

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
June 19 – June 25, 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 June 19th, Sgt. Derek Dillard and RFC Zack Hardy responded to a boat incident near Red Top Mt. State Park on Allatoona Lake. A PWC hit a pontoon that was anchored in a cove. Both vessels were damaged, but luckily no one was injured.

On June 19th, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix responded to a fire on Red Top Mt. State Park. The park lodge building was found with flames coming from the roofline. Bartow County Fire arrived to contain the fire. Sgt. Mike Barr responded as well to assist the park staff. Most of the structure received major damage.

On June 19th, Sgt. Derek Dillard, Cpl. Byron Young, RFC Bart Hendrix and RFC Zack Hardy responded to a boat incident at Red Top Mt. State Park on Allatoona Lake. Two PWC's collided near Bethany Bridge. A female was injured and transported to Kennestone Hospital in Cobb County.

On June 24th, Sgt. Derek Dillard and Cpl. Byron Young were patrolling Allatoona Lake and received a complaint of a white ski boat in the area of Wilderness Camp Marina without lights. The officers responded to the area and located the vessel. The operator of the vessel was found to be under the influence of alcohol. The operator was placed under arrest for BUI and operating a vessel without lights.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On June 19th, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix responded to the Etowah River in Canton. Three children were playing and fell into the river. For several minutes one of the children was missing. After a short search of the area, the child was located unharmed.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

RABUN COUNTY

On June 25th, RFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Sheriff's Office Deputy Tony Parrish conducted two boating safety patrols on Lake Burton. The Ranger and Deputy checked numerous vessels and issued citations for operating vessel with insufficient PFD's, towing skier without mirror/observer, operating PWC above idle speed within 100' of an object/person in water, failure to obey regulatory marker, and allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing PFD. Warnings were issued for operating a vessel without registration numbers displayed, operating a vessel with improper registration, towing skier between sunset and sunrise, and operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness.

On June 19th, Ranger Beth Gilbert assisted with the rescue of an adult female on the Sliding Rock Trail at Tallulah Gorge State Park. The woman was not familiar with the park, had not had breakfast before descending the gorge, and was not prepared for the strenuous climb out. Ranger Gilbert provided food and water and escorted the woman to the top of the gorge.

During the rescue, Ranger Gilbert checked the permits of passersby and identified 6 fraudulent passes that were legitimately issued earlier in the day but were being used by people other than those to whom they were issued. Ranger Gilbert issued 6 citations for no gorge permit.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

ELBERT COUNTY

On Saturday, June 25, Sgt. Brian Carter and Cpl. Julian Wilkins patrolled Lake Russell in Elbert Co. The following violations were documented. Two vessels with no personal flotation devices, one vessel with no registration and one subject fishing without a license.

LAKE OCONEE

June 19-25, Sgt. Harwell, Cpl. Worth, RFC Tanner, and Ranger Schay worked Lake Oconee for Operation Dry Water. Citations were issued for the following violations: Boating Under the Influence, Failure to obey a Regulatory Marker, Operating without Registration, Riding bow/gunwale of the boat, 100ft violations, operating PWC's after hours, operating without lights, and Rules of the road violations.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

While conducting a boating patrol on the Flint River on June 19th, Cpl. Tony Cox and RFC Quinn Fogle found the operator of a vessel to be under the influence of alcohol. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Decatur County Jail, where an evidentiary test showed that he had over three times the legal limit of alcohol in his blood. The operator was cited for operating a vessel under the influence.

On June 25th, Cpl. Tony Cox responded to a drowning on Spring Creek near Brinson Georgia. The victim was reported to have been wading at a popular swimming spot when he drowned. The Decatur County Sheriff's Office is investigating this incident.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

COFFEE COUNTY

On June 25th, Corporal Tim Hutto and Ranger First Class Keith McDonald patrolled the Ocmulgee River for boating and fishing activity. At around 8:00 p.m., the officers stopped a vessel to investigate a passenger who was riding the bow. A further check of the vessel turned up a marijuana pipe, marijuana, and crystal methamphetamine. The driver was ultimately charged with boating under the influence and possession of drug related objects. Two other passengers were arrested as well and charged with misdemeanor possession of marijuana and felony possession of methamphetamine charges.

ATKINSON COUNTY

On June 24th, Corporal Tim Hutto was on routine patrol when he noticed a suspicious vehicle around the Willacoochee area. Corporal Hutto initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle and determined that the registration on the vehicle was suspended. Further investigation revealed that the suspect was in possession of a methamphetamine pipe, crystal methamphetamine, and was driving under the influence. The suspect was arrested and taken to the Atkinson County Jail.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On June 25th, Corporal Tim Hutto and Ranger First Class Keith McDonald patrolled an area of Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area on the Ocmulgee River. The patrol resulted in eleven citations and warnings for illegal consumption of alcohol on a Wildlife Management Area and illegal use of an ATV on a Wildlife Management Area.

On June 24th, Sergeant Jon Barnard and Ranger Bobby Sanders responded to a call for stranded boaters on the Altamaha River near Towns Bluff Landing. Due to a lowering water level the boaters ran over rocks on the river damaging their engine. After a brief search the boaters were found and taken back to the landing safely.

TOOMBS COUNTY

On June 23rd, Sergeant Chris Moore assisted a Georgia State Patrol Trooper with the arrest of a subject for driving under the influence and felony possession of controlled substance believed to be methamphetamine.

APPLING COUNTY

On June 25th, Sergeant Jon Barnard, Corporal Kevin Joyce, and Ranger Bobby Sanders were patrolling boat landings for activity at Deens Landing where violations were documented for operating a vessel with insufficient life jackets and operating a vessel without lights during hours of darkness.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On June 19th, Ranger First Class Sam Williams observed a vessel towing a skier go past the Camp Pinkney Boat Landing on plane. Upon making contact with the vessel, RFC Williams also discovered that an eleven year old passenger in the boat was not wearing a life jacket. The violations for operating a vessel above idle speed within 100' of a boat ramp, towing a skier above idle speed within 100' of a boat ramp, and allowing person under the age of 13 to ride in a moving vessel while not wearing a PFD were addressed.

PIERCE COUNTY

On June 19th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Ranger First Class Sam Williams was patrolling Little Satilla WMA when they observed a male subject toss a beer bottle across the River. The officers made contact with the subject and two other female subjects. While interviewing the subject it was determined that the subject was 16 years old and the two female subjects with him were 15. The 16 year old was the only one that had consumed alcohol. Violations for underage possession of alcohol, consuming alcohol on WMA, and littering were addressed.

WARE COUNTY

On June 19th Sergeant Patrick Dupree and Ranger First Class Sam Williams conducted a high visibility patrol and Dixon WMA shooting range. Two individuals were encountered target shooting that did not possess the necessary licenses required to use the range. Guidance was provided to the subjects on the required licenses.

WHEELER COUNTY

On June 24th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne responded to a vehicle submerged in the Oconee River. After an intense and difficult recovery of the vehicle, it was discovered to be stolen from Georgia.

On June 24th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne stopped a vessel on the Oconee River for operating a vessel at night without navigation lights. As a result, further investigations of operator of the vessel was found to be and arrested for boating under the influence. He was also charged with operating a vessel without Coast Guard Approved personal flotation device and for operating a vessel during hours of darkness without navigation lights.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No activity to report.