



TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Parks on the Air (POTA) Your Ham Radio Adventure Awaits!

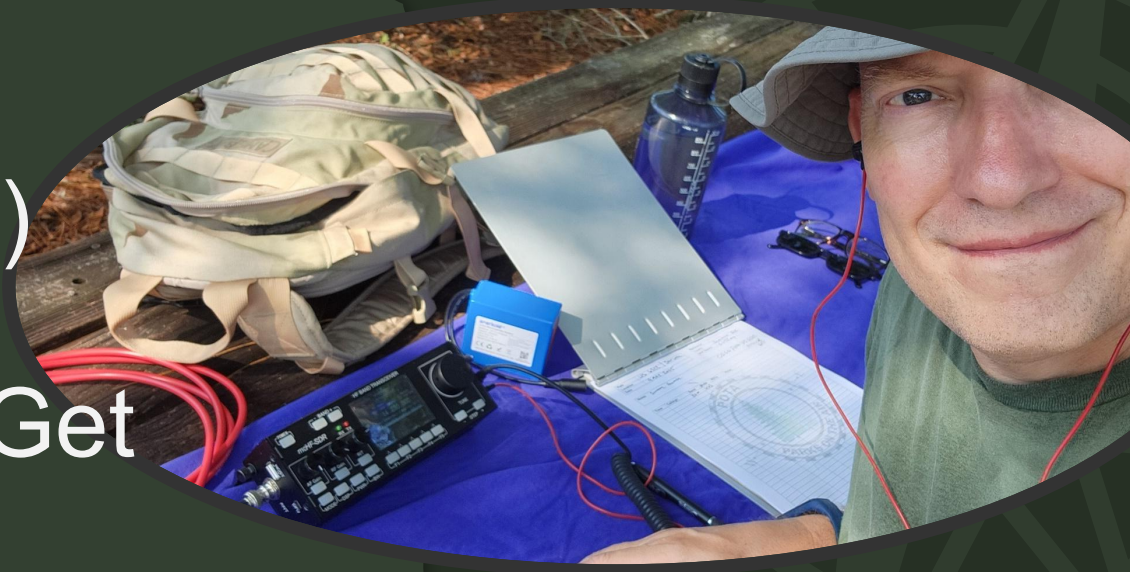
PRESENTED BY GREG HAND
KK4LWB



Parks on the Air (POTA)

Get Out, Get On The Air, Get Connected!

- WHAT IS POTA? – THE BASICS
- WHY POTA? –IT’S ABOUT COMMUNITY!
- THE FUN FACTOR – GET OUTSIDE!
- EQUIPMENT FOR ACTIVATORS – KISS!
- HUNTING POTA – THE “EASY BUTTON”



Parks on the Air (POTA) Continued:

- GETTING STARTED –YOUR FIRST POTA ADVENTURE
- JOIN THE POTA COMMUNITY!
- QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



What is POTA? The Basics



- PARKS ON THE AIR IS A FANTASTIC GLOBAL AMATEUR RADIO PROGRAM.
- IT ENCOURAGES HAMS TO GET OUT OF THE SHACK AND OPERATE PORTABLE FROM DESIGNATED PUBLIC PARKS AND NATURAL AREAS.
- A BLEND OF HAM RADIO AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURE!
- IT'S OFTEN CALLED A "RADIOSPORT" – A FUN, LOW-PRESSURE WAY TO COMBINE OUR HOBBY WITH ENJOYING NATURE.

What is POTA? The Basics Continued



- TWO MAIN ROLES IN POTA:
 - **Activator:** That's the ham who travels to a park, sets up their gear, and makes contacts.
 - **Hunter:** This is any other licensed amateur radio operator who contacts an activator at a park. You can be a hunter from your home shack, mobile, or even another park!

WHILE IT'S NOT A CONTEST IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE, THERE'S A SUPER ENGAGING POINTS AND AWARDS SYSTEM FOR BOTH ACTIVATORS AND HUNTERS – IT'S A GREAT MOTIVATOR!

Why POTA? It's About Community!



- **CONNECTING HAMS:** POTA HAS BUILT AN INCREDIBLE, ACTIVE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF LIKE-MINDED OPERATORS. YOU'LL FIND NEW FRIENDS AND FAMILIAR CALLSIGNS EVERYWHERE!
- **MENTORSHIP:** IT'S A PERFECT ENTRY POINT FOR NEW HAMS TO GET ON HF AND MAKE QUICK, EASY CONTACTS. EXPERIENCED HAMS OFTEN "HUNT" ACTIVATORS, PROVIDING VALUABLE PRACTICE AND ENCOURAGEMENT. IT'S ALSO A GREAT WAY FOR EXPERIENCED HAMS TO MENTOR NEWCOMERS IN PERSON DURING ACTIVATIONS.

