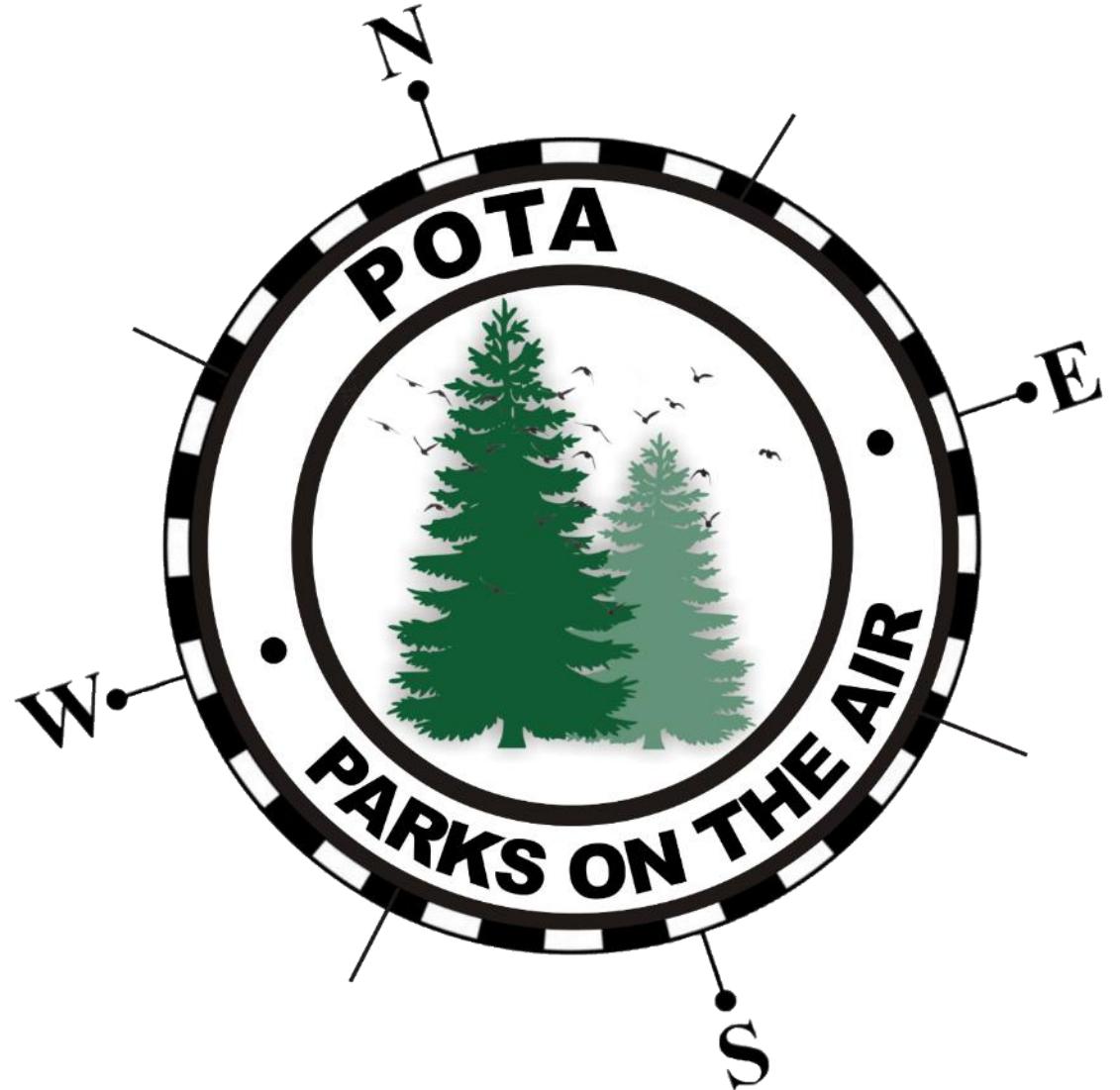


Getting Started with Parks On The Air® (POTA)

“Deep Dive”

Dennis Boyé - AH2O

Ham Radio University
10 January 2026



POTA – Keeping it Simple

- Introduction
- Creating a POTA Account
- Getting Started
- Operations
 - Hunter
 - Activator
 - Log Submittal
- My POTA Gear
- My Activator Logging Software
- Awards
- Special Events
- Social Media Platforms
- References
- Q&A

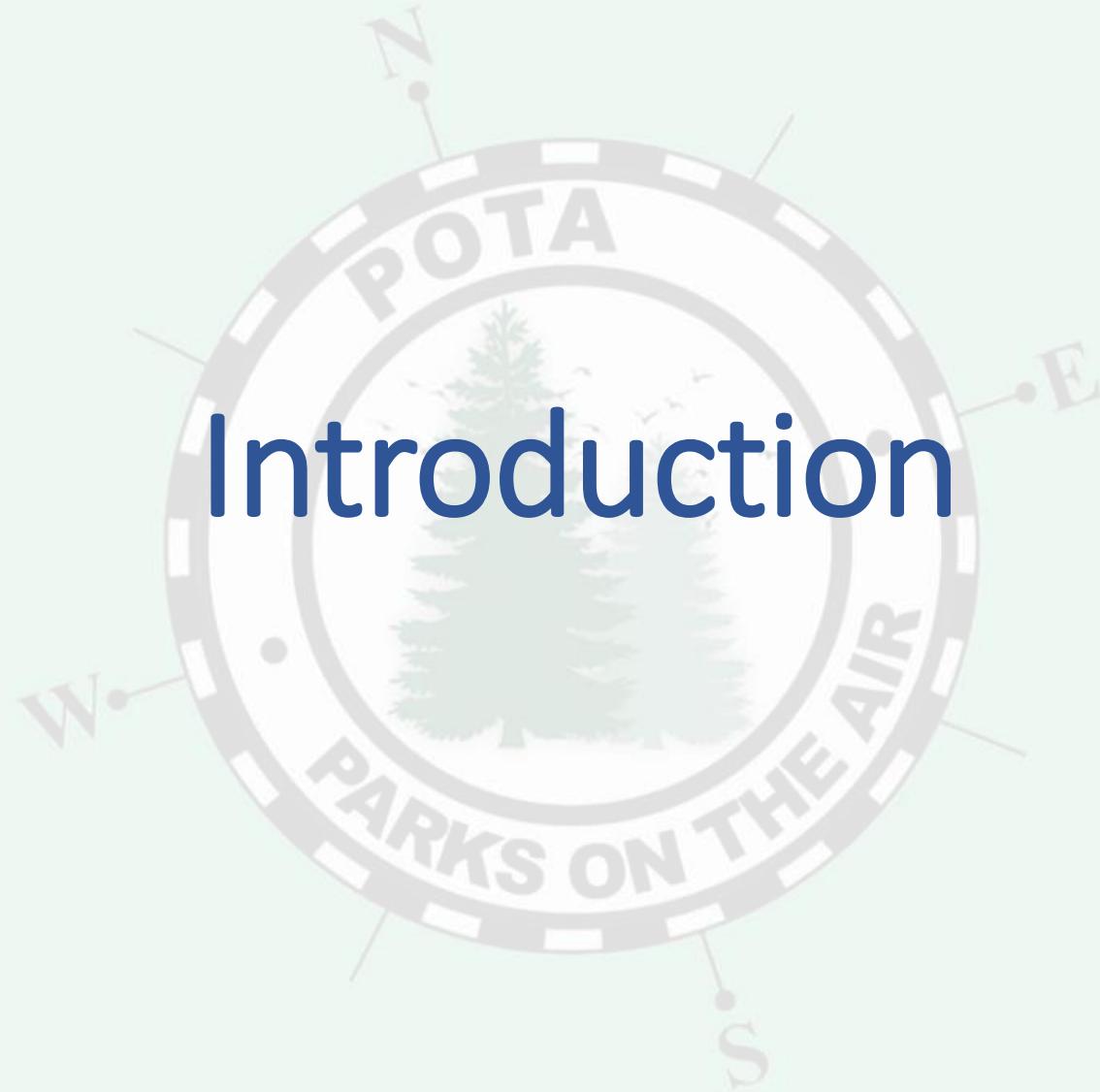


Coke vs Pepsi

- Some people like Coke, some like Pepsi
 - It's a manner of opinion
 - Like the views in this presentation!



Introduction



Introduction

- Parks on the Air® (POTA) is a Radiosport program that encourages communications to, and portable operations from, designated parks
 - All Bands and Modes
- POTA started in 2017 when the ARRL's National Parks on the Air special event ended
- A group of volunteers wanted to continue the fun beyond the one-year event, and thus, POTA was born
 - Field Day all year long



Introduction

- Originally US National Parks, it has expanded to include National Forests, National Trails, State Parks, etc.



- POTA has also expanded to almost every country worldwide



POTA – Very Popular!

Special Section! Contest Season 2025 – 2026 | 65

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Get Ready for Contest Season

- Propagation tools
- What it takes to run 2E
- Planning band and mode
- And more!

Second Century

Amateur Radio On The Air

Jason Johnston, KCSHWB, recently featured "30 Days of Ham Radio" on his YouTube channel, Ham Radio 2.0. I have always felt that ham radio is a hobby of hobbies. There's plenty to learn and use within amateur radio, and not everything is for everybody. But Jason did a great job of taking viewers from working 2-meter simplex, to using APRS along with fellow YouTuber Jason Oleham, KM4ACK, for something I had never heard of before – Beaches On The Air!

It has become abundantly clear that amateur radio operators love operating from portable locations, most of which are outdoors. These operations have moved far from the annual planning and operation of a Field Day station. Some of the getting-on-the-air programs include Beaches On The Air, Islands On The Air, Get On The Air (ARRL Field Day), Lighthouses On the Air, Parks on the Air® (POTA), Summits on the Air and even Walmart Parking Lots On The Air (WMPLOTA). I accidentally stumbled into the WMPLOTA event one year when the stations were making contacts via satellite and received bonus points for building their antennas entirely from parts purchased at the Walmart they were operating from.

We are very proud of the work that the team at POTA has done with their program. You will remember that, in 2016, ARRL created and conducted the popular National Parks on the Air program. Little did anyone at ARRL know how big the POTA program could potentially become. POTA is supported by an outstanding website (parksonthair.com), and we were proud to partner with them on ARRL's *The Parks on the Air® Book*. POTA has become an international program with activity all over the world.

POTA has also created a resurgence of interest in using Morse code! A typical POTA station consists of a low-power transceiver running off a battery. Stations use temporary antennas that are typically simple vertical or end-fed wires that are lightweight and easy to deploy. Running a modest station can make voice contacts difficult to achieve, whereas CW contacts are more likely to complete. At an activation at nearby Windsor Locks Canal State Park Trail (US-754) in Connecticut, we were having poor results on 10-meter

phone. We tuned down to the beacons segment and copied stations from Europe, to South Africa, South America, Central America, and Western Canada. Moving farther down the band and getting on CW rewarded us with a pileup from Europe.

Going portable doesn't have to be complicated. Another YouTube phenom, "Salty" Walt Hudson, K4OGO, has shown on his channel, Coastal Waves & Wires, that vertical push-up masts with various lengths of wires can lead to differing multi-band results. We partnered with Walt on his ARRL book, *Salty Walt's Portable Antenna Sketchbook*, to illustrate the many configurations he's deployed by working DX from beach locations. We also introduced an End-Fed Half-Wave Antenna Kit some 4 years ago, to inspire hams to build an antenna that they could use for Field Day or for portable operation. Putting together some simple-to-deploy antennas and having them ready to go is a fun and easy project.

Whether or not operating portable — activating locations like parks, summits, islands, or beaches — appeals to you, you should know that's where the action is on the bands these days. Be radio active! You can be an activator or a hunter! Be a connector! Inspire others in your club to activate local entities to build up excitement and experience. And look for me on the air from SA-006 or BQ-0001.


David A. Minster, NA2AA
Chief Executive Officer

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Add an SDR Receiver to Any Radio | 56

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A POTA Activation on a Volcano

With an EFHW, IW0HK operated on 20 meters from the iconic Vesuvius National Park.



The author's portable setup along the crater of Mount Vesuvius.

Andrea Borgnino, IW0HK

For me, ham radio is a portable activity. Whether I'm activating a mountaintop for Summits on the Air (SOTA) or operating SSB or CW from a Parks on the Air® (POTA®) park, the most important thing is that there is no roof over my station. I find myself transmitting almost exclusively when I'm away from home.

I had dreamed about my next activation idea for a long time. In short, I wanted to climb — strictly on foot — to the top of a volcano, and then transmit from either a POTA or a SOTA reference. I live in Rome, so I knew the most convenient volcano for me to access would be Mount Vesuvius, which is part of the larger Vesuvius National Park (POTA reference IT-0675). After settling on this location, I spent the next several months researching how to make my dream become a reality. In March 2024, I succeeded in making it happen.

Thanks to Wikiloc (www.wikiloc.com), an excellent website that allows users to share trails and GPS tracks, I was able to find the best way to climb the volcano and, most importantly, the best place to set

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September 2025

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Use AI to Improve the Readability of Weak Beacons | 30

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Parks on the Air, In the Air



QST Reviews

- Alinco DR-CS10HT 2-Meter FM Transceiver
- APC Schneider Electric Pro BN1500M2 UPS
- CyberPower CP1500PFCLCD UPS
- Tripp-Lite SMART1500PSGLCD UPS

POTA Hot-Air Ballooning over US-1015

A ground-breaking plan results in a successful activation from above 75 feet.

Ron Ochu, KOØZ

In late October 2023, a couple of radio buddies from the Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club, K9MCE — Dan Hough, WX9EM, and Mark Lewis, KD9EFO — notified me about an upcoming Parks on the Air® (POTA®) event that was set to take place at Pere Marquette State Park, US-1015, near Grafton, Illinois. Earlier, the event organizer, Dennis McGlasson, AD9WM, had invited a small group of POTA activators to participate in the upcoming event. This small, dedicated group of radio amateurs was hoping to make a park-to-ground contact from a hot-air balloon.

As Dennis later wrote on his QRZ profile, "On November 1, 2023, five others and I POTA activated Pere Marquette State Park, US-1015, from a hot air balloon! Operators were AD9WM, N9VFR, KØOMD, KØKST, KD9LON, and KD9EFO. The pilots were Lynn Brownell and Floyd Thornton, and the balloon and crew were provided by Scott Wooge, representative of Lindstrand Balloons USA."

Planning for POTA

First, Floyd and Dennis needed to check Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements regarding radios and antennas on a balloon. If the equipment isn't permanently attached to the balloon, FAA certification isn't required. Scott reviewed the plan and gave his approval. We also learned that Scott is a ham! Scott provided the balloon, his piloting advice, and his sponsorship.

Next, our POTA team needed to obtain permission from the park. Pere Marquette State Park Superintendent Nate Goetten was all for the idea. He explained the online permit process, which required a signed waiver and a \$25.00 application fee. Three weeks later, both were approved.

The group needed the following equipment for the hot-air balloon POTA activation: an Icom 7300 transceiver with a dual microphone splitter, Heil headsets, a 20 Ah Bioenno LiFePo4 battery, a Pactenna 40-through 10-meter end-fed half-wave antenna with a tennis ball attached to its free end, and 25 feet of RG-8X coax.



The POTA balloon at 75 feet. The tether lines and the end-fed half-wave antenna draped straight down off the basket. [Ron Ochu, KOØZ, photo]

Day of Activation

The POTA operators and balloon crew arrived at the park around 6:00 AM. It was a chilly, sunny day, with very little wind. Early morning is a prime time to launch a balloon. Wind speeds of more than 10 knots can scuttle a hot-air balloon launch. The balloon's basket held the pilot, Lynn Brownell, and two POTA operators.

The balloon was tethered to three pickup trucks, approximately 120 degrees apart, in the field to keep it from drifting. Lynn took two POTA operators up to 75 feet, and each ham made at least 10 contacts to qualify for park activation. After both hams made their contacts, Lynn descended the balloon so the next team of two could go up; there was a total of three teams. The same rig and end-fed antenna were used for each team. Team members used headsets to

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SOTA and POTA Holidays

One ham's journey operating portable across Europe.

Andrea Borgnino, IWØHK

Recently, my family and I spent 2 weeks in Spain, in the EA3 call district area. I took the opportunity to hunt for new Summits on the Air (SOTA) and activate Parks on the Air (POTA). Before the journey to Spain, we stopped for a few days in my hometown of Turin, Italy, and I started my activations there.

Activations in Italy

I began at La Mandria Regional Park (POTA reference IT-0632), a huge green lung of more than 3,000 hectares (about 11.5 square miles) located northwest of Turin. It was extremely hot, so I tried to find a shaded area to set up. I was lucky to find a table between two huge trees. I erected my wire antenna using the classic stone-throwing method. The propagation wasn't optimal, but I made 13 contacts in the end, and thus the park was activated.

Excited by this first outing, I attempted a double activation by moving to the Stura di Lanzo river (POTA reference IT-0603) located in a Natura 2000 protected area a few kilometers from La Mandria. I quickly set up my loaded vertical antenna on the riverbed, but propagation didn't assist me, and I couldn't make the required



SOTA on Rocciameleone mountain in Italy.

10 contacts. I've certainly learned that activating takes time, and you can't expect to start your operation at the end of the day.

After 2 days, my two sons and I decided to climb the mountain Rocciameleone (SOTA code I/PM-311), the highest peak in the Susa Valley at 3,538 meters (11,607 feet). The ascent took us more than 3 hours with a 1,480-meter (4,855-foot) elevation gain, and we were rewarded by the splendor at the summit. I activated this SOTA peak on HF, leaning my wire antenna against the tower at the summit. I made only 21 contacts, but the beauty of operating with a glacier view was worth it.

Activations in Spain

After these activations in Italy, the journey to Spain began. I tried to find SOTA summits close to cities and within parks to simultaneously activate for both POTA and SOTA. The first activation was the Cap de Creus Natural Park (POTA reference ES-0331), located on a promontory of Mediterranean vegetation near the town of Cadaqués. With limited time available, I activated from my car within the park boundaries. I strung my wire antenna between my vehicle and a small tree, aiming for maximum height. With this easy and fortunate setup, I managed to make 14 contacts on 20 meters to confirm the POTA activation.

The first SOTA summit was a 466-meter (1,528-foot) mountain south of Barcelona called La Coscollada (SOTA code EA3/BC-081). I hiked through a beautiful, large pine forest, and at the top was a tall fire tower lookout, which was very useful because it provided the necessary shade to operate comfortably as I made 27 contacts. During these days, temperatures never dropped below 33 degrees Celsius (91 degrees Fahrenheit).

The second summit was Turó de Can Pasqual (SOTA code EA3/BC-080) at 470 meters (1,542 feet), located in the Collserola Natural Park. I made 42 contacts with my end-fed half-wave (EFHW) wire antenna on 20 meters.

The third summit was Turó de l'Home (SOTA code EA3/BC-008), which was quite different from the Italian Apennine peaks I was used to. With an elevation of 1,705 meters (3,526 feet), the ascent took about an hour with a 500-meter (1,640-foot) elevation gain. De-

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Get Ready for Contest Season

- Propagation tools
- What it takes to run 2
- Planning band and mode
- And more!

Ham Media Playlist

Ham Radio Duo

Amateur radio has something for everyone, and most often it is enjoyed as an individual hobby. Every now and then, however, ham radio is enjoyed as a family activity. This is the case with Mike, N4FFF, and Becky, N4BKY, of Spiceland.

Discovering Ham Radio

The Spicelands were introduced to amateur radio about 10 years ago, when a tornado outbreak knocked out power and cell phone communications for an extended period of time. When things began to return to normal, Mike researched how to prepare should another similar event occur. This led him to purchase a Baofeng radio, watch YouTube videos, and find ways that amateur radio could be enjoyed. He fondly recalls finding YouTubers like Adam Kimerly, KGARIK, doing QRP CW operations and wanting to experience that sort of adventure. That was all it took for Mike to begin studying for his Technician license.

Becky's experience with amateur radio involved sitting with Mike and watching a TV show that had a bit of Morse code in it, which Mike decoded. Becky was surprised that Mike knew Morse code and asked about it. Mike suggested that Becky download an app to learn CW — and that was all it took! Becky quickly learned the letters. The pair found a YouTube channel of a married couple enjoying CW together, and Becky wanted to do the same, so she started studying for her license.

Enjoying CW and the Outdoors

The Spicelands were shocked by how much fun CW was and how well it paired with their love of the outdoors. They decided to launch a YouTube channel, Ham Radio Duo (www.youtube.com/@HamRadioDuo), to share their enjoyment with others. Mike and Becky tend to do things that they can do



Mike, N4FFF, and Becky, N4BKY, make a CW contact from the Smoky Mountains with Ron, W2RAL, in New York.

together — hence the channel name. Creating great content on YouTube is one of the many things they do together.

Mike and Becky enjoy Parks on the Air®, and in the video titled "Morse Code in the Smoky Mountains" (<https://tinyurl.com/duo-mountains>), the couple hike the Smoky Mountains in search of a spot to activate Great Smoky Mountains National Park (US-0034). Starting out with a QRP rig, small battery, and antenna only a few feet off the ground, they make their first contact with K4NYX in Florida. It is enjoyable to watch them as they work together to activate the park. The video makes you feel like you are sitting with them in the park as they casually talk about the contacts,



Mike, N4FFF, shows the QX3 mini transceiver he uses to operate QRP CW.

November 2025

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An Optimized 6-Meter Array | 32



Anatomy of a POTA Rove

A seasoned portable operator explored the natural beauty and history of eastern North Carolina on a 2-day, nine-park radio adventure.

Marc P. Sullivan, W4MPS

At age 78, I still have a desire for adventure. Parks on the Air® (POTA®) fills that need by offering opportunities to visit beautiful locations, many of which I never knew existed. Exploring historic sites and wildlife refuges, coupled with the fun of portable operating, speaks volumes of the richness of our hobby.

I was anxious to hit the road. Several of my ham buddies recommended the Lake Mattamuskeet area in the eastern part of North Carolina. So, I began studying POTA maps in that area and decided on a 2-day, nine-park rove.

The most important part of a POTA activation is planning; there are many ways to set up for an activation, depending on the logistics at the target location. Thanks to the wide array of available online resources, you can easily determine the rig, power source, and antenna that offers the best combination of comfort and signal efficiency for each park.

For my trip, I used the POTA website (<https://pota.app>) to pick locations that I could reasonably activate over 2 days. The nine parks in my planned route varied greatly, from wide-open areas with few other people, to congested areas with limited deployment options.



December 2025

Day 1: The Road to Mattamuskeet

Bonner House Historic Site (POTA US-10263), located in Bath, North Carolina, is just over 2 hours from home along the route to Mattamuskeet — the perfect place to start my rove. Originally owned by a prosperous naval-store merchant in the 1800s, Bonner House is a great choice for combining history with ham radio.

