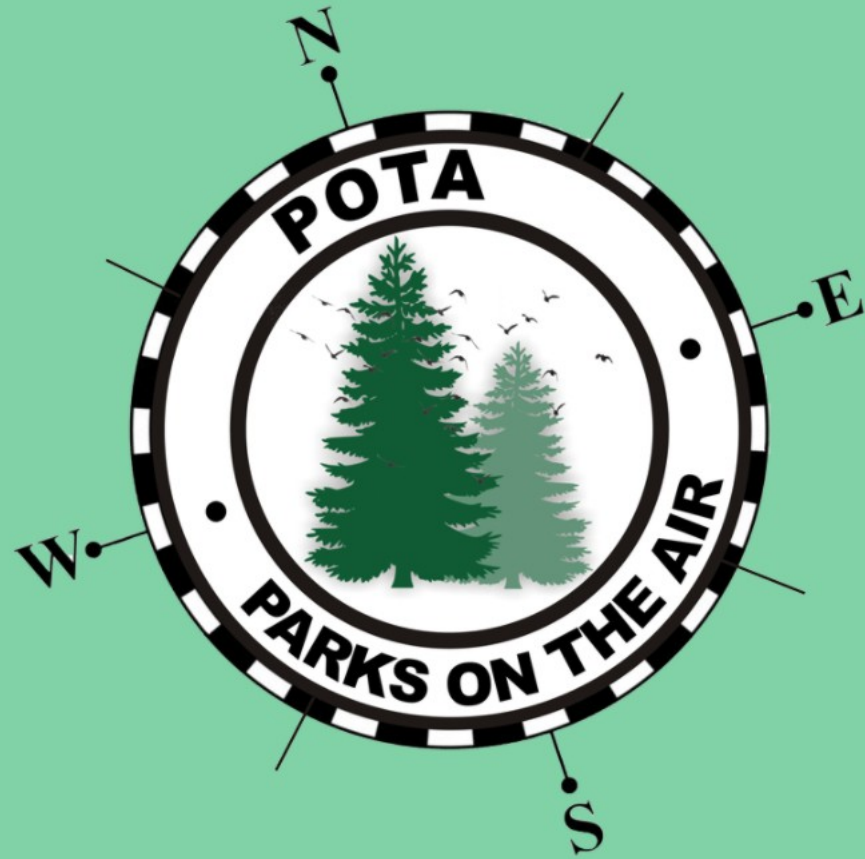


Parks on the Air

WCARES Presentation

Tom Suggs - N4MTE



What is Parks on the Air (POTA)?

- ▶ POTA is based on the very successful National Parks on the Air event which took place in 2016
- ▶ Once that event ended, there was a small group of hams that wanted to continue and to expand the event
- ▶ POTA is not limited to National Parks. Many types of state and federally managed properties are eligible and more are being added.
- ▶ POTA has gone global - there are now at least 27 countries in the program each with their own set of parks
- ▶ There are now thousands of registered POTA participants that enjoy activating and/or chasing the parks

Why Participate in POTA?

