

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
January 4 - 10, 2015

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.

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Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)

CARROLL COUNTY

On January 4th, Corporal Eric Brown and Ranger Puig were patrolling Carroll County for waterfowl activity. Two subjects were found north of Carrollton. One subject was cited for hunting waterfowl without a state waterfowl license, without hunter education certification, and without a HIP permit. The other subject was cited for hunting with an unplugged gun.

On January 5th, Corporal Eric Brown and Ranger Mark Puig investigated a complaint of a man and his 12 year old son going to their stand and locating a hunter already in it who did not have permission. While walking to the stand, the complainant and his son located a fresh blood trail and tracked it back to their stand to find someone already sitting in it. After a short conversation with the man in the stand, where he tried to act like the landowner, he left the area briskly without making any attempt to retrieve his deer he just shot. A brief investigation into the identity of the suspect, who was on probation, and the complainant's positive identification of the suspect in a photo lineup, brought enough evidence to secure 6 arrest warrants. The suspect was notified that warrants were issued for his arrest for hunting without permission, hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, hunting without a harvest record, failure to record harvest, and failure to attempt to retrieve game. The suspect turned himself into the Carroll County jail that night.

On January 10th, Sergeant Rick Dempsey, Corporal Eric Brown, Ranger First Class Daniel Gray, and Ranger Mark Puig participated in a section waterfowl detail in Carroll County. Several groups of hunters were located and resulted in several citations and warnings for various offenses to include: unplugged guns, insufficient Personal Floatation Devices, hunting without federal duck stamps, improper boat registration, hunting without a state waterfowl license, and hunting without a hunting license on person.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

GWINNETT COUNTY

On November 9th Sgt. Lee Brown, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins, RFC Mitchell Crump, and Ranger Shane Brown assisted Gwinnett County Police Department with the search for a missing Gwinnett County man. Rangers utilized Sector Scan Sonar and ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) to search an area of Lake Lanier for the missing man. Rangers were unable to locate the missing man.

HART COUNTY

On January 8th, Cpl. Craig Fulghum received a complaint of an illegal burn in the Vanna area. Cpl. Fulghum made contact with the subject that started the burn and he was issued a citation for unlawful burning of waste. On January 10th, RFC Brandon Pierce patrolled the Lake Hartwell area for any duck hunting activity. Numerous hunters and boats were checked throughout his patrol. As a result, one warning was issued for a non-resident hunting without a license.

JACKSON COUNTY

On January 10th, RFC Eric Isom checked two adults and youth duck hunter near Pendergrass. Violations for hunting with unplugged shotgun, failure to sign duck stamp, and hunting without a hunter safety card were documented as warnings. The hunters were instructed to resolve these issues before hunting in the future. RFC Isom traveled to a subject's residence near Commerce on behalf of a landowner. The landowner believed the subject was hunting on his property without permission and installed a tri-pod deer stand. After speaking with the suspect, he admitted to hunting on the property and agreed to remove the stand. He was given a verbal warning for hunting without permission.

HALL COUNTY

On January 10th, RFC Eric Isom received assistance from Cpl. Adam Loudermilk, Cpl. Jason Roberson, and Ranger Chris Kernahan on executing a search warrant on a suspect's residence in Lula. The warrant stemmed from a hunting case that occurred in Jackson County on December 22, 2014. During the search, the suspect was found to be in possession of marijuana and methamphetamine. The items the officers were looking for at the residence were also recovered. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Hall County Detention Center. Also from the case, RFC Isom discovered information that lead to another subject in Jackson County for hunting without permission. After interviewing the subject, the subject admitted to killing an eight-point buck off the property on November 14, 2014. The rack was seized as evidence.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

RICHMOND COUNTY

On January 9, Cpl. Ben Payne patrolled Richmond County checking complaint activity and local WMA's. At approximately 9:45 A.M., Cpl. Payne received information of a bank robbery in Hephzibah. Cpl. Payne and RFC Billips responded to the scene. At the scene Cpl. Payne assisted at the command post and RFC Billips helped set-up the perimeter. Once the perimeter was set-up Cpl. Payne coordinated air to ground communications with a GSP helicopter. The search lasted most of the day in heavily wooded areas. There were three suspects in the robbery and the identification of two was known by the end of the day. One suspect was seen running across a highway, but K-9 units were unable to locate. The investigation is still ongoing and the Sheriff's office expects arrests in this case.

