



KEEP CALM AND POTA ON

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KA5PMV

Kudos

I stole copied some of this information from others

- Portions of this presentation come from presentations created by W3RAR, WY3P, and WB2SMK



POTA History

In the beginning...

ARRL created National Parks On The Air (NPOTA)

- 1 year long special event
- Limited to US National Parks

Some of the participants in NPOTA have become leaders / creators of POTA!

- Ongoing
- Expanded to include designated State and Federal Parks, as well as certain National Historic sites and wildlife management areas.
- POTA is now international!

2 Roles

The Hunters and the Hunted

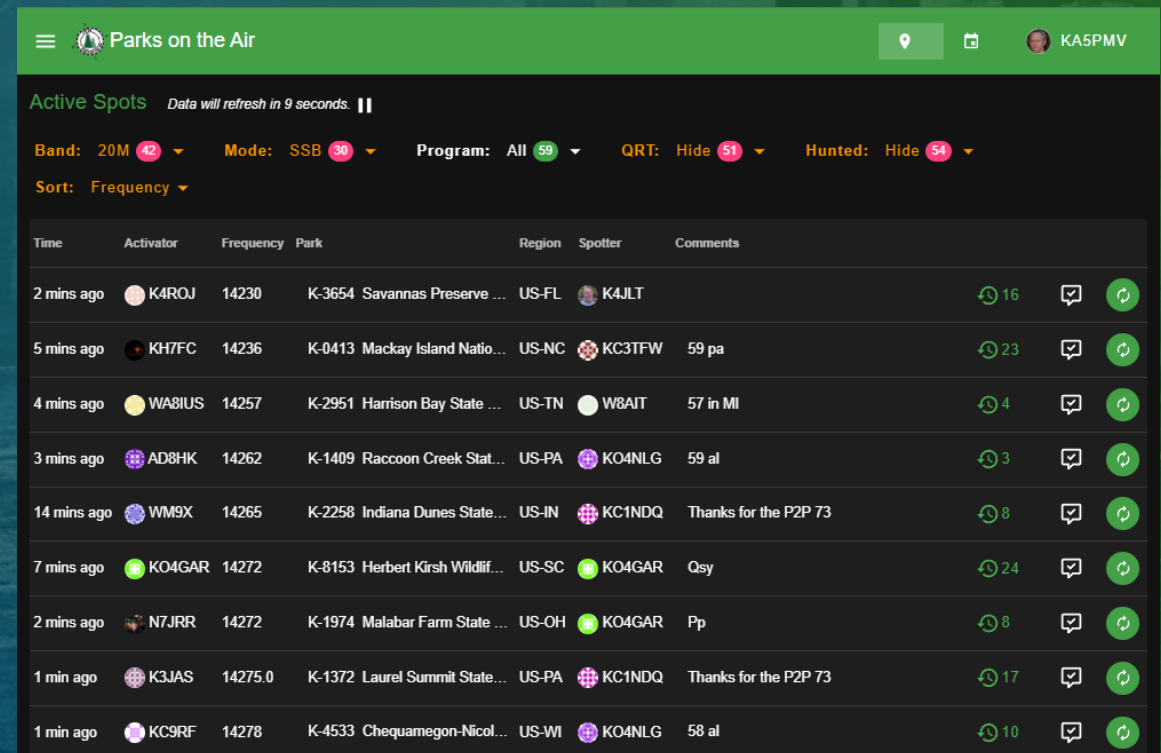
- Activators – Operators at a park
- Hunters – Operators searching for Activators (Can be Activators as well)



Hunting

Hunt in your pajamas

- The easiest way to get involved. Just make contacts.
- Go to <https://pota.app> and click on “Spots” to view all current activations



The screenshot shows the 'Parks on the Air' app interface. At the top, there's a green header with a menu icon, the app name 'Parks on the Air', a location pin icon, a calendar icon, and a user profile icon labeled 'KA5PMV'. Below the header, the 'Active Spots' section is displayed with a refresh indicator. Filter options include Band (20M), Mode (SSB), Program (All), QRT (Hide), and Hunted (Hide). The spots are sorted by Frequency. The table lists 10 active spots with columns for Time, Activator, Frequency, Park, Region, Spotter, and Comments. Each row also includes a signal strength indicator, a checkmark icon, and a refresh icon.

