

# Summits On The Air

Mountain Top Activations and Amateur Radio Mike Plaziak – W6AH

Very Special Thanks to: Steve Galchutt - WGOAT Max Vaughan - KF7MAX Mike Olbrisch – KD9KC

# SOTA Snapshot OF NE OR IMPRITO

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# Som Summits on the Air

- What is it?
- How do I participate?
- Can I get any awards?
- Where do I start





### What is it?

"Summits on the Air (SOTA) is an award program for radio amateurs and shortwave listeners that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. SOTA has been carefully designed to make participation possible for everyone. It's not just for mountaineers!

There are awards for Activators (those who like to hike and climb to the summits) and Chasers (who either operate from comfort of their home, a local hilltop or are even Activators on other summits)."

#### Something for Everyone!



#### No waiting for a contest to roll around!

SOT

#### **Origin of SOTA**

EORI



- Original idea of John, G3WGV
- Developed with Richard, G3CWI
- Launched on March 2nd 2002
- Industrial strength database by Gary GOHJQ
  - Nearly 1 million QSO's in SOTA Database (2009)
  - Now at 2,280,883 as of March 7, 2014
  - More than 7,300 registered users as of May, 2014
- Sophisticated web portal by Jon, GM4ZFZ
  - Alerting, spotting, forum, etc
  - <u>http://www.sota.org.uk/</u>

#### **95 Current SOTA Associations**



- G England
- GW Wales
- GD Isle of Man
- GM Scotland
- GI Northern Ireland
- HA Hungary
- F France
- EI Ireland
- DM Germany
- OE Austria
- SV Greece
- ZS South Africa
- HB Switzerland
- W2 USA
- ON Belgium
- OK Czech Republic
- OH Finland
- SP Poland
- LA Norway
- HB0 Liechtenstein

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- ON Belgium
- OK Czech Republic
- OH Finland
- SP Poland
- LA Norway
- HB0 Liechtenstein
- SM Sweden
- S5 Slovenia
- PA Netherlands
- OD Lebanon
- TK Corsica
- Z3 Macedonia
- W1 USA
- W6 USA
- VE2 Canada
- W3 USA(W3)
- VP8 Falkland Islands
- LX Luxembourg
- 9H Malta
- OZ Denmark
- YO Romania

- E7 Bosnia-Herzegovina
- VE1 Canada (Novia Scotia)
- W0 USA(W0)
- UT Ukraine
- W5 USA(W5)
- HL South Korea
- W7 USA(W7)
- EA1 Spain North West
- EA3 Spain (Catalunya EA3)
- EA2 Spain (North EA2)
- EA8 Canary Islands EA8
- EA5 Spain (Southeast EA5)
- EA4 Spain (Center EA4)
- VE7 Canada (BC)
- W4 USA(W4)
- IS0 Sardinia
- I Italy
- CT Portugal

These are just a few of those 95...this creates a total of 64,384 summits As of May 2014 in 777 SOTA Regions.

#### Set Ward 201 at 10% University Summits on the Air - ARM for USA (W6)

summits on the Air

USA (W6)

Association Reference Manual

SOTA

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Ref. no.	Peak	Height	Lat	Long	Availa	Pts	
		(11.)			since	until	1
W6/CC-024	Badger Mtn.	5033	41.799862	-122.6372491	01 July 2009		4
W6/CC-025	Guatay Mtn.	4885	32.8433843	-116.5741849	01 July 2009		4
W6/CC-026	Corte Madera Mtn.	4657	32.7575535	-116.5911294	01 July 2009		4
W6/CC-027	Ukonom Mtn.	4581	41.5840128	-123.4767255	01 July 2009		4
W6/CC-028	Figueroa Mtn.	4528	34.7433174	-119.9851428	01 July 2009		4
w6/CC-029	Laguna Mtn.	4512	36.3391286	-120.8087895	01 July 2009		4
W6/CC-030	Nordhoff Peak	4485	34.4980469	-119.2417782	01 July 2009		4
W6/CC-031	Iron Peak	4485	39.8084867	-123.4814076	01 July 2009		4
W6/CC-032	Palo Escrito Peak	4467	36.404962	-121.4924378	01 July 2009		4

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# Home J

#### Summits On The Air W6 Association

**SOTA** 

Home | Joining In | Associations | Rules & Guidelines | Awards | Database | SOTAwatch | Shop | About | Contact

#### Association: W6 - USA(W6)

Association Manager: Adrian, N6ZA

The Association commenced on 1st July 2009 and currently has 16 regions (listed below) and 3716 qualifying summits.

