

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
September 18 – September 24, 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 September 18th, Cpl. Byron Young and Cpl. Brooks Varnell checked a baited stand on Pine Log WMA. The officers located a male hunting in the stand with a crossbow. The hunter was found to be hunting bears over bait. Both corn and molasses was located on the ground. The hunter also had motion sensor lights mounted in the trees. The hunter was issued citations and a warning for hunting bears over bait / baiting bears, hunting before legal hours and placing bait on a WMA.

On September 18th, Cpl. Byron Young and Cpl. Brooks Varnell responded to an in-progress burglary call on John Kay Rd. Two suspects fled the house in a black car onto a large hunting club. The officers used 4 wheel drive trucks to search the area while Bartow County and GSP units set up a perimeter. The car was located in a thick cut-over. A short time later the two suspects were arrested walking along a road nearby. They were charged with Burglary in the first degree.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On September 24th, Cpl. Brooks Varnell, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix worked a Kid's Safety Event at Lowe's in Woodstock. The officers pulled a patrol boat for display and provided water / boating safety information to the public. Cherokee County Fire, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office, Georgia State patrol, Safe Kids and several other organizations attended the event.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

BARROW COUNTY

On September 23th, Sergeant Mike Burgamy and Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Fort Yargo State Park. While on patrol near the beach area, they made contact with two subjects who were found to be parked illegally, and in possession of alcoholic beverages. Citations were issued for the violations.

JACKSON COUNTY

On September 18th, RFC Eric Isom utilized his K9 partner Colt to locate a subject hunting in the Pendergrass area. The subject received a citation and warning for hunting big game over bait, hunting without a big game license, and hunting without a game harvest record.

On September 24th, RFC Eric Isom utilized Colt to locate a subject hunting deer over corn near Athens. The subject received a warning for hunting big game over bait.

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On September 18, RFC Joe Hill responded to a complaint in reference to a possible illegal dove shoot in Habersham County. The Ranger located the shoot and checked four hunters. The field was properly prepared, but two of the hunters were hunting with unplugged shotguns. RFC Hill issued the two subjects citations for hunting with an unplugged shotgun.

RABUN COUNTY

On September 23, Ranger Tommy Crabb and RFC Joe Hill responded to a complaint from a landowner on Kennesaw Rd. / Dick's Creek regarding two subjects fishing on his property without permission. Upon arrival the two subjects were located and Ranger's Crabb and Hill met with the landowner. It was determined the subjects were fishing on posted private property and both were issued citations for fishing without permission.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On September 21st Cpl. Julian Wilkins and RFC Tim Butler attended the University of Georgia Career Fair in Athens.

ELBERT COUNTY

On September 10th Cpl. Mark Patterson and RFC Tim Butler responded to a complaint of seven feral pigs that were killed and stolen from a pen on a hunting club. Cpl. Patterson and RFC Butler tracked blood and ATV tracks to a neighboring hunting camp. Two suspects who live in Towns County were identified, but had already left the camp. The following week Sgt. Brian Carter contacted Cpl. Anne Britt and RFC David Webb who agreed to interview the suspects in Towns County. On September 19th Cpl. Julian Wilkins obtained arrest warrants on both suspects for criminal trespass, theft, and hunting without permission.

WILKES COUNTY

On September 18th Cpl. Mark Patterson located a dove shoot and determined it was baited with sunflower seed. Five cases of hunting over bait, and three cases of hunting without a license were documented.

RICHMOND COUNTY

On September 18, Cpl. Payne responded to a complaint of operating a vessel on a public lake where no boats were allowed. Upon arrival the operator of the boat was loading it in the back of his truck. After talking with the deputy on scene it was determined that he was in violation of a county ordinance instead of a state law. However, after checking his fishing license, Cpl. Payne determined that the operator was fishing with a resident license as a non-resident. Cpl. Payne issued a citation for non-resident fishing with resident license. He was warned by deputies for the county ordinance violation.

On September 24, Cpl. Payne and RFC Matherly ran the Laser Shot hunting simulator at National Hunting and Fishing day at Fort Gordon's Tactical Sportsmen Facility. Over 100 kids and adults attended the event. The kids were able to shoot shotguns, 22. rifles, archery equipment and participate in a fishing derby.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

On September 24, Cpl. Brian Adams conducted a canoe and kayak safety class for the Boy Scouts.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On September 22nd, Sgt. Matt Garthright and Sgt. Max Boswell responded to a possible fatal hunting incident. The incident supposedly occurred on Clarks Hill WMA. Upon arrival at the scene, it was determined that the call was not a hunting incident. A male subject with health problems, had suffered a severe heart attack in his vehicle after a short walk on the WMA. The subject was transported to McDuffie County Hospital where he was pronounced dead. The Rangers went back in service.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

JONES COUNTY

On the afternoon of September 23rd, RFC Jeremy Reese, Cpl. Bubba Stanford and Sgt. Bo Kelly concluded a 2 week long investigation into illegal hunting activities. A subject was interviewed and several counts of hunting without permission, hunting over bait and game check violations were made as well as a large 8 point buck's head was confiscated.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the morning of September 24th, RFC Micheal Crawley responded to Lake Sinclair in reference to a waterfowl hunting complaint near Twin Bridges. The incident is still under investigation.

