

Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Law Enforcement Section

Field Operations

Weekly Report
July 3-9, 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)

FLOYD COUNTY

On Sunday June 26th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore was working along the Etowah River in Rome and overheard radio traffic from Rome PD about a vehicle getting broken into at the Etowah River boat ramp. Cpl. Elmore responded to the boat ramp and assisted Rome PD officer. Cpl. Elmore located one of the suspects hiding in the woods and the other suspect came out of the river. Three juvenile suspects were detained and charged with entering an auto and criminal damage to property by Rome PD.

On June 26th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore was at the Heritage Park boat ramp on the Coosa River in Rome when he was approached by a parent of four teenagers that were caught in a storm on the Etowah River. Cpl. Elmore went to get his patrol vessel and while enroute to the Etowah River boat ramp the four teens called the parents and advised they had gotten out of the river safely and were waiting on a ride on Turner Chapel Rd.

On the night of June 26th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore received a call from Floyd E911 about 3 adults and a 3 year-old child stranded on the Etowah River. Cpl. Elmore responded to the scene and assisted Rome/Floyd Fire with a search of the river and the four were located and safely returned to their vehicle.

FULTON COUNTY

On July 2nd, 3rd and 4th, RFC James Psillis in coordination with National Park Service Rangers patrolled the Palisades section of the Chattahoochee River. The combined effort between the rangers resulted in over twenty persons being cited for not having life jackets, four individuals being cited for possession of marijuana, and three individuals being cited for possession of cocaine. Those cited for the possession of cocaine were placed under arrest and transported to jail.

GILMER COUNTY

On July 2nd, Sgt. John VanLandingham and Cpl. Casey Jones patrolled Carter's Lake. During the patrol the officers issued five citations and warnings for boating and fishing violations.

GORDON COUNTY

On Saturday July 2, Cpl. Shawn Elmore and Sgt. Jeff Galloway patrolled the Coosawattee River in Gordon County. The two officers arrested a Calhoun man for boating under the influence and operating a vessel without personal floatation devices(PFD's). They also issued 10 additional contacts for no PFD's.

MURRAY COUNTY

On July 2nd, Sgt. John VanLandingham and Cpl. Casey Jones arrested a subject on Holly Creek for violation of the Georgia Controlled Substance Act, possession of Methamphetamine.

On July 2nd, Sgt. John VanLandingham and Cpl. Casey Jones responded to an area along the Conasauga River where there was a group of campers trespassing on private property. The group was advised that the area where they were camping was private property. While speaking with the group one of the campers was found to be in possession of less than one ounce of marijuana. The camper was cited.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

DAWSON COUNTY

On July 6th, Sgt. Lee Brown received a call from the Corp of Engineer about a boating incident involving a 10 year old. Sgt. Brown responded to Nix Bridge Park to meet with the Dawson County Deputy who was on the scene. Once on the scene Sgt. Brown was informed about the incident and that the 10 year old had been air lifted to Scottish-Rite Hospital in Atlanta. Sgt. Brown met RFC Mitchell Crump and they went to Scottish-Rite Hospital to meet with the family. At the hospital the rangers were informed that the 10-year old had passed away. With the assistance of Cpl. Shawn Elmore with the DNR CIRT Team this incident is still under investigation.

FORSYTH COUNTY

On July 3rd, Sgt. Lee Brown and RFC Mitchell Crump were patrolling Lake Lanier for boating and fishing violations. A warning was issued to a non-resident for fishing without a non-resident license and a citation was issued to a subject in a canoe for operating with any life jackets onboard.

On July 3rd, Cpl. Eric Sanders and Cpl. Freddie Hays investigated a boating incident where two PWC's collided in the back of Bald Ridge Creek. The rangers went to Northside Hospital in North Fulton County to interview witnesses and check on the female that was struck by the other PWC. With the assistance of Sgt. Steve Seitz with the DNR CIRT Team this investigation is still ongoing.

On July 8th and 9th, Cpl. Freddie Hays and RFC Mitchell Crump patrolled Lake Lanier for boating and fishing violations. Citations and warnings were issued for the following infractions – allowing a child under age 10 to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD, operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's, operating a vessel with improper lights, towing a skier without an observer on a PWC and fishing without a license.

HALL COUNTY

On July 3rd, Sgt. Lee Brown and RFC Mitchell Crump investigated a drowning that occurred at Van Pugh Park on Lake Lanier.