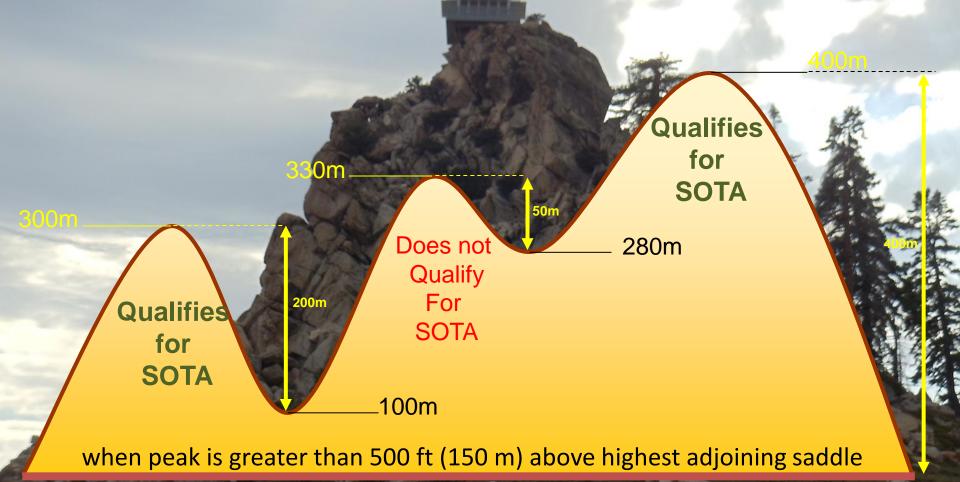
12 W6 Association Reference Manual, updated 1st Aug 2012

Region	Manager	Summits
SN - Sierra Nevada	N6ZA	49
CT - Transverse Ranges	K6TW	244
CN - Northern Ranges	N6ZA	27
CD - Desert Ranges	N6ZA	20
CC - Coastal Ranges	N6ZA	74
WH - White Mountains	N6ZA	14
SS - Southern Sierra	N6ZA	572
NW - Northwestern Ranges	N6ZA	393
NS - Northern Sierra	KU6J	367
NE - Northeastern Ranges	N6ZA	289
IN - Inyo Mountains	N6ZA	21
SD - Southern Desert	N6ZA	435
NC - Northern Coastal Ranges	N6IZ	437
ND - Northern Desert	WA6ARA	376
SC - Southern Coastal Ranges	K6CMG	381
CV - Transverse Ranges	K6DGW	17

#### 3716 Summits In 16 CA Regions

#### **Prominence Definition**

SOTA



Sea Level

# Scoring W6 Association



10 M	Band 1 = score <b>1</b> point	<2,500 feet Above Sea Level (ASL)
	Band 2 = score <b>2</b> points	2500 ft to 3,999 ft ASL
	Band 3 = score <b>4</b> points	4,000 ft to 5,499 ft ASL
「というの	Band 4 = score <b>6</b> points	5,500 ft to 7,499 ft ASL
1	Band 5 = score <b>8</b> points	7,500 ft to 10,999 ft ASL
11000	Band 6 = score <b>10</b> points	>= 11,000 ft ASL
Sale of the second s	Season bonus points may apply	Operation must be within 80 ft of summit



# HOW DO PARTICIPATES

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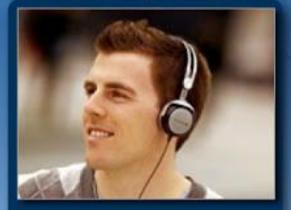




Activators: those who hike or climb to activate the summit



Chasers: those who listen for and chase the activator



Short Wave Listeners: those who listen, log and confirm chaser/ activator QSOs

#### **Bands and Modes**

VHF+
A lot of 2m FM
SSB is popular
CW is also used occasionally

HF



A lot of CW, due to use of QRP gear
10118 kHz, 14060 kHz, 14342.5 kHz
SSB is rapidly gaining popularity





WGDAT-7

## Equipment

It's all a lot easier these days!
 – Equipment is smaller, lighter and more efficient

 Battery technology has improved immensely
 APRS and Cell phone SMS (texting msg) for self-spoting via QRPspots/Tweeter

Typical activator radios

 ATS-series, FT817, FT857, IC-703, Elecraft
 K1, KX1 and coming soon the KX3!
 Various HT's for 2m-70cm FM etc.

