

Second Year of SOTA (Summits on the Air)



**Mike
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Sept. '17-Aug. '18

MIKE CARTMILL'S, ACØPR, 2ND YEAR OF SOTA

This has been an incredible year with Summits on the Air. I thought I would slow down, but it's hard to stay away. I had a few failures, but tons of successes and got the chance to see many mountains and areas I would have never visited otherwise. I activated in Nevada, Idaho, Arizona besides here in Utah. Some places were a bit "hairy" at times, and others were way out where I didn't see another soul the entire trip. I came across game of all types and quite a few more snakes than last year as well.

While I did activate a very small handful of summits with family (Dad and Bob), 97% were done solo. It's an interesting thing being alone. On one hand, I always have to be extra careful about safety and often make decisions based on knowing I do not have help readily available. Also at times it can be a little spooky—winds through trees, a storm that seems to be stalking you, movement in the brush, dwelling on what I would do if I got stranded or injured, etc. On the other hand, you feel at one with nature, you gain confidence in your abilities, you see and hear things others may rarely see, step where few have stepped. Some summits are only visited rarely, if that.

Certainly, there are no summits where I have been the first there, but I've come to really enjoy the challenge of being the very first to activate a summit for SOTA. I set a goal at the beginning to have at least 50 of these when I reach Mountain Goat, I accomplished that last May, and will have a number more by the time I'm done. Of course, this gets harder and harder as summits get activated.

I'm within 100 points of reaching the main goal of 1,000 points, although I don't think I'll just stop at that milestone, but the "Mountain Goat book" that will follow will most likely be much shorter.

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"Pink Cliffs" W7U/KA-002

Stats: 9/04/2017

Points: 8 (total=411)

Elevation: 9,420 ft

QSO's: 22

Farthest: 9,420 miles (NC)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

**YouKits HB-1B qrp cw
(4 WATTS)**

Linked dipole

AME porta-paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access is gained near Bryce Canyon National Park by taking Route 12 (which leads to the park) and leaving it on East Fork Rd (FR-87) some 12 miles, passing Tropic Reservoir. From there you take FR-092 as it forks off toward the mountain. Near the end of that road before dropping off into a canyon, there is a parking area and a number of other roads. The first road in that area is FR-203 which leads to the correct mountain. There are some great views along the way. You leave FR-203 using FR-215 for a short while, then FR-608 is the last turnoff. There is a sign for "Pink Cliffs" which is what you want. Be sure



and see the small loop at the top which allows you to see the cliffs and the benchmark before going to the highest point. There is a small shack at the top with some solar panels, although it's not clear if it's a functioning site.

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The experience: This was the first of several planned for the day. It was a nice ATV ride up. The cliffs were cool looking for sure. The road is right by the high point so I didn't have to go far to set up. I used an open area and strapped the mast to



several branches of a bush. I got on quickly and had quite a few calls, all went well. I was in such a hurry though (being the first of a long day) that I forgot to put up the SOTA flag (which I do with 1st activations ever of a place) and didn't think of it until I packed up and realized I took no pictures of the setup. No big deal though.



"Joan Mountain" W7U/KA-004

Stats: 9/04/2017

Points: 8 (total=419)

Elevation: 9,281 ft

QSO's: 8

Farthest: 1,633 miles (TN)

Time on Air: 5 mins.

Equipment:

**YouKits HB-1B qrp cw
(4 WATTS)**

Linked dipole

AME porta-paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

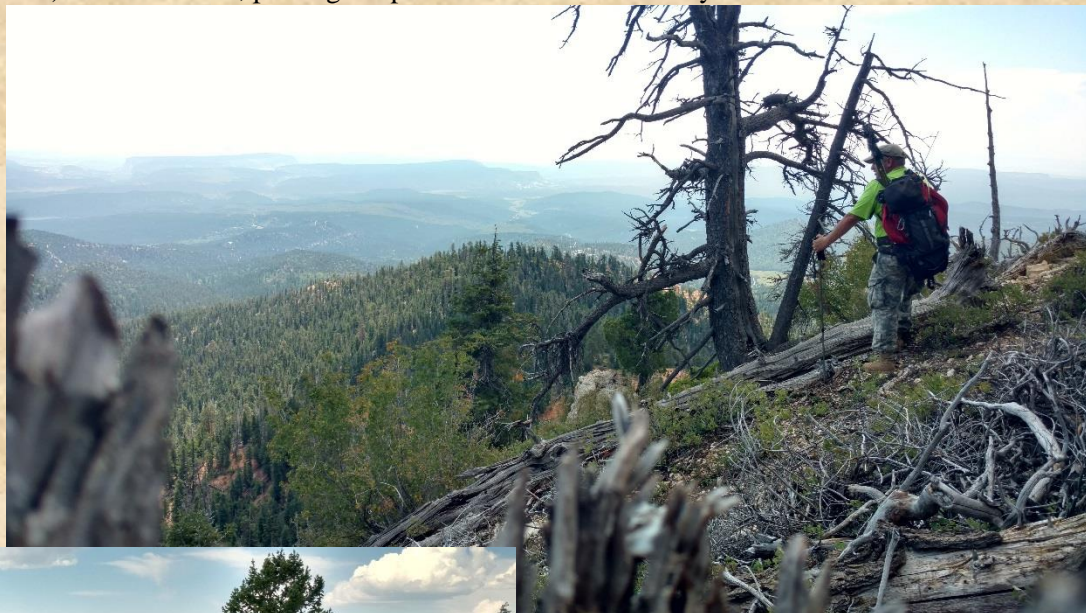
Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access is gained near Bryce Canyon National Park by taking Route 12 (which leads to the park) and leaving it on East Fork Rd (FR-87) some 12 miles, passing Tropic Reservoir. From there you take FR-092 as it forks off

toward the mountain. Near the end of that road before dropping off into a canyon, there is a parking area and a number of other roads.

From there, a few options exist. I opted to take FR-1211 for a little bit and take a fairly direct route to the summit. Lots of vegetation, gets quite thick near the top. Great views.



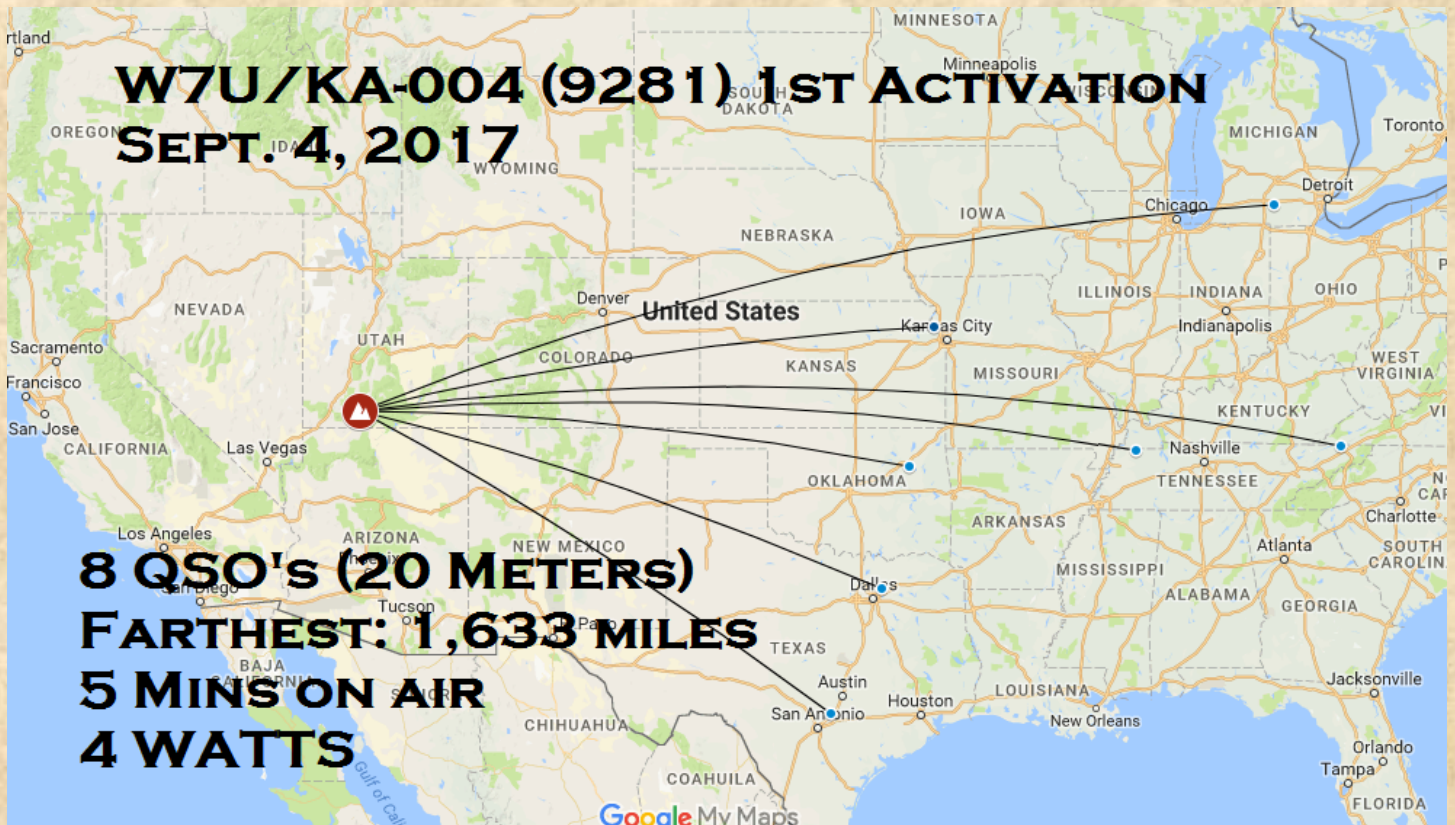
The experience: I

waivered about doing this



one as the hike was pretty challenging, even more so with all the brush and trees, but I was glad I did it. The views were very cool. It's obvious that not many make it to the top of this one. I stepped over as many trees as steps on the ground. It's out of the way and isn't a named mountain. I set up in a nice shaded area. I had just gotten ready and started when I felt a drop of rain. I was so into what I was doing I hadn't noticed a storm moving in. I was on five minutes, packed up very quickly and headed down the mountain in the most

direct route possible. However, I packed so quickly that I didn't disconnect the battery like I always do, the wires got squished and touched so there were a ton of sparks! Luckily, I took care of it quickly, and the radio was not damaged, but not cool. I got a little scratched up going through thick woods quickly. Started hearing thunder as I headed down, but I dropped elevation quickly. When I got to the ATV, I didn't even strap on the backpack or the other gear and just wore it on my back as I rode to the pickup. Weather is probably the number one thing that changes my mind about a trip, everywhere else seemed clear though!



Showalter Mountain W7U/SU-038

Stats: 9/04/2017

Points: 6 (total=425)

Elevation: 8,571 ft

QSO's: 5

Farthest: 1,004 miles (TX)

Time on Air: 5 mins.

Equipment:

**YouKits HB-1B qrp cw
(4 WATTS)**

Linked dipole

AME porta-paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 2nd (My 1st)



Trail report: Access is gained from Highway 20 (which connects I-15 to Hwy. 89) located somewhat close by to Panguitch. From there you take Upper Bear Valley Road, a dirt road which has high sides, would be rough going in bad or winter weather. From there you take 559 (there's a sign at the intersection you follow that says "Buckskin Valley Rd"). Finally, FR-1588 is the last road you take. This is really more of an ATV trail, although an adventurous Jeep driver could make it as well. The road leads all the way to the top, although only 2.6 miles, it seems like a very long route since it's rough in many parts.



The experience: This was the last of the day, in a



different area. From the research I did beforehand, I knew this was going to be a long ATV ride and a challenging one. It very much was. A few times I stopped to assess whether I should continue on, but in the end decided to go forward. Not only was the trail difficult, but there was a storm to the north that I was keeping a close watch on, but since there was no movement in the clouds at all, I couldn't tell which way it was going. As I finally got to the top, which was interesting since it was very grassy while the rest of the area was not, the clouds were making me nervous so I only stayed on for 5 minutes. On the way back down it started to

rain; it kept getting heavier. I got to the pickup just in time to not be totally wet. It wasn't so heavy that it muddied up the road on the way back. A good day overall.

Side note: One thing I decided to do was take some trail trash and make a CW key from it for next time—turns out it will be Coors beer can key.



EQUIPMENT CHANGE

After almost a full year of rough treatment of my YouKits HB-1B, I decided it was time to send it in to get refurbished. The connections were starting to get a short. A couple of the buttons were loose and having trouble. I was going to have to send it to Canada and it would be gone for a couple of months. It's really a great radio and I love how it works and how well I can hear other stations on it.



However, there was no way I was going to take months off of activating so I had to decide what to do for a radio. While there were several options, and I had some money after summer teaching. After plenty research, I decided I wanted an Elecraft KX2 (pretty fancy for a portable radio, and very popular among a lot of SOTA activators) as an overall emergency preparedness radio and I would use that while waiting for my HB-1B to get back.

Because of its cost, I would not use it permanently as a SOTA radio—it gets rough out there sometimes, but I could baby it for a couple of months. It took a little getting used to. In fact the first couple of times out I had trouble reading weak signals on 20 meters, although I didn't have the same issues on 40m. I finally realized a filter was on that was blocking out all but the strongest signals. Things got better after that. I used in in the next 10 summits.



Here are the contacts made with the KX2 on those activations:



I got the YouKits HB-1B back the first week of December 2017 and had an amazing activation its first time back with my personal high for number of contacts, 54 (see Dry Willow Peak activation).

Diamond Butte W7A/NM-038

Stats: 9/23/2017

Points: 8 (total=433)

Elevation: 6344 ft

QSO's: 22

Farthest: 2,140 miles (QC)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

Elecraft KX2

(5 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Elecraft paddles

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st

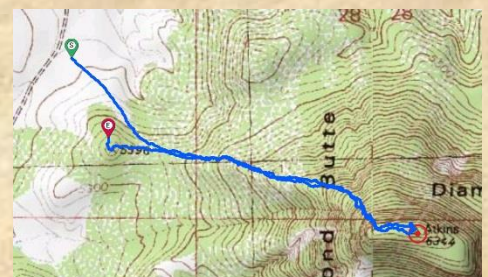
Trail report: Access is gained from Mt. Trumbull Loop off of Southern Parkway used to reach the St. George, UT airport. Once on Mt. Trumbull Loop it's about 36 miles until the turnoff to the base of the butte, but it's really just off the main road, less than a half a mile. The turnoff leads to a spring and a large collection tank—a good place to park. The hike is about 1,150 vertical feet from the edge of the fenced off spring area. The hike doesn't get challenging until the last



100 vertical feet or so. There is some scrambling to reach the top with some large boulders. There is a benchmark and registry at the top. Plenty of rocks and trees to get an antenna up.



The experience: This was a second attempt for this summit. The first time it was really hot (trying for summer bonus) and I decided to turn around about half way up instead of chancing it. This time it was quite cool, in fact at the top when I stopped hiking I had to put on a hoodie to not get too cold. This was the first time I used my new Elecraft KX2 (my other radio, HB-1B was sent in to be refurbished from a year of use). It worked great, and I really liked



the internal tuner. But at the same time, my “dit” paddle got stuck right in the middle of a run, and then I wasn’t used to the fat paddles and my CW was not very good at all. I did have quite a few call though, so it was very successful. I tried looking around for arrowheads after getting back down, but saw nothing.



Horse Valley Mountain W7U/IR-001

Stats: 9/30/2017

Points: 10 (total=443)

Elevation: 10,580 ft

QSO's: 24

Farthest: 2,165 miles (QC)

Time on Air: 25 mins.

Equipment:

Elecraft KX2

(5 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Elecraft paddles

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access is gained from Highway 143 which runs between Panguitch and Cedar Breaks National Monument.

At the far northeast end of Panguitch Lake, East Shore Rd leads through a few residences on the way to Horse Valley Rd. This is a dirt road, however it is used quite often and can be taken a far distance without the need of a 4x4. There are signs warning that it is not well-maintained and in poor weather caution should be taken. This road passes through some private land (Horse Valley), but the road is Forest Service (402) to gain access to the forest land on the opposite side of the valley. This road is difficult when wet or snowy. If one looks at a topo map or Google Earth, there is a logical turn-off (not named) to lead to the base of the mountain. The road is rougher than the main road.



The ascent is grassy and beautiful with many aspen trees, but it is also steep at times. Due to the Brian Head fire (2017), most of the brush was burned away, so no bushwhacking until it grows back.

The top has trees and rocks to be used to erect an antenna.



The experience: I was very close to hiking this mountain a few weeks ago, but was nervous about the many “no trespassing” signs. However, after studying maps later, the mountain itself is not private land, just the valley below it. On the way there I had to break numerous times to not hit deer out feeding and crossing the roads. There were a number of hunters out and about for elk season.

The hike was nice (once I realized I didn't need to race up it, not sure why I started out that way). It went from open area, then through burnt out trees and open areas again, back and forth a few times. The burnt out area was a little creepy. Also came across a dead elk. Not sure if it died in the fire, but there was very little left.

I checked for the ivory teeth, but they were gone.

At the top, right on the summit, someone was there with a tent up—looked to be a hunter. Because of that, I stayed back and didn't record any contacts and just used the headphones to keep it quiet. I had plenty of contacts, and two people on other summits (one in Illinois and one in Colorado). It was a good one!



W7U/IR-001 HORSE VALLEY MOUNTAIN

SEPT. 30, 2017 (1ST ACTIVATION, 10 PTS.)

20 METERS

40 METERS

24 QSO'S

FARTHEST:

2,165 MILES

2 SUMMIT2S

25 MINS

5 WATTS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor

Strawberry Point W7U/KA-005

Stats: 10/21/2017

Points: 8 (total=451)

Elevation: 9,016 ft

QSO's: 18

Farthest: 2,037 miles (NJ)

Time on Air: 35 mins.

Equipment:

Elecraft KX2 (5 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Elecraft paddles

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

Trail report: There are two ways to reach the point, a long road along Strawberry Ridge (used for hunting) or the valley road (Strawberry Point Rd). WAY faster to take

the valley road. This is one where you may want to park on the top loop (a few parking spots) then hike down to the minimum elevation and hike back up. The actual point is rocky and extends out over an incredible view. Caution should be taken. There are a few trees nearby and a nice flat, dirt area to operate from.

The experience: This was an activation during a deer hunt. The area I hunt is right by here and Dad and I did the same thing last year. It was cold! 27 degrees. I know that there is a benchmark on the rocks on the high point out there, but the drop off on both sides make it so it's not worth it to me to take a picture of it. It was windy too, so I went by the trees close by and set up.

The wind knocked down the mast twice before I got set up. I got on and started calling. I'm still not really used to the KX2 and there were some light signals I just couldn't get, I'll need to work on the filtering and RF gain to hear them. I moved to 40 meters and got lots of contacts. They were steady. I wanted to quit because my fingers were getting really cold, but I don't like to stop if there are people still calling. I was



surprised to get W1AW/6, that's the national association callsign. It finally died down. I packed up quickly and got the truck running to warm up. Quick 8 points though!



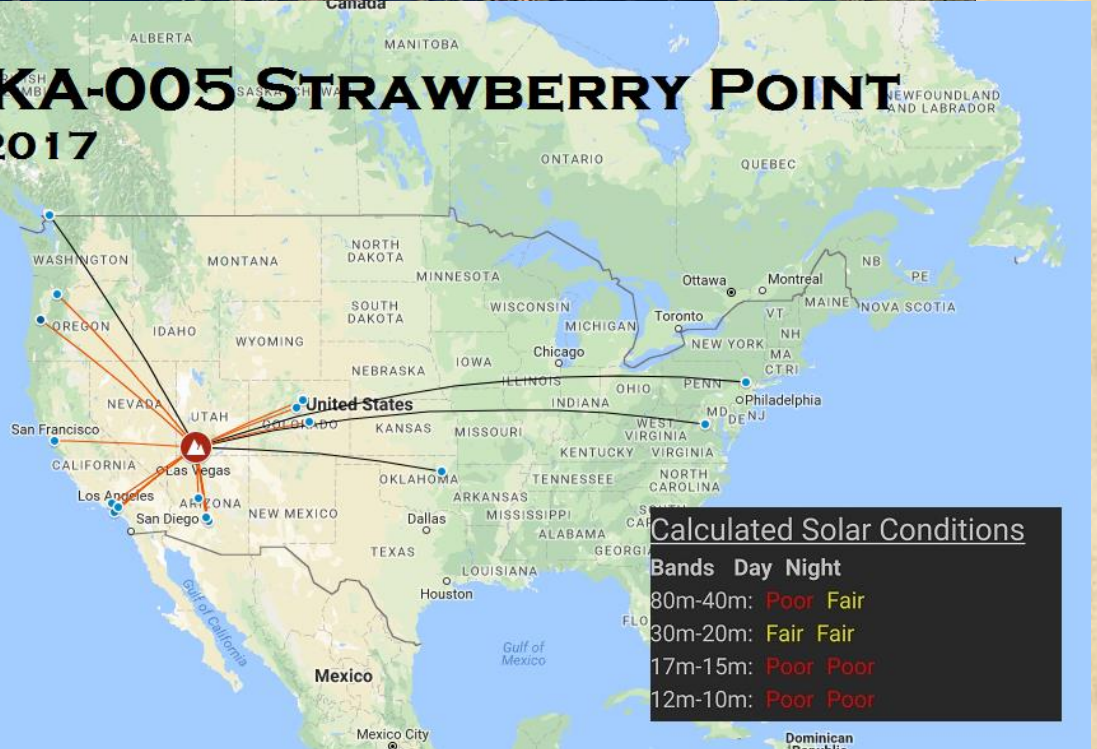
W7U/KA-005 STRAWBERRY POINT

OCT. 21, 2017

18 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
2,037 MILES
35 MINS.
5 WATTS

20 METERS

40 METERS



Little Creek Mountain W7U/WS-104

Stats: 10/26/2017

Points: 2 (total=453)

Elevation: 5,912 ft

QSO's: 18

Farthest: 2,237 miles (NH)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

Elecraft KX2 (5 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Elecraft paddles

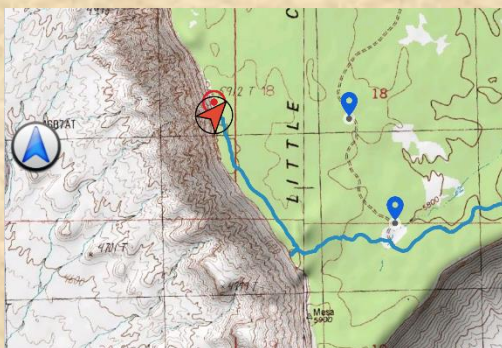
LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



Trail report: Little Creek is accessed from Highway 59 very close to Apple Valley, UT which starts in Hurricane. From that highway, Little Creek

Mesa Road (a dirt road) winds its way to the top of the mesa. While there are many other roads in the area, they are not numbered or marked. You basically go straight almost all the way without taking any of the turn offs. Near the end of the mesa, there are a few choices to make it to the end. The roads further along on top get pretty rough and a careful 4x4 driver would be fine. At the end the roads are used more by ATV's than trucks.



The experience: I had been in this area once before and never got to the summit. This time I had time after school and it happens to be in my hunting area so I wanted to check it out. I got there mid-afternoon, which is a terrible time for hunting, but was able to go right to the summit. It has an awesome view,

which can't be captured in one picture. I set up fairly quickly and got on the air. I'm still have a lot of trouble with reception on 20 meters and haven't figured out why yet. 40 meters was great with a steady stream of calls. It was

a beautiful day and a very nice temperature. After 18 contacts I shut it off and packed up to check out the rest of the hunting area.



W7U/WS-104 LITTLE CREEK MT.

OCT. 26, 2017 (1ST ACTIVATION)

20 METERS

40 METERS

18 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
2,237 MILES
20 MINS
5 WATTS



"Toquerville Hill" W7U/WS-118

Stats: 10/31/2017

Points: 1 (total=454)

Elevation: 4,396 ft

QSO's: 14

Farthest: 2,103 (NJ)

Time on Air: 15 mins.

Equipment:

Elecraft KX2 (5 WATTS)

Linked dipole

AME paddles

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st

Trail report: This hill looks over the town of Toquerville which is found just off of I-15 between the exits for Hurricane and New Harmony. There is only one main road that goes to the town. The hill itself can be accessed on either the north or the south side. The south side has an ATV trail, however, it is private land. There is a gate, and even though the sign simply requested the gate remain closed, it was kept shut by barbed



wire wrapped numerous times around the post. This route is private almost all the way to the top.

I opted to stay away from the private land and approach from the north. You will need to take Spring Dr. which follows the edge of the hill. Once on dirt road, there are a number of places to turn off and park. The hike is rocky and can be steep in parts. This side of the hill and the entire way up is BLM land.

The experience: I have been scouting out this one for a while simply because it's never been done before. It's only worth a point,

but it is fairly close to home. I chose a nice day after school. It was a little warmer than I would have liked (even as late as Oct. 31st) but not bad. The hike was long and a bit of a challenge with how rocky it was and steep at times. I took a number of breaks and pictures along the way.

The top has a cool view. I found a small fossilized piece of wood on the way up as well. Once on top I took a few pictures and looked for a place to set up. I found one not far away using a dead tree to strap the mast to nice and steady (a bit windy on top). I finally worked out the problems I have been having on 20 meters so got a number of farther stations. I only stayed on the air a total of 15 minutes because I wanted to get home before dark (Halloween you know). I had to take it easy on the way down though, pretty steep and I didn't want to slip.



"TOQUERVILLE HILL" W7U/WS-1 18

OCT. 31, 2017 (1ST ACTIVATION)

14 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
2,103 MILES
15 MINS ON AIR
5 WATTS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Good	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor



20 METERS

40 METERS

“Baker Dam Hill” W7U/WS-107

Stats: 11/10/2017

Points: 2 (total=456)

Elevation: 5,672 ft

QSO's: 19

Farthest: 2,223 (VT)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

Elecraft KX2 (5 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Elecraft paddles

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)



Trail report: Once again, I opted to stay completely on the north side (although steeper) since it is BLM land. The south belongs to a private ranch. There is no trail to the top, just game trails and natural terrain features to follow. Very rocky at times. Access is across the Baker Dam (between Veyo and Central, UT) and then a road that follows the base. The summit has a nice, large area; for my equipment a very easy setup with rocks holding my mast in place with enough trees to tie a wire to but not too many to get in the way.

The experience: Did this as an after-work close and quick activation. Since I had been here before, there's was a lot less stress and concern for the unknown. It was a nice afternoon hike up. A good fall temperature so not too hot and not too cold. On top is was nice and sunny with a great view. I was going



to try a different key since my normal one has been giving me trouble. When I opened up the case, though, it was all over the place with parts and screws undone—I guess it had been jostled around too much. I ended up using the one they make to attach to the radio, but I



Mustang Knoll W7A/NM-045

Stats: 11/18/2017

Points: 8 (total=464)

Elevation: 6,100 ft

QSO's: 19

Farthest: 2,245 (VT)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

Elecraft KX2 (5 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Elecraft paddles

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access is gained from the Southern Parkway which is the last exit in Utah off of I-15 before entering Arizona. The Southern Parkway leads to the St. George airport. From the Parkway you take Mt. Trumbull Loop (River Rd. exit) heading south into the Arizona strip. After 20 miles on this good dirt road, there is a turnoff onto BLM 1004. This road passes part of the mountain and then turns toward it. Before turning away from it again and before reaching the next butte, there is a rougher dirt road turn off (not named) that leads to the base of the mountain. It is not used often and could be easily missed. Only experienced 4x4 drivers should take the route.

The hike is rough, rocky at times. There are large and abundant trees, a little bushwhacking required. At the summit there are plenty of trees and rocks for erecting a mast.



The experience: This was a first activation, so it was all new. I got to the road I knew I would need to use the ATV on at some point without much trouble. The last dirt road had been washed out a few times and had deep ruts cut in it, making it challenging, even with an ATV. At one point I had to just go completely off road to get around a section that could have caused big trouble.



Very oddly, there was a truck already at the very end of the road. This is miles out in the desert, taking a number of dirt road turn offs, tucked away.

Were they hunters? If so, they wouldn't be happy with me traipsing around making noise. This is not a popular mountain or destination. Maybe hikers or who knows what else—people do lots of things out in the desert (saw a woman collecting sage on the way home). I went forward though and may have heard the others once in a while. I made it to the top ok and set up. Good activation, contacts were quick. Simple enough!



Poverty Knoll W7A/NM-037

Stats: 11/25/2017

Points: 8 (total=472)

Elevation: 6,347 ft

QSO's: 12

Farthest: 672 (OR)

Time on Air: 15 mins.

Equipment:

Elecraft KX2 (5 W)

Linked dipole

AME paddles

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access is gained using Mt. Trumbull Loop into the Arizona Strip off of the Southern Parkway (used to reach the St. George Airport). This is good dirt road which you stay on for 36 miles. Just after Diamond Butte, you have to turn off of it onto Route 103, also a good road, for 7.5 miles which puts you almost directly west of the knoll. From there you have to take an unnamed road to the base of the mountain. However, this road will be a challenge without a 4x4 or an OHV after a short while, but it is less than a mile and a half so could be hiked as well.

The ascent is not too steep and has lots of grass and cacti, gets a little rocky farther up. The summit is marked by a large pile of rocks and has a benchmark nearby.

Plenty of places to set up an antenna with rocks, dead trees, etc.



The experience: This was a last minute change as I really was going for Poverty Mountain, the next mountain over, but the access road was too bad with deep ruts and no way to straddle them with the ATV. I had scouted it out on maps and decided to take a look. I got to the base and checked it out. I wavered about going for it or not. It wasn't the one I had told my family I would be on, so if there was trouble, it would be hard to find me. I texted the new location (luckily barely got the text out with poor reception).

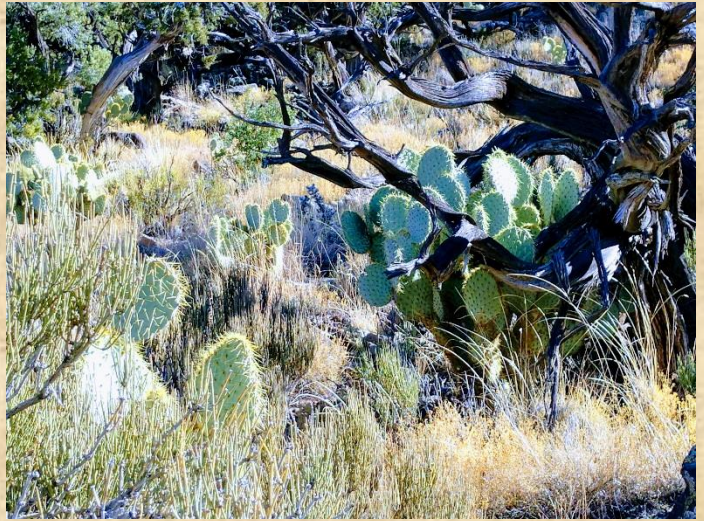


It didn't look overly difficult or challenging, so in the end I decided not to waste the trip, the day, and the nice weather. It was a good hike. I took it easy after adding a bunch of "holiday weight" which I hope to get off soon. It took a while, but finally



got to the top. The map showed a symbol which indicates there's a benchmark, but I didn't see it. I finally found it. It had been covered with rocks by somebody. That happens with geocaches, but have never seen a benchmark hidden. I uncovered it and took a picture.

There was a CW contest so LOTS of people on, which is bad for me because my signal is low power and can be easily drowned out. I didn't get any long distance contacts because of that, but did fine on the closer states. I headed back down and started the long drive back home.



Ladybug Benchmark W7U/IR-037

Stats: 12/2/2017

Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=479)

Elevation: 7,177 ft

QSO's: 21

Farthest: 2,174 (VT)

Time on Air: 25 mins.

Equipment:

Elecraft KX2 (5 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access is gained off of highway 130 which runs between the towns of Enoch and Minersville in Iron Co., Utah. It can be directly access from I-15 in Enoch. From the exit you stay on 130 for about 21.7 miles. The turn off is a rough dirt road which leads to the base of the mountain. In fact, if you can follow the road to its closest point to the northeast of the mountain, the hike is short and only about 400 vertical feet. However, it is more a hunting road with deep ruts and quite rocky at times.

Once on the hike, there are no overly steep areas and there is plenty of grass and rocks. This approach is also devoid of thick trees, unlike the opposite side of the mountain. There is a benchmark at the top, although there was a tree that had grown nearby and covered it up. There are rocks and trees to use for antenna setup.

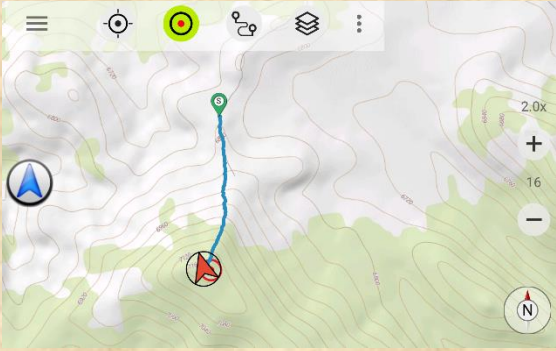


The experience: It's interesting how the reality of a place is never like the maps and photos show. I had researched the area and thought I would be able to drive quite close to the mountain. Perhaps I could have, but I didn't want to put my truck through that. I rode the ATV much farther than planned because of that. But no problem. In fact, I was able to get really close and the hike was pretty easy. I scared up three deer when I arrived. I watched them go up and over the side of the mountain as I got my pack on and ready.

There was a little snow, but it didn't cause any problems—it is winter bonus season! The best part was the operating. I got three



summit-to-summit contacts among my 21 contacts. I used a different key this time as my other, lighter one was giving me trouble. Works great, but weighs significantly more. It went very well overall. Simply hike and ATV ride back!



If you look at the picture below, right in the center is the ATV.