Later in the afternoon the rangers stopped a vessel for child under 10 not wearing a PFD. The operator was arrested for boating under the influence after he failed the field sobriety exercises. He was also charged with child endangerment and allowing a child under 10 to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD.

After the fireworks show at University Yacht Club Sgt. Brown and RFC Crump encountered several vessels not displaying the proper lights to operate after dark. Written warnings citations were issued for improper lights, operating a vessel with expired registration and operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's.

On July 3rd, Cpl. Eric Sanders and Cpl. Freddie Hays investigated a boating incident in Shoal Creek where a female subject cut her foot on the propeller of the boat.

On July 5th, RFC Mitchell Crump assisted with the search of the subject that drowned on Lake Lanier at Mountain View Park.

On July 3rd, Cpl. Jason Roberson investigated a boating incident in which two subjects were overcome by carbon monoxide gas while on board a 55-foot houseboat. Both subjects were treated for carbon monoxide poisoning.

On July 3, Cpl. Jason Roberson investigated a boating incident in which the vessel ran aground near Port Royale Marina on Lake Lanier. The front passenger was thrown against the bow of the boat. He sustained a minor injury to his head and to his side.

LUMPKIN COUNTY

On July 6th, RFC Mitchell Crump patrolled Chestatee WMA at Dick's Creek. RFC Crump checked several fisherman and issued citations and warnings for fishing without a license and fishing without a trout license.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

On July 3rd, RFC Tim Vickery and Cpl. Bill Bunch stopped a vessel on Lake Hartwell for towing a skier without a mirror or observer. They noticed the driver was unsteady and smelled of alcoholic beverage. She was asked to perform field sobriety exercises and failed. She was arrested and transported to jail for boating under the influence and towing without an observer.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

ELBERT COUNTY

Cpl. Greg Colson was on Lake Lanier Wednesday and Thursday this week running the Side Scan Sonar looking for a drowning subject. The search was unsuccessful probably due to the amount of debris under water.

Cpl. Julian Wilkins located a subject that was involved in a wreck and left the scene in his vehicle on Monday. Elbert County S.O. gave a lookout for the suspected vehicle and Cpl. Wilkins was just down for where they thought the vehicle was headed. Shortly afterward the vehicle came by Wilkins. Just after Cpl. Wilkins got behind the vehicle, it turned into a driveway to a house. The Sheriff's Office may not have located this vehicle had Cpl. Wilkins not saw it turn into this driveway. The driver was charged with Dui and Leaving the Scene of an Accident by Elbert Co. S.O.

WILKES COUNTY

Cpl. Julian Wilkins presented an Information and Educational Program to the Wilkes County Coyote Hunt Club at the wildlife action office on Friday. They were having a big night hunt and wanted him to come talk to the club. Cpl. Wilkins talked about safety especially when using night vision and thermal imaging sights and identifying your target. He also covered the laws about coyote hunting.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

RFC Phillip Nelson and RFC Ricky Boles were patrolling Lake Oconee during the early morning hours of Sunday July 3rd, when they encountered a vessel with improper lights. While inspecting the vessel the operator was found to have been drinking alcohol. The operator was charged with Bui and Improper Lights.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

HARRIS COUNTY

On July 3rd RFC Jeremy Bolen and Technician Greg Wade were patrolling Lake Harding when they stopped a vessel for operating with docking lights on the front of the boat. During the boating stop RFC Bolen detected alcohol on the boat operator. After field sobriety exercises were administered the boat operator was arrested and charged for operating a vessel under the influence and operating a vessel with improper lights.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On July 4th RFC Mitch Oliver and RFC Jeremy Bolen were checking boat landing activity for the fireworks show along the Chattahoochee River. The officers noticed 2 jet-ski's being operated an hour after legal sunset. Both of the operators were issued a citation for operating a personal water craft during hours of darkness. RFC Bolen also detected alcohol on another boat operator who was coming into the dock. After field sobriety exercises were administered, the boat operator was arrested and charged for operating a vessel under the influence.

TROUP COUNTY

On July 4th Sgt Jim Bradfield and Intern Brian Reynolds were working on West Point Lake. Just after dark Sgt Bradfield received a call about a sinking boat that had a female passenger on board who was having chest pains. This boat just happened to be within sight of where Sgt Bradfield was positioned at the time. Sgt Bradfield and Intern Reynolds responded to the incident as did another boater in the area. The woman was assisted into DNR's patrol boat and transported to a nearby boat ramp for an awaiting ambulance. She was transported to West Georgia Medical Center.

