

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
May 1 – May 7, 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 May 7th, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix patrolled Allatoona Lake. The officers stopped a vessel near Flamingo Cove. The operator as well as all the passengers in the boat were found to be under the influence of alcohol. The operator was placed under arrest for boating under the influence and allowing person the ride the bow/ gunwale of a vessel. RFC Hendrix drove the vessel back to Glade Marina. The officers also issued 7 additional citations and warnings for boating violations.

COBB COUNTY

On May 6th, Cpl. Brooks Varnell responded to the Chattahoochee River in reference to drowning near Sandy Point. Cobb Fire / Rescue recovered the body of an 18 year old victim several hours later.

FLOYD COUNTY

On May 5th, Sgt. Mike Barr and RFC Roger McConkey participated in the public service awareness day at Pepperell Primary School in Lindale. They saw over 300 students and spoke about boating and water safety. The students had a lot of questions about the patrol boat and life jackets.



Pre K Student Alysha Barton shows her support for law enforcement and public safety while assisted by Para Teacher Crystal Colston.



One student had a little trouble showing how to properly wear a life jacket. Students became familiar with wearing life jackets of the proper size and type.

DADE COUNTY

On May 3rd, Sgt. Mike Barr and Cpl. Shawn Elmore attended the Trenton-Dade County Optimist / Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in Trenton, Georgia. Sgt. Barr had nominated Cpl. Elmore for the 2016 Law Officer of the Year for his conservation efforts and assist to local agencies in the community. Also represented were the Georgia State Patrol, the Georgia Motor Carrier Compliance Division, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Trenton Police Department, and the Dade County Sheriff's Office. Cpl. Elmore was chosen as the 2016 Officer of the Year!



Cpl. Shawn Elmore (center) was chosen as the Trenton-Dade Co. Optimist/FOP 2016 Law Officer of the Year.



Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HABERSHAM COUNTY

On May 1, RFC Joe Hill and USFS LEO Derrick Breedlove patrolled Lake Russell WMA for hunting and fishing activity. While on patrol RFC Hill issued a subject a citation for nonresident fishing without a license and LEO Breedlove issued a subject a citation for seat belt violations.

WHITE COUNTY

On May 7, Cpl. Anne Britt and RFC Joe Hill patrolled Chattahoochee WMA for hunting and fishing activity. The Rangers issued citations and warnings for illegal camping on a WMA, violation of GA open container law, fishing without a trout license, and fishing without permission.

TOWNS COUNTY

On May 7, RFC David Webb and SGT Steve Seitz patrolled Towns County for hunting and fishing activity. The officers checked fifteen fishing license and issued one citation for fishing without a license and two written warnings for fishing without a trout license on Soapstone Creek and the Tallulah River.

RABUN COUNTY

On May 5 at about 6:50 PM, Ranger Beth Gilbert received a call from Georgia State Patrol about two adult male fishermen who had lost their way as they were returning to their vehicle in the Coleman River area. The men had left the river to take a shortcut back to their vehicle when they became lost. The men were able to get cell phone service and call for help. Rabun County 911 was able to text message a photo of the current map of the area for them to use as they were hiking back to their vehicle. USFS LEO Derrick Breedlove and Ranger Gilbert responded to Coleman River to confirm the location of the men's vehicle and ensure their safe exit from the woods. The officers located the two lost fishermen in good health at about 7:30 PM as they were driving out of the area.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

NEWTON COUNTY

On Saturday May 7, RFC Phillip Nelson, and RFC Tim Butler assisted with Jake's Day at Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center. The Rangers brought mini boats for the kids to enjoy and taught them water safety.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On May 5th, Cpl. Ryan Swain, Cpl. Brian Hobbins, and Ranger Michael Madden responded to a complaint of a boating incident that had occurred at approximately 2130hrs on Clarks Hill Lake. The complaint was forwarded to the Rangers by South Carolina DNR Law Enforcement. South Carolina Rangers advised that two elderly subjects were stranded somewhere off of the Savannah River due to their vessel being swamped with water. The subjects were somewhere on the shoreline of the Savannah River. After a search, Rangers from South Carolina located the subjects on the Georgia side of the River in the Bussey Point area. The subjects were taken back to their vehicles in South Carolina. The vessel was recovered the next day near Bussey Point.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

BALDWIN COUNTY

In the early hours of May 1st, Sgt. Bo Kelly and Cpl. Bubba Stanford responded to Lake Sinclair in reference to a boat accident. No injuries were reported and the investigation is ongoing.