# **Typical SOTA Rigs**







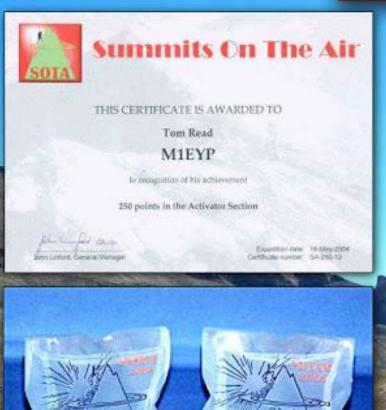
# Typical SOTA Antennas





#### SOTA Awards

 Certificates for 100, 250 and 500 points Mountain Goat 1000 activating points Shack Sloth 1000 chasing points Association awards 500pts - Rocky Mountain • Goat & Cougar awards Further certificates at 2500, 5000, 10000 points





## Chaser Honour Roll W6

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	Facts and Figures Activator Roll of Honour		С	haser I	Result	ts			
	Activator Uniques Table 12m Challenge Activator Roll of Honor	ur							
OTA is not inherently a co onour Roll on the internet	Chaser Roll of Honour Chaser Uniques Table	tions and w	orking toward	s a goal at your o	own pace. Ho	owever, it can be	e fun to see ho	w your pro	gress o
ease help us to keep this	Committee Committee II a fill a fill and	;OTA logs.							
	12m Challenge Chaser Roll of Honour SWL Roll of Honour	A		▼ -All Date	es-▼ -A	II Bands- 🔻	-All Modes- 🔻	Show	!
	My Results	•							
		Position	Chaser Callsign	Activators Worked	Points	Avg. points per Expedition	View Log		
		1	K6EL	2317	12493	5.39	View		
		2	NA6MG	1218	6040	4.96	View		
		3	KU6J	958	5145	5.37	<u>View</u>		
		4	WA6RIC	860	4466	5.19	View		
		5	N6JZT	855	4111	4.81	<u>View</u>		
		6	KH2TJ	718	4052	5.64	View		
		7	NK6A	458	2148	4.69	View		

WA6ARA

K6DGW

K6CEL

W6IYS

W6JP

KC6SSE

KA6AIL

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As of May 4, 2014

# Activator Honour Roll W6

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SALAN S	← → C 🏠 🗋 www.sotadata.org.uk/activatorresults.aspx
ł	🏢 Apps 🔝 SOTAwatch2 💼 SOTA 📠 Callsign Database b 🔄 George Friedman   S 📑 Mike Plaziak 📭 損 Maine news, sports, 🖂 Gmail - Inbox 💼 GIS 💼 News 💼 Hydro
NAC .	Home Logon/Logoff View Results Summits Submit Log FAQ
1	Activator Results

SOTA is not inherently a competitive activity, it's about individual aspirations and working towards a goal at your own pace. However, it can be fun to see how your progress compare Honour Roll on the internet.

Please help us to keep this page up-to-date by regularly <u>submitting</u> your SOTA logs.

Filter :	W6 - USA	•	-All Dates- 🔻	-All Bands- 🔻	-All Modes- 🔻	Show!

Position	Activator Callsign	Summits	Points	Seasonal Bonus	Total Score	Avg. points per Expedition	View Log
1	NA6MG	387	1720	99	1819	4.70	<u>View</u>
2	KJ6NHF	104	657	51	708	6.81	View
3	KU6J	71	528	24	552	7.77	View
4	N6ZA	58	501	15	516	8.90	View
5	KD7WPJ	99	468	30	498	5.03	<u>View</u>
6	NOPCL	78	395	36	431	5.53	View
7	K6TW	52	309	9	318	6.12	View
8	W6AH	59	278	21	299	5.07	View
9	N6JZT	42	224	27	251	5.98	View
10	KH2TJ	40	161	12	173	4.33	View
11	WBOUSI	25	133	27	160	6.40	<u>View</u>
12	WN6E	30	127	12	139	4.63	<u>View</u>
13	КЈ6НОТ	26	124	12	136	5.23	<u>View</u>
14	K6YOA	28	111	0	111	3.96	<u>View</u>
15	K6TUY	22	108	0	108	4.91	<u>View</u>

