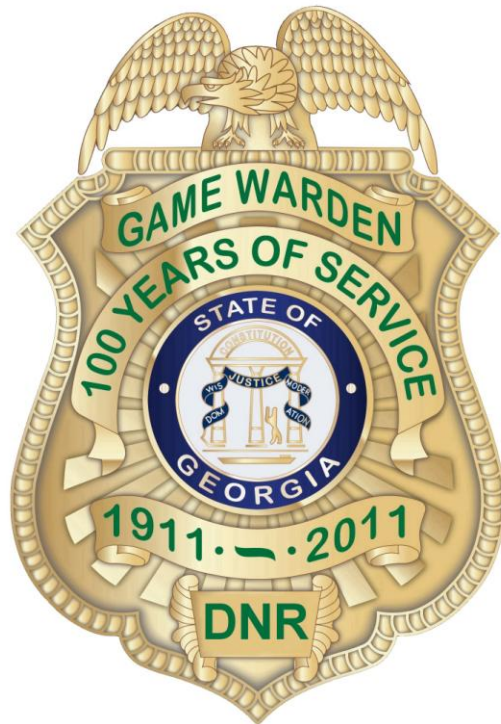


# Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Law Enforcement Section

Field Operations

Weekly Report  
July 31-August 6, 2011

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 Section.



## **Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)**

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On July 6<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Lee Burns, RFC Byron Young, and RFC Barton Hendrix were planning lake patrols at the DNR boathouse when two frantic women approached the officers. The women were concerned that their two sons, who had gone riding on jet-skis several hours earlier, were missing and could not be found. The two teenagers had left from Coopers Day Use Area 1. The rangers immediately initiated a search for the teenagers and searched for over an hour. They finally located the two jet-skis and teenagers at Red Top Mountain State Park. One of the jet-skis had mechanical engine problems. The rangers reunited the missing teens with their families.

### **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sgt. Mike Barr received information that two blue and white Polaris jet-skis had been stolen from the owner's driveway near Galts Ferry Day Use Area. Sgt. Barr contacted the owner and found that the jet-skis were on a double trailer parked in a driveway at their residence. The trailer lock had been cut. The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office was contacted and a stolen report completed. Sgt. Barr received more information on Thursday that the trailer of the jet-skis had been found abandoned on Cox Farm Road. Without the trailer, it is likely that the jet-skis are somewhere on the water on Lake Allatoona. On Friday, RFC Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix patrolled the south side of the lake looking for the jet-skis but as of this time, they have not been located. If you see the jet-skis in the attached picture, please call the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office or DNR Law Enforcement at 1-800-241-4113. All information will be kept confidential.



On July 5<sup>th</sup>, RFC Bart Hendrix and RFC Byron Young responded to a 911 call from Cherokee County. They reported that a ski boat, which had been operating in Little River, had a ski rack break and injure two people. RFC Hendrix and RFC Young investigated and found two adults at Kennestone Hospital. Both had head injuries and both required stitches. The rangers were advised that a husband and wife had taken their two young children out skiing on Lake Allatoona and had been pulling them around on an oversized ski tube most of the day. As they started out of a no wake zone, but not skiing, the ski rack suddenly broke loose from its connection points in the fiberglass hull and fell on the driver and passenger in the boat. The two young children were sitting in

the front of the boat and were not harmed. The ski rack crushed the boat's windshield and tore large holes in the fiberglass at the connection points. The adults are expected to recover from their injuries.

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

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

### **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

On August 6th, RFC Leroy Ficklin responded to a possible boating incident near Ridge Road Campground on Clarks Hill Lake. Upon arrival at the scene, Ficklin met with a Columbia County Deputy and the complainant. The complainant stated that an unknown subject on a PWC had struck his vessel and rapidly left the scene. A registration number was observed and given to Ficklin. The hit and run investigation is still on active status according to Ficklin.

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On Saturday August 6, Cpl. Julian Wilkins responded to a complaint on Heardmont WMA about four wheelers riding off the maintained roads. Cpl. Wilkins searched the area and had no contact with the four wheelers.

On Thursday August 4, Cpl. Greg Colson responded to a stranded boater call at Pearl Mill boat ramp. The subject's boat had been pushed onto the bank by strong winds from a thunderstorm. Cpl. Colson assisted the subject get the boat off the bank and loaded onto the trailer.

### **RICHMOND COUNTY**

August 6, 2011, Cpl. Ben Payne patrolled Richmond County for fishing and boating activity. In the afternoon he went to the Grand Opening of the Kroc Center where literature was handed out. A couple thousand people were at the opening celebration. In the late afternoon several fishing licenses as well as boats were checked along the Savannah River.

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

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

### **LEE COUNTY**

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Danny Bishop responded to a call about a group of young overdue boaters on the Kinchafoonee Creek. Sgt. Bishop was able to locate the 4 juveniles a short distance above the Hwy 32 bridge and saw to it that they exited the creek safely.

## **COLQUITT COUNTY**

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, DNR Rangers Randy Davis, Jon Penuel, and Ben Roberts, along with agents from the Georgia Bureau of Investigations and Colquitt County Swat team, executed a search warrant on a residence in a rural area of the county. The raid was the culmination of months of covert surveillance of a marijuana growing operation, which was discovered by Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey while conducting a foot-patrol during turkey season. One hundred and fifty plants were seized and the investigation is ongoing.



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

### **DODGE COUNTY**

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Dan Stiles and Cpl. Johnny Ashe was conducting surveillance on the Boat Yard landing and witnessed several subjects sinking their soda, beer cans. They contacted RFC James McLaughlin and he stopped the violators as they watched. Numerous violations were identified and citations were issued for littering, underage consumption of alcohol, and violation of Georgia Open Container laws.

### **APPLING COUNTY**

At around 1:00 a.m. on the morning of August 7<sup>th</sup>, RFC Altman received a call from dispatch that Plant Hatch was requesting assistance. A guard had heard gunshots from the river just in front of the intake valves at the plant and then saw a boat with a spotlight begin to head upriver. RFC responded with his patrol boat, along with two deputies and a trooper. Boat ramps were searched, along with the river for any evidence of a vessel. No vessels or subjects were found on or near the river.

### **ATKINSON COUNTY**

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Hutto, RFC Keith McDonald, and K9 "Gauge" were dispatched to assist the Atkinson County Sheriff's Office with a drug raid in Axson. A search of a residence produced a small amount of processed marijuana, numerous marijuana plants, and drug paraphernalia. One arrest was made for manufacturing marijuana.

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