

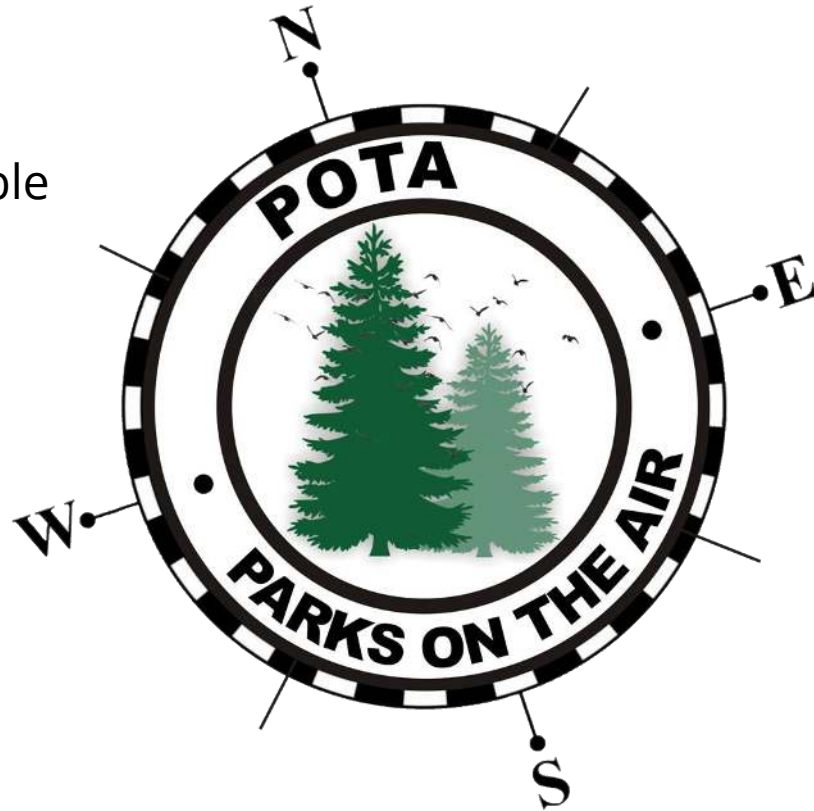
Parks On The Air

www.parksontheair.com

Parks On The Air - POTA

POTA is a 501(c)3 radiosport program that encourages communications to and portable operations from state, provincial and nationally managed public lands.

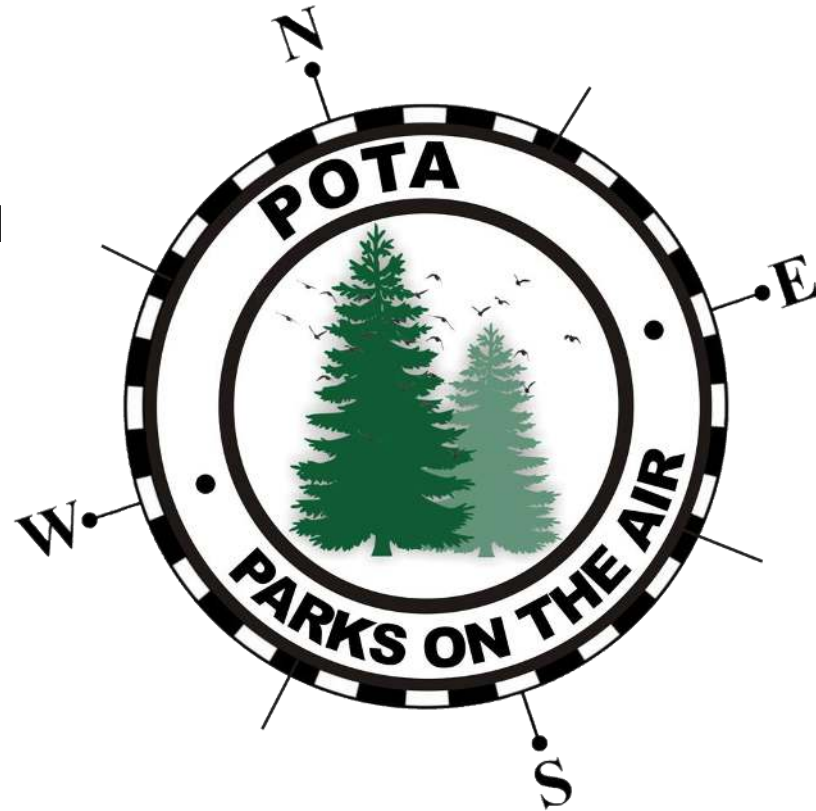
POTA has a large set of references and a short set of rules. We welcome you to join us as an activator, chaser or both!



Who is POTA?

POTA started as a small group of USA based dedicated volunteers who created the rules, infrastructure and database. POTA then acquired volunteers to coordinate the call areas and social media.

And now POTA is all of us, over 2700 registered users from all over the world and growing every day.



How to join the POTA fun!

Creating an account is fast and easy.

POTA stores no passwords, we authenticate against accounts you already have.