Time	Activator	Frequency	Park	Region	Spotter	Comments
2 mins ago	K4ROJ	14230	K-3654 Savannas Preserve ...	US-FL	K4JLT	
5 mins ago	KH7FC	14236	K-0413 Mackay Island Natio...	US-NC	KC3TFW	59 pa
4 mins ago	WA8IUS	14257	K-2951 Harrison Bay State ...	US-TN	W8AIT	57 in MI
3 mins ago	AD8HK	14262	K-1409 Raccoon Creek Stat...	US-PA	KO4NLG	59 al
14 mins ago	WM9X	14265	K-2258 Indiana Dunes State...	US-IN	KC1NDQ	Thanks for the P2P 73
7 mins ago	KO4GAR	14272	K-8153 Herbert Kirsh Wildlif...	US-SC	KO4GAR	Qsy
2 mins ago	N7JRR	14272	K-1974 Malabar Farm State ...	US-OH	KO4GAR	Pp
1 min ago	K3JAS	14275.0	K-1372 Laurel Summit State...	US-PA	KC1NDQ	Thanks for the P2P 73
1 min ago	KC9RF	14278	K-4533 Chequamegon-Nicol...	US-WI	KO4NLG	58 al



FT-8 & Gridtracker

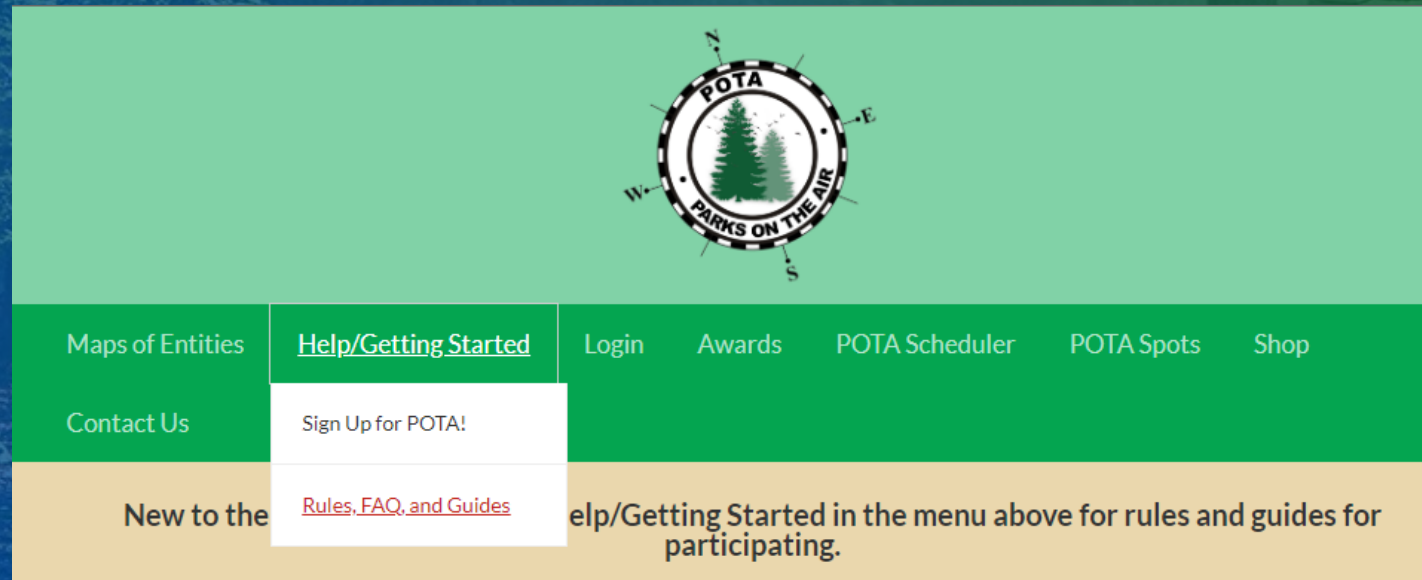
Grid tracking? Sounds
like Big Brother

Gridtracker now shows
POTA spots on the map

Before Activating a Park

Take a bath

- Visit <https://ParksOnTheAir.com> and review the Rules, FAQ, and Guidelines
- Getting Started videos are available there as well.



Activating a Park

More popular than DX

- Register on the Pota.app website
- Pick a park to activate
- Go to the park with your rig. Reference a checklist so you don't forget anything, make sure batteries are charged and you have all necessary cables.
- Find a location and safely setup your station and antenna.
- Spot yourself on the Pota.app website if you can, if not, call CQ POTA and ask a hunter to do it for you.
- Start making contacts! CQ POTA
- Record your contacts either by paper or electronic
- When finished, review your log, check for errors, then log onto the Pota.app website and upload your log



Safety Moment

Don't dress up as a
deer or a bear

- When working Wildlife Management Areas be aware of hunting season

The Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide

The following frequencies are generally recognized for certain modes or activities (all frequencies are in MHz) during normal conditions. These are not regulations and occasionally a high level of activity, such as during a period of emergency response, DXpedition or contest, may result in stations operating outside these frequency ranges.

