

Welcome



Summits on the Air (SOTA): Adventure on the Airwaves

Presented by
James Cizek,
K10KN

HAMCON
Colorado

October 23, 2025

What is SOTA?



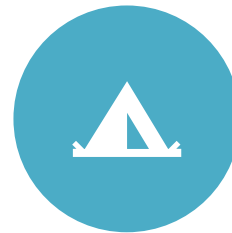
An international award program combining hiking and amateur radio.



Activators operate from mountain summits.



Chasers make contact from home, mobile stations, or other peaks.



Goal: encourage portable operations in the great outdoors.

Why Participate in SOTA?

Enjoy

Enjoy the outdoors
and radio at the
same time

Challenge

Challenge yourself
physically and
technically

Earn

Earn points and
awards for
activations and
chases

Join

Join a worldwide
community of
amateur radio
adventurers

How the Points System Works

- Each summit has a point value (1–10)
- Bonus points may apply (e.g., winter in Colorado: +3, summer in Arizona +3)
- Only one activation per summit per UTC day per year counts
- Both activators and chasers earn points

Activator Roll of Honour

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 compares with that of others, hence we publish our Honour Roll on the internet.

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

WOC - USA - Colorado

- All Years -

-All Bands-

-All Modes-

Show

Position	Activator Callsign	Summits	Points	Bonus Points	Total Points	Average
1	KX0R	2289	8306	984	9290	4.06
2	WV0X	670	4796	597	5393	8.05
3	KOMOS	668	3799	480	4279	6.41
4	WA6MM	620	3598	423	4021	6.49
5	K7PX	574	2757	573	3330	5.80
6	WG0AT	738	2475	579	3054	4.14
7	KD0YOB	542	2217	57	2274	4.20
8	W0CCA	316	2144	84	2228	7.05
9	W0CP	324	1898	186	2084	6.43
10	K5SJC	338	2073	9	2082	6.16
11	K0NR	353	1888	159	2047	5.80
12	K5RHD	236	1825	192	2017	8.55
13	N0TA	368	1652	201	1853	5.04
14	K0JJW	306	1536	132	1668	5.45
15	W0ERI	265	1599	9	1608	6.07
=15	W0MNA	267	1599	9	1608	6.02
17	W7UM	325	1396	201	1597	4.91
18	K0JQZ	280	1298	213	1511	5.40
19	N0IPA	209	1234	186	1420	6.79
20	N1SMB	329	1283	135	1418	4.31

34

KI0KN

63

338

24

362

5.84



Rank in
association

Callsign

Summits

Points

Bonus

Total points

Average

Activator Badges

 CW 06 Jul 2013	 HF 06 Jul 2013	 Activated NA 06 Jul 2013	 Two Kilometers Up 06 Jul 2013	 First Activator 11 Jul 2013	 Three Kilometers Up 21 Jul 2013	 Four Kilometers Up 04 Aug 2013	 10 First Activations 15 Aug 2013	 Lazenby 16 Aug 2013	 Kilopisa 23 Aug 2013	 Hectoskytree 25 Aug 2013	 Activator 100 25 Aug 2013
 Hectokhalifa 02 Sep 2013	 Kilobigben 07 Sep 2013	 25 First Activations 06 Oct 2013	 Activator 250 02 Nov 2013	 Seasonal Bonus 28 Dec 2013	 DXCC 10 26 Jan 2014	 American Pi 14 Mar 2014	 Force Sensitive 04 May 2014	 Activator 500 18 Jul 2014	 Kiloeiffel 19 Jul 2014	 Frood 26 Oct 2014	 Activator Uniques 100 01 Nov 2014

