

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
June 28 – July 4, 2015

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)

BARTOW COUNTY

On June 28th, Cpl. Byron Young, RFC Bart Hendrix, RFC Micheal Crawley and Bartow County Cpl. Wesley Duncan patrolled Allatoona Lake. The officers made 2 BUI arrest and issued several citations for 100' law violations, registration and light violations.

On July 1st, RFC Zack Hardy responded with Bartow County SO to Red Top Mt State Park on a theft call. A male was seen stealing money from the State Park's parking pass money box. When the two officers arrived the subject fled on foot. Sgt. Mike Barr, Sgt. Brian Keener, Cpl. Byron Young, Cpl. Lee Burns, RFC Ben Cunningham and RFC Mark Puig responded to search the park for the suspect. Several hours later Bartow County Sheriff's Deputies located the suspect at the Bethany Bridge boat ramp. DNR officers responded and arrested the subject. A search of the subject's vehicle turned up additional evidence of the thefts. RFC Hardy obtained arrest warrants for Theft by Taking and Prowling. Additional charges are pending from an incident in May.

On July 3rd, RFC Micheal Crawley and RFC Zack Hardy stopped a vessel near Stamp Creek without a bow light displayed. The subject was found to be under the influence. The operator was charged with BUI, Child Endangerment and Operating a Vessel with Improper Lights.

On July 4th, Capt. Jeff Galloway and RFC Bart Hendrix stopped a PWC in Illinois Creek on Allatoona Lake. The operator was found to be under the influence. The male operator was placed under arrest and the PWC was driven back to Holiday Marina by RFC Zack Hardy. The operator was charged with BUI and operating a vessel without a fire extinguisher.

GILMER COUNTY

On July 4th, Cpl. James Keener issued citations and warnings on Carter's Lake for fishing and boating violations. Violations included fishing without a license, operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol, unserviceable fire extinguisher, riding the bow of a vessel, improper lights, and improper registration.

FANNIN COUNTY

On June 29th, RFC Cody Jones responded to a drowning on Blue Ridge Lake. The victim was a 58 year old male who was recovered from the water near the dam.

HARALSON COUNTY

On July 3rd, RFC Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray patrolled on Watermill Creek to check for trout fishing activity, VFW public lake, and the Tallapoosa River. During the patrol Rangers issued one citation for fishing w/o a license.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

MADISON COUNTY

On July 1st, RFC Shane Sartor and Sgt. Stan Elrod responded to a call from Madison Co. 911 in reference to a deputy stopping a vehicle that had been spotlighting a field. One subject was issued citations for hunting at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle.

HART COUNTY

On July 3rd, RFC Brandon Pierce and Capt. Johnny Johnson patrolled Lake Hartwell in reference to the holiday weekend traffic. Numerous boats were checked for proper safety equipment, as well as, several fishing licenses were also inspected. As a result, seven citations and warnings were issued. The violations consisted of fishing without a license, non-resident fishing without a license, towing skier with PWC without observer on board, operating overloaded vessel, operating vessel without registration, and operating vessel without a throwable device.

On July 4th, RFC Brandon Pierce and Sgt. Stan Elrod patrolled Lake Hartwell in reference to the holiday weekend traffic. Numerous boats were checked for proper safety equipment. As a result, two citations were issued. The violations consisted of towing skier with PWC without observer on board and operating PWC above idle speed within 100 foot of object.

On July 4th, Corporal Craig Fulghum and RFC Shane Sartor patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating violations. During their patrol five boating violations were documented throughout their patrols. One subject was arrested and charged with boating under the influence and failure to obey regulatory marker. He was transported to the Hart County jail for booking procedures.

HALL COUNTY

On July 5th, at approximately 2030 hours Ranger First Class Mark Stephens and Cpl. Adam Loudermilk were patrolling Lake Sidney Lanier in Hall County near Clarks Bridge. Officer Stephens observed a vessel being operated while two females were hanging off the front of the vessel. After an investigation the operator was arrested for operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol and for allowing someone to ride on the bow of a boat.

On July 4th, Ranger First Class Mark Stephens observed a vessel violating the no wake zone near Russell Bridge in Hall County. After an investigation the boat operator was arrested for boating under the influence.

On July 3rd, Corporal Jason Roberson arrested two subjects for operating a vessel under the influence. One of the arrests was made in Forsyth County and the other was made in Hall County.

On July 4th, Corporal Jason Roberson arrested three individuals for operating a vessel under the influence in Hall County on Lake Lanier.

On July 4th, Corporal Jason Roberson observed an improperly loaded pontoon boat begin to come under distress in the mouth of Big Creek on Lake Lanier. Eleven occupants of the boat had moved to the stern of the vessel to avoid large waves and three occupants sat on the top of the boat. The entire outboard engine was under the water. As each wave struck the side of the boat it nearly capsized. Corporal Roberson quickly pulled alongside the vessel and put life jackets on the occupants and evened their weight out so that they could continue to shore.

