

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER MEMBER NEWS:

Yes, we're back!

On Friday, September 25th, 2015, the Florida Chapter of NAQCC resumed our



monthly forays into the wilds of the Volusia County (FL) park system for new QRP-CW radio adventures. We held our latest “Parkpedition” event returning to one of our all-time favorite locations, Candace Strawn/Lake Dias Park, in DeLeon Springs, FL. Yes, we probably sent you “Pierson, FL” as the QTH (as it is actually closer and easier to send – hi hi!) but the address really is in DeLeon Springs.

This 20-acre park includes a free boat launch, RV camping, playground, pavilions, grills, picnic tables and restrooms. It is usually lightly populated, and today was no exception. A few boat trailers (two launched when we arrived), a few folks camping in a tent a couple of hundred feet away from us, and a guy on a jet ski that drove us nuts most of the morning.



Our group composition has changed some over the summer.....we lost our great friend and NAQCC member #6913 Darryl Peterson to cancer on Wednesday, September 9th, 2015.....you can view his local memorial page, read about him, and view his eulogy here:

http://www.daytonacert.net/?page_id=313. Darryl was a Charter member of NAQCC-FL and dedicated “Parkpeditioner” since the start of our little group. He is already greatly missed!

We were joined today by two new folks (their first Parkpedition with our group) – local Daytona Beach denizen Bob W2EJG (a long time ham and avid CW operator, but not yet a NAQCC member – and yes, we’re working on that!); and John KM4JTE #7966 who hails from Gainesville, FL. Yes, John drove the roughly 90 miles, hour and a half trip to join us! He is a newer ham, but is actively working on his code and is moving forward nicely.

Today we arrived to our site with partly blue skies and a temp of 78 degrees with 60% humidity, accompanied by a light breeze. It was very comfortable for us to operate. Much better than the last few months of 90-95 degrees with 90% humidity! The weather was absolutely beautiful! It warmed up to about 82, but the slightly overcast skies kept us “feeling cooler.

The signals were “OK” today on most of the bands we used. 15M was marginal. 20M was nice and quiet, and came alive after about an hour of operations – it felt like being DX with folks calling Steve, one after the other! 30M some weak signals. 40M was horrible as usual (we can’t wait for the “winter” signals to return!). Conditions were just like the last outing.

Steve WB4OMM #5913 brought his ol’ reliable Elecraft KX-3 with Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr paddle, running 5W out to a 20M Hamstick on a ground mounted tripod. Steve made 13 QSOs with 12 NAQCC members in 10 different states (AR, CO, NJ, OH, LA, WI, MI and 2 in PA, and 3 in TX). Included was regular Curt WA2JSG #3457 (NJ) and our own Don K3RLL #1905 (PA). The furthest away was WØRW #2500 in Colorado!

Art WB4MNK #5274 used his Elecraft KX1 running 4W, a Dirt Cheap paddle, 2.2 amp LIPO power supply, 28' end fed wire antenna on 30M. Art made 5 QSOs with 3 NAQCC members in 4 different states.

Rick AA4W #1628 brought his Elecraft KX-3, running 5W, he used an End Fed Zepp and worked 15M making 5 QSOs in 4 states (MO, VA, TX and FLx2) with 1 NAQCC member.

Bob operated Steve’s station and made 4 of the QSOs - John “studied, observed, and learned” watching Steve, Art, and Rick operate. He’ll be on next month!

We quit around noon and enjoyed a “brown bag” lunch at the covered pavilion in the park. As usual the discussion revolved around our previous great ham radio adventures, future outings, and all of the great facets of our noble hobby. The weather was great, the location was great, the food was great....and the friendship was great! A **GREAT** day! And great to have two new “operators”. While operating, Bob W2EJG commented, “It was wonderful to be out here”, followed by an e-mail: “Had a super time yesterday. Haven't operated like that in a while”. John KM4JTE was visibly enjoying all of the new information he was getting (believe me, we probably overwhelmed him with advice coming from all 4 of us other ops!)



*Facing, from left -Bob W2EJG, John KM4JTE; The “back” of Rick AA4W, and Steve WB4OMM
Art WB4MNK is the photographer*

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

NEXT MONTH'S SCHEDULED EVENT:

Friday, October 23, 2015 starting at 9:00 AM EDT

Lake Ashby Park, New Smyrna Beach, FL (4150 Boy Scout Road, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32130) – Park webpage with directions: [LAKE ASHBY WEB PAGE](#)

Art WB4MNK, Steve WB4OMM, Rick AA4W, Don K3RLL, Bob W2EJG & John KM4JTE already confirmed (plus whoever else can make it).

<http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter/>

Look for our announcement!

72/73 to all – Steve WB4OMM, #5913 - NAQCCFL@yahoo.com