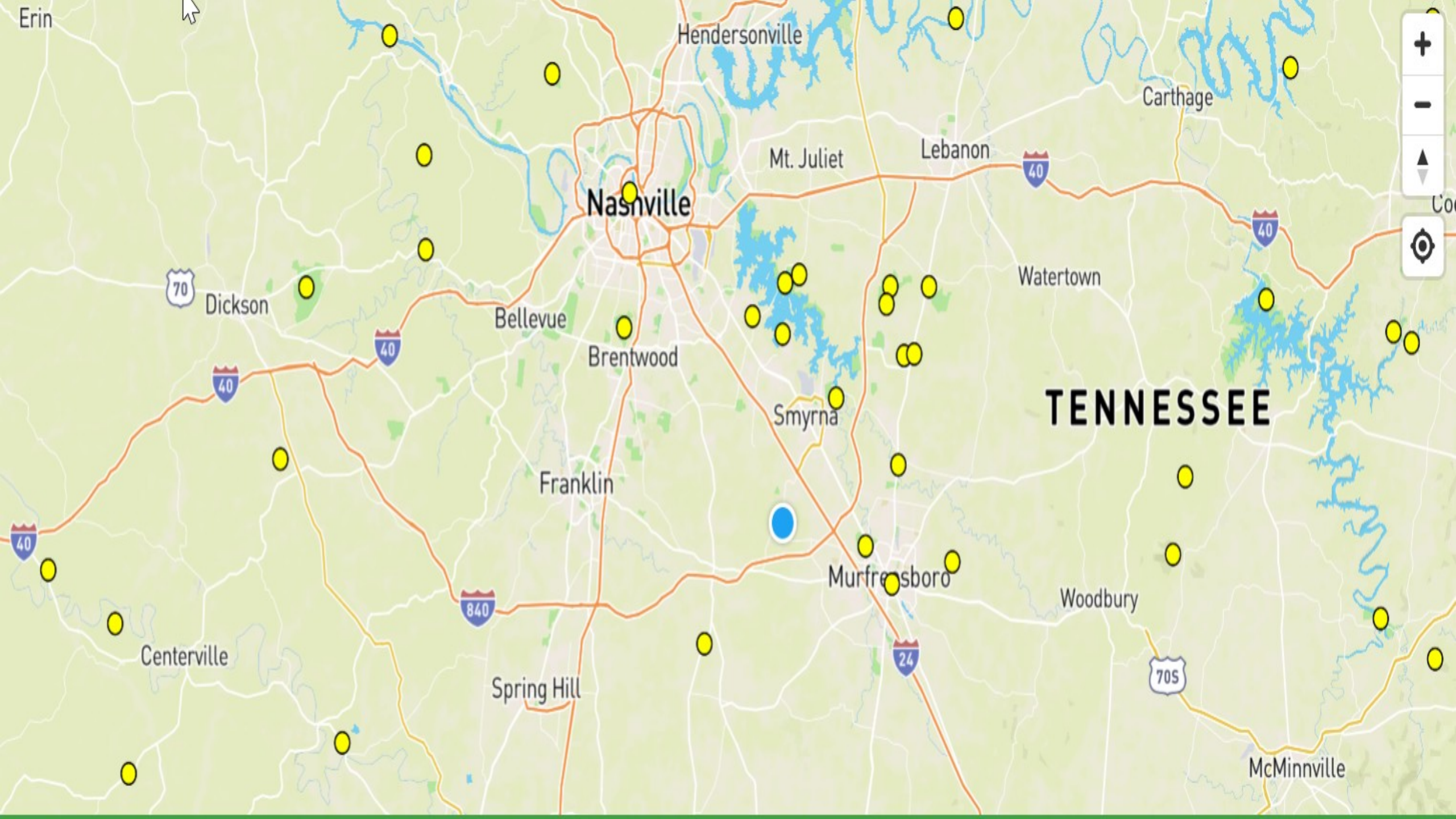
- ▶ POTA provides the opportunity to experience many aspects of amateur radio
 - ▶ Field day / portable operations
 - ▶ Experimenting with antennas, power sources, radios, etc.
 - ▶ Awards chasing
 - ▶ Managing large pileups
 - ▶ QRP operation
 - ▶ Using all bands and modes
 - ▶ Making friends
 - ▶ Enjoying the beauty of nature while operating

