



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
June 25th – July 1st, 2017

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- Acworth (Northwest)

FLOYD COUNTY

On June 25th, RFC McConkey was patrolling the Brushy Branch area of Floyd County. While patrolling the boat ramp area, a PWC was observed in violation of several boating safety laws. The man was observed operating the PWC over idle speed within 100 ft. of a public use area and dock, towing a tuber without an observer or wide angle mirror on board the PWC, and towing a tuber with a PWC rated by the manufacture for less than three occupants. A citation was written for towing the tuber without an observer or wide angle mirror. Warnings were issued for the other violations.

On July 1st, Sgt. Mike Barr and Parks Officer Matt McDaris were checking on complaints of alcohol in the camping area of Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area (PFA). As they drove through the facility, Officer McDaris spotted a case of beer and ice next to a vehicle. They made contact with the owner who admitted she just purchased the alcohol. She received a citation for possession of alcohol on a PFA. The officer continued to work alcohol complaints and found two more alcohol violations. Alcohol is not permitted on the PFA.

DOUGLAS COUNTY

On June 25th, Cpl. Chad Cox patrolled Sweetwater Creek State Park. The Game Warden checked 20 fishing license and 6 vessels. Cpl. Cox issued several citations and warnings for fishing without a license.

HARALSON COUNTY

On June 26th, Cpl. Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray assisted the Haralson County Fire Department and Sheriff Office with trying to locate a missing person. Unfortunately the subject was found deceased in a nearby pond.

CARROLL COUNTY

July 1st, RFC Daniel Gray and Ranger Ryan Locke patrolled Lake Seaton, Lake Carroll and Lake Paradise. During the patrol the Game Wardens checked 8 vessels and conducted 16 fishing license checked. Verbal guidance was given to several individuals.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On June 21st, RFC Joe Hill investigated an unlawful dump site on Lake Russell WMA. The Game Warden found a mattress, boxes, lumber, and a vehicle registration receipt in the dump site. RFC Hill contacted the person listed on the tag receipt, who said the car belonged to his grandson. Later in the day, RFC Hill spoke with and met the grandson and his neighbor at Habersham County Detention Center. The Game Warden issued both subjects a citation for unlawful dumping egregious litter due to the evidence found and the admission of guilt from both subjects.

RABUN COUNTY

On June 18th, RFC Joe Hill and Ranger Beth Gilbert conducted a boating safety patrol on Lake Burton. The Game Wardens checked several boats and issued citations and warnings for towing a skier with PWC without having an observer on board, allowing a person to ride on bow/gunwale, and creating wake in a no wake zone.

On June 25, Cpl. Anne Wiley patrolled the Tallulah Gorge State Park. Game Warden Wiley cited three adults for not having a gorge floor permit to access the Tallulah Gorge floor.

On July 1st, RFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Deputy David Dooley conducted a boating safety patrol on Lake Rabun. The Game Warden and Deputy checked several boats and issued citations and warnings for creating wake in a no wake zone, violation of rules of the road, operating a vessel with improper registration, and jumping wake within 100 feet of another vessel.

Later in the evening on July 1st, RFC Hill and Deputy Dooley assisted with the fireworks show on Lake Burton by conducting a boating safety patrol on that lake. The Game Warden and Deputy checked several boats and issued citations and warnings for operating a vessel with improper lights and operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's.

TOWNS COUNTY

On Monday, June 26th, CPL Kevin Dyer and United States Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Jason Arrowood patrolled the Little Hightower Creek area on the Chattahoochee National Forest in Towns County. USFS Officer Arrowood issued citations, warnings or verbal guidance for: operating an all-terrain vehicle on unauthorized US Forest Service land, allowing under age person's to operate a vehicle on a public road and operating a vehicle with an open container of alcohol.

On Saturday, July 1st, Game Wardens RFC David Webb and Ranger Tommy Crabb patrolled Lake Chatuge for boating safety violations. The Game Wardens checked multiple boats while encountering only one with alcohol on board and the vessel had a designated skipper. The Game Wardens issued several warnings for riding the bow/gunwale, towing a skier with PWC without an observer and creating a wake in a no wake zone.

UNION COUNTY

On Friday, June 30th, CPL Kevin Dyer observed a subject that appeared to be passed out in a vehicle located at a convenience store in Blairsville. CPL Dyer contacted the Blairsville Police Department and assisted the Police Officer with the incident. The subject was arrested by the Blairsville Police Officer for possession of an illegal substances. The subject possessed what Officers believed to be heroin and marijuana.

