

2015 KC9UR Pontoon Portable “APE” Tall Tales

For 2015 Stan (W9SMR/9) and I (Bob – KC9UR) set up two stations on Stan’s pontoon boat on Round Lake in northeast Indiana, and operated two evenings and two days (i.e. from Monday (8/24) evening through Wednesday (8/26) afternoon). To encourage participation, we offered a custom QSL card plus a custom certificate to everyone who worked us on 3 or more bands. The tactic worked, because this year a record 18 operators became certified “APE Hunters”, (8 working us on 3 bands, 7 working us on 4 bands, 1 working us on 5 bands, and 2 working us on 6 bands!).



Bob (KC9UR – left) and Stan (W9SMR/9) inside the pontoon boat shack. The dark plastic blocks the sun and protects the equipment in case of rain. The bananas were sustenance for the “APES”.

Other than being unusually cool for late August (i.e. sweatshirt and jacket weather) and a few light showers, weather was not an issue this year (unlike last year when we were chased off the boat several times by thunder storms). Contact-wise, it was a record-setting year, working 222 QSOs in 32 states and 18 countries. The best DX was E50B on South Cook Island on 20 meters (late at night when the band is often closed). We also recorded what we believe to be the first APE 6 meter contact (with N4GBK) during a rare August sporadic-E opening on Tuesday. Adding to the excitement were multiple contacts

with fellow APEs Red and Milt (W6QP and N6MG). With the exception of 12 meters, we had QSOs on all bands between 80M – 6M (we called CQ and monitored 12M numerous times, but heard nothing). Solar propagation numbers (i.e. solar flux, SSN, A, and K indices) for Monday and Tuesday were similar to those we had the past two years, however we worked significantly fewer Europeans and significantly more short hop US stations this year. I don't know whether it was propagation, our antennas, or whether there are just fewer active European PSK31 operators. A solar storm occurred Wednesday (K index = 4), so contacts were few and far between that day.



Map of 2015 KC9UR Pontoon Portable APE Contacts (map by K2DSL web application at www.levinecentral.com/adif2map/)

Kudos go to all 18 certificate winners. Working us on three (3) bands were KA5VZG (20, 30, 40M), KD0FIP (20, 30, 40M), KK4CPS (20, 30, 40M), W0QFW (20, 40, 80M), W6QP (20, 30, 40M), WA4MIT (20, 30, 40M), WA5AMM (30, 40, 80M), and WB3IGR (10, 30, 40M). Working us on four (4) bands were KE4JB (20, 30, 40, 80M), N2RDX (17, 20, 30, 40M), N7WE (17, 20, 30, 40M), NU4C (17, 20, 30, 40M), W2DEN (15, 20, 30, 40M), W3WMU (20, 30, 40, 80M), KB9WHV (15, 20, 40, 80M). Special recognition goes to KD4JS who worked us on five (5) bands (17, 20, 30, 40, 80M) and extra special recognition goes to two (2) who worked us on 6 bands: N4GBK (6, 17, 20, 30, 40, 80M) and WB4MNM (10, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40M)! Finally, an “APE Hunter Special Salute” goes to Jeff Walsh, W3WMU, for earning a certificate three years in a row! Great job all – your certificates will arrive soon!

Honorable mention goes to sixteen (16) who worked us on two (2) bands: AA4SB (30, 40M), AC0QG (20, 40M), AC9BA (40, 80M), EB3JT (20, 30M), K1CGI (20, 40M), K8TOM (17, 20M), KA1PPV (20, 40M), KC4OBB (20, 40M), KF9KV (40, 80M), KK3AM (15, 20M), KP4DQC (15, 17M), N2MLP (40, 80M), WOPE (20, 30M), W3HF/0 (20, 40M), W5FER (20, 40M), and WS4WW (20, 30M).



The Pontoon Portable shack with the 6m antenna in the foreground and the “Swamp Monster” 31 ft. kayak-mounted vertical in the background.

For those interested in a bit of the technical details, here’s the info:

Rigs: Two Kenwood TS-590s

Software: Fldigi

Antennas:

- 1) Homebrew Multi-band dipole at 25 ft (80/40/30/20/15M) – plans for next year will be to upgrade this with something more efficient on the lower bands (particularly 80M).