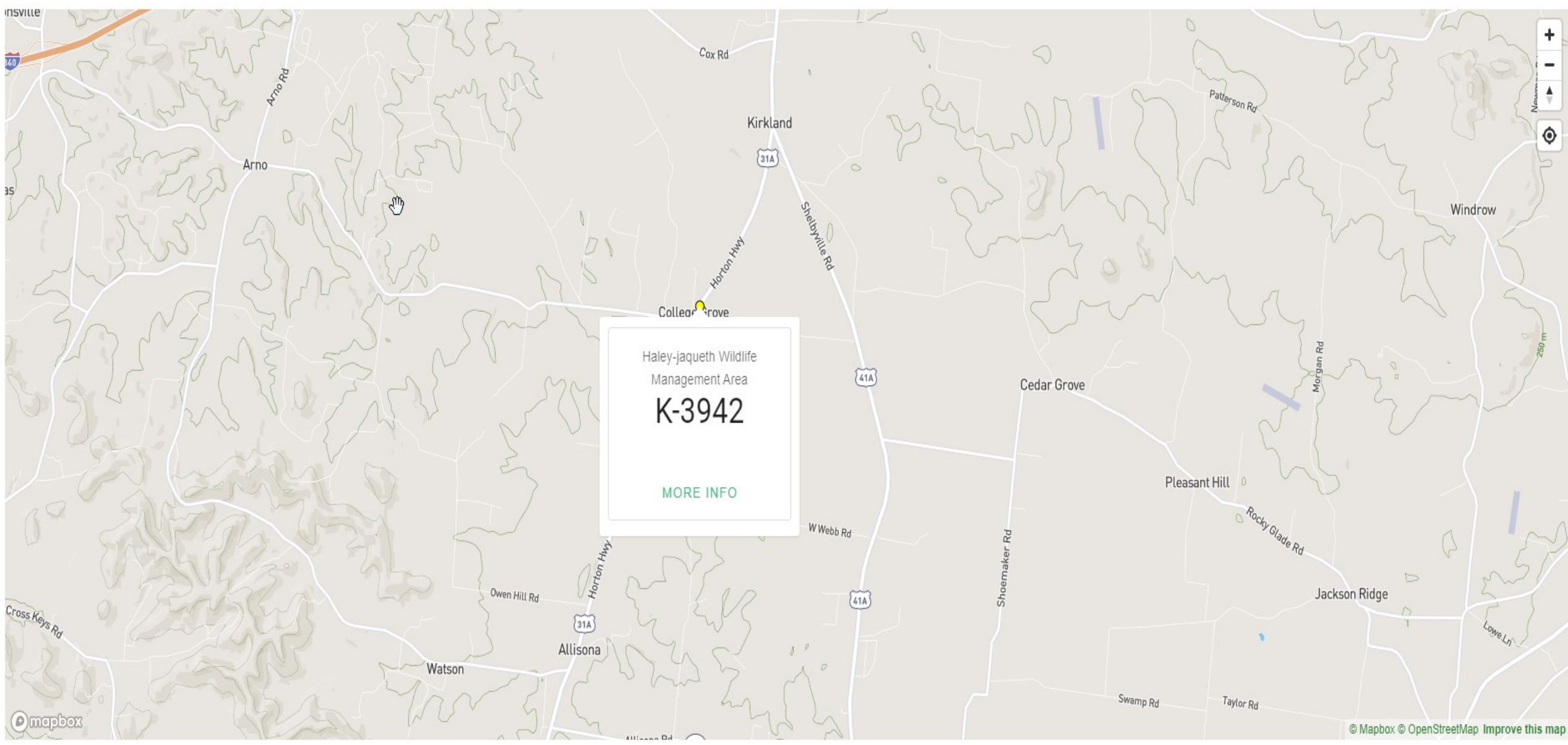
What is considered a Park?

- ▶ National Parks
- ▶ National Forests
- ▶ National Battlefields
- ▶ National Wildlife Refuges
- ▶ National Historic Sites
- ▶ National Historic Trails
- ▶ State Parks
- ▶ State Forests
- ▶ State Historic Sites
- ▶ State Wildlife Management Areas
- ▶ State Natural Areas
- ▶ There are more....

WHERE is Parks on the Air?

