

**NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER MEMBER NEWS:** On Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Florida Chapter of NAQCC returned to the local park system for our monthly adventure. We held our latest “Operation in the Park” event at Gemini Springs Park, located off Dirksen Drive in DeBary, FL. Gemini Springs is a sprawling 210 acre park with a natural spring on property that is adjacent to Lake Monroe, and was acquired by a local government consortium in 1994. It was originally part of the estate of Frederick DeBary, who in 1868 made this his winter retreat (the city is named for him). DeBary’s 458 acres included growing timber and citrus, and tapping longleaf pines for turpentine (a really big Florida industry). Later, cattle and sugar cane (including a cane press for making “sugar juice”) was the choice of industry.



**WB4OMM AB8GU WB4MNK**

This park, like many of the others we have visited, had several covered pavilions, loads of picnic tables, BBQ grills, restrooms, water fountains and easily accessible adjacent parking. It also sports a “dog park”, canoe launch, horseback and hiking trails, spring house, and camping sites. On our arrival, we pretty

much had the entire park and all the pavilions to ourselves. We chose a pavilion close to the water and away from the other activity sites. By the time we left, the park had lots of folks there!

The three days prior to our operation it had rained and was quite windy, with temps in the mid-80’s. Fortunately, today we arrived to our site with clear, blue skies, a temp of 68 degrees with 60% humidity, accompanied by a light breeze. It was a “Chamber of Commerce Day” for us to operate!

After we got setup and on the air, we were quite surprised to have a fella stop by and introduce himself – John “Jack” Fenimore WQ2E, a new NAQCC # 7698! Jack is a “snowbird” who lives in NY but winters in New Smyrna Beach, FL. He is a “recycle”, who received his license some 25+ years ago, but recently got restarted in the hobby. He just purchased an Elecraft KX-3 and is looking to get active in CW/QRP. We had several discussions about operating and resources for learning about new modes and operating techniques. He also said he was “getting up to speed on his code” and was at 15WPM solid copy. We all agreed he had plenty of speed and need not worry! Jack stayed with us until we secured at 11:45 am, and he was gracious enough to take our usual “mug shot” at the park entrance sign. He is heading back to NY in a few weeks, but we all have a suspicion he will be back in the fall and will join us in our fun! We hope to work him on the air in the coming months.

The signals were good on both bands we used. 20M was nice and quiet, but 30M had some noise. 40M was again, horrible (few weak signals and lotsa noise) just like last month. No joy there!



**Steve WB4OMM #5913** brought his trusty Elecraft KX-3 with Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr paddle running 5W out to a 20M/30M Hamstick on a ground mounted tripod with 4 radials. He didn't get skunked this month – 8 QSOs.

Steve made QSO's with 8 members in 8 different states including NJ, VA, IL, NY, and TX on 20M; AL, TN, and NC on 30M.



**Art WB4MNK #5274** used his Elecraft KX1 running 3W, a Dirt Cheap paddle, 2.2 amp LIPO power supply, 28 FT end fed wire up 10 feet with 16 feet of counter poise.

Art also made 8 QSOs with members in 5 different states - NY, WV, IL, MI, IN, and NJ.

Curt WA2JSG #3457, Bob K2YGM #6159, and Pete NN9K #6887 all worked both Steve and Art today! Thank you for being there!

**Darryl AB8GU #6913**, the NAQCC-FL Chapter Official mascot, spotted us on the internet, helped with antennas and transport, and kept us informed on each other's progress. He got some of Steve's coffee from his thermos....but there was plenty left -so there it is, Steve's success is dependent on having coffee – hypothesis proved!! Hi hi hi .....

We quit just before noon and enjoyed lunch at a local BBQ restaurant in Orange City, FL. What a day!! The weather was great, band conditions great and the food was great....as was the friendship!

***Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this another successful NAQCC-FL event!***

***NEXT MONTH: The next monthly outing of the NAQCC-FL folks is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 17th, 2015 at 9:00 am. Look for our announcement!***

**72/73 to all –**

**Steve WB4OMM, #5913**

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