Select the Dashboard/Login link at
parksontheair.com

info@parksontheair.com if you need assistance



Sign In with your social account



or

Sign in with your email and password

Email

Password

[Forgot your password?](#)

Sign In

[Need an account? Sign up](#)

We won't post to any of your accounts without asking first

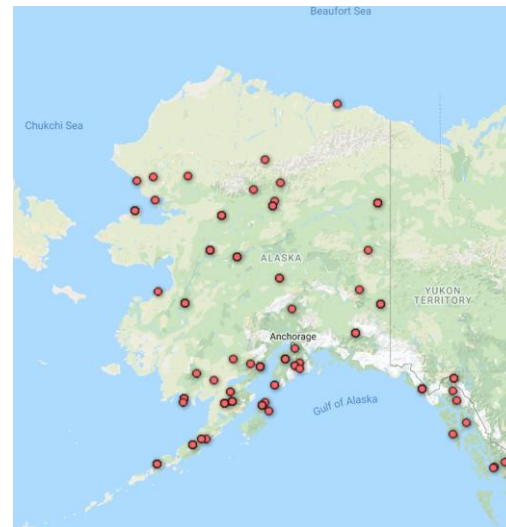
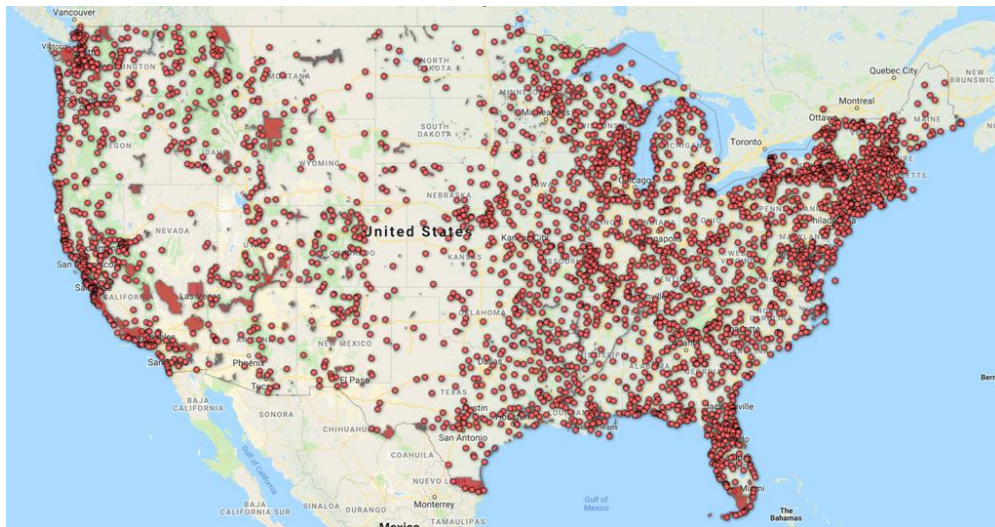
How does it work for Activators?

Choose a reference to put on the air. POTA has over 10,000 locations in USA and Canada.

Find a list by state/province and maps at **[parksontheair.com](https://parks-on-the-air.com)**



Find these reference maps and more at parksontheair.com



US has 5,579 references, Canada has 4,491

Local References

Easy to drive to:

K-1916 **Skyway Fishing Pier State Park**

K-3663 **Terra Ceia State Preserve**

K-1880 **Honeymoon Island State Park**

K-3635 **Madira Brickel Mound Site**

Islands (with ferry access):

K-1844 **Caladesi Island State Park**

K-1863 **Egmont Key State Park**

Short drive (~1 hr):

K-1878 **Hillsborough River State Park**

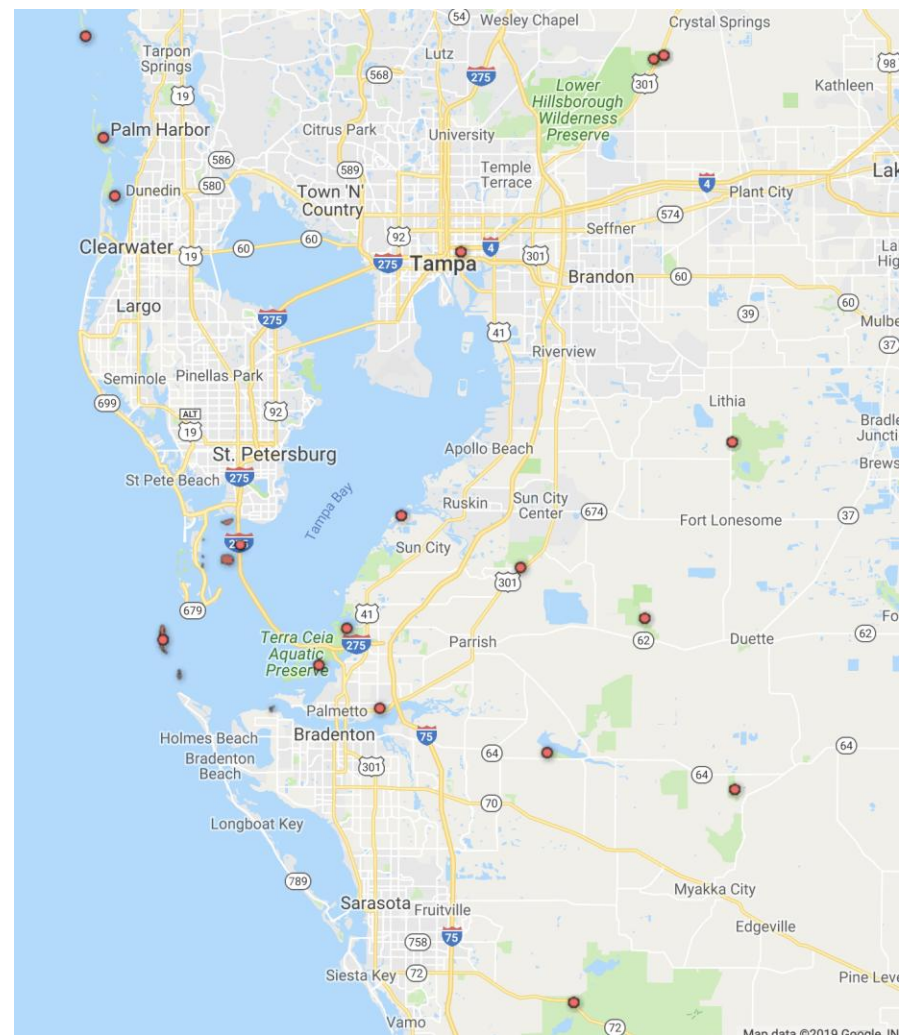
K-1898 **Little Manatee River State Park**

