



**SR. AGENT  
JASON C. CLINTON**

## REGION 1

### MINDEN

318-371-3049

#### REGION SUPERVISOR

Capt. Donnie Bates

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST 1

Mary Jane Nixon

#### DISTRICT 1-A BOSSIER, CADDO & DE SOTO PARISHES

#### DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Lt. Dickie Barnes Jr.

Sgt. Linton "Lynn" Presley

Sgt. Wesley Walker

Sgt. Roy Schufft

Sr. Agent Jason Clinton

Sr. Agent Frank Reger

Sr. Agent Troy Parker

#### DISTRICT 1-B BIENVILLE, CLAIBORNE, RED RIVER & WEBSTER PARISHES

#### DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Lt. Richie McCarthy

Sgt. Mike Kelley

Sgt. Patrick Staggs

Sgt. Kenny Balkom

Sgt. Chuck Dison

Sr. Agent Ryan Brasher

Sr. Agent Jared McIver

Sr. Agent Toby Myers

Sr. Agent John Blalock

Cadet Wade Wells

## Update

by Sr. Agent Jason C. Clinton, Region 1 Representative

**B**oating season has been fairly quiet this summer, with no major accidents to report in our region. The agents in Region 1 welcome this good news and like to view it as a reflection on the boating safety education and accident prevention work we try to do on a daily basis.

Keeping people safe and reducing boating accidents is our main focus during the summer months. Nevertheless, we've still been

making a few DWI cases. So we've begun a period of intense focus on DWI and have managed to get the word out that our enforcement agents will have zero tolerance for drunk driving on land or on water.

This will be my final update as Region 1 representative. My term of office with the Louisiana Wildlife Agents Association expires as of the 2005

convention in July. Region 1 is hosting the convention here in Shreveport, so we are anticipating an informative and collegial meeting with our fellow agents from across the state.

I would like to thank the agents of Region I for their support, and I hope that I have represented them in a fitting fashion. Good luck to my successor, whoever that may be. I hope to see everyone in Shreveport. 🐾

## De-Litter Louisiana

by Sr. Agent Troy Parker

**S**ince becoming a wildlife agent, I've noticed just how trashy our roads and waterways are and how much I detest seeing it. Maybe some people don't realize how big a problem litter is or how detrimental it is to our communities. I am one person who has come to hate seeing the mess in our "yard." I'm also determined to do my part in putting trash in its lawful place and issue citations to those who don't.

There's a lot of information available on the negative effects of litter, but I'm not going to go through them all. But there is one that caught my attention. When companies look for a location to build or expand, one of their top concerns is the amount of litter that is found near and around that particular site. They actually relate the appearance of the area to the personality of



potential employees. You could say that's unjust bias or prejudice, but the fact is that if companies are going to make an investment in a community, they can establish whatever criteria they want. It may not seem like a big deal, but I want the best for my community. I want to see economic growth and more jobs.

Several littering cases have been made in Region 1 and, without exception, the violators all had some type of excuse:

- "Somebody took my trash and threw it out on that road."

- "It must have fallen out of my truck on the way to the dumpster."

- "I stopped to help a stranded motorist and they took my trash and said they would put it in the dumpster for me."

There's no excuse for littering. Do your part and dispose of trash properly and report those who don't. 🐾

# Follow the 'Rules of the Road' for Boating Safety

by Sgt. Chuck Dison

**A**t last summer is here, and the sun is out in full force. Ninety to 100-degree days are beating down on our backs, and we're all looking for ways to stay cool and have some fun. What better way than to pull the boat to the lake and let the breeze blow through your hair as you cruise around? Boating and water sports are a popular and rewarding way to keep cool on a hot summer's day, as long as you abide by the laws that regulate boating; deviation from these will be considered careless or reckless boating operation. Educating yourself on these "Rules of the Road" for vessels will ensure that you have a fun and safe summer:

1. Vessels passing head on shall each keep to their respective right. (Just like in a car, you stay in your lane and I'll stay in mine.)

2. A vessel overtaking another may do so on either side, but must grant the right of way to the vessel being passed.

3. When vessels are passing at right angles, the vessel on the right has the right of way.

4. Motorboats shall yield right of way to non-powered boats except as follows:

- When being overtaken by

non-powered boats

- For deep-draft vessels that have to remain in narrow channels

- When a vessel is towing another vessel

5. Motorboats must maintain a direct course when passing sailboats.

6. A vessel approaching a landing dock or pier shall yield right of way to departing vessels.

7. A vessel departing a shore or tributary shall yield right of way to through traffic and vessels approaching the shore or tributary.

8. Vessels will not abruptly change course without first determining that it can be safely done without risk of collision with another vessel.

9. If an operator fails to fully comprehend the course of an approaching vessel, he must slow down immediately to a speed barely sufficient for steerage until the other vessel has passed.

10. Vessels yielding right of way shall reduce speed, stop, reverse or alter course to avoid collision. The vessel with the right of way shall hold course and speed. If there is danger of collision, all vessels will slow down, stop or reverse until danger is averted.

