

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
August 11-17, 2013

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)

GILMER COUNTY

On August 6th, Sgt. John Vanlandingham, RFC Joe Hill, and RFC Cody Jones assisted the Governor's Task Force ground crew with drug suppression efforts in Gilmer County. Flights were conducted around several areas of Gilmer County. Two small outdoor marijuana grows were spotted and one arrest was made at one of the residences. Arrest warrants were secured by the Zell Miller Mountain Parkway Drug Task Force for a subject at the other residence. RFC Hill provided the pilot with GPS coordinates of a location on the south end of the county. RFC Hill knew the area was a two year old clear cut and a marijuana grow was very likely to be in the area. At these coordinates a larger marijuana grow was found resulting in over seventy plants being found. The plants appeared to have been recently planted from cuttings off larger plants and had been watered that morning. The DNR Rangers looked up the landowner, utilizing public records, and provided this information to Agents with ZMMPDTF. Agents with the ZMMPDTF went to the land owners residence to interview him about the plants, and found a large indoor grow in the subjects garage. Two people at the residence were arrested.



RFC Cody Jones and RFC Joe Hill with some of the marijuana plants.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

DEKALB COUNTY

On August 11th, Cpl. Eric Sanders was patrolling the lake at Stone Mountain Park for boating and fishing violations. Cpl. Sanders issued a warning for operating a vessel without registration. Cpl. Sanders arrested one subject and took out warrants for possession of an article with a missing or altered serial number and for theft by receiving. This was for a boat, motor and trailer the he encountered at the boat ramp at Stone Mountain Park Lake.

FORSYTH COUNTY

On August 11th, Sgt. Lee Brown and RFC Barry Britt patrolled Lake Lanier for boating and fishing violations. The rangers issued written warnings and citations for operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's, operating a vessel without PFD's and operating a PWC above idle speed within 100' of an object.

Sgt. Brown and RFC Britt also assisted Cpl. Adam Loudermilk and RFC Mark Stephens with a boat fire that occurred in the mouth of Big Creek.

On August 11th, RFC Mitchell Crump and Ranger Shane Brown patrolled Lake Lanier for boating and fishing violations. The rangers issued written warnings and citations for operating a vessel with improper registration, operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's, operating a vessel without a throwable device, operating a PWC above idle speed within 100' of an object, allowing an underage child to ride in a vessel without wearing a PFD and fishing without a license.

GWINNETT COUNTY

On August 15th, Sgt. Lee Brown and Ranger Shane Brown conducted an On-Line Hunter Education Class at the Bass Pro Shop in Lawrenceville. A total of 11 students were certified in Hunter Education.

LUMPKIN COUNTY

On August 17th, Sgt. Lee Brown and Ranger Shane Brown talked with the home owners of a subdivision in Lumpkin County about coyotes in their neighborhood. Legal methods of taking coyotes were discussed. The rangers also answered the home owner's questions.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On August 17th RFC Tim Butler taught a Hunter Education class certifying 26 students.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On August 14th Cpl. Julian Wilkins and RFC Phillip Nelson assisted the Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Department and the Athens – Clarke County Police Department with marijuana eradication efforts.

WILKES COUNTY

On August 12th Cpl. Mark Patterson located an abandoned vehicle while on patrol. The location and condition of the vehicle indicated that it was likely stolen. After a brief investigation, Cpl. Patterson and a Wilkes County Deputy were able to determine that the vehicle had been reported as stolen from a nearby county. The incident is still under investigation by the Wilkes County Sheriff's Department.

WALTON COUNTY

On August 17, Sgt. John Harwell, Sgt. Brian Carter, RFC Richard Tanner, RFC Tim Butler, and RFC Niki Spencer inspected 35 vessels at a monthly vessel inspection held at the Wildlife Resources Conservation Center in Social Circle.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY

On August 17th, RFC Leroy Ficklin performed a concentrated patrol of the McDuffie County Public Fishing Area. No violations were detected.

On August 17th, Cpl. Brian Hobbins and RFC Jeff Billips performed vessel inspections at the Thomson Office. Thirty vessels were inspected.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On August 16th, RFC Robert Timmerman responded to an animal complaint off of Columbia Industrial Parkway. Upon arrival at the scene, RFC Timmerman met with deputies who explained that a vehicle had struck a deer and the deer was badly injured and laying on the side of the road. RFC Timmerman had to dispatch the deer due to the extent of its injuries.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

HARRIS COUNTY

On August 15th, Corporal Jeremy Bolen, and Corporal Mitch Oliver responded to a call about possible fishing without permission. Once on the scene, the officers noticed 3 subjects walking out of the woods. The subjects claimed that they were just walking around and looking for a place to come back later and fish. Corporal Bolen utilized K-9 Ruger to back track the subjects and determine where they had been. Ruger located a fan lying in a ditch and then tracked up to one of three cabins on the property. The officers noticed wet shoe prints walking through this cabin. The officers determined that the subjects had entered all three cabins while on the property. The subjects later admitted to entering the cabins and taking the fan and leaving it in the woods. The subjects were arrested and charged with criminal trespass and burglary.

HOUSTON COUNTY

On August 16th and 17th, Conservation Rangers conducted a hunter education course at the Buck-A-Rama held in Perry, Georgia. Seventy-five students were certified after successfully completing the ten hour course of instruction.

