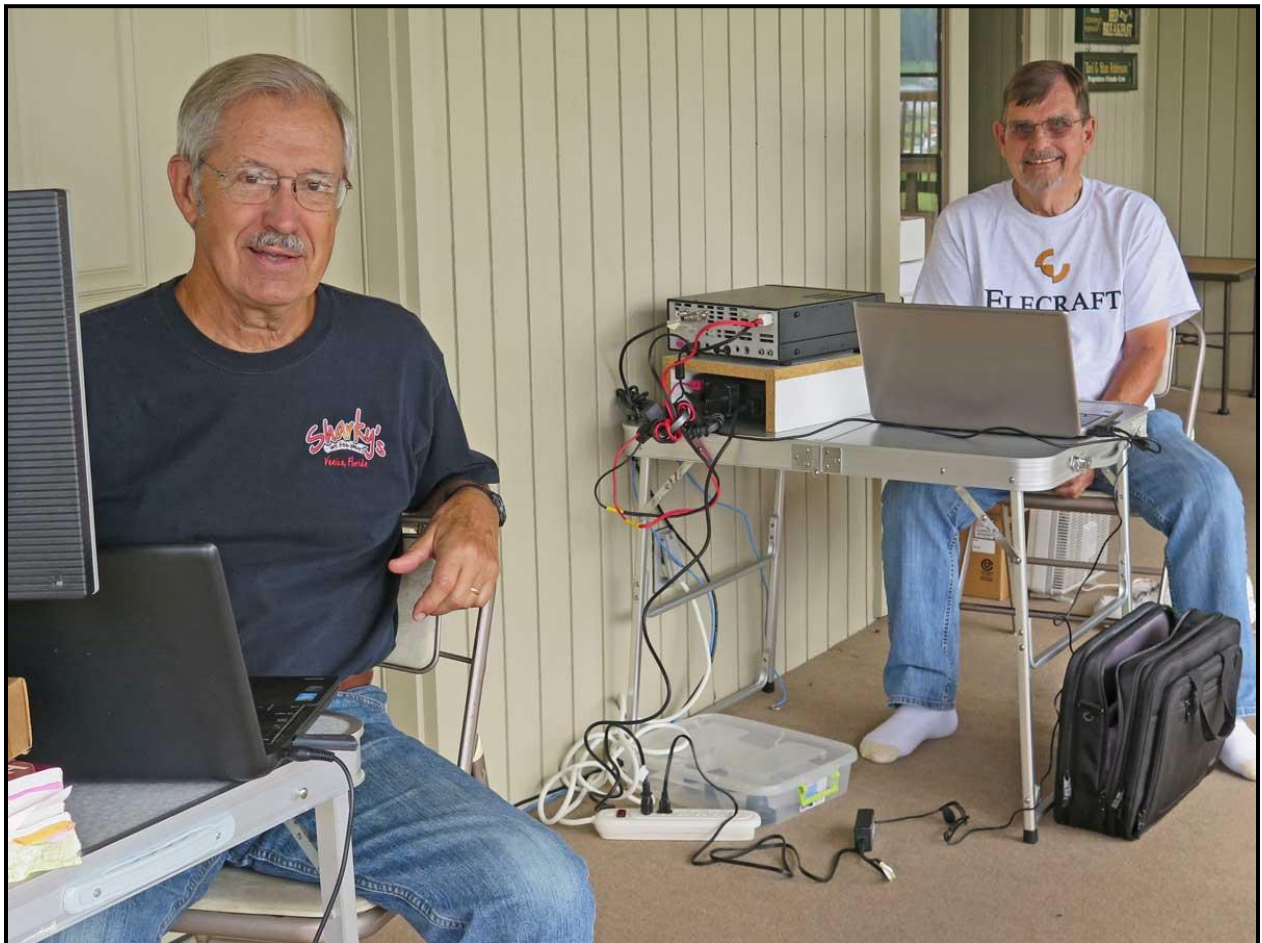


2018 KC9UR Pontoon Portable “APE” Tall Tales

It’s hard to believe, but this was our sixth consecutive APE, and it was just as much fun as the other five. As in last year, Stan (W9SMR/9) and I (Bob – KC9UR) set up two stations on the porch of Stan’s cottage on Round Lake in northeast Indiana. This year’s APE was shortened and simplified a bit to two weekend days. From the porch is a beautiful view overlooking Round Lake and Stan’s infamous Pontoon boat. If you like to split hairs, technically we weren’t “Pontoon Portable” this year, but we were within sight of the pontoon boat at all times. We set up and started operation on Saturday (8/25) and operated through Sunday (8/26) afternoon. As in past years, we offered a custom QSL card plus a custom certificate to everyone who worked us on 3 or more bands. The total contact count for this year was 112, down from 207 last year. This year there were 7 certificate winners (a.k.a. certified “APE Hunters”), compared to last year’s 13 winners. I’m sure that both the shorter operating period and declining solar conditions contributed to the downturn.



