

APE TAILS - 2024

JETER MOUNTAIN, NC APE HUNT summary.

As of August 28th I wrapped up my first APE Hunt. As most of you'all know, doing an APE Hunt in the South is not for the faint of heart. I knew trying to conduct one in SC is completely out of the question, but the Mountains of NC or GA held some promise. My research to find an affordable location to camp was not an easy task. There are no POTA campsites within a hundred or so miles that weren't already booked and located in the mountains. The only reason that I'm stressing the mountains is for cooler weather, normally 10 degrees cooler than my QTH. The bugs, no matter where you are in the South, are a constant threat. I have many large mosquito bites about my arms and ankles even after 2 days to prove it. The mosquitos made me retreat to the inside of my tiny camper late in the afternoon and evening where I have yet to find a comfortable operating position. The band conditions and activity were not good, but I had anticipated lower activity during week days. Thankfully Darin, NY7H cranked up the normal activity level with his intrepid North Western POTA and grid activations. I was fortunate to make contact with him on the 27th and 28th. Many thanks Darin for activating so many parks and grids. You are an inspiration for all of us adventurers. Monday when I arrived at my campsite I had no phone service and band conditions were at its worst. High levels of QRN and unstable band conditions were present. I only made 4 contacts on 20 meters that afternoon and evening. The next morning as I was walking my dog Mac, I noticed a faint but usable Wi-Fi signal and traced it to my host's home and he graciously gave me access. Band conditions on Tuesday were slightly better and with access to the reflector made a huge difference in the number of contacts. I made 20 contacts on Tuesday, 6 on 40 meters and the rest on 20 meters. Wednesday morning I made 3 more contacts on 20 meters before packing up. I contacted 14 different States and Ontario during the hunt.

As I continue to gain experience with my portable station, it is apparent that my old laptop is the weakest link. I only have 2 USB ports and I need both, I've found that it makes a huge difference which port I plug in the Signalink USB and the TS-590S into the computer and it's a 50/50% chance I get it right. One way I have RF issues and have to reduce my power to 20-25 watts and the other I can go as high as 40 watts and possibly more. I now know which way works best if I can remember it LOL. The one thing I'm most proud of is my vertical antenna. It is possibly the best portable vertical antenna around. Made by TN07 Engineering, from Tennessee, model 102 Stealth. It is a push up 31' fiberglass pole with wire

that folds down to under 48" and you attach a 35' length of wire to the top and fasten it to the nearest tree in a Vee configuration. In the desert of Utah, I just fastened the wire to a stake in the ground. An 82 year old man has no problem lifting this antenna up and placing it in the antenna mount. I do run ten 17' ground radials and sometimes add some 34' radials, but didn't use them this trip. The antenna held up to some mighty strong winds and gusts over 35mph this past April in Utah.

Thanks to all the Hunters out there for making this a fun APE event.

WA5AMM Log at JETER MOUNTAIN

Date	Time	Call	Mode	Band	Name	State	Country
8/26/2024	21:21:02	N5SLY	PSK-31	20m	Lee	TX	USA
8/26/2024	21:25:35	AG4QX	PSK-31	20m	William	FL	USA
8/26/2024	23:03:26	WA2UJR	PSK-31	20m	Angelo	NY	USA
8/26/2024	23:18:17	N2EPE	PSK-31	20m	Eric	NY	USA
8/27/2024	13:47:07	ND2K	PSK-31	20m	Al	NJ	USA
8/27/2024	13:55:15	KA1PPV	PSK-31	20m	Joe	CT	USA
8/27/2024	14:01:41	KC3FL	PSK-31	20m	John	FL	USA
8/27/2024	14:09:47	N5SLY	PSK-31	20m	Lee	TX	USA
8/27/2024	14:13:37	KZ3T	PSK-31	40m	Dan	NC	USA
8/27/2024	14:16:54	N7WE	PSK-31	40m	Rick	FL	USA
8/27/2024	14:20:53	W4YFJ	PSK-31	20m	Bob	VT	USA
8/27/2024	14:42:29	KS0USA	PSK-31	20m	Don	KS	USA
8/27/2024	15:22:50	WA0WUV	PSK-31	20m	Steve	MO	USA
8/27/2024	19:29:05	W6GOK	PSK-31	20m	Don	FL	USA
8/27/2024	19:34:52	WB9KVI	PSK-31	20m	Joe	WI	USA
8/27/2024	19:43:54	K5VS	PSK-31	20m	Vern	MO	USA
8/27/2024	19:54:01	WA1TFF	PSK-31	20m	Ed	RI	USA
8/27/2024	20:18:21	NY7H/P	PSK-31	20m	Darin	MT	USA
8/27/2024	20:42:34	KC3FL	PSK-31	20m	John	FL	USA
8/27/2024	21:03:59	KJ7IZ	PSK-31	20m	Donny	MN	USA
8/27/2024	21:24:55	WA1P	PSK-31	20m	Joe	CT	USA
8/27/2024	23:28:22	W9SMR/9	PSK-31	40m	Stan	IN	USA
8/27/2024	23:40:00	VE3YK	PSK-31	40m	Ken	ON	Canada
8/27/2024	23:53:51	KZ3T	PSK-31	40m	Don	NC	USA
8/28/2024	15:27:13	WB7TLK	PSK-31	20m	Mark	WA	USA
8/28/2024	15:49:06	N5SLY	PSK-31	20m	Lee	TX	USA
8/28/2024	16:03:22	NY7H/P	PSK-31	20m	Darin	MT	USA

EQUIPMENT USED:

RIG: Kenwood TS-590S 25-40 watts output

TNC: Signalink USB

COMPUTER: 17" Windows 10 Laptop with HRD and W4ELP software.

ANTENNA: TN07 Engineering model 102 Stealth Vertical with 10 17' long ground radials