- 2) Homebrew 6M horizontally polarized Double-Bay antenna at 20 ft. – mounted to the pier next to the boat shack.
- 3) Homebrew kayak-mounted “Swamp Monster” 31 ft. vertical (80 – 15M) deployed around 80 ft. to the south of the boat shack.
- 4) Homebrew floating 20M 4-Square phased array mounted on an 8' x 8' swim raft deployed around 100 ft. to the north of the boat shack; switchable NE, SE, SW or NW



KC9UR setting up the 20M Floating 4-Square swim-raft-mounted antenna

Stan and I would like to thank everyone who took time from their busy schedules to work us! We thoroughly enjoyed the “APE” experience and would encourage anyone who is considering an “APE” for next year to go for it!

2015 KC9UR Pontoon Portable Log:

Call	Date	Band	Time	Country	State	Op
KK4CPS	20150824	30m	17:41:35	United States	GA	Stan
WA1TFV	20150824	30m	18:58:34	United States	MA	Stan
W2WQU	20150824	40m	20:04:15	United States	NY	Stan
KA4PNV	20150824	40m	20:12:31	United States	VA	Stan
N7KDT	20150824	40m	20:19:00	United States	AL	Stan
W5FER	20150824	20m	20:25:31	United States	TX	Bob
K8TOM	20150824	20m	20:31:10	United States	WA	Bob
KT4JJ	20150824	40m	20:41:19	United States	NC	Stan
KC3FL	20150824	20m	20:42:21	United States	FL	Bob
N7WE	20150824	20m	20:44:00	United States	FL	Bob
W3WMU	20150824	40m	20:47:00	United States	MS	Stan
KA5VZG	20150824	20m	20:49:00	United States	TN	Bob
WA4MIT	20150824	20m	20:49:34	United States	AL	Bob
KA5VZG	20150824	40m	20:50:56	United States	TN	Stan
N7WE	20150824	40m	20:55:08	United States	FL	Stan
WA4MIT	20150824	40m	20:57:49	United States	AL	Stan
W2DEN	20150824	20m	21:23:00	United States	FL	Bob
N2RDX	20150824	20m	21:26:49	United States	FL	Bob
W2DEN	20150824	40m	21:30:00	United States	FL	Stan
OK1PSI	20150824	20m	21:30:51	Czech Republic		Bob
EA3LX	20150824	20m	21:38:03	Spain		Bob
N2RDX	20150824	40m	21:42:14	United States	FL	Stan
SM6MNS	20150824	20m	21:46:25	Sweden		Bob
N2RDX	20150824	17m	21:49:30	United States	FL	Stan
K1CGI	20150824	20m	21:52:56	United States	FL	Bob
KD0FIP	20150824	30m	22:07:58	United States	KS	Stan
KD2FPP	20150824	20m	22:08:02	United States	NY	Bob
EB3JT	20150824	20m	22:11:26	Spain		Bob
KD4JS	20150824	30m	22:14:43	United States	FL	Stan
W2DEN	20150824	30m	22:15:00	United States	FL	Stan
N2RDX	20150824	30m	22:21:45	United States	FL	Stan
KC2LM	20150824	20m	22:24:38	United States	NM	Bob
OM1EI	20150824	20m	22:28:13	Slovak Republic		Bob
KE4JB	20150824	30m	22:29:07	United States	NY	Stan
KA5VZG	20150824	30m	22:33:09	United States	TN	Stan
W3HF/0	20150824	20m	22:36:55	United States	PA	Bob
EB3JT	20150824	30m	22:39:38	Spain		Stan
W4KJP	20150824	20m	22:46:35	United States	FL	Bob
W6QP	20150824	30m	22:46:53	United States	CA	Stan

