

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
February 21 – February 27, 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)

WHITE COUNTY On February 26, SGT Steve Seitz and CPL Anne Britt responded to two search and rescue incidents on Yonah Mountain in Cleveland. The first incident occurred at 1100 hours. It involved an adult male who had separated from his hiking party and become lost, but made it out on private property on Chambers Rd. At approximately 1300 hours, the second call was received. It involved two adult females who had hiked below the face of the mountain on some iced over rocks. They felt too uncomfortable to turn around or continue hiking. SGT Seitz and CPL Britt responded and had DNR Aviation en-route. White County EMS and Fire responded and used a UTV and quickly located the two females and brought them off the mountain. Aviation was canceled.

JACKSON COUNTY On February 23, RFC Eric Isom and his K9 partner Colt were invited to attend a Jackson County High School FFA meeting. While there, RFC Isom talked about his career, what Conservation Rangers do to support sportsmen and women in the state and the capabilities they have as a K9/Handler team in wildlife detection, tracking and K9 other disciplines.

On February 25, RFC Eric Isom was invited to the Jackson County High School FFA classes to set up the Laser Shot simulator. Many students participated in the activity that was held in the lunchroom.

HALL COUNTY

February 22, Major Stephen Adams, RFC Eric Isom, and his K9 partner Colt attended a Cub Scouts meeting in Flowery Branch with several area Troops. While there, RFC Isom talked with the scouts about his career, what Conservation Rangers do to support sportsmen and women in the state and the capabilities they have as a K9/Handler team in wildlife detection, tracking and K9 other disciplines. Major Adams assisted in a K9 demo, demonstrating wildlife detection and criminal apprehension.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

LINCOLN COUNTY

On Feb 27th, Cpl. Ryan Swain performed a concentrated hunting patrol of the Metasville area in Western Lincoln County. Five hog hunters, 3 rabbit hunters and 2 squirrel hunters were inspected. No violations were detected. All hunters inspected had successful hunts and had taken several of the game animals listed above.

On Feb 27th, Cpl. Ryan Swain and Ranger Michael Madden performed a HIN inspection by request of a vessel owner. No HIN was issued due to the fact the vessel had a viable and current HIN.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

On Wednesday, Feb. 24, RFC Matherly assisted a subject on US Hwy 1 south of Wrens. The subject was in route to Florida to camp for the weekend. While traveling down the road way a strong gust of wind ripped the top off his Camper. RFC Matherly assisted in gathering personal belongings from the side from the side of the road way and stood by until a County Deputy could arrive to fill out a report.

On Sunday Feb. 28, RFC Matherly checked trail cameras on two pieces of property. The cameras had been deployed to assist with catching subjects hunting without permission. No images were captured of the suspects, nor was any contact made with anyone on the two properties.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

On Feb. 25, Cpl. Adams concluded a two week investigation concerning coon hunting without permission on Duck Roost Rd. Subject was charged with Hunting without permission and Hunting without a license.

NEWTON COUNTY

On February 26, Ranger Dan Schay was checking fishing licenses in Newton County and one case of fishing without a license was documented.

On February 28, Ranger Dan Schay and RFC Richard Tanner were checking fishing licenses in Newton County and 6 cases of fishing without a license were documented.

GREENE COUNTY

On February 27, Ranger Schay and RFC Tanner were checking fishing licenses on Lake Oconee. One case of fishing without a license was documented.

LAKE OCONEE

On Saturday, February 20, RFC Ricky Boles, RFC Richard Tanner, and RGR Jason Harrison patrolled Lake Oconee checking boating and fishing activity. Various violations were addressed; including fishing without a license, operating vessel without fire extinguisher, and operating vessel with insufficient PFD.

On Sunday, February 21, Sgt. John Harwell and RFC Ricky boles patrolled Lake Oconee for boating and fishing violations. The rangers checked 20 vessels and cited two individuals for fishing without a license.

OCONEE RIVER

On Sunday, February 21, RFC Richard Tanner and RGR Jason Harrison patrolled the Oconee River from Dyers Pasture in Greene County to Barnett Shoals in Oconee County. Various violations were addressed; including fishing without a license, operating vessel without fire extinguisher, and operating vessel with insufficient PFD.

GREENE COUNTY

Cpl. Derrell Worth completed three separate dumpsite investigations with three separate subjects being charged with violating Georgia Waste Control Laws.

Cpl. Derrell Worth obtained information that a subject was wanted in Greene County for several felonies. Cpl. Derrell Worth had information that when the warrants would be attempted on the subject, he would flee out the back door before the officers could get to the residence (due to the long driveway). After all necessary paperwork and warrant information was gathered, Cpl. Derrell Worth proceeded (covertly) to the rear of the suspect's address while the county LEO's stood by at a nearby location. While at the above location, Cpl. Derrell Worth observed the suspect (through optics) and once the subject proceeded into the trailer, he advised the awaiting LEO's to attempt to serve the warrants. As soon as the patrol cars proceeded down the driveway, Cpl. Derrell Worth observed the back door of the residence opened aggressively and the suspect began running into the woods in his direction. Cpl. Derrell Worth was able to apprehend the subject after a short foot chase. The subject was also in possession of a green leafy substance (suspected marijuana) and was turned over the Greene County Sheriff's Office.

