

—POTA—

Parks On The Air

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November 9, 2020





The global pandemic has left all of us with concerns about our health and a sense of isolation

The Parks On The Air program is a wonderful opportunity to *combine our Amateur Radio hobby with natural surroundings* in a fresh-air environment where we can safely interact with others



In 2016, the ARRL sponsored a year-long on-air activity, where thousands of hams went to National Parks and got on the air, making contacts with other hams to "Activate" the park. It was wildly popular!

By the end of 2016, 1,108,960 contacts had been made from 461 different national parks, by 21,344 different groups of "Activators"



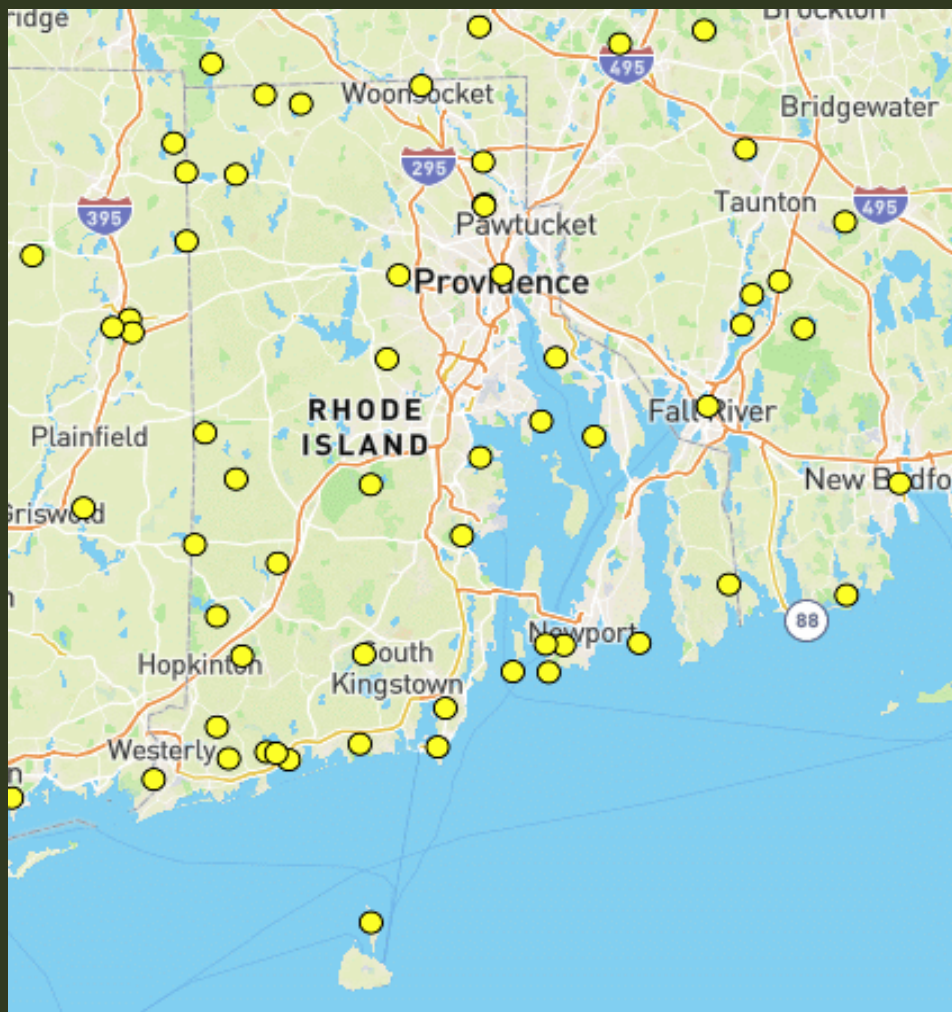
By the Spring of 2017, Jason Johnston W3AAX had registered a Service Mark, and created www.parksontheair.com to restart the program

At this point, POTASM has taken on a life of its own, more than 1.6 million contacts from 7,247 parks in the US, and thousands more world-wide

How Does POTA Work?

- There are two classifications:
 - **"Activators"** – folks that go to a park, setup a station, and work at least 10 other stations
 - **"Hunters"** – folks that look for parks on the air and work them
- Hunters look for stations using "Spotting" networks (<https://pota.us/#/>)
- A contact consists of an exchange of callsigns & signal reports
- Only Activators upload their logs (For 1-area calls email to k1@parksontheair.com)





Yellow dots indicate POTA locations

Unlike the ARRL NPOTA program, which only had a handful of parks in Rhode Island, the POTASM program recognizes 40 parks in RI today, with more coming!

There are hundreds of parks within an hour's drive, and almost a thousand in the New England area.

Many of our parks are located along the coast and offer stunning views and fresh sea breezes

How to Participate

- Assemble a reasonable performance portable station
 - 100-watt class HF radio*
 - Sufficient portable battery capacity
 - Simple to deploy antenna
- Work a minimum of 10 stations per activation (15-30 minutes of air time)
- Or be a Hunter and work from home!

* Why not QRP? It is hard enough to make contacts with 100 watts. Instead have pity on the Hunters and don't force them to dig a weak station out of the mud (QRP 2 S-Units weaker) – that said MANY people do run QRP.

Small 100-Watt HF Rigs

New:

Icom IC-7100
\$860

All band/mode
+ DSTAR



Used:

Icom IC-7000
\$500-\$800

All band/mode



Yaesu FT-891
\$640

HF+6m



Yaesu FT-857D
\$650-\$999

All band/mode



Depending on your antenna, all these rigs might need an external tuner

Portable battery 100 watts (2 hours heavy use)

- LiFePO4 chemistry optimal for ham use (safer too)
- Expect about 7.5 AH per hour of "Pileup" use (about 5 AH for casual use)
- Light weight: 4.2 pounds
Small: 6x4x4 inches
- Very long life (2000+ cycles, 10+ years)
- BioEnnoPower.com good vendor



12V, 15Ah LFP Battery (ABS, BLF-1215AS)

Please select below:

Battery+Charger(4A) ▾

\$169.99

[Add to Cart](#)

Antenna Option 1 (HamStick)

- Very effective 20-meter and higher. Fair on 40 meters, Poor on 80 meters.
- About 7 feet tall
- Use a MagMount on top of vehicle (can't drive with it mounted)
- Pass coax thru open window or weatherstripping
- No Tuner Required (but must be adjusted)



MFJ-1620T is \$22



MFJ-335BT 5" Magnetic Mount with
3/8-24 threads, coax & PL259

Costs about \$20

Antenna Option 2 (End-Fed Half-Wave)



- Highly effective End-fed Half-wave antenna
- Requires only one elevated end
- Can be manually tuned, location dependent (tuner advised)
- Use Painter's Pole or push-up pole to elevate one end
- Watch out for High Voltage at ends!
- Small (about 6" coiled up) and light ½ pound.
- About \$70 from DxEngineering.com

Putting it all together

Lower end of
EFHW Antenna &
Coax feedline

Painters Pole
~24 feet holds
High end of
Antenna

Radio &
Tuner



Battery

Why work POTA?

- At home or in the field activities
- Combine your Amateur Radio hobby with being outside
- Safe way to interact with others (while weather is warm)

Hunter Guide: https://stats.parksontheair.com/info/hunter_guide.pdf

Activator Guide: https://stats.parksontheair.com/info/activator_guide.pdf

YouTube Videos here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLd_DTtq1stJIZV6dcHypXBUq0xEYigBQf



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Get Outside

Enjoy life!!!