

# W4OTN



Soapbox -

I didn't have a lot of time to dedicate to the effort today but I still wanted to put some contacts in the log. Brought out my Buddipole antenna and my Navy Flameproof key and set to work. Operated exclusively 15m CW and had fun. Lowest operating temperature was 38F while the lowest temperature received was 25F. Had a lot of fun and hope to have more time to devote to the contest next year!

73, Eric W4OTN/3

# W2LJ

Soapbox - Had a great time. Operated from the vehicle (stationery - from the back hatch of the Jeep). Rig was a KX3 @ 5 Watts, antenna was a Buddistick on a magmount on the roof. Nice to see so much activity on 15 Meters. High point was working two fellow Polar Bears AF4O and WA8REI.

(Eds. note - See lots more at Larry's blog site < <http://w2lj.blogspot.com/> >

73 de Larry W2LJ

QRP - When you care to send the very least!

# N8XX

I'm still in a "semi-contest mode" - piddling around with the #\$\$%&@% NA Sprint, which is about as maddening an exercise in stupidity as could be devised.

But, I must report that I found NQ7RP/5 and NQ7RP both on 21 MHz at the same time period, and worked both of them. First time in a long time I've worked a NQ7RP!

Good going fellers!

72/73 de n8xx Hg  
QRP >99.44% of the time

## **KS8M**

Northern Ohio QRP Club, KS8M

This was our first FYBO winter sprint. We will plan to make it an annual event now. We really had a lot of fun setting up and operating the sprint. We cleared a path, made a spot in the 12-14 inches of snow and set up to operate two stations. Rigs were an Elecraft K2 and a KX3 both battery powered. The antennas were a dipole up about 50 feet, a vertical for 40 & 20 meters and an Alex Loop mounted on a camera tripod. Band conditions were fair with some QSB at times. We did catch a SOTA or two and the farthest contact was Brazil on 10 meters. Perhaps if conditions were a little better and the sprint a bit longer we just might have gotten a WAS (HI HI).

73 & 72 from KS8M  
Alan AC8AP

## **K7QO**

Soapbox:

This has gotta be the lowest score in the contest. Did not get to spend much time and with the other constests going on there just wasn't much room around the 20m watering hole.

QT-20 at 3W to rotatable 20m dipole made from 2 Hamsticks in courtyard of home.

dit dit  
chuck, k7qo

## **AF4O**





Soapbox:  
Thanks AZ Scorpions!

Middle of 12k acre Chickasaw State Forest. FT817, Wire about 70' in a tree with radials.

Saw 2 horseback riders and 2 pickups (one pulling a horse trailer) all day on the gravel road about 50 yards away.

Temps in the low 60's but gusty winds. Absolute zero noise level on all bands but strong signals, makes you want to do a happy dance. I would have never heard WA3PTY at 1 watt at home in town, no way.

Chuck, AF4O

**K7TQ**

Eds. note - Be sure to check out all of Randy's FYBO activities over the years at the link below!

The plan to operate from an island in the Snake River in WA didn't work out. Every day this week there have been bands of heavy rain and wind kicked up by a low off California. Saturday was no different. I stayed home and operated field-style between rain bands using an end-fed half wave antenna.

There were only about 4 hours of non-rain that I could operate. Just 10 Qs, but nearly all of them were familiar calls and it was a fun day.

Full story and pictures at <http://sites.google.com/site/randyk7tq/home/fybo> for 2015 (Dodge the Rain - ed.) and all the others since 1997.

Thanks to AZScorps for putting on the event.

Randy K7TQ

## WV0H

Myron, WV0H, has a very nice write-up with photos at

**<<http://wv0h.blogspot.com/2015/02/2016-fybo-test.html>>**

The short version follows...

### 2015 FYBO Test

Short and sweet. Operated for 2 hours. Worked 14 stations. Some MN QSO Party on 40. Used the MFJ-2289 Big Ear antenna up 13 feet at apex, KX3 running 5 Watts and temp was 58 degrees F. So much for freezing. In fact last nights low was 57°.

