

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
October 27-November 2, 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)

BARTOW COUNTY

On November 1st, Cpl. Lee Burns assisted Emerson Police Department and Bartow Sheriff's Office with a foot chase. A subject was tased by an Emerson Police Officer after resisting arrest for several felony warrants from Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. After being tased, the subject ran from officers through the woods. After a lengthy foot chase, the subject was tased again by another Emerson Police Officer. This time, the subject was subdued and arrested for fleeing, resisting arrest and the multiple warrants prior to this arrest.

On November 2nd, Cpl. Byron Young checked an adult and juvenile deer hunting off Industrial Drive in Cartersville. Both hunters were hunting without the required hunter orange. Cpl. Young issued the adult a citation for hunting without hunter orange and stressed the importance of the orange clothing to the juvenile.

On November 2nd, RFC Brooks Varnell and RFC Bart Hendrix were patrolling the Hwy 20 area and responded to a call of two subjects hunting without permission on US Army Corps of Engineers property near Allatoona Lake. The caller stated that the two subjects shot a deer and were leaving in a green truck on Wilderness Camp Road. Cpl. Byron Young and a Bartow County Deputy also responded to the area. The Bartow County Deputy stopped the truck on Wilderness Camp Road. One adult and one 16 year old were in the truck. A dead button buck was found in the back of the truck. DNR officers interviewed adult and located and searched the hunting area. Officers located blood on the side of Wilderness Camp Road where the deer was loaded into the truck. RFC Hendrix located blood and hair and a bullet strike on a tree 84 feet from the public road. The adult admitted to driving on Wilderness Camp Road and getting out of the truck, walking into the edge of the woods and shooting the deer. The adult was also found to be hunting without a license. Citations and warnings were issued for hunting without permission, hunting from a public road, possession of illegally taken wildlife, and license violations. The 16 year old was not charged.



Bullet strike on tree 84 feet from a public road

CHEROKEE COUNTY

On October 27th, Cpl. Lee Burns located a fourteen year old deer hunting alone. Cpl. Burns inquired about his father's location and hunter education certificate. Finding that he had not taken the Hunter Education Course, Cpl. Burns and the child re-entered the woods and found the father hunting alone. Cpl. Burns issued the father a citation for allowing a child to hunt without adult supervision.

On November 1st, RFC Bart Hendrix presented an informational program at Arnold Mill Elementary School. 150 kids attended the event where RFC Hendrix discussed Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division's role in the outdoors and public safety.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

JACKSON COUNTY

On November 1st, RFC Eric Isom was finishing up an investigation that started from a tip from a concerned citizen prior that week. The concerned citizen stated that a particular subject had killed three bucks. After RFC Isom collected evidence, he was able to track down the subject and conduct an interview. The subject confessed to killing a 7 point buck, a 10 point buck, and tagging them as doe kills. RFC Isom issued citations for failure to record deer harvest and seized the racks as evidence.



HALL COUNTY

On November 1st, at 0930 Ranger Kevin Goss received a call about a man who had gone missing after leaving for a fishing trip the night before on Lake Lanier. Ranger Goss found the missing boat and person near Don Carter State Park, the individual was in his boat fishing. After stopping the vessel and questioning the operator as to his whereabouts, Ranger Goss conducted field sobriety on the man and arrested him for BUI and took him to Hall County Jail.