W7U/IR-037 LADYBUG BENCHMARK

DEC. 2, 2017

20 METERS

40 METERS

21 QSO's

FARTHEST:

2,174 MILES

25 MINS

5 WATTS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Good	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor

Granite Mountain W7U/IR-048

Stats: 12/2/2017

**Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=486)**

Elevation: 6,730 ft

QSO's: 8

Farthest: 2,174 (VT)

Time on Air: 7 mins.

Equipment:

Elecraft KX2 (5 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 2nd (my 1st)



Trail report: Access is gained from Cedar City taking the 200 N (Highway 56) exit from I-15 and heading west. After a few miles Iron Springs Road veers off to the right (north) for another couple of miles. From there Desert Mound Road

heads west again and is still a good, paved road. The final turn off is after 2.8 miles on Desert Mound Rd. to the right. It is not an easy road to see and is dirt and rock. There are a number of pieces of private land and it is not easy to tell what is BLM and what is private, although a number of areas are marked. Finding a place to park is also difficult. I opted for a small cutout on a mountain turn.



Once hiking, approaching from the southwest of the highest point, the way is steep and rocky. There are no other approaches without losing significant elevation or going on private land. The top is also rocky and covered with trees.

Getting a wire up can be a challenge with branches in the way. Nice views of the area around when seen through openings in the trees.



The experience: This was the second of the day, but was supposed to be a third or just a scouting trip. The second peak was way too “boulder-y” to find a good route. Normally, I can see my route from the base to avoid cliffs, impassable sections, etc., but I could not see anyplace to go without scaling very large boulders. Finding a route once on the way is much more difficult and often results in frustration from not having a way to go and having to backtrack. Because of that, I cancelled that one and went on to this one, thinking it may just be

a scouting trip.

Because it was a Saturday, and the weather was really nice, I decided to do a short one and give it a go since I was already there. The doubts about property lines and the fact it was getting late in the afternoon made me rush. I took no pictures on top, nothing of the views or the radio setup. I just got on, got some quick contacts, and then headed back down.

AC0PR 02 Dec 2017 21:41 GMT *sri for the super short one, qrt [SOTA Spotter]	14.000 CW	W7U/IR-048 AC0PR 4 pts
AC0PR 02 Dec 2017 21:31 GMT * [SOTA Spotter]	14.060 CW	W7U/IR-048 AC0PR 4 pts

W7U/IR-048 GRANITE MOUNTAIN

DEC. 2, 2017

20 METERS

8 QSO'S

FARTHEST:

2,193 MILES

7 MINS ON AIR

5 WATTS

United States

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Good	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor

Dominican

Some pics of the Parowan Gap I had to pass through which has some petroglyphs.



Dry Willow Peak W7U/SU-048

Stats: 12/9/2017

**Points: 6 + 3 bonus
(total=495)**

Elevation: 7,593 ft

QSO's: 54

Farthest: 6,945 (NZL)

Time on Air: 65 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200 mAh)**

Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access is gained off of highway 130 which runs between the towns of Enoch and Minersville in Iron Co., Utah. It can be directly access from I-15 in Enoch. From the exit you stay on 130 for about 25 miles. The turn off is a decent dirt road. It leads to an adjacent peak with a few large antennas so the road isn't bad, can be reached without a 4x4. At the base there is an additional route which will get you a good portion up, but that does require a Jeep, ATV, OHV, etc.

The hike is a little steep at times but no real scrambling required. Grassy and rocky. The top has rocks and trees for setting up an antenna.

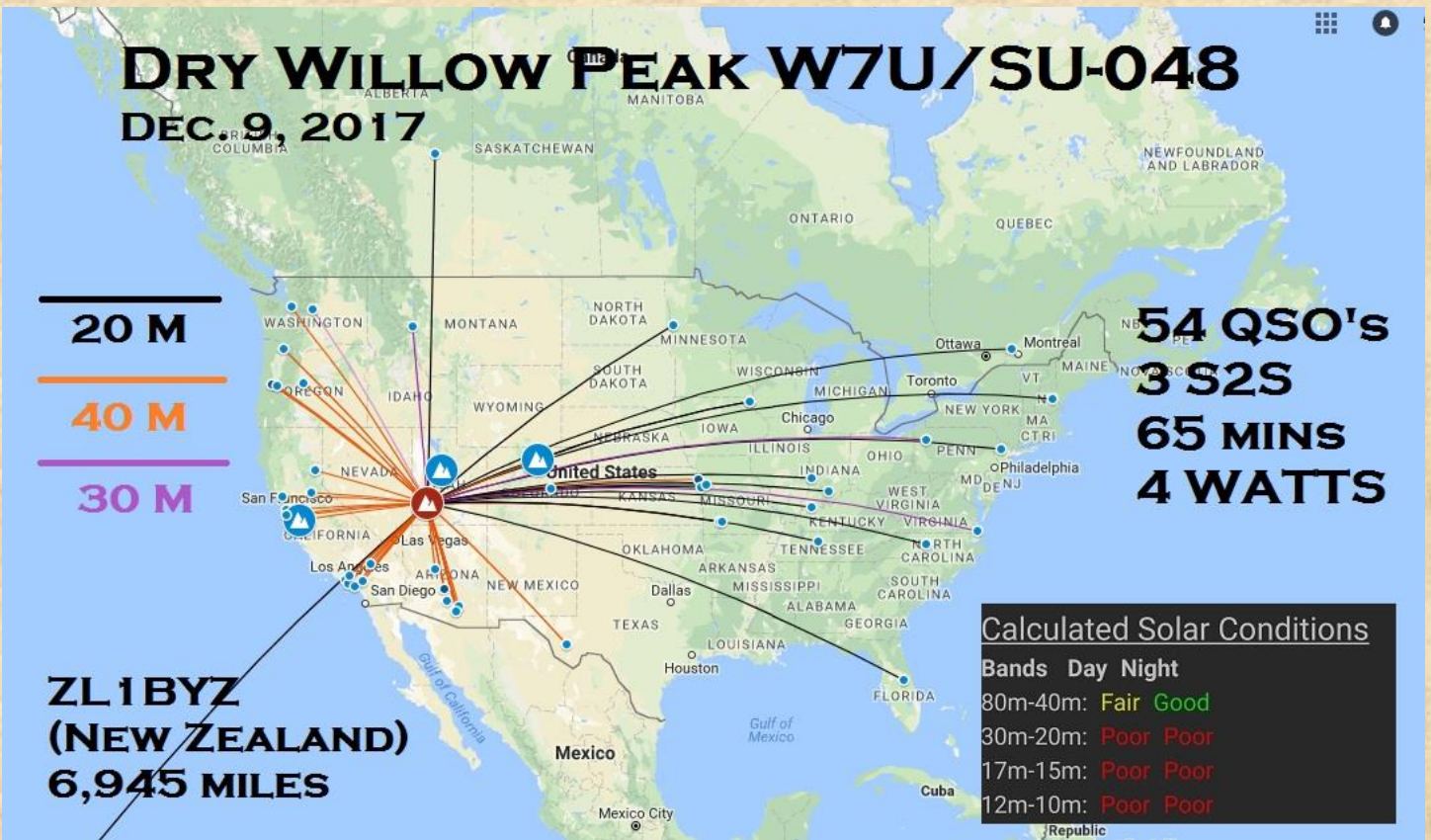
The experience: This was a great day with this being the first of two summits. The weather has been kind to keep the snow away a little bit. It was still plenty cold in the morning though. I was able to get pretty close before hiking, so the hike wasn't bad and got to



the top about the time I was hoping. With this being bonus season, those extra points help a lot. On the top I looked for a survey disk for a while thinking this summit had one, but then checked the map when I couldn't find it—it doesn't have one.



I set up and contacted another summit to start. My normal radio finally came back from being sent to be refurbished after being beat up some, and this was the first time back. Worked great and there were TONS of chasers. Before today, my top summit I had 39 contacts; today I had 54, including 3 other summits and New Zealand again. I was busy the whole time. At the end my hands were getting cold so I was happy to be done. Headed off to try my luck at the next one.



The Three Peaks Middle W7U/IR-053

Stats: 12/9/2017

**Points: 2 + 3 bonus
(total=500)**

Elevation: 6,416 ft

QSO's: 17

Farthest: 2,093 (QC)

Time on Air: 12 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access is

easiest from Cedar City and heading west (from I-15 taking the 2nd exit 200 N.) which becomes Highway 56. From there Iron Springs Rd. veers off to the northwest. Unfortunately, from that point none of the roads are named, but Google Earth is helpful in finding a route to get close. There are numerous routes and ATV trails around so it can be easy to get turned around. Once to the point of hiking, it is rocky and steep.

The summit is quite angled so wire antennas can be a challenge (I just used 20 meters because of that). There are two benchmarks, both easily seen once on top, although not next to each other.

The experience: This is one I had tried to approach before, but had trouble with private land. This time I did some more research and took a different route. It turns out that even though it's only a 2-pointer, it's eligible for a bonus because of its altitude, which means it would be me right at 500 points. I got to the area and found my way over to a place to park. The road was kind of sketchy at times. I got on the ATV and drove some of the trails—all very sandy down below. I



found my way up. This mountain has three peaks right next to each other (hence the name). The middle is the highest. I got up some elevation and took a look, I was one peak over. I saw some trails and eventually found my way to the

base of the middle one to start hiking (the picture above).



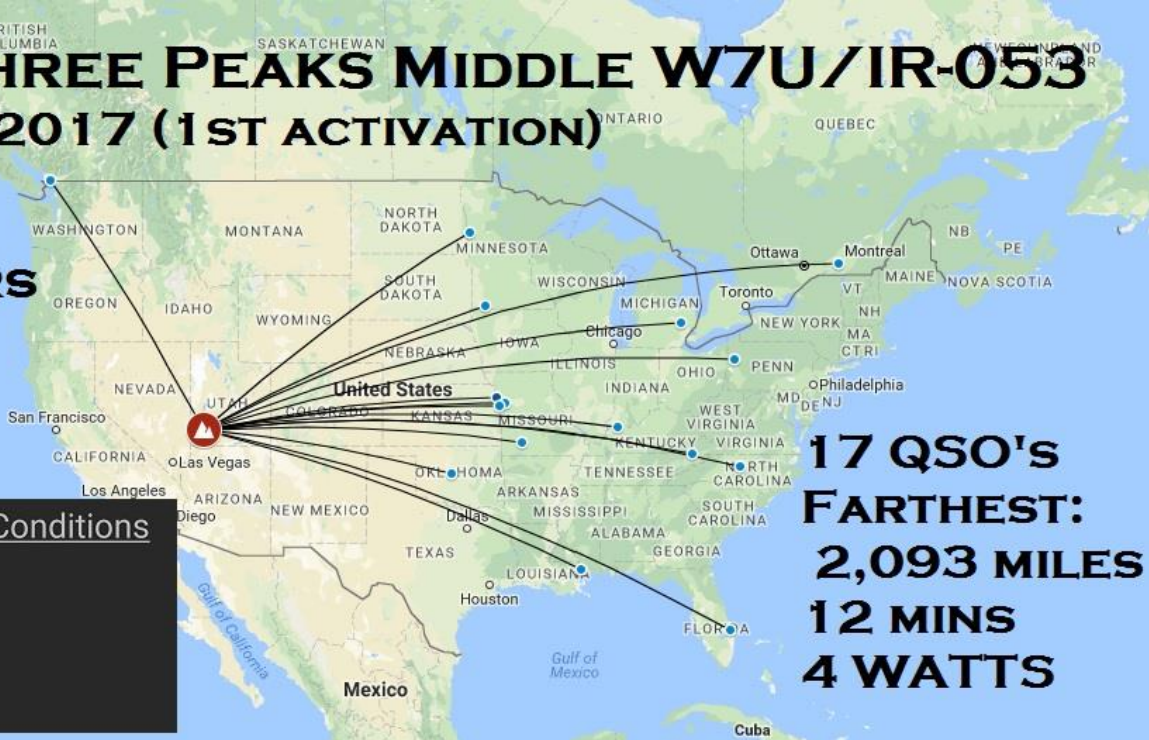


It was steep and rocky but definitely doable. It wasn't too bad. The views were cool. The tip was quite pointy which makes it hard to string out wire for an antenna. So I used the shortest length of my antenna that would work well (20 meters). Had plenty of contacts quickly, but as soon as there was a break I shut down as it was getting late in the afternoon and I wanted to get back home. It had been completely successful and I had made my goal for the end of the year with three weeks to spare.



THE THREE PEAKS MIDDLE W7U/IR-053 DEC. 9, 2017 (1ST ACTIVATION)

20 METERS



**17 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
2,093 MILES
12 MINS
4 WATTS**

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Poor	Poor
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor

“Modena Hill” W7U/IR-051

Stats: 12/12/2017

**Points: 2 + 3 bonus
(total=505)**

Elevation: 6,446 ft

QSO's: 25

Farthest: 2,250 (NH)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200 mAh)**

Activation: 1st

Trail report: This summit is right by the town of Modena, Utah (population 28) in Iron County fairly close to the Nevada border. Highway 56 is the road that leads out to the area. From there a number of ways exist to reach Old Modena Rd, a good dirt road, that goes around the butte. There are two logical approaches to climb to the top. One is coming from the northeast, there is a road that gets somewhat close to the base. The slope to the top is very easy to see (I took this one). The second approach is from the west of the butte after driving around almost the whole thing. The second approach is a little shorter vertically and about the same horizontally if you get to the end of each of the roads.



The hike is pretty uneventful until the last couple hundred of vertical feet. There is a mixture of rock flows and high sage. A little scrambling to get over the top. The

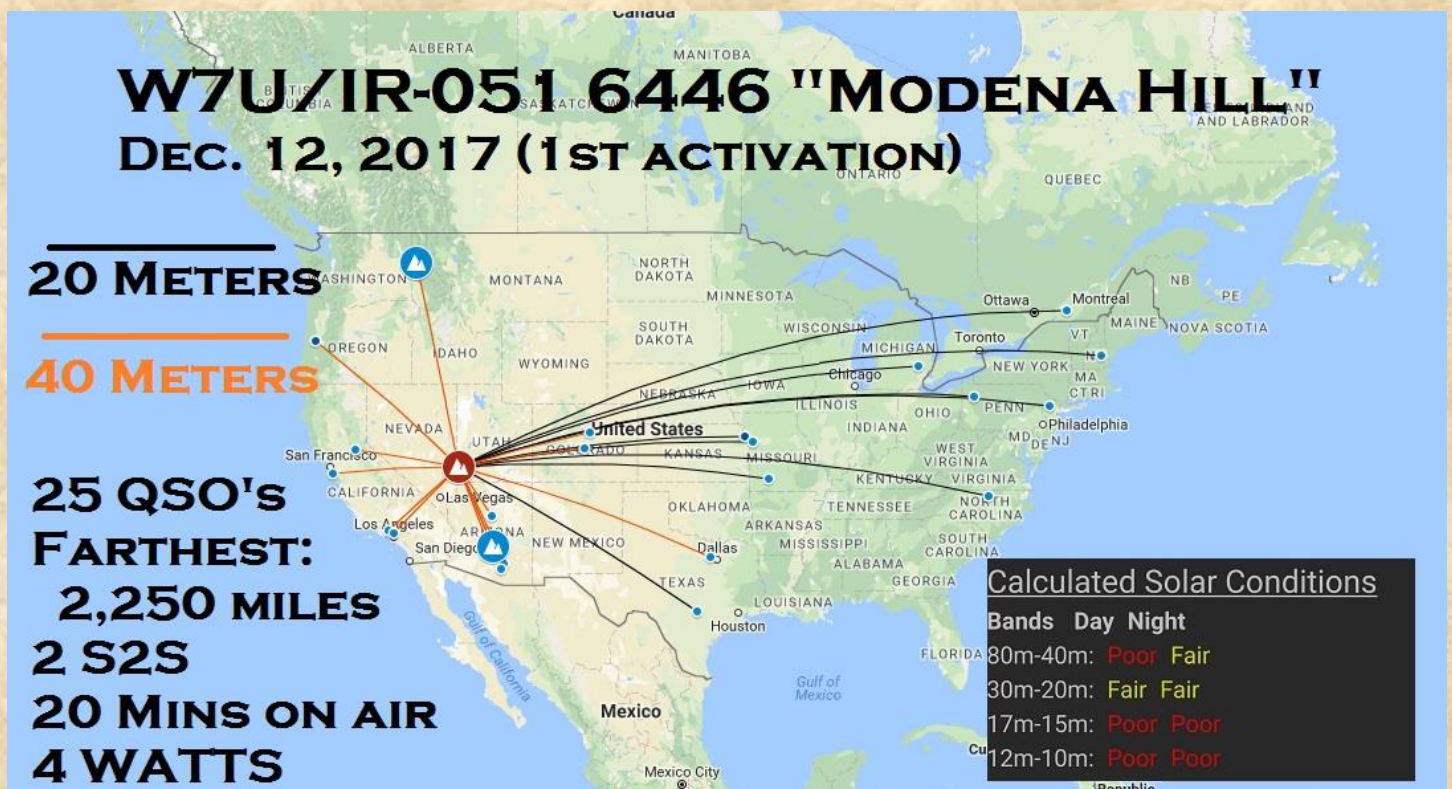


high point is still a little ways once over the edge. Lots of rocks and trees to use for putting up an antenna.

The experience: This was supposed to be a fairly quick, after-school activation. A little far afield though. However, I changed my plan when I saw a route from the "front" without having to drive all around. However, I did not see a lightly used access road/trail that would have saved me almost a mile of hiking until I was on top. I didn't even download the ATV. Because of the change, it was a longer hike and took quite a while to negotiate the rock formations. I didn't set up the video and all because I was going to be fast.



I got it all setup and turn the radio on. Nothing! I know I charged the battery, so I was worried (not much worse than going through all the travel and trouble only to have to turn around and go home). I noticed one of the wires had come out of the connector. Luckily I always carry a few little things to help with problems—I just used an alligator clip and clipped them together and all was good. Plenty of calls. When the number of contacts is higher than the number of minutes on air, that means staying busy the whole time. Got home after dark this time.



“Mustang Hill” W7U/IR-052

Stats: 12/16/2017

Points: 2 + 3 bonus
(total=510)

Elevation: 6,422 ft

QSO's: 38

Farthest: 2,205 (CT)

Time on Air: 35 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

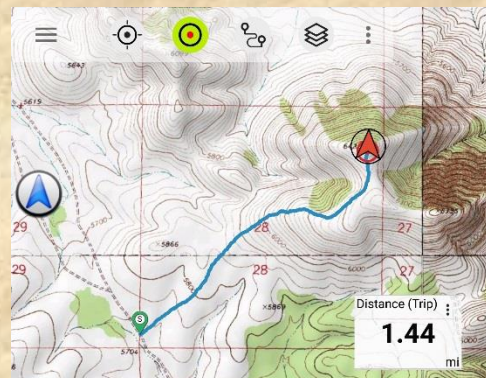


Trail report: Access is gained by the Old Modena Rd, a dirt road off of 200 W. Enterprise. In decent weather conditions a 4x4 isn't necessary but a pickup is highly recommended. Since there is no trail, a number of approaches are possible. I opted for the gentler slope on the southwest. For a lot of that area of the road, the sides are lined with rocks making a place to get off and park more challenging, but I had the ATV this time. There is high sage brush around the base, gets rockier as you ascend. The top has an almost rock “fort” looking thing at the top.

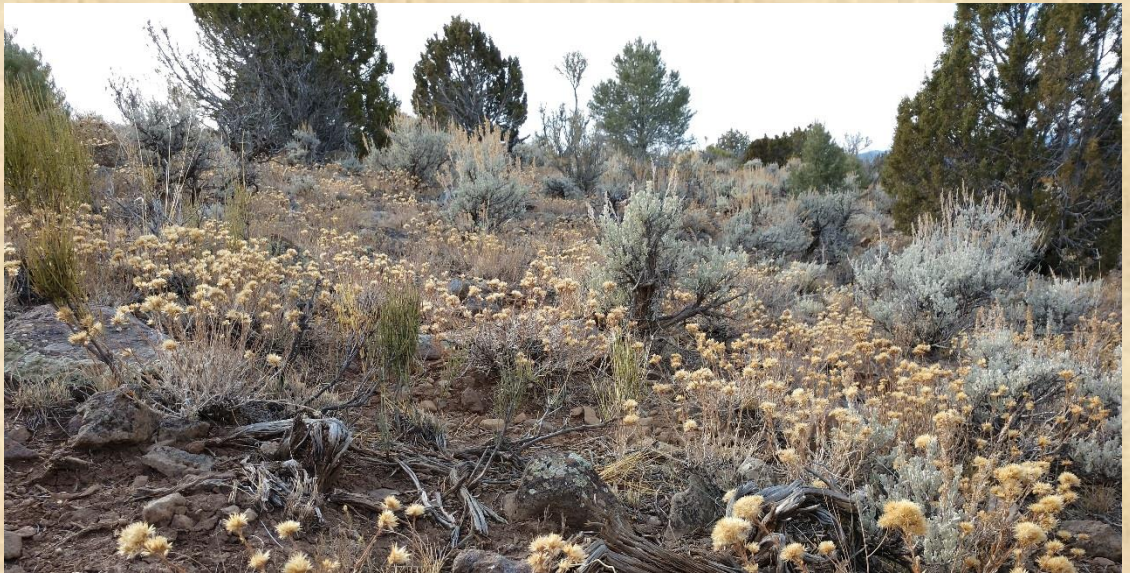


The experience: The first of two for the day, and one I had done before. I had thought about three, but by the end of two was plenty tired and just ready to go home. It was cold, but it wasn't long before I needed to take my jacket off. It was a cloudy day, but no rain/snow forecasted. I wanted to take advantage of the good weather and no snow while I can. Last year, in Nov., there was already snow all over.

Lots of people on being Saturday. I was quite busy. When I have more to do, or am in a hurry, I go until there's a break in calling and then change bands. This time when a break came, I started getting ready to change. I heard a call from another summit (hearing “S2S”—summit to summit). Got someone I had never had contact with, KC4WZB, in Georgia. I ended up



with five more contacts before I could change to a new band. I was already behind my self-imposed timeline, so being on for so long (comparatively) was partly why I didn't do the last summit. On the way down I came across the antler sheds shown.



"MUSTANG HILL" W7U/IR-052 DEC. 16, 2017

38 QSO's
FARTHEST:
2,205 MI (CT)
1 S2S
35 MINS ON AIR
4 WATTS

20 METERS

40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions	
Bands	Day Night
80m-40m:	Fair Good
30m-20m:	Fair Fair
17m-15m:	Poor Poor
12m-10m:	Poor Poor

"Bunny Hill" W7U/WS-093

Stats: 12/16/2017

Points: 2 + 3 bonus
(total=515)

Elevation: 6,468 ft

QSO's: 27

Farthest: 2,119 (NJ)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200 mAh)



Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

Trail report: Access is gained by using the Old Modena Rd from 200 W Enterprise. This is a dirt road, although in good weather a 4x4 is not required. There are cattle in the area so there is a gate that has to be opened (and closed). There is another road that runs to the south of the hill/mountain to get closer to start the ascent. This year I took that road but did not take it all the way to the end. I opted for a more open, grassy ascent. However, were I to do it again, I would go all the way to the saddle where the road ends. Although there are many trees, it's a few hundred feet higher and a shorter horizontal distance.



The experience: The last activation required a very long hike, and wanting to cut it down some, I took a road with the ATV to get closer. For the second time this month, I saw a route once I was there instead of going with my plan. And for the second time, I regret not just sticking with the plan. I was seduced by the openness and grassy area instead of heavy trees. However, the elevation difference and the length would have been worth heavy trees

in the end. Oh well, maybe next time.

On the hike there came a time when I tripped and cracked some branches, stomped hard with my feet as I recovered, and I

heard a LOUD rumble that scared me half to death. After getting my balance and focusing on what it was, it turned out I had scared a large herd of wild horses that stampeded away. I kept it relatively short, but I was pretty tired by the time I got back down. My knees hurt and I just decided to call it a day and get back home.



"BUNNY HILL" W7U/WS-093

DEC. 16, 2017

20 METERS

40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor



27 QSO's
FARTHEST:
2,119 MILES
20 MINS
4 WATTS

“E’ Mountain” W7U/WS-098

Stats: 12/20/2017

**Points: 2 + 3 bonus
(total=520)**

Elevation: 6,312 ft

QSO's: 21

Farthest: 6,888 (New Z)

Time on Air: 15 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**



Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

Trail report: Access is gained through the town of Enterprise, 200 E to approach from the south. Once past the farms it is a known hunting area. There are roads which approach from a number of directions. I used the opposite side this time as opposed to the north. There is an ATV trail to the summit from the south, although it is really rough and gouged by runoff. In fact I hiked instead of going on that trail. The summit itself is small lava rock, but there are plenty of trees to get an antenna up.

The experience: The last time I did this one, I hiked all the way up from the north side. When I got to the top, I noticed a trail



from the south.

This time I wanted

to try it out. It is an ATV type trail and goes all the way up. However, it is not maintained and makes a natural trail for rain to be channeled, so there are deeply cut ruts that switch back and forth. I went a good portion up, but decided to hike the last third because the trail was so sketchy. I scared up one doe on the way.

the wind was going to be bad. There was a winter storm warning for the afternoon (this

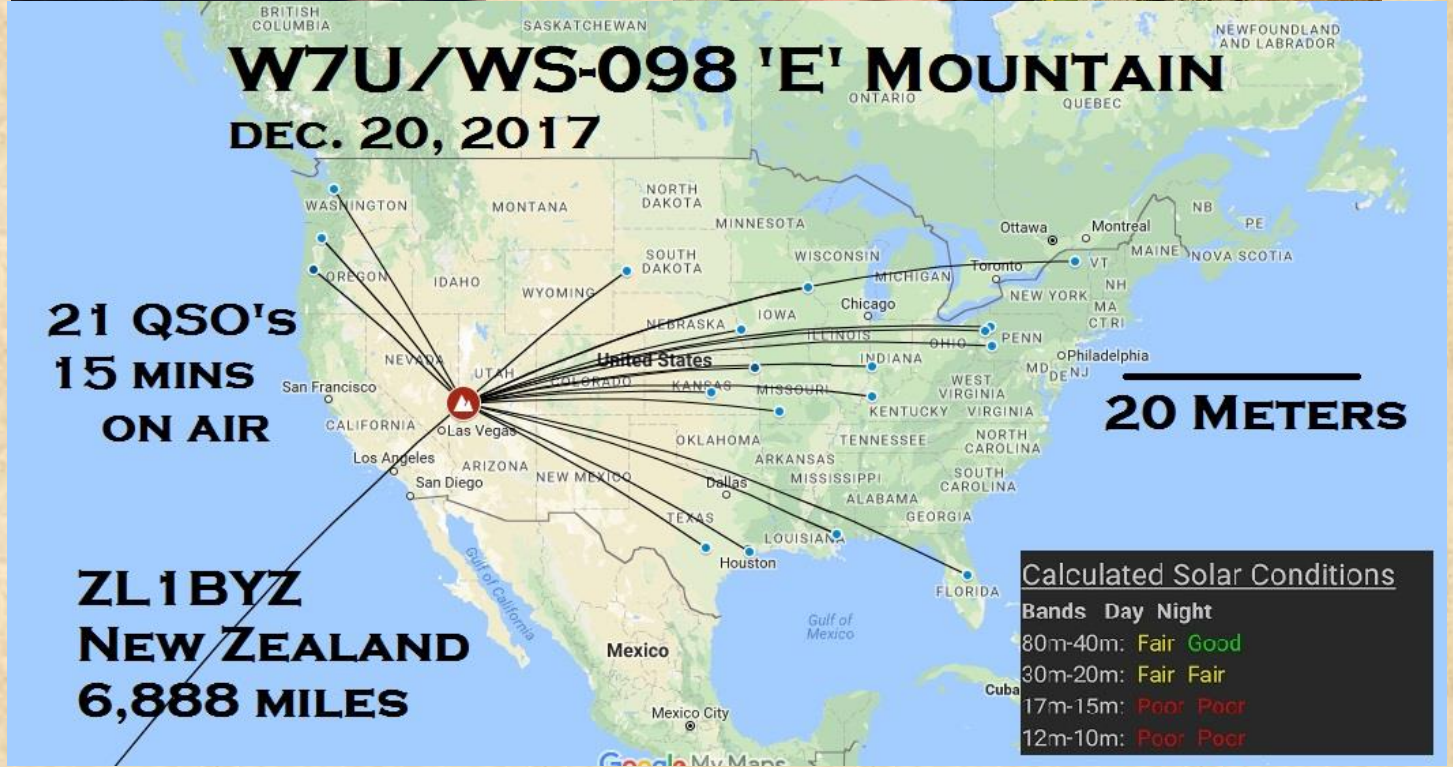


was 10am), but the winds before the storm had definitely arrived. I had trouble once my mast got up near the tops of the trees. The telescopic mast came down from shaking three different times. I worked quickly in

case it came down in the middle of a contact. It was great to get John again, ZL1BYZ in New Zealand! After 15 mins I tried to change to 40m, which for me requires taking the antenna down part way, connecting a section of antenna, and putting it up again. Well, it came down and wouldn't stay up with wind



gusts, so I just called it good and stopped. It's not a big deal, but I don't like to let down the guys waiting on 40m (the closer states, and there's lots of chasers there). But, that's the way it goes on mountain tops sometimes. (Town of Enterprise below)



“Rocky Point” W7U/WS-053

Stats: 12/26/2017

**Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=527)**

Elevation: 7,008 ft

QSO's: 35

Farthest: 2,267 (NH)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st

Trail report: Access is gained by a road on BLM land (Hellhole pass) which goes all the way to the top of West Mountain Peak and passes near a good place to park if towing an OHV. There is even a leveled-off area and a place to park by the fence line of a saddle where the road splits. The road leading down (don't take the upper road) from there is served best for 4-wheel drive, however, or OHV, especially when heading inward towards Grapevine Spring. The ATV trail ends at the spring and the hiking starts. Being a large area and no close approach, many routes could be taken. I opted for going up the creek bed all the way to a saddle which can be used to follow the ridge. There



is no trail, but a number of game trails do help the ascent. Some bushwhacking, rocky at times. No trees on top, but plenty of boulders to steady a mast.

The experience: I've been looking at this one for a while, and with the nice weather during winter bonus season, decided to go for it. I hadn't done it because it's a rough one--1,350 vertical feet over about 2 miles with no trail and some rough areas. As happens, especially with a new summit, I



have doubts and negative thoughts to overcome. Like, “if the trail in is blocked, I'll go somewhere else,” “it's pretty rough, maybe I should turn around”, etc. I ALWAYS consider the dangers and try to make good decisions, but those have to be balanced with the fear of the unknown. I'm glad I didn't give in on this one—which has always been the case when





I've successfully completed a summit. I did change my original route, as it was too steep, but I had a backup plan already and when with that.

The worst part is thick scrub oak as you're going up a steep slope. I came across a decayed buck, some coyote tracks, and saw 16 deer on the trail (below). I always find it interesting, the few times it happens, when I'm out in the middle of nowhere and come across human tracks. They had to have been within the last couple of days. The activation went great with lots of calls. On the way back, saw something that weirded me out—some very obvious man-made colors in some brush. I got close and they were strips of plastics—red, blue, green, just out there. Sometimes I find a big helium balloon that landed out in the woods, but this was just odd. I was

pretty tired when I finally made it back. I probably won't do this one again, but glad I did it once, and for the first time for SOTA.