Upon leaving the Lake and Marina on July 4th about 11 pm, Sgt Jim Bradfield came upon a truck parked partially on the shoulder of the road with an elderly man seated on the tail gate. There was a younger man standing in the road talking with the elderly man. Sgt Bradfield stopped to ask if there was a problem of some kind. The younger man explained that he had found the elderly man walking down the middle of the road and

that he told him he had been in an ATV accident. There was grass on the elderly mans' face and in his hair. EMS personnel had been notified, arrived shortly, and assessed the elderly mans condition.

PULASKI COUNTY

On July 8th RFC Tim Butler noticed a large amount of black smoke coming from under a bridge - investigation revealed a man was burning copper wire. The individual was issued a citation for burning waste.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On July 9th Sgt. Bo Kelly and RFC Tim Butler stopped a boat on Lake Sinclair. The driver of the boat was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. Further investigation revealed the subject's boating privileges were suspended from a previous BUI. The boat operator was placed under arrest for operating a vessel under the influence and operating a vessel while privileges suspended.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

On July 3, Cpl. Mike Binion conducted a boating safety patrol on the Flint River. He stopped a vessel for allowing a passenger to ride on the bow. The vessel operator showed signs of impairment and he failed the field sobriety exercises that were given. The operator was arrested and charged with operating a vessel under the influence.

On July 3, Sgt. Rick Sellars and Sgt. David Ruddell observed a vehicle weaved all over the roadway and nearly wrecked on the Bainbridge bypass. The officers initiated a traffic stop and found the driver to be impaired. The driver was turned over to Bainbridge Public Safety officers, who arrested him for DUI. The subject registered over 3 times the legal limit.

On July 4, Sgt. Rick Sellars, Sgt. Ellis Wynn, Cpl. Mike Binion and RFC Tony Cox conducted boating safety patrols on the Flint River during the Bainbridge fireworks display. Two vessel operators were arrested for operating a vessel under the influence.



EARLY COUNTY

On Saturday night July 9, RFC Jim Atchley and SGT Butch Potter patrolled access points on the Chattahoochee River below Lake George. One person was arrested for outstanding warrants and turned over to the Early County Sheriff's Department. A total of six citations were issued during the patrol for operating a vessel without PFDs (lifejackets), failure to obey regulatory marker, fishing without license and littering.

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

On July 4th Cpl. Robbie Griner and Cpl. Scott Carroll were working on Lake Chehaw when they encountered an individual operating a PWC after dark. While talking with the operator the officers determined that he had been drinking alcohol. After performing field sobriety exercises the operator was found to be impaired, and was charged with BUI and operating a PWC after hours.

On Friday July 8th RFC Randy James was observing a complaint area on Lake Chehaw when he noticed a boat occupied with small children that were not wearing a PFD. While talking with the boat operator RFC James discovered a small amount of marijuana on board the vessel. The person was charged with operating a vessel without PFD's. The drugs were turned over to the Albany Drug Squad.

On Friday July 8th, RFC Randy James observed a vessel operating too fast in a no-wake zone. Upon approaching and speaking with the operator the officer determined that he was impaired. The operator was charged with BUI and failure to obey regulatory markers.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On July 2nd, RFC Brandon Pierce, RFC Debbie Brannen, and Cpl. Jon Barnard conducted a boating safety patrol on the Savannah River over the holiday weekend. A total of

twelve boats and four fishing licenses were inspected. As a result, one violation of operating a vessel without registration numbers displayed was documented. On several instances verbal guidance was given on the boating laws and regulations of the state.

On July 3rd, RFC Brandon Pierce, RFC Debbie Brannen, and RFC Danielle Partin continued patrolling the Savannah River for the 4th of July weekend. A total of four boats were checked. One of the boats was stopped for allowing a person to ride the gunwale. The operator was found to be drinking. Upon completing the field sobriety exercises, the operator was determined to be under the influence. The subject was placed under arrest and transported to the Effingham County Jail. The violations the operator was issued were allowing a person to ride bow/gunwale, operating a vessel without a fire extinguisher, and operating under the influence (under 21 YOA).

On July 1st, Cpl. Eddie Akins and Sgt. William Vickers patrolled the Savannah River Landings and the landings on Ebenezer Creek for fishing and boating activity. Their efforts resulted in three boats and four fishing licenses being checked. One violation for operating a vessel without PFD's was documented.