TOWNS COUNTY

On November 2nd, RFC David Webb and Cpl. Jesse Cook responded to a complaint of hunting without permission off HF Lyons Road. Complainant advised that someone had shot a deer in his pasture. Officers were given a description of a vehicle and a possible suspects name by witnesses. RFC Webb remained at the incident location and Cpl. Cook began looking for the suspect vehicle. After a short time the suspect vehicle was located and a brief interview was conducted to which the suspect denied any involvement. Cpl. Cook returned to the scene and a doe deer was located in the field which was still warm. A bullet was collected from the deer in good condition and will more than likely be able to be analyzed by the Georgia Bureau of Investigations for rifling characteristics once a suspect weapon has been collected. Other information may be collected for testing by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and explosives to aid in the investigation. A simple hunting without permission case once completed will end up with other charges.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

RICHMOND COUNTY

On November 02, Sgt. Max Boswell and RFC Grant Matherly checked a location off US HWY 1 in Richmond County which had several baited stands. One subject was located and was issued a warning for hunting over bait. The subject was unaware that the bait had been placed close to his stand. The subject told Sgt. Boswell who had placed the bait out, but did not know it had been placed close to his stands as well. Cpl. Ben Payne was contacted and advised of the situation so he could check the property the next day for further violations.

BURKE COUNTY

On The evening of November 02, Wildlife Tech 3 Steve Kyles and RFC Matherly were working a complaint of night hunting in south Burke County, when they stopped a vehicle shining a cut corn field and pecan orchard. The vehicle was occupied by three subjects, which had two loaded rifles, a shot gun and loaded pistol. The subjects were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting from a public road.

COLUMBIA COUNTY

On November 2nd, RFC Brian Adams responded to an in progress hunting without permission complaint in the Knob Hill Community near Evans. Upon arrival at the scene, RFC Adams located and apprehended two subjects hunting without permission on private property. After further investigation of the matter, one more subject was apprehended for hunting without permission, illegal taking of wildlife, no orange clothing, and violations of license requirements. The subjects received citations for their actions and were released.

GLASCOCK COUNTY

On November 2nd, RFC Brian Adams apprehended and cited two subjects for hunting big game over bait violations and no orange clothing violations.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On October 29th, Cpl. Ryan Swain responded to a shots fired complaint in the Lovelace area of Lincoln County. Upon arrival at the scene, Cpl. Swain and Lincoln County Deputies' apprehended four subjects who was night hunting off of Metasville Road. The four subjects were cited for hunting at night, hunting from a public road, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting without permission.

GREENE COUNTY

On November 2, Cpl. Derrell Worth cited one individual for hunting big game over bait and for not wearing fluorescent orange while deer hunting.

On November 3, Cpl. Derrell Worth and USFW Officer Zach Nichols cited one individual for hunting big game over bait and for not wearing fluorescent orange while deer hunting.

NEWTON COUNTY

On October 29, RFC Niki Spencer investigated a tree stand incident that occurred on October 25th. A 68 year old male fell from a lock on tree stand when the ratchet strap attaching the tree stand to the tree broke. The male suffered from two crushed vertebrate.

On November 2, RFC Niki Spencer cited one individual for hunting big game over bait.

WALTON COUNTY

On November 3, RFC Niki Spencer cited one individual for hunting big game over bait and for not wearing fluorescent orange while deer hunting.

On Sunday, October 27, Sgt. John Harwell and RFC Richard Tanner responded to a hunting incident in Walton County. Through the investigation it was determined that the hunter was in the process of entering a ladder deer stand when his firearm accidentally discharged, striking him in the hand. The incident resulted in the victim losing one of his fingers and having to undergo surgery to repair the rest of the damage. It was also determined that the hunter was hunting on land the he did not have permission to be hunting on and hunting over bait. Charges were filed for the offenses.

MORGAN COUNTY

On Monday, October 28, Sgt. Matt Garthright and RFC Richard Tanner responded to a complaint of possible illegal hunting activity. Upon further investigation, it was determined that a large buck had been shot across property lines. The individual was charged with hunting on lands of another without permission and the deer was confiscated. The meat of the deer was donated to a needy family.



ELBERT COUNTY

On October 27th RFC Phillip Nelson and Cpl. Julian Wilkins checked three subjects fishing on Lake Russell. One of the subjects was fishing without a license and had been charged earlier this year by Cpl. Wilkins. She was issued a citation for fishing without a license.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On October 27th RFC Phillip Nelson caught one subject bow hunting deer over a spin feeder with corn in Oglethorpe Co. Subject did not have his orange vest with him or any license. He was issued a citation for the bait and a warning for the orange vest.