K-1894 **Lake Manatee State Park**

K-1904 **Myakka River State Park**

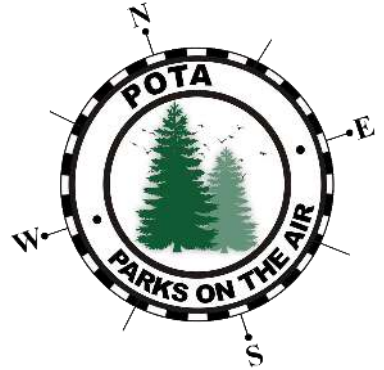
K-1909 **Oscar Scherer State Park**

K-1829 **Alafia River State Park**



What do I need to activate a POTA reference?

- Amateur radio license
- Any radio
- Any portable antenna
- Portable power or access to AC power
- Any logger that will export an **ADIF**
- A desire to have fun



Popular antennas are homebrew wire on a self supporting mast, Wolf River Coils, Alpha Antennas, SotaBeams, Buddipole, Screwdrivers and many more.

How do I activate a POTA reference?

Make 10 QSOs on one UTC day while inside the boundaries of the park on any band your privileges allow including WARC bands.

Utilize any simplex mode including satellite. No terrestrial repeaters allowed.

POTA recommends operating in the General bands but has no specific calling frequencies.

There is no specific exchange beyond callsign, although the traditional RST is usually given along with QTH. If you prefer, you do not have to call CQ POTA or announce you are at a park.

Log the date, time, and band in your favorite logging program and export as an **ADIF**. Submit this **ADIF** to your call area coordinator along with your call and POTA park number.

A good filename example is: **20190101 k8vox k-1234.adif**

How do I call CQ?

On SSB any variation of the following:

"CQ Parks on the Air CQ POTA
This is AA0O activating Park K-1880"



On CW we often hear:

"CQ POTA N2CX N2CX K0710 K"

Then put yourself on the POTA Spotter and you will be hunted!

Schedule an activation and the CW Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) can pick up your signal and you'll be automatically spotted!

To get spotted by the RBN, repeat your callsign twice like "CQ POTA W3AAX W3AAX K3331 K"

Add Spot

Activator

Spotter

Frequency

Reference

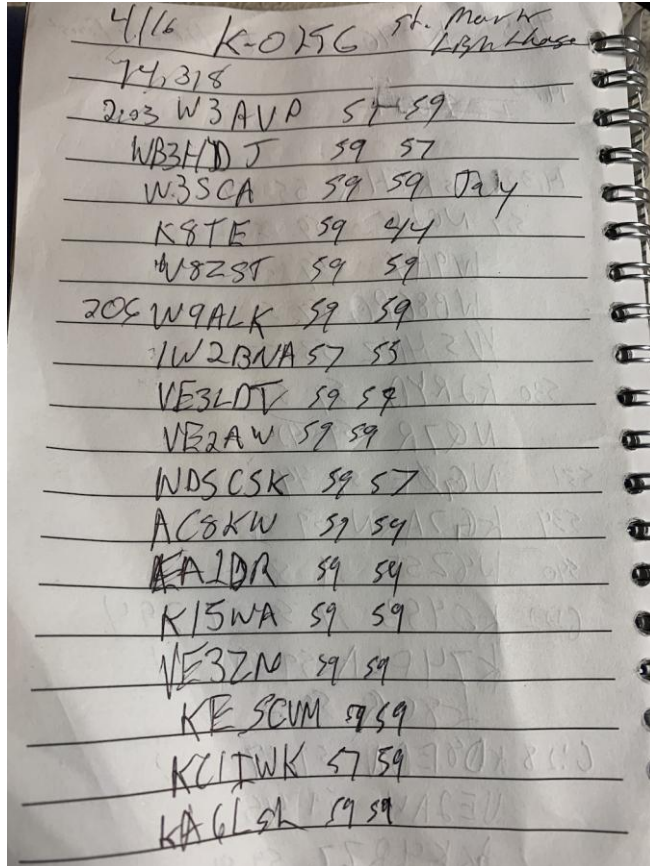
Comments

*indicates required field

CLOSE

SAVE

Paper Log



Logging

Fast Log Entry

<https://www.df3cb.com/file/>

Fast Log Entry - by DF3CB - [C:\Users\0004\Documents\fastlog - 20190416 K-0256.txt *]