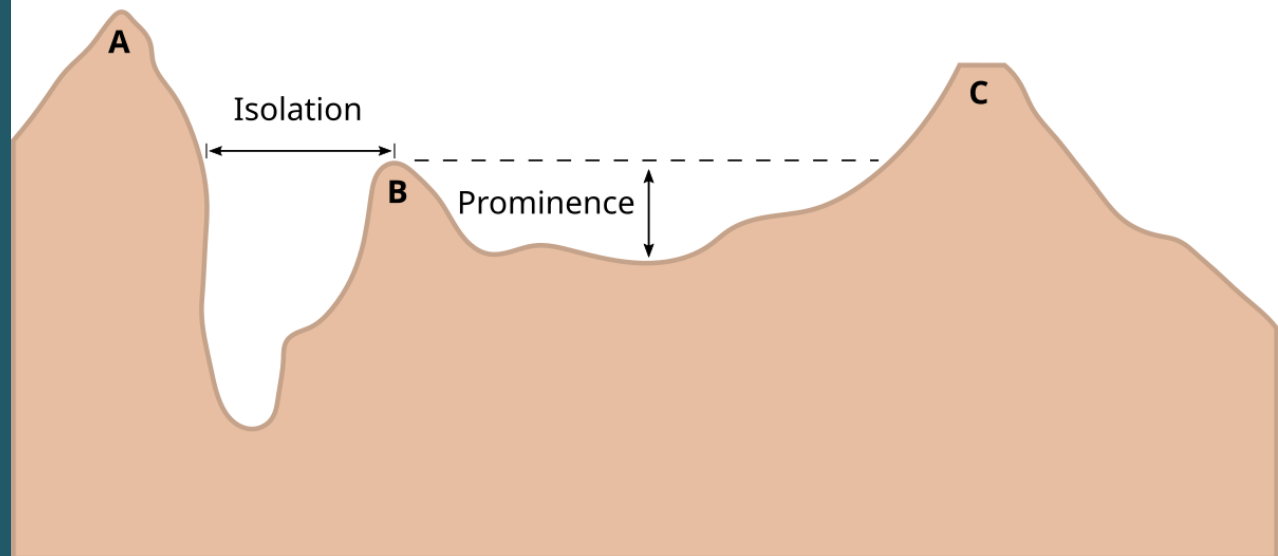
Activator Badges

 Activator 1000 13 Jun 2015	 Kiloskytree 14 Jun 2015	 Dalton 11 Sep 2015	 Kilokhalifa 07 Oct 2015	 Kilometer Up 01 Dec 2015	 DXCC 25 21 Feb 2016	 Padawan 04 May 2016	 Activator 2500 04 Mar 2017	 SSB 04 Mar 2017	 St Patrick's Day 17 Mar 2017	 Jedi 04 May 2017	 FM 05 Aug 2017
 VHF 05 Aug 2017	 Activator Uniques 250 24 Oct 2017	 Jedi Master 04 May 2018	 SOTA Complete - 100 21 Jun 2018	 Mountain Explorer Bronze 06 Nov 2018	 Groundhog Day 02 Feb 2019	 Shamrock 17 Mar 2019	 Obi Wan 04 May 2019	 Activator 5k 13 Sep 2019	 DXCC 50 11 Dec 2022	 Craig 17 Mar 2023	 Groundhog Day 02 Feb 2025

Prominence Explained

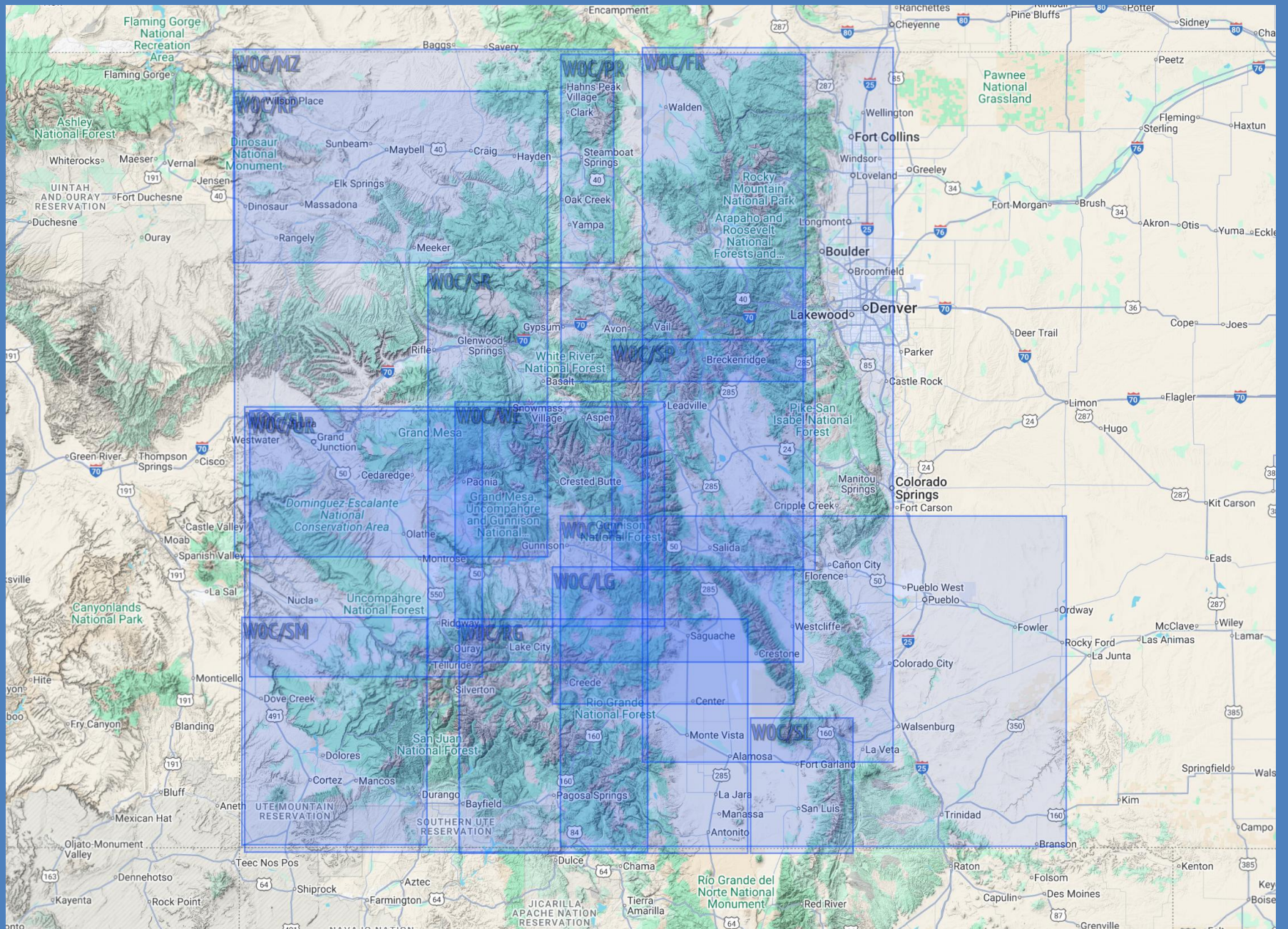
- Prominence measures how distinct a summit is from nearby peaks
- Defined as the height of a summit relative to the lowest contour line encircling it and no higher peak
- Used to ensure summits are independent

Topographic isolation and prominence of the summit "B"

