

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**August 14 – August 20, 2016**

**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)**

No activity to report.

## **Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)**

### **MADISON COUNTY**

On August 16, RFC Shane Sartor worked a deer kill permit that was issued by Game Management. The permit issued for the location was for antlerless deer only. When RFC Sartor arrived at the location he observed two subjects with an antlered deer in their possession. The buck had been shot by a subject that was not listed on the permit. RFC Sartor issued citations for violations of a deer kill permit and the permit was revoked.

### **HALL COUNTY**

On August 20, Cpl. Jason Roberson, and Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Lake Lanier for boating activity. While on patrol, Ranger Kernahan made contact with a subject who was found to be Operating a Vessel While under the Influence, and Operating a Vessel without Registration. Ranger Kernahan arrested the subject for the violations. Later while on patrol, Corporal Roberson made contact with another subject who was found to be Operating a Vessel While under the Influence and violating the no-wake zone at Sunset Cove. Corporal Roberson arrested the subject for the violations.

### **RABUN COUNTY**

On August 18, Sgt. Steve Seitz, RFC Joe Hill, and Ranger Tommy Crabb participated in the annual lake clean up event at Lake Tugalo with GA DNR Fisheries technicians Tony Anderson, Leon Brotherton, and UGA intern Alex Kiser, GA Power employees, SC DNR Fisheries, SC DNR Law Enforcement, Oconee County, SC Sheriff's Office, and Chattooga Sounds Campground. The participants removed over 540 pounds of trash from the lake.

On August 20, while on foot patrol of the gorge floor at Tallulah Gorge State Park, Ranger Gilbert located two adult males who admitted accessing the gorge floor without required permits. The Ranger issued citations to each man for the rule violation.

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

No activity to report.

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

### **BALDWIN COUNTY**

On Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, RFC Reese investigated an illegal dump site in Baldwin County. The subject responsible for the violation cleaned the site and was issued a warning for unlawful dumping.

### **BLECKLEY COUNTY**

RFC Ronnie Beard checked Ocmulgee WMA during the "Special Hog Hunt." No violations were detected.

RFC Ronnie Beard worked Alligator Hunting along the Ocmulgee River on August 21, 2016. No violations were detected.

### **FAYETTE COUNTY**

On Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Travis Sweat and Cpl. Keith Waddell patrolled Lake McIntosh. They checked about 20 boats, but found no violations.

On Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Travis Sweat and Cpl. Keith Waddell responded to a possible boating incident on Lake Horton. A canoe had swamped and sunk. The passengers of the canoe all made it to shore with no injuries. Cpl. Sweat and Waddell were able to recover the canoe and its contents.

## **HOUSTON COUNTY**

Cpl. Robert Stillwell patrolled Oaky Woods WMA and Flat Creek PFA during the "Special Hog Hunt" hunt August 15-17. Several Hunters were checked and no violations were detected.

Cpl. Robert Stillwell taught Hunter Education at the Perry Buckarama on Friday, August 19, 2016 and August 20, 2016. Cpl. Robert Stillwell, RFC Ronnie Beard, RFC David Fisher, RFC Jeremy Reese, and Sgt. Jim Bradfield worked the DNR Law Enforcement Division booth during the three day hunting show.

## **JONES COUNTY**

On Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, RFC Reese responded to a deer being shot from the road in Jones County. RFC Reese confirmed a spike deer was shot from a dirt road. Evidence was collected and documented. The investigation is ongoing.

## **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Bubba Stanford patrolled Cedar Creek WMA. Cpl. Stanford located 2 subjects driving trucks in a road closed area. Both subjects received citations.

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

### **DOUGHERTY COUNTY**

In the early morning hours of August 20<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jon Penuel and RGR Eric White located a group of alligator hunters along the Flint River. The Rangers maintained their surveillance of the hunters from a concealed location and observed the hunters operating their boat up and down the river without any navigation lights. The Rangers then made contact with the group and violations of hunting without a license, hunting alligators without an alligator license and operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness were documented.

### **DECATUR COUNTY**

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tony Cox was conducting a late night patrol on Lake Seminole checking alligator hunters, when he encountered two commercial turtle trappers. While checking their licenses, Cpl. Cox noticed that both men displayed signs of impairment. Investigating further he found that both subjects were in possession of Meth, Ice, and Hydrocodone pills and a fish shocking device. The two subjects were arrested for shocking fish and trapping turtles without a commercial license. The felony drug charges were turned over to a Decatur County S.O. Investigator.