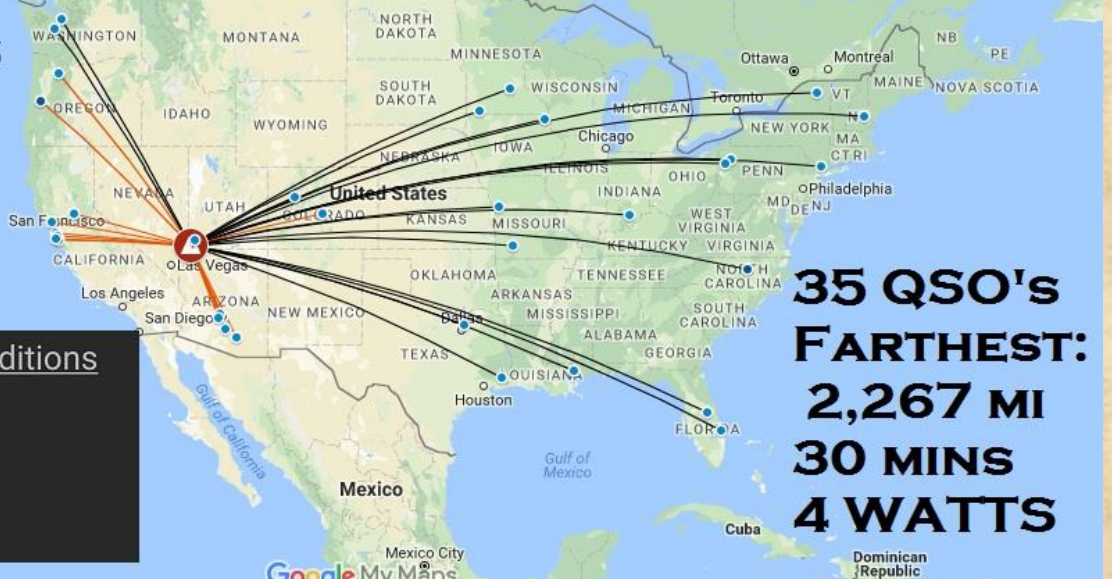
"ROCKY POINT" W7U/WS-053 DEC. 26, 2017 (1ST ACTIVATION)

20 METERS

40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor



"Flower Top" W7U/WS-089

Stats: 12/28/2017

**Points: 0 + 3 bonus
(total=530)**

Elevation: 6,494 ft

QSO's: 36

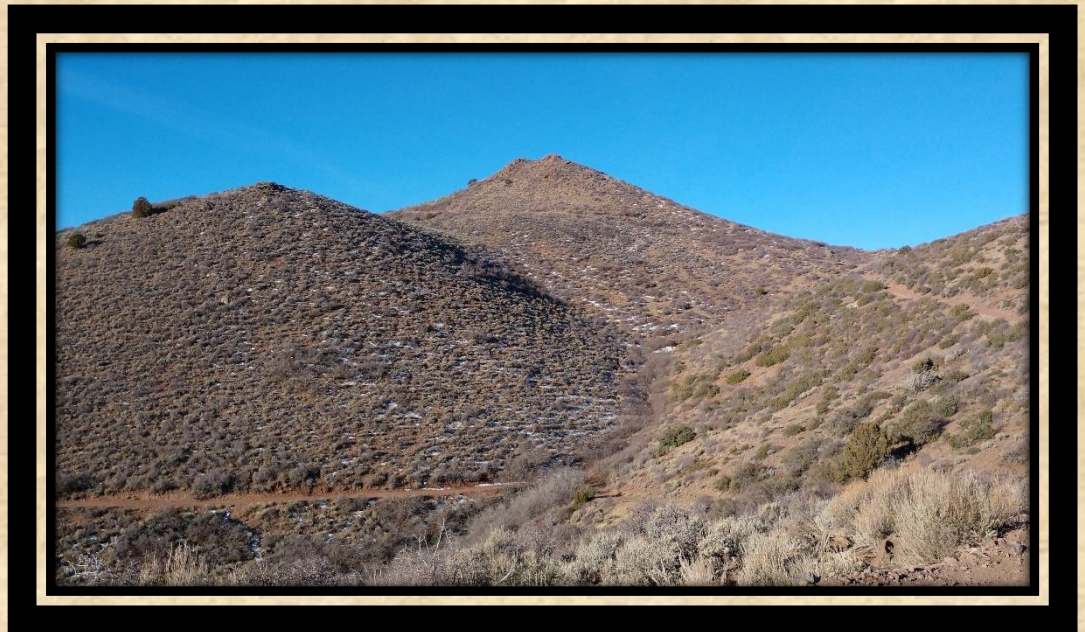
Farthest: 6,880 (NewZ)

Time on Air: 45 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200 mAh)**

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)



Trail report: Access is gained from W. Center St. in Veyo which leads to Veyo Shoal Creek Rd (dirt) at the bottom of the canyon. Veyo Shoal Creek Rd is a well-maintained dirt road that can be taken all the way to the base of the mountain. Personally, I parked just after the entrance of Dixie National Park and rode an ATV to the base, but certainly not required to reach it. The access is fairly easy and the ascent is only a few hundred feet. The ground is soft dirt with some scrub brush and many flowers in the spring, but



drab in winter. Some rock outcroppings on the top allow for easy antenna set up.

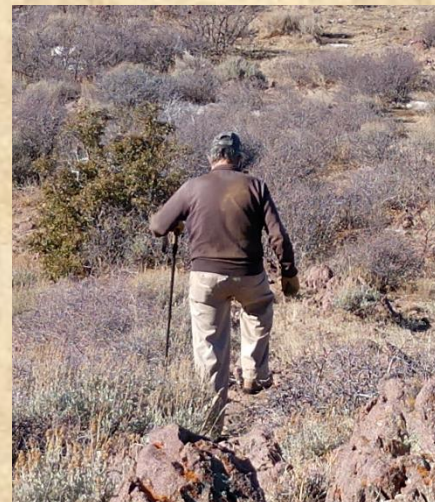
The experience: Since I did this one in spring this year, I didn't get the points for the summit, but as I did it in winter, I did get the 3-point bonus, which is why I did it. As it has very easy access, it's better than doing just a 1 or 2 pointer. I was going to try another summit that's not been done before, but the north side access was covered in snow and the route is questionable. The ATV does not do great in snow, so decided to try it in better conditions.

This was a no-video activation (they take a long time to make) and I just wanted to enjoy it as today is to be the last day for this year. With the New Year, all summits are available again and with bonus points, I'll have to see where I start next week. The hike was very easy and there

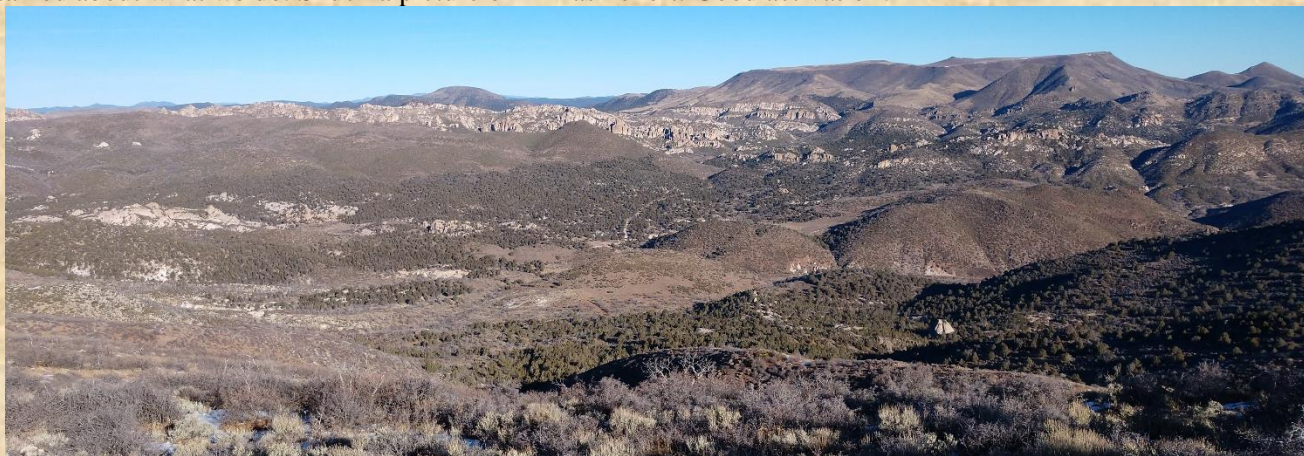
was no wind, and the sun made it pleasant on top. I had a very nice run of contacts, including John in New Zealand again (ZL1BYZ) and Jorge Raul in Spain (EA2LU). I was so involved, and with headphones in, I didn't hear a guy calling out



until he was pretty close. Startled me! He was a "summit bagger" going to "bag" summits all over. Kind of like what I do, he was in a kind of club of people who do the same thing. He is 55 years old and said his father would be coming soon as well. He's 82 years old and has 6,600 summits world-wide. Wow! So, he was a bit talkative, so anyone who was waiting in the "pile" to contact me



wouldn't have stayed. Anyway, I ended up talking to the dad about the time I was ready to leave some time later (it took him a while to reach me). Interesting as we both talked about what we do. Snuck a picture of him as he left. Good activation!



Veyo Volcano W7U/WS-113

Stats: 12/28/2017

Points: 1 (total=531)

Elevation: 5,239 ft

QSO's: 27

Farthest: 2,130 (QC)

Time on Air: 35 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 3rd (my 2nd)

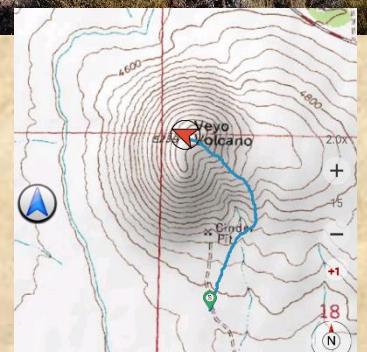


Trail report: I decided to go with a new approach from the south where the slope is more gradual than straight up, but not so long from the east. There is a recreation access road, but no good place to park until you're at the south of the volcano, so I got off as far as possible. There is a small parking lot to the northeast of the volcano, however there is a barbed wire fence to negotiate if you park there and is a little more inclined. Careful footing is required with all the lava rock. Benchmark and geocache at the summit.

The experience: This is one that is close and I saved it for when I just wanted a quick activation, so with skipping the first summit today for it's snow-covered ATV trail, and finishing the other one fairly early, I decided to finish the year with this one on the way home. I chose a new route, and I think I like it more than the longer, not as steep one. Some young couple was going up the volcano as well and were almost halfway up, but they had parked at the entrance on the access road blocking it (?) since surely their car couldn't make it. Who does that? Anyway, with the pickup I was able to get around and actually use the road. They headed up the steepest part, I went around the base to an easier incline and went up. I ended up at the top at the same time as them, they stayed away from "my side" where the actual top was though.



It had turned into a very nice day, with the temperature about 59 degrees and a very slight breeze. Setup was no problem and even though the conditions weren't quite as good, I got plenty of contacts and two more summit to summits. It was enjoyable to have the time to relax and just play on the radio, no video, no time crunch, just contacts. Good day!





VEYO VOLCANO W7U/WS-113

DEC. 28, 2017

20 METERS

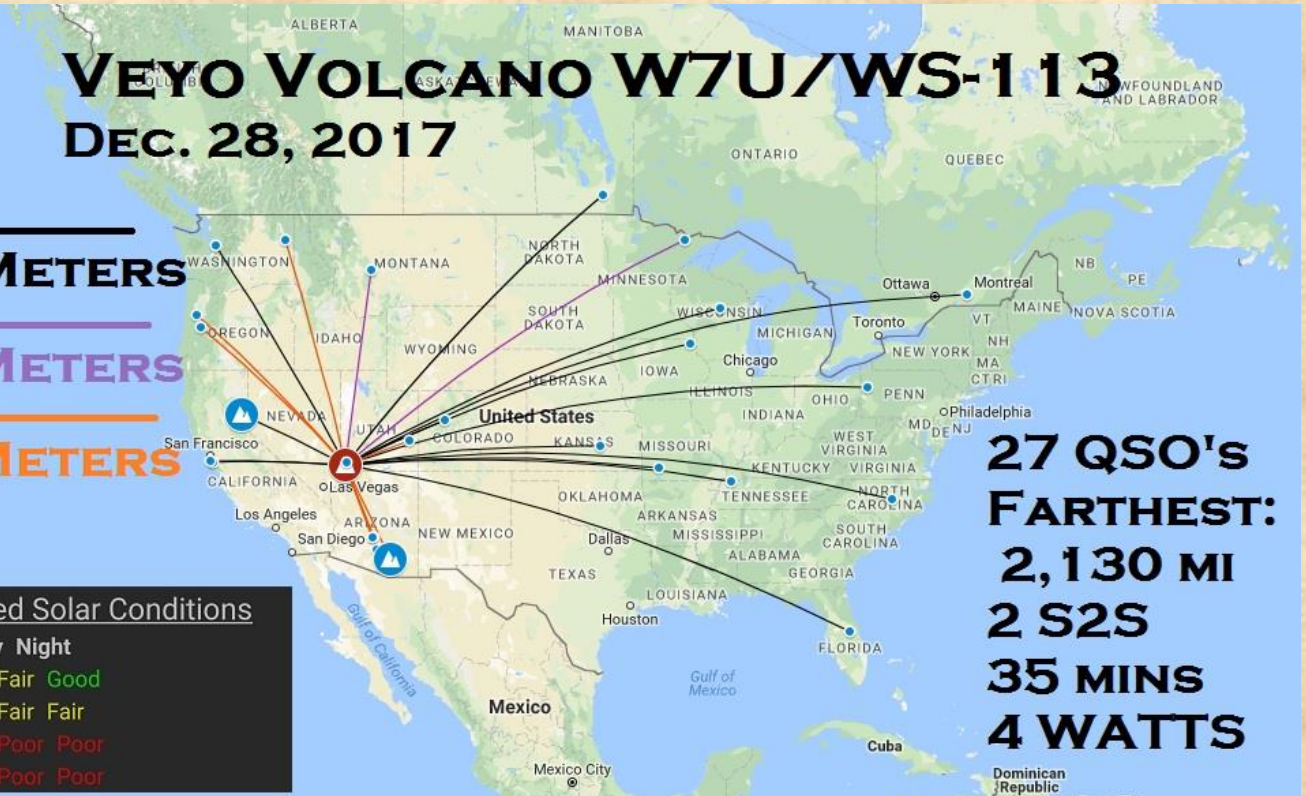
30 METERS

40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor

27 QSO's
FARTHEST:
2,130 MI
2 S2S
35 MINS
4 WATTS



Gillies Hill W7U/SU-044

Stats: 01/04/2018

**Points: 6 + 3 bonus
(total=540)**

Elevation: 7,888 ft

QSO's: 29

Farthest: 2,048 (QC)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 5th (my 2nd)

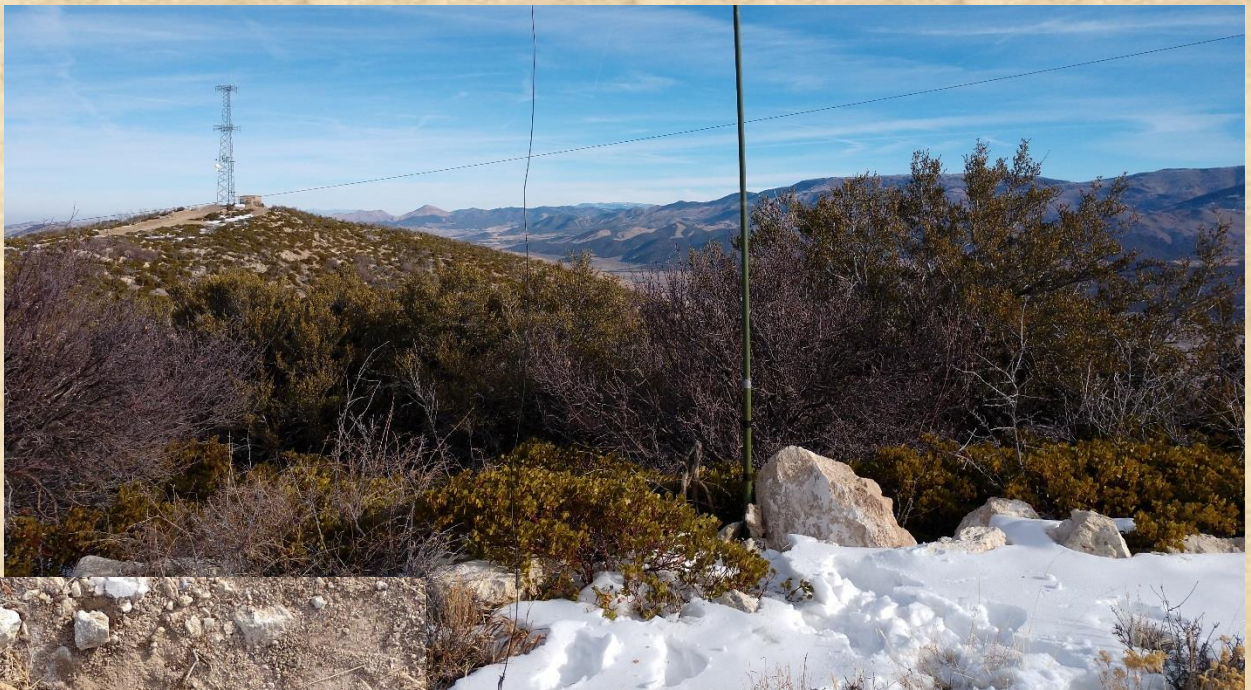
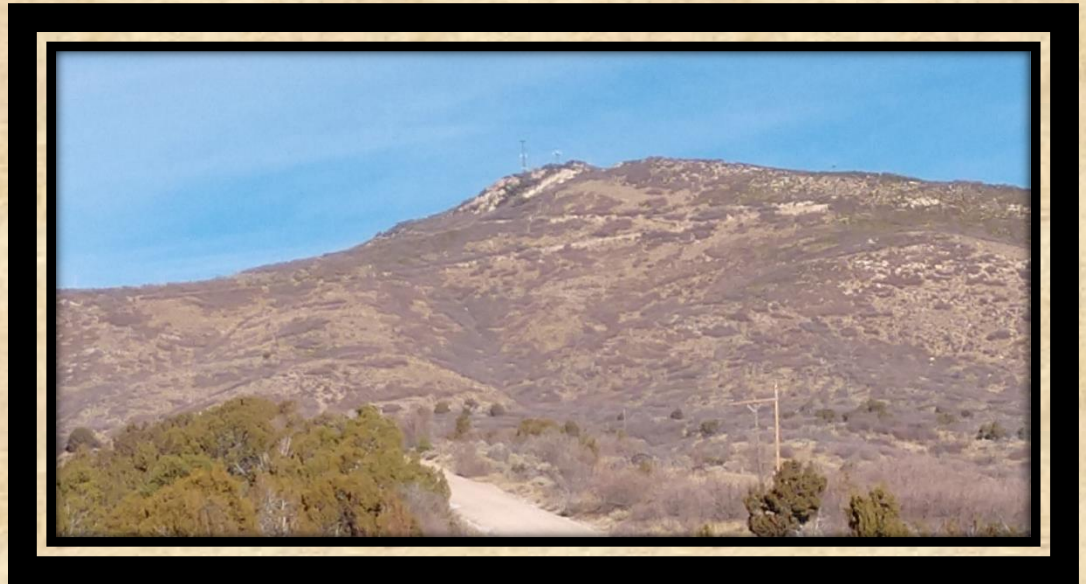
Trail report: Access is gained right off of I-15 (as seen from the photo). Exit 120 is just north of Manderfield and the

road just west leads all the way to the top. It's a nice road as well.

Personally I parked below and used the ATV to reach the top.

The

experience: I was anxious to get out with the New Year



since all summits are available again and the weather has been awesome. Last year at this time all these peaks were in deep snow. I had been sick for almost a week and was tired of waiting! So this was the first of three for the day, farther up north in Beaver County. This is a drive-up peak, and the road is good all the way. I considered another nearby, but once on top I saw it was mostly covered with snow and would be very difficult.

There was still snow on top of this one, and my feet got wet fairly quickly in the combat boots. I was just a few feet away from the

ATV. There were plenty of contacts, nothing too noteworthy though, and I didn't linger with more summits to finish.



Black Mountain East W7U/BE-056

Stats: 01/04/2018

**Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=547)**

Elevation: 7,226 ft

QSO's: 33

Farthest: 2,046 (QC)

Time on Air: 25 mins.

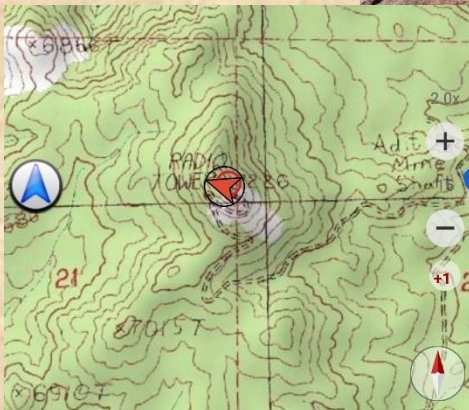
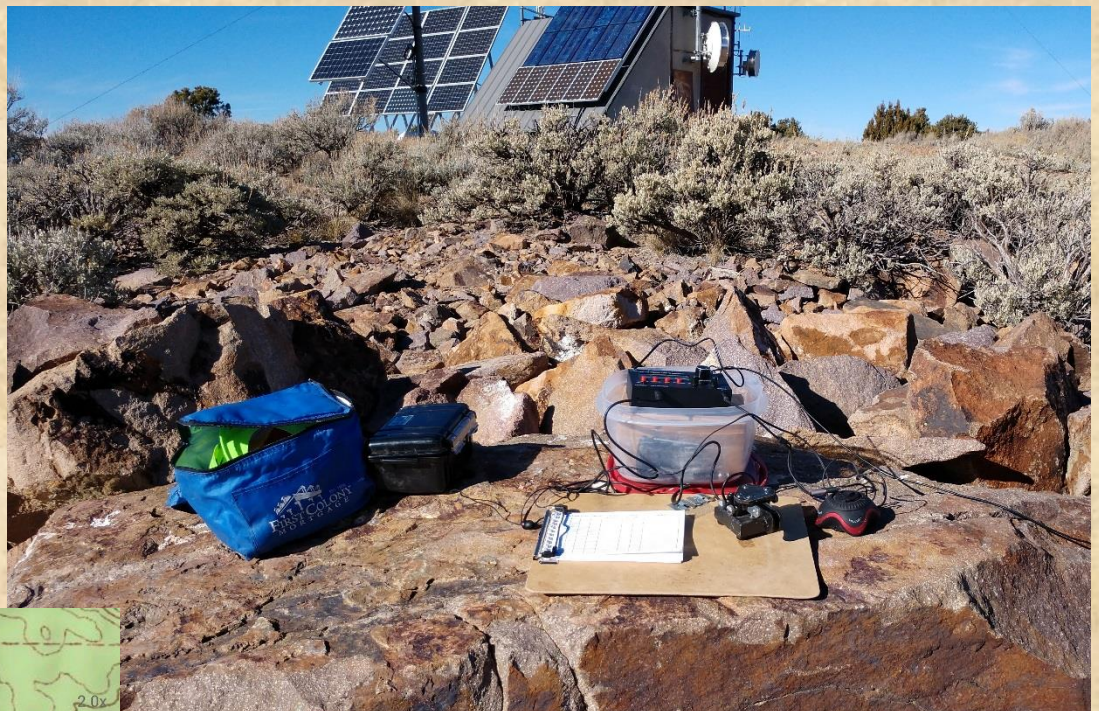
Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st

Trail report: Access is gained from Highway 130, N. Minersville Hwy. either through Enoch in the south or Minersville from the north. The dirt road leading to the mountain is about 2.5 miles south of Minersville and is a good road for most of the way. From this turnoff, it's about 9 miles to the top. While there is a road that leads all the way, the farther one goes, the worse the road starts to get. The last mile is definitely either for a 4x4 or can be hiked as well. Antennas and shacks on top, plenty of rocks to steady a mast.

The experience: A new place is always interesting, and can cause a little apprehension because you never know what may stop



you from reaching the top, but in this case, there was no problem at all and it was a simple ascent. I had dried my boots from the previous summit by cranking the heat to the floor. Arriving on top there was a perfect place from which to operate—a large flat boulder that was about waist-high like a table. Setup was fast and easy.

Solid stream of contacts pretty much the whole time as well, so it was pretty fun. Once again, as with many activations, I didn't see another soul the whole time.



View of Minersville



Dry Willow Peak W7U/SU-048

Stats: 01/04/2018

**Points: 6 + 3 bonus
(total=556)**

Elevation: 7,593 ft

QSO's: 16

Farthest: 2,074 (QC)

Time on Air: 13 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

Trail report: Access is gained off of highway 130 which runs between the towns of Enoch and Minersville in Iron Co., Utah. It can be directly access from I-15 in Enoch. From the exit you stay on 130 for about 25 miles. The turn off is a decent dirt road. It leads to an adjacent peak with a few large antennas so the road isn't bad, can be reached without a 4x4. At the base there is an additional route which will get you a good portion up, but that does require a Jeep, ATV, OHV, etc.

The hike is a little steep at times



but no real scrambling required. Grassy and rocky. The top has rocks and trees for setting up an antenna.

The experience: This was the last one of the day. It was a little disconcerting as I drove in because there had been a storm earlier and there were some really muddy/slushy parts of the dirt road. It was easy enough downhill, but I was worried about getting back out coming uphill. Because of that, I ended up stopping a lot earlier than I was going to so I could switch to the

ATV—I did NOT want to get stuck on a mountain road in the pickup at the end of the day. I went pretty far up before needing to start the hike.

It was a simple hike, but it was getting late in the afternoon so I knew I wouldn't stay up there long so I could head for home. I ended up being on for less than 15 mins. I didn't have any trouble on the way back, gunned it uphill through the mud and got out ok.



Harmony High Point W7U/IR-019

Stats: 01/05/2018

**Points: 6 + 3 bonus
(total=565)**

Elevation: 8,390 ft

QSO's: 31

**Farthest: 6,908 (New
Zeal.)**

Time on Air: 25 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

Trail report: Access is gained through the town of New Harmony, go all the way through main street and to Harmony Dr. [Old State Hwy 144] until it enters Dixie National Forrest and becomes FR-029 which is on the west side of town. Trying to gain, what appears to be, more direct access heading north through the center of town will result in many "no trespassing" signs and a locked gate at the entrance of the mountain road.



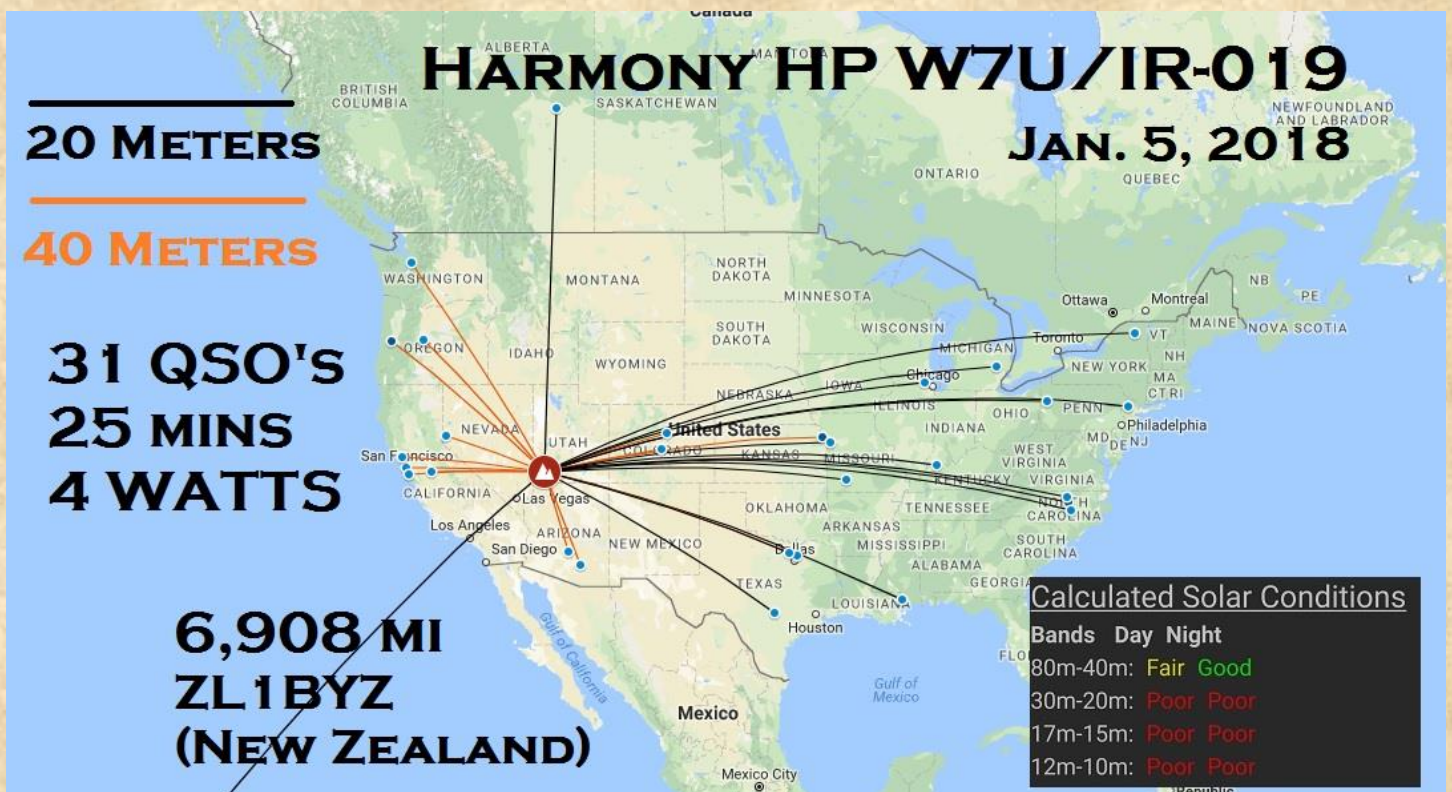
Once in the National Forrest, there is a small dirt access road which will lead to the mountain road and is not obvious or present on a number of maps, but you can see it off to the right (east). From this point I pulled over and used an ATV. This road leads to the mountain road that goes to the High Point. There would be a number of challenging areas for a 4x4, but doable for an experienced mountain driver. No problem for the

ATV. There is currently an older partial tower on the summit. The final approach is clear of trees and is not a bad climb, although the road does go all the way up.

The experience: The ride up is pretty long, and being in the morning I saw some 13 deer on the way up. The road was surprisingly good all the way up. It was pretty cold, but I bundled up well. I was a nice ride. Also it was the first for the day, I was thinking of maybe three, but I started feeling not very well so only did two summits.

Lots of people on the air for contacts, and once again, I was able to hear John ZL1BYZ in New Zealand for the longest

range contact of the day. It was a bit windy up on top, but I had some strong rocks to keep everything steady. The ride down seemed much faster than the ride up.



Iron Mountain W7U/IR-028

Stats: 01/05/2018

**Points: 6 + 3 bonus
(total=574)**

Elevation: 7,831 ft

QSO's: 30

Farthest: 2,184 (CT)

Time on Air: 26 mins.

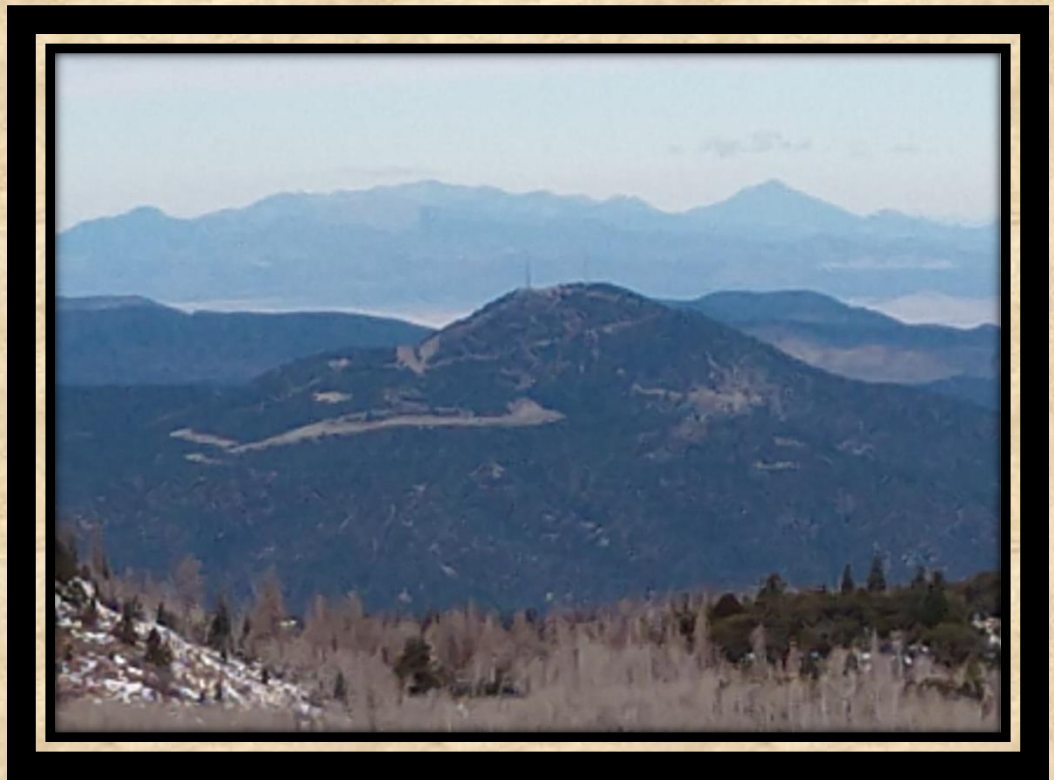
Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200 mAh)**

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

Trail report: Iron Mountain is accessed by a road at the edge of the quarry pit and bypasses the train to the west. There is a dirt road that goes all the way to the top, although near the end it starts to get rough and narrower (a good place to hike from) as the road splits to the right for final ascent. There are numerous small buildings & antennas at the summit. Even so, there is ample room to setup a station and be out of the way.

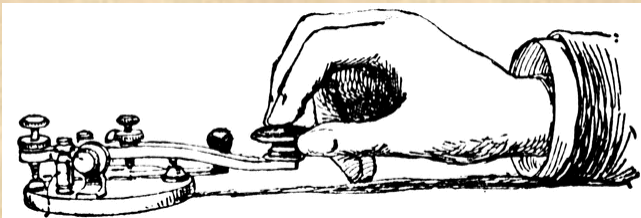
The experience: The ride up way pretty fun, a little bit



of snowy mud in the lower section. As I approached the top I noticed a wild horse staying near the very summit. It was a little spooked by the sound of the ATV, so he moved off some, but didn't completely run away. From the tracks and dropping, it was living up on the top for some time. I couldn't tell if it had an injured leg or way just being careful around the many rocks.

There was a new tower on the top so there wasn't quite as much room for setting up, but it still

worked out ok. I started not feeling great so I didn't want to stay too long, but it was a good activation and I went home afterwards to take it easy.



Flat Top Mountain South W7U/SU-050

Stats: 01/15/2018

**Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=581)**

Elevation: 7,309 ft

QSO's: 38

Farthest: 6,884 (NZ)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 3rd (my 2nd)



Trail report: Access is gained from Enterprise, UT, 200 E. then a dirt road that goes up almost to the top. A 4x4 pickup can make it most of the way. There is a small turn off near the top to get to the base of what remains of the hike, an ATV is preferred or just hike that portion. In winter and spring these are often filled with snow. Once at the base, it is a pleasant hike, easy grade with grass and dirt until the very end when it becomes rocky. There are two benchmarks on the top.