BLECKLEY COUNTY

RFC Ronnie Beard received information that a large amount of trash had been dumped in a creek on the east side of Bleckley County. RFC Beard responded to the location and was able to find names of possible suspects. The investigation in ongoing.

HOUSTON COUNTY

On Sunday May 1st, Cpl. Robert Stillwell conducted patrols of Oaky Woods and Flat Creek for Turkey Hunting and Fishing activity. Multiple compliance checks were conducted with no violations detected.

JONES COUNTY

Friday May 6th, 2016, RFC Jeremy Reese patrolled Juliette Dam. Four fisherman were checked with a mixed bag of bluegill, reader sunfish, and largemouth bass. No violations were detected.

MERIWETHER COUNTY

On Saturday, May 7th, RFC Russell Epps and Sgt. Brent Railey found a vehicle parked on Joe Kurz WMA and it appeared the driver was turkey hunting. Turkey season was closed for the year on Joe Kurz. The rangers tracked a hunter several hundred yards across the WMA. He was located and issued a citation for hunting on a closed WMA.

PIKE COUNTY

On Sunday, May 1st, RFC Kevin Godbee patrolled the Flat Shoals area of the Flint River. He issued multiple warnings for several violations.

On Saturday, May 7th, RFC Kevin Godbee, RFC Russell Epps and Sgt. Brent Railey patrolled the Flat Shoals area of the Flint River. They issued citations and warnings for fishing without permission and operating a vessel without a PFD.

On Wednesday, May 4th, Cpl. Keith Waddell patrolled Still Branch Reservoir. He issued citations and warnings for operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's and fishing without a license.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On May 7th, 2016, Sgt. Bo Kelly and RFC Micheal Crawley were patrolling Lake Sinclair when they made a vessel stop on a pontoon boat operating without registration numbers. Once the vessel was stopped, the officers checked for required safety equipment. The officers found that the vessel did not have a throwable device or a fire extinguisher. The officers detected alcohol and conducted field sobriety on the driver. The operator was subsequently arrested for boating under the influence and cited for the other safety violations.

Sgt. Bo Kelly and RFC Micheal Crawley received a complaint from a citizen on the lake that there was a blue bass boat with 3 guys smoking marijuana under the bridge. The officers later made contact with the vessel and smelled a strong odor of marijuana. The subjects were questioned and checked for weapons and RFC Crawley subsequently found approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an ounce of marijuana. The operator of the vessel was arrested for possession of marijuana and boating under the influence.

TROUP COUNTY

On Sunday, May 1st, RFC Russell Epps patrolled Hardley Creek Park on West Point Lake. He checked several fishermen and issued a written warning for fishing without a license.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

CLAY COUNTY

On May 7th, Cpl. Scott Carroll was patrolling Clay County and noticed a vehicle parked on the shoulder of the roadway. While inspecting the vehicle Cpl. Carroll heard an individual calling turkeys in a nearby wooded area. Cpl. Carroll followed the calls and located a hunter who had an odor of marijuana coming from his person. When asked, the subject admitted to smoking and being in possession of marijuana. Cpl. Carroll seized a bag of marijuana and the subject was arrested for violation of georgia controlled substance act and hunting under the influence of drugs.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

BACON COUNTY

On May 2nd, Corporal Jason Shipes was contacted by the Bacon County Sheriff's Department and asked to assist in the search of a missing subject. Cpl. Shipes responded to the area and began assisting other agencies with searching a small pond located next to the residents along with the wooded area around the house. As a result of interviews and other evidence collected by the Georgia Bureau of Investigations, the search for a missing person turned into a possible recovery. Around noon, Sheriff Foskey located the body of the missing person while walking in the wooded area across the road from the victim's house. It was determined by the Georgia Bureau of Investigations that the missing subject was the victim of a homicide.

