

THE K5N GRID ACTIVATION GROUP PLANS FOR 2012

Hello everyone interested in FFMA or Grid chasing. The K5N Grid Activation Group(aka the K5N Group) is working on our plans for 2012. After getting wiped out in 2011, we are planning again. We want to mount DXpeditions that will benefit as many stations as possible.

We want to let everyone to know what grids we intend to activate and when we intend to do that. We are looking at June 19th through June 26th--that is a few days before Field Day and includes the FD weekend. We are planning a DXpedition divided into two groups. These two groups will be in the field at the same time, located in different grids, using different frequencies, and different calls. Here is the basic plan. Please understand that these plans are subject to change.

Each group will consist of 4 operators, an antenna vehicle, and a support vehicle. Here is a possible timetable:

June 19 Drive to the Big Bend area

June 20 Drive to final location and begin setup. If setup goes well, we might operate some this night.

June 21 Operate

June 22 Operate

June 23 Operate--Field Day(1/2 day)

June 24 Operate--Field Day(1/2 day)

June 25 Tear down and begin the drive out
June 26 Finish drive home

GROUP 1--DL88. Obviously, this is the really hard one. In a fit of stupidity, we are going to try this one again. We will be using a big 4 x 4 pickup truck with a short tower mounted on a rack. The total height of the antenna will be approximately 20ft above the ground(remember that Talley2 is about another 15ft above the surrounding terrain). The antenna will be 2 x 6M5X mounted side by side as H-pol with full AZ and EL. We will operate Es whenever we can, most probably using 100W of power. We will operate some MS at favorable times, but it is unlikely that we will run all night long. Our call in DL88 will be K5N.

When EME conditions are favorable, we will operate EME with 1000W out. This is going to be difficult, because the Park will not allow a generator in DL88. That means that we will have to run QRO off batteries. We will be doing a lot of battery charging. My plan is to use one set of very large batteries for EME while we are charging another set of batteries for normal operations.

The EME operation is to help those that are located just outside the normal single hop limit, but too close for double hop. By posting our plans now, it also enables

anyone that wants this extremely rare grid to get their 6M EME station in order. You know what we will have, so it will behoove you to make sure that you have enough on your end to make the trip....i.e. more goo and more aluminum.

GROUP 2--Activate a Second Location. We want to choose this Second Location to maximize the value to the FFMA community. Listed in order of preference, our choices appear to be:

A)The Grid Line DL79-DL89. I have found a possible place to set up on the DL79-DL89 grid line. There is a nice location right on the DL79-DL89 line in the Big Bend Ranch State Park.

B)DL79 only. There are several places that we can set up in DL79. All are along US67 north of Presidio, TX.

NOTE: As soon as the Second Location is finalized, we will let everyone know. Group 2 CAN have a generator, so they will be running QRO at all times. This will make things a lot easier. We may run an 8877 for 6m or one of M2's KW solid state amps. The antenna will be a 6M5X. The call used by Group 2 will be N5K.

Again this year, Joey-W5KFT has consented to be our QSL Manager. Please send ALL QSL cards to him with an SASE, not to the traveling members. The traveling

members will not have blank cards to send out. NO SASE to Joey means NO QSL card.

We are willing to listen to "Intelligent" suggestions concerning our plans. The K5N Group will decide what suggestions are "Intelligent" and which ones will go to the bit bucket. Please send any suggestions to me directly-- k5qe (at) sabinenet.com.

The K5N Grid Activation Group is hoping for a great year in 2012. Not only for ourselves, but for all the other groups that are planning on activating the various grids around the country. GL to us all!!!

73 de the K5N Grid Activation Group
A Grid Bandits DXpedition
<http://www.kcvhfgridbandits.com>