

Parks On The Air

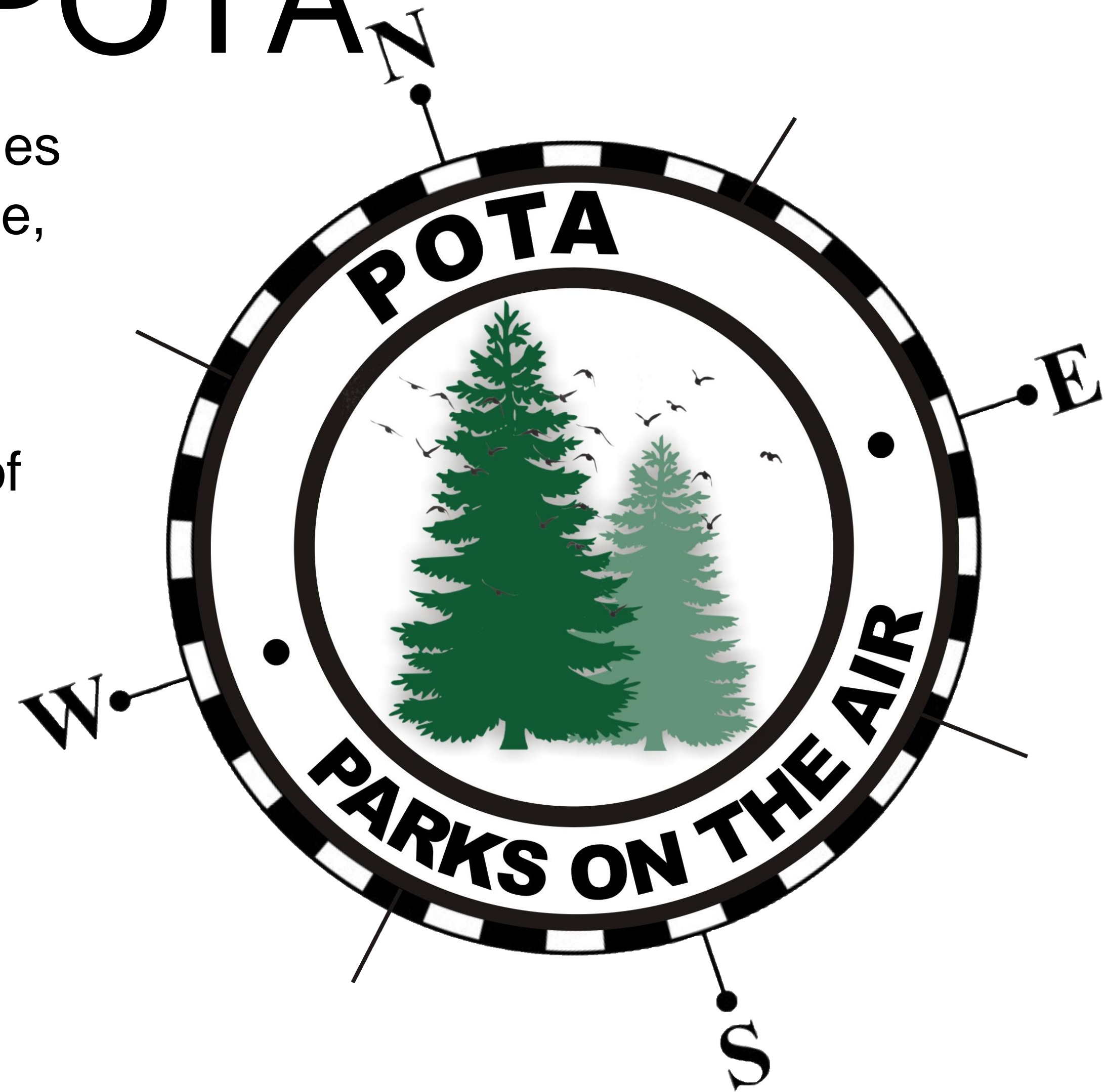
www.parksontheair.com

Bill Cherepy WB4WTN

Parks On The Air - POTA

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

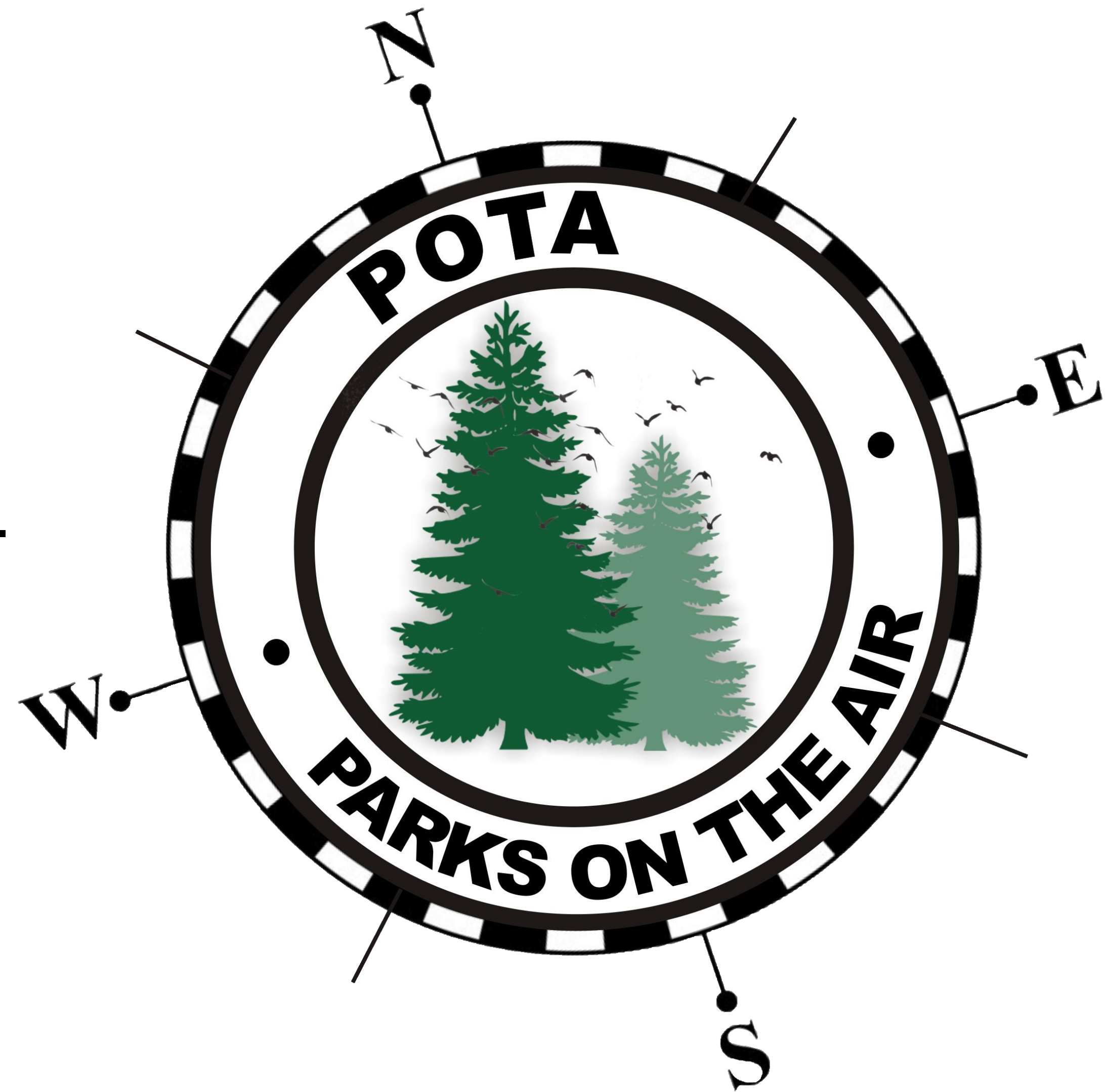
POTA has a large set of references and a short set of rules. We welcome you to join us as an activator, chaser or both!



