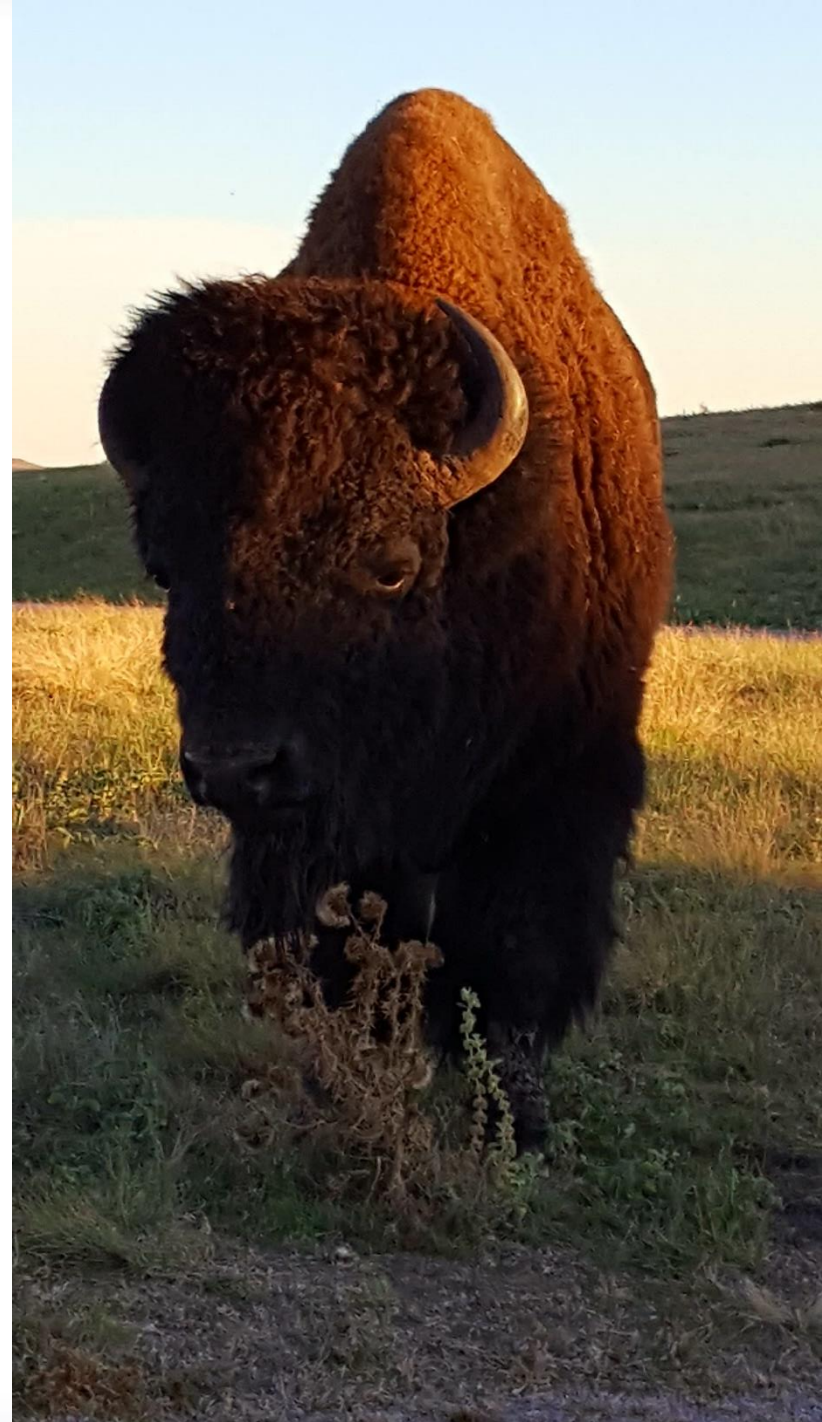


**KFOUR's
Amazing
National Park
QRP Portable
Adventures**



NPOTA Program

- NPOTA = **National Parks On The Air**
- In celebration of the National Park Services' 100th anniversary in 2016
- There are 489 National Park System units
- You could collect ("Chase") parks
- And you could operate from parks ("Activate")

~~KFOUR~~'s Activation Summary

- I activated from May–December 2016
– wish I started earlier
- I activated 12 different park units, a total of 46 times.
- Combined a vacation to the Black Hills of SD with activating 5 parks there.