Why POTA? It's About Community!

Continued



- CLUB ACTIVITY: POTA IS A FANTASTIC WAY FOR CLUBS TO GET TOGETHER, ACTIVATE PARKS AS A GROUP, AND HAVE FUN. THINK OF IT AS A "MINI-FIELD DAY" THAT YOU CAN DO ANY TIME OF YEAR, WITH LESS PRESSURE AND MORE FLEXIBILITY!
- SHOWCASING HAM RADIO: OPERATING IN PUBLIC PARKS MAKES US VISIBLE! IT'S AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE HAM RADIO TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANSWER QUESTIONS, AND PERHAPS INSPIRE FUTURE HAMS. WE BECOME AMBASSADORS FOR OUR HOBBY.



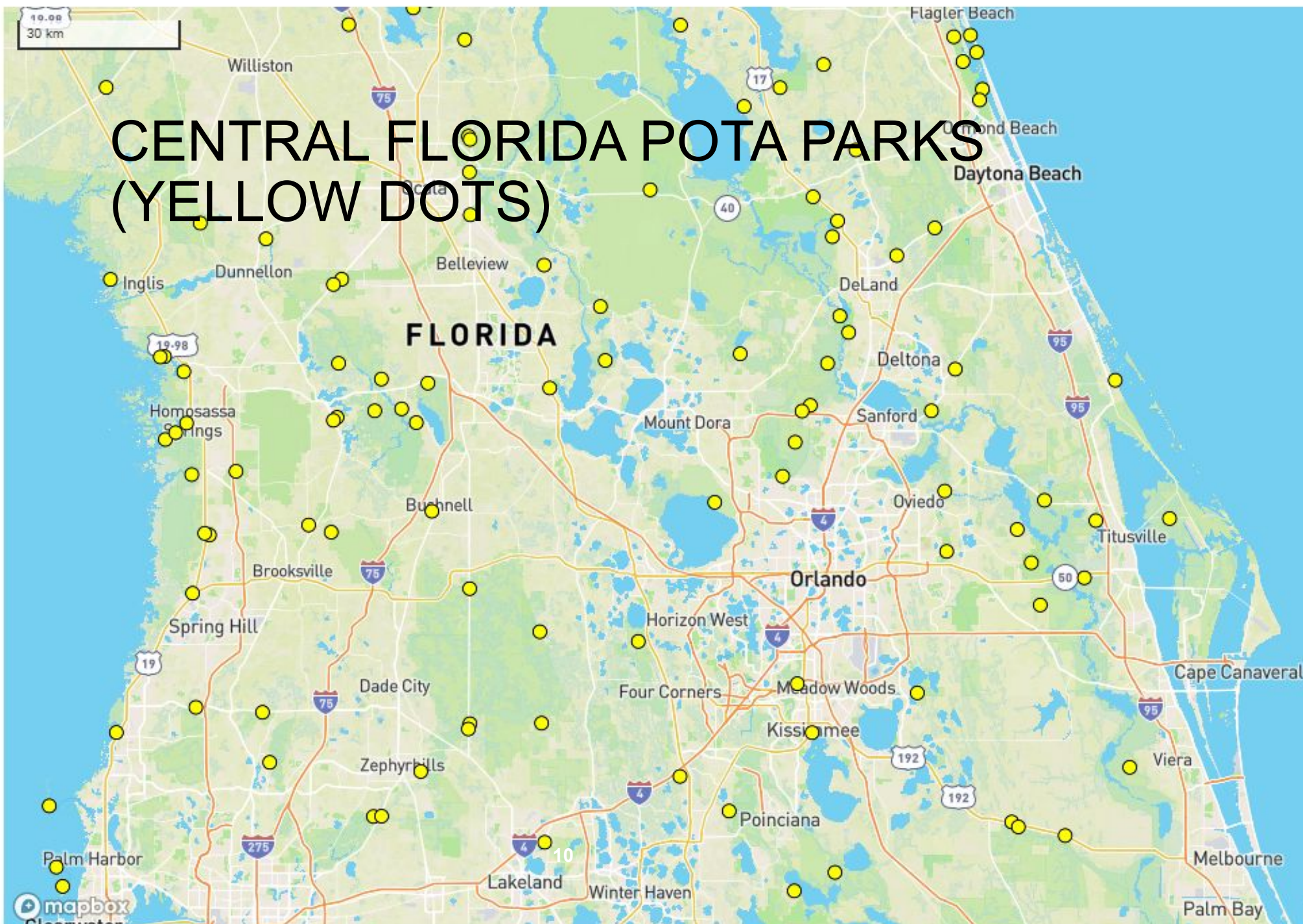
The Fun Factor:
Get Outside!