WILKES COUNTY

On November 2nd Cpl. Mark Patterson and RFC Tim Butler checked areas known to have baited stands. Violations documented during the days patrol were seven hunting big game over bait, six fluorescent orange violations, two license violations, and one instance of allowing juvenile to hunt without having completed the hunter safety course.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

On the morning of November 2nd, Ranger Matt Johnson and Cpl. Josh Copelan checked a baited deer stand within the city limits of Milledgeville. Two hunters were located and one of the hunters was arrested for misdemeanor possession of marijuana; other charges included hunting big game over bait, hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and license violations.

CRAWFORD COUNTY

On October 31st, Ranger David Fisher investigated an anonymous complaint called in to the Turn in Poachers tip line about a deer having been poached in Crawford County. The ranger was able to locate and interview the individual involved in the incident. As a result of the investigation, it was determined that the suspect shot a doe earlier in the week with a .22 caliber rimfire rifle. The individual also did not possess the proper licenses. Citations and warning were issued for hunting with an illegal weapon and hunting without the proper licenses.

On November 2nd, Ranger David Fisher was checking baited deer stands when he located two individuals hunting. Citations and warnings were issued for non-resident license violations, hunting big game over bait and hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

JASPER COUNTY

On October 27th, RFC Freddie Hays was patrolling Jasper County for hunting activity and located a vehicle with a bag of corn in it. RFC Hays then conducted a foot patrol of the area and located two subjects hunting near feeders full of corn. One of the subjects did not have a hunting license and neither of the subjects was wearing fluorescent orange clothing. RFC Hays followed the subjects back to their vehicle while they carried what was left of a second bag of corn. The subjects were issued citations for hunting big game

over bait and hunting without fluorescent orange and written warnings were issued for the license violations.



On Thursday morning, October 31st, Cpl. Tony Wynne was notified of a hunting incident on Clybel Wildlife Management Area during a quota deer hunt. Cpl. Wynne went to the area and investigated the incident and interviewed the victim at the hospital. He found the hunter injured himself when he fell approximately six feet from a climbing stand while descending a tree.

On November 2nd, RFC Freddie Hays checked an area where he had previously located several salt blocks. He found two subjects hunting over the salt blocks and another subject was hunting without his fluorescent orange. The subjects were issued citations for hunting big game over bait and hunting without fluorescent orange clothing.

On November 2nd, RFC Freddie Hays checked an area that was baited with a salt block known as a “Trophy Rock”. RFC Hays was able to locate a subject hunting over the bait and was not wearing any fluorescent orange. The subject was issued a citation for hunting big game over bait and a written warning for hunting without fluorescent orange clothing.

JONES COUNTY

On the morning of October 27th, Ranger Jeremy Reese checked several baited deer stands in the central area of the county. Two hunters were located hunting near the baited areas and citations were issued for hunting big game over bait and hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange.

MONROE COUNTY

On Sunday morning, November 3rd, Cpl. Tony Wynne was patrolling Monroe county checking for hunting activity. While patrolling, Cpl. Wynne remembered there was a baited deer stand in the area that he had checked numerous times over the past two or three years and had never seen anyone hunting in it. Wynne decided to check the stand again to see if it had bait this year. As he approached the stand, Cpl. Wynne saw a hunter in the stand. The hunter climbed down and Wynne checked his hunting license. After checking his license, Cpl. Wynne asked the hunter if he had anything in front of his stand. The hunter said he did not, so Wynne asked the hunter if it was alright for him to look the area over. The hunter said it was okay. Cpl. Wynne went to the area he had previously seen bait and discovered a pile of corn with a camera overlooking it. Wynne called to the hunter for him to come over. The hunter responded that he knew it was there. The hunter was charged with hunting big game over bait.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the afternoon of October 27th, Cpl. Lynn Stanford apprehended a subject on an arrest warrant at a residence in the southern part of the county. The warrant was based on a one month investigation that Cpl. Stanford had been working that began with hunting without permission complaint. The subject was charged with criminal trespass, misdemeanor possession of marijuana and burglary.

