

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
October 16 – October 22, 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 October 16th, Sgt. Derek Dillard, RFC Mark Puig and RFC Zack Hardy worked a night hunting detail in the Taylorsville area. At approximately 9:45 p.m. a truck came by the officer's location and shined several fields. The officers made a traffic stop and located 2 loaded rifles in the truck. Three local men were placed under arrest and charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road and hunting from a motor vehicle.

On October 22nd, Sgt. Derek Dillard and Cpl. Byron Young checked baited stands near Adairsville. The officers located 3 hunters hunting over feeders. Citations and warnings were issued for hunting big game over bait and hunting without the required hunter orange.

On October 22nd, Sgt. Derek Dillard, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Bart Hendrix checked Allatoona WMA. The officers located several hunters in violation. The WMA was only open for Adult / Child, Ladies and Honorary Hunters. Three hunters were issued citations for hunting on a closed WMA and several warnings were issued to hunters for license violations.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

JACKSON COUNTY

On October 22nd, RFC Eric Isom utilized his K9 partner, Colt, to locate three subject hunting big game over bait. Also two of the subjects were not wearing fluorescent orange while deer hunting.

BARROW COUNTY

On October 20th, Ranger Chris Kernahan responded to a complaint in Barrow County in reference illegal hunting activity. Ranger Kernahan made contact with a subject who was found to be hunting without permission, hunting without fluorescent orange, and failing to comply with deer harvest reporting requirements. Citations were issued for the violations.

On October 21st, RFC Kevin Goss, and Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Barrow County for deer hunting activity. While on patrol, the Rangers made contact with a subject who was found to be hunting big game over bait. A citation was issued for the violation.

On October 21st, Ranger Chris Kernahan patrolled Fort Yargo State Park. While on patrol, he made contact with multiple subjects who were found to be in possession of marijuana. Additionally, Ranger Kernahan found one subject to be illegally using archery equipment. Citations were issued for the violations.

On October 22nd, RFC Mark Stephens, and Ranger Kernahan patrolled Barrow County for deer hunting activity. While on patrol, the Rangers made contact with two subjects who were found to be hunting without permission, hunting from a vehicle, hunting without fluorescent orange, failing to comply with deer harvest reporting requirements, & failing to comply with hunter education requirements.

Additionally, one of the subjects was found to be a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, hunting while under the influence of drugs, hunting without a license, and hunting without a big game license. The subject was arrested for the violations, and warrants were obtained.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

CLARKE COUNTY

On October 22nd RFC Tim Butler documented one case of hunting big game over bait.

OCONEE COUNTY

On October 22nd RFC Tim Butler documented two cases of hunting big game over bait, one case of hunting without permission, and one case of hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

OGLETHORPE COUNTY

On October 22nd CPT Stan Elrod and RFC Phillip Nelson documented one case of hunting big game over bait, one case of hunting without permission, and one case of hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

WILKES COUNTY

On October 22nd SGT Brian Carter and CPL Mark Patterson documented seven cases of hunting big game over bait and five cases of hunting deer without fluorescent orange.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

On Friday evening October 21, CPL Adams and RFC Matherly were working a night hunting complaint on new road in Washington County. After a vehicle passed the Game Wardens' location it entered into a field behind them and fired one shot. When the Game Wardens stopped the vehicle there was found to be two passengers, a 12 gauge shot gun and a dead rabbit in the bed of the truck. After interviewing the subjects were charged with, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting at night with aid of a light.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

On October 21, RFC Grant Matherly was following up on a tip he had received from the DNR Licensing Unit regarding a Non-Resident from Florida trying to purchase a Resident Life Time License. With help from the DNR LE investigative unit RFC Matherly was able to determine that in fact the subject was not a resident of GA but a was a resident of Florida. After investigating the incident and interviewing the subject he was charged with, Making False Statements to Obtain a License.