File Edit Insert Logging View Options Help

2019-04-16

1 # Header

2 mywfff KFF-0256

3

4 mycall AA00

5 date 2019-04-16

6 operator

7 qslmsg K-0256

8

9 # Log

10 14.318 ssb 1803 w8avp 59 59

11 wb3hdj 59 57

12 w3sca 59 59

13 k8te 59 44

14 w8zst 59 59

15 1806 w9alk 59 59

16 iw2bna 57 55

17 ve3ldt 59 59

18 ve2aw 59 59

19 wd5csk 59 57

20 ac8kw 59 59

21 ealdr 59 59

22 ki5wa 59 59

23 ve3zn 59 59

24 ke5cvm 59 59

25 kc1iwk 57 59

26 ka6ls1 59 59

27 1814 wa8eay 59 59

28 kc3dya 59 55

29 n0dow 59 55

No.	My Call	Date	Time	Call
2	AA00	2019-04-16	18:03	WB3HJD
3	AA00	2019-04-16	18:04	W3SCA
4	AA00	2019-04-16	18:04	K8TE
5	AA00	2019-04-16	18:05	W8ZST
6	AA00	2019-04-16	18:06	W9ALK
7	AA00	2019-04-16	18:06	IW2BNA
8	AA00	2019-04-16	18:07	VE3LDT
9	AA00	2019-04-16	18:08	VE2AW
10	AA00	2019-04-16	18:08	WD5CSK
11	AA00	2019-04-16	18:09	AC8KW
12	AA00	2019-04-16	18:10	EA1DR
13	AA00	2019-04-16	18:10	K15WA
14	AA00	2019-04-16	18:11	VE3ZN
15	AA00	2019-04-16	18:12	KE5CVM
16	AA00	2019-04-16	18:12	KC1IWK
17	AA00	2019-04-16	18:13	KA6LSL
18	AA00	2019-04-16	18:14	WA8EAY
19	AA00	2019-04-16	18:14	KC3DYA
20	AA00	2019-04-16	18:14	N0DOW
21	AA00	2019-04-16	18:15	KE8ILK
22	AA00	2019-04-16	18:15	K0BAK
23	AA00	2019-04-16	18:16	KF5VGA
24	AA00	2019-04-16	18:16	W7TNA
25	AA00	2019-04-16	18:17	KK5QT
26	AA00	2019-04-16	18:18	WB0KIU

WWFF Logging Off-Line Mode AA00 26 QSOs

Why would you enjoy portable activation?

- Typically a lower noise floor and very often beautiful views and opportunities for wildlife watching.
- Every activation has different challenges: terrain, space constraints, weather, accessibility.
- It's an opportunity to perfect your portable radio kit, always evolving it to suit your operating style.
- It makes you a better operator and keeps your skills sharp.
- You will make friends all over the world

You become the DX!



And Hearing

"Thanks for the new one!"

"Thanks for activating!"

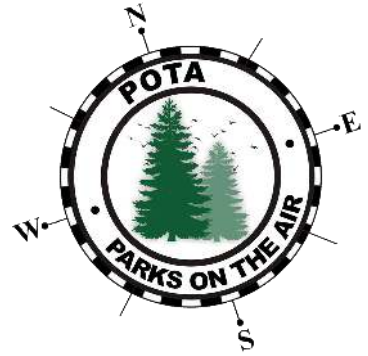
"Thanks for the park to park!"

"Have fun out there!"

Other reasons people enjoy POTA

- POTA is accessible. There are references near most populated areas, and many you can drive right in.
- Activators can run rapid-deployment contest-style activations or ragchew from a favorite campground all weekend.
- POTA accepts logs from any time, if you chased NPOTA you may already have confirmed contacts.
- The POTA stats pages and maps are under continuous development with many more features planned.

All modes are welcome.



POTA Quotes

"POTA combines everything we love to do!"

"This is great! I have several state parks near the QTH!"

"I didn't spend much time outdoors until POTA"

"I enjoy researching & learning about the places I contact."

Activator Awards

Incremental awards, for each level of unique parks activated.



Park to Park awards for communications between portable operations at POTA references.

Activator Awards

Awards for activating the same park many times as a Repeat Offender

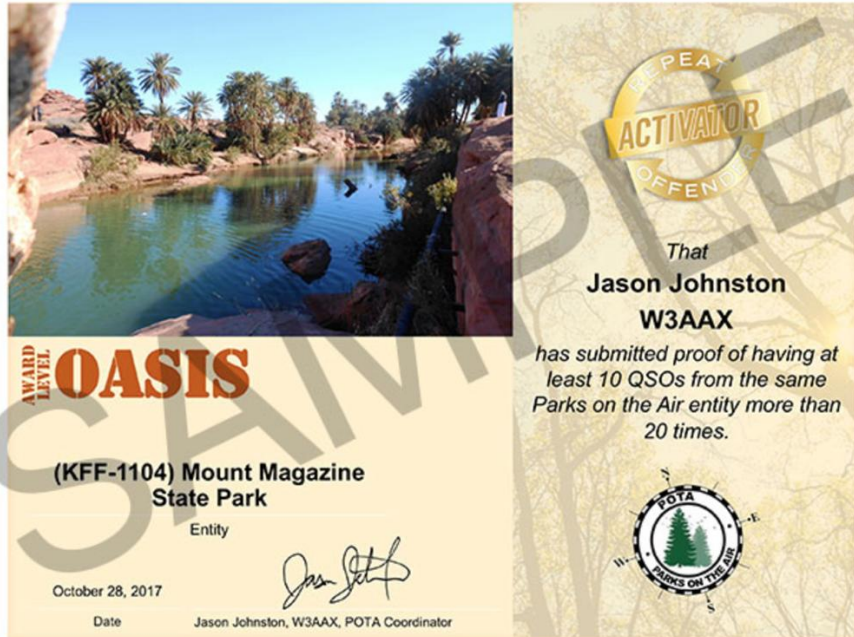


Photo: By Sivat [Own work] [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

