

Lobstercon2020!

The Year of the Corona Virus CV-19



It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood!

The official Lobstercon Saturday morning arrived (The 1st Saturday AFTER the 4th of July weekend) and it was a glorious morning indeed! The temperature was perfect and the sun was shining through a fairly clear sky! Although it had rained the previous night, there was no rain in sight or in the forecast for Lobstercon Saturday. On the Maine seacoast, this would be

considered a perfect summer day!



I arrived early in the morning in the Hambulance, set up the flagpole and raised the official Lobstercon flag. "The game was afoot!" There had not been very many confirmed reservations but I was expecting unconfirmed arrivals like what happens just about every year. I had 7 confirmed reservations and 3 additional "We will be there" day-trippers. I was geared up and ready for a maximum of about 25 Lobsterconners this year but realistically expecting FAR fewer....

Rain was predicted for Friday evening so I had made the trip up on Friday to go out to dinner and set up the tarp over the cooking & dining area so the ground would be dry during the day on

Saturday. When I go there Friday evening, there was nobody about so I got about the task of putting up the tarp.....actually two smaller tarps instead of the one jumbo (& heavy) tarp I usually hang. I thought it looked good so after I was done, I hung around a bit and then left. Its about an 90 minutes back to my house and I still had lots of chores to do.



Mike & his very reduced crew at Thomas Point Beach & Campground had left us a nice batch of picnic tables and lots of campfire rings...though there would not be too many campfires this year. So we didn't have to go scrounging campsites and 'stealing' picnic tables this year....not that we would have to 'steal' very many as we really only need about 6 tables for the cooking and eating to happen.

There was a lot of rain and WIND the night before and Saturday morning I unexpectedly found the tarps laying on the ground acting as pool liners with about 3" of water in the center. I rounded up a helper or two and managed to pick up the tarps while directing the water away from the eating area and managed to rehang them....just in case.



My new big top had a peak extender to create more tension in the tarp and a steeper angle for shedding water....just in case.



I quickly ran a 150' heavy duty extension cord over to the last power pole in the camping area, set up the smaller of my two commercial coffee makers, laid out some breakfast supplies and quickly attracted some Lobsterconners for breakfast... maybe I should say ALL the Lobsterconners.....These 5 (and me!) were the only ones to OFFICIALLY sign up for Lobstercon2020!

The Hardy Boys.... and Girl!

Me, W1REX...taking the picture

Carl, WA1ZCQ, Uncle Cy, K1TES & Bruce, K1BG
(left to right) at the left corner of the tarp

Sally, N1TES & Joe, AC1JO center tarp

That was it for the morning rush.....



The Big Store...selling LEDs!

Of course, Uncle Cy had arrived on Friday and could either be found (or not found) hanging around his all too familiar 2 tables overflowing with plastic bags of LEDs! Here he is NOT found there when Carl, WA1ZCQ just sneaking into the picture on the left, and I came to call.



Twins!

Sally, N1TES & Uncle Cy, K1TES Currier are sporting the official Lobstercon2020 face masks. I special ordered some nice lobster themed material and hired a local seamstress to make me 25 custom masks with filter pockets. Even though it was an outdoor event, I was taking no quarter and provided masks to the gangue.

Carl Achin, WA1ZCQ, giving his two thumbs up to BOTH the mask and his Lobstercon2020! Experience.....

I think!

But he just might have been giving his two thumbs up to the last meal he ate...or the one that was coming up!



Bruce Blaine, K1BG, with his typical laid back persona sporting both an official Lobstercon2020! mask and 3rd party official unofficial Lobstercon tee shirt.

First time Lobsterconner, Joe Clark, AC1JO, sporting an official Lobstercon2020! mask, official Maine (University of Maine Black Bears) tee shirt and wearing on his hip.... the only ham radio seen in attendance at Lobstercon this year.... A triple whammy for Joe!



Rex, W1REX, sporting a custom made official Lobstercon2020! Bandanna mask. I was saving all the face masks for the gangue who never showed....



The Wrecking Crew...

Here is the entire Lobstercon2020! Crew less Bill Legge, NT1R, who is sitting on a dock by the bay waiting for the lobsters to come in..

In the 20 past years of hosting Lobstercons, I gradually went from the typical 2 burner propane fired home BBQ grill to about 9' of charcoal fired flat grills and 2 Weber style kettle grills and 4 or 5 BIG turkey style propane cookers. This year, with only 10 anticipated attendees, it was a...2 kettle grill and 2 propane cooker event. The 2 kettle grills were fired slightly different with one cooking hamburgers and the other hot



dogs and brawts. One of the BIG propane burners was cooking corn on the cob while the second one was cooking lobsters. For a gangue of 10, there was 27 lobsters to be eaten!
For the I don't know how many times in a row, the gangue could not out eat the host for all 3 meals and there was food... and lobsters that had gone uneaten!



SPACE! The final frontier.....



Bill, NT1R, arrives and dons a mask.

So after a pleasant afternoon enjoying the fine day, Bill arrives with the star attractions for the evening:



A Cooler full of Bugs!



Carl just can't stop playing with his food...



Bill tends the pots while I take a picture



From Sea to Table in about 2 hours...

Lobsters on the table but there are still many more in the cooler and in the pot.



A small but QUALITY crowd!

The TESs enjoying their lobsters.



Like a deer caught in the headlights, Bruce is startled by a sudden sound..... ME yelling at him so I could take a picture.



Carl: "Don't bother me while I'm eating!"

Bill, NG1P, & Melissa Richardson are at the other end of the picnic table. They take the prize for the shortest commute as they live in Topsham only a few miles away.

Willie & Joe, (no not the WW2 GIs) on the other side of the picnic table enjoying the fruits of the cook's labors.



After the eating is all done, the campsite is all cleaned up and the equipment is all packed up in the trailer, it's time for a few goodbyes... Carl & Bruce were heading home. They didn't have any radios to play with and had slept the previous night in the car. They were ready to sleep in a comfortable bed...



One last picture of the campsite, and then I drove off for home. Lobstercon2020! is over...maybe Lobstercon2021! will be back to normal.

W1REX