On the morning of October 23, RFC Grant Matherly received a tip reporting that a subject had shot a deer the previous night from the road way. RFC Matherly went to the location that he was told the deer was located and found out the name of the subject that had shot the deer and where the subject was currently hunting. RFC Matherly checked to see if the subject possessed a hunting license and found that he did not currently hold a valid Non-Resident hunting license. Upon locating the subject and his girlfriend they were questioned about the events of the previous night. After gathering the information and the evidence they needed the Male subject was arrested and taken to the Jefferson County jail. A 9 point buck was confiscated and the subject was charged.

RICHMOND COUNTY

On the morning of October 22, Cpl. Ben Payne and Sgt. Max Boswell patrolled deer hunting activity and check baited locations for deer. There were 4 subjects charged for Hunting Deer over Bait.

WALTON COUNTY

On Thursday October 20, Ranger Harrison was working a Hunting without Permission complaint on Shiloh Church Rd in Walton County. While walking through an adjacent property, a subject was located hunting from the tailgate of a pickup truck. The subject was later determined to be hunting under the influence of alcohol. Ranger Harrison asked the hunter if he was alone to which he replied "no." The hunter directed Ranger Harrison to where the 3rd party was hunting. When Ranger Harrison located a portable tree stand that was approximately 15 feet up a tree with a back pack hanging from it, but no hunter. At that time Ranger Harrison contacted RFC Boles for back up and Walton County SO to transport the HUI suspect. Later that evening after a thorough investigation by RFC Boles the 3rd party was located and admitted to Hunting with a Rifle during Muzzleloader season, Hunting Big Game over Bait, and Obstruction of a Law Enforcement Officer. The 3rd party was cited for all three infractions. The HUI suspect was charged with HUI and booked into the Walton County Jail.

On October 22, Ranger Jason Harrison cited two hunter for Hunting Big Game over Bait and one for hunting without blaze orange.

NEWTON COUNTY

On October 22, Ranger Dan Schay cited one hunter for hunting big game over bait.

GREENE COUNTY

On October 21-22, Cpl. Derrell Worth cited six hunters for hunting big game over bait, four were cited for having no orange vests, one was cited for hunting out of season, (killed a doe), one failure to record deer harvest on a six point buck, one unlawful enticement charge, and two individuals for hunting without permission.

MORGAN COUNTY

On October 21-22, RFC Ricky Boles cited five hunters for hunting big game over bait, two hunters were cited for not wearing their orange safety vest, and one was cited for hunting without permission. RFC Boles responded to a hunting incident where a hunter fell out of the deer stand and was transported to a nearby hospital.

HANCOCK COUNTY

On October 22, Cpl. David Allen cited a hunter for hunting big game over bait and hunting without an orange safety vest. Cpl. Allen also worked the fall festival at Hamburg State Park.

LINCOLN COUNTY

On October 22nd, Cpl. Ryan Swain apprehended two subjects who were hunting deer over bait. The subjects also were not wearing orange vests. The subjects were cited and released.

On October 22nd, Cpl. Ryan Swain apprehended one subject hunting deer over bait. The subject also was not wearing orange clothing. The subject was cited and released.

On October 22nd, Cpl. Ryan Swain responded to a in progress hunting without permission complaint. One subject was apprehended while trying to flee the scene. After a traffic stop, the subject was identified and cited for hunting without permission.

TALIAFERRO COUNTY

On October 22nd, Sgt. Doyte Chaffin, Sgt. Matt Garthright, and RFC Robert Timmerman apprehended two subjects for hunting deer over bait. The subjects also were not wearing orange clothing and had various license violation. The subjects were cited and released.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

HARRIS COUNTY

On October 22nd, Cpl. Mitch Oliver and Cpl. Jeremy Bolen were requested by the Harris County Sheriff's Office to assist with the search for a missing 4 year old. The child wandered off from the Boy Scout camp while playing in the woods. Cpl. Oliver and Cpl. Bolen were in the woods utilizing K-9 Ruger to search for the missing child when an adjoining landowner called saying he located the child. Apparently the missing boy had walked up on a hunter that was on the property and they called 911 to report the incident. The child was in good health and walked approximately 3/4 of a mile before being found.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On Saturday, October 22nd, Sgt. Bo Kelly Patrolled Cedar Creek and BF Grant WMAs in Putnam County conducting compliance checks during the first firearm hunts of the season. One written warning was issued for hunting without fluorescent orange.

