PARKS ON THE AIR

KC7TAK & W7TEE

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What is Parks On The Air or POTA?

- It is <u>not</u> a contest.
- An opportunity to practice your radio skills in a different environment.
- Field Day everyday!
- Operate away from RF noise and HOA restrictions.
- Being the station that everyone wants to contact.
- Practice handing pileups and passing information.
- Enjoying nature and radio at the same time.
- A chance to bring amateur radio into the public and display our capabilities.
- Most importantly it's FUN!

History

- In 2010 the original Parks On The Air began. The intent was to get folks outdoors and to combine the great outdoors with our amateur radio hobby.

- In 2016 the ARRL launched a one year program called NPOTA to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park system.

- This event was very popular and many wanted it to continue.

History

- In 2018 a group formally launched a non profit organization to keep Parks on the Air going.

- Now only 6 years later it's grown to be a very popular past time world wide.

- More than 11,000 parks in the USA are included in this program.

- In Oregon we currently have 343 parks to visit.

- Clackamas County currently has ~18 parks.

parksontheair.com

7-Day Forecast for...   QRZ.COM   New Tab   Venison Chili Recip...   Personal Weather S...   Request - ryan.pote...   Volkswagen Jetta M...

Maps of Entities   Help/Getting Started   Login   Awards   POTA Scheduler   POTA Spots   Shop

Contact Us

New to the program? Check out Help/Getting Started in the menu above for rules and guides for participating.

Over 500,000 unique hunter call signs (participants)!! Thanks ALL POTA volunteers! 73 W3AAX

Parks on the Air ®

Welcome to the **Parks on the Air ® (POTA)** site for international
portable amateur radio operations that promote emergency

Support Parks on the Air

Please consider making a
contribution to defray our
overhead costs and keep our

POTA APP and Website

- https://pota.app/#/   parksontheair.com

Hunter

- You can hunt all hours of the day and from the comfort of your home QTH.

- Logging is not a requirement for hunters.

- Without hunters there would be far less stations to contact.

- You can earn awards for hunting.

Getting Started for Hunters

Hunters are the individuals located anywhere, who contact the activators in the park. As a hunter, the rules are few and simple.

- Follow the law.
- Follow the DX Code of Conduct.
- Follow the Golden Rule.

The first place to start as a hunter is to head to https://pota.app. The home page you land on will be the spotting page, which lets you know who is on the air, what parks they are in, and what frequencies and modes they are currently operating on. Spin the dial, and answer their call if you can hear them. If you make a contact, you've officially started in POTA! That's all there is to it!

While at https://pota.app, click the "sign up" button to create an account, which will let you see your progress towards certificates and awards based on the logs that the activators you contacted submit. POTA is on the honor system, based exclusively on activator logs, so as a hunter, you don't have to lift a finger (Other than the one that hits your key or PTT!).

Getting Started for Activators

Activators are the individuals that pack up their portable gear and head out to a park, and set up a station. After you've done some hunting, you might want to take a shot at activating. The rules for activators are still fairly simple:

- Follow the law

Activator

- Activating takes some planning.

- It's your event, you run the activation however works best for you.

- Logging the contacts is your responsibility.

- 10 contacts are required to have a "successful activation".