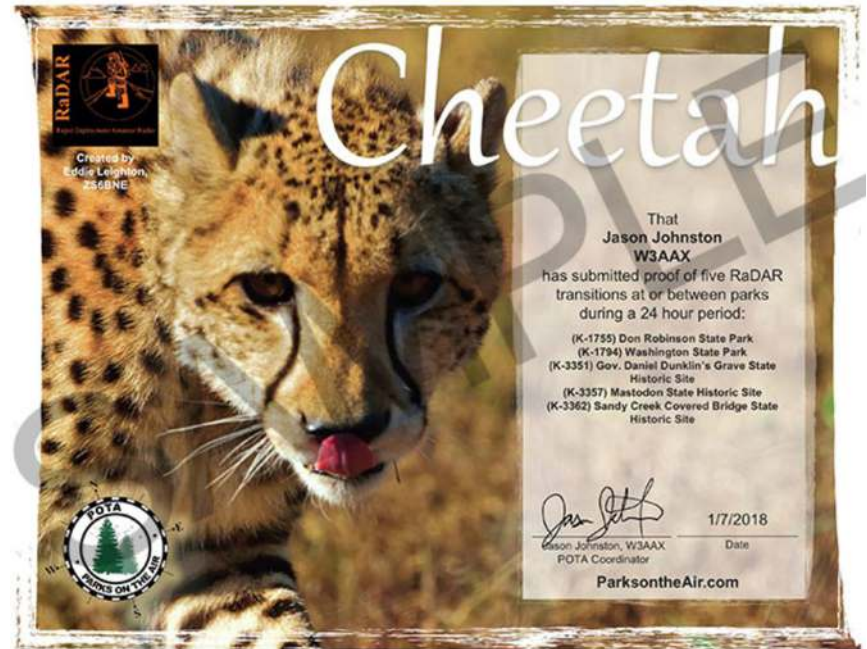


Photo: Dalton Jackson via Wikimedia Commons

RaDAR Awards for rapid deployment activations in a specified number of parks in one day

Many more awards are available

How does it work for Hunters?

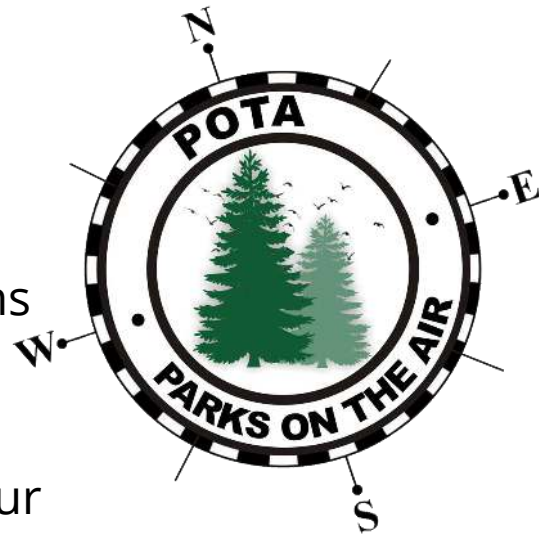
- Create an account at **parksontheair.com**
- Make the QSO & post a fresh spot if warranted
- No log submission is necessary
- Check your dashboard for stats at **parksontheair.com**



Parks On The Air						
Find Parks						
Leaderboards						
Activity						
Park Stats						
My Stats						
AA00						
You have 71 hunter QSOs						
Reference	Park Name	Location	Date - Time	Band	Mode	Station
K-0014	Channel Islands National Park	California	2019-02-18 21:08:23	20M	CW	WM6Y
K-0015	Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park	Washington	2018-01-15 16:26:00	20M	PHONE	K4V DX
K-0017	Congaree National Park	South Carolina	2019-01-14 20:39:00	40M	PHONE	K4CAE
K-0023	Dry Tortugas National Park	Florida	2018-12-16 03:04:00	40M	PHONE	WX4TV
K-0027	Gettysburg National Military Park	Pennsylvania	2019-04-01 23:25:00	40M	PHONE	KB3WAV
K-0064	Shenandoah National Park	Virginia	2019-01-27 20:27:00	40M	PHONE	KC3RW
K-0377	Mingo National Wildlife Refuge	Missouri	2018-03-09 22:43:00	40M	PHONE	K0ATZ
K-0453	Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge	New Jersey	2018-04-21 17:41:00	20M	PHONE	KD2DLY
K-0483	Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge	Ohio	2018-05-04 21:32:00	20M	PHONE	K8VOX
K-0662	Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area	Georgia	2018-06-09 15:46:19	40M	PHONE	AD4XT
K-0691	Prince William Forest Park	Virginia	2019-02-25 17:25:00	20M	PHONE	NS4J
K-0702	Cowpens National Battlefield	South Carolina	2019-03-10 18:47:00	40M	PHONE	K4CAE
K-0711	Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield	Georgia	2018-12-31 20:18:09	40M	PHONE	AD4XT
K-0772	De Soto National Memorial	Florida	2018-04-21 17:17:00	20M	PHONE	KK1TLS