The Fun Factor: Get Outside!



- EXPLORE NEW PLACES: THE POTA PROGRAM INCLUDES THOUSANDS OF PARKS – NATIONAL, STATE, PROVINCIAL, AND EVEN SOME LOCAL ONES. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO DISCOVER NEW HIKING TRAILS, SCENIC SPOTS, OR PICNIC AREAS YOU MIGHT NEVER HAVE VISITED OTHERWISE.
- "RADIO VACATION": EVERY ACTIVATION FEELS LIKE A MINI-ADVENTURE. IT'S A CHANCE TO ESCAPE THE EVERYDAY ROUTINE AND IMMERSE YOURSELF IN BOTH NATURE AND RADIO.

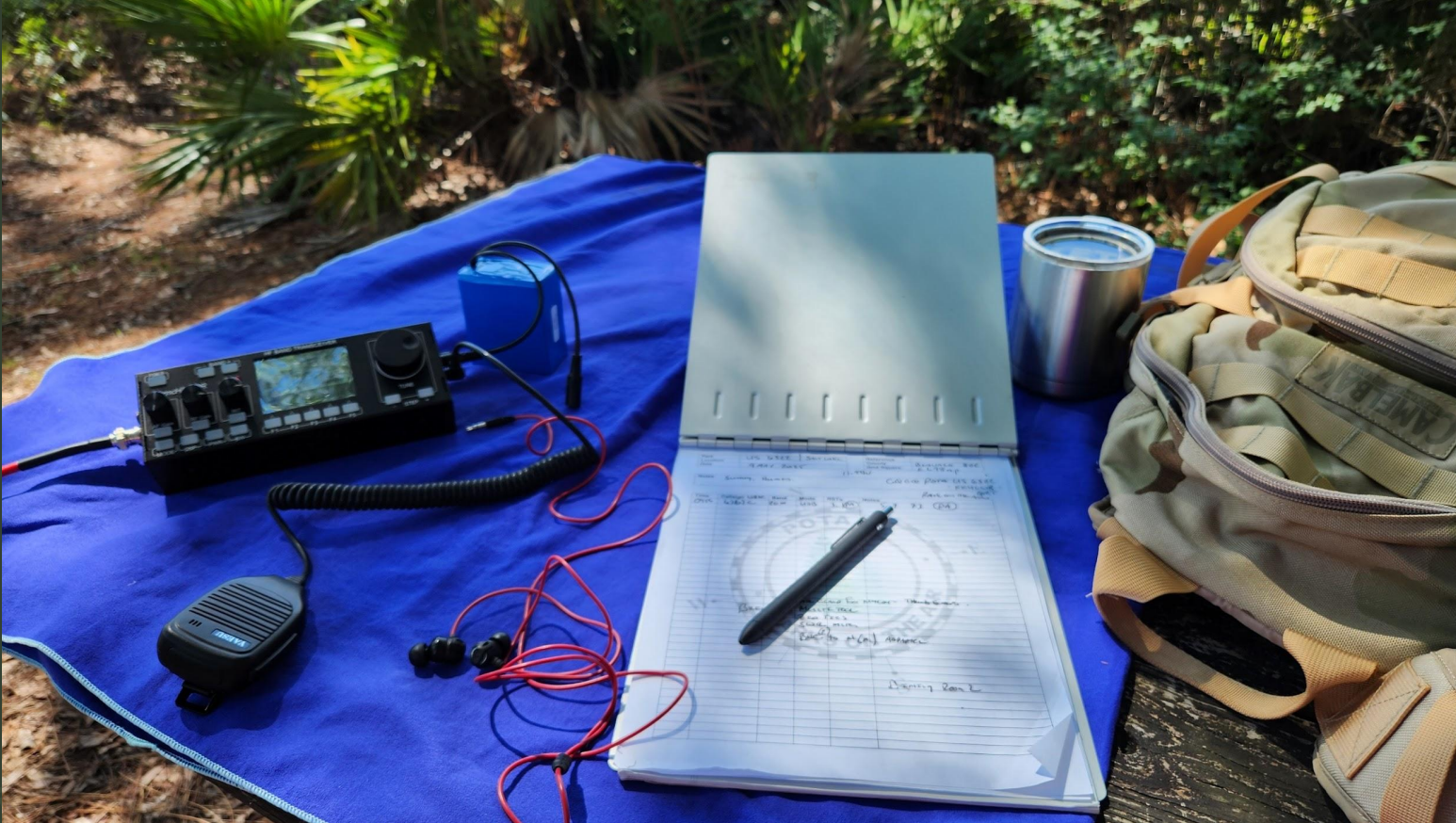
CENTRAL FLORIDA POTA PARKS (YELLOW DOTS)