- You can earn awards for activating.
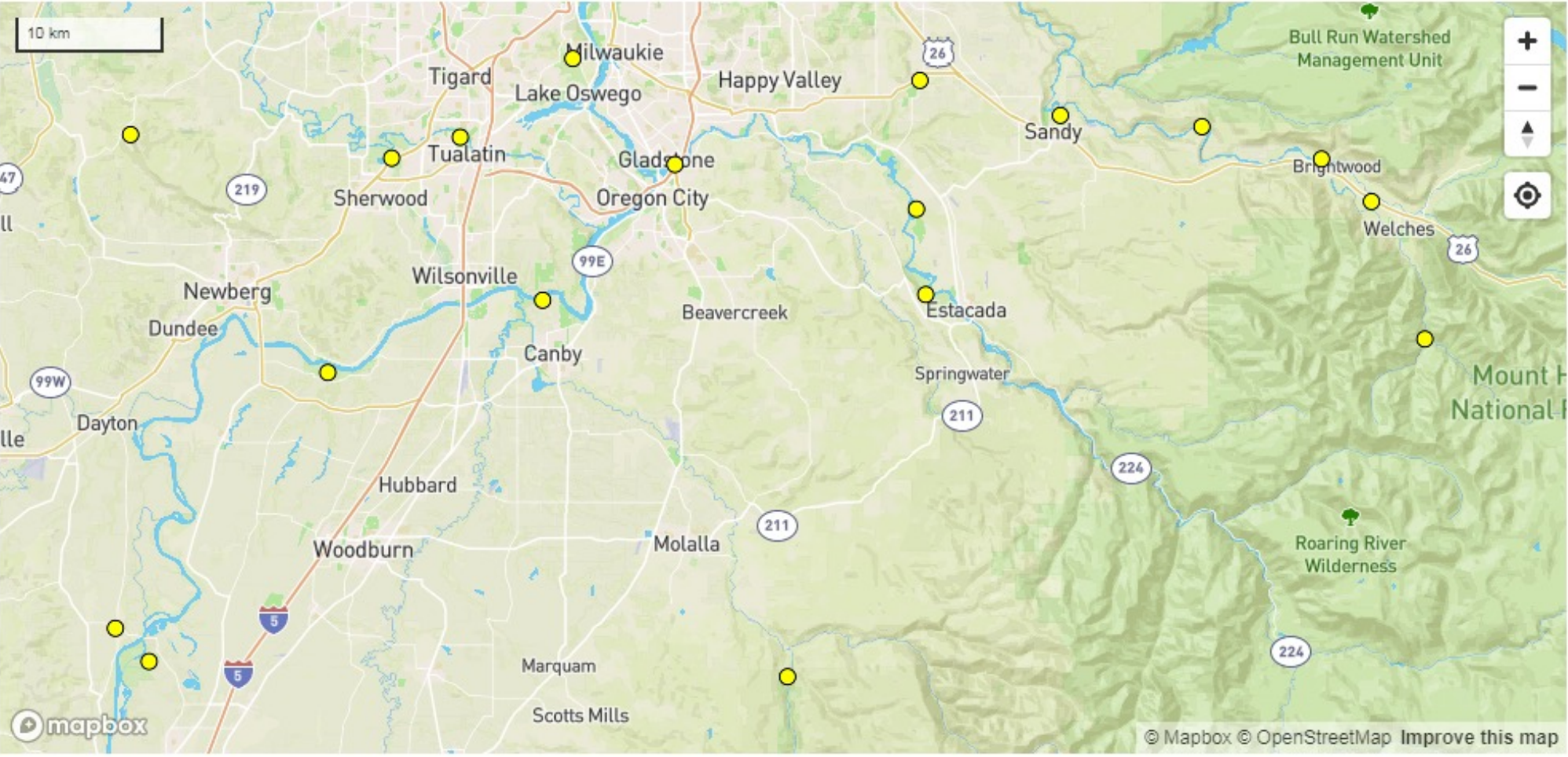
Parks on the Air

Getting Started for Activators

Activators are the individuals that pack up their portable gear and head out to a park, and set up a station. After you've done some hunting, you might want to take a shot at activating. The rules for activators are still fairly simple:

- Follow the law

- Follow the DX Code of Conduct

- Follow the Golden Rule

- Leave no trace

- Follow any instructions from park rangers you encounter

- Be courteous of the public space you are using

- You must have an account registered at https://pota.app

- You and all your equipment must be within the boundaries of the park(s)

- You must submit an ADIF log after your activation is complete.

- Follow the Rules detailed here (docs.pota.app)

Once familiar with the rules, head to the map https://pota.app/#/map. Allow location services to quickly zoom to your location, or use the drop-downs to choose an entity and location. The yellow dots are approximate locations of parks in your area. Check official sources (park websites etc.) and ensure you are within the park's boundary.