11. Vessels will issue

warning signals in fog or weather conditions that restrict visibility.

12. No mechanically propelled vessel shall be operated so as to traverse a course around any other vessel under way or any person swimming.

13. In a narrow channel, vessels will keep to the right of the midchannel. (Stay on your side!)

14. Vessels approaching or passing another vessel shall be operated in such manner and at such rate of speed so as to not create a hazardous wash or wake.

15. No vessel shall obstruct or interfere with takeoff, landing or taxiing of aircraft. (Stay out of the runway!)

16. All vessels shall be operated at reasonable speeds for given conditions and situations and must be under complete control of the operator at all times.

17. No person shall, under any circumstances, operate a vessel in excess of an established speed or wake zone.

18. No vessel or person shall obstruct or block a navigation channel, entrance to channel, mooring slip, landing dock, launch ramp, pier or tributary.

19. Vessels shall keep at least 100 feet clearance of a displayed diver's flag (diver down).

20. Operator shall maintain a proper lookout.

There are more rules, or laws, to abide by while boating. Some of the laws

concern you and some of the laws concern your boat. For example, did you know that people born after Jan. 1, 1988, may not operate a motorboat powered by a motor in excess of 10 horsepower unless they have successfully completed a boating safety course approved by the National Association of Safe Boating Law Administration and carry proof of completion? It's also illegal for anyone under the age of 16 to operate a personal watercraft (PWC). An exception to this rule is made if you are 13 or older as of Jan. 1, 2005, and have successfully completed a boating safety course and carry proof of completion. It also is illegal for the owner or person in charge of a PWC to knowingly permit a person under the age of 13 to operate the craft.

It is the responsibility of the boater to learn more about the laws related to boating safety and to take the classes necessary to become as informed as possible to ensure many safe and enjoyable days on the water. This is a good time for you to take a Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries boating safety course. The LDWF offers a basic one-day boating class (six to eight hours). Classes are offered year-round and they're free. Call 318-371-3049 for class dates and sign up now. Time is wasting when you could be soaking up the sun and riding the waves. 🌊

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# News From Region 1

## THREE MEN CITED IN ALLIGATOR KILLING

On March 26, upon inspecting a deer processing plant in Hall Summit, in Red River Parish, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) agents found an alligator tail that was not tagged. The owner's son, a 32-year-old Coushatta, La., man, admitted to the agents that he had killed the alligator March 13 with a .25-06-caliber rifle in a private lake in the north end of the parish. After further investigation, agents uncovered the suspect's accomplices, a 33-year-old man and a 46-year-old man, both from Ringgold, La.

Agents cited the shooter for taking an alligator without a license and for taking an alligator out of season. Penalties for the first cited offense include a fine of not less than \$250 and up to \$500, jail for not more than 90 days, or both, plus court costs. The penalties for taking an alligator out of season can include a fine of not less than \$400 and up to \$750, jail for not more than 120 days, or both, plus court costs. The agents seized the shooter's rifle for evidence and also issued a civil restitu-



Sgt. Chuck Dison, Sgt. Patrick Staggs, Sr. Agent Toby Meyers and Sr. Agent John Blalock seize a 110-pound alligator tail and the rifle used to bring the gator down.

tion citation for the cost of the 11-foot 4-inch alligator to be paid to the LDWF.

The two accomplices were also cited for illegal possession of the alligator and for their involvement in the taking of the alligator. Penalties for illegal possession of an alligator include a fine of not less than \$400 and up to \$750, or jail for up to 120 days, or both, plus court costs.

Region 1 enforcement agents involved in the investigation were Sgt. Chuck Dison, Lt. Richie McCarthy, Sgt. Patrick Staggs, Sr. Agent Toby

Meyers and Agent John Blalock.

## AGENTS NAB SALINE MAN FOR TURKEY HUNTING

A 50-year-old man from Saline, La., was cited March 26 for hunting without a resident hunting license, hunting turkey without a big game license, hunting a turkey without a turkey stamp and hunting turkey over a baited area.

The man was hunting for turkeys over a wooded area near Saline that was baited with corn and chicken feed. The hunter fled after spotting

one of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries agents but was captured before he could escape the area. Agents checked the hunter for his appropriate licenses but he could not produce them.

In Louisiana, it is unlawful to hunt, trap or take turkeys over an area where corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt or other feed has been directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited or scattered to lure turkey. Such areas shall remain baited for 15 days following the complete removal of all such feed.

Hunting without a resident hunting license, hunting turkey without a big game license and hunting turkey without a turkey stamp are Class 1 violations and carry penalties of \$50 each. Hunting turkeys over a baited area is a Class 3 violation and carries penalties for the first offense to include a fine of not less than \$250 and up to \$500, jail for up to 90 days, or both.

Region 1 agents involved in the case were Sgt. Chuck Dison, Sgt. Patrick Staggs, Sr. Agent Toby Meyers and Agent John Blalock. 🐾

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