

# Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**January 17 – January 23, 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)**

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On January 17<sup>th</sup> at approximately 1:30 a.m., Cpl. Byron Young received a call from a citizen in reference to night deer hunting on Mission Rd in Euharlee. Cpl. Young and Sgt. Derek Dillard responded to the location and located a freshly killed doe laying in a field. Luckily the caller was able to obtain a tag number on the vehicle that was involved. Cpl. Brooks Varnell and RFC Bart Hendrix arrived to assist with the case. All together the officers interviewed five subjects that were involved in the night hunting incident. Citations and warnings were issued to all five men for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road and hunting from a vehicle.

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, RFC Zack Hardy spent most of his day patrolling Pine Log WMA. RFC Hardy located six ATV's near East Valley Rd. and Stamp Creek Rd. Citations and warnings were issued for illegal use of an ATV on a WMA. Regulations do not allow ATV's on the area at any time.

### **CHEROKEE COUNTY**

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, at 1:15 a.m. Cpl. Brooks Varnell and RFC Bart Hendrix responded to an emergency call on Allatoona Lake. An elderly male on a boat was having medical issues and called 911. Together DNR LED and Cherokee County Fire/ Rescue were able to get the male off the water and checked out by EMS.

### **GORDON COUNTY**

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, RFC Ben Cunningham was working a night hunting complaint off River Bend Rd in Gordon County when he observed a truck illuminate a field three times with the headlights. When RFC Cunningham stopped the truck he saw that there were two male subjects in the truck and they were moving around a lot. When he asked the subjects if there were any firearms in the truck they both said "No". Upon search of the truck RFC Cunningham located a loaded Remington Model 7 6mm. The passenger turned out to be a convicted felon. Both subject were charge for hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle and hunting from a public road. The convicted felon was turned over to his probation officer.

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Shawn Elmore was listening for roost shoots. He heard a roost shoot in the area of McDaniel Rd off Hwy 225. Cpl. Elmore was familiar with the area and went to the location. Sunset on this day was a 6:00 PM. Cpl. Elmore counted 82 shots fired after 6:00PM with the last shot fired at 6:30 PM. Eight hunters came out of the swamp at approximately 8:00 PM. Citations were issued for hunting waterfowl after hours and several warnings were issued for various licenses violations. Five gadwalls, 3 hooded mergansers, and one mallard were confiscated.

### **POLK COUNTY**

While patrolling for small game hunters on January 18<sup>th</sup> in the Esom Hill Area of Polk County, RFC Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray located a stolen vehicle that was parked at an abandoned house.

On the morning of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, RFC Chad Cox and RFC Daniel Gray checked five waterfowl hunters that were dealing with the cold weather and snow. The hunters had killed four ducks.

### **PAULDING COUNTY**

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, while conducting a patrol for illegal off-roading activity on newly purchased Paulding Forest WMA property, Cpl. Lee Burns located a stolen Ford Explorer. This recently purchased tract of land is a well-known destination for local fourwheelin' enthusiasts and efforts are underway to thwart these type violations. Licensed WMA visitors pay to travel upon and enjoy the great hunting and fishing opportunities available on this newly purchased acreage that illegal off-roading damages. Due to the location of the Ford Explorer, a F-450

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

### **HART COUNTY**

On January 23, RFC Brandon Pierce patrolled the county and around Hartwell Lake for any hunting/boating safety activity. Several hunting licenses and one boat was checked. As a result, one citation and two warnings were issued. The violations consisted of operating a vessel without CGA PFD's, operating a vessel without registration, and failure to sign federal migratory bird stamp.

### **MADISON COUNTY**

On January 23, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Shane Sartor patrolled the county for any hunting/illegal activity. The officers listened for an illegal duck shoot around sunset. As a result, one shoot was heard and two subjects were caught. A total of two citations and two warnings were issued. The violations consisted of hunting waterfowl after hours and failure to sign federal migratory bird stamp. Four wood ducks were confiscated as evidence and were given to a family in need.

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

### **HANCOCK COUNTY**

On Thursday January 21, Sgt. John Harwell came in contact with a subject under a bridge at the Hancock County line. After further investigation, the subject was a convicted as a sex offender and was wanted by local authorities. Sgt. Harwell arrested the subject without incident and he was transported to the Hancock County Sheriff's Office.

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On January 20, Cpl. Mark Patterson patrolled portions of the county and Clark's Hill WMA for waterfowl and small game hunting activity. Violations encountered were hunting without a Georgia waterfowl license and hunting without a WMA license.

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On Thursday January 21, Cpl. Julian Wilkins issued a non-resident hunter a citation for hunting on WMA lands without a WMA license, and a warning for hunting without license.