On July 2nd, Cpl. Eddie Akins and Sgt. William Vickers checked landings along the Savannah River in Screven and Effingham counties. Their efforts resulted in nine boats and three fishing license being checked. Violations for fishing without a license, operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's, operating a vessel without lights during the hours of darkness and violation of the 100 ft. rule near a landing were documented.

On July 3rd, Cpl. Eddie Akins and Sgt. William Vickers checked the Savannah River landings in Effingham for boating and fishing activity. Their efforts resulted in seven boats being checked. Violations for operating a vessel with expired registration and operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's were documented.

EVANS COUNTY

On July 9th, RFC Debbie Brannen patrolled the Evans P.F.A. Violations for fishing on a P.F.A. without a WMA license, Violation of P.F.A. rules and regulations (fishing with a cast net), and operating a vessel without P.F.D.'s were documented.

On July 10th, RFC Debbie Brannen patrolled the Evans P.F.A. for late evening activity. Violations for fishing on a P.F.A. without a WMA license violation of P.F.A. rules and regulation (fishing with more than 2 poles and line) were documented.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On July 2nd Cpl. Shaymus McNeely and Cpl. Mike Wilcox worked boating and fishing activity on the Savannah River from the mouth of Briar Creek to the Effingham line. Officers checked a variety of vessels and persons reference the holiday weekend and issued citations for operating vessel without PFDs. At about 11:00pm while returning from the river patrol the officers observed a man staggering around in the middle of US Hwy 301 North and, Plantation Rd. intersection. The Officers stopped and approached the man who appeared to be intoxicated. The man acted confused and was unsure of

where he was. Cpl. McNeely observed that the man was soaking wet with sweat and asked if he took any medications or had any type of illness. The man communicated that he was a diabetic and was unsure of when he had taken his injection or eaten. Cpl. McNeely contacted Screven County 911 and had EMS dispatched to the location. EMS determined that the man was suffering from extremely low blood sugar. The man, a 57-year-old resident of Jenkins County indicated he was walking home. Given the remoteness of the area and his medical condition had the officers not found him, he would have been in serious danger. The man was transported to the Screven County Hospital.

On July 3rd, Cpl Shaymus McNeely and Cpl. Mike Wilcox patrolled the Savannah River from Poor Robin in Screven County to Tuckasseeking King in Effingham County. At about 9:00pm the officers were working boat activity near Hwy. 119 Bridge when they observed a boat coming up river without lights. Cpl. McNeely stopped the boat to address the light violation and observed that all of the boat's three occupants appeared to have been drinking heavily. The driver a 38-year-old female from South Carolina indicated that she was trying to get off the river and she knew her lights did not work. Cpl. McNeely performed field sobriety screening and placed the driver under arrest. The boat and its two adult male occupants were turned over to South Carolina DNR officers. The driver was transported off the river and to the Effingham county Jail for processing. Charges were made for: Operating a vessel under the influence, and operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness.

BERRIEN COUNTY

On July 4th, Cpl. Morty Wood & RFC Tim Hutto patrolled Paradise PFA for fishing activity. Seven citations were issued for fishing without a license and fishing without a WMA license on a PFA.

LOWNDES COUNTY

On July 4th, RFC Keith McDonald and Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey did a boating safety patrol on the Withlacoochee River. One subject was cited for operating a vessel without life jackets.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On July 5, Cpl. Billy Reed issued a citation to a subject for dumping tires on the Little Satilla Wildlife Management Area.

BRYAN COUNTY

On July 2, Cpl. Phillip Scott and RFC Jack Thain patrolled the Medway River area and cited one person for possession of undersized cobia.

GLYNN COUNTY

On July 6, RFC Rebekah Huson responded to a drowning at a local dock and marina. Glynn Co. PD and EMS responded to the scene as well. Upon further investigation the

victim was identified as a local who frequented a vessel that had been moored at the marina. An investigation into the incident is ongoing.

MCINTOSH COUNTY

On July 8, Sgt Bob Lynn, Cpl Jimmy Finn, Cpl Bobby White, and RFC Randy Aspinwall boarded shrimp trawlers off Sapelo Island for compliance with federal and state laws. Individuals were cited for commercial fishing without commercial fishing license and fishing with illegal gear (Turtle Excluder Devices).

OFFSHORE – FEDERAL WATERS

On July 2, Sgt. James Shelton and Cpl. Jay Morgan patrolled the Gray's Reef Marine Sanctuary. One boater was cited for anchoring at the Sanctuary reef.