I left home around 8:00 AM and was on the air at Bonner House by 10:30. I operated from the back seat of my vehicle, as there was limited space to set up a freestanding antenna. The best option was hamsticks for 40 and 20 meters mounted on the roof of the car. I used an Elecraft KX3 situated on a lightweight piece of plywood and powered by a small 4.6 Ah LiFePO4 battery. The hamsticks and backseat shack accommodated a quick setup and takedown. I made 27 contacts here over 45 minutes. Several buddies tracked my progress during this trip, and they were ready for me when I called CQ, Chris, W7AMD, and Rich, N4EX, who were the first two in my log. The biggest surprise was a call from Chris, F6EAZ, from Dijon, France.

The next stop was Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge (POTA US-0419), in Swan Quarter, North Carolina. This 16,000-acre reserve borders the Pamlico Sound. My good friend Paul, AA4XX, had previously activated this location, so I was able to draw upon his experience to help with my plan.

With his tips and some help from Google Earth, I found a dirt road leading to Bell Island Pier. The road went on for what seemed like forever. When I finally arrived at the pier, my clean car was covered in road dust.

There wasn't another person to be seen. I had plenty of room to erect an antenna, so I deployed my homebrew 40-meter doublet, with the center attached to a 30-foot extendable mast mounted on a drive-on base. I set it up as an inverted V with a 300 Ω twinlead feeder attached to a 4:1 balun. A run of RG-8X coaxial cable completed the setup. I was on the air at 12:15 PM as planned. Propagation conditions on this trip were up and down,



Marc, W4MPS, operates from Gull Rock Game Land (POTA US-6908) using his elevated 20-meter quarter-wave vertical antenna.

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An Optimized 6-Meter Array | 32

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ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® December 2025 www.arrl.org DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO AMATEUR RADIO

Bill Hewitt, W3FRR, w3hb@comcast.net

Club Station

Hosting a Successful POTA Event

The Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club (PAARC), K3ZMC, is in the Delaware Valley (also known as the Philadelphia metropolitan area) in Pennsylvania. This region offers an abundance of parks, affording radio enthusiasts many opportunities to activate a park for Parks on the Air® (POTA®).

PAARC has provided its members with several club presentations on POTA, but we wanted to take the training a bit further by hosting a live POTA demonstration, called PAARC in the Park.

Recruiting the Experts

POTA traces its roots to the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) program, which ARRL ran in 2016 to help the National Park Service celebrate 100 years. PAARC is fortunate to have top performers from NPOTA — PAARC President Walt Skavinsky, KB3SBC, and Pete Kobak, K0BAK — as members. Joel Rubincam, NF3R; Greg Malone, WA3GM, and I are also POTA advocates. We were all eager and willing to be the event's instructors. An additional incentive was that we could activate the park that day.

Event Goals

PAARC in the Park stressed the importance of activators and hunters, and how many hunters transition into activators. The goal was to show how to activate a POTA station with minimal special equipment, using what's already available to most hams. POTA allows participants to pursue their interests in their own way, emphasizing the importance of skills and adaptability in dealing with various elements. This event not only showcased the excitement of POTA, but it also fostered learning and a sense of community among amateur radio enthusiasts in the region.

We promoted the event via the email list server, groups.io (<https://groups.io>), as well as PAARC's web page (www.paarc.net) and the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section web page (<https://epa.arrl.org>). It cost \$70 to rent a pavilion at the park, and we provided hot dogs and refreshments.

A Successful Turnout

We held PAARC in the Park on April 28, 2024, at Evansburg State Park, an area centrally located to several local radio clubs. The program was organized

by Walt, KB3SBC, and PAARC Secretary Melody Bowers, KB3SJ.R.

It was a wonderful event! We had 36 hams from five different local clubs as well as six guests visit, for a total of 42 people. Weather for the outdoor event was excellent, and, despite less-than-favorable band conditions, all operators were successful in providing a lot of contacts for eager POTA hunters. One of the most beneficial aspects of the event, other than chatting with fellow hams, was being able to see various equipment configurations. It's always educational to witness how different field antenna systems are deployed and how other operators stow and carry their gear.

We are incredibly grateful to our operators who shared their talents and were so generous with their time in answering guests' questions while activating the park. There was an impressive array of antennas and radios on display.

Given the success of the event, I emailed Mike Dahlholer, KB3MRD, of the YouTube channel Ham Radio Tube, about our recent PAARC in the Park POTA event. To my surprise, Mike featured our club and event in his video "My Definition Of A Great Ham Radio Club!" (www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmn9coLuFrSs).

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December 2025

On the Air

JUL/AUG 2025 ARRL.ORG/OTA

Decision Day: Building Ham Bands

POTA Activators and Hunters: The Great Symbiosis

The overwhelmingly popular Parks on the Air® (POTA®) operating program involves taking your radio gear to state parks, national monuments, national trails, state wildlife areas, etc., and getting on the air from there — an activity called activating. Let's look at activating as well as its counterpart activity, hunting, to see how the roles complement each other.

Colin Wheatley, W9UPK



Activating from a POTA-designated park makes for an exciting time on the radio as POTA hunters do their best to contact you. It's also a great way to spend time in nature.

The POTA organization has created a robust website (parksontheair.com) to help you find POTA parks near you, as well as a system of awards for honoring your POTA achievements, whether you're an activator or a hunter. Because, let's face it, activators and hunters can't exist without each other.

All About Activators

POTA activators are the hams who go out into the field, set up their rigs, erect antennas where the public won't trip over cables or guywires, and begin making contacts. Depending on the season,

activators struggle with cold temperatures, oppressive heat, rain, and bugs. They may drive a few miles or hundreds of miles to get to their chosen park. Some activators make the experience part of their vacations, and drive from place to place, camping out and enjoying time in the outdoors. Activators can publish their activations on the POTA website — a practice known as spotting — to let POTA hunters know that they're set up and ready to make contacts. POTA has assigned unique alphanumeric designators to each park, such as "US-9768" for Bearskin State Trail in Wisconsin. When an activator puts their call sign and park designator out there, there may be dozens of hunters trying to make that

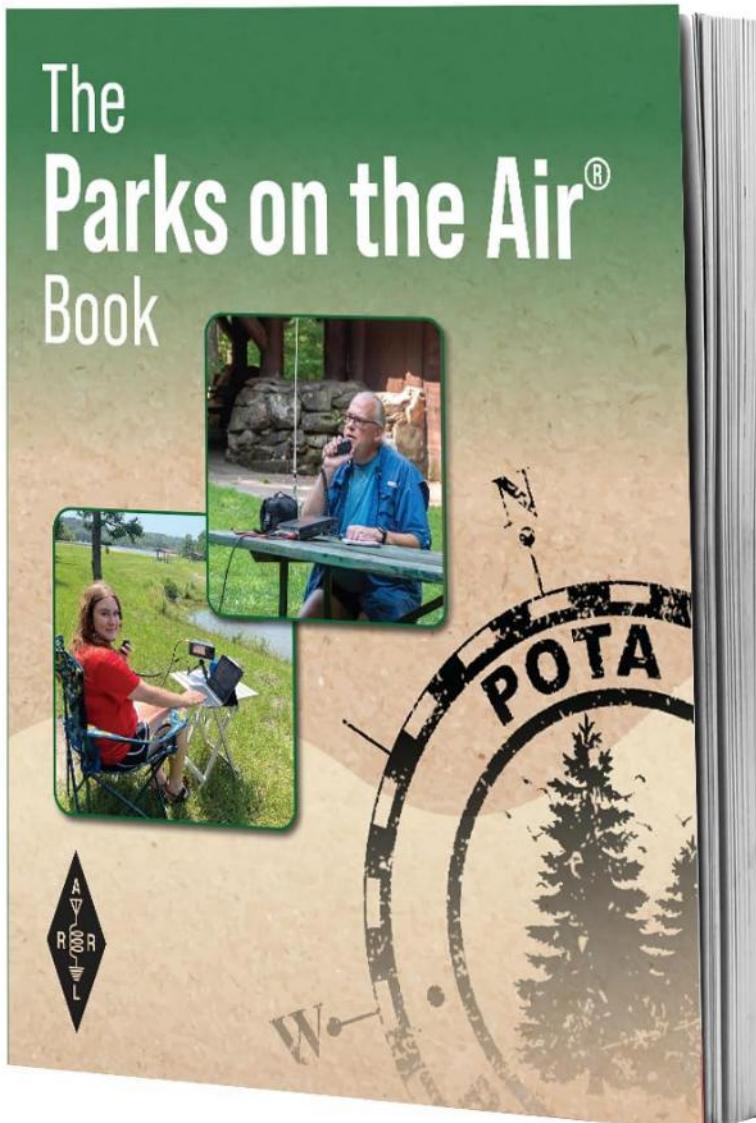
Homing in on Hunters

POTA hunters sit in the comfort of their radio shacks and check the POTA website for activations. If they see an activation in a park they haven't already contacted, they jump into action. Even though hunters aren't usually dealing with weather and insects, POTA hunting is not always easy. When an activator puts their call sign and park designator out there, there may be

July 2025

JUL/AUG 2025

POTA – Very Popular!



[www.youtube.com/watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1319) [Get Started with POTA \(Parks On The Air\) – Beginners Guide!](#)
... pota-operations/ Get your ham radio license fast and easy with our ... POTA logger! Available on web, iOS and Android. Create your free ...
YouTube · Ham Radio Prep · Mar 15, 2024

[www.youtube.com/watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1853) [POTA for Beginners: Everything You Need to Know Start Today](#)
This is a comprehension Beginners Guide on how to start POTA. From Account creation, a walkthrough of the site, defining definitions, ...
YouTube · Tank Radio · Jun 2, 2025

[www.youtube.com/watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1706) [Your first POTA ACTIVATION can be this EASY!](#)
Your first Parks on the Air activation can feel intimidating, but starting out can be as simple as setting up and hunting other POTA ...
YouTube · KB9VBR Antennas · 1 month ago

[www.youtube.com/watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1057) [10 things you always wanted to know - POTA and Ham Radio](#)
... POTA QSOS: <https://youtu.be/t0qzZPphE7k> Better Logging with Smart ...
POTA #ParksOnTheAir #PortableHamRadio #qanda #hamradioquestions #
YouTube · KB9VBR Antennas · Feb 12, 2025

[www.youtube.com/watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2338) [EASY Start: Parks On The Air! #POTA](#)
... POTA Book Just Dropped (Coupon: "K16NAZ" for free shipping)
<http://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/2013464221...>
YouTube · Ham Radio Crash Course · Nov 9, 2023

[www.youtube.com/watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3607) [How I do it! A complete POTA activation from start to finish](#)
Watch me, in real time, as I deploy an end fed half wave antenna, set up my station on a picnic table, and do a QRP (5 watt) POTA activation ...
YouTube · KB9VBR Antennas · Jan 3, 2024

5 key moments in this video ▾

Definitions

- ***Activators***

- Individuals that pack up their portable gear and head out to a park, and set up a station



- ***Hunters***

- Individuals located anywhere, who contact the *Activators* in a park
 - If you hear someone calling “CQ POTA”, and you respond, you're a *Hunter*



Why Activate POTA?

- Get out of your shack - Explore new places
- Introduce Amateur Radio with passersby
- Practice setting up a station and operating at various locations and conditions
- Experimenting with different antennas
- Typical lower noise floor
- Gain experience operating
- Hone your operating skills for contesting / pileups

Creating a POTA Account



First – You need a POTA Account

- One stop shop for all things POTA
- Account menu highlights:
 - “Spots” – Shows *Activators* currently operating in parks
 - “Map” of all POTA parks, including park details
 - “My Awards” – Shows progress towards certificates and awards
 - Based on the logs *Activators* you contacted submit
 - As a *Hunter* no logs submittals or QSO confirmation is required
 - “Rules & Documentation” – POTA details, documentation, video
- Creating an account is simple
 - <https://parksontheair.com/>

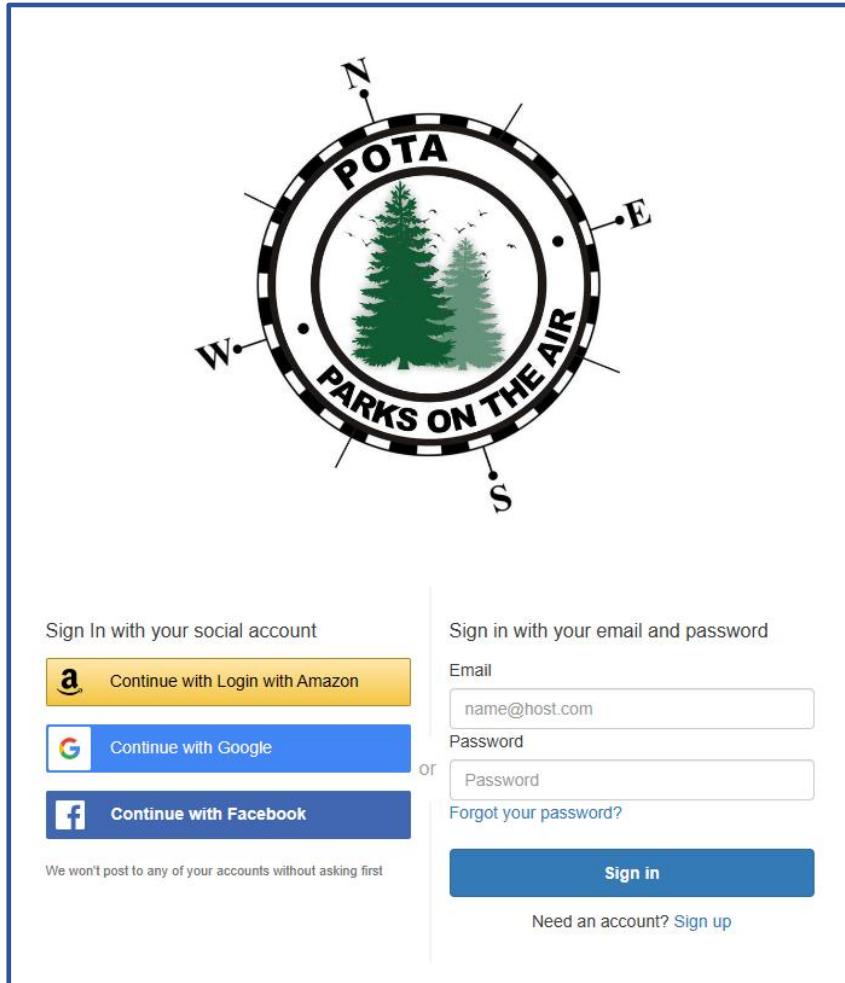
Creating a POTA Account



The image shows the official website for Parks On The Air (POTA). The header features a green navigation bar with links: 'Maps of Entities', 'Help/Getting Started' (which is highlighted with a red box and a yellow arrow pointing to it), 'Login', 'Awards', 'POTA Scheduler', 'POTA Spots', 'Shop', and 'Contact Us'. Below the header, a yellow banner displays the text 'New! Sign Up for POTA!' and 'Check out Help/Getting Started in the menu above for rules and guides for participating.' A social media link box contains 'Rules, FAQ, and Guides'. The footer of the page includes a message: 'We are adding all possible DX entities. Up to 130 so far! Welcome to POTA! 73 W3AAX' and a row of social media icons for Facebook, YouTube, NextDoor, AllTrails, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok.

- Follow the easy “Sign Up for POTA” instructions

Creating a POTA Account, Continued



- POTA Account Passwords
 - Authenticated against accounts you already have
 - Amazon, Google, or Facebook
 - Or create a unique username and password just for POTA

Getting Started

- Getting started with POTA can happen via one of two paths
 - *Activator*
 - *Hunter*
- The easiest way to participate in POTA is as a Hunter, so let's start there



Hunter

- The first place to start as a *Hunter* is to go to <https://pota.app>
- The landing page will be the Spots page, which shows *Activators* on the air, what parks they are in, and what frequencies and modes they are operating

The screenshot shows the 'Spots' page of the POTA app. The top navigation bar includes a search bar, 'SPOTS' (selected), 'ACTIVATIONS', 'DOCS', and 'AH20'. The main content displays four active stations in a grid:

- K7TPK @ US-9980**
 - US-9980 Willamette River Greenway and Water State Trail
 - US-OR
 - 14324 kHz
 - K7TPK
 - CQ SSB
 - Last heard 2 mins ago at 22:13 UTC

RE-SPOT (counter 1) **1**
- N7SWE @ US-1000**
 - US-1000 Illinois Beach State Park
 - US-IL
 - 14321 kHz
 - N1ECT
 - 5/9 in RI
 - Last heard 3 mins ago at 22:12 UTC

RE-SPOT (counter 8)
- W5ALE/2 @ US-3030**
 - US-3030 Lake Somerville State Park
 - US-TX
 - 14340 kHz
 - W3ENK
 - 57 nc
 - Last heard 4 mins ago at 22:11 UTC

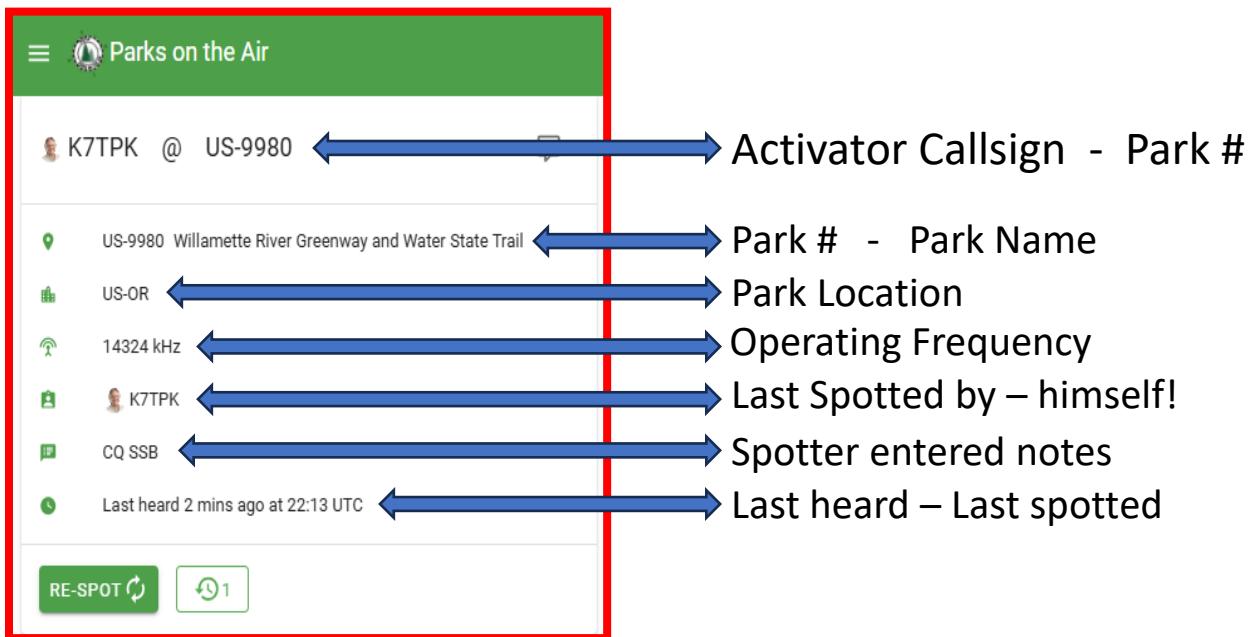
RE-SPOT (counter 34)
- KE5OLI @ US-3030**
 - US-3030 Lake Somerville State Park
 - US-TX
 - 14284 kHz
 - K8IKO
 - [57 OH]
 - Last heard 5 mins ago at 22:10 UTC

RE-SPOT (counter 17)

- Call them, if you make a contact, you've officially started in POTA!

Hunter

- The first place to start as a *Hunter* is to go to <https://pota.app>
- The landing page will be the Spots page, which shows *Activators* on the air, what parks they are in, and what frequencies and modes they are operating



- Call them, if you make a contact, you've officially started in POTA!

Hunter – Active Spots Page

- The “Active Spots” page can be filtered; Band, Mode, etc.

The screenshot shows the 'Active Spots' page of the Parks on the Air (POTA) application. The URL is <https://pota.app/#/>. The page displays a list of active spots, each with a call sign, location, and a 'RE-SPOT' button. The data is filtered by 'Band: 20M' (48 spots) and 'Mode: SSB' (49 spots). A yellow arrow points to the 'Band: 20M' filter. Two yellow callout boxes with arrows point to the '20M' and 'SSB' filter dropdowns. The '20M' box contains the text 'Filter "20M"'. The 'SSB' box contains the text 'Filter "SSB"'. The main content area shows a table of active spots with columns for 'All' (58), '60M' (2), '40M' (14), '30M' (2), '20M' (25), '17M' (10), '15M' (2), '10M' (2), and '6M' (1). The 'SSB' row is highlighted with a blue border, showing 27 spots, and the 'DATA' row is shown with 13 spots.

