



Parks On The Air (POTA)

Getting started and perfecting, Robert Ball, KQ4GEV
17-Oct-2024

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- Getting started
- Hunting
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- POTA Optimization & Air Travel
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 - Traveling abroad

What is POTA?

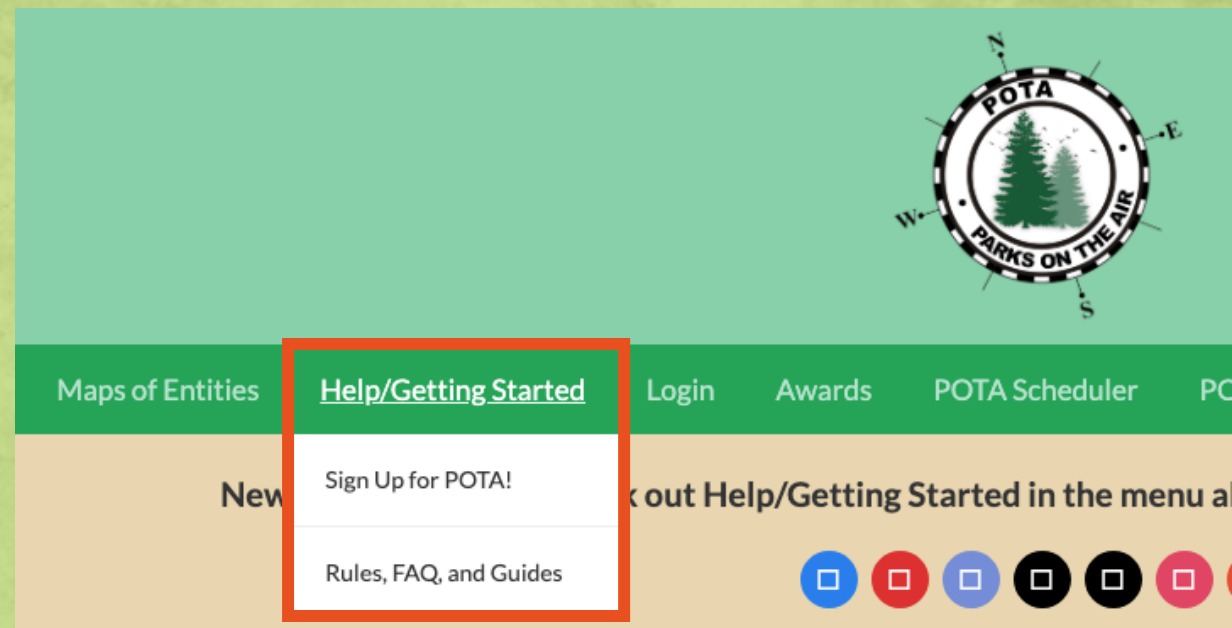
The POTA movement began in the United States. It was originally founded on September 15, 2010 to encourage ham radio operators to operate their equipment from national, state and provincial parks. It generated enough interest to cause the ARRL to host a one-year program called NPOTA in 2016^[1] to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park System.^{[2][3]}

A core group of activators reached out to the ARRL asking for the program to be continued. With some 500,000 QSO's posted by activators, in 2017 public support by operators pushed to make it a permanent organization.

In 2018 a non-profit was established to continue and expand the parks to state parks and beyond into Canada and beyond. Today, it is a worldwide radio-sport. Awards and accolades are issued automatically based on operators and hunters participation.

Getting Started

- Create an account with the [Parks on the Air](#) web site
- Read the rules and the Docs!!!!
- Learn how to use the POTA app
- Do some hunting from home
- Go with a friend to do an activation
- Go by yourself to do an activation
- Take a friend to show them how to do an activation!



Hunting

Sign into the POTA app and locate the "Spots" page

The screenshot displays the POTA app interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation options: Parks on the Air, KQ4GEV (View Profile), Add Spot, Add Activation, Spots (highlighted with a red box and a red arrow), Activations, Map, Park List, Top Activators, Top Hunters, Official Events, My Awards, My Stats, My Activations, My Hunter Log, My Log Uploads, and My Account. The main content area is titled 'Active Spots' with a refresh indicator. Below this is a filter bar with dropdowns for Band (All 44), Mode (All 44), Program (All 44), QRT (Show 44), Hunted (Show 44), and Sort (Time). The main area contains six spot cards, each with a call sign, location, frequency, mode, and a 'RE-SPOT' button with a timer.

Call Sign	Location	Frequency	Mode	Last Heard
KK7POC @ US-3292	US-3292 Bear River State Park	14303 kHz	SSB	16 sec ago at 22:00 UTC
AE0TO @ US-2994	US-2994 Caddo Lake State Park	14277 kHz	SSB	21 sec ago at 22:00 UTC
8P6PE @ BB-0013	BB-0013 National Botanical Gardens	18152 kHz	SSB	21 sec ago at 22:00 UTC
WG0Y @ US-3434	US-3434 Fort Humboldt State Historical Park	14074.0 kHz (FT8)	SSB	-
N3DRK @ US-8043	US-8043 Makepeace Lake Wildlife Management Area	14074.0 kHz (FT8)	SSB	-
N4TTU @ US-2177	US-2177 Fort Yargo State Park	14056.0 kHz (CW)	SSB	-

Hunting

Band selection filter

The screenshot shows the 'Parks on the Air' website interface. A red box highlights the 'Band: All 44' dropdown menu, and a large red arrow points to the expanded dropdown menu. The expanded menu lists various amateur radio bands with their corresponding spot counts in green circles. The background shows a list of active spots with call signs and park names.

Band Selection Filter Data:

Band	Count
All	43
40M	8
20M	27
17M	1
15M	1
12M	1
10M	4
2M	1

Active Spots Data:

Call Sign	Location	Frequency	Mode
8P6PE @ BB-0013	BB-0013 National Botanical Gardens	18152 kHz	SSB
WG0Y @ US-3434	US-3434 Fort Humboldt State Historical Park	14074.0 kHz (FT8)	N6TV-#
N4TTU @ US-2177	US-2177 Fort Yargo State Park	14056.0 kHz (CW)	WC2L-#

Hunting

Mode selection filter

The screenshot shows the 'Parks on the Air' website interface. The top navigation bar is green with a search bar and links for SPOTS, ACTIVATIONS, DOCS, and KQ4GEV. The main content area displays a list of active spots. A red box highlights the 'Mode: All 44' dropdown menu, and a large red arrow points to the expanded dropdown menu. The expanded menu shows the following options:

Mode	Count
All	47
CW	12
FT8	16
SSB	19
DATA	16
PHONE	19

The background shows several active spots, including KK7POC, AE0TO, 8P6PE, WG0Y, N3DRK, and N4TTU, each with details like location, frequency, and mode.

Hunting

Program (country) selection filter

The screenshot displays the 'Parks on the Air' web application. At the top, there is a green header with the site name, a search bar, and navigation links for 'SPOTS', 'ACTIVATIONS', 'DOCS', and a user profile 'KQ4GEV'. Below the header, the 'Active Spots' section shows a list of active stations. A red box highlights the 'Program: All 44' dropdown menu, and a large red arrow points to the expanded menu. The expanded menu shows a list of countries with their respective counts: All (48), BR (1), CA (5), JP (2), and US (40). The background shows several station cards with details like call signs, locations, frequencies, and modes.

Program (country) selection filter

Program	Count
All	48
BR	1
CA	5
JP	2
US	40

Hunting

QRT selection filter

Parks on the Air Search for Callsigns & Parks

SPOTS ACTIVATIONS DOCS KQ4GEV

Active Spots Data will refresh in 53 seconds. ||

At a park now? [ADD SPOT](#)

Band: All 44 Mode: All 44 Program: All 44 **QRT: Show 44** Hunted: Show 44 Sort: Time

KK7POC @ US-3292

US-3292 Bear River State Park

US-WY

14303 kHz

KK7GUU

55 az

Last heard 16 sec ago at 22:00 UTC

RE-SPOT 7

TO @ US-2994

S-2994 Caddo Lake State Park

S-TX

277 kHz

KQ4RLQ

ky

RE-SPOT 7

8P6PE @ BB-0013

BB-0013 National Botanical Gardens

BB-MI

12:00 UTC

WG0Y @ US-3434

US-3434 Fort Humboldt State Historical Park

US-CA

14074.0 kHz (FT8)

N6TV-#

RBN 13 dB via N6TV-#

N3DRK @ US-8043

US-8043 Makepeace Lake Wildlife Management Area

US-NJ

14074.0 kHz (FT8)

NG7M-#

RBN -19 dB via NG7M-#

US-2177 Fort Yargo State Park

US-GA

14056.0 kHz (CW)

WC2L-#

RBN 21 dB 22 WPM via WC2L-#

QRT: Hide 15

Show 19

Hide 15

Hunting

Hunted selection filter

Hunted (Hide) - If set to hide a re-spot will make the park disappear from the Sort list.

Hunted (Show) - If set to show a re-spot will make the park turn gray in the Sort list.

The screenshot shows the 'Parks on the Air' interface. At the top, there's a green header with a search bar and navigation links: SPOTS, ACTIVATIONS, DOCS, and KQ4GEV. Below the header, the 'Active Spots' section is visible, with a refresh indicator. The filter bar includes: Band: All 44, Mode: All 44, Program: All 44, QRT: Show 44, and **Hunted: Show 44** (highlighted with a red box). A large orange arrow points from the 'Hunted: Show 44' filter to a dropdown menu. The dropdown menu is also highlighted with a red box and contains the following options: 'Hunted: Hide 19' (highlighted in orange), 'Show 19' (in a green circle), and 'Hide 19' (in a gray circle). Below the filter bar, there are three columns of spot data. Each column contains a call sign, a location, and various technical details. The first column shows KK7POC @ US-3292, AE0TO @ US-2994, and WG0Y @ US-3434. The second column shows AE0TO @ US-2994, N3DRK @ US-8043, and N4TTU @ US-2177. The third column shows 8P6PE @ BB-0013. Each spot entry includes a location name, state, frequency, call sign, and last heard time.

