

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
March 13 – March 19, 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)

BARROW COUNTY

On March 18, Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Fort Yargo State Park. While patrolling, he documented violations which included Operating a Vessel without CGA PFDs, Allowing a Child to Ride in a Moving Vessel without Wearing a CGA PFD, Possession of Marijuana, Non-resident Fishing without a License, Criminal Trespass by Possession of Wildlife on a State Park, Criminal Trespass by Alcohol Violation on a State Park, Criminal Trespass by Fishing with Unlawful Methods on a State Park, Criminal Trespass by Pet Restraint Violation on a State Park, and Criminal Trespass by Noise Violation on a State Park.

On March 19, Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Fort Yargo State Park for fishing activity. While patrolling, he made contact with a subject who was found to be in violation of Criminal Trespass by Alcohol Violation on a State Park, Fishing without a License, and Littering. Ranger Kernahan documented the violations, and confiscated multiple species of fish.

JACKSON COUNTY

On March 20, Ranger Kernahan patrolled Bear Creek Reservoir for boating and fishing activity. While patrolling, he documented violations which included Fishing without a License, Operating Vessel without CGA PFDs, Operating a Vessel with Insufficient PFDs, Allowing an Underage Child to Ride in a Moving Vessel without Wearing CGA PFD, and Possession of an Open Container of Alcoholic Beverage in the Passenger Area of a Motor Vehicle.

HALL COUNTY

On March 19, RFC Kevin Goss, and Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Lake Lanier for boating and fishing activity. They documented violations which included Operating a Vessel without CGA PFDs, Fishing without a License, and Possession of Undersized Bass.

HART COUNTY

On March 17, RFC Brandon Pierce patrolled the ramps and fishing areas around Hartwell Lake for any boating safety/fishing activity. Numerous fishing licenses were checked, as well as, a few boats. As a result, two warnings were issued. The violations consisted of fishing without a license.

On March 19, RFC Brandon Pierce and Sgt. Stan Elrod patrolled the county for any activity. Ramps and fishing areas were patrolled for any boating safety/fishing activity. Numerous fishing licenses were checked, as well as, a boat was inspected. As a result, one citation was issued. The violation consisted of fishing without a license.

WHITE COUNTY

On March 18, Cpl. Anne Britt was called out by White County dispatch to an illegal fire off Town Creek Rd. White County Fire Department was on scene trying to extinguish the fire. Cpl. Britt met with the landowner who admitted to burning a brush fire that included construction debris, paneling, particle boards, 4x8 sheet of insulation board, metal and materials out of an old building. The fire got out of control and burned 12 acres of land. Cpl. Britt cited the landowner for illegal burning of egregious litter.

RABUN COUNTY

On March 19, RFC Joe Hill and Ranger Beth Gilbert located an adult male drinking alcohol in the parking lot at Tallulah Gorge State Park. Ranger Gilbert cited the adult male for possession/consumption of alcohol on a State Park.

Region III – Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On March 19, RFC Tim Butler patrolled municipal fishing areas in Clarke County. Violations encountered were fishing without permission, fishing without a license, operation of a vessel with expired registration, and possession of illegal sized fish.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On March 17, RFC Phillip Nelson investigated an illegal dumping complaint. Violations documented were unlawful dumping.

OCONEE COUNTY

On March 17, RFC Phillip Nelson taught a hunter education class at the Oconee Co. Middle School. Six students were in attendance.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

Ranger Michael Madden participated in a Career Day Program at Dearing Elementary School. Students got the opportunity to tour his DNR patrol boat and learn about the responsibility of Law Enforcement.



Region IV- Macon (West Central)

No activity to report.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

On the night of March 15th, Cpl. Tony Cox responded to a complaint on the Flint River of a vessel being operated erratically and without navigation lights displayed. Cpl. Cox located the vessel operator attempting to dislodge his vessel from a grassy island where he had ran aground, well outside of the river channel. The vessel operator failed field sobriety exercises and was arrested for operating a vessel under the influence.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LAURENS COUNTY

On March 19th, Sergeant James McLaughlin and Corporal Dan Stiles patrolled the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area. One person was checked for license compliance at the shooting range on the WMA. No violations were detected.