Band	Spots
All	58
60M	2
40M	14
30M	2
20M	25
17M	10
15M	2
10M	2
6M	1
SSB	27
DATA	13

Hunter – Active Spots Page

- Another Spot view
 - In addition to Filtering, there are various Sort options

Sort

Parks on the Air

Active Spots Data will refresh in 51 seconds. ||

Band: 20M 62 Mode: All 81 Program: All 81 QRT: Show 81 Hunted: Show 81

Frequency	Park	Region	Spotter	Comments	Time	Activator	Frequency	Mode	Reference	Park Name	Region	Spotter																																																																		
14197	US-1608 Allamuc...	US-NJ	KB0NVR	[57 Thanks for the park, ...	5	KA5TRO	14278	US-2803 Sequoya...	US-OK	KC3SGC	9	W5RIP	14278	US-2803 Sequoya...	US-OK	KC3SGC	3	KD8UVN	14074.0 (FT8)	US-1523 Mitchell ...	US-MI	KM3T-3-#	1	WA1VEI	14059 (CW)	US-1902 Mike Ro...	US-FL	WA1VEI	32	KD9JZN	14294	US-10201 Sherm...	US-IN	K5MPD	5	N5ILQ	14049.0 (CW)	US-8132 Sandhill...	US-OK	N2TNN	9	KE8NHH	14074.0 (FT8)	US-0241 Hobe So...	US-FL	G4IRN-#	10																															
14074.0 (FT8)	US-0637 Mills Par...	US-AR	K9IMM-#	RBN -10 dB via K9IMM-#	16	14044.1 (CW)	US-7617 Presiden...	US-TN	WS2C-#	RBN 3 dB 23 WPM via W...	2	14257	US-0756 San Ant...	US-TX	KO4ZRE	59 in FL	2	14059.5 (CW)	US-5656 Flanaga...	US-NE	K2PO/7-#	RBN 15 dB 17 WPM via ...	5	14052.5 (CW)	US-3654 Savanna...	US-FL	S53A-#	RBN 10 dB 25 WPM via ...	6	25 sec ago	KA5TRO	14278	US-2803 Sequoya...	US-OK	KC3SGC	9	31 sec ago	W5RIP	14278	US-2803 Sequoya...	US-OK	KC3SGC	9	35 sec ago	KD8UVN	14074.0 (FT8)	US-1523 Mitchell ...	US-MI	KM3T-3-#	3	40 sec ago	WA1VEI	14059 (CW)	US-1902 Mike Ro...	US-FL	WA1VEI	32	47 sec ago	KD9JZN	14294	US-10201 Sherm...	US-IN	K5MPD	5	49 sec ago	N5ILQ	14049.0 (CW)	US-8132 Sandhill...	US-OK	N2TNN	9	52 sec ago	KE8NHH	14074.0 (FT8)	US-0241 Hobe So...	US-FL	G4IRN-#	10

Filter by SSB, Sorted by Time

≡  Parks on the Air

Active Spots Data will refresh in 42 seconds

Band: 20M 51 Mode: SSB 50

Sort: Time ▾

Park #

Park Name

Good for Beam Heading

Spotted By

Spotter Unique Comments

Sorted by Time

Most recent spot shown first

Time	Activator	Frequency	Park	Gram	Region	Spotted By	Comments	Actions
28 sec ago	 WW3K	14238	US-2996 Cedar Hill State Park	All 99	US-TX	 WXXO	53 Gulf Shores, AL	 13  
35 sec ago	 N0AD	14312	US-1213 Cherry Creek State ...	US-CO	 KQ4SWZ	5-7 AL		 23  
37 sec ago	 WB0NWZ	14284	US-7490 Pawnee National Gr...	US-CO	 N4JBB			 32  
38 sec ago	 KC0QNA	14296	US-0362 Litchfield Wetland ...	US-MN	 K3IRV	59 in NC		 4  
41 sec ago	 WU0M	14340	US-7411 Woodson State Fish...	US-KS	 KC1WKU	58 CT		 42  
45 sec ago	 KE5CW	14223	US-3051 Ray Roberts Lake St...	US-TX	 W6PNQ			 39  

FT8 – WSJT & JTAlert Software

Callsigns #1

All decodes

AA5HH B4 U.S.A.	AE6CH CA U.S.A.	AF3J NC U.S.A.	AI4ZD B4 PO U.S.A.	CT7AIU Portugal	CT7AUT Portugal
EA1DME Spain	EA8CPE Canary Is.	EC5M Spain	HB9EFK Switzerland	IK4LZH B4 co Italy	K1CX5 VT U.S.A.
K3WTT MD U.S.A.	K5LJC TX U.S.A.	KC3EF B4 co U.S.A.	KC8SKY OH co U.S.A.	KE9DQM U.S.A.	KF0IBB MN co U.S.A.
KF0J0E MO U.S.A.	KJ5CAS NM U.S.A.	KQ4EXO FL U.S.A.	KQ4JZB NC U.S.A.	N1JUR NH U.S.A.	N3GHO PA U.S.A.
N6TRT U.S.A.	N6ZDH CA U.S.A.	N7KB AZ U.S.A.	N8XDG FL co U.S.A.	VE3TKB ON co Canada	W5DUI B4 U.S.A.
W7PK WA U.S.A.	W9MDM IN U.S.A.	WB9HLA B4 U.S.A.	ZL1VAH N. Zealand	ZS1WH S. Africa	

Callers : Alert

19:12:53 | 42 | 0 | DT+0.2 | 20m FT8 |

WSJT-X v2.7.0 by K1JT et al.

File Configurations View Mode Decode Save Tools Help

Band Activity

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
190915	-13	0.3	1707 ~	CQ AECM IM67 Spain
190915	6	0.3	1014 ~	CQ DOTA AI42D EM95 U.S.A.
190915	-10	0.3	284 ~	CQ IK4LZH JN54 Italy
190915	-10	0.3	769 ~	CQ VE3TKB EN92 Canada
190915	-16	0.2	2862 ~	KC2HFQ ZL1VAH -11
190915	-6	0.2	1607 ~	CQ N8XDG EI86 U.S.A.
190915	-9	0.3	1871 ~	CO AE6CH CM97 U.S.A.
190915	-4	1.3	2417 ~	KE8WCR KJ5CAS 73
190915	5	0.4	1175 ~	KG5QPI AA5HH EM21
190915	-19	0.2	904 ~	VA2HMD N3GHO EN90
190915	7	-0.6	1181 ~	KB2DJJ EA8CPE R-11
190915	-9	0.2	2401 ~	WA8S W5DUI R+07
190915	-6	0.2	813 ~	W6AER N1JUR 73
190915	-9	0.2	826 ~	CQ CT7AIU IM67 Portugal

Rx Frequency

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
185300	-11	-0.7	750 ~	KE0SMR KROES 73
185715	-15	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185745	-13	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185815	-17	-1.2	749 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185845	-13	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185915	-10	-1.2	749 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185945	-15	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
190015	-16	-1.2	751 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
190100	-17	0.2	749 ~	KE0SMR K5MGY EM12
190130	-17	0.2	749 ~	KE0SMR K5MGY EM12
190145	-9	-1.2	749 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
190200	-16	0.2	750 ~	KE0SMR K5MGY EM12
190615	-15	-1.2	750 ~	NE9U KE0SMR DM78
190815	-17	-1.2	750 ~	NE9U KE0SMR DM78

Band Activity

UTC: 14.074 000

TX: 1251 Hz

DX Call: KG5QPI AH2O 73

DX Grid: 20m

Report: -8

Lookup: 2025 Dec 17 19:09:39

Auto Seq: CQ: First

Generate Std Msgs

TX 1, TX 2, TX 3, TX 4, TX 5, TX 6

Receiving | FLEX | FT8 | Last Tx: KG5QPI AH2O 73 | 35 |

JTAlertV2 2.80.4 AH2O [20m,FT8,ACL+,#1] (Updates)

Alerts | Settings | View | Msgs ON | Sound ON | Help

WSJT-X - Wide Graph

Controls | 500 | 1000 | 1500 | 2000 | 2500 | 3000 | 3500

19:12:00 - 20m

Bins/Pixel: 4 | Start 100 Hz | Palette: Adjust... | Flatten: Ref Spec: Spec 25% | Split 2500 Hz | N Avg 1 | Default | Cumulative | Smooth 1

25

Band Activity

CQ POTA

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message	Country
190915	-13	0.3	1707	CQ EC5M IM96	Spain
190915	6	0.3	1014	CQ POTA AI4ZD	EM95 U.S.A.
190915	-10	0.3	284	CQ IK4LZH JN54	Italy
190915	-10	0.3	769	CQ VE3TKB EN92	Canada
190915	-16	0.2	2862	KC2HFQ ZL1VAH	-11
190915	-6	0.2	1607	CQ N8XDG EL86	U.S.A.
190915	-9	0.3	1871	CQ AE6CH CM97	U.S.A.
190915	-4	1.3	2417	KE8WCR KJ5CAS	73
190915	5	0.4	1175	KG5QPI AA5HH	EM21
190915	-19	0.2	904	VA2HMD N3GHO	EN90
190915	7	-0.6	1181	KB2DJJ EA8CPE	R-11
190915	-9	0.2	2401	WA8S W5DUI	R+07
190915	-6	0.2	813	W6AER N1JUR	73
190915	-9	0.2	826	CQ CT7AIU IM67	Portugal

Rx Frequency

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message	Country
190915	-11	-0.7	750	~ KE0SMR KRUES	73
185715	-15	-1.2	750	~ CQ KE0SMR DM78	U.S.A.
185745	-13	-1.2	750	~ CQ KE0SMR DM78	U.S.A.
185815	-17	-1.2	749	~ CQ KE0SMR DM78	U.S.A.
185845	-13	-1.2	750	~ CQ KE0SMR DM78	U.S.A.
185915	-10	-1.2	749	~ CQ KE0SMR DM78	U.S.A.
185945	-15	-1.2	750	~ CQ KE0SMR DM78	U.S.A.
190015	-16	-1.2	751	~ CQ KE0SMR DM78	U.S.A.
190100	-17	0.2	749	~ KE0SMR K5MGY EM12	
190130	-17	0.2	749	~ KE0SMR K5MGY EM12	
190145	-9	-1.2	749	~ CQ KE0SMR DM78	U.S.A.
190200	-16	0.2	750	~ KE0SMR K5MGY EM12	
190615	-15	-1.2	750	~ NE9U KE0SMR DM78	
190815	-17	-1.2	750	~ NE9U KE0SMR DM78	

 CQ only Menus

20m

14.074 000

 Tx even/1st Hold Tx Freq

Tx 1251 Hz

H

DX Call

DX Grid

▲

▼

Rx 753 Hz

Report -8

FT8

FT4

MSK

Lookup

Add

 Auto Seq

CQ: First

Q65

2025 Dec 17

19:09:39

JT65

Receiving

FLEX

FT8

Last Tx: KG5QPI AH20 73

35

Generate Std Msgs

Next Now

Pwr

 Tx 1 Tx 2 Tx 3 Tx 4 Tx 5 Tx 6

FT8 – WSJT & JTAlert Software

Callsigns #1

All decodes

AA5HH B4 U.S.A.	AE6CH CA U.S.A.	AF3J NC U.S.A.	AI4ZD B4 U.S.A.	CT7AIU Portugal	CT7AUT Portugal
EA1DME Spain	EA8CPE Canary Is.	EC5M Spain	HB9EFK Switzerland	IK4LZH B4 Italy	K1CX5 VT U.S.A.
K3WTT MD U.S.A.	K5LJC TX U.S.A.	KC3EF B4 U.S.A.	KC8SKY OH U.S.A.	KE9DQM U.S.A.	KF0IBB MN U.S.A.
KF0J0E MO U.S.A.	KJ5CAS NM U.S.A.	KQ4EXO FL U.S.A.	KQ4JZB NC U.S.A.	N1JUR NH U.S.A.	N3GHO PA U.S.A.
N6TRT U.S.A.	N6ZDH CA U.S.A.	N7KB AZ U.S.A.	N8XDG FL U.S.A.	VE3TKB ON Canada	W5DUI B4 U.S.A.
W7PK WA U.S.A.	W9MDM IN U.S.A.	WB9HLA B4 U.S.A.	ZL1VAH N. Zealand	ZS1WH S. Africa	

Callers : Alert

19:12:53 | 42 | 0 | DT+0.2 | 20m FT8 |

WSJT-X v2.7.0 by K1JT et al.

File Configurations View Mode Decode Save Tools Help

Band Activity

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
190915	-13	0.3	1707 ~	CQ AECM IM68 Spain
190915	6	0.3	1014 ~	CQ DOTA AI42D EM95 U.S.A.
190915	-10	0.3	284 ~	CQ IK4LZH JN54 Italy
190915	-10	0.3	769 ~	CQ VE3TKB EN92 Canada
190915	-16	0.2	2862 ~	KC2HFQ ZL1VAH -11
190915	-6	0.2	1607 ~	CQ N8XDG EI86 U.S.A.
190915	-9	0.3	1871 ~	CQ AE6CH CM97 U.S.A.
190915	-4	1.3	2417 ~	KE8WCR KJ5CAS 73
190915	5	0.4	1175 ~	KG5QPI AA5HH EM21
190915	-19	0.2	904 ~	VA2HMD N3GHO EN90
190915	7	-0.6	1181 ~	KB2DJJ EA8CPE R-11
190915	-9	0.2	2401 ~	WA8S W5DUI R+07
190915	-6	0.2	813 ~	W6AER N1JUR 73
190915	-9	0.2	826 ~	CQ CT7AIU IM67 Portugal

Rx Frequency

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
185300	-11	-0.7	750 ~	KE0SMR KROES 73
185715	-15	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185745	-13	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185815	-17	-1.2	749 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185845	-13	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185915	-10	-1.2	749 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185945	-15	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
190015	-16	-1.2	751 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
190100	-17	0.2	749 ~	KE0SMR K5MGY EM12
190130	-17	0.2	749 ~	KE0SMR K5MGY EM12
190145	-9	-1.2	749 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
190200	-16	0.2	750 ~	KE0SMR K5MGY EM12
190615	-15	-1.2	750 ~	NE9U KE0SMR DM78
190815	-17	-1.2	750 ~	NE9U KE0SMR DM78

Band Activity

UTC: 190915, dB: -9, DT: 0.2, Freq: 826 ~, Message: CQ CT7AIU IM67 Portugal

Monitor

20m | 14.074 000 | Tx 1251 Hz | Tx even/1st | Hold Tx Freq

DX Call: KG5QPI AH2O 73

DX Grid: Rx 753 Hz | Report -8

Lookup | Add | Auto Seq | CQ: First

2025 Dec 17 | 19:09:39

Receiving | FLEX | FT8 | Last Tx: KG5QPI AH2O 73 | 35 | 9/15 | WD:0m |

JTAlertV2 2.80.4 AH2O [20m,FT8,ACL+,#1] (Updates)

Alerts | Settings | View | Msgs ON | Sound ON | Help

WSJT-X - Wide Graph

Controls | 500 | 1000 | 1500 | 2000 | 2500 | 3000 | 3500 | 19:12:00 - 20m

Bins/Pixel: 4 | Start 100 Hz | Palette: Adjust... | Flatten: Ref Spec: Spec 25 % | Split 2500 Hz | N Avg 1 | Default | Cumulative | Smooth 1 |

CQ POTA

Callsigns #1	
All decodes	
AA5HH B4 U.S.A.	AE6CH CA CO
AF3J NC U.S.A.	AI4ZD B4 P0
EA1DME Spain	EA8CPE Canary Is.
EC5M Spain	HB9EFK Switzerland
K3WTT MD U.S.A.	K5LJC TX U.S.A.
KC3EF B4 73	KC8SKY OH CO
KF0JOE MO U.S.A.	KJ5CAS NM 73
KQ4EXO FL 73	KQ4JZB NC U.S.A.
N6TRT U.S.A.	N1JUR NH 73
N6ZDH CA U.S.A.	N7KB AZ U.S.A.
N8XDG FL CO	VE3TKB ON CO
W7PK WA CO	W5DUI B4 U.S.A.
W9MDM IN 73	WB9HLA B4 U.S.A.
ZL1VAH N. Zealand	ZS1WH CO S. Africa

FT8 – WSJT & JTAlert Software

Callsigns #1

All decodes

AA5HH B4 U.S.A.	AE6CH CA U.S.A.	AF3J NC U.S.A.	AI4ZD B4 U.S.A.	CT7AIU Portugal	CT7AUT Portugal
EA1DME Spain	EA8CPE Canary Is.	EC5M Spain	HB9EFK Switzerland	IK4LZH B4 Italy	K1CX5 VT U.S.A.
K3WTT MD U.S.A.	K5LJC TX U.S.A.	KC3EF B4 U.S.A.	KC8SKY OH U.S.A.	KE9DQM U.S.A.	KF0IBB MN U.S.A.
KF0JOE MO U.S.A.	KJ5CAS NM U.S.A.	KQ4EXO FL U.S.A.	KQ4JZB NC U.S.A.	N1JUR NH U.S.A.	N3GHO PA U.S.A.
N6TRT U.S.A.	N6ZDH CA U.S.A.	N7KB AZ U.S.A.	N8XDG FL U.S.A.	VE3TKB ON Canada	W5DUI B4 U.S.A.
W7PK WA U.S.A.	W9MDM IN U.S.A.	WB9HLA B4 U.S.A.	ZL1VAH N. Zealand	ZS1WH S. Africa	

Callers : Alert

19:12:53 | 42 | 0 | DT+0.2 | 20m FT8 |

WSJT-X v2.7.0 by K1JT et al.

Band Activity

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
190915	-13	0.3	1707 ~	CQ ECOM IM90 Spain
190915	6	0.3	1014 ~	CQ DOTA AI4ZD EM95 U.S.A.
190915	-10	0.3	284 ~	CQ IK4LZH JN54 Italy
190915	-10	0.3	769 ~	CQ VE3TKB EN92 Canada
190915	-16	0.2	2862 ~	KC2HFQ ZL1VAH -11
190915	-6	0.2	1607 ~	CQ N8XDG EL86 U.S.A.
190915	-9	0.3	1871 ~	CQ AE6CH CM97 U.S.A.
190915	-4	1.3	2417 ~	KE8WCR KJ5CAS 73
190915	5	0.4	1175 ~	KG5QPI AA5HH EM21
190915	-19	0.2	904 ~	VA2HMD N3GHO EN90
190915	7	-0.6	1181 ~	KB2DJJ EA8CPE R-11
190915	-9	0.2	2401 ~	WA8S W5DUI R+07
190915	-6	0.2	813 ~	W6AER N1JUR 73
190915	-9	0.2	826 ~	CQ CT7AIU IM67 Portugal

Rx Frequency

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
185300	-11	-0.7	750 ~	KE0SMR KRUES 73
185715	-15	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185745	-13	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185815	-17	-1.2	749 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185845	-13	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185915	-10	-1.2	749 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
185945	-15	-1.2	750 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
190015	-16	-1.2	751 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
190100	-17	0.2	749 ~	KE0SMR K5MGY EM12
190130	-17	0.2	749 ~	KE0SMR K5MGY EM12
190145	-9	-1.2	749 ~	CQ KE0SMR DM78 U.S.A.
190200	-16	0.2	750 ~	KE0SMR K5MGY EM12
190615	-15	-1.2	750 ~	NE9U KE0SMR DM78
190815	-17	-1.2	750 ~	NE9U KE0SMR DM78

Monitor

20m 14.074 000 Tx 1251 Hz Rx 753 Hz Report -8 CQ: First

2025 Dec 17 19:09:39

Controls

Receiving FLEX FT8 Last Tx: KG5QPI AH20 73 35

JTAlert2 2.80.4 AH20 [20m,FT8,ACL+,#1] (Updates)

Alerts Settings View Msgs ON Sound ON Help

WSJT-X - Wide Graph

19:12:00 - 20m

Bins/Pixel 4 Start 100 Hz Palette Adjust... Flatten Ref Spec Spec 25 %

Split 2500 Hz N Avg 1 Default Cumulative Smooth 1

Hunter - Spotting

- After you work a park *Activator*, it is considerate to “Re-Spot” them so other *Hunters* know they are still currently active

The screenshot shows the Parks on the Air mobile application interface. A central modal window is titled "Re-Spot" and contains fields for "Activator Callsign" (K7TPK) and "Spotter Callsign" (AH2O). It also displays "Frequency (kHz)" (14324) and "Park Reference" (US-9980). Below these fields is a "Comments" section with a note about mentioning a mode. At the bottom of the modal are "CANCEL" and "SPOT" buttons. A red arrow points to the "RE-SPOT" button on the left side of the screen, which is part of the main interface. The background shows a list of other spots, including one for KE5OLI at US-3030.

Parks on Air

Activator Callsign
K7TPK

Spotter Callsign
AH2O

Frequency (kHz)
14324

Park Reference
US-9980

Comments

Wrong mode? Mention a mode in the Comments field to change the mode for this spot (e.g. "QSY CW", "RTTY" or "Switching to FT8").

Mention QRT if this activator is no longer on the air to mark this spot as finished.

This spot will be marked hunted for this band and mode.

RE-SPOT

SPOT

SPOTS ACTIVATIONS DOCS AH2O

KE5OLI @ US-3030

US-3030 Lake Somerville State Park

US-TX

14284 kHz

K8IKO

[57 OH]

Last heard 5 mins ago at 22:10 UTC

RE-SPOT

17



Activators

Activators – Simple Rules

- After you've done some hunting, you might want to try activating
- *Activator* rules are simple:
 - You must have an account registered at <https://pota.app>
 - **Pick a park near you**
 - You and all your equipment must be within the boundaries of the park
 - POTA trails – within 100 ft of trail edge
 - Follow any instructions from park rangers you encounter
 - Be courteous of others using the park – *you're an ambassador of our hobby*
 - *Others have a right to be in the park too*
 - Leave no trace behind
 - You must upload your ADIF log to the POTA site after your activation is complete
 - Minimum of 10 contacts within a UTC day required to be a valid activation

Activators – What do you need to activate a POTA site?

- Any portable VHF/UHF radio
- Any portable antenna
 - Wire on a self-supporting mast, Wolf River Coils, Alpha Antennas, SotaBeams, Buddipole, etc.