TROUP COUNTY

Cpl. Jeremy Bolen and RFC Russell Epps located a hunter in Troup County on Sunday morning, November 3rd. This hunter was determined to be a convicted felon. K9 Ruger was utilized to take the officers back to the hunter's deer stand where it was discovered to be baited. K9 Ruger also located an illegal size buck that had been taken. While on the way out of the area, Ruger air scented around an old barn in the woods where the Rangers located a freshly killed hen turkey hidden in the barn. The hunter was arrested and transported to the Troup County Jail for multiple violations. Four other hunters on the property were issued citations and warning for various violations. The firearm was seized as evidence and the deer meat was donated to a local food shelter.

On October 30th, Cpl. Keith Waddell was approached by a man in the parking lot of a fast food restaurant in LaGrange. The man said another man was inside causing a disturbance. When Cpl. Waddell went inside, the disorderly suspect made a rude comment to Cpl. Waddell. Cpl. Waddell detained the suspect until LaGrange Police arrived. Ultimately, the suspect was arrested on a traffic charge and it was determined he had a felony warrant outstanding in California.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

WEBSTER COUNTY

On October 31st, Sgt. Butch Potter responded to an illegal burning call. The individual responsible for the fire was charged with illegal burning of egregious litter.



Illegal burning Webster County

STEWART COUNTY

On November 2nd, Cpl. Steve Robinson located a non-resident deer hunter hunting without big game license. Cpl. Robinson issued the hunter a citation for non-resident hunting deer without big game license and a warning for no harvest record.

While patrolling Hannahatchee WMA, Cpl. Steve Robinson located a hunter hunting without the proper licenses for a WMA. The hunter was issued warnings for hunting on a WMA without a WMA stamp and non-resident hunting without license.

QUITMAN COUNTY

On November 2nd, RFC Jim Atchley and Ranger Quinn Fogle located two subjects fishing without license on Pataula Creek in Quitman County. Both individuals were issued warnings for the infractions and released.

CLAY COUNTY

On November 2nd, RFC Jim Atchley and Ranger Quinn Fogle stopped a vehicle and issued the operator a warning for blinding wildlife with lights.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

LAURENS COUNTY

On October 27th, RFC Allen Mills received a call from Cpl. Dan Stiles in reference to a hunting deer at night complaint in progress. RFC Mills made contact with the complainant and was informed that an individual had shot a deer in front of his wife's stand just after dark and had left the area. Moments later the suspect returned to the scene, drove into the field with the intent of recovering the button buck that had been shot. The complainant confronted the suspect and advised him, "to stay until the 'Game Warden' arrived". After arriving on scene, RFC Mills conducted a brief interview with the complainant and suspect in order to gather all the pertinent facts. Violations for hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, hunting from a public road, and possession of illegally taken wildlife were documented. The deer was confiscated and given to the land owner.



On October 31st, Cpl. Stiles patrolled the Beaverdam WMA during a check-in big game hunt. Violations documented were hunting within 50 yards of a road on a WMA, hunting without licenses (hunting license, big game license, and WMA license), hunting without license on person, and possession/transportation of a loaded firearm in a vehicle.

DODGE COUNTY

On October 27th, RFC Allen Mills conducted a CD-ROM HE class in Dodge County. Thirteen students ranging from 16 years old to 49 years old received their certification.

On October 28th, RFC Allen Mills conducted a general I&E program at the South Dodge Elementary School's "Fall Festival". Hundreds of students along with their families visited the school and participated. RFC Mills answered general hunting and fishing questions, handed out 'safety whistles', TIP pencils, "Safe Hunter" wristbands, license protectors, and hunting regulation handbooks.



