

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
October 23 – October 29, 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)

No activity to report.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BARROW COUNTY

On October 29th, Ranger Chris Kernahan responded to a complaint of illegal hunting activity in Barrow County. Ranger Kernahan proceeded to make contact with two subjects who were found to be hunting big game over bait, hunting without fluorescent orange, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license. Citations were issued for the violations.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On October 23rd, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin and RFC Robert Timmerman apprehended one subject for hunting deer over bait. The subject was cited and released.

ELBERT COUNTY

On October 23rd Captain Stan Elrod, Sergeant Brian Carter, and Ranger First Class Phillip Nelson responded to a complaint that two kayakers were missing on the Broad River. A state helicopter located the kayakers and they were safely rescued from the river during the early morning hours on October 24th.

CLARKE COUNTY

On October 28th Ranger First Class Tim Butler documented several cases of fishing without a license and operating a vessel without personal flotation devices.

On October 29th Ranger First Class Tim Butler checked several properties where deer bait had previously been located. Two cases of hunting big game over bait, two cases of hunting deer without fluorescent orange, and one case of hunting without permission were documented.

BURKE COUNTY

On Friday, October 28, Ranger First Class Jeff Billips received a complaint of night hunting. RFC Billips located a yearling buck that had been shot in a soybean field. On October 29, RFC Billips, with the assistance of Sergeant Max Boswell and Corporal Brian Adams, located the suspects. The suspects were cleaning a 9 point buck that had been poached while night hunting earlier on the same date. RFC Billips charged the suspects with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, hunting from a motor vehicle.

HANCOCK COUNTY

On October 29, Cpl. David Allen checked a baited area in Hancock County. Cpl. Allen cited the hunter for hunting without florescent orange and hunting big game over bait.

WARREN COUNTY

On October 29th, RFC Robert Timmerman and RFC Michael Crawley apprehended six subjects for hunting deer over bait. The subjects were also charged with orange vest violations as well as various license violations. Another subject was apprehended for hunting without permission. Four of the subjects were cited and released. Two subjects were arrested and taken to McDuffie County Jail.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the evening of October 23rd, Sgt. Bo Kelly responded to property near the Oconee River in reference to possible illegal hunting. Sgt. Kelly approached a deer camp and observed several subjects flee on foot and noticed two dead doe deer. Sgt. Kelly eventually located the suspects who had shot the deer on buck only days. Citations for possession of illegally taken wildlife and license violations were issued and the deer were turned over to Hunters for the Hungry.

On the morning of October 29th, Sgt. Bo Kelly and Cpl. Bubba Stanford patrolled private property in reference to an existing hunting without permission complaint. The officers located a hunter on adjoining property who was hunting deer over bait and a citation was issued.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DOOLY COUNTY

On 10/23/16 Cpl. Clint Martin spoke with a complainant about an incident of hunting deer at night which occurred on 10/22/16. The complainant was able to provide detailed information about the incident and Cpl. Martin was able to identify two suspects and recover evidence from the scene. Cpl. Martin and Cpl. Bob Holley interviewed both subjects who admitted to hunting deer at night. Both subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, hunting from a vehicle and hunting without permission. One of the subjects was also charged with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

On October 26th, RFC Jesse Harrison received a complaint of unlawful dumping. After a brief investigation of the dumpsite, Ranger Harrison was able to obtain a name, which was located on several pieces of paper. The subject was confronted with the evidence and confessed to the illegal dumping. The violator was charged with unlawful dumping.



Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

BULLOCH COUNTY

On the night of October 28th RFC Jordan Crawford, RFC Jason Miller and Ranger Randell Meeks worked a night deer hunting detail in Bulloch County. While working the detail RFC Crawford observed a truck come by his position. The occupants were shining hand held lights out both sides of the truck. RFC Crawford performed a traffic stop on the vehicle. The vehicle was occupied by three individuals. A loaded rifle was also found in the front seat. All three subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting without permission. All three poachers were placed under arrest and transported to the Bulloch County Jail.



IRWIN COUNTY

On October 28th, Corporal John Stokes, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger Lamar Burns patrolled the Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area during a big-game firearms sign-in hunt. One violation was documented for hunting on a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) without a WMA license.

LAURENS COUNTY

On October 28th and 29th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne patrolled the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area during a firearms big game check-in hunt. Verbal guidance was given to one hunter for hunting within 50 yards of WMA road open for vehicles.

On October 29th, Corporal Dan Stiles received a call from a hunter at the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area who reported hearing several rifle shots after dark on the WMA. Cpl. Stiles responded and investigated the report. The reporting hunter stated that he had encountered another hunter in the vicinity of the rifle shots earlier in the evening and reported the information in case a hunter had become lost. Cpl. Stiles and Game Management Biologist Greg Waters walked the wooded area to check for a lost or injured hunter. No persons were found in the area.

DODGE/LAURENS COUNTIES

On October 28th, Sergeant James McLaughlin, Corporal Dan Stiles, Corporal John Stokes, Corporal Kevin Joyce, Corporal Chase Altman, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne, Ranger First Class Allen Mills, and Ranger Lamar Burns conducted a night detail. One vehicle was observed shining a spot light across a soybean field. Violations for hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle were documented.

