

SANDBLAST 2024, March 3

This year I traveled on Tuesday February 27. I left Mint Hill at 2PM and arrived at 3:50. I had reserved Campsite 10F at H Cooper Black. Shortly after I backed in, the Ranger drove up and welcomed me. In a quick hour I was all set up.



I use a G5RV with the center atop the 35 foot yellow Hastings pole in the picture. Works great on all bands with my Icom 7100 and AT-180 Tuner.

After setting up and testing the rig, I made dinner and listened to the NCEN pre-net chat on 3.923 at 6:00PM. The net started at 6:30 and I checked in. At 7:00 PM I checked into the early Carolinas CW Net on 3.571 then took my shower and checked into the Carolinas Slow Net on 3.571 at 8:00PM. I then read some before listening to the 9:30PM 4RN on 3.567.. At 10:00PM I checked into the Carolinas Net Late Edition on 3.571, then lights out and hit the hay.

At 07:30 AM Wednesday, my alarm went off, Got up, dressed and was ready for the North Carolina Morning Net at 07:45 on 3.927. Then I made my breakfast, Baked biscuits, fried up a couple pieces of Bacon and 2 eggs, over easy. A large cup of coffee on the K-cup machine and some OJ rounded it out. I cleaned up from breakfast and went hunting POTA stations. My goal was to make at least

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11 contacts with Activators, giving them my Park number for a P2P (Park to Park) QSO. I finished shortly before lunch with 11 and took a well deserved nap.

I then cleaned up the camper some and went back to hunting POTA. I got 10 more QSOs before cooking dinner (baked potato and cube steak). I then checked into the NCEN and CNE. I took a shower and then joined the ZOOM Sandblast Radio Operators training meeting. I then checked into the Fourth Region CW net at 2130 and then was NCS for CN at 2200. Off to bed.

At 0730 Thursday my alarm goes off and I repeat the morning routine. After Breakfast I went into town to pick up a few things. Upon returning to the camper I went POTA hunting again and got xx more. Today is check in for the Rally at 1800L in downtown Cheraw, so I have an early dinner and walk in when they opened at 1800. Back to the camper and check in to NCEN and CNE,

Friday is a repeat of the same morning but this year they are running two races after dark so I meet the teams at 1545 in Cheraw and when they head out I went to my camper to make a quick dinner then off to Patrick SC to meet Mary and Tom at Rally Net Control. I leave there after the last race is finished and head back to the camper

Saturday is race day and I am up at 0530 to get dressed and leave by 0545 to get to Cheraw High School by 615 after a stop at Bo jangles for aa takeout breakfast. The teams leave at 0630 and I head to the Service area in Patrick which is a central location to await a call for radio service (my assignment). That's where I have my breakfast and watch the activity.



Patrick Service Area prior to race start.

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After the first stage is half over I take a short drive to an easy to get to corner of stage 2 to watch some action from my truck. Motorcycles go first so I get prepared to take a picture of the first and here he is right BEFORE he goes down.



He hops right up and continues on, I hear on the radio, that 2 turns up the course he goes down again and does not get up. The event is stopped while MEDIC arrives and transports him off.

I stay at this location and take some more pictures:

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Cars follow the bikes.

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I stayed here most of the day and then went to camp for the last race as it is on roads around the campground. I found a spot about 100 yards from my camper and I can hear the race start on the radio. I can also hear them out the window and I see them go by the treeline. See picture, motorcycle in red circle,

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As it got dark I moved over to the far left of this picture.

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Here a car goes by my location. Shortly after this picture, a car blows his engine right there. In front of me and I use my headlights to illuminate them so others do not hit them.

That night I go to the awards dinner and I am back by 2130 for the 4RN. Sunday morning I pack up after breakfast and head home.

See You Next Year.

Bill Heybruck W4EDN'