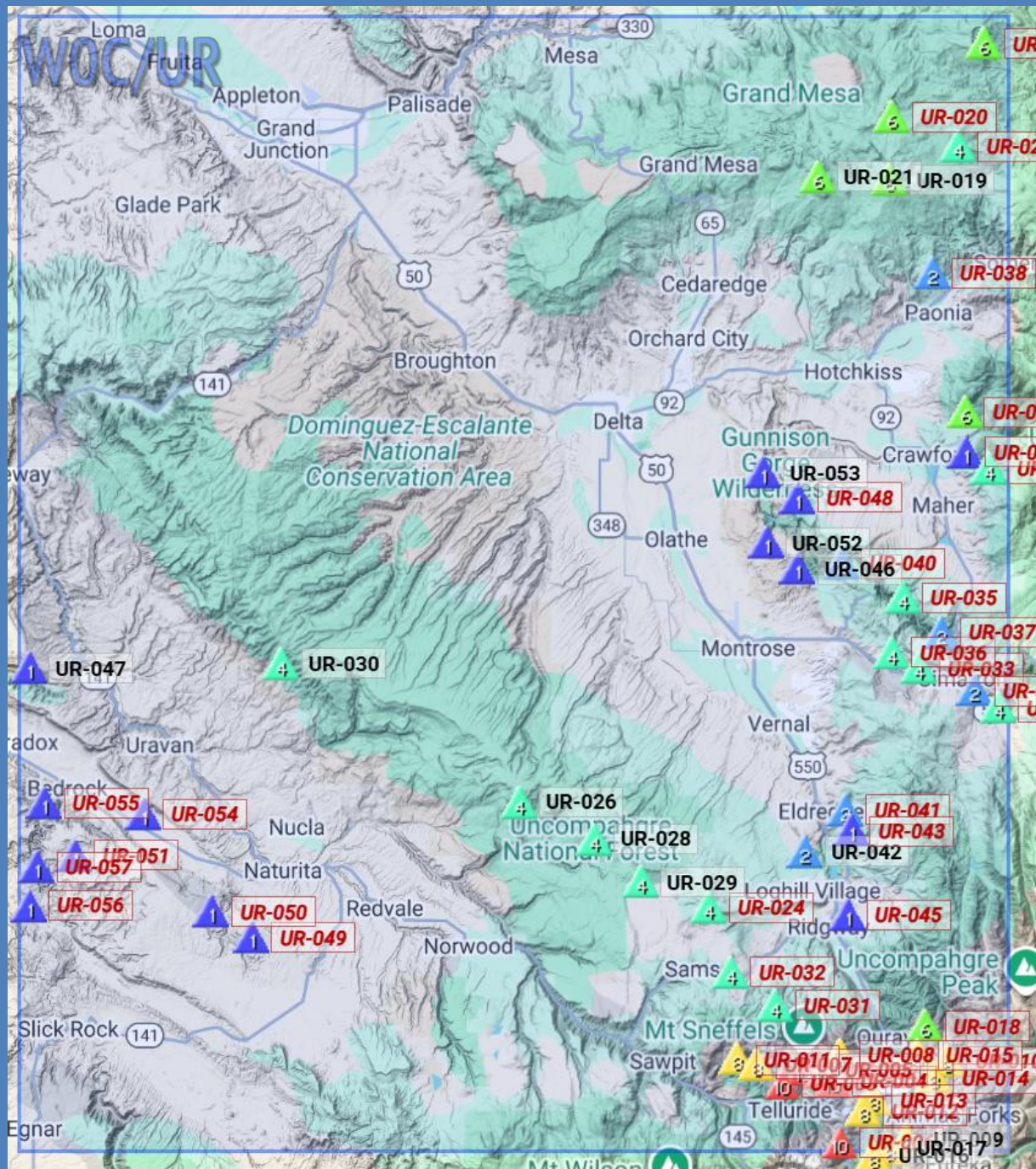


SOTA Structure

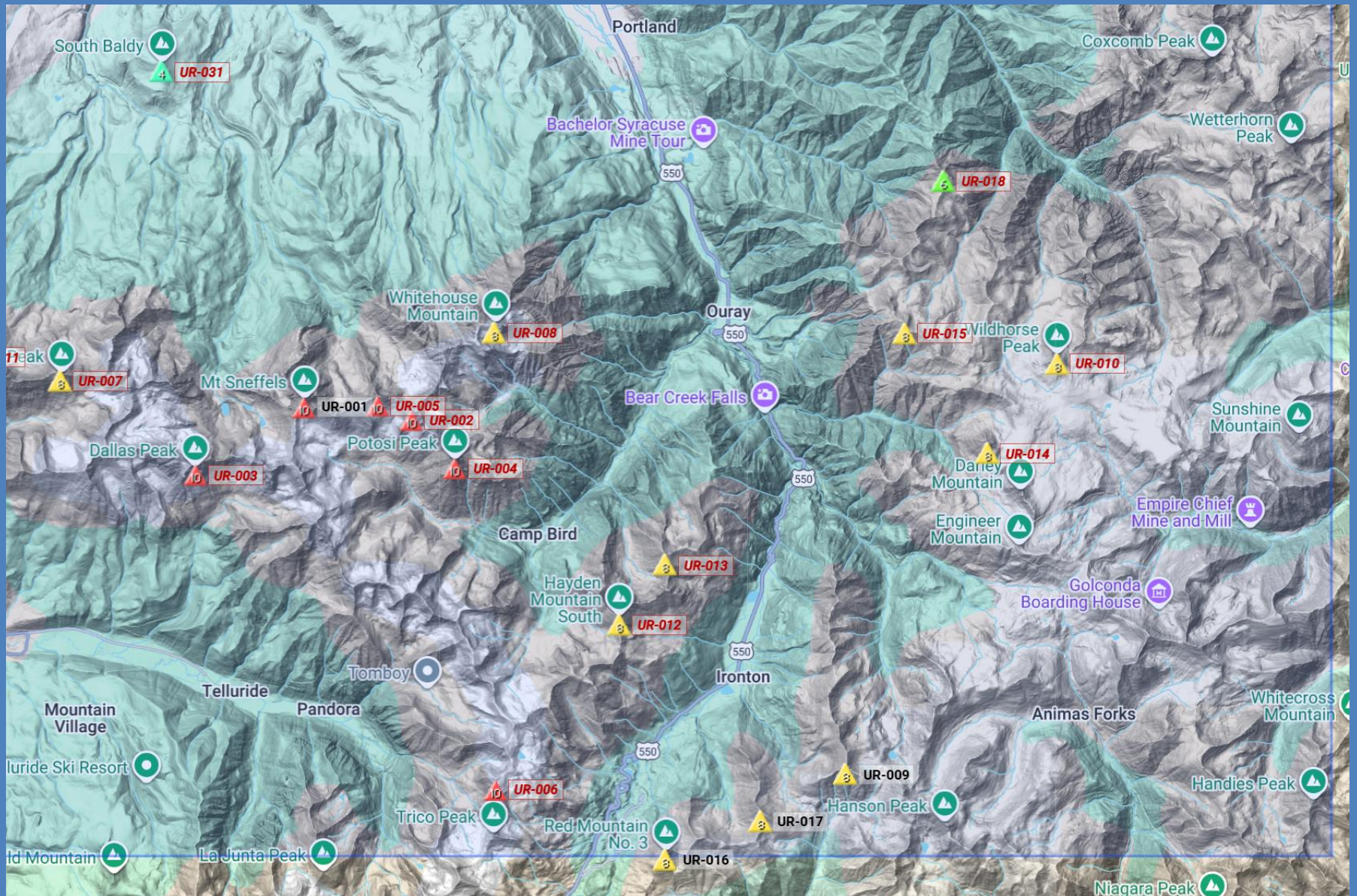
- World divided into Associations (e.g., WOC = Colorado)
- Each Association has Regions
- Regions contain individual Summits with assigned point values and bonuses (1pt, 2,4,6,8,10pt Seasonal bonus 3pt)



Source: <https://www.sotamaps.org/>



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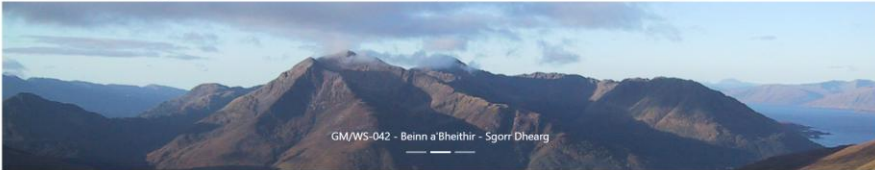


Source: <https://www.sotamaps.org/>

Official SOTA Tools

- SOTAwatch – spotting and alerts for activations
- SOTAMaps – plan routes and view peaks
- SOTADATA – upload logs and track awards
- ARM – Association Reference Manual
 - Colorado's is here:
<https://www.sotadata.org.uk/en/association/W0C>

[Summits on the Air](#) [Joining In](#) [Online Resources](#) [Associations and Summits](#) [Blog](#) [Contact](#) [About](#)



GM/WS-042 - Beinn a'Bheithir - Sgorr Dhearg



Welcome to Summits on the Air!

SOTA is an award scheme for radio amateurs that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas.

Quick links: [Joining In](#) | [SOTAwatch](#) | [Database](#) | [Summit Listings](#) | [Shop](#) | [Mapping](#) | [Donate to SOTA](#)

New to SOTA?

SOTA has been carefully designed to make participation possible for all Radio Amateurs and Shortwave Listeners - this is not just for mountaineers!

There are awards for activators (those who ascend to the summits) and chasers (who either operate from home, a local hilltop or are even Activators on other summits).

See the '[Joining In](#)' section of the website for lots of information, advice, rules, guidelines and our FAQs.

SOTA is fully operational in nearly a hundred countries across the world. Each country has its own Association which defines the recognised SOTA summits within that Association. 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 at the SOTA online database.

SOTA is designed to be compatible with other mountain users. Please see our [environmental statement](#) for details.



Latest SOTA Spots

16:31	WN2G on W2/GC-004	21.061 CW
16:30	WN2G on W2/GC-004	146.52 FM
16:30	WN2G on W2/GC-004	7.054 CW
16:26	K9PM/P on W7A/CO-013	7.062 CW
16:23	S57KOP/P on S5/RG-057	14.31 SSB
16:20	AC1Z on W1/NL-002	146.52 FM
16:19	KC1WAN on W1/NL-002	146.52 FM
16:18	WN2G on W2/GC-004	7.054 CW
16:17	KQ4DSO on W8V/PH-001	146.52 FM
16:16	AC1Z on W1/NL-002	28.42 SSB