Note: National Parks do not allow wires in trees or stakes in the ground

- Portable power or access to AC power
- Any logging program that will export ADIF format
- Phone – to post your spot
- Checklist
 - Don't leave home without all your gear!
- Pack Essentials: Water, snacks, sunscreen, bug spray, hat



Parks on the Air

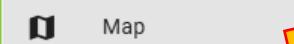


Add Spot

Add Activation

Spots

Activations



Park List

Top Activators

Top Hunters

© 1995 John Wiley

My Awards

My Stats

My Activations

MacmillanBooks.com

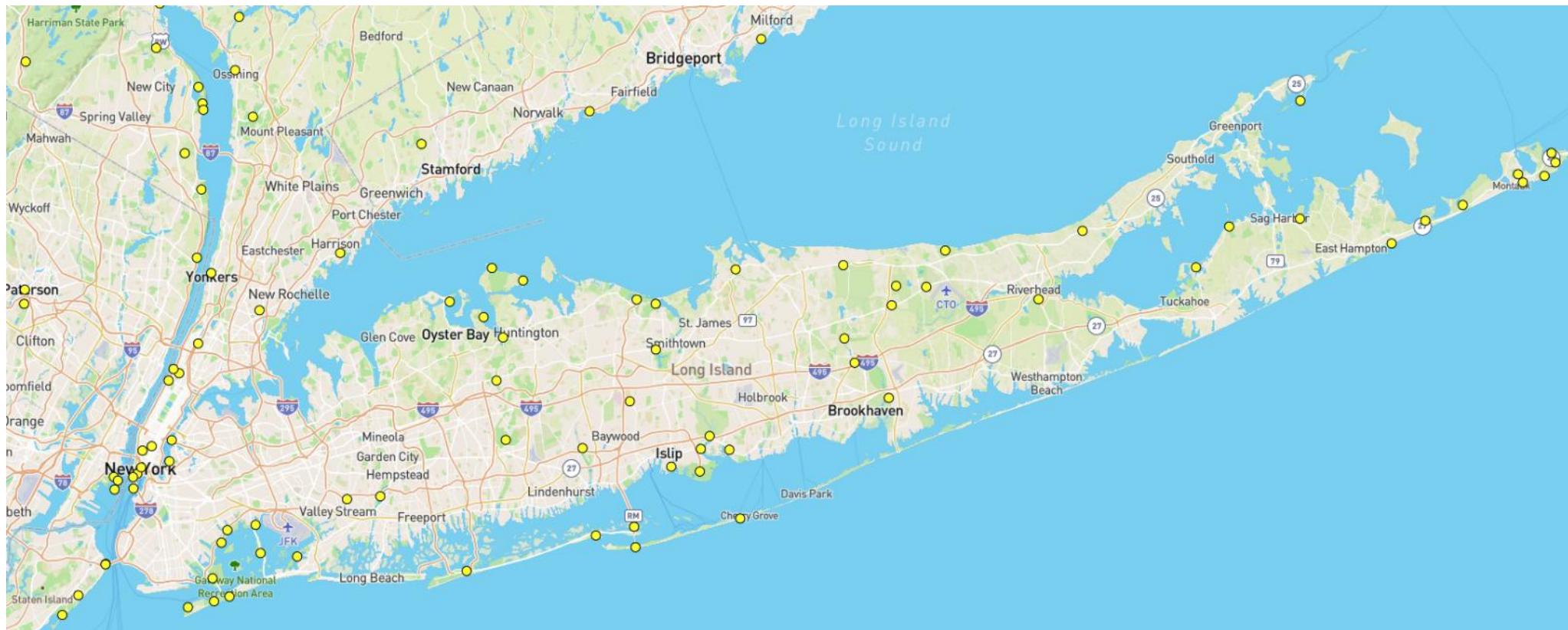
My Log Uploads

My Account

Rules & Documentation

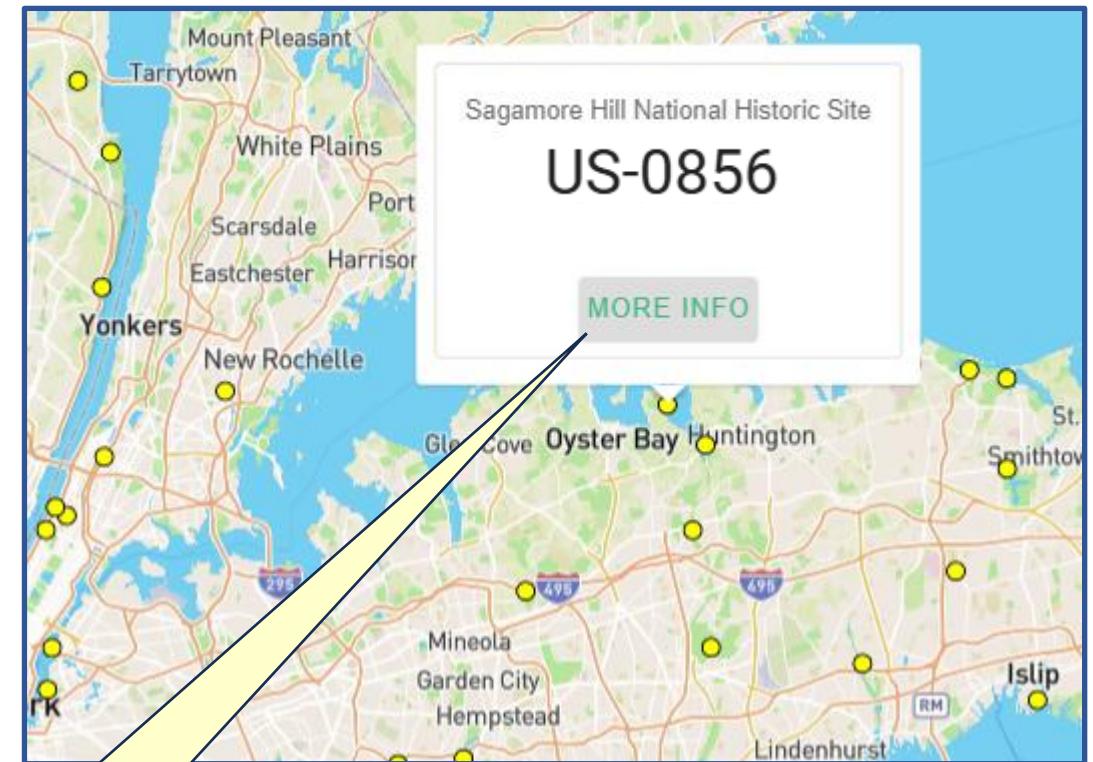
Activators – Park Selection

- Go to POTA site <https://pota.app>
- Pick a park!
- The yellow dots are park locations in your area



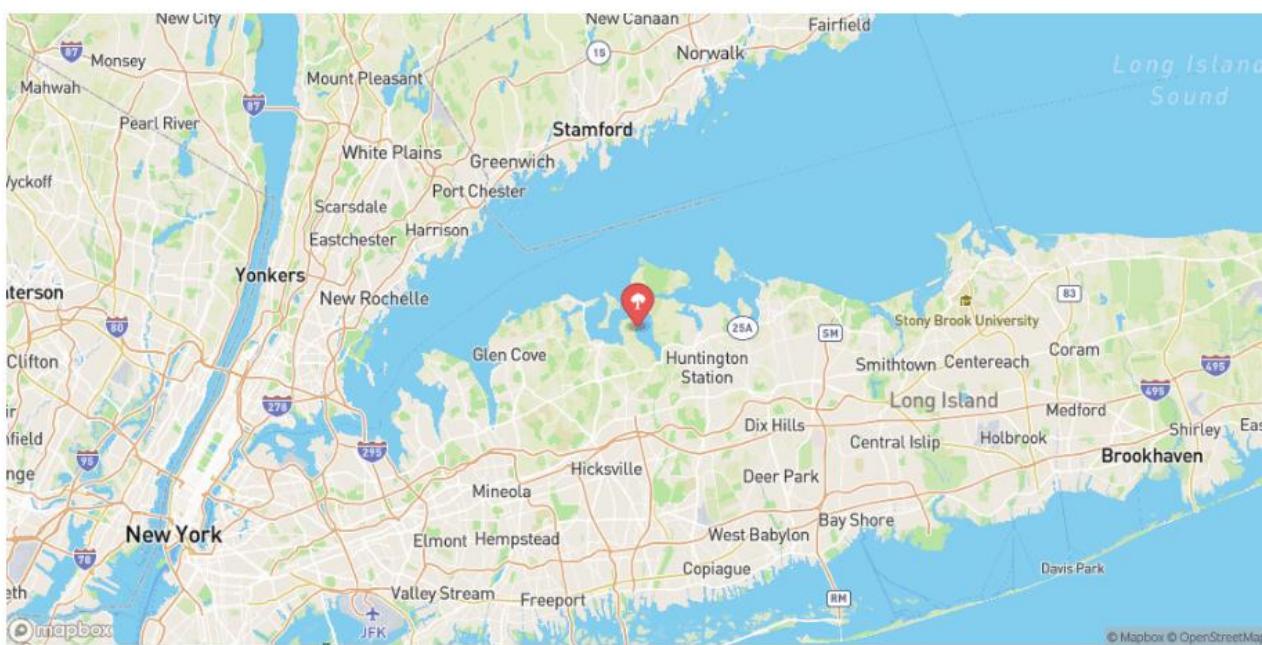
Activators – Pick A Park

- You can search / move around the map for other locations
- Click on yellow dots for park information
- Once you chose a park, consider surveying the park in advance
 - Quiet spot
 - Close parking
 - Park bench
 - Restrooms, etc.



Sagamore Hill National Historic Site

Reference:	US-0856
Entity:	United States of America
Location(s):	US-NY
Latitude / Longitude:	40.8855, -73.4896 (FN30gv)
Early Shift Award Times:	7:00 UTC to 13:00 UTC
Late Shift Award Times:	23:00 UTC to 7:00 UTC
Website:	https://www.nps.gov/sahi/index.htm
Is Active?	ACTIVE
First Activation:	KC2SYF on 2016-04-08
Stats:	83 activations / 86 attempts (4058 QSOs)



Park Leaders

	Activations	Activator QSOs	Hunter QSOs
1.	N2NFG	15	K2JVB
2.	N2AKJ	10	N2NFG
3.	K2JVB	10	N2AKJ
4.	W2SMF	9	W2SMF
5.	K2FI	2	W2AMA

Activations

Date	Callsign	CW	Data	Phone	Total QSOs
2025-11-23	WA2DE	0	0	20	20
2025-09-04	KD2UZT	0	0	23	23
2025-08-02	K2JVB	161	0	0	161
2025-07-20	WA2BAH	0	0	19	19
2025-07-17	N2OCK	0	34	0	34
2025-06-22	K2JVB	161	0	0	161

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site

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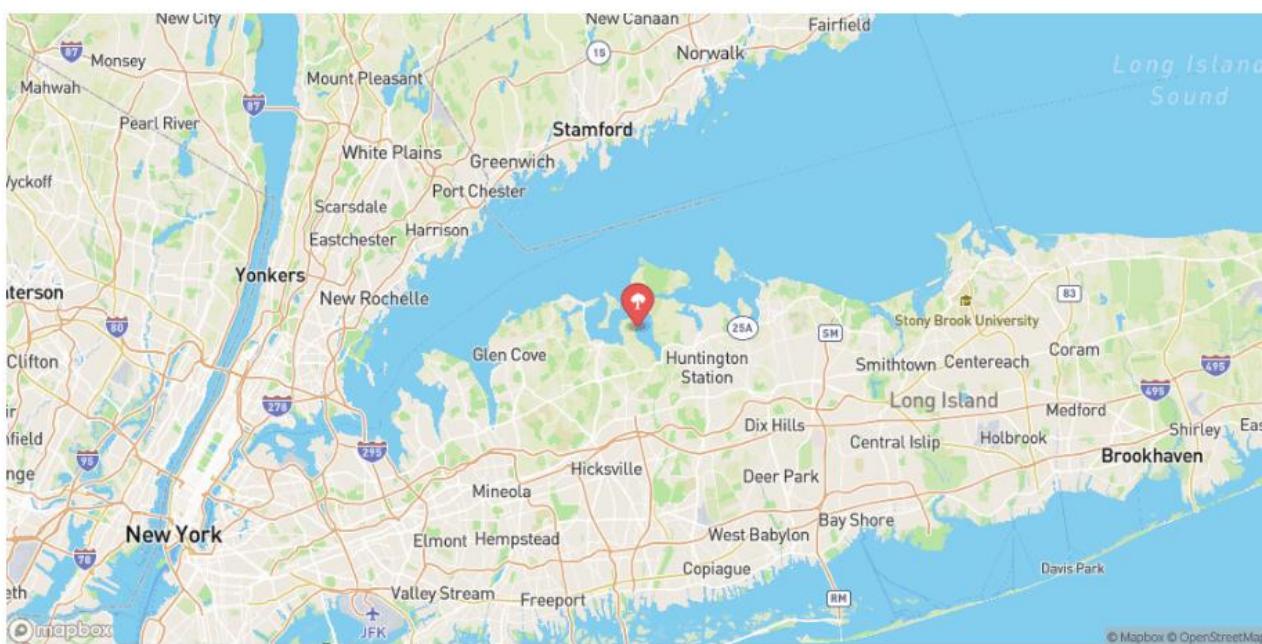
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Park Leaders

	Activations		Activator QSOs		Hunter QSOs	
1.	 N2NFG	15	 K2JVB	1557	 KJ7DT	15
2.	 N2AKJ	10	 N2NFG	505	 K4ARQ	14
3.	 K2JVB	10	 N2AKJ	388	 AD2MM	12
4.	 W2SMF	9	 W2SMF	311	 F4ILH	12
5.	 K2FI	2	 W2AMA	108	 WX4TW	11

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site

Reference: US-0856

Entity: United States of America

Location(s): US-NY

Latitude / Longitude: 40.8855, -73.4896 (FN30gv)

Early Shift Award Times: 7:00 UTC to 13:00 UTC

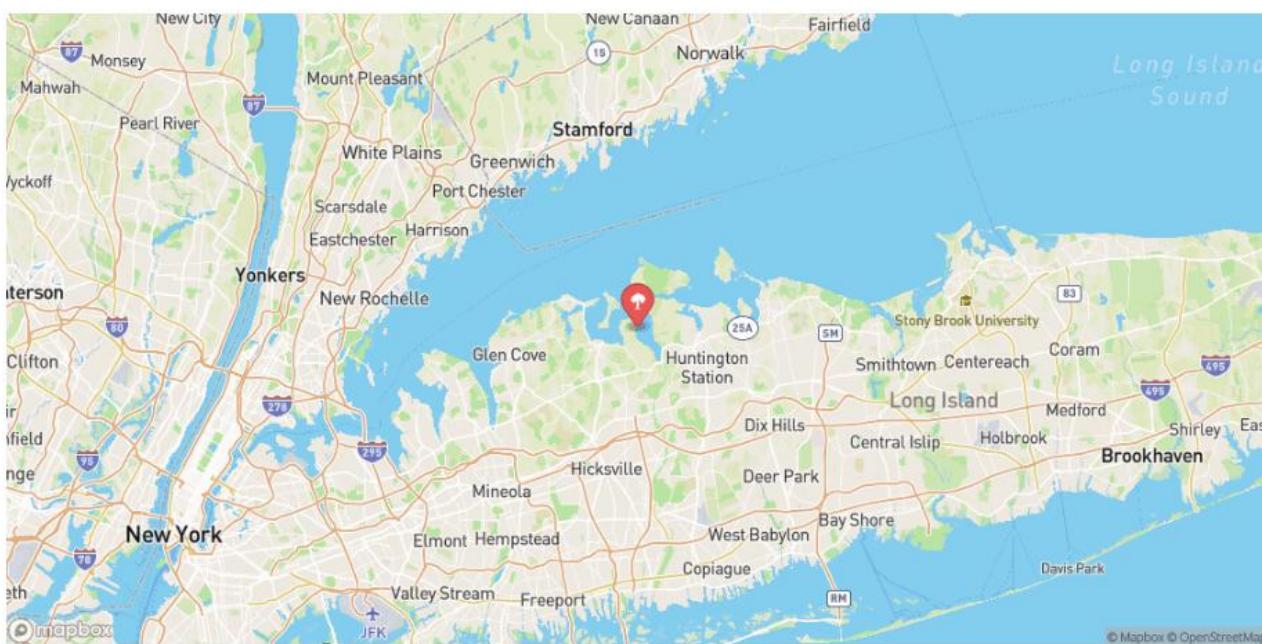
Late Shift Award Times: 23:00 UTC to 7:00 UTC

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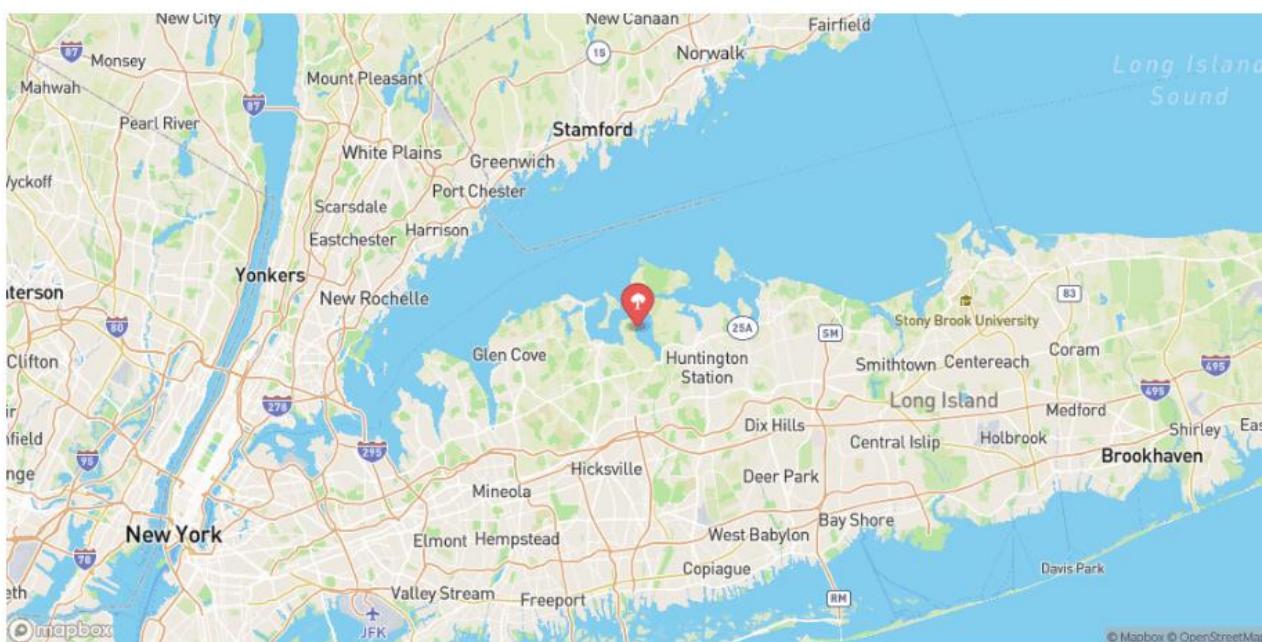
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Activators – Getting Started

- Once you've chosen a location in the park
 - Set up your gear
 - Be cognizant of your surroundings
 - aka children running into your radials or coax
 - Set your logging program
 - Find a quiet frequency
 - Start calling CQ POTA!

Activators – Spotting

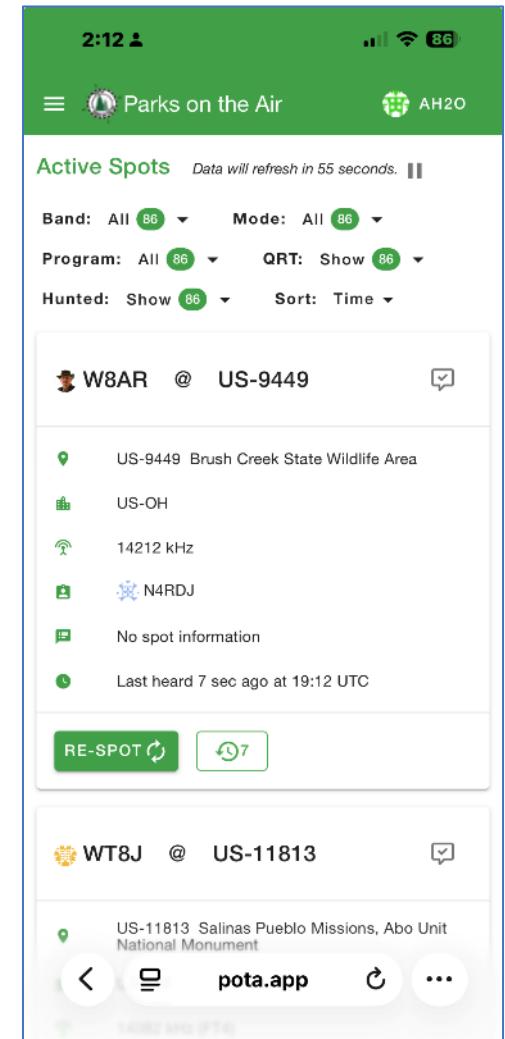
- Before starting your initial CQ calls, consider going to <https://pota.app> to Spot yourself
 - Once spotted the *Hunters* will pounce, so be prepared to start logging your QSOs!



Add Spot

Activator Callsign AH20	Spotter Callsign AH20
Frequency (kHz) 14320	Park Reference US-0856
Comments Sagamore Hill National Historic Site	
<small>Wrong mode?</small> Mention a mode in the Comments field to change the mode for this spot (e.g. "QSY CW", "RTTY" or "Switching to FT8"). <small>Mention QRT</small> if this activator is no longer on the air to mark this spot as finished. This spot will be marked hunted for this band and mode.	
<input type="button" value="CANCEL"/> <input type="button" value="SPOT"/>	

POTA.app website added to my iPhone home screen



 Add Spot Add Activation Spots Activations Map Park List Top Activators Top Hunters Official Events My Awards My Stats My Activations My Hunter Log My Log Uploads

Activator – Self Spotting in Advance



Add Activation

Callsign
AH20

Reference
Example: US-1234

Start Date (UTC) Start Time (UTC)

End Date (UTC) End Time (UTC)

Frequency

Comments

- You can “spot yourself in advance” before traveling to the park
- Upside: Good if there is no cell service within the park to self spot
- Downside – what if you’re late, or the frequency is occupied?

