

Dive Team Continues Search for Missing Man

August 19, 2012

The Hall County Sheriff's Office Underwater Search and Recovery Team will continue search efforts today in an attempt to locate a man who went missing and is presumed to have drowned on Lake Lanier in the early morning hours Saturday.

The team's activity today will be limited to sonar searches only due to heavy weekend boat traffic in the area, which creates hazardous dive conditions. Crews will mark likely sonar targets for closer inspection when dive operations resume on Monday morning.

On August 18, 2012 just after midnight, Sheriff's Deputies responded to the vicinity of Lake Lanier Islands regarding a report of a drowning. Upon arrival, Deputies learned that 44 year-old Jeffrey Nause entered the water from a boat to take a swim. Initial reports indicate that at some point Mr. Nause became distressed, went under, and did not resurface.

Sheriff's Investigators and dive team members spent the night and early morning hours Saturday gathering initial information regarding the incident, and began their searches just after noon, spending approximately 4-5 hours in the water. Water depths in the area range from 70 – 140 feet, in an area that is heavy with underwater timber.

At this time the case is being investigated as an accidental drowning, and remains under investigation by the Hall County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigations Division.