

MY POTA Activation

Savi W1SAV

Lake Perris State Recreation Area

K-3457 attempted on June 4th, 2023

ACTIVATION

12

CONTACTS

4

P2Ps

1

PREVIOUS

ACTIVATIONS

0

MODE

SSB

RADIO

Yaesu FT-891

ANTENNA

Chameleon MPAS 2.0 in the vertical configuration on a 5-foot tripod.

POWER

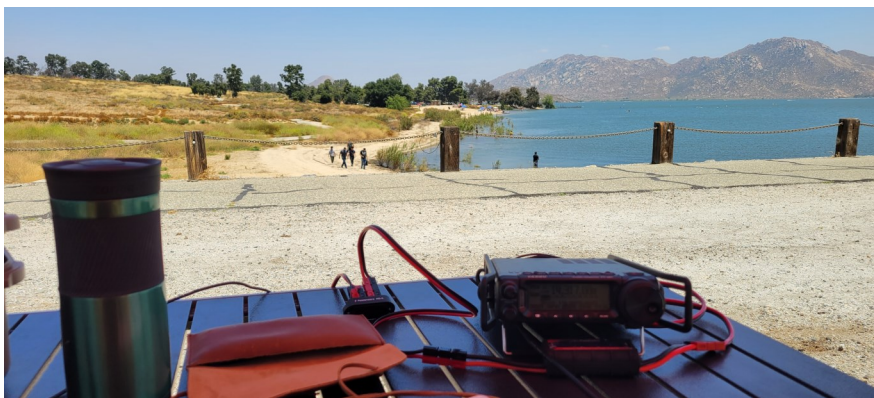
100W using a 30Ah Bioenno battery with solar panels.

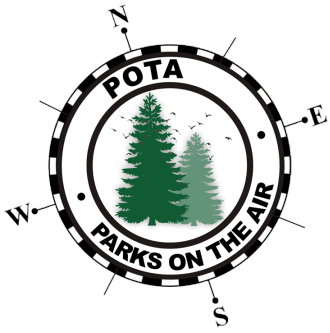


So, it happened again. I went with my son, Rigel, to Lake Perris State Recreation Area so he could do some fishing and, while he was at it, take advantage of doing a POTA activation. Four out of ten needed contacts do not an activation make. However, the whole point of this was to spend time with Rigel so being separated by a mile would defeat the purpose of being together. Consequently, the location where I set up was not conducive to making many contacts.

To stay close to my son, I set up about 500 feet from the northern most point of the dam itself where we could both see each other. This point was not the highest point of the park. Consequently, my results were as expected. As a dad, I enjoy seeing Rigel enjoying himself and that counts as a win for me.

First, there was the wind. Although not strong, gusts had enough force to make my light pop-up roll into the lake, so I lashed it to the heavy chains lining the top of the dam itself. There was no way I was going to pound a stake into the ground for the antenna, so I





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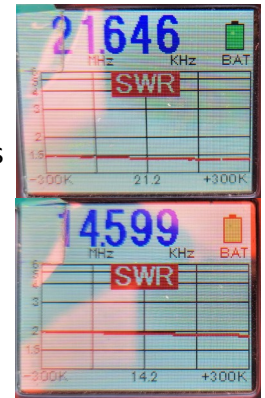
About K-3457

Hidden among rock-studded hills, Lake Perris State Recreation Area's 8,800 acres of broad valley are bounded on three sides by low ridges. The Bernasconi Hills and the Russell, Apuma, and Armada Mountains obscure the view of nearby cities. Inland, the San Bernardino, San Jacinto, and Santa Rosa Mountains, snowcapped in winter months, stand tall in the distance. The area boasts a rich variety of terrains, habitats, and wildlife. Lake Perris is located about 65 miles south of Los Angeles and 11 miles southeast of Riverside. The lake's clean white beaches, enticing blue waters,



used a tripod. However, because of the wind and the 19-foot antenna I added about 30 pounds of rocks to the cradle I got for just that purpose. This cradle hangs from the legs of the tripod giving it great stability, so much so that there were no issues with the antenna during the gusts. That was a win.