Parks Visited

- Colorado:
 - Florissant Fossil Beds
 - Sand Creek Massacre Site (with KTØDX)
 - Great Sand Dunes Park & Preserve (“twofer”)
 - Bent’s Old Fort & the Santa Fe Trail (“twofer”)
 - Rocky Mountain National Park
- South Dakota:
 - Badlands
 - Mount Rushmore
 - Wind Cave
 - Jewel Cave
- Wyoming:
 - Devils Tower

My Results

- 100% Running
- 5,334 QSOs
- 50 states, VE1-VE9, 32 countries
- Mostly 20M, with a smattering of 6M, 17M, 30M and 40M
- 75% SSB, 25% CW
 - There was a lot more activity on SSB
- Nice pile-ups
 - Max run rate: **240** / hr
 - Sustained run rate: **120** / hr

Getting Heard

- No Internet at the parks, so self spotting on the DX cluster was not possible.
- Most QSOs very willing / offered to spot me
- Pile-ups started 30 seconds after being spotted

The Setup

- **Rig:** Elecraft KX3
 - Mostly at 15 watts to help with less than ideal band condx
- **Logging & Messaging:** QRPworks SideKar (natch!)
 - Added a DXpedition feature to handle pile-ups faster
 - All 5334 QSOs logged and then uploaded to LoTW
 - All CW messaging done
- **Power:** Bioenno Power 6 amp LiFePo4 battery
 - At 15 watts, lasted over 5 hours at a steady 13V. ~12 hours at 5 watts.
 - Used a “Watt’s Up” meter to measure usage

The Setup

- **Antenna:** Homebrew portable Vertical I've been using for 15 years.
 - 6-40 meters using a tapped coil
 - Sets up in 10 minutes
 - 12 feet tall extended
 - 1 foot collapsed. Easy packing.
 - Used 8 radials loosely laid on the ground
 - 15 feet of LMR-100A coax
- **Mounting:**
 - On a stake in the ground
 - On a fence post
 - On a picnic table

Badlands, SD (153 QSOs)



