opening day shooting hour's start at noon. The officers arrived at the location and found a total of eight hunters actively shooting doves. As a result, a total of eleven citations and warnings were issued. The violations consisted of hunting before legal hours, possession of illegally taken wildlife, and hunting with an unplugged shotgun. A total of ninety-four doves were confiscated and donated to a needy family.



HALL COUNTY

On August 28th, RFC Kevin Goss stopped a boat coming to fast out of the no-wake zone at Sunset Cove Lake Lanier. After speaking to the driver and conducting a safety inspection, 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.

On August 30th, Corporal Jason Roberson arrested one subject for operating a vessel under the influence.

LAKE LANIER (DAWSON, FORSYTH, GWINNETT, HALL, & LUMPKIN COUNTIES)

On August 29TH, RFC Mitchell Crump and Cpl. Eddie Tompkins stopped a vessel for operating without navigation lights after sunset. While speaking with the operator Cpl. Tompkins determined the subject was under the influence of alcohol. The subject was arrested for Boating under the influence and operating vessel without lights.

On August 31ST, Cpl. Sanders received a complaint about a vessel floating in a cove in the Chestatee River. Cpl. Sanders and RFC Crump located the vessel and noticed that the electronics were removed from the vessel. Cpl. Sanders then ran the vessel registration and called the owner. Cpl. Sanders was informed that he no longer owned the vessel. He had a boat dealer to sell his boat. Cpl. Sanders was then put in contact with the new owner and he had just reported the boat stolen this that from Little Hall Park. The owner was reunited with his vessel.

On Augusts 31st, Cpl. Larry Hurst of the Gwinnett County Police Department and Cpl. Eddie Tompkins stopped a vessel that was traveling up the lake dragging a ski rope behind them and with a there swim ladder down in the water. While speaking with the operator Cpl. Tompkins determined the subject was under the influence of alcohol. The subject was arrested for Boating under the influence.

On September 1st, Cpl. Larry Hurst of the Gwinnett County Police Department and Cpl. Eddie Tompkins attempted to stop a PWC that was violating a no wake zone and did not have valid registration displayed. The subject operating the PWC refused to stop his vessel. After a couple minutes of reckless operation between other vessels above idle speed in a no wake zone the operator ran the PWC aground. After apprehending the subject, Cpl. Tompkins located a bag floating next to the PWC that contained a glass pipe commonly used to smoke methamphetamine. While speaking with the operator Cpl. Tompkins determined the subject was under the influence of methamphetamine. The subject was arrested for operating a vessel under the influence of drugs, reckless operation of a vessel, failure to obey regulatory marker, operating vessel without registration, failure to stop vessel, and possession of drug related objects.

On September 1st, Cpl. Larry Hurst of the Gwinnett County Police Department and Cpl. Eddie Tompkins responded to a possible drowning in the area of Big Creek Park. A female subject jumped off a pleasure yacht and never resurfaced. The search for the female continued until September 4th when rangers located the subject. Numerous Rangers from across the state were involved in the search utilizing side scan sonar, sector scan, and remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) technology.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On September 5th RFC Phillip Nelson worked night hunting in Oglethorpe Co. Two subjects were charged for hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting from a public road.

On September 6th Cpl. Julian Wilkins and RFC Phillip Nelson shut down one baited dove field in which violations of unlawful enticement, hunting over bait, and hunting from a public road were documented.

OCONEE COUNTY

On September 6, RFC Phillip Nelson received a call from Oconee County S.O. in reference to four teenagers being stranded on the Oconee River. The stranding occurred as a result of rapidly falling water levels. Cpl. Julian Wilkins and RFC Phillip Nelson responded and were able to locate the boaters at approximately 2:00am. The four juveniles were transported by the Rangers and safely returned to their parents.

ELBERT COUNTY

On September 6, Captain Mark Padgett, Cpl. Julian Wilkins, and RFC Phillip Nelson presented a hunter development program at Woodlawn Church in Elbert County for a youth dove hunt. The young hunters were instructed on proper shooting techniques and firearm safety.

WALTON/OCONEE COUNTY

On September 6th Sgt. Brian Carter and RFC Tim Butler patrolled for dove hunting activity. Four baited fields were flagged by the Rangers who also documented three violations of hunting over bait. Prior to opening day two additional fields were flagged by RFC Butler.

WILKES COUNTY

On September 6th Capt. Mark Padgett and Cpl. Mark Patterson patrolled the county for dove hunting activity. One baited field was checked with ten citations issued for hunting over bait.

WASHINGTON/JEFFERSON COUNTY

Cpl. Micheal Crawley and Sgt. Matt Garthright worked dove hunting activity in Washington and Jefferson Counties on September 7. While patrolling they followed shots to find a small field several miles off the paved road where several people were hunting doves. Upon further investigation the two officers found the field to be baited with grain sorghum seed. Tickets were issues for hunting doves over bait and unlawful enticement of game.