The experience: The weather has been good lately and very little snow made me want to do this one early on in the season. There is an access road that is steep and highly shaded on the north side and once



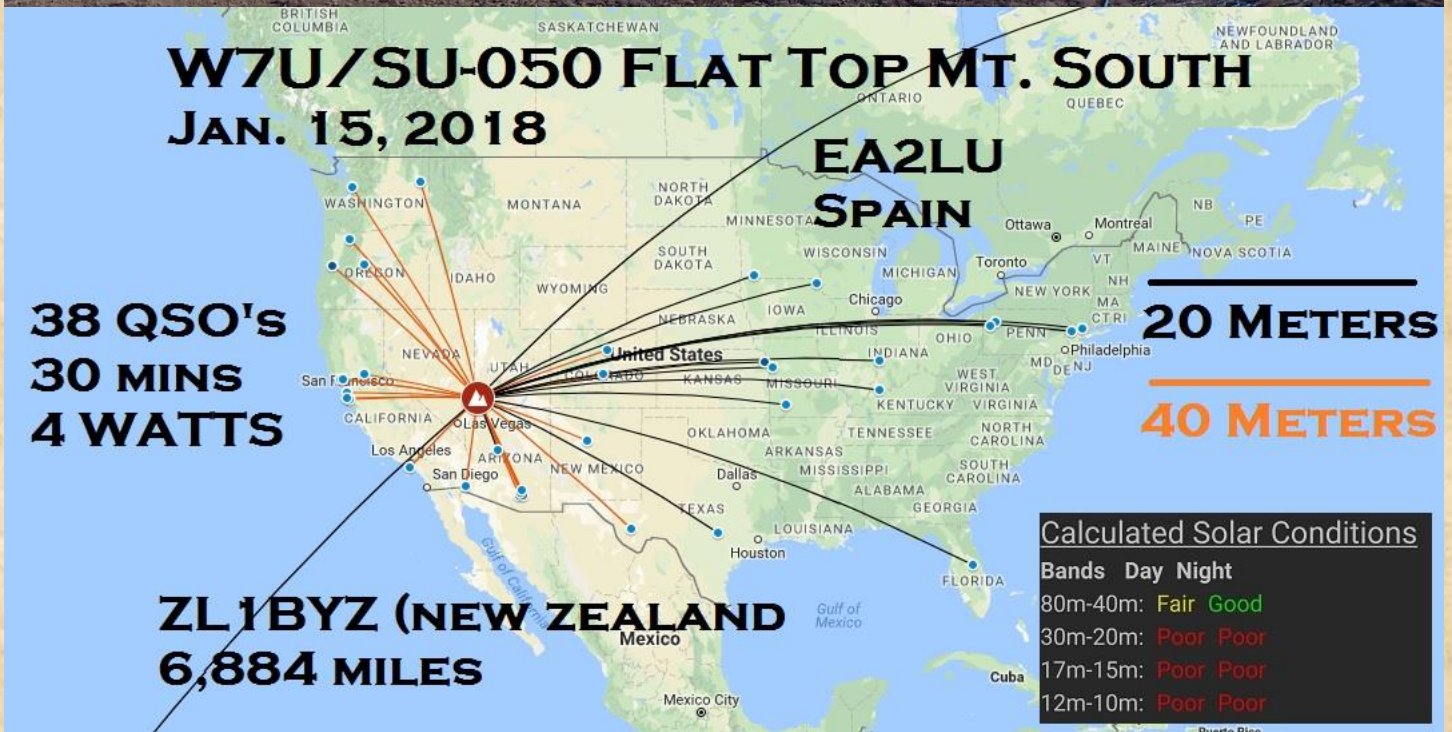
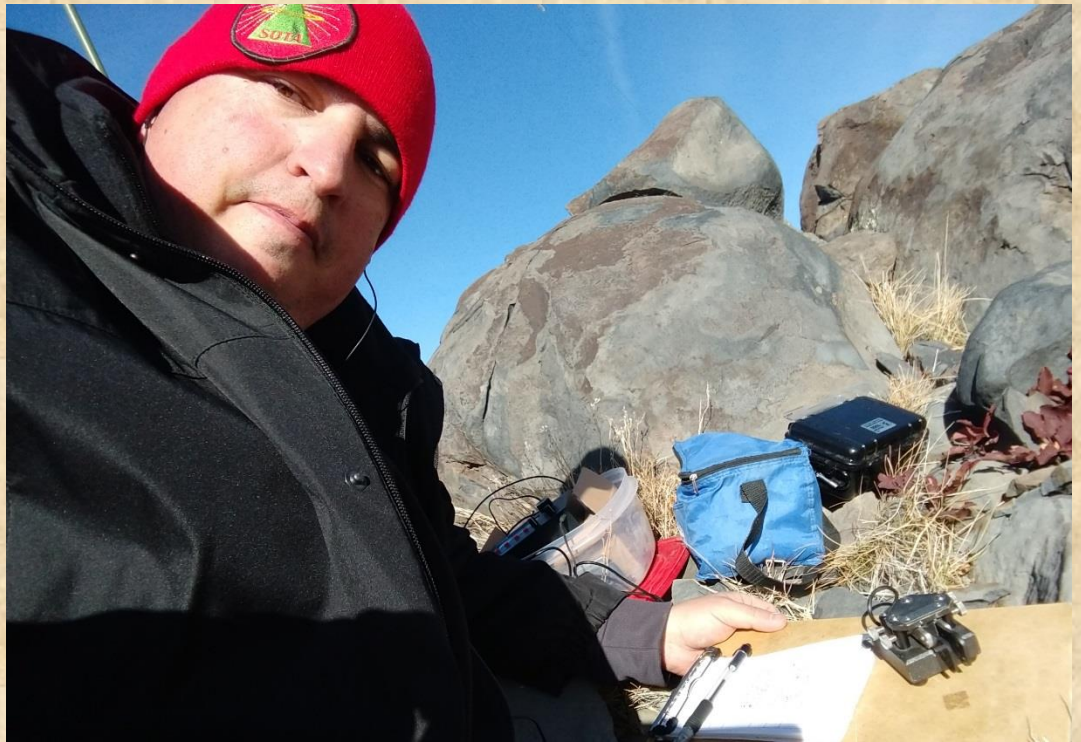
it's snowed in, it can't be used until very late spring (past bonus season). The route did have some snow, but there was enough rock exposed that the ATV could make it, but really only



because it was still morning and the ground was hard.

It was cold and very windy. I wore a thick winter coat. I set up on the far side since it was a little less windy. There were lots of people on the radio, a big pileup that included New Zealand and Spain. By the time I headed back, I noticed the hard frozen ground was soft and muddy so I was worried about the ride back, but made it ok.

This me staying low from the wind and warming in the sun. Below, looking to Enterprise.



Big Mountain W7U/SU-051

Stats: 01/15/2018

**Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=588)**

Elevation: 7,230 ft

QSO's: 28

Farthest: 2,123 (NY)

Time on Air: 25 mins.

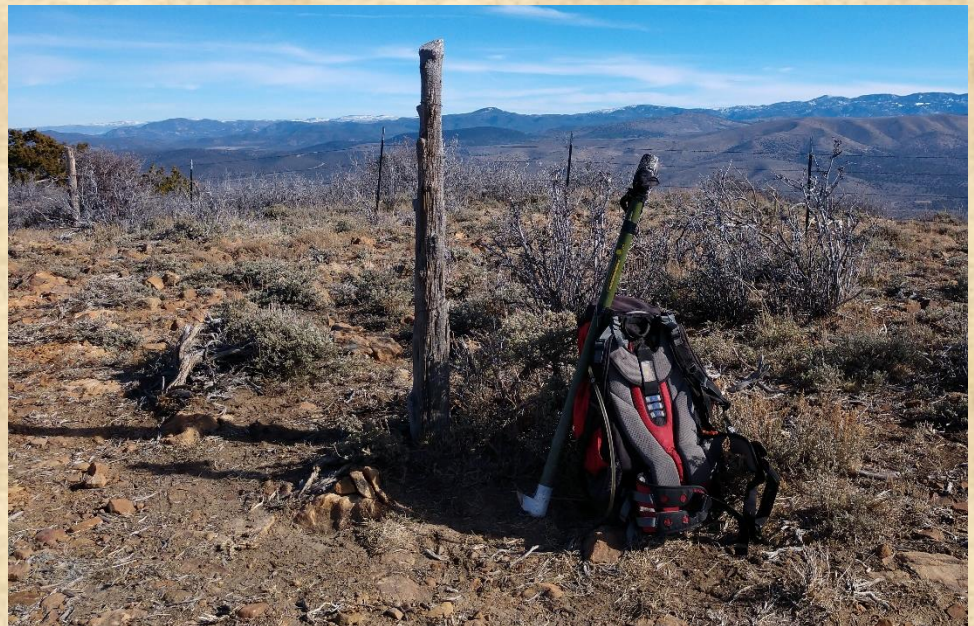
Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 6th (my 3rd)

Trail report: There is a pretty good road to the north of the mountain that leads all the way to the very top, where all the towers are located. Depending on the season, the road can be covered in snow or have heavy mud. I park near the bottom and drive the ATV up (few parking areas available on the way up). The numerous towers cause a lot of QRN on certain bands.

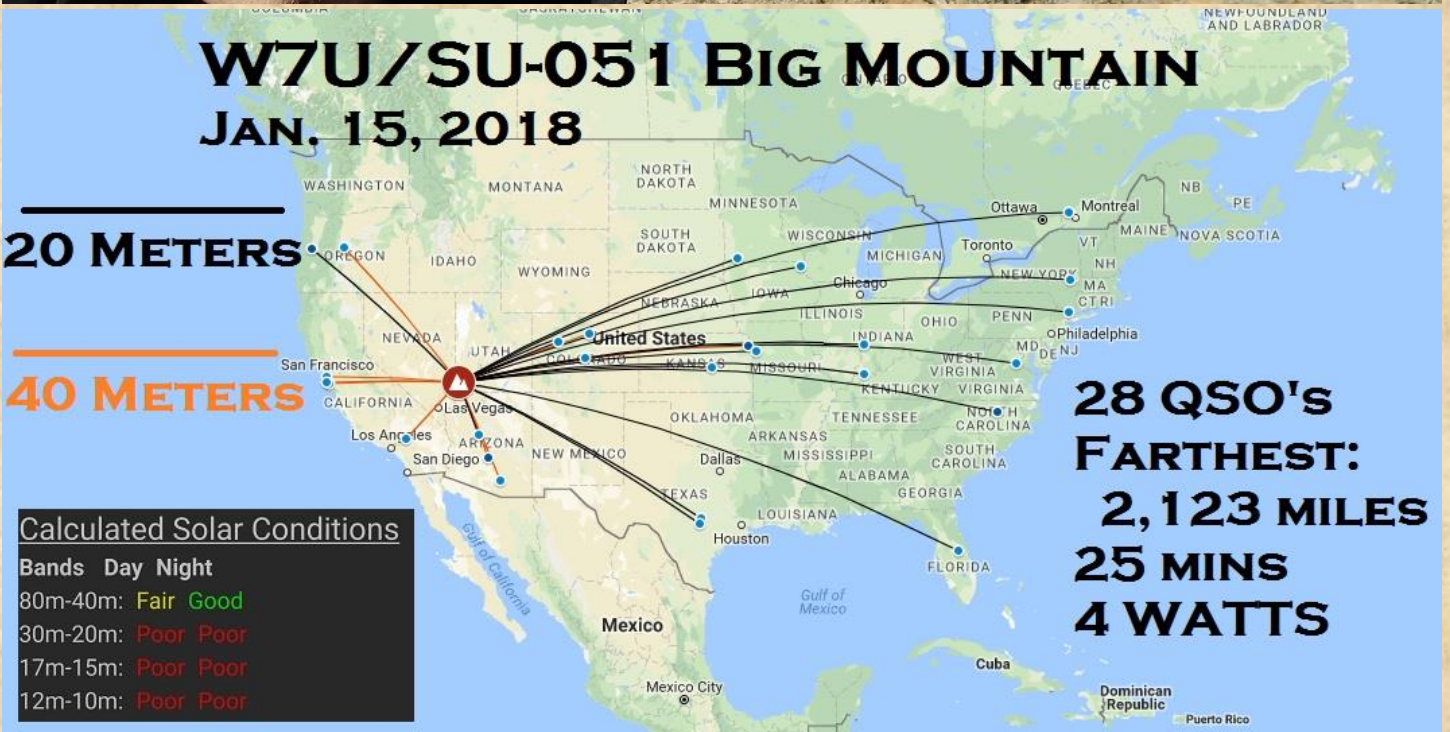
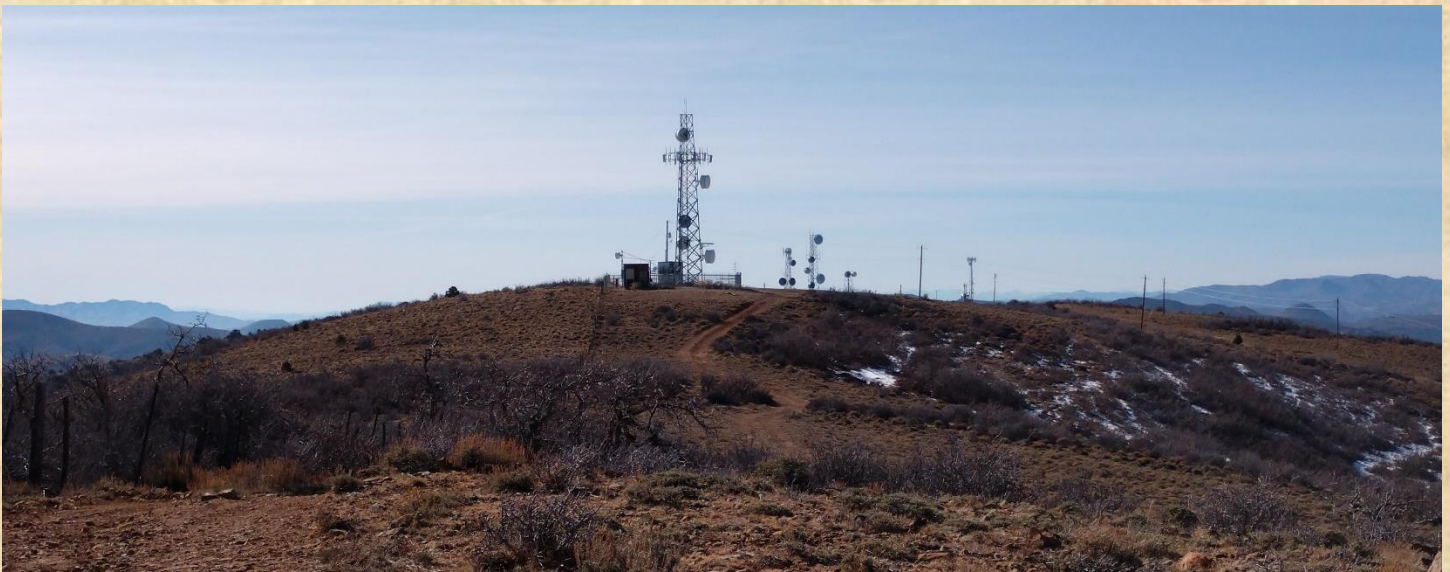
The experience: This was my third trip and I decided to move as far away from the towers as possible to avoid the bad static I've had in the past. It didn't really help though, but it was an



easier spot to set up the antenna, do that was a plus. The road was nice, very little snow, and I saw no one else on this, or the previous, mountain, which is very often the case.

Since it was a little later, the far DX stations weren't there anymore. I still had a good steady stream of calls, but with the

interference I didn't want to stay on as long. It wasn't quite as windy or cold. It was simple, fast, and successful.



"Mount Moo" W7U/WS-016

Stats: 01/19/2018

**Points: 6 + 3 bonus
(total=597)**

Elevation: 7,660 ft

QSO's: 25

Farthest: 6,894 (New Zealand)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

LiPo battery (2200

mAh)

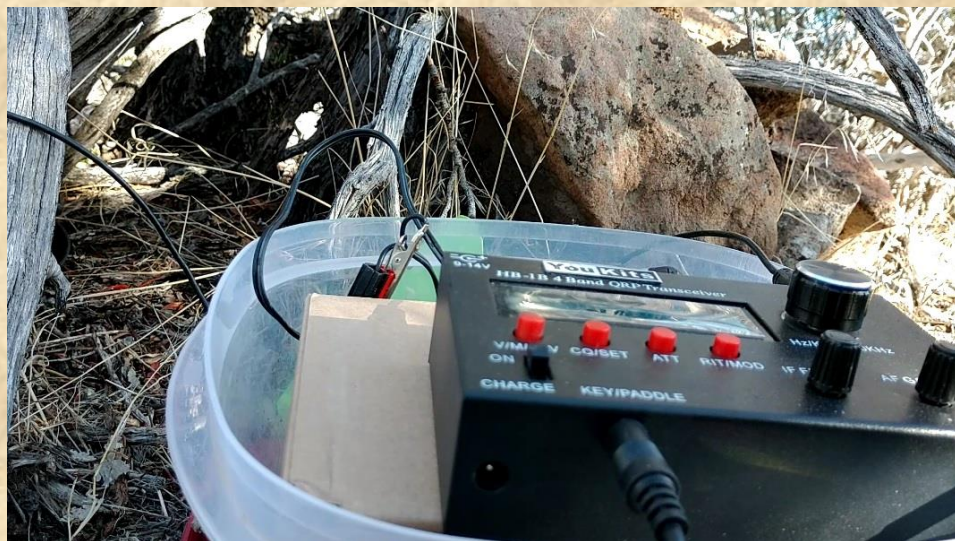
Activation: 3rd (my 3rd)

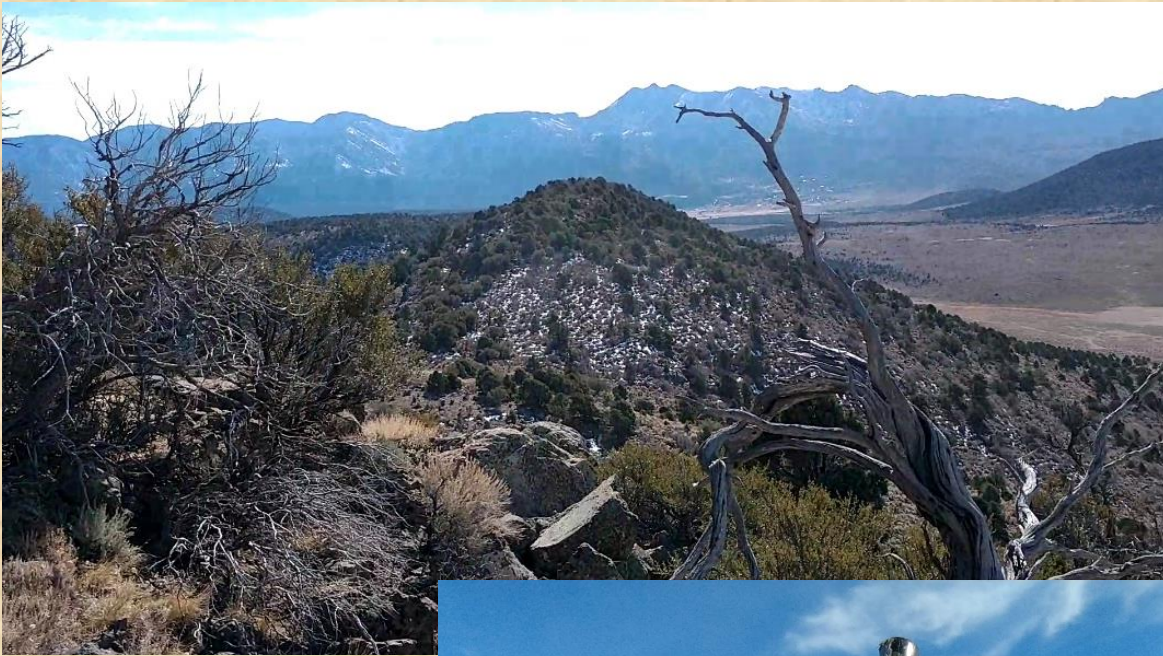
Trail report: One must take Hwy. 18 which passes through Central, UT. From there you turn onto the main road (which also leads to Pine Valley). Just after the sign to welcome you to Pine Valley, there is a turn off to Grassy Flat. Once to the flat, there are two access roads, one on the west and one that goes all the way around to the east at a higher elevation. I opted to go to the west as the drive to the east would take almost as long as the hike up to the top. There is a good access road right up to the base. There is no visible trail other than cattle/game trails, but not too bad. There's a nice outcropping of rocks at the top to operate/take pictures.

The experience: This was my third trip and with a storm coming I thought I would get this in after work before it got snowed in. I did this one last year in Feb. and there was lots of snow and ice. Almost nothing here mid-January with the dry and warm winter we've had. I was able to drive right to the base this time.



The hike was pretty easy compared to most. Barely any snow even in the northern, shady spots. It was REALLY windy though with a winter storm coming in later tonight. I got to the top and set up among some trees so the wind wouldn't be as bad. Got on quickly and started operating, getting calls right away. It went fast and then I was done. The hike down was quick, although it was getting colder so I bundled up first.





Hike
More
Worry
Less.

OF ALL
THE
PATHS
YOU TAKE
IN LIFE,
MAKE
SURE
A FEW
OF THEM
ARE DIRT

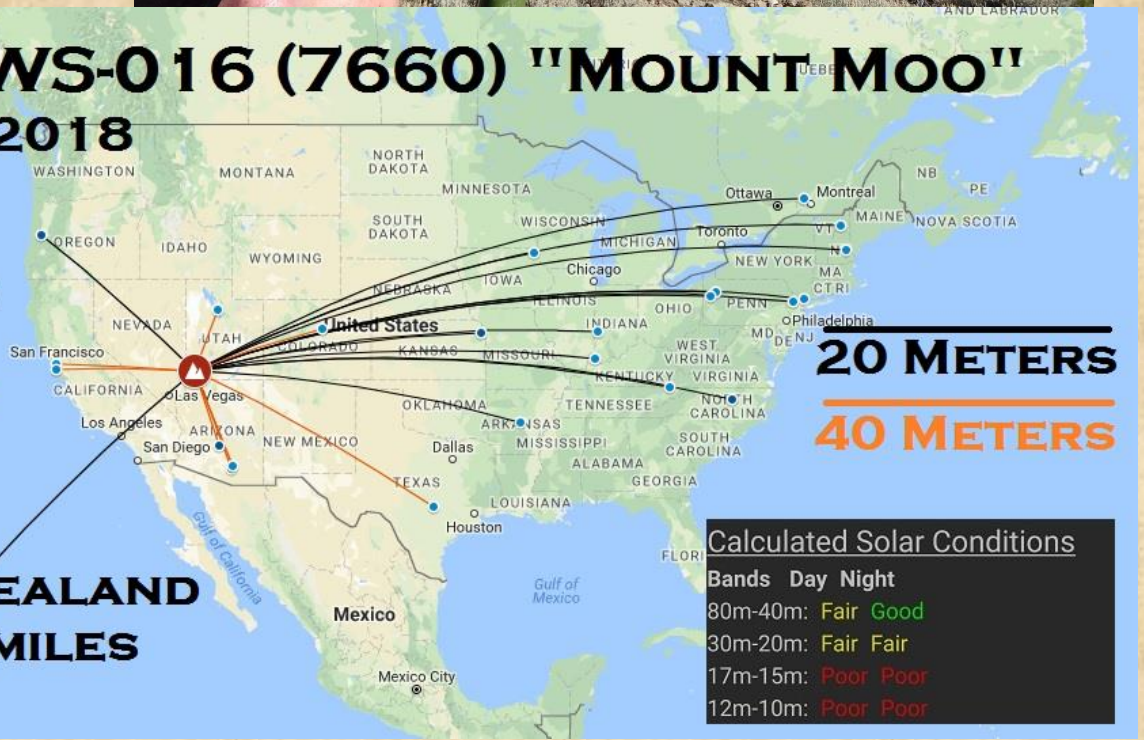


W7U/WS-016 (7660) "MOUNT MOO"

JAN. 19, 2018

25 QSO's
20 MINS
4 WATTS

NEW ZEALAND
6,894 MILES



Sand Mountain W7U/SU-061

Stats: 01/24/2018

Points: 1 (total=598)

Elevation: 4,182 ft

QSO's: 20

Farthest: 2,114 (NY)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole (new)

N3ZN QRP paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 7th (my 2nd)



Trail report: This mountain is not far from town (St. George) and really close to Sand Hallow State Park (just to the south of it). It's just off of Southern Parkway, in fact when you pull off of it, you're already on the mountain and ready to head on up. The whole mountain is an ATV haven with sand dunes, trails all over, etc. That's its main use! There's a main trail that goes straight up to the upper end of the mountain, from there all it takes is a little maneuvering to reach the high point.

The experience: This is a really fun one because it's sand dunes all the way to the



top and the ATV tackles them pretty well. Plus, it was a very nice, sunny day and got up to about 50 degrees. Setup is a bit of a challenge though with a few rocks at the top. Also, it's a popular place, so there were people up on the top and I waited a bit for them to leave to setup. But once up and running, it was great!

I made a new antenna to try out since my old one (used 8 months) was getting worn out from use (I use thin wire and wrapping and tugging, etc. every time starts to weaken the wire and makes some connections sketchy. It was a very enjoyable, after-work activation.



SAND MOUNTAIN W7U/SU-061 1PT.

JAN. 24, 2018

20 METERS

40 METERS

20 QSO'S
 FARTHEST:
 2,114 MILES (NY)
 20 MINS ON AIR
 4 WATTS



Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands Day Night

80m-40m: Poor Fair

30m-20m: Fair Fair

17m-15m: Poor Poor

12m-10m: Poor Poor

West Mountain Peak W7U/SU-045 and WINTER FIELD DAY

Stats: 01/27/2018

**Points: 6 +3 bonus
(total=607)**

Elevation: 7,680 ft

QSO's: 47

Farthest: 5,471 (Spain)

Time on Air: 85 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole (new)
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 6th (my 3rd)



Trail report: Access comes from Old Hwy 91. You take Beaver Dam Mountain Rd from there (just past the reservation border while heading south). This road leads up to the very top. It is fairly nice until the last bit before switchbacks to the summit, but still a 4x4 is highly suggested. The last part should be attempted with care, especially in less-than-ideal conditions. The ATV made it ok.

The experience: We had a winter storm a bit back, but it wasn't bad and with the nice weather, I figured I could make it up to the top and have it be a good place for Winter Field Day (WFD) as well. At first I wanted to do a nearby peak as well, but once on top of the first one, I could see it was way to icy



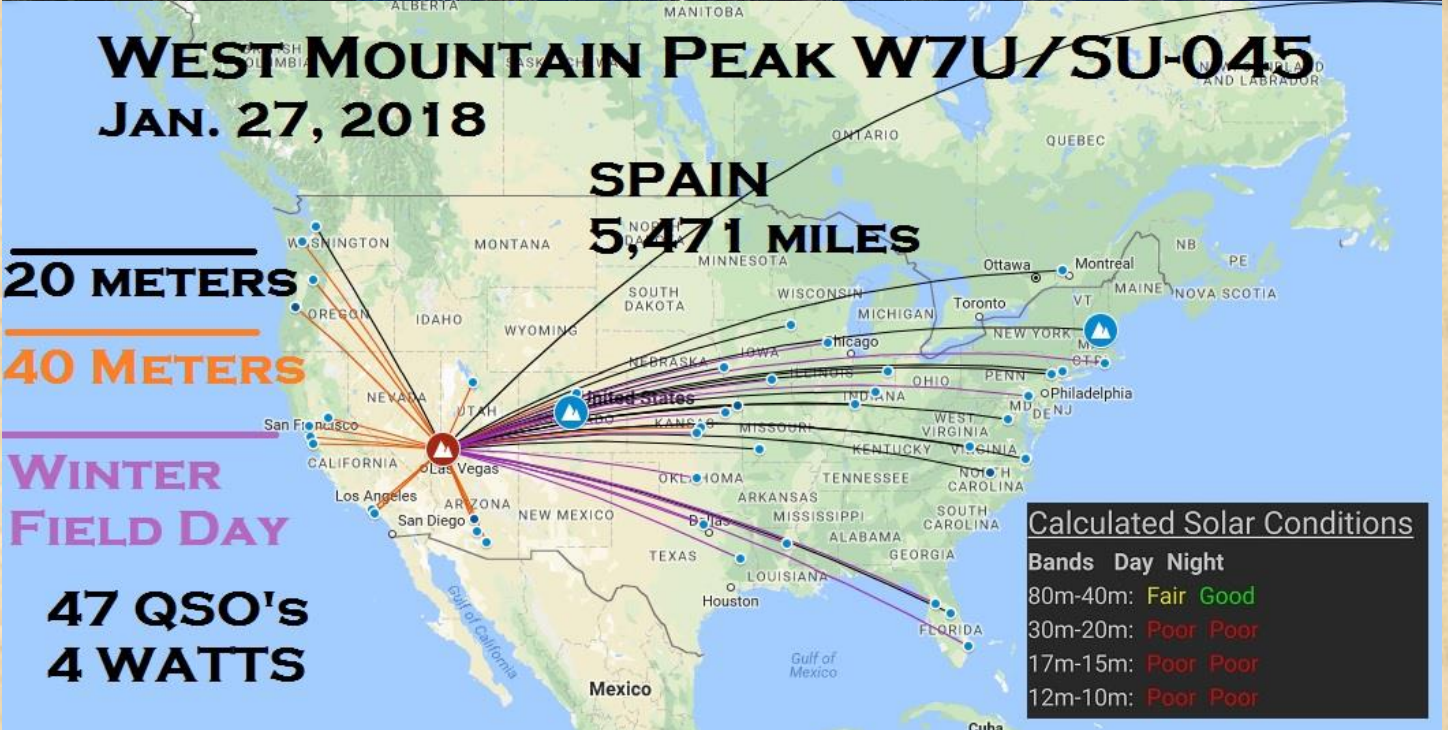
and steep to hike, so I just

stuck with this one. It was a good ride up and the snow was never too bad anywhere. I didn't want to get there too early, because it would be way cold, and WFD didn't start until noon.

I got set up, took some pictures and got on the air. Spain was my second contact, which was cool. Lots of people on. I normally stay on 20-30 minutes and pack up and get down, but since I was doing WFD there as well, I had plenty of time.



It was nice just to relax and take it easy. I got a few summit-to-summit contacts as well. I took a break, looked at the views, had some hot chocolate I had in a thermos and got ready for the start of WFD. Those count as SOTA contacts as well. I got 12 from back east mostly and decided that was good participation and called it a day. Very nice time!



Scrub Benchmark W7U/WS-071

Stats: 02/07/2018

**Points: 4 +3 bonus
(total=614)**

Elevation: 6,786 ft

QSO's: 30

Farthest: 2,263 (NH)

Time on Air: 45 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole (new)
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 3rd (my 3rd)

Trail report: Access to the base is by taking the Mojave Desert Joshua Tree Rd either from the Shivwits Reservation off Old Hwy 91 from the north or from I-15 to Old Hwy 91 from the south (AZ). Once at the base, there is a road that leads up the mountain (and a sign that tells you there's no outlet). I would have a 4x4 to enter this road. It can change quickly with no good place to turn around. At the time of this writing, I've done this summit twice: once hiking almost the entire way up and the second time taking an ATV to within a 1/2 mile of the summit. This time all the way. It is a long, rough hike.

Know that there is a gate that crosses the road about 1/2 way up, but there is a bypass. I would not take my 4x4 pickup once the elevation changes greatly because of the very rough and steep road at times.



There are two main antennas at and near the summit. As the name indicates, there is a physical benchmark at the actual summit. There are a number of places to set up once there. Great views of the Beaver Dam Mountains.

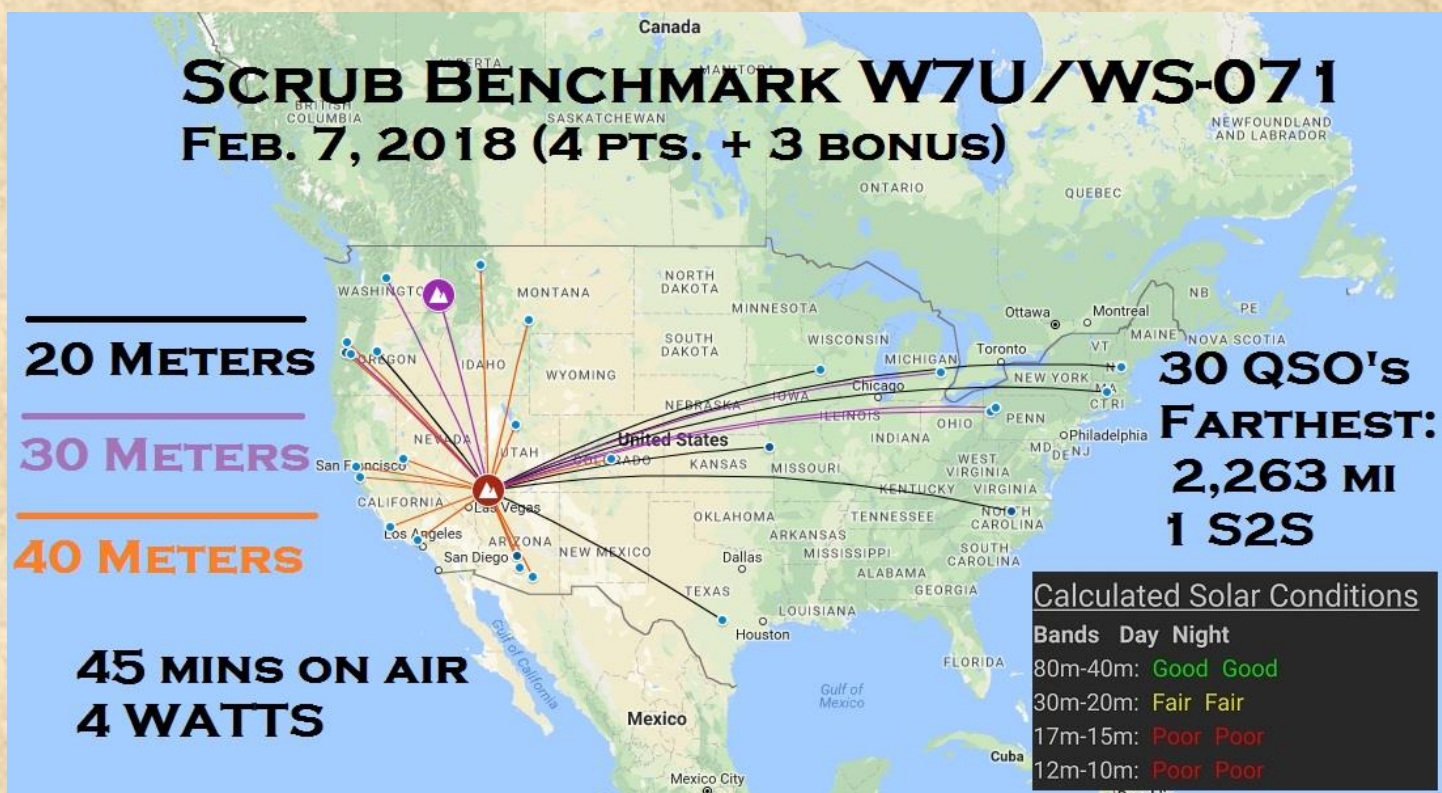
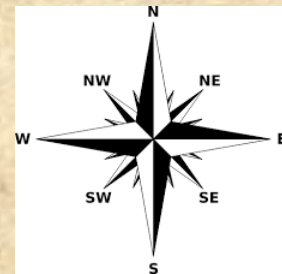
The experience: I had planned on going up this one twice last week, but wasn't feeling



well and decided I should get better first. Today was a good choice—beautiful day! Not pretty, as you can see, but I took the ATV all the way up.

