

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**June 1-7, 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)**

## **Region III- Thomson (East Central)**

### **CLARKE COUNTY**

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> RFC Tim Butler checked fishing and boating activity on several municipal lakes. Numerous violations were detected for fishing without a license and underage possession of alcohol. One subject was taken into custody on a felony warrant from another county.

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On June 7<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Brian Carter and Cpl. Mark Patterson patrolled Lake Russell by vessel. During this patrol the Rangers cited a subject for failure to obey a regulatory marker.

### **WARREN COUNTY**

On June 7, Corporal Micheal Crawley and RFC Brian Adams assisted the national Wild Turkey Federation with a Jakes Day event in Mayfield Georgia. There were kids of all ages in attendance. The event consisted of archery shooting, 3D archery shooting, long shot competition, bb shooting booth, and a women's archery class. There were prizes given to kids for high scores during the competitions.

### **LINCOLN COUNTY**

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Ryan Swain responded to a boating incident off of Newford Creek on Clarks Hill Lake. Upon arrival at the scene, it was discovered that a twelve year old male subject had been involved in a tubing accident. The subject was struck by another tuber in the lower extremities and suffered broken bones. The subject was treated at Doctors Hospital in Augusta for his injuries.

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, Cpl. Ryan Swain, RFC Brian Adams, and RFC Robert Timmerman assisted South Carolina DNR with a boating fatality that occurred just across the state line on Clarks Hill Lake. A female operator of a PWC struck a fixed object and was ejected. The female then struck a tree on the shoreline and was propelled back into the water. She was pronounced dead at the scene by the McCormick County Coroner.

## **Region IV- Macon (West Central)**

## **BUTTS COUNTY**

At approximately 9:25pm on June 7<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Susan Morris and Cpl. Tony Wynne were on boat patrol on Lake Jackson. Cpl. Morris received a call in reference to a possible drowning near Barnett's Bridge. Morris and Wynne proceeded by boat and notified RFC Fred Hays to proceed by land to the address where the drowning took place until they could assess what was needed to handle the incident. Upon arrival by boat, Morris and Wynne saw that Butts County EMS and Sheriff's Office personnel were on scene. Since a dive team was enroute, Morris and Hays interviewed witnesses, while Wynne monitored the activity in the vicinity of the drowning and coordinated with the other agencies on scene for information and equipment. The victim was found by the divers approximately two and a half hours after he drowned.

At approximately 12:40 am on June 8<sup>th</sup>, as Cpl. Susan Morris and Cpl. Tony Wynne were finishing up the drowning incident, Morris received a call from the Butts County Sheriff's Office. A Butts County Deputy at Indian Springs State Park was requesting assistance from DNR Rangers. A person had injured himself in the shower area and was reported to be bleeding profusely. The subject spread his blood on the walls of the men's shower room. The person's blood was reported to be infected with a communicable disease. Morris and Wynne left the morgue and proceeded to Indian Springs State Park. Upon arrival, they spoke with witnesses and found that the injured subject, who had been acting erratically, had been arrested by Butts County Deputies and transported by Butts County EMS to the hospital. The park manager was already on scene and made arrangements to either seal off or clean the contaminated area of the men's shower room.

## **JASPER COUNTY**

On Saturday evening, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 9:00pm, Cpl. Susan Morris and Cpl. Tony Wynne were on boat patrol on Lake Jackson when they spotted a personal watercraft (PWC) being operated after legal hours (sunset). After Morris and Wynne stopped the PWC, they found it was being operated by a young girl, fourteen years of age. On board were two more young females about the same age as the operator. Wynne discovered that none of the juveniles had been through a Boater Education Course. Since it was getting dark and none of the girls could legally operate the PWC, Wynne and Morris had them get into their patrol boat and they towed the PWC back to the house where the girl's parents were located. As Wynne was getting the girls off of the boat and securing the PWC and preparing to issue a citation to the owner of the PWC for allowing unlawful operation, Morris was on the phone in reference to another emergency across the lake. Wynne hurriedly explained the violations of the law to the parents and then he and Morris quickly left to handle a possible drowning in another part of the lake.

## **MERIWETHER COUNTY**

On Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, RFC Kevin Godbee, Deputy Ranger Joe Sebo and Sgt. Brent Railey received a call about a deer that had been shot at night in a field in Meriwether County at around 0400 hours the same day. They met the complainant that afternoon and he showed them the dead deer (a small antlered buck) that was about 50 yards inside a field. Sgt. Railey was able to recover a .22 caliber bullet from inside the deer. They were also able to recover numerous spent .22lr shell casings from the road. During their investigation, they determined that the individuals were actually stopped nearby and arrested on other charges by Meriwether County Sheriffs Deputies, shortly after the deer was shot. When the same shift of deputies returned back to work, the rangers went to the jail and interviewed the suspects who were in fact still in the Meriwether County Jail. Both suspects admitted to being involved in shooting at the deer from the truck in the roadway. Both suspects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public roadway, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting without permission in addition to charges brought by Meriwether County for underage possession of alcohol, reckless conduct and misdemeanor obstruction.