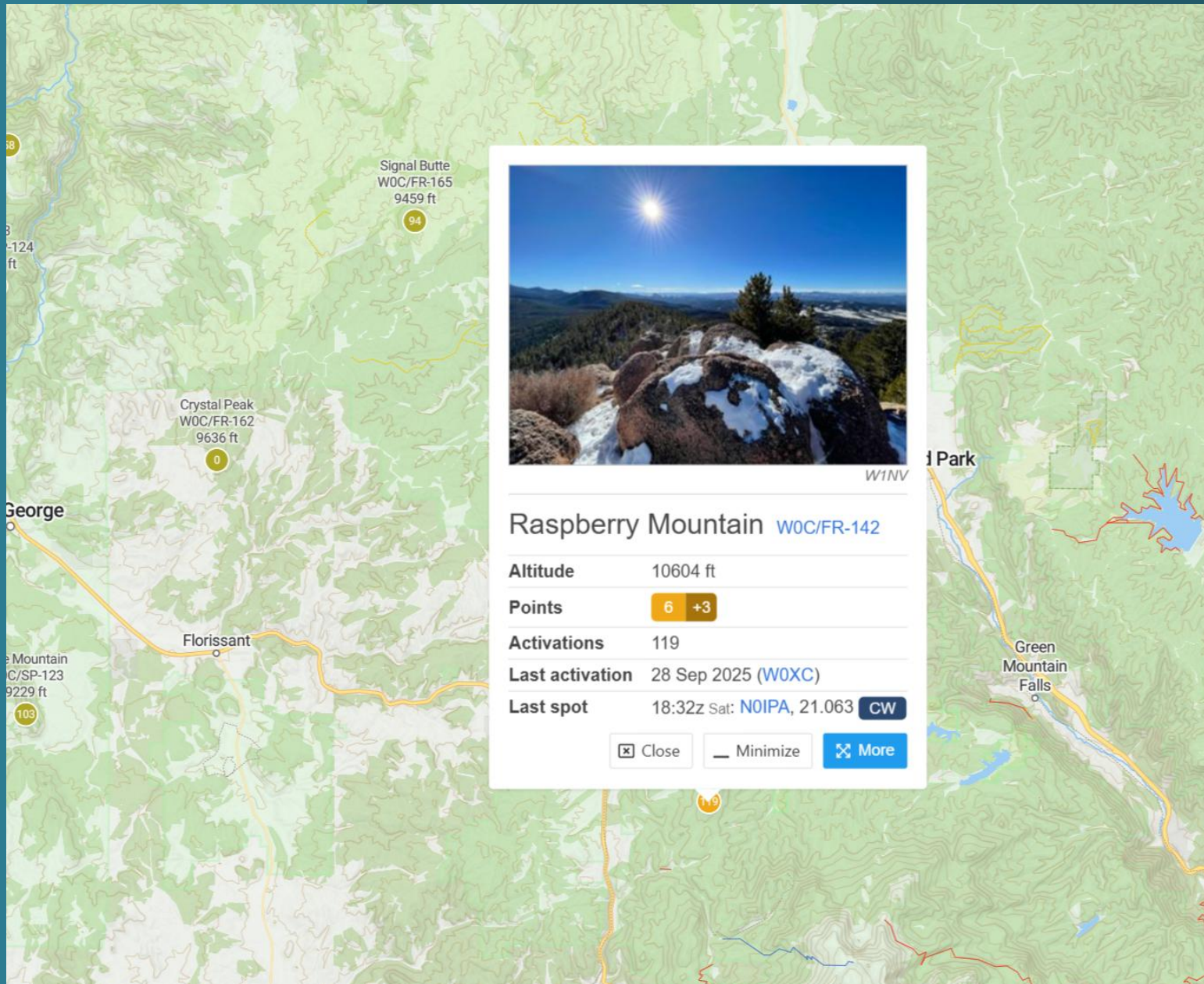
>> [See more on SOTAwatch](#)

Community & Modern Tools

- [sotl.as](#) – modern interface integrating spots, maps, and logs
- HAMRS – simple portable logging for phones/tablets
- HAM2K / Polo Logger – web-based, cloud-synced logging with auto-spotting
- Caltopo – Excellent tool for planning route
- ONX Hunt – Great for making sure you stay on public land (also excellent for slope angle)
- Alltrails – Good for peaks with established trails
- ListsOfJohn – Great info site for many peaks
- Gaia GPS – Good planning tools for routes
- Activation.zone – Great Activation zone mapping tool by N6ARA



Source: <https://sotl.as/map>



Source: <https://sotl.as/map>

Raspberry Mountain

[+ Alert](#) [+ Spot](#)

WOC USA - Colorado / FR CO-Front Range - 142

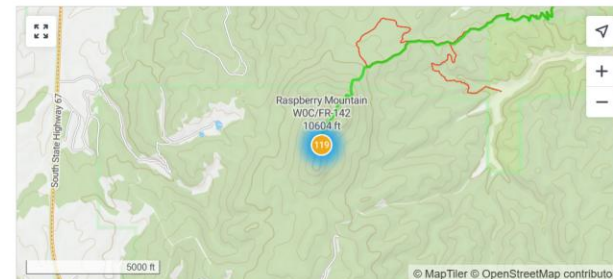
WOC/FR-142 | 10604 ft | 6 +3 points | 119 activations



W1NV

Coordinates: **38.9071, -105.1244**[Open](#) [Copy](#)Locator: **DM78kv**First activation: **N6UHB** (with **KD0PNK**) on 07 Dec 2011

Resources (+ Article | + Route)

[Google: Raspberry Mountain](#)[Raspberry Mountain WOC/FR-142](#) (by KFORIG on 19 Jan 2025)[Getting to the Trailhead](#) (by KDBEQA on 18 Mar 2022)[Excellent SOTA hike](#) (by K0NR on 20 Jun 2021)