Interesting to compare to last year—lots more snow then, now, nothing at all. It was nice and relaxing, set up was pretty easy with a dead tree.

I tried a new radio I put together, but it was having some trouble though, so never made contacts with it and switched by to my normal radio. Not very much action on 20 meters, but plenty on 40 m. It was still good. Nice to get out!



"Scout Peak" W7U/WS-056

Stats: 02/09/2018

**Points: 4 +3 bonus
(total=621)**

Elevation: 6,980 ft

QSO's: 39

Farthest: 6,886 (New Z.)

Time on Air: 40 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole (new)
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**



Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

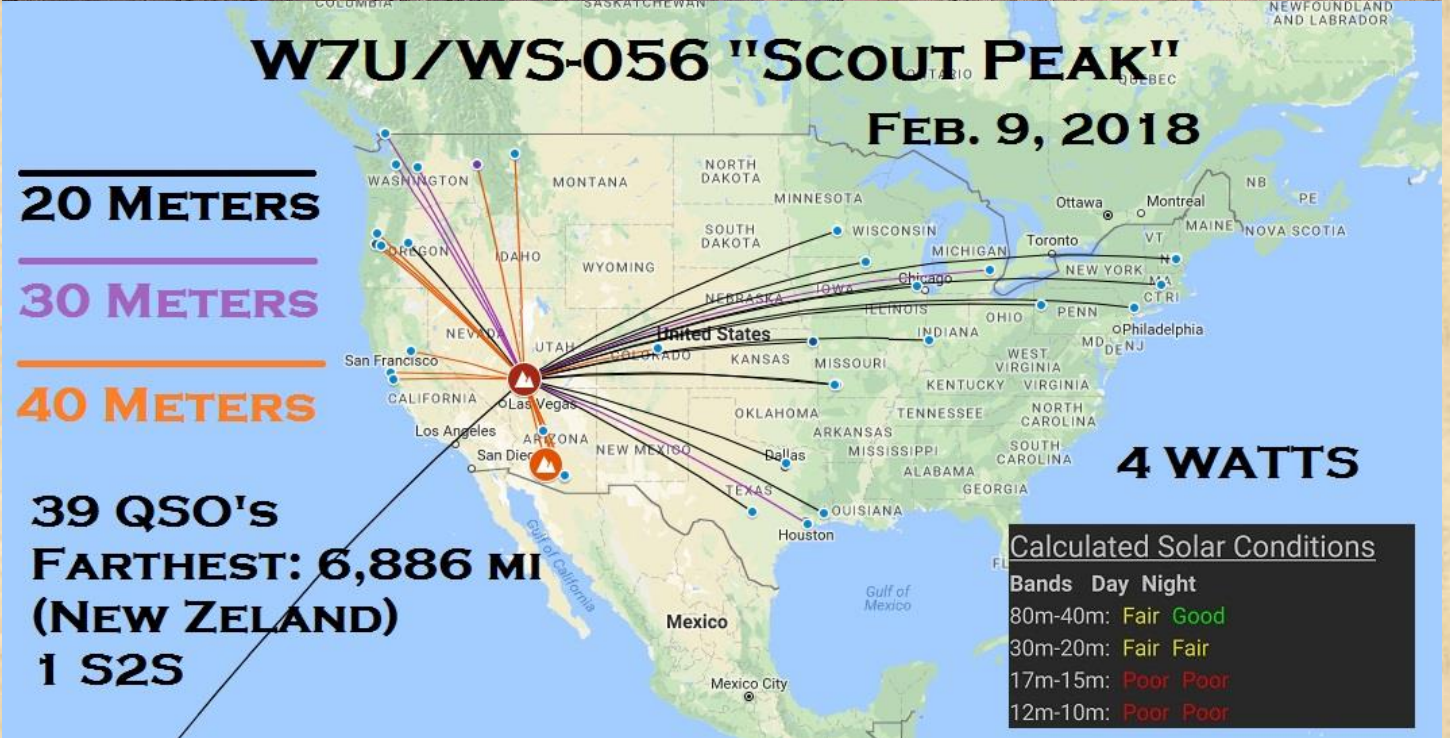
Trail report: There is a road that allows access up to the saddle of this mountain and the hike is quite enjoyable. It approaches from the north (200E in Enterprise). The road, in good weather, could be taken all the way to the saddle, although to get to that point a 4x4 is recommended for some of the last bit. Once at the base or saddle it's rocky yet grassy with some scrub brush and no trail, but not bad at all.

The experience: With the snows last year, I did this one in March and barely made it with the snow and mud. This year, a month earlier and it was very nice and dry. A great little hike and a very nice day for another after-work activation. It was kind of ugly out, being



the end of winter but with no movement for spring.

Setup was easy with a nice rock outcropping and there were plenty of people on the radio—I had six new chasers, had a summit to summit and got New Zealand once again. Very relaxing and got back down quickly and home with no problems.



“Flower Top” W7U/WS-089

Stats: 02/17/2018

**Points: 2 +3 bonus
(total=626)**

Elevation: 6,494 ft

QSO's: 30

Farthest: 6,880 (New Z.)

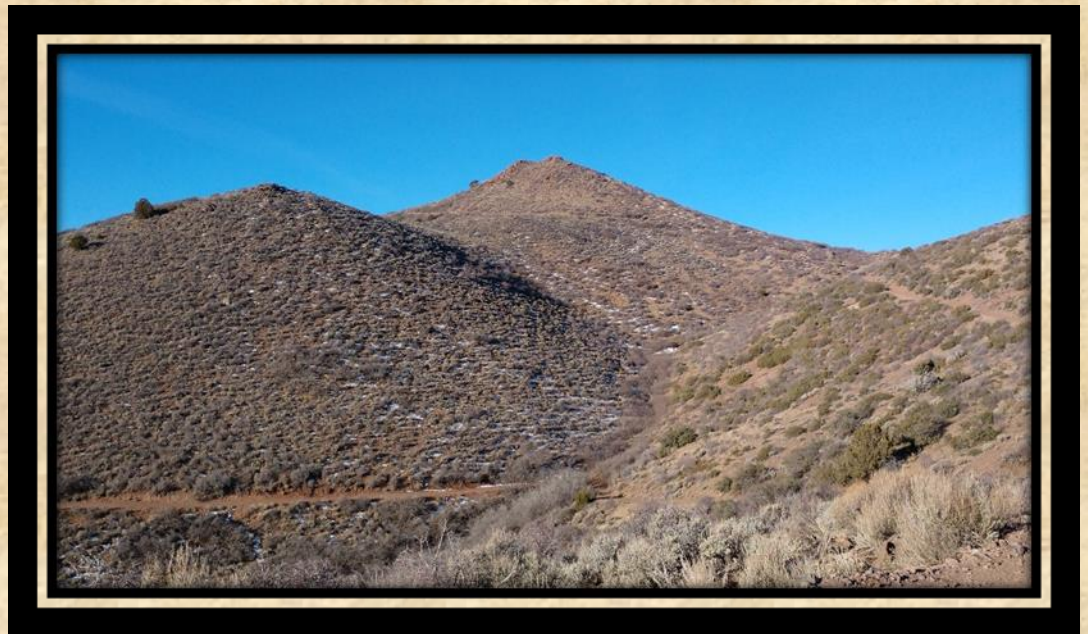
Time on Air: 40 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole (new)
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 3rd (my 3rd)

Trail report: Access is gained from W. Center St. in Veyo which leads to Veyo Shoal Creek Rd (dirt) at the bottom of the canyon. Veyo Shoal Creek Rd is a well-maintained dirt road that can be taken all the way to the base of the mountain. Personally, I parked just after the entrance of Dixie National Park and rode an ATV to the base, but certainly not required to reach it. The access is fairly easy and the ascent is only a few hundred feet. The ground is soft dirt with some scrub brush and many flowers in the spring, but drab in winter. Some rock outcroppings on the top allow for easy set up.



The experience: This particular Saturday I had ARES training in the morning, so didn't have time for a “big” summit or a new one so I opted for this easy access summit that still offers bonus points. This was my third time, so I was very familiar with it. When I got setup, it turns out there was a contest going on. That's not good for me because there's lots of signals and I am running very low power. I had to move way out of my normal area on the radio and getting contacts took a little longer, but still got plenty. It was a nice, sunny day and an enjoyable time.



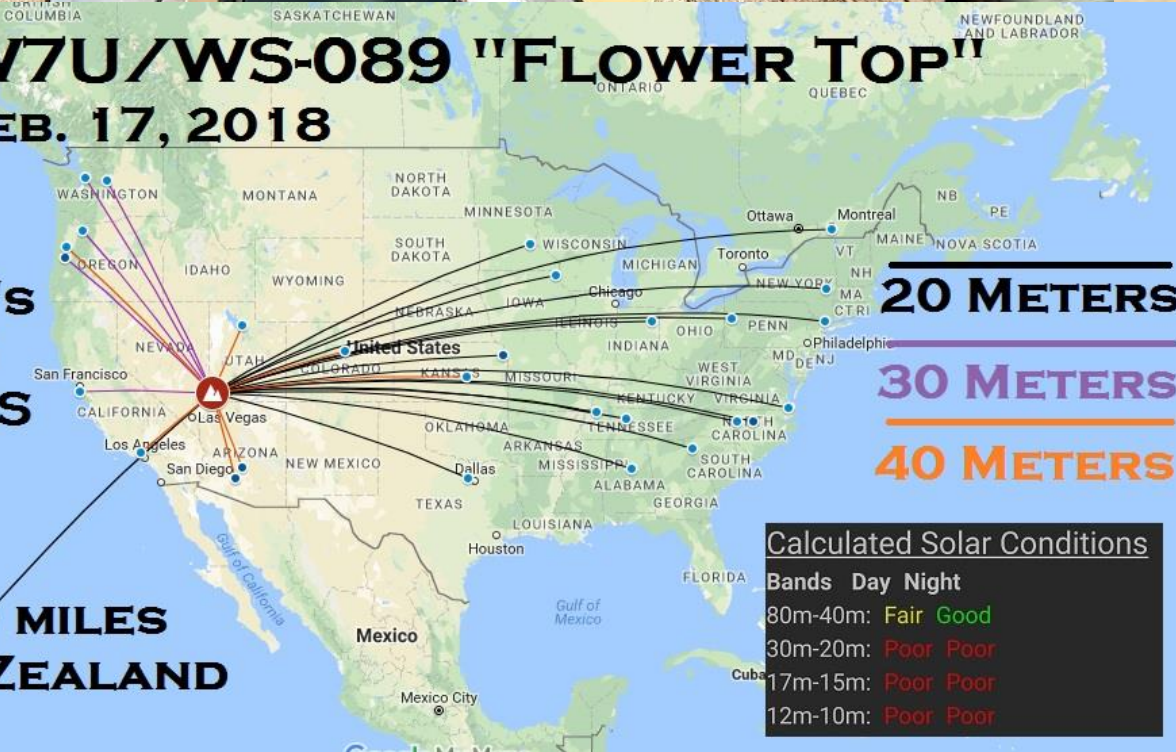
W7U/WS-089 "FLOWER TOP"
FEB. 17, 2018

30 QSO'S
40 MINS
4 WATTS

6,880 MILES
NEW ZEALAND

20 METERS
30 METERS
40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions	
Bands	Day Night
80m-40m:	Fair Good
30m-20m:	Poor Poor
17m-15m:	Poor Poor
12m-10m:	Poor Poor



Bloomington Hill W7U/WS-123

Stats: 02/23/2018

Points: 1 (total=627)

Elevation: 3,470 ft

QSO's: 30

Farthest: 2,256 (NH)

Time on Air: 15 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole (new)

N3ZN QRP paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 9th (my 3rd)



Trail report: The hike can either begin at the base of the hill or up much higher. There is a road that goes up to near the end, although it is better suited for a jeep or ATV. Personally, I chose to start hiking from the base. There are numerous trails in the area, the road begins to the south of the power station. Once at the end of the road, a hiking/bike trail continues. The most scenic route runs through the huge boulders slightly to the north. You eventually come up out of the boulders (following stacked-stone trail markers) to the top. There is another, more-traveled trail, but not as scenic.



For operating there is a very nice rock formation just to the southeast of the summit that provides nice wind protection and a place to set up.

The experience: This was an after-work activation really to test using a fishing pole as a mast instead of my normal one. That's because the fishing pole is much lighter, collapses down shorter and is cheap. The problem was it wasn't as tall and not as strong (so bent over making it lower as well). It



worked fine other than that though. I didn't have time to test it for long because it was a stormy day (almost didn't go) and I saw a white-out storm coming at me. I stopped and packed up and got down quickly.



W7U/WS-123 BLOOMINGTON HILL

FEB. 23, 2018

20 METERS

40 METERS

12 QSO's
FARTHEST:
2,256 MILES (NH)
15 MINS ON AIR
4 WATTS



Calculated Solar Conditions	
Bands	Day Night
80m-40m:	Poor Fair
30m-20m:	Poor Poor
17m-15m:	Poor Poor
12m-10m:	Poor Poor

Sullivan Knoll W7U/WS-121

Stats: 02/24/2018

Points: 1 (total=628)

Elevation: 4,024 ft

QSO's: 26

Farthest: 2,118 (QC)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole (new)

N3ZN QRP paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 6th (my 2nd)



Trail report: Access is gained off of Highway 9 on the way through Hurricane. From the highway you take Rlington Pkwy and then Ridge View Dr which leads up into a dirt road. Last activation the gate was open, this time it was locked so had to hike the extra distance, but it's not far. There is a trail that goes to the top, looks like an ATV trail, but it's steep enough you may want to plan on just hiking it. The summit has rocks for setting up a mast.

The experience: This was the second time to try out the fishpole mast. It is definitely lighter, but it bends so far that the antenna is really low and touches the ground—BUT



it still worked. What I don't know is if it works just as well that way or not. Sure, I got plenty of contacts, but were there some I missed because of the angle and the height? It's hard to know. Most likely I will stick with the Jackite pole unless the hike is really hard and strenuous and I need the lighter load.

I came across a rabbit's foot, then at the top there was a partially burned jacket at the top—you never know what you'll come across!



W7U/WS-121 SULLIVAN KNOLL

FEB. 24, 2018

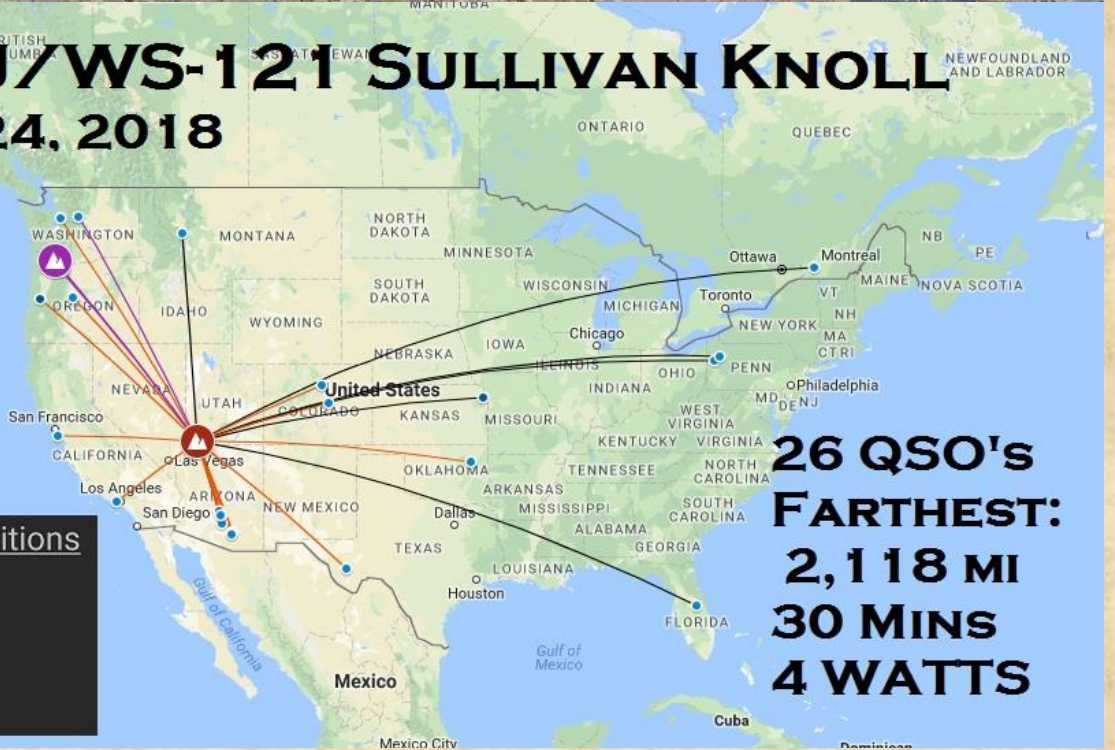
20 METERS

30 METERS

40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Good	Good
30m-20m:	Poor	Poor
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor



26 QSO's
FARTHEST:
2,118 MI
30 MINS
4 WATTS

“E’ Mountain” W7U/WS-098

Stats: 03/07/2018

**Points: 2 + 3 bonus
(total=633)**

Elevation: 6,312 ft

QSO's: 22

Farthest: 2,247 (NH)

Time on Air: 22 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4
WATTS)**

**Linked dipole (new)
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**



Activation: 3rd (my 3rd)

Trail report: Access is gained through the town of Enterprise, 200 E to approach from the south. Once past the farms it is a known hunting area. There are roads which approach from a number of directions. I used the opposite side this time as opposed to the north. There is an ATV trail to the summit from the south, although it is really rough and gouged by runoff. In fact I hiked instead of going on that trail. The summit itself is small lava rock, but there are plenty of trees to get an antenna up.

The experience: (Picture above from Dec.—I



forgot to take a new one, lots more snow now in March). Bad weather and work has kept me from going out a while so I was anxious to get out. Plus, I made a new antenna after buying an antenna analyzer for the first time, which helps to get the length of wire just right for the frequencies you want. My other antenna works fine, but wasn't tuned and was already a bit short so couldn't be adjusted any more.

It was cloudy and gray, plus a bit cold, but not bad and a good day to get on the radio. No amazing foreign contacts or anything, but all went well.

The picture to the right shows the low SWR—the lower the better, it means most of the power is getting out to the antenna.

Below: Overlooking Enterprise.



Pinto Peak W7U/WS-038

Stats: 03/09/2018

**Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=640)**

Elevation: 7,280 ft

QSO's: 18

Farthest: 6,899 (New Zealand)

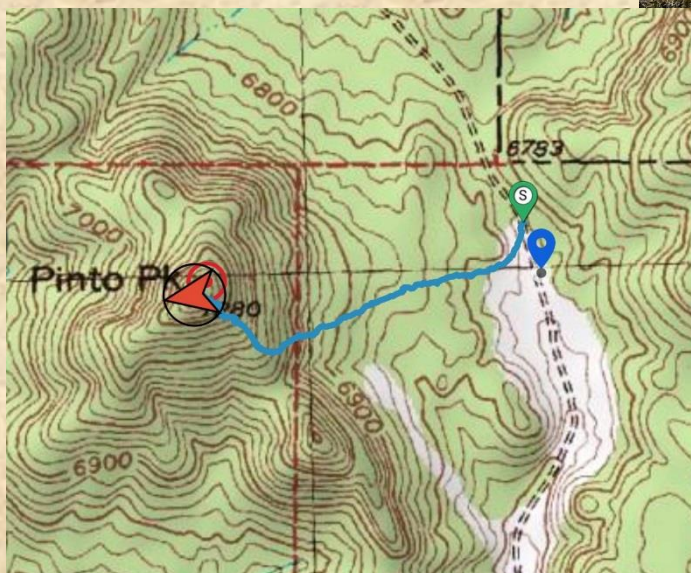
Time on Air: 25 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole (new)
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200 mAh)**

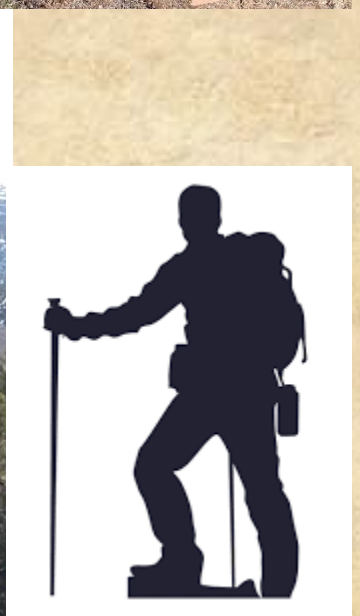
Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

Trail report: This is a pretty simple peak, but out of the way. Pinto road, which can be reached either from the west (between Central and Enterprise) or the east from Cedar City, is a fairly-well maintained dirt road. FR-014 is the road to take off the Pinto road, directly north of the peak. FR-014, in early spring, is quite muddy and nearly impassable without the proper vehicle. Once there, there is heavy sage and trees in places, but a short hike to the summit. No benchmark that I could find, but a pile of rocks as is typical with many peaks.



The experience: I was a little wary of this one with there still be snow in the mountains and all the northern slopes being covered, but I hoped once I got there the road in would be good. I almost didn't take the ATV, but thought I'd rather get that stuck than my pickup. Glad I did, the road in was quite muddy and my pickup would not have made it. I was a bit nervous about getting back out again, but since it was mostly downhill to get out, I figured it would be ok—and it was.

It was a simple hike and spots of snow but not bad since it was the southern slope. There weren't many people on the air—of course I went after work, which is not a good time. Even so, still got New Zealand again though. I didn't stay long since there weren't many calls though.



W7U/WS-038 PINTO PEAK

MAR. 9, 2018

20 METERS

40 METERS

18 QSO's
FARTHEST:
6,899 MILES
(NEW ZELAND)
25 MINS



4 WATTS

Calculated Solar Conditions	
Bands	Day Night
80m-40m:	Fair Good
30m-20m:	Poor Poor
17m-15m:	Poor Poor
12m-10m:	Poor Poor

Cove Mountain W7U/WS-050

Stats: 03/10/2018

**Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=647)**

Elevation: 7,022 ft

QSO's: 35

Farthest: 2,254 (NH)

Time on Air: 45 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole (new)
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

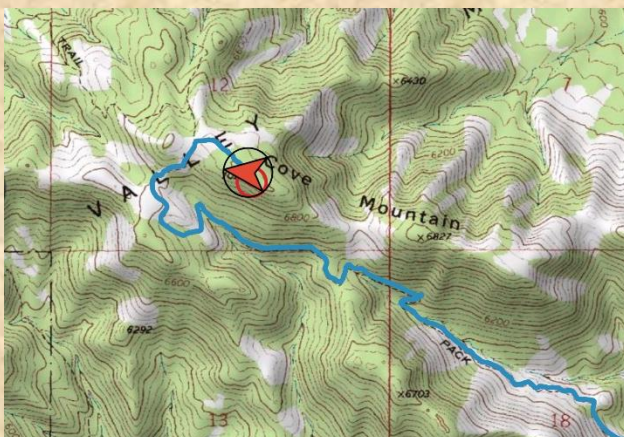
Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access is gained from Veyo, UT. From Highway 18 you take Center St. heading west (main intersection). This heads towards Gunlock. When you get to the bottom of the canyon, where the road takes a sharp curve, you go on Veyo Shoal Creek Road. It's a gravel and dirt road but a very good one. There is an ATV trail that leads up the mountain and can be accessed from the south or the north. Being early spring I chose the south so it would be clear of snow, although longer than the north. From the start of main dirt road you go about 2.8 miles and there is a sign indicating Bull Valley ATV Trail. Personally I parked in that area and followed the road to



the head of the trail.



The trail is rough and is about 9 miles long. As you enter Dixie National Forest, there are markers and a grate to pass. The trail leads nearly to the top and you can see the summit easily once there.



The ATV trail is medium to difficult—not for beginners. At the summit, at the time of this writing, there was a thin fiberglass pole (no flag) marking the summit among the boulders (it's very obvious though).

The experience: I have been intimidated by this mountain for a while. I went once, started up the trail, after a couple of miles it was blocked by a fallen tree, impassable. I went a second time, got farther (the tree had been cleared), but the distance and isolation with the time I had made me nervous and I turned around—plus the trail is pretty challenging on the ATV.



This was my first day of Spring Break, still in bonus season, and I wasn't going to let the mountain conquer me. I just took it easy, made smart decisions, and worked my way up. It was awesome once I arrived. Plus it's always great to activate a summit for the first time ever. I put the SOTA flag up, set up, took some pictures, and got on the air. I didn't get any DX (foreign) stations this time, but lots of calls and had a great time.

I was not looking forward to the trip



back down though—which is often harder than going up. I did the same thing—took it easy, didn't rush, and made smart decisions. It's always a relief and satisfying to get back to the pickup.

"Deadwood Hill" W7U/IR-035

Stats: 03/12/2018

**Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=654)**

Elevation: 7,450 ft

QSO's: 30

Farthest: 2,205 (VT)

Time on Air: 40 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200 mAh)**

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)



Trail report: This summit, coming from St. George, can be accessed either by Cedar City or Enterprise and then passing through New Castle on Hwy. 56 (same Hwy. if coming from Cedar City). From the highway take Desert Mound Rd, a very nice and wide dirt road that circles around the south of the mountain. There is a main road that heads north into the mountain from there (although there are other roads).

You should check map or GPS as there are a number of turn offs on the road and you'll need to take the correct ones to arrive near the summit. ATV or other OHV is preferable to a pickup. The



DATE	TIME	FREQ	MODE	STATION WORKED	REPORT SENT	REPORT RECD	COMMENTS
3/12/18	12:56	14.069	CW	W7U/IR-035	579	579	W7U/IR-035
	42	14.057		K6SP	559	559	
	43			W4MTS	449	559	
	43			N1GB	579	559	
	44			W4JUSK	579	539	no QSOs
	44			K4RS	579	659	40 mins
	45			W9MRT	579	539	
	45			K9OZ	549	559	
	46			K0RS	339	539	
	47			W4KEN	599	949	VA
	47			NE4TN	659	449	
	48			N0EVL	529	339	MO
	48			K4MF	559	559	
	49			N0XK	559	599	MA
	49			K3TCU	579	559	PA

summit is most covered in trees, and at this time, lots of deadwood. Early spring leaves lots of snow on the route.

The experience: This is a near-drive-up summit with an ATV. However, with all the hills and the heavy trees, I knew it would still have snow and with some rain last night I wondered if I could make it. There were a few iffy parts with heavy snow, but it was still cool enough that it wasn't sloshy. Fun ride though.

I was hoping to get a few DX, but not such luck. Plenty of regular contacts though. It was a nice day to be on the radio. Didn't see another soul the whole trip.



W7U/IR-035 "DEADWOOD HILL"

MARCH 12, 2018

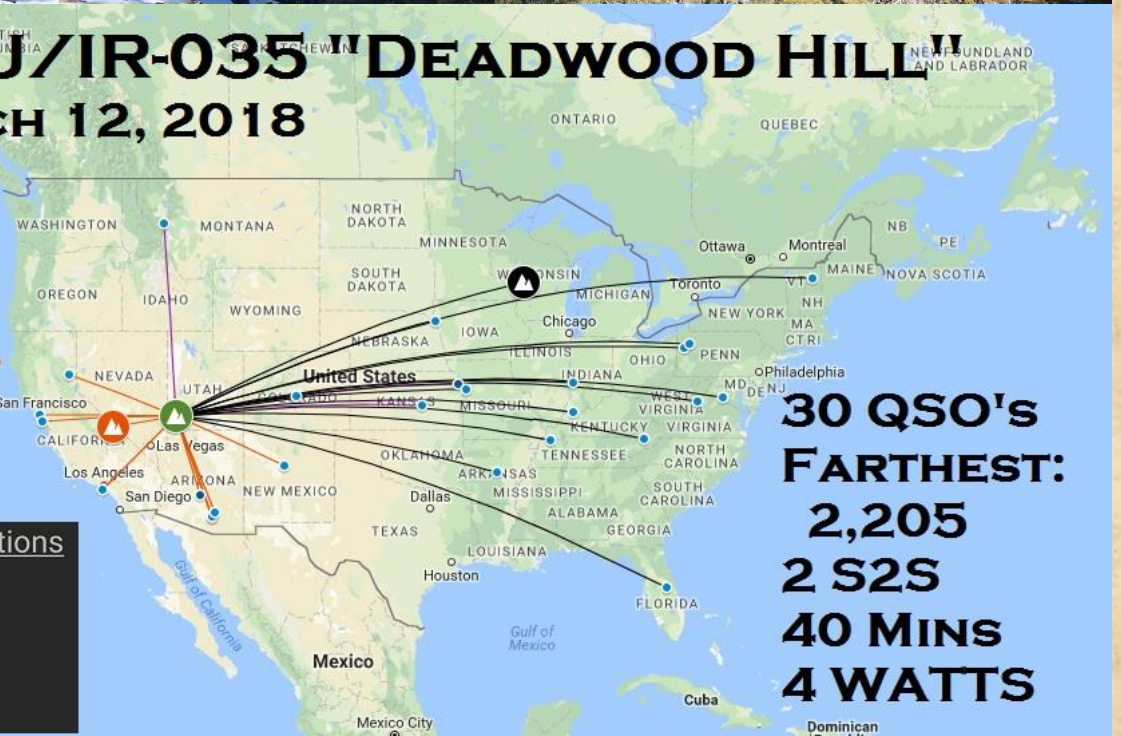
20 METERS

30 METERS

40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Poor	Poor
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor



30 QSO's
FARTHEST:
2,205
2 S2S
40 MINS
4 WATTS

Table Butte W7U/IR-054

Stats: 03/16/2018

Points: 2 (total=656)

Elevation: 5,878 ft

QSO's: 33

Farthest: 2,098 (NJ)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

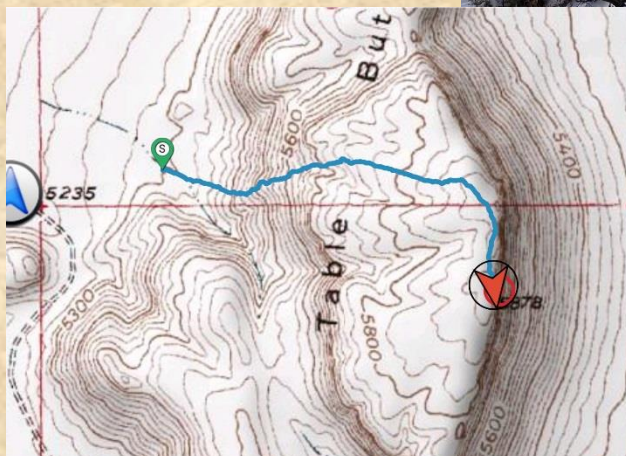
LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



Trail report: The butte where this summit is located is in the middle of a large flat area and is not part of a larger mountain range. However, there are no significant towns nearby. It can be approached from many directions, but all access roads are dirt roads. In inclement weather they are challenging even with a 4x4.

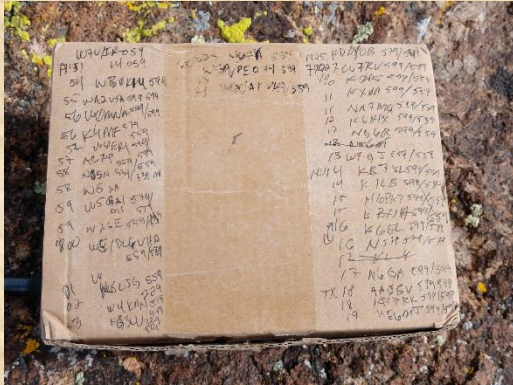
There is no trail so there are a number of options for approaches. The tracks uploaded to the mapping page were the most convenient from what I saw



on Google and from the ground. It's actually a pleasant hike and not very strenuous. There are higher bushes and a few rocky areas that can be used to erect an antenna mast. The activation area is large.

The experience: With a recent storm all the larger mountains were pretty snowed in so I went for this one (only 2 points) but I was happy to get it being a first activation for SOTA. There was heavy fog on the way and everything was frosty. The access road taking the ATV in was long (7 miles) and snowed over thinly with iced

ruts. It was iffy getting in which made me nervous about getting back out after a few hours. I forgot a logbook (my previous was full), so wrote everything on the box my radio was in.



I got to the base and the hike was good. Not tons of snow on the way up, more on top. The conditions weren't great on the air, but plenty of people to call. I



could have stayed and gotten quite a few more I'm sure, but I was anxious to get back down and get back to the truck because of that road.

I got down quickly. When I got to the road, the snow was already all gone and the ice had melted. I thought I wouldn't make it, but it wasn't as bad as I imagined. It was WAY muddy though.



