

“My First Activation for the RAC Challenge” + November Update

<https://www.rac.ca/rac-challenge> | <https://www.rac.ca/rac-challenge-annual-chart/>



Paresh Mody, VE3PQX –

I am from Peterborough, Ontario and the following is my story about my first Parks On The Air (POTA) activation for the RAC Challenge event. After going through the July-August 2021 issue of TCA I decided to do my first POTA activation. I had previously responded to a few of the POTA calls from my home and had logged them to QRZ logbook.

My wife and I had been looking for a cottage/cabin/ yurt to rent for a week in an

Ontario Park bit could not find anything suitable so we started looking further into Quebec with SEPAQ (Société des établissements de plein air du Québec). After a long search we found a log cabin caled “la demoiselle” or the “the lady” in Parc national d’Aiguebelle in August. Interestingly, before this I had made a POTA contact with Pierre Jolin, VE2GT, from this same park from my home.

For the station equipment setup I decided to take my complete HF base station setup of a Yaesu FT-840, LDG IT-100 100-watt autotuner, an SWR meter and a power supply. The cabin had AC power supply facility so the station equipment would remain inside. I also bought a 50-foot coaxial cable with connectors



Monthly Winners | November 2021

RAC is pleased to announce the certificate winners for the RAC Challenge in November 2021.

RAC Challenge Top 5: November 2021				
Rank	Call Sign	Name	QSOs	Ops
1	VE7NB	Robbie Morrison	1,844	45
2	VE2NCG	Nicolas Gagnon	1,844	29
3	VA3KS	Kieran Shepherd	1,408	31
4	VE3CBK	Chris Bisailion	344	38
5	VE6FXL	Mike Bingley	468	7

Robbie Morrison, VE7NB, and Len Morgan, VE9MY, earned their “Coureur des bois” Gold certificate in November for 100 portable operations since the RAC Challenge began on Canada Day.

Mike Bingley, VE6FXL, earned his Bronze “Coureur des bois” certificate in November when he crossed the threshold of 25 portable operations.

Twenty Amateurs from Newfoundland to British Columbia to Nunavut took part in the RAC Challenge in November, making over 10,000 contacts with other Amateurs across Canada and around the world, activating many parks, SOTA summits, IOTA islands and Lighthouses. – *Dave Goodwin, VE3KG*

from Radioworld. For the antenna it was a difficult choice. I reviewed several YouTube videos for vertical portable antennas – including Wolf River Coils, Super Antenna, Buddipole and Chameleon MPAS – but I did not want to spend several hundred dollars and stock availability was questionable. I finally decided to use my old mini-G5RV multiband antenna – which I had replaced with Alpha-Delta DXEE in my backyard – but what type of mast could I use to support 17-feet of ladder line in the G5RV.

I bought two 10-foot lengths of 1” diameter electrical conduit PVC pipes and cut them into two pieces for easy transportation on top of my car roof. The pipes were easy to join using a 1” coupler and bottom flare in the pipe, but it was good push-pull/ twist exercise for us to take it apart at the end of the activation. I used a 6-foot long metal garden T-bar and guy wires placed at the centre and at the top of the mast for support.

For the first three days I had set up the G5RV in a North-South direction parallel to the cabin and for the last two days I changed to an East-West direction. I got responses from all over US on 20m including as far as California, Texas and Arkansas. Unfortunately, there were no responses from Ontario and I believe that it was partly due to E-Skip on 20m. I did not make many calls on 40m because of high SWR on the mini-G5RV. We logged total of 123 QSOs. We disassembled the station on the last day when it was raining. My future plan is to buy a battery pack and a more portable vertical antenna and to activate nearby parks.