Badlands, SD



Badlands, SD



Badlands, SD

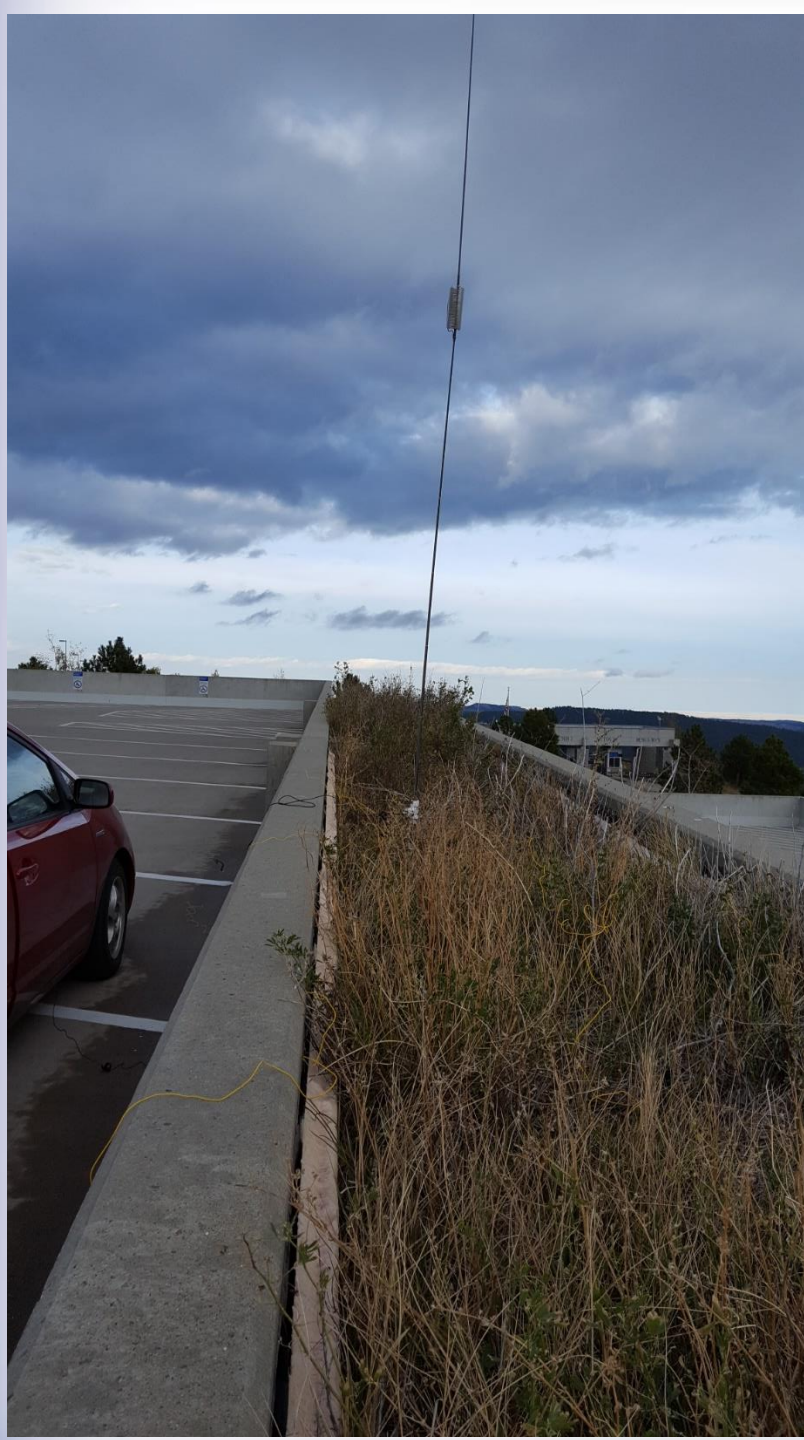


