



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Field Operations

Weekly Report
May 28 – June 3, 2017

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- Acworth (Northwest)

FLOYD COUNTY

On May 28th, Sgt. Mike Barr and Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area (PFA) Parks Assistant Manager Matt McDaris held a road check at Wildwood Cove, the entrance to the beach and camping area at Rocky Mountain PFA. They encountered several vehicles that had failed to obtain a parking pass for the facility. The road check included checking for alcohol which is prohibited but none was located during the road check.

On June 3rd, Sgt. Mike Barr received a complaint of a bass boat operating on Heath Lake at Rocky Mountain Public Fishing Area under power and leaving a wake. The complainant was concerned that the canoes and kayaks on the water might be turned over by the wake. The area is idle speed only by regulation. Sgt. Barr witnessed a young man in a bass boat causing a wake in the lake. When the man was loading the bass boat at the boat launch area, Sgt. Barr completed a boating safety check and discussed the no wake area. The man was found to not have the required life jackets on the vessel, was operating a vessel with an expired registration, did not possess a fishing license, did not possess an ID for vessel operation, had an expired driver's license and did not have it in his possession, was operating the vessel above idle speed on a PFA, and due to his age, had no proof of completing the required boater education requirement. The young man was cited for two violations and his family was contacted to operate his vehicle and vessel back to his residence.

WALKER COUNTY

On May 29th, Cpl. Shawn Elmore and RFC Roger McConkey were patrolling Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and encountered three local teenagers at the South Brow Overlook. While speaking with the three about the required Georgia Outdoor Recreation Pass (GORP) the Game Wardens noticed two of them seemed to be under the influence of alcohol. After further investigation, a 19 year old and 17 year old were arrested for under the influence on a WMA and transported to the Walker County jail. All three did not have the required GORP and were issued warnings for that violation.

BARTOW COUNTY

On May 28th, Sgt. Jason Roberson, Cpl. Byron Young and Cpl. Ben Cunningham responded to an emergency call at Park Marina on Allatoona Lake. A 7 year old and 3 year old were exposed to carbon monoxide while playing in the water behind a houseboat. The two children became lethargic and unresponsive. The children were transported to a local hospital and treated overnight. It was later learned that the children had five times the normal level of carbon monoxide in their system.

On May 28th, RFC Zack Hardy and Bartow County Deputy Jonathan Shirley stopped an overloaded vessel in the area of McKaskey Creek on Allatoona Lake. The operator of the vessel was found to be under the influence of alcohol. The operator was placed under arrest for BUI.

On May 28th, Cpl. Bart Hendrix and RFC Mark Puig patrolled Allatoona Lake. The Wardens stopped a boat in McKaskey Creek for improper lights. The operator was found to be under the influence of alcohol. The operator was placed under arrest for BUI and operating a vessel with improper lights.

On June 3rd, Cpl. Byron Young and Bartow County Deputy Jonathan Shirley were patrolling Allatoona Lake in the area of the CSX Railroad. The Officers observed a PWC traveling after sunset. The Officers stopped the PWC and found the operator to be under the influence of alcohol. The operator was placed under arrest for BUI and operating a PWC during hours of darkness.

On June 3rd, Sgt. Jason Roberson and RFC Mark Puig were patrolling Allatoona Lake in the area of the Allatoona Dam. The Wardens observed a PWC traveling after sunset. The Wardens stopped the PWC and found the operator to be under the influence of alcohol. The operator was placed under arrest for BUI and operating a PWC during hours of darkness.

On June 3rd, RFC Zack Hardy patrolled the Etowah River and State Owned Lands. While checking the Etowah River, RFC Hardy made 1 arrest for VGCSA possession of marijuana less than one ounce, issued 4 citations for operating a vessel without a PFD. Later in the day RFC Hardy patrolled Pine Log WMA, RFC Hardy issued citations for illegal target shooting on a WMA and fishing without a license.

CHEROKEE COUNY

On May 28th, Cpl. Bart Hendrix and RFC Mark Puig were patrolling Allatoona Lake in the area of Little River. The Wardens stopped a boat for a registration violation. The operator was found to be under the influence of alcohol. The operator was placed under arrest for BUI and operating a vessel without registration.

Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)

HALL COUNTY

On June 1st, Game Wardens Kevin Goss, and Chris Kernahan patrolled Lake Lanier for boating and fishing related activity. During the patrol, they found one subject to be Operating a Vessel while Under the Influence. The subject was arrested, and transported to jail. The Game Wardens also documented other violations that included Operating a Vessel without Lights in Hours of Darkness, Failure to Obey a Regulatory Marker, Towing without an Observer, and Operating a Vessel with Improper Registration.

On June 3rd, Game Wardens Eric Isom, and Chris Kernahan patrolled Lake Lanier for boating and fishing related activity. During the patrol, they found one subject to be Operating a Vessel while Under the Influence. The subject was arrested, and transported to jail. The Game Wardens also documented other violations that included Operating a PWC after Sunset, and Failure to Obey a Regulatory Marker.

On May 28th, RFC Kevin Goss and Sgt. Mike Burgamy where on vessel patrol in Sunset Cove when they observed a speedboat entering the "No Wake Zone" without bow lights. They initiated at stop and conducted a safety inspection. During the stop, RFC Goss saw obvious signs of impairment and further screened the driver. After conducting Field Sobriety on the driver, RFC Goss concluded that she was boating under the influence and arrested her accordingly.

On June 3rd, Cpl. Adam Loudermilk and Cpl. Eddie Tompkins patrolled Lake Lanier. During the patrol, the officers stopped a vessel for operating at night without lights. While speaking with the individual it was determined that, he was under the influence of alcohol. He also had 3 children in the vessel under the age of 13 that were not wearing PFD's. The operator was arrested for boating under the influence, child endangerment, operating a vessel at night without lights, allowing child to ride in vessel without wearing PFD, and failure to obey regulatory marker.

RABUN COUNTY

On May 28th, RFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Deputy Kyle Shook conducted boating safety patrols on Lake Burton. The Game Warden and Deputy checked numerous vessels and issued citations and warnings for violating rules of the road, operating vessel without throwable device, allowing underage child to ride in a moving vessel without wearing a PFD, and operating vessel without lights during hours of darkness.

On May 28, Ranger Beth Gilbert responded along with Tallulah Gorge State Park Staff, Habersham County Fire/Rescue, and Habersham County EMS to a report of an adult woman struggling on the gorge stairs at Tallulah Gorge State Park. The woman reported not drinking any water during her hike and was transported by EMS to a local hospital for further examination.

On May 28th, RFC Chad Chambers and Rabun County Deputy Jefferson Davis patrolled Lakes Rabun and Seed. The two officers addressed various boating safety and fishing violations such as: operating a vessel with insufficient personal floatation devices, operating with improper lights and fishing with an expired license.

On May 29th, RFC Chad Chambers and Rabun County Deputy Tony Parrish patrolled Lake Burton by vessel. The officers cited individuals for creating a wake in a “no wake zone” and operating with insufficient personal floatation devices.

On May 29, while on foot patrol at Tallulah Gorge State Park, Ranger Beth Gilbert witnessed an adult male hiker on the Sliding Rock Trail smoke marijuana. Ranger Gilbert issued the male a citation for Violation of the Georgia Controlled Substance Act and he was transported to the Rabun County Detention Center by Tallulah Falls Police Department.

On May 29, Ranger Beth Gilbert saw an adult male and three juveniles operating kayaks on Tallulah Lake at Tallulah Gorge State Park. Ranger Gilbert performed a safety check of the vessels and observed that neither the adult male nor the three juveniles (age 13-14) had PFDs on boards the vessels. The man was issued a citation for operating a vessel without a PFD on board and warned for allowing underage persons to ride in a vessel without PFDs.