#### **WILKINSON COUNTY**

On the evening of June 5<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Lynn Stanford patrolled Balls Ferry WMA and the Oconee River boat ramp. Numerous fishermen were checked and warnings were issued for minor boating infractions.

#### **LAKE SINCLAIR/HANCOCK COUNTY**

On the afternoon of June 7<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Matt Johnson, RFC Jeremy Reese and Sgt. Bo Kelly responded to the area of Goat Island on Lake Sinclair in reference to a PWC accident. Once on scene, the officers determined that no injuries were involved and only moderate damage was received to the PWC. The operator was arrested for boating under the influence and transported to the Hancock County Jail.

### **Region V- Albany (Southwest)**

#### **CLAY COUNTY**

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, while patrolling Lake Walter F. George, Cpl. Scott Carroll and Ranger Quinn Fogle stopped a vessel for improper registration. Ranger Fogle found the operator of the vessel was under the influence of alcohol, and arrested him for boating under the influence.

#### **CRISP COUNTY**

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, RFC Randy James and Cpl. Clint Martin were conducting a vessel patrol on Lake Blackshear when they encountered and arrested a boat operator for boating under the influence, operating a vessel without lifejackets and operating vessel with improper lights.

#### **EARLY COUNTY**

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Steve Thomas and RFC Jon Penuel were conducting a vessel patrol when they encountered and arrested an individual for operating under the influence on the Chattahoochee River.

## **Region VI- Metter (Southeast)**

### **WILCOX COUNTY**

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Cpl John A Stokes patrolled boat landings. One person was found fishing without a license and five for operating a vessel without PFD's at Statham Shoals landing.

### **DODGE COUNTY**

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Dan Stiles and RFC Allen Mills assisted with the Dodge county PFA's kids fishing event. The successful event allowed many kids to harvest channel catfish as well as receive various hunting and fishing items to take home. The officer's also set up the Laser Shot Shooting Simulator and fifty seven individuals participated in the shooting activity.





### **CLINCH COUNTY**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, Ranger Sam Williams and Ranger Daniel North conducted vessel patrols of the Suwannee River in Fargo Georgia. Several vessels were encountered throughout the day. Violations were documented on one individual for operating without personal floatation devices (PFDs) aboard, improper registration and fishing without licenses. The passenger of this vessel was also cited for fishing without a license. The two fishermen were escorted safely back to the landing due to not having any PFDs.

### **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Sam Williams checked the St. George Boat Landing on the St. Mary's River for fishing and boating activity. While there, several boats and bank fishermen were checked. Two of the boats checked did not possess any PFD's and two non-residents fishing did not possess any fishing license. Citations were issued for the violations.

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree and Ranger Sam Williams conducted a boating safety patrol of the St. Mary's River between Buchanan Landing and Scotts Landing. During the patrol, five boats were checked. One did not possess enough life jackets for all occupants onboard. Three other boaters checked were paddling kayaks up river. The group of kayakers consisted of one adult and two juveniles. None of the occupants were in possession of life jackets. The officers followed the kayakers back to Scotts Landing to ensure their safe return so they could obtain the life jackets needed. Citations were issued for the violations.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree patrolled the Suwannee River Sill for boating and fishing activity. Four vessels and ten fishermen were checked. One individual was encountered fishing without a license and was issued a written warning.

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Sam Williams and RFC Mark Pool attended the Junior Sheriff's Academy in Charlton County. The officers conducted hunter development programs with the use of the laser shot shooting simulator, BB-gun competition, and discussed boating safety with 50 kids.

#### **WARE COUNTY**

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jason Shipes, Ranger Daniel North and RFC Mark Pool patrolled the Suwannee River Sill inside the Okefenokee Swamp. Officers were specifically checking the required safety equipment needed to operate a vessel, creel limits and license requirements. During their patrol citations for operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's and possession of over the daily limit of pan-fish were documented.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Patrick Dupree patrolled the Suwannee River Sill for boating and fishing activity. Ten vessels and twenty-two fishermen were checked. Two violations were documented: operating a vessel with insufficient PFDs and possession over the daily creel limit of pan-fish.

