

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
July 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)

GORDON COUNTY

On July 26th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore and RFC Roger McConkey patrolled the Oostanaula River from Hwy 140 in Floyd County to Hwy 156 in Gordon County. During the patrol the rangers checked 22 vessels and all were found to be in compliance with all boating laws. The rangers also encountered 2 kayaks that were lost and were looking for the Hwy 156 boat ramp. The rangers told the group they had passed the boat ramp about 4 miles back. The rangers took a female passenger of a two-person kayak back to the Hwy 156 ramp to retrieve a vehicle while the two kayaks continued down river to the next take out point.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

RABUN COUNTY

On July 26th, Sgt. Steve Seitz, Cpl. Derek Dillard, and RFC Chad Chambers responded to a request for assistance with an airplane that crashed in a heavily wooded area in Rabun County. A single engine airplane with one person on board took off from a private air field off of Germany Mountain Road and crashed shortly after takeoff. It was foggy at the time of takeoff and the plane crashed into the side of a nearby mountain, there were no survivors of the crash. The officers assisted Rabun County EMA and Sheriff's Office with securing the crash site and transporting the victim out of the area. The next day, Sgt. Stan Elrod brought the DNR 4X4 Utility vehicle to the area where he transported investigators from the FAA, NTSB, and Sheriff's Office to and from the remote site so they could complete their investigation and remove the wreckage.

FORSYTH COUNTY

On June 20th, Ranger Shane Brown located three subjects fishing at McGinnis Ferry Boat Ramp on the Chattahoochee River without a license, trout stamp and in possession of illegal bait. Citations and warnings were issued for the violations.

GWINNETT COUNTY

On July 25th-27th, Sgt. Lee Brown, Cpl. Susan Morris, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins, RFC Kevin Godbee, and RFC Jeremy Reece attended the GON Outdoor Blast at the Gwinnett Center. Rangers answered questions, provided department issued handouts, and assisted with a hunter education class.

LAKE LANIER (DAWSON, FORSYTH, GWINNETT, HALL, & LUMPKIN COUNTIES)

On July 21st, Ranger Shane Brown and Cpl. Jason Robertson patrolled Lake Lanier. The rangers checked fisherman and pleasure boaters for compliance with license requirements and safety equipment. The rangers issued citations and warnings for operating vessel with improper lights, allowing an underage child to ride without a PFD, and operating a PWC with 100' of object in water. 1 arrest for BUI was made.

On July 26th, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins and Hall County Detective Christy Smith patrolled Lake Lanier. The rangers checked fisherman and pleasure boaters for compliance with license requirements and safety equipment. The rangers checked 18 vessels and 2 fishermen. The rangers issued citations and warnings for operating vessel without registration, operating vessel improper lights, operating vessel with insufficient PFD's, towing skier without mirror/observer, and towing tuber on PWC without an observer. 1 arrest for BUI was made. The Officer also responded to one boating incident

On July 26th, RFC Eric Isom along with Hall County Deputy Thomas Hyde patrolled Lake Lanier by vessel. During the patrol several boats were stopped for infractions and warnings and citations were issued. They included failure to obey regulatory markers, operating vessel with improper registration, operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs, and possession of alcoholic beverages by underage person. Twenty-four assorted beers and a fifth of rum were seized and turned over to Hall County Sherriff Department.

On Saturday, July 26th, Corporal Jason Roberson arrested three subjects for operating a vessel under the influence. Corporal Roberson along with Corporal Eddie Tompkins, and RFC Eric Isom arrested one subject with outstanding warrants for armed robbery, one subject for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and two subjects for possession of marijuana.

On Sunday, July 27th, Corporal Jason Roberson arrested one subject for operating a vessel under the influence and another for possession of marijuana.

MADISON COUNTY

On July 26th, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Shane Sartor worked the Broad River for any violations. Numerous boats were checked for proper safety equipment and other violations. As a result, nine citations were issued. The violations consisted of VGCSA marijuana less than one ounce. All of the said controlled substance was confiscated.

HART COUNTY

On July 26th, RFC Tim Vickery, Cpl. Craig Fulghum, and Sgt. Stan Elrod patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating/fishing violations. During their patrol these Rangers issued three warnings for boating violations throughout the day. In the evening one subject was arrested for littering and boating under the influence. The subject was taken to the Hart County Detention Center where he failed an Intox 5000 breath test with a blood alcohol concentration of .126.

