

Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division

Field Operations

Weekly Report
September 25 – October 1, 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)

POLK COUNTY

On October 1st, Sgt. Eric Brown and Cpl. Chad Cox were working a night deer hunting complaint in the western part of the county. The rangers issued a citation for blinding wildlife and also arrested two subjects for hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

JACKSON COUNTY

On September 26, RFC Eric Isom received a complaint on subjects who were seen loading up a deer from a landowner's property that they did not have permission to hunt. The vehicle was located in Commerce that day at a gas station. RFC Isom could see fresh blood in the vehicle. RFC Isom interviewed the subjects and it became known that they shot a buck from the road at night. Both subjects violation were documented as hunting deer at night, hunting deer from a public road, and hunting deer from a vehicle. RFC Isom recovered the gun used and the shot shells. The buck's rack was seized as evidence and the meat donated to a family in need.

BARROW COUNTY

On October 2, 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, and alcoholic beverages. Citations were issued for the violations.

BANKS COUNTY

On September 30, Corporal Adam Loudermilk and Corporal Jason Roberson patrolled Wilson Shoals WMA. They came into contact with two women and a man at a campsite and noticed that they were acting very strange. As they approached the campsite, the man began to chase one of the women and she began to run towards the officers. The man disappeared into the woods. Investigation revealed that the man three were involved in a relationship. The man had been up for several days on a methamphetamine binge and had held the women against their will and beaten them repeatedly. He also had numerous felony warrants out of several surrounding counties. They contacted Banks County SO and DNR K-9 Eric Isom. With help from Lee Arrendale State Prison, Banks SO, Hall SO, and GSP aviation, the suspect was located and apprehended. He was charged with kidnapping, false imprisonment, aggravated assault, and possession of methamphetamine.

RABUN COUNTY

On October 1, 2016, Ranger Tommy Crabb and Cpl. Anne Britt received an American AED Defibrillator for the DNR LED patrol boat on Lake Burton. The AED was donated by the Lake Burton Fun Run Association and presented by Lynn Cowhig and Robert Nichols. Thank you Lake Burton Fun Run Association for keeping lives safe out on the water and off the pavement! The AED will be used during the non-boating season in Rabun County while the DNR LED rangers are out on foot during the hunting season.

WHITE COUNTY

On September 30, 2016, Captain Steven Turner (Aviation) and Cpl. Anne Britt responded to a search and rescue, patient extraction with White County Fire Services, White County Emergency Medical Services and Helen Fire Department. Emergency personnel worked together rescuing a 43-year-old Dunwoody man who had fallen from the top of Raven Cliff Falls in White County. Due to the rugged terrain, fire and medical personnel had to hike in two and one-half miles to reach the victim. Georgia Department of Natural Resources Aviation (DNR LED) provided a helicopter that was able to maneuver in place and drop a 150 foot long-line rope to hoist the victim out of the area. The patient was taken to the waiting AirLife Georgia 14 helicopter, which transported him to Northeast Georgia Medical Center. The victim suffered head and other injuries

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

RICHMOND COUNTY

On September 25, Sgt. Boswell and Cpl. Payne worked the Ironman 70.3 race in Augusta, Ga. The officers worked in a patrol boat on the Savannah River at 5th Street Marina securing the river and ensuring the safety of participants and spectators. 3500 people entered the race which is a combination of swim, bike and run. The event was a success and is in its 7th year.

WARREN COUNTY

On October 1st, Cpl. Ryan Swain and RFC Robert Timmerman conducted a shooting sports program for a group of children and women at Riverview Farms near Mayfield. The Rangers set up an archery range for a NWTFF event that included safety speeches, practice rounds, archery competitions, lunch, and awards presentations. The Rangers assisted approximately 75 sportsmen and sportswomen at the event. Departmental bows, arrows, and targets were utilized during the event.

BURKE COUNTY

On September 30, Corporal Adams and RFC Billips observed a thick column of dark smoke coming from a residence off of Ellison Bridge Road. The wardens observed a man and woman standing beside a fully engulfed hot tub in the back yard. The man said he set the hot tub on fire to get rid of it. RFC Billips had previously cited the man for dumping hundreds of bread packages into Brier Creek. The man was cited for unlawful dumping.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

HARRIS COUNTY

On September 25th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver attended a kids fishing event held at Franklin Delano Roosevelt State Park. The Liberty Bell Pool was stocked with about 250 catfish for the fish rodeo and it appeared that all participants had a good time.

On September 25th, Cpl. Mitch Oliver was checking for fishing activity on Goat Rock when he observed a vessel in the hazardous area below the Bartlett's Ferry dam. The boat was occupied by 2 males and neither of the fishermen were wearing a required PFD. Cpl. Oliver issued both men citations for failure to wear a PFD in a hazardous area.

HOUSTON COUNTY

On the evening of October 1st, RFC Ronnie Beard patrolled Oaky Woods WMA and Flat Creek PFA. RFC Beard issued one warning for an open container violation at Flat Creek PFA.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY

On September 25th, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen was patrolling for deer hunting activity on Standing Boy Creek WMA. Cpl. Bolen located a truck with an Alabama license plate. After obtaining the hunters name, Cpl. Bolen discovered that the individual possessed a resident hunting license which was recently purchased. After investigating the situation further, Cpl. Bolen discovered that the individual possessed a Georgia and Alabama driver's license, as well as resident hunting license in both states. The hunter came out of the woods and Cpl. Bolen spoke with him about the license issue. The hunter admitted to purchasing a resident Georgia hunting license and that he has lived in Alabama for nearly a year. The hunter was issued citations for non-resident hunting with a resident license and non-resident hunting with a resident WMA license.