Call Sign	Location	State	Frequency	Call Sign	Last Heard
KK7POC	US-3292	Bear River State Park	US-WY	14303 kHz	16 sec ago at 22:00 UTC
AE0TO	US-2994	Caddo Lake State Park	US-TX	14277 kHz	21 sec ago
WG0Y	US-3434	Fort Humboldt State Historical Park	US-CA	14074.0 kHz (FT8)	
N3DRK	US-8043	Makepeace Lake Wildlife Management Area	US-NJ	14074.0 kHz (FT8)	
N4TTU	US-2177	Fort Yargo State Park	US-GA	14056.0 kHz (CW)	
8P6PE	BB-0013	National Botanical Gardens	BB-MI	18152 kHz	

Hunting

Sort options



The screenshot displays the 'Parks on the Air' interface. At the top, there is a green header with a search bar and a 'SPOTS' button. Below the header, the 'Active Spots' section shows a list of active spots. The interface includes filters for Band, Mode, Program, QRT, and Hunted, all set to 'All' with a count of 44. A 'Sort: Time' dropdown menu is highlighted with a red box. A large red arrow points from this dropdown to a detailed list of sorting options on the right side of the screen. The sorting options are: Time, Activator, Frequency, Mode, Reference, Park Name, Region, and Spotter.


Sort: Time


- Time
- Activator
- Frequency
- Mode
- Reference
- Park Name
- Region
- Spotter


Call Sign	Location	Frequency	Mode	Reference	Park Name	Region	Spotter
KK7POC	US-3292 Bear River State Park	14303 kHz	SSB	55 az	US-WY	US	KK7GUU
AE0TO	US-2994 Caddo Lake State Park	14277 kHz	SSB	58 ky	US-TX	US	KQ4RLQ
8P6PE	BB-0013 National B...	18152 kHz	SSB	21 sec	BB-MI	BB	KA8GIM
WG0Y	US-3434 Fort Humboldt State Historical Park	14074.0 kHz (FT8)	FT8	RBN 13 dB via N6TV-#	US-CA	US	N6TV-#
N3DRK	US-8043 Makepeace Lake Wildlife Management Area	14074.0 kHz (FT8)	FT8	RBN -19 dB via NG7M-#	US-NJ	US	NG7M-#
N4TTU	US-2177 Fort Y...	14056.0 kHz (CV)	CV	RBN 21 dB 22 V	US-GA	US	WC2L-#



Hunting


 WB0RLJ @ US-4011 


 US-4011 Chalco Hills State Recreation Area


 US-NE


 14043.5 kHz (CW)

  AA1NK

 559 MA TU!

 Last heard 1 min ago at 23:07 UTC

RE-SPOT 

 21



Activator and park number


Park number and name


Park state or province


Callsign of last spotter



Spotter comment


 N7AWX @ US-4534 


 US-4534 Bighorn National Forest


 US-WY


 14286 kHz

  N3MK

 [44 VA]

 Last heard 23 sec ago at 23:11 UTC

RE-SPOT 


 59

Click for park details

Spin your VFO to here listen.
Be prepared to provide a
signal report and state if you
make a contact.

Hunting – Park details

Bighorn National Forest







Reference:	US-4534
Entity:	United States of America
Location(s):	US-WY
Latitude / Longitude:	44.804, -106.927 (DN64mt)
Early Shift Award Times:	9:00 UTC to 15:00 UTC
Late Shift Award Times:	1:00 UTC to 9:00 UTC
Website:	https://www.fs.usda.gov/bighorn
Access Methods:	Automobile Foot Other
Activation Methods:	Automobile Cabin Campground Other Pedestrian Shelter
Is Active?	ACTIVE
First Activation:	 AE7AP on 2015-09-05
Stats:	74 activations / 88 attempts (4312 QSOs)
See the website for seasonal restrictions.	

Park Leaders

	Activations	Activator QSOs	Hunter QSOs
1.	 WY7AA 32	 WY7AA 2046	 KN6KI 12



Activations

Date	Callsign	CW	Data	Phone	Total QSOs
2024-09-27	 N7AWX	0	0	61	61
2024-09-26	 KK4EB	0	48	0	48
2024-09-25	 KK4EB	0	71	9	80
2024-09-25	 N7AWX	0	0	171	171
2024-09-24	 KK4EB	0	104	0	104
2024-09-02	 N0DR	0	0	37	37



Hunting – Making a contact (example)

Activator: CQ POTA CQ POTA This is Kilo Quebec 4 Golf Echo Victor at US-4534, Bighorn National Forest, Wyoming, calling CQ POTA and standing by.

Hunter: Kilo Xray 4 Bravo Yankee

Activator: Kilo Xray 4 Bravo Yankee, QSL?

Hunter: QSL, you are 5-8 into Alpha Lima

Activator: Roger, you are 5-9 into my park US-4534

Hunter: Good luck with your activation, 73!

Activator: Thanks for hunting, 73! Kilo Quebec 4 Golf Echo Victor QRZed

Hunter - Logging

"As a hunter, you do not submit any logs to POTA. However, it would be best if you still kept a log for your station. It is also recommended to upload your log to LoTW, QRZ, ClubLog, eQSL, or any other online confirmation service. In particular, LoTW is used by most award hunters."

"The POTA system works based only on the logs submitted by the activators."

Many POTA participants load their logs to these other services for confirmation. It is also not unusual to receive electronic or paper QSL cards.



CONFIRMING QSO WITH				DATE		
UTC	MHz	2-way	RST	QSL		
KQ4GEV	02	06	24			
16:17	20M	55B	59	PSE Tnx		

RIG Yaesu FT-891 Pwr 100
Antenna EFHW
Remarks Thanks for the QSO + P2P!


POTA ON!



Hunting – RE-SPOT

 K5CIP @ US-4568

 US-4568 El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail


 US-LA, + 1


 18127 kHz

  K4ADS

 59 FL

 Last heard 3 mins ago at 16:21 UTC

RE-SPOT 

 6

If you are able to hear or contact an activator, you may want to “RE-SPOT” them.

Click the “**RE-SPOT**” button and enter a comment such as a signal report and your location, e.g., “**59 FL**” Your callsign will then appear in the **spotter location**.

Clicking on the **clock symbol** provides a history of spots.

Activating – Make a list

Required:

- Time – 10 contacts are required to “activate” a park.
- Radio (mic & power cord)
- Battery / Power source
- Coax (necessary adapters)
- Antenna and antenna support
 1. $\frac{1}{4}$ wave ground plane & radials
 2. $\frac{1}{4}$ wave dipole
 3. End-fed half-wave (EFHW)
- Method of logging / Recorder

Recommended:

- Bag of some type to carry your gear
- Radio manual
- QSO Template
- Unun or Balun
- POTA ID
- Radio attire – hat, shirt, etc., with your call sign or other radio reference
- Band plan
- Water
- Snacks
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Bug spray
- First aid kit
- [POTA brochure\(s\)](#)



Hambadgers.com



Activating - Consider a QSO Template

CQ POTA -- CQ POTA

this is: _____

Calling CQ from Park US- _____
(Park Name)

CQ Parks On The Air
QRZ?

(Insert Pile Up Here)

Station with (Z)ZULU go ahead?

Please copy KM2AZ, you are 5-7 here in CO, name is TOM
BTW.

QSL Tom, you are 5-9 here in Park US-????
located in (wherever you are?)

Can you please repeat your Park #?

Sure, US - _ _ _ _ , QSL?

QSL , TY and GL with your activation, 73!

73! CQ POTA QRZ?

!! When activation is complete, announce your call
and say QRT!!

For your first few times out you may want to write out what you want to say.

Each QSO is different.

Everyone has a different style.

Thanks to KX₄BY for providing the template!





Activating – Know the Rules

- Follow the law
- Follow the DX Code of Conduct
- Follow the Golden Rule
- Leave no trace
- Follow any instructions from park rangers you encounter
- Be courteous of the public space you are using
- You must have an account registered at <https://pota.app>
- You and all your equipment must be within the boundaries of the park(s)
- You must submit an ADIF log after your activation is complete.
- Follow the Rules detailed here (<https://docs.pota.app>)

Activating – Before you go

- Park number and name
- Maidenhead grid location (in large parks the actual grid in which you setup may be different)
- State and county
- Park hours
- Entrance fees / requirements
- Anticipated elevation
- Potential locations for the antenna type you want to deploy

	POTA Deployment Plan	
Park # and Name:	US-6363 Okmulgee Wildlife Management Area	
Latitude / Longitude (grid):	35.6265, -96.0605 (EM15xp)	
State / County	OK (Oklahoma) / Okmulgee	
Website	https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/wma/northeast/okmulgee-pha https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/wma/northeast/okmulgee-gma	
Park hours	24/7 (?) 15 minute drive from CP Kelco site	
Entrance Fees / Requirements	none	
Planned Latitude / Longitude:	35.64055556, -96.04916667 (35°38'26" N, 96°2'57" W)	
Anticipated elevation:	830'	
Radio	Xiegu G90, 20 watts	
Feedline	50Ω RG-316 coax	
Antenna	20m dipole, 1:1 balun, hoisted into tree	
Additional details	Enter on road from OK-56, nearest the HQ location. Okmulgee GMA and PHA are both part of Okmulgee WMA. There are gates on some of the roads. You may travel on roads with open gates. The gates which are open remain open 24/7. There is a 50'+ rise to the west of antenna location. Caution for horse flies and rattlesnakes.	

