

## My Bumble Bee Story

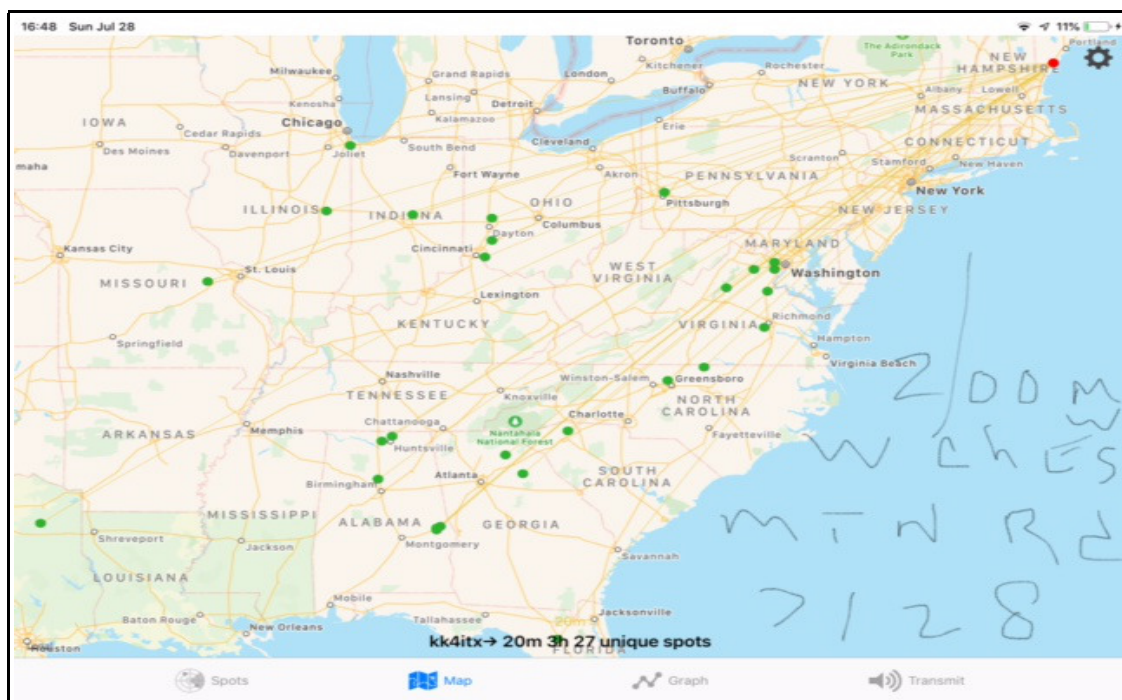
OK, so I'm reading the latest (Aug. '19) issue of the NAQCC Newsletter and there is a mention of running out of articles for future issues..... sorry nothing of any value comes to my mind..... BUT then I read on and read about the Bumble Bee Event on July 28 that John (K3WWP) & Mike (KC2EGL) participated in. Yup, maybe there's a short story here !

I was going to write about my new super cool SK from MORSECW.us, so maybe more on that later.



My very favorite outdoor QRP spot lately has been at the beach at Drakes Island in Wells, Maine which was a subject of an earlier article (June '19) from a 2018 outing of mine. This year I wanted to take part in the Flight Of the Bumble Bees (FOBB) but I also had a family wedding to attend next to the VT/NH border the day prior so I needed to rearrange my intended operating QTH. I got to the wedding area a few days early so that I could “scope” out potential locations for QRM as that is really troublesome for me at the Maine campground. So at a pre-wedding gathering at my Brother-in-Law's newly acquired Handy Man Special Connecticut River front property I ran my HF HT around the lot and found it to be just as quiet as the beach !! Problem solved. Traffic count 4 cars a day, 3 are lost.

So now I am at my FOBB spot and it's hot, but there is a tree and I have plenty of coax so I set up with the back of the car pointing WSW, 7ft telescope antenna on top of the Wolf River Coil and set it for 20m. Next I decided to run WSPR with my 200mw WSPRLite XMTR for reference. This transmitter's output of 200mw is equivalent to roughly 4w CW so it is a fairly good test to show the potential for today's operation. The RED dot is me and the GREEN dots are the reporting stations of my signals.



The map shows where my 4-5w CW signal might be heard if someone was listening..... nice tool.

So I completed my set up as the pictures show: With the antenna on the front and the car body as my ground we are looking good to the WSW. The river is just over the guard rails in the background.



I found shade beneath a large maple tree, there was a slight breeze too :~)



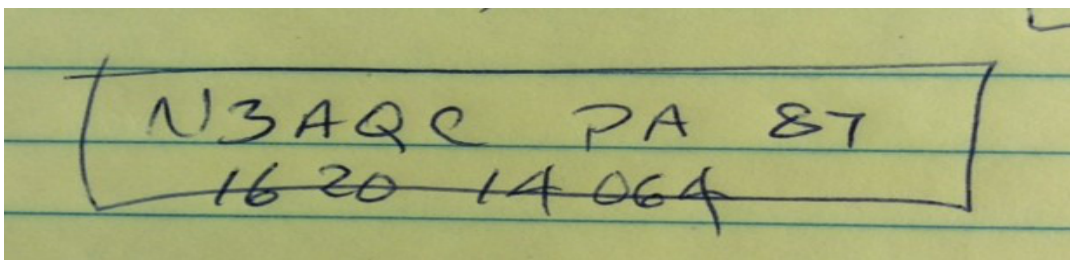
A bottle of water, pen, paper..... did I mention that it was QUIET ? I am a real rookie when it comes to CW and sincerely appreciate all of the help that I've received from many, many folks. I have yet to find anyone that will not put on their brakes and slow down for me and somehow you folks always fill in the blanks to my missing or incorrect letters, I thank you all.



Below is a closeup of my QRP rigging. FT-818, LDG-817 tuner, 12v 7ah battery all mounted in an ammo box from Wally World and my new key ready..... My new key has a "Navy Knob" on it and works super smoothly with its SS shafts and bearings amazing results from 3D printing for not much money..... I got the orange one so I could find it in the dark !



..... my one contact for the day, can you believe it ?



John \*(K3WWP) worked his butt off trying to copy my feeble CW, so thanks for making my day complete ! If I make just one contact and get to exchange info I'm good for a few days !

CW is great, QRP makes it a challenge and the QRP/CW groups are AWESOME people !

73,

John  
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Leaf Peeper, Skeeter Hunter, FOX Hunter

**\* John just passed his 25th year (1994/08/05 - 2019-08-05) of making at least one (1) contact per day at QRP levels..... using mostly indoor home-brew antennas !!**