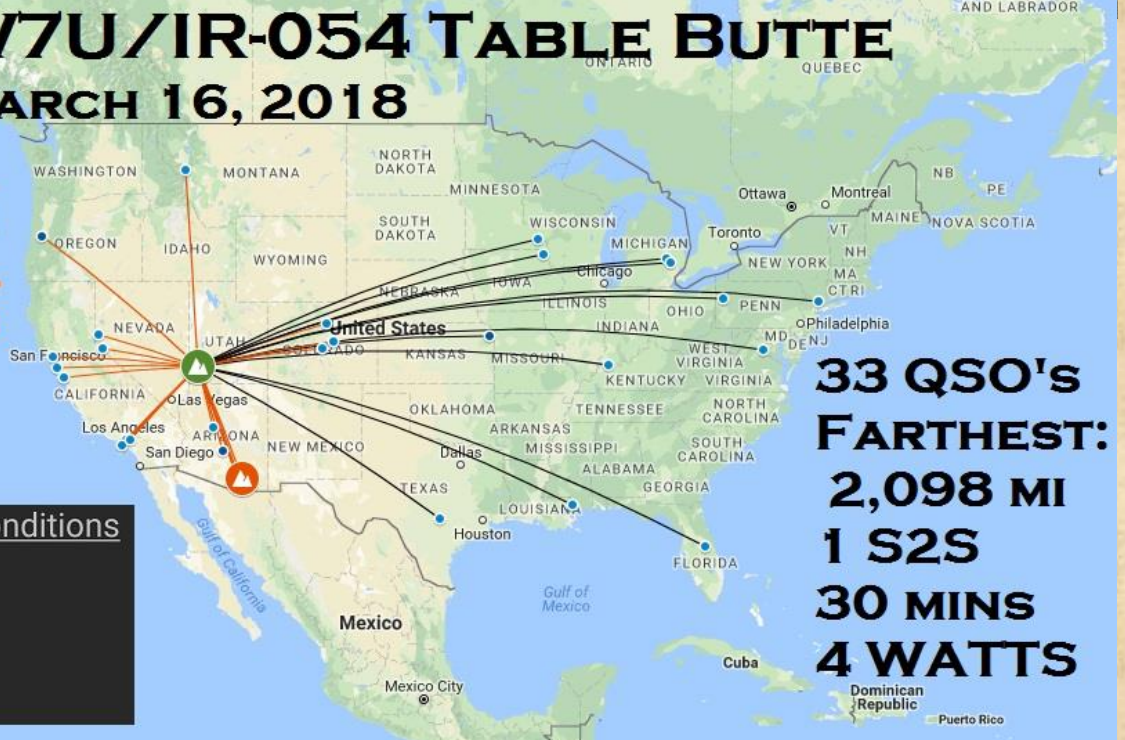
W7U/IR-054 TABLE BUTTE MARCH 16, 2018

20 METERS

40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Poor	Fair
30m-20m:	Poor	Poor
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor



33 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
2,098 MI
1 S2S
30 MINS
4 WATTS

“Mustang Hill” W7U/IR-052

Stats: 03/21/2018

**Points: 2+ 3 bonus
(total=661)**

Elevation: 6,422 ft

QSO's: 20

Farthest: 2,036 (NC)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 3rd (3rd)



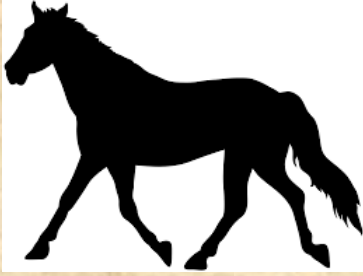
Trail report: Access is gained by the Old Modena Rd, a dirt road off of 200 W. Enterprise. In decent weather conditions a 4x4 isn't necessary but a pickup is highly recommended. Since there is no trail, a number of approaches are possible. I opted for the gentler slope on the southwest. For a lot of that area of the road, the sides are lined with rocks making a place to get off and park more challenging, but I had the ATV this time. There is high sage brush around the base, gets rockier as you ascend. The top has an almost rock “fort” looking thing at the top.



The experience: This was another quick after-work activation while it's still winter bonus season. Storms are coming in the next few days so wanted to get one in. This is the third time for this one, so pretty familiar. On the way up I came across 10 deer and a herd of 15 horses. I got on top and set up. With the storms coming in for tomorrow it was getting pretty windy on top. That was cool. I stayed on for only 20 minutes, but that was fine. On the way down I picked some trail trash including two large aluminum foil



balloons —those are freaky when you see them in the distance in a forest area where they don't belong. Good activation.



"Cartmill Point" W7U/WS-066

Stats: 03/28/2018

**Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=668)**

Elevation: 6,835 ft

QSO's: 25

**Farthest: 5,230
(Portugal)**

Time on Air: 35 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 3rd (my 3rd)

Trail report: Access is gained by a road on BLM land which goes all the way to the top of West Mountain Peak and passes near a good place to start the hike. There is even a leveled-off area and a place to park by the fence line. The road up is definitely for 4-wheel drive, however. The first section is the steepest and care should be taken with the loose rock. There is no trail, but a number of game trails do help the ascent.



Quite rocky. Beautiful view on top!

The experience: I was thinking of saving this until the end of the year (maybe even making it my Mountain Goat summit), but it was a beautiful day and bonus season only lasts for a couple of more days, so decided just to go. This summit can be seen out

my back door and it's one of my favorites. The hike is steep, but doesn't take long and it's nice on top.

Almost every time it has been windy, and it was again today, but not bad. The hike is rocky, but has a nice area on the top to setup. Lots of calls and I got a new country today—Portugal (CT1HIX, Carlos). It took a long time to get him only because he's new at CW and his spacing wasn't very good, so I got KA instead of CT (plus KA is a US start of a callsign), but finally got him.



"Border Hill" W7N/LN-162

Stats: 04/07/2018

Points: 4 (total=672)

Elevation: 6,697 ft

QSO's: 20

Farthest: 2,067 (VA)

Time on Air: 25 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access is gained through the closest town, Enterprise, UT. From there it is 45 miles and you follow the main road west (Hwy. 219) which is also known as Crestline Rd. Not long after you enter into the Dixie National Forest, the road turns into dirt, but it is still a good, wide road that any car could drive on. You can take this all the way to the access road which is basically the border between Utah and Nevada. There are signs, but currently shot all up and hard to read. From here, you'll need a more rugged vehicle since it won't take long before the road is at a steep slant going along the base of the mountain



with a lot of tree stumps, although it could be hiked as well. The hike from the base is easy and fast. The top has quite a few trees, but still spaces to setup. Not much of a view because of the trees.

The experience: This was my first time activating in Nevada, which is a new association for me for SOTA. Also, it was the first for this summit AND the first summit in that county (SOTA region). It was easy once there, and not that hard to get to, it's just out in the middle of nowhere. Most people see Enterprise as almost nowhere, and this summit is



45 miles from that. The hike wasn't bad—not too steep and not very long. The top was a little disappointing without any views because of trees, but not all of them can be beautiful. I found a shed antler on the way too.



Not a lot of action on the air. It made me a little worried at first, but 40 meters wasn't

bad and I ended up with plenty of total contacts. I almost stayed longer for more, but the winds knocked the antenna down, so that made the decision for me. Kind of an easy one. (Below, looking back to UT)



W7N/LN-162 ("BORDER HILL")

APR. 7, 2018

20 METERS
40 METERS

25 MINS
4 WATTS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Poor	Poor
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor



20 QSO's
FARTHEST:
2,067 MILES

Blue Knoll W7U/IR-055

Stats: 04/14/2018

Points: 2 (total=674)

Elevation: 5,629 ft

QSO's: 29

Farthest: 2,102 (VT)

Time on Air: 45 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st



Trail report: This butte is pretty out in the middle of nowhere and thus can be accessed from a number of directions. Personally I approached from the southwest going through Enterprise, Beryl, and Lund (small UT “towns”). All roads to that point are good, including the dirt road that starts at Beryl. While there are a number of roads that lead to the butte, many are not often used with sage in the center (not good for ATV riders). I took several that were rough, but on the way back found 10100W, which is a very good road that any vehicle could ride on—it’s a bit further than other roads, but well worth it.



That leads less than a mile away, other roads from there reach at the very base, but also have sage in the center so higher centered vehicles are preferred. The hike is simple and not bad at all—basically a 500ft vertical climb. There are rocks on top to help steady a mast and two benchmarks at the summit.





The experience: This was going to be the second of the day, but ended up being the only one. The other was just too far it seemed. Even so, this was about two hours of driving (truck & ATV) to get to the base. It was a pretty easy one. Saw a doe and three pronghorns on the way. It was a pleasant hike and lots of people on the air being Saturday. I also had three summit-to-summit contacts which are always cool.

On the way back, my low tire light came on just as I left. That is never cool. Anyway, I checked it and it was low but not bad enough to change. I got a good distance, got off the dirt roads and close to civilization before it was to the point of needing to be changed. I also needed to head back for our taxes appointment. It turns out the spare was also low. Dandy. But given that it didn't appear to be leaking just low pressure, I made it to Enterprise. No air in Enterprise at their two gas stations. Hmphf. Took it easy to Veyo and finally got some air and made it back home. All fixed now!



Mineral Mountain W7U/SU-056

Stats: 04/21/2018

Points: 2 (total=676)

Elevation: 6,441 ft

QSO's: 19

Farthest: 1,992 (FL)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access is gained by going to Enterprise Reservoir using FR-003 once past the water, which leads to Road 274 which continues until it splits into roads no longer named. The roads lead all the way to the mountain itself, however it is not for most vehicles. On the mountain itself the road is mostly an ATV trail which has very inclined slants. If followed it gets within a few hundred vertical feet of the summit. Once on 274, it's about 10 miles total. Rocky with some brush on the summit.



The experience: This was another that had never been activated and that I will probably only do this one time. It's way far out there and the last part of the road was hairy enough that I "walked" the ATV—I couldn't just leave it because it was sitting in the trail and there was no place to move it off. I got to a flat part with just enough space to park the ATV and hike to the top.

Saw 10 deer on the way so that was cool. The summit was kind of skinny, not lots of room, but enough to set up the station. My friend (Del, KD6L) in a town nearby finally activated his first summit and I was able to get a summit to summit contact with him. I didn't stay up there long since I was headed to a second summit as well.



W7U/SU-056 MINERAL MOUNTAIN

APRIL 21, 2018 (1ST ACTIVATION)

20 METERS

40 METERS



Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Poor	Fair
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor

19 QSO's
FARTHEST:
1,992 MI
2 S2S
30 MINS
4 WATTS

Lost Peak W7U/WS-018

Stats: 04/21/2018

Points: 6 (total=682)

Elevation: 7,516 ft

QSO's: 30

Farthest: 2,131 (NJ)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

Trail report: Access is gained through Enterprise Reservoir.

Use Reservoir Rd., go past both the lower and upper reservoirs and from that direction FR-003 is a nice, maintained road. From

there you take FR-274 which continues to be a pretty decent mountain road. You end up at the base of the mountain with a couple of places to pull off the road and hike.



The hike itself is not bad at all. Lots of scrub oak but no so thick as to have to fight your way through it. The summit has two different benchmarks--one right on the high point and a second just to the west and a little off the top. Great views!

The experience: This was the second time for this summit and it's a good hike with a nice point payoff as well. It was the second of the day. Even though it snowed in the area the previous day, today was

really warm and there was no snow at all. I probably should have had a short-sleeved shirt, but from the morning that was quite cool, I had long-sleeves. The hike is about 800 vertical feet or so. It's a good workout hike.

There was some good action on the air and I had a few summit-to-summit contacts. I didn't linger very long though, just a half an hour and started working my way back.





Black Hills HP W7U/IR-013

Stats: 05/24/2018

Points: 6 (total=688)

Elevation: 8,674 ft

QSO's: 29

Farthest: 1,935 (FL)

Time on Air: 40 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st

Trail report: Access is

gained from the town of Beaver, UT and making your way to the northern slope of the mountain. I took the southern Beaver exit. Heading east and then north on Hwy. 160. You leave on S 200 W for a little bit and then turn due west on Creekbed Lane until you get to Greenville (a handful of houses) then turn south and stay on the road until 800 S. turning west. You head south again once you get to Rt. 1. At this point the roads are no longer named, but a combination of Google Earth and topo maps will get you to the base eventually. Although roads are good for much of it, a 4x4 is needed for the last couple of miles. The hike from the base is some 500 vertical feet and pleasant, grassy and rocky. Saw two snakes on the way up. Summit has a USGS survey disk and log.

The experience: This was kind of a last minute summit I came across from



searching around and realizing it wouldn't be a bad hike at all if I were to make it to the base. The drive wasn't all that easy to navigate, but not bad as far as the road. The last few miles I used the ATV.

The hike was nice—not too steep, not too far, fairly grassy with some rocks. I did come across two of the same kind of snake, fairly close to each other. I came within three small steps of stepping on one—it was out



sunning itself. Didn't really move much. Didn't have a rattle on the tail, but the pattern was similar to a rattler, so I surmise it's a gopher or possibly a glossy snake.

Good activity on the air. Got two summit to summit contacts as well. I tried a new way back on the ATV, not a great idea. I made it fine, but it was worse and longer. Good activation though!



Mahogany Knoll W7U/BE-033

Stats: 05/29/2018

Points: 6 (total=694)

Elevation: 7,976 ft

QSO's: 34

Farthest: 2,026 (NJ)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st

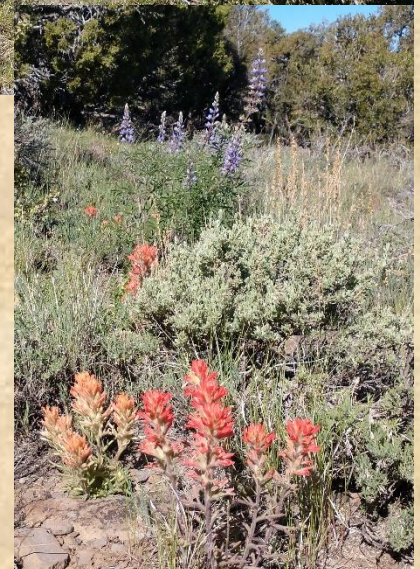


Trail report: Access can be gained from the town of Beaver, UT and making your way either through Greenville (very small) or just south of Minersville. It can also be gained from the south taking the exit for Enoch (just past Cedar City) and driving up Hwy. 130. I chose going up from Enoch and approaching from the west of the mountain. Once close, whichever route is chosen, there is a rough OHV trail that leads almost all the way around the mountain. Most of the knoll is very rocky and has heavy trees and brush. If you look at a topo map, you will see a strip of clear area from the north that leads almost to the top. It is well worth the extra time to take that approach as the bushwhacking is thick otherwise. Trees and rocks to mount an antenna. Only old wire and marking boards mark the summit.

The experience: The dirt road in was really good up until right at the last to get closer to the mountain. I



saw two turkeys and a deer. I love activating in spring as there are always lots of mountain wild flowers and nice weather—although it did start getting warm later on (this was the first of two summits today). This, and the other, are both first time, never-activated summits which always has



some unknowns, but all worked out well. There were lots of people on the air, more than I expected for it being a day after a holiday. Anytime there are more contacts than minutes on air, it is a busy session. I didn't linger as I had the second summit to get to as well, and I knew it was warming up quickly.



Black Mountain "B" W7U/BE-046

Stats: 05/29/2018

Points: 6 (total=700)

Elevation: 7,580 ft

QSO's: 19

Farthest: 1,665 (GA)

Time on Air: 15 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

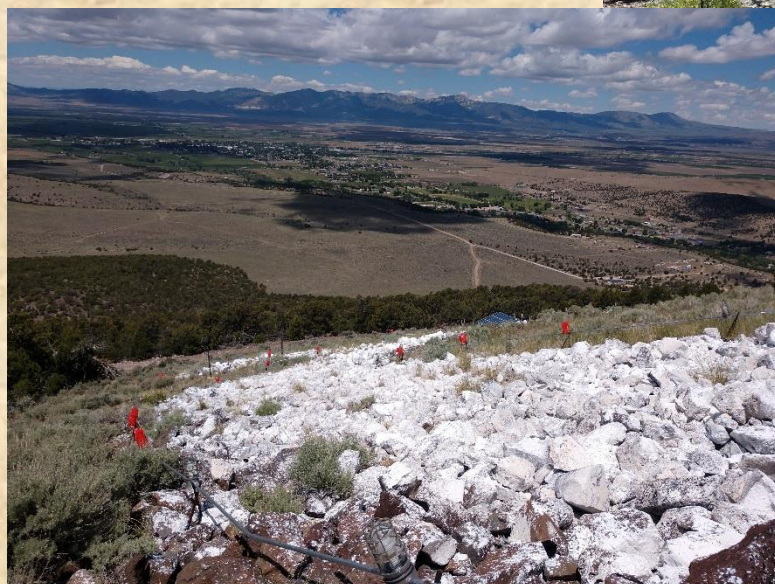
N3ZN QRP paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



Trail report: Access can be gained from the town of Beaver, UT going from Main St. to Hwy. 153 (200 North) then turning south on 1515 East which leads up quickly to the base of the mountain. This is the mountain with the huge "B" for Beaver on it and is easy to spot and follow the roads that lead to it. There is a rough and steep road that leads to the base of the "B" but caution should be taken as it certainly is not for all vehicles. Many just walk from the base. From the "B" there is no longer a trail to the top. The summit is basically straight up from the top of the "B" but although it is only a few hundred vertical feet, it's quite rocky and steep. The top has lots of trees, but enough open areas



in the activation zone to set up.

The experience: Second summit of the day and easy to reach since it's almost right in Beaver itself. The road to the "B" on ATV was pretty sketchy—made me worried about coming down. There were times when I had to just gun it to not get stuck and there was no place to turn off so it had to be all the way. The way back down wasn't as bad actually and I took it easy (as usual) so all was ok.

It was getting pretty warm at this point (around noon). The paint on the “B” made it quite bright as well. Lots of rock on the way up, so I went very carefully. I was getting tired and hot on this one. I took lots of breaks too. Once over the steep “lip” it wasn’t bad at all the last part. I set up and got on the air quickly. I only stayed on for 15 minutes because I wanted to get back at a certain time in the afternoon and I knew I would have to go down slowly. It was good though, and another summit

activated for the first time. I broke my goal of 50 first-time-ever summits with this day, making it to 51! Plus, now I’m at 700 points and should be done with the major goal in the next nine months.



Wolf Hole Mountain W7A/NM-035

Stats: 06/01/2018

**Points: 8 + 3 bonus
(total=711)**

Elevation: 6,416 ft

QSO's: 16

Farthest: 2,098 (NJ)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 3rd (my 2nd)



Trail report: Access is gained through the Arizona Strip area, either from the north or the south. Coming from southern Utah, I approached from the north. BLM Rd. 1069 goes all the way through the area and is a well-maintained dirt and/or gravel road. There is a large area to park just before starting up BLM 1038 (it is marked although the sign is worn) if you plan on using an ATV or other OHV (which isn't a bad idea). The road is fairly rough at times and would be slow going without one.



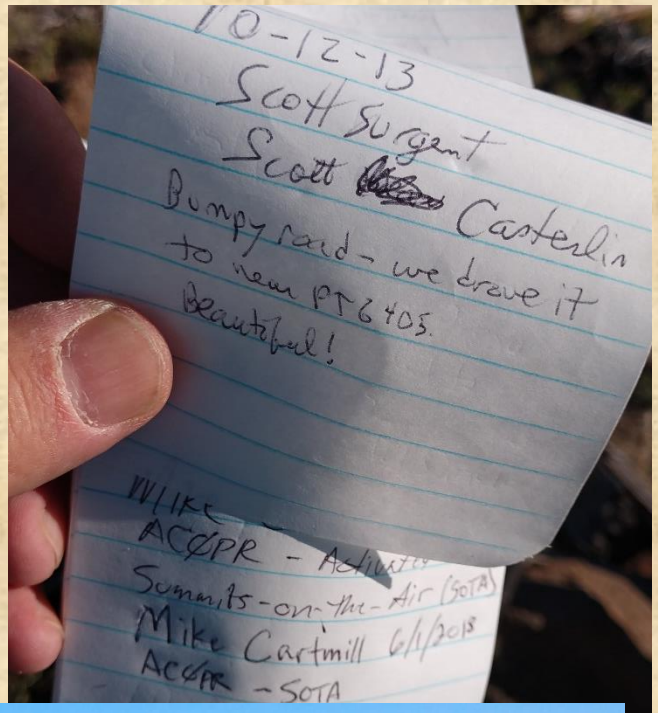
Once on BLM 1038 you follow it up all the way to the flat. You do have to leave it for another BLM road to head south to get within close distance of the summit. From the dirt road directly west of the summit it's only half a mile to the summit and a very gentle slope. There is a benchmark and registry at the top.

The area is covered with trees and brush, but no actual bush-whacking required with the spaces in-between them.

The experience: First of two next to each other for the day. Today is the start of summer bonus season in lots of Arizona, so I save these for the bonuses—22 points in one day and fairly easy. I left early to stay out of the heat of the day. The ride is just fine and the hike is an easy half mile. Because it was early though, not as many chasers on the air, but still went well. Nice day!



There is a registry at the top and no one has signed it since I was there last year—and before that the previous one was 2013 so not lots of action up there (the registry started in 1995, I didn't count all since then though). It was yet another good activation.



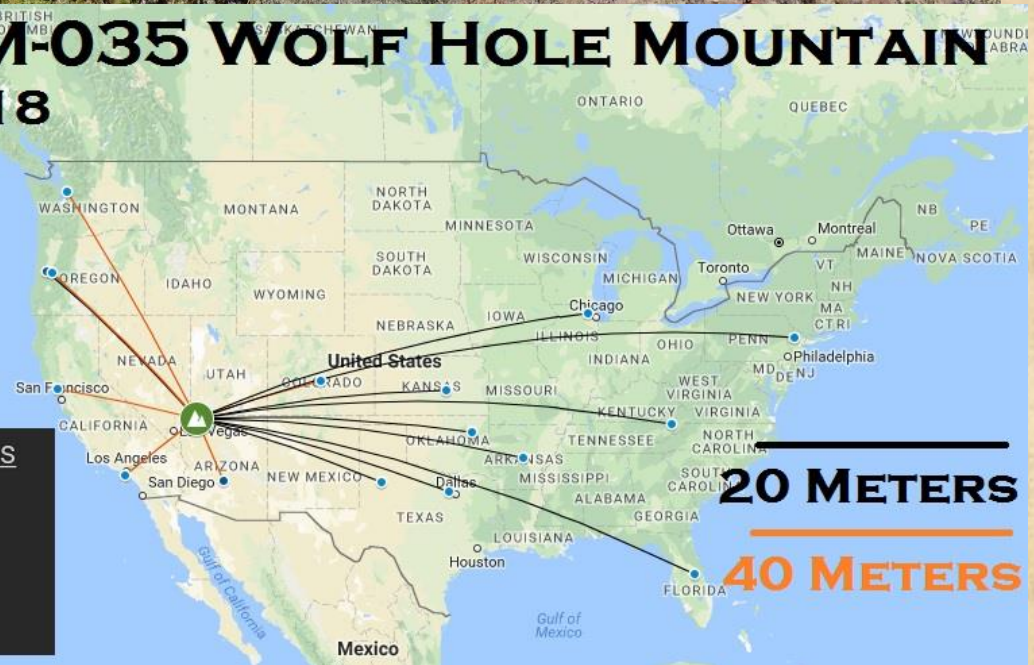
W7A/NM-035 WOLF HOLE MOUNTAIN

JUNE 1, 2018

16 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
2,098 MILES
30 MINS
4 WATTS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Poor	Fair
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor



Seegmiller Mountain W7A/AW-035

Stats: 06/01/2018

**Points: 8 + 3 bonus
(total=722)**

Elevation: 6,220 ft

QSO's: 16

Farthest: 1,431 (IN)

Time on Air: 45 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 4th (my 3rd)



Trail report: Access is gained from St. George and taking the Southern Parkway to the River Rd. exit. Heading straight south on the dirt road leads into the Arizona desert via the Mt. Trumbull Loop. This is a nice, wide dirt road and heads almost right to the base of the mesa on which Seegmiller stands. The mesa is large, and a rough canyon cuts through most of it so the route is a bit long. From there the FR-1020 route veers off towards the mesa and rises to the flat of the mesa.

This road is also pretty well-maintained. You'll notice the long, round-about way the road must go to avoid the canyon, but it does go all the way to the top where there are numerous towers and shacks. This does cause some interference but there is ample space to set up a station.



The experience: Second of two today (just like last year). It was a good, easy ATV ride from Wolf Hole Mountain to this one. The road goes all the way up. I was worried it was going to get too warm, but it wasn't bad. There were some gnats that made it annoying at times though. I decided to setup and get on the air first and take a few pictures after since I was behind the time posted. The cool part was I had four summit to summit contacts (wanted five from one other, but never connected—it's the reason I was on for so long). The down side is that the 20 meter band was too noisy to hear anyone at all (that's the one that gets me the far away contacts). It was still a good activation though.



W7A/AW-SEEGMILLER MT
JUNE 1, 2018

16 QSO's
FARTHEST:
1,431 MILES
4 S2S

4 WATTS
Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m	Poor	Fair
30m-20m	Fair	Fair
17m-15m	Poor	Poor
12m-10m	Poor	Poor

30 METERS
40 METERS

"Tomas Tower" W7A/NM-009

Stats: 06/04/2018

**Points: 8 + 3 bonus
(total=733)**

Elevation: 7,300 ft

QSO's: 23

Farthest: 2,106 (NJ)

Time on Air: 35 mins.

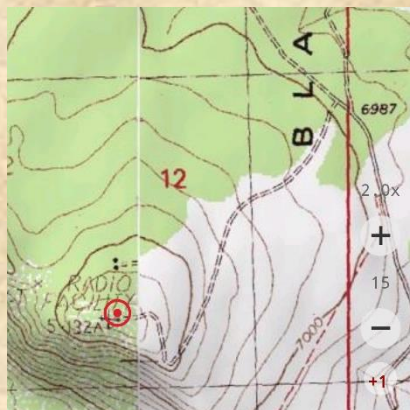
Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

Trail report: Access is gained one of two main ways: but I took this one--off of I-15 to the Southern Parkway (leading to St. George Airport) and then heading due south at the Arizona-Utah border on the Mt. Trumbull Loop in the Arizona strip area. From there you take the BLM 1004 which goes right up the mountain. This is a good dirt road all the way.

Although there is a nice road to the summit, there is a BLM gate that stays locked at the turnoff from BLM 1004



and the rest has to be hiked. The hike is easy

and not steep with the road going all the way. The top has a BLM fire lookout tower which is manned constantly during fire season. The antennas on top do cause interference. There are nearby rocks and brush a little away from the tower to setup. Spotty cell service. Nice views.



The experience: This one is out there a ways with no cell service, but it's not hard to get to. I was thinking of a second summit, but as I

AC0PR

10.112 CW

W7A/NM-009

15:57 GMT (4 hours ago)

RBNHOLE

*[RBNHole] at W7HR 23 WPM 30 dB SNR

8 pts.

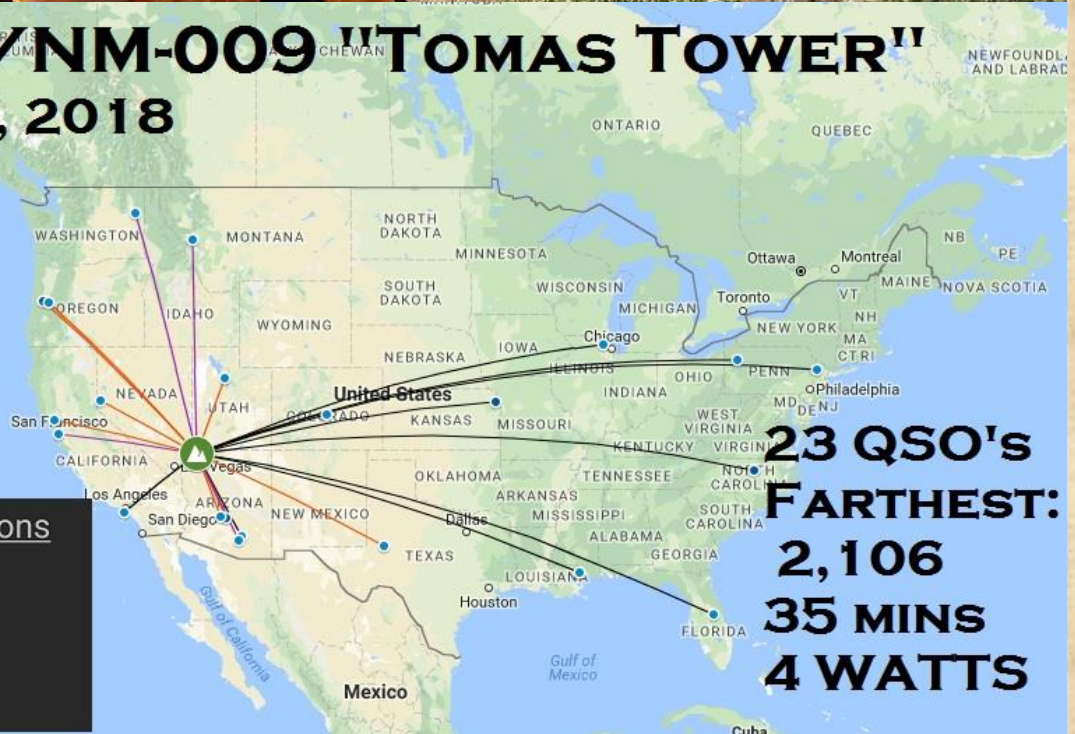
pulled up to park, my tire popped—not cool. I thought about changing the tire first, but I was worried about changing it, and going right back over whatever popped it (I couldn't find what it was). So I wanted to drive it on the road and change it there, but didn't want to leave the pickup that far into the road. In the end, I went up to the summit first.

There was no one in the tower this time. Saw a few Californian condors (near a deer carcass). With no cell service I relied on the Reverse Beacon Network to spot me which worked great. Had a decent run then got back down to deal with the tire. All went well with that and I took it extra easy on the way home.



W7A/NM-009 "TOMAS TOWER" JUNE 4, 2018

20 METERS
30 METERS
40 METERS



23 QSO's
FARTHEST:
2,106
35 MINS
4 WATTS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor

Yellowstone Mesa W7A/NM-062

Stats: 06/06/2018

**Points: 6 + 3 bonus
(total=742)**

Elevation: 5,651 ft

QSO's: 26

Farthest: 1,783 (PA)

Time on Air: 25 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)

Trail report: Access is gained from Highway 59 in Utah, which becomes Highway 389 in Arizona. The turn off is a few miles south of Colorado City, AZ onto county road 239 which heads due south for about 11 miles. This county road is a nice dirt road the entire way and can be taken by pretty much any vehicle. The road ends at an old gravel pit which is a mere 150 yards to the high point. There are two benchmarks at the top. Flat and rocky with a few short trees and a nice view from the edge.

The experience: This summit is one of the easier



ones, which is why I chose it while Joan is out of town, but it does take an hour and a half to get there. I went early enough that it wouldn't be too hot, but late enough for there to be people on the air. The main memorable part was coming across a diamond back rattlesnake. It wasn't aggressive or rattling, but coiled up getting some sun. It was near where I setup and I kept an eye on it the whole time. Plenty of contacts and an enjoyable breeze as well.

At the end I "shooed" the snake away some. It was mostly to make sure it was indeed a rattler as some others look similar.

Again, not angry or aggressive, but clearly a rattle snake as it went away. It was a good activation, and easy points.



W7A/NM-062 YELLOWSTONE MESA

JUNE 6, 2018

20 METERS

40 METERS

26 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
1,783 MILES
25 MINS
4 WATTS



Little Black Mountain W7A/NM-136

Stats: 06/11/2018

**Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=749)**

Elevation: 3,504 ft

QSO's: 15

Farthest: 1,962 (FL)

Time on Air: 35 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
N3ZN QRP paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 5th (my 3rd)



Trail report: I gained access by taking the Southern Parkway (leads to St. George, UT airport). There is a very new community being built to the northwest of the mountain. It was easy to access the mountain from that community.

Private property in the future may change the current accessibility. There is a barbed wire fence that is the Arizona-Utah border which I found pretty easy to cross. However, to



avoid it, you may continue to a point where you don't have to cross it in the neighborhood, but then you would have a farther hike. There



is no trail. Watch for cacti and loose rock. For some reason there are three benchmarks at the summit within 15 feet of each other.

The experience: This is a close and fairly easy one I save for summer bonus season. It's also one that does not present a lot of risk so I figured I'd do it while Joan was out of town. It was morning, but still pretty warm. The area below continues to be developed and it's harder to find an access point. When the construction is completed I'm not sure where access will be anymore as they go right along the border and all will be housing soon.

The hike is simple. Not many people on the air, but certainly enough to be successful. Saw a horny toad on the hike back down. Also got some cholla needles in my knee by not paying close enough attention. Good, simple one.





W7A/NM-136 Little Black Mt

DATE	TIME	FREQ	MODE	STATION WORKED	REPORT		COMMENTS
					SENT	RECD	
6/11/18	14:06	14.050	cw				
	09			W7ANA	599	599	
	11			W7GRI	599	599	
	13			W7WTE	329	329	
	20	7.027		W5BOS	599	599	TX
	21			W7FLV	599	569	
	21			K4MP	599	599	
	22			NW7R	599	559	
	25			K4SPVB	579	499	TX
	26			K6HPX	599	559	
	27			K27RE	599	559	
	27			K5BK	599	599	Fun Reno REA
	29			N66R	699	579	
	36	10.110		W6STR	559	559	
	42	14.059		K4MF	559	559	
	43			N3TCW	559	539	
	44			W1BOKIU	559		



W7A/NM-136 LITTLE BLACK MT.