Tips for Hunting

- Check the POTA Scheduler for any planned activations
- Follow our social media for pop-up activations
- Watch the POTA spotter at **<http://pota.us>**
- Sign up for Slack to receive instant POTA spots on your phone or desktop
- Use phonetics or QRS if necessary
- Observe the DX Code of Conduct
- Spot to the POTA spotter or if you prefer to a cluster with comment: POTA K-1234 (or VE-1234)





Home

HOME

LATEST SPOTS

UPCOMING ACTIVATIONS

ADD SPOT

Active Spots

Data will automatically refresh every 60 seconds.

N2CX @ K-1619 High Point

- K-1619, US-NJ
- 10115.5 kHz / MHz, CW
- K9IMM
- RBN 15 dB via K9IMM-#
- Last heard 1 minute ago at 22:13 UTC

K-4999 @ K-4999 Stokes

- K-4999, US-NJ
- 14272 kHz / MHz,
- KD2GIY
- On aprs
- Last heard 6 minutes ago at 22:08 UTC

K4WK @ K-0034 Great Smoky Mountains

- K-0034, US-NC US-TN
- 7244 kHz / MHz,
- K4WK
- POTA K0034
- Last heard 7 minutes ago at 22:07 UTC

AD4XT @ K-2173 F.D. Roosevelt

- K-2173, US-GA
- 7278 kHz / MHz,
- AD4XT
- FDR st. Park in GA
- Last heard 9 minutes ago at 22:04 UTC

K1YAH @ K-2193 Panola Mountain

- K-2193, US-GA
- 7250 kHz / MHz,
- NX1Q
- Panola mountain State Park, Georgia
- Last heard 15 minutes ago at 21:58 UTC

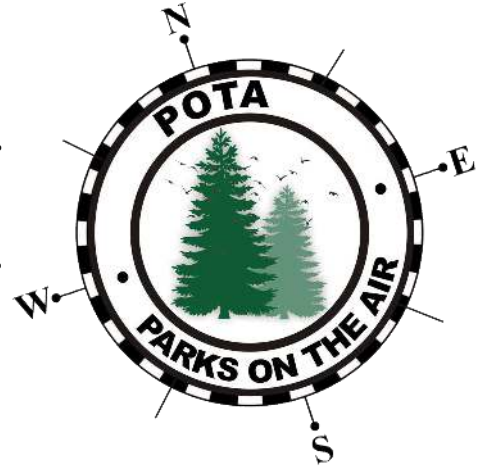
KF9UP @ K-2266 Prophetstown

- K-2266, US-IN
- 7240 kHz / MHz,
- KF9UP
- No spot information
- Last heard 19 minutes ago at 21:54 UTC

Today's Activations

Why would you enjoy hunting POTA activators?

- You are helping another amateur to reach their goals
- It's an easy, short contact - great for new HF operators.
- Enjoy the comprehensive stats and awards POTA provides.
- It requires no log submissions
- It makes you a better operator and keeps your skills sharp.
- You will make friends from all over world
- You can hunt as much or as little as you want, you do not even have to register to play.
- You can help the activators by relaying things like "you have a Park to Park calling" or by spotting when they QSY



Hunter Awards

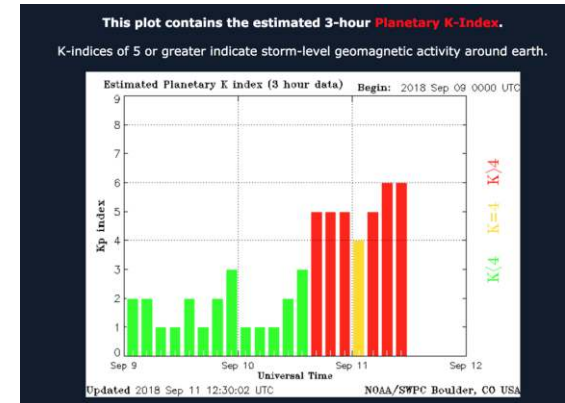
Incremental awards, for each level of unique parks hunted.



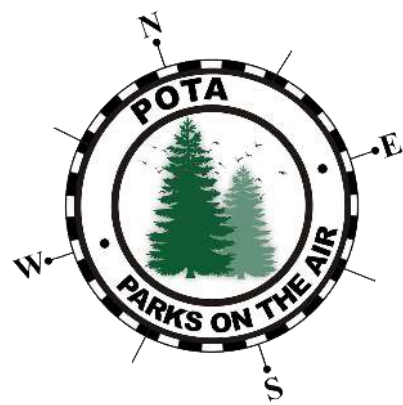
Or hunting all POTA references in a state or province. Many more awards are available!

Top Activator Challenges

- Terrestrial & Solar Wx
- Gear failure - have field repair kit and back ups
- Local QRM - work through it or choose another location
- Difficult Staff - while rare, it does happen. Always be respectful and follow staff instructions.
- Unable to self spot - check in on Facebook or Slack with an ETA and frequency while you have network/cellular coverage.