As of May 4, 2014



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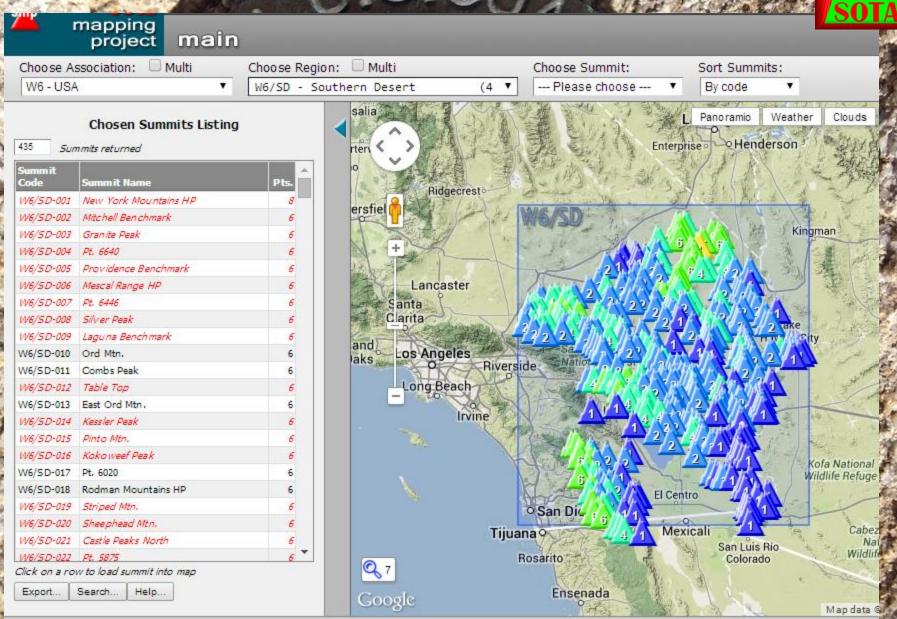
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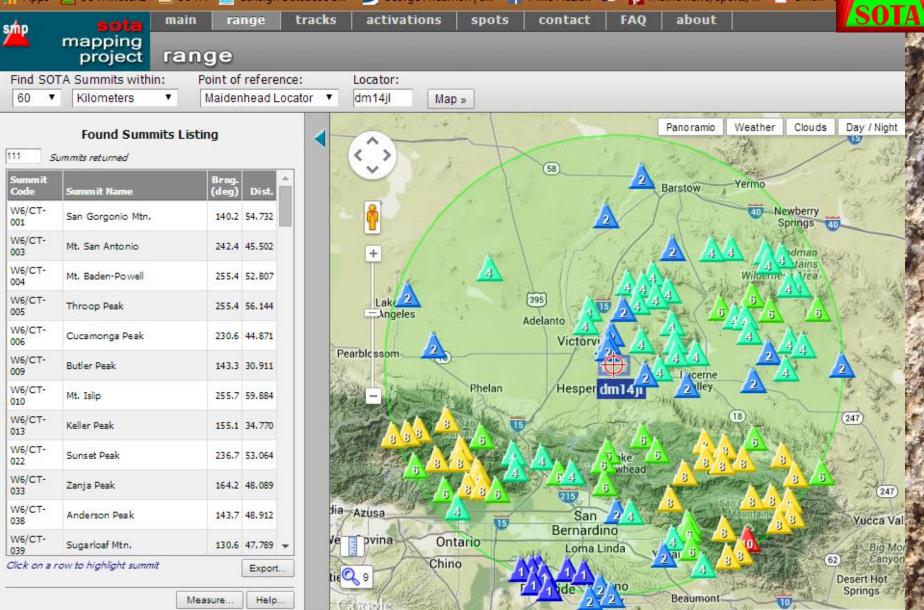
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#### Summit Area Search



#### Bell Mountain W6/SD-152



entin	sota	main	range	tracks	activations	spots	contact	FAQ	about	
<b>S</b>	mapping project	mair	บ							
Choos	e Association: 🔲	Multi	Choose R	egion: 🔲 I	Multi	Ch	oose Summit:		Sort Summits:	57
W6 -	USA	•		Southern		(4 🔻 🖳	Please choose	- •	By code 🔹	5
435	Chosen Sum Summits returned	mits Listin	9						Panoramio Weather Clouds /SD-152 - Bell Mtn.	Day / Night Position -
	Summit Name		Pts. 8	National Trai			Latitude Longitude Locator Association	-117.	8280°N (34°34′58°N) .21720°W (-117°13′2°W) 4jn Show > USA	2. 1.
	002 Mitchell Benchmar	*	6	6	5	and -	Region	SD - 9	Southern Desert	AL.
	003 Granite Peak		6		C. Jan Hills	A VIALER	Height	1188	meters, 3897 feet	1 (m) I
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and the second sec	005 Providence Bench 006 Mescal Range HP	mark	6		( The second	The Asia	Activation count		Tracks: (No tracks	5)
	006 Mescarkange HP 007 Pt. 6446		6		A Strange	一人的行动	Latest Activation	2014	I-01-01 by W6AH	ê
the design	008 Silver Peak		6		Oro ( rande	+	Panor	rama view	Minimize Center and zoom	tion
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W6/5D-	015 Pinto Mtn.		6	12	40		78/10/	al.		4
W6/5D-	016 Kokoweef Peak		6	3	The seal	Y	Station of	2 4	Waalew Rd	
W6/SD-	017 Pt. 6020		6	8	171 - 34		影 博士 李	/		14
W6/SD-	018 Rodman Mountain	s HP	6		V A A	3		/ 01		
W6/SD-	019 Striped Mtn.		6	T	-The	31 1	18		CA CA	
W6/5D-	020 Sheephead Mtn.		6			Victorville	12-	-	tra	
and the second second second	021 Castle Peaks North	6	6			1130		-	Nav	
	022 Pt. 5875		6			The los	y y		18	
Click on	a row to load summit in	to map		ac	12	5 41	100%	4	Pane the	
Export.	Search Help			80	oogle /	1	Mojave Narrows	alley Rd	Centres Ad Map	data © 2014 Google   2 km 💶