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 POTA is growing every day.



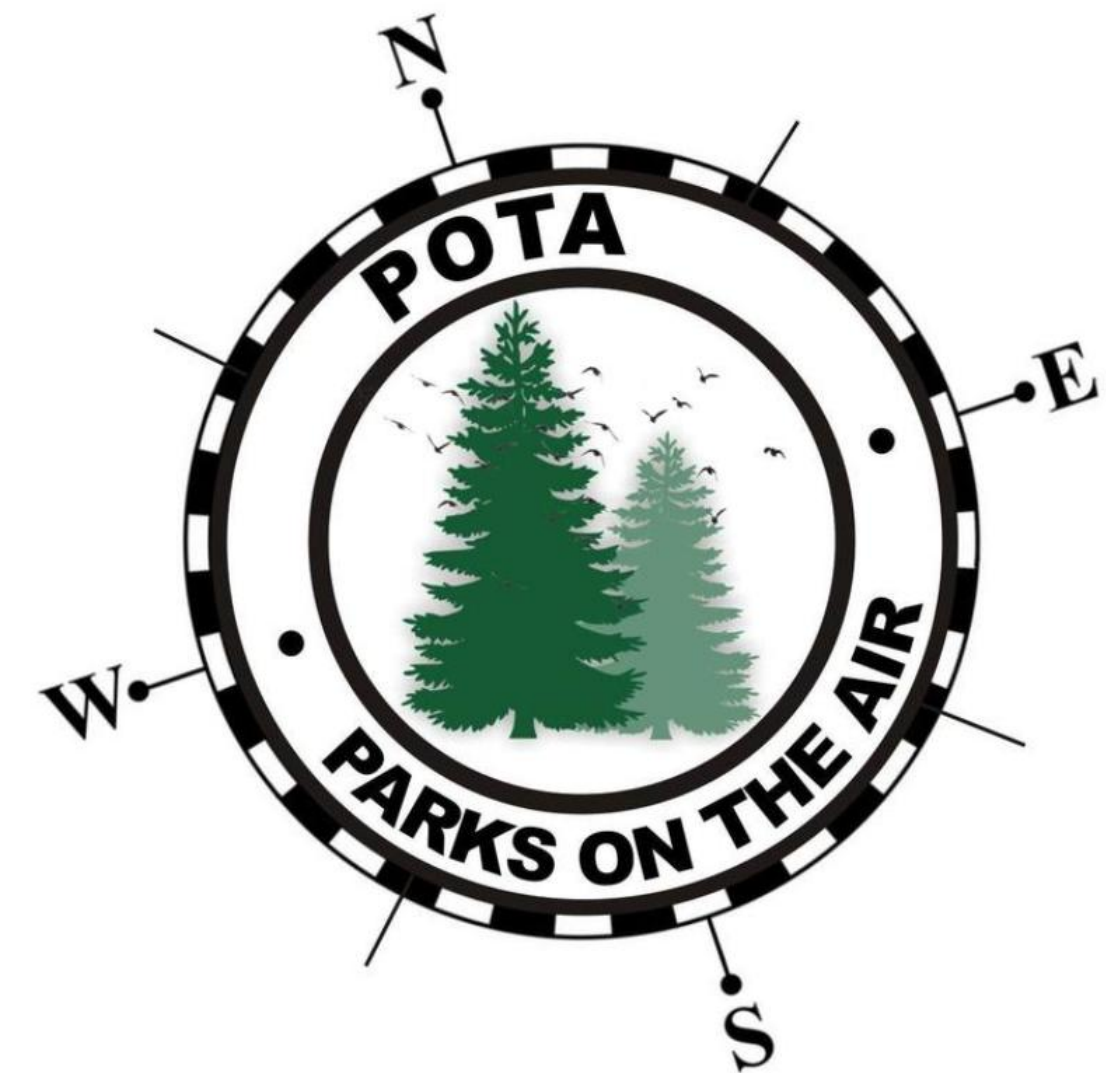
How to join the POTA fun!

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

 Continue with Google

 Continue with Login with Amazon

 Continue with Facebook

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

Sign in with your email and password

Email

Password

or

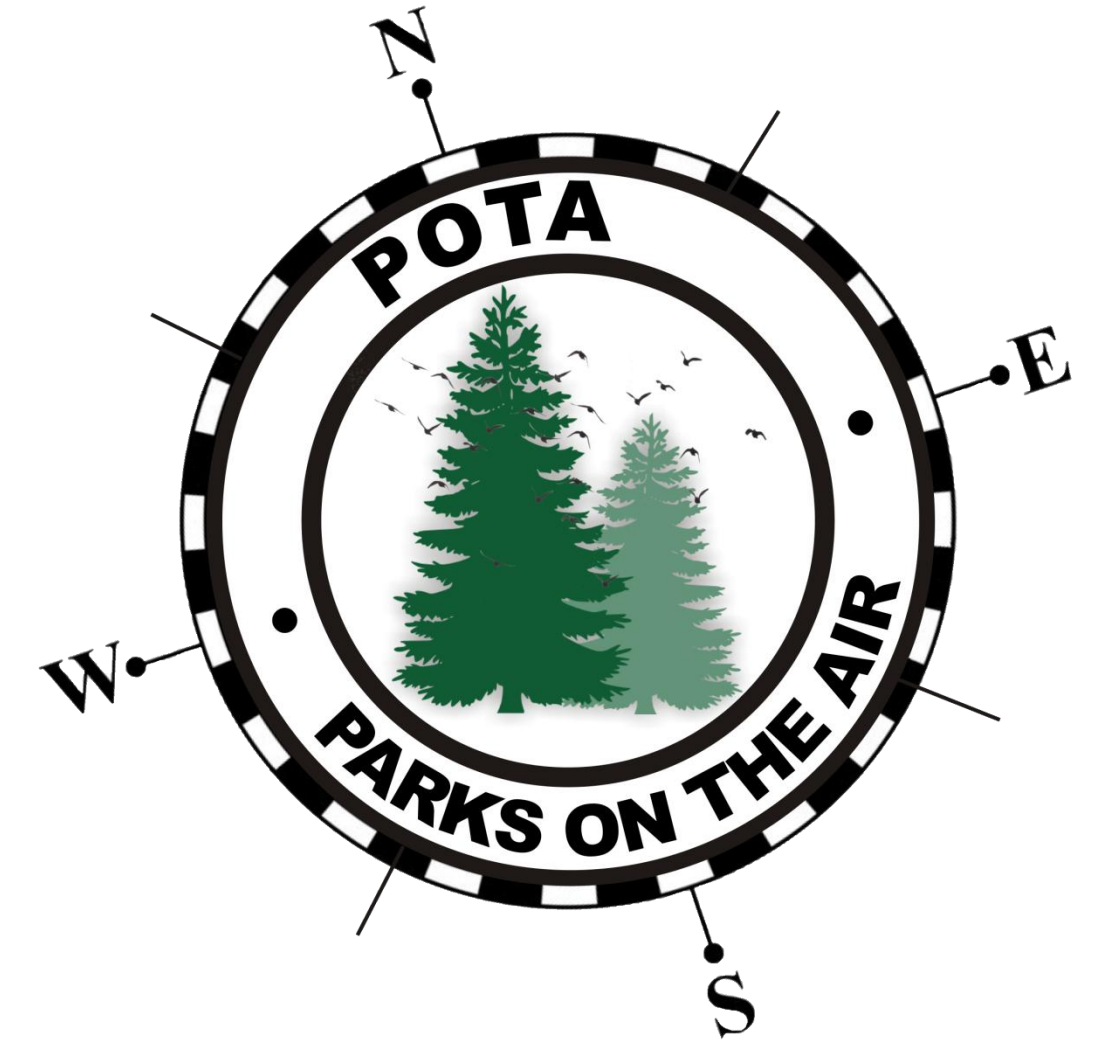
[Forgot your password?](#)