Activating – UTC Time Considerations

Be aware of UTC time as you plan your activation. As all amateur radio logging occurs, POTA uses UTC time for start and ending a day. This can work against you or in your favor.

If you begin your activation just before the end of the UTC day, be sure to get your 10 contacts in before the day rolls over. Otherwise, you will not have enough contacts to activate that specific day.

If you begin your activation just before the end of a UTC day and get your 10 contacts before the day rolls over, consider staying around and making another 10 contacts after the day rolls over. That gives you two activations for only one deployment!

Activating – Before you go

US-11140

US-2333

US-7402 & US-1333

US-7402 & US-1333

4
NEW
PARKS!

3
NEW
STATES!

Courtyard Tulsa Downtown, 415 S Boston

Chesney Prairie Natural Area, 18-13914-00

Mt Shira Access, MO-59, Noel, MO 64854

Crawford State Park, 1 Lake Rd, Farlington

Courtyard Tulsa Downtown, 415 S Boston

Add destination

Options

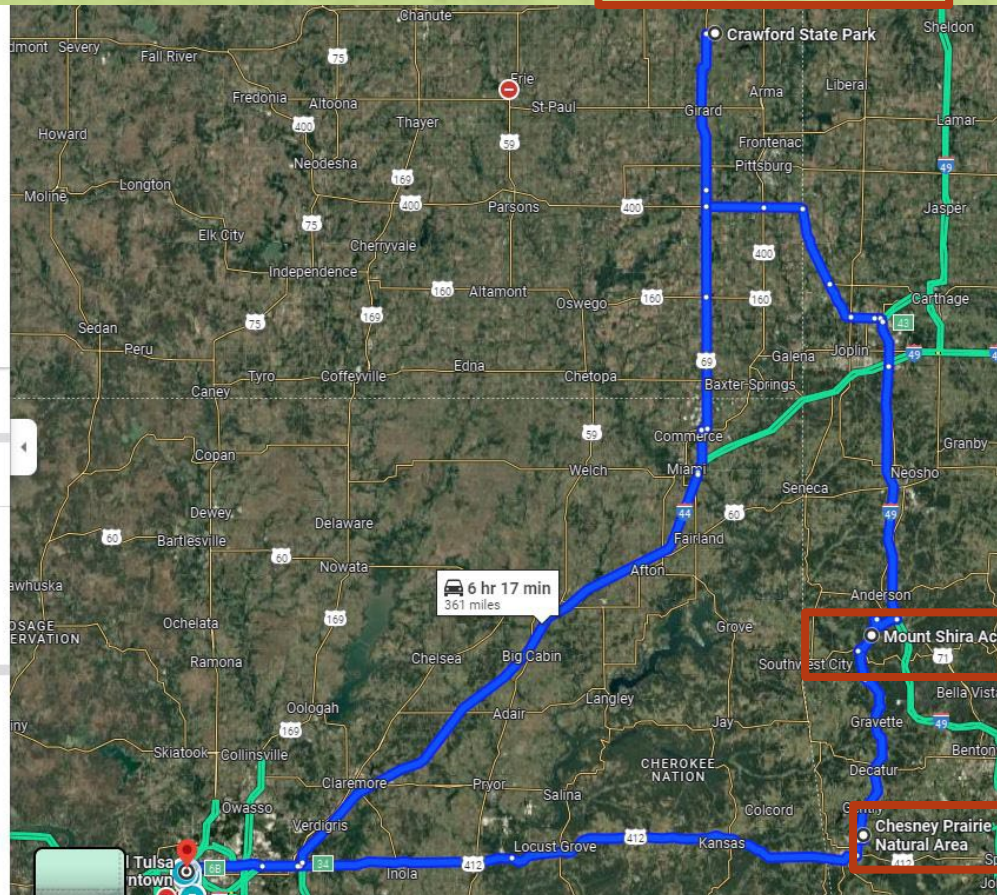
Send directions to iPhone Copy link

via US-412 E 6 hr 17 min
6 hr 17 min without traffic 361 miles
This route has tolls.

Details

Explore nearby Courtyard Tulsa Downtown

Restaurants Hotels Gas stations Parking Lots More



US-2333

US-11140

Activating – Upon arrival

When visiting a park where you have not previously operated, you should consider stopping by the ranger station or visitor center and have a chat with the staff.

This is an opportunity to be a good ambassador for amateur radio and POTA. Don't take it for granted that the staff knows about the POTA program. They likely do not.

Share your plans for antenna deployment. Some sites are historic in nature and don't allow you to dig into the ground or hang antennas from trees. Share your "Leave no trace" mantra.



Auburn alumna Lisa Hendy, the first woman to serve as chief ranger of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Hendy graduated from Auburn University in 1994, majoring in Park and Recreation Management.

Since graduation, she has served at national parks including at Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon. Before being tapped the first woman to serve as chief ranger for the Smoky Mountains National Park in 2019, she was Chief Ranger at Big Bend National Park in Texas.

Activating – Setting Up

Ensure you are within the park boundary

<https://pota.app/#/map> — Allow location services to quickly zoom to your location, or use the drop-downs to choose an entity and location.

Safety — Keep clear of pedestrian pathways. Remember, the park isn't your personal property.

- Critters
- Hunters
- Let someone know where you are

Weather — Take a quick look at the weather for your area, including the SPACE WEATHER

Photos — Take some photos of your deployment area, antenna, and radio setup. These can be useful for future presentations!

Car operation — Remember you can always bring your coax in through a window and operate within the vehicle. RFI caution if engine running.



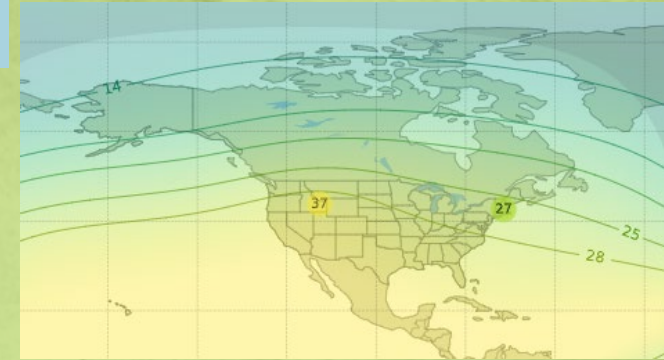
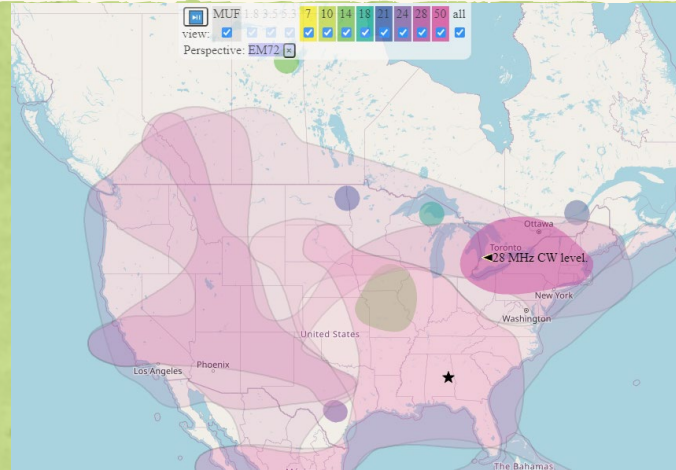
Gator pit?



Activating – Getting Ready to Press the PTT

Consider looking at the radio operating conditions. Don't let this deter you from activating, but this can help you understand the conditions you are up against.