The Fun Factor: Get Outside! Continued



- NO HOA HEADACHES: FOR THOSE OF US LIVING IN AREAS WITH ANTENNA RESTRICTIONS OR HOAs, POTA OFFERS A TEMPORARY REPRIEVE! YOU CAN SET UP REAL ANTENNAS IN A PUBLIC SPACE.
- CHALLENGE & SKILL BUILDING: EVERY ACTIVATION PRESENTS UNIQUE CHALLENGES – FROM FINDING THE PERFECT ANTENNA DEPLOYMENT SPOT TO DEALING WITH VARYING PROPAGATION OR ADAPTING TO PARK CONDITIONS. IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO PERFECT YOUR PORTABLE SETUP SKILLS, DEEPEN YOUR PROPAGATION KNOWLEDGE, AND REFINE YOUR OPERATING FINESSE.



Equipment for
Activators:
Keep it Simple!



Activator Gear: Keep it Simple, Yet Effective!



- RADIO:
 - HF is King: While you can activate on VHF/UHF, most POTA activity and awards are on HF. Popular bands include 20m, 40m, 15m, and 10m.
 - QRP (Low Power): Don't think you need a kilowatt! Many activators run QRP (5-10 watts) and make thousands of contacts. Rigs like the Icom IC-705 or Xiegu G90 are very popular.
 - 100-watt Rigs: Many modern HF rigs (e.g., Yaesu FT-891, Icom IC-7300, older FT-897/857) are surprisingly portable and work great for POTA.

Activator Gear: Keep it Simple, Yet Effective!



- ANTENNA: THIS IS ARGUABLY THE MOST CRUCIAL COMPONENT FOR SUCCESSFUL PORTABLE OPS!
 - Wire Antennas: End-fed half-wave (EFHW), simple dipoles, or random wires are lightweight, inexpensive, and incredibly effective. They're easy to deploy over trees or on fiberglass poles.
 - Verticals: Portable verticals (like a Buddipole, Chameleon, or various MFJ travel verticals) are quick to set up and can be very efficient.
 - Mast/Support: Fiberglass "fishing poles," trees, or even a sturdy tripod can get your antenna in the air.

Activator Gear: Keep it Simple, Yet Effective!



POWER:

- Batteries: LiFePO4 (lithium iron phosphate) batteries are the gold standard for portable operations due to their light weight, high capacity, and stable voltage.
- Solar Panels: A small portable solar panel can extend your operating time indefinitely, especially on sunny days.

LOGGING:

- Paper & Pen: The classic, reliable method. Always have a backup!
- Apps/Software: Programs like HAMRS (available for iOS, Android, and PC), GridTracker, or N3FJP's AC Log make logging super easy and can export the ADIF file needed for submission. Many even work offline and sync later.

VE-5543 - Morris Island Conservation Area



Parks on the Air (POTA) >

Private group · 30K members

Joined ▼

Invite

Hunting POTA: The "Easy Button"

23:56



pota.app/#/activations



13



Parks on the Air



KK4LWB

Scheduled Activations

Period: 51 ▼

Sort: Activator ▼



AA8UP @ US-4489



US-4489 Ottawa National Forest



US-MI



20m 30m 40m 80m



2025-05-26 10:00 to 2025-05-26 16:00 UTC

cw/ssb



Hunting POTA: The "Easy Button" for Contacts!

- ANYONE CAN BE A HUNTER: YOU DON'T NEED TO LEAVE YOUR HOUSE! OPERATE FROM YOUR HOME SHACK, MOBILE, OR EVEN ANOTHER PARK.
- NO SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED: JUST USE YOUR EXISTING HF RIG AND ANTENNA. IF YOU CAN HEAR THEM, YOU CAN WORK THEM!
- FINDING ACTIVATORS:
 - POTA.app Website: This is your best friend! The official "spotting page" (pota.app/spots) shows you who is on the air, where they are, and on what frequency and mode. It's updated in real-time.