Recent spots

Time ↓	Callsign	Frequency	Mode	Posted By	Comments
18:32z Sat	NOIPA	21.063	CW	RBNHOLE	[RBNHole] at KSTR 17 WPM 24 dB SNR
18:21z Sat	NOIPA	21.063	CW	NOIPA	
18:19z Sat	NOIPA	21.063	CW	RBNHOLE	[RBNHole] at KSTR 17 WPM 20 dB SNR
18:09z Sat	NOIPA	18.093	CW	NOIPA	
18:05z Sat	NOIPA	14.066	CW	RBNHOLE	[RBNHole] at W6YX 17 WPM 21 dB SNR
17:54z Sat	NOIPA	14.066	CW	NOIPA	
17:51z Sat	NOIPA	10.113	CW	RBNHOLE	[RBNHole] at KW7MM 17 WPM 18 dB SNR
17:38z Sat	NOIPA	10.113	CW	NOIPA	
17:29z Sat	NOIPA	7.032	CW	NOIPA	

Routes

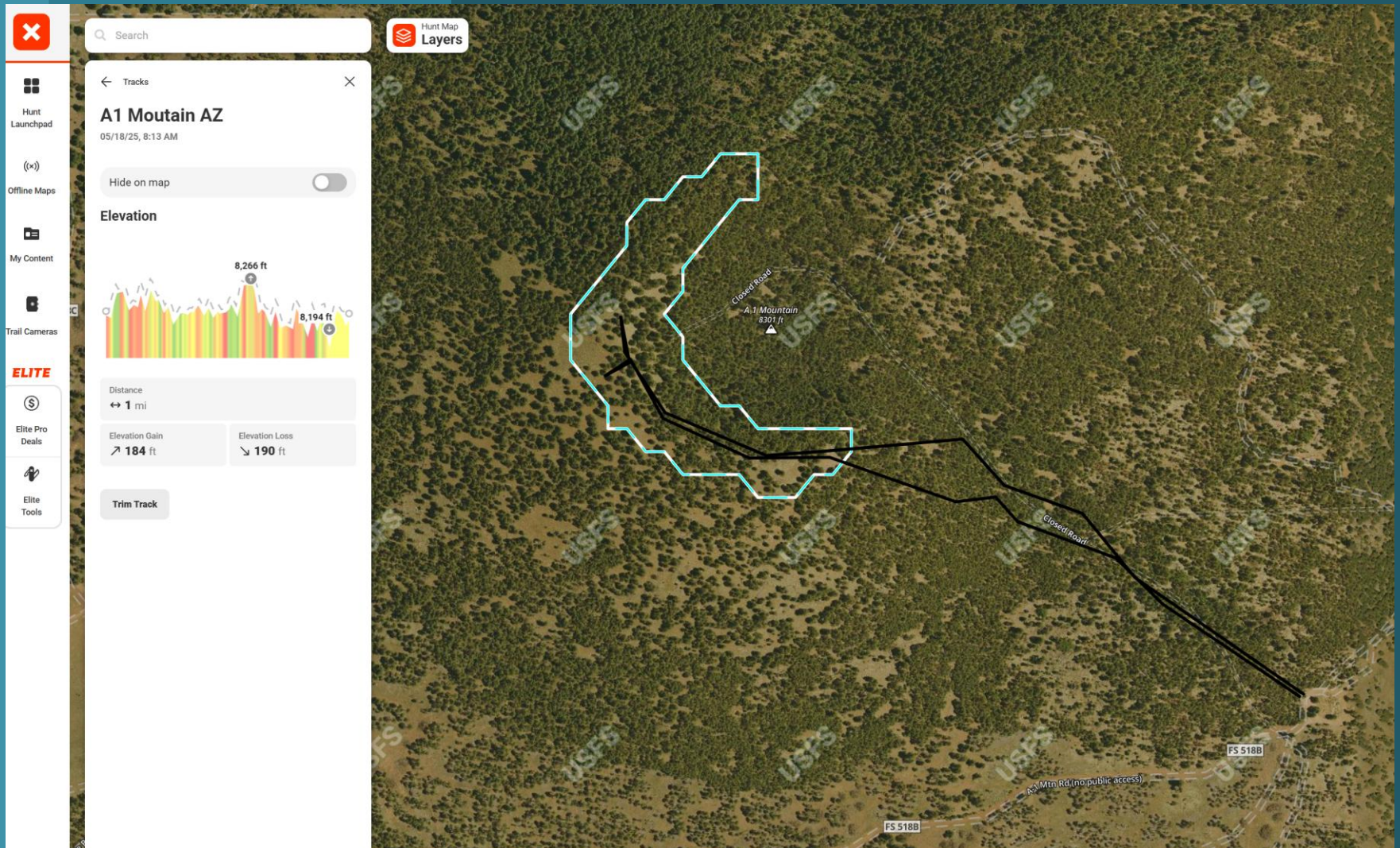
Title	Ascent	Descent	Distance
> Alternate Ascent Route	1296 ft	479 ft	3.0 mi

Photos



W1NV





Source: <https://www.onxmaps.com/hunt/>

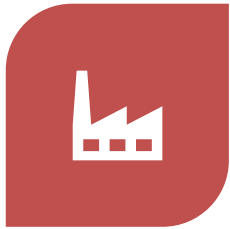


Source: <https://www.onxmaps.com/hunt/>

Planning Your Activation

- Research summit access and permissions
- Check weather and trail conditions
- Plan gear (radio, antenna, power, logging)
- Alert other operators before heading out

Activation Day: On the Summit



OPERATE WITHIN THE
ACTIVATION ZONE (25M
VERTICAL)