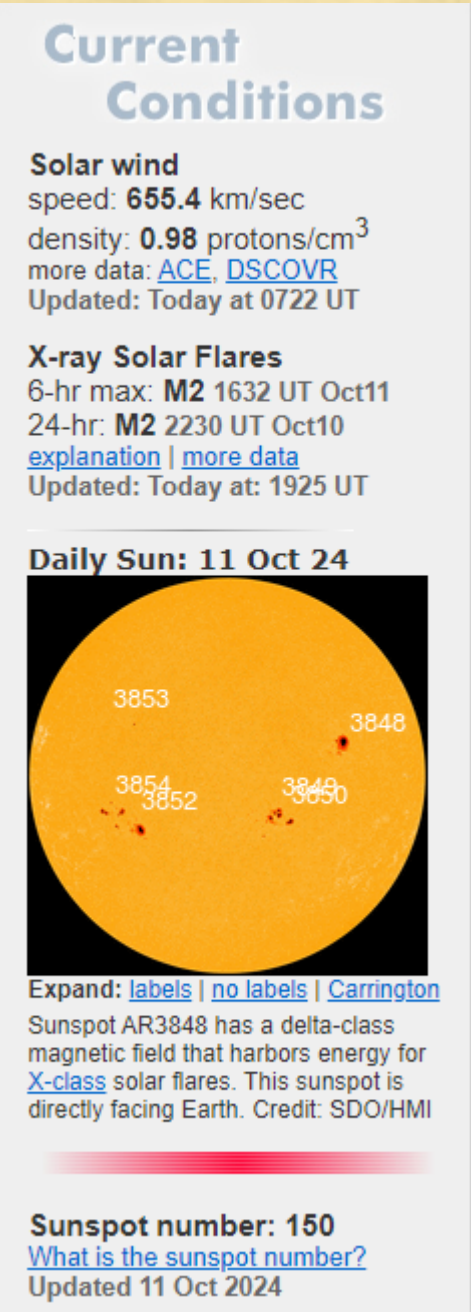
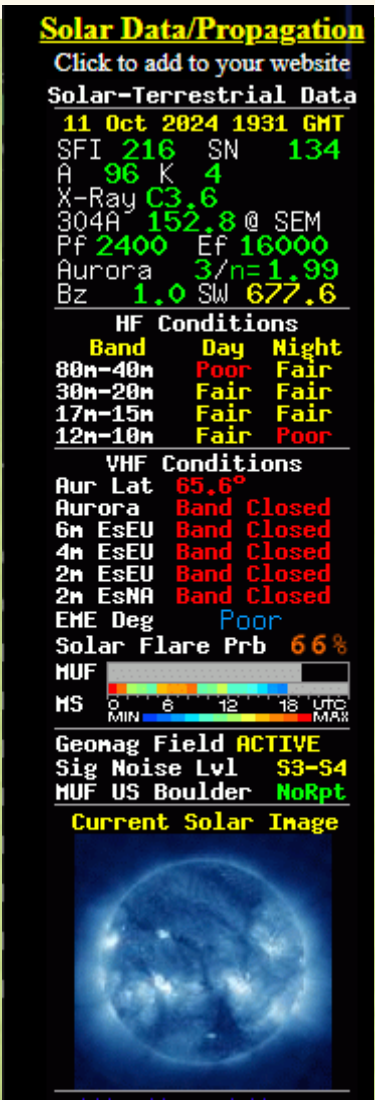
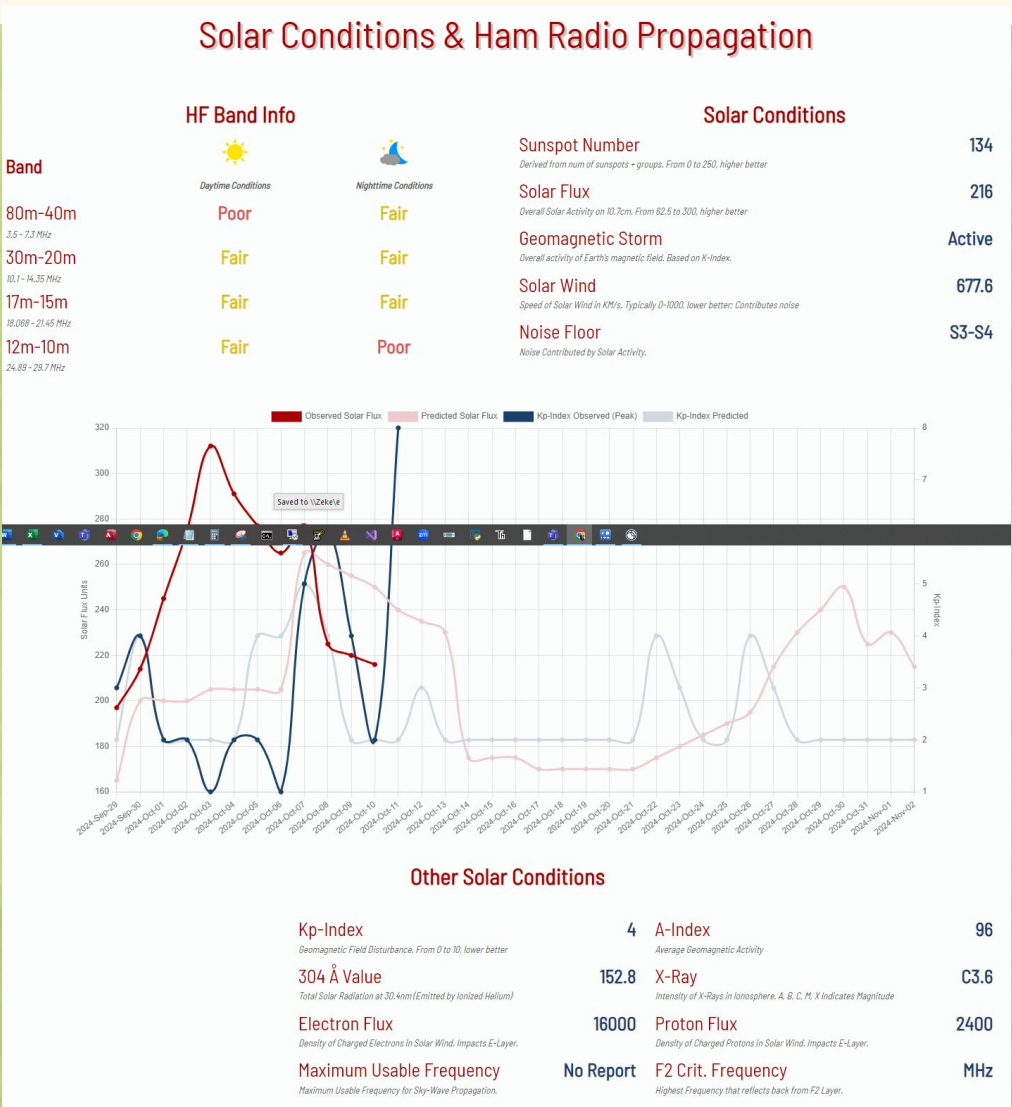
- [Operating bands / propagation maps](#)
- [MUF](#)
- Space weather (next slide)
- Actual longitude and latitude
- Elevation
- WebSDR



41°2'34" N 75°20'46" W
Tannersville, PA
2060 ft Elevation

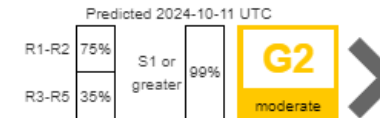
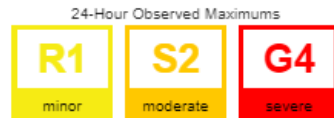
These 3 screenshots were taken within 5 minutes of one another.

