

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER MEMBER NEWS: January 2020

The Favorite Location of all Our Rotations!!



On Friday, January 17, 2020 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC returned to a local park favorite for our monthly adventure. We held our New Year “Parkpedition” at Hontoon Island State Park in DeLand, Florida. This island, located in the St. Johns River in Volusia County, welcomes visitors to enjoy nature and history in quiet solitude. The island is accessible only by private boat or park ferry. Evidence of Native American habitation over thousands of years can be witnessed as visitors’ hike through the park. There is an impressive visitor center to learn more about the many inhabitants and uses of Hontoon Island over the years. Boating, canoeing, and fishing are popular activities and canoe rentals are available. Picnic areas include tables, grills, and a playground. Overnight boat slip rentals are also available. The park's ferry operates daily from 8:00 a.m. to one hour before sunset. Located six miles west of DeLand off State Road 44, it’s quiet (usually), serene, and not heavily populated. A great ham radio location! The Ferry is operated by a volunteer – Bob W6RWC! (in photo).

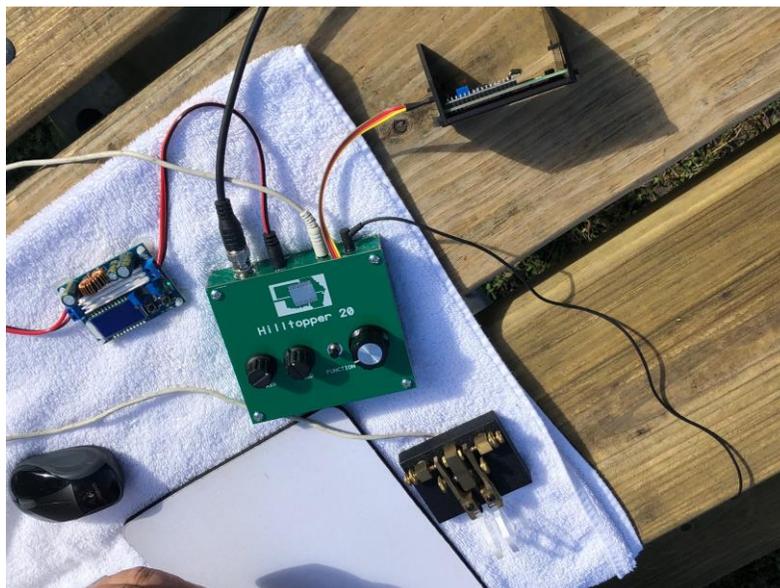
Most of us arrived between 9:30 - 10:00 am (EST local). We quickly set up the equipment in the “reasonable” conditions - it was 65 degrees on arrival with no wind (later, we had a pretty stiff breeze coming off the lake, making it a bit chilly). By 10:30 am we had 2 stations on the air - WB4OMM and KM4JTE. As expected, the signals were not so good, propagation was marginal. But the weather was great!

This trip we had a total of 6 members/operators in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5913; Nikki KM4SBQ #8749; John KD4JS #8019; John KM4JTE and his XYL; Bob W2EJG was also present and operating. Thanks to Nikki KM4SBQ for taking most of the pics again!



**Steve WB4OMM #5913
and Bob W2EJG**

Steve started with a 4SQRP Hilltopper 20 and a Vibroplex Code Warrior Paddle, running 5W to a 31-foot end-fed near the water’s edge. He contacted Gary WØITT #9113 in MO (20M) then swapped rigs to an Elecraft KX-3. Bob W2EJG worked 4 members/4 states on 20M - Bob K9OSC #3894 MN; Jim KC0DD #3998 IA; Jerry NF5U #142 TX; and Walt KB1M #8058 in NH.





John KM4JTE #7966 and XYL

Using his KX-2 with a 35-foot end fed antenna with a 9:1 UNUN, he worked one member and one non-member on 40M; Dan KF8R #1337 in OH and non-member Bruce K9OZ in AR both on 40M



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

NEXT MONTH'S SCHEDULED EVENT:

Friday, February 21st, 2020 starting at 10:00 AM EST

Gemini Springs Park (37 Dirksen Drive, DeBary, FL 32720)

Park webpage with directions: [DIRECTIONS TO PARK AND INFO](#)

WHO: "The Usual Suspects" – Art WB4MNK, Steve WB4OMM, Rick AA4W, Don K3RLL, Wally KG4LAL, Bob W2EJG, John KM4JTE, John KD4JS, Phil NW4X, Nikki KM4SBQ, John W2IV, Doug W4DBL (and whoever else can make it).

Visit our Web Page:

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

Look for our announcement!

72/73 to all – Steve WB4OMM, #5913