Myron, WV0H

## K7ON



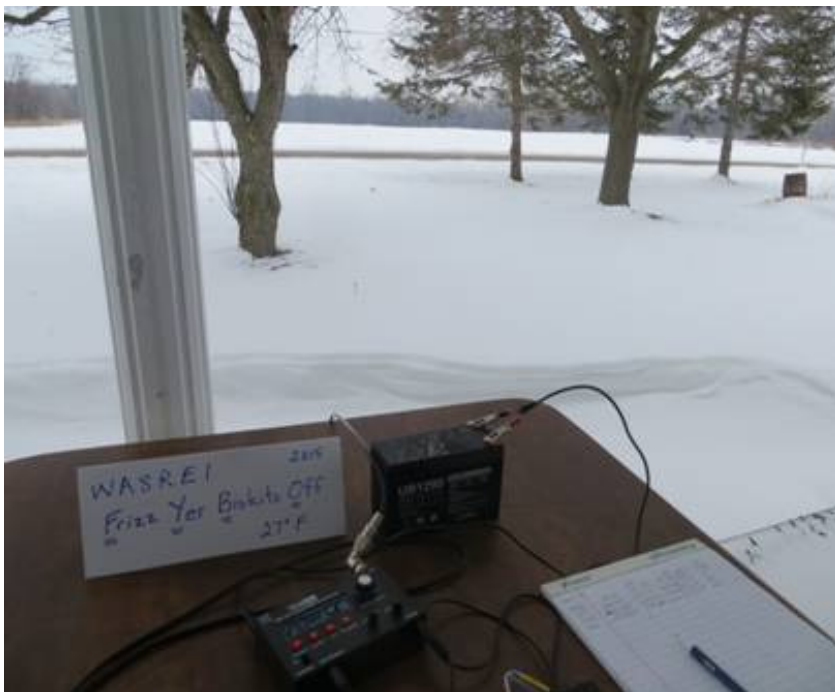
I worked AH6AX (in HI) using the FT-817 and Hustler Mobile. QSB prevented getting him to send his Power and Temperature like I did with K6III. It was confusing that their exchange was so similar, but also made it kinda easy to get them to send the info. Bottom line, I think K6III was a valid FYBO contact, but not AH6AX.

I made a total of 8 QSOs including AH6AX, all on or near 14060 (KI0G, K6III, W5QLF, NE5DL, N9AW, AH6AX, K7JWV, W7B).

Brian, K7ON

**WA8REI**





SOAPBOX: operated from my front porch. 27 degrees F. NQ7RP on 20 and 15 m. and NQ7RP/5 in Louisiana. 12 SPCs on 20 m; 1 SPC on 15 m. Rig: HB-1B, 5 watts powered by a 9 Ah SLA battery. Antenna: Mosley PRO 67-B yagi. 5 contests on the air simultaneously, plus SOTA. I'm sooooo confused! :)

Ken, WA8REI

# K0JQZ & wG0AT



See this great picture and much more FYBO and fun day report at Frank's blog site. Scroll down to the FYBO section. Lots of great reading at this site too.

< <http://k0jqz.blogspot.com/> >

# WD8RIF



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See the remainder of Eric's summary and great report at:

<<http://home.frognet.net/~mcfadden/wd8rif/fybo2015.htm>>

**NQ7RP/5 (Summertime view from the deck)**

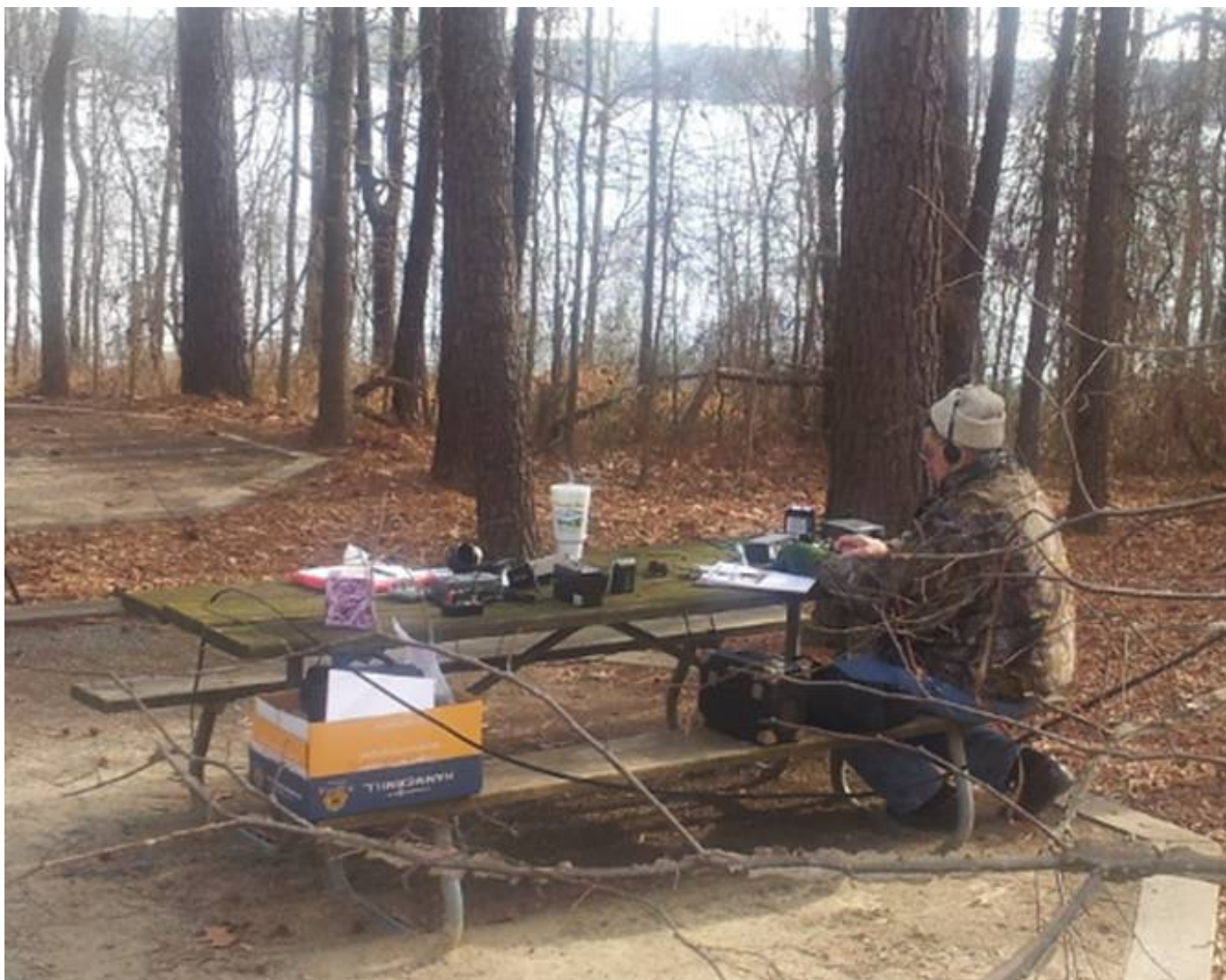




Too pretty a day to sit inside the house, but I did it anyway. Moved up and down from 40M through 10M wherever it sounded like there was someone to work. Friday's rain and trudging around in the resulting mud discouraged putting up a temporary antenna for a field entry. Propagation was long early and had several calls from DX stations on 10M. If I worked you on 20M, your signal was very good to get through the S7 noise. There is apparently a big hole in the antenna pattern to the NW. Zilch from that direction. Best signals were from the NNE along the axis of the 180' inverted L. RBN provided an interesting perspective of propagation too. All in all a fun day. Ready to do it again next year.

John NQ7RP/5 (K5JS)  
Prairieville Louisiana

**K3COD**



Rob Bergmueller, K3COD

Joe White, WA4GIR

Location: Seaforth Beach at Jordan Lake near Pittsboro NC.