Nothing in the rules recognizes a net's, group's or any individual's special privilege to any specific frequency. Section 97.101(b) of the Rules states that "Each station licensee and each control operator must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the amateur service frequencies. No frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station." No one "owns" a frequency.

It's good practice — and plain old common sense — for any operator, regardless of mode, to check to see if the frequency is in use prior to engaging operation. If you are there first, other operators should make an effort to protect you from interference to the extent possible, given that 100% interference-free operation is an unrealistic expectation in today's congested bands.

Frequencies	Modes/Activities	Frequencies	Modes/Activities
1.800-2.000	CW	14.233	D-SSTV
1.800-1.810	Digital Modes	14.236	Digital Voice
1.810	CW QRP calling frequency	14.285	QRP SSB calling frequency
1.843-2.000	SSB, SSTV and other wideband modes	14.286	AM calling frequency
1.910	SSB QRP	18.100-18.105	RTTY/Data
1.995-2.000	Experimental	18.105-18.110	Automatically controlled data stations
1.999-2.000	Beacons	18.110	IBP/NCDXF beacons
		18.162.5	Digital Voice
3.500-3.510	CW DX window	21.060	QRP CW calling frequency
3.560	QRP CW calling frequency	21.070-21.110	RTTY/Data
3.570-3.600	RTTY/Data	21.090-21.100	Automatically controlled data stations
3.585-3.600	Automatically controlled data stations	21.150	IBP/NCDXF beacons
3.590	RTTY/Data DX	21.340	SSTV
3.790-3.800	DX window	21.385	QRP SSB calling frequency
3.845	SSTV		
3.885	AM calling frequency	24.920-24.925	RTTY/Data
3.985	QRP SSB calling frequency	24.925-24.930	Automatically controlled data stations
		24.930	IBP/NCDXF beacons
7.030	QRP CW calling frequency	28.060	QRP CW calling frequency
7.040	RTTY/Data DX	28.070-28.120	RTTY/Data
7.070-7.125	RTTY/Data	28.120-28.189	Automatically controlled data stations
7.100-7.105	Automatically controlled data stations	28.190-28.225	Beacons
7.171	SSTV	28.200	IBP/NCDXF beacons
7.173	D-SSTV	28.385	QRP SSB calling frequency
7.285	QRP SSB calling frequency	28.680	SSTV
7.290	AM calling frequency	29.000-29.200	AM
		29.300-29.510	Satellite downlinks
10.130-10.140	RTTY/Data	29.520-29.580	Repeater inputs
10.140-10.150	Automatically controlled data stations	29.600	FM simplex
		29.620-29.680	Repeater outputs
14.060	QRP CW calling frequency		
14.070-14.095	RTTY/Data		
14.095-14.0995	Automatically controlled data stations		
14.100	IBP/NCDXF beacons		
14.1005-14.112	Automatically controlled data stations		
14.230	SSTV		

ARRL band plans for frequencies above 28.300 MHz are shown in *The ARRL Repeater Directory* and on www.arrl.org.

Be Courteous

Get Off My Lawn!

- Avoid common use frequencies, SSTV, QRP/DX calling frequencies, AM, established nets

My Awards

Search for Callsigns & Parks

SPOTS

ACTIVATIONS

KA5PMV

Earned Awards

Search

Date First Granted	Award Name	Description	Badge	Endorsements	Repeat/Kilo Reference	Park Name	Operator	Radar Date	Additional Details
2022-10-25 19:50	Howells Spectacular Thelypody Hunter	Working 500 different units							
2022-10-24 13:37	Late Shift Hunter v2	Making 100 QSOs as a hunter during the Late Shift	100						
2022-09-07 13:51	DX Hunter	Hunting 5 different DX Entities	5						
2022-09-02 17:32	Stenogyne Kanehoana Hunter	Working 400 different units		20M, PHONE					
2022-08-28 06:05	Park to Park	Making Park to Park QSOs	25						
2022-07-03 12:50	Ouachita Mountain Goldenrod Hunter	Working 300 different units		20M, PHONE					
2022-05-02 05:06	Support Your Parks Hunter	Making Any Contacts as a Hunter During a Support Your Parks Event		Autumn 2022, Spring 2022, Summer 2022					
2022-05-01 06:55	Enrubio Hunter	Working 200 different units		20M, PHONE					
2022-04-29 06:55	Late Shift Hunter	Making 50 QSOs between 0000z and 1200z	150						
2022-02-22 20:27	Arizona Agave Hunter	Working 100 different units		20M, DATA, FT8, PHONE					