DODGE COUNTY

On March 19th, Corporal John A Stokes documented six violations of fishing without license and fishing without WMA license on Dodge PFA.

LOWNDES COUNTY

On Saturday March 19th, Sergeant Morty Wood, Ranger First Class Daniel North, and Sergeant Patrick Dupree served as guides, along with a few other veteran turkey hunters of the community. The kids harvested 3 gobblers Saturday even though it was a rainy, "no-gobbling" morning. This is the 4th year that Lowndes Longspurs and Mr. Jimmy Whatley of Valdosta provided this great opportunity to area youths.



EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On the early morning hours of March 13th, Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford received a call regarding two missing hunters that had not returned home on the evening of the 12th. The two hunters had been hunting an area along Abercorn Creek and had accessed the land by boat. RFC Crawford and Corporal Shaymus McNeely responded to the area to conduct a search using two patrol vessels. Along with RFC Crawford and Cpl. McNeely were elements of Rincon Fire Department, Effingham County Sheriff's Office and a helicopter from Savannah Metropolitan Police Department assisting in the search. At around five hours in to the search the two hunters were located and were transported safely back to Abercorn Landing.

On March 18th, Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford performed a concentrated patrol of Tuckassee King Landing. During the patrol several violations were documented. Violations included fishing without a license, operating a vessel without a fire extinguisher and operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's on board.

On March 19th, Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford patrolled Effingham County looking for hunting and fishing activity. During the patrol several individuals were checked and two violations were documented. Violations included fishing without a license and fishing without permission.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On March 19th, Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel patrolled the Ochoopee River at the Hwy 147 Bridge in Tattnall County. This patrol was in an effort to check fisherman on the river. RFC Jarriel found a boat on the river unoccupied. After a brief investigation of the area RFC Jarriel discovered the subjects to be in a nearby wooded area. One subject was charged for hunting out of season and one was charged for littering.

On March 19th, Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel located an area where a turkey had been killed over bait. RFC Jarriel collected the evidence and made contact with the subjects he had observed leaving the area with a turkey. After a conversation, one person was charged with hunting big game over bait.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRYAN COUNTY

On the morning of March 18, 2016, RFC Miller was patrolling the area of the Richmond Hill Wildlife management area. A call came out from the Sheriff's Office of a car driving recklessly in the area he was patrolling. RFC Miller responded to the area. As RFC Miller arrived in the area he saw multiple mail boxes and trash cans destroyed. Two Deputies also began to arrive in the area. RFC Miller decided to continue to help locate the car. Deputy Crowe located the vehicle and was in the parking area of a residence with the female operator. RFC Miller was going to leave the scene but was asked to perform field sobriety exercises on the operator. The operator was a 19 year old woman that admitted to drinking earlier in the night. She failed all of the field sobriety exercises. It was later determined that she was under the influence of drugs and admitted to taking a "Xani-bar" earlier. The operator was placed under arrest and transported to the Bryan County jail for processing. Thankfully, no one was injured by this driver.

GLYNN COUNTY

On March 16th, RFC David Brady, RFC John Evans and Wildlife Technician Hal Wiggins conducted an Offshore JEA Patrol in cooperation with National Marine Fisheries. Several boats were checked at the offshore reefs from St. Simons Sound to the St. Mary's River Entrance. Once Brady and Evans got back inshore they received a call about a drowning on the Altamaha River. The Rangers, along with Glynn County EMA responded to the area. For the next four days, RFC David Brady, RFC John Evans, RFC Colte Shaske, RFC Patrick Gibbs, RFC Jay Bright, Cpl. Craig Smith, Sgt. Chris Ridley, Sgt. Mark Carson and Captain Bob Lynn worked closely with Glynn County EMA, Wayne County Sheriff's Office and the Camden County Sheriff's office to locate the missing man. On the morning of the 19th, RFC Colte Shaske and an EMA vessel located the body almost two miles from where the incident occurred.