TALBOT COUNTY

On October 22nd, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen responded to a hunting complaint where shots were fired close to a property line. Cpl. Bolen discovered that the hunter was on the property legally and killed two deer. One of the deer was a 6 point buck, which was illegal for Talbot County. The hunter was issued a citation and the deer was donated to a local food bank.

On October 22nd, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen was patrolling for deer hunting activity. Two hunters were observed leaving the woods on a golf cart. Cpl. Bolen checked the hunter's license and discovered that one of the subjects did not have a current hunting license. The hunter was issued a citation for hunting without a license and a written warning for hunting without a big game license.

TAYLOR COUNTY

On October 20th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver responded to a complaint of a subject shooting a deer from the road. Cpl. Oliver made contact with a Taylor County deputy that had initially responded to the call and learned that the suspect was in custody and would be at the county jail. Cpl. Oliver went to the jail where he interviewed the suspect and learned that there was a second suspect involved. According to the suspect in custody, he and a friend killed the deer in a vehicle. The suspect shot the deer with a 12 gauge shotgun loaded with #8 birdshot. They went back to a residence and came back to the scene to pick the deer up on ATV's and that is when the deputy stopped them. The second suspect along with his father were called and asked to come to the jail for questioning. The shooter was charged with hunting from a vehicle, hunting from a public road, and hunting deer with illegal ammo. The driver was charged with hunting from a public road and hunting from a vehicle.

TWIGGS COUNTY

On Saturday, October 22nd, Cpl. Robert Stillwell patrolled Ocmulgee WMA during the firearms deer hunt conducting multiple compliance checks with no citations issue. Cpl. Stillwell also patrolled Twiggs County issuing one written warning for hunting without orange.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

DECATUR COUNTY

On October 22nd, Sgt. Rick Sellars conducted a morning and afternoon patrol on Silver Lake WMA, which was closed for deer hunting. During these patrols, four deer hunters were located and cited for hunting on a closed WMA. Citations were also issued for hunting with buckshot on a WMA, and transporting a loaded weapon on a WMA. Sgt. Sellars also patrolled Lake Seminole WMA and cited two hunters for operating a vessel without PFD's, and failure to record deer harvest.

On October 22nd, RFC Steve Thomas responded to a call from a GSP Trooper regarding a subject who was stopped at a road block and was found to be in possession of a freshly killed deer. During the inspection, it was found that the subject did not possess a hunting license. The subject was cited for non-resident hunting without a license, hunting without a big game license and the deer was confiscated.

STEWART COUNTY

On October 21st, Sgt. Jim Atchley and RFC Quinn Fogle were working an illegal trapping complaint involving six pole snare devices when the rangers observed two subjects near the trap location. The subjects were interviewed and found to have set the traps. Both subjects were cited for trapping with unlawful devices.

Illegal Snare Pole Set



CALHOUN COUNTY

On October 22nd, Sgt. Ellis Wynn conducted patrols on Albany Nursery and Chickasawhatchee WMAs locating and citing one individual for hunting on a closed WMA.

MACON COUNTY

On October 20th, RFC Jesse Harrison received a complaint of possible night hunting. The complainant stated he heard one shot come from a public road and went to investigate. The complainant was able to get a tag number of the violator's vehicle. During the investigation that followed, three suspects were identified. It was determined a deer was killed from the roadway and loaded into the violator's vehicle. After interviewing the owner of the vehicle, the subject confessed to shooting a doe deer from the road, while his 9 year old son held the spotlight. A second adult was also present and assisted in the incident. The two adults were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

CLINCH COUNTY

On October 22nd, Sgt. Patrick Dupree drove into a hunting camp near Withers and observed an adult male standing near a vehicle. The man turned his back to Sgt. Dupree's vehicle, dropped something onto the ground, and kicked it under the nearby vehicle. Sgt. Dupree exited his truck and smell a strong odor of marijuana smoke. When asked was he smoking marijuana, the man replied that he was and that he had kicked his glass pipe under the car. When asked did he have any more marijuana on his person, the man pulled a small bag of marijuana from his pocket and handed it to Sgt. Dupree. Clinch County Sheriff's Department was contacted and the man was escorted to jail with charges for marijuana possession and possession of drug-related object pending.



