

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**May 8 – May 14, 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 8<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Derek Dillard and Cpl. Brooks Varnell responded to a call of a boat incident near Park Marina. A ski boat was struck by a small Yamaha jet boat. Minor damage was made to both vessels.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, RFC Zack Hardy responded to the area of Tanyard Creek on Allatoona Lake. A 911 call came in about a vehicle that had wrecked into Allatoona Lake. The car went through the guard rail and about 50 yards into the lake. A passerby stopped and swam out to help the 2 men in the vehicle. Luckily there were no serious injuries in the incident. The vehicle sank and it took several hours to remove it from the lake.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, RFC Zack Hardy responded to a call of a hit and run boating incident on Allatoona Lake. A bass fishermen was hit near the Blockhouse boat ramp by a white PWC. The PWC left the scene. There was significant damage to the bass boat. DNR LED are still investigating the incident.

### **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix responded to a 911 call of a sinking boat near Knox Bridge on Allatoona Lake. Cherokee County Fire/ Rescue were able to get three people out of the water. The officers towed the capsized boat back to the boat ramp.

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

No activity to report.

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

### **WALTON COUNTY**

On May 8<sup>th</sup> RFC Tim Butler had a vehicle pass him on Highway 78 going over 100 mph. RFC Butler saw the driver failing to maintain his lane and witnessed him nearly hit another car. RFC Butler initiated a traffic stop and determined the driver was under the influence. RFC Butler placed the driver under arrest for driving under the influence and failure to maintain lane.

### **BURKE COUNTY**

Wednesday May 11, Corporal Ben Payne and Ranger First Class Jeff Billips participated in the graded drill for Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle. This drill was evaluated by FEMA and assesses all agencies readiness in the case of nuclear emergency.

Friday May 13, RFC Billips received a call from Waynesboro Police Department early in the morning related to a car colliding with an alligator. RFC Billips arrived and had to dispatch a ten feet long alligator that was severely injured. The vehicle was damaged and had to be towed.

### **WASHINGTON COUNTY**

On May 8<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Adams worked an ongoing fishing without permission complaint on the Ohoopsee River. Several fishermen were checked and advised not to come back. One fishermen was cited for fishing without a license.

### **NEWTON COUNTY**

During this week, Ranger Dan Schay patrolled for fishing activity in Newton County and located 8 people fishing without a license.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On May 8, Ranger Daniel Schay and Cpl. Allen were checking for fishing activity in Putnam County and one violation of fishing without a license was documented.

On May 13 and 14, Cpl. David Allen patrolled the boating safety zone behind the Wallace Dam. Cpl. Allen issued citations for not wearing a PFD in hazardous waters and operating a vessel in a no boating safety zone.

### **LAKE OCONEE**

Cpl. David Allen and RFC Ricky Boles patrolled around Lake Oconee checking fishing areas. The rangers cited three individuals for fishing w/out a license.

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, RFC Robert Timmerman responded to a complaint of reckless operation of PWC's at Points West Marina on Clarks Hill Lake. Upon arrival at the scene, Timmerman observed two subjects operating PWC above idle speed in the Marina's wake zone. The subjects were stopped and issued citations.

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

### **BIBB COUNTY**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, RFC David Fisher and Cpl. Josh Swain participated in a career day at Skyview Elementary School. The rangers spoke with approximately one hundred 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders about a career as a conservation ranger and the duties assigned to the DNR Law Enforcement Division.

### **JONES COUNTY**

On the morning of May 14<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jeremy Reese and Cpl. Bubba Stanford assisted with the annual Miller Lake Fishing Rodeo on Cedar Creek WMA. Numerous private volunteers as well as the U.S. Forest Service and Georgia DNR personnel provided archery, fur ID as well as shooting sports along with the fishing. Several hundred people were in attendance and the event was a great success.

Later that afternoon, RFC Reese investigated a fishing without permission complaint. Trail camera technology was utilized and RFC Reese was able to locate the suspects. Due to the fact they were juveniles, verbal warnings were issued.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On the afternoon of May 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bubba Stanford and Sgt. Bo Kelly patrolled Lake Sinclair. Several vessels were stopped and both verbal and written warnings issued. One operator was arrested for operating under the influence and transported to the Putnam County Jail.