HANCOCK COUNTY

Cpl. Derrell Worth cited three subjects from New York hunting the Oconee WMA without a license.

ELBERT COUNTY

On Sunday February 21, SGT. Brian Carter, CPL. Julian Wilkins, and RFC. Phillip Nelson patrolled Elbert Co. for small game hunting activity and fishing and boating activity at various boat ramps on Lake Russell. During out patrol violations of fishing without a license were documented and violation of DNR board approved regulations were documented.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On Sunday February 21, SGT Brian Carter, CPL Julian Wilkins, and RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled Oglethorpe Co. at Watson Mill State Park. Violations documented during this patrol were fishing without a license.

On Monday February 22, RFC Phillip Nelson completed an investigation from a Facebook complaint about the illegal use of electronic calls while hunting bobcats. Violations documented were hunting with unlawful equipment.

OCONEE COUNTY

On Monday February 22, RFC Phillip Nelson and RFC Tim Butler presented a Wildlife program in Oconee Co. for Extra Special People (ESP). The organization helps individuals with developmental disabilities. We had a total of 10 students.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the afternoon of February 23rd, RFC Jeremy Reese investigated an illegal dumping complaint. Evidence was collected and the investigation is ongoing.

On the afternoon of February 27th, Cpl. Bubba Stanford patrolled Bartram WMA, as well as the Oconee River. Several fishermen were checked and no violations were detected. While traveling through Milledgeville, Cpl. Stanford observed a subject throw a plastic wrapper out a truck window. A traffic stop was initiated and the subject received a citation for littering.

HOUSTON COUNTY

On the evening of February 26th, Cpl. Robert Stilwell patrolled Oakey Woods WMA. Cpl. Stilwell located a nonresident hunter. One violation was detected and a written warning was issued.

JASPER COUNTY

On the afternoon of February 27th, RFC Freddie Hays and Sgt. Tony Fox were conducting fishing compliance checks along the Ocmulgee River below Lake Jackson when they encountered three individuals “huddled” close to each other near the river. The three subjects failed to notice the officers’ approach, and the Rangers observed one individual packing a smoking device with what the officers believed to be marijuana. Upon seeing the rangers, the individual having possession of the pipe attempted to conceal it in his shirt pocket. Officers confronted the three subjects and seized the pipe, freshly loaded with marijuana; they also recovered a metal grinder that contained additional marijuana and, from the suspects’ vehicle, a second drug pipe. Upon questioning, all three subjects admitted to possessing and smoking marijuana prior to the officers’ arrival. The three individuals were each charged with a misdemeanor offense of possession of marijuana and turned over to the custody of the Jasper County Sheriff’s Office.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

JENKINS COUNTY

On February 21st, Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford, Ranger Randell Meeks, and Sgt. Don Dasher were watching a trap line that was located the day before. At approximately 9:00 am a pickup truck came driving down the woods road. The truck stopped and the driver got out to check a trap. The Rangers approached the man and requested to see his trapping license and required equipment. The man confessed that he did not have any of these items. The following violations were documented: trapping without a license, trapping without written permission, failure to affix stamped metal tag, and failure to carry a choke stick. Also, the illegal traps were confiscated.

LAURENS COUNTY

On February 27th, Ranger First Class Allen Mills conducted a patrol at Hugh Gillis Public Fishing Area. Two vessels and seven anglers were checked for regulation compliance and Licenses. Verbal guidance was given for Georgia Outdoor Recreational Pass (GORP) requirements.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

Corporal Chase Altman was on patrol on Bullard Creek WMA on February 21st for ATV violations. One individual was stopped and charged with illegal consumption of alcohol on a WMA.

TOOMBS COUNTY

Corporal Chase Altman and Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel conducted over 20 hours of patrol and surveillance, using both stakeouts and camera deployment, to apprehend several illegal traps placed along a creek in Toombs County last week. One individual was charged with trapping w/o permission, trapping w/o a license, no metal stamps attached to the traps, failure to check the traps within 24 hours, failure to carry a choke stick, and failure to carry a .22 caliber firearm.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On Sunday, February 21st, RFC Miller, conducted a patrol of the King's Ferry boat landing. Of the vessels checked, RFC Miller cited one operator coming in to the landing well after dark for improper lights.

On Sunday, February 21st, Cpl. Bryson discovered trash dumped out in South Bryan County. Cpl. Bryson, through investigation, discovered who was responsible for the trash. Cpl. Bryson then interviewed this person and cited the person for littering.