Sign in

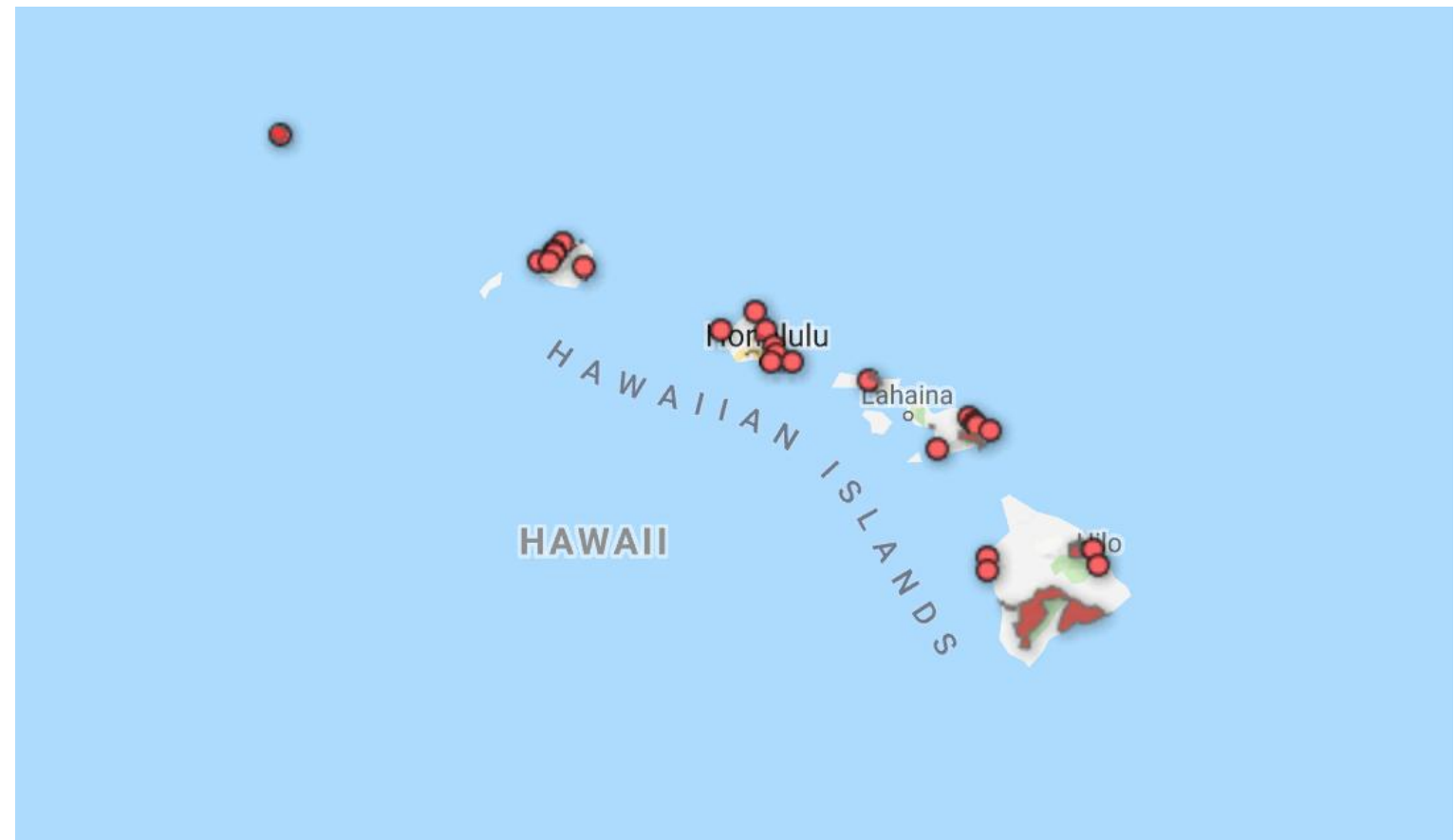
Need an account? [Sign up](#)

How does it work for Activators?

Choose a reference to put on the air.
Currently the database has 22,691
Worldwide references. 7,340 of those are
in the United States. Did mention that
POTA has gone International? Find the list
and maps at **parksontheair.com**

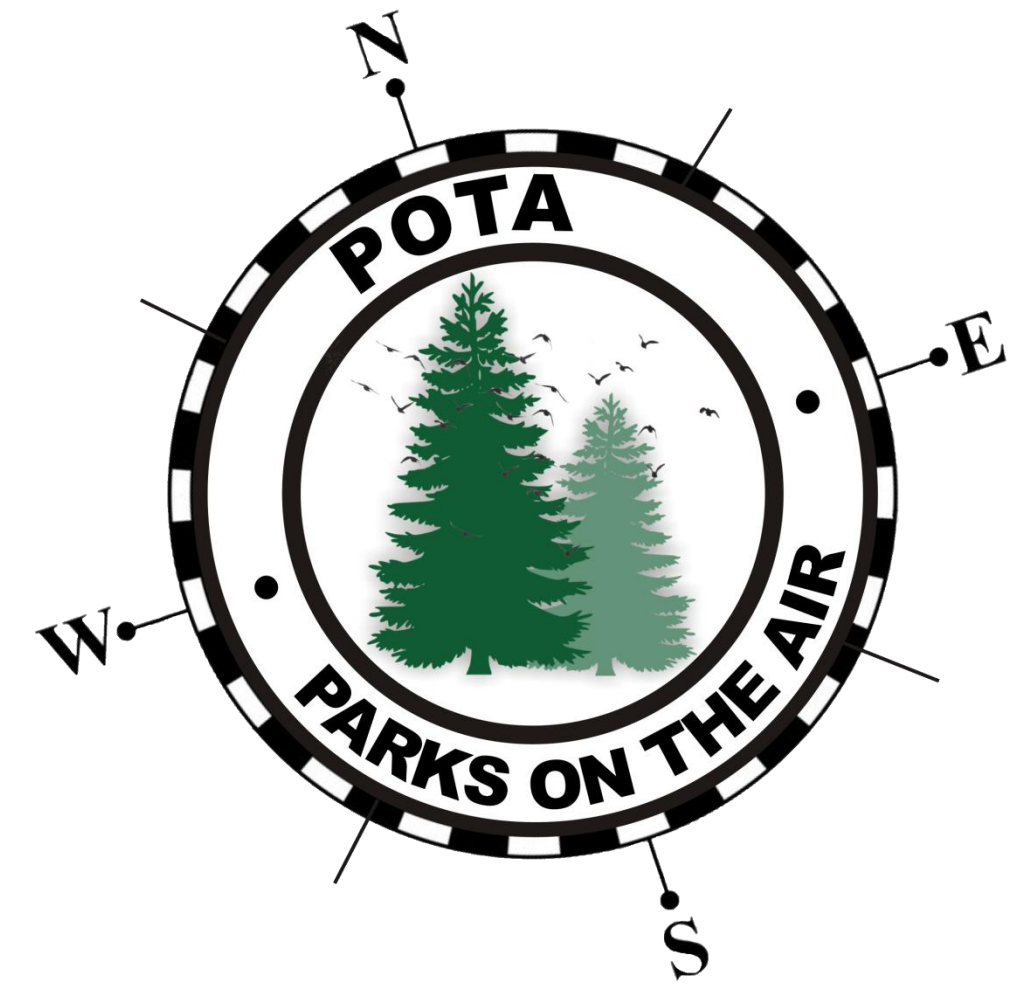


A map of the United States and parts of Canada and Mexico, densely populated with red circular markers. The markers are distributed across the entire country, with higher concentrations in the eastern half and along the West Coast. Major cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco are labeled, as are various states and provinces. The map also shows the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of California.