#### Bell Mtn - W6/SD

www.sotawatch.org/summits.php?summit=W6/SD-152

#### SOTAwatch2 📋 SOTA 🟢 Callsign Database b... 🔄 George Friedman | S... 📪 Mike Plaziak 📭 🚺 Maine news, sports, ...

#### SOTA

#### SOTAwatch2

Logged in as W6AH | Log out | Edit Account

Home | Spots | Alerts | Summits | Reflector | Website | Database | Video | Photos | Recent Info | Shop | Mapping

#### Summit Information for W6/SD-152

Bell Mtn. - 1188m, 2 points

Association: USA(W6) Region: Southern Desert Latitude: 34 34 58 N, Longitude: 117 13 1 W

Today's Sunrise: 12:50 UTC, Today's Sunset: 02:40 UTC

Relative to home QTH: 2.6 km, 295 degrees Google Map | Google Earth | OpenStreetMap SOTA Map

#### Resources

Feel free to add external links 🗗 and articles relating to this summit that activators and chasers may find useful or interesting. Please read the disclaimer notice at the bottom of the page.

Bell Mountain: Map, photos @ (Submitted by WO6M on 02 Nov 2012) Add new external link | Add new article

DISCLAIMER: The SOTA programme and its Management Team is not responsible for the content of external internet sites or for information added by third parties to this website. Please contact the SOTA Management Team if you have concerns about submitted content. The existence of information relating to a particular location does not confer or imply any right of access. Participation in the SOTA Programme is at the risk of the participant.

#### Summit Activity

Total Activations: 5 Latest By: W6AH on 01 Jan 2014 NA6MG on 30 Nov 2013 W6AH on 19 Oct 2013 W6AH on 11 Nov 2012 W06M on 01 Nov 2012