On May 30<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jason Shipes and RFC Mark Pool patrolled the Satilla River in the area of Hwy 158 Bridge. Officers observed five individuals in a canoe approaching the landing. Officers observed a very small child in the vessel not wearing a personal floatation device. Upon further inspection officers found only one CGA PFD onboard. Citations were issued for allowing an underage person to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD and operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Jason Shipes and RFC Mark Pool assisted the USFW along the Suwannee River Sill in the Okefenokee Swamp checking boating and fishing activity. During this concentrated patrol officers checked safety equipment, creel limits and license requirements. Officers checked 26 vessels and 45 fishing licenses. One fisherman was issued a citation for operating a vessel without any coast guard approved personal floatation devices.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Cpl. Jason Shipes and RFC Mark Pool patrolled the Satilla River at Hwy. 158, Jamestown Landing and Hwy. 84. Officers documented violations for fishing without a license and operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's. In addition, Cpl. Shipes and RFC Pool checked for boating & fishing activity at Laura S. Walker State Park Dixon WMA. Upon checking these areas, officers located one subject in possession of illegal sized fish at Laura Walker State Park and two individuals consuming alcohol on Dixon WMA. Citations were documented for each of these violations.

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Jason Shipes, Ranger Daniel North, & Ranger Sam Williams conducted boating safety checks and checked for fishing licenses and creel limits at Laura Walker State Park, Hwy. 158 boat landing, Jamestown boat landing, and Hwy. 84 boat landing. Thirteen violations were documented including operating vessel without PFDs, operating vessel without navigation lights during hours of darkness, fishing without a license, allowing person to ride on bow/gunwale, and allowing underage child to ride in moving vessel without wearing PFD. One person getting his equipment ready to fish was found to be in possession of a cast net. Since he had not used the net, verbal guidance was given to the person in the use of legal fishing devices.

#### **PIERCE COUNTY**

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Ranger Sam Williams conducted boating safety checks at Hwy. 121 boat landing and FFA Camp boat landing. Numerous vessels were checked during the day. Violations documented were operating vessel without registration, operating vessel without PFDs, and operating vessel with insufficient PFDs.

#### **SCREVEN COUNTY**

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely and Cpl. Mike Wilcox conducted a vessel patrol of the Ogeechee River in Screven County. Officers checked a total of 27 boats and 60 fishermen. 6 citations were issued for operating a vessel without personal floatation devices and no registration.

#### **COOK COUNTY**

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey checked several boaters and fishermen on the Little River at the Hwy 37 bridge area. Violations documented were: operating a vessel with insufficient pfd's and fishing without a license.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey checked numerous vessels and fishermen while on a routine vessel patrol on the Little River. Violations documented were: operating a vessel with insufficient pfd's, allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel w/o wearing a pfd and fishing w/o a license.

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey received a complaint that several subjects were drinking beer and smoking marijuana at one of the islands at Reed Bingham State Park. Cpl. Daughtrey pulled up to one of the islands in a patrol boat as several subjects were attempting to leave the island by boat. Cpl. Daughtrey noticed each person in the boat had a cup of beer in hand. Once on shore, Cpl. Daughtrey gained consent to search the subject's belongings. Cpl. Daughtrey found a marijuana cigarette in one of the subject's



duffle bag. One subject admitted that the bag and the marijuana was his. Three subjects were cited for: consuming alcohol on a state park. Two of the subjects were found to be “wanted”. One of the subjects that was “wanted” was arrested and charged with: consumption of alcohol on a state park and possession of marijuana. The subject was transported to the Colquitt County Jail. There was no extradition on the other subject that was “wanted”.



### **BERRIEN COUNTY**

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, RFC Tim Hutto and intern Johnathan Day patrolled the Alapaha River for boating and fishing activity. The patrol resulted in four citations for fishing without licenses and one warning for operating a vessel with insufficient life jackets.

## **Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)**

### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, RFC John Evans was patrolling the area of St. Simons Sound when he noticed a vessel change its course at least three times before eventually coming straight towards his patrol boat. RFC Evans stopped the vessel and while checking safety equipment and fish, noticed the operator seemed to be under the influence of alcohol. RFC Evans conducted a BUI Screening and confirmed his suspicions. The operator was arrested and cited for operating a vessel under the influence and child endangerment (BUI).

**LIBERTY COUNTY**

On June fourth Rangers conducted a salt water patrol checking for illegal shrimping. During the patrol one boat operator was cited for tying his vessel to a regulatory marker. Also on this patrol, two people were cited for not having commercial fishing licenses.

**BRYAN COUNTY**

On June seventh Rangers in Bryan County assisted DNR Fisheries with the Kids Fishing Event at the Richmond Hill Fish Hatchery.