

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
February 28 – March 5, 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)

FLOYD COUNTY

On Tuesday February 24th, SGT Mike Barr received a call from Rome Police in reference to a man that was seen jumping into the Etowah River around 9 PM from the Loop 1 bridge. Rome/Floyd Fire Department put a boat on the river to begin the search but within 10 minutes they pulled off due to the dangerous water conditions from recent flooding. Waters continued to rise over the next few days. With the assistance of the Gordon County Fire Department and the Rome-Floyd County Fire Department searchers were able to begin vessel searches on Saturday February 27th. The river has been searched using side scan sonar, underwater cameras, aviation, and sector scan over the last 2 weeks. The search for the missing Rome man continues.

In addition to the person who jumped from the Loop 1 bridge, DNR rangers and Rome-Floyd County Fire Department continue to search for a missing person whose vehicle was located near the Oostanaula River on February 16th. Rangers have been searching the Oostanaula River and Coosa River throughout the week with side scan sonar and sector scan equipment. The investigation and search continues.



RFC Ben Cunningham, Gordon County Fire and Rome-Floyd County Fire personnel prepare for a search of the Etowah River for the Rome man that jumped from the Loop 1 bridge.

Searchers looking through a log jam on the side of the Etowah River.



DNR Aviation does an aerial search of the Etowah River.

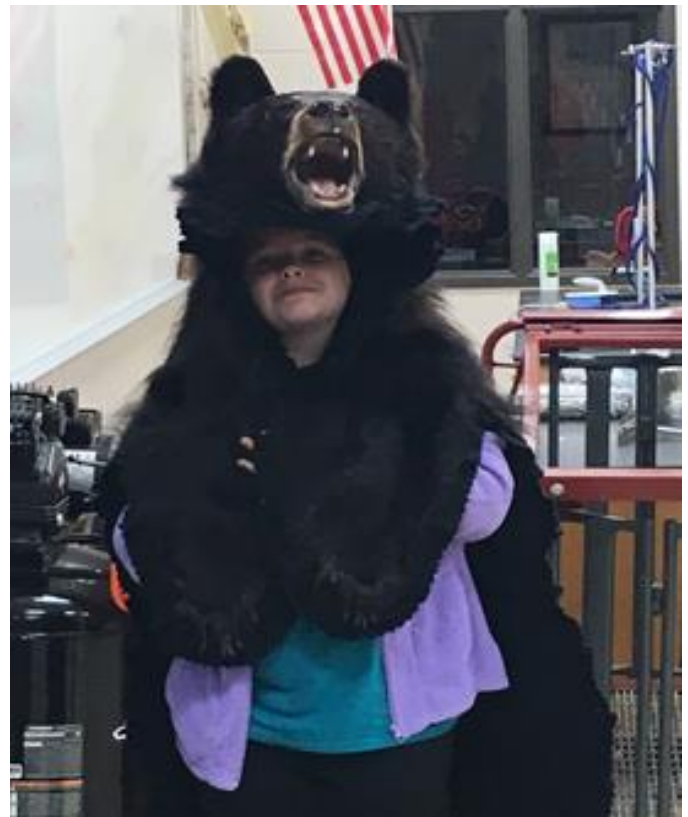
GORDON COUNTY

On Thursday February 25th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore presented a fur program to the Red Bud Middle School FFA. The students learned about different wildlife that are located in the Northwest Georgia area.



Cpl. Elmore teaches the students about a bobcat.

Cpl. Elmore's daughter, Hannah, a 6th grade FFA member at Red Bud Middle School says she wants to be "a bear for a day."



Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

UNION COUNTY

On February 28, Sgt. Steve Seitz overheard radio traffic from Union County Sheriff's Office where they were sending a deputy to Blue Ridge WMA area to meet up with a Fannin County deputy. Sgt. Seitz called dispatch to inquire what kind of call they had and learned they were responding to a possible suicide off Rock Creek Road on Blue Ridge WMA. Sgt. Seitz responded to the WMA and met Cpl. James Keener and Cpl. Casey Jones who had been patrolling the WMA earlier this day when they met the Fannin County deputy in the area and told them of the possible suicide call. Cpl. Keener and Cpl. Jones responded to the scene and obtained the victims information for reporting purposes and assisted the deputies. The victim had been reported missing from Gwinnett County eight days earlier. The victim appeared to have died from carbon monoxide poisoning. The Union County Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident.

WHITE COUNTY

On February 28, Cpl. Anne Britt checked 13 fishermen on Dukes Creek. Cpl. Britt warned two fishermen for possession of barbed hooks and warned another for not having their fishing license on their person.

On March 1st, RFC Joe Hill checked the Chattahoochee River on Buck Shoals State Park for trout fishing activity. RFC Hill issued one fisherman a citation for fishing without a license and a warning for fishing without a trout license.

On March 5, 2016, RFC David Webb and Ranger Beth Gilbert were patrolling for fishing activity on Smith creek, Dukes creek and the Chattahoochee River in White County. The officers checked twenty five fishermen and issued two written warnings for fishing without a license.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On Sunday February 28, RFC Phillip Nelson patrolled the Athens area for boating and fishing activity. During his patrol violations of fishing without a license and operating a boat without personal flotation devices were documented.