Activating – Space Weather



Activating – Space Weather

SPACE WEATHER CONDITIONS on NOAA Scales



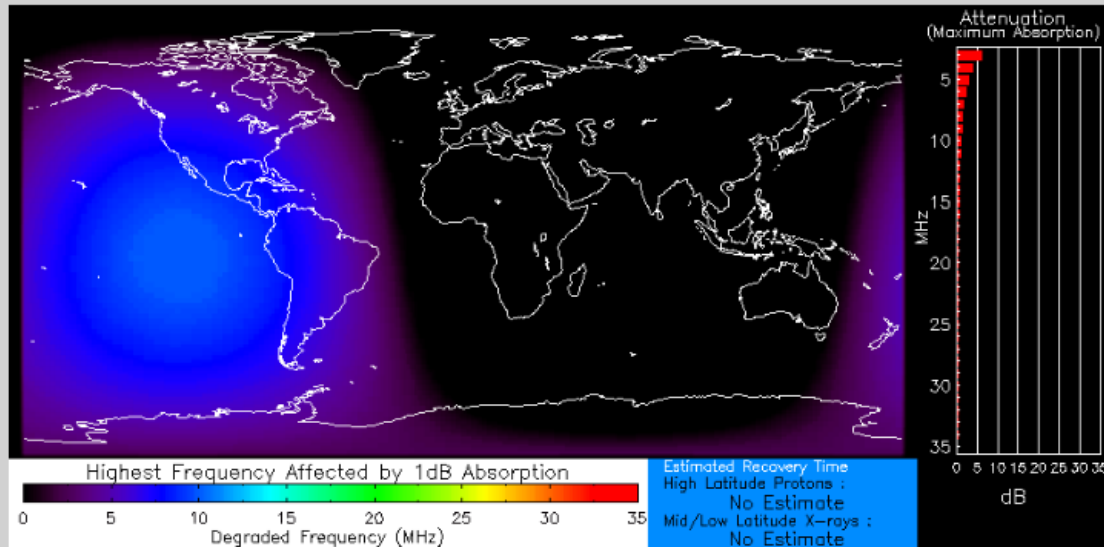
Solar Wind Speed: **647** km/sec

Solar Wind Magnetic Fields: Bt **10** nT, Bz **3** nT

Noon 10.7cm Radio Flux: **216** sfu

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS DASHBOARD

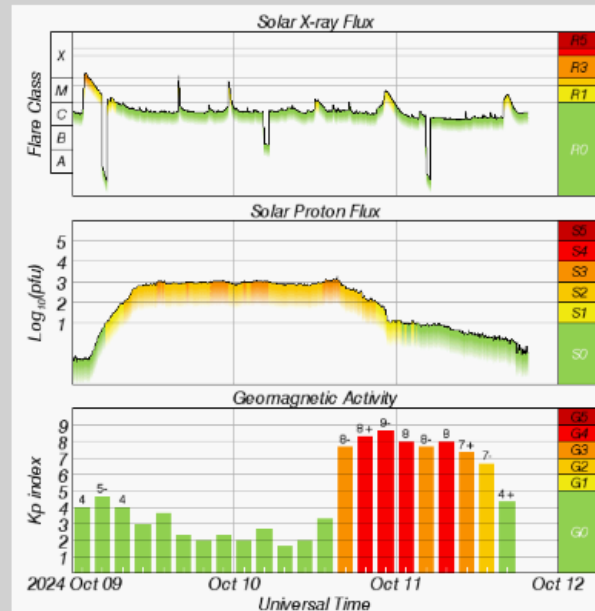
D REGION ABSORPTION PREDICTION



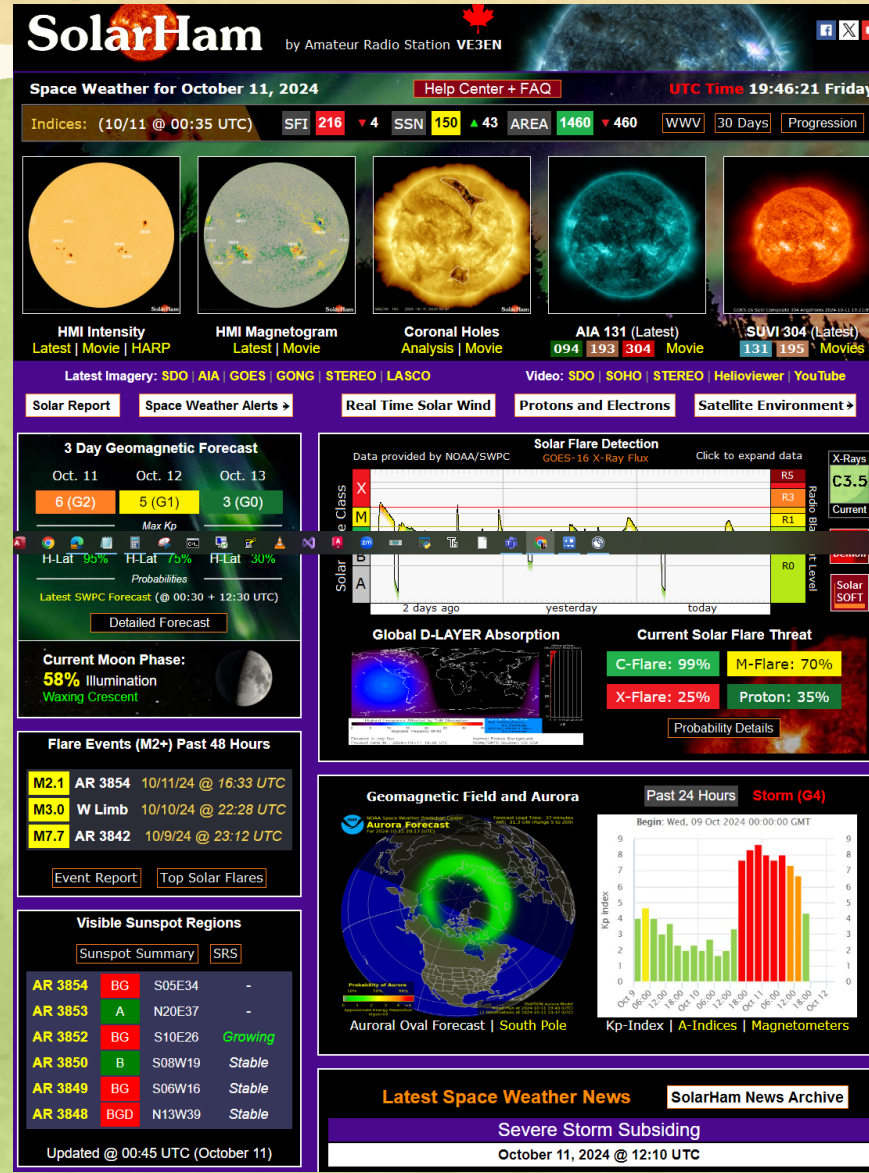
Elevated X-ray flux
Product Valid At : 2024-10-11 19:41 UTC

Normal Proton Background
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

SPACE WEATHER OVERVIEW



Activating – Space Weather

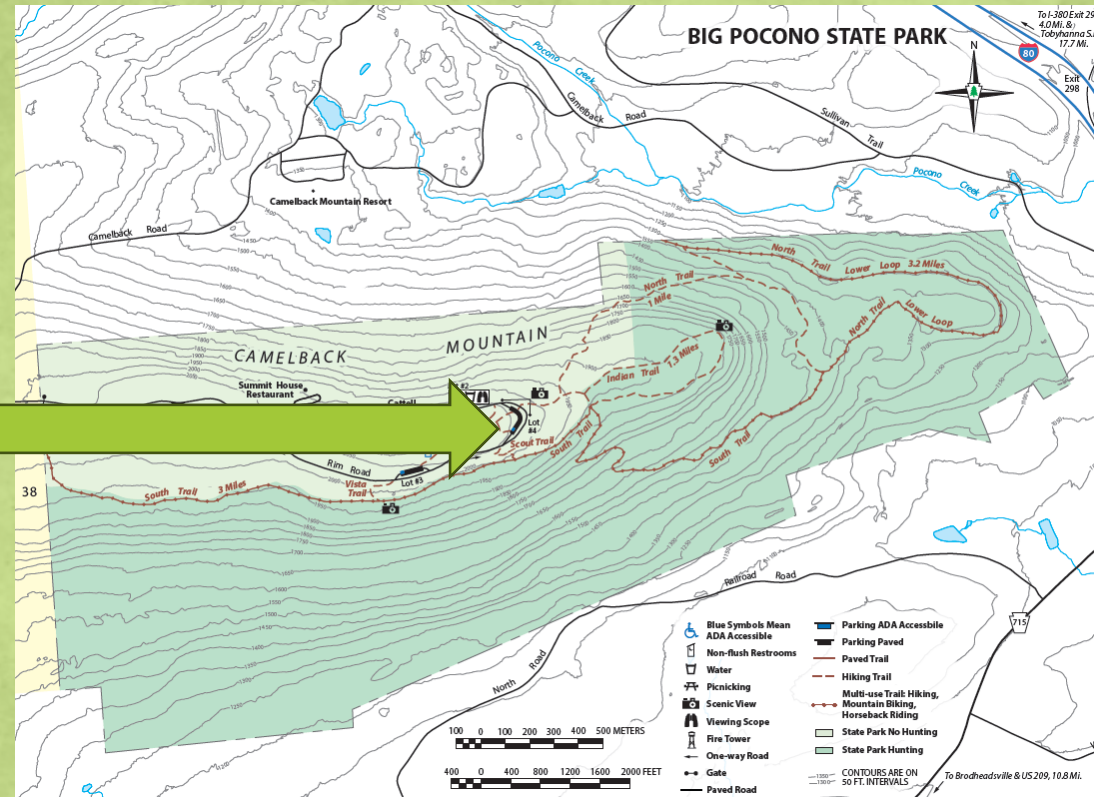
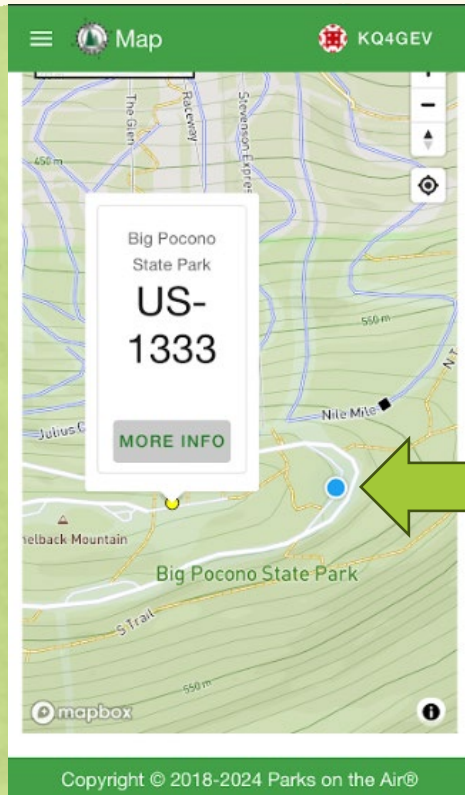


The charts and sources have come a long way.

