

MY POTA Activation

Savi W1SAV

Santa Susana Pass State Historical Park
K-3564 activated on August 11th, 2023

ACTIVATION

15

CONTACTS

10

P2Ps

1

PREVIOUS ACTIVATIONS

None

MODE

SSB

RADIO

Yaesu FT-891

TUNER

LDG Electronics Z-100
Plus Autotuner

ANTENNA

Chameleon MPAS 2.0
in the vertical configuration staked in the ground.

POWER

100W using a 30Ah
Bioenno battery and
40W solar panels.



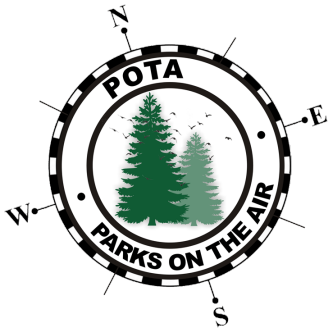
I purposely left the house later in the day so I could time the opening of the band around 1300, which included an early lunch, driving, and set-up time. My drive to the park was about 45 minutes or so. That timing was also done to avoid LA's rush hour, which seems to stretch for hours. The sky was overcast as I left Alhambra only to be greeted by a beautiful cloudless, sunny sky at the park. There was a slight breeze as I arrived, but more importantly, the spot for which I was looking was empty, promising a cool day. Score! My target was a huge maple(?) tree that acted as a 20-to-30-foot diameter shade umbrella. Life is good.

Once I had my antenna set up, I checked the SWRs to see if I needed to use my tuner. As it turned out, my 20m readings showed a flat line with an almost perfect match. My 15m trace was flat as well but hovered right at the 1.5:1 level.

Both bands would be good-to-go without a tuner. Nice. As fate would have it and not missing a sense of humor, all contacts were made on the 15m band: except one, go figure.

There were several cars in the parking lot, but no one paid me any heed. Essentially, I was alone the entire time at the park, and I didn't have to worry about any "radio sounds" dis-





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About K-3564

This historic park, located in Los Angeles County where the Simi Hills meet the Santa Susana Mountains, is rich in natural, historical and cultural significance.

Here in the western part of the Transverse Ranges, the land is dominated by high, narrow ridges and deep canyons covered with an abundant variety of plant life. The park offers panoramic views of the rugged natural landscape as a striking contrast to the developed communities nearby.

Until trails are established and marked by California State Parks, please help us preserve the unique natural and cultural

turbing anyone. My activation was leisurely and slow-paced providing ample time to enjoy my Mexican coffee, that is coffee brewed with a little cinnamon.



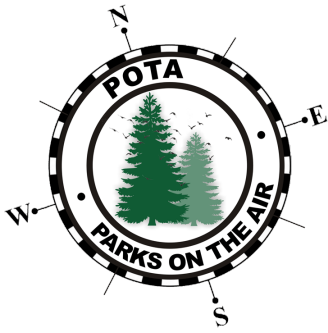
As it turned out, the first contact I made was in Colorado and it was the only one made on 20m. I continued to suffer with noise on the band along with a conspicuous absence of

hunters. I could hear rag chews and such, but my 20 minutes of trying to lure hunters was for naught. That condition cemented my decision to move to Plan B; the 15m band.

The leisurely pace I mentioned earlier was not by design as Mother Nature had a hand in that. The noise was persistent, and it made it difficult to pull voices out of the surf. I had many repeats and but no “call-back-later” moments. There was only one contact that responded to my QRZ so calling “CQ POTA” was the norm for the day. It’s so nice that my radio has built-in message recording and on-air playback because it does save the voice.

Something else that helped Mother Nature cool my heels was my location. I was situated in the middle of a horseshoe of rocks, dirt, and mountains. The only direction clear of obstructions in my immediate location was the east. Except for Colorado and Virginia, all my contacts were south of the Mason-Dixon line. I ex-





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features of Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park and observe the following:

Hike only on safe pathways. Veering onto untrodden areas destroys the natural environment and increases your chances of coming into contact with poison oak, rattlesnakes and ticks.

pected this outcome, however, what I did not expect was so few hunters in the southern half of the country. So, yeah, propagation is a thing!

My tendency is to stay on one band when I activate. I do this because I use HAMRS for POTA logging and it does not have CAT control. I made the mistake of band-hopping one

time and lost the frequencies of several contacts. Therefore, changing frequencies is a considered act for me, not to mention the triple-checking of the radio's frequency into HAMRS. Having said that, it is still

much easier for me to use HAMRS than to log by hand and transcribe later. What I do instead, however, is to clean and prepare my data for uploading to POTA and the online logbooks foregoing any transcription errors. Yeap, I've done that too.

So, I only got 10 contacts this time. I did meet the requirement for a valid activation, so I am good with that. Would I have preferred to sweat and have it pour down my forehead and back handling a huge pile-up? Of course, I do. However, patience goes a long way in enjoying the hobby. I was outside under the shade of a huge tree, cool wind in my hair, warm smell of colitas rising up...wait! I was in California, just not in a hotel. The point is I enjoyed myself and, in the process, I activated a park. Ten other people benefited from the activation as well. It was a good day.