JUNE 11, 2018

20 METERS

30 METERS

40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Poor	Poor
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor



15 QSO's
FARTHEST:
1,962 MILES
35 MINS
4 WATTS

Strawberry Point W7U/KA-006

Stats: 06/13/2018

Points: 8 (total=757)

Elevation: 9,016 ft

QSO's: 35

Farthest: 2,037 (NJ)

Time on Air: 35 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 3rd (my 3rd)

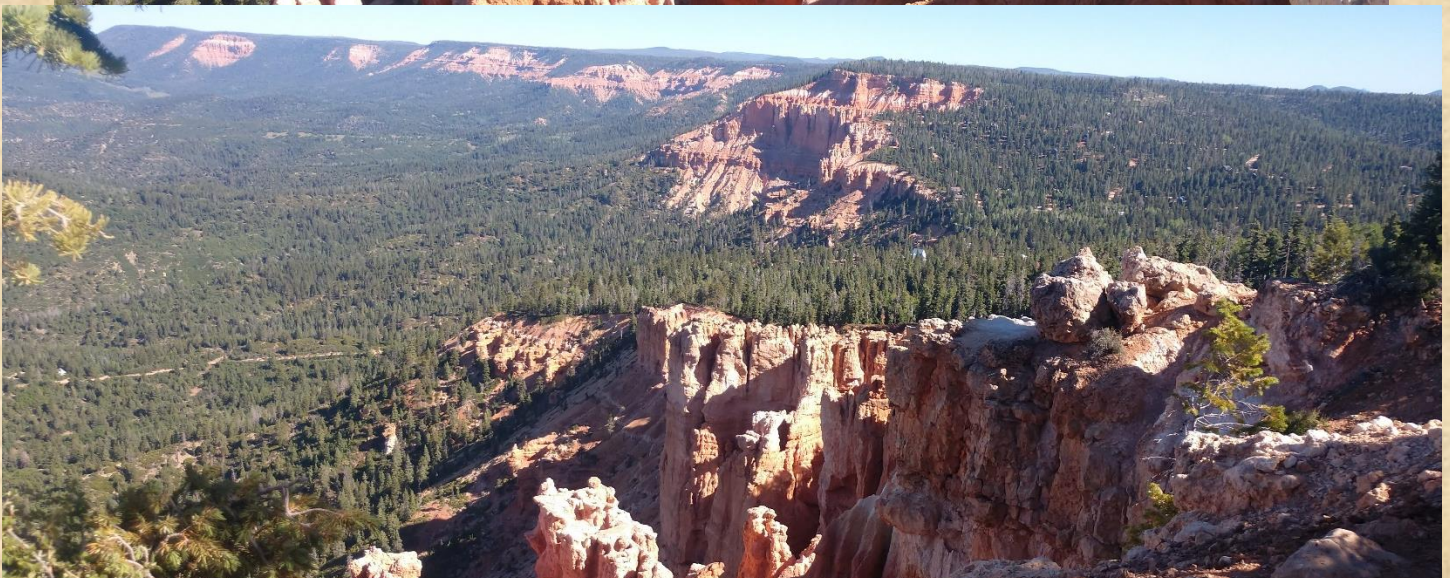


Trail report: There are two ways to reach the point, a long road along Strawberry Ridge (used for hunting) or the valley road (Strawberry Point Rd). WAY faster to take the valley road. This is one where you park on the top loop (a few parking spots) then a few hundred feet to the point. The actual point is rocky and extends out over an incredible view. Caution should be taken. There are a few trees nearby and a nice flat, dirt area to operate from.



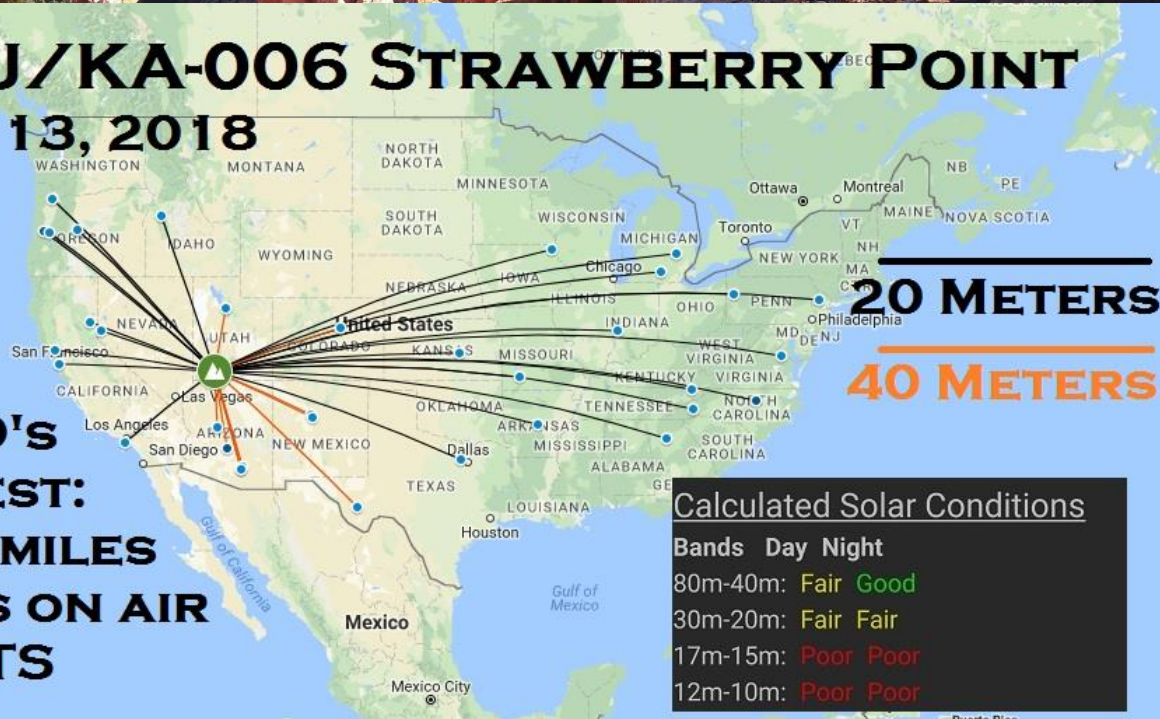
The experience: This was going to be my second summit, but the first ended up being inaccessible because of private property, so the plan was changed to make this the first. It

was nice to be up high with a hot day in St. George. Lots of people on the air, easy, fast, and a nice view.



W7U/KA-006 STRAWBERRY POINT

JUNE 13, 2018



35 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
2,037 MILES
35 MINS ON AIR
4 WATTS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor

Puerto Rico

Brian Head W7U/SU-016

Stats: 06/13/2018

Points: 10 (total=767)

Elevation: 11,307 ft

QSO's: 25

Farthest: 6,933 (NZ)

Time on Air: 45 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN QRP paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 20th (my 3rd)



Trail report: This is a very easy accessed summit as Brian Head is a popular ski resort town. From I-15 you can either take SR-14 from Cedar City then 143 or from Parowan take Highway 143. There is a road that goes all the way to the summit in good weather. Most vehicles can make this route. At the top there is a parking area and a stone shack which marks the actual highest point of the summit.

The experience: This was my backup for a second summit for the day. It was just 12 miles out of the way and worth 10 points, plus you can just drive all the way to the top. I got up there (no snow blocking the road this year) and took a few pictures and then set up in an area out of the way. There were a number of cars/people going to the top so I stayed away from the stone shack and setup using the loose rocks that are found along the edge. There were people on, and I got ZL1BYZ in New Zealand again, but the wind



knocked down the antenna twice. It was interesting though since I had two contacts while the wire was lying on the ground. Had a visitor for a while too from Texas, but that's always good. Nice day.



W7U/SU-016 BRIAN HEAD

JUNE 13, 2018

25 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
6,933 MI
(NEW ZEALAND)
4 WATTS

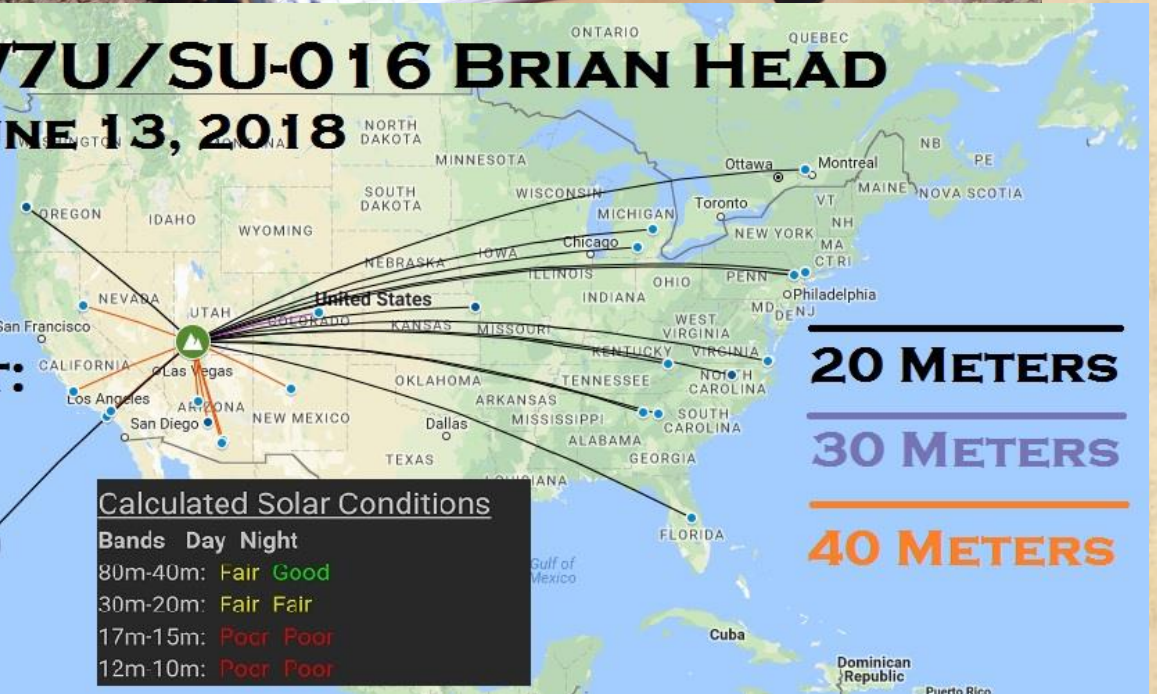
Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor

20 METERS

30 METERS

40 METERS



Eagle Peak W7U/IR-005

Stats: 06/18/2018

Points: 8 (total=775)

Elevation: 9,930 ft

QSO's: 24

Farthest: 2,085 (QC)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

AME paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)



Trail report: This summit is reached off of Hwy. 143 which is the route to Brian Head and Cedar Breaks National Monument. From there you take FR-204 which goes up Navajo Point. It is followed to the end as it T's into FR-265, taking the southern route. You continue past Sugarloaf Mt. While there are many turnoffs along the way, you stay on the main road the whole way. When the road turns straight north, you are at the base of the mountain. If you look at maps, you will see a route that gets you quite a bit closer (going past First Lake), however, it is a private road and is chained off with a "no trespassing" sign. I parked at the base and followed the open areas and used the tree line as a guide to the top. From there it is about 900 vertical



feet and only about a mile hike.



The experience: This was one of two today. It was pretty cool out when I started. It's a hefty hike, but got there right at the time planned. I decided to go for my "light pack" configuration—meaning I took a fishing pole instead of my normal Jackite mast and a much lighter key for Morse code—it makes the pack about 5lbs. lighter. The downside is the pole doesn't go as high and isn't as strong. I saw four deer—one a velvet buck. I didn't stay on long as I knew I had a second summit and I wanted to get back home on time. There were plenty of people on, even on a Monday morning, so it was easy to be done. Pics of First Lake and Cedar Breaks National Monument.



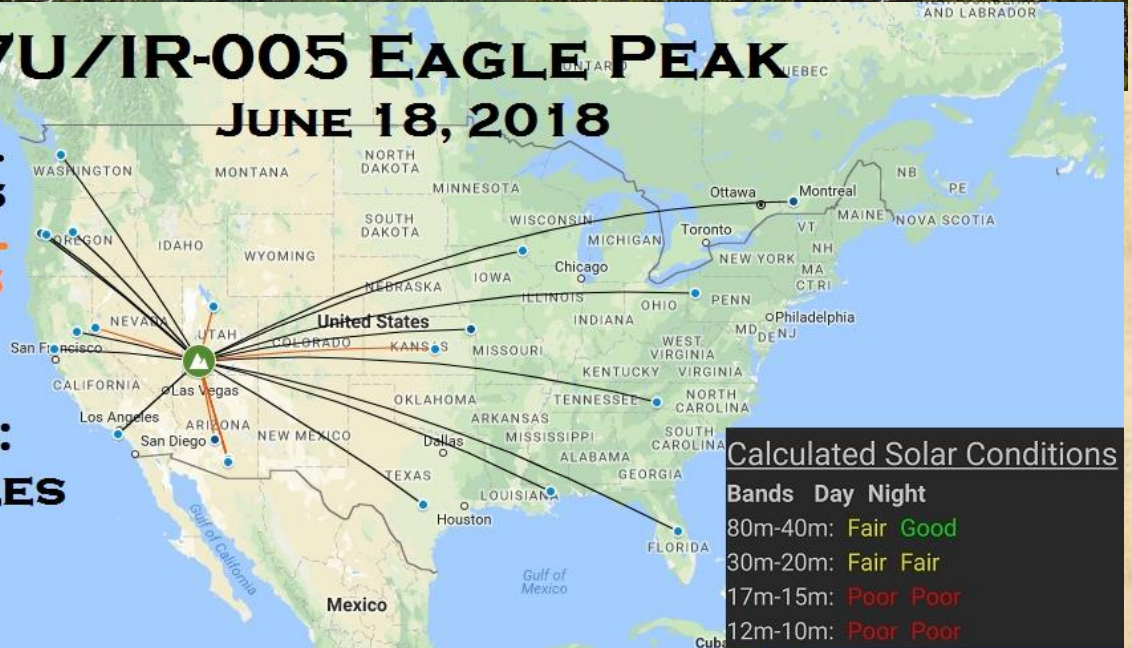
W7U/IR-005 EAGLE PEAK

JUNE 18, 2018

20 METERS

40 METERS

24 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
2,085 MILES
20 MINS
4 WATTS



Calculated Solar Conditions	
Bands	Day Night
80m-40m:	Fair Good
30m-20m:	Fair Fair
17m-15m:	Poor Poor
12m-10m:	Poor Poor

Navajo Point W7U/IR-002

Stats: 06/18/2018

Points: 10 (total=785)

Elevation: 10,575 ft

QSO's: 22

Farthest: 2,040 (NJ)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

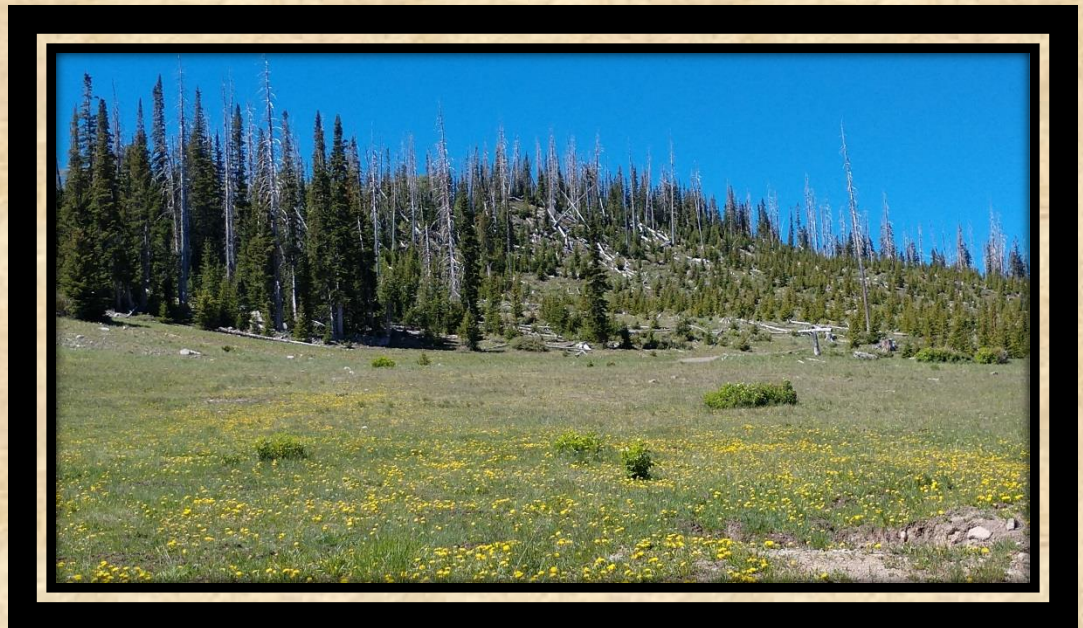
HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

AME paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 6th (my 3rd)



Trail report: Access in Brian Head using FR-204 which winds up the side of the mountain (used for skiing in the winter). There's an intersection and you just have to turn up towards the summit. The road is fairly well maintained and can be reached by most vehicles to this point. From here, an OHV trail gets you right at the base with only a few hundred vertical feet to go. I opted to park below and ride an ATV as far as it would take me. No trail to the top and heavily wooded. Once on top it is pleasant with shade from trees, a view of Cedar Breaks National Monument, and protection from wind, although there are often bugs and flies to deal with. It can be a little challenging to find a place to set up with longer wires with the trees, but is still doable.



The experience: The second of the day. It's actually on the way back to the pickup and is a much easier climb than the first mountain. It has tons of fallen trees to get around, but only a few hundred vertical feet. At the top you have to set up the wire in between trees. Again had the fishing pole mast, but it did ok. However, my paddle, which I changed from a while

ago because of problems with it, gave me problems again. The “dit” side of the paddle would skip or not send at all—making it very difficult to send properly. I fought through it and got a number of contacts, but I don’t think I’ll be using it again. I finished quickly to get back home—the Foster’s were coming over on their way home from Peru. Oh, I saw a red fox on the way up, only the third time ever for me.



W7U/IR-002 NAVAJO POINT JUNE 18, 2018

20 METERS

40 METERS

22 QSO's

**FARTHEST:
2,040 MILES**

20 MINS

4 WATTS

United States

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands Day Night

80m-40m: Fair Good

30m-20m: Fair Fair

17m-15m: Poor Poor

12m-10m: Poor Poor

Mustang Knoll W7U/NM-045

Stats: 06/22/2018

**Points: 8 +3 bonus
(total=796)**

Elevation: 6,100 ft

QSO's: 31

Farthest: 2,125 (NJ)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

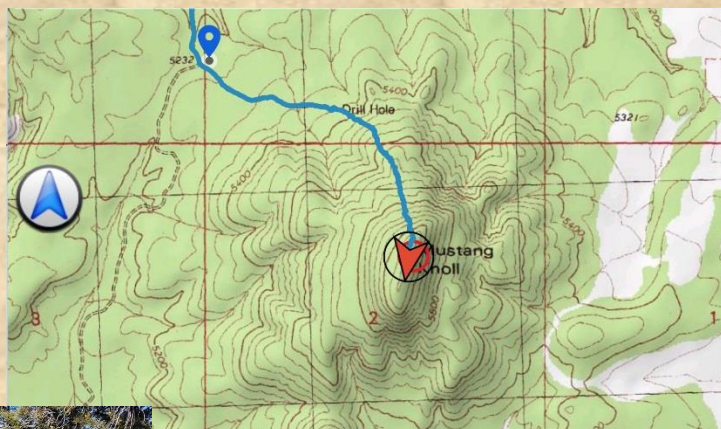
N3ZN qrp paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)



Trail report: Access is gained from the Southern Parkway which is the last exit in Utah off of I-15 before entering Arizona. The Southern Parkway leads to the St. George airport. From the Parkway you take Mt. Trumbull Loop (River Rd. exit) heading south into the Arizona strip. After 20 miles on this good dirt road, there is a turnoff onto BLM 1004. This road passes part of the mountain and then turns toward it. Before turning away from it again and before reaching the next butte, there is a rougher dirt road turn off (not named) that leads to the base of the mountain. It is not used often and could be easily missed. Only experienced 4x4 drivers should take the route.



The hike is rough, rocky at times. There are large and abundant trees, a little bushwhacking required. At the summit there are plenty of trees and rocks for erecting a mast.

The experience: This wasn't the original plan as it's been very hot lately, so I was going to go high up north, but we ended up with free movie tickets and I needed to be back. Still good though with 3 summer bonus points, although it did get hot quickly. I left home at 6:40am and luckily there was a bit of a breeze, so going up wasn't too hot. It's not an easy hike though. I used the fishing pole mast again to lighten the pack, but changed back to my regular CW key.

Plenty of contacts and I was done faster than expected. Since I knew I needed to get back, and it was getting hot early (got to 105° today), I didn't linger and got down carefully and got back home. Not bad for 11 points though. I did get to see two velvet bucks as well.

AC0PR	7.028 CW	W7A/NM-045
15:30 GMT (14 minutes ago)		RBNHOLE
*[RBNHole] at KB6VSE 23 WPM 3 dB SNR		8 pts.



W7A/NM-045 MUSTANG KNOLL

JUNE 22, 2018

31 QSO's
FARTHEST:
2,125 MI
30 MINS
4 WATTS

20 METERS

40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor

Horse Valley Peak W7U/IR-001

Stats: 06/25/2018

Points: 10 (total=806)

Elevation: 10,580 ft

QSO's: 20

Farthest: 2,029 (NJ)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN qrp paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 2nd (my 2nd)



Trail report: Access is gained from Highway 143 which runs between Panguitch and Cedar Breaks National Monument. At the far northeast end of Panguitch Lake, East Shore Rd leads through a few residences on the way to Horse Valley Rd. This is a dirt road, however it is used quite often and can be taken a far distance without the need of a 4x4. There are signs warning that it is not well-maintained and in poor weather caution should be taken. This road passes through some private land (Horse Valley), but the road is Forest Service (402) to gain access to the forest land on the opposite side of the valley. This road is difficult when wet or snowy. If one looks at a topo map or Google Earth, there is a logical turn-off (not named) to lead to the base of the mountain. The road is rougher than the main road.



The ascent is grassy and beautiful with many aspen trees, but it is also steep at times. Due to the Brian Head fire (2017), most of the brush was burned away, so no bushwhacking until it grows back. The top has trees and rocks to be used to erect an antenna.

The experience: The first of two for the day. It ended up being a hot one, even over 10,000 ft it was in the upper 80's. The hike was rough with it being warm, about 1,100 vertical feet.

As usual, because there were two summits, I kept this one shorter than normal, so only on 20 mins. But I did get a summit to summit in Missouri though. I almost didn't do the second summit because I was tired and it was just getting warmer, but it was an easier one and I had come a long way.



Haycock Mountain W7U/GA-018

Stats: 06/25/2018

Points: 8 (total=814)

Elevation: 9,047 ft

QSO's: 14

Farthest: 6,946 (New Z)

Time on Air: 15 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

N3ZN qrp paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 3rd (my 2nd)



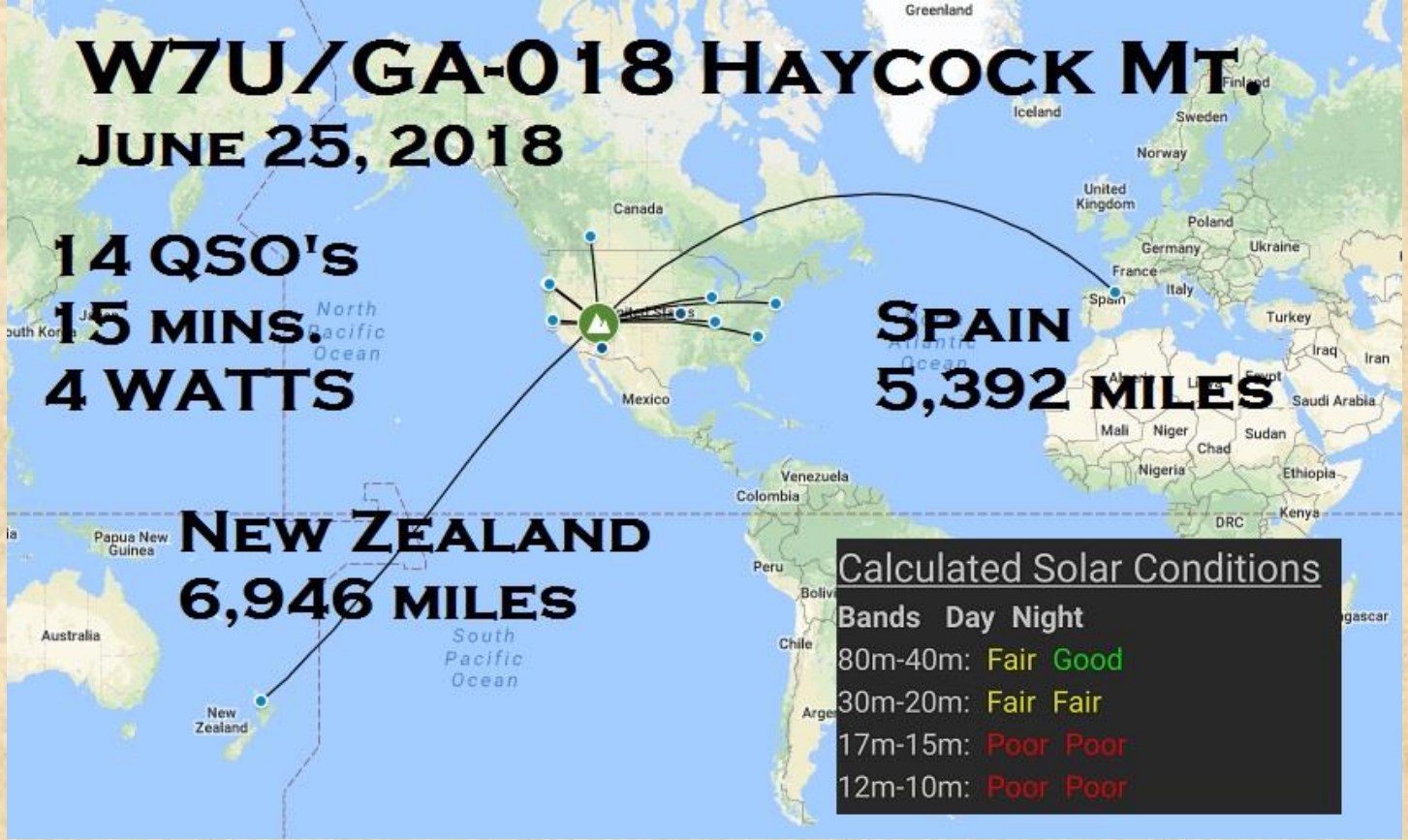
Trail report: Access is gained by a couple of paths, for me it was from Brian Head heading towards Cedar Breaks National Monument (Hwy. 143). This goes past Panguitch Lake. After completely passing the lake, take FR-070. You reach a sign for the area with regulations, etc. This is the place where I parked to use the ATV on FR-074. It is a multi-use mountain dirt road, but is best with an OHV of some kind. This leads to the base of the mountain (the highest part (SOTA summit) is NOT the part traditionally marked as Haycock Mt. such as on Google).

From the point of leaving the road, it is a straight shot up to the summit with only a few hundred vertical feet, although it is heavily wooded with aspens and evergreens. There are a couple of game trails that can lead through this area, although downed trees still make it challenging. Near the actual summit you open up into a clearing though. The summit proper is in the brush at the top. There is a benchmark, but the brush has grown all round it so you have to hack and weave your way to it.



The experience: Second of the day, and hot. I decided to try a different route this time—big mistake. I came across acres of downed trees on top of downed trees, and thick. Nearly impossible to pass. That wore me out. As I mentioned on the previous summit, I almost didn't do this one because it was hot and I was tired, but I wasn't going to let the trees stop me. I finally made it to the top and set up in the shade and just relaxed while I worked, which also wasn't long because I wanted to get back to the cold water I had waiting in the pickup. I was only on a short while, but get New Zealand and Spain as part of my 14

contacts. Very successful in that respect. It was good to be done—
think I'll take a break a while.



Starvation Point W7U/NM-134

Stats: 07/03/2018

**Points: 4 + 3 bonus
(total=821)**

Elevation: 3,581 ft

QSO's: 18

Farthest: 2,262 (NH)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

**HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)
Linked dipole
Pico paddle
LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 5th (my 3rd)



Trail report: Access is gained off of I-15, with the Black Rock Rd. exit which is the first exit in Arizona as you head south from Utah. The start of the dirt road trail is right off the exit. The road is more of a 4x4 road. It turns into a jeep trail after the first couple of miles. It can be done by mountain bike or OHV.

The experience: This was an early one since it's been hot for weeks—like rarely below 100 degrees as the high, but I wanted to get one in and get the summer bonus points as well and this is really close (I was back home by 9:30am). It's an ATV ride to the top almost



right off I-15. It was a little breezy so not bad at all. This was also the first time I was trying a new paddle, called the Pico Paddle, since my other ones either aren't working well or are quite heavy. This one connects magnetically and is very light and small. It

worked great, I just need to get used to the size and lighter touch. Stayed on for 20 mins and got back down before it started getting too hot.



Wilson Peak W7U/SU-036

Stats: 07/07/2018

Points: 8 (total=829)

Elevation: 9,034 ft

QSO's: 23

Farthest: 2,148 (VT)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 6th (my 2nd)



Trail report: This summit is easily accessed taking Highway 89 towards Bryce Canyon National Park and then route 12 a few miles short of the park. Once off route 12 the dirt road is pretty decent and leads right to the base of the road that goes all the way up to the top. This road is a little rougher with some ups and downs. The summit has a number of antennas and on the highest point is an FAA air traffic control station. It is flat enough on top to find an area to setup in the activation zone without getting too close to the different antennas.

The experience: The first of two today. This is a quick and easy one which I wanted to do first as I had a first-time ever summit following it.



There were storms on the way up, but all cleared up for the rest of the day by the time I reached this summit. I wasn't sure if I was going to be really quick if storms came up or if I could take a little longer. Keeping my eye on the sky, it was ok and I was able to have a regular activation. Saw a grouse that was too afraid to move on the way up and a pronghorn on the way down. Pretty simple and fast, but had another one to get to.



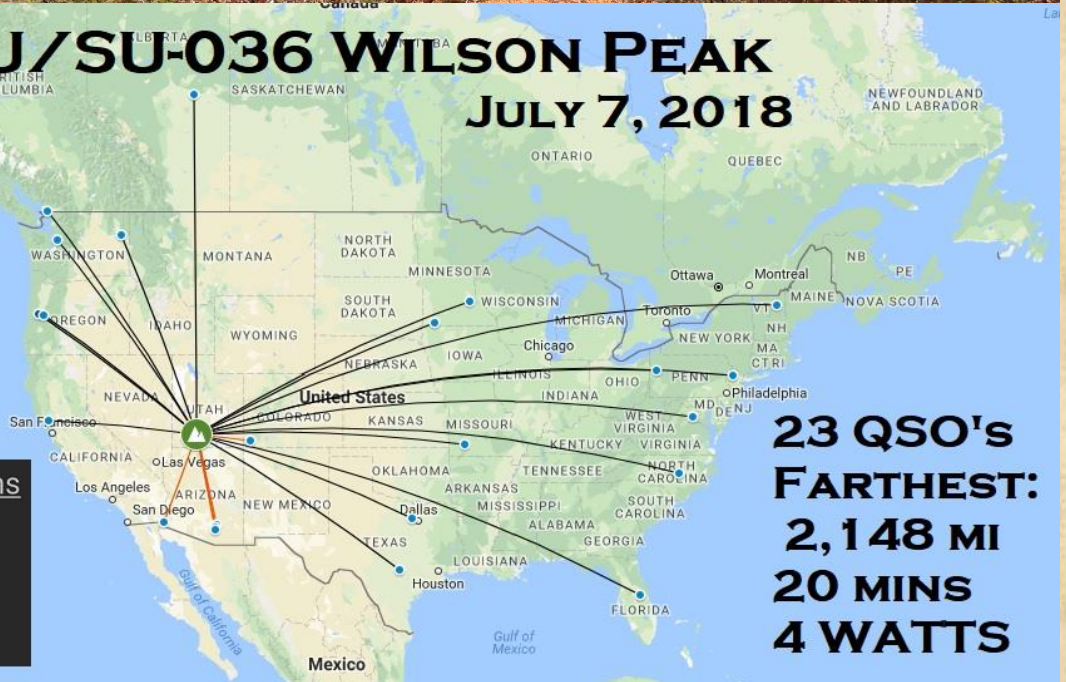
W7U/SU-036 WILSON PEAK JULY 7, 2018

20 METERS

40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor



23 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
2,148 MI
20 MINS
4 WATTS

Hatch Mountain W7U/GA-019

Stats: 07/07/2018

Points: 6 (total=835)

Elevation: 8,672 ft

QSO's: 25

Farthest: 2,024 (NJ)

Time on Air: 45 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st



Trail report: As the name suggests, this summit is accessed from the town of Hatch, UT, Hwy 89 runs through the middle of town. From Highway 89 you take Hatch Mountain Road (just north of town). This is a dirt road that does eventually lead to the summit, although there are many off-shoot roads and the road gets progressively worse and you go up. It is an easy grade and no steep portions. There will be a point that it is really a Jeep/OHV road at about 4 miles shy of the summit. Once on the summit there is a fence line that can be used to prop up an antenna or there are a few bushes/smaller trees that



could be used.

The experience: This was the second of the day, and although it wasn't worth as much as the first one, it's a first ever activation, which are always special and has unknowns. However, this wasn't a hard one and no real hike as I could drive to the top. It's one of those sloping slowly summits that doesn't seem like anything until you

reach the top. Some nice views from the summit. I saw two does on the trip. I had three summit-to-summit contacts which are always cool too. Good activation and a good trip.



