

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
July 27-August 2, 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)

On July 27th, Cpl. Byron Young responded to a boat incident call at 8:00 A.M. on Allatoona Lake. A rental Moomba Ski boat from Glade Marina hit the shore near the mouth of Clear Creek the night before. There were no injuries, but the vessel sustained major damage to the hull and engine. Operator inattention was the apparent cause of the incident.



20 foot Moomba grounded on Allatoona Lake

On July 27th, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Brooks Varnell responded to the area of Red Top Mt. State Park to a call of a capsized vessel with people in the water. A 15 foot jon boat was overtaken by a large wake and capsized sending two adults and one juvenile overboard. Luckily other boaters in the area pulled the three from the water. Cpl. Young and RFC Varnell assisted with removing the party involved and the boat from the lake.

On July 27th, Sgt. Mike Barr, Cpl. Byron Young, RFC Brooks Varnell and RFC Zack Hardy responded to drowning call in the area of Allatoona Landing Campground. Officers utilized Side Scan Sonars and with the assistance of the Bartow County Fire / Rescue were able to recover the 25 year old male victim within 35 minutes. The victim was swimming off a point at the campground when he became stressed and went under water.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On July 27th, RFC Zack Hardy received a call of a PWC incident on Allatoona Lake in the area of Little River. A 19 year old male suffered a head injury and was transported to Kennestone Hospital in Cobb County. Cpl. Byron Young responded to Kennestone Hospital and met with the victim and family. The 19 year old hit a large wake on the PWC and fell into the front of the PWC face first. The 19 year old suffered a cut to his forehead and broke out several teeth.

COBB COUNTY

On July 22th, just after dark RFC Zack Hardy and RFC Mark Puig responded to a missing persons call on the Chattahoochee River. The 911 call stated that four people were on tubes in the river and had not made it back to the boat launch at Paces Mill. With the assistance from Cobb County PD, the officers searched the areas of Sandy Point and Paces Mill. The officers located the missing party in the area of Paces Mill. The party did not account for the time it would take to float the river.

HARALSON COUNTY

August 2nd, Sgt. Ricky Dempsey and RFC Daniel Gray patrolled the Little Tallapoosa River and the Tallapoosa River. One subject was cited for operating vessel w/o life jackets and several verbal warnings were given.

On August 2nd, Sgt. Ricky Dempsey and RFC Daniel Gray were dispatched to a night deer hunting complaint in Haralson County. With the help of GSP TFC Rampey and several Haralson County Deputies three subjects, the vehicle used in the incident and the firearm used to shoot the deer were located. A total of 12 citations were issued to the subjects and the illegally taken deer was donated.

PAULDING COUNTY

August 2nd, Sgt. Ricky Dempsey and RFC Daniel Gray conducted a vessel inspection in Paulding County. Rangers were able to assist 8 individuals with getting their vessel registered.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

MADISON COUNTY

On July 27th, RFC Shane Sartor and RFC Brandon Pierce patrolled the Broad River for violations. A total of eight citations were written throughout their patrol. A total of four cases were written for litter violations, and a total of four cases for Violation of Georgia Controlled Substance Act.

HART COUNTY

On August 2nd, Cpl. Craig Fulghum and Northern Judicial Circuit investigator Corey Bullard patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating safety violations. During their patrols three subjects were issued citations for allowing underage children to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD. One of the violations included one vessel that had six underage children on board a vessel without wearing a PFD. One warning was given for a 100 foot violation during their patrol.

FULTON COUNTY

On August 1st – 3rd, Cpl. Eric Sanders and RFC Mark Stephens assisted Rangers in Region 1 with answering questions and passing out regulations at the Buckarama.

GWINNETT COUNTY

On August 2nd, Cpl. Eric Sanders stopped a vehicle that was having trouble maintaining its lane a travel. The vehicle would run off the roadway and also travel in the oncoming lane of travel. Cpl. Sanders spoke with the driver and determined the driver had been drinking. A Gwinnett Police Department Officer arrived on scene and continued the investigation. The officer determined that the driver was under the influence of alcohol and placed him under arrest for DUI.

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

On July 27th, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins and RFC Mark Stephens patrolled Lake Lanier. The rangers checked fisherman and pleasure boaters for compliance with license requirements and safety equipment. The rangers checked 10 vessels and 3 fishermen. The rangers issued citations and warnings for operating vessel without registration, towing skier without mirror/observer, and towing tuber on PWC without an observer. The officers also made 1 arrest for BUI and Reckless Operation of a vessel.