MAKE AT LEAST 4 QSOS
FOR A VALID
ACTIVATION



USE EFFICIENT
ANTENNAS AND
POWER MANAGEMENT



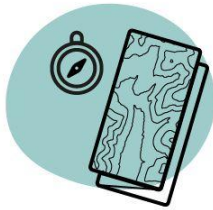
BE COURTEOUS - SHARE
FREQUENCIES AND
MANAGE PILEUPS

Activation Day: On the Summit

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Ten Essentials

Navigation



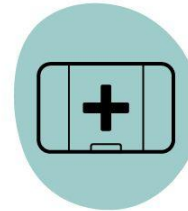
Sun Protection



Light



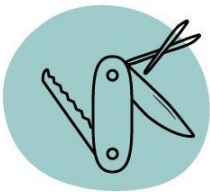
First Aid



Shelter



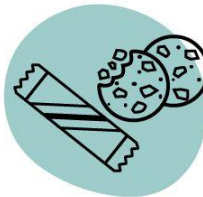
Repair Kit and Tools



Fire



Nutrition



Hydration



Additional Clothing



Activation Day: On the Summit



Activation Day: On the Summit

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Activation Day: On the Summit



Activation Day: On the Summit

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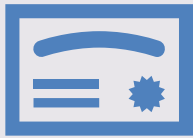
o



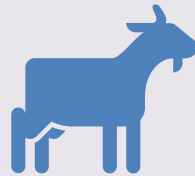
After the Activation

- Sync with favorite logging program (If using paper logging)
 - (HAMRS or HAM2K for easy upload)
- Upload logs to SOTADATA
- Post a trip report or photos to the SOTA community

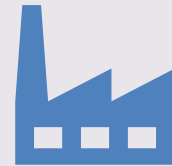
Awards & Recognition



Activator and Chaser
certificates



Mountain Goat (activator)
and Shack Sloth (chaser)
awards

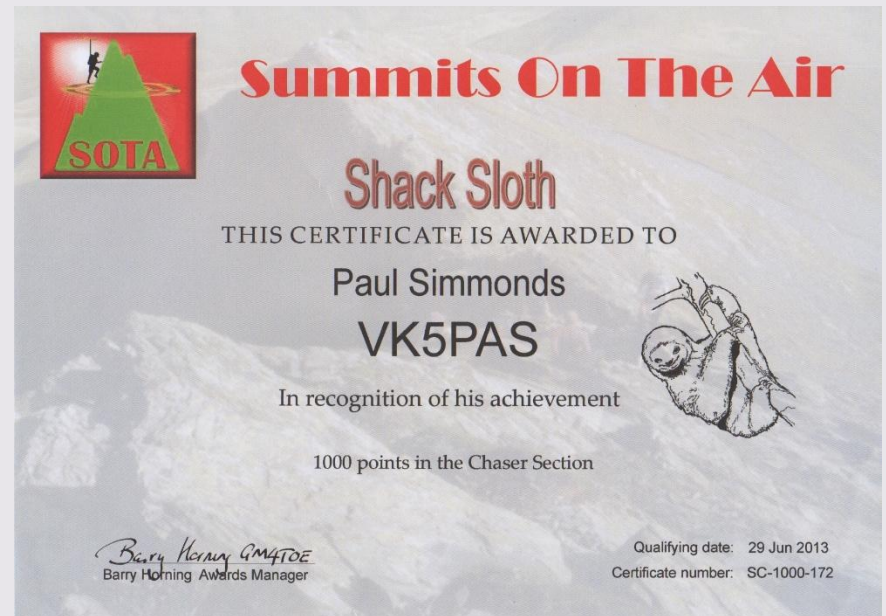


SOTA challenges and
milestones

Awards & Recognition



Source: <https://www.sota.org.uk/Joining-In/Awards>



Source: <https://vk5pas.org/shack-sloth/>



Popular gear choices

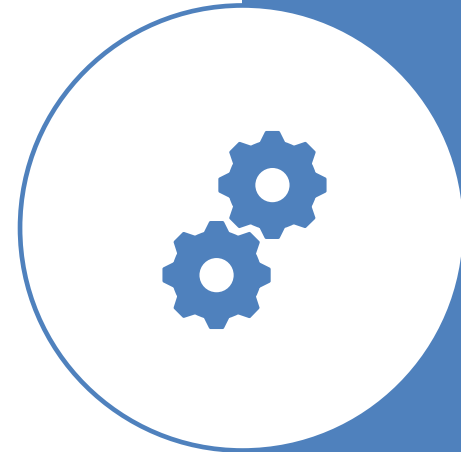


<https://elecraft.com/products/kx2-ssb-cw-data-80-10-m-transceiver>

KX2 and KXP02 paddle (sold separately)