Once you've chosen a location in the park, set up your gear, find a quiet frequency, and start calling CQ. While doing your initial CQ calls, you'll want to head to https://pota.app and click the button to add a spot. Once you've spotted yourself, the hunters will probably come fast and

☰ ◉ Milo McIver State Park   ◉   🗓   +👤 SIGN UP   ⊡ SIGN IN

Milo McIver State Park

Reference:	K-2843
Entity:	United States Of America
Location(s):	US-OR
Latitude / Longitude:	45.2986, -122.371 (CN85th)
Early Shift Award Times:	10:00 UTC to 16:00 UTC
Late Shift Award Times:	2:00 UTC to 10:00 UTC
Website:	https://stateparks.oregon.gov/index.cfm?do=p...
Access Methods:	Automobile Boat Foot
Activation Methods:	Automobile Campground Pedestrian Shelter

Activations

Date	Callsign	CW	Data	Phone	Total QSOs
2024-02-24	◉ KC7TAK	36	0	0	36
2024-02-19	◉ KJ7RPL	45	0	14	59
2024-02-19	◉ KK7HAK	0	0	16	16

GO Bond funds improve 8 state parks — read more ✕

OREGON STATE PARKS®

☰   🔍   ♡ Donate

Plan your trip to an Oregon State Park

I want to visit for the day ☀   **I want to stay overnight** 'Λ

What park or city will you be near?   ▾

| Biking | Boating | Fishing | Hiking | Horse Riding | Swimming (unsupervised) |

Wildlife and Birding
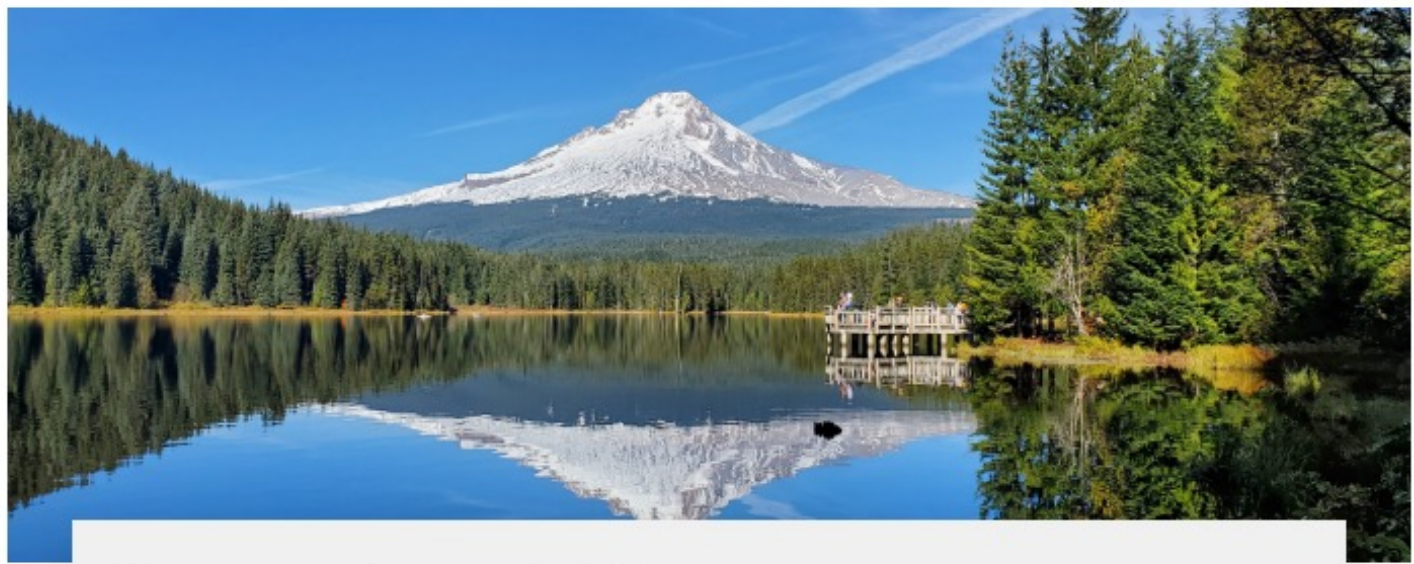
OREGON HISTORY
CHAMPOEG

This area, once named tchampuick, the 'place of yampah' was the traditional homeland of the Tualatin Kalapuya tribe. Fur trappers first arrived here by canoe in 1811, and they found lush open prairies bordering the Willamette River. In 1830, French-Canadians retiring from the Hudson's Bay Company and their Indian wives began farms and raised families near here. Champoeg soon became a shipping and commercial center. In 1851, local tribes and the U.S. government negotiated six treaties at this location; all went unratified by Congress. A thriving town existed here until the flood of 1861 swept away all the buildings. It is also the memorial site of the May 2, 1843, meeting of the "inhabitants of the Willamette settlements" who formed a provisional government, the first American government on the Pacific coast.