On July 30th, RFC Barry Britt and GSP dispatcher Cary Griffin patrolled Lake Lanier. On while patrol they charged one boat operator with operating a vessel during hours of darkness without lights. They also helped Forsyth County Sheriff's Office secure a possible crime scene where a deceased adult male was found floating in the water near a private dock in Young Deer Creek. The death was not boating related.

On August 1st, Sgt. Lee Brown, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins and RFC Barry Britt patrolled Lake Lanier. The rangers checked fisherman and pleasure boaters for compliance with license requirements and safety equipment. The rangers checked 11 vessels and 12 fishermen. The rangers issued citations and warnings for operating vessel without registration, operating vessel with insufficient PFD's, operating vessel with improper lights, and fishing without license.

On August 2nd, Cpl. Eddie Tompkins and Cpl. Eric Sanders patrolled Lake Lanier. The rangers checked fisherman and pleasure boaters for compliance with license requirements and safety equipment. The rangers checked 17 vessels and 2 fishermen. The rangers issued citations and warnings for operating vessel without registration, violation 100' law on PWC, operating vessel with insufficient PFD's, and failure to obey regulatory marker. The officers made 1 arrest for BUI.

On August 2nd, RFC Barry Britt and Sgt. Lee Brown patrolled Lake Lanier. While on patrol they checked several boats and fishing licenses and issued several written warnings for minor boating violations.

HALL COUNTY

On July 27th, RFC Eric Isom along with Hall County Deputy Thomas Hyde patrolled Lake Lanier by vessel. During the patrol several boat stopped were made, citations and warnings were issued for the following infractions. They included failure to obey regulatory markers, operating vessel with improper registration, and operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs.

The officers also witnessed a boating incident involving two PWCs. The operator of one of the PWCs was thrown off from the impact. He was not wearing the engine cut off switch, causing the PWC to continue move in out of control circles. RFC Isom used his patrol vessel to slow the PWC down enough so as Deputy Hyde could pull the cut-off switch with a long pole. From this incident, the operators received citations for operating a PWC above idle speed within 100' of an object in the water and failure to attach engine cut-off switch.

Also during their patrol, the officers located a PWC in operation with two adults. The passenger had a newborn infant strapped to her chest. The newborn infant was not wearing a personal floatation device (PFD). The operator received a citation for allowing a child to ride in moving vessel without wearing a PFD. The officers escorted the PWC to shore and RFC Isom gave the passenger of the PWC an infant PFD.

On July 31st, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk and RFC Kevin Dyer patrolled Lake Lanier. During the patrol they issued citations and warnings for fishing without a license and failure to obey regulatory marker.

On August 2nd, Sgt. Mike Burgamy and Cpl. Adam Loudermilk patrolled Lake Lanier. During the patrol they issued citations and warnings for several violations. The violations consisted of allowing children to ride in a vessel without wearing a pfd, operating a vessel without pfd's, and fishing without a license.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

ELBERT COUNTY

On July 30th Cpl. Julian Wilkins patrolled Lake Russell by vehicle. During this patrol Cpl. Wilkins documented violations of fishing without a license and operating a vessel without personal flotation devices.

CLARKE COUNTY

On July 31st while checking for fishing license on the Oconee River, RFC Tim Butler determined a fisherman had an outstanding arrest warrant. The subject was taken into custody and turned over to the Athens Clarke County Police Department.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

On Saturday, August 2, Corporal Crawley and K9 Storm patrolled for fishing and boating activity in the Sandersville and Louisville area. No citations were written.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On August 3rd, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin and RFC Robert Timmerman conducted a concentrated vessel patrol of Little River on Clarks Hill Lake. Several boating violations were detected. Citations and warnings were issued for these violations.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the afternoon of July 27th, RFC Jeremy Reese and Cpl. Lynn Stanford patrolled Lake Sinclair. Numerous boats were stopped and several warnings were issued. The officers worked a boating incident when a bass boat ran aground. There were no injuries but there was property damage to the boat and sea wall. The incident is still under investigation.

On the evening of July 30th, Ranger Matt Johnson and Cpl. Lynn Stanford were called to the Oconee River Greenway in reference to a drowning. Shortly before dark, the body of the 12 year old victim was recovered by divers. The incident is still under investigation.

Later that evening, Cpl. Stanford and Ranger Johnson received a call about 2 stranded tubers on the river approximately 2 miles south of the Hwy. 22 Bridge. The officers were able to locate the tubers with their river boat and return them to safety.