CLINCH COUNTY

On March 31st, RFC Daniel North received information from Corporal Jason Shipes about a large amount of used motor oil that had been illegally dumped. The oil had been dumped on private land owned by Rayonier and had spread via water drainage down county ditches. Rayonier employees and Clinch County employees were able to stop the spread of the oil before it reached a nearby creek. An investigation by RFC North revealed that the oil had come from a house nearby where somebody had cleaned the yard for the owner. On May 2nd felony warrants for illegal dumping for commercial purposes were taken on the individual suspected of dumping the oil.



Used motor oil discarded in Clinch County.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On May 7th, Sergeant Patrick Dupree, RFC Sam Williams, and RFC Daniel North conducted a vessel patrol of the Alapaha River from Statenville to Mayday. Seven different vessels were encountered and nineteen anglers were checked. Several violations were documented for operating a vessel without personal floatation devices (PFDs), fishing without licenses, and improper or no registration on vessel. Pan-fish were biting well and many of the fishermen had impressive catches.



Nice catch of pan-fish from the Alapaha River in Echols County.



RFC North & RFC Williams returning after a 10-mile patrol of the Alapaha River in Echols County.

CANDLER COUNTY

On May 6th, Ranger Randell Meeks participated in the Candler County School Touch-a-Truck event. Ranger Meeks held I&E programs for K-5th grades and nearly 500 students attended the event.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On May 7th, Corporal Shaymus McNeely and Ranger Randell Meeks conducted a patrol of the Savannah River. Rangers checked numerous boats and fisherman. Two suspects were located in a private lake off of the river, violations of fishing without permission were documented.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On May 1st, Cpl. Kevin Joyce and RFC Debbie Brannen patrolled the Altamaha and Oconee Rivers. Multiple vessels were checked resulting in one violation for operating a vessel without a throwable device.

TATTNALL COUNTY

On May 7, RFC Clint Jarriel patrolled the Ohoopsee River near the 147 bridge. Multiple vessels were checked and one violation for fishing without a license was documented.

LAURENS COUNTY

On May 7th, Corporal Dan Stiles assisted the Dublin / Laurens Recreation Authority with a Kid's Fishing Derby. Sixty three children participated in the event.

On May 7th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger First Class Rodney Horne patrolled the Oconee River by vessel. Eighteen vessels were checked for boating safety equipment and vessel registration compliance. Ten anglers were also checked for license compliance and creel limits. One violation was documented for allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel without a personal floatation device (life jacket) and one violation was documented for operating a vessel without personal floatation devices.

BERRIEN COUNTY

On May 5th, Corporal Tommy Daughtrey checked a subject fishing at Paradise PFA. After running the subject's information through GCIC on the mobile data terminal located in Daughtrey's patrol vehicle, it was determined that the subject was "wanted" on a warrant out of Tift county. Corporal Daughtrey contacted the Georgia State Patrol dispatch center and confirmed the warrant was valid. The subject was arrested and held for the Tift County Sheriff's office. The subject was turned over to Deputy Keith Newell. A small amount of marijuana and a pistol was found in the subject's vehicle.

COOK COUNTY

On May 7th, while performing a vessel patrol at the Reed Bingham State Park Lake, Corporal Daughtrey check a subject operating a vessel without a life jacket on board. The violation was documented.

LANIER COUNTY

On May 7th, Sergeant Morty Wood, Corporal Tommy Daughtrey, Corporal Tim Hutto and Ranger First Class Keith McDonald responded to a drowning incident on the Alapaha River in Lakeland. The victim was located by Trooper Shane Copeland (diver) and transferred to the Lanier County Coroner.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

GLYNN COUNTY

On May 6th, RFC John Evans was patrolling Altamaha Park along the Altamaha River around 2130 hours. Evans observed a vessel coming from up river that did not have navigational lights. As the vessel pulled up to the dock, Evans made contact with the operator. While inspecting the vessel registration Evans smelled the strong odor of alcohol coming from the operator and observed many empty beer cans in the boat. While Evans was gathering information, the suspect fled on foot. After a short investigation and follow up Evans located the suspect whom was arrested and charged with boating under the influence, operating a vessel without lights and obstruction of an officer