🇺🇸 An official website of the United States government Here's how you know ⌄

USDA 🌲 **Forest Service**
Caring For the Land and Serving People

Mt. Hood National Forest

Forest Service Home | About the Agency | Contact the National Office | Inside the FS

Home | Visit Us ⌄ | Managing the Land ⌄ | Learn ⌄ | Working With Us ⌄ | About Us ⌄ | Keyword Search 🔍

Recreation

Fire Danger TODAY

| LOW | IFPL I |

Fire Information & Restrictions

Alerts & Warnings

Avalanches on Mt. Hood

Forest Roads Conditions

Sno-Park Permits required Nov. 1 thru Apr. 30

Road closures on Barlow Ranger District

Road closures on Clackamas River Ranger

Discover an Area by Activity

Select an activity to find an area to visit.

Field Deployment

- Always check for park or pass requirements.
- Oregon State Park fees and yearly passes. Day use $5 Yearly $30. USFS – NW Forest Pass, snow park, etc.
- Check park hours and restrictions.
- Where do you set up at the park?
- Out of the way of other park visitors. Share the space that we all own and love.
- Find a nice spot in the shade or with the best view.
- The park ranger has the final say.
- Historic sites may prevent driving stakes in the ground or attaching antennas to trees.
- Dogs and small children may be curious so be prepared if they stop by.

Field Deployment

- Safety considerations – The general public doesn't know what you're doing and what to watch out for.

- Flag or cone off wires, coax, etc. when appropriate.

- Remember RF safety distances from the unaware park goers.

- Park activation zone- "You and all your equipment must be within the boundaries of the park(s)."

Equipment Considerations

- Radio – Home rig, something small and portable, QRP?
- Antenna – Simple wire dipoles, small telescoping verticals, ham sticks,etc.
- Power source – Battery, generator, vehicle powered. If powered from you car, make sure you can still drive home. Remember proper wiring techniques. Fuses, wire gauge, Andersons are best.
- Logging – Computer, paper, phone APPs. Paper doesn't need batteries and always works.

Creature Comforts

- Table and chairs - The more comfortable you are, the longer you can stay in the park. Many locations will have picnic tables. But sometimes the best view requires your own furniture.
- Sun shade or Tent – Limit your exposure to the elements. Don't cause yourself an emergency situation.
- Beverages – Stay hydrated.
- Snacks – PCT, those folks will eat or drink anything.
- Blankets or extra clothing.
- Flash lights, USB adapters, phone chargers.
- Extra writing utensils, paper.
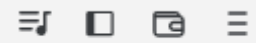- Not all parks have bathroom facilities.

Spotting

- POTA App self spot.
- Spotting can be scheduled before you leave the house.
- It's generally easy to tell once you've been spotted.
- Spotting others to help them out. Especially when they do not have internet/cell service.
- Re spot – Be sure you spot the information accurately.
- Reverse Beacon Network – RBN CW spotting.

Logging Process

▪ The exchange – Date, UTC time, callsign, band, mode. These are the only data points required for POTA logging.

▪ Park to Park – Log Park#

▪ Export ADIF file from your own logging software then upload to the POTA website, or manually enter contacts from the beta manual log entry.

7-Day Forecast for...　　QRZ.COM　　New Tab　　Venison Chili Recip...　　Personal Weather S...　　Request - ryan.pote...　　Volkswagen Jetta M...

☰ 🔆 My Log Uploads

KC7TAK

Upload Activation Logs

🛟 REQUEST SUPPORT

📎 | Click here or drag and drop to upload ADIF logs from your activation |

0 files (0 B in total)

All files must be compliant with the ADIF specification, see https://adif.org. Please refer to the ADIF for POTA Technical Reference for a list of required ADIF fields.

Need help? See the Submitting Logs section of the POTA Activator Reference or contact the support team by clicking the Request Support button.

Prefer to log on paper?　📝 MANUAL LOG ENTRY BETA

⚠ Once your log is processed, it may take up to 24 hours for your logbook and stats to fully reflect your uploaded QSOs. Most awards are granted within a few days, but some awards may take a few weeks.

Thank you for being patient!

Uploaded Logs　　　　　　　　　Show All　Search

Public Relations

- Remember to be an ambassador to our great hobby and community service.