On November 2nd, RFC Allen Mills, Cpl. Dan Stiles, and Sgt. David Reckley conducted a surveillance detail near a hunting club in reference to multiple complaints in the area. At approximately 0745 hours, an individual came by the location in a vehicle described by the complainants and sounded the vehicle's horn for an extended period of time as they slowly drove past the location where the complainants parked their vehicles and were hunting. The officers stopped the vehicle to inquire why this individual was causing a disturbance in the area. After an extensive interview with this individual and a discussion of the complaints the officers had received in the area, verbal guidance was given for disturbing/ interference with lawful taking of wildlife.

On November 2nd, RFC Allen Mills, Cpl. Dan Stiles and Sgt. David Reckley conducted a HIN inspection site at the Dodge County Public Fishing Area. Eight vessel owners were assisted with boat registration issues.

EVANS COUNTY

On the morning of October 27th, Cpl. Eddie Akins was patrolling the Bulloch - Evans County line in the area of DeLoach Church for hunting activity. Just over the county line in Evans County, a hunter was checked by Cpl. Akins. This license check resulted in one violation being documented for hunting without a license.

BULLOCH COUNTY

On the afternoon of October 27th, Cpl. Eddie Akins was patrolling areas along the Bulloch-Jenkins County Line when he encountered three individuals running deer with dogs. Further investigation of the incident resulted in three violations being documented for running deer with dogs on unpermitted property.

On the afternoon of October 28th, Cpl. Eddie Akins was checking areas off Highway 67 south of the interstate for hunting activity. One hunter was located and a violation for hunting without florescent orange was documented.

On November 1st, Cpl. Eddie Akins located three stands and two electronic feeders on Oliver Bridge Wildlife Management Area. The stands were checked that afternoon and the following day during the morning and afternoon for hunting activity.

On the evening of November 2nd, Cpl. Akins located someone hunting one of the stands near the feeders. This resulted in three violations being documented. The violations were for hunting without florescent orange, hunting over bait and hunting on a closed WMA.

EMANUEL COUNTY

On October 27th, Cpl. Wilcox received information about a tree stand incident that occurred on Friday, October 25. The man that fell from a tripod tree stand in Emanuel County was being treated at Memorial Hospital in Savannah, GA. RFC Kate Hargrove interviewed the victim while he was in the hospital. He stated that he lost his footing and fell approximately 12 feet to the ground. The victim received several broken bones and contusions from his fall. Cpl. Wilcox, Sgt. Dasher, and RFC O'Brien went to the location of the incident and photographed the tripod tree stand and examined it for any damage or modifications.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On Nov. 2nd, Cpl. Shaymus McNeely was checking deer hunters off Halcyondale Landing Rd near the Ogeechee River. Cpl. McNeely encountered a white male subject hunting deer with a Savage 30-06 rifle, who had no hunting license, and claimed to have no identification. The man also claimed he did own his rifle but had borrowed it. Upon checking the man's identity, Cpl. McNeely learned the man was a convicted felon. The man was arrested and charged with; possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license.

JENKINS COUNTY

On October 27th, Sgt. Dasher and Cpl. Wilcox were patrolling Jenkins County looking for hunting activity. While on patrol, the two officers encountered two individuals hunting on a hunting club near Herndon, GA. The officers documented two violations for hunting deer w/out fluorescent orange, nonresident hunting w/out nonresident hunting license, and nonresident hunting big game w/out nonresident big game license.

On October 31st, Sgt. Don Dasher patrolled Jenkins County for deer hunting activity. He checked three hunters and documented two violations, one for hunting deer without wearing fluorescent orange and the other for failure to record deer kill record.

CHATHAM COUNTY

On November 1-2nd, Cpl. Wilcox went to Skidaway Island to assist Cpl. Scott with a fatal boating accident. Cpl. Scott and Cpl. Wilcox are members of the Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (C.I.R.T.) and were charged w/ investigating the boat accident. They took photographs and measurement of the vessel and the scene of the accident. The investigation is still ongoing.

