

HAM Radio Going to the DOGs.

I am active with the Southeast Campers Dutch Oven Gatherings (DOGS)(secamper.com). There are typically 4 DOGS held locally per year, Cabin Fever DOG Feb 2, Spring DOG April 27 and Fall DOG September 28.

A DOG is where a group of people cook using Dutch Ovens and charcoal, outdoors. It usually starts around 0830 with breakfast or brunch pots and ends with a big feast at 3 or 4 pm. Here are some pictures of the 3pm feast at Cabin Fever. My pot is the third one on the right (Potatoes AuGratin).



Main dishes



Desserts



Attendees at Cabin Fever 2019

Cabin fever and Fall Dogs are held at Andrew Jackson State Park, Two State is held at Jordan Lake State Park in conjunction with the Virginia group, Mile High DOG is held at Mile High Campground at Maggie Valley NC in July. The Spring DOG is held at Kings Mountain State Park.

I usually attend the more local ones.

Even though the DOG is on a Saturday, I usually go to the campground on Thursday to set up and enjoy some peace and quiet. This is where the Ham Radio comes in.

Normally I am the representative to the N C Morning net (SSB 3927khz at 0745 local) from the Carolinas Net Late edition (CW 3571khz at 2200 local) but when possible I like to check in to the NC Evening Net (SSB 3923KHZ at 1830 local), the Carolinas net early edition (CW 3571KHZ at 1900 local) and the late edition of the Fourth Region Net (4RNL CW 3567khz at 2130 local). To do this while camping requires my antenna setup.

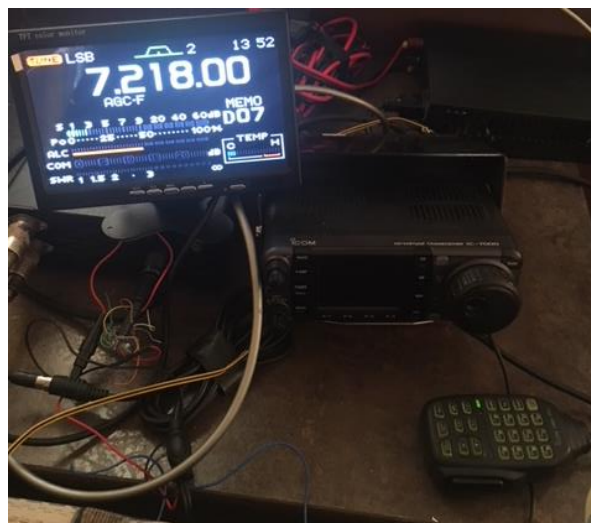
While camping I use a homemade G5RV antenna. With the center supported by my yellow telescopic pole at 20-30 ft. and the ends supported by trees.

In the picture below, the yellow pole is off picture to the right tied to a stump, with one end of the G5RV going over the camper to a tree to the left. The other end went out in the woods to far right to a tree. The feed line, RG8X, enters the camper just to the left of the slideout (hidden behind the tree that's in the way).



In the camper I have my ICOM 7000, ICOM AT180 tuner, and Astron SS30 power supply. The campsite has 120VAC power so no Generator needed. I use the ICOM mobile microphone and a set of Bencher Paddles.

Here is a picture of the radio setup from this year's Cabin fever. I use an external display on the rig to make it easier to see and this year, the Rig's Display never lit up but the external display worked fine (rig is now on way to Paul Hansen in GA for repair).



7218 khz is the new Atlantic Traffic Net at 1330 and 1500. Propagation was terrible but I did get checked in once with a relay.

Everything worked great and I made all the nets that I could hear (propagation is not too good for the Evening net at 1830 but improved by 1900 for CNE).

Pictures from 2019 Fall DOG

Andrew Jackson State Park



Main dishes one end



Main dishes other end



Desserts