On Friday March 4, RFC Phillip Nelson presented 4 Turkey I&E Programs at Cleveland Road Elementary School. The class was presented to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.

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.

RICHMOND COUNTY

On March 5, Cpl. Ben Payne patrolled Richmond County checking fishing without permission complaints and licenses. Several licenses were checked with no violations documented. No activity was present at the without permission locations.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On March 5th, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin and RFC Robert Timmerman patrolled Clarks Hill WMA for hunting activity. The WMA was having a managed hog hunt with about 35 hunters. Rangers checked several hunters during the hunt. No violations were detected.

GLASCOCK COUNTY

On March 6th, Cpl. Brian Adams was dispatched by GSP Grovetown to assist a Glascock County Deputy with a domestic disturbance. The deputy went out with the domestic on the radio and later could not be contacted. Cpl. Adams responded and discovered that the deputy was fine. Adams went back in service.

ST. SIMONS ISLAND

On Tuesday, March 1, RFC Richard Tanner presented at the International Association of Police Chaplains Conference at Epworth on St. Simmons Island. During the presentation, RFC Tanner informed the participants on the sonar equipment used by the Sonar Team and performed an on-site demo of the Remote Operated Vessel.

LAKE OCONEE

On Sunday, March 6, Cpl. David Allen and Ranger Dan Schay patrolled Lake Oconee checking for fishing and boating violations. The Rangers documented fishing without a license violations, failure to obey regulatory marker, and 100' violation (PWC).

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

MITCHELL/BAKER COUNTY

On February 27th, a retirement dinner was held for Cpl. Randy Davis whom retired after 21 years 4 months of service with the state. The event was attended by Cpl. Davis and his family, many friends and fellow officers.



Cpl. Randy Davis center, with fellow officers.

REGION 5-ALBANY

On March 4th and 5th, Rangers Jay Lewis and Eric White attended the 2016 Annual Georgia Hunter Education Association (GHEA) Conference at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center. The conference provided DNR-LED officers and volunteer instructors from across the state an opportunity to discuss improvements and changes to the hunter education program. The GHEA also held elections for new board members and held an awards banquet, at which Ranger Eric White was recognized as both the 2016 DNR Hunter Education Officer of the Year and the 2016 GHEA Hunter Education Officer of the Year.



Ranger Eric White accepting GHEA award.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)



CLINCH COUNTY

On February 17th, Corporal Jason Shipes notified Ranger Judd Sears of a dumping complaint that Clinch County Sheriff's Department had responded to south of Fargo. Ranger Sears went to the location and met with the deputies. Ranger Sears and Clinch deputies were able to locate multiple pieces of mail in this trash that had been dumped on the side of the highway. This mail belonged to a subject in Rentz, GA. On February 22nd, Ranger Sears made contact with this individual and asked him about the trash being dumped. This individual stated he didn't dump the trash but was able to give Ranger Sears information about who was responsible. On February 29th, Ranger Sears went to a residence in Rentz, to interview the suspect. This suspect admitted to dumping the trash on the side of the road south of Fargo as he was passing through going to Florida. Violations of unlawful dumping of egregious litter (less than 500lbs/100cuft) were documented.

WARE COUNTY

On February 28th, Corporal Mark Pool responded to a call for assistance from the Ware County Sheriff's Department. A subject had burned a large pile of household trash. The fire spread rapidly and resulted in a large grass fire that had to be extinguished by the local fire department in order to save several houses. Cpl. Mark Pool charged the subject with illegal burning of egregious litter.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On Saturday March 5th, Sgt. Don Dasher received a call from GSP dispatch that two people kayaking on the Ogeechee River had gotten out of the main channel and had become lost in the flooded river swamp. Sgt. Dasher was able to communicate with them by cell phone. Sgt. Dasher was able to determine about where the kayakers were on the river. Sgt. Dasher called Cpl. Mike Wilcox and advised him of the situation and asked that he bring a patrol boat to rescue the two boaters. Cpl. Wilcox and Sgt. Dasher located the two boaters and transported them off of the river.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

CHATHAM COUNTY

On March 4th -6th, Chatham County Rangers: Corporals Buster Cooper, Kate Hargrove and Ranger Tim Morris presented fishing and boating education programs at the 14th Annual Savannah Boat Show. Rangers joined with the Coastal Resources Division to run the fishing simulator for kids attending the event.

On March 7th, Corporal Kate Hargrove and Ranger Tim Morris presented an education program to 3rd graders at Bloomingdale Elementary.

GLYNN COUNTY

On February 28th, RFC Evans was patrolling Clayhole Swamp WMA and observed a truck pull up to where he was talking to a group of hunters and began turning around. The driver was having some difficulty with the truck, which shut down twice while trying to turn. Evans stepped over to see if they needed some assistance. As he was talking to the passenger he noticed a strong odor of alcoholic beverage coming from the vehicle and investigated further. Upon completion of the investigation, RFC Evans was able to determine that the driver had a suspended license, one passenger was in possession of marijuana and the other passenger had an outstanding warrant for burglary and theft from a neighboring county. He also recovered a stolen shotgun from the vehicle. Two of the suspects were arrested and one was released at the scene. The suspects were charged with Driving while license suspended, Possession of Marijuana, Illegal consumption of alcohol on WMA, Possession of stolen property, Open container and Failure to have GORP license.