On July 4th, Corporal Jason Roberson witnessed a pontoon boat begin to sink in Shoal Creek on Lake Lanier. The entire starboard side of the boat went under the water and Corporal Roberson pulled along-side the vessel and offloaded nine of the passengers while Corporal Eddie Tompkins offloaded the other three. The boat sank to the point that only the seats were above the water.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

RICHMOND COUNTY

On July 4, Sgt. Boswell, Sgt. Garthright, Cpl. Adams, Cpl. Payne and RFC Billips patrolled the Savannah River in Richmond County by patrol vessels. They worked a concentrated patrol of the downtown portion of the river for the Independence Day Celebration. The officers checked boat operators for safety equipment and boating law violations. Several citations were written for safety violations. There were no incidents or BUI violations documented.

BURKE COUNTY

On July 4, Cpl. Adams and RFC Billips patrolled the Savannah River by patrol vessels. Several vessels and fisherman were checked with only minor violation detected that were handled with verbal guidance. The Rangers were glad to see that every vessel they checked had a designated driver.

On July 1, Ranger First Class Jeff Billips patrolled Burke County checking fishing without permission complaints. At one pond, RFC Billips discovered two teenagers, 16 and 17 years old, fishing without permission. The 16 year old had been caught and warned by RFC Billips previously at this pond. A citation was issued to the 17 year old and a juvenile complaint was issued for the 16 year old.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On July 3rd, Sgt. Matt Garthright and RFC Robert Timmerman apprehended two subjects for boating while under the influence. The subjects were arrested and taken to Jail.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On July 5th, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin and RFC Robert Timmerman investigated a boating incident in Keg Creek. The incident involved a blown alcohol hydro racing boat. The vessel was traveling at a very high rate of speed when it struck a small wake. The vessel was obliterated upon contact. The subject was transported to Georgia Regents Hospital for various injuries.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

COWETA COUNTY

On Thursday, July 2nd, Sgt. Brent Railey patrolled B.T. Brown Reservoir. He checked 6 boats and 6 fishing licenses and issued two written warnings for boating violations.

LAKE SINCLAIR

On the afternoon of June 30th, Cpl. Lynn Stanford met with Baldwin Bulletin reporters and took them for a ride along. Several boats were stopped and boating safety information was provided to the reporters for an upcoming article.

On the afternoons of July 3rd and 4th, Ranger Matt Johnson, RFC Jeremy Reese, Cpl. Lynn Stanford and Sgt. Bo Kelly patrolled Lake Sinclair for the holiday weekend. Numerous boats were stopped and citations issued for violations of the 100' foot law, operating a PWC without wearing a life jacket. Three boating under the influence arrests were also made.

MERIWETHER COUNTY

On Saturday, July 4th, Cpl. Keith Waddell patrolled the Flint River for activity. He checked several fishermen and boats. He issued one citation for illegal sized Shoal Bass and confiscated two short bass.

PIKE COUNTY

On Friday, July 3rd, Cpl. Travis Sweat patrolled Still Branch Reservoir. He checked 9 boats and fishing licenses and issued several citations and warnings for fishing and boating violations.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

CRISP COUNTY

On July 3rd, Cpl. Bob Holley and Cpl. Clint Martin were patrolling Lake Blackshear when they observed a vessel being operated with improper lights during hours of darkness. A vessel stop was conducted and during the stop the operator of the vessel was determined to be under the influence of alcohol. The operator was placed under arrest and transported to the Crisp County Jail where he was cited for operating a vessel under the influence and operating a vessel with improper lights.

On July 4th, Cpl. Clint Martin was conducting a patrol in Georgia Veteran's State Park when he observed a person riding a bicycle discard trash onto the roadside. Cpl. Martin made contact with the subject to address the littering violation. During the contact the subject became combative and had to be physically subdued and arrested. The subject was transported to the Crisp County Jail where he was charged with littering, consuming alcohol on state park, possession of marijuana, battery and obstruction of a law enforcement officer.

On July 4th, Cpl. Robbie Griner, Cpl. Greg Wade and Sgt. David Ruddell conducted a boating safety patrol during the fireworks display near the Crisp Power Dam. The Rangers noticed a vessel being operated with improper lights and stopped the vessel to explain the violation to the operator. While doing so, Cpl. Robbie Griner detected the operator was impaired and arrested the subject for operating a vessel while under the influence.

SEMINOLE COUNTY

On July 3rd, RFC Tony Cox and Ranger Steve Thomas were conducting a vessel patrol on Lake Seminole when they stopped a vessel for operating without navigation lights displayed. The vessel operator was arrested for operating a vessel under the influence, child endangerment, operating without lights, and operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's.