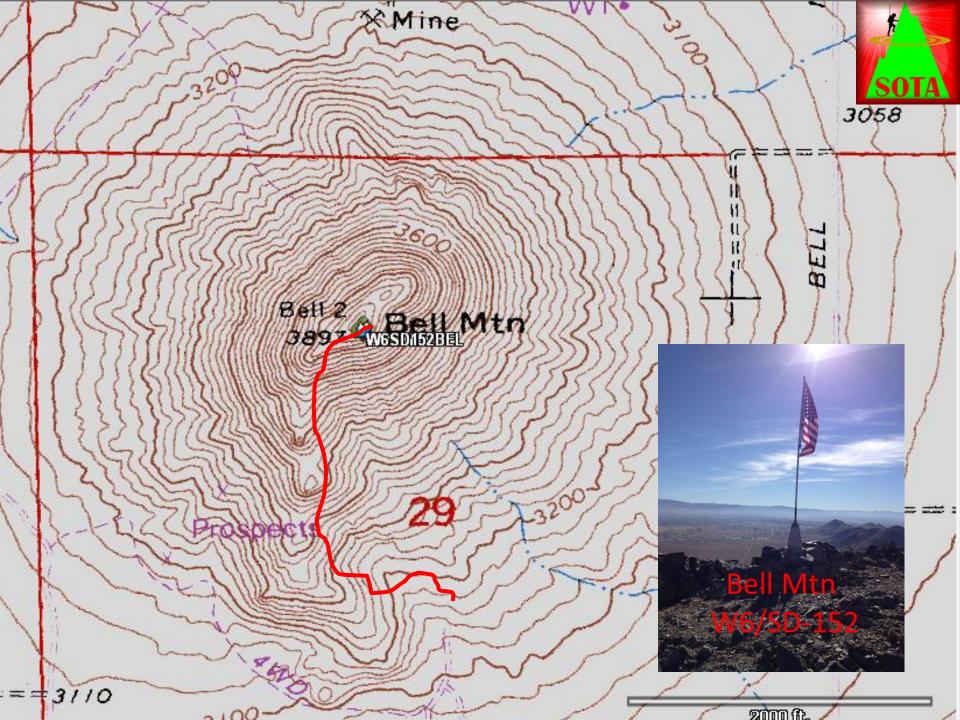
First Activated by: W06M on 01 Nov 2012

Activated by You on: 01 Jan 2014, 19 Oct 2013. 11 Nov 2012

151 QSOs	on these	e bands:
30m	34	23%
20m	34	23%
15m	22	15%
12m	59	<b>39</b> %
2m	2	1%



Reyes



## Actions on the Summit



# **SOTA Smart Phone Apps**



# Rucksack Radio Tool & OR IMPR

SPOTS		NA A	The		
all Reference	QRG Mode	TATO	100	12	
A3LV/P HA/KD-003 özépsö-Hajag - 876 km - SES 112° le HA5LV - just now	7.119 SS SOT	A Watch	X	0	
E2SNL/P OE/SB-327 abühel - 568 km - SE 127° e G3VQO - 17 minutes ago	12 <b>0K70K/P</b> 0K/VY-024 00 to 11 in NC. Plea	14:32 N4EX ise try 15m late	18.121 SSB	SOTA Go	oat
WOXYL/P GW/NW-044 oel Famau - 755km - NWN 296° aren here 23cms next de G0VOF - 27 n	<sup>45</sup> OK7OK/P ninutes <sup>OK/VY-024</sup>	14:26 0K70K	18.	• —	$\cap$
E/S57NAD/P OE/ST-286 lementkogel - 753 km - SES 123° e S56IHX - 34 minutes ago	12QRV, here for 10 mi G3RDQ/P G/SC-003	n 14:07		er © 12:47 PM nexts Nearby Tracetonyk Mountain	T III
1EYP/P G/SP-004 nining Tor - 681 km - NWN 299° e G6ODU - 38 minutes ago	<sup>12</sup> *Spot[G3RDQ]: qrv f	14:06	14.	W2/GC-019         64 mi N           Clausen's Point         M1/MB-011         64 mi N           Plattekill Mountain         64 mi N         64 mi N	N 1 >
K1DA/P VK1/AC-042 ack Mountain - 16566 km - NEN 75° Q few takers good copy in JN47 de DJ5	14.0K/VY-024 QRV, here for 15mir	0K70K		W2/GC-070         64 ml N           Little Rocky         W2/GC-114         65 ml N           Indian Head Mountain         Mountain         Mountain	w 💶 >
	F5HTR/P F/AM-388 *grt now storm and	13:57 F6HBI static sorry	10.	W2/GC-059         66 ml N           Pochuck Mtn. HP           W2/NJ-004         66 ml N           Hamburg Mtns. HP           W2/NJ-002         66 ml N	
Mer 1	GM4MD/P	13:48 G4JZF	7.1	Peaked Mountain W1/CR-005 65 ml N 10 Control Adverts	iE
1000	Ser.	to 1	A pet		

#### **APRS** Tracking

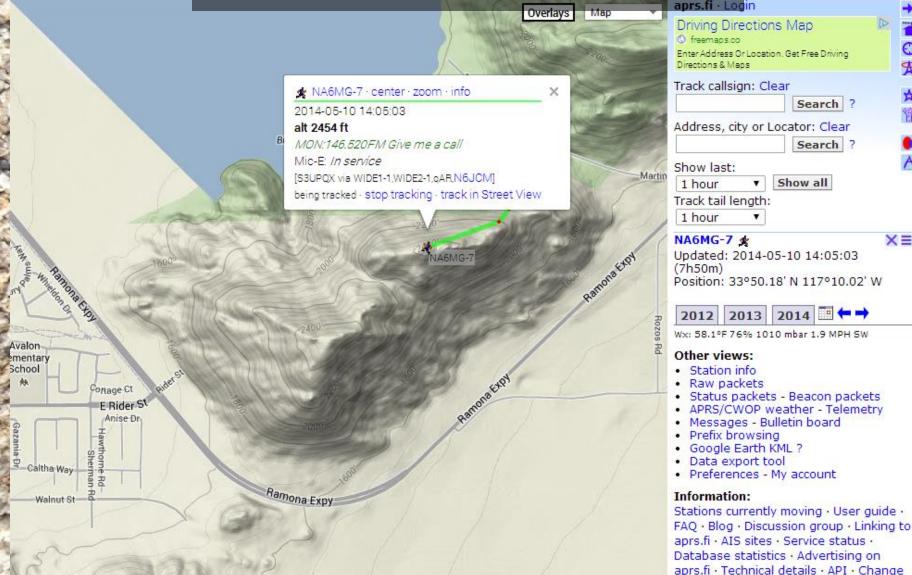


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log · Planned changes · Credits and

