

KB3RAN 2021 APE

My odyssey began at the beginning of July when I left home in southern Maryland and headed north after a stop to visit family in Delaware. Weather reports for coastal Maine reported days of rain ahead so kept going north to Lake Winnepesaukee. Operated from the Roadtrek campervan from Wolfeboro, Alton, and Weir's Beach, NH making 15 contacts on 6 days operation. On to Maine in mid -July operating from Boothbay, Brunswick, Bath, Lake St. George SP, Belfast, Jasper Beach, Robbinston at the 45th parallel and rare grid FN65, and Machias making 9 more contacts in July and about 50 in August on 13 days.



On Friday August 20, I arrived at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse near Lubec, Maine. This is the easternmost point in the USA and is the first place to see sunrise every day. This is a working lighthouse that is only lit at night and has a foghorn which is activated automatically when needed. It was needed on Saturday morning for a few hours. Since my station was essentially already hooked up from my previous activations, I got on the air for APE contacts before the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend started. Immediately found Lee N5SLY in TX on 20 meters at 25 watts using my Hamstick. Then shut down to head into town for some last-minute provisions and lunch. Back on the air at 2000 and my first contact was with John KC3FL in FL at 2009. At 2059 found KC9UR in IN.

ILLW started at 0001 on Aug 21. I had time to get my 40-meter wire expedient dipole up about 50 feet in a spruce tree. I continued swapping the 20-meter wire with the 40-meter wire as band conditions changed. It was a 5-minute process to swap antenna wires.

My first contact VE3SLH at 0008 was a lighthouse. Swallowtail Lighthouse CA0018 on Grand Manan Island, NB was about 11 ½ miles away and we had several contacts during the weekend just checking on each other's progress. John KC3FL came through again at 0019. I made 13 contacts in about 2 hours on 40 meters before the band went dead. My last 4 contacts of the night were KF3AA Bob #124 a neighbor from Maryland operating from Fenwick, DE, N9LY Indiana Lighthouse Museum US0079 operating from Michigan City, IN, then K9VIC Eric in IL, then N3AE Shawn, another neighbor from Huntingtown, MD. Bob and Shawn are members of my county radio club.

In the morning, I made my first APE contact with KC9UR Stan. I made about 21 contacts including repeat calls on 20 and 40 meters until I shut down around 2230 when the band went dead. Came back on at 0001 on the 23rd to catch my last day for my 366 endorsement. Contacted W9MEB in MO and KC3FL John in FL before catching some much-needed shuteye. I made about 44 contacts in the 2-day APE. Log follows.

I left my new friends Shawn, Park Manager and Brian, Park Ranger on Monday morning and made it to Bath, ME overnight then on to Dover, DE where I celebrated my 78th birthday with my family. Home on Tues evening.



My station was a Yaesu FT857 to a Signalink USB to a Radio Shack SWR meter to a MFJ 1620 Hamstick or a home brew 20- or 40-meter dipole in an inverted vee aimed roughly southwest. I used a EZ Hang slingshot with a fishing reel and a lead weight to shoot the line over a sturdy branch after about 3 tries. It held all weekend. The RigExpert AA-230 Antenna and Cable Analyzer was handy to check that antenna connections and cables were working.



I worked from inside the campervan after the sun went down due to mosquitoes but did my daytime ops from a camp chair and table. Power was replenished by a 160-watt LenSolar solar panel which did a great job keeping the RV and radio ops going. Used my generator for about an hour Saturday evening when supply demanded a recharge for the home stretch. John KC3FL was a help when he reported my signal was getting wide. He mentioned low power might do that. And sure enough, I swapped to my Bienco Power 480 aH LiFePO4 and corrected my signal right away. Stayed on this battery for the rest of the day Saturday with good results.



Recharged the Li battery on Sunday while running from the campervan's dual 100aH LiFePO4 batteries. (Note that the frequency knob is off the FT857. It popped off a couple weeks back. Does not affect the use of the radio and I didn't have my metric Allen wrench set with me to re-attach.)

Note to self: Be sure to have barrel connectors in go box. Had one barrel and could have used several. And keep an eye on power level. Power management was my biggest challenge. Trying to use the solar for radio ops including laptop power usage and camper needs was a juggling act which worked well for about 95% of the time. Foggy mornings did not produce much power.

This was a great expedition. Thanks for all the support and contacts from PODXS070 members who looked for me and spotted me and helped me with technical issues. All in all, I had a great APE and extended portable expedition to NH and ME for 7 weeks. No major issues and lots of great qso's with folks from all over the US and a few DX. As far as an ILLW event, it was disappointing not to see more lighthouses on the air. But then, I was at a remote location with expedient resources. I'll be doing something similar APE-wise next year. Hopefully from Newfoundland and Labrador.

