

Summits on the Air



Summits on the Air (**SOTA**) is an award scheme for radio amateurs and shortwave listeners that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. SOTA has been carefully designed to make participation possible for everyone – this is not just for mountaineers! There are awards for Activators (those who ascend to the summits), Chasers (who remain in the warmth of their radio shacks) and Short Wave Listeners.

How to start participating

All the information you need is on the SOTA web site. The rules contain a list of qualifying summits, together with their locations. Each summit earns the activators

and chasers a score which is related to the height of the summit. Certificates are available for various scores, leading to the prestigious "*Mountain Goat*" and "*Shack Sloth*" trophies.

An Honour Roll for Activators and Chasers is maintained on the SOTA database (<http://www.sotadata.org.uk>) Internet access is an essential requirement for SOTA

What equipment do you need?

Activators will need a radio station that is portable – operation from cars is not allowed! All bands and modes may be used and there are now many lightweight radios



which are ideal for mountain topping. Chasers utilise their home station. Most activity is on the HF bands, CW and SSB, plus on the VHF bands using FM or SSB



Activity alerts

Part of the fun is contacting other SOTA participants. To make this easier we have a spotting facility to alert others to your proposed activations and post accounts of your trips.

<http://www.sotawatch.org>

Is it popular?

SOTA was launched on 2nd March 2002 and there are now 118 Associations around the World (and growing), over 10000 registered users with nearly 5000 Activators. There are over 100000 qualifying summits and this list grows every year

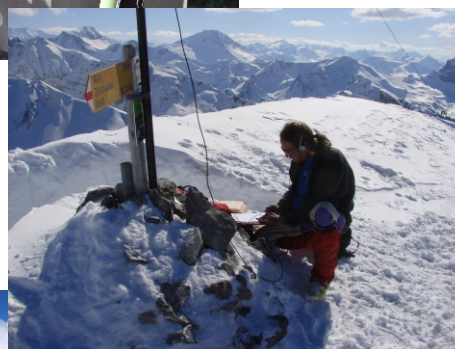
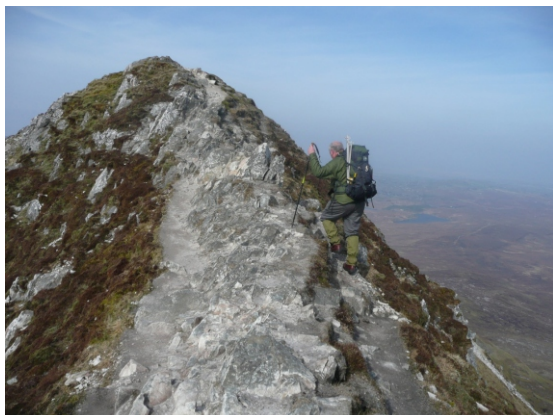
For more details, visit the SOTA website:

<http://www.sota.org.uk>

Hillwalking + Radio = SOTA

Summits on the Air is an award scheme for radio amateurs. It encourages portable operation from mountain and hilltops around the World. All bands and modes may be used making it an ideal objective for the newly licensed and old hands.

The award ethos is that ascents should always be “human powered”. Operation from, or in the vicinity of, motorised vehicles is not allowed for SOTA.

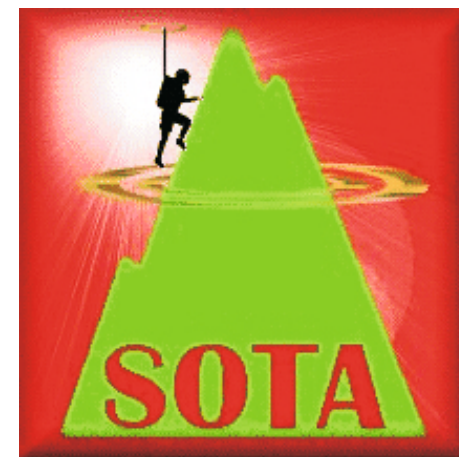


For more details, visit
the SOTA website:
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Summits on the Air (SOTA)

*An exciting award
scheme for radio
amateurs*



<http://www.sota.org.uk>