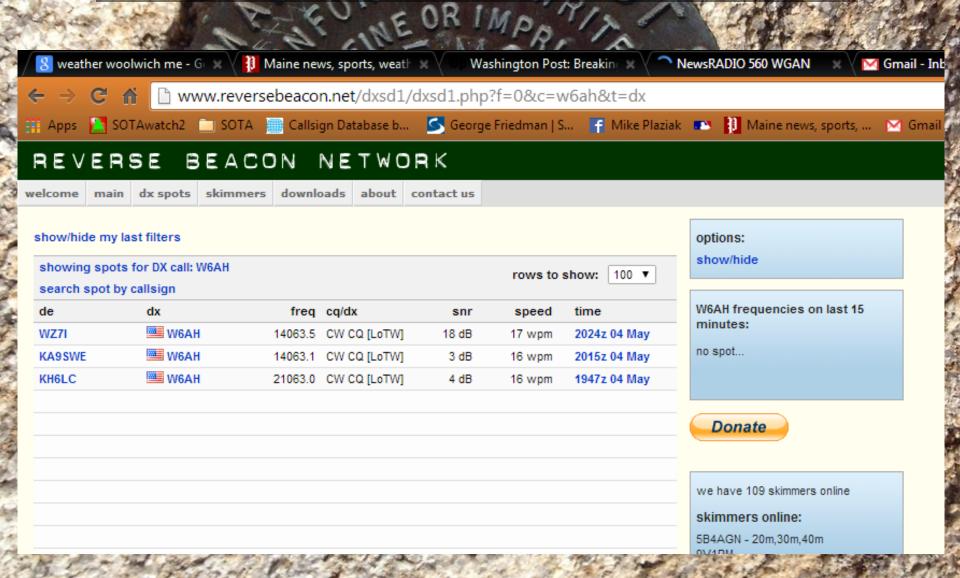
#### **QRPSPOTS.com** Brought To You By The Four Sta QRP Group

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SOTA

UTC 23:48:40 PHP by N8FQ			Auto Refreshes Every 5 Minutes and Drops Spots Older Than 12 Hou REFRESH Comments to WA0ITP	rs ;		
Freq:	Call:	Commen	ts: Urcall:			
			Post spot			
08/25 18:49	7.030	K6JSS/9	IN wa9pwp: bad QRZ.com email address; email w9rgb	W9RGB		
08/25 18:45	7.030	K6JSS/9	IN beamng to Wisconsin	W9RGB		
08/25 18:43	14342.5	N6UHB	\"Naomi\" w/Chuck & Steve on Mt Herman, CO for SOTA	K8EAB		
08/25 18:41	14.3425	N6UHB	55 in WI	WA9PWP		
08/25 18:18	14342.5	N6UHB	Goathiker at mic on Mt Herman			
08/25 18:12	14.060	HB9DAX	339 in WI, can\t hear me	WA9PWP		
08/25 18:09	14061	N6UHB	Goathiker at key. GG to 14342.5 SSB soon.	W3FF		
08/25 17:57	14061	N6UHB	SOTA W0/FR-063 559 in NC	N4EX		
08/25 17:51	14.060	K6JSS/9	am listening on 20 now	W3HZZ		
08/25 17:40		K6JSS/9	anyone going to be on tonight after 2300Z? 40m or 30m?	KB0KFX		
08/25 17:37	14.060	K6JSS/9	VY FB QSO VIC, CUAGN ON BAND, 73 MICHEL	VE2TH		
08/25 17:11	14.060	K6JSS/9	RST 339			
08/25 16:43	14.060	K6JSS/9	NADA in WI	WA9PWP		
08/25 16:23	14.060	K6JSS/9	in			
08/25 16:23	14345	N6UHB	via @WG0AT: (APRS) 14345 QRV N6UHB	WG0AT		

#### **Reverse Beacon Network (RBN)**



## **SOTAwatch Spotting Network**



#### SOTAwatch2

Logged in as W6AH | Log out | Edit Account | Help!

<u>Home</u> | <u>Spots</u> | <u>Alerts</u> | <u>Summits</u> | <u>Reflector</u> | <u>Website</u> | <u>Database</u> | <u>Video</u> | <u>Photos</u> | <u>Recent Info</u> | <u>Shop</u> | <u>Mapping</u> This page refreshes every 1 minute. Last updated **04:42:49** UTC.