Activator Pro Tips



- Safety first, flag anything that could be a tripping hazard.
- Have a checklist that you keep updated as your activating evolves
- Monitor a wx radio if you are in a place or season where wx can change rapidly
- Keep data you need at your fingertips - POTA reference, county, grid square
- Leave time to tour the park, and choose the best operating position.
- Consider band conditions and your battery, TX power and length of activation.
- Be clear on the rules. Consider park rules, state laws, band plans, and other events you may be able to operate in concert with your activation.
- Be persistent and flexible!

My equipment

- Yaesu FT-891 transceiver (100W, no tuner) in Harbor Freight case
- 15Ah Bioenno LiFePo4 battery (also have 12Ah and 7Ah AGM)
- Spiderbeam 12m telescoping mast
- SSB Resonant Antennas:
 - 20m speaker wire dipole
 - 40m vertical with elevated radials, also made from 14ga speaker wire
- 50ft RG-8X coax

Depending on location:

60W solar panel, AGM solar controller, inline power meter,
headphones, laptop, antenna analyzer, folding table

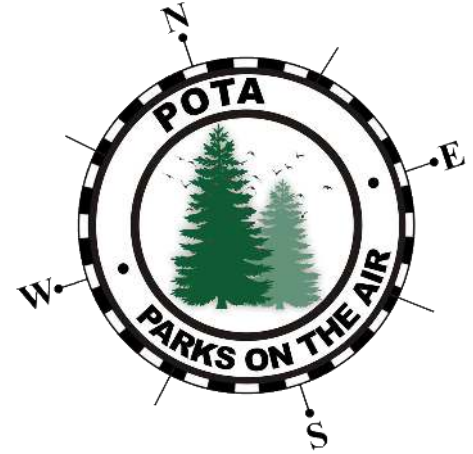
Activate from a picnic table



Thom W8TAM
K-3314

Ionia Rec Area
Michigan

Activate a beach, using a chair as a table



Pat AA00
K-0256

St. Marks National Wildlife
Refuge
St Marks Lighthouse
Florida

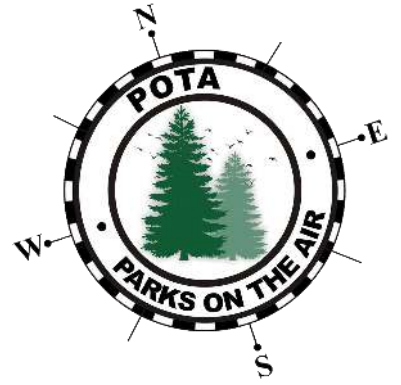
Or bring your own table!



Pat AA0O
K-5478

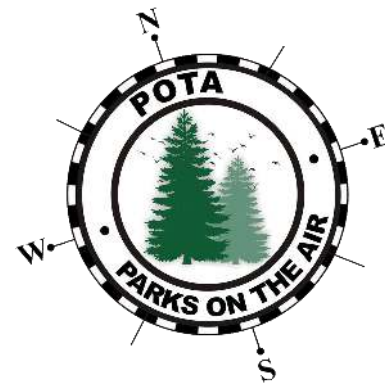
Tioga State Forest
Pennsylvania

Activate while camping!



Pat AA0O K-4470 Apalachicola Nation Forest, Florida

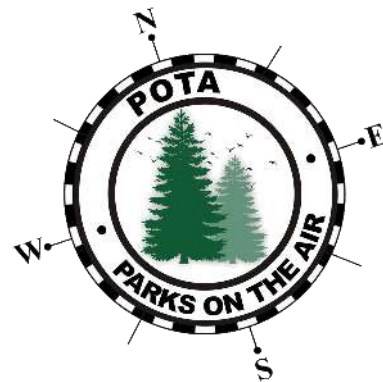
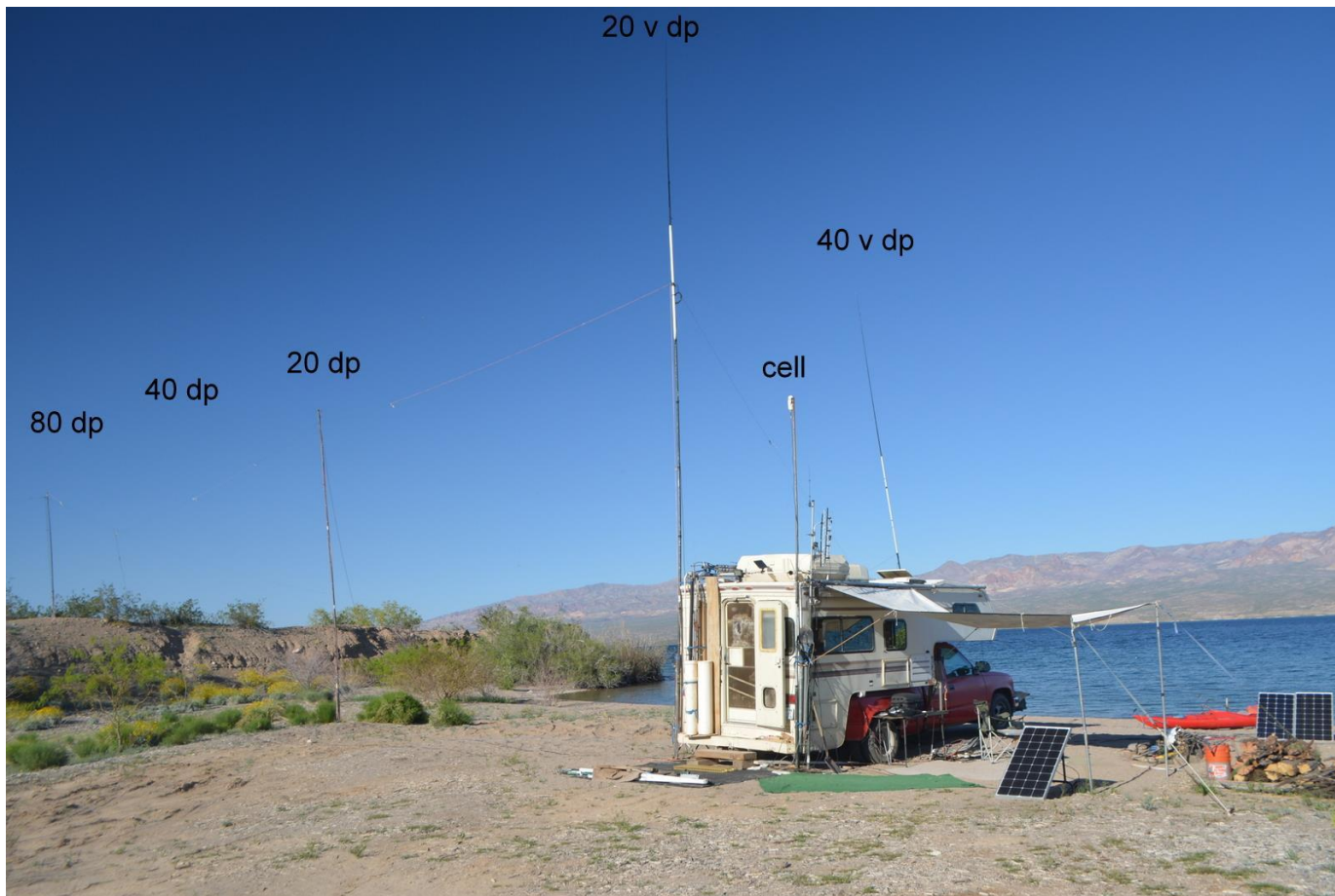
Activate from your vehicle!



