

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**May 22 – May 28, 2016**

**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 May 27<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Brooks Varnell and RFC Bart Hendrix stopped a vessel in the area of Red Top Mt State Park on Allatoona Lake. The operator was found to be under the influence. RFC Hendrix placed the male under arrest and charged him with BUI.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Lee Burns and RFC Bart Hendrix stopped a PWC in the area of Park Marina for violation of the 100 foot law. The operator was found to be under the influence. The operator was charged with BUI and violation of the 100 foot law.

## **Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)**

### **RABUN COUNTY**

On May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Beth Gilbert performed foot patrols of Tallulah Gorge State Park for gorge permit violations. The Ranger issued 6 citations and 4 written warnings for entering the gorge without a permit. While checking identification of permit violators, a valid probation warrant was confirmed and the suspect was arrested and transported to jail to await extradition.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, RFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Sheriff's Office Deputy Tony Parrish conducted two boating safety patrols on Lake Rabun. The Ranger and Deputy checked numerous boats and issued one citation for operating vessel during hours of darkness without lights, one warning for operating vessel without CGA PFD, two warnings for 100 foot rule violation, and one warning for operating vessel without throw able device.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, RFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Sheriff's Office Deputy Tony Parrish conducted a boating safety patrol on Seed Lake. The Ranger and Deputy checked numerous boats and issued three citations for operating vessel without CGA PFD and one warning for operating vessel without throw able device.

### **TOWNS COUNTY**

On May 28, Sgt. Steve Seitz and RFC David Webb patrolled Lake Chatuge for boating violations. The Rangers issued citations and warnings for fishing without a license, allowing an underage child to ride in moving vessel without wearing CGA PFD, operating a PWC over idle speed within 100 feet of an object and other violations.

### **UNION COUNTY**

On May 24, RFC David Webb conducted four hunter development programs at the University of Georgia Experiment Station. RFC Webb talked to four groups of fourth graders from Clay County, NC about firearms safety while hunting and at home.

On May 28, CPL Kevin Dyer and Col. Eddie Henderson patrolled Vogel State Park and Nottely Lake for boating and fishing violations. The Rangers checked numerous boats and fishing license. Citations and warnings were issued for fishing without a license, non-resident fishing without a license, operating a vessel without PFDs, operating a vessel with insufficient amount of PFDs, operating a vessel with improper registration and towing a skier without a mirror or observer.

### **WHITE COUNTY**

On May 28, Cpl. Anne Britt and Intern Dalton Everett assisted the US Forest Service with a road check on the Chattahoochee WMA. During the check, the officers cited 20 adults for not wearing a seat belt, 5 adults for open container, 3 adults for driving while violating permit restrictions, 2 for possession of marijuana, and 1 for driving while privileges are suspended.

Later that night, at 11:00pm, Cpl. Anne Britt checked a group of fishermen fishing on the pier at Unicoi Lake. Three adults were cited for fishing on State Park after day use hours.

## **Region III- Thomson (East Central)**

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> Cpl. Mark Patterson checked several existing fishing without permission complaints. During this patrol two subjects were apprehended and charged with fishing without permission.

### **ELBERT/LINCOLN COUNTIES**

On May 28<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Mark Patterson and RFC Tim Butler patrolled Clarks Hill Lake. During this vessel patrol the Rangers addressed violations of operating a vessel without lights, operating a vessel without personal flotation devices, operating a vessel without registration, and fishing without a license.

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On May 28<sup>th</sup> SGT Brian Carter, CPL Julian Wilkins, and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Lake Russell. During this Vessel patrol violations documented were operating a vessel without registration, operating without a fire extinguisher, operating with improper lights, and failure to obey regulatory markers.

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Brian Hobbins and Ranger Michael Madden apprehended one subject for operation of a vessel while under the influence of alcohol. The subject was arrested by the Rangers and transported to the County Jail. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Ryan Swain and RFC Robert Timmerman conducted a concentrated patrol of the Little River Area on Clarks Hill Lake. Several citations and warnings were issued. The Rangers also handled three SAR cases and assisted 12 people who arrived back to shore safely due to the Rangers assistance

### **RICHMOND COUNTY**

On May 28, Cpl. Ben Payne and RFC Grant Matherly patrolled Richmond County checking fishing licenses. Several licenses were checked and two fishermen were fishing without a license. Two warnings were issued for the violations. Later in the afternoon they monitored the weather and checked boat landings for activity. No violations were detected at the landings.

### **LAKE OCONEE**

During the Memorial Day Weekend, Sgt. John Harwell, Cpl. David Allen, Rangers Richard Tanner, Ricky Boles, Dan Schay, and Jason Harrison Patrolled Lake Oconee. The rangers issued numerous citations for failure to obey regulatory markers, 100' violations on PWC's, towing skiers without PFD's, and numerous light violations. Sgt. John Harwell and RFC Richard Tanner worked a boating incident involving a pontoon vessel which sunk.