Stan (W9SMR/9) (left) and Bob (KC9UR) working the APE Hunters from Stan’s front porch

Weather wasn’t a big issue this year. It rained lightly Saturday morning during our setup time, but cleared off in the afternoon when we started operating. The afternoon weather was nice enough that

the local yacht club was able to hold their weekly race (see picture below). The race was held on Clear Lake, which is adjacent to Round Lake, and within view of our operating position (cool!).



KC9UR Setting Up the End Fed Half Square Antenna in the Rain



Clear Lake Yacht Club Sailboat Race – visible from our operating position

Kudos **go** to all 7 certificate winners: Rick, W7WE (4 bands), Steve, VA3TPS (4 bands), Jeff, W3WMU (4 bands), Leon, WZ0M (4 bands), Ann, K5AEB (3 bands), John, KE4JB (3 bands), and Paul, NU4C (3 bands) Honorable mentions for working us on 2 bands go to: Don, KC4OBB, Bill, N4GBK, Randy, N8SJS and Peter, NN9K. Special kudos go to Jeff, W3WMU, who is the only one who earned six certificates in a row, Paul, NU4C, who has earned a certificate in 5 of the last 6 years, and John, KE4JB and Morris, WA4MIT who have earned a certificate in 4 of the last 6 years. Great job all! Our 112 contacts broken down by bands are: 80m – 11, 40m – 49, 30m – 10 and 20m – 42. No contacts were made above 20m,

probably due to the declining propagation. DX worked included Canada (8 contacts), England (1 contact), Cuba (1 contact), Trinidad & Tobago (1 contact), and Belgium (1 contact). Our log is included at the end of this report.

For those interested in a bit of the technical details, here's the info:

Rigs: One Kenwood TS-590s (Stan), and one Icom IC-7300 (Bob)

Software: Fldigi

Antennas (all portable/temporary):

- 1) Homebrew Off-Center-Fed dipole hoisted up the flag pole at 25 ft (80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10M).
- 2) A homebrew 20m end-fed half-square that was resonant on 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m.

Stan and I would like to thank everyone who took time from their busy schedules to work us! We thoroughly enjoyed the "APE" experience and would encourage anyone who is considering an "APE" for next year to go for it!

2018 KC9UR Pontoon Portable Log:

DATE_ON	ON	CALL	NAME	BAND	FREQ	MODE
20180825	152000	KJ4PVX	Hank	40m	7.07245	PSK31
20180825	153000	W3BQC	Walt	40m	7.07245	PSK31
20180825	153600	N7WE	Rick	40m	7.07245	PSK31
20180825	154200	KA5VZG	Alan	40m	7.07245	PSK31
20180825	155200	WB2DOC	Gianni	40m	7.07245	PSK31
20180825	155700	KE4JB	John	40m	7.07245	PSK31
20180825	160000	NU4C	Paul	20m	14.072	PSK31
20180825	160200	KE4JB	John	20m	14.072	PSK31
20180825	160400	AG4QX	William	20m	14.072	PSK31
20180825	160700	N7WE	Richard	20m	14.072	PSK31
20180825	161000	K6MKF	Michael	20m	14.072	PSK31
20180825	164000	NN9K	Peter	40m	7.07245	PSK31
20180825	164200	WZ0M	Evan	20m	14.072	PSK31
20180825	164800	N4GBK	Bill	40m	7.07245	PSK31
20180825	165400	VA3TPS	Steve	40m	7.07245	PSK31
20180825	165900	AD4Y	Robert	40m	7.07245	PSK31
20180825	170400	KC4OBB	Don	40m	7.07245	PSK31
20180825	171900	N2MLP	Brian	30m	10.14215	PSK31
20180825	172400	KC4OBB	Don	30m	10.14264	PSK31
20180825	173600	AA2VG	Peter	30m	10.14264	PSK31
20180825	174200	KE4JB	John	30m	10.14264	PSK31
20180825	174600	VA3TPS	Steve	30m	10.14264	PSK31
20180825	174900	K5K	Scott	30m	10.14133	PSK31
20180825	180800	W3WMU	Jeffrey	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180825	181100	KB2MDR	Glenn	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180825	181300	KK6KMU	Robert	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180825	181800	MOPXY/P	Andy	20m	14.07141	PSK31
20180825	181800	W3WMU	Jeff	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180825	182900	W3WMU	Jeff	30m	10.14264	PSK31
20180825	183100	W1KU	Michael	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180825	183500	WZ0M	Leon	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180825	184300	KD6TR	Thomas	20m	14.07133	PSK31
20180825	184400	WZ0M	Leon	30m	10.14225	PSK31
20180825	184500	KA9IKK	Bill	20m	14.07107	PSK31
20180825	191800	WA2PCN	Van	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180825	192600	W7PAQ	Frank	20m	14.0718	PSK31