- Be approachable and show interest in telling others about the hobby and POTA.

- Keep it simple and low tech. Avoid too much jargon if possible.

Awards

- Wall paper opportunities.
- Measure your progress.
- You start to recognize stations just like when contesting or participating in nets.
- The POTA site keeps track of all your awards and you can print from the site.
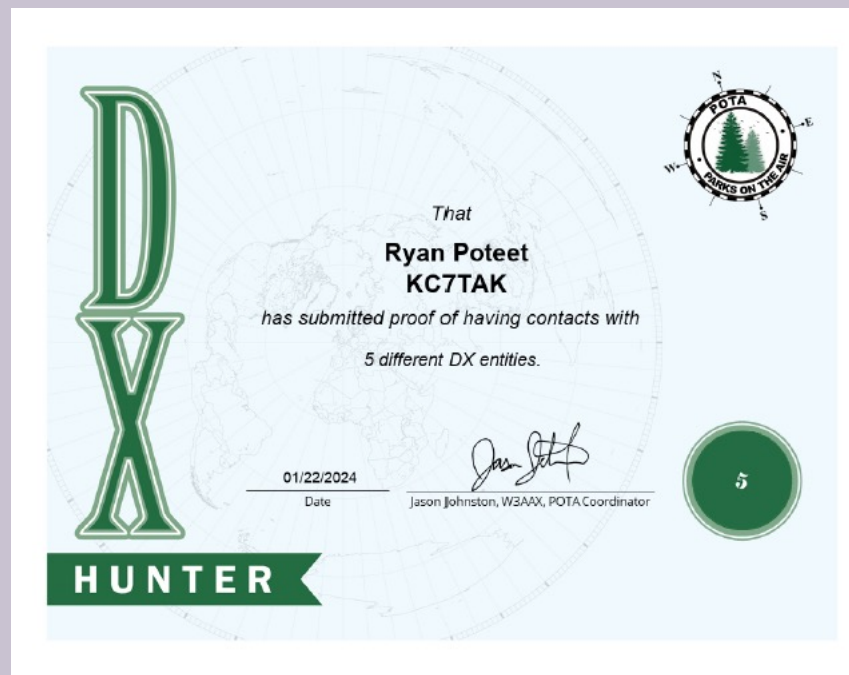
POTA Yearly Events

Official Events

Curious about our "Official" Parks on the Air events? Currently POTA has 5 offical events throughout the year, as detailed below.

Events start at 0000 UTC and end 2359 UTC on the days listed:

New Year's Week

First full week of the new year

Casual contacts to help ring in the new year!

Support Your Parks

This event happens seasonally, on the 3rd full weekend of the month (Saturday & Sunday UTC). These are 'activity weekends' where the main purpose is to get out in the parks, and have as much fun as possible.

Winter - 3rd Full Weekend of January.
Spring - 3rd Full Weekend of April.
Summer - 3rd Full Weekend of July.
Autumn - 3rd Full Weekend of October.

Advanced Topics

- Multi Parks
- Working P2P
- Dual and triple ops.
- Early shift
- Late shift
- Rover
- Band propagation report
- Frequencies to avoid – Maritime mobile 14.300 etc.
- Working the locals
- Kilo and challenging awards - N1CC 10 different bands from 10 different parks.
- Parks on the Air (POTA) Facebook group

The Considerate Operator's Frequency Guide

The following frequencies are generally recognized for certain modes or activities (all frequencies are in MHz) during normal conditions. These are not regulations and occasionally a high level of activity, such as during a period of emergency response, DXpedition or contest, may result in stations operating outside these frequency ranges.

Nothing in the rules recognizes a net's, group's or any individual's special privilege to any specific frequency. Section 97.101(b) of the Rules states that "Each station licensee and each control operator must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the amateur service frequencies. No frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station." No one "owns" a frequency.

It's good practice — and plain old common sense — for any operator, regardless of mode, to check to see if the frequency is in use prior to engaging operation. If you are there first, other operators should make an effort to protect you from interference to the extent possible, given that 100% interference-free operation is an unrealistic expectation in today's congested bands.