KB3RAN APE LOG							
DATE_ON	DATE_OFF	ON	CALL	NAME	FREQ	MODE	PODXS#
20210822	20210822	224000	W3BUG	John	7.071704	PSK31	2540
20210822	20210822	223000	K3XR	Daniel	7.071004	PSK31	
20210822	20210822	210200	N0DPR	Vaughn	14.071111	PSK31	
20210822	20210822	205800	N0DPR	Brad	14.071111	PSK31	
20210822	20210822	200900	WB9KVI	Joe	14.070899	PSK31	
20210822	20210822	194700	KA0EZE	Jim	14.072341	PSK31	
20210822	20210822	194300	KA5VZG	Alan	14.071420	PSK31	1509
20210822	20210822	193200	KG5SSB	Dan	14.071688	PSK31	2848
20210822	20210822	185000	W4BZM	Michael	14.071766	PSK31	
20210822	20210822	182200	K4REB	Reb	14.071719	PSK31	
20210822	20210822	174700	N6MG	Milton	14.071972	PSK31	APE
20210822	20210822	174200	KD9PCN	George	14.071265	PSK31	
20210822	20210822	173600	KE5IRK	Geary	14.071264	PSK31	1787
20210822	20210822	170700	KM4LRH	Dan	14.071604	PSK31	
20210822	20210822	165700	WB4OSU	Sherri	14.071320	PSK31	2601
20210822	20210822	164300	YU7AOP	Boris	14.071702	PSK31	Serbia
20210822	20210822	145900	VE9SLH	Rick	14.071836	PSK31	LH
20210822	20210822	142400	K8CMO	Dave	14.071547	PSK31	2063
20210822	20210822	141100	KN4USA	Eric	14.071714	PSK31	
20210822	20210822	140000	KC3FL	John	14.070948	PSK31	2566
20210821	20210821	231300	N3AE	Shawn	7.071325	PSK31	
20210821	20210821	231000	K9VIC	Eric	7.071325	PSK31	312
20210821	20210821	230500	W9LY	MICHIGANCITYARC	7.071325	PSK31	

20210821	20210821	225400	KF3AA/3	Robert	7.071598	PSK31	124
20210821	20210821	224700	W3BUG	John	7.071872	PSK31	2540
20210821	20210821	222700	W3ZRW	Joel	7.071043	PSK31	
20210821	20210821	221900	KC9UR	Robert	7.071001	PSK31	APE
20210821	20210821	221100	VA3FLF	Steve	7.071001	PSK31	Ontario
20210821	20210821	205000	KC3FL	John	14.070942	PSK31	2566
20210821	20210821	204400	KA5VZG	Alan	14.072253	PSK31	1509
20210821	20210821	202500	CO2QU	Lefty	14.072000	PSK31	
20210821	20210821	202200	AA5DK	Gerald	14.072000	PSK31	
20210821	20210821	201600	N7WE	Richard	14.072000	PSK31	1602
20210821	20210821	200600	ON4VT	Danny	14.071312	PSK31	1950
20210821	20210821	193800	K9Y	J. Mitch	14.072084	PSK31	
20210821	20210821	193500	KM4PHI	Kevin	14.071876	PSK31	
20210821	20210821	174400	WA5AMM	Buz	14.070891	PSK31	2827
20210821	20210821	173900	KB6LFM	Bill	14.070896	PSK31	
20210821	20210821	173300	KN4ZXG	Ted	14.070896	PSK31	2834
20210821	20210821	172900	KG5OIB	John	14.070896	PSK31	
20210821	20210821	160300	KK6KMU	Robert	14.071626	PSK31	2592 APE
20210821	20210821	155300	KE0JBT	Malcolm	14.070594	PSK31	2749
20210821	20210821	154300	N9KJU	Ken	14.071631	PSK31	2862
20210821	20210821	153600	VE3BKM	Miguel	14.071632	PSK31	Ontario
20210821	20210821	151300	KI5GX	Shawn	14.071524	PSK31	2855
20210821	20210821	150300	KE0STT	Bob	14.071524	PSK31	2833
20210821	20210821	150000	K4VBM	Robert	14.071524	PSK31	2727
20210821	20210821	145500	NU4N	David	14.071524	PSK31	1657
20210821	20210821	145200	KC3EF	Dick	14.071524	PSK31	747
20210821	20210821	144800	AG4QX	William	14.071524	PSK31	398
20210821	20210821	144500	K8CMO	David	14.071524	PSK31	2063
20210821	20210821	142000	KA9IUC	Todd	14.071620	PSK31	
20210821	20210821	141600	KC3RHQ	Ron	14.071620	PSK31	2863
20210821	20210821	140000	KC3FL A W4PKU	few trouble shooting contacts. Fred	14.072208	PSK31	2566

20210821	20210821	130600	N9AVY	Jerry	14.071100	PSK31	454
20210821	20210821	130000	KC4OBB	Don	14.071100	PSK31	1609
20210821	20210821	014700	N7QU	George	7.071497	PSK31	330
20210821	20210821	012600	N7RI	William	7.071192	PSK31	1191
20210821	20210821	011700	KD9NHZ	Piotr	7.071505	PSK31	2778
20210821	20210821	010300	AG4QX	William	7.071415	PSK31	
20210821	20210821	004700	W4LID	Cyrus	7.071728	PSK31	
20210821	20210821	004400	N0TXW	David	7.071402	PSK31	2835
20210821	20210821	003600	K4VBM	Robert	7.071398	PSK31	2727
20210821	20210821	002800	K3YES	Joe	7.071129	PSK31	2806
20210821	20210821	002400	KA5VZG	Alan	7.071129	PSK31	213
20210821	20210821	002200	W8VYM	John	7.071129	PSK31	2581
20210821	20210821	001600	KC3FL	John	7.071122	PSK31	2566
20210821	20210821	000400	VE9SLH	Rick	7.071008	PSK31	LH

PODXS070 #'S recorded in my pencil log. Sorry if I didn't catch yours or get it written down or if I got it wrong. I know I didn't copy a few and get them in my hand log. Looks like 68 contacts including repeats/dups on two bands. About 35 different PODXS070 #'s logged. If you want your # added or corrected in this log, email ape@podxs070.com and I'll get you logged correctly.

Dave Hardy

KB3RAN

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APE Event Manager