GRADY COUNTY

On July 4th, Sgt. Rick Sellars received a call in reference to a possible drowning in the county. The victim, a small child, had been recovered from a water filled ditch and flown to the local hospital, where he later died. This incident is still under investigation.

CLAY COUNTY

On July 4th, Ranger Quinn Fogle, Cpl. Steve Robinson, Cpl. Scott Carroll and Sgt. Ellis Wynn responded to a drowning which occurred in the swimming area of George Bagby State Park. The eight year old victim was recovered by family members and transported by EMS to a hospital where the victim died.

LAKE WORTH

On the night of July 3rd, Cpl. Greg Wade, Cpl. Robbie Griner and Sgt. David Ruddell were working boating activity when they noticed a small boat approaching the public boat ramp with no navigation lights on. While speaking with the operator about the safety violation, the officers saw a large treble hook attached to a spool of rope lying in the boat. When questioned, the operator admitted that he had set the hook in the lake, with a whole chicken attached, to catch an alligator. The operator was charged with hunting alligators out of season and operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness.



Rope and treble hook used in illegal alligator hunting

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LAURENS COUNTY

On June 28th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger First Class Allen Mills patrolled the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area. Two anglers were checked for license and creel compliance. No violations were found. On the same date the officers patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. One vessel was checked for boating safety equipment and registration compliance and two anglers were checked for proper licenses. One violation was documented for fishing on a Public Fishing Area without a Wildlife Management Area License.

On July 4th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger First Class Allen Mills conducted patrols at several boat landings for boating and fishing activity with no violations detected. Later in the evening the officers patrolled the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area and remained on the area after closing hours to patrol for illegal activity. No violations were detected.

TELFAIR COUNTY

On July 4th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne patrolled Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area looking for fishing and other illegal activities. No violations were observed.

DODGE COUNTY

On July 3rd, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger First Class Allen Mills patrolled boat landings along the Ocmulgee River. Four vessels were checked for safety equipment compliance. No violations were detected.

The officers also conducted an after-hours patrol at the Dodge County Public Fishing Area. No violations were detected.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Saturday June 27th, Cpl. Bryson, RFC Toney, RFC Miller conducted a check of the Morgan's Bridge area. During the area check, one man was found to have active warrants out of Chatham County. He was arrested and transported to the Chatham County Jail. Two people were later cited for having open containers of alcohol.

On Friday July 3rd, RFC Miller cited two people for consumption of alcohol at Ft. McAllister State Park. One camper was evicted from the park for not following park rules; disorderly conduct, and consumption of alcohol.

On, Saturday July 4th, in the early morning hours, RFC Miller, conducted a salt water patrol in the area of the Medway River and St. Catherine Sound. RFC Miller found a vessel overloaded with people and equipment. Checking the capacity plate, the vessel was rated for eighteen people. This vessel was loaded with twenty eight people, beach supplies, and headed out for the beaches. The captain of the vessel was also short on personal flotation devices (PFD). Fortunately the group was not too far from the area they left from. Their voyage was immediately terminated. RFC Miller took some people onto his vessel and escorted the vessel back to a landing. Citations were issued and the captain then began making trips to the beach with much safer, and legal, conditions.

GLYNN COUNTY

On July 4th, Captain Doug Lewis, Cpl. Chris Ridley, RFC John Evans and Ranger Colte Shaske responded to a boating incident involving a vessel in Turtle River that had collided with a channel buoy. The two occupants were transported to the hospital in Brunswick and the vessel was secured at the Brunswick Office. The incident is still under investigation.

LONG/WAYNE COUNTY

On July 4th Corporal Randy Aspinwall and Ranger Patrick Gibbs patrolled the Altamaha River near Jaycee landing and Johnson Station landing. The Rangers checked 20 vessels for boating safety compliance and addressed violations for operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's and violating the 100' law. The rangers also responded to a distressed boater call where one vessel with several individuals including children were caught stranded in the river during a thunderstorm.

After the rain passed, Cpl. Aspinwall was working one of the landings in Wayne County and arrested one person for operating a vessel under the influence. The subject was transported to the Wayne County Jail.

While this was happening, Ranger Gibbs was working a landing in Long County and also arrested one person for operating a vessel under the influence. The subject was transported to the Long County Jail.

CHATHAM COUNTY

On June 30, Corporal Kate Hargrove and Ranger Tim Morris represented the Law Enforcement Division at an I&E at Tybee Island Beach with CRD for Beach Week.

On July 3, Corporal Buster Cooper and Ranger Tim Morris patrolled near shore and inshore waters of Chatham County and patrolled Tybee Back River during a fireworks display.

On July 4, Corporal Buster Cooper, Corporal Kate Hargrove, and Ranger Tim Morris patrolled Skidaway River. Ranger Tim Morris issued one citation for allowing underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD, and issued two warnings, one for towing a skier between sunset and sunrise, and another for operating a vessel without proper identification.