

Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Division Law Enforcement Section

Field Operations

Weekly Report
January 22-28, 2012

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)

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

On January 28, RFC Tim Vickery issued a warning for hunting without Georgia waterfowl license to a hunter he checked.

MADISON COUNTY

On January 25, RFC Shane Sartor and Sgt. Stan Elrod assisted the Madison County Sheriff's Office search for an escaped inmate. The inmate was incarcerated for burglary and escaped custody while showing investigators area he had hidden stolen property.

BARROW COUNTY

On January 24th, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins stopped a white minivan at Hwy 316 and Hwy 11 after observing the driver appear to be passed out at the wheel and wake up and drive very erratically. Upon stopping the vehicle the driver appeared to be under the influence of prescription drugs. Cpl. Tompkins made contact with the Barrow County Sheriff's Office and they said that they had numerous reports of the minivan running other cars off the road. A deputy with the Barrow County Sheriff's Office Traffic Enforcement Unit arrived and arrested the driver for driving under the influence.

On January 25th, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins stopped a vehicle driving erratically and the wrong way on one way streets on Fort Yargo State Park. The driver was found to be a 15 year old without a driver's license. The juvenile's parents were contacted and verbal guidance was given to the juvenile and adult passenger. The adult subject in the vehicle was instructed to drive.

JACKSON COUNTY

On January 8th RFC Shane Sartor heard a duck shoot inside Jackson County. He checked the swamp that afternoon and found corn. He checked it during the next few weeks along with RFC Eric Isom. No one was found until January 28th. Just after daylight, RFC Shane Sartor heard shots and along with Cpl. Adam Loudermilk and Sgt. Mike Burgamy checked the area. The three rangers caught five subjects hunting over bait. Charges were made for hunting over bait and hunting without a license.

DAWSON COUNTY

On January 28th and 29th, Wildlife Technicians David Shattuck, Brandon Walls and Eric Wood conducted a concentrated patrol of the trails on the City Atlanta Tract on Dawson Forest WMA. Utilizing 2 ATV's and a patrol vehicle, the Technicians checked 78 horse riders, 2 bicyclist and 24 small game hunters. During the two day patrol citations and warnings were issued for hunting without a license, failure to purchase a trail permit, hunting without a WMA license, possession of a loaded weapon in a vehicle and failure to pay proper amount for permit.

GWINNETT COUNTY

On January 26th, Cpl. Eric Sanders and Cpl. Eddie Tompkins attended a wild game dinner at the First Baptist Church of Lawrenceville. The rangers setup the fishing simulator and provided general knowledge to the approximate 200 in attendance.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On Wednesday January 25th, RFC Phillip Nelson and Wildlife Tech Kevin Vonseggren caught 3 subjects hunting ducks after legal hours.

RICHMOND COUNTY

On January 28th, Cpl. Ben Payne worked several without permission complaints. On one of the complaints he made contact with 4 duck hunters hunting without permission. The hunters had accessed the Savannah River through a section of County owned property that does not allow firearms. The hunters had all licenses and legal equipment. The birds harvested were one mallard, one merganser and one goose. There were two adults and two juveniles under 12. Verbal guidance was given to the hunters and instruction was given as to how to legally hunt that portion of the river. The complainant was contacted and advised of the results.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On January 28th, Cpl. Ryan Swain and RFC Robert Timmerman conducted a concentrated waterfowl patrol on Clarks Hill Lake. Several hunters as well as commercial fisherman were inspected, no violations were detected.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On January 29th, Cpl. Ryan Swain patrolled Riverside Park in Evans. One subject was warned for fishing without permission. One subject was warned about digging on CSX property. One HIN inspection was conducted.

NEWTON COUNTY

On November 27th, RFC Larry Mills and RFC Niki Spencer participated in a Transportation Day Program in Covington at First United Methodist Church. They provided a boat and truck for around 100 pre-school children and parents to view as part of the program.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BLECKLEY COUNTY

On January 28th RFC Butler checked four groups of duck hunters in Bleckley County. RFC Butler issued one citation for hunting ducks without a hunting license and two warnings for hunting ducks without a federal waterfowl stamp.

HEARD COUNTY

On January 22nd, Sgt. Jim Bradfield and Cpl. Jeremy Bolen located three hunters shooting a duck roost. These hunters were shooting approximately 25 minutes past sunset. The officers asked the hunters if they were aware of the legal times to stop shooting ducks in the evening. They stated that they thought they could shoot 30 minutes past sunset. Officers informed the hunters they had to stop shooting at sunset and issued all three hunters citations for hunting waterfowl after hours.

MONROE COUNTY

During January 23-27, Cpl. Mitch Oliver attended the Crime Scene Technician Course at the Georgia Public Training Center. This class was part of Cpl. Oliver's training for The Department of Natural Resources Critical Incident Reconstruction Team.

