

2018 APE

W8VYM/P

Arrowhead Campground on Lake Tobesofkee, GA

Arrived at Arrowhead Campground (EM82ct) at about 13:45L on 13 Aug 2018. I usually set up the radio next to the camper under the awning, however, our camping spot was such that I was unable to set the table up next to the camper due to a wooden perimeter surrounding the pad. The next best option was to setup (uncovered) on the picnic table.



W8VYM/P Picnic Table Setup

After getting the camper setup, I deployed the antenna on the highest point near our campsite. I like to setup the Buddipole in a vertical configuration with a single counterpoise wire and the 18 foot mast. Initial setup was for 40 meters and tuned the counterpoise for about a 1.15 SWR at 7.070 Mhz.



Buddipole Set up and Ready to go

3. Power for the station was supplied via a standard 110 VAC external outlet/extension cord from the camper.



Home Sweet Home

The radio station:

RIG: Yaesu FT-450D

Interface: Yaesu SCU-17

Power Supply: Samlex SEC 1235M

Computer: Zotac Z-box mini running Windows 10

Screen: Vizio E231-B1 (which is also the TV in the camper)

PSK software: Ham Radio Deluxe

RF output set at 40W

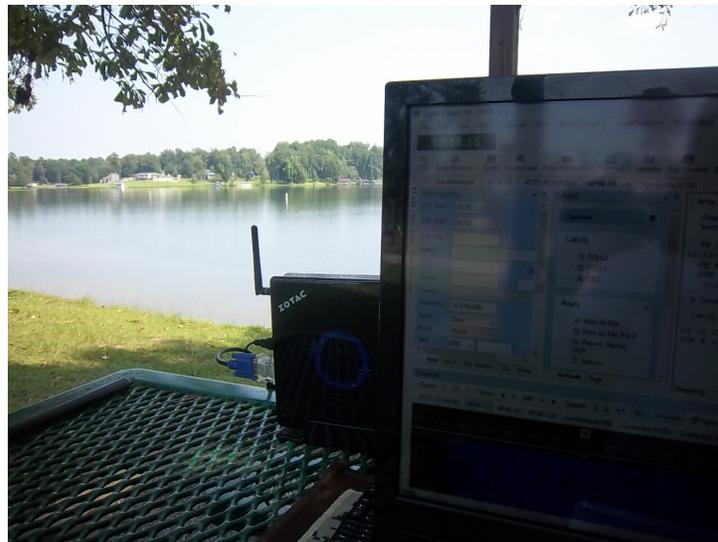


Picnic Table Station Setup

After tweaking the macros with the new location, callsign and inserting the APE verbiage, I started transmitting at about 2345Z 13AUG2018. My first contact was with YV1SW (Sixson) in Venezuela...599 both ways! I made 3 other contacts and then at about 0040Z 14AUG2018 I was forced to shut the station down due to a sudden squall coming from behind me. Jean (XYL) came to my aid with a raincoat and umbrella. Raincoat went over the radio, interface, and power supply. Umbrella was unable to take the wind and folded up immediately. Computer and

screen got wet but managed to survive. Some of the blank log sheets ended up in the lake. :-)

The next morning I set the equipment out on the picnic bench with a wary eye towards the skies, but it turned out to be a perfect day with just enough cloud cover to keep the temps in the mid-80's. I started out on 40 meters but saw no activity, so I brought the antenna down and configured for 20 meters. The first contact was with K8TBW (Bill) at 1347Z 14AUG2018. I continued to make 11 more contacts before taking a break at about 1800Z. Started back at 2330Z and made 5 more contacts before wrapping it up for the evening at 0045Z 15AUG2018. It was getting dark and I did not want to chance another rain incident even though the band conditions were quite good. In all I had made 22 contacts.



HRD at work with Lake in Background

7. The next day the park mowers came out enforce and I deemed it necessary to dismantle the antenna so they could do their thing. There was no cloud cover on the 15th so it was a little too hot to be out on the picnic bench. I did not even set up. Thursday morning (16AUG2018) I went fishing on foggy Lake Tobesofkee with friends who were camped at the park as well. All & all it was an enjoyable

outing and had fun doing the APE!



W8VYM GOTO Box