



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

**Weekly Report**  
**July 8 – July 14, 2018**

**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- Acworth (Northwest)**

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Daniel Gray patrolled at Lake Paradise. During the patrol 7 people were checked fishing. One citation was issued for fishing w/o license and one individual was arrested for an outstanding warrant.

### **POLK COUNTY**

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Chad Cox attended a Safe Kids Program in Rockmart and talked about gun safety to several kids and their parents. He was able to show them how guns worked by using non firing safe guns that he also uses to teach hunter education.

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Chad Cox answered two separate complaints in Polk County in reference to people fishing without permission. Cpl. Cox was able to locate three individuals and issue them citations for fishing without permission. One subject had a warrant on him from Floyd County and was arrested by Polk County PD after they arrived on scene to assist Cpl. Cox.

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On July 10, CPL Bart Hendrix and GWFC Zack Hardy responded to a boating incident on Allatoona Lake. A female suffered a shoulder injury from falling off a tube being pulled behind the boat. CPL Hendrix met the female at the hospital and learned the other members of the boating party went back on the water. GWFC Hardy learned that the boat was rented from Park Marina and the Game Wardens waited for the boat to be returned. The boat returned and the Game Wardens spoke with the operator and the occupants about the incident. The operator of the boat smelled of alcohol and was later arrested for boating under the influence.

On July 12, CPL Bart Hendrix and GWFC Mark Puig were patrolling Allatoona Lake for boating and fishing activity. The Game Wardens observed a boat going above idle speed in the no wake zone at Bethany Bridge. The Game Wardens spoke with the operator and after performing field sobriety the operator was arrested for operating vessel under the influence and failure to obey a regulatory marker.

On July 14, CPLs Byron Young and Bart Hendrix were patrolling Allatoona Lake near McKinney Campground. The Game Wardens watched a PWC jump the patrol boat wake several times. The PWC was stopped and upon further investigation CPL Young determined the operator, who was under 21 years of age, to be under the influence of alcohol. The suspect was charged with operating vessel under the influence and violating rules of the road.

On July 14, GWFC Frank Pucci and SGT Jason Roberson were patrolling Allatoona Lake near the Narrows when they observed a boat moving across the water with no navigation lights displayed. The boat was stopped and upon further investigation the operator was arrested operating vessel under the influence and operating a boat without lights during the hours of darkness.

On July 14, CPL Bart Hendrix was on his way home from Red Top Mountain State Park when he observed a vehicle running off the road and crossing the center line. CPL Hendrix stopped the vehicle and upon further investigation determined the female driver was under the influence of alcohol. The female driver was charged with driving under the influence and failure to maintain lane. CPL Hendrix discovered the female driver is the wife of the boat operator from GWFC Pucci's BUI arrest earlier in the day.

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

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, GWFC Joe Hill and a DNR intern conducted a boating safety patrol on Lake Burton. GWFC Hill issued several citations for operating a PWC without wearing CGA PFD and issued one warning for violation of rules of the road.

On July 11<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Anne Wiley and Game Warden First Class Kevin Goss responded to a request from Rabun County 911 to patrol an area on Lake Seed behind the Georgia Power office. The game wardens were notified someone had broken into the Georgia Power office the night before. A ground search team accompanied by K-9 dogs located a foot track that lead the team towards the lake. Approximately two hours later, the ground team located the suspect and he was taken into custody.

Later the same day, Cpl. Anne Wiley and Game Warden First Class Kevin Goss assisted Rabun County EMA/Search & Rescue for a missing person. A 19 year old male walked away from his job at 12:30 hours on July 8<sup>th</sup> in Clayton, GA. The adult male contacted his mother and said he was "tripping". The adult male was last seen walking on Arbor Drive in Lakemont, GA on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The male was located on July 11<sup>th</sup>, by the Rabun County SAR team. The male was found on foot near Spruce Creek, which was approximately 3 miles from the last known location. Rabun County EMS evaluated the male and he was taken back to his residence.

On July 14, Sgt. Seitz, Cpl. Anne Wiley and GWFC Joe Hill responded to a boating incident on Lake Burton. Two PWC's were following each other on the lake when one PWC operated by a 12 year old male with two passengers struck the rear of the other PWC occupied by two 17 year olds. One female passenger was struck by the PWC. She received a severe head injury, broken bones, and internal injuries. The other male operator received a broken wrist and thumb. The female victim was airlifted to a hospital in Knoxville, TN for treatment of her injuries and the male victim was driven to a hospital Athens, GA.

### **WHITE COUNTY**

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Steve Seitz, Cpl. Anne Wiley and Captain Steven Turner responded to an injured female hiker who had fallen off of an embankment on Dukes Creek trail. The victim suffered lacerations and a head injury. White County SAR responded to the victim by foot. Captain Turner successfully airlifted the victim off of the trail by long line. Cpl. Wiley assisted with the aerial observation during the rescue. Sgt. Seitz assisted White County EMA catching the victim at the LZ and putting her on an ambulance where she was then transported to North East Georgia Medical Center for treatment of her injuries.

