

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
October 4 – October 10, 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 October 4, RFC Zack Hardy checked a stand located on private property near Kingston. A hunter was located in a lock on stand bow hunting. The hunter was charged with hunting without permission and issued a warning for hunting big game over bait.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

TOWNS COUNTY

On October 11th, Sgt. Steve Seitz and RFC David Webb assisted the Towns County Sheriff's Office search for a suspect who fled into the woods on foot from a vehicle accident. A Towns County Sheriff's Office K-9 officer was also called to the scene to help track the subject through the woods. Once the officers determined the direction the suspect was headed, Sgt. Seitz and RFC Webb circled around to the opposite end of the road to set up a perimeter. Sgt. Seitz and RFC Webb apprehended the suspect a short while after setting up the perimeter. The 20 year old male suspect was turned over to the Towns County deputies who charged him with various violations related to fleeing the accident scene and underage consumption of alcohol.

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On October 17th, RFC Joe Hill conducted a patrol of Tallulah Gorge WMA. The Ranger checked nine hunters, and issued two citations for hunting deer without fluorescent orange and one verbal warning for hunting within 50 yards of a WMA road.

UNION COUNTY

On October 16th, Union County Dispatch received a call in reference to spot lighting in the northern part of Union County. Union County Sheriff deputies Deyton and Glass arrived at the scene, locating two subjects in the woods, and a dead doe deer. Both subjects were detained until CPL Kevin Dyer arrived. The subject confessed that while driving down the road they saw several deer standing in a field. The subjects stopped and used a hand held light to shoot a doe from the road. After the investigation was complete both subjects were charged with hunting big game from a public road, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting deer at night.

On October 17th, Cpl. Kevin Dyer and Sgt. Steve Seitz checked multiple subject deer hunting in Union County. Citations and warning were issued for hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license.

HART COUNTY

On October 14th, RFC Brandon Pierce ended a dumping investigation that occurred back in September. Several persons were interviewed on the matter, which resulted in two subjects being issued citations. The citations consisted of unlawful dumping of egregious litter.

On October 17th, RFC Brandon Pierce and Cpl. Craig Fulghum worked several properties that contained illegal hunting activity. One subject was located hunting deer over corn. The subject was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait and issued a warning for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

On October 17th, Ranger First Class Tim Vickery and Sergeant Stan Elrod were patrolling Franklin County when they encountered two hunters walking out of the woods. Neither of the hunters was wearing fluorescent orange. After talking to the two individuals, the Rangers found that one of the hunters had killed a doe and did not possess a valid hunting license. Since it was not a doe day in Franklin County, the officers issued a citation to the hunter for killing of antlerless deer and wrote him warnings on the fluorescent orange and hunting license. The other hunter was issued a citation for not wearing fluorescent orange.

MADISON COUNTY

On October 17th, RFC Shane Sartor patrolled several properties for deer hunting violations. During his patrol two subjects were found hunting big game over bait. That same morning RFC Sartor received a call about someone in the process of cleaning a deer on the side of a county road. RFC Sartor responded and checked the subject. After checking the license of the hunter RFC Sartor seen that he had failed to record his deer properly on his license. The subject was issued a citation for failure to record deer harvest and advised the hunter that all the remains needed to be removed and disposed of properly.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

RICHMOND COUNTY

On October 9, Cpl. Payne patrolled Richmond County checking without permission complaints and baited deer stands for activity. Upon arriving at one without permission complaint he noticed a vehicle parked beside the road. After running the tag on the vehicle, Cpl. Payne checked his documentation on the property and the name did not match that of the landowner. He located the individual hunting without permission and over bait. The individual was also a non-resident hunting without licenses. Charges were made for hunting without permission, hunting over bait, hunting without a license and hunting big game without license. The landowner was contacted and the investigation was closed.

BURKE COUNTY

On October 8, Sgt. Boswell was called and assisted GM with Quota hunt on Di lane WMA. He made contact with a subject who had turned in an undersized buck on the morning hunt. He was given a written warning and advised of the need to be extra sure on quality buck deer hunts. The meat only was released to the hunter.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

On October 8, Cpl. Brian Adams assisted the Washington County young Sportsman Foundation by running the Laser shot shooting simulator at the Washington County fair. On October 9, Cpl. Adams was checking fishing license on Deep step road. One subject was charged for fishing without a license. It was also determined that this subject had warrants for obstruction of an officer, possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana and failure to appear in court. The subject was placed under arrest and transported to the Washington County Jail.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

HARRIS COUNTY

On October 10th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen was checking deer hunting activity on private property when he located a hunter who was missing the required big game license, according to the license database. Cpl. Bolen utilized K-9 Ruger to track the hunter. The hunter wasn't wearing the required fluorescent orange vest and wasn't supervising his 15 year old son in another deer stand. The hunter was issued citations for hunting without a big game license and allowing underage child to hunt without supervision. The hunter was issued a written warning for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

HEARD COUNTY

On Saturday, October 10th, RFC Russell Epps found a hunter hunting over bait and not wearing an orange vest. The hunter was cited for hunting big game over bait and warned for not having on his orange vest.