- Informative
- Colorful
- Interesting

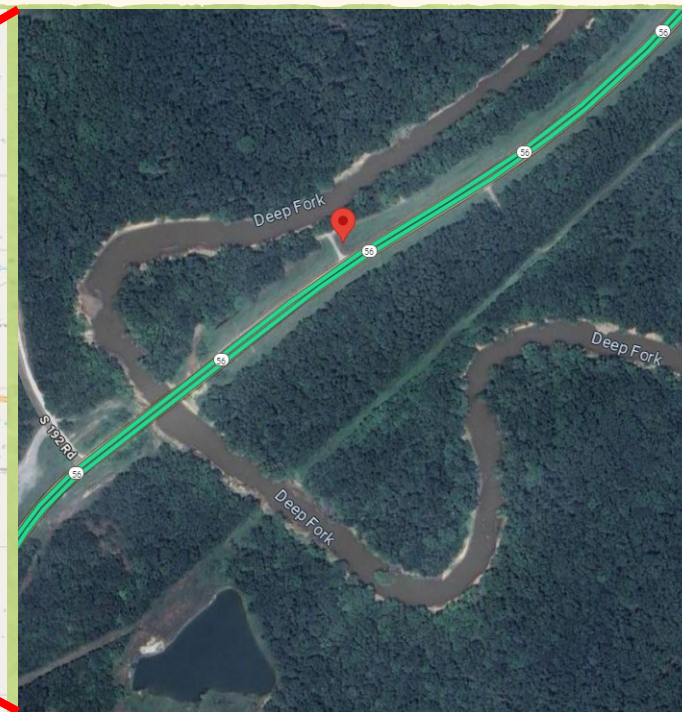
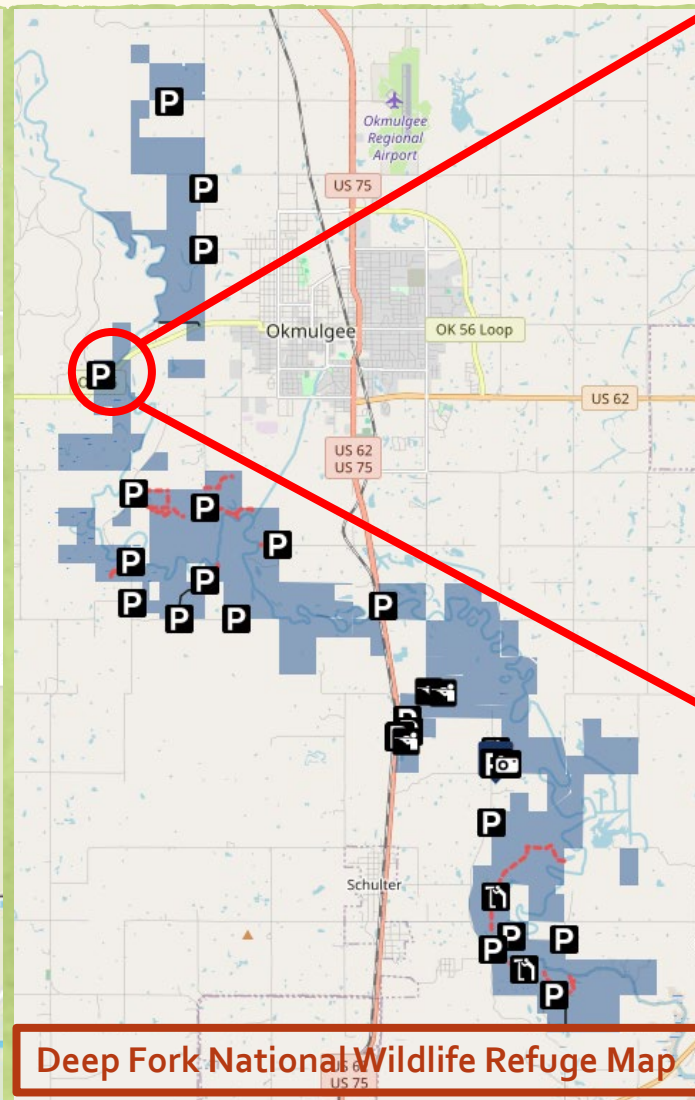
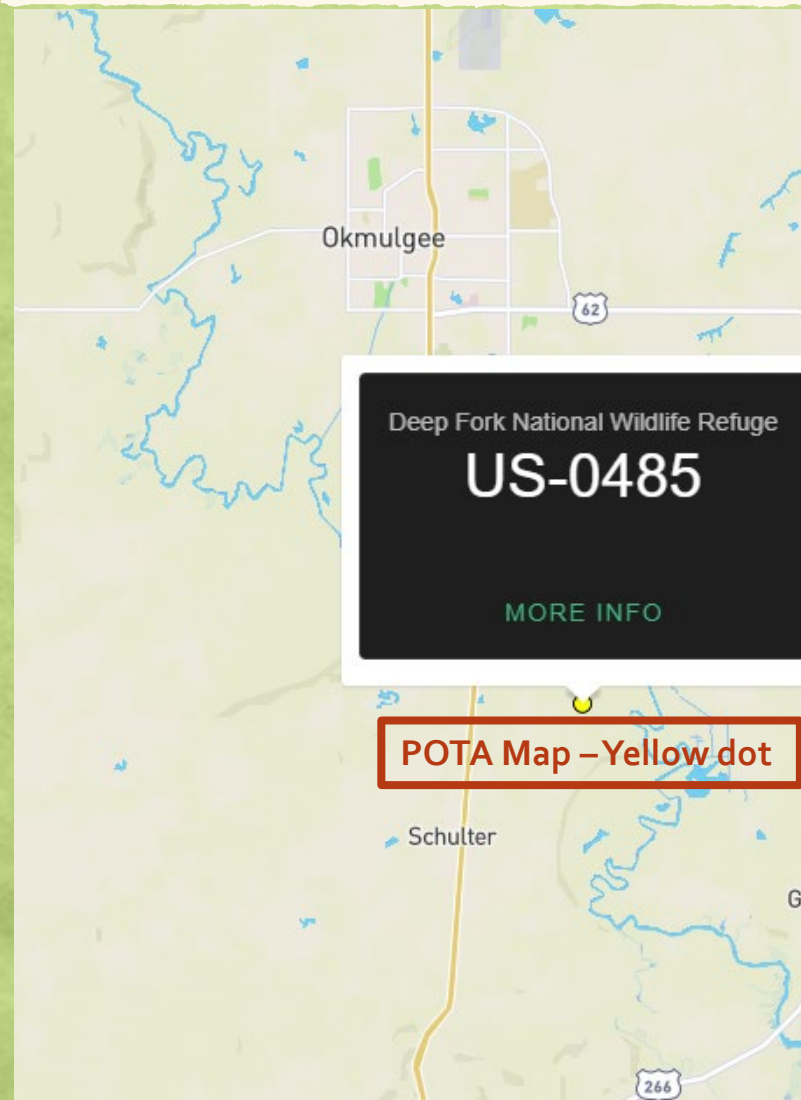
DON'T LET THIS
EVER STOP YOU
FROM GETTING OUT
AND OPERATING!

Activating – Park Boundaries, Easy



"The yellow dots are approximate locations of parks in your area. Check official sources (park websites etc.) and ensure you are within the park's boundary."

Activating – Park Boundaries, Difficult



35°36'52" N 96°1'17" W
Okmulgee, OK
650 ft Elevation

Activating – Grid Squares

e.g. US-2001, Adirondack State Park

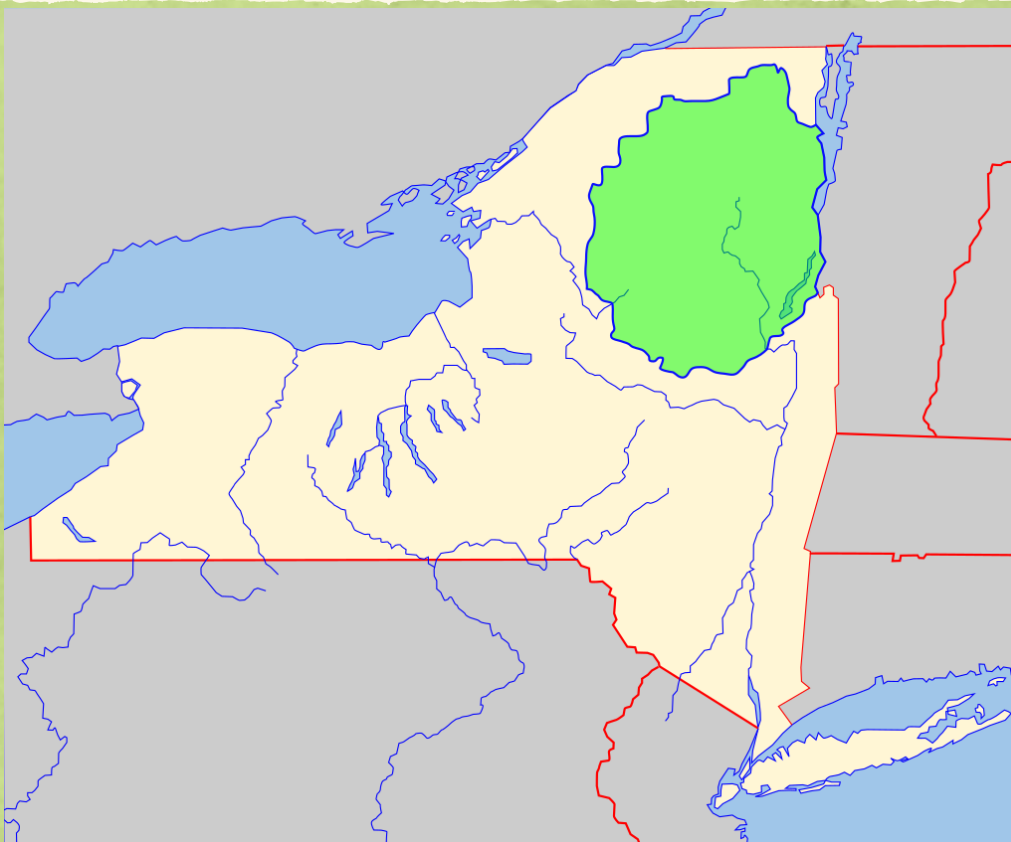
US-2001

United States of America

US-NY

43.9685, -74.4187 (FN23sx)

The grid square noted by POTA may not be the grid square you are operating within.



Adirondack Park

This 6 million acre park is the largest publicly protected area in the contiguous United States. It's larger than Yellowstone, Everglades, Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Park combined.

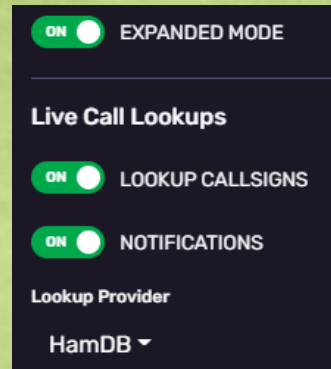
Repeaterbook APP (on your phone) and

<https://www.qrz.com/gridmapper>

are good resources for determining your grid square.

Activating – Preparing to Press the PTT

- [Choose your logging software.](#) – Unless you are *proficient* with something other than HAMRS, this is the recommended tool. It's free and intuitive. *Did I mention free?*
- [Configure any required settings or templates](#) – Whatever software you choose, there are likely settings to be adjusted and, perhaps, templates which can be used.
- [Find a frequency](#) – using the POTA APP and **LISTENING**, determine a vacant frequency **area**. (Proficient operators know to consider their transmitting bandwidth.)
- [Spot yourself \(ADD SPOT\) with the POTA APP and get ready!](#)



Activating – Paper Logging

This is one of those “just because you can doesn’t mean you should” kind of situations.

POTA Contacts Log Sheet

Park Designator		County	
Park Name		State	
Date		Grid Square	
Weather		Elevation	
		Lat	
		Long	

Notes / Other operators

#	Time (UTC)	Callsign	Frequency	RST Sent	RST Rec'd	Park or Notes
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
26						
27						
28						
29						
30						

Activating – Spotting Yourself

The box below will appear at the bottom of the spotting page provided you are logged into POTA. Click and the window to the right pops up.

At a park now?



Click here to add your spot!

Add Spot

Activator Callsign
KQ4GEV

Spotter Callsign
KQ4GEV

Frequency (kHz)

Park Reference

Example: US-1234

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.

CANCEL

SPOT

Activating – Park to Park

If this is your first time to try an activation, you may want to try to contact other parks. This is a hybrid HUNTER-ACTIVATOR scenario, but since you are at a park, you are technically activating.

“Troll” through the POTA spots on the POTA APP or within HAMRS. (HAMRS may run a little behind the APP or may not be available if you have no internet connection.)