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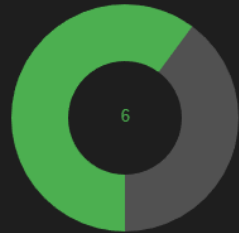
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Collect Awards

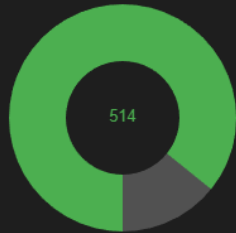
Yay, another certificate to put on the wall

Parks Activated



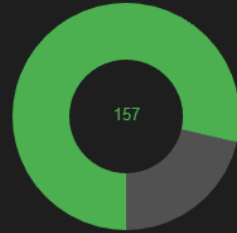
Next award at 10 unique parks.

Parks Hunted



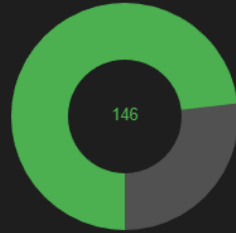
Next award at 600 unique parks.

Late Shift Activator Contacts



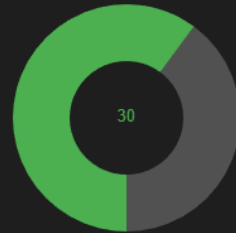
Next award at 200 late shift QSOs.

Late Shift Hunter Contacts



Next award at 200 late shift QSOs.

Park 2 Park



Next award at 50 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.

Keeping Track

When contacting Haiti is easier than Alaska or Hawaii

Repeat Offender and other awards

After 3 strikes am I banned from the park?

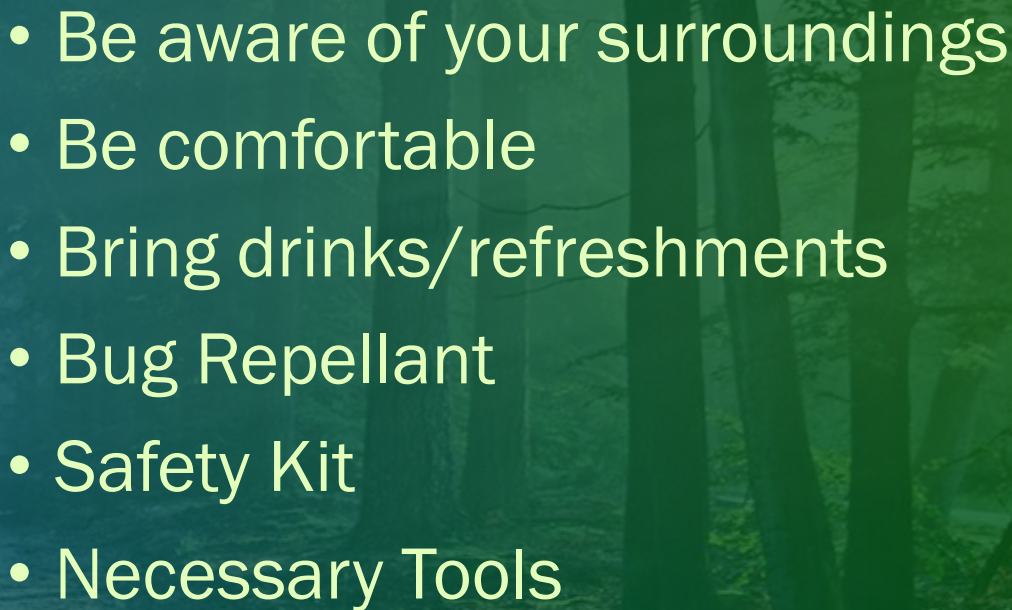
Repeat Offender Hunter

Park	Contacts ↓	Next Award
Oregon National Historic Trail (K-4576)	12	12 / 20
Appalachian Trail National Scenic Trail (K-4556)	9	9 / 20
Old Spanish National Historic Trail (K-4575)	8	8 / 20
Red Top Mountain State Park (K-2194)	7	7 / 20
Marital Cottle Park State Recreation Area (K-3473)	6	6 / 20
Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park (K-1160)	6	6 / 20
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail (K-3791)	6	6 / 20
Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (K-0189)	5	5 / 20
Fellsmere Water Management Area State Conservation Area (K-8347)	5	5 / 20
Glengarry Landing National Historic Site (VE-1657)	5	5 / 20

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Hunt a park 20 times to earn a repeat offender award. Higher level awards are earned every 20 contacts.