Activator – Spotting - Reverse Beacon Network (RBN)

- Networked skimmers constantly monitor CW and FT8 activities
- Skimmers detect your callsign when you call CQ
- POTA has its RBN gateway set to pick up that information and update the POTA spot page automatically for registered and currently spotted activations

Activator – SSB Exchanges

- Typical formulated SSB exchange
 - Activator: CQ Parks on the Air, CQ Parks on the Air,
this is AH2O (*phonetically*)
 - Hunter: W1AW (*phonetically*)
 - Activator: W1AW you are (RS) Park #####
 - Hunter: You are (RS) CT
 - Activator: Thank you,
this is AH2O POTA

Activator – CW Exchanges

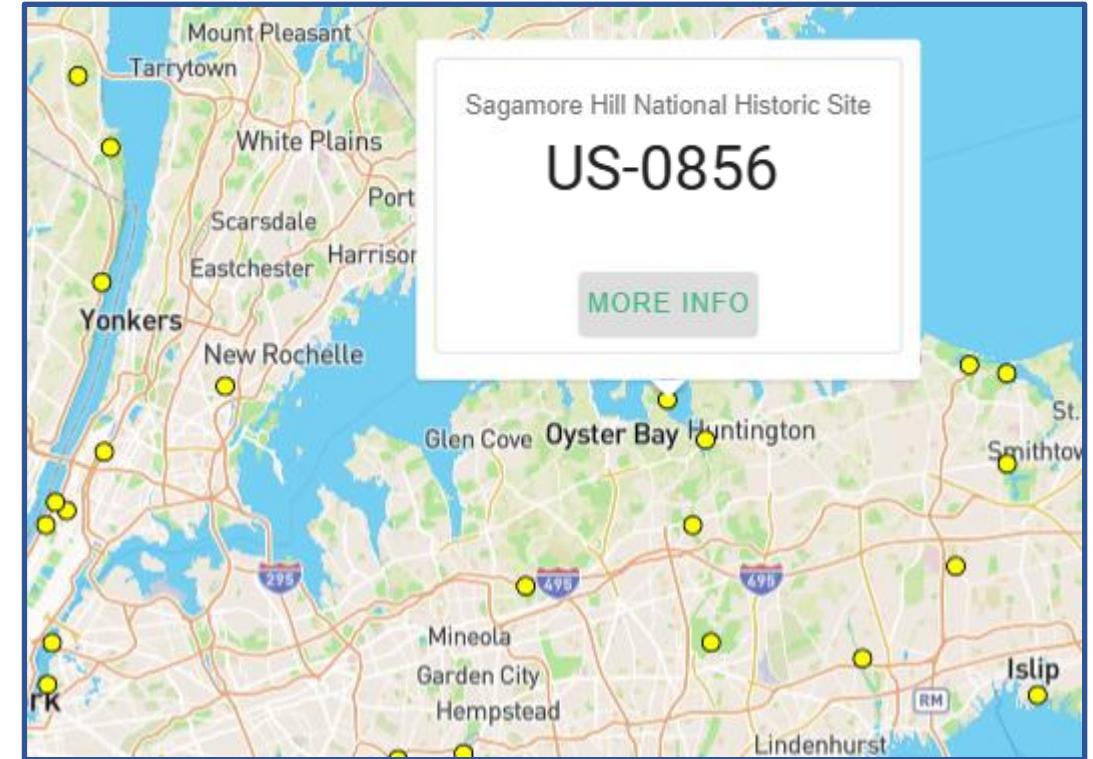
- Typical formulated CW exchange
 - Activator: CQ CQ POTA DE AH2O AH2O
 - Hunter: W1AW
 - Activator: W1AW UR (RST) (STATE) BK
 - Hunter: BK TU (RST) CT BK
 - Activator: BK TU CT 73 (72) DIT DIT
 - Hunter: DIT DIT
- Park-to-Park
 - Hunter: P2P W1AW
 - Activator: P2P UR (RST) Park #### BK
 - Hunter: BK DE W1AW (RST) Park #### BK
 -
 -
- Typical formulated CW exchange (with Courtesies)
 - Activator: CQ CQ POTA DE AH2O AH2O
 - Hunter: W1AW
 - Activator: W1AW (GM, GA, GE) UR (RST) BK
 - Hunter: BK TU UR (RST) CT CT BK
 - Activator: BK TU 73 (72) DE AH2O DIT DIT
 - Hunter: DIT DIT

Activator Logging

- POTA requires *Activators* to submit log
 - This is the only way *Activators* and *Hunters* get credit!
- Upload all logs, even if you make less than 10 QSOs
 - *Hunters* will still get credit
- No time limits for submission
 - However, be courteous to *Hunters*
- One log can span multiple days if you are at the same park
- Can be manually upload to POTA website if using paper logs

Activators – Submitting Your Log

- Log files in ADIF format
- Use any logging program of your choosing
- Required ADIF fields
 - STATION_CALLSIGN (Activator Callsign)
 - CALL (Hunter Callsign)
 - QSO_DATE
 - TIME_ON
 - BAND
 - MODE
- File naming convention standards
 - **CALLSIGN@PARK#-yyyymmdd.adi**
 - An example using one of my activations:
 - **AH2O@US-8056-20241214.adi**





Parks on the Air



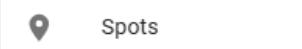
AH20
View Profile



Add Spot



Add Activation



Spots



Activations



Map



Park List



Top Activators



Top Hunters



Official Events



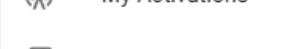
My Awards



My Stats



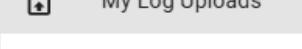
My Activations



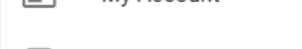
My Hunter Log



My Log Uploads



My Account



Sign Out



Rules & Documenta...



Privacy Policy

Activators – Submitting Your Log, Continued

- Go to <https://pota.app>, then “My Log Uploads”
- Drag and drop ADIF log
- You get immediate “processed” confirmation
- That’s it!

https://pota.app/#/user/logs

My Log Uploads

Upload Activation Logs

Click here or drag and drop to upload ADIF logs from your activation

All files must be compliant with the ADIF specification, see <https://adif.org>. Please refer to the [ADIF for POTA Technical Reference](#) for a list of required ADIF fields.

Need help? See the [Submitting Logs](#) section of the POTA Activator Reference or contact the support team by clicking the Request Support button.

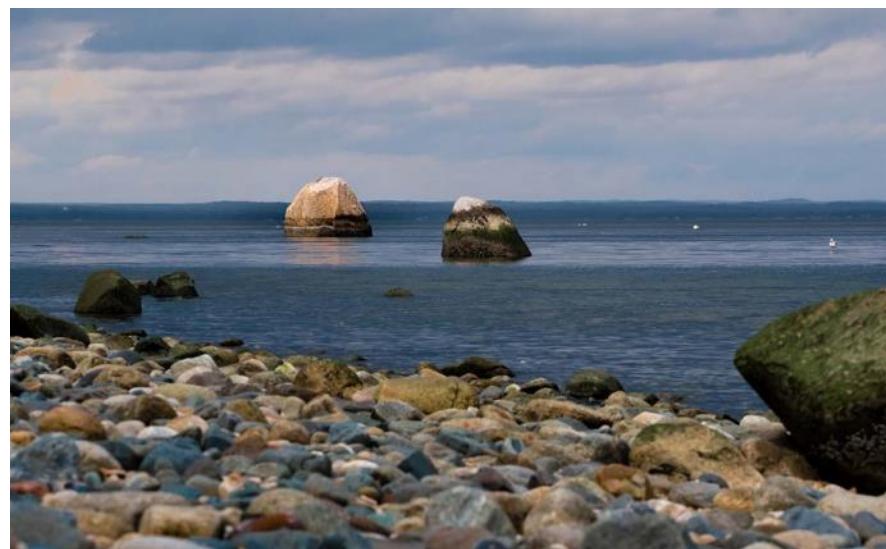
Prefer to log on paper? [MANUAL LOG ENTRY](#) BETA

Processed 2021-10-24 20:10 2021-10-24 20:10 AH20 K-0856 Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (US-NY)

A Few of My POTA Activations



Lodi Point State Park, NY
(Finger Lakes)
US-2098



Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge, NY
US-0480



Caumsett State Historical Park, NY
US-8628

A Few of My POTA Activations



Taughannock Falls, NY
(Finger Lakes)
[US-2150](#)



Valley Forge National Historic Park, PA
[US-0761](#)



Trail View State Park, NY
[US-2152](#)



My Gear



Remember

My POTA Gear – How I Started



Yaesu FT-891 (QRO)

2 x 6 x 8.6"

Wt: 4 lbs



RG8X Coax
50 ft



[Wolf River Coil](#)

Take It Along 1000

80 to 10m

Collapsible 102" Whip

Three 33' radials

Footprint: 19" x 17"

Wt: 3 lb 5 oz



[Bioenno Power](#)
12V, 12Ah Battery
8.5 x 2.2 x 3.1"
Wt: 3.3 lbs



Paper Log



[Backpack](#)

17.1 x 12.6 x 2.2"

Wt: 3 lbs

My POTA Gear - Today



Yaesu FT-891 (QRO)

2 x 6 x 8.6"

Wt: 4 lbs



RG8X Coax
50 ft



[Antenna Tuner](#)



Antenna Analyzer



EFHW



[Powerwerx Watt Meter](#)
DC Inline Power Analyzer,
WattMeter
3.3 x 1.7 x 1.0"
Wt: 0.18 lbs



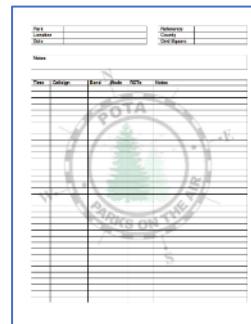
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Anderson 1 to 4
Cable Splitter



[Wolf River Coil](#)
Take It Along 1000
80 to 10m
Collapsible 102" Whip
Three 33' radials
Footprint: 19" x 17"
Wt: 3 lb 5 oz



Paper Log
"Just in Case"



iPad w/ Keyboard
([HAMRS](#) Logging SW)



[Backpack](#)
17.1 x 12.6 x 2.2"
Wt: 3 lbs

My POTA Gear – CW, FT8, FT4



Yaesu FT-891 (QRO)

2 x 6 x 8.6"

Wt: 4 lbs



CAT Cable



Laptop

Logging SW: [N3FJP](#) / [N1MM](#)

[WSJT-X](#)

[JTAlert](#)



Mini Paddle



Audio Interface
Cable



USB External
Stereo Sound
Adapter

Many Antenna Options

- Numerous options to choose from:
 - Freestanding tripod
 - Wire Antenna
 - Mobile – Mounted to your car
 - Telescoping masts
 - Drive over mast holders
 - etc....



My Park Antennas

Freestanding Tripod



Wolf River Coil

Take It Along 1000

80 to 10m

Collapsible 102" Whip

Three 33' radials

Footprint: 19" x 17"

Wt: 3 lb 5 oz



End-Fed Half-Wave

Spark Plug EFHW- 100W

Coax - 25' of RG-17 4/u

Antenna Wire - 68' of 24 AWG PVC jacketed
tinned copper wire.

Wire Winder:

Wt: 8 oz



Rope



Bungee Cords



S-Clips

My Mobile Antennas

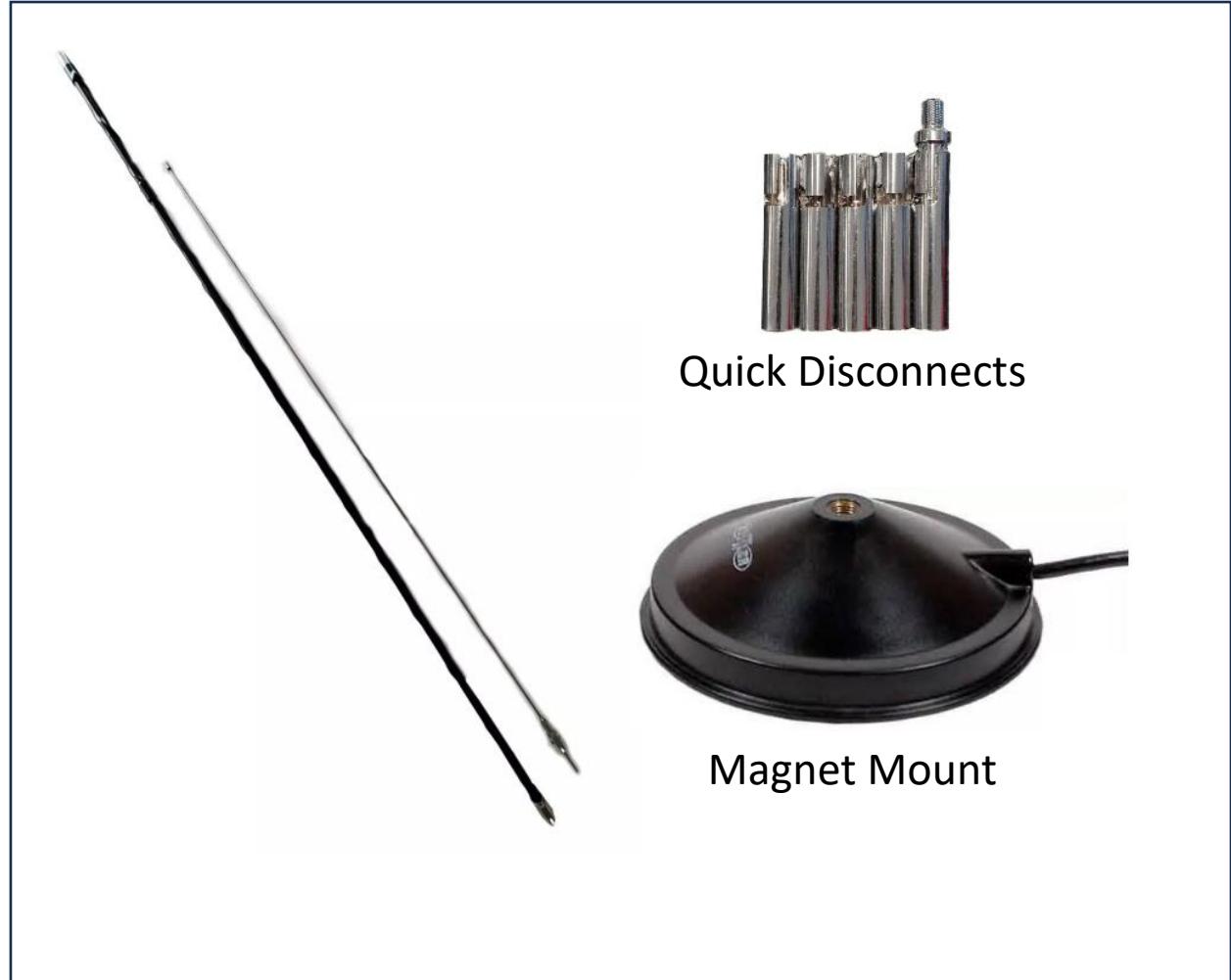
Mobile

Shark "Ham Stick" Antennas

10, 15, 20, 40, 75m Mono Band Mobile

Vertical Antennas

Rated for 250W



Quick Disconnects



Magnet Mount

Safety

Use AI to Improve the Readability of Weak Beacons | 30

QST

DIGITAL EDITION

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio® October 2025 www.arrl.org DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO AMATEUR RADIO



Parks on the Air, In the Air

QST Reviews

- Alinco DR-CS10HT 2-Meter FM Transceiver
- APC Schneider Electric Pro BN1500M2 UPS
- CyberPower CP1500PFCLCD UPS
- Tripp-Lite SMART1500PSLCD UPS

Sierra Harrop, W5DX, sharrop@arrl.org

Public Service

Safety Stand-Down: Look Up and Live

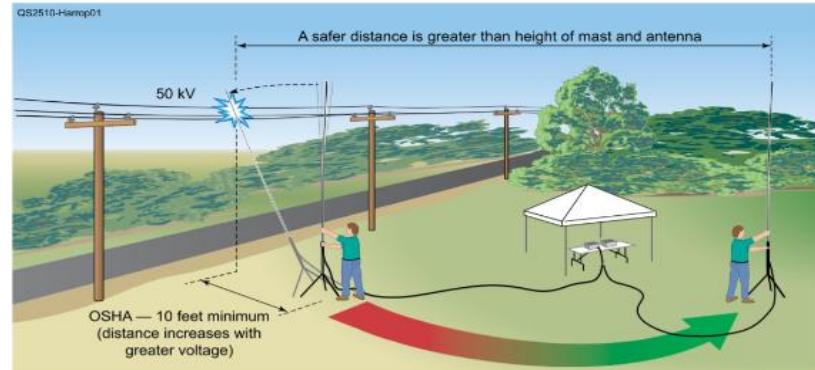


Figure 1 — OSHA regulations state that 10 feet is the minimum safe distance from any equipment, load line, or load to a power line carrying 50 kV or less (<https://osha.gov/laws-regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.1408>). That doesn't mean you can just set up your mast and antenna 10 feet away and be safe; you want to be at least far enough that, while raising or lowering your mast and antenna, or if your rig falls over, no part of your equipment comes within 10 feet of any lines. And remember that this is a *minimum* safe distance, and that the minimum safe distance increases as the voltage in the lines increases — farther away is always better!

leave it unless it is on fire; if you touch the exterior of your vehicle with your feet on the ground, the electricity will use your body as a path to ground.

The ground outside of your vehicle can be just as dangerous. When an electrified object, such as a downed power line or an energized vehicle or antenna, contacts the ground, the electrical current spreads out in concentric circles of decreasing voltage from the point of contact, known as a voltage gradient. Being in contact with different voltages is what will kill you — if you walk normally across a voltage gradient, or fall and catch yourself with your hands, one part of your body will contact a higher voltage than the other, and the electrical current will use your body as a path to equalize the voltage.

Instead, call for help via phone or ham radio. Warn bystanders not to approach your vehicle. If a fire requires you to exit, carefully jump clear of the vehicle with your feet together to avoid contacting the vehicle and ground simultaneously. Be mindful of your movements; “bunny hop” with your feet together or shuffle across the ground in small increments, keeping your feet in constant contact, to avoid providing a path between the different potentials.

Please be careful when erecting portable gear near overhead wires. Remember: *Look up and live*.

Look Up and Live!

No ham radio activation is worth your life. Be aware of potential electrical hazards when operating in the field:

■ **Walk around and look up.** Circle the perimeter of the area and search for any overhead lines or obstructions. There is no pressure to get on the air — take your time.

■ **Maintain a safe distance from any overhead power lines.** OSHA regulations state that 10 feet is the minimum safe distance from any equipment, load line, or load to any power line carrying 50 kV or less, and this minimum safe distance increases with higher voltage; see OSHA 29 CFR § 1926.1408, Table A, for a list of minimum clearance distances by voltage (<https://osha.gov/laws-regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.1408>). Note that this is a *minimum* safe distance — you want to be at least far enough that, should your mast topple over, none of your equipment comes within the minimum clearance distance of any lines. You're also not likely to know offhand the voltages of nearby power lines when operating in the field, so farther away is always better (see Figure 1).

■ **Remember: any line could be energized.** Even what looks like a phone or fiber-optic line could be carrying lethal voltages. Don't take any chances.

My Activator Logging SW



Remember

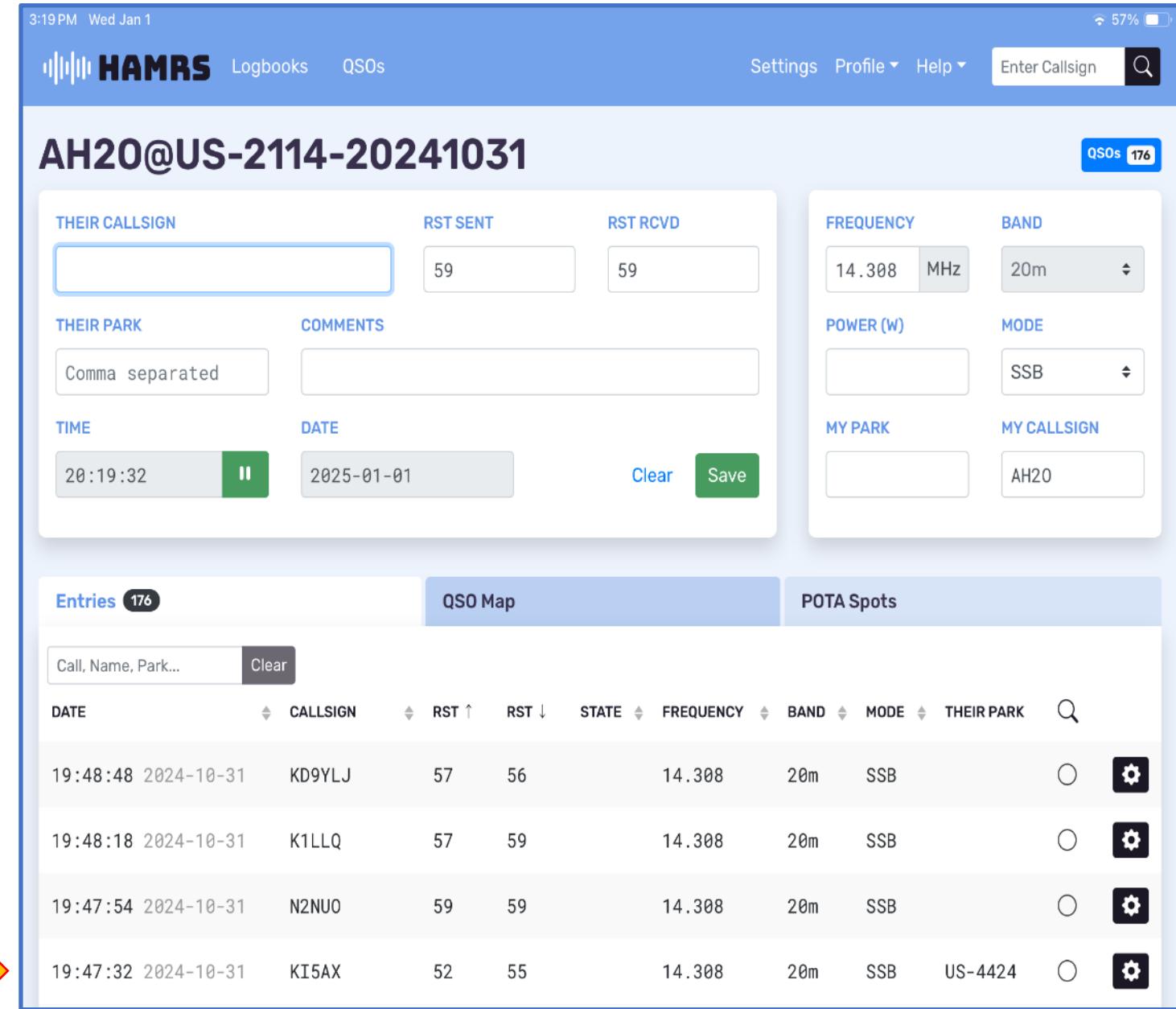
My POTA Logging Software

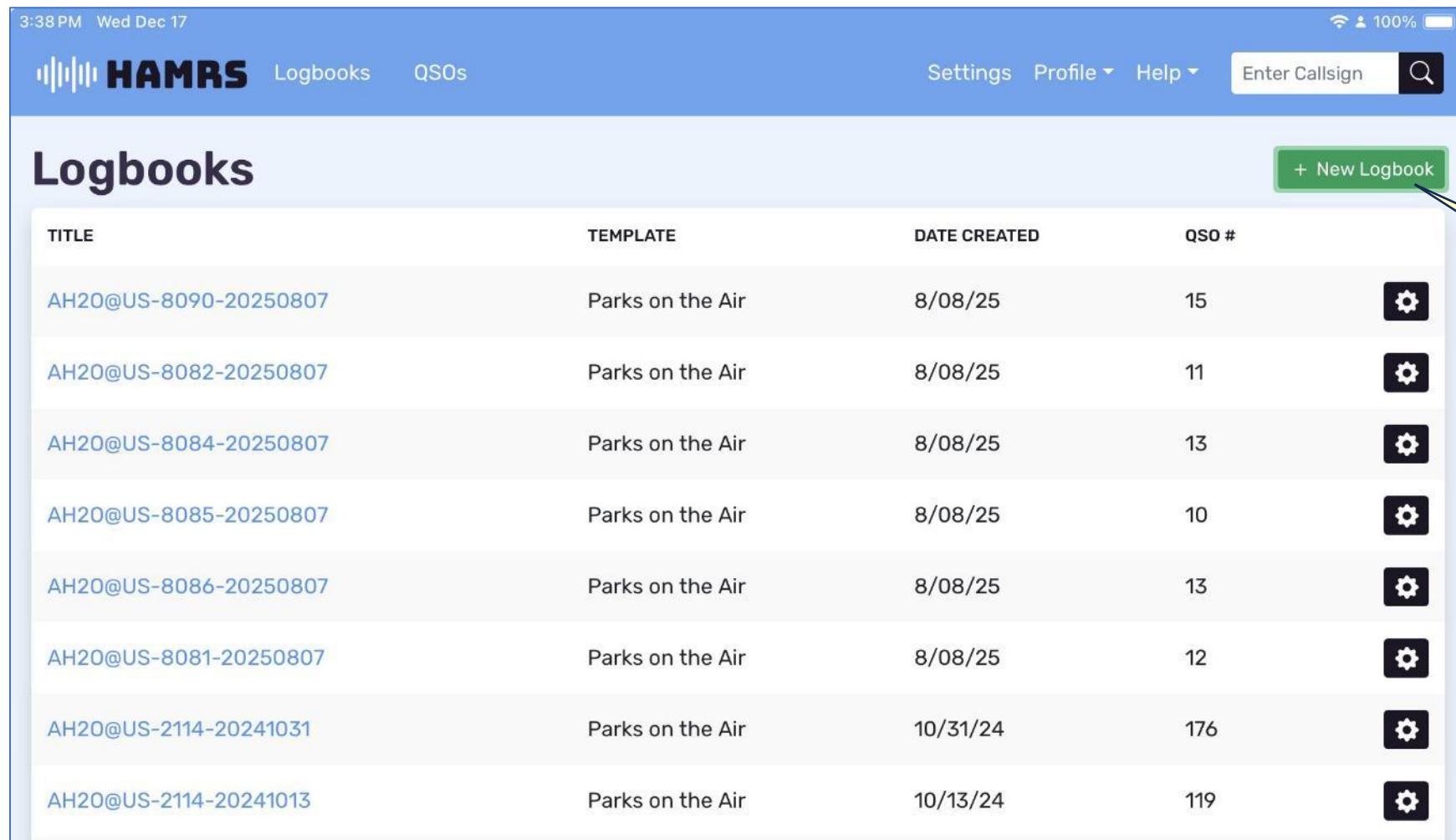
- HAMRS
- A simple logger designed specifically for portable activities, like Parks on the Air (POTA), Summits on the Air (SOTA) Field Days, etc.
- Auto populates park Grid location
- Available in App Store



HAMRS 4+
Simple portable logging
Jarrett Green
Designed for iPad
#95 in Productivity
4.3 • 52 Ratings
\$4.99

- Can log other Activations
“Park-to-Park”

A screenshot of the HAMRS software interface. The top navigation bar includes the HAMRS logo, Logbooks, QSOs, Settings, Profile, Help, and a search bar. A notification bar on the right shows "QSOs 176". The main area is titled "AH20@US-2114-20241031". It contains fields for "THEIR CALLSIGN", "RST SENT" (59), "RST RCVD" (59), "THEIR PARK" (Comma separated), "COMMENTS", "TIME" (20:19:32), "DATE" (2025-01-01), and buttons for "Clear" and "Save". To the right are panels for "FREQUENCY" (14.308 MHz, 20m), "POWER (W)" (SSB), "MY PARK" (AH20), and "MY CALLSIGN" (AH20). Below this is a table titled "Entries 176" with columns for DATE, CALLSIGN, RST, STATE, FREQUENCY, BAND, MODE, and THEIR PARK. The table lists four entries from 2024-10-31. A "QSO Map" and "POTA Spots" tab are also visible.