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

### **JENKINS COUNTY**

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mike Wilcox assisted Jenkins County Sheriff's Office and Georgia State Patrol with a road check. The road check resulted in one arrest for driving under the influence and one arrest for outstanding warrants. Corporal Wilcox also assisted the Jenkins County Sheriff's Office search for a suspect with felony arrest warrants. The suspect was not located.

### **SCREVEN COUNTY**

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Mike Wilcox, Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford and Ranger Randell Meeks patrolled Burton's Ferry Landing for hunting and fishing activity. During the patrol one violation for allowing an underage person to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD was documented.

### **EFFINGHAM COUNTY**

On August 19<sup>th</sup> Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford was working a night deer hunting complaint in Effingham County when he observed a truck shining the field he was watching. The truck was subsequently stopped by RFC Crawford and a violation for blinding wildlife with lights was documented.

Later that evening RFC Crawford patrolled Abercorn Landing for alligator hunting activity. Several hunters were checked with one violation for operating a vessel without lights during the hours of darkness documented.

On August 20<sup>th</sup> Corporal Mike Wilcox and Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford conducted a vessel search and rescue on the Savannah River in Effingham County looking for a missing boater. The boater had left Tuckasee King Landing earlier that day for an afternoon of fishing but did not return by dark. After a two hour search the subject was located and transported back to Tuckasee King Landing.

### **LOWNDES COUNTY**

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Daniel North presented firearms safety instructions to a group of adults and youths participating in a sporting clay shoot that was hosted by Southland Church of Valdosta. More than 30 people enjoyed breakfast and participated in the tournament held at South-Wind Sporting Clays.



*RFC Daniel North with participants at the sporting clays event in Lowndes County.*

### **WARE COUNTY**

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jason Shipes and Ranger Judd Sears assisted with the annual Heels and Wheels Triathlon at Laura S. Walker State Park. Cpl. Shipes and Ranger Sears patrolled the lake area during the event to ensure the safety of all participants.



*Ranger Judd Sears observing swimmers at the Heels and Wheels Triathlon event at Laura S. Walker State Park in Ware County.*

## **LAURENS COUNTY**

On August 16<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the River Bend Wildlife Management Area. No WMA users were encountered.

On August 16<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles conducted an after-hours patrol on the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. No activity was detected.

## **DODGE COUNTY**

On August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Corporal Dan Stiles, Corporal John Stokes, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne, and Ranger First Class Allen Mills conducted an agency assist for the Dodge County Sheriff's Department and the Eastman Police department during and after the funeral of a police officer.

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

### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, CPL Kate Hargrove and RFC Colte Shaske teamed with United States Coast Guard to board commercial shrimp boats off the coast of St. Simons Island and Jekyll Island. Multiple boats were boarded and checked for safety violations, fishing violations as part of the Joint Enforcement Agreement with NOAA.



On August 20<sup>th</sup>, RFC John Evans was patrolling the Frederica River around St Simons Island. He stopped a boat violating the No Wake zone in the area. RFC Evans checked the two men on board whom had been fishing, and discovered nine undersized redfish. They were also over the limit of redfish. Both men were charged with Possession of illegal size fish and Possession of over the creel limit. The operator was warned for violating the No Wake zone.



## **CAMDEN COUNTY**

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, RFC Evans was patrolling the St Mary's River area for alligator hunting activity. He encountered a boat with four people on board. The vessel had no registration and the operator did not have an alligator hunting license. RFC Evans charged the operator with hunting alligators without a license and operating a vessel without registration.

## **CHATHAM COUNTY**

On August 14, Ranger Tim Morris, Cpl. Buster Cooper, and Sgt. Cindy Miller patrolled the south end salt waters of Chatham County. The Rangers checked several boats and issued citations for allowing an underage child to ride in a vessel without a life jacket and for not having a fire extinguisher.

On August 15, Ranger Tim Morris and Sgt. Cindy Miller patrolled the south end salt waters of Chatham County checking several recreational fishermen. Three individuals were cited for possession of undersized fish.

On August 20, Ranger Tim Morris and Cpl. Jay Morgan patrolled the northwest portion of Chatham County checking alligator hunters. Two individuals were cited for not having an alligator hunting license.