On Saturday, July 1st, Cpl. Kevin Dyer and a DNR Intern worked the boat parade on Nottely Lake hosted by the Nottely Marina. CPL Dyer and the Intern patrolled Nottely Lake for boating violations and checked multiple boats during the patrol, even while encountering several thunder storms. CPL Dyer issued citations, warnings or verbal guidance for: creating a wake in the no wake zone and operating a vessel without a throw able device.

WHITE COUNTY

On Friday, June 30th, CPL Anne Wiley and CPL Kevin Dyer patrolled the Chattahoochee WMA located in White County. The game wardens checked multiple sportsmen during the patrol and issued citations, warnings or verbal guidance for: illegal camping on a WMA.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On June 26th RFC Tim Butler documented three violations of fishing without a license.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

CHARLTON COUNTY

On June 24th, Ranger First Class Sam Williams was patrolling the Trader's Hill boat landing on the St. Mary's River when he observed a personal watercraft (PWC) being operated at a high rate of speed through the crowded swimming area and less than 100 feet from the boat ramp. The officer conducted a vessel stop and a boating safety inspection. The violation for operating a PWC above idle speed within 100 feet of an object was documented.

On July 1st, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and RFC Sam Williams were conducting a vessel patrol on the St. Mary's River, when a subject was observed riding on the bow of a moving boat with his feet in the water. A vessel stop was conducted by the officers and the violation for allowing a person to ride on the bow was documented.

On July 1st, Sergeant Patrick Dupree, Corporal Jason Shipes, RFC Sam Williams and Game Warden Joseph Cowart were conducting a vessel patrol on the St. Mary's River near Trader's Hill. During the patrol, the officers approached a vessel and smelled the odor of marijuana smoke and observed a male passenger throw something into the water. A vessel stop was conducted and the boaters interviewed. The male occupant admitted to smoking marijuana and told the officers where he had placed additional marijuana in the vessel. The subject was arrested and turned over to a deputy with the Charlton County Sheriff's Office. The subject was charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

On July 1st, Game Warden Joseph Cowart, RFC Sam Williams, Corporal Jason Shipes, and Sergeant Patrick Dupree observed a vessel with multiple children on board. One of the children was a toddler and was not wearing a PFD. Also, the vessel operator did not ensure all his passengers had proper PFDs. Game Warden Cowart issued the adult operator a citation for allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD. The operator was warned for operating a vessel with improper PFDs. While dealing with these violations, a second vessel was observed with a bow-riding passenger. Game Warden Cowart issued the operator a warning for the violation.

LAURENS COUNTY

On July 1st, Corporal Dan Stiles, Ranger First Class Allen Mills, and Ranger Lamar Burns conducted a vessel patrol on the Oconee River. Ten vessels were checked for registration and boating safety equipment. Eleven anglers were checked for fishing licenses and creel compliance. No violations were documented.

On July 30th, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne conducted a license and creel limit check on Hugh Gillis Public Fishing Area. Five anglers were checked for compliance. Two citations were issued for fishing without a license and two citations were issued for fishing without a wildlife management area license on a public fishing area.

TELFAIR COUNTY

On July 02nd, Ranger First Class (RFC) Rodney Horne conducted a vessel patrol on the Ocmulgee River. One vessel was stopped and issued a citation for operating a vessel above idle speed within 100 feet of an object (bridge).

IRWIN COUNTY

On July 1st, Game Warden John A. Stokes and Captain Scott Klingel patrolled creeks for fishing violations. One person was found and documented for hunting from a public road and hunting from a vehicle. The violator shot a raccoon from a public road.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

CHATHAM COUNTY

On July 02, 2017 at approximately 2214 hours Sgt. Scott received a call of an overdue boater. Sgt. Scott was told that there was a vessel in Hell's Gate area of Chatham County stuck on a large mud bar there with several adults, a mother, and 7 month old infant on board. Sgt. Scott launched at the closest landing at approximately 2345 hours, and arrived at the stuck vessel at approximately 0020 hours. There were three adult males, two adult females and one 7 month old infant on board. The vessel was moved off of the mud bar with all persons on board. Sgt. Scott escorted the vessel back to the mouth of the Ogeechee River and gave the group basic directions on how to get back to the Ft. McAllister public boat ramp. By approximately 0215 hours the group had made it back to the landing safely and were loading the boat on the trailer.