

Here is a review from Andy in the USA along with photo's from December '04, emails have been clipped to allow for insertion.

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Email 1

I fired up the antenna for the first time from the rover. I was S4 500 miles away on a a really cold morning...and no, it wasn't the conditions as my father was down the street on our 13b2 at 50ft to do a comparison. I was heard on MS in GA, TX and LA with multiple pings, so it gets out much better than anything I've ever used from the car. I need to chase down some computer RFI in the laptop, but once that is done I'll be heading out to some rare grids with this thing.

Incidentally, I found it easier to transport with the elements intact but removed from the boom. This allows me to quickly assemble the antenna on the ground by just dropping the whole element assembly into the boom.

Andy K0SM



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Email 2

I operated for about 6 hours in DN81qh, which is some land owned by the Lutheran Church north of Lodgepole, NE. I worked 8 stations and heard many more that I didn't have time to work. The longest QSO was WB5APD in EM84 (NE of Atlanta) and I had a near miss with K2AXX at almost 1300mi.

It hard for me to make any comparisons with the home station because of the different factors involved. It works quite well, and generally much better than the 3/3 yagi configuration I used in previous trips.

I'm sure the car roof screwed with the pattern a little, but if it did it didn't seem to matter. As far as my experience with MS goes, I definitely heard as many or more pings than with my 13b2 at home on a 50ft tower. That's a tough comparison though, since often times with MS you get pings arriving at a wider variety of angles (both AZ and EL) than with typical tropo work.

The antenna is a little too wide to be on the car while driving, so I came up with a quick system of assembly. I am able to assemble the antenna in about 10-15 minutes (with practice!), and that is a bit of a circus show with me climbing on the roof and such. I am able to do it solo in the dark at 10 deg F with an icy roof though. For this trip I had help from a friend that made things a bit easier.

There's a good chance that this antenna will become the permanent 2m antenna here in Nebraska at N0RHL (dad) since the current 13b2 seems to be sick right now.

Andy K0SM