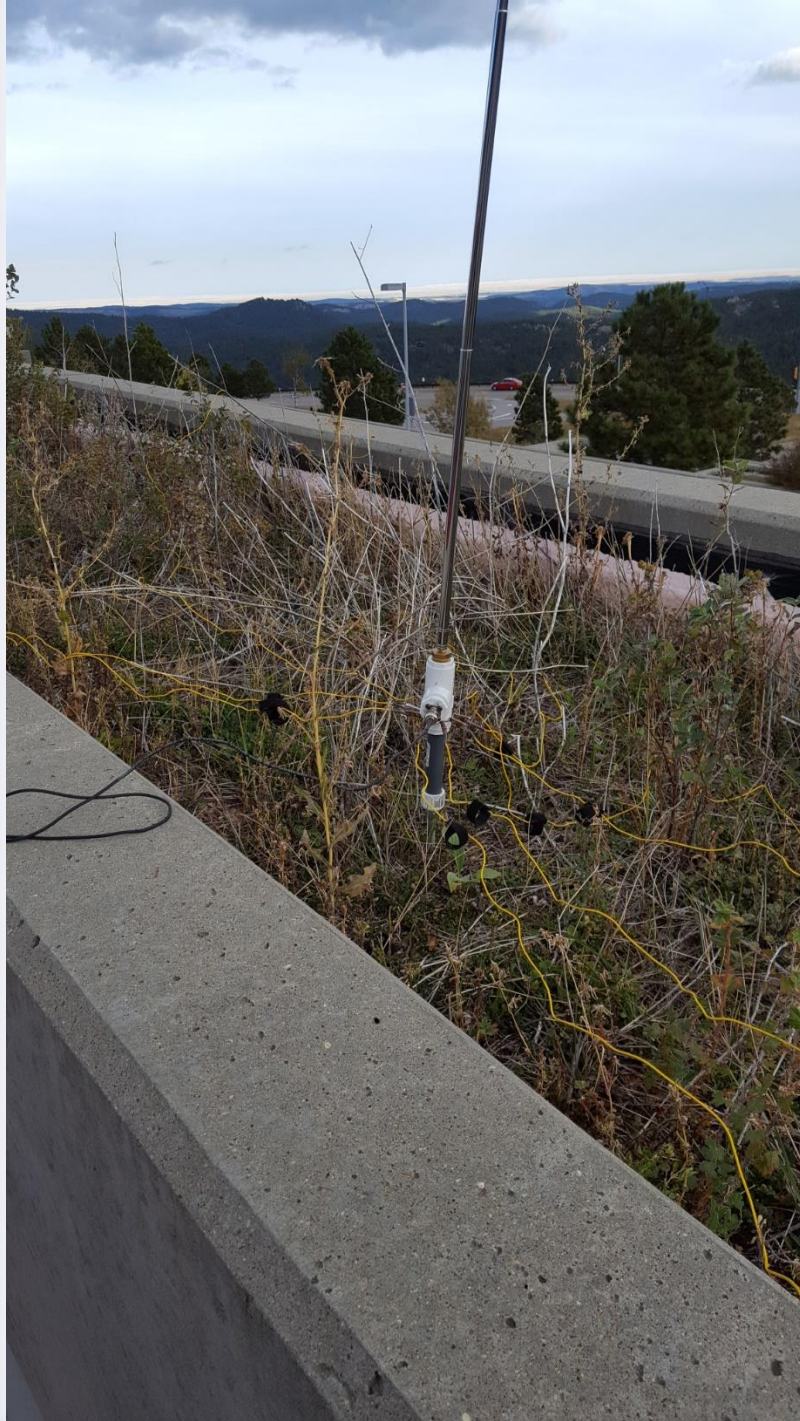
Mt. Rushmore, SD (279 QSOs)