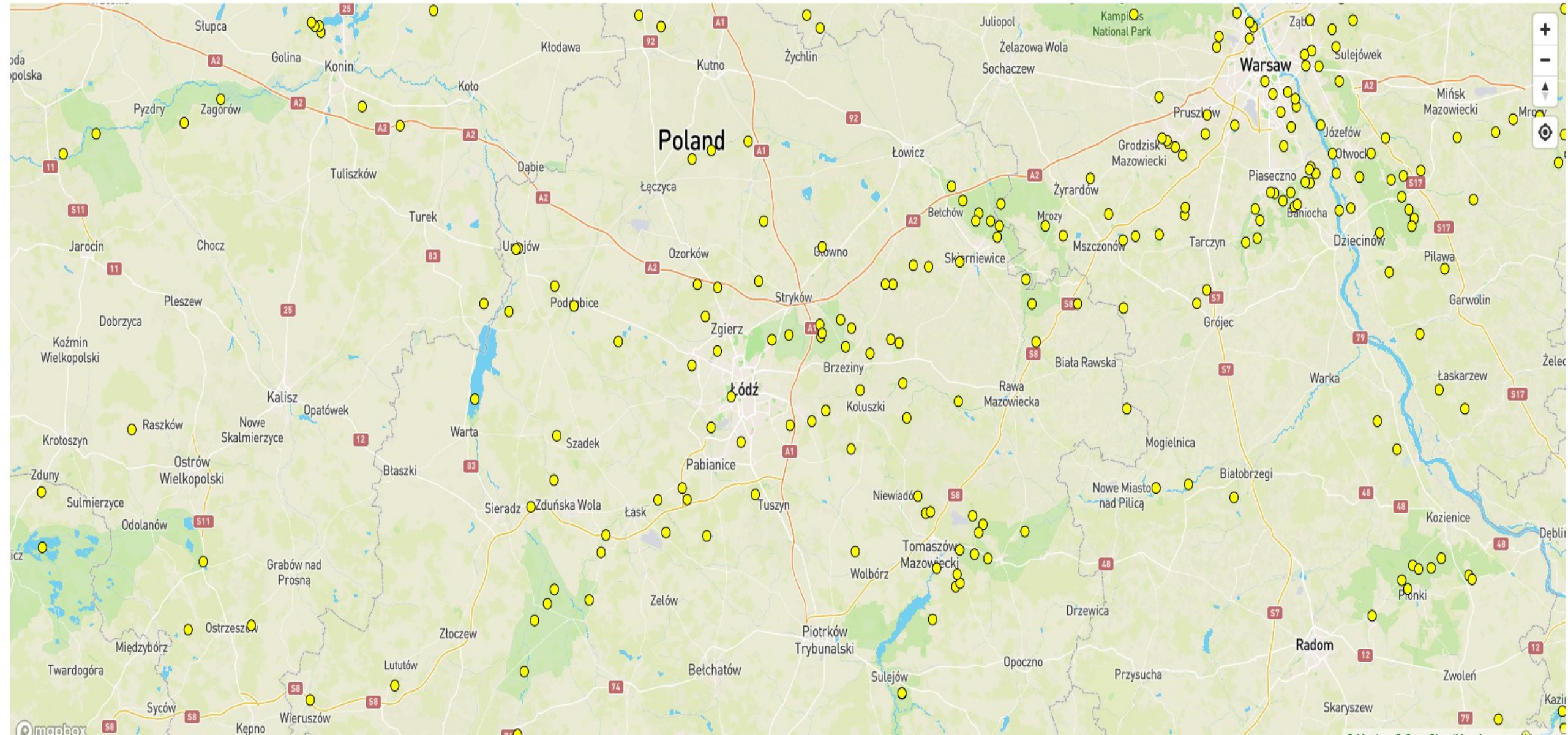
- ▶ Argentina
- ▶ Australia
- ▶ Canada
- ▶ Colombia
- ▶ Costa Rica
- ▶ Croatia
- ▶ Cyprus
- ▶ Dominican Republic
- ▶ England
- ▶ Federal Republic of Germany
- ▶ France
- ▶ Greece
- ▶ Indonesia
- ▶ Italy
- ▶ Japan
- ▶ Malaysia
- ▶ Mexico
- ▶ Netherlands
- ▶ New Zealand
- ▶ Panama
- ▶ Poland
- ▶ Portugal
- ▶ Singapore
- ▶ South Korea
- ▶ Thailand
- ▶ USA
- ▶ Wales





