

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
December 21-27, 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.

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Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)

No activity to report.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

JACKSON COUNTY

On December 21st, RFC Isom located three duck hunters in the Jefferson area. The swamp was baited with crack corn. The hunter received citations and warnings for hunting ducks over bait and hunting without permission.

HALL COUNTY

On December 26th, RFC Kevin Goss check a baited piece of property off B Clark Road north of Gainesville. RFC Goss encountered two hunters both of whom were hunting over bait and not wearing orange. After interviewing both hunters, citations were issued for hunting big game over bait and not wearing florescent orange.

RABUN COUNTY

On December the 27th, Corporal Derek Dillard got a phone call from Rabun County Sheriff's Deputy Kyle Shook. He told Corporal Dillard that Investigator Marty Talley had encountered a subject that was deer hunting on private property in the Pinnacle Road area of Clayton. Furthermore, Deputy Shook said that the subject had burglarized a house in the area while he was hunting and was subsequently arrested. After speaking to both Deputies, Corporal Dillard determined that the suspect had violated several wildlife laws as well. Corporal Dillard went by the Rabun County Detention Center where the suspect was additionally charged for hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, hunting deer without fluorescent orange, and hunting without permission.

UNION COUNTY

On December 27th, while patrolling Union County, SGT Steve Seitz and RFC Kevin Dyer observed dove hunters hunting in a harvested corn field. SGT Seitz and RFC Dyer checked multiple hunting licenses. Three citations were issued for hunting without a license and three warnings were issued for hunting doves without a HIP permit.

WHITE COUNTY

On December 27th, RFC Anne Britt was patrolling the Chattahoochee WMA when she came in contact with an adult male operating a four-wheeler with a female passenger on Wilkes Rd. near Vandiver Fields. The operator said he had unloaded the four-wheeler at the entrance of the WMA on Poplar Stump Rd and had driven to the end of the WMA near Unicoi Gap and was headed back down to the entrance. Three other vehicles with multiple passengers were following the four-wheeler. RFC Britt charged the adult male for illegal use of ATV on WMA.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

WASHINGTON COUNTY

On December 21, while Corporal Michael Crawley was at his residence at approximately 9:00 PM, two subjects in a black Chevrolet truck shot at a deer in Crawley's front pasture. Crawley immediately got in his patrol vehicle. Crawley eventually caught up to the vehicle. Crawley initiated blue lights and made a traffic stop on the vehicle. The vehicle pulled over on the shoulder of the road. As Crawley walked up to the door post of the vehicle, the vehicle sped away. Crawley jumped back in to his patrol vehicle and began to chase the subjects down a dirt road reaching speeds above 80 mph. The chase continued for at least 2 miles and subjects veered off into a driveway and slid off the side of the road and fled from the vehicle on foot carrying rifles into the woods. Crawley gave chase for a short distance into the woods finding one rifle that had been thrown down. After losing sight of the suspects Crawley retreated back to his vehicle for cover and awaited back up. Once backup arrived Crawley and GSP Sgt. Bloodworth walked through the woods to a nearby trailer where Crawley believed the subjects may be hiding. Crawley knocked on the door and spoke with several subjects in the trailer. After further investigation the suspects were apprehended inside the trailer. They had changed cloths and were denying any involvement in the chase. After investigating Crawley was able to find their cloths, matching their description when they fled the scene. The two suspects, along with a resident of the trailer, were arrested and charged. The suspect's vehicle search revealed another rifle with a light mounted on top of the scope, a set of night vision, several lights for shining, and a large quantity methamphetamine, approximately 80 grams. Prescription pills, syringes, scales, and large quantity of cash were also recovered. The two suspects were charged with multiple charges including driving with suspended license, hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, hunting from a public road, hunting without permission, possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute, possession of prescription pills, convicted felon possession of a firearm, possession of firearm during commission of a felony, and many more. They were transported to Washington County Jail.