Latest Spots	35 spots in the last 12 hours   <u>new spot</u>
Sun 22:01 ND9Q on <u>KH6/OH-018</u> can you try 15m? (Posted by NS	28.885 ssb
Sun 21:49 ND9Q on <u>KH6/OH-018</u> *could barely make out ns7p or	28.885 ssb n 20. here now (Posted by ND9Q)
Sun 21:36 ND9Q on <u>KH6/OH-018</u> * (Posted by ND9Q)	14.28 ssb
Sun 20:43 KXOR on <u>WOC/FR-150</u> *CQ CQ at 19 wpm. S/N=5 dB a	<b>14.063 cw</b> at KA9SWE {Via RBNGate} (Posted by KU6J)
Sun 20:41 W6AH on <u>W6/CT-053</u> - [ <u>edit</u> *cq sota [via SOTA Goat] (Post	-
Sun 20:32 KXOR on WOC/FR-150 vy weak & QSB but finally work	21.0630 cw red him! (Posted by EA2IF)
Sun 20:17 W6AH on <u>W6/CT-053</u> - [ <u>edit</u> *cq sota [via SOTA Goat] (Post	-
Sun 20:15 W6AH on <u>W6/CT-053</u> *CQ CQ at 16 wpm. S/N=3 dB a	<b>14.0631 cw</b> at KA9SWE {Via RBNGate} (Posted by KU6J)
Sun 20:03 KB1RJD on W4V/WV-042	24.955 ssb

#### Reflector Latest

SOTA NEWS - MAY 2014 by K6DGW, #5 by N7UN, 4days ago SOTA

Phantom QSOs! by M1EYP, #51 by G4OBK, 18days ago

SOTA online presentation by ON6ZQ, #3 by VK1DA, 73mins ago

May 3 QRPTTF/SOTA event and by NA5N, #66 by N1EU, 5hrs ago

Our Scottish Tour - last day up by G4OBK, #12 by G4OBK, 7hrs ago

Log4OM summit list update by G4POP, #10 by MM0FMF, 11hrs ago

Sports/Action Camera by MMOFMF, #10 by MMOFMF, 11hrs age

S57D/P SOTA activations by S57D, #146 by S57D, 12hrs ago

G4Y55:EA8/M1NNN - EA8/LP-O( by G4Y55: #2 by G6TUH-13brs ago

## Have a go!

SOTA

- You don't even of even t'hob uo?
  - Some summits you can drive to the top or take ski lift
  - You can participate from your shack
  - But if you are a hiker ...
  - There are many first summit activations yet to be done
  - It's a good excuse to enjoy the outdoors
  - It's a great way to bring two hobbies together



#### Summary

- SOTA's program promotes: Activating, Chasing and SWLing
- SOTA has Internet tools:
  - Alerting
  - Spotting
  - Database
  - SEE LINKS on HANDOUT!
- Be careful it's addictive!
- Most of all have FUN!





# Web Tools for SOTA

-	Summits	On <sup>1</sup>	The	Air
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Home Joining in Associations Rules & Guidelines Awards Detabase S070wetch About 507A Co

#### Welcome to SOTA!

Summits on the Air (SOTA) is an award scheme for radio anateurs and shortwawe listeners that ensumages portable operation in mountarious-areas. SOTA has been carefully designed to make participation possible for everyone - shis is not just for mountaineers! There are awards for activators (block who accend to the summits) and chasers (who either operate from home, a local Nillop or are even Activators on other summits).

SOTA is now hally operational in many countries acress the world. Each country has its own Association which defines the recognized SOTA summits within that Association. Each summit earns the activators and chasen a score which is related to the height of the summit. Certificates are available for writion scores, realing to the presigion. Waxnets Goat" and "Shack Stell" tophes. An Hanour Roll for Activators and Chasens to maintained at the SOTA online database.

SOTA is designed to be compatible with other mountain users. Please see our environmental statement for details.

- · Learn how to get involved
- · Catch up on real time information on who is activating what mountainel
- · See a full list of Associations to find out which countries are involved
- · See the Activator & Chaser Honour rolls at the SOTA Database
- Browse & Search through the full list of 50% summits
- Find out more about the structure and management of SOTA



10GHz activation on the The Cloud SP-015 by G3CW.



HF Arkenna on GIN/WW BKT by MMORX. See these photographs and more at the SOTA Pitckr Group

(Closed winters)

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#### www.sotawatch.org

Alerts, spots and a forum Register to participate Anyone can read information posted

database.sota.org.uk/ database.sota.org.uk/ currence curence currence currence currence currence c

http://www.adventureradio.de Locates peaks near you

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## **Questions?**



escope Peak 6/CD-003

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