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, 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.

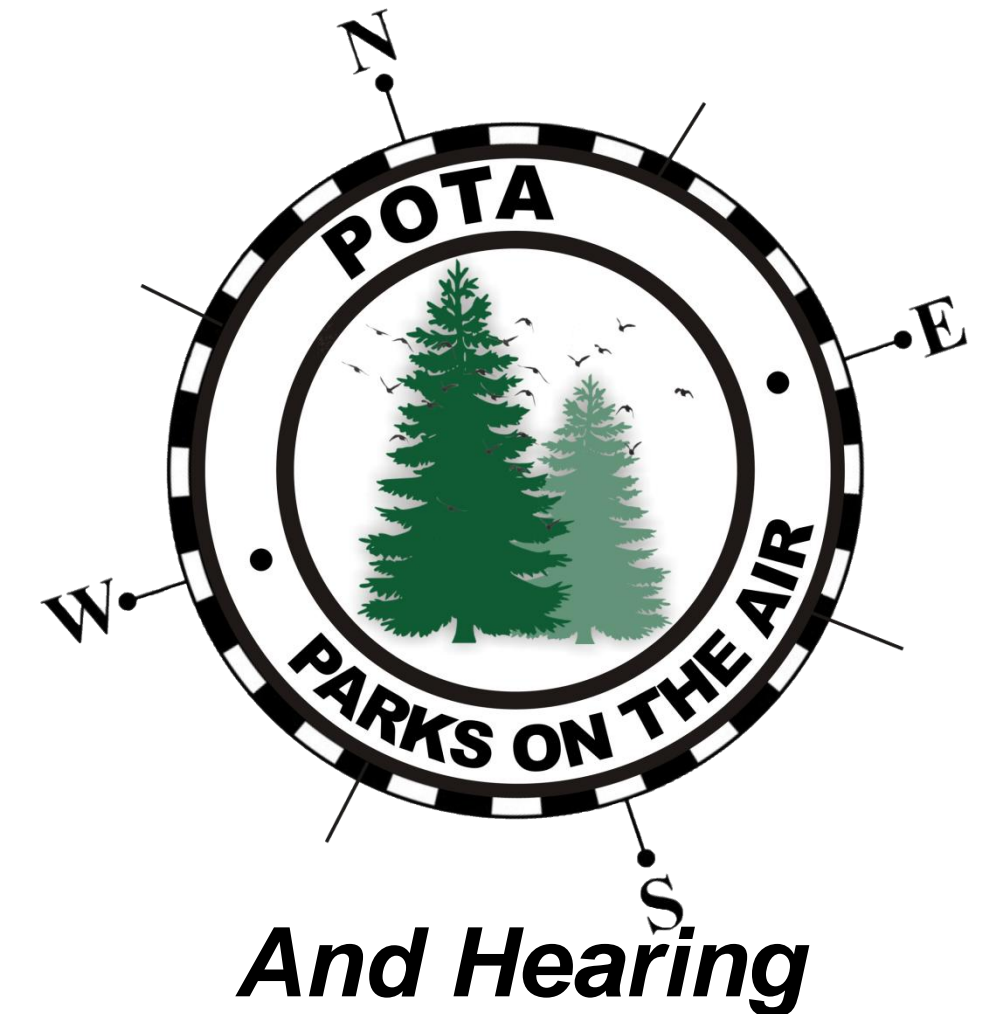
There is no specific exchange beyond callsign, although the traditional RST is usually given along with QTH. If you prefer, you do not have to call CQ POTA or announce you are at a park.

Log the date, time, and band in your favorite logging program and export as an **ADIF**. Submit your logs to the appropriate Regional Coordinator via email based on the numeric in the activators call sign to **KX@parksontheair.com** where **X** is the number in the activators call.

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!



“Thanks for the new one!”

“Thanks for activating!”

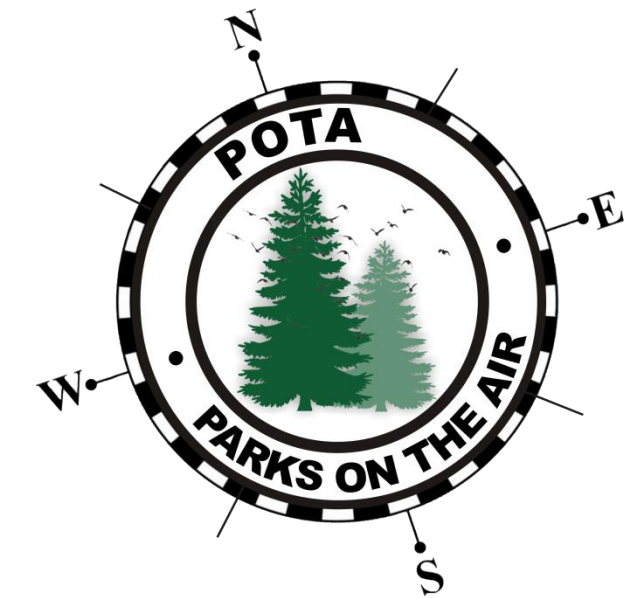
“Thanks for the park to park!”