Brian K0ATZ
K-2775

Cherokee Landing
State Park, Oklahoma

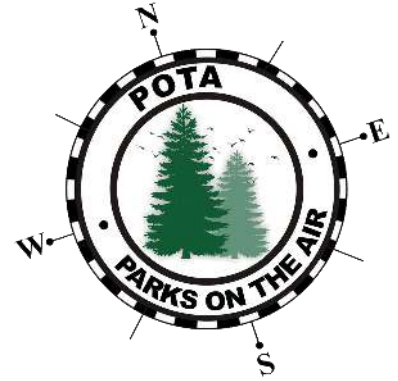
Or setup your own antenna farm while boondocking in the desert!



Kent K7CAR
K-0676

Lake Mead Rec Area
Nevada

My first activation



Pat AA0O
K-1916

Skyway Fishing Pier State Park
Florida

Although they're awesome, county parks don't count for POTA



Pat AA0O

Fort Desoto
Florida

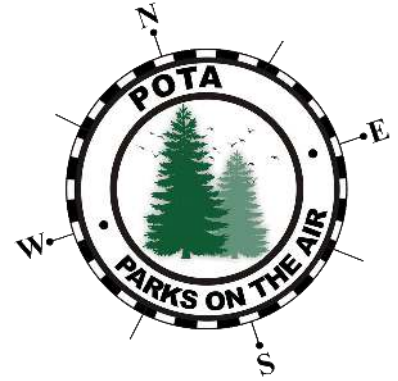
Activate as a group



W4E special event station
(N1COR, AA0O, W4MMY, WU2F)
Florida State Parks on the Air

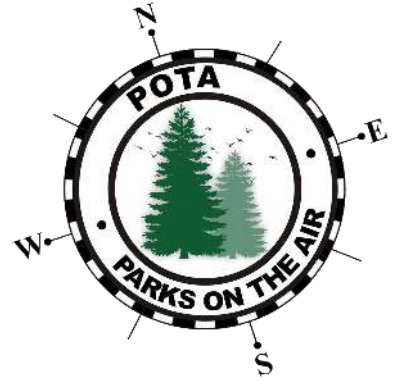
K-1863
Egmont Key State Park
Florida

Mast with staked rope tripod



Pat AA0O
K-1898
Little Manatee River State
Park
Florida

Wolf River Coil antenna



Justin Sligh KN4MQR
K-1843 Bulow Creek
State Park
Florida

Get more POTA fun on our Social Media

POTA on Facebook is a fun and busy group with both hunters and activators. We share beautiful pictures, personal stories, recaps, special events, plans and breaking POTA news.

POTA is also on Slack for real-time chat, Q&A and tech support. You can subscribe to the #POTASpots Slack channel to get spots the instant they are posted!

Many activators are also on Twitter and Instagram



Other groups

WWFF – World Wide Flora & Fauna. <http://wwff.co/>



Make nature your shack!

Florida State Parks on the Air - <https://flspota.org/>



WCF County Parks on the Air - <http://arriwcf.org/wcf-special-events/county-parks-on-the-air/>



Beaches on the Air - <https://www.beachesontheair.com/>



Questions?

Join the fun!

- www.parksontheair.com
- facebook.com/groups/parksontheair
- parksontheair.slack.com
- pota.us

My Website <http://aa0o.radio>