

MEMBER NEWS: On Friday, September 9th, 2016 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its latest “Operation in the Park” event at Spruce Creek Park, located at the Rose Bay/Spruce Creek Preserve in Port Orange. This Municipal Park Complex is “sandwiched” between US Highway 1 and Spruce Creek.



This park has a nice covered pavilion, with AC power Steve used it – Art and Rick used batteries - restrooms, a water fountain and Coke machine! Adjacent pavilion parking with several large picnic tables in the pavilion, made for easy setup. We’ve been to this park a few times, as it is kinda’ “off the beaten path” and in the past devoid of any other human activity. But not this time! We arrived, to a temp of 78 degrees and 50% humidity, accompanied by crystal clear blue skies and a light breeze. More on this in a bit!



Art WB4MNK #5274 used his KX1 at 4W output, a Dirt Cheap paddle, ZM-2 tuner and a super special antenna – see below for this dynamite signal catcher!

He made 18 QSOs in FL-MI-IL-TX-NJ-MO-WI-PA-NY-KS-VA-OK-AR. Many of the “usual suspects” were worked by Art, all with 579 – 599 signals.

ART WB4MNK MAKES ONE OF HIS 18 FB QSOs

WOW!!!!!!!



Steve WB4OMM #5913 (KX-3 running 5W out) made only 1 contact – with Art!!! Antenna was a homebrew End Fed Wire – 53 feet long to a 9:1 balun. The KX-3 tuned the antenna flat, but Steve couldn’t make a Q. Several (like three) weak and fluttery signals on 20M. Called CQ like what seemed forever, with no joy! No magic for him!

***WB4OMM WORKING THE BANDS – BOB
W2EJG SUPERVISES AND
RICK AA4W GETS CAUGHT TAKING A PIC!!***

So.....now more about Art's "not so secret weapon".



The vertical antenna and ground used by Art WB4MNK was designed by John KD4JS. A 31-foot vertical wire on a Jacket push-up pole, attached to the pier rail by a clamping device also designed by John. The antenna uses a 9:1 Unun with 30 feet of LMR 240 coax to feed the antenna with 4 watts. What made this antenna a good performer was the Dynaplate submerged in the salt water below. This gave us a wonderful ground.

The **Guest Dynaplate** is made from thousands of tiny bronze spheres bonded together by heat and pressure into a porous plate. This porosity makes the Dynaplate ideal for use in electrical bonding systems. It can also be used in RF applications such as grounding SSB and LORAN antennas for improved performance.



Art and his mighty antenna



John KD4JS, John KM4JTE, and Art WB4MNK

We quit just before noon and enjoyed lunch at a restaurant...the food was great! (But not as great as our friendship and outing!) Then a few tagged along to visit Steve's "Dog House" (ham shack), sign the Visitor's Log, and talk about the "good old days" some more.

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

NEXT MONTH: The next monthly outing of the NAQCC-FL folks is scheduled for Friday, November 21st, 2016 at 9:30 am.

Look for our announcement!

72/73 to all!

SteveWB4OMM, #5913

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