Operating

- 
- Be aware of your surroundings
 - Be comfortable
 - Bring drinks/refreshments
 - Bug Repellant
 - Safety Kit
 - Necessary Tools



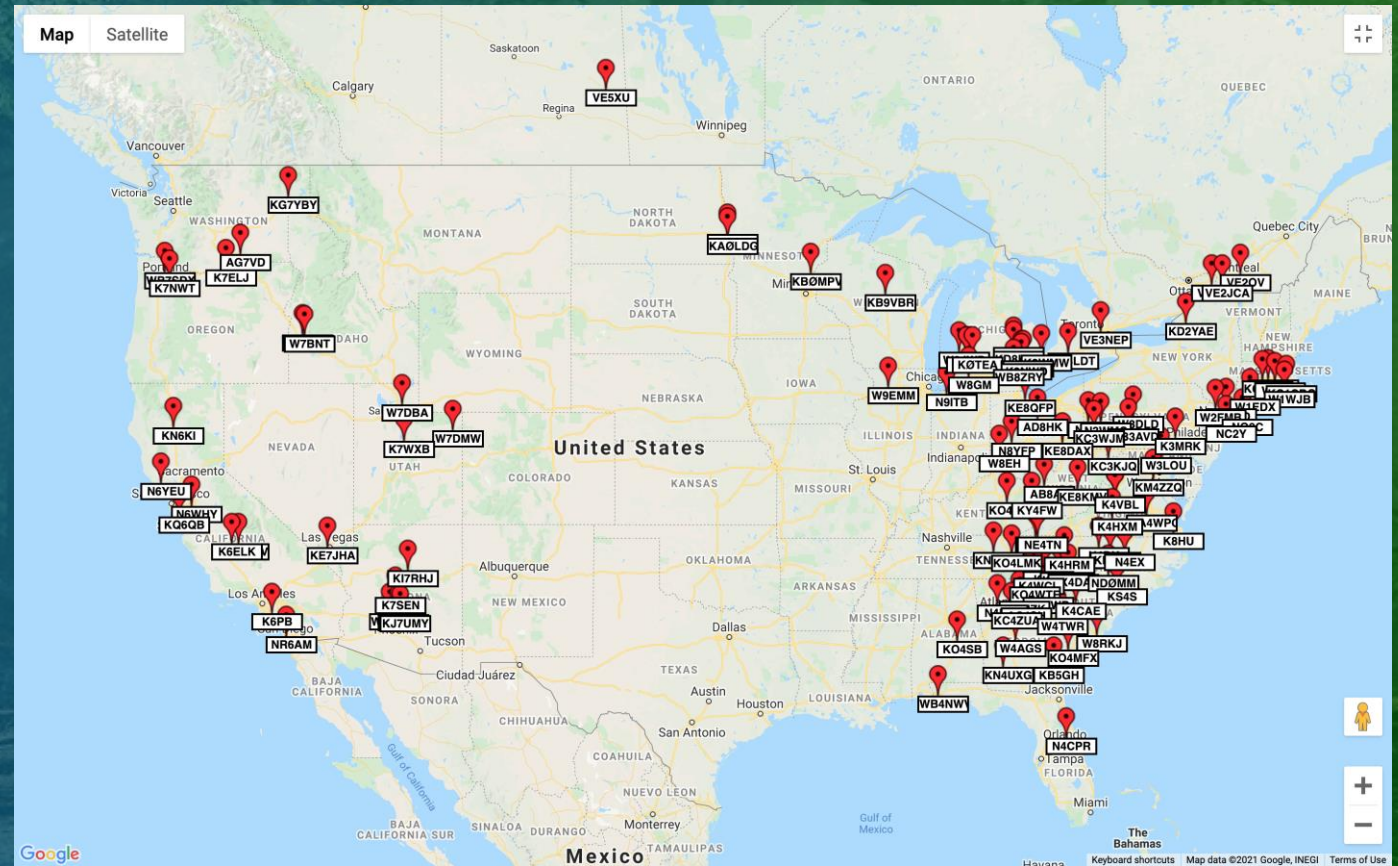
My Rig





QSO Map

- HamRS (Switch to QRZ)
- QSOMap.org



Evolve III Meastro Laptop

- Is it fast? No
- Is it fast enough? Yes
- Logging
- FT8
- \$60 through Microcenter
Still there as of 11/3/2022
- Comes with Win10, Not Win11
compatible
- 12 VOLTS!!!



Have Fun!





THANK YOU!

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