HANCOCK COUNTY

On January 11, Cpl. David Allen checked the highway 16 boat ramp for duck hunters. Cpl. Allen checked nine vessels and cited two for operating with insufficient personal flotation devices.

GREENE COUNTY

On January 12, Sgt. John Harwell patrolled Redlands WMA for duck hunting activity. Sgt. Harwell cited one hunter for not having a WMA license and another hunter hunting without a federal duck stamp.

CLARKS HILL LAKE

On January 10, Rangers from Region 3 conducted a waterfowl detail on Clarks Hill Lake. The detail began at 0500 hours and ran until approximately 1200 hours. The detail was conducted to concentrate on the apprehension of those operating vessels without or with improper lights, boating safety violations and non-compliance with all laws pertaining to hunting waterfowl. The detail consisted of 10 officers from various sections and 5 boats that were assigned to zones. Those Rangers participating in the detail were Sgt. Brian Carter, Cpl. Mark Patterson, RFC Brian Adams, RFC Grant Matherly, Sgt. Matt Garthright, RFC Jeff Billips, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, RFC Bobby Timmerman, Cpl. Brian Hobbins, and RNG Michael Madden. During the detail officers checked 91 duck hunters and 35 vessels. Officers detected 20 violations.

WARREN COUNTY

On the morning of January 4th, RFC Brian Adams and Sgt. Doyte Chaffin checked five subjects that were dove hunting. It was determined that the dove field was baited with millet, cracked and whole corn. The field was flagged and hunters were cited for hunting doves over bait. One hunter was also charged with Non-resident hunting without a license.

On January 5th, a year- long investigation was concluded by RFC Brian Adams that started with fishing without permission complaint. The investigation consisted of numerous interviews, search warrants and foot patrols by several Rangers. In the end, 25 charges were brought against two poachers for multiple trapping violations, hunting license violations, fishing without permission, hunting over bait, hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting from a public road. One of the poachers that were found hiding from Rangers in a closet was also arrested for probation violations and burglary warrants.

On January 4th, RFC Brian Adams cited one subject for hunting deer out of season and hunting big game over bait.

GLASCOCK COUNTY

On Saturday night RFC Brian Adams received a call from the Glascock County Sheriff Office in reference to night hunting. After a brief investigation, RFC Brian Adams determined that three subjects had been hunting deer at night. RFC Adams found a spot light, two high powered rifles, a shot gun and two hand guns were located in the suspect's vehicle. The three subjects were cited for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle. One of the subjects was getting married the next day and this night hunting trip was part of his bachelor party.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

HARRIS COUNTY

On January 9th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen presented an Information and Education program to 4 separate classes at Park Elementary School. Cpl. Bolen spoke about the K-9 program and performed a wildlife search demonstration with K-9 Ruger.

HEARD COUNTY

On January 10th, Sgt. Jim Bradfield, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen, and RFC Russell Epps were working a night hunting detail when a vehicle was observed shining a spot light across a cemetery. The vehicle was stopped and after interviewing the individuals in the vehicle it was determined that they were hunting deer at night. Two individuals were charged for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle. A scoped semi-automatic .30-06 caliber rifle and a spot light were confiscated as evidence.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On January 4th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver and Cpl. Jeremy Bolen were checking a hunting complaint in a residential area of Columbus. The 2 officers did not encounter the hunter, but did watch a subject enter the woods with a firearm that was acting strangely. The officers decided to make contact with the individual and see what he was doing. The subject ran from the woods and into a house before the officers could talk with him. Cpl. Oliver was able to get the subject to come out and speak with the officers on why he ran. It was soon discovered that the subject had an outstanding warrant for his arrest out of Muscogee County. Cpl. Oliver placed the suspect under arrest and a Muscogee County Deputy was called to transport the subject to jail.

On January 10th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen was checking hunting activity on Standing Boy WMA. Cpl. Bolen encountered a truck from Alabama hunting on the area. After searching the information through the hunting/fishing license database, Cpl. Bolen discovered that the individual did not have a current hunting license. The hunter came out after a short while, and Cpl. Bolen confirmed that the hunter did not have a valid hunting license. The hunter was issued citations for non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a WMA license, and a written warning for non-resident hunting without a big game license.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DOOLY COUNTY

On January 10th, Cpl. Bob Holley and Ranger Jay Lewis observed a vehicle stop in the middle of a public roadway, adjacent to a wheat field. The passenger of the vehicle opened his door and fired five shots at a group of feral hogs that were in the field. A traffic stop was conducted and after a brief investigation, the driver was cited for hunting feral hogs from a vehicle, hunting from a public road and hunting without a license. The passenger was cited for discharging a firearm from a public road, hunting feral hogs from a motor vehicle and hunting without a license.