HALL COUNTY

On July 25th, Corporal Jason Roberson taught a water safety program at the Hall County RYDC. He also arrested one subject for operating a vessel under the influence in Sunset Cove on Lake Lanier. Corporal Roberson responded to a possible boating incident at approximately 2330 hours near Duckett Mill Park. He arrested the driver for operating a vessel under the influence.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

LAKE OCONEE

During the weekend of July 25-27, Rangers issued a number of citations on the lake. Among these violations were towing skier during hours of darkness, operating PWC within 100' of object in water, failure to obey regulatory marker, towing skier without an observer, operating vessel with improper lights and operating vessel with insufficient PFD's. Rangers working during the weekend were Sgt. John Harwell, Cpl. Derrell Worth, Cpl. David Allen and RFC Ricky Boles.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On July 26th and 27th, Cpl. Brian Hobbins and RFC Robert Timmerman conducted concentrated vessel patrols of the Little River on Clarks Hill Lake. Several violations were detected during these patrols. Numerous citations and warnings were issued for these violations.

ELBERT COUNTY

On July 20th Cpl. Julian Wilkins and Cpl. Mark Patterson patrolled Lake Russell by vessel. Violations addressed during the patrol included towing a skier without an observer, allowing a person to ride the bow of a moving vessel, and fishing without a license.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

FAYETTE COUNTY

On Saturday, July 26th, Cpl. Travis Sweat was on patrol in Fayette County. As Cpl. Sweat headed into the City of Fayetteville on Hwy 85 North, he noticed some trash in the middle of the highway and then the vehicles ahead of him swerving to miss more boxes. Cpl. Sweat activated his emergency's lights and siren and passed the vehicles to find a large dump trailer loaded down with garbage blowing everywhere. Cpl. Sweat made a traffic stop and found that the driver had not secured any of the trash. Cpl. Sweat issued a citation and had the driver pull into a nearby parking lot to secure the load.

HENRY COUNTY

On Saturday, July 26th, Cpl. Travis Sweat patrolled the Tussahaw Reservoir, a 1700 acre impoundment in Henry County. The reservoir is known for good fishing and producing large bass. Cpl. Sweat checked eight fisherman and no violations were noted. While at the reservoir, Cpl. Sweat installed a Splash Sign at the check station due to the high volume of traffic that comes through the check point.

JONES COUNTY

On the afternoon of July 24th, Ranger Matt Johnson and Sgt. Bo Kelly answered a complaint about a horse on the dove fields on Cedar Creek WMA. A nearby property owner's horse had got out of the pasture and was grazing on the dove field. The horse owner was given a warning for livestock at large.

MERIWETHER COUNTY

On Saturday, July 26th, Cpl. Travis Sweat patrolled the Joe Kurz WMA. He checked the public ramp on White Oak Creek and checked several kayakers. While at the ramp, Cpl. Sweat installed a Splash sign in a campaign the help keep boaters and swimmers mindful of the important safety measures that one must take when enjoying these water activities.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

On July 26th, Ranger Steve Thomas was patrolling Spring Creek when he encountered a vessel operator that was exhibiting signs of impairment. The operator was arrested and charged for operating a vessel under the Influence of alcohol.

On July 21st, Sgt. Rick Sellars and Cpl. Randy Davis responded to a drowning that occurred in a private pond near Bainbridge. The victim was unable to swim to shore after his boat sank while fishing.

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

On July 25th, Cpl. Robbie Griner was patrolling for fishing activity on the Flint River below the Georgia Power Dam, when he observed a subject exiting from an SUV parked there. The young man was holding a marijuana cigarette in his hand. The Ranger interviewed the subject, seizing the marijuana as evidence, and turned the case over to Albany Dougherty Drug Unit.

LAKE WORTH

On July 26th, Cpl. Robbie Griner and Ranger Eric White observed a boat displaying Alabama registration numbers but no registration decal. The Rangers stopped the vessel to question the operator about his registration and found the operator impaired. The subject was arrested for BUI.

On July 27th, Sgt. David Ruddell was monitoring boating activity at the Cromartie boat landing and witnessed a subject back his boat trailer into another vehicle. The driver did

not stop nor inspect the vehicle he had backed into. Upon stopping the vehicle, the Ranger suspected possible intoxication of the 19 year old driver and summoned Albany Police to work the accident and arrest of the underage, intoxicated driver.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On July 25th, RFC Tim Hutto and intern Johnathan Day patrolled Rocky Hammock WMA and Flat Tub WMA. During the patrol the patrol RFC Hutto observed three subjects consuming alcohol at the Rocky Hammock WMA boat ramp. All three subjects were issued a citation for illegal consumption of alcohol on a WMA.

COFFEE/JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On July 26th, RFC Tim Hutto and RFC Keith McDonald worked a night patrol on the Ocmulgee River from Red Bluff landing to Rocky Hammock landing. Numerous boats were checked resulting in citations and warnings for non-resident fishing without a license, fishing without a license, operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's, operating a vessel without a fire extinguisher, operating a vessel without registration, taking fish by illegal methods, illegal consumption of alcohol on a WMA, and misdemeanor possession of marijuana. One cast net was confiscated as well as a small bag of marijuana and nine marijuana cigarettes.

