

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
April 20-26, 2014

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)

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

DEKALB COUNTY

On April 26th, Cpl. Eric Sanders patrolled Stone Mountain Lake by boat boating safety and fishing violations. Cpl. Sanders checked 10 boats and 15 fishing license. Citations and warnings were issued for boating and fishing violations.

FORSYTH COUNTY

On April 24th, RFC Mitchell Crump and Sgt. Lee Brown patrolled Lake Lanier. While on Patrol they issued citations and warnings for fishing without license, operating without registration, operating without PFD's, undersized Bass and other violations.

On April 25th, RFC Mitchell Crump and Ranger Shane Brown patrolled Lake Lanier. Citations and warnings were issued for fishing without a license, operating without Coast Guard approved PFD's and operating with expired registration.

On April 26th, RFC Mitchell Crump and Ranger Shane Brown located three subjects fishing on property owned by Forsyth County Water Department. Citations and warnings were issued for fishing without permission, unlawful bait and non-resident fishing without a license and non-resident with no trout stamp.

HALL COUNTY

On April 21st, Sgt. Lee Brown and Ranger Shane Brown patrolled Lake Lanier. Citations and warnings were issued for fishing without a license and operating a vessel without Coast Guard approved PFD's.

LUMPKIN COUNTY

On April 22nd, Sgt. Lee Brown received a call from Camp Merrill (Army Ranger Camp in Dahlonega) reference a subject that was reported missing from a camping trip. Sgt. Brown called the person making the report. She stated the she had contact with her boyfriend the night before via a text message and that he was supposed to be home and wasn't. Sgt. Brown notified RFC Crump of the situation. Sgt. Brown and RFC Crump both have checked the subject who was reported missing camping on USFS land and on Dawson Forest WMA. RFC Crump searched the Montgomery Creek area on USFS and Sgt. Brown searched Dawson Forest WMA where the subject has camped before. After about 3.5 hours later RFC Crump located the subject safe and sound. His phone wasn't charging properly and with little cellular service he wasn't able to contact his girlfriend. Sgt. Brown notified his girlfriend that her boyfriend had been located and was safe.

ROCKDALE COUNTY

On April 25th, Cpl. Sanders assisted Rockdale County Sheriff's Department in a man hunt for two subjects that robbed a house. The two subjects fled into a wooded area at Turner Hill Road and I-20 near Old Covington Hwy. After the dogs search the area and found nothing a line search was establish to clear the woods for the subjects one more time. Cpl. Sanders came upon a fallen pine tree and noticed the backs of the two subjects crouched under the tree limbs. Cpl. Sanders gave the subjects commands to show their hands and provided cover for Rockdale Deputies to secure the two subjects.

On April 26th, Cpl. Sanders patrolled Randy Poynter Lake in Rockdale County for boating safety and fishing violations. A total of 15 boats were checked and 30 fishing license. Citations and warnings were issued for boating safety and fishing violations.

HALL COUNTY

On April 26, Corporal Jason Roberson and Sgt. Mike Burgamy worked Lake Lanier for boating safety violations. They documented twenty violations with verbal guidance, warnings, and citations. One subject was placed under arrest for operating a vessel under the influence.

HART COUNTY

On April 20th, RFC Brandon Pierce patrolled around Lake Hartwell for boating safety/fishing activity. Several fishing licenses were checked and as a result two violations were documented. The violations consisted of a citation and a warning for fishing without a license.

On April 25th, RFC Brandon Pierce patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating safety/fishing activity. Several fishing licenses and a boat were checked for proper safety equipment. A total of one violation was documented. The subject was issued a citation for non-resident fishing without a license.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On April 22, 2014, CPL Micheal Crawley, CPL Brian Hobbins, CPL Ryan Swain and SGT Doyte Chaffin instructed Region III LE Division on Firearms Requalification at the Columbia County Firearms Complex.

On April 26, 2014, SGT Doyte Chaffin, CPL Brian Hobbins and CPL Ryan Swain worked a Marine Event on the Savannah River below Clarks Hill Dam. The event was a Kayak Paddlefest and music fest. 600 vessels were in attendance for the event.

RICHMOND COUNTY

On April 26, 2014, CPL Ben Payne patrolled Richmond County checking fishing licenses and without permission complaints. He checked 45 fishermen at the Lock and Dam Park and two arrests were made. Verbal guidance was given for other violations encountered. No contact was made at the without permission complaints.

WILKES COUNTY

On April 26, 2014, CPL Mark Patterson checked an area known to be baited for turkey. Two subjects were found to be hunting big game over bait. Later in the day CPL Patterson and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled the Little River by vessel. During the patrol the Rangers documented several violations for fishing without a license, operating a vessel without registration, operating a vessel with insufficient personal flotation devices, and one subject was charged with boating under the influence.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the afternoon of April 26th, Sgt. Bo Kelly, Cpl. Josh Copelan, Cpl. Lynn Stanford and Ranger Matt Johnson patrolled Lake Sinclair. Numerous boats were stopped and verbal guidance was given to the boaters.

