

MY POTA Activation

Savi W1SAV

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

K-3451 activated on September 1st, 2023

ACTIVATION

16

CONTACTS

82

P2Ps

3

PREVIOUS ACTIVATIONS

1

MODE

SSB

RADIO

Yaesu FT-891

TUNER

LDG Electronics Z-100
Plus Autotuner

ANTENNA

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

POWER

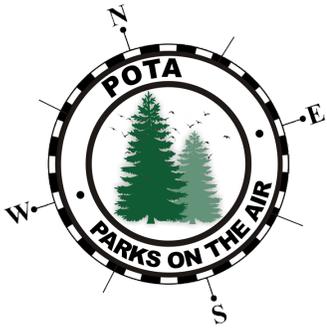
50W using a 30Ah
Bioenno battery.



After the initial haze of the morning, the sky turned clear with a beautiful azure sky. The weather app said the high temperature would be 80 degrees at home. Considering Kenneth Hann SRA is on the crest of a hill, I expected the highs to be a little less. The spot I returned to has four trees surrounding a cement picnic table. I was looking forward to the shade I had the last time I was there.

During and after I set up, I had direct sunlight beaming down on me. Yep, I was last there four months ago and of course the sun was in a different angle then. It took about an hour and a half before the sun corrected itself and went behind my arboreal canopy. However, during the entire activation I was caressed with a nice cool breeze coming up the slopes of the hill. All this served to distract me from the task ahead. The SWRs were different as well: the 15-meter band showed about 3.2 and the 20-meter band was a flat 1.8. I was hoping the antenna tuner would tame 15-meters.

I started off on 15 meters because I almost exclusively use the 20-meter band on my activations. This is a great example of my diversity of action! The initial contacts came in slowly and I finally got my tenth hunter fifty minutes into the activation. Great, another park in the books. I briefly considered going QRT and going home. Oh, hells bells, said I, let's try for twenty! I continued with 15-meters, and I was so focused I was secretly hoping to get a count of twenty. When I checked the count again, I passed thirty!



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About K-3451

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, managed by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, includes large areas of native coastal sage scrub habitat, lawns and landscaped areas, picnic sites, tot lots, fishing lake, lotus pond, community center and five miles of trails.

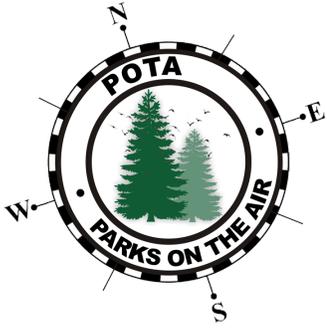
One of the most actively used features is the park's variety of footpaths and trails. The Burke Roche Trail and the Rim Trail are the most recent trails created.



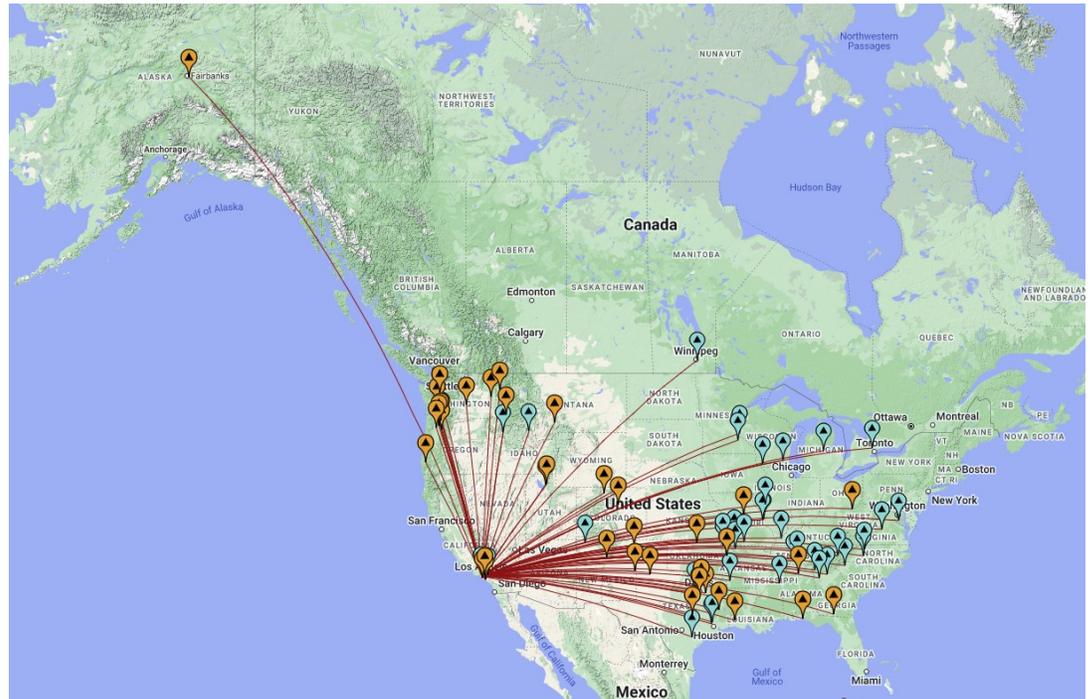
Squirrel! It was nice to see these little rodents scurrying on the grass here and there. I never saw more than a half-dozen, but they kept coming out of my periphery stealing my attention while calling CQ POTA and waiting for takers. Cute little things...