<https://www.lnrprecision.com/mountain-toppers/>

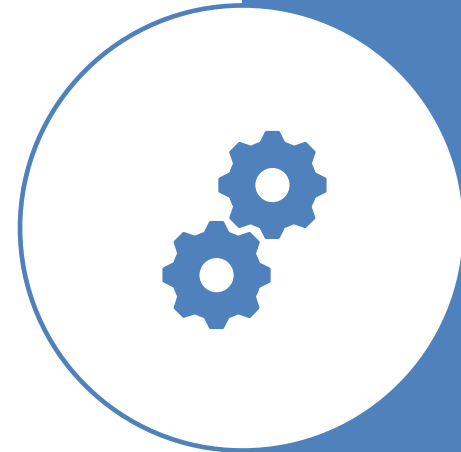
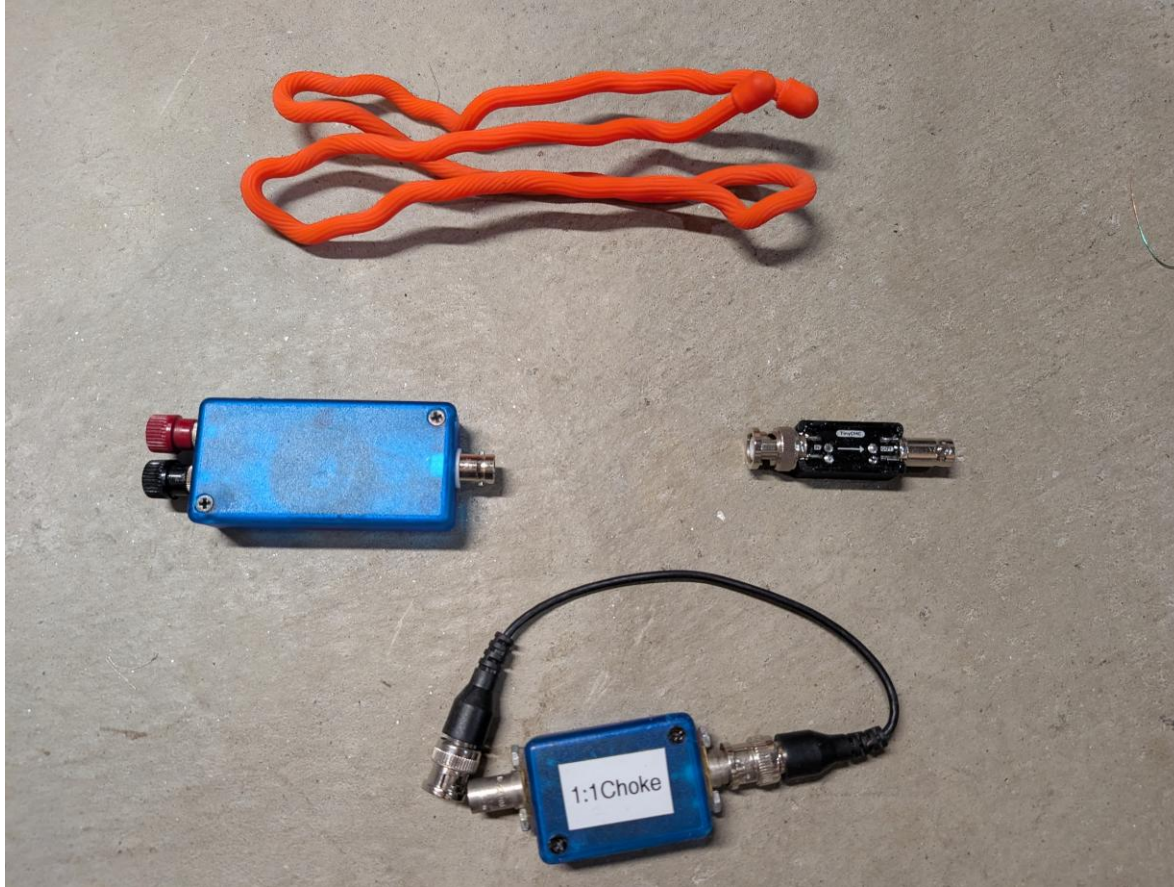


<https://hamgadgets.com/cft1-by-km4cft.html>

<https://qrp-labs.com/qcxmini.html>



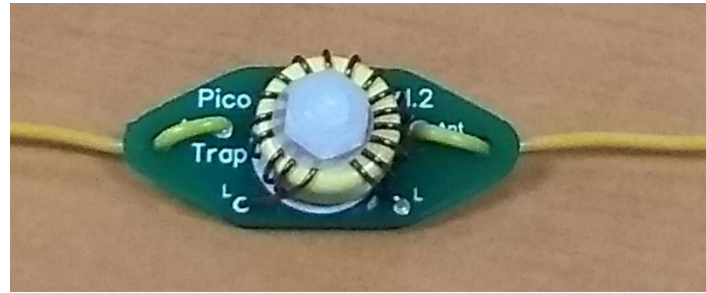
Popular gear choices



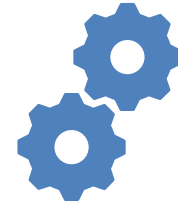
Popular antenna choices

End fed halfwave

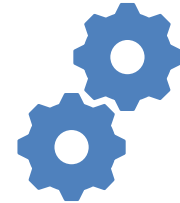
- Trapped
- Single band



<https://www.sotabeams.co.uk/pico-traps-kit-pair/>



Popular mast choices



The SOTA Community



SOTA Reflector – official discussion forum

<https://nasota.groups.io/g/main>



Social media groups – Facebook, Discord

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/37631909313>



Local reflector - W0C activators

<https://groups.io/g/w0c-sota/topics>

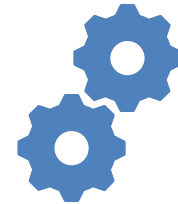
Resources & Links

Official Sites:

- sota.org.uk
- sotawatch.sota.org.uk
- sotamaps.org
- sotadata.org.uk

Community Tools:

- sotl.as
- hamrs.app
- ham2k.org
- Schnizer.com (outdated but has a LOT of info for Colorado)
- k0nr.com (Tons of activation info and a lot on VHF/UHF/SHF)



Questions?

- Thank you for attending!
- See you on the next summit!
- 72/73 de KI0KN