COWETA COUNTY

On Saturday, August 2nd, RFC Kevin Godbee and Sgt. Brent Railey patrolled Coweta County, checking several popular public fishing holes as well as several active complaints. The complaints ranged from fishing without permission to illegal dumping. They checked three fishing licenses and spoke with several people out scouting for deer season, putting out trail cameras, etc. No violations were found.

JONES COUNTY

On the afternoon of July 27th, Cpl. Lynn Stanford patrolled Cedar Creek WMA's Miller Lake Recreational area. Several fishermen were contacted and one subject was issued a warning for fishing without a license.

MERIWETHER COUNTY

On Sunday, July 27th, Sgt. Jim Bradfield, Cpl. Jeremey Bolen, Cpl. Travis Sweat, RFC Kevin Godbee, and RFC Russell Epps conducted an ATV patrol at Sprewell Bluff WMA. The Rangers were looking for illegal ATV activity that has been destroying the rare fragile environment that can be found at this WMA. In an ongoing effort to stop this activity, several ATV patrols have been conducted on the WMA throughout the summer. Every access point and all points along the Flint River were covered. The Rangers located seven kayakers that were enjoying the cool refreshing waters of the Flint River and no violations were noted.



On Friday, August 1st, Sgt. Brent Railey patrolled Joe Kurz WMA. No violations were found.

On Friday, August 1st, FDR Park Manager Desmond Timmons was contacted about a missing person that was thought to be suicidal and may have been on the park. After he located the missing person's car, Ranger Timmons contacted Cpl. Mitch Oliver, Cpl. Keith Waddell, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and K9 Ruger as well as Sgt. Brent Railey and Meriwether County EMS/Sheriff's Office. At around midnight, Corporals Waddell, Bolen and Oliver with K9 Ruger and a contingent of local law enforcement officers located the body of the missing person. He had in fact committed suicide on the park. The Meriwether County Coroner was called to the scene and the body was turned over to him and the Meriwether County Sheriff's Investigator for further investigation.

PUTNAM COUNTY

While patrolling Cedar Creek WMA on the evening of July 27th, Cpl. Lynn Stanford located numerous bags of household garbage dumped in a wood line near a road. After investigating the dumpsite, Cpl. Stanford was able to gather information on several suspects. The case is still under investigation.

UPSON COUNTY

On Saturday, August 2nd, Cpl. Keith Waddell, Cpl. Mitch Oliver, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and K9 Ruger, and Sgt. Brent Railey attended the Upson County NWTF JAKES day. Cpl. Waddell and Sgt. Railey ran the fishing simulator and Cpl. Bolen and Oliver supervised the archery range. Cpl. Bolen and K9 Ruger also did a K9 demonstration.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

STEWART COUNTY

On July 27th, at 1:15am Ranger Quinn Fogle responded to an ATV accident with injuries about seven miles from the nearest paved road. Upon arrival Ranger Fogle located two victims. A male subject suffered head and face trauma, particularly to the subjects left eye. The male also appeared to have a broken leg and shoulder. The female involved in the accident suffered minor head trauma and a possible broken leg. EMS arrived on scene and Ranger Fogle assisted them in treating the victims and gathered information about both individuals. The accident was turned over to GSP.

That afternoon Ranger Fogle responded to another motor vehicle accident with entrapment. Upon arrival Ranger Fogle assisted Stewart EMS with patient stabilization and extraction from the vehicle.

DOUGHERTY COUNTY

On August 2nd, Cpl.'s Greg Wade and Robbie Griner were monitoring boating activity when they observed a vessel violating a "No Wake – Idle Only" zone. Cpl. Wade made contact with the operator and after a thorough investigation determined that the subject was impaired. The operator was charged with operating a vessel under the influence (BUI), failure to obey regulatory marker and operating vessel without a throwable device.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

TELFAIR COUNTY

On July 31st Cpl. Stiles responded to a complaint in Telfair County of illegal burning. A subject was located burning the remains of a house. Cpl. Stiles charged the subject with unlawful burning of egregious litter, 1st offense (Greater than 500 lbs. / 100 cu. ft.). A local fire department was contacted and extinguished the fire.

LAURENS COUNTY

On August 1st and 2nd, Cpl. Stiles conducted night patrols of a county maintained boat landing on the Oconee River. The Laurens Co. Sheriff's office notified Cpl. Stiles of complaints of damage to landing parking area and littering at the site. Cpl. Stiles caught several juveniles "spinning out" with their vehicles at the location and gave the subjects verbal guidance. Also one vessel operator was cited for operating a vessel without CGA PFD's (life jackets).