Later that evening, Cpl. Copelan responded to the Carrington Woods area of Milledgeville in reference to a Canadian goose that had been shot. After a short investigation, a subject was charged with hunting out of season.



COWETA COUNTY

From April 22-24, the Coweta County Sheriff's Office sponsored their annual "Man Tracker" training event. Attending the K9 part of the training were RFC Eric Isom, RFC Keith Page, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and Cpl. Brooks Varnell. Sgt. Brent Railey attended classes on criminal procedure and synthetic drugs.

FAYETTE COUNTY

On Saturday, April 26th, Cpl. Travis Sweat and Sgt. Brent Railey participated in the Fayette County Earth Day Festival. They answered questions on hunting, fishing and boating as well as environmental issues. Several hundred people attended the event.

MONROE COUNTY

On Wednesday morning, April 23rd, Cpl. Susan Morris and Cpl. Tony Wynne met with a Georgia Department of Agriculture agent to assist her with a wild animal and exotic bird complaint. They proceeded to the facility and met with the owner of the animals and birds. The owner took them through the facility and they inspected the animals and their surroundings to insure the animals were healthy, well fed, watered, the cages were sufficient and secure, and the animals he had were what he was permitted for. After the facility inspection, Morris and Wynne stood by as the Department of Agriculture agent explained the requirements for the birds he had brought into Georgia in violation of Department of Agriculture regulations. Once the agent finished explaining to the owner what he needed to do, the agent, Morris and Wynne left.

On Friday morning, April 25th, RFC Freddie Hays and Cpl. Tony Wynne spoke to the students at Hubbard Elementary School as part of the school's Career Day.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On April 26th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver and Cpl. Jeremy Bolen were patrolling the Chattahoochee River for boating/fishing activity. The officers issued 5 citations and 3 warnings for fishing without a license. One person was taken into custody after the officers discovered he had 3 active arrest warrants from 3 separate agencies. An additional citation was issued for operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness, as well as a written warning for allowing underage child to ride in moving vessel without wearing a PFD.

PIKE COUNTY

On the morning of April 23rd, at about 10:00 Sgt. Brent Railey and RFC Kevin Godbee were patrolling in Molena. They saw a young male child walking down the side of Hwy 18 wearing a one piece "footie" pajama set. They investigated and determined the 9 year old child was a runaway from a nearby foster care home. The child was turned over to the Pike County Sheriff's Office for further investigation.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the morning of April 23rd, Cpl. Josh Copelan patrolled Wallace Dam on Lake Sinclair. Cpl. Copelan observed a pontoon boat traveling back and forth in the restricted area. Cpl. Copelan made contact with the operator and a citation was issued.

On the afternoon of April 25th, Cpl. Lynn Stanford checked a private pond in which they had received complaints about fishing without permission. One subject was located and issued a citation for fishing without permission.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

WORTH COUNTY

On April 26th, Cpl. Robbie Griner assisted the Worth County Sheriff's Department with an unlawful dumping case near the Sumner area. When Cpl. Griner arrived on scene he located a pickup truck backed into the woods and a large pile of building materials and other debris lying on the ground. The suspect admitted to dumping the waste and was charged with unlawful dumping of egregious litter less than 500 lbs/100 cu ft..



DECATUR COUNTY

On April 20th, RFC Tony Cox was patrolling for turkey hunting violations when he located a vehicle with a deceased male subject inside it. Decatur County Investigators were called to the scene.

EARLY COUNTY

On April 23rd, Sgt. Rick Sellars, RFC Jim Atchley, Rangers Steve Thomas and Quinn Fogle participated in an emergency response drill on the Chattahoochee River near the Farley Nuclear Plant.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LAURENS COUNTY

On April 20th, Cpl. Dan Stiles patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. Fourteen anglers were checked for license requirements and one vessel was checked for registration and boating safety equipment. No violations were documented. Several visitors to the area were also checked for Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass compliance; verbal guidance was given to individuals for failure to purchase the passes and the subjects purchased GORP passes at a local license vendor and returned to the PFA.

On April 26th, Cpl. Dan Stiles conducted late evening patrols at boat landings on the Oconee River. Ten vessels were checked for registration and boating safety equipment. Verbal guidance was given to three vessel operators for minor safety violations. Seven anglers were also checked for fishing licenses; no violations for fishing without a license were detected.