MACON COUNTY

On January 9th, Ranger Jesse Harrison was on a patrol when he encountered two waterfowl hunters on the Flint River. A check of the hunters revealed that they did not possess the required licenses. One subject was issued citations for a non-resident hunting without a license and hunting without a federal duck stamp. The second was issued citation for hunting without a license and operating a vessel without PFD's.

On January 9th, Ranger Harrison observed the operator of a vehicle use its headlights to illuminate multiple fields in an attempt to locate wildlife and/or feral hogs. A stop was conducted on the vehicle and after a brief investigation one subject was issued citations for blinding wildlife.

On January 10th, Ranger Harrison observed a vehicle hunting hogs from a public roadway. A traffic stop was conducted and after a brief investigation the three occupants were charged with hunting from a motor vehicle and warned for hunting hogs from a public road. One subject was also issued a citation for hunting without a license.

On January 10th, Ranger Jesse Harrison encountered a subject hunting deer without wearing the required fluorescent orange. It was determined that he also did not possess a valid hunting license. The subject was issued citations for non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a big game license, and hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

TURNER COUNTY

On January 10th, Cpl. Bob Holley and Ranger Jay Lewis observed several individuals hunting doves over a picked soybean field. Upon checking the field it, was revealed that it had been baited with fresh soybeans, wheat and split peanuts. Five hunters were cited for hunting over bait and 16 birds were confiscated.

LEE COUNTY

On January 6th, RFC Randy James observed a subject riding a hunting buggy around the edge of a field. Upon making contact with the individual it was determined that he had been deer hunting without the proper no resident licenses. While speaking with the subject RFC James noticed what appeared to be fresh blood on the rear of the hunting buggy. During the investigation that followed it was determined that the subject had killed a 10 point buck on the afternoon of January 5th. The subject was charged with non-resident hunting without a license and non-resident hunting without a big game license. The deer was confiscated.



On January 10th, RFC Randy James located three subjects hunting ducks. Two of the subjects failed to purchase the required licenses and were subsequently cited for hunting without a license, hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license, and hunting without a federal duck stamp.

On January 11th, RFC James observed several subjects hunting hogs with dogs in a low area of a harvested peanut field. Two of the hunters did not possess a valid hunting license. Both subjects were cited for hunting without a license.

DECATUR COUNTY

On January 4th, RFC Tony Cox responded to a landowner complaint of deer hunters hunting without wearing the required fluorescent orange clothing. Upon arriving on the scene, RFC Cox observed three hunters sitting on the ground, armed with a shotgun, muzzle loader, and crossbow. RFC Cox checked the hunters, and found that only one of them had a hunting license. Two of the hunters were cited for non-residents hunting without a license, without a big game license, and hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange. The other subject was cited for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

On January 9th, RFC Tony Cox observed a hunter with a small spike buck strapped on his ATV. The hunter was checked, and found to have already killed a 4 point buck earlier in the season. The subject was cited for taking over the limit of small bucks, and the deer was confiscated.

MILLER COUNTY

On January 6th, Ranger Steve Thomas was on patrol when he encountered several hunters on a dove field that he found to be baited. He issued citations to thirteen hunters for hunting over bait, three for taking over the daily limit, and one for unlawful enticement of game. Thomas confiscated 156 dove in this incident.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

On January 8th, Ranger Steve Thomas responded to a complaint of subjects hunting from the road. The complainant followed the suspects until they were stopped by a deputy. Ranger Thomas investigated the incident and cited two subjects for hunting from a road and hunting from a vehicle.

WORTH COUNTY

On January 9th, Cpl. Robbie Griner responded to a hunting without permission complaint. Upon arrival, Cpl. Griner located the suspect loading a doe deer into his vehicle. After investigating the complaint further, it was learned the hunter did have permission to hunt the property but had taken the deer without any hunting licenses. The subject was cited for the violations and the deer confiscated.