3:38 PM Wed Dec 17

HAMRS Logbooks QSOs Settings Profile Help Enter Callsign

Logbooks

+ New Logbook

TITLE	TEMPLATE	DATE CREATED	QSO #
AH20@US-8090-20250807	Parks on the Air	8/08/25	15
AH20@US-8082-20250807	Parks on the Air	8/08/25	11
AH20@US-8084-20250807	Parks on the Air	8/08/25	13
AH20@US-8085-20250807	Parks on the Air	8/08/25	10
AH20@US-8086-20250807	Parks on the Air	8/08/25	13
AH20@US-8081-20250807	Parks on the Air	8/08/25	12
AH20@US-2114-20241031	Parks on the Air	10/31/24	176
AH20@US-2114-20241013	Parks on the Air	10/13/24	119

Select
“New Logbook”



Logbooks

+ New Logbook

TITLE

AH20@US-8090-20250807

AH20@US-8082-20250807

AH20@US-8084-20250807

AH20@US-8085-20250807

AH20@US-8086-20250807

AH20@US-8081-20250807

AH20@US-2114-20241031

AH20@US-2114-20241013

AH20@K-0761-20230916

AH20@K-2114-20230827

AH20@K-2114-20230813

AH20@K-2114-20230811

TEMPLATE

Parks on the Air

DATE CREATED

8/08/25

QSO #

15

11

13

10

13

12

176

119

80

108

102

102

Enter Log Title

New Logbook

TITLE

AH20@US-0856-20251210

40m, POTA @ K-2336, etc

TEMPLATES

Parks on the Air

Save

Cancel



Logbooks

+ New Logbook

TITLE

AH20@US-8090-20250807

AH20@US-8082-20250807

AH20@US-8084-20250807

AH20@US-8085-20250807

AH20@US-8086-20250807

AH20@US-8081-20250807

AH20@US-2114-20241031

AH20@US-2114-20241013

AH20@K-0761-20230916

AH20@K-2114-20230827

AH20@K-2114-20230813

AH20@K-2114-20230811

TEMPLATE

Generic

✓ Parks on the Air

Summits on the Air

TITLE

AH20@US-08

40m, POTA @ K-2

TEMPLATES

Parks on the Air

Save

Cancel

DATE CREATED

8/08/25

QSO

15

11

13

10

13

12

176

119

80

108

102

102

New Lo

Select
"Parks on “the Air”



Logbooks

QSOs

Settings

Profile ▾ Help ▾

Enter Callsign



AH20@US-0856-20251210

QSOs 2

THEIR CALLSIGN

RST SENT

59

RST RCVD

59

THEIR PARK

Comma separated

COMMENTS

TIME

20:31:15

DATE

2025-12-17

Clear

Save

FREQUENCY

14.275

MHz

BAND

20m

POWER (W)

100

MODE

SSB

MY PARK

US-0856

MY CALLSIGN

AH20

Enter Operating details only once, repeats for subsequent entries

Entries 2

QSO Map

POTA Spots

Call, Name, Park...

Clear

DATE

CALLSIGN

RST ↑

RST ↓

STATE

FREQUENCY

BAND

MODE

THEIR PARK



20:29:54 2025-12-17

W1AW

59

59

NY

14.275

20m

SSB



20:29:50 2025-12-17

4U1UN

59

59

NY

14.275

20m

SSB





AH20@US-0856-20251210

QSOs 2

Type Callsign,
Hit Enter

THEIR CALLSIGN

4U1WB

RST SENT

59

RST RCVD

59

FREQUENCY

14.275

MHz

BAND

20m

THEIR PARK

Comma separated

COMMENTS

TIME

20:31:15

DATE

2025-12-17

Clear

Save

POWER (W)

100

MODE

SSB

MY PARK

US-0856

MY CALLSIGN

AH20

Entries 2

QSO Map

POTA Spots

Call, Name, Park...

Clear

Log populates,
Done

DATE

CALLSIGN

RST ↑

RST ↓

STATE

FREQUENCY

BAND

MODE

THEIR PARK



20:29:54 2025-12-17

W1AW

59

59

14.275

20m

SSB



20:29:50 2025-12-17

4U1UN

59

59

NY

14.275

20m

SSB





AH20@US-2114-20241031	Parks on the Air	10/31/24	176	
AH20@US-2114-20241013	Parks on the Air	10/13/24	119	
AH20@K-0761-20230916	Parks on the Air	9/16/23	80	
AH20@K-2114-20230827	Parks on the Air	8/27/23	108	
AH20@K-2114-20230813	Parks on the Air	8/13/23	102	
AH20@K-2114-20230811	Parks on the Air	8/11/23	102	
AH20@K-2114-20230408	Parks on the Air	4/08/23	89	
AH20@K-0761-20230405	Parks on the Air	4/05/23	126	
AH20@K-2152-20230106	Parks on the Air	1/06/23	16	
AH20@K-0761-20221205	Parks on the Air	12/05/22	90	
AH20@K-2114-20221021	Parks on the Air	10/14/22	139	
AH20@K-2114-20220903	Parks on the Air	9/03/22	104	
AH20@K-8628-20220828	Parks on the Air	8/28/22	28	
AH20@K-2152-20220821	Parks on the Air	8/21/22	20	

Edit
Duplicate
Export .ADIF
Delete

When finished,
export ADIF for
POTA upload

Upload ADIF to POTA

 **Drag & Drop**

My Log Uploads SPOTS ACTIVATIONS DOCS AH20

Development Volunteer Opportunities open until Dec 15!

Upload Activation Logs

Click here or drag and drop to upload ADIF logs from your activation

0 files (0 B in total)

All files must be compliant with the ADIF specification, see <https://adif.org>. Please refer to the [ADIF for POTA Technical Reference](#) for a list of required ADIF fields.

Need help? See the [Submitting Logs](#) section of the POTA Activator Reference or contact the support team by clicking the Request Support button.

Prefer to log on paper? [MANUAL LOG ENTRY BETA](#)

Once your log is processed, it may take up to 24 hours for your logbook and stats to fully reflect your uploaded QSOs. Most awards are granted within a few days, but some awards may take a few weeks.

Thank you for being patient!

Uploaded Logs

Status	Submitted	Processed	Callsign	Park	First QSO	Last QSO	Log QSOs	Accepted QSOs	Actions
Processed	2025-08-08 19:47	2025-08-08 19:48	AH20	US-8090 Frank Charles Park National Recreation Area (US-NY)	2025-08-07 22:30	2025-08-07 22:42	15	15	▼
Processed	2025-08-08 19:47	2025-08-08 19:48	AH20	US-8081 Floyd Bennett Field National Historic District (US-NY)	2025-08-07 20:16	2025-08-07 20:28	12	12	▼
Processed	2025-08-08 19:47	2025-08-08 19:48	AH20	US-8082 Jamaica Bay State Wildlife Area (US-NY)	2025-08-07 02:20	2025-08-07 22:07	11	11	▼
Processed	2025-08-08 19:47	2025-08-08 19:48	AH20	US-8084 Breezy Point Tip State Recreation Area (US-NY)	2025-08-07 21:22	2025-08-07 21:28	13	13	▼
Processed	2025-08-08 19:47	2025-08-08 19:48	AH20	US-8085 Fort Tilden National Historic Site (US-NY)	2025-08-07 21:04	2025-08-07 21:10	10	10	▼
Processed	2025-08-08 19:47	2025-08-08 19:48	AH20	US-8086 Jacob Riis Park National Historic Site (US-NY)	2025-08-07 20:44	2025-08-07 20:50	13	13	▼
Processed	2025-08-06 22:34	2025-08-06 22:35	AH20	US-2152 Trail View State Park (US-NY)	2025-08-06 19:38	2025-08-06 20:10	19	19	▼

70



Ham2K Portable Logger

Reviewed by John Leonardelli, VE3IPS
 ve3ips@gmail.com

The portable logger (PoLo) by Ham2K is an exceptional logging tool designed for amateur radio enthusiasts participating in Parks on the Air® (POTA®), Summits on the Air (SOTA), World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF), and similar activities. Optimized for smartphones with data plans, it offers seamless on-the-go operation. Its standout feature is a clean, user-friendly interface, making logging quick and intuitive — even during fast-paced pileups. The app automatically updates its database, ensuring the latest park and summit information is readily available. This eliminates the need for manual updates and lets users focus entirely on their activations.

The Origin of PoLo

PoLo was created by Sebastian Delmont, KI2D, an active portable operator who sought a better solution after finding other loggers frustrating or limited. Initially a personal project to meet his needs, PoLo evolved through feedback from a highly engaged user community. With its open-source, modular design, PoLo empowers users to customize and improve the app to suit their preferences. Active forum discussions and feature requests further underscore its strong user base and commitment to continuous improvement.

In the early days of portable operations, I relied on the ARRL MINILOG and a pencil. Transferring paper logs to a PC logger, however, was tedious. To simplify this, I tried going paperless with a laptop in the field. Over time, I experimented with various setups:

Bottom Line

The Ham2K PoLo is one of the fastest and easiest ways to log your amateur radio operations on the go.

- Laptops: large, heavy, and difficult to use inside a car, even with a steering wheel desk.

- Netbooks: compact but slow, with screens that were hard to read in sunlight.

- Tablets (Android and Apple): lightweight, but pen inputs were finicky, and adding a Bluetooth keyboard negated portability.

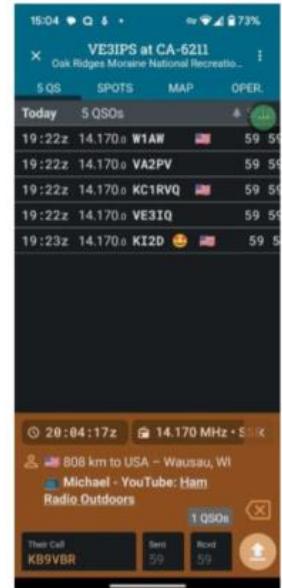
- Power banks: essential for extended sessions but added complexity.

The constant juggling of devices, cables, and hotspots made field logging cumbersome. A notebook failure that resulted in the loss of 6-meter sporadic-E logs forced me to seek a better solution. For an upcoming DXpedition, I needed a reliable, lightweight, and intuitive solution. Using a laptop in 40°C heat wasn't practical, and I wanted dependable QRZ lookups to verify call signs during pileups. After frustrations with other Android logging apps, I discovered PoLo.

Use Smartphones for Portable Logging

Today's smartphones offer better speed, portability, and internet access than older netbooks, making them ideal for logging. With a smartphone-based logger like PoLo, I can:

- Easily input call signs with live lookups.
- Send log files to my email for backup and uploads.

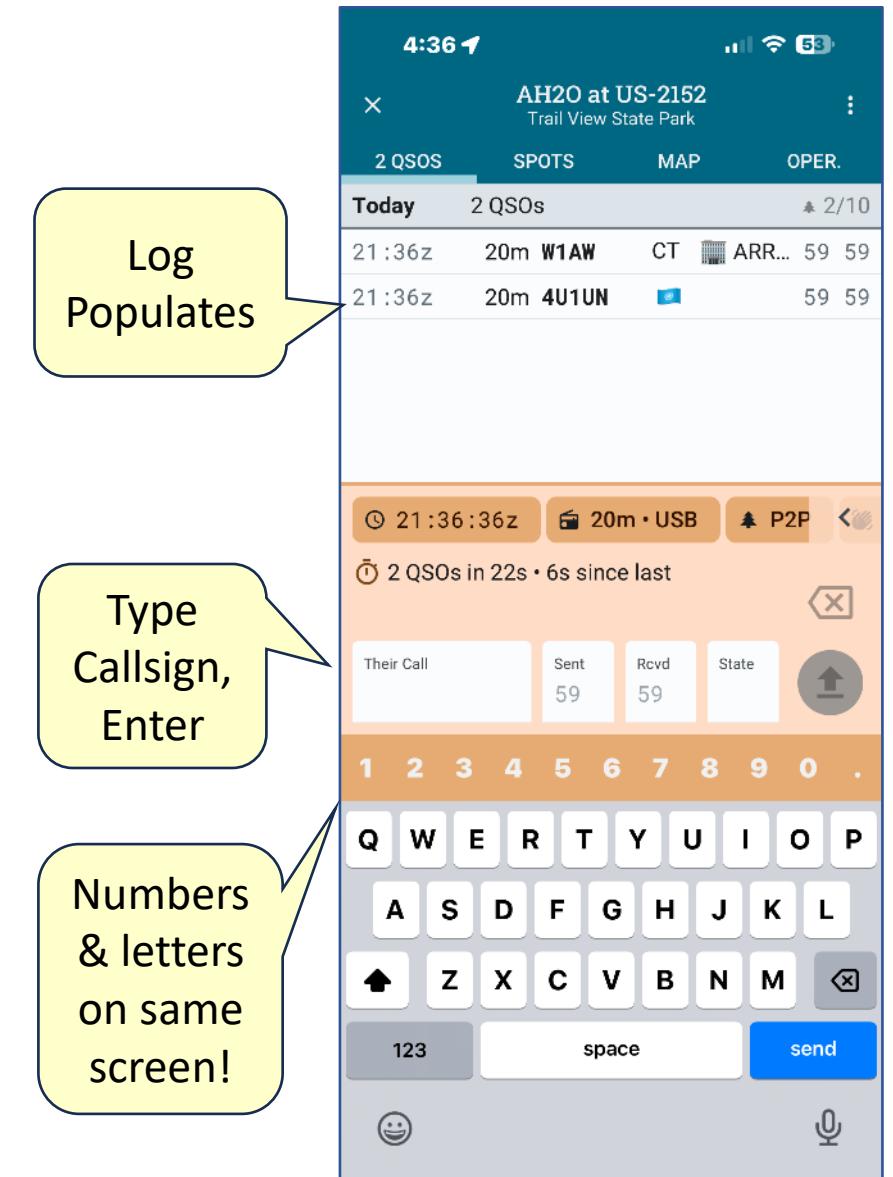
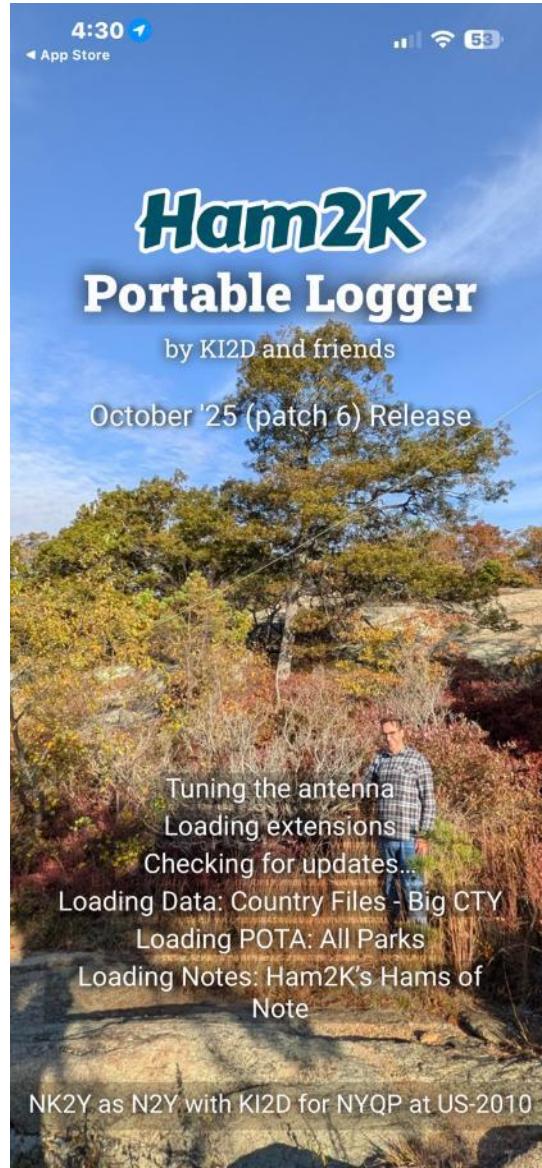


Ham2K Portable Logger - Smartphones

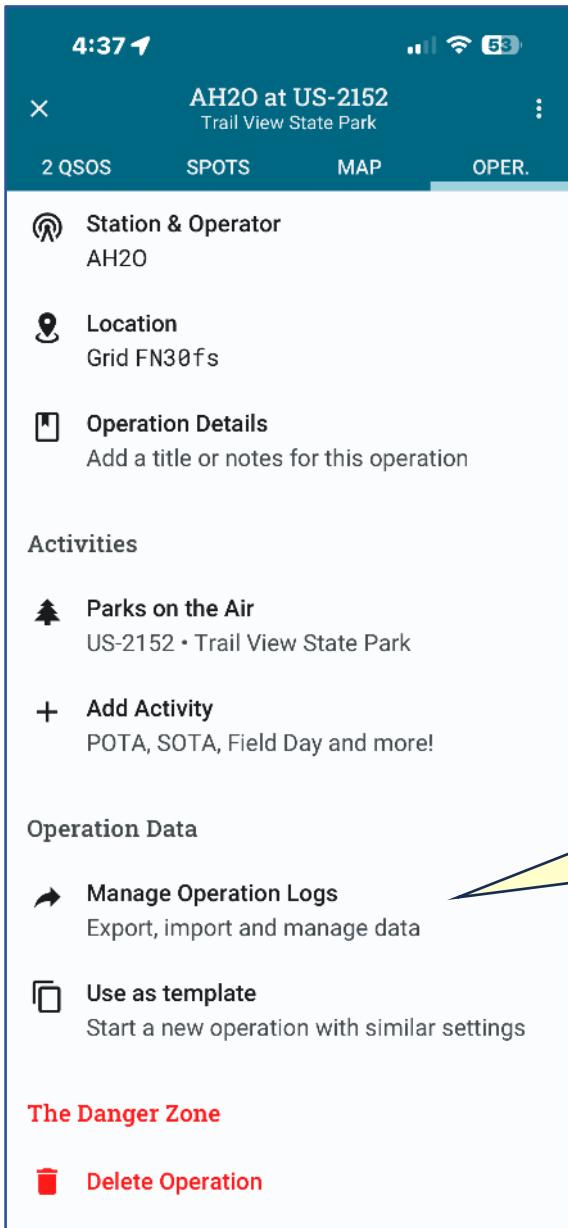
- Ham2K
- A simple logger designed specifically for Smartphones
- Available in App Store



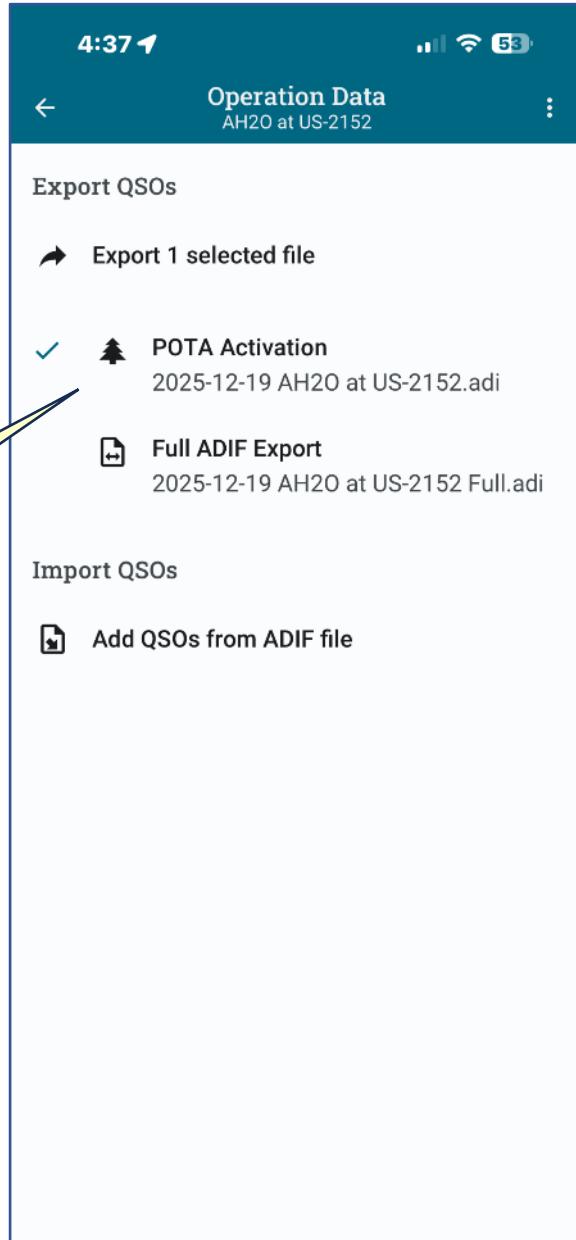
Ham2K Portable Logger
Amateur Radio Logging



