

## Portable Operations By Tony Baker - AA3HD

Now that summer is officially over, I thought I might share my experiences with my portable HF operations over the summer. I spend most of the summer months in Little Deer Isle, Maine. I went to elementary school in Deer Isle, where my mother taught music. We still own a seasonal house on the bay side of the Little Deer Isle, and it is from there that I set up my portable operations.



***A look in my go-box prior to setting up for operations.***

I set up my HF rig in my truck. Some of you may be thinking that would make it a mobile rather than portable operation, but as you will see, that is not the case. According to the ARRL 2022 Field Day Rules, mobile operation is defined as: “**(Class C) Mobile:** Stations in vehicles capable of operating while in motion and normally operated in this manner. This includes maritime and aeronautical mobile.” My set up did not allow me to operate in motion and was not normally operated in this manner.



***My radio and manual tuner set up on top of my go-box in my truck.***

When contemplating operating from Little Deer Isle, I always imagined it would be from a static position in my truck. I already had a 2m/70cm/DMR rig in my truck, (a true mobile set up by Field Day definition), but needed to figure out HF operations. I decided to use my Yaesu 991A with the MFJ-945E mobile manual tuner. Although the 991A has a built-in ATU, I knew that some mobile HF antennas may be beyond the capabilities of the ATU. The antenna I decided upon was the MFJ-1699S. This is a multi-band antenna that covers 2 to 80 meters. You manually pick which band you want to operate on by the use of a wander lead that you plug in at various coil points along the antenna and through adjustment of the length of a whip on the top. I attached the antenna to the top of the cab of my truck using the MFJ-336S tri-magnet mount, and led the coax from the mount through my sliding rear window to the antenna tuner.





*Antenna atop my truck and a close-up of the tri-mag mount.*



*A view of the back of my radio and tuner set up for portable operations.*

Through this set up I was able to make contacts on Field Day, during the 13 Colonies event, and to Windsor Castle during the operation of a special event station commemorating the Queen's Jubilee. Other contacts I made from my Little Deer Isle portable operations include a POTA activation in England, the special event station at the Indiana State Fair, the World's Largest Teapot special event, as well as 'routine' domestic and DX contacts. I used a paper log to log my contacts real time, and later input the data to my computerized logs.

I look forward to more portable operations from Little Deer Isle next summer.

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