DATE_ON	ON	CALL	NAME	BAND	FREQ	MODE
20180825	193200	K5CH	Claude	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180825	193400	KC3EF	Richard	20m	14.072	PSK31
20180825	195500	K2MPE	Alan	40m	7.07255	PSK31
20180825	200100	N4SG	Charles	40m	7.07255	PSK31
20180825	202500	KA5VMF	Eugene	20m	14.07138	PSK31
20180825	203500	W5BGP	John	20m	14.07215	PSK31
20180825	205100	K8TOM	Tom	20m	14.07215	PSK31
20180825	211700	N7WE	Rick	30m	10.14165	PSK31
20180825	212200	NU4C	Paul	30m	10.14165	PSK31
20180825	212900	CO1RG	RICARDO	20m	14.07033	PSK31
20180825	214600	KC3FTQ	Michael	40m	7.071891	PSK31
20180825	215800	NU4C	Paul	40m	7.071877	PSK31
20180825	220700	N3CAU	Chauncey	40m	7.071344	PSK31
20180825	222000	KA5KAB	Carl	20m	14.07187	PSK31
20180825	222500	KC9JBU	Edward	40m	7.071499	PSK31
20180825	224100	KC9OMS	Douglas	40m	7.071493	PSK31
20180825	225700	9Z4AF	Khaz	20m	14.07215	PSK31
20180826	600	NO8R	Delos	80m	3.5822	PSK31
20180826	1100	N4KMC	John	20m	14.07178	PSK31
20180826	1200	NU4C	Paul	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180826	1600	N8SJS	Randy	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180826	1800	KJ4H	Herb	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180826	2200	KD7EX	Bob	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180826	2300	KE5ES	Steve	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180826	2800	KI4VMK	Charles	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180826	3800	kg5sd	George	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180826	3800	VC3NPARC70	Steve	40m	7.071691	PSK31
20180826	4200	K5AEB	Ann	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180826	4700	K4ZLK	Gene	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180826	5000	KE5IRK	Geary	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180826	5400	K5AEB	Ann	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180826	5800	KD4NA	Mark	40m	7.07225	PSK31
20180826	10000	WZ0M	Evan	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180826	10500	VA3TPS	Steve	80m	3.58225	PSK31
20180826	11000	N4CPQ	Joe	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180826	11000	WZ0M	Leon	80m	3.58225	PSK31
20180826	11400	W3WMU	Jeff	80m	3.58225	PSK31
20180826	11600	N7WE	Rick	80m	3.58225	PSK31
20180826	11900	NN9K	Peter	80m	3.58225	PSK31
20180826	12100	VA3TPS	Steve	20m	14.0715	PSK31

DATE_ON	ON	CALL	NAME	BAND	FREQ	MODE
20180826	12200	N4GBK	Bill	80m	3.58225	PSK31
20180826	12600	K5AEB	Ann	80m	3.58225	PSK31
20180826	13200	K8FER	Fred	80m	3.58225	PSK31
20180826	14400	WA8TJC	Cookie	40m	7.071703	PSK31
20180826	14700	WA3WZR	Loren	40m	7.071704	PSK31
20180826	15200	WA4RXK	Bob	40m	7.071499	PSK31
20180826	15400	VA3CTX	Scott	80m	3.581029	PSK31
20180826	15900	W3JOE	Joe	40m	7.071495	PSK31
20180826	20800	KC0RZP	Brad	40m	7.071495	PSK31
20180826	21200	KE0FUB	Mitchell	40m	7.071496	PSK31
20180826	21600	KZ9HMR	Harold	20m	14.0723	PSK31
20180826	22600	K4GVN	Mark	20m	14.0723	PSK31
20180826	23000	AG7C	Pete	40m	7.0715	PSK31
20180826	24700	N8SJS	Randy	80m	3.58245	PSK31
20180826	30000	N4YJF	John	40m	7.070673	PSK31
20180826	125000	K4WCL	John	40m	7.07215	PSK31
20180826	130900	AF4CM	Jeff	40m	7.07215	PSK31
20180826	131300	VA1MRT	Matthew	20m	14.07159	PSK31
20180826	132400	AF7KE	Mark	40m	7.07215	PSK31
20180826	134000	W3GWM	George	40m	7.071297	PSK31
20180826	135400	KF5NAJ	George	20m	14.0719	PSK31
20180826	140300	KC4TIE	Mary	40m	7.070864	PSK31
20180826	150500	N3OWM	Ted	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180826	151900	ON3ANY	Geo	20m	14.0712	PSK31
20180826	152200	W4DMK	Dan	40m	7.072135	PSK31
20180826	152500	NC6W	Leonard	20m	14.0712	PSK31
20180826	152900	K7TXO	Gene	20m	14.0712	PSK31
20180826	153400	KE4JB	John	40m	7.071609	PSK31
20180826	154100	K5XOM	Ken	20m	14.07188	PSK31
20180826	155300	AB3ZI/P	John	40m	7.07215	PSK31
20180826	160000	W4ZZL	Ron	40m	7.07215	PSK31
20180826	164700	VA3TPS	Steve	40m	7.07215	PSK31
20180826	171400	W7HD	Ronny	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180826	171500	K6MKF	Mike	20m	14.0715	PSK31
20180826	172100	KG4ZDS	Clay	20m	14.0718	PSK31
20180826	172700	AC7QO	Dave	20m	14.0718	PSK31