“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

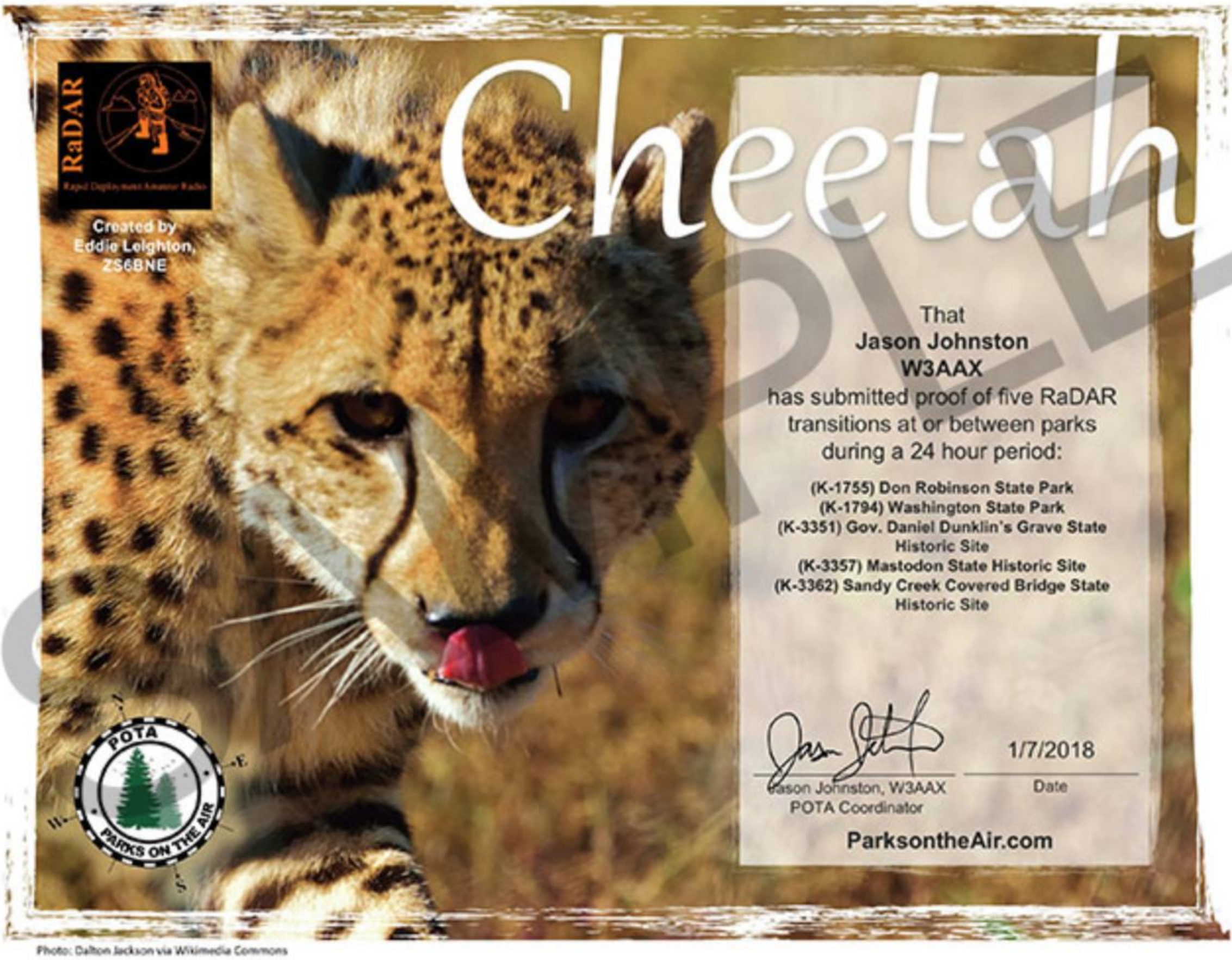
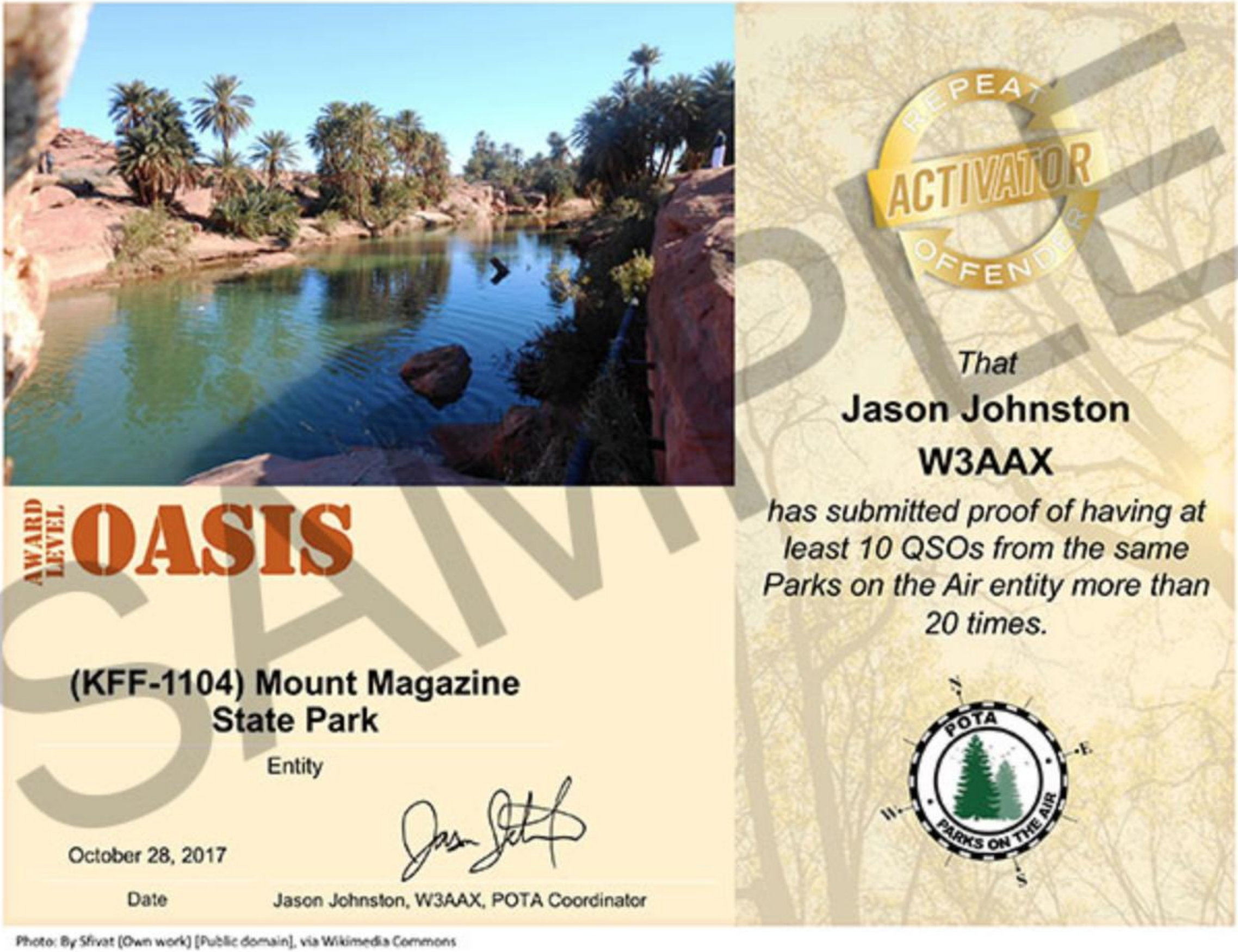
Incremental awards, for each level of unique parks activated.



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

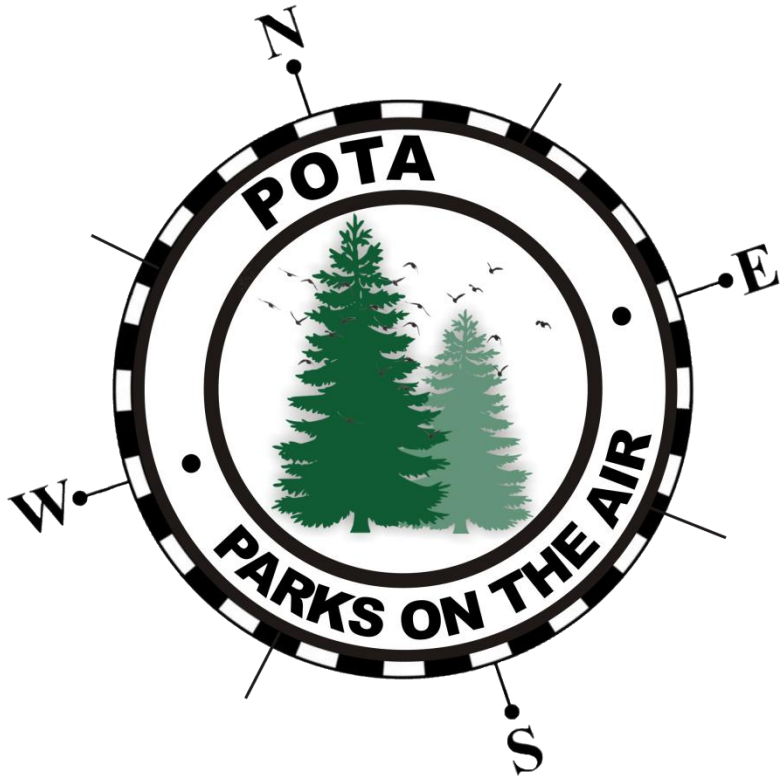


RaDAR Awards for rapid deployment activations in a specified number of parks in one day

Many more awards are available

How does it work for Hunters?