PUTNAM COUNTY

On the morning of October 1st, Cpl. Bubba Stanford located 2 deer hunter on private property. The hunters were issued citations for hunting over bait. Throughout that rest of the day, Cpl. Stanford and Sgt. Kelly patrolled Cedar Creek WMA and BF Grant WMA during managed deer hunts.

TWIGGS COUNTY

On the afternoon of September 25th, Sgt. Bo Kelly responded to a hunting without permission complaint. Sgt. Kelly met with a landowner who had located a deer stand on his property. The incident is still under investigation.

WILKINSON COUNTY

On the morning of October 1st, RFC Micheal Crawley responded to a hunting without permission complaint. The incident is still under investigation.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

CALHOUN COUNTY

On September 25th a deer hunter on Chickasawhatchee WMA became stranded in a tree when a portion of his tree stand malfunctioned. DNR LED Sergeants Jim Atchley and Rick Sellars along with Rangers Quinn Fogle and Steve Thomas responded to the scene. A local fire station also responded with a ladder truck and the hunter was retrieved without injury.

MARION COUNTY

On September 30th, RFC Jesse Harrison observed a spotlight being shined from a vehicle into a field near the road. Harrison stopped the vehicle and after a brief investigation, the three occupants were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a public road, and hunting from a motor vehicle.

On October 1st, RFC Jesse Harrison observed a truck being driven into a soybean field and a short time later a gunshot was heard coming from the truck. Harrison stopped the truck as it exited the field and located a small doe that was shot. The three occupants were charged with hunting deer at night, hunting from a motor vehicle, and hunting without permission.



Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

BULLOCH COUNTY

On Sept. 25th, RFC Jason Miller responded to the Eldora area for an illegal hunting complaint. The complainant stated that there were three deer carcasses, hunting gear, and an ATV on his property. The complainant also stated that he was missing a deer stand. RFC Miller arrived on scene and began investigating by speaking to some witnesses. RFC Miller was able to locate the stolen deer stand and one of the suspects. After interviewing that suspect, RFC Miller identified two more subjects that had been hunting. The ATV belonged to one of them. RFC Miller was able to locate those two subjects to begin the interview process. A male and female were interviewed and they both admitted to hunting and the female admitted to killing the three deer that were dumped on the property. RFC Miller cited the female for hunting w/o permission, hunting w/o a license, and failure to record deer harvest. RFC Miller also determined that the male suspect was on probation and parole. He was placed under arrest for hunting w/o permission and unlawful dumping after admitting to dumping the carcasses on the property. The person that had taken the deer stand was turned over to a Bulloch County Deputy Sheriff for theft by taking.

LAURENS COUNTY

On September 25th, Corporal Dan Stiles conducted an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) patrol on the Beaverdam Wildlife Management Area during the adult / child firearms deer hunt. No violations were detected.

IRWIN COUNTY

On October 1st, Corporal Dan Stiles and Sergeant James McLaughlin patrolled the Alapaha River Wildlife Management Area during an archery deer hunt. No violations were documented. Cpl. Stiles returned and patrolled the WMA during the evening hours. One violation was documented for hunting big game without a big game license and two violations for hunting deer without obtaining a deer harvest record.

SCREVEN COUNTY

On September 29th, Sergeant Brian Hobbins and Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford responded to Burton's Ferry Landing to search for several stranded boaters on the Savannah River. Sgt. Hobbins and RFC Crawford were able to locate the boaters and safely transport them back to the landing.

On September 30th Corporal Shaymus McNeely and Ranger First Class Jason Miller responded to a request for assistance from the Sylvania Police Dept. Rangers responded to the scene of a homicide on Hull St and assisted with scene security and crowd control.

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

On September 29th Ranger First Class Jordan Crawford assisted the Effingham County Sheriff's Office with several search warrants throughout the county. The searches yielded 20 arrests and over 100 pounds of illegal drugs seized.

CHARLTON COUNTY

On September 27th, Cpl. Jason Shipes and Ranger Judd Sears patrolled the Suwannee River Sill in Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge for fishing activity. During this patrol two subjects were encountered fishing at the spillway. Licenses and creel limits were inspected and both were in compliance. One subject was found to be in possession of marijuana (less than an ounce) and THC oil. This subject was arrested and turned over to the US Fish & Wildlife Service refuge officer for possession charges.



Marijuana, THC oil, and related contraband seized from a fisherman at the Suwannee River Sill in Charlton County.

WARE COUNTY

On September 30th, Ranger First Class Sam Williams assisted Wildlife Technician Jim Gillis with checking in a large bear harvested by a hunter south of Waycross. The bear weighed 599 pounds, just shy of the current state record of 600 pounds.



RFC Williams and WL Tech Jim Gillis with a successful bear hunter in Ware County.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

No activity to report.