Hunting POTA: The "Easy Button" for Contacts!



- THE EXCHANGE: USUALLY VERY QUICK AND EFFICIENT! TYPICALLY, IT'S JUST YOUR CALLSIGN AND A SIGNAL REPORT.
- NO LOG SUBMISSIONS: AS A HUNTER, YOU DON'T SUBMIT LOGS – THE ACTIVATOR DOES. YOU CAN CHECK YOUR "HUNTER STATS" AND AWARDS ON POTA.APP ONCE THE ACTIVATOR'S LOG IS UPLOADED.
- PARK-TO-PARK (P2P): IF YOU'RE HUNTING FROM ANOTHER POTA-ELIGIBLE PARK AND MAKE AT LEAST 10 QSOS, YOUR CONTACT WITH ANOTHER ACTIVATOR COUNTS AS A "PARK-TO-PARK" (P2P) CONTACT, EARNING YOU CREDIT AS BOTH A HUNTER AND AN ACTIVATOR FOR YOUR OWN PARK.



Getting Started: Your First POTA Activation Adventure!





Ready to Go? Your First POTA Activation Adventure!

- 1. GET YOUR LICENSE: YOU'LL NEED A GENERAL OR EXTRA CLASS LICENSE. TECHNICIAN CLASS CAN ACTIVATE ON VHF/UHF, BUT MOST POTA ACTION IS ON HF.
- 2. CREATE A POTA ACCOUNT: HEAD OVER TO POTA.APP. IT'S FREE, QUICK, AND EASY TO SET UP YOUR PROFILE.
- 3. FIND A PARK: USE THE INTERACTIVE MAP ON POTA.APP TO LOCATE ELIGIBLE PARKS NEAR YOU. LOOK FOR THE "K-" NUMBERS FOR US PARKS. MAKE SURE IT'S PUBLIC LAND AND ACCESSIBLE.
- 4. PLAN YOUR GEAR: START SIMPLE! FOR NEW HAMS, AN HT FOR VHF/UHF OR A BASIC HF RIG WITH A SIMPLE WIRE ANTENNA IS ALL YOU NEED. CRUCIAL TIP: TEST YOUR SETUP AT HOME FIRST! DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE IN THE PARK TO DISCOVER A MISSING CABLE.

Ready to Go? Your First POTA Activation Adventure!



- 5. CHECK PARK RULES: BEFORE YOU GO, A QUICK CHECK OF THE PARK'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE OR A CALL TO THE PARK OFFICE CAN SAVE HEADACHES.
- 6. GO ACTIVATE! FIND A QUIET SPOT WITHIN THE PARK BOUNDARIES, SET UP YOUR STATION, AND START CALLING "CQ POTA!" AS SOON AS YOU'RE ON THE AIR, SPOT YOURSELF ON POTA.APP SO HUNTERS KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOU. YOUR GOAL IS TO MAKE AT LEAST 10 QSOS IN A SINGLE UTC DAY TO QUALIFY THE ACTIVATION.
- 7. SUBMIT YOUR LOG: AFTER YOUR ACTIVATION, UPLOAD YOUR ADIF LOG FILE TO POTA.APP. THIS IS HOW YOU GET CREDIT FOR YOUR ACTIVATION AND HOW HUNTERS GET CREDIT FOR WORKING YOU!

Join the Community!

Online Resources:

- **POTA.app:** Your central hub for everything POTA – maps, rules, spots, awards, and log submission.
- **POTA Facebook Group:** A massive, active community where you can ask questions, share tips, post photos of your activations, and celebrate successes. It's incredibly supportive.
- **YouTube:** There are countless "how-to" videos, activation vlogs, and gear reviews from fellow POTA enthusiasts.
- **Local Club Events:** Many amateur radio clubs organize dedicated POTA field days or joint activations. These are fantastic opportunities to learn from others, share equipment, and make it a social event.
- **Elmering:** Don't be afraid to ask for help! The POTA community, and the ham radio community in general, is incredibly welcoming. Experienced hams are always willing to share knowledge, offer advice, and even join you for an activation.
- **Awards:** POTA offers a fun system of electronic certificates for reaching various milestones – unique parks activated, total QSOs, specific bands, etc. It's a great way to track your progress and set new goals!