WHEELER COUNTY

On April 26th, RFC Rodney Horne patrolled the Hwy 280 boat landing on the Oconee River. Two citations were issued for operating a vessel without Personal Floatation Devices (PFD's). Other violations documented were fishing without license on person and operating a vessel with expired registration.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On April 26, RFC Clint Jarriel and SGT Jon Barnard checked an area off Hillview Rd for turkey hunters. One hunter was located and found to be hunting over bait. The hunter was charged for hunting turkeys using bait and hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On April 26, RFC Clint Jarriel and SGT Jon Barnard attended an archery event held at the airport in Vidalia. This event is part of the onion festival held annually. There were about 50 shooters and 20 targets with many of the shooters being youth. The two Rangers were able to answer many questions and give out department materials.

EVANS COUNTY

On April 26, RFC Debbie Brannen and Ranger Patrick Gibbs patrolled the Evans County Public Fishing Area. Numerous licenses and vessels were checked resulting in violations being documented for fishing without licenses, fishing without a WMA stamp on a PFA, entering a designated fee area with a GORP license, operating a vessel without a registration, and operating a vessel without PFD's.

EMANUEL COUNTY

On April 13, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely began investigating, a hunting without permission complaint on a large tract of land off Kirby Rd. The complainant had been turkey hunting on his hunting club on the evening of April 12 when saw a pick- up truck occupied by two white males and a white female stop just short of his set up and the passenger of the truck lean out and fire a shot at his gobbler decoy. The complainant was able to get the license plate number on the truck as it drove by him. Cpl. McNeely was able to find a 7.62 x 25mm shell casing ejected at the scene by the suspect's gun. Cpl. McNeely located a Swainsboro man who owned the suspect vehicle. The man had been out of town at the time of the incident but was able to identify the two individuals that were using his truck. Cpl. McNeely eventually tracked both suspects down at a residence on Miracle Lane in Swainsboro. The suspects both admitted their involvement in the incident and stated that they were just riding through the complainants' property going to the river. On the way out they saw the turkey decoy and shot it because "it looked so real." Citations were issued to the two men for; hunting from a vehicle, hunting without permission, hunting with an illegal weapon, hunting without license and without big game license.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On April 26, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely was checking areas previously known to be baited for turkeys. One hunter was apprehended sitting beside an electric feeder on a Poor Robin Rd. property, and issued a citation for Hunting Big Game over Bait.

COFFEE COUNTY

On April 27th, RFC Tim Hutto responded to a call of a stranded boater on the Ocmulgee River on Highway 107. While in route to the scene, RFC Hutto was notified that the subjects had made it to Flat Tub Landing and were safe. RFC Hutto arrived on scene and interviewed the three subjects in the boat. The subjects had been on the Ocmulgee River for hours with insufficient life jackets and the most educated boater in the vessel was under the influence of alcohol. One violation for operating a vessel with insufficient life jackets was documented and the subjects were released.

BERRIEN COUNTY

On April 25th, while patrolling Berrien County, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey checked three subjects fishing at a local river bridge. Two of the subjects did not have a valid fishing license. The license violations were documented.

On April 27th, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey checked several boaters and fishermen at Paradise PFA. Several license violations were documented during the patrol.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On April 26th & 27th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, RFC Mark Pool, RGR Sam Williams, & Stephen Foster State Park manager Brian Gray vessel patrolled the waterways in the Okefenokee Swamp. With the high water levels, the officers were able to access many of the boat runs and lakes within the Swamp. Approximately 15 vessels with boaters and fishermen were encountered with only minor violations discovered.



RFC Mark Pool & park manager Brian Gray accessing a narrow boat run.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On April 20th, RFC Jack Thain and Ranger Jason Miller checked on a complaint of someone hunting turkeys without permission on the city property at the Pembroke Waste Treatment Plant. The rangers heard three shots and found a hunter had shot a gobbler. The hunter was charged with hunting without permission and the turkey was confiscated.



Ranger Jason Miller (L) and RFC Jack Thain (R) with confiscated turkey

On April 21st, Cpl. Jay Morgan and Ranger Jason Miller received a call about an overturned kayaker on the Ogeechee River near Hwy. 80/Brown's Landing. The river water level was at minor flood stage and the swift current had trapped the overturned kayaker between the kayak and a fallen tree in the river. The rangers launched a river boat at the landing while Sgt. Phillip Scott and RFC Jack Thain tried to reach the victim by the shoreline. Rangers Morgan and Miller found the female kayaker hanging on to the fallen tree along with another kayaker who was also in the cold water trying to help her. Both kayakers were rescued and taken to the boat ramp where they were checked over by Bryan County EMTs since they had been in the cold water for over an hour and were showing signs of early stages of hypothermia. Both were able to go home after they warmed up.

LIBERTY COUNTY

On April 23rd, RFC Jack Thain, Cpl. Bill Bryson, and Sgt. Phillip Scott conducted a marine mammal/dolphin Joint Enforcement Agreement patrol in the St. Catherine's Sound area, advising fishermen and boaters of the dangers of dolphins being struck by boats and propellers when being illegally being fed by humans.