



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

Jim Neil, Sheriff

MEDIA RELEASE



AVIATION RESCUE ON THE GREAT MIAMI RIVER IN WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP, HAMILTON COUNTY

Whitewater Township, August 25, 2014 – Hamilton County Sheriff Jim Neil, Great Parks of Hamilton County Chief of Police Thomas Doyle, Miami Township Fire Chief Steve Ober, and Whitewater Township Fire Chief Scott Schorsch report that on August 24, 2014 at approximately noon, Barry Werning, male 58 of Green Township and Dan Adams, male 56 of Cleves Ohio, went fishing on the Great Miami River, in Whitewater Township in a four person rubber raft. At approximately 9 p.m., both Barry Wering and Dan Adams decided to exit their raft and walk through the woods. Both became lost and walked in the woods for six and half hours before they became exhausted and dehydrated. At approximately 03:00 a.m. the next day (August 25), still lost and physically no longer able to continue, they collapsed in the woods.

On August 25, 2014, Deputies from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office including the aviation unit, Rangers from the Great Parks of Hamilton County, and EMT paramedics and search and rescue firefighters from Whitewater Township and Miami Township began an extensive search of the Great Miami River by air, ground, and water. At approximately 09:00 a.m., the Hamilton County Sheriff's Aviation Unit found Barry Werning and Dan Adams about 100 yards off the river bank. Both individuals were in distress. The Miami Twp and Whitewater Twp search and rescue teams equipped with rescue boats were unable to rescue the men off the river due to location of the stranded men. The Hamilton County Sheriff's Aviation team led by Chief Pilot Tim Doyle landed the helicopter on the banks of the Great Miami River and flew each man, one at a time, to a predetermined landing zone where paramedics were awaiting their arrival. Each man was transported to Mercy West Hospital and were listed in fair condition.

Sergeant William Crock Jr 9W81

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