N6MG	20150824	30m	22:48:11	United States	CA	Stan
KD4JS	20150824	20m	22:49:21	United States	FL	Bob
WB4MNK	20150824	20m	23:50:00	United States	FL	Bob
N4GBK	20150824	20m	23:55:41	United States	NC	Bob
N4GBK	20150825	30m	0:00:45	United States	NC	Stan
KA5VZG	20150825	20m	0:01:46	United States	TN	Bob
WB4MNK	20150825	30m	0:04:04	United States	FL	Stan
NU4C	20150825	20m	0:07:40	United States	FL	Bob
W3WMU	20150825	30m	0:08:16	United States	MS	Stan
KE4JB	20150825	20m	0:10:52	United States	NY	Bob
NU4C	20150825	30m	0:11:37	United States	FL	Stan
WA4MIT	20150825	30m	0:15:20	United States	AL	Stan
KC4TIE	20150825	20m	0:17:33	United States	KY	Bob
W0PE	20150825	30m	0:19:08	United States	CA	Stan
KD4JS	20150825	20m	0:19:46	United States	FL	Bob
W3HNL	20150825	20m	0:23:47	United States	MD	Bob
WB3IGR	20150825	30m	0:24:43	United States	MD	Stan
KD0FIP	20150825	20m	0:28:00	United States	KS	Bob
W0FN	20150825	20m	0:33:12	United States	KS	Bob
KK4JFM	20150825	30m	0:35:47	United States	NC	Stan
W0PE	20150825	20m	0:36:38	United States	CA	Bob
N7WE	20150825	30m	0:40:09	United States	FL	Stan
KC4OBB	20150825	20m	0:41:45	United States	NC	Bob
N5KWD	20150825	20m	0:46:46	United States	TX	Bob
KK4CPS	20150825	20m	0:50:12	United States	GA	Bob
KJ4ZMV	20150825	20m	0:56:37	United States	IN	Bob
KF9KV	20150825	80m	1:03:48	United States	WI	Stan
N1DAY	20150825	20m	1:18:55	United States	NC	Bob
WB4MNK	20150825	20m	1:32:33	United States	FL	Bob
W8IXI	20150825	40m	1:33:42	United States	OH	Stan
WB4MNK	20150825	20m	1:40:01	United States	FL	Bob
KC4OBB	20150825	40m	1:41:18	United States	NC	Stan
KE4JB	20150825	40m	1:45:35	United States	NY	Stan
K9JFB	20150825	20m	1:46:16	United States	RI	Bob
N9AVY	20150825	40m	1:50:20	United States	IL	Stan
WB4MNK	20150825	40m	1:55:00	United States	FL	Stan
N4GBK	20150825	40m	1:59:12	United States	NC	Stan
W4FGA	20150825	20m	2:01:43	United States	GA	Bob
W1REP	20150825	40m	2:02:12	United States	NC	Stan
KK4CPS	20150825	40m	2:04:49	United States	GA	Stan
KR4UA	20150825	20m	2:07:16	United States	GA	Bob

W5FER	20150825	40m	2:08:13	United States	TX	Stan
W0QFW	20150825	40m	2:11:36	United States	MO	Stan
W3WMU	20150825	40m	2:13:17	United States	MS	Stan
N3YUG	20150825	20m	2:16:51	United States	MD	Bob
KA1PPV	20150825	40m	2:16:55	United States	CT	Stan
W3WMU	20150825	20m	2:19:56	United States	MS	Bob
VA3TPS	20150825	40m	2:22:20	Canada		Stan
W3HF/0	20150825	40m	2:27:03	United States	PA	Stan
KD0FIP	20150825	40m	2:29:57	United States	KS	Stan
KF4LM	20150825	40m	2:36:59	United States	KS	Stan
VE3QO	20150825	40m	2:42:55	Canada		Stan
N9NTC	20150825	40m	2:48:17	United States	WI	Stan
VA7GEM	20150825	40m	2:52:10	Canada		Stan
K9DWR	20150825	40m	2:59:12	United States	IL	Stan
LU4JHF	20150825	20m	2:59:23	Argentina		Bob
N0YCY	20150825	40m	3:04:40	United States	MO	Stan
NU4C	20150825	40m	3:09:00	United States	FL	Stan
KA1URP	20150825	40m	3:18:51	United States	MA	Stan
YV5MBI	20150825	40m	3:24:33	Venezuela		Stan
T46BC	20150825	20m	3:28:14	Cuba		Bob
W6QP	20150825	40m	3:34:11	United States	CA	Stan
WX5OKE	20150825	40m	3:42:21	United States	OK	Stan
F1ABE	20150825	40m	3:50:18	France		Stan
W0ALA	20150825	40m	3:55:20	United States	IN	Stan
W7RIV	20150825	40m	4:02:08	United States	UT	Stan
K4WHE	20150825	40m	4:13:10	United States	VA	Stan
CO8TS	20150825	40m	4:19:52	Cuba	GT	Stan
CM6HX	20150825	40m	4:25:05	Cuba		Stan
E50B	20150825	20m	4:32:45	South Cook Islands		Bob
KK6JPA	20150825	40m	4:39:31	United States	CA	Stan
IZ7BMX	20150825	40m	4:44:56	Italy		Stan
W6QP	20150825	20m	15:01:22	United States	CA	Bob
GM4KGK	20150825	20m	15:25:13	Scotland		Bob
KP4DQC	20150825	17m	15:43:34	Puerto Rico		Bob
KP4DQC	20150825	15m	15:47:49	Puerto Rico		Stan
LU1ALF	20150825	15m	15:55:07	Argentina		Stan
AG4QX	20150825	20m	16:16:00	United States	FL	Bob
CX8ABF	20150825	15m	16:30:27	Uruguay		Stan
CX8ABF	20150825	15m	16:34:16	Uruguay		Stan
PU9ATH	20150825	15m	16:43:47	Brazil	MS	Stan
RU3EJ	20150825	20m	16:45:08	Russia (European)		Bob