In the back of my mind, I was secretly hoping to get forty. As it happened, when I checked my count again my count was 50 and I was casting out my CQ again for number fifty-one. This is fun, I said. I'm breaking my personal record, I said. I was enjoying the heck out of this.

I noticed a pattern with the hunters. They either came in as ones or three at-a-time. While working the contacts, I kept bumping the screen with my knuckles. Ordinarily that is not a problem, but the screen is touch sensitive and I would bump into it at the most inopportune times; like in the middle of a contact. This disrupted the flow so I would let the hunter know I had "computer problems". Alternately, I did not say anything and hoped they realized I was administrating and were still there when I acknowledged them. One of those times I saw I had 16 contacts, but none of them showed up on my log. This was a little hard to troubleshoot while activating, although I did notice my contact count and QSO map



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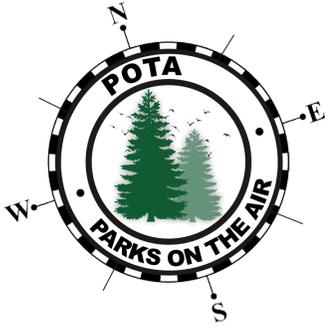


pins continue to increase the contact count.

The single contacts were not a problem, as they came in with enough time to process it before the next hunter. On the other hand, the mini pileups were more interesting, especially the park-to-parks. Here I would copy one callsign while trying to remember a partial. Most of the time I did not get the partial correctly. The P2Ps added a little stress because I must use the mouse pad (alien tech to me) to enter the hunter's park number. Next time I will take a mouse. However, there were times when I got three or four contacts in a row because it all came together smoothly. Ah, the feeling of fifty Watts of power! Well, that does not quite apply to reception. But I felt the power!

As a side note I use HAMRS when activating. In the end I figured out I inadvertently touched the QSO filter button on the lower-left corner of the HAMRS display. Erasing the entry in the input box corrected the filtering and all my contacts magically appeared. Technology!

Those squirrels were still running around when I noticed one laying still on its belly. Either it was sunning itself or it was getting ready for a massage. Cute little things...



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My QSO count did not reach forty before I noticed that the 15-meter band was going south. Before that happened however, I got the all the gulf-coast states plus the east coast up to Maryland. Some of those stations may have hurt my speaker, they were so strong. I vociferously complained to them by lauding their audio and giving them the 5-9 they deserved. I also got Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Ohio, and Missouri. All this before switching to the 20-meter band.

On 20-meters I got the west coast along with the Rocky Mountain States. The reception was really good there and I complained again to the offending individuals with the 5-9s they also deserved.

I was pushing two hours in the activation and the trees were finally doing their job. The sky was getting overcast making it seem like it was much later in the afternoon. I lost track of time and thought it was three hours later than it was. I did not notice the changing conditions other than a slightly stronger breeze.

The activation was wrapped up with a total of eighty-two contacts in a little over two and-a-half hours. I was amazed at my success as it was better than some contests I participated in. I strained a muscle on one of my arms patting myself on my back--one Motrin and I should be okay. Next time, however, I will take a tarp for quick rain protection. My small pop-up is not always used because I can get shade from trees. Depending on the location, a slight lean-to or an A-Frame could fit the bill. I also need to make sure my laptop is better situated so I do not continue to have "computer problems". By-the-way, I did not use solar panels and my battery stood up the task with amperage to spare. Good battery.

Taking my equipment back to the car in my foldable cart, I noticed the squirrels scampering about again. Cute little things...