On June 3, RFC Joe Hill and Rabun County Deputy Tim Brown conducted boating safety patrols on Lake Rabun. The Game Warden and Deputy checked numerous vessels and issued citations and warnings for operating PWC without wearing CGA PFD, allowing person to ride bow/gunwale, operating vessel with expired registration, operating vessel with insufficient PFD's, operating vessel without throwable PFD , operating vessel with unserviceable fire extinguisher, and operating vessel without lights during hours of darkness.

On June 3, while on foot patrol at Tallulah Gorge State Park, Ranger Beth Gilbert located three adults along Sliding Rock Trail who admitted accessing the gorge floor without a permit. Two citations and one verbal warning were issued to the adults for the park rule violation. Ranger Gilbert also assisted one adult male on the Sliding Rock Trail out of the gorge. The man said he was not prepared for the strenuousness of the hike, but declined medical assistance during and after emerging from the gorge.

On June 3rd, RFC Chad Chambers and Rabun County Deputy Cody Sanders patrolled Lake Burton by vessel. The officers addressed numerous violations including: operating a personal watercraft above idle speed within 100 feet of a dock, operating with improper registration, allowing an underage child to ride without wearing a personal floatation device, operating a vessel with a marine toilet and operating with improper lights.

TOWNS COUNTY

On May 29th, Sgt. Steve Seitz and RFC David Webb patrolled Lake Chatuge by vessel. The boating traffic was very light on this date and the game wardens issued written warnings to a couple of boaters for towing a skier without a mirror or observer and allowing an underage person to operate a PWC without an adult on board.

On June 3rd, Sgt. Steve Seitz and RFC David Webb patrolled Lake Chatuge by vessel. The game wardens checked several boats during the boating safety patrol and issued several warning violations for: failing to obey regulatory markers (creating a wake inside the Ridges marina no wake zone), unserviceable fire extinguishers, and failing to have life jackets on board two kayaks being operated near the county beach swimming area.

WHITE COUNTY

On May 28th, Sgt. Greg Colson and Cpl. Anne Wiley patrolled the Chattahoochee River and Wildlife Management Area for fishing activity. Three warnings were issued to three adult males for fishing without permission off Poplar Stump Rd. The game wardens assisted the USFS and White County S.O. with two vehicle accidents. Due to rain, one vehicle drove off the road, rolling several times down an embankment. The other vehicle was stuck off the roadside. Both vehicles were extracted by a tow truck service.

On May 29th, Lt. Judd Smith and Cpl. Anne Wiley patrolled the Chattahoochee Wildlife Management Area. The game wardens checked several fishing licenses. One adult male was cited for driving on a non-improved road on a WMA. The male had driven his full sized extended cab truck behind a “closed to vehicles” sign, continuing across the Chattahoochee River, pulling a 12 foot trailer to access a camping area. Later that afternoon an adult male was cited for open container violation while riding as a passenger in a vehicle on the WMA.

UNION COUNTY

On May 28th, Sgt. Steve Seitz and Cpl. Kevin Dyer patrolled Nottely Lake by vessel. The game wardens checked several boats during the boating safety patrol and issued citations, warnings or verbal guidance for: nonresident fishing without a license and operating a vessel with insufficient personal floatation devices.

May 29th, Col Eddie Henderson and Cpl. Kevin Dyer patrolled Vogel State Park, The Nottely River and Cooper Creek WMA for illegal fishing, boating and state operated lands violations. The game wardens checked multiple sportsmen during the patrol and issued citations, warnings or verbal guidance for: fishing without a license and fishing without a trout license.

June 3rd, Cpl. Kevin Dyer patrolled Nottely Lake by vessel. Cpl. Dyer checked several boats during the boating safety patrol and issued citations, warnings or verbal guidance for: violation of the no wake zone. During the patrol Cpl. Dyer located a stranded rental vessel under the 515 bridge in Nottely Lake. The vessel would not crank. Cpl. Dyer stayed with the stranded subjects until the rental company brought another vessel to their location.

HART COUNTY

On May 28th, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Shane Sartor patrolled the lake for any boating safety/fishing activity. Several boats were checked for proper safety equipment and several fishing licenses were inspected. As a result, three warnings were issued. The violations consisted of operating a vessel without registration and fishing without a license.