Ham2K Portable Logger

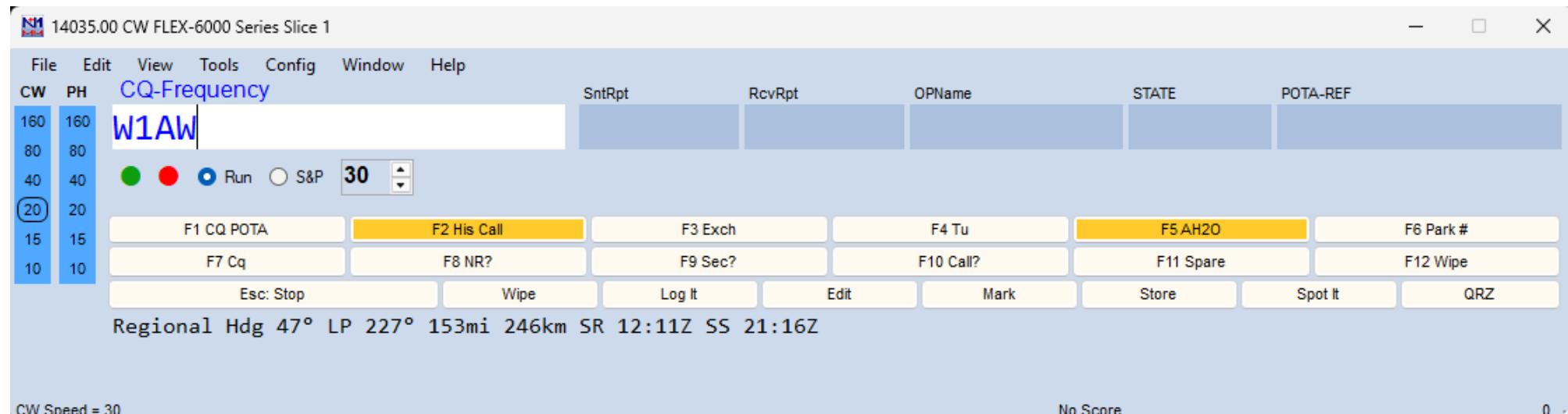


When finished,
export ADIF for
POTA upload

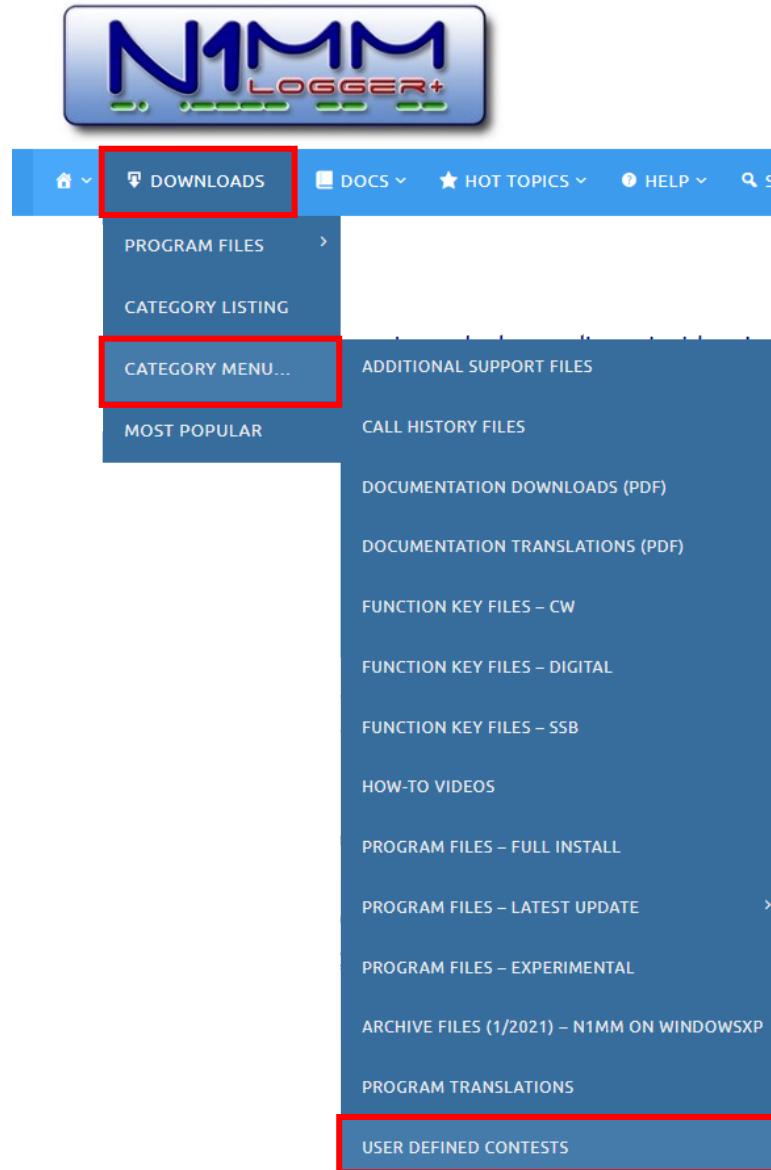


N1MM – User Defined Contest (UDC)

- A N1MM POTA User Defined Contest (UDC) is a custom-made configuration file for POTA activations - Download from N1MM
- Custom N1MM entry fields for callsigns, exchanges (like park number/signal report), and logging fields needed
- Helps to generate POTA logs for submission.
- Detailed instruction in N1MM Manual
 - <https://n1mmwp.hamdocs.com/manual-supported/contests-setup/setup-udc-contests/>



N1MM – User Defined Contest (UDC) – Installation Summary



The screenshot shows the N1MM Logger+ website's navigation bar and a list of download categories. The 'Downloads' menu item is highlighted with a red box. The 'Category Menu...' item is also highlighted with a red box. The 'User Defined Contests' item at the bottom is also highlighted with a red box.

- Downloads
- Docs
- Hot Topics
- Help
- Search

- Program Files
- Category Listing
- Category Menu...
- Downloads
- Additional Support Files
- Call History Files
- Documentation Downloads (PDF)
- Documentation Translations (PDF)
- Function Key Files – CW
- Function Key Files – Digital
- Function Key Files – SSB
- How-to Videos
- Program Files – Full Install
- Program Files – Latest Update
- Program Files – Experimental
- Archive Files (1/2021) – N1MM on WindowsXP
- Program Translations
- User Defined Contests

User Defined Contests (398)

Sort by: newest

All downloads (1270)

Showing 1-50 of 398

[KCJ_DX.udc](#)
Keyman's Club of Japan Contest. Exchange:RST+JA District/CQ Zone.

[KCJ_JA.udc](#)
Keyman's Club of Japan Contest. Exchange:RST+JA District/CQ Zone

POTA

Layout: list

Enter POTA in Search

g4ogb 19 downloads 2025-08-18

g4ogb 7 downloads 2025-08-18

User Defined Contests (8)

Sort by: newest

All downloads (12)

[POTA.udc](#)
Parks on the Air. Records RS(T) + opName + POTARef and if new POTA. v 1.0.5 Treat 2fer as a [Read More](#)

POTA

Layout: list

Select POTA.udc

g4ogb 3263 downloads 2024-04-26

N1MM – User Defined Contest (UDC) – Installation Summary

POTA.udc

[« Back to All Downloads](#)

Download Info

Author: g4ogb
File size: 2.66 kB
Downloads: 3263
Updated: 2024-04-26
Categories: [User Defined Contests](#)

Download

Description

Parks on the Air. Records RS(T) + opName + POTARef and if new POTA. v 1.0.5
Treat 2fer as a Rover. Self Spot enabled. v1.0.7 Misc used to replace Comment.

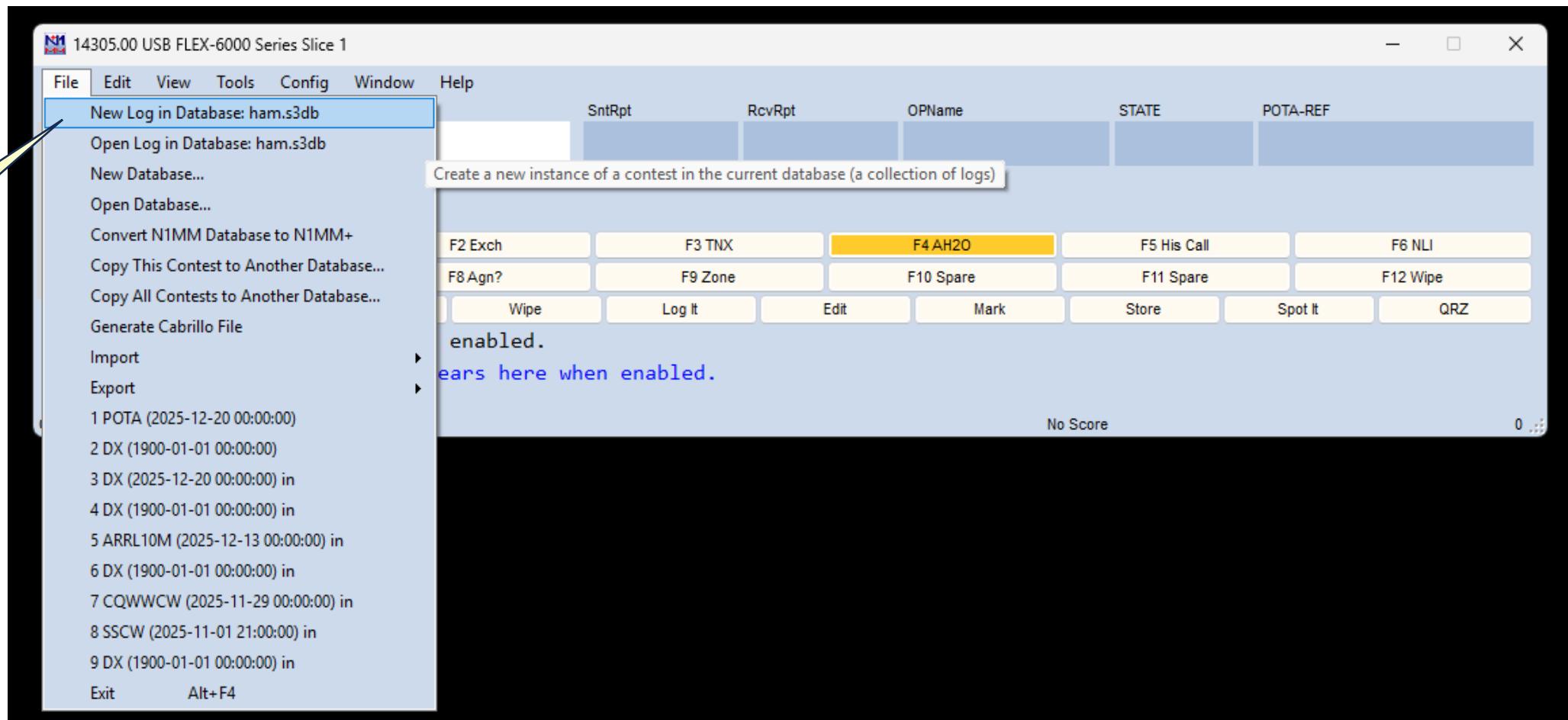
Downloads

[POTA \(1\).udc](#)
[Open file](#)

Documents > N1MM Logger+ >			
Name	Date modified	Type	Size
CallHistoryFiles	9/30/2024 19:30	File folder	
Databases	12/21/2025 20:19	File folder	
Diagnostics	3/24/2017 13:07	File folder	
ExportFiles	9/30/2024 19:30	File folder	
FunctionKeyMessages	2/2/2025 22:28	File folder	
GoalFiles	3/24/2017 13:07	File folder	
Old File from N1MM Logger root directory	12/21/2025 19:39	File folder	
Piper	12/21/2025 20:12	File folder	
PiperModelFiles	12/21/2025 20:12	File folder	
QsoRecording	3/24/2017 13:07	File folder	
SkinsAndLayouts	9/30/2024 19:30	File folder	
SupportFiles	12/21/2025 20:19	File folder	
SystemFiles	12/21/2025 20:19	File folder	
UserDefinedContests	12/21/2025 20:19	File folder	
Wav	12/21/2025 20:12	File folder	
LogError.txt	12/21/2025 20:21	Text Document	1 KB
N1MM Logger.ini	12/21/2025 20:21	Configuration sett...	10 KB
n1mm logger.ini.Sunday.bak	12/21/2025 19:39	BAK File	10 KB
realtimescorerreport.ini	12/21/2025 20:12	Configuration sett...	1 KB

Copy to this folder

N1MM – User Defined Contest (UDC) – Installation Summary

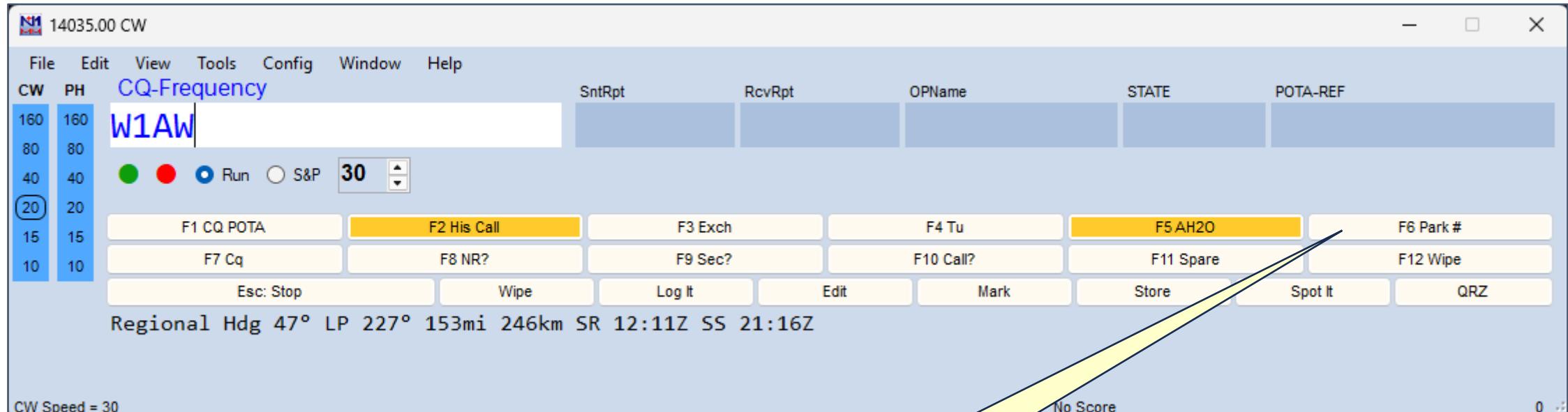


N1MM – User Defined Contest (UDC) – Installation Summary

Select Contest Type for New Log		
Log Type	POTA	Parks on the Air
Start Date	NAQPSSB	North American QSO Parties - SSB
	NAVAL	International Naval contest
	NPOTA-HOME	NPOTA-Home
	NRAU10M	Nordic Radio Amateur Union-Baltic - 10 meters
	NRAUCW	Nordic Radio Amateur Union-Baltic - CW
	NRAUSSB	Nordic Radio Amateur Union-Baltic - SSB
	NRRLFYLKE	Norwegian Radio RL - FYLKE
	NRRLNFD	NRRL Fieldday
Total num	NRRLVINTER	Norwegian Radio RL - Winter
Contest	NSRTTYDUPE	NS RTTY with Same-Band Duples Allowed
	OCEANIACW	Oceania DX CW
	OCEANIASSB	Oceania DX SSB
	OKDXRTTY	Czech Amateur Radio, OKDX RTTY
	OKOMDX	Czech and Slovak Republics DX
Categ	PABEKERCW	Netherlands - PABEKER CW
	PABEKERSSB	Netherlands - PABEKER SSB
Oper	PACC	Netherlands - PACC
	PORTUGAL	Portugal Day contest
B	POTA	Parks on the Air
Po	POTA-VE3FP	Parks on the Air
	QSOPARTY	QSO Parties (US and Canada)
M	RAC	RAC Canada Day and RAC Canada Winter contest
Over	RAEM	RAEM (E.T.Krenkel contest)
	RCCCUP	RCC Cup
	RDAC	Russian District Award Contest
Sta	REFCW	French REF DX contest - CW
	REFSSB	French REF DX contest - SSB
Assi	REGIOVHF	WANLC, VRZA - Netherland Locator Contest
	RFCCW	Cup of the Russian Federation - CW
Transm	RFCDIGI	Russian Federation Digital contest
	RFCHAMPCW	Russian Federation (only) RF Championship CW
Sent Excha	RFCHAMPSSB	Russian Federation (only) RF Championship SSB
Opera	RFCSSB	Cup of the Russian Federation - SSB
	ROPOCO	RSGB ROLO
	RRCW	ARRL Rookie Roundup - CW
Soap	RRRTTY	ARRL Rookie Roundup - RTTY
	RRSSB	ARRL Rookie Roundup - SSB
	RRTC	Russian Radiosport Team Championship

Select POTA
from listing

N1MM – User Defined Contest (UDC) – POTA Entry Window



Configure Function Keys



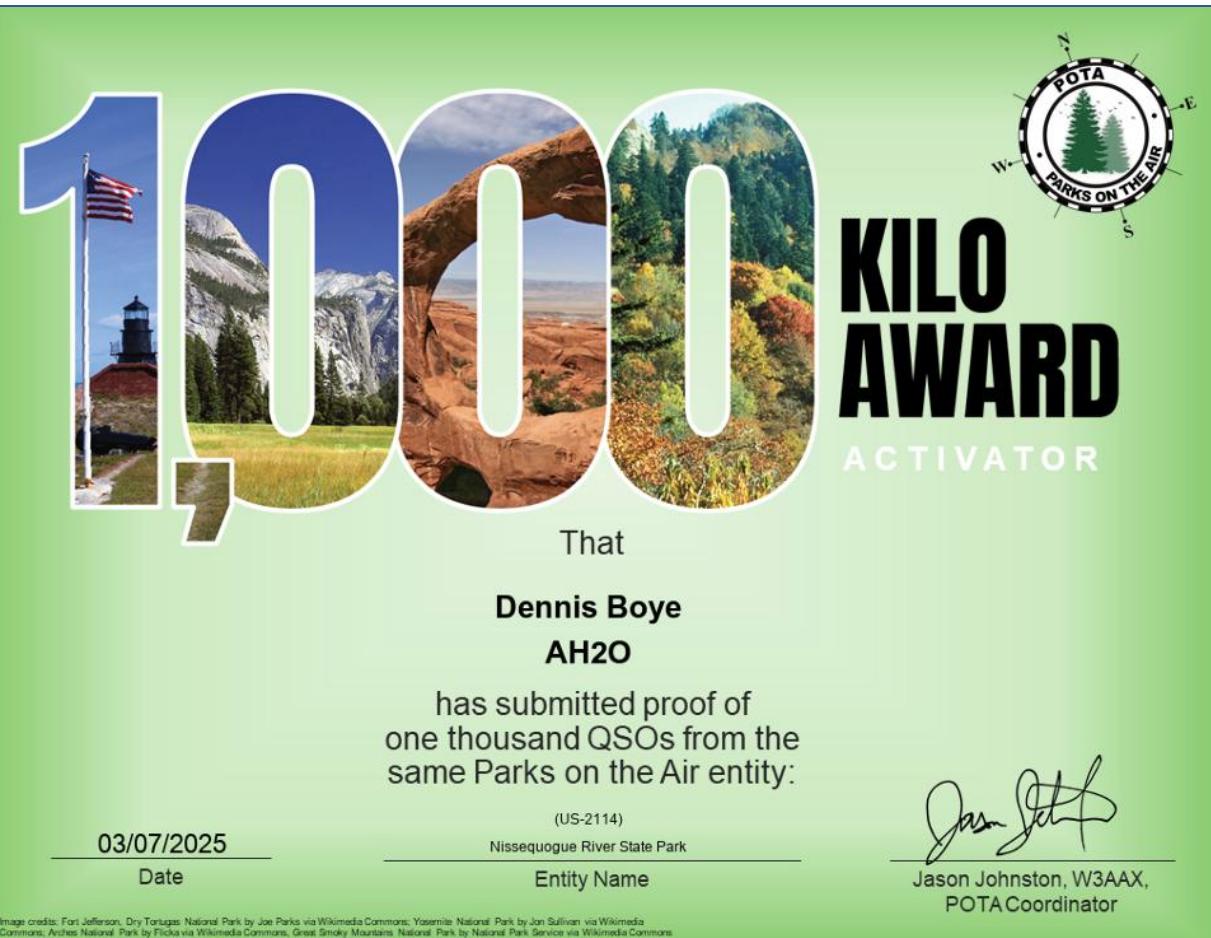
Awards

Awards

- Shows your progress towards certificates and awards based on the logs that Activators you contacted submit
 - As a *Hunter* no logs submittals required

Earned Awards		
Date First Granted	Award Name	Description
2025-08-07 00:00	Rover Warthog 	Activating 5 parks in a single UTC day
2025-03-07 14:34	Kilo 	1000 QSOs from the same entity as an activator
2025-01-04 18:58	Echinacea Paradoxa Hunter 	Working 1500 different units
2024-02-04 21:55	Worked All States 	Working 50 states / Dist of Columbia
2024-02-04 02:02	Oasis Hunter 	Worked a single entity 20 times
2024-02-04 02:02	Oasis Hunter 	Worked a single entity 20 times
2024-02-04 02:02	Oasis Hunter 	Worked a single entity 20 times
2024-02-04 02:02	Oasis Hunter 	Worked a single entity 20 times
2023-12-30 22:54	Western Prairie Fringed Orchid Hunter 	Working 1000 different units
2023-12-22 02:17	Rafflesia Flower Hunter 	Working 900 different units