MORGAN COUNTY

On September 6, Lt. Sam O' Neal, Sgt. Harwell, and Cpl. Allen checked three dove fields in Morgan County. Two of the three fields checked were found to be baited with cracked corn, sunflower, and wheat. Citations were issued for hunting over bait.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On September 6th, Cpl. Ryan Swain and Cpl. Brian Hobbins responded to a possible hunting incident that occurred on a dove field in Western Lincoln County. Upon arrival at the scene, it was discovered that a 28 year old male had a self- inflicted gunshot wound to his left index finger. The subject discharged a 16 gauge shotgun and the pellets struck the subject's hand. He was transported to Georgia Regents University Hospital by ambulance where he was treated for his wounds.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity reported.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

On September 1st, Cpl. Greg Wade and Ranger Eric White responded to a complaint on Lake Worth of a pontoon boat violating the "IDLE SPEED-NO WAKE" area of the Kinchafoonee Creek. The officers located the vessel, and found it being operated as reported. The operator was arrested and charged for BUI in addition to operating a vessel without navigation lights during hours of darkness, and towing a skier between sunset and sunrise.

CRISP COUNTY

On September 6th, Cpl. Bob Holley encountered several individuals hunting doves. While checking one of the hunters Cpl. Holley detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage about one of the hunter's person. After a brief investigation the hunter was arrested for hunting under the influence and transported for a breath alcohol test. The hunter was cited for hunting under the influence and then booked into the Crisp County Jail.

DOOLY COUNTY

On September 6th, Cpl. Clint Martin encountered several individuals hunting doves. One hunter was found to be in possession of 23 doves. A second hunter was found in possession of 50 doves. Both hunters were in the process of hunting when they were checked. The two hunters were cited for possession of more than the daily bag limit and the 73 doves were confiscated.



Cpl. Clint Martin

LEE COUNTY

On September 6th, Cpl. Bob Holley and Cpl. Clint Martin were patrolling Lake Blackshear when they encountered several people alligator hunting from a pontoon boat. During a routine license and equipment inspection it was discovered that four of the hunters did not have the required alligator hunting license. The four were cited for hunting alligators without an alligator hunting license.

On September 6th, Ranger Randy James encountered and cited four individuals hunting doves over bait. Their twenty nine birds were confiscated.



Ranger Randy James

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

ATKINSON/COFFEE COUNTIES

On September 6th, RFC Joe Hilton and Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey patrolled for dove shoots in Coffee and Atkinson County. Of the many dove fields checked, three fields were found to be baited; two in Coffee County and one in Atkinson County. Violations of hunting over bait, hunting w/o a license, hunting with an unplugged shotgun, unlawful enticement of game, taking over the daily bag limit and failure to participate in H.I.P. were documented.

JENKINS COUNTY

On September 6th, Captain Scott Klingel and Corporal Mike Wilcox patrolled Jenkins County for dove hunting activity on opening day of dove season. The officers located a dove field and checked twelve hunters. One violation for hunting without a license was documented. Verbal guidance was given to one hunter for not possessing a current HIP permit.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On September 6th, Ranger Jordan Crawford and Cpl. Eddie Akins patrolled Effingham County looking for dove hunting activity. Several hunters were checked with no violations documented.

APPLING COUNTY

On September 6th, Cpl. Chase Altman and Cpl. Kevin Joyce patrolled the county for possible dove hunting activity. Violations were documented for: hunting with unplugged shotgun, and taking over the daily bag limit.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On August 31st, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, Ranger Sam Williams, and Ranger Daniel North conducted a boating safety patrol on the St. Mary's River from Trader's Hill to Camp Pickney landing. Three vessels were observed being operated above idle speed within 100' of bridge pilings. A PWC was also observed towing a skier without an observer. All the violations were documented. A boating safety inspection was conducted on a vessel that was carrying ten occupants. During the inspection, it was discovered that there were only three PFDs onboard. The officers observed several open beer containers onboard and the operator of the vessel was asked if he had consumed any alcoholic beverages. He stated he had and agreed to undergo field sobriety tests by Ranger Williams. The exercises revealed that the operator was operating the vessel while impaired and was charged with BUI under 21. He also received a citation for operating with insufficient PFDs. Later in the evening, at Scott's Landing, the officers assisted Florida FWC officer Tim Sweat with securing an individual and his vessel during an arrest for boating under the influence.

On September 1st, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and Ranger Sam Williams conducted a boating safety patrol on the St. Mary's River. Several vessels were encountered with no safety violations observed. One vessel operator was issued a warning for operating a vessel with expired registration.

CLINCH COUNTY

On September 4th, officers from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division, Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service gathered at the Eco-Lodge in Fargo for their annual meeting. The officers shared information and updates from each agency and enjoyed a meal provided by Okefenokee Wildlife League and prepared by Georgia nuisance alligator trapper Jackie Carter. Approximately 50 officers from the three wildlife law enforcement agencies were in attendance.



WARE & PIERCE COUNTY

On September 6th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, RFC Mark Pool, Ranger Daniel North, and Ranger Sam Williams patrolled for dove hunting activity across northern Ware County and western Pierce County. The officers located four fields being hunted and encountered fifty dove hunters. Three violations were discovered and citations were issued for the violations. These included possession over the daily bag limit, taking over the bag limit, and hunting doves with an unplugged shotgun. Twenty-six doves were seized.



Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No activity reported.