PULASKI COUNTY

On January 28th RFC Tim Butler checked a group of four duck hunters. RFC Butler determined the pond was baited. The owner of the pond was forthcoming and admitted he baited the pond earlier in the week. The owner of the pond was cited for unlawful enticement and the hunters were warned for hunting ducks over bait.

TALBOT COUNTY

On January 28th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen located a duck shoot outside of Talbotton. A total of five hunters were checked. One written warning was issued for hunting waterfowl without a GA waterfowl license.

On January 28, Cpl. Mitch Oliver was assisting Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and Ranger Russell Epps with a concentrated waterfowl detail in the northwest part of the Talbot County. Cpl. Oliver could hear 3 to 4 duck shoots from his location and decided to check a swamp that had not been checked during the season. After finding the hunters' vehicles Cpl. Oliver waited for them to return. Three hunters exited the swamp together and another could be seen at the lower end of the pond attempting to cross a beaver dam. Cpl. Oliver checked the three hunters and all were legal. The last hunter was carrying a goose and 2 ducks, and claimed 2 of the ducks that one of the other hunters had carried out. Cpl. Oliver asked the hunter for his hunting license and he stated that he didn't need one because he was 15 years old. The subject was questioned further due to hesitation when giving his birth date. The subject admitted that he would be 17 in a week or so. Due to the subject being a juvenile, Cpl. Oliver met with this hunter's parents later that day to discuss the issue. This hunter was charged with hunting waterfowl without a Georgia waterfowl license, hunting waterfowl without a federal waterfowl stamp, and possession of illegally taken wildlife.

TROUP COUNTY

On January 28th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen, and Ranger Russell Epps were patrolling the West Point WMA shooting range. Multiple range rules violations were observed. Verbal guidance was given for violation of target location and illegal weapon use on the shooting range.

TWIGGS COUNTY

On January 22nd RFC Tim Butler checked an evening duck shoot. The hunters did not shoot after legal hours. However, RFC Butler determined the pond was baited with corn. Additionally, one of the hunters did not have a GA waterfowl license. All three hunters were issued citations for hunting ducks over bait and a warning was issued for hunting without a GA waterfowl license.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

CRISP COUNTY

On January 24th, Cpl. Al Greer and Ranger Chad Hulsey were patrolling Georgia Veterans State Park when they encountered a man fishing without a license. In addition to no license, the subject also had no form of identification upon himself. Cpl. Greer conducted a search through GCIC and was notified that there was an active warrant for the subject out of Sumter County. Cpl. Greer and Ranger Hulsey placed the subject under arrest and transported him to the custody of Sumter County Sheriffs Office. The individual was issued a warning for fishing without a license.

EARLY COUNTY

On January 22nd, Sgt. Rick Sellars responded to a complaint on the Chattahoochee River concerning an oil slick on the water. A light, oily sheen was observed and traced back to its source, which was an irrigation pump on the riverbank. Sgt. Sellars collected evidence at the scene and turned the incident over to EPD.

GRADY COUNTY

On January 22nd, Sgt. Rick Sellars responded to a night hunting complaint that was observed by an off duty GSP Trooper. The officer had observed the occupants of a vehicle direct roof- mounted spotlights into a field next to his residence. He stopped the vehicle and detained the occupants until Sellars arrived. There were no firearms observed in the vehicle, and the driver was written a warning for blinding wildlife with lights.

DECATUR COUNTY

On January 23rd, RFC Tony Cox was enroute to court when he observed a hunter discharge a firearm from the road. The subject was stopped as he tried to leave the scene, and after a short investigation, it was determined that the subject was hunting squirrels. Citations were issued for hunting from a public road.

WEBSTER COUNTY

On January 28th, Cpl. Steve Robinson and Sgt. Butch Potter responded to a landowner's complaint of hunting without permission, and located two people hunting ducks on the property. Charges were made for hunting without permission and hunting without federal and state waterfowl licenses.

COLQUITT COUNTY

On January 18th, Cpl. Greg Wade charged a subject for fishing in a private pond without permission. Cpl. Wade encountered the subject while making a follow up patrol to address trespassing concerns of the pond's owner.

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

On January 25th, Cpl. Greg Wade and Ranger Chris Carlisle investigated a site where illegal digging for Native American artifacts is occurring.



(Illegal dig site in Dougherty Co.)

TIFT COUNTY

On the morning of January 26th, Cpl. Greg Wade located two hunters pass-shooting ducks in the middle of a cow pasture. The individuals were issued citations for not having the necessary licenses.

BERRIEN COUNTY

On the evening of January 29th, Cpl. Greg Wade was listening for late waterfowl shooting in Tift County when he received an "in progress" report of a roost shoot in Berrien County. The reported location was nearby and Cpl. Wade quickly arrived at the scene but was unable to locate any vehicles at the swamp. Cpl. Wade moved in on foot and could hear the subjects moving around in the water and talking as they prepared to leave. The subjects were discussing how far the walk back to their vehicles would be so Cpl. Wade remained in the background and followed the subjects out. Once at the trucks, Cpl. Wade identified himself and checked the hunters. The four subjects were charged for hunting waterfowl after hours and one subject was charged for not having a federal duck stamp.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

DODGE COUNTY

On January 28th, Cpl. Johnny Ashe and Cpl. Dan Stiles worked a complaint of illegal duck hunting near the Ocmulgee River. Two different shoots were found and both were checked. The second shoot resulted in one adult and one juvenile hunting waterfowl in a water hole that was found to be baited with whole peanuts floating on the water. The adult was charged with hunting over bait as well as possession of illegally taken wildlife. The 6 ducks were seized and turned over to the local Boy Scout Troop #78.