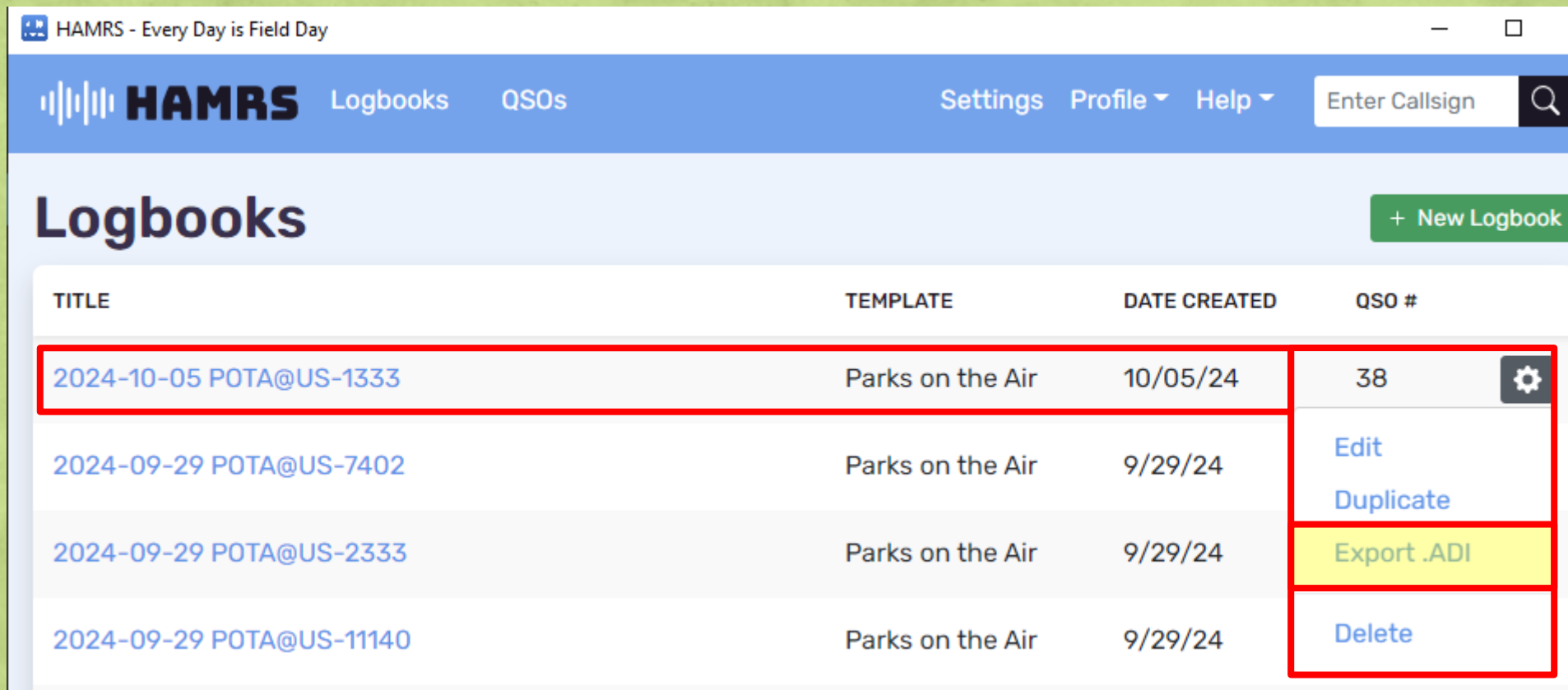
When you find a station you can hear, wait for an opportunity and then pounce! Remember, you are fighting a potential pile-up.

Activating – Final Thoughts

- Ten contacts are required to **activate** a park. Is it a big deal if you don't activate? No. However, you should upload your log regardless of the number of contacts you made. (Unless you made none. ☹)
- Do you want to stop at 10? I don't.
- It takes much longer to get 10 contacts by hunting while within a park instead of spotting yourself and calling CQ POTA!
- If you are an Amateur Extra, you may want to start your activation in the Extra bands to avoid huge pileups and work at a less hectic pace.
- At completion of your activation, RE-SPOT yourself and put "QRT" in the comment to indicate you have completed your activation.

Submitting Your Logs

From HAMRS, change your view to the Logbooks page. Then click on the settings / gear wheel corresponding to the logbook you want to export. Then click "Export .ADI"




The screenshot shows the HAMRS web interface. The top navigation bar includes the HAMRS logo, 'Logbooks', 'QSOs', 'Settings', 'Profile', and 'Help' menus, along with a search bar labeled 'Enter Callsign'. The main heading is 'Logbooks', with a '+ New Logbook' button. Below is a table of logbooks. The first row is highlighted with a red box, and a red box also highlights the settings menu for that row, which includes 'Edit', 'Duplicate', 'Export .ADI', and 'Delete' options.

TITLE	TEMPLATE	DATE CREATED	QSO #
2024-10-05 POTA@US-1333	Parks on the Air	10/05/24	38
2024-09-29 POTA@US-7402	Parks on the Air	9/29/24	
2024-09-29 POTA@US-2333	Parks on the Air	9/29/24	
2024-09-29 POTA@US-11140	Parks on the Air	9/29/24	

Submitting Your Logs

Within the POTA app locate the “[My Log Uploads](#)” page

- 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
- Late Shift Mode
- Prefer Table View
- Show User Stats

 **My Log Uploads**


SPOTS

ACTIVATIONS

DOCS

KQ4GEV

Upload Activation Logs

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


0 files (0 B in total)

[REQUEST SUPPORT](#)

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

☐ Show All

Status	Submitted ↓	Processed	Callsign	Park	First QSO	Last QSO	Log QSOs	Accepted QSOs	
Processed	2024-10-05 12:26	2024-10-05 12:26	KQ4GEV	US-1333 Big Pocono State Park (US-PA)	2024-10-05 11:16	2024-10-05 12:24	38	38	▼
Processed	2024-09-29 22:27	2024-09-29 22:31	KQ4GEV	US-7402 Crawford State Fishing Lake (US-KS)	2024-09-29 20:23	2024-09-29 22:17	124	122	▼
Processed	2024-09-29 22:24	2024-09-29 22:30	KQ4GEV	US-2333 Crawford State Park (US-KS)	2024-09-29 20:23	2024-09-29 22:17	124	122	▼
Processed	2024-09-29 17:22	2024-09-29 17:22	KQ4GEV	US-11140 Mount Shira Access State Conservation Area...	2024-09-29 16:22	2024-09-29 17:20	63	63	▼
Processed	2024-09-29 15:00	2024-09-29 15:00	KQ4GEV	US-7161 Chesney Prairie State Natural Area (US-AR)	2024-09-29 14:23	2024-09-29 14:58	51	51	▼
Processed	2024-09-28 22:44	2024-09-28 22:45	KQ4GEV	US-6553 Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site (US-...	2024-09-28 21:20	2024-09-28 22:42	40	40	▼

Awards

"Parks on the Air recognizes your dedication with awards available to Activators and Hunters:

To get yours, just Login and go to My Stats and Awards Issued. Click on the award link to download it. We are currently adding more awards that are not available there yet, so that you can download them at any time."