COFFEE COUNTY

On October 27th, RFC Hilton responded to an unlawful dumping complaint. RFC Hilton found multiple bags of garbage containing a suspect's name and address inside. RFC Hilton made contact with the suspect at his residence. RFC Hilton interviewed three individuals about the dumping and all three admitted to the offense. RFC Hilton issued warnings for unlawful dumping.

On November 2nd, RFC Hilton was participating in a night hunting detail in Lanier County. RFC Hilton witnessed a vehicle pass his location and shine the field he was watching. RFC Hilton conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver of the vehicle and the passenger. RFC Hilton found a loaded .30-.30 rifle beside the driver along with two handheld spotlights and a flashlight in the vehicle. The subjects admitted to hunting deer at night. RFC Hilton charged both individuals with hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle and hunting big game from a public road.

IRWIN COUNTY

On November 1st, RFC Tim Hutto and RFC Keith McDonald visited Irwin County Elementary School. The officers talked to seven third grade classes about Georgia DNR K-9's. After visiting the classrooms, the officers performed a K-9 demonstration using K-9 Gauge. There were approximately one hundred and twenty kids in attendance.

LANIER COUNTY

On November 2nd, Captain Scott Klingel, Sgt. Damon Winters, Sgt. Patrick Dupree, Cpl. Jason Shipes, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey, Cpl. Chase Altman, Cpl. Josh Chambers, RFC Keith McDonald, RFC Joe Hilton, RFC Tim Hutto, and RGR Daniel North worked a concentrated night deer hunting detail. Five subjects were arrested for hunting deer at night, hunting from a vehicle, and hunting big game from a public road.



On October 27th, three white males were apprehended by Cpl. Morty Wood after shining and shooting at a deer off Lee Road in Lanier County. The suspects had fled the scene after a resident in the area ran them off of the property. The suspects wrecked their vehicle approximately a mile down the road and the vehicle became stuck in a power line right of way beside the road. The trio were arrested and charged with hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road, and hunting from a vehicle. Two rifles, a hand held spot light, and a mag-lite were seized and held as evidence.



On November 2nd, 2013, at approximately 11:30P.M., Cpl. Chase Altman, flying as an observer, in a DNR airplane spotted a vehicle with a spotlight being shined out of the vehicle as it went by several fields. Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey and Ranger Daniel North were guided to the suspect vehicle by air from Cpl. Chase Altman. A stop was made on the vehicle. Three subjects were arrested for: hunting deer at night, hunting big game from a public road and hunting from a vehicle.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

CHATHAM COUNTY

On October 31, Sgt Cindy Miller, Cpl Bill Bryson, and RNG Jordan Crawford responded to an overdue boater call. After searching different creeks and help from Chatham County Metro's helicopter, the boat was located. The occupants in the boat were deceased and had apparently run into something. The CIRT team was notified and they continue to work this boating incident.

On November 3, Sgt. Cindy Miller received a call from Coast Guard Sector Charleston reference a boat capsized in the Vernon River with two male subjects in the water. RFC Buster Cooper and Sgt. Miller responded from the Skidaway boat ramp area to the Vernon River. Upon arrival the Rangers made contact with a recreational fishing vessel that rescued one individual from the water. That person was treated for hypothermia. The second person was not recovered and recovery efforts have been underway since.

GLYNN COUNTY

On November 1, Sgt Mark Carson, Cpl Chris Ridley, RFC Randy Aspinwall, RFC John Evans, RFC Jason Miller, RNG's Jay Bright and Colte Shaske assisted Glynn County Police Department with working the Georgia Florida Beach Bash on St Simons Islands. These rangers focused their efforts on environmental laws such as littering and crowd control. The county estimated 5000 college students were in attendance.