Activator - 1,000 QSOs From One Park



Hunter – Worked All States

Glandularia Tampensis



2000

Hunter Award

Photo: Public Domain



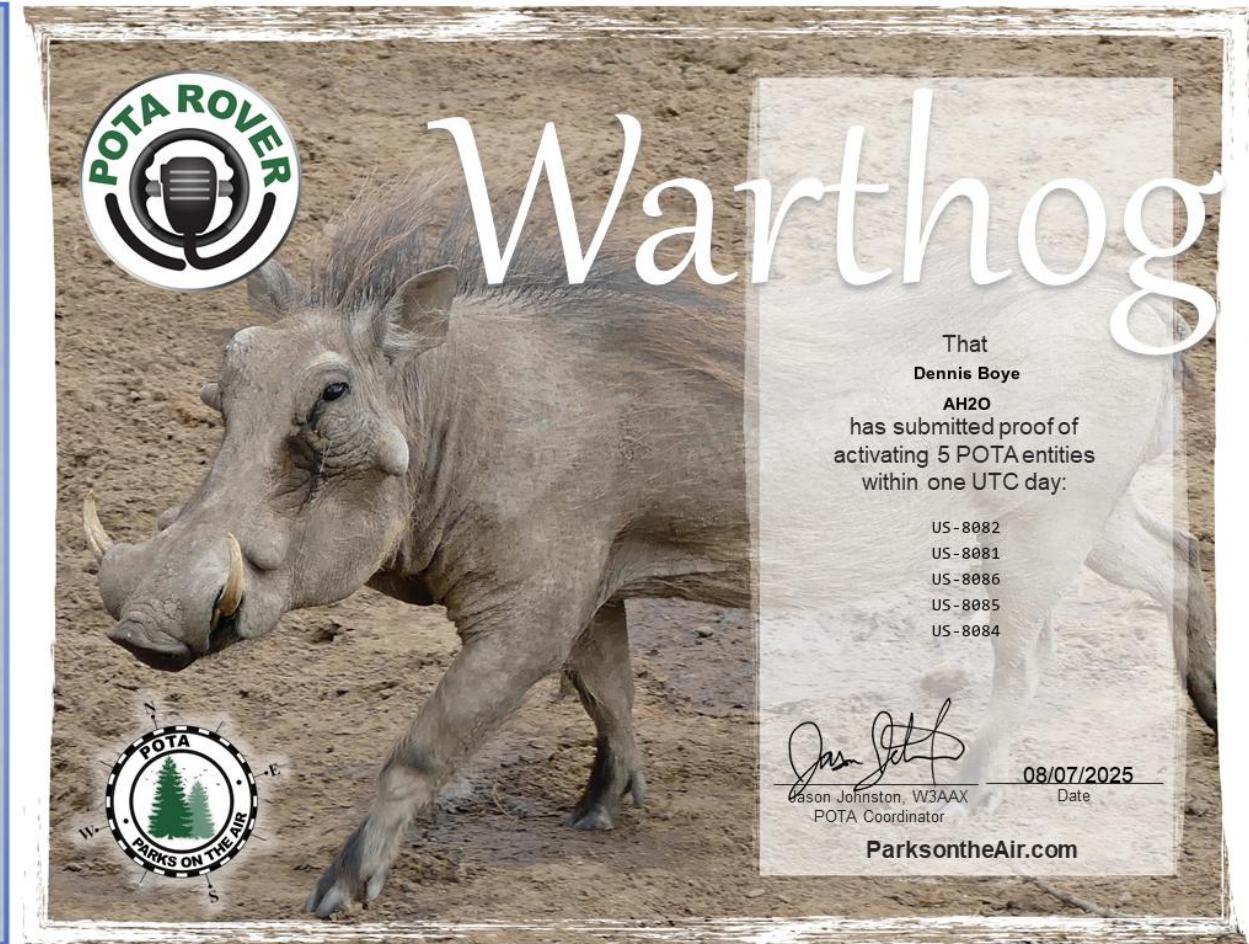
That
Dennis Boye
AH2O

has submitted proof of working
2000 unique reference areas
in the Parks on the Air program,
this certificate is hereby
presented in recognition of this
outstanding achievement.

Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

01/02/2026

Date



Hunter – Worked Over 2,000 Different Parks

Activator – 5 Parks in One Day

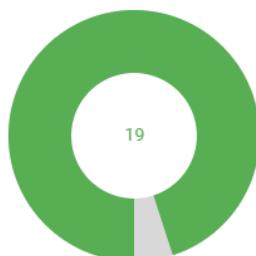
Awards Metrics

≡  My Awards Search for Callsigns & Parks 

Awards are updated daily and it may take a day or two for you to get full credit for uploaded logs. Hunters do not receive credit until the activator's log is processed.

For awards that can be earned multiple times, 'Date First Granted' is the first date the award was earned, not when when upgrades, endorsements, etc. were earned.

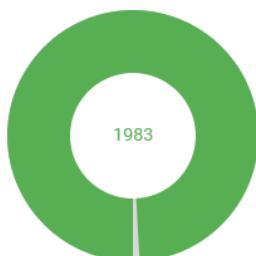
Parks Activated



A donut chart with a green outer ring and a grey inner ring. The number '19' is displayed in the center.

Next award at 20 unique parks.

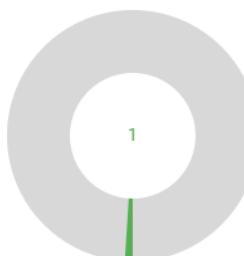
Parks Hunted



A donut chart with a green outer ring and a grey inner ring. The number '1983' is displayed in the center.

Next award at 2000 unique parks.

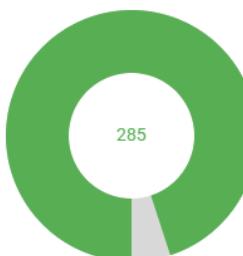
Late Shift Activator Contacts



A donut chart with a grey outer ring and a green inner ring. The number '1' is displayed in the center.

Next award at 100 late shift QSOs.

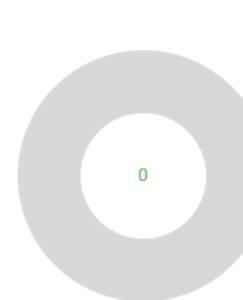
Late Shift Hunter Contacts



A donut chart with a green outer ring and a grey inner ring. The number '285' is displayed in the center.

Next award at 300 late shift QSOs.

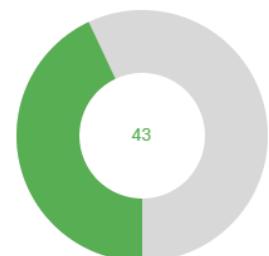
Early Shift Activator Contacts



A donut chart with a grey outer ring and a green inner ring. The number '0' is displayed in the center.

Next award at 100 early shift QSOs.

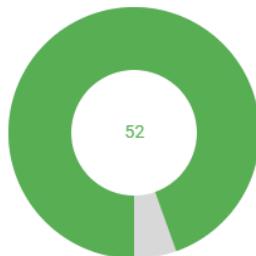
Early Shift Hunter Contacts



A donut chart with a green outer ring and a grey inner ring. The number '43' is displayed in the center.

Next award at 100 early shift QSOs.

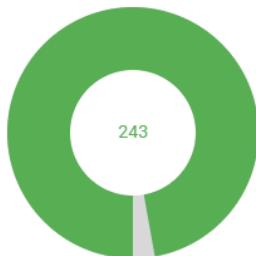
Entities Hunted



A donut chart with a green outer ring and a grey inner ring. The number '52' is displayed in the center.

Next award at 55 unique entities.

Park 2 Park



A donut chart with a green outer ring and a grey inner ring. The number '243' is displayed in the center.

Next award at 250 park-to-park QSOs.

Awards Metrics

≡  My Awards

Search for Callsigns & Parks

SPOTS

ACTIVATIONS

DOCS

AH20

Next award at 55 unique entities.

Next award at 250 park-to-park QSOs.

Activated US States

AK	AL	AR	AZ	CA	CO	CT	DC	DE	FL	GA	HI	IA	ID	IL	IN	KS	KY	LA	MA	MD
ME	MI	MN	MO	MS	MT	NC	ND	NE	NH	NJ	NM	NV	NY	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD
TN	TX	UT	VA	VT	WA	WI	WV	WY												

Activate a park in 50 states (DC is a wildcard) to earn this award.

Hunted US States

AK	AL	AR	AZ	CA	CO	CT	DC	DE	FL	GA	HI	IA	ID	IL	IN	KS	KY	LA	MA	MD
ME	MI	MN	MO	MS	MT	NC	ND	NE	NH	NJ	NM	NV	NY	OH	OK	OR	PA	RI	SC	SD
TN	TX	UT	VA	VT	WA	WI	WV	WY												

Hunt a park in 50 states (DC is a wildcard) to earn this award.

Activated All References

Location	Progress ↓
New York (US-NY)	17 / 849
Pennsylvania (US-PA)	1 / 490

Rows per page: 10 ▾ 1-2 of 2 < >

Activate all of the parks in a state/province/region to earn this award.

Hunted All References

Location	Progress ↓
Wake Island (UM-W)	1 / 1
Sable Island (CA-SI)	1 / 1
St. Paul Island (CA-SP)	1 / 1
Galápagos (EC-W)	1 / 1
Bouvet Island (BV-BV)	1 / 1
Arkabúil Suqutrá (YE-SO)	1 / 1
Glorioso Islands (TF-GI)	1 / 1
Archipiélago Juan Fernández (CL-JF)	1 / 1
Easter Island (CL-EI)	1 / 1
Swains Island (AS-SI)	1 / 1

Rows per page: 10 ▾ 1-10 of 130 < >

Hunt all of the parks in a state/province/region to earn this award.

Kilo

Park	Contacts ↓
Nissequogue River State Park (US-2114)	1094
Valley Forge National Historical Park (US-0761)	293

Rows per page: 10 ▾ 1-2 of 2 < >

Have 1000 total contacts from a single park as an activator.

85

Special Events



POTA Official Events

- Currently POTA has 5 official events throughout the year

- New Year's Week

- 1. First full week of the new year

January 1-7, 2026

- Support Your Parks

- 2. Winter - 3rd Full Weekend of January

January 17-18, 2026

- 3. Spring - 3rd Full Weekend of April

April 18-19, 2026

- 4. Summer - 3rd Full Weekend of July

July 18-19, 2026

- 5. Autumn - 3rd Full Weekend of October

October 17-18, 2026

Special Event Awards



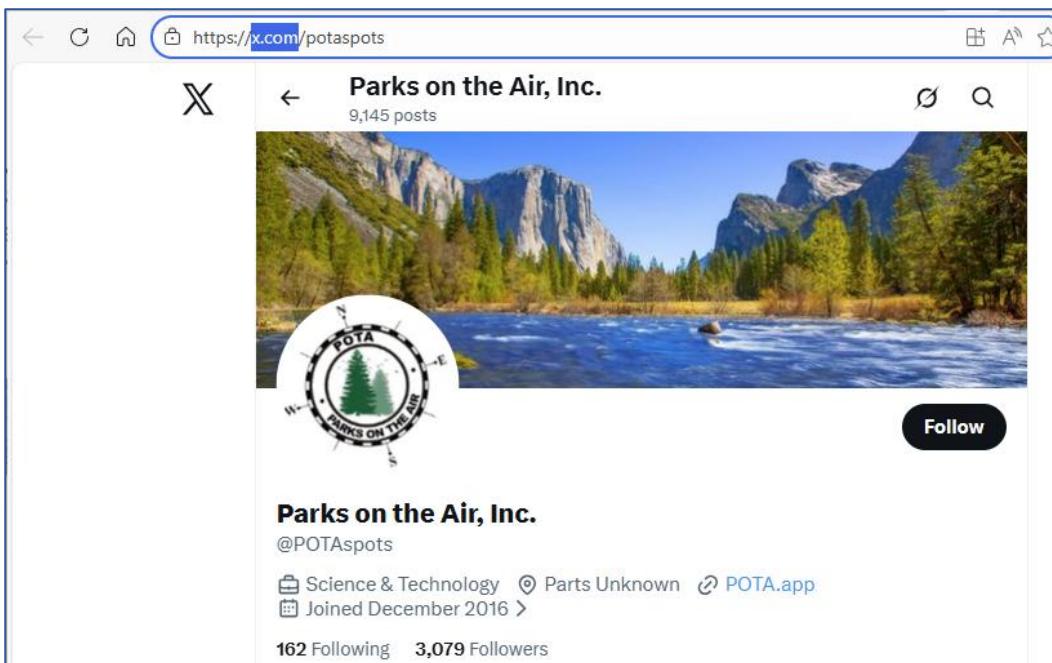
Social Media Platforms



Social Media Platforms

- Interact with the POTA community online:

- [Facebook group](#)
- [X](#)
- [Mastodon](#)

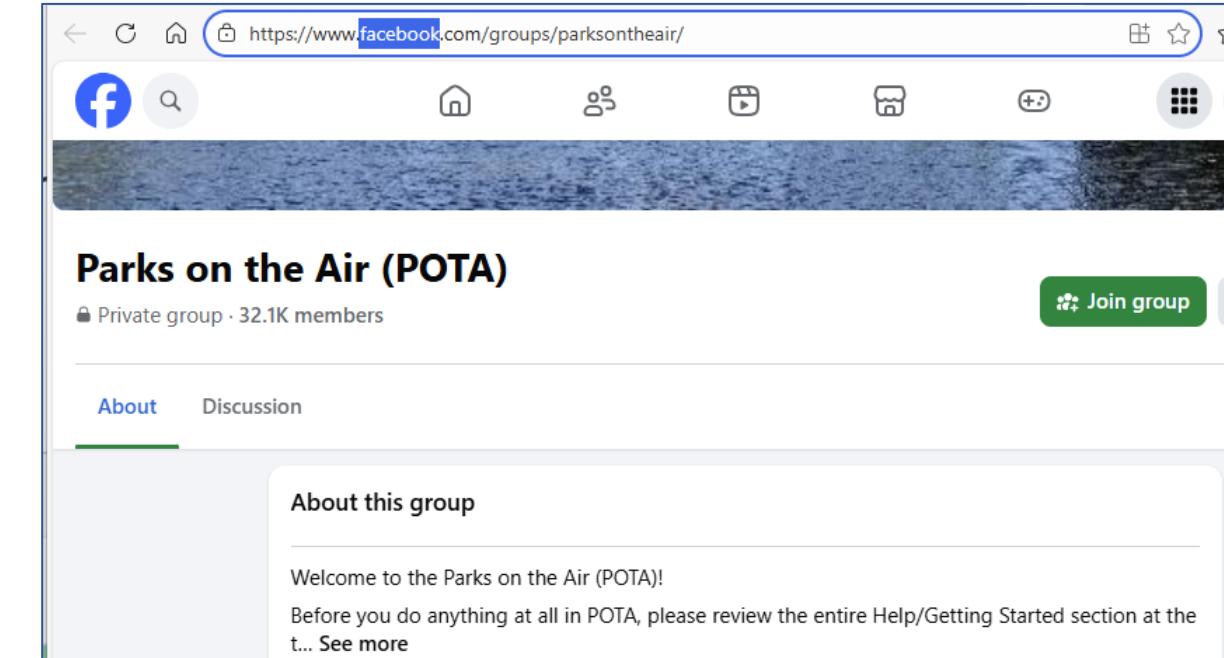


Parks on the Air, Inc.
9,145 posts

Parks on the Air, Inc.
@POTAspots

Science & Technology Parts Unknown POTA.app
Joined December 2016

162 Following 3,079 Followers



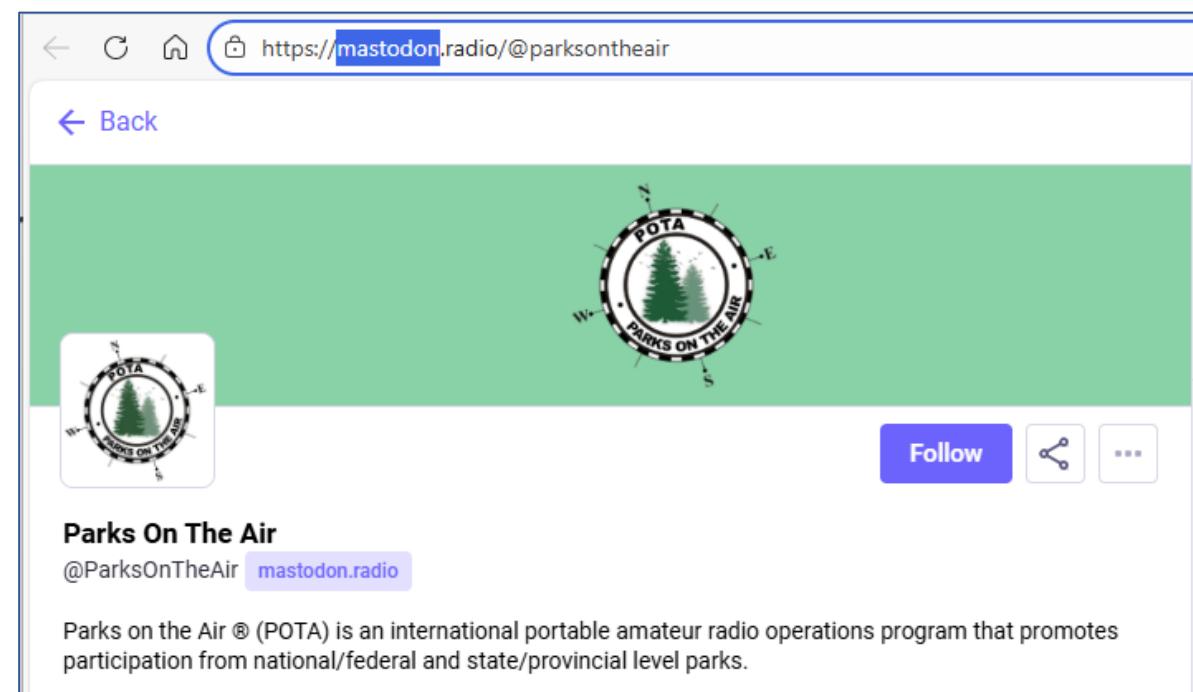
Parks on the Air (POTA)

Private group · 32.1K members

About Discussion

About this group

Welcome to the Parks on the Air (POTA)! Before you do anything at all in POTA, please review the entire Help/Getting Started section at the t... See more



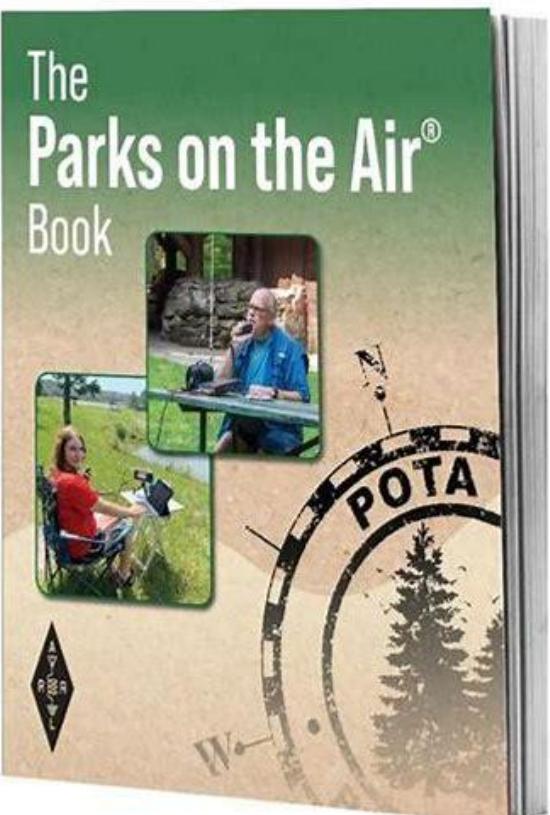
Back

Parks On The Air
@ParksOnTheAir mastodon.radio

Parks on the Air ® (POTA) is an international portable amateur radio operations program that promotes participation from national/federal and state/provincial level parks.

References

- [Parks on the Air Documentation \(pota.app\)](https://pota.app)
- [ARRL POTA Book](#)



Parks on the Air

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 - b [Getting Started for Activators](#)
- 2 [Getting Started Video Guide](#)

Getting Started with POTA

Parks on the Air® (POTA) started in early 2017 when the ARRL's National Parks on the Air special event ended. A group of volunteers wanted to continue the fun beyond the one-year event, and thus, POTA was born.

General information about the program is available at parksonthair.com, so we highly recommend checking out the information there. You may also want to join the [POTA Slack Channel](#) or the [POTA Facebook group](#), where you can easily interact with the POTA community online. POTA also maintains accounts on [Twitter](#) and [Mastodon](#) if you prefer to interact on those social media platforms.

Once you're ready to start, just remember that the golden rules of POTA are to have fun and keep it simple. We want to give you as much flexibility as possible, to have fun your way.

Getting started with POTA can happen via one of two paths — as an "activator" who heads out into the parks or as a "hunter" who is trying to contact someone in a park. The easiest way to participate in POTA is as a hunter, so we'll start there.

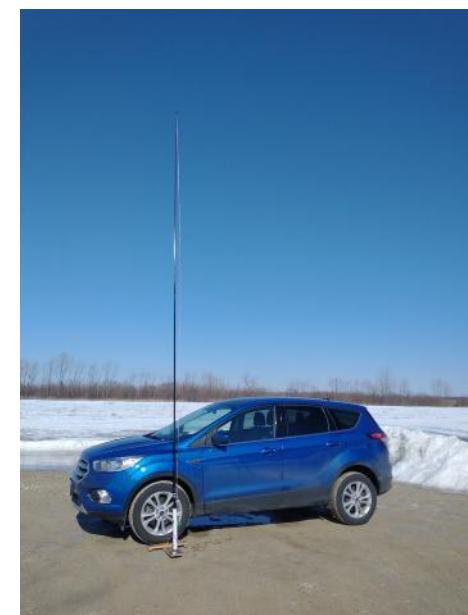
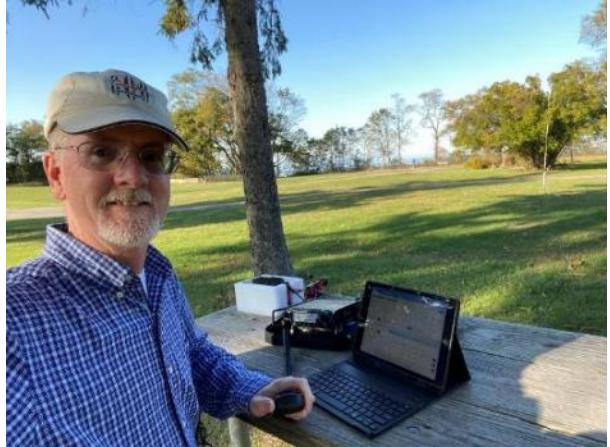
Getting Started for Hunters

Hunters are the individuals located anywhere, who contact the activators in the park. As a hunter, the rules are few and simple.

- Follow the law.
- Follow the [DX Code of Conduct](#).
- Follow the Golden Rule.

Now Go Out and Enjoy POTA!

- Park Bench or Vehicle
 - As long as you're “within the boundaries of the park”



Questions?

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