Q&A / Thank You



POTA FACEBOOK
GROUP



- "My biggest encouragement to all of you, whether you're a seasoned operator or a brand-new ham: Get out there and give POTA a try!"
- "It's about having fun, learning new skills, and making incredible connections with fellow hams around the world."
- "I look forward to hearing you from a park soon! See you in the parks!" – Greg Hand KK4LWB



<https://parksontheair.com>

MORE INFO ON
THESE
WEBSITES

Thank you

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KK4LWB

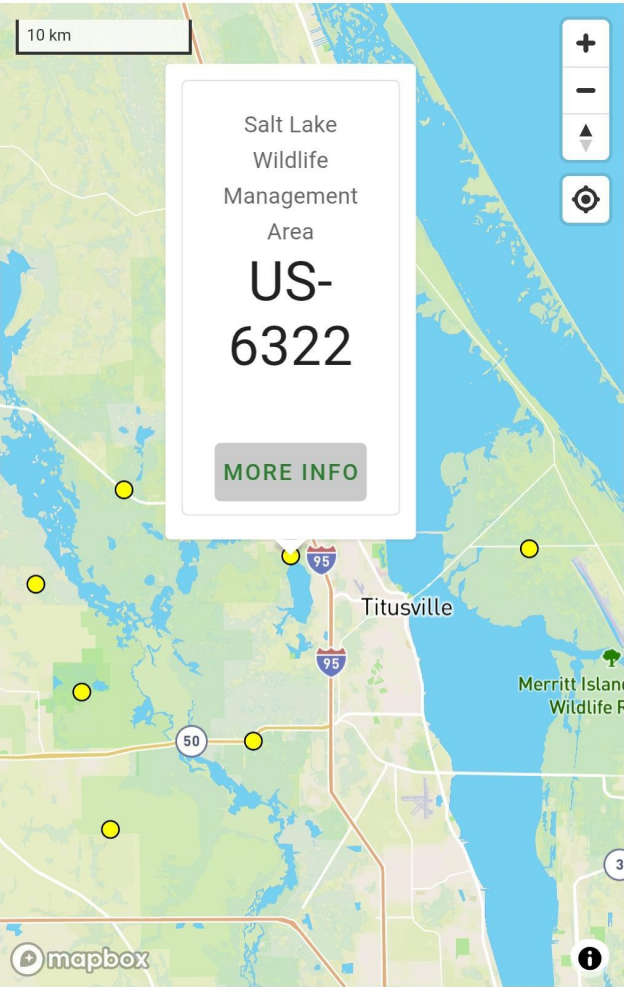


<https://k4ksc.com>

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- PARKS ON THE AIR. (N.D.). POTA.APP. RETRIEVED FROM [HTTPS://POTA.APP/](https://pota.app/)
- PARKS ON THE AIR [FACEBOOK GROUP]. (N.D.). RETRIEVED FROM [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/PARKSONTHEAIR/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/parksontheair/)



Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area

Reference: US-6322

Entity: United States of America

Location(s): US-FL

Latitude / Longitude: 28.6384, -80.8748 (EL98np)

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

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

Website: <https://myfwc.com/recreation/lea...>

Access Methods: Automobile Foot

Activation Methods: Automobile Pedestrian

Is Active? ACTIVE

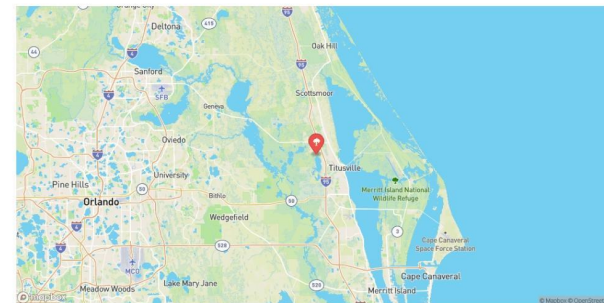
First Activation: KN4MQR on 2020-02-16

Stats: 93 activations / 97 attempts (3547 QSOs)

Park Leaders

Park Leaders

	Activations	Activator QSOs
1.	K5LD 8	K5LD 493
2.	K4QD 4	K4QD 316
3.	WA3GM 3	WA3GM 216
4.	HI8D 3	W1IP 173
5.	W9MIC 3	AD0DB 167



Activations

Sort by
Date
Callsign
2025-05-09
KK4LWB

Add Activation

Callsign
KK4LWB

Reference
Example: US-1234

Start Date (UTC)

Start Time (UTC)

End Date (UTC)

End Time (UTC)

Frequency

Comments