Stations:

20m: K1 with Buddipole running 5W

40 and 15m: KX3 with 40m dipole up 20' running 5W

Weather was milder this year than for FYBO events in the past. It was 48F at the time of our first contact, but had warmed up 10 degrees by the second contact which was over two hours later. I did not hear many stations working FYBO, but was able to work all the ones I heard including NQ7RP on 15m. I had a good time spent mostly chatting with Rob, and occasionally scouring the bands for fresh meat. It was a good day to be outside as evident by the number of folks out taking their dogs for a hike. Not sure about the one hooded girl wearing a long black coat that we saw performing some sort of ritual with a fire in one of the BBQ grills at a nearby picnic table. Everything else was pretty non-eventful, which is a good thing.

I'm attaching a photo of Rob, K3COD at his K1 with a vibroplex bug. The KX3 station is to his left on the same table.

Thanks for organizing this contest. Looking forward to seeing the results posted. Somebody has to be last, right?



joe  
WA4GIR

**W7DK**



**Phil K7PIA working 20 M Phone**



**Randy WB4SPB at the key while Jim K7SSS keeps him company**



**Worth W7WG and Pat WT7N keep a close eye on Jim K7SSS and Rich KR7W**





**One of the ARDF Hunter teams checks back in**



**Rich KR7W and Bob KE7WPK going over the log sheets**

For the umpteenth consecutive year, W7DK – The Radio Club of Tacoma (Washington) fielded a team of operators, supporters, and observers to the shoreline of Owen Beach at Point Defiance Park. In addition to three active stations participating in FYBO, the club also hosted a hidden transmitter hunt for both club members and passers-by.

It was a balmy 49 degrees F when we fired up the first rig, but the wind and rain had us wishing that there were multipliers for chill factors and wet factors. Rigs used this year were two Elecraft KX3s on CW and a Yaesu FT817 working phone mode. Antennas consisted of our usually reliable 20-meter Salt Water Vertical, a multi-band sloper, and a 20-foot high maypole.

Dozens of club members came out to look and play, help with setup and tear down, hunt for the hidden bunnies, and partake of the kettle of Elk Chili concocted by Chef Paul W7PFU. We didn't seem to be as successful making contacts as in some past years, but all the folks had a grand time, and we had an opportunity to enlighten numerous visitors about amateur radio.

Submitted by Mike W7MWF

**WA5BDU**



Another fun FYBO. I operated from Petit Jean Mountain overlooking the Arkansas River. The rig was a KX3 and I used an EFHWs for 40 and 20 meters. The day started clear and about 33F but was 60+ by afternoon. I put in about three hours before packing up and looking for lunch. FYBO is one of my favorite field events. Let's keep it going! --- Nick, WA5BDU  
Soapbox -

## K6BBQ

On Friday it looked like I was going to miss this year's event as rain was forecast through the weekend. Lucky for me that the rain stopped this morning and I had to try to go out. Usually I operate FYBO with Bill, KF6RMK but he was busy for a change. Riding the trike I found a nearby spot of mine that wasn't flooded and set my station up - a Yaesu 857D, 40 meter end fed, battery and a solar panel. At 66F it wasn't anywhere near freezing compared to some earlier years. Maybe I should have gone up to the mountains where it snowed overnight.

First person contacted on 20 meters was Mike using the Arizona ScQRPion club call NQ7QRP. I worked two more FYBO stations before raindrops started falling, so I packed up everything and called it a day. A shorter event this year but still fun. Thank you.





Although the grey sky it was dry and I was ready to operate. Everything was set up and I had a blank log page waiting to be filled



I always have fun going out for Freeze Your Butt Off. It was good having a QSO with Mike operating the NQ7RP / FYBO station.

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A little under an hour operating and despite the sunshine, rain started falling. I packed up quickly and went home. The rain stopped by the time i arrived home.