N0OZZ

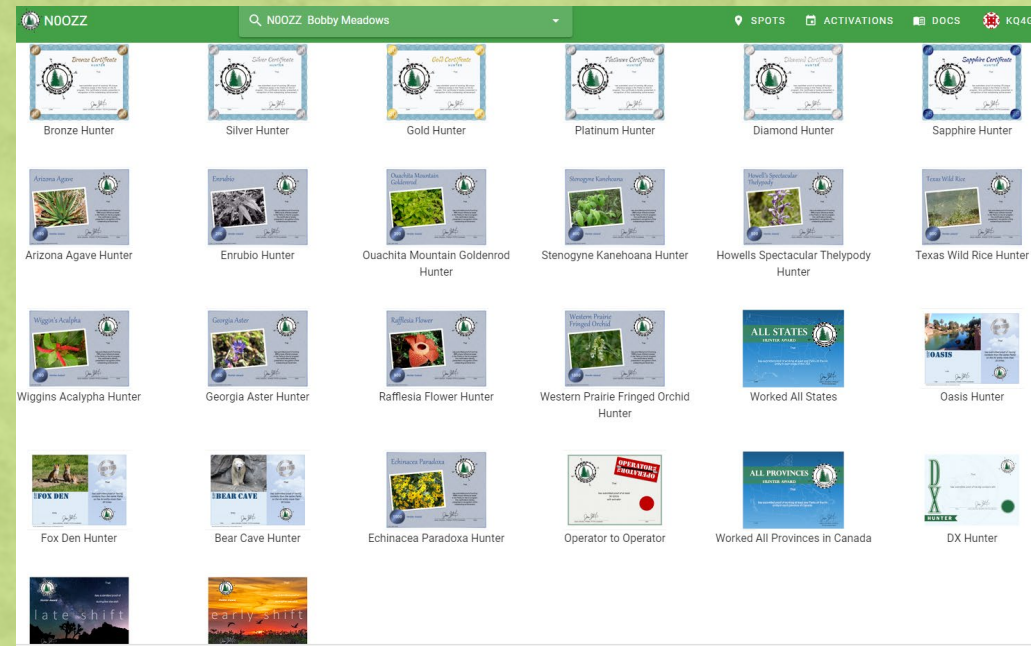
Bobby Meadows

Opelika, Alabama

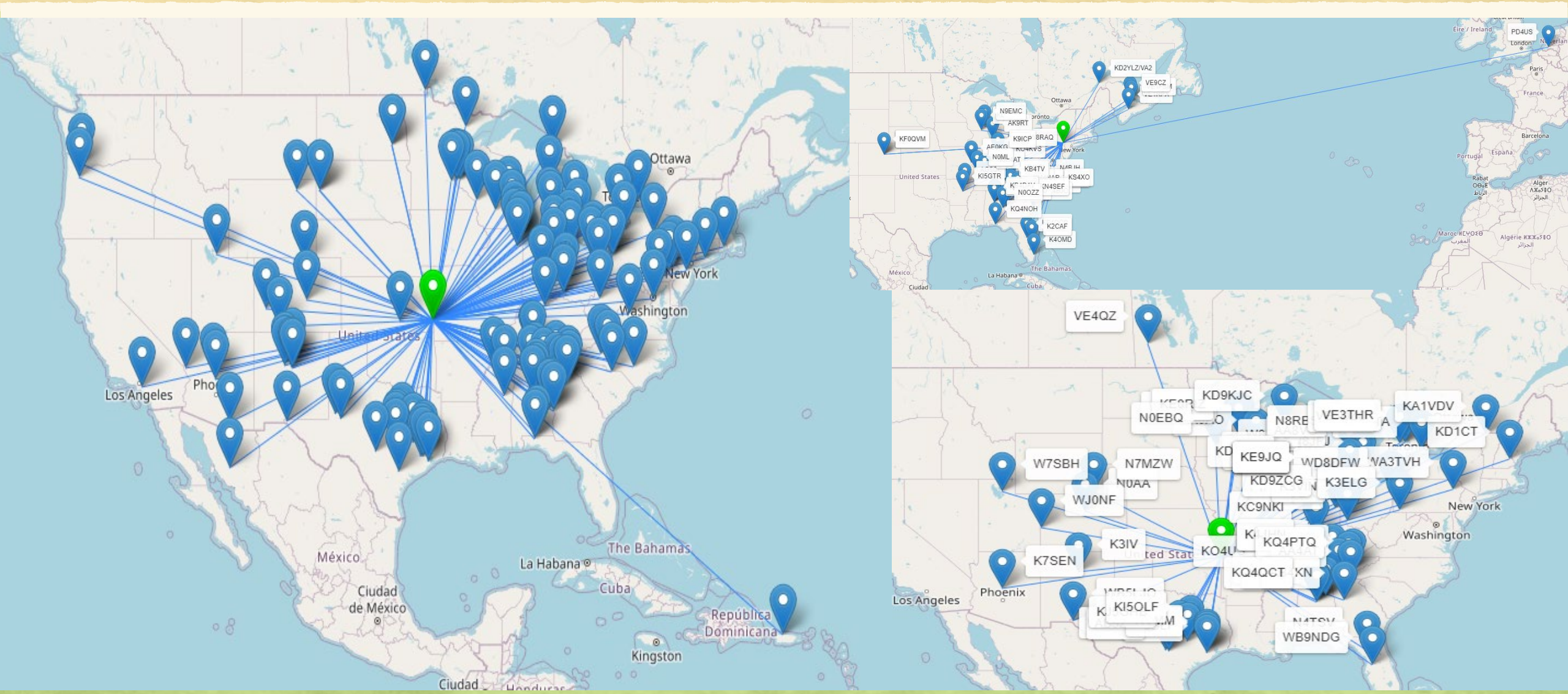
Other callsigns: KQ4IAD

All-Time Statistics

	Activator	Hunter
Activations	2 / 2	---
Parks	2 / 2	1774
QSOs	34 / 34	3916



Mapping Your Contacts



POTA Communications

Other communication platforms for POTA activities you may want to examine:

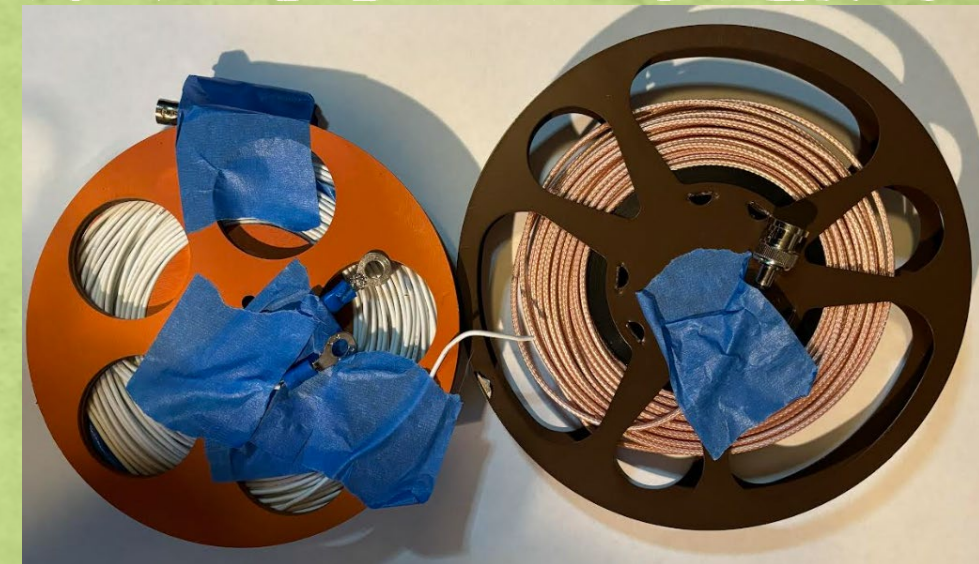
- Discord
- Reddit
- Slack
- Facebook
- X

POTA Optimization

Make items as few and small as possible:

- Radio (mic & power cord), consider the Xiegu G90 20W
- Battery / Power source, consider the Bioenno 8AHr LiPO4
- Coax (necessary adapters), consider RG-316 with BNC connectors
- Antenna and antenna support
 1. $\frac{1}{4}$ wave ground plane & radials, #22 AWG wire plus 7m fishing pole
 2. $\frac{1}{4}$ wave dipole, some string and throwing weight
 3. End-fed half-wave (EFHW), also some string and throwing weight
- Method of logging / Recorder, work laptop (maybe?)

POTA Optimization – What it looks like



The left reel contains

- BNC to banana plug connector
- 16.5' of #22 AWG for active element
- 16.5' of #22 AWG radials, quantity 8 (132')

The right reel contains 50' RG-316 coax

POTA Optimization – What it looks like



5-day business trip
#16 AWG dipole

7-day business trip,
3 antennas & fishing
pole

Battery is in a “fire
and explosion proof”
bag



Domestic Air Travel – Carry-on Luggage

Always, always, always, check with your airline and current TSA and FAA web sites for the latest regulations.

Be prepared for your bag(s) to be inspected. BE COURTEOUS!

Batteries are the primary concern. See the [FAQ](#)

Lithium ion batteries (a.k.a.: rechargeable lithium, lithium polymer, LIPO, secondary lithium). Passengers may carry all consumer-sized lithium ion batteries (**up to 100 watt hours per battery**). External chargers are also considered to be a battery.

To determine watt hours (Wh), multiply the volts (V) by the ampere hours (Ah). Example: A 12-volt battery rated to 8 Amp hours is rated at 96 watt hours ($12 \times 8 = 96$). For milliamp hours (mAh), divide by 1000 (to get to Ah) and then multiply by the volts.

WHY?

2024-09-29	KQ4GEV	US-11140 Mount Shira Access State Conservation Area	US-MO	0	0	63	63
2024-09-29	KQ4GEV	US-7402 Crawford State Fishing Lake	US-KS	0	0	122	122
2024-09-29	KQ4GEV	US-7161 Chesney Prairie State Natural Area	US-AR	0	0	51	51
2024-09-29	KQ4GEV	US-2333 Crawford State Park	US-KS	0	0	122	122
2024-09-28	KQ4GEV	US-6553 Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site	US-TX	0	0	40	40
2024-09-27	KQ4GEV	US-6363 Okmulgee Wildlife Management Area	US-OK	0	0	55	55
2024-09-26	KQ4GEV	US-6363 Okmulgee Wildlife Management Area	US-OK	0	0	150	150
2024-09-26	KQ4GEV	US-0485 Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge	US-OK	0	0	29	29
2024-09-25	KQ4GEV	US-6363 Okmulgee Wildlife Management Area	US-OK	0	0	30	30
2024-09-25	KQ4GEV	US-0485 Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge	US-OK	0	0	75	75
2024-09-24	KQ4GEV	US-6363 Okmulgee Wildlife Management Area	US-OK	0	0	32	32

A 7-day business trip netted:

- 769 contacts
- 11 activations
- 4 new states
- 6 new parks!

(I had already activated US-6363 in OK before this trip)

URL References

- Register for a POTA account
<https://parksontheair.com/>
- POTA “spots” page
<https://pota.app/#/>
- POTA brochure
<https://docs.pota.app/assets/documents/brochure.pdf>
- QRZ Grid Mapper
<https://www.qrz.com/gridmapper>
- Operating bands / propagation maps
<https://hf.dxview.org/perspective/EM72dt>
- MUF
<https://prop.kc2g.com/>
- Solar conditions and Propagation
<https://solar.w5mmw.net/>
- Solar data
<https://www.hamqsl.com/solar3.html>
- Space Weather
<https://spaceweather.com/>
- NOAA
<https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/communities/radio-communications>
- Solar Ham
<https://www.solarham.com/>
- POTA Log sheet
https://docs.pota.app/assets/documents/POTA_Logsheet_v1.2.pdf
- Battery FAQ (FAA)
https://www.faa.gov/sites/faa.gov/files/hazmat/packsafe/resources/Airline_passengers_and_batteries.pdf

Source References

1. Szewczyk, Kimberly (2016-06-18). "National Parks on the Air - Women's Rights National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)". National Park Service. Archived from the original on 2022-10-20. Retrieved 2022-10-20.
2. ^ "NPOTA Participation Leads to Inaugural Communication Detail for National Park Service". American Radio Relay League. 2017-01-27. Archived from the original on 2022-10-20. Retrieved 2022-10-20.
3. ^ "It's World Amateur Radio Day!". American Radio Relay League. 2016-04-16. Archived from the original on 2022-10-20. Retrieved 2022-10-20.