Mt. Rushmore, SD







Mt. Rushmore, SD

- first time operating in the car



Wind Cave, SD (204 QSOs)



Wind Cave, SD



Wind Cave, SD



Wind Cave, SD



**Jewel Cave,
SD**

(105 QSOs)



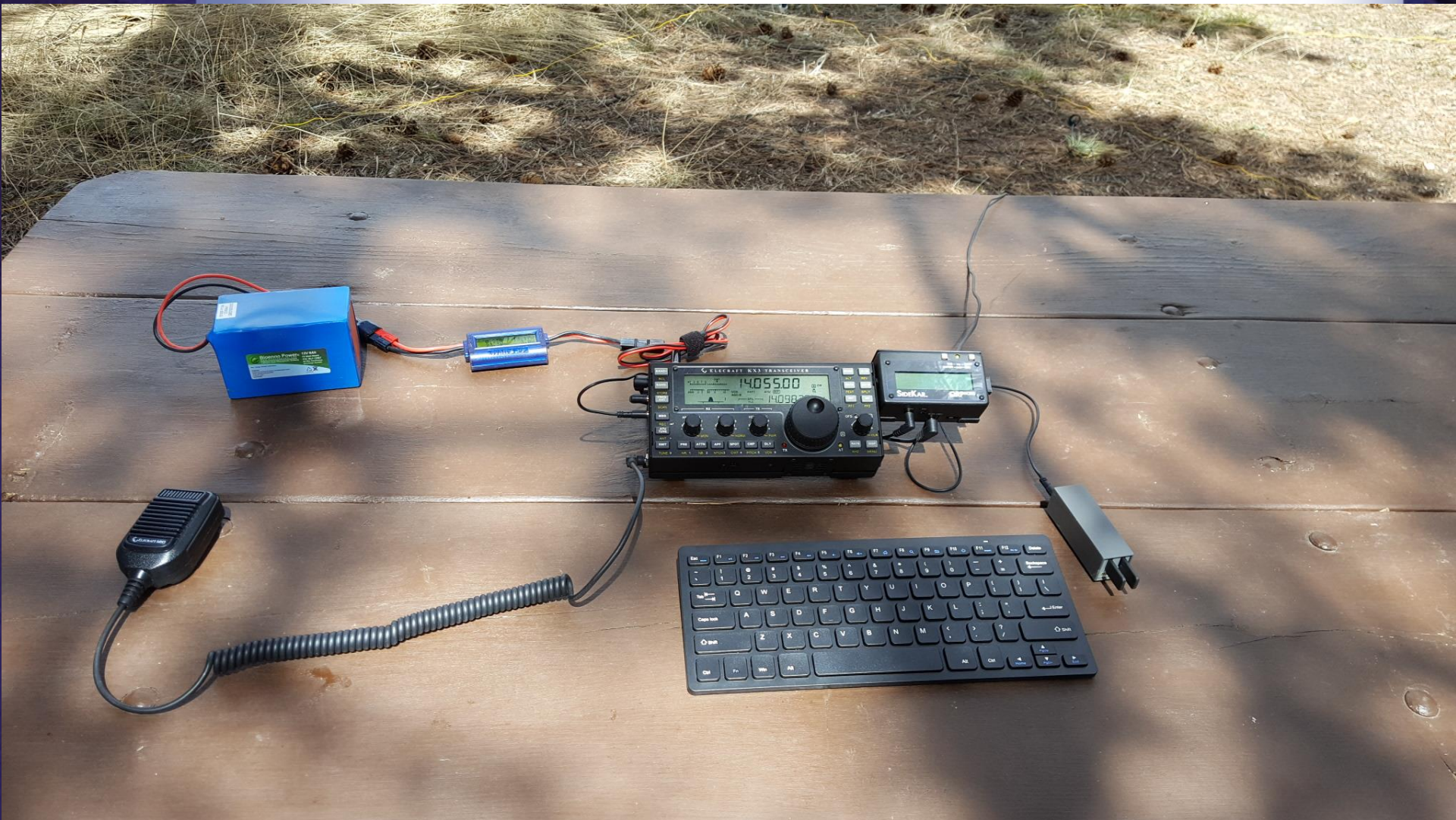
**Devils
Tower, WY**
(146 QSOs)



