

Maine has always been home for my XYL since she was born in Southern Maine and went to school there for the first bunch of years. We lived about 130 miles from the coast for the first 12 years together and then we moved to Minnesota..... way too far for a day trip so whenever we got back to the Northeast we of course had to make sure that the lobsters and clams were still as good as memory was.

After our 20 years in Minnesota we became Full Time RVers, wintered in Florida and traveled the country during the summers. This past summer was to be our Maine year and by golly it was a great choice. We left the RV in Florida and went to a Park Model at a campground in Wells, ME, just a few miles from Kennebunk Port and only 5-10 minutes from Wells Harbor and the beach on the Atlantic.

I believe that my XYL was born in the ocean as it seems to be the only place that appears to bring peace and serenity to her well being (and mine too).



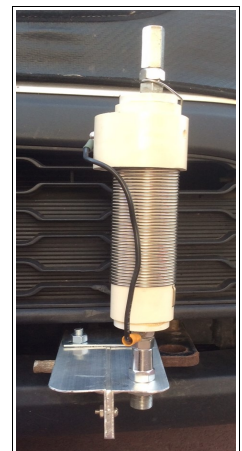
Anyway, I had to change my Ham life around some to accommodate the transition from our normal RV lifestyle vs the tight fight for elbow room in a parking lot. I don't get around well anymore so I pretty much have to operate near where I park. I needed a quick up/down antenna with out the benefit of trees or the RV for support. Lots of things that I could have done if carry space was also not an issue.

So using what was on our KIA Soul (Tow Bracket) I fashioned an antenna mount and then mounted a Wolf River Coil on it. At a Tailgate, a friend located a 7+ft telescope antenna..... perfect. Not shown in the closeups of the mount is a ground wire to the car frame, it all worked perfectly.

Using a 25ft cable I'm able to position my chair/table & rig wherever the shade may be. For this day I set up in the back seat and was able to make contacts with a Special Event in Indiana, the Maritime Net (MO) and a few others all with about 4.5w SSB (sorry). As I remember it was yet another spotless (sun wise) day and the bands were super quiet.



One of these days I'll be able to also deal with CW, getting close now but not quite ready for the show! Seems to be my hearing that's in my way, I can send 15-20wpm @ 90+ % correct but can not yet copy nearly that well, but I try using my homebrew "Thumb Key" seen behind the mic in the rig photo. It is a momentary push button switch mounted in a 1/2" PVC pipe about 5" long and fits the hand well too.



My QRP rig is an XIEGU X1M (80-10) and is mounted within an ammo box from Walmart and has a 7ah SLA battery, SWR/PWR/Tuner and a 3D printed power panel with 12v and 5v outlets that I designed with the help of another local Ham with his 3D printer. The coil coarse adjustment for frequency is made by moving the larger white collar up or down on the coil a number of “clicks”, I then fine tune with the YouKits tuner.



I left the bracket and coil on the hitch for the season and just removed the antenna and coax for traveling around the area. This setup allows me to be able to be QRP on battery anywhere in a matter of a few minutes with minimal effort.

I met the folks that make the coils at a Hamfest in Onalaska, WI a few years back, saw it, heard it work and bought one.... I do not have a pecuniary interest in the company. You can look them up here: <http://www.wolfrivercoils.com/>.

Whoops, gotta go, XYL's coming back from the beach !

73,

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#7249