CLARKE COUNTY

On December 26th RFC Tim Butler received an in progress complaint of possible hunting without permission. When RFC Butler arrived at the scene and began investigating, he discovered an illegal trap. RFC Butler was walking back to his vehicle when the trapper fled in his vehicle and drove recklessly at a very high rate of speed through a residential area. The suspect was apprehended approximately two miles down the road at a traffic light. The trapper was issued citations for reckless driving, trapping without a license, trapping without a .22 rim fire, trapping without a choke stick, failure to tag traps, and trapping without written permission.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On Friday, December 26, Sgt. Brian Carter worked a night hunting complaint in Oglethorpe County. About 2130 hours he observed a vehicle stop in the road with its headlights pointed into a field. An occupant of the vehicle then shot at a deer standing in the field. The vehicle then travelled to a deer camp within sight of Sgt. Carter and was parked. Before Sgt. Carter could leave from his area of concealment two more vehicles about a minute apart came by and their occupants were shining spotlights into the same field. As he exited his hiding spot the vehicle used to fire the shot earlier left the camp and began travelling towards him. Sgt. Carter was able to get one of the last two stopped along with the first vehicle from which the shot was fired. RFC Tim Butler was notified and responded to the scene to assist. The three occupants of the vehicle from which the shot was fired were charged with Hunting Deer at Night, Hunting from a Public Road, and Hunting from a Vehicle. The second vehicle that was stopped had one occupant and he was not armed. He was cited for Blinding Wildlife.

TALIAFERRO COUNTY

On December 27th, Cpl. Brian Hobbins apprehended three subjects for hunting deer over bait. The subjects were cited and released.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On December 28th, RFC Robert Timmerman assisted South Carolina with an environmental investigation. One subject was arrested for unlawful dumping of waste for commercial purposes in Edgefield County South Carolina.

MORGAN COUNTY

On December 26, RFC Ricky Boles cited one individual for hunting big game over bait. The hunter was hunting deer over a pile of corn.

HANCOCK COUNTY

On December 23, Sgt. John Harwell confronted one individual hunting deer over bait. After talking to the subject, Sgt. Harwell found that the hunter had also killed two bucks from the same deer stand over bait. The hunter was charged with hunting big game over bait and the two bucks were confiscated.

On December 26, Sgt. John Harwell cited two hunters on charges of hunting big game over bait, hunting without a license, and hunting big game without a license.

On December 27, Sgt. John Harwell cited several individuals for deer hunting violations. The hunters were charged for hunting big game over bait, hunting deer without fluorescent orange, non-resident hunting without a license and non-resident hunting big game without a big game license.

NEWTON COUNTY

After receiving a call from local landowners about shots being fired and spotlighting on the night of December 26, RFC Ricky Boles investigated area of complaint. Ranger Boles found an area of pasture where four wheel drive trucks had done damage to a hay field. A bon fire area was located where several beer cans, trash and shell casings were scattered. The damage to the field was very extensive having cleared an area of approximately an acre from doing circles with the trucks. Ranger Boles dug through the trash finding several receipts and bank statements. Among the papers was an address and also a hub cap was located in an area of the field. The residence was located and the truck missing the hub cap was found. The case was turned over to Newton County Sheriff's Office. Pending charges include criminal trespassing, damage to private property, and littering. The subject was charged with driving on expired tag at time of interview.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

MERIWETHER COUNTY

On the morning of Monday, December 22nd, Cpl. Keith Waddell patrolled Joe Kurz WMA as part of a routine patrol. He encountered two subjects at the boat ramp that had been duck hunting. He found several violations on the two hunters and cited the boat operator for operating a vessel without PFD's and the other hunter for hunting with an unplugged shotgun. Cpl. Waddell also warned the two for several license violations.

SPALDING COUNTY

At about 1200 hours on Monday, December 22nd, RFC Kevin Godbee received a complaint of road hunting in western Spalding County. RFC Godbee met with the complainant and was provided details of the event, as well as a vehicle description and a tag number. Shortly thereafter, RFC Godbee located the truck in question at a residence in another county. RFC Godbee interviewed the suspect and determined that he had shot at a fox squirrel on the property but was adamant he had not shot it from the road. He was issued a citation for hunting without permission. During the interview, RFC Godbee determined he was one of the same individuals that Cpl. Waddell had cited on Joe Kurz WMA earlier in the morning.

TWIGGS COUNTY

On December 26th, Cpl. Josh Swain, RFC David Fisher and Sgt. Tony Fox responded to the Ocmulgee River in reference to a hunting incident in which a hunter received a gunshot wound while hunting feral hogs. The victim was removed from the scene via air ambulance and transported to a nearby medical facility, where he underwent surgery to remove the bullet. The investigation revealed the victim, accompanied by two other hunters, was struck by a bullet accidentally discharged by one of the hunting companions. Thankfully, the bullet struck two small trees before hitting the victim, resulting in a marked decrease in both bullet velocity and energy. The victim was released from the hospital the next day. Cpl. Mitch Oliver assisted in the investigation.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

BROOKS COUNTY

On December 26th, RFC Jon Penuel cited two duck hunters for hunting ducks without Federal Duck Stamps.