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



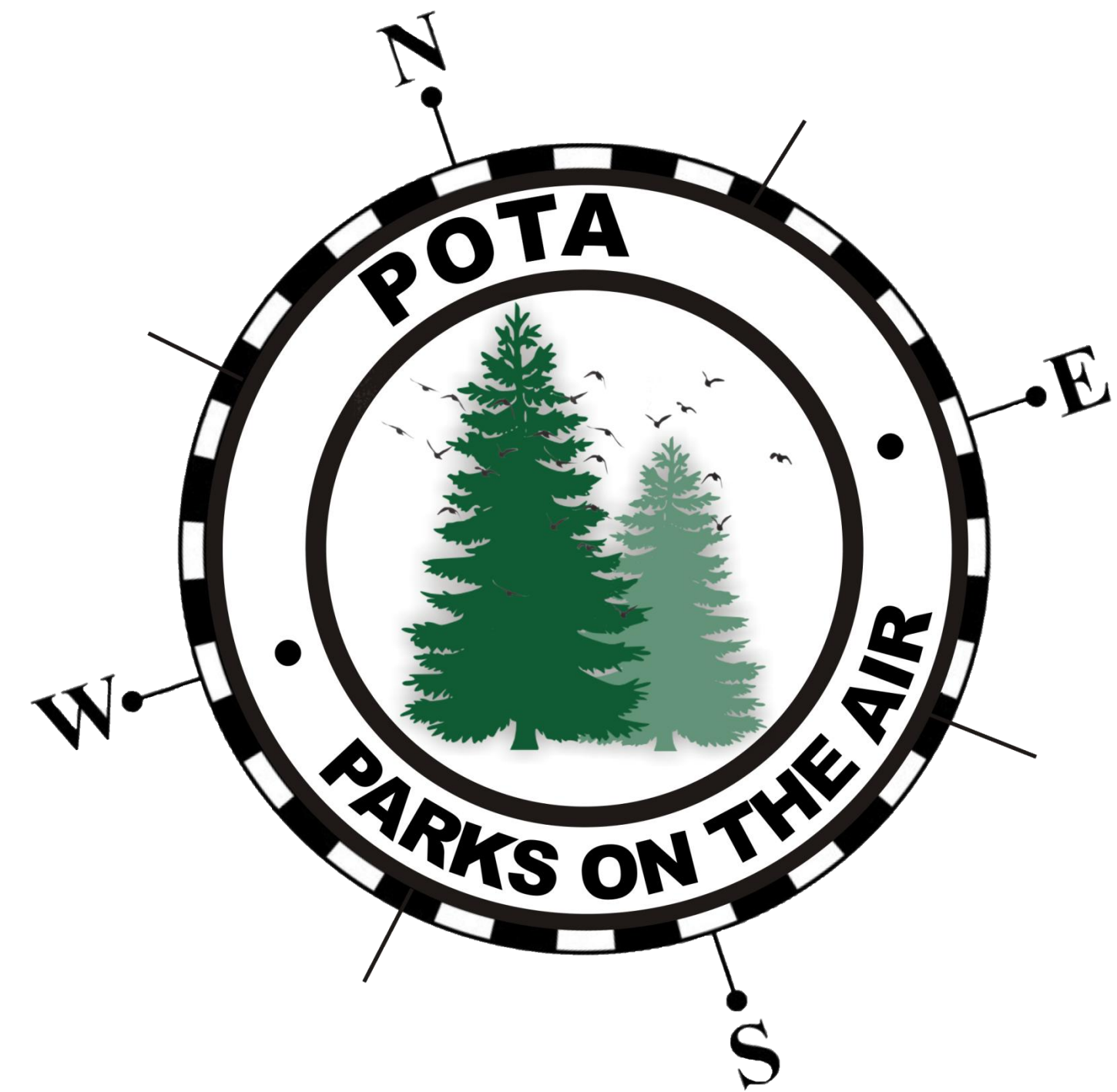
Parks On The AirFind ParksLeaderboardsActivityPark StatsMy StatsK8VOX

There are 1127 hunted parks

Reference	Park Name		Date - Time	Band	Mode	Station
K-2175	Fort McAllister State Park	Georgia	2019-02-10 18:00	40M	PHONE	K4WP
K-3650	Rock Springs Run State Reserve	Florida	2019-02-08 15:00	2M	PHONE	W8TAM
K-3650	Rock Springs Run State Reserve	Florida	2019-02-08 22:45:00	70CM	PHONE	W8TAM
K-0928	Fort McHenry National Monument	Maryland	2019-02-06 18:29:00	40M	PHONE	W3RAR
K-1927	Wekiwa Springs State Park	Florida	2019-02-06 18:09:00	40M	PHONE	K4YOU
K-3633	Koreshan State Historic Site	Florida	2019-02-06 17:50:00	40M	PHONE	KB3WAV
K-1843	Bulow Creek State Park	Florida	2019-02-06 17:43:00	40M	PHONE	K4CAE
K-0654	National Capital Parks National Park	Maryland	2019-02-06 17:09:05	40M	PHONE	K3USI

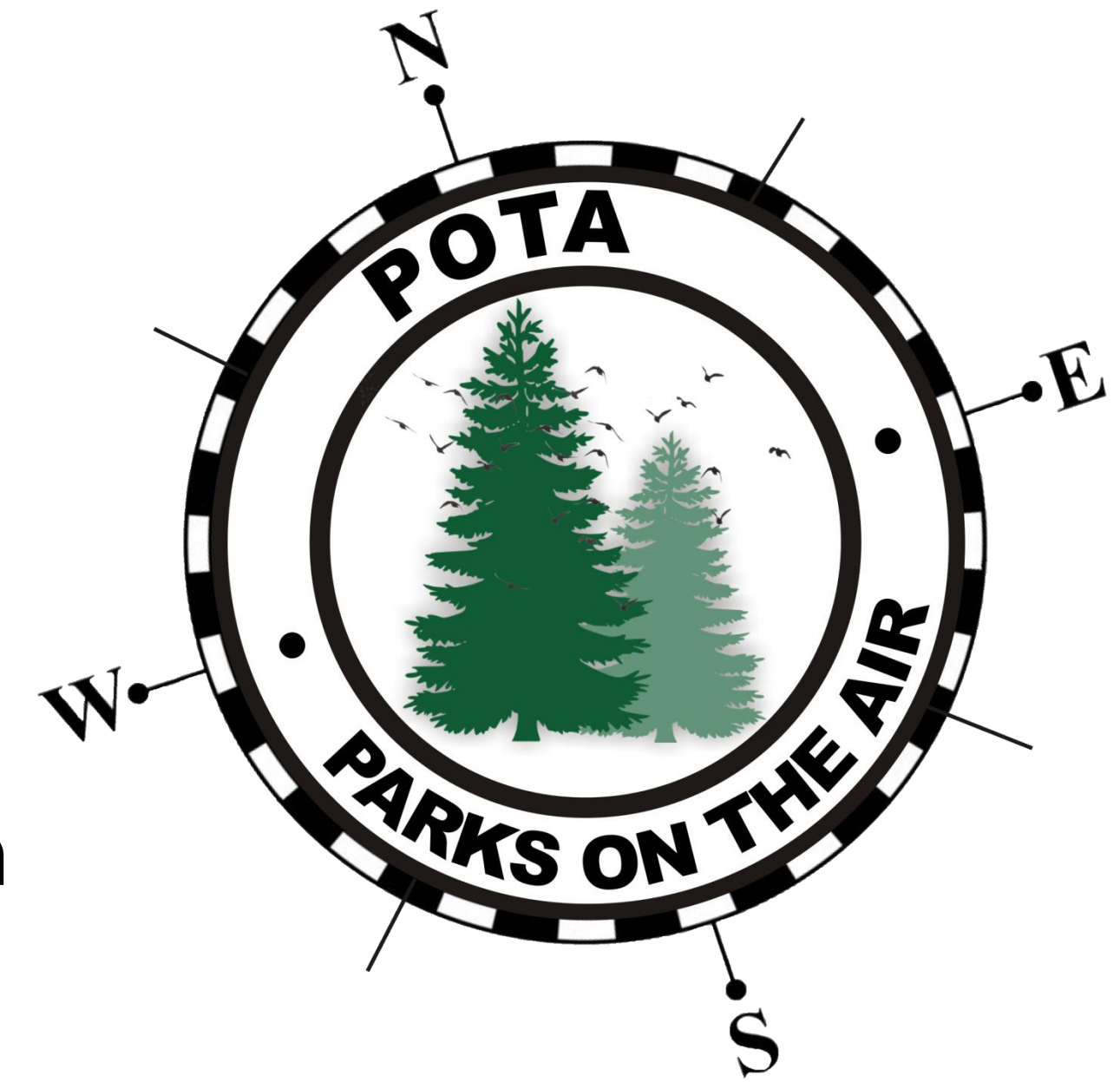
Tips for Hunting

- 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)