F6ENI	20150825	17m	16:56:44	France		Bob
LZ1AAT/P	20150825	15m	18:04:28	Bulgaria		Stan
NU4C	20150825	17m	18:10:33	United States	FL	Bob
KK3AM	20150825	15m	18:11:27	United States	FL	Stan
WS4A	20150825	15m	18:32:54	United States	FL	Stan
KB9WHV	20150825	20m	18:52:05	United States	SC	Bob
CX1CW	20150825	15m	18:56:31	Uruguay		Stan
W2DEN	20150825	20m	18:56:59	United States	FL	Bob
CX1CW	20150825	15m	18:57:09	Uruguay		Stan
KF5SEJ	20150825	20m	19:12:49	United States	MS	Bob
KA2ZGW	20150825	20m	19:18:58	United States	TX	Bob
W2DEN	20150825	15m	19:21:02	United States	FL	Stan
KB9WHV	20150825	15m	19:25:32	United States	SC	Stan
WB4MNK	20150825	15m	19:29:40	United States	FL	Stan
KR3A	20150825	20m	19:38:08	United States	MD	Bob
AB1HD	20150825	20m	19:46:06	United States	MA	Bob
WB3IGR	20150825	10m	20:18:16	United States	MD	Stan
KA1PPV	20150825	20m	20:52:18	United States	CT	Bob
PU2TXZ	20150825	10m	20:55:40	Brazil	SP	Stan
WB4MNK	20150825	10m	21:02:21	United States	FL	Stan
N4GBK	20150825	17m	21:15:20	United States	NC	Stan
WB4MNK	20150825	17m	21:19:22	United States	FL	Stan
N4GBK	20150825	6m	21:25:21	United States	NC	Bob
KZ3T	20150825	17m	21:33:50	United States	NC	Stan
K8TOM	20150825	17m	21:36:38	United States	WA	Stan
N7WE	20150825	17m	21:44:04	United States	FL	Stan
AA3JM	20150825	17m	21:50:52	United States	PA	Stan
KD4JS	20150825	17m	21:57:25	United States	FL	Stan
WU3H	20150825	17m	22:06:45	United States	CO	Stan
KD4JS	20150825	17m	22:13:24	United States	FL	Stan
EA2BFJ	20150825	20m	22:29:55	Spain		Bob
AB4AM	20150825	20m	22:34:36	United States	GA	Bob
K7JPF	20150825	17m	22:37:22	United States	OR	Stan
W4BRE	20150825	20m	22:48:14	United States	AL	Bob
KB9WHV	20150826	20m	0:30:46	United States	SC	Bob
N1FF	20150826	30m	0:39:27	United States	MA	Bob
KB9WHV	20150826	80m	0:49:16	United States	SC	Stan
N4GBK	20150826	80m	0:53:40	United States	NC	Stan
N2MLP	20150826	80m	0:58:10	United States	PA	Stan
KD4JS	20150826	40m	1:00:54	United States	FL	Bob
AC9BA	20150826	40m	1:06:18	United States	WI	Bob