DOOLY COUNTY

On December 27th, Cpl. Clint Martin and Sgt. Al Greer responded to a call for assistance from a Deputy, whom had stopped a vehicle whose occupants were involved in night deer hunting. Cpl. Martin and Sgt. Greer responded to the scene, and from evidence found and interviews with the suspects it was determined that the suspects were hunting deer at the time of the stop. Both subjects were cited for hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle.

MILLER COUNTY

On December 27th, RFC Tony Cox and Ranger Steve Thomas located a baited dove shoot. The Rangers issued twenty citations for hunting over bait and unlawful enticement of migratory birds.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

BULLOCH COUNTY

On December 14th, Cpl. Eddie Akins checked Oliver Bridge Landing and Oliver Bridge WMA for hunting and boating activity. His efforts resulted in seven licenses being checked and three violations being documented. The violations were for operating a vessel without PFD's, operating a vessel with improper PFD's and hunting with an unplugged gun.

On December 19th, Cpl. Eddie Akins responded to a complaint off Bennett-Grooms Rd. and Buie-Driggers Road about deer dog hunters hunting from a public road, parking on a public road and possibly hunting on unpermitted property. Investigation of the complaint resulted in two hunters being checked and two violations being documented. The two violations were for operating a motor vehicle without club permit number being displayed.

On December 27, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely responded to a complaint of illegal deer dogging activity on Arcola Road. While investigating the complaint Cpl. McNeely located two deer dogs on the complainant's property. Cpl. McNeely located the owners of the dogs and it was determined that the dogs had been lost that morning. Citations were issued for hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license, hunting without a deer dog license, hunting without license on person, and failure to keep hunting dogs on permitted property.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On December 14th, Cpl. Eddie Akins responded to a call from Sgt. Don Dasher for assistance in checking hunters in Screven County. Their efforts resulted in two license being checked and five violations being documented. The violations were for hunting without a deer harvest record, non-resident hunting without a license, hunting without fluorescent orange and two violations of non-resident hunting without a big game license.

On December 26th, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely and Sgt. Don Dasher were working night hunting in a complaint area on Old Bay Branch Road. Officers observed a pick-up truck approach the area and begin to headlight a peanut field. Officers conducted a traffic stop and discovered the two white males in the truck each had a .270 caliber rifle. The suspects were arrested and charged with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On December 18th Sgt. Don Dasher and Ranger Jordan Crawford were patrolling Effingham County for hunting activity when they heard several shots off Corinth Church Road. Based on the shooting activity Sgt. Dasher and Ranger Crawford investigated and observed three individuals hunting waterfowl after legal hours. The individuals were charged and two wood ducks confiscated. The ducks were donated to the hunters feeding the hungry program.

On December 26th Ranger Jordan Crawford patrolled the Steel Bridge boat ramp in Effingham County for waterfowl hunting activity. Eighteen hunters were checked with one violation documented for hunting waterfowl without a federal waterfowl stamp.

CANDLER COUNTY

On December 26th, RFC Clint Jarriel patrolled for afterhours waterfowl hunting activity. RFC Jarriel was successful in locating activity off of Pine Grove Rd and waited on the subjects to return to his location. After checking the subjects, citations were issued for hunting waterfowl after hours and four wood ducks were seized as evidence.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

On December 26th, Cpl. Kevin Joyce patrolled the area just north of Mt. Vernon for possible waterfowl hunting activity. Joyce located one hunter and violations were documented for: hunting without a federal duck stamp, hunting without GA waterfowl license, hunting with unplugged shotgun, and hunting with illegal ammunition (lead shot).

TATTNALL COUNTY

On December 26th, RFC Clint Jarriel worked a deer dogging complaint off of Hwy 169. After a brief investigation RFC Jarriel issued a citation for allowing dogs on unpermitted property.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On December 21st, RFC Clint Jarriel patrolled the area of JP Milligan Rd for possible after hours waterfowl hunting activity. Two hunters were located and charged for hunting waterfowl after hours, hunting with an unplugged shotgun, and hunting w/o federal waterfowl stamp. Verbal guidance was also given for some violations. Three wood ducks were seized for evidence.