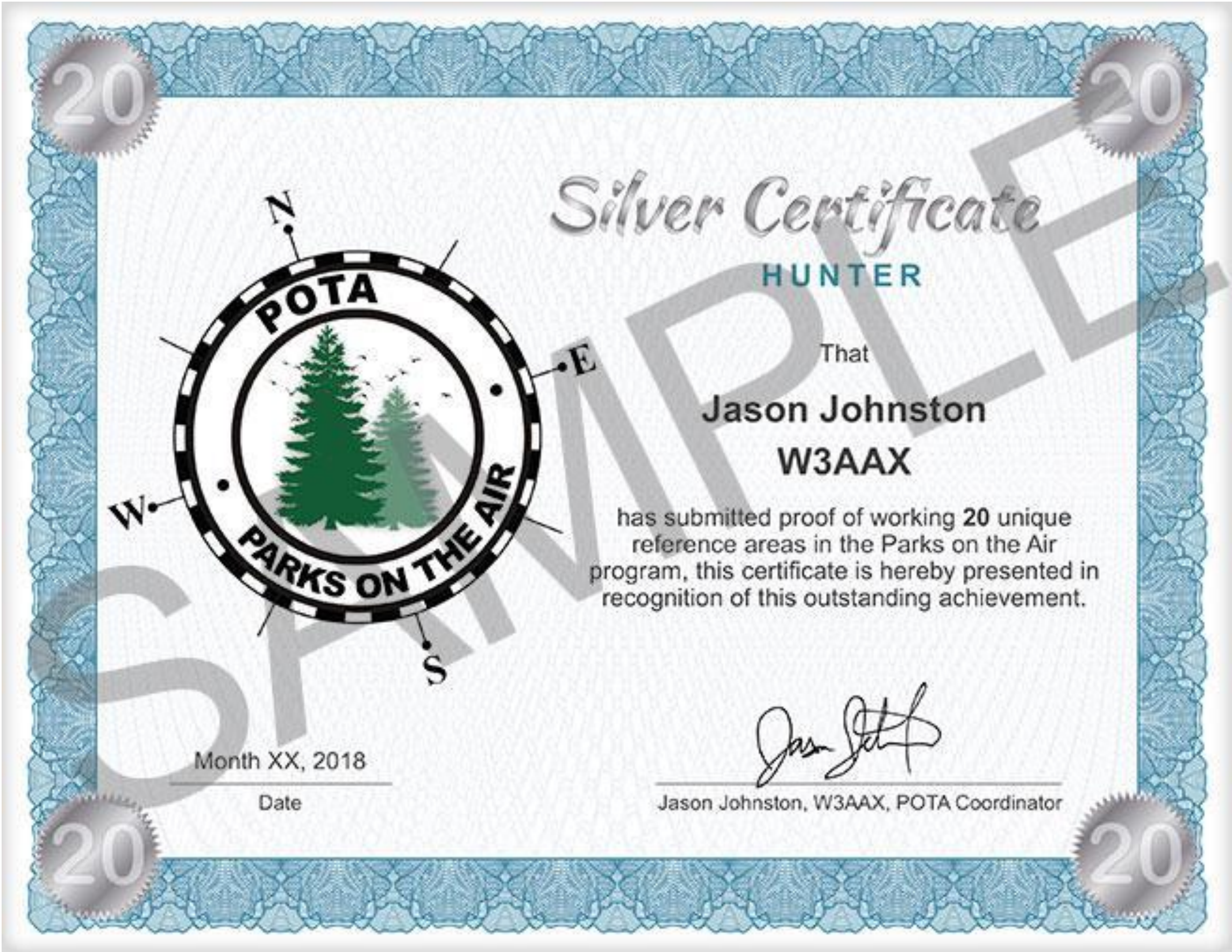
Why would you enjoy hunting POTA activators?

