

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
July 24 – July 30, 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 July 28th, Cpl. James Keener and RFC Bart Hendrix responded to Allatoona Lake with Bartow County Fire / Rescue to a drowning call. The body of a 17 year old male was recovered Bartow Fire units in the area of Iron Hill. The 17 year old was swimming with friends at the time of the incident.

On July 30th, Cpl. Byron Young was on routine patrol checking the Etowah River. Cpl. Young located a male cleaning fish on the river bank. The male had no fishing tackle and stated that his friend was out in the river shooting fish. Cpl. Young was unable to locate the second fishermen. Cpl. Young called Sgt. Derek Dillard to assist. Several minutes later Cpl. Young located the male in the water with a diving mask and spear gun. The male admitted that he had shot all the fish. 7 spotted bass with arrow wounds were located in a cooler on the river bank. The man in possession of the spear gun was charged with spearing game fish and fishing without a license. The other fishermen was issued a warning for possession of illegally taken fish.



Bass shot with spear gun in the Etowah River

On July 30th, Sgt. Derek Dillard, Cpl. Brooks Varnell, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix were patrolling Allatoona Lake in the area of Allatoona Landing. The officers stopped 2 vessels at the same time near the railroad bridge. The operators of both vessels were found to be under the influence of alcohol. Both operators were placed under arrest and charged with BUI. One of the operators was under the age of 21.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

No activity to report.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

BURKE COUNTY

On July 25, Burke County Sheriff's Office contacted the DNR Law Enforcement Division about a possible suicide on Brier Creek in Burke County. Cpl. Payne made contact with an investigator working the case and setup a time to meet him at the location where the possible suicide happened. Once on scene Cpl. Payne, Cpl. Adams and Burke S.O. officers combed the banks of the creek trying to locate the subject. After a brief search of the area the subject was located on the opposite bank from the officers. The subject was deceased and notifications were made.

RICHMOND COUNTY

On July 30, Cpl. Payne patrolled Richmond County checking fishing without permission complaints and fishing activity along local creeks. Several licenses were checked with no violations. Fishing appeared to be slow do to no fish being caught. He also checked Phinizy and Spirit Creek WMA's for activity. No activity documented.

WILKES COUNTY

On July 27th Cpl. Mark Patterson taught a boater education class in cooperation with the USDA Farm Services of Wilkes County. All students attending successfully completed the course.

On July 30th Sgt. Brian Carter, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, Cpl. Mark Patterson, and RFC Bobby Timmerman conducted a patrol of Clarks Hill WMA. During this patrol the Rangers documented violations of illegal use of an ATV on a WMA.

LAKE OCONEE

On July 29 – 31, Rangers David Allen, Derrell Worth, Dan Schay, Jason Harrison patrolled Lake Oconee. The Rangers documented several violations including: towing skier w/out an observer on PWCs, Children under the age of 13 in a moving vessel w/out a PFD, 100' violation on a PWC, operating vessel w/improper light during the hours of darkness.

NEWTON COUNTY

On July 29, Ranger Schay was patrolling Newton County for fishing activity. Violations of fishing without a license and non-resident fishing without a license were documented.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On July 27th, Capt. Mark Padgett and Sgt. Matt Garthright responded to a complaint of two subjects collecting Indian Artifacts without permission. Upon arrival at the scene, the Rangers made contact with the two subjects. The subjects were asked about the illegal collection of arrowheads and other artifacts. During a brief search of the subjects persons and vehicle, crystal meth was discovered along with other prescription drugs. The two subjects were arrested and transported to McDuffie County Jail.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On July 30th, Cpl. Ryan Swain respond to a complaint of the illegal captivity of a raccoon. Upon arrival at the scene, Swain made contact with a subject who stated his girlfriend had a pet raccoon. The girlfriend however had already left the scene and returned to her home in South Carolina. The subject was warned about having the raccoon in Georgia and advised about keeping it in South Carolina.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On July 24th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen was checking the boat landing at Lake Oliver Marina for boating violations. Cpl. Bolen spoke with the operator of a pontoon boat coming into the dock and checked the safety equipment on board the vessel. While speaking with the operator, Cpl. Bolen determined the boat operator had consumed alcohol. After field sobriety exercises were administered, Cpl. Bolen determined that the operator was impaired. The operator was arrested for boating under the influence of alcohol and transported to the Muscogee County Jail.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

WARE COUNTY

On July 30th, Ranger First Class Sam Williams was patrolling Laura Walker State Park when he observed a jet ski operating on the lake an hour after the lake had closed to vessels with motors over 10 horse power. The operator of the personal watercraft (PWC) was not wearing a personal flotation device (PFD.) RFC Williams made contact with the operator at the boat landing. Violations for operating a PWC while not wearing a PFD and operating a vessel after hours were documented. Verbal guidance was also given on operating a vessel without registration numbers displayed.

TELFAIR COUNTY

On July 30th, Sergeant James McLaughlin and Corporal Dan Stiles assisted the Telfair County Sheriff's Department with a search for a missing person. The subject left home on foot and was later found deceased.

On July 24th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne was patrolling the Ocmulgee River landings when he encountered two persons driving under the influence. RFC Horne took the persons into custody and released them to the Telfair County Sheriff's Office.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On July 31st, Ranger First Class Daniel North observed a barred owl alongside the highway. Suspecting the owl was injured, RFC North was able to handle the bird and transport it to a local permitted raptor rehabilitator.



RFC North with injured owl in Echols County.

WILCOX COUNTY

On July 24th, Corporal John A. Stokes, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne and Sergeant James McLaughlin worked on a complaint about a violator trying to catch alligators on limblines with chicken legs on the Ocmulgee river below Abbeville. One violator was charged with hunting alligators out of season, using illegal methods, operating a vessel without personnel floatation devices and operating a vessel without registration.

LOWNDES COUNTY

On July 30th, Corporal Tommy Daughtrey received a complaint that a subject was illegally holding an alligator in a pen. Cpl. Daughtrey responded to the residence where the alligator was being held. Cpl. Daughtrey located the alligator in the back yard of the residence. The landowner stated that he had the alligator since it was small. The alligator was approximately six feet long. Violations of holding a game animal w/o a permit and possession of alligator parts were documented. The subject also had numerous alligator skulls in his possession. Cpl. Daughtrey and the local alligator trapper removed the alligator from the pen and it was turned over to the nuisance trapper.



Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

CAMDEN COUNTY

On July 25th, RFC Colte Shaske received a complaint from Crooked River State park in reference to a subject riding a moped on the park without a helmet, driving above the posted speed limit, and driving around the speed bumps. RFC Shaske found the subject at the boat ramp fishing from the dock. RFC Shaske spoke with the subject and cited him for operating moped without a helmet and nonresident fishing without a license.

On July 28th & 29th, Cpl. Kate Hargrove worked a commercial crabbing complaint along Burrell Creek. The commercial crabber responsible for setting his traps within 100' of a dock was charged with the violations for six traps and provided with information to ensure future compliance with commercial fishing regulations.

GLYNN COUNTY

On July 30th, RFC John Evans was patrolling the Village Creek boat ramp on St Simons Island. He encountered two men with several undersized fish. RFC Evans had encountered the men with illegal size fish previously and after conducting a check of their catch Evans confiscated 7 undersized black drum, 1 undersized redfish, and 1 undersized trout. Both men were charged again for possession of illegal size fish.