KB9WHV	20150826	40m	1:09:26	United States	SC	Stan
ND3N	20150826	40m	1:11:59	United States	MD	Bob
W9AKS	20150826	40m	1:15:12	United States	WI	Bob
AC9BA	20150826	80m	1:17:26	United States	WI	Stan
KE4JB	20150826	80m	1:22:26	United States	NY	Stan
VE3NOO	20150826	40m	1:24:43	Canada		Bob
K1CGI	20150826	40m	1:29:20	United States	FL	Bob
W0QFW	20150826	80m	1:30:42	United States	MO	Stan
W0QFW	20150826	40m	1:38:26	United States	MO	Bob
KB0CVW	20150826	40m	1:41:56	United States	WI	Bob
WA5AMM	20150826	40m	1:50:22	United States	SC	Bob
WA5AMM	20150826	80m	2:05:17	United States	SC	Stan
W6GRH	20150826	20m	2:18:11	United States	CA	Bob
W0QFW	20150826	20m	2:23:02	United States	MO	Bob
VE3NOO	20150826	40m	2:27:06	Canada		Stan
KG7UMN	20150826	20m	2:28:56	United States	OR	Bob
KF0MP	20150826	20m	2:33:30	United States	TX	Bob
N5VI	20150826	20m	2:37:53	United States	TX	Bob
W3WMU	20150826	40m	2:41:13	United States	MS	Stan
W3WMU	20150826	80m	2:47:06	United States	MS	Stan
N1BSA	20150826	20m	2:51:06	United States	FL	Bob
W7RNX	20150826	40m	3:26:15	United States	ID	Stan
AC0QG	20150826	20m	3:27:03	United States	CO	Bob
AK5CT	20150826	20m	3:34:49	United States	MS	Bob
AA4SB	20150826	40m	3:40:16	United States	MO	Stan
AC0QG	20150826	40m	3:49:08	United States	CO	Stan
KD5NTL	20150826	40m	3:54:12	United States	NM	Stan
KC1AJJ	20150826	20m	3:55:37	United States	MA	Bob
K4JTA	20150826	40m	4:02:55	United States	KS	Stan
N7EHL	20150826	20m	4:04:01	United States	AZ	Bob
AD7ZJ	20150826	20m	4:09:22	United States	AZ	Bob
KM4JVV	20150826	40m	4:09:36	United States	VA	Stan
N2MLP	20150826	40m	13:58:14	United States	PA	Stan
WB3IGR	20150826	40m	14:01:48	United States	MD	Stan
K5J	20150826	20m	14:16:53	United States	MS	Bob
K4IIA	20150826	20m	15:25:47	United States	FL	Bob
KB3IDS	20150826	20m	15:30:28	United States	SC	Bob
KA4BKD	20150826	20m	15:44:16	United States	AL	Bob
N4RWT	20150826	20m	15:51:05	United States	NC	Bob
KB0QC	20150826	20m	16:11:10	United States	CO	Bob
K9JFB	20150826	20m	16:24:18	United States	RI	Bob

W4TRM	20150826	20m	16:31:22	United States	NC	Bob
K3TCU	20150826	40m	16:41:38	United States	PA	Stan
K1PL	20150826	20m	16:54:21	United States	CT	Bob
NC4WS	20150826	20m	17:03:45	United States	NC	Bob
KF5SLN	20150826	20m	17:08:45	United States	TX	Bob
N3YWQ	20150826	40m	17:14:40	United States	PA	Stan
K3VAT	20150826	40m	18:14:22	United States	VA	Stan
KF9KV	20150826	40m	18:19:54	United States	WI	Stan
WA0IDK	20150826	30m	18:52:13	United States	MN	Stan
AA4SB	20150826	40m	19:14:22	United States	MO	Stan
KK3AM	20150826	20m	19:20:50	United States	FL	Bob
AA4SB	20150826	30m	19:25:13	United States	MO	Stan
WS4WW	20150826	20m	19:26:14	United States	VA	Bob
WS4WW	20150826	30m	19:35:11	United States	VA	Stan
K5RKS	20150826	20m	19:40:17	United States	OK	Bob
K5RKS	20150826	20m	19:41:33	United States	OK	Bob
KR3A	20150826	20m	19:43:00	United States	MD	Bob
WA5AMM	20150826	30m	20:26:00	United States	SC	Stan