W7I/SI-143 "Malad Radio Tower"

Stats: 07/10/2018

Points: 4 (total=839)

Elevation: 7,169 ft

QSO's: 10

Farthest: 1,352 (IN)

Time on Air: 10 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st



Trail report: This summit is accessed from the town of Malad City, Idaho taking Highway 38 just past Holbrook Summit. Just

past it, there is a dirt road to the north that leads to the base of the last part of the hill. It had a sign, but I don't recall the name. It's a good road, but a 4x4 will be needed once at the top of the first, longer portion of the road and would be helpful from the beginning. Once the saddle is reached, there are a couple of roads, but for this summit you take a right turn. The road is not as improved, but leads to the top where there are a



number of antennas. There are some trees/bushes and other objects to secure an antenna.

The experience: This was a new one on the way to Rexburg since the folks are coming home from Peru tomorrow. I wanted a fast, easy one (drive up) so I could then continue on

the trip. Mountain roads can be iffy, but this turned out to be fine. It was hot (90's) even in high Idaho, so I didn't stay long. Plus there was a second summit nearby I was going to try, and of course, I wanted to get back on the road too. This one, even though quite simple, had never been activated, so glad I got to be the one.

I had ten contacts and then switched to 40 meters. After calling CQ for 5 minutes with no reply, decided to just move on to the next one. I did get one summit to summit contact though.



"Malad VOR" W7I/SI-135

Stats: 07/10/2018

Points: 4 (total=843)

Elevation: 7,271 ft

QSO's: 11

Farthest: 1,852 (NC)

Time on Air: 20 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st



Trail report: This

summit is accessed from the town of Malad City, Idaho taking Highway 38 just past Holbrook Summit. Just



past it, there is a dirt road to the north that leads to the base of the last part of the hill. It had a sign, but I don't recall the name. It's a good road, but a 4x4 will be needed once at the top of the first, longer portion of the road and would be helpful from the beginning. Once the saddle is reached, there are a couple of roads, but for this summit you go straight and once at the bottom take a right and stay on the main, good road. This leads to the top where there is an FAA VOR station. There are trees or a nice

group of rocks that work well for setting up a station.

The experience: This was the second on the trip home to Rexburg stopping in Malad. I actually took a wrong turn and ended up on a Jeep trail, once I saw my error and got back to the right place, the road was much better. It was an easy one. The clouds helped it not be so hot, so I stayed a little longer, but still only got 11 contacts.

At least I got one summit to summit as well here. Setting up was easier with a few large rocks that were flat like a table—makes it easy to operate. This was another 1st ever activation, so two in one shot made me pretty happy and eight easy points as well. Off to Rexburg!



Menan Butte W7I/ER-098

Stats: 07/14/2018

Points: 2 (total=845)

Elevation: 5,619 ft

QSO's: 22

Farthest: 2,019 (NH)

Time on Air: 35 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 3rd (my 2nd)



Trail report: Approached from the south end (lower elevation lip of the butte) where there is a small parking lot and trailhead. It can be seen from the road but is a little tricky since a few entryways go to houses instead of the lot. The trail is well-traveled and some parts are "slippery" with small volcanic pebbles on smooth, hard rock at times. Not a strenuous climb with a few informational markers along the way. The summit is where all the towers are located (of course). There is a benchmark at the top.

The experience: Nice hike with Dad and Bob while visiting Rexburg. We left Rexburg at about 7:30am so it was nice and cool. It was a good hike and there were quite



a few hikers around. I was the first to reach the top to try and get the station setup. Bob got there before I started. There was a contest on air, but I was able to find a nice, open frequency and got more contacts on 20m than I thought I would. Not many on other bands, but spent a good amount of time on top. Dad made it to the summit before I stopped so we took a picture.

They started back down to get a bit of a head start and then I packed up and met them before they reached the bottom. It was a nice activity for us on a very nice day.



Kelly Mountain W7I/ER-092

Stats: 07/16/2018

Points: 4 (total=849)

Elevation: 6,805 ft

QSO's: 26

Farthest: 1,913 (NJ)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



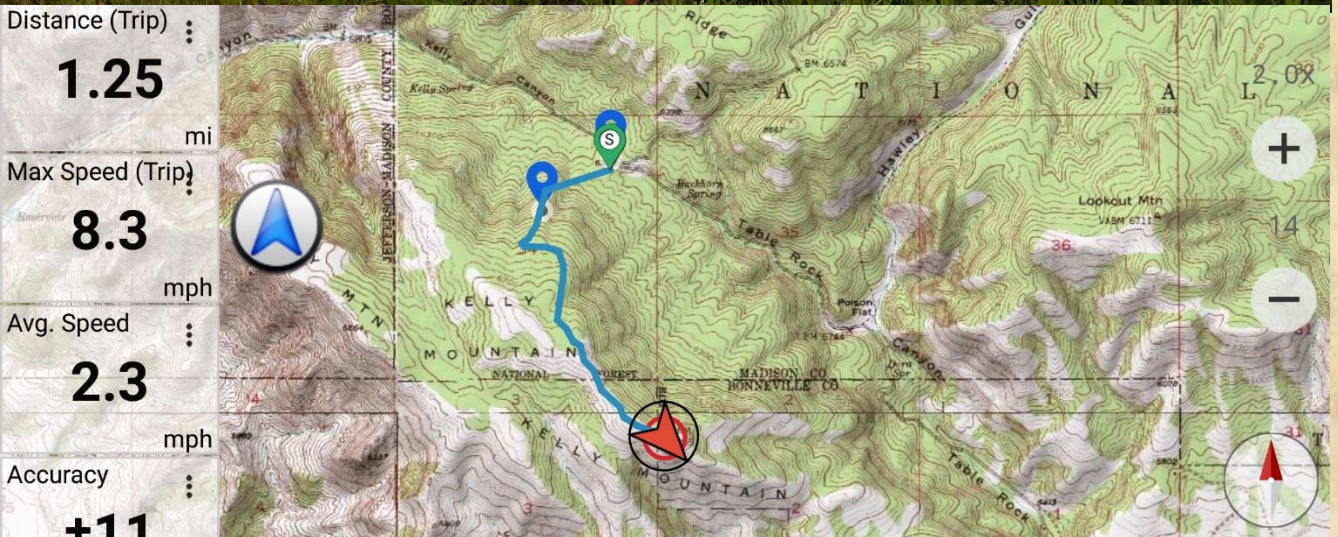
Trail report: This mountain is accessed through Ririe or Heise, Idaho. If you follow signs leading to Kelly Canyon ski resort that is the right way to go. As you continue past the ski resort, soon you enter Targhee National forest and the paved road ends. The forest road (218) is well maintained and is a good dirt road. After only a mile you reach an intersection and a large parking area (also restrooms) where you can park and start the hike. No motor vehicles are allowed up the route that leads to the top (and it is gated not far after the parking area). The hike is pleasant and not very steep. Lots of flowers in summer, nice snowshoe area in winter. You can follow the Jeep trail all the way but there are some short cuts that are



obvious and will cut down on hiking time. You will pass an antenna station along the way. The very top is open and has great views.

The experience: I left the folks' place before 7am, but it was raining just a bit. The forecast said it would be intermittent and not last long, so I decided to at least drive to the base and see from then. It rained more on the way, but when I got to the base, I saw openings and that, indeed, it wouldn't last long so decided to hike. It was very nice with LOTS of wild flowers. I had to put on my rain jacket at one point, but kept going up. The forest isn't quite as dense the closer you get to the

top and the clouds were getting better. About halfway, you've gotten almost all the elevation done and just need to get horizontally to the top. I thought there was a marker, but there was just a pile of rocks. I set up quickly after a few pictures on got on the air. Plenty of contacts! It was fun and relaxing. I was done early and started back down. By this time the sun was out and it started warming up, but pleasantly.



City Creek Peak W7U/BE-002

Stats: 07/21/2018

Points: 10 (total=859)

Elevation: 11,161 ft

QSO's: 24

Farthest: 2,015 (QC)

Time on Air: 45 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



Trail report: This summit is accessed from either the town of Beaver to the west or Junction to the east. I approached from Beaver which I-15 runs through. You take Highway 153 which goes east up into a long canyon. It's a good, paved road all the way to Puffer Lake, which is quite close to the summit. The highway continues on but it is a dirt road at that point. Still a good road. You will reach the turn-off in an open, flat area and take FR-514 then an near-immediate hard left on FR-129. A search on Google Earth will show a turn-off that leads up to a higher, closer point which I would advise to take. There is a sign saying it is a quiet



area so no ATV or dirt bikes. I made it to the end without using 4-wheel-drive.

From there the hike is through a treed area and you'll reach a set trail. You follow the trail for a short time until you reach an intersection. There is a sign showing the two trails, but this is where I left the trail and headed upwards to the summit. From this point it's not even 600 vertical feet. The area is open and it is easy to see the best path. Beautiful views.

There is a registry at the summit.

The experience: This was a kind of last-minute pick for a summit as my friend Ryan, K7ODX, the SOTA Association Manager for Utah, posted he was going to finish Mountain Goat today (first for Utah). I wanted to be able to contact him for a summit-to-summit contact for that. He was going to activate a 10-pointer that had never been done before, so I chose this 10-pointer in the south that had never been done before.



It was a very nice hike, beautiful weather. Saw a really nice velvet buck on the way, and a doe later on. Once out of the trees, the hike was clear and nowhere near as rocky as I thought. I set up, took some pictures/video and got on the air right on time. Good activity on the air on 20m. I switched to 40m, which I would use to contact Ryan, but had antenna issues. I couldn't get an SWR match, which means most of my power was getting lost along the way. I spent 15-20 mins. trying to figure it out, but still had trouble. By then Ryan was on and I decided just to try anyway and was able to get him, thankfully, as well as George, KXØR, on summit in Colorado. I worked a few more and called it day. Great one!



W7U/BE-002 CITY CREEK PEAK

JULY 21, 2018

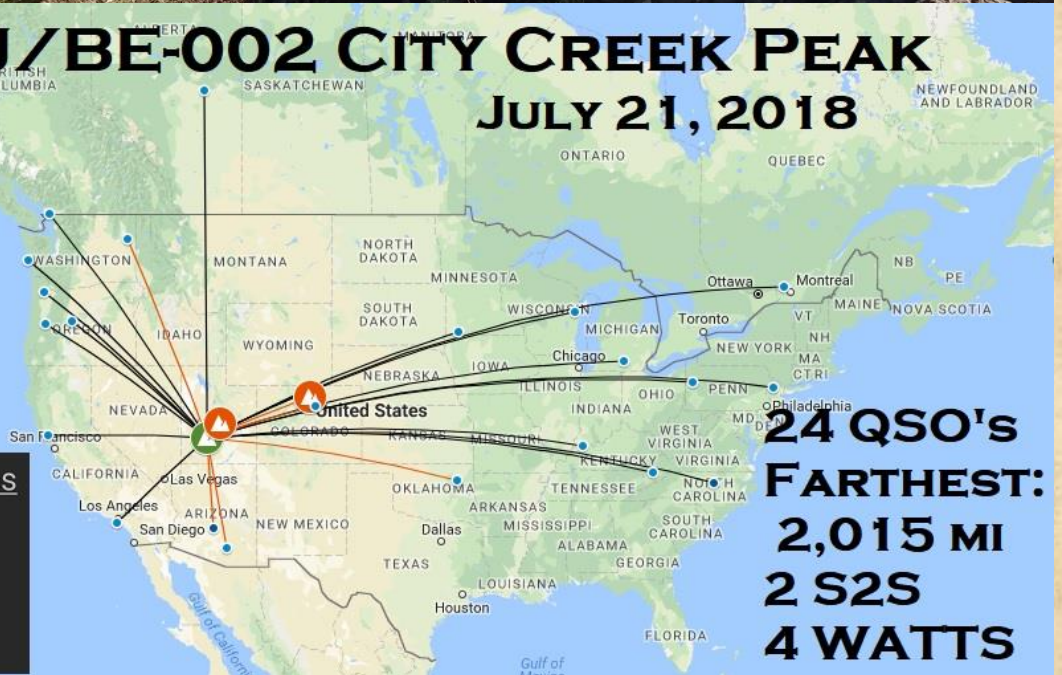
20 METERS

40 METERS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Poor	Fair
30m-20m:	Fair	Fair
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor

24 QSO's
FARTHEST:
2,015 MI
2 S2S
4 WATTS



Bishop Mountain W7I/ER-079

Stats: 08/02/2018

Points: 6 (total=865)

Elevation: 7,810 ft

QSO's: 39

Farthest: 2,004 (FL)

Time on Air: 35 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st



Trail report: This summit is accessed from Highway 20 in the Island Park area whether coming from the north or the south. The road west you take is marked as Antelope Flats Road and has a large historical marker at the entrance. This is a dirt/gravel road that does have some potholes but is generally a good road. You will pass one major intersection, but you just go straight. This road leads to the flats of course (don't take any of the side roads), where you will reach a "Y" intersection with signs. You go right and are at the base of the mountain and on Bishop Mountain road which leads to the top. The road does get worse at times, but a 4x4 is not needed in good weather.



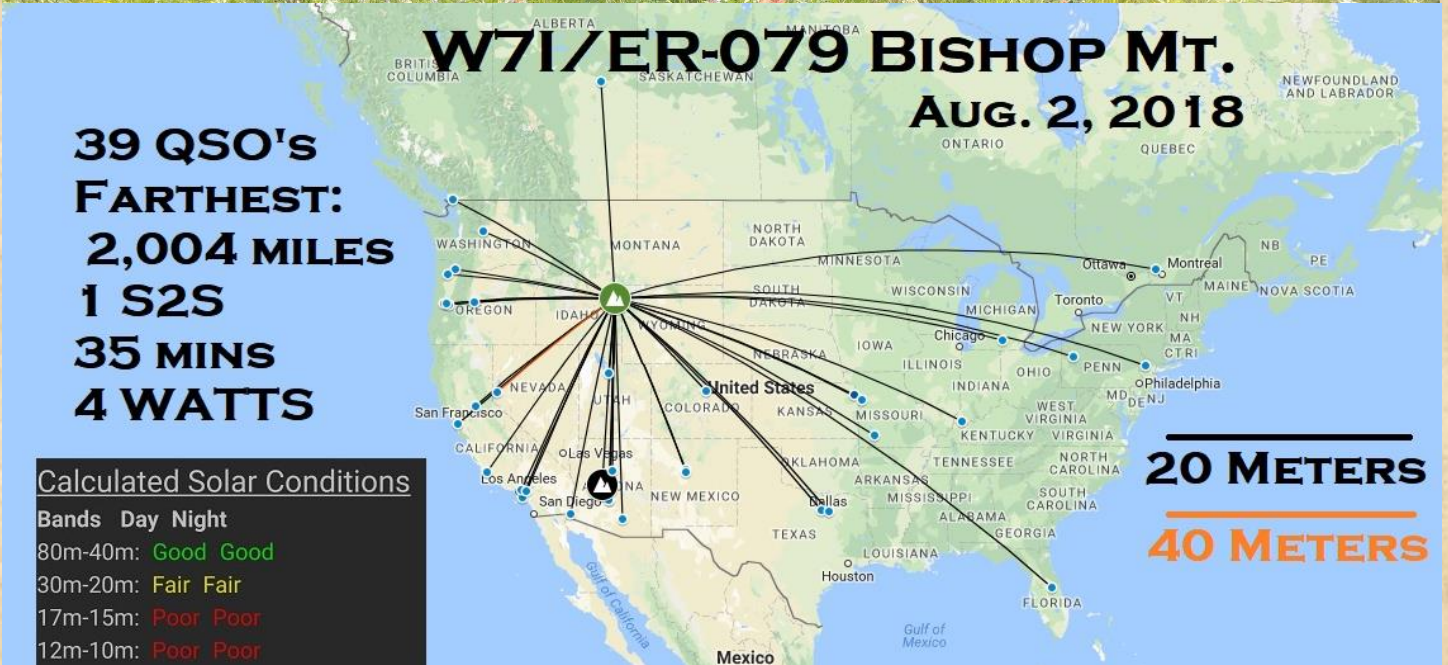
The top is home to an old fire watchtower and has a cabin and a few structures and picnic tables at the top. Lots of trees only a few glimpses of good views. There is a benchmark in the center under the tower, but is fenced and locked.

The experience: Dad and I took a break from elk hunting, which wasn't going well, and we went up for this summit which hadn't been activated yet. It's up in the Island Park area and didn't take too long before we found the road we needed. It was a bit bumpy at times and really nice at others. We saw a few deer as we made our way up. Lots of wild flowers and generally just nice area, although heavily wooded at times. We eventually made it to the top where there were some young Forest Service rangers working on a picnic bench.

I used a small tree to setup the antenna and Dad helped get it out and up. There were lots of people on, and the



bands were odd in that I could hear everyone, close or far. I had a run of over 35 contacts before even having a break or needing to call CQ. I only got one contact on 40m which isn't odd since all the usual ones had already contacted me. We took a few pictures and then headed home, very successful!



“Swallowtail Hill” W7U/WS-062

Stats: 08/10/2018

Points: 4 (total=869)

Elevation: 6,886 ft

QSO's: 34

Farthest: 2,221 (MA)

Time on Air: 40 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st



Trail report: This summit is accessed from Highway 219 which passes through Enterprise, UT. From 219 you take Veyo Shoal Creek Road which leads to Enterprise Reservoir. You continue on Reservoir Rd. and then you start to enter forest road areas. FR-003 leads to the base of the mountain, a place called Cougar Pass. It's some 12 miles in from the forested area. The road is wide but a 4x4 is recommended in spots or some kind of OHV. There is a nice open area to park/camp at Cougar Pass. From there the hike is only some 550 vertical feet. You can see the summit clearly and no bushwhacking required with careful route choice. Only rocks and bushes at the summit for antenna setup. There is cell service from the summit.



The experience: This is my last summit before work starts up again for the semester. I thought about a long, multi-summit trip, but decided just to get this one done inside my own county. It seemed so far out there. It was like a 45-minute ATV ride once I was in the area. I admit it does make me a bit nervous being that far out. I didn't come across anyone until I was almost back and saw some campers. I did see six does, one fawn, and a turkey on the

way out.

The hike was simple, although not “easy” per se. There were plenty of people on the air. I knew a couple of activators were supposed to get on at the same time I was going to be on, and finally, when I was close to getting ready to leave, they came on and I got a few summit-to-summit contacts. As I was operating, a shadow kept distracting me. I turned to see what it was and a HUGE swallowtail butterfly was checking out the brightly colored SOTA flag. I went to get video of it, but by the time I was ready, it was leaving—thus the summit nickname. (NOTE: all summits in quotation marks are nicknames, not official names, because they have no name, just a number). It was a good day, and I got out of there before it started getting hot.



Lost Spring Mountain W7A/NM-059

Stats: 08/16/2018

**Points: 6 + 3 bonus
(total=878)**

Elevation: 5,708 ft

QSO's: 26

Farthest: 1,944 (FL)

Time on Air: 40 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 1st



Trail report: This summit is very near the border of Utah and Arizona. It's accessed by Highway 59 from Utah or 389 from Arizona (same highway) just south of Colorado City. From there you take Mt. Trumbull Loop road (a good dirt road) but instead of turning south you continue west to the base of the mountain. The roads are no longer named from that point, but there is a "main" road that leads to the summit. Once into the forested area, it's about 12 miles. The road goes from sandy to rough rock numerous times. It can be traveled with an OHV or jeep, but a regular 4x4 would take a really long time and would be iffy at times. The road will get within 50 yards of the summit. There



are two benchmarks marking the top. Plenty of rocks and trees to setup an antenna. Nice views of the area.

The experience: This was my second attempt at this summit. The first time, about a year ago, I got nervous with how far in it is (an hour of ATV riding) and there was a really rough part of the route that made me turn around. After another year's worth of experience, I figured I would just take it easy and be ok. The odd thing is I couldn't really remember where I



turned around before and once I was at a place I knew I hadn't been, I didn't even notice passing through a place that was too rough. After the long ride I made it to the end of the mesa. Very cool views! I walked up to the top, took some pictures and got on the air.

Plenty of people on, and had three summit-to-summit contacts in IL and CO. It's good to conquer a place that made you turn around before. I probably won't go back, but glad I did it.



W7A/NM-059 Lost Spring Mt.

AUG. 16, 2018

26 QSO's
FARTHEST:
1,944 MILES
3 S2S
30 MINS
4 WATTS

Calculated Solar Conditions

Bands	Day	Night
80m-40m:	Fair	Good
30m-20m:	Poor	Poor
17m-15m:	Poor	Poor
12m-10m:	Poor	Poor



"Crewcut Butte" W7A/NM-047

Stats: 08/18/2018

**Points: 6 + 3 bonus
(total=887)**

Elevation: 5,951 ft

QSO's: 26

Farthest: 2,245 (VT)

Time on Air: 30 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 1st

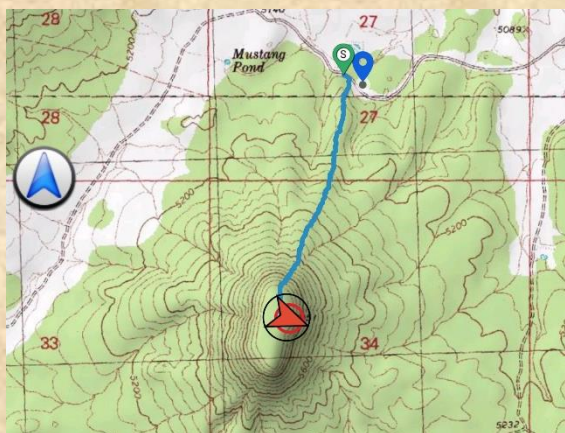


Trail report: Access is gained from the Southern Parkway which is the last exit in Utah off of I-15 before entering Arizona. The Southern Parkway leads to the St. George airport. From the Parkway you take Mt. Trumbull Loop (River Rd. exit) heading south into the Arizona strip. After 20 miles on this good dirt road, there is a turnoff onto BLM 1004. This road passes Mustang Knoll and then turns toward the mountain and gets you within a mile. You park just off the main road and start the hike almost due north of the mountain.

The hike is rough, rocky at times and gets steeper as you progress. There is a little bushwhacking depending on the route chosen and a bit of scrambling the last 100 vertical feet or so. At the summit there are



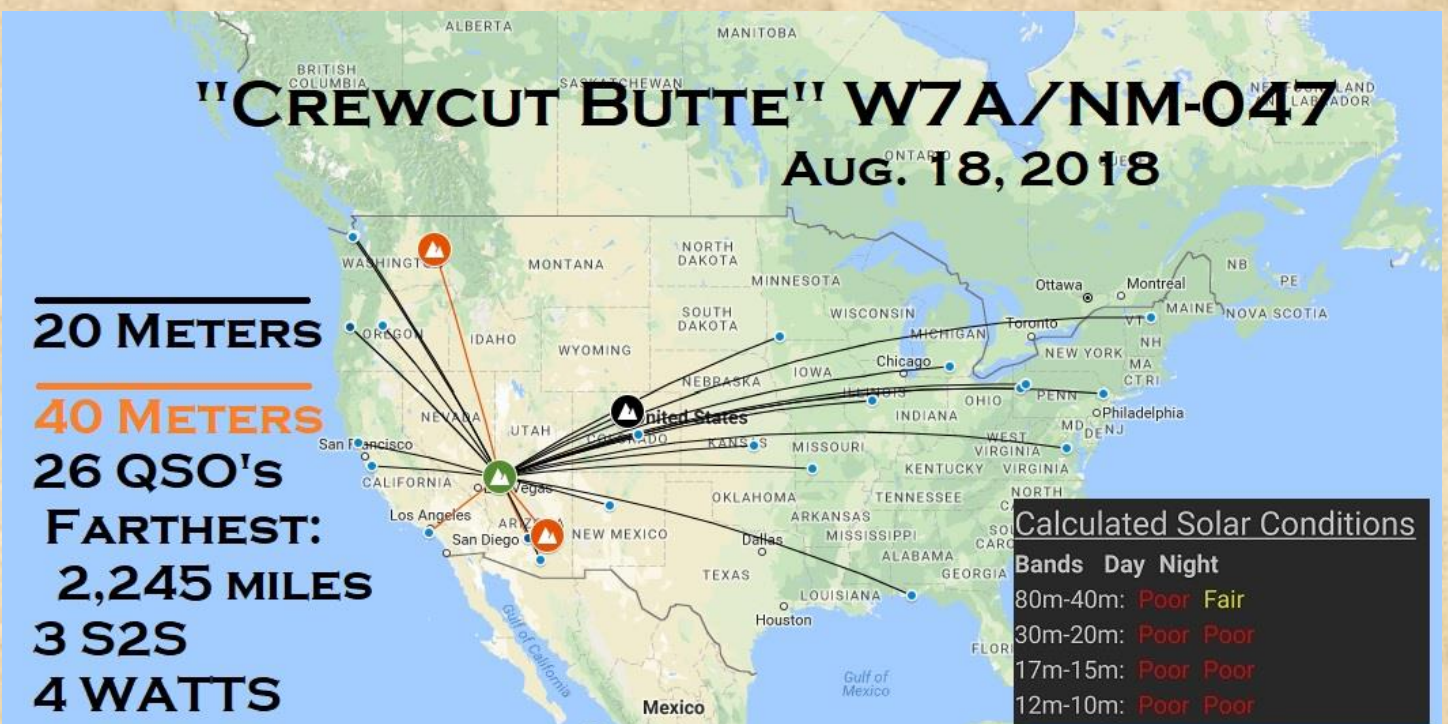
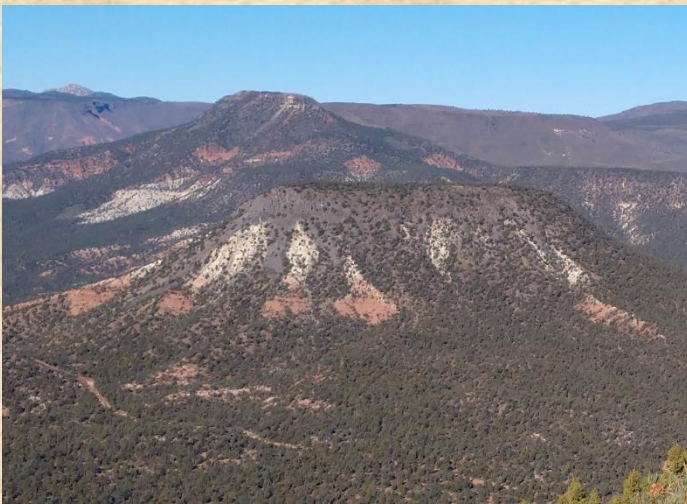
plenty of trees for putting up an antenna.



The experience: This was one I've planned on for quite a while. From looking at it (from on top of another mountain), I could tell the top part was pretty steep so I kept doing other summits. With this being one of the last in the area that I hadn't done, and the summer bonus season being over at the end of the month, I decided it was time. I left home around 6:30am, but with the hard climb, I could feel the heat early on. At one point I almost turned

around, but I've done that numerous times in the past on other summits and regretted it. I just needed to go slow and take breaks in the shade. It took some 20 mins. longer than I planned for, but that's ok. It was good to get on top, rest, and take some pictures.

Plenty people on air as usual for a Saturday. I had no cell service so used the Reverse Beacon Network to get spotted. Had three summit-to-summit calls as well. I got off before 10am to get back down by 11am before the heat got bad. It was SO nice to get back to the pickup with A/C and ice water! No more getting summer bonuses for me! Saw a dead rattler on the way home.



Mount Dutton W7U/SU-021

Stats: 08/25/2018

Points: 10 (total=897)

Elevation: 11,041 ft

QSO's: 24

Farthest: 2,158 (NH)

Time on Air: 25 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

LiPo battery (2200 mAh)

Activation: 5th (my 1st)



Trail report: Access is gained from the town of Antimony (although it is possible from further south on a much longer route). From there you take FR-125 which will lead all the way there. It is a decent dirt/gravel road, but near the end gets rough enough that a 4x4 would be advisable. There is a tower at the top. The actual summit is a boulder, but it can be climbed, where you can see the principal benchmark. There are rocks, bushes and trees to



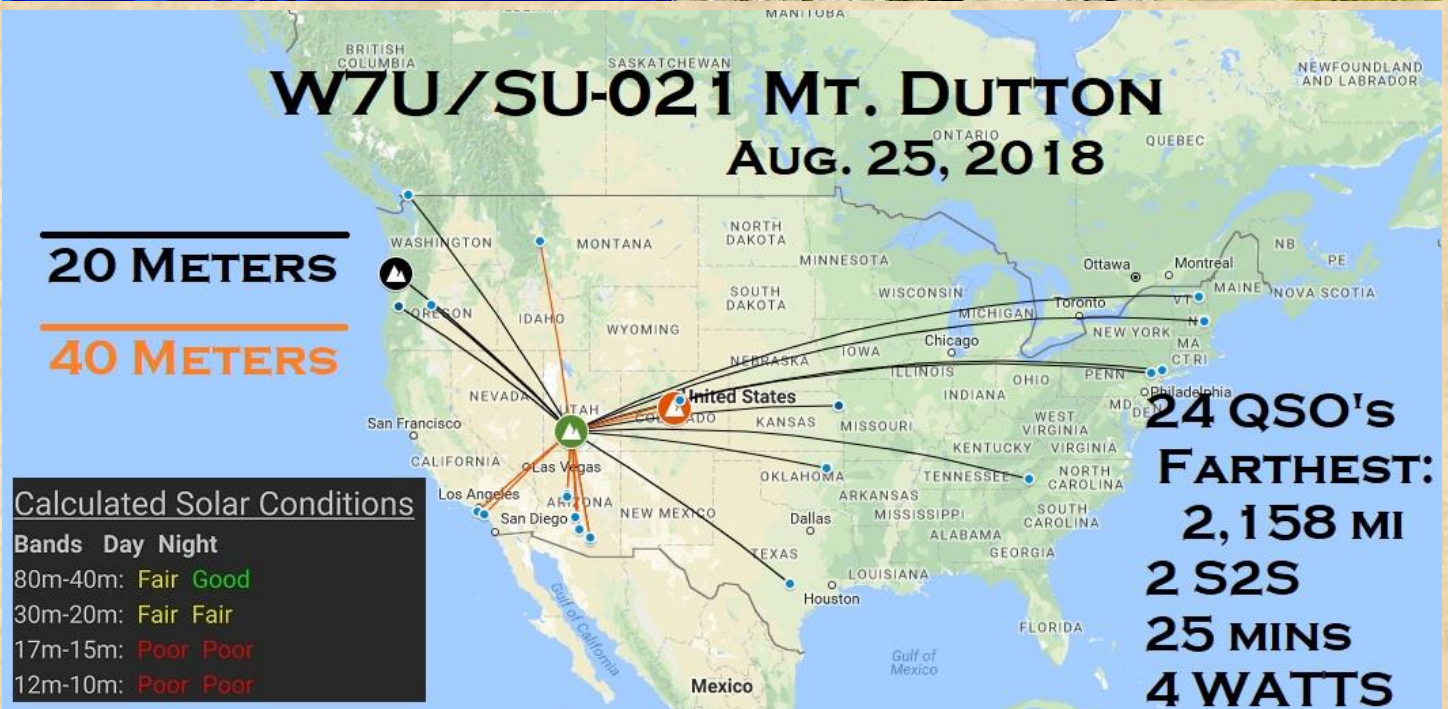
use for setting up an antenna. Awesome views!

The experience: This summit was after a failed attempt at another in Piute county, but that was blocked by private property and no trespassing signs. I had planned to do this one second, and much later, but it became my number one. As usual I parked in a nice area and used the ATV to go over the rougher roads. I was surprised that the tower was only one section high and not much on it. No real hiking as I could get within a few yards of the operating area.

I decided I needed to get one summit-to-summit contact if not to just get my own points (which is how it works, you get yours and the other guy's points which count towards a summit-to-summit award). My first contact was K7FOP, Roland, in Oregon on summit. Had a second one later as well. Fun and a new one for me, although not a first activation at all.



There were two benchmarks, one low by the tower, and one on the boulder that is the actual highest point. Lots of people on the way up camping, a popular mountain, but no one at the summit. Went on to the next one.



"Spear Peak" W7U/GA-003

Stats: 08/25/2018

Points: 10 (total=907)

Elevation: 10,653 ft

QSO's: 19

Farthest: 2,017 (QC)

Time on Air: 25 mins.

Equipment:

HB-1B qrp cw (4 WATTS)

Linked dipole

Pico paddle

**LiPo battery (2200
mAh)**

Activation: 5th (my 1st)



Trail report: Access is gained from the town of Antimony (although it is possible from further south on a much longer route). From there you take FR-125 which will lead all the way there. It is a decent dirt/gravel road, but near the end gets rough enough that a 4x4 would be advisable. There is a small, unnamed road (just before losing elevation to drop down the side of the mountain) that leads through the trees and gets you quite a bit closer. The hike is simple and fairly easy. A pile of rocks marks the high point. There are rocks and bushes to use for setting up an antenna. Awesome views!



The experience: This was the second of the day (this view is from the previous mountain and vice versa for that one). It was heading back towards where I had the pickup. It was mid-afternoon by this point, so kind of



warm, but not too bad at this altitude. The hike was pretty easy, and just had to avoid some cows. It was grassy, a little rocky with a few trees, but very nice.

I setup using some bushes and just used the fishing pole as a mast this time. The wire was just on the ground at the ends. There weren't quite as many people on this time, but enough to get done fairly

quickly as I wanted to get back home around dinner time—it's about 3 hours away from home. This put me over the 900 point mark, I think I can be done before the end of the year.



W7U/GA-003 "SPEAR PEAK"
AUG. 26, 20018



19 QSO'S
FARTHEST:
2,017 MILES
1 S2S
25 MINS
4 WATTS

Second Year Stats:

77 Summits (31 1st activations for SOTA)

1,881 QSO's (All CW QRP low power)

504 Points

TOTALS:

146 Summits (60 1st activations for SOTA)

3,182 QSO's (All CW QRP)

907 Points

28 ave. minutes on air

22 ave. QSO's per activation

2,556 miles ave. Farthest QSO's

