



# POTA ON!

A Beginners Guide to POTA

3-22-24

# What Exactly Is POTA?

- POTA stands for “Parks On the Air”
- **POTA** is a global initiative to activate and log parks and other natural places using amateur radio.
- It involves portable amateur radio operations that promote emergency awareness and communications from national/federal and state/provincial level parks.



# What Are the Benefits?

- Fresh Air
- Sunlight (Vitamin D)
- Meet New People
- Educate Folks About Amateur Radio
- Explore Our State Parks
- Low Noise Floor
- More Room to Install Antenna
- Emergency Comms While Camping





# What Does POTA Look Like?



# How Does It Work?

- Grab your favorite radio & antenna.
- Setup an account on <http://www.pota.app>.
- Pick your favorite verified park from the list on the website.
- Drive to said park, and setup your equipment.
- Post your park activation on <http://www.pota.app>.
- Call CQ and have a blast!
- Record all your contacts, then pack up and head home.
- Upload your log using <http://www.pota.app>.

# Basic POTA Setup

- Transceiver – Something lightweight or low power (<100watt).
  - Examples: Yaesu FT-891a, iCOM 7000, or Elecraft KX3
- Antenna – Pick your favorite.
  - Examples: Inverted-V, End-Fed Half-Wave, Vertical, Hamsticks
- Coax Cable – A short run (<25ft) of RG-8X works best.
- Battery – 12v LiFePO (Lithium Iron Phosphate)
  - Examples: Bioenno Power, Dakota Lithium
- Log Method (Paper, Laptop, etc.)
- Your Favorite Beverage



# What are the Rules?

- Good Question! *(Every game has rules, right?)*
- Make sure to give your park # when making a QSO.
- When finished, upload your logs on <http://www.pota.app>.
- Minimum of 10 contacts to count as an activation.
- People activating at other parks may contact you as well. Be sure to log their number for a “Park to Park” contact.
- **Most Important:** Have fun & be courteous.

# Antenna Notes

There are endless options, but you want something lightweight and easy to setup. Below are some things to consider...

- Inverted-V - Require a center mast and stakes to secure ends.
- Vertical – Easy setup, requires a tripod, can tip over easily.
- Hamsticks – Easy setup, needs a tripod or mag mount.
- End-Fed Half-Wave – Works great, multi-band, utilize local trees.
- BuddiPole – Higher take-off angle, multi-band, lightweight, very portable.



# Battery Notes

The size of battery you need depends on your duty cycle and how many watts you are running. 20ah is a good start for a 100w rig doing SSB. (You could go even smaller if doing CW or QRP).

## Remember Ohm's Law?

**Power (*in Watts*) = Current (*in Amps*) X Voltage (*in Volts*)**

**Battery Life (*in hours*) = Battery Capacity (*in Ah*) / Load Current (*in A*)**

# Equipment Links

- BuddiPole – <https://www.buddipole.com/>
- Wolf River Coil – <https://www.wolfrivercoils.com/>
- Bioenno Power – <https://www.bioennopower.com/>
- Dakota Lithium – <https://dakotalithium.com/>
- Pacific Antenna – <https://www.qrpkits.com/>
- SpiderBeam Fiberglass Masts - <https://spiderbeam.com/>
  
- DX Engineering – <http://www.dxengineering.com>
- Gigaparts – <http://www.gigaparts.com>
- Ham Radio Outlet – <http://www.hamradiooutlet.com>
- R&L Electronics – <http://www.randl.com>

**Cheers & Best Regards!**

*Hope to hear you on the air!*