JASPER COUNTY

On August 11th, Corporal Susan Morris and Corporal Tony Wynne were patrolling Lake Jackson for PWC's operating after sunset and skiing after sunset. They observed a pontoon boat with no bow lights displayed. Corporals Morris and Wynne activated their blue lights and stopped the vessel. While Corporal Wynne was conducting a boating safety inspection, he noticed the smell of alcohol coming from the operator. The operator was asked to put on a PFD and come into the patrol boat for some field sobriety exercises. The operator failed the sobriety exercises and was placed under arrest. He was transported to Georgia Power Land Department Office where he was given a breath test on the Intoxilyzer 5000. The result of the breath test was .148 gms. The operator was charged with operating a vessel under the influence, operating a vessel during the hours of darkness with improper lights, and child endangerment because one of the passengers was under the age of 14. He was transported to the Jasper County Jail.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the afternoon of August 17th, Ranger Matt Johnson, Ranger Derek Cobb and Corporal Bubba Stanford investigated a boating incident on Lake Sinclair involving 2 personal watercrafts. The incident is still under investigation. Later that day the rangers patrolled both Oconee WMA and Cedar Creek WMA and no activity was reported.



Ranger Matt Johnson speaks with Larry Randall at the Cedar Creek WMA shooting range.



Rangers Derek Cobb and Matt Johnson measuring the length of a PWC involved in a boating incident on Lake Sinclair.

TROUP COUNTY

On August 15th, Sergeant Jim Bradfield presented an information program on DNR's Law Enforcement Division to the Troup County Sportsman's Club in LaGrange. Over 40 people were present at the meeting, mostly members and a few guests. The new regulation pamphlets were distributed at the meeting and the club's hosting a hunter education class at their facility was planned for the future.

On August 17th, Sergeant Jim Bradfield and volunteer instructor William Britt presented a hunter education class in LaGrange for 38 students.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

On August 11th, Cpl. Randy Davis and Ranger Steve Thomas were on a vessel patrol on the Flint River when they were flagged down by a subject standing on a small sandbar. The subject advised that his boat motor had quit running, and he needed a tow. During their investigation, it was discovered that the subject had hit several trees on the riverbank, causing the damage to the vessel. The vessel operator was cited for reckless operation of a vessel.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LAURENS COUNTY

On August 17th and 18th, Cpl. Dan Stiles conducted a 10 hr. Hunter Education Course. Eight students completed the course and received their certification cards.

APPLING COUNTY

On August 18th, Cpl. Altman answered a complaint of the illegal possession of an alligator. Once at the residence, the alligator was found, along with the subject whom captured him. The alligator was set free, and one contact for illegal possession of alligator was documented.

EVANS COUNTY

On August 11th, RFC Brannen patrolled the Evans County Public Fishing Area. Three violations for fishing on a PFA without a WMA license were documented.

On August 17th, RFC Clint Jarriel and CPL Kevin Joyce worked the Evans County PFA for fishing violations. Two citations were written for fishing on a PFA without a WMA License.

JEFF DAVIS

On August 17th, Cpl. Altman and Ranger Gibbs patrolled Bullard Creek WMA for opening weekend of squirrel season. One warning was given for failure to obtain the GORP permit while using the gun range.

WARE COUNTY

On August 11th, Cpl. Josh Chambers, Cpl. Jason Shipes, and Ranger Sam Williams checked for boating and fishing activity at Jamestown landing and the GA Hwy 158 access on the Satilla River. Eleven boats and five fishing license were checked. Citations were issued for fishing without a license and littering. One warning was issued for operating vessel without PFDs and a warning was issued for operating a vessel without registration. Verbal guidance was given for four additional violations.

PIERCE COUNTY

On August 10th, Cpl. Josh Chambers and Cpl. Jason Shipes responded to boating incident on the Satilla River. An adult female reportedly fell from the vessel that she was a passenger in and received facial lacerations and other minor injuries.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

CAMDEN COUNTY

On August 15th, RFC David Brady and RFC John Evans conducted a JEA patrol offshore Cumberland Island. After checking numerous recreational fisherman, the officers found a small shrimp trawler fishing right off the beach. The officers boarded the boat and conducted a commercial inspection of the gear and licenses. Finding several TED violations, the Captain was cited for Commercial Fishing with Illegal Gear.

On August 16th, RFC David Brady received a call concerning a vessel that had been anchored out in Cumberland River for several hours and was unmanned. RFC Brady and Cpl. Chris Ridley responded to the area off the North End of Cumberland Island, and found the 19' center console vessel. Cpl. Ridley boarded the boat in an effort to locate any evidence that could assist in the investigation. The officers located some material with names and addresses, and with assistance from the Camden County Sheriff's Office were able to locate the owner whom was safe on Cumberland Island.

GLYNN COUNTY

On August 17th and 18th, DNR officers from Region 7 assisted the Georgia State Patrol with the annual Jekyll Island Beach Festival. Capt. Doug Lewis, Sgt. Chris Hodge, Sgt. Mark Carson, Cpl. Chris Ridley, Cpl. Craig Smith, RFC Jack Thain, RFC David Brady, and Ranger Jordan Crawford assisted with crowd control, water security, and water safety issues throughout the two day event.