Marijuana & pipe seized in Clinch County

On October 22nd, Corporal Jason Shipes and Sergeant Chris Moore encountered several subjects hunting deer with dogs south of Homerville. As they approached the vehicles parked on the shoulder of the roadway, one subject was observed to be in possession of a loaded weapon. After checking for all the required licenses and permit requirements, a citation was issued for hunting big game from a public road. Earlier, two subjects were observed traveling along the public roadway on an ATV, both wearing daylight fluorescent orange. A harvested feral hog was observed strapped to the front of the ATV. Contact was made with the subjects and after a brief interview one of the subjects admitted to hunting deer without a license. The subject was issued citations for non-resident hunting without a license and non-resident hunting big game without a license.

ECHOLS COUNTY

On October 12th, Ranger First Class Daniel North responded to a call about a large alligator in a yard on Kinsey Road. RFC North arrived and observed several individuals gathered around a large alligator. The gator had been shot and killed by the resident. Further investigation revealed that the under-weight gator had crawled very close to the residence from a pond several hundred yards away. The resident had several small children and dogs and feared for their safety. The resident was issued a written warning for hunting alligators out of season. The gator was seized and properly disposed of.



Large gator in Echols County resident's yard

WARE COUNTY

On October 22nd, Cpl. Jason Shipes and Sgt. Chris Moore were patrolling for deer hunting activity in the Manor area. During the patrol, officers encountered several subjects hunting deer with dogs. Upon checking for all of the required licenses and permit requirements, citations for operating a vehicle without the deer dog permit number displayed, hunting without a hunting license and hunting without a big game license were issued.

TELFAIR COUNTY

On October 20th, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger Lamar Burns investigated a complaint of illegal hunting. One violation for hunting big game without a license was documented and verbal guidance was given to a juvenile for hunting without hunter safety certification.

On October 21st and 22nd, Corporal Dan Stiles and Ranger Lamar Burns conducted patrols at the Horse Creek Wildlife Management Area after receiving a complaint of bait (corn) located on the WMA property. No violators were located hunting in the vicinity of the illegal bait.

IRWIN COUNTY

On October 16th, Corporal John Stokes and Ranger First Class Allen Mills conducted a patrol at the Alapaha Wildlife Management Area. Several hunters were checked for license and regulation compliance. No activity was detected.

DODGE COUNTY

On October 22nd, Sergeant James McLaughlin and Ranger First Class Allen Mills conducted a patrol in Dodge County reference to opening day of firearm deer season. Seven hunters were checked for license and regulation compliance. Verbal guidance was given to a juvenile for minor violations.

TOOMBS COUNTY

Captain Scott Klingel and RFC Bobby Sanders were called to an individual who had harvested two antlerless deer during the buck only period. Violations were documented for taking/ possession of an antlerless deer. The officers also responded to a complaint of dove hunters shooting to close to a house. Five hunters were checked on the field and all were in compliance.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

Captain Scott Klingel and RFC Bobby Sanders patrol the Greys Landing area and found two individual fishing in the Altamaha River. Violations for fishing without a license were documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

LIBERTY COUNTY

On the morning of 10/22/2016, RFC Thain was patrolling the area of Liberty County near the Long County line. While patrolling he noticed deer dogs on unpermitted property. Upon investigation RFC Thain found that the dogs were deer hunting dogs from a nearby deer dogging club. The dogs were well off of permitted property. The two dog owners were cited for allowing deer dogs on unpermitted property.