On June 3rd, RFC Brandon Pierce and RFC Tim Vickery patrolled the lake for any boating safety/fishing activity. Numerous boats were checked, as well as, several fishing licenses. As a result, one citation and four warnings were issued. The violations consisted of operating a PWC without CGA PFD’s, fishing without a license, operating a vessel without a type IV throwable device, and operating a vessel with a fire extinguisher.

On June 3rd, Cpl. Craig Fulghum and Sgt. Derek Dillard patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating and fishing violations. During their patrol they documented four violations which consisted of non-resident fishing without a license, towing skier without observer, operating an overloaded vessel, and operating a vessel with an expired registration. In the evening they received a call from Stephens County Sheriff’s Office and responded to a drowning of a 45 year old male at Holcombs Access on Lake Hartwell.

Region III- Thomson (East Central)

No activity to report.

Region IV- Macon (West Central)

HARRIS COUNTY

On May 21st, Cpl. Mitch Oliver and a ride along interested in employment with the department checked fishing activity along the Chattahoochee River from Columbus to West Point. Cpl. Oliver checked 2 bow fishermen at the North end of Goat Rock that were in the hazardous area and fishing too close to the dam. The 2 fishermen were issued citations for failure to wear a PFD in a hazardous area and the vessel operator was issued a warning for operating a vessel in a no boating zone.

On May 23rd, Cpl. Jeremy Bolen spoke to a local Cub Scout organization about the job of a Game Warden. K-9 Ruger was also utilized to put on a demonstration to display the various functions of the Department's K-9 program.

TROUP COUNTY

On May 25th, Cpt. Chris Hodge, Sgt. Brent Railey, and Cpl. Jeremy Bolen attended the media fly around safety event on West Point Lake. Cpl. Bolen performed 2 interviews regarding boating safety information for local television stations in the area.

Region V- Albany (Southwest)

CRISP COUNTY

On May 28, Game Wardens Jon Penuel and Clint Martin observed a vessel above idle speed within a 100' of a dock on Lake Blackshear. A vessel stop was conducted, the operator was arrested for boating under the influence. The operator was charged with operating a vessel within a 100' of object/shore above idle speed and boating under the influence.

On May 28, Game Wardens Al Greer and Jesse Harrison observed a vessel with improper lights on Lake Blackshear. A vessel stop was conducted, the operator was arrested for boating under the influence. The operator was charged with operating a vessel with improper lights, operating a vessel with insufficient PFD's, and boating under the influence.

Region VI- Metter (Southeast)

SCREVEN COUNTY

On May 29, Corporal Shaymus McNeely and Corporal Mike Wilcox apprehended two poachers fishing without permission. The Game Wardens were on patrol on the Savannah River when they spotted the suspects slipping through the woods. The poachers were charged with fishing without permission, non-resident fishing without a license, as well as misdemeanor and felony Violation of GA controlled substance act.



On June 1, Corporal Shaymus McNeely and Ranger First Class Jason Miller completed a month long investigation of unlawful artifact digging on Tuckahoe WMA, with the arrest of two suspects. The Game Wardens apprehended both suspects at the dig site. Charges include unlawful excavation of artifacts on state property, theft by taking, littering, and possession of methamphetamine.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

On Sunday May 28, 2017, Sergeant Jon Barnard and RFC Bobby Sanders patrolled the Altamaha River where several violations were documented for operating a vessel within 100 feet of an object/ shore above idle speed.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

On Sunday May 28, 2017, Sergeant Jon Barnard and RFC Bobby Sanders were patrolling the Altamaha River when a violation for operating a vessel without a life jacket was documented.

Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)

WAYNE COUNTY

On June 3rd and 4th Game Wardens in Region 7 assisted with the Wayne County Tourism Board's Annual Catfish Tournament. There were over 80 boats entered in the tournament. The Game Wardens checked fishermen for compliance and answered questions during the weigh in. The contestants weighed in the five largest Catfish, with a total weight of 82 pounds winning the tournament. The largest Catfish caught during the tournament was 29 pounds.