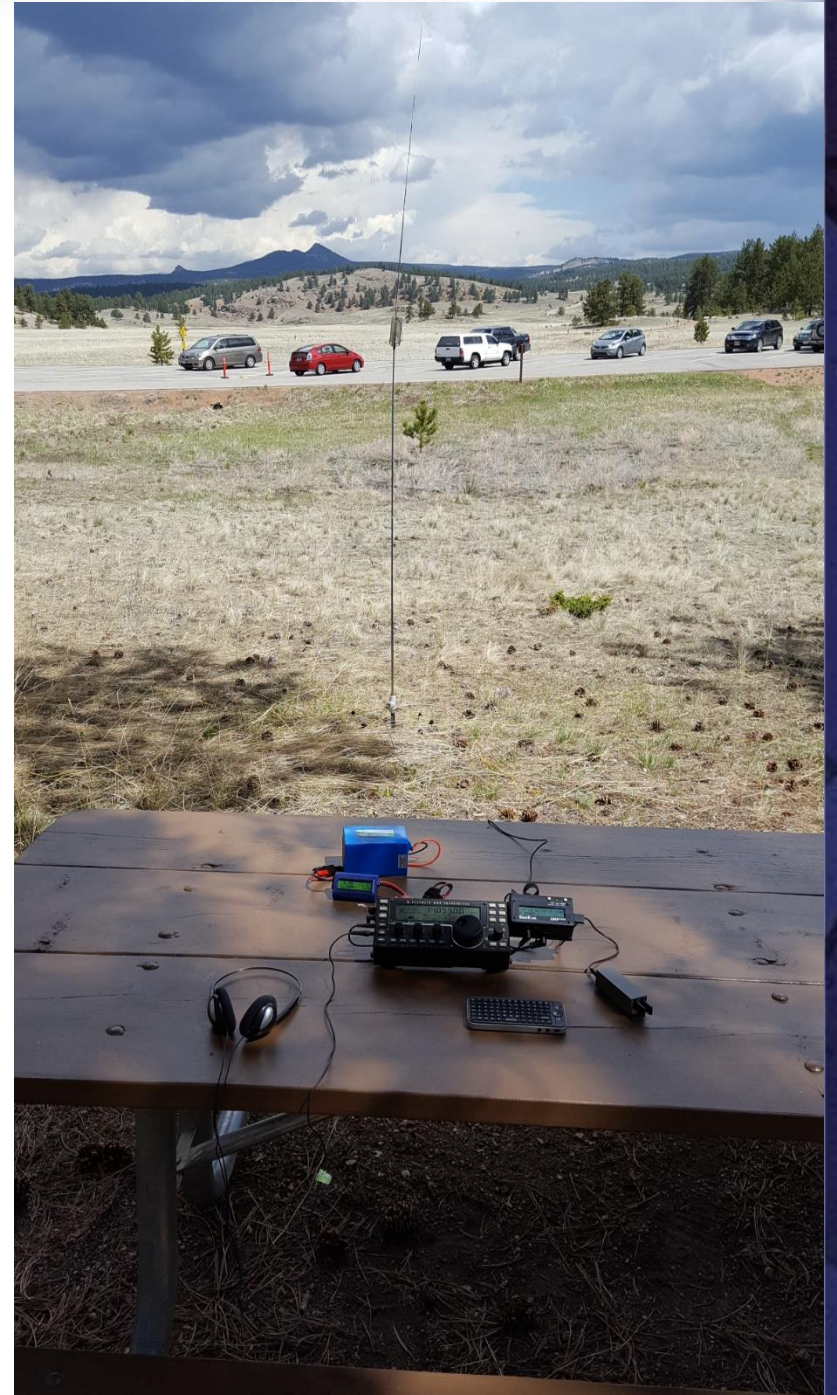
Devils Tower, WY



Florissant Fossil Beds, CO (2536 QSOs in 21 outings)