BROOKS COUNTY

On January 7th, RFC Jon Penuel responded to a complaint of hunting without permission after a landowner went to investigate shots fired near his property and in the process discovered a subject walking around on his property. Penuel arrived and interviewed the suspect, who claimed to be searching for a deer he had shot and wounded on the adjoining land. Penuel then searched the area and verified the subject's claim that the deer was not shot on the complainant's land. RFC Penuel explained to the hunter that permission to cross the property line should have been sought from the complainant prior to searching for the deer, as much out of courtesy and safety as to be in accordance with the law. The subject who shot the deer was found to have been hunting without the required big game license and was cited for the violation.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

COOK COUNTY

On January 4th, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey heard a duck shoot in Cook Co. Cpl. Daughtrey located the area of the duck shoot and waited for the hunters to exit the pond. Cpl. Daughtrey observed four hunters exit the pond and put their ducks in the back of a truck. As Cpl. Daughtrey watched them, he observed two of the hunters share a marijuana cigarette. Violations documented were possession of marijuana, hunting w/o a federal duck stamp, taking over the daily bag limit of wood ducks, hunting with an unplugged shotgun and failure to sign federal duck stamp. Further investigation revealed that the pond was baited. Additional charges for hunting ducks over bait are being sought.

ATKINSON COUNTY

On January 10th, Cpl. Tim Hutto checked several dove fields around the Pearson area. Approximately thirty hunters were checked resulting in one citation for hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

On January 11th, Cpl. Tim Hutto investigated a night hunting complaint in Axson; resulting in four citations and twelve misdemeanor warrants. Violations documented included hunting without permission, hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle. Two yearling deer, a Streamlight brand flashlight, and a Remington .30-06 bolt action rifle were seized as evidence.

DODGE COUNTY

On January 8th, Sergeant James McLaughlin, Corporal Dan Stiles, and Ranger First Class Allen Mills assisted with a public meeting held at the Dodge County Public Fishing Area. The purpose of the meeting was to allow public input for the upcoming 2015-2017 Hunting Regulations. Approximately 70 people attended meeting.

APPLING COUNTY

On January 10th, Cpl. Altman worked a night hunting complaint on the north end of the county. One vehicle was stopped, after hearing several shots in the area. The vehicle had three people, along with two rifles inside. After a brief search of the vehicle, numerous shot shells were found, alcohol, along with three freshly killed deer in the back of the truck. One passenger in the truck was known to be a convicted felon. All three individuals were transported to the Appling Detention Center. Charges made include: Hunting Deer at Night, Hunting Big Game from a Public Road, Hunting from a Vehicle, Possession of an Open Container, and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, after a warrant was applied for. The three deer were donated to a needy family.



EVANS COUNTY

On January 10, RFC Debbie Brannen was working a complaint area. One subject was located and violations for hunting deer without fluorescent orange and hunting without permission was documented.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On January 10th Sgt. Don Dasher and Ranger Jordan Crawford were patrolling Effingham County for hunting activity when they noticed a truck pulled off down a small woods road. Thinking that the subject may have been hunting, Sgt. Dasher and Ranger Crawford approached the vehicle. When the driver rolled his window down to talk to Sgt. Dasher the strong smell of marijuana came from inside the vehicle. Upon further investigation Sgt. Dasher and Ranger Crawford found two small bags of marijuana and a smoking pipe with freshly burned marijuana in the truck. The subject was arrested and turned over to the Effingham County Sheriff's office.



Two small bags of marijuana and a smoking pipe confiscated in Effingham County

EMANUEL COUNTY

On January 10, Cpl. Eddie Akins and Cpl. Mike Wilcox worked a complaint in Emanuel County. The complaint was about ongoing problems with hunting deer with dogs from a particular club. Cpl. Wilcox talked to the complainant on Friday, January 9, about several issues in violation from a particular deer dog hunting club. When Cpl. Akins and Cpl. Wilcox arrived in the area of the complaint, they witnessed several trucks and UTVs parked in the road. One individual was walking down the road with a shotgun. As the officers approached the hunters, one individual was standing at his truck unloading his gun. The hunter that was walking down the road with his gun put his gun down on a vehicle and walked away from the vehicle. Upon questioning the hunters about the guns it was determined that the guns were loaded. Two violations were documented for hunting from a public road.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On January 8th, Cpl. Altman was called out to a night hunting complaint. Two individuals were stopped and questioned at the scene exiting a power line on an ATV. After a brief investigation, two individuals were charged with hunting deer at night, and hunting from a vehicle.



Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No activity to report.