On December 27th, RFC Clint Jarriel and SGT Jon Barnard worked a complaint on Hardens Chapel Rd. of hunting deer at night/shots being fired at night. RFC Jarriel and SGT Barnard heard a shot from a barn at approx. 5:30a.m. RFC Clint Jarriel and SGT Jon Barnard approached the area and located a subject still sitting in his vehicle with a rifle propped up in the window overlooking an area baited with corn. The subject was charged with hunting deer at night.

LOWNDES COUNTY

While patrolling Lowndes County for waterfowl and dove hunting activity on December 26th, RFC Keith McDonald located a dove shoot. One of the hunters was hunting without a hunting license and with an unplugged shotgun.

BERRIEN COUNTY

On December 27th, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey checked several fishermen and duck hunters while on routine patrol at Ray's Mill Pond. Violations were documented for hunting waterfowl w/o a Georgia waterfowl license, fishing w/o a license and operating a vessel w/o PFD's.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On December 26th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree & Ranger Daniel North located a dove hunt near Bethel Church Road. Ten hunters on the prepared sunflower and bean field were compliance checked. All the hunters were properly licensed and in compliance with all migratory bird hunting laws.

On December 27th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree was patrolling for dawn duck hunting activity when shots were heard coming from a beaver swamp near the Alapaha River south of Statenville. Sgt. Dupree encountered six adults and three juveniles hunting ducks in the swamp. The group of hunters had harvested approximately ten wood ducks. Violations of hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license and hunting with illegal ammo (lead shot) were documented on two of the duck hunters.

On December 27th, Sgt. Patrick Dupree encountered deer-dog hunters on Will Rewis Road. One hunter's vehicle did not have the deer-dog permit number displayed on his vehicle. He was issued a written warning for the violation.

On December 27th, Ranger Daniel North was conducting surveillance in the northern portion of the county for night deer hunting activity when he observed the driver of a truck shine a light into the edge of a nearby field. Ranger North followed the vehicle and observed the truck pull into two separate driveways as oncoming cars passed. Once the other cars had left the area, the truck backed out and continued down the road at a slow speed. The truck was then observed stopping sideways in the road and the occupant of the truck fired two shots with a small caliber rifle. A stop was initiated on the truck and a .22 caliber rifle and large flashlight was found inside the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle stated that he was looking for raccoons to shoot but had stopped to shoot at a nearby highway sign. The driver was arrested for driving on a suspended driver's license, driving with expired vehicle tag, hunting raccoons from a public road and hunting without a hunting license. An Echols Sheriff's deputy assisted with the traffic violations.

WARE COUNTY

On Christmas Day, at 8:30 AM, Cpl. Jason Shipes was contacted by Ware County 911 in reference to someone shooting from the roadway in the Bickley area. Officers from the Ware County Sheriff's department arrived prior to Cpl. Shipes and secured the subject and the scene. When Cpl. Shipes arrived he met with the complainant and interviewed the suspect. The suspect stated that he left his residence just after sunrise and started riding the area looking for deer to shoot. He stated that as he passed by a clear-cut he observed a group of turkeys about 60 yards off the roadway. He drove past them, turned around, and approached the clear-cut again. When the turkeys started to run towards the tree-line he pulled his .243 rifle from the passenger seat and shot from the vehicle, killing a mature gobbler. Cpl. Shipes issued several citations, including hunting big game from a public road, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting without permission (per the landowner's request.) The turkey was donated to a needy family for consumption.



Illegally-killed gobbler from north Ware County.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Dec. 27th, Cpl. Jay Morgan received a call about deer-hunting dogs running loose on the Richmond Hill WMA. Cpl. Morgan responded and found several dogs chasing deer. RFC Jack Thain arrived on the scene and caught one of the dogs. Cpl. Morgan found the dog's owner parked outside the WMA and RFC Thain cited him for failure to keep dogs on permitted property.

GLYNN COUNTY

On December 26th, Cpl. Chris Ridley and RFC David Brady were patrolling south Glynn County for subjects shooting waterfowl after hours. The rangers heard several shots in an area and found a pond with four subjects still shooting in the pond. The subjects were cited for following violations; hunting waterfowl after hours, possession of lead shot, hunting waterfowl with an unplugged gun, hunting waterfowl without a federal stamp, hunting waterfowl without a Georgia waterfowl stamp, hunting w/o a license and hunting without permission.