DODGE COUNTY

On July 21st, RFC Allen Mills received a complaint in reference to an individual that has a deer control permit and is shooting antlered deer from a public road. RFC Mills found the field location and conducted a foot patrol. On the edge of the field were three dead deer, two does and one seven point buck. After collecting evidence, RFC Mills looked up the crop owner of the deer control permit and made contact with him to set up a date and time to meet. On July 26th, RFC Mills met with the crop owner and conducted an interview. After discussing all the pertinent facts with the suspect, RFC Mills documented one charge of violation of a deer kill permit (taking of an antlered deer).



EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On July the 20th CPL Eddie Akins, SGT Don Dasher and Ranger Jordan Crawford patrolled the Savannah River in Effingham County. Several vessels were checked with three violations documented for fishing without a license, operating a vessel without a valid registration, and operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On July 20th, Cpl. Jay Morgan received a call from the Ft. McAllister State Park staff about two adult males who were riding and drinking in a golf cart at the campground. One of the males was recognized as someone who did not have a campground pass. Cpl. Morgan arrived on the scene to find the male driver driving down the state road with an open container of beer in his hand. The driver was cited for possession of an open container of alcohol in a vehicle and for violation of park rules (entering a camping area without a camping pass). Cpl. Morgan was assisted by Ranger Jason Miller and Park Superintendent Jason Carter.

On July 20th, Ranger Jason Miller and Sgt. Phillip Scott patrolled the local boat ramps. At Morgan's Bridge ramp on the Ogeechee River, one person was cited for illegal possession of an alcoholic beverage at a DNR-owned boat ramp.

CHATHAM COUNTY

On July 26th, Cpl. Bill Bryson and RFC Kiel Toney while on boat patrol in the Ossabaw Sound area responded to a call about a boating incident at Back River at Tybee Island. They investigated the incident and found that a male passenger jumped out of the back of a boat as it was pulling up to a sandbar. The victim was struck on his left arm and leg by the propeller resulting in a 4 – 5 inch gash in both extremities. Sgt. Phillip Scott and Cpl. Jay Morgan responded to the hospital to interview the victim who was released after having numerous stitches in both extremities.

LIBERTY COUNTY

On July 26th, Cpl. Jay Morgan and Sgt. Phillip Scott were on boat patrol in the Medway River when they were flagged down by a passing boating asking for directions. While talking to the operator, it was determined that the subject was under the influence. He was transported to the DNR office at Demeries Creek where he failed to give a breath sample. He was charged with operating a vessel under the influence and operating a vessel with an expired registration, and transported to Liberty County Jail.

GLYNN COUNTY

On July 22nd, CPL Craig Smith, CPL Chris Ridley and RGR Colte Shaske assisted Glynn County Police Department and Georgia State Patrol Aviation with marijuana eradication. Two separate locations were targeted. A total of 66 marijuana plants were seized and 2 subjects were arrested.



On July 25th, RFC John Evans and Wildlife Technician Ed Van Otteren investigated a complaint of a woman in Brunswick illegally holding an opossum. They found the opossum in a cage in her living room. It was unable to walk due to injuries it suffered when its mother was killed by a vehicle months before. Van Otteren seized the opossum and RFC Evans cited her for Possession of Wildlife without a Rehabilitator Permit.

On July 25, RFC David Brady observed a spotlight being shined from a vehicle while working night deer hunting. The vehicle was stopped, but the occupants did not have a gun. Verbal guidance was given to the adults.

CAMDEN COUNTY

On July 26th, CPL Chris Ridley and RGR Colte Shaske responded to a maritime search and rescue on Crooked River in reference to 5 kayakers that were taken out with the tide and stranded on an island unable to return back to the park. All 5 individuals were badly sunburnt and dehydrated but otherwise unharmed. They were returned to the boat ramp at Crooked River State Park.

On Saturday, July 26th, RFC John Evans and SGT Chris Hodge conducted a JEA Patrol around the jetties at the St Mary's River entrance for the last day of the Red Snapper season. They checked 11 boats resulting in 4 Fishing Without a License, 1 Possession of Illegal Size Fish, 1 Taking of Protected Species, and 1 Violation of GA Controlled Substance Act citations. They also seized four undersized Black Sea Bass.

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On Friday, July 25th, RFC John Evans was working a night deer hunting complaint when he observed a truck pull up to the field he was watching and begin shining. They shined over half the distance of the field. RFC Evans stopped the truck which had a male driver and female passenger. They had 2 handheld flashlights and a homemade 12 volt spotlight in addition to their scoped .22 caliber rifle. Both were cited for hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting from a public road.

WAYNE COUNTY

On July 27th, Cpl. Randy Aspinwall was working a fish shocking complaint on the Altamaha River. While checking Paradise Park he observed two fishermen come into the landing and conducted a boating safety and compliance check. During the check Cpl. Aspinwall found catfish and bass in the cooler. Closer inspection of the fish revealed sign of electric shock. The fishermen admitted to shocking the fish earlier that day. Cpl. Aspinwall charged both subjects with shocking fish and confiscated both the fish and the shocking device.

