

Parks On The Air

Pinnacle Mountain

K-1110

July 4, 2019

Participants: Shane Driskill, KG5SRO and Glenn Wolf, N5RN

Weather: Hot, Humid

Location: EM34su Lat: 34.836911, Lon: -92.479005

This was our second activation of Pinnacle Mountain. We chose it for two reasons. First, the park we were first interested in, K-0638 Lorange Creek, was overgrown and didn't seem to have any picnic tables or even a spot to set up. Second, we knew about the Arboretum at Pinnacle and how long it would take to get setup. Shane and I talked about for a few minutes while at Lorange and decided that we would be better off going to Pinnacle and trying there.

We made the 30 minute or so drive from Lorange Creek to Pinnacle. Once there, almost with military precision we began the process of setting up. We've done this often enough that we know what needs to be done and when. The weather was hot and humid. Well it was July after all and we were in Arkansas.

The big difference with this activation is that we use some band pass filters that N5RN picked up for Field Day. Since we typically use a single loaded dipole on 40M and 20M those were the filters that we used. We had good luck with the filters at Field Day and they worked well on this outing as well. We talked about trying to do some FT8 work but that didn't materialize but we did setup to have two stations on the air simultaneously

After working through the setup, we had both operating positions on the same park bench. Shane got the 40M station and I got the 20M station. No rhyme or reason to how it worked out. Just the way that it did. There is a side story to this that I will share shortly.

Early on we determined that we had to separate our operating stations because we could not hear what was going on if the other was talking. Shane moved his station to a picnic table about 20 feet away from mine and things started to work out well.

We got going and it seemed that we were going to have a good outing. I was working lots of Qs but Shane not so much. I started to feel bad because as you know calling CQ with no one coming back to you gets old quick.

As the activation continued, I noticed that 20M was dying and 40M was slowly but surely picking up with Shane making a few contacts. Using N1MM as our logging software I could see his progress. At one time I was up by 15 to 20 Qs over what Shane was doing. I was thinking to myself that maybe we should swap operating positions just so he could make some Qs. But then I would work someone and then get distracted.

Well as fate would have it twenty meters went dead and 40M was coming alive. Shane was making contacts at a rate that was about 2 Qs for each Q I was making. It wasn't long that he was within striking distance of making more Qs than I was. Yes, I was getting nervous. I never expected 40M to be the active band during the middle of the day. I kept plugging away at it and then I saw KG5SRO pass me in the number of logged Qs. I couldn't believe it. But you could sense that Shane was having a good time

with it. I think in the end he logged 10 or 15 more Qs than I did, and he was so happy. I found out, after we shut everything down, that he had a personal goal of making more contacts for me. Well I will tell you that the competition was fun. I enjoyed it far more than I will admit even though I "lost". We both enjoyed it and will likely remember it as being one of our most fun outings.

As usual when we finish up a POTA, we found a place for lunch. That place was TaMolly's one of our mutual favorites. Not only was the food good, the air conditioning felt so good.

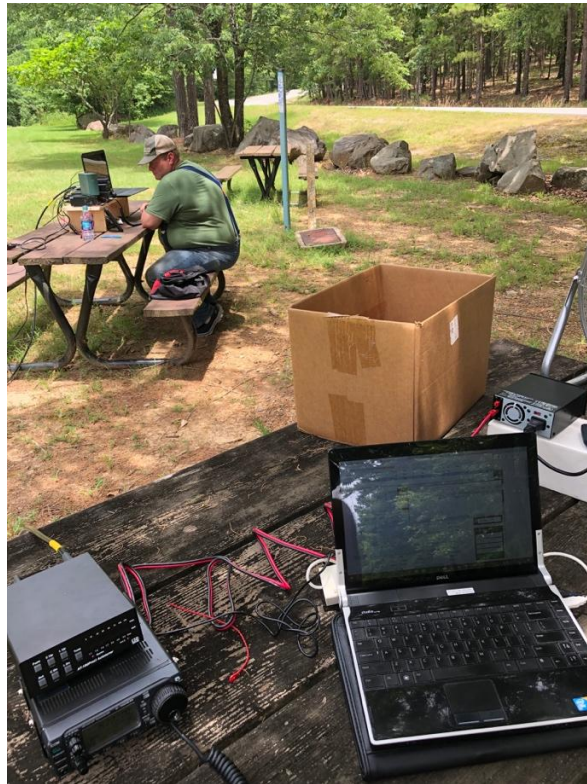
We've talked about what our next POTA will be but it most likely won't be until the heat breaks. It is just too brutal out there.



Antenna setup – 20/40M dipole



KG5SRO – working the band



20M Operating position with KG5SRO in background