Florissant Fossil Beds, CO



Florissant Fossil Beds, CO

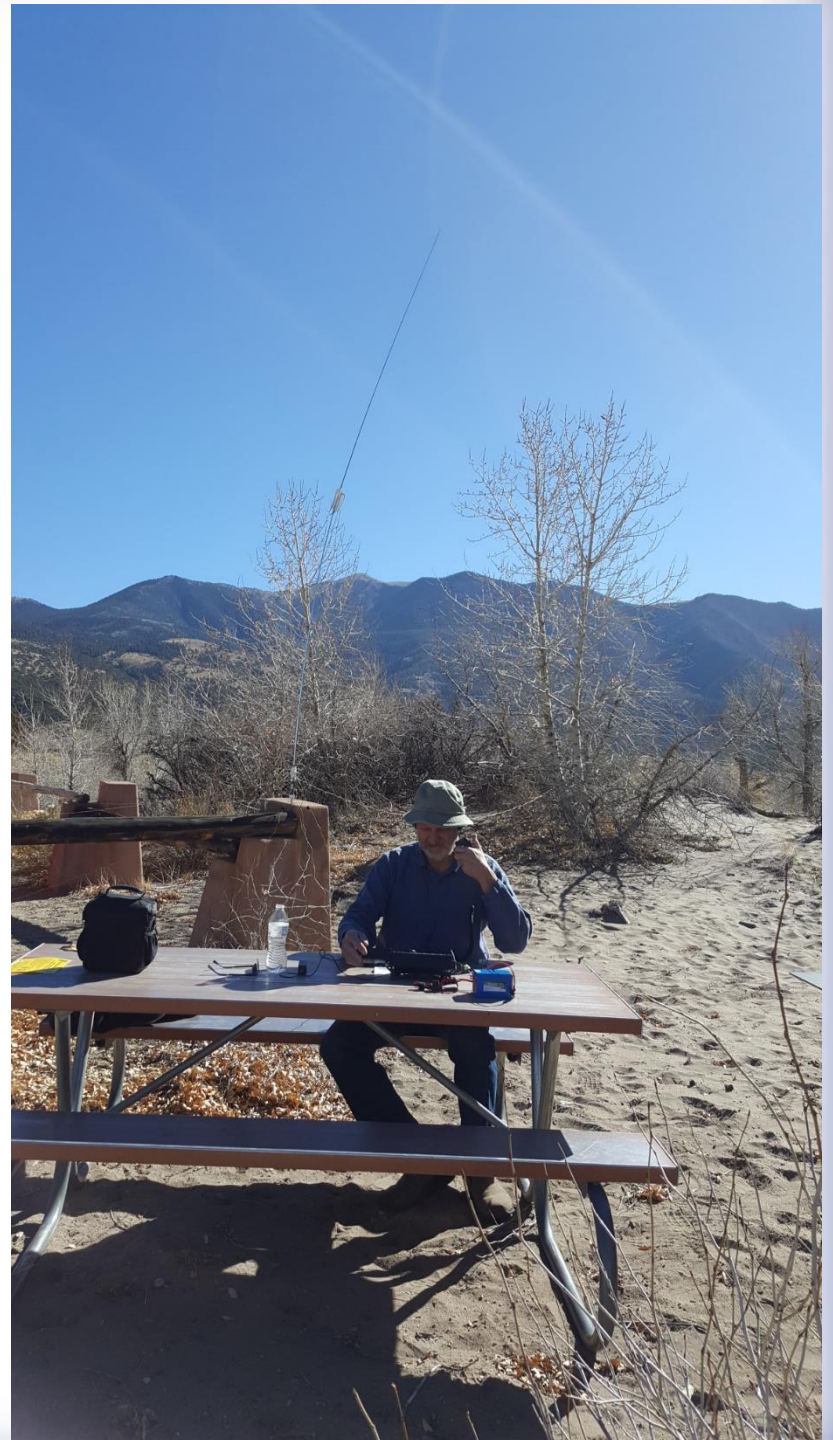
this outing: 303 QSOs



Great Sand Dunes, CO (160 QSOs)



Great Sand Dunes, CO



Great Sand Dunes, CO



Bent's Old Fort & Santa Fe Trail, CO

**(1032 QSOs in
4 outings)**



Bent's Old Fort & Santa Fe Trail CO



Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, CO (344 QSOs at 10,700' MSL)



Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, CO

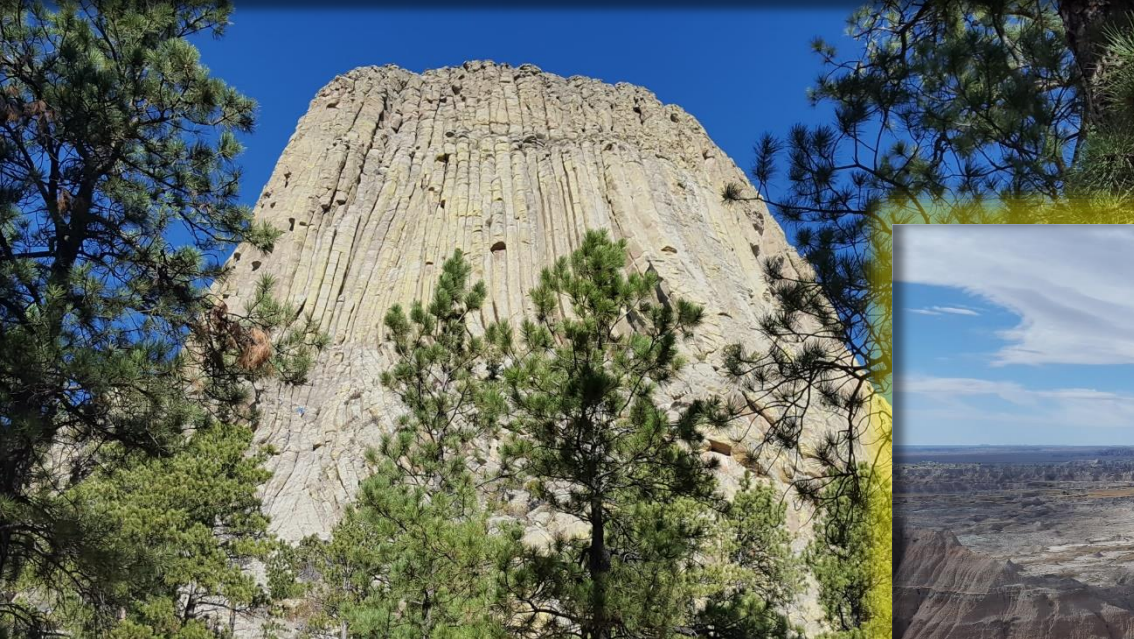


Sand Creek Massacre Site, CO (163 QSOs)

- Went with Steve KTØDX
- Steve obtained the required “Special Use Permit” as it is a sensitive site
- Ran 100 watts from his K3 and SteppIR “CrankIR”
- The 163 QSOs was using my call. Steve had an equal or more number of Q’s using his call

And then there's the Chasing side...

- There are 489 park units
- As a chaser from home, I got 192
 - Each park counts once
 - Not per band or mode



Thanks for your time!

C U on the air

73, Shel KFOUR

KFØUR



Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA

Elevation
6850 Feet