My SWRs on 15 and 20 meters and both were acceptable; 1.5 and 1.9 respectively and decided not to use an antenna tuner. Once I got started, however, there was no activity on 15M that I could detect. After calling CQ for a while with no response, I switched to 20M. Still, looking around me at the crestlines I was not holding out much hope. It was about 45 minutes after I started that I got a response.

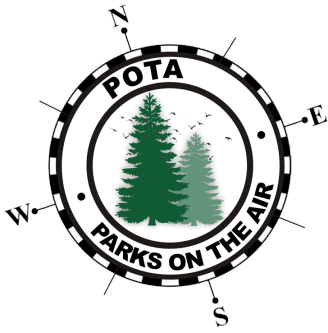


To make it even better, it was a two-fer! Okay, this was a good start, but it was not an omen for things to come, unfortunately. I persevered.

I got two other contacts by the time Rigel came back to join me. He was tired from being in the sun, and like the other fishermen around him, also did not catch



anything. Yes, POTA and fishing have a lot of similarities; being outdoors, breathing fresh air, seeing the beauty of nature, and the peace and quiet to name a few.



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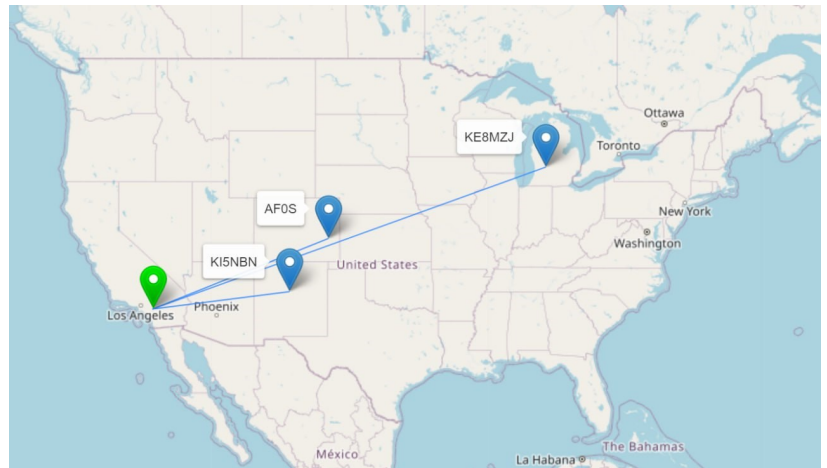
and rocky Alessandro Island bring nearly one million visitors from surrounding communities each year.

Activities in this popular park include fishing, water sports, bird watching, hiking, rock climbing, camping, horseback riding, and visiting the Ya'i Heki' (pronounced yahee ehkey) Regional Indian Museum.

Unlike fishing as he states, it's not all about catching the fish. That last part, of course, does not apply to a POTA activation!

Upon Rigel's return I continued calling CQ for about another half-hour before I went QRT with four contacts, and one was a two-fer. Once I got back home, I saw the HAMRS map and realized all the contacts were in a thin slice of the compass from my location. Evidently my signal escaped through a saddle in the crestline which opened a 30-degree wedge for contacts. That is what happens when 98% of the horizon blocks your emissions.

I did everything right as far as my setup is concerned; SWRs, antenna, ground (my coax), counterpoise, battery with solar, etc. Unlike the real



estate creed of "location, location, location", I admit I was in a bad spot. But you must remember that I was there to be with my son, and not the other way around. No regrets.

These After-Action Reports (AAR) will continue to document my POTA activities; the good, the bad, and the ugly. If for no other reason than to give non-activators an insight into the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of an activator. Maybe one day I will get an activation with over 25 contacts. For now, I guess I will just have to keep on activating.

Ciao for niao...

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