## **Region IV- Macon (West Central)**

### **BIBB COUNTY**

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Joshua Swain and RFC David Fisher worked Lake Tobesofkee during the evening shift and encountered numerous violations. The violations ranged from towing a skier after sunset/during hours of darkness to operating a vessel at night without lights.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Joshua Swain and RFC David Fisher worked Lake Tobesofkee mainly concentrating on complaint areas. Numerous violations were encountered and addressed in these areas. The officers also addressed many other safety violations during their patrol of Lake Tobesofkee. They also had an intern aboard the vessel with them, which allowed him to see some of the duties involved in being a State of Georgia Conservation Officer.

### **HARRIS COUNTY**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and Sgt. Jim Bradfield conducted a boating patrol on Goat Rock Lake. During the boating patrol, citations were issued for allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a pfd, and non-resident fishing without a license. Warnings were issued for allowing person to ride bow/gunwale, and fishing without permission.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Joshua Swain and Sgt. Jim Bradfield patrolled Lake Harding. They encountered numerous boating violations and worked the complaint areas of the lake generating various contacts. The violations ranged from allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without PFD, causing wake in a no wake zone, to operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs. The officers also encountered many designated skippers, which they were proud to see. The officers were then called off of the lake to respond to an officer involved shooting in Harris County and provided assistance throughout the night.

### **HOUSTON COUNTY**

On the afternoon of May 27<sup>th</sup>, RFC Ronnie Beard patrolled Oakey Woods WMA and Flat Creek PFA. Several fishermen were checked with no violations detected. RFC Beard also checked several boat ramps along the Oconee River with no activity reported.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bubba Stanford and Sgt. Bo Kelly patrolled Lake Sinclair. Numerous boats were stopped with warnings and citations issued for various violations. One subject was arrested for operating a vessel under the influence. That same evening, RFC Michael Crawley and RFC Jeremy Reese patrolled Lake Sinclair as well and arrested one subject for operating a vessel under the influence.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Captain Chris Hodge and Cpl. Bubba Stanford patrolled Lake Sinclair and stopped a subject operating a personal watercraft without wearing a PFD. Further investigation led to the subject being arrested for possession of marijuana less than an ounce and operating a vessel under the influence of drugs.

### **Region V- Albany (Southwest)**

No activity to report.

### **Region VI- Metter (Southeast)**

No activity to report.

### **Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)**

#### **BRYAN COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Jay Morgan received a call from Bryan Co. Sheriff's Dept. about ATVs riding on the "Archery Only" area of the Buckhead Is. tract of Richmond Hill WMA. After arriving on scene, the ATVs had left the area but Cpl. Morgan found three juveniles with plastic air-rifles shooting plastic pellets at each other. The juveniles were advised that the use of paint-ball guns, plastic pellet guns, and firearms were unlawful on the property.

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Morgan was passing through Richmond Hill when he heard a call on the Richmond Hill Police Dept. radio about a red Ford Bronco without a tag weaving on the roadway. Cpl. Morgan saw the suspect vehicle, which was ahead of his location, turn onto a side road. When Cpl. Morgan activated his blue emergency lights to pass vehicles in front of him, the suspect vehicle sped up and ran through a stop sign. The suspect vehicle pulled over on Port Royal Rd. after Cpl. Morgan caught up to the vehicle. Richmond Hill PD officers arrived on scene and cited the suspect for driving without a tag and for failure to stop at a stop sign. The driver was a known drug user and was currently under Grand Jury indictment for drug charges, so the officers confiscated a pistol from the suspect since by law persons under indictment are not allowed to carry firearms.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jack Thain and Cpl. Jay Morgan patrolled the Ogeechee River from Morgan's Bridge to the I-16 Bridge. One boat, with two adults and two children under age 13 on board, was found to have only two life jackets and no child-size life jackets on board. The operator was cited for not having enough life jackets. The rangers loaned the boater two life jackets so that they could continue their day on the water. Another boater was also cited for not having any life jackets on board and was escorted to the nearby boat ramp.

## **GLYNN COUNTY**

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, RFC John Evans and RFC Patrick Gibbs were patrolling the Altamaha River. While checking a boat returning from fishing, RFC Evans noticed several empty beer cans in the boat and that the operator had been drinking. RFC Evans conducted a BUI Screening on the operator and determined he was under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The operator refused to submit to a blood test but had admitted to drinking beer, smoking marijuana, and taking prescription drugs. He was arrested and charged with Boating under the influence.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, RFC Evans and CPL Kate Hargrove were patrolling the Altamaha River. While in the area of Altamaha Park, they witnessed two jet skis come under the bridge on plane and wake the docks. The Rangers stopped the PWCs and RFC Evans noticed one of the men smelled strongly of alcohol and appeared to be intoxicated. RFC Evans conducted a BUI screening on the man and determined he was under the influence of alcohol and marijuana. The suspect refused the blood test but had admitted to drinking beer and smoking marijuana before riding the PWC. He was arrested and charged with Boating under the influence and violating the 100' law.

## **OFFSHORE/FEDERAL WATERS**

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bill Bryson, RFC Kiel Toney, and RFC Jack Thain conducted a National Marine Fisheries Joint Enforcement Agreement patrol offshore of Ossabaw and St. Catherine's Islands in Federal Waters, checking Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) on commercial shrimp boats.