DODGE COUNTY

On October 28th, Sergeant James McLaughlin assisted Dodge County Sheriff's Office with searching for a fleeing suspect. The suspect from Kentucky, stole a vehicle and eluded the deputies. The subject was spotted by a homeowner and fled into the woods. Officers tracked the suspect to a location near the Laurens County line where it was determined he stole a tractor and ultimately stole another vehicle and fled the area.

BERRIEN

On Sunday October 23, Sergeant Morty Wood checked several hunters while patrolling for deer hunters in the Alapaha and 10 Mile Bay areas of the county. Sergeant Wood issued citations for non-resident hunting deer without a non-resident hunting license, non-resident hunting deer without a non-resident big game license, and hunting deer without fluorescent orange. Also during the patrol Sergeant Wood discovered a fresh deer carcass that had been disposed of illegally on a public road. Sergeant Wood was able to identify the culprit and issued a citation for illegal dumping of the carcass. Later that evening Sergeant Wood responded to a call of an in-progress after hours goose hunt in west Berrien. Sergeant Wood arrived on scene and located 4 young hunters collecting their gear and the geese that they had shot. All licenses and gear checked out. Sergeant Wood was unable to prove that the hunters had shot after hours and reported no violations.

On Tuesday October 25, Sergeant Morty Wood responded to an in-progress complaint from the manager of Paradise PFA. The manager stated that he saw a vehicle at one of the lakes on the area after dark. Sergeant Wood was unable to locate anyone at the PFA upon arrival.

On Wednesday October 26, Sergeant Morty Wood met with a complainant on Possum Creek Road outside of Ray City. The complainant said the land owner had previously located a baited deer stand on the property that was not supposed to be there and that the landowner had torn the stand down. After searching the area Sergeant Wood found where it was believed that the poachers were illegally entering the property. Sergeant Wood advised the complainant to block off the illegal entry point with a gate and to place no trespassing signs there.

On Thursday October 27, Sergeant Morty Wood responded to a complaint of deer stands on property that were not supposed to be there. The complaint advised that the landowner did not want to prosecute the poachers but she did want the stands to be removed. Sergeant Wood removed the illegally placed stand, ground blind, and trail camera. A business card was left by Sergeant Wood for the poachers to contact him so that the laws can be explained to them in detail and to return the seized property.

APPLING COUNTY

On October 29th, Corporal Chase Altman responded to an anonymous complaint about illegal hunters in the south end of the county. Two hunters were found and checked, resulting in violations for non-resident hunting w/o non-resident hunting license, and non-resident hunting big game w/o non-resident big game license, along with one warning for not wearing the fluorescent orange vest while in the stand.

EVANS COUNTY

On October 23rd, Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel patrolled the Public Fishing Area. A fisherman was checked and issued a citation for operating a vessel without a life jacket.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On October 24th, Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders answered an anonymous complaint of several bucks that had been killed illegally. After a brief investigation it was determined that the deer were killed legally however none of the deer were tagged on the hunter's license. A violation for of recording and reporting requirement for game animals and game birds.

On October 24th Corporal Chase Altman answered a complaint about hunters parking in an unharvested field by a local farmer. Two hunters were checked and one warning for hunting deer w/o required fluorescent orange was issued. The hunters were also informed of the damage to the crops and explained of the course of action the farmer would take if the damage continues, a report was also taken for the farmer.

On October 29, Sergeant Jon Barnard, Corporal Kevin Joyce, Corporal Chase Altman, and Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel were working night deer hunting activity in the southern part of the county. Sgt. Barnard observed a vehicle in the area that was using a light to illuminate a peanut field. Barnard immediately stopped the vehicle, two subjects, and two loaded firearms were located inside the vehicle. Violations were documented for hunting from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, hunting deer at night, and possession of a stolen firearm.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

On October 29, Corporal Kevin Joyce worked an investigation in reference to a deer that was taken in violation of the Quality Deer Management (QDM) restrictions. Cpl. Joyce located the subject involved and the deer that was taken. Violations were documented for failure to record deer harvest, and the taking of an illegal antlered deer from a QDM county.

On October 29, Corporal Kevin Joyce and Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel patrolled the county for possible deer hunting activity. Multiple hunters were checked and violations were documented for hunting deer without fluorescent orange and hunting without obtaining a deer harvest record.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On October 23rd Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel patrolled a complaint area for hunting without permission. After hearing some shots in a suspicious place, RFC Jarriel traveled to the area and checked a hunter. This hunter was not related to the complaint, but was issued a citation for hunting deer without a fluorescent orange vest.

On October 29th Sergeant Jon Barnard and Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel patrolled Big Hammock WMA for deer hunting activity. Many hunters were checked and one received a citation for not recording the deer harvest record.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On October 23, 2016 Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders was patrolling the north end of Toombs County when he encountered several individuals deer hunting and it was determined that one of the individuals was hunting without the required 500 sq. inches of florescent orange and another individual was a non-resident hunting without a non-resident hunting license or a non-resident big game license. Violations were documented for both individuals.