### **RICHMOND COUNTY**

On January 23, Sgt. Max Boswell and RFC Jeff Billips received a complaint of hunting without permission on a pond in Richmond County. The rangers located the three poachers as they returned across the pond in kayaks. Violations documented included hunting without permission, hunting waterfowl without federal duck stamp, hunting waterfowl without Georgia waterfowl license, unplugged shotgun, hunting waterfowl after hours, and operating vessel without PFD.

On January 20, Cpl. Ben Payne patrolled Phinizy WMA and neighboring properties for duck hunting activity. While patrolling he observed a vehicle parked on a county right of way. The landowner had advised that he was having trouble with people accessing Phinizy WMA across the right of way and his property. Cpl. Payne observed gun cases, shotgun shells, and camo in the vehicle. After listening for 20 minutes, Cpl. Payne heard 4 shots coming from Phinizy. He opened the county gate and proceeded to where the shots were fired. After checking two duck hunters it was determined that the landowner had given them verbal permission to access across his property. Verbal guidance was given and the landowner was contacted.

Cpl. Payne checked several other duck hunters on Phinizy WMA. He wrote one citation for hunting on a WMA without a WMA license and gave verbal guidance to two other hunters. There were a total of 12 ducks harvested.

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

### **MERIWETHER COUNTY**

On Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Brent Railey responded to a complaint of fishing without permission on a lake in south Meriwether County. He issued two citations and two written warnings for fishing without permission and fishing without a license to the people who were on the property. Sgt. Railey was assisted by Meriwether County Sheriff's Office deputies.

On Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, RFC Russell Epps and Sgt. Brent Railey checked the same property in south Meriwether County and issued three citations for fishing without permission.

### **OCMULGEE/OAKY WOODS WMA**

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, RFC Ronnie Beard patrolled both WMA's. Several small game hunters were checked and no violations were noted.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On the afternoon of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Bubba Stanford patrolled Cedar Creek WMA and located a subject off-roading on an ATV. The subject received a citation for unlawful use of an ATV on a WMA. Later that evening while patrolling Georgia Power Plant Branch property near Lake Sinclair for hunting without permission, one waterfowl hunter was located. The hunter was charged with hunting without permission, hunting with an unplugged shotgun and hunting waterfowl after hours.

### **TROUP COUNTY**

On Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, RFC Russell Epps and Sgt. Brent Railey checked 4 boat loads of duck hunters at Long Cane Boat Ramp on West Point Lake. They checked 10 hunters and issued two written warnings. One for hunting without Georgia waterfowl license and one for operating vessel without sufficient PFD's.

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

### **TIFT COUNTY**

On the evening of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade was conducting a patrol for after-hours waterfowl hunting when he heard shots coming from an area where he had previous complaints. The officer located three adults and a juvenile as they exited the area and after checking licenses, plugs and ammo, the trio of adults were charged with hunting waterfowl after-hours.

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

### **SCREVEN COUNTY / EMANUEL COUNTY**

On January 22, Corporal Shaymus McNeely and Ranger Randell Meeks were deployed to the Atlanta area in response to Winter Storm Jonas. The Rangers were assigned to Traffic Strike Teams for the purpose of locating and assisting stranded motorists.

### **BULLOCH COUNTY**

On the evening of January 23, Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford and Sergeant Don Dasher worked a night deer hunting detail off Jerusalem Church Road in Bulloch County. During the detail RFC Crawford observed a vehicle come by his position shining a hand held flashlight out the driver's side window. RFC Crawford performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and the driver was cited for blinding wildlife with lights.

## **WILCOX COUNTY**

On Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal John A Stokes received a call about a deer being killed out of season. Stokes responded to the call and conducted an investigation. During the investigation it was determined that one of the hunting club members killed the deer. The violator was charged for hunting out of season and hunting without permission.

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

### **BRANTLEY COUNTY**

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, RFC Colte Shaske received a call from a complainant stating that someone was on his property with a very loud vehicle. Ranger Shaske had received multiple complaints on the property and responded to the area. When he arrived, he encountered a vehicle that was bogged down in the property. Upon investigation, Shaske was able to determine that all the suspects had been drinking alcohol and all admitted to mud bogging in the property. All four subjects were cited with criminal trespass.

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, RFC John Evans was working a night deer hunting complaint. Evans had received information that someone had shot a deer the night before. At approximately 9:15 pm a truck pulled up and began shining the field he was working. The truck pulled further down and shined again through the entire field, this time shining Evans with the light. The vehicle took off but after a short pursuit Evans conducted a traffic stop. Upon further investigation, the two suspects were found to be in possession of two spotlights and a 30-06 rifle. Both men were charged with Hunting deer at night, Hunting from a public road, and Hunting from a vehicle.

### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, several Rangers from Region VII assisted the Glynn County Sheriff's Office with a security detail at the Glynn County Stadium. The event was the 2nd annual Adam Wainwright Foundation Concert. This event hosted several big name country music stars including Montgomery Gentry and Justin Moore. Even though this outside event was hindered by the cold, the attendance was still around 3-4 thousand spectators.