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

### **ELBERT COUNTY**

On July 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Cpl. Julian Wilkins and Cpl. Mark Patterson conducted vessel patrols of Lake Russell. The Game Wardens documented a number of violations to include allowing a person to operate a vessel without safety equipment, towing a skier without a personal flotation device, operating a vessel without personal flotation device, operating a vessel without registration, failure to obey a regulatory marker, operating a vessel with improper PFD, and fishing without a license.

### **WILKES COUNTY**

On July 6<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Brian Carter and Cpl. Mark Patterson responded to a call at approximately 9:00pm of lost or stranded boaters on the Broad River. The Game Wardens responded along with Deputies from both the Wilkes and Elbert County Sherriff's Office. Little information was available other than kayak paddlers had become stranded after being caught in heavy thunderstorms and darkness fell. The 911 call was lost due to poor cell service and contact could not be re-established. The party was located shortly before midnight in a section of the river known as Anthony Shoals on the Lower Broad River WMA. Fourteen people ranging in age from 3 to 51 years of age were rescued from the shoals with no injuries.

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

### **HARRIS COUNTY**

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Game Warden Ethan Franklin was patrolling for boating and fishing activity at Idle Hour Boat Ramp on Lake Harding. While a boat was approaching the ramp, the officer noticed the navigational lights turning on and off. The officer approached the boat and spoke with the operator. Game Warden Franklin noticed alcoholic beverage containers on board and the strong odor of alcoholic beverages coming from inside the boat. The operator showed signs of impairment as he was asked to find safety equipment for the boat. The officer noticed 3 children on board the vessel during the safety inspection. Game Warden Franklin performed standardized field sobriety tests on the operator to see if he was impaired. The operator was determined to be impaired based on the tests. He was then placed under arrest and charged with boating under the influence and BUI child endangerment.

### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

On the evening of July 9<sup>th</sup> Corporal Bubba Stanford responded to a boating incident on Lake Sinclair near Oconee Springs Park. A subject had been canoeing in the area and his canoe was discovered capsized. DNR LED utilized SONAR and searched the area throughout the night. At approximately 0800 hours on the morning of July 10<sup>th</sup> the victim's body was recovered. The incident is still under investigation.

### **TROUP COUNTY**

On July 14<sup>th</sup> Sgt. Brent Railey assisted the US Army Corps of Engineers and Harmony House (a local domestic violence shelter) in the annual Dragon Boat Races. Sgt. Railey patrolled the perimeter of the racing area to ensure no spectators interfered with the races.

On July 14<sup>th</sup> Game Wardens Russell Epps and Kevin Godbee patrolled West Point Lake. They issued a citation to a PWC operator for reckless operation after they observed him spraying another vessel.

### **WILKINSON COUNTY**

On July 13<sup>th</sup> Game Warden Josh Cockrell assisted the Wilkinson County Sheriff's Office with arrest warrants for several subjects responsible for an incident at a restaurant in McDonough, Ga. Two subjects were taken into custody.

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

### **THOMAS COUNTY**

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Eric White and David Jones assisted in a multi-agency search for a wanted subject. Robert Carter III was wanted in connection with multiple crimes across two states that ranged from theft to kidnapping and is believed to be involved in the disappearance of an elderly female. The search area encompassed a large section of the Ochlocknee River and the city of Ochlocknee. Carter was known to frequent the river and to be an accomplished woodsman, which made search efforts difficult as well as thick vegetation and uneven terrain. After the subject was spotted in an area along the river, a K-9 team accompanied by the US marshals was able to locate and apprehend Carter without any resistance. Wardens conducted searches of the river on foot, by vessel, and assisted with aerial search efforts to bring Carter to justice.

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

### **LAURENS COUNTY**

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles responded to a report of a boating incident on the Oconee River. Cpl. Stiles arrived on scene after the victim had been transported to the hospital. Cpl. Stiles retrieved the vessel at the scene and interviewed witnesses. According to the witnesses the vessel was traveling at a high rate of speed and flipped end over end, ejecting the victim from the vessel. The victim sustained numerous internal injuries and received emergency surgery. The following day the victim was transported to a trauma center in Savannah for additional treatment.



*Vessel the victim was driving*

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Stiles conducted a patrol by vessel on the Oconee River in support of the Great Oconee River Raft Race sponsored by the Altamaha Riverkeeper. Approximately 60 people participated in the event followed by prizes and awards for the participants.



*Awards ceremony at the conclusion of the raft race and picture of Altamaha Riverkeeper's with Cpl. Stiles and Laurens County Deputy Kalem Stiles (Yes! He is the son of Cpl. Dan Stiles)*

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

### **GLYNN COUNTY**

On July 12th, Corporal Kate Hargrove attended public safety career day at Georgia Department of Labor. Cpl. Hargrove met with potential candidates for employment and provided information on hiring process. Later that day, Cpl. Hargrove instructed boater education at the Brunswick Region Office. Five students were certified.

### **CAMDEN COUNTY**

On July 8<sup>th</sup>, Game Wardens Colte Shaske and David Brady responded to a landowner complaint concerning trespassing on his hunting club. After checking the area for activity, the game wardens were able to back track and apprehend an ATV with two subjects trespassing on the club. The driver of the ATV was issued a citation and released at the scene.