Frequencies	Modes/Activities
1.800-2.000	CW
1.800-1.810	Digital Modes
1.810	CW QRP calling frequency
1.843-2.000	SSB, SSTV and other wideband modes
1.910	SSB QRP
1.995-2.000	Experimental
1.999-2.000	Beacons
3.500-3.510	CW DX window
3.560	QRP CW calling frequency
3.570-3.600	RTTY/Data
3.585-3.600	Automatically controlled data stations
3.590	RTTY/Data DX
3.790-3.800	DX window
3.845	SSTV
3.885	AM calling frequency
3.985	QRP SSB calling frequency
7.030	QRP CW calling frequency
7.040	RTTY/Data DX
7.070-7.125	RTTY/Data
7.100-7.105	Automatically controlled data stations
7.171	SSTV
7.173	D-SSTV
7.285	QRP SSB calling frequency
7.290	AM calling frequency
10.130-10.140	RTTY/Data
10.140-10.150	Automatically controlled data stations
14.060	QRP CW calling frequency
14.070-14.095	RTTY/Data
14.095-14.0995	Automatically controlled data stations
14.100	IBP/NCDXF beacons
14.1005-14.112	Automatically controlled data stations
14.230	SSTV

Frequencies	Modes/Activities
14.233	D-SSTV
14.236	Digital Voice
14.285	QRP SSB calling frequency
14.286	AM calling frequency
18.100-18.105	RTTY/Data
18.105-18.110	Automatically controlled data stations
18.110	IBP/NCDXF beacons
18.162.5	Digital Voice
21.060	QRP CW calling frequency
21.070-21.110	RTTY/Data
21.090-21.100	Automatically controlled data stations
21.150	IBP/NCDXF beacons
21.340	SSTV
21.385	QRP SSB calling frequency
24.920-24.925	RTTY/Data
24.925-24.930	Automatically controlled data stations
24.930	IBP/NCDXF beacons
28.060	QRP CW calling frequency
28.070-28.120	RTTY/Data
28.120-28.189	Automatically controlled data stations
28.190-28.225	Beacons
28.200	IBP/NCDXF beacons
28.385	QRP SSB calling frequency
28.680	SSTV
29.000-29.200	AM
29.300-29.510	Satellite downlinks
29.520-29.580	Repeater inputs
29.600	FM simplex
29.620-29.680	Repeater outputs

ARRL band plans for frequencies above 28.300 MHz are shown in *The ARRL Repeater Directory* and on **www.arrl.org**.

Location and proximity are estimated.
Sort Timezone [America/New_York ▾] Grid Square [_____] [Get] [Clear]
☐ 80m ☐ 40m ☐ 20m ☐ 17m ☐ 15m ☐ 10m ☐ 6m ☐ 2m ☐ 70cm ☐ 33cm ☐ 23cm [Update]

Hours to look ahead [1 ▾] [Search]

Upcoming

Name	Band	Frequency	Mode	Start Time	End Time
ONTARS NET (www) (hnd)	80m	3 755 000	SSB	07:00	18:00
Maritime Mobile Service Network (www) (hnd)	20m	14 300 000	SSB	12:00	22:00
The 68 GROUP (www) (hnd)	40m	7 268 000	SSB	15:00	17:00
Southbears (www) (hnd)	40m	7 260 000	SSB	15:00	16:00
International Bible Study Net (www) (hnd)	20m	14 322 500	SSB	15:00	16:00
OMISS Net (www) (hnd)	17m	18 158 000	SSB	15:00	16:00
220 @ 320p: (G | D) (rb) (hnd)		223 920 000	FM	15:20	16:20
Drake Technical Net (www) (hnd)	40m	7 238 000	SSB	16:00	17:00
California American					

Current

Name	Band	Frequency	Mode	Start Time	End Time
ONTARS NET (www) (hnd)	80m	3 755 000	SSB	07:00	18:00
Southbears (www) (hnd)	40m	7 260 000	SSB	15:00	16:00
The 68 GROUP (www) (hnd)	40m	7 268 000	SSB	15:00	17:00
Maritime Mobile Service Network (www) (hnd)	20m	14 300 000	SSB	12:00	22:00
International Bible Study Net (www) (hnd)	20m	14 322 500	SSB	15:00	16:00
OMISS Net (www) (hnd)	17m	18 158 000	SSB	15:00	16:00
220 @ 320p: (G | D) (rb) (hnd)		223 920 000	FM	15:20	16:20

Remember to Have Fun!