### **TROUP COUNTY**

On May 10<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Jim Bradfield presented an information program to the Lions Club in LaGrange. This program highlighted the services provided by DNR's Law Enforcement Division and explained the variety of jobs that Rangers perform. There were about 35 people in attendance.

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

### **THOMAS COUNTY**

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Eric White Sgt. David Ruddell noticed an open gate and fresh tire tracks entering a property known to be baited for turkeys. After parking at the hunter's empty vehicle, Ranger White traveled on foot directly to the baited area and located the subject hunting from a ground blind. The subject was charged for hunting big game over bait and warned for hunting without a license on person.

## **LAKE CHEHAW**

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade and Ranger Eric White responded to a reported boat accident. Once on scene, the Rangers found two boats had been involved in a collision, causing one of the vessels to sink. All passengers were accounted for and uninjured but a well-being check was performed on an infant by EMT's whom the Rangers transported to the scene. The child was determined to be fine and all persons were transported to the boat landing by the Rangers. The sunken vessel was to be recovered at later date. The "at fault" boat operator will be charged upon completion of the investigation.

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

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled a complaint area for fishing without permission which resulted in a citation.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles and Sergeant James McLaughlin patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. Nine vessels were checked for boating safety equipment and registration. 23 anglers were checked for license and creel limit compliance. One violation for fishing on a Public Fishing Area without a Wildlife Management Area License was documented.

### **DODGE COUNTY**

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles responded and assisted the Dodge County Sheriff's Department and the Eastman Police Department with a disturbance at a local school. One deputy was injured in the incident and one subject was arrested.

### **WARE COUNTY**

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Judd Sears was contacted by Stephen Foster State Park about a reckless driver in the park. Ranger Sears was nearby when he was notified of this vehicle. Ranger Sears observed this vehicle pass his location and initiated a traffic stop. The driver of the vehicle was found to be driving on a suspended license and had active warrants out of Clinch County. This subject was turned over to Homerville Police.

### **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Patrick Dupree, Ranger First Class Sam Williams, and Ranger First Class Daniel North patrolled the St. Mary's River from Trader's Hill to Camp Pinckney. Several boaters were encountered. A few violations were documented including operating a vessel above idle speed near a bridge abutment, operating a vessel with insufficient personal flotation devices (PFDs), and allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Ranger Judd Sears patrolled the Suwannee River Sill for fishing and boating activity. Many anglers were checked for license requirements and creel limits. Two subjects were found to be fishing without a valid resident fishing license. Two violations were documented for fishing without a resident license.

### **COFFEE COUNTY**

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, Sergeant Morty Wood and Corporal Tim Hutto completed an investigation on two suspects hunting alligators out of season. The suspects killed a trophy alligator with a .270 caliber high powered rifle. Two bags of alligator meat were confiscated and two subjects were charged with hunting out of season.

On May 14<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto, K-9 Titan, and Ranger First Class Keith McDonald performed K-9 demonstrations for attendees of the third annual Jakes Day at General Coffee State Park. The officers also talked to the attendees about boating safety and the importance of wearing life jackets.

## **ATKINSON COUNTY**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Tim Hutto and K-9 Titan performed K-9 demonstrations at the annual Atkinson County High School Ag Day. Approximately three hundred kids and adults were in attendance.

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

### **LIBERTY COUNTY**

On May 13th, Cpl. Jay Morgan participated in the Career Day program at Lewis Frasier Middle School by doing a Power-point presentation, and talking to the students about DNR ranger's job requirement and duties.

### **CAMDEN COUNTY**

On May 12, RFC David Brady, Sgt. Chris Ridley the Camden County Sheriff's Office and the National Park Service, participated in the Leadership Georgia Program which connects with up and coming leaders within the state of Georgia. Vessels provided transportation and security to the event which was held on Cumberland Island at Dungeness.

On May 13, RFC David Brady responded to a call from GSP Brunswick concerning a subject that had broken down on Crooked River in the area of Harriett's Bluff. Brady and Park Ranger Ronnie McClure launched a patrol boat and were able to locate the female subject, whom had been adrift through low tide and drifted well into the marsh. The PWC and rider were retrieved from the marsh and taken to Crooked River State Park.

On May 14, RFC David Brady, RFC Jay Bright and Sgt. Chris Ridley provided transportation and security for the Georgia Tourism Board which hosted the event. The Rangers provided valuable information and education programs to the guests which were from Britain and were able to expose the attendees to many different resources and assets of the Georgia Coast.