ECHOLS COUNTY

On August 2nd, at approximately 10:00 PM, Sgt. Patrick Dupree stopped along US Hwy. 129 with Georgia State Patrol Trooper Jeremy Kinsey. Kinsey had just completed a traffic stop and his blue lights were still activated. While the officers were speaking, a vehicle approached from a distance and then abruptly the headlights were turned off. Suspecting suspicious activity, the officers proceeded in the direction of the vehicle, which was now approaching the officers with the headlights turned back on. As Sgt. Dupree approached the vehicle and activated his blue lights, the vehicle did not stop. Trooper Kinsey activated his blue lights and blocked the roadway as he met the vehicle head-on. The operator of the vehicle was intoxicated and was arrested and charged with driving under the influence.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On August 1st, Ranger Daniel North assisted Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge staff at the Suwannee Canal Recreational area as they provided information on the growing sport of archery. Approximately twelve students, both young and old, learned the basics of archery equipment, safety and some shooting skills. Students then had the chance to use provided archery equipment and put some of these newly-learned skills to practice by target practicing.

BACON COUNTY

On July 30th, RFC Mark Pool and Ranger Sam Williams responded to a call about a drowning in an irrigation pond. Before RFC Mark Pool and Ranger Sam Williams arrived on scene, Bacon County deputies had recovered the drowning victim and he was transported by EMS to the Bacon County Hospital. The victim was pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On August 2nd, RFC Tim Hutto and intern Johnathan Day patrolled the Ocmulgee River from Ben-Hill County to Rocky Hammock WMA in Jeff Davis County for boating and fishing activity. At around 8:00 p.m. RFC Hutto and Johnathan approached the boat landing on Rocky Hammock WMA and noticed several subjects consuming alcoholic beverages. One subject was standing on the boat ramp screaming to RFC Hutto saying "hey game warden" holding a cup and a bottle of Vodka. RFC Hutto surveyed the scene and interviewed numerous subjects about their alcohol consumption and litter. Two subjects were charged with underage possession of alcohol, one subject was charged with littering, and four subjects were charged with illegal consumption of alcohol on a WMA.

LANIER COUNTY

On July 30th, and August 3rd, RFC Tim Hutto checked areas along the Alapaha River in Lakeland on highway 37 and Burnt Church Road for fishing and boating activity. The patrols resulted in one warning and five citations for fishing without a license and non-resident fishing without a license.

LOWNDES COUNTY

On August 3rd, RFC Tim Hutto and intern Johnathan Day patrolled areas of the Withlacoochee River on highway 31 and highway 41 for boating and fishing activity. The patrol resulted in six citations for fishing without a license and three arrests for misdemeanor possession of marijuana. One subject was also arrested when RFC Hutto discovered he had four active warrants out of Georgia and Florida. While checking fishing activity at the river on highway 41 a subject fled on foot from RFC Hutto leaving his fishing poles, fish, and fishing tackle behind. Warrants are pending on the subject for fishing without a license and misdemeanor obstruction of an officer.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

CHATHAM COUNTY

July 28, Corporal Chris Moore and Sergeant Phillip Scott investigated the unlawful take of a leatherback sea turtle shell from Wassaw Island National Wildlife Refuge. The shell was eventually located at local University where it had been collected under a permit for scientific study.

August 1, Corporal Chris Moore charged two Savannah residents with the unlawful killing of an alligator out of season. The investigation began in Region VI when Cpl. Eddie Akins received information about the poaching incident. Information from several sources, internet social media, and interviews of suspects was compiled. A collective effort between the two regions and DNR Rangers from Bulloch, Jenkins, Bryan, Wayne, and Chatham resulted in solving this case.



August 2, Corporal Chris Moore and Sergeant Cindy Miller investigated the theft of a vessel. A stolen vessel was recovered and is still under investigation.

MCINTOSH COUNTY

On July 27th Ranger Gibbs and Ranger Hargrove patrolled the lower end of the Altamaha River. The rangers checked 6 boats and 2 jet skis. Violations were addressed for operating a vessel without CGA PFD's, breaking the 100' law, and littering.

GLYNN COUNTY

On July 27th, RFC John Evans patrolled the Clay Hole Swamp WMA mid-afternoon and again later in the evening. He made contact with over 30 people, only 3 of which met the GORP or WMA license requirement for the area. RFC Evans issued 11 people a total of 21 citations for Littering, Entering a Designated Fee Area without a Permit, and Illegal Consumption of Alcohol on a WMA.