Later that evening, Sgt. Bo Kelly responded to Lake Sinclair in reference to a skiing after hours complaint. The subjects were located and a citation was issued.

TALBOT COUNTY

On September 24th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen was patrolling for deer hunting activity. A truck was located parked on the side of the road. After running the tag and checking the hunting/fishing license database, Cpl. Bolen determined that the hunter did not possess a valid hunting and big game license. K-9 Ruger was utilized to locate the hunter in the woods. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting without a big game license and a written warning for hunting without a license.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

No activity to report

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

WHEELER COUNTY

On September 25th, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne was patrolling Little Ocmulgee State Park Lake for fishing and boating activity. RFC Horne checked two persons fishing and noted a violation for fishing without a license.

LAURENS COUNTY

On September 23rd, Corporal Dan Stiles conducted an evening patrol at the Hugh M. Gillis Public Fishing Area. One angler was checked for license and creel compliance.

On September 24th, Corporal Dan Stiles performed morning and evening patrols at the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area (WMA) during an adult/child firearms deer hunt. Cpl. Stiles remained on the property after dark and patrolled the designated camping locations.

On September 24th, Corporal Dan Stiles conducted a night patrol at the River Bend Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

IRWIN COUNTY

On September 18th, Corporal John A Stokes and Sergeant James McLaughlin patrolled the Alapaha Wildlife Management Area for hunting without permission and other violations.

APPLING COUNTY

On September 24th, Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel patrolled Moody Forest Natural Area in reference to a complaint. RFC Jarriel entered an area that was occupied by a hunter in a ladder stand. This area had also been baited by the subject and RFC Jarriel asked the subject to exit the stand. RFC Jarriel wrote this individual for hunting on a closed WMA/natural area and hunting over bait (deer). Even though it is legal to hunt deer over bait in the southern area, it is not legal to bait on state owned property.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On September 18th, Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders patrolled Bullard Creek WMA for archery hunting activity when two UTV's and one truck was encountered driving behind a closed gate. Violations were documented for driving on non-improved road on a WMA.

On September 15th, Ranger First Class Clint Jarriel received a call from the office of an anonymous caller that said he seen a man walking down a road with a turkey. The caller also stated that he felt like the subject may have shot the turkey due to his suspicious activity. RFC Jarriel traveled to the area and from the information received was able to find the subject and talk with him. RFC Jarriel determined that the subject did kill a hen turkey and was charged for it. RFC Jarriel wrote the subject a citation for hunting out of season (turkey) and the turkey was taken to the office and put into evidence.



TOOMBS COUNTY

On September 24th, Ranger First Class Bobby Sanders patrolled the north end of the county when he detected suspicious individual with two sets of freshly killed buck antlers. After a brief conversation the man told RFC Sanders that they belong to a friend and he was just doing a European mount for him. RFC Sanders obtained the friends name and number and after he contacted him and a brief investigation it was determined that the man in possession of the antlers was the actual shooter. After a second conversation the individual confessed to killing the two bucks and that he had lied because he didn't have a hunting license. Violations were documented for hunting without a license and hunting without a big game license. Both sets of deer antlers were confiscated from the poacher.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On Friday, September 23rd, Ranger First Class Sam Williams conducted a vessel patrol on the St. Mary's River. Several boaters and fishermen were encountered during the patrol. One of the vessels observed was transporting two kids that appeared to be under the age of 13 and not wearing personal flotation devices (PFD's). A vessel stop was conducted and the age of the kids were verified. The violation for allowing person under the age of 13 to ride in moving vessel while not wearing a PFD was documented and verbal guidance was provided to the operator on renewing his vessel registration that had expired a couple of months earlier.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

BRANTLEY COUNTY

On September 20th & 22nd, Cpl. Kate Hargrove instructed a class of eleven students for their hunter safety certification.

GLYNN COUNTY

On September 23rd and 24th, Cpl. Kate Hargrove checked shrimp seiners on coastal barrier islands. Violations were documented for fishing without a license and keeping over the recreational limit of food shrimp.

On September 24th, Cpl. John Evans and Cpl. Kate Hargrove responded to a commercial shrimping vessel causing damage to the fishing pier on St. Simons Island. Rangers assisted the United States Coast Guard and Glynn County Police Department with the incident.

On September 21, RFC David Brady and RFC Jay Bright conducted a detail Altamaha Waterfowl Management Area for early season teal violations. Several violations were documented for Hunting out of season, Hunting without license and Hunting without Georgia Waterfowl license.