***Please spread the word about the third annual SYBO - Scorch Your Butt Off - on Sunday, July 12, 2015. <http://www.qsl.net/sybo/> The SYBO is the warm weather version of FYBO.***

-- Rem, K6BBQ

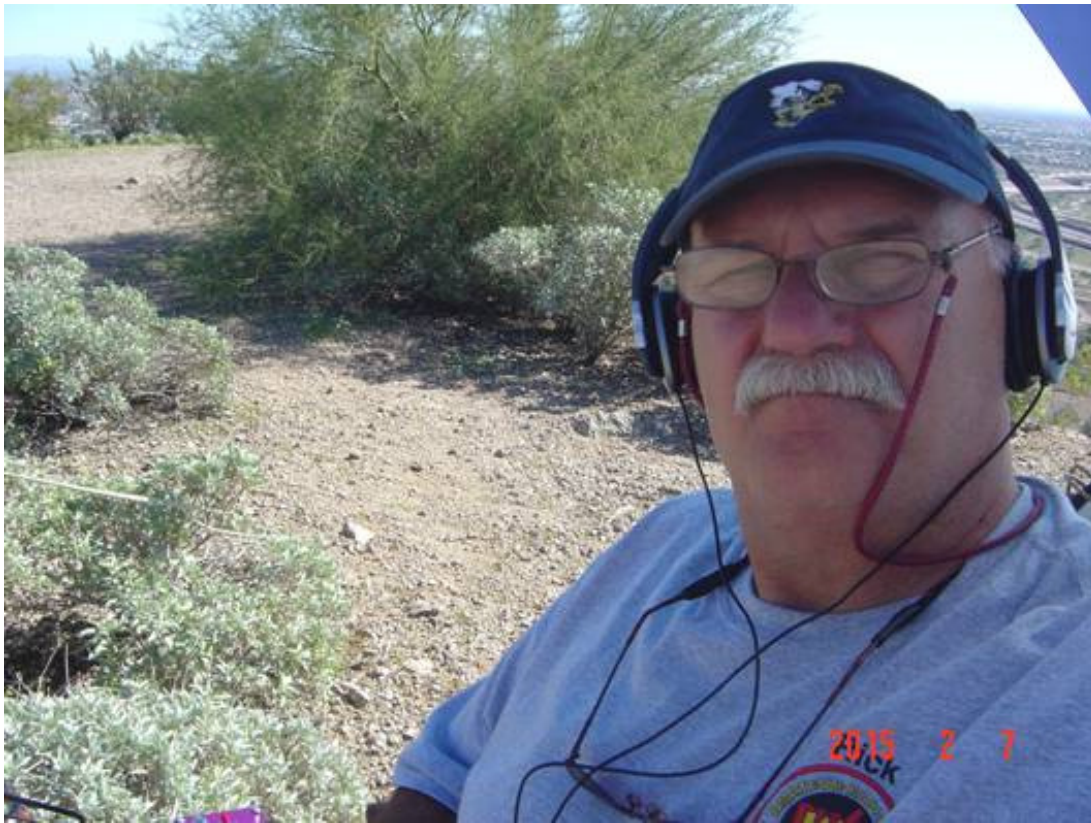
# NK9G/7



**88' Doublet on 33' Mast**



**Operating Position**



**Rick, NK9G/7**

### Soapbox

I woke up at 6:15 AM and loaded up. I drove to the Usery Pass Mountains northeast of Phoenix In Arizona. I carried a backpack with KX3, 88' doublet with 300 ohm feedline, Keyer, key, headphones, cooler with water and a big sub sandwich. A large camping chair with a side table which I tied my 33' mast and umbrella too. I was loaded with 40# of a portable operation. This was on my bucket list, my first and maybe last. 61 years old and a 50 minute hike to a plateau 20 feet from the top. Great location with low noise to no noise. I was exhausted and took my good natures time setting up but we were up and running 8:40 AM. First Q (20) was with NQ7RP, of course he was west of me but I have no idea of how far. The furthest to the northeast worked was New Jersey, to the north was Alaska, and that was a treat. I tried 40 CW numerous times and could not raise anyone. As a first, I tried sideband for a first time on 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. I did not hear anyone on QRP SSB frequencies. That really surprised me as I know of other SSB QRP contests. This was a lot of fun but I think I will be at the base of the mountain in the future. This was far from the extreme operating I have done in the past in Wisconsin. So this does not compare to below zero or single digit temps. As many different QRP Ops I hear in QRP Sprints, Fox Hunts and other contests it would sure be nice to see more show up for this venture. I remember many years ago we would work near a 100 stations. All I all look for me again in FYBO in the future. I enjoyed this one once again. Thanks to the Arizona ScQRPions for sponsoring this operating event. Thanks to K7DD for reminder emails keeping me from putting this one off. Thanks to all who took the time to make this FYBO a success .

Rick McGaver. NK9G/7  
Queen Creek AZ



# K4UPG



Great wx here in Orlando! Last couple years have been run off by lightning and rain so enjoyed the sun. (Despite losing multiplier points)

I setup in the small park by Lake Fredrica in our housing development. The pine trees are tall and nicely spaced for antennas. Ran a HB1B to a jumper dipole inverted vee with the peak at 46 ft. Nice to get some altitude on the antenna. 20 was best for me. Wish I had taken the Argonaut along to add some 15m contacts and maybe a 10m or two, but did not bring it this time. 40m was noisy and mostly empty until late afternoon. 20m was interesting and not the usual pattern which favors the East Coast crowd. Did not hear the normal PA, NJ and NE stations that typically make up the contest crowd. I worked quite a few to the West and heard some working the W2LJ but never could hear his signal though I was watching.