- 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

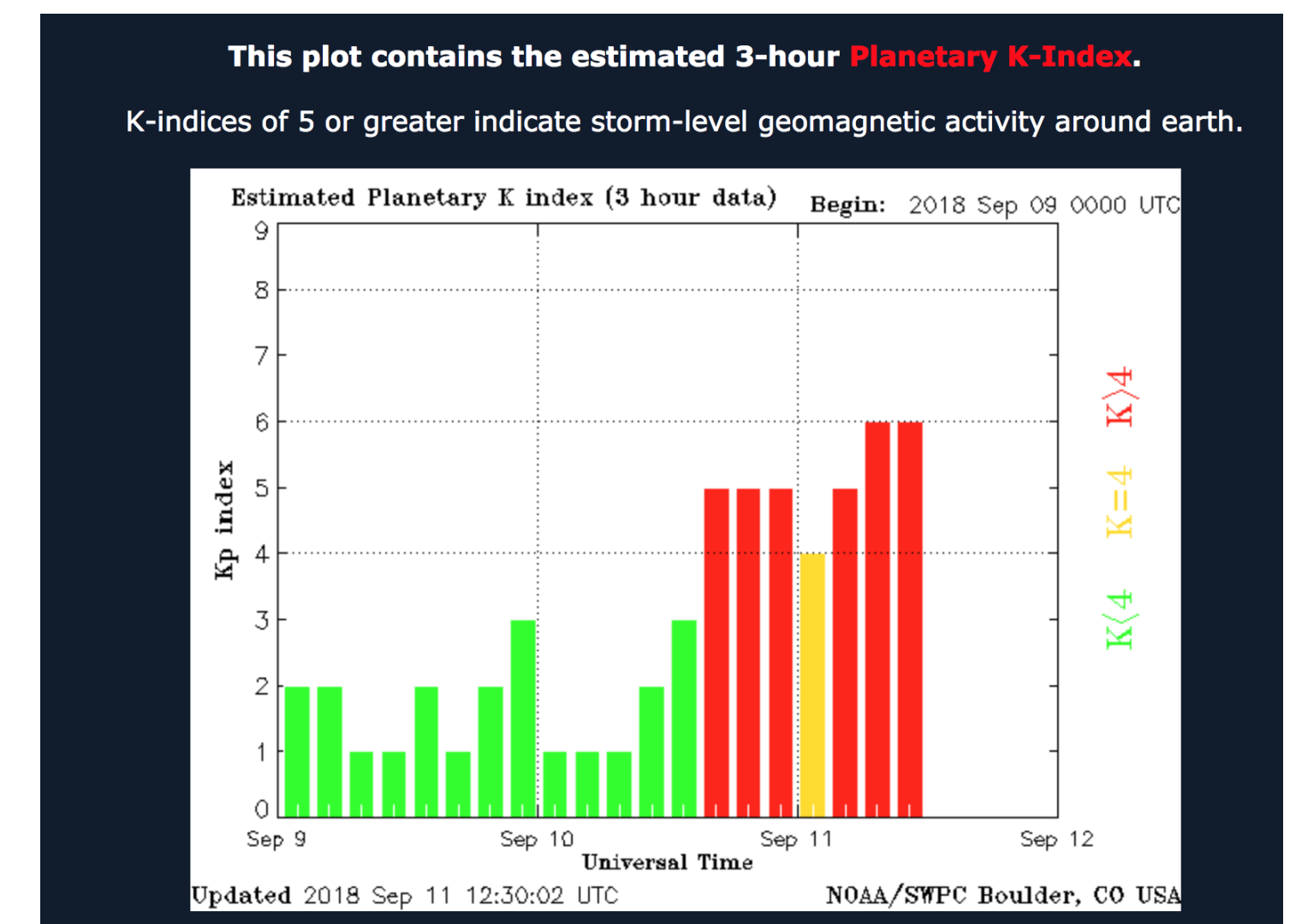
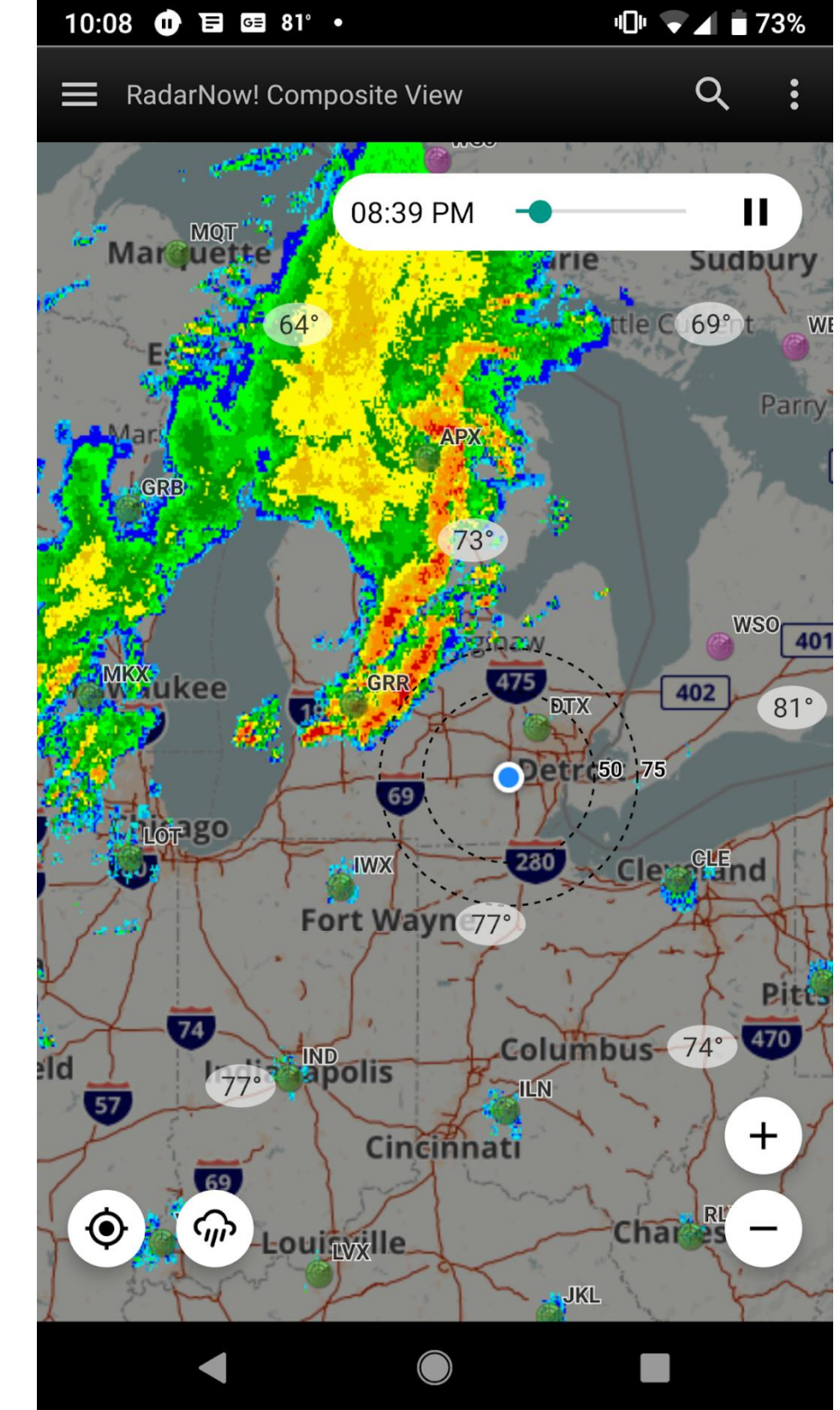
Incremental awards, for each level of unique parks hunted.



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.

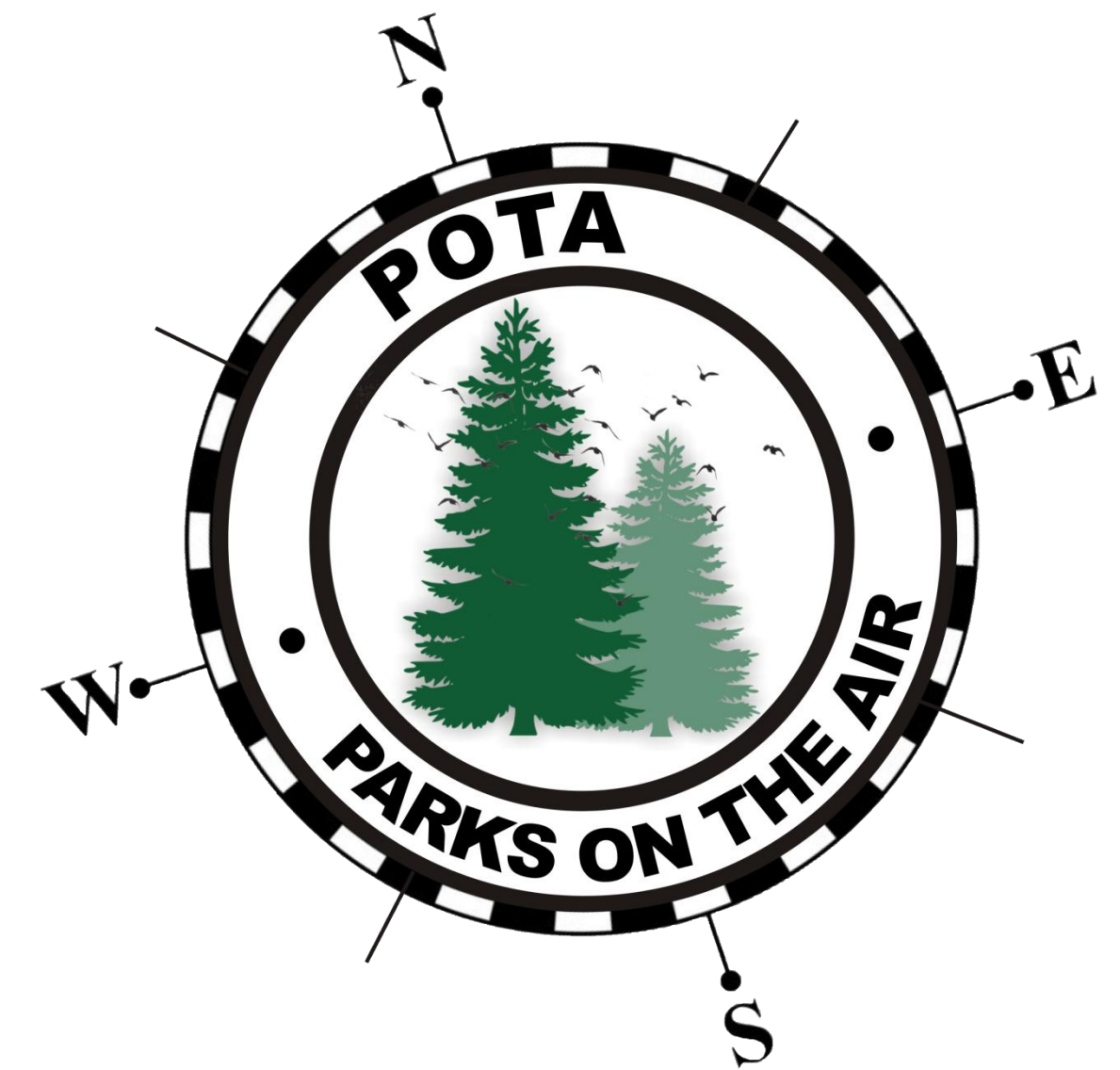


Get more POTA fun on our Social Media

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



Questions?

Join the fun!

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