PIERCE COUNTY

On January 28th, Cpl. Gary Simmons was patrolling for duck hunting activity near the Patterson area. Cpl. Simmons heard shots coming from a wetland area south of Highway 32. Three hunters were located near a beaver pond. They also had a Labrador Retriever with them and all were holding shotguns. One of the duck hunters did not possess a Federal waterfowl stamp or a Georgia waterfowl license. The other two hunters did not possess the Georgia waterfowl license. One citation and three warnings were issued for the license violations.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On January 28th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree located several cage traps and one foot-hold trap that did not have the trapper's name or license number attached to or stamped onto the trap. Sgt. Dupree remained in the area where the traps were set until the trapper arrived. The trapper stated that he did not realize his cage traps had to be tagged. When the trapper was asked about the foot-hold trap he offered that a trapped raccoon must have chewed the tag off the chain. All other traps in the trapper's possession had tags on them. Observing numerous scratch marks on the trap in question, Sgt. Dupree instructed the trapper to check his traps more closely after each catch and re-tag as required.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On the evening of January 28th, Cpl. Barry Britt was listening for duck hunting activity along the Altamaha River when he observed several individuals camping in the trees on the Montgomery County Tract of Bullard Creek WMA. He observed 4 men and 1 woman illegally consuming alcohol on the WMA. The individuals had transported their gear to the site by boat and had been there all day. Dozens of beer cans and other debris had accumulated around the site. They cleaned the area and moved their gear to a sand bar down the river. He issued 5 citations for illegal consumption of alcohol on a WMA and two warnings for illegal camping on a WMA.

APPLING COUNTY

While conducting compliance inspections on deer processors in Appling County, RFC Altman discovered two processors operating w/o permits. The owners were given verbal guidance and permit applications.

RFC Altman answered a call about an alligator in someone's yard off Red Oak Road on January 26th. The two foot long alligator was recovered and released back into in the Altamaha River.

On January 28th, RFC Altman patrolled the Altamaha River and issued one warning for fishing without a license.

On January 28th and 29th RFC Altman issued verbal guidance and educated people using the shooting range at Big Hammock WMA without the Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP).

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

GLYNN COUNTY

On January 24th, RFC John Evans received a complaint of two illegal dump sites on the Sansavilla WMA. RFC Evans investigated both sites and found evidence leading him to a suspect for each site. He tracked down both individuals and cited them for Unlawful Dumping of Egregious Litter. Both individuals agreed to clean up the dumpsites.

On January 27th, RFC David Brady and RFC Craig Smith investigated a complaint of a subject holding an owl. When the officers arrived on scene to investigate they observed a cage in the back yard that had an owl in it. Contact was made with the tenant who admitted to keeping the owl after it was found approximately nine months prior. The subject was given a written warning and the owl was seized and relocated.

CAMDEN COUNTY

On January 25th, RFC Craig Smith responded to a hunting complaint in progress. Upon arrival, RFC Smith met with landowner and discovered that the people in question were in the Little Waverly Creek in a canoe. RFC Smith spoke with the occupants of the canoe and learned that they were only looking for fossils and not hunting.

On January 24th, RFC David Brady received a call concerning a vessel that was stern first in the marsh around Fancy Bluff at the Glynn / Camden County line. RFC Brady, RFC Craig Smith, and Captain Doug Lewis responded to the location by vessel. Once the officers arrived on scene Captain Lewis and RFC Brady boarded the vessel that had been reported. Contact was made with the vessel owner and it was determined that the vessel had been anchored out while a dock was being repaired.

On January 26th, RFC Craig Smith received a call concerning a truck that had jumped the berm at Crooked River State Park and was in the marsh. RFC Smith, RFC David Brady and Corporal Wil Smith responded to the area by boat. The three officers assisted Park Staff and local EMS services with recovery of the truck. The operator of the vehicle was transported to the hospital.

MCINTOSH COUNTY

On Jan. 23rd, RFC Jack Thain and Cpl. Jay Morgan were on commercial fishing patrol in the Sapelo Sound area when they observed two shrimp boats trawling inside closed waters. Both boat captains were cited for using power drawn nets in closed waters and one crew member was cited for fishing without a commercial fishing license.

LIBERTY COUNTY

On Jan. 24th, Cpl. Phillip Scott and Cpl. Jay Morgan were on commercial fishing patrol when they checked three commercial cast-netters in Johnson Creek near South Newport River. No violations were found.