Enjoyed being part of the Polar Bear QRP Team this year! I worked 4 fellow Polar Bears WA8REI, AF4O, N0EVH, AD7KG Grrrrr!

Here's a photo of my lakeside view. Temp started at 56F and worked up to 73F after noon. I had to move into the shade to avoid the heat! Look forward to seeing the results. Thanks to all for a fun contest!

72,  
Kelly K4UPG Polar Bear #173  
Orlando, FL

# W5QLF

Things didn't start out as planned as the city park we'd planned to use opened an hour after the start of the FYBO contest. One of our operators elected to return home to take care of some family obligation so Marty (W5MRM) and I (W5QLF) marched

forward after the park gate was opened and set up under some oak trees. We were on the air by 1500z. We chose to operate as Single Operators as part of the "Goat Herders" Team.

W5MRM operated from a sealed gel cell to a KX3 and a Buddy Pole. Marty (W5MRM) was set up on a concrete picnic table that had been cold soaking overnight.

I put a digital thermometer/clock outside and operated in the back seat of my Honda Odyssey with an Elecraft K-1 powered from a lawn mower battery destined for cutting grass next Spring. The antenna for W5QLF was a 20 meter Ham Stick on an eight inch mag mount just behind the moon roof of the Odyssey.

The first contact at 1501z was NQ7RP, although I didn't remember the significance of that call until I made up my entry form in the 76 degree comfort of my ham shack the next day.

The starting temperature at the Goat Herder's location was 52 degrees F even though the media had been forecasting a high of 70 degrees plus for Saturday. Members of our team were feeling sorry for fellow FYBO who were actually going to FYBO. I must have worked some warm blooded souls as the lowest temperature reported to me in a QSO was 35 degrees from Nick in Arkansas. Dan in Maryland was a close second with 37 degrees in Maryland.

A major lesson learned this year is that there is no specific probation to working from inside a vehicle. I think I'll use that loophole in future FYBO events because even at a balmy 52 degrees, a Texas wind can chill you to the bone.

It was great fun. Thank you to all the folks that gave me Qs, even those working the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and didn't give me their temperature so I couldn't count them as FYBO contacts.

72, Joe W5QLF

## **N8XX**

Not much time for this one - worked mainly the Minnesota QSO Party, but when I'd hear a QRP station calling CQ FYBO I'd try to work it.

72, Hank N8XX