TREUTLEN COUNTY

On October 24, 2016 Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders answered a complaint of hunting without permission, during the investigation it was determined that one of the suspects was found to be a non-resident hunting without a resident big game license and was charged accordingly.

PIERCE COUNTY

On October 26th, while patrolling local dog hunting clubs, Corporal Mark Pool observed several hunters actively hunting deer with dogs. Cpl. Mark Pool checked the hunters for all the required licenses. Two of the hunter's trucks were not displaying the deer dog permit numbers. Citations for operating a motor vehicle without permit numbers displayed were issued.

On October 29th, while patrolling Little Satilla Wildlife Management Area, Corporal Mark Pool checked several hunters. One citation for transporting a loaded firearm in a vehicle on a WMA was issued.

CLINCH COUNTY

On October 23rd, Corporal Jason Shipes observed a vehicle parked in the roadway south of Homerville. As Cpl. Shipes approached the vehicle, two subjects were observed standing in the roadway with loaded weapons. The two subjects were actively hunting deer with hounds and were issued citations for hunting big game from a public road.

On October 25th, Corporal Jason Shipes and Corporal Mark Pool attended the annual Sheriff's Youth Home deer hunt. This event is held every year in Fargo, GA and sponsored by Superior Pine Products. After attending a program given by Cpl. Shipes on gun handling and gun safety, the youth were paired up with a hunting mentor, provided all required licenses needed, and spent the afternoon in the woods hunting. Nine participants, many of whom this was their first hunting experience, harvested seven deer and one feral hog. All the required hunting licenses were purchased by Cpl. Jason Shipes and Cpl. Mark Pool.



One happy youth hunter with a nice big seven-point buck taken at the Georgia Sheriff's Youth hunt near Fargo, GA.

On October 27th, Corporal Jason Shipes and Corporal Mark Pool observed a vehicle parked on the shoulder of the roadway south of Homerville. Upon checking the area, Cpl. Shipes found the hunter's fluorescent orange vest on the ground where the hunter entered the woods. Upon making contact with the hunter, citations for hunting deer without fluorescent orange and failure to obtain a deer harvest record was issued.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On October 23rd, Sergeant Patrick Dupree was conducting night-time surveillance on US441 south of Fargo due to recent complaints of night deer hunting. Around 10:30 PM a pickup truck passed by Sgt. Dupree's location with a bright light being shined from the driver's side into the wide highway right-of-way (ROW) where deer are seen regularly. Sgt. Dupree watched as the vehicle slowly turned around with the light continuing to be shined in the opposite ROW. The vehicle was stopped and two subjects and their weapons were secured. One adult male was charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, hunting big game from a public road & driving while driver's license suspended. One juvenile was issued written warnings for the wildlife violations. The juvenile was released to his parents at the scene.



Weapons, ammo, and light used by Echols County poachers.

On October 29th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree was travelling on GA Hwy 94 east of Statenville when he observed a pickup truck parked near the edge of the highway right-of-way (ROW.) A hunter was sitting atop a dog box holding a high-powered rifle so he could observe the ROW. As Sgt. Dupree approached the pickup, the hunter placed the rifle near his feet. The hunter was not wearing fluorescent orange (an orange vest was lying in the hunter's truck seat.) Sgt. Dupree learned that the hunter was participating in a deer dog hunt, but did not possess any Georgia hunting licenses. The hunter was charged for non-resident hunting without a license, non-resident hunting without a big game license, and hunting deer with dogs without a deer dog license. He was issued a written warning for hunting deer without fluorescent orange. Verbal guidance was given to the hunter about hunting from a public road.

On October 29th, Sgt. Dupree encountered a deer dog hunter along GA Hwy 94 near Tom's Creek Bridge that did not have the deer dog permit number displayed. He was issued a written warning for the violation.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On October 28th, Rangers were working a night hunting detail in Brantley County. At approximately 5:00 a.m. Rangers spotted a vehicle driving down the road shining 2 spotlights out of the driver's side and passenger side windows. RFC Colte Shaske and RFC Jack Thain initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle. Inside the vehicle the rangers found multiple spotlights and a loaded .223 caliber rifle in the front seat. During the investigation the rangers were able to determine that the 2 subjects in the vehicle were hunting deer. Both subjects were cited for Hunting from a Public Road, Hunting from a Vehicle, and Hunting Deer at Night.

GLYNN COUNTY

On October 29th, RFC David Brady and Sgt. Chris Ridley conducted a shrimp trawler detail to address Turtle Excluder Device violations. One vessel captain was cited for Commercial Fishing with Illegal Gear.

On October 29th, DNR Rangers assisted Glynn County with crowd control at the annual gathering on Saint Simons Island for the Georgia – Florida Beach Blast.



LIBERTY COUNTY

On the morning of 10/22/2016, RFC Thain was patrolling the area of Liberty County near the Long County line. While patrolling he noticed deer dogs on unpermitted property. Upon investigation RFC Thain found that the dogs were deer hunting dogs from a nearby deer dogging club. The dogs were well off of permitted property. The two dog owners were cited for allowing deer dogs on unpermitted property.