🌐 DXCC Entity

🌐 Location (State / Province / Region / Area)



How do you POTA?

- ▶ First step is to register at the www.parksontheair.com website
- ▶ There is a very active Facebook group also with over 7500 members
- ▶ There is also a spotting page and multiple Slack channels
- ▶ There is a lot of helpful information on how to activate and how to chase

Data will automatically refresh every 60 seconds.

<div>W3LUZ @ K-5473</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>K-5473, Pinchot State Forest</div></div><div><div></div><div>US-PA</div></div><div><div></div><div>14315 kHz</div></div><div><div></div><div>N3RN</div></div><div><div></div><div>And 7.266 mHz</div></div><div><div></div><div>Last heard 4 mins ago at 14:32 UTC</div></div></div></div><div>RE-SPOT</div></div>	<div>K5DGR @ K-4642</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>K-4642, Twin Rivers State Forest</div></div><div><div></div><div>US-FL</div></div><div><div></div><div>14256 kHz</div></div><div><div></div><div>SELF</div></div><div><div></div><div>qsy: qrm clowns</div></div><div><div></div><div>Last heard 5 mins ago at 14:31 UTC</div></div></div></div><div>RE-SPOT</div></div>	<div>AC4SH @ K-2165</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>K-2165, A. H. Stephens State Park</div></div><div><div></div><div>US-GA</div></div><div><div></div><div>7282 kHz</div></div><div><div></div><div>KD9KNJ</div></div><div><div></div><div>Last heard 5 mins ago at 14:31 UTC</div></div></div></div><div>RE-SPOT</div></div>
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Today's Activations

<div>K7TYE @ K-4378</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Deschutes National Forest</div></div><div><div></div><div>K-4378, US-OR</div></div><div><div></div><div>20M 40M</div></div><div><div></div><div>2020-08-23 21:00 to 2020-08-27 19:00 UTC</div></div></div></div><div>Attempting my first POTA activation. Camping on Deschutes National Forest at Crescent Lake. Power will be 20 watts or less. May try other bands as well.</div></div>	<div>KG7JWD @ K-3191</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Fort Flagler State Park</div></div><div><div></div><div>K-3191, US-WA</div></div><div><div></div><div>40 20 15 17 10</div></div><div><div></div><div>2020-08-24 00:00 to 2020-08-26 00:00 UTC</div></div></div></div><div>Will be running QRP, trying various set-ups and locations and different days and times.</div></div>	<div>K4SWL @ K-2740</div> <div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Lake Norman State Park</div></div><div><div></div><div>K-2740, US-NC</div></div><div><div></div><div>7063</div></div><div><div></div><div>2020-08-25 13:00 to 2020-08-25 15:00 UTC</div></div></div></div><div>No spot information</div></div>
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Hunters

- ▶ Hunting parks is very simple – just call the activator
- ▶ The spotting pages make it simple to know when a park is active
- ▶ No logging required by the hunters – all logging is submitted by the activator
- ▶ The system takes the logs and credits the hunter for the contact
- ▶ Awards are generated automatically
- ▶ Hunting is a great way to get used to the exchange and activity, especially during a pileup

