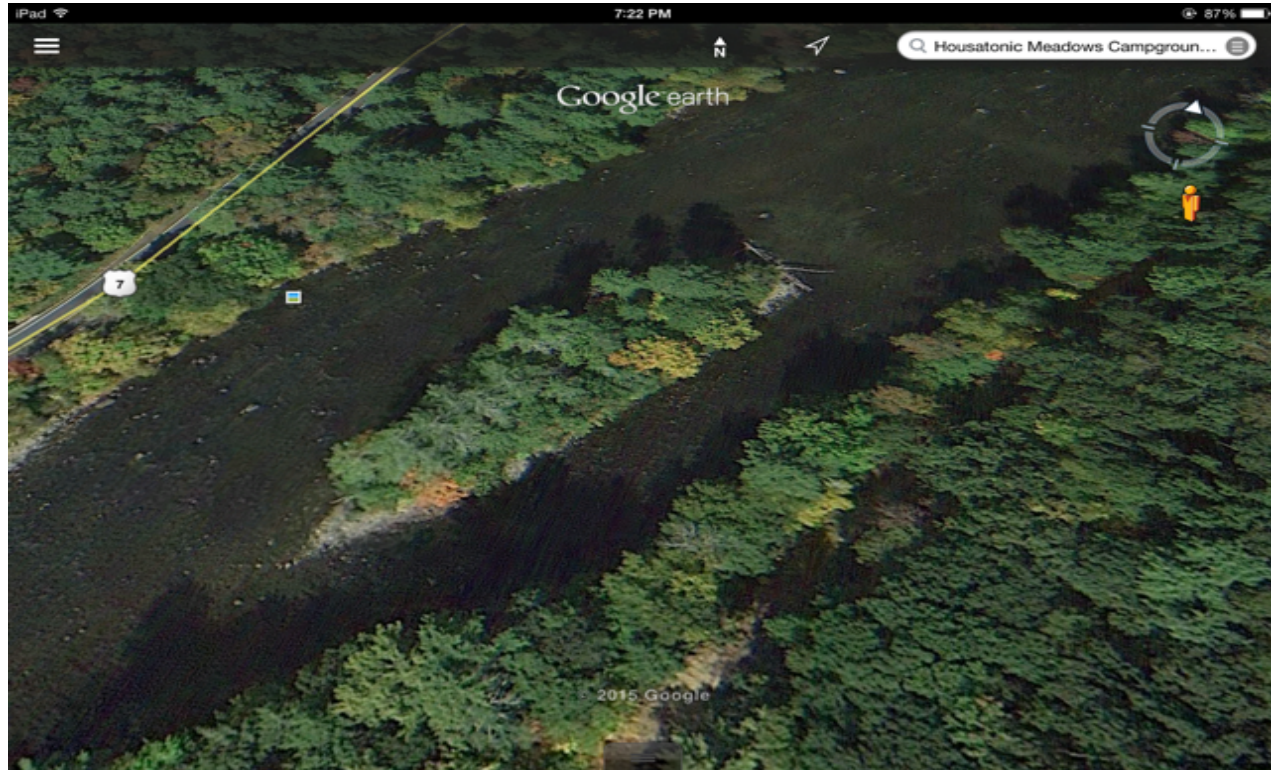


Turnip Island, CT036R

Qualification/Activation



KC1ARO, Rich Russell
N1PSX, Paul Silverzweig
13 October 2K15

US Islands Award Program

“The **United States Islands Awards Program, USI**, covers saltwater and inland fresh water river or lake islands of the **fifty (50) states of the United States and U.S Territories or Protectorates** (See master island directory). USI was formed to further enhance **"island chasing"** that has become so popular on the amateur radio bands. The USI goal is to promote a simple but effective system of island collecting in a professional radio-manner and to operate totally on the **"honor system"**. USI warmly welcomes all ham radio operators and island enthusiasts to yet another facet of island collecting. USI is open to anyone (Ham or SWL) interested in **working toward the many and varied US Island Awards by collecting and activating US islands.** ”

“We are not affiliated in any way with the Islands On The Air (IOTA) award program offered by the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB).”

Geography



Turnip Island, CT036R





Good Fishing, Too...



Turnip – An Inland Clipper Ship



Preparations/Logistics

- Housatonic Meadows Campground Fishing Trips
- August 2K15 ReCon
- Request “Qualification Status” from USI Qual Manager
 - Name
 - Lat/Long
 - Meets Criteria
 - Date
- Approval in Less than 30 Minutes
- Radio/Camping Checklists
- USI and FaceBook Announcements
- 2 Nights Camping
- Deploy Antennas: 18 Sept 2K15
- Operate: 19 Sept. 2K15

Plan vs. Actual

Plan

- Prepared for High Water
 - Dam Release
 - Rain
 - Boats
- Prep to Operate in Rain, if Necessary
- Sunday, Back-Up Day

Actual

- Very Low Water
- “Float and Bounce” for Antenna Deployment
- “Wade and Tow” to Operate
- Dry, Comfortable Operating
- High Density Mosquitoes for Antenna Deployment (Forgot DEET); None When Operating

Boats







Wading Approach...



Gear...

- Kenwood TS-480 SAT
- Yaesu FT-757GX
- 20 M PAR ENDFED Dipole at 25 Feet
- 40 M PAR ENDFED Dipole at 12 Feet
- Surf Rod, aka Antenna Cannon
- Antenna Analyzer
- 20 AmpHR Lithium Iron Phosphate Battery
- Table; 2 Chairs

Didn't Have Time...









Operating

- Turnip Qualified on 20 Meter Band 0800-1200 19 Sept. with 25 Contacts, including 3 DXCC Entities: US, Canada, Aruba
- Continued Operating on 40 Meter Band until 1400, or so
- Mix of “Run” and “Search and Pounce” Techniques
- CA, SD, TX, FL, PA, OK, SC, AK, MO, AZ, NC, NY, VA, MS Contacts
- One Island, Pine Is., FL
- One SOTA Station
- Total of 30 Contacts



Lessons Learned

1. Do Your Homework: Research, Plan, and Think AHEAD-OF-TIME
2. “Expect the UNEXPECTED”
3. Behave as This is a TEAM Effort, not an Individual Effort;
We Will ALL Succeed or FAIL
4. Be Prepared for High, and LOW Water Levels
5. Have an ESCAPE Route Planned
6. Be Prepared to WALK AWAY, if Too Dangerous
7. Watch the WX
8. Antenna Deployments Will Take Longer Than Expected
-Tangled Antennas
9. Maintain a “Can-Do” Positive Mental Attitude
10. Bring Back-Up Radios; Cables, Batteries
11. Use FRS/HT Radios for Coordination
12. Bring ESSENTIAL NON-RADIO ITEMS

Lessons Learned Continued

Non-Radio Essentials

- First Aid Kit
- Canteen, with Water
- Extra Food
- Extra Clothes
- Waterproof Matches/Lighter
- Whistle
- Emergency Shelter
- Compass and map
- Sunblock/DEET
- Flashlight
- Repair Kit/Tools
- Toilet Paper

13. Tell Others Where You Are Going; When You Are to Be Back; and What to Do If You Are Overdue

14. Use Outdoor radio as an Opportunity To LEARN

15. Make NEW FRIENDS; Share; Tell Interesting Stories

16. Bring Good Whisky and Cigars ! (for the campfire)

Qualification/Activation Process

- Go to www.usisland.org
- Pick or Find an Island
- Coordinate with USI
- Plan
- Request Authority to Use W1SYE Call Sign
- Execute
- Have FUN
- Logs to W1SYE QSL Manager

