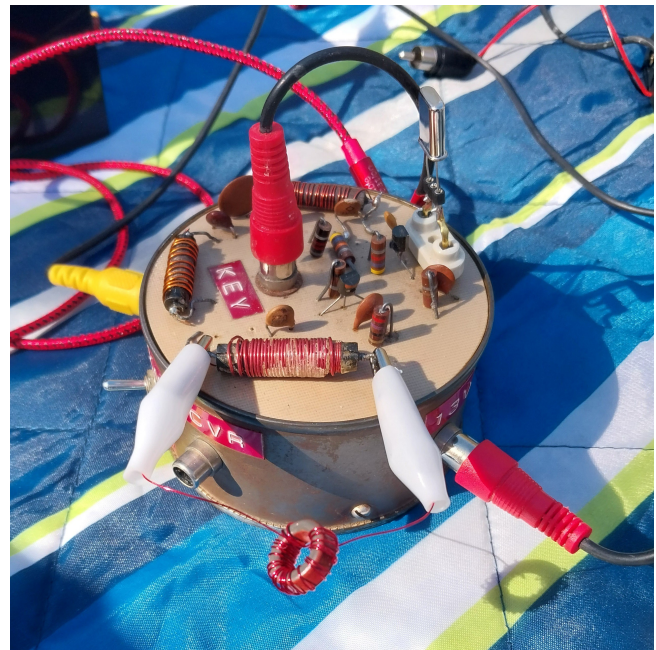


Tuna Tin 2 Ancient Sacred Relic 2026 50th Anniversary World Tour

April 4, 2026 Lake Sammamish State Park POTA (US-3216) Event



Attendees:

N7ITU	Scott Richardson
KI7E	Paul Nicholson
W1REX	Rex Harper
W7ZOO	Ethan Schoonover
KK7JCN	Paulo Assandri
N7TES	John Sherrill
KI7RMO	Bob Otis
WE7X	Rod Johnson
W7PFB	Paul Butzi
W7GIL	Gil Drynan
K5EM	Justin McAllister
N2IHK	Ben Krueger
K7ESP	Scott Petty
NT1B	Jeff Schoner
KE7NOR	Matt Blank



Background:

Originally, I thought I would just have a meeting with Seattle area QRPers to show off the original TT2 from 50 years ago...The Ancient Sacred Relic. So I packed up a few items in a portable case to set up a demonstration system for showing & telling...like I did at Hamcon in Burlington VT. While in Florida and getting ready for Ozarkcon, I unpacked the case and discovered that my HC-6 to FT-243 crystal adapter had broken in transit and one of the adapter pins was completely missing. I called my buddy Jim Scott, WBOIYC, in Joplin MO and asked him to bring any HC-6 crystals he could find to Ozarkcon. He did, and there was a single 7011 HC-6 crystal that I could plug directly into the HC-6 crystal socket on the ASR which worked great for Ozarkcon. ASR working into my CP Sighter and then on to G3RJV's power meter right off his bench.

But I thought I should do more than just have a demonstration setup on a picnic table at a state park meeting...like maybe a POTA station. Big problem, I was traveling with just a power meter with built in dummy load and NO antenna. John Poland, NOWL, was selling St. Louis Vertical antenna kits over at his table. I bought one of those and he offered to build it that night. While the antenna was perfect for POTA deployment, the ASR was a 40m transmitter. AND all I had for crystals were FT-243s, HC-49s and a single HC-6 all on 40m. I figured I might be able to get a couple of 20m crystals from my friend in Seattle, Scott Richardson, N7ITU. I dashed off a message to Scott with a want list of missing stuff I needed for a 20m POTA activation and the next day he messaged back that he could probably come up with everything I needed. I left Branson MO and flew to Seattle. Now my biggest issue was operating a 40m ASR on 20m hoping to get a 20m crystal from Scott. So I did some calculating: If I hosed up an inductor across the existing inductor in the ASR low pass filter circuit, I could move the LPF up to work at 20m. The ASR oscillator circuit is wideband so changing the 40m crystal to 20m was not an issue. Did that way back when I was selling Two Tinned Tunas kits on 80/40/30/20. I had toroids in my parts box so I did a bunch of calculating and wound one up and put alligator clips on the leads so I could make an unobtrusive mod to the ASR. You can see the added toroid hosed up the the ASR using white alligator clips in the picture above. I also went to the hardware store and bought some 1.5mm brass tubing, cut/bent a couple of pieces to add to a 3 pin SIP socket and I now had an HC-49 adapter for the ASR. While searching for the toroid, I came across a Rockmite 20m kit I was carrying to ship out this week to a customer. WOW! Now I had 2 sets of 20m HC-49 crystals, an ASR modded for 20m, and a 20m St. Louis Vertical antenna.



Scott showed up on Saturday with battery, coax and a GOOD straight key and we were in BUSINESS!

We had 15 QRPer's in attendance and many, including me, tried their hand at operating the Ancient Sacred Relic on 20 meters. Could that possibly be the 1st time the ASR had been on 20m.....?? Ten posed for a group picture.



UTC Ancient Sacred Relic Operators 4/4/26 image by K5EM's son

18:07 W7PFB, using W1REX, worked N7ITU

18:17 N7ITU worked W7PFB

19:13 K5EM worked N7ITU

19:22 W7ZOO worked N7ITU

(Ethan's first CW QSO)

19:23 W7ZOO worked K5EM

19:58 W1REX worked N7ITU

(Rex's first CW QSO)

20:05 NT1B worked N7ITU

(Jeff's first CW QSO)



W7ZOO at the ASR image by K5EM

Note: We were getting just under 100 mW of RF into the dummy load so we knew we probably wouldn't be seen by anybody as the frequency was quite active. So we set up another station with Scott as the main operator to make sure we could complete QSOs for such a momentous occasion....

Respectfully submitted,
Rex Harper W1REX