Activators

- ▶ There are a few rules which apply to activators
- ▶ The activator and all equipment must be located completely within the boundaries of the park or within 100 feet of a Trail
- ▶ A successful activation requires 10 contacts from that park during the same ZULU day. Hunters get credit for the park even if the activator gets less than 10 contacts
- ▶ All bands/modes are acceptable except for land based repeaters. Satellite contacts are valid.
- ▶ All contacts count towards the activation, not just those with POTA members. Chase some DX or participate in a contest while you are in the park



My Portable Station

- ▶ Icom 7300
- ▶ Bioenno 30 amp-hour LiFePo battery
- ▶ Wolf River Coil
- ▶ MFJ 1979 17 foot whip

Year

Click the column headers to sort

Show entries

Search:

Activator	Activations	Unique Parks	Total Contacts	
N4CD	1414	934	97672	(
KB3WAV	1761	540	71436	\$
KU8T	995	453	31144	.
N4MTE	517	433	16158	(
KC3RW	700	385	15966	.
N4EX	461	370	19489	.
K0BAK	666	346	27704	.
N2CX	556	320	15277	.
AB0O	351	311	10285	8
KN4MQR	368	297	8234	(
WT8J	392	286	13105	.

Awards



Awards

Stenogyne Kanehoana



That
Tom Suggs
N4MTE

has submitted proof of activating
400 unique reference areas
in the Parks on the Air program,
this certificate is hereby
presented in recognition of this
outstanding achievement.

400 *Activator Award*


Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

11/01/2020
Date

Photo: David Eickhoff via Wiki Commons

Georgia Aster



That
Tom Suggs
N4MTE

has submitted proof of working
800 unique reference areas
in the Parks on the Air program,
this certificate is hereby
presented in recognition of this
outstanding achievement.

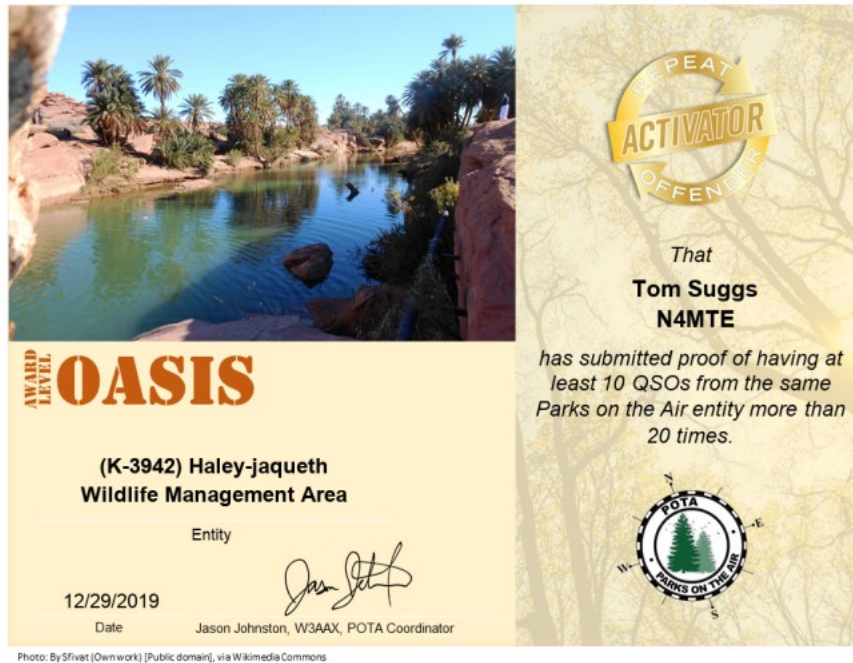
800 *Hunter Award*


Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

09/20/2020
Date

Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife via Wiki Commons

Awards



Resources

- ▶ www.parksontheair.com
- ▶ <https://pota.us>
- ▶ Facebook page
- ▶ Slack channels – info on main website

Video

- ▶ A few words from the stars of the upcoming video
- ▶ K4COM – Bill Jorgenson and WB5WAJ – Jeff Standifer
- ▶ Video produced by Cliff Batson