HENRY COUNTY

On Sunday, October 4th, Cpl. Travis sweat checked a baited area and found one hunter in the stand. He was cited for hunting big game over bait and warned for hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On October 10th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen was checking hunting activity at the adult/child dove hunt on Standing Boy WMA. Cpl. Bolen located an adult hunter whose sportsman's license was expired. Cpl. Bolen issued the hunter a citation for hunting without a license and a written warning for hunting without a WMA license.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

TURNER COUNTY

On October 5th, Cpl. Greg Wade received a complaint concerning two doe deer that had been taken with a rifle during archery deer season. Cpl. Wade met with the suspects and determined the deer were shot as the hunters were leaving their property after completing a morning of hog hunting. Both subjects were charged with hunting deer out of season and hunting w/o big game license.

BROOKS COUNTY

On October 10th, RFC Jon Penuel apprehended a subject who was hunting on property owned by Georgia DOT, where no hunting is allowed. The subject was charged with hunting without permission, hunting big game over bait and hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

DECATUR COUNTY

On October 10th, Sgt. Rick Sellars investigated a complaint of illegal fishing in Spring Creek. Surveillance was conducted on the area where a gill net was located, and one subject was cited for commercial fishing in closed waters, commercial fishing without license, taking game fish with commercial gear, and operating a vessel without PFD's. Striped bass, largemouth bass, catfish, and sucker fish were confiscated along with the gill net.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

JENKINS COUNTY

On Saturday October 10th, Corporal Mike Wilcox received a call about a suspicious vehicle parked near a property line on Jones Plantation Road. Cpl. Wilcox responded to the call and was able to locate a vehicle parked on the side of the road. The subject was standing outside the vehicle in the rain. Upon further investigation, Cpl. Wilcox determined that the individual was from Virginia and was hunting on property that belonged to his uncle. The subject was not hunting without permission, but he did not have a hunting license of any kind and he was not wearing a fluorescent orange vest. Violations for non-resident hunting without license, non-resident hunting big game without a non-resident big game license, and hunting deer without fluorescent orange were documented.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On October 10th, Cpl. Eddie Akins checked Oliver Bridge WMA for activity on the opening day of the primitive weapons hunt for the area. His efforts resulted in two hunters being checked and no violations being documented.

APPLING COUNTY

Cpl. Altman conducted a Hunter Ed class in Appling and certified 7 students.

EVANS COUNTY

On October 1, 2015, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen held a Hunter Safety Class and five students were certified.

On October 3, 2015, Ranger Brannen participated with the Laser Shot in the annual Jakes Day at the Evans County Wildlife Club. There were approximately 50 people in attendance.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On October 5, 2015, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen held a Hunter Safety Class at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia and three students were certified

TATTNALL COUNTY

On October 9, 2015, Cpl. Chase Altman and Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen patrolled the primitive weapons hunt on Big Hammock WMA. One hunter was checked hunting from a boat on one of the lakes. Violations for operating a vessel without a PFD and operating a vessel without a registration were addressed.

DODGE COUNTY

On October 9th, Ranger First Class Allen Mills received a call from Dodge 911 in reference to a Deputy requesting assistance to a call of shots fired into a house. RFC Mills arrived on scene and immediately could hear rifle shots being fired on an adjacent property. The two officers made contact with an elderly female next door that stated her sixty-one year old son was having some mental issues and had wandered off into the woods and had not returned. The officers located the individual, secured his weapon (an AK-47), and was able to have him voluntarily agree to receive medical attention. The incident is still under investigation.

Later that evening, RFC Mills was returning from home when he encountered a Dodge County Deputy making a traffic stop. The officers quickly noticed a pungent odor coming from the vehicle. The Deputy questioned the driver and was able to locate some illegal drugs on the subject's person. The violator was arrested for possession of marijuana less than one ounce, and possession of methamphetamine.

LAURENS COUNTY

On October 9th, Sergeant James McLaughlin, Ranger First Class Allen Mills, and Ranger First Class Rodney Horne responded to a Laurens County 911 call in reference to a missing person fishing in a private pond. Once on scene, the officers located a truck, trailer, small john boat, and items floating in the water. Other agencies soon arrived and a thorough search began and lasted late into the evening.

On October 10th, the search continued with many resources being used. Sergeant Jim Atchley was called in to assist. Sgt. Atchley deployed the sector scan sonar and was able to locate an area of interest. The Georgia State Patrol's dive team was able to quickly locate the drowned victim thanks to Sgt. Atchley's efforts.



Sgt. Atchley and Sgt. McLaughlin operating Sector Scan Sonar



Volunteers probing for victim

ATKINSON COUNTY

On October 11, 2015 Sgt. Morty Wood and RFC Keith McDonald investigated a hunting incident that occurred on October 10th. The hunter was bow hunting on private land. He started to exit the ladder stand, slipped and fell from the stand. He grabbed the stand as he was falling which caused the straps to break. He was treated at Coffee Regional Medical Center and released with 24 stitches to his head.



Collapsed deer stand in Atkinson County

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

CHATHAM COUNTY

On October 10, Corporal Buster Cooper and Ranger Tim Morris patrolled near shore and inshore waters of Chatham County. The officers checked multiple boats and worked several idle speed zone complaints with no violations observed.

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On October 7th, Ranger Colte Shaske assisted The Governor's Task Force and Brantley County Sheriff's Office with marijuana eradication throughout Brantley County. A total of 708 Marijuana plants were found and seized.

