



MS State Parks on the Air

April 15, 2024

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Purpose

- To promote public awareness of Amateur radio and Mississippi's State Park system.
- To promote a spirit of friendship and goodwill within the ranks of Mississippi Amateur Radio Operators and Amateur Radio clubs.
- To encourage contact with other Amateur Radio Operators around the state, country, and world.
- To provide additional field operating experience for Mississippi's Amateur Radio Operators.

Overview

As of this writing, there are at least 133 reference entities in the POTA database. Not all of them are parks. Only those with "Park" in the name will be used for MSPOTA.

There are twenty-one (21) State Parks in Mississippi, and we need to have most, if not all, of those 25 state parks activated by as many amateur radio operators as possible on the day of the event. This will entail the efforts and cooperation of multiple Mississippi clubs.

Except where noted in this document, POTA rules will apply. See <https://pota.app/> for more details. All MSPOTA activators will operate as if they were activating a State Park for POTA. Co-activating is allowed. When activators mail their adi file to the certificate coordinator, please include the co-activators call signs, if applicable.

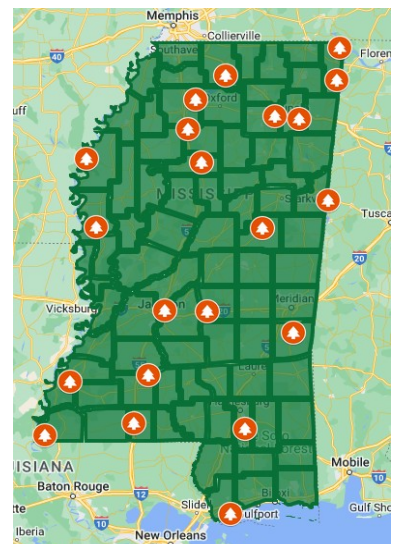
As in POTA the guidelines, all rules and regulations of the MS State Parks, will be followed. Fees need to be paid where they are required. If you use Pavilions then those need to be reserved and paid for.

Thank you's go to the Jackson County Amateur Radio club, and the Area 51 Radio group for their fine cooperation, in making this happen for our State. And a special thanks to all the Activators for the State Parks from whatever club or organization they come from. And of course, without all the hunters, this would not be an event!

Any updates to any of the rules or information in this document will be found at <https://jcmsara.org/mississippi-parks-on-the-air/>

Objectives

- To activate most, if not all, the 21 state parks in Mississippi
- To get as many activators as possible to activate in the field
- To get as many contacts as possible during the event





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MS State POTA Dates

There will be 2 dates this inaugural year. The first one will be a trial run, on Saturday, May 18, 2024. This will be a warm up. To make sure we have everything ready for the October date.

May 18 will have the same UTC times as the October one.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/area51radiogroupmsStatewide> MS POTA event date: Saturday, 10/19/2024. 1300 UTC to 2259 UTC (8 am – 5:59 pm CDT). Ten hours.

Should a postponement be necessary, because of inclement weather, the makeup date will be 11/09/2024 1400 UTC to 2359 (8 am – 5:59 pm CST). Ten hours.

Modes and Bands

Modes of Operation: SSB, CW and FT8/4

Amateur Radio Bands: Any Ham Radio band can be used. Also, 2m and 70cm - VHF/UHF Simplex is acceptable.

Stations may be worked once on each band, mode, and by activator.

Activation conventions:

FT8/4:

Use the conventional CQ POTA ... mechanism on the TX6 line

Phone:

CQ Mississippi POTA <CALLSIGN> calling CQ or some variation thereof.

CW:

CQ CQ MS POTA ...

Usage of POTA spotting is recommended by anyone (including self-spotting, allowed by POTA rules).

Parks to be activated: May 18, 2024 trial run



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Mississippi Park Name	POTA Reference	Activators AM	Activators PM
Buccaneer State Park	US-2532		
Clarkco State Park	US-2533		
George P Cossar State Park	US-2535		
Great River Road State Park	US-2537		
Hugh White State Park	US-2539		
John W. Kyle State Park	US-2540		
J P Coleman State Park	US-2541		
Lake Lincoln State Park	US-2542		
Lake Lowndes State Park	US-2543		
Lefleur's Bluff State Park	US-2544		
Legion State Park	US-2545		
Leroy Percy State Park	US-2546		
Natchez State Park	US-2547		
Paul B. Johnson State Park	US-2548		
Percy E Quin State Park	US-2549		
Roosevelt State Park	US-2550		
Tishomingo State Park	US-2552		
Tombigbee State Park	US-2553		
Trace State Park	US-2554		
Wall Doxey State Park	US-2555		
Clark Creek Natural Area State Park	US-9847		

MS POTA guidelines:

Jackson County ARA (<https://jcmsara.org>) and the Area 51 Radio Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/area51radiogroupms>) will be the Coordinators for this event.

Each Activator can use any combination of allowable modes anytime during the day. Self spotting to POTA is recommended at the beginning and when mode changing.

Each Activator at a Mississippi state park, during the event, should use their own callsign and use the US- designator that POTA uses. Please log all contacts, generate an adi file, and upload to the POTA website. This will entail that each Mississippi state park activator be a registered user of POTA.

Activators, in addition to uploading their adi files to POTA, will also mail those adi files to the certificate coordinator: ms.parksontheair@gmail.com, so that processing for certificates can be carried out. No Cabrillo files will be accepted. It does not matter how many adi files one activator has, they must send them all to the certificate coordinator. For instance, all wsjtx_log.adi files and other adi files that are generated from other logging software, if modes other than FT8/4 are used, should be sent.



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HamRS (<https://hamrs.app>), will be the logging software of choice, for non FT8/4 modes, as it is simple, and is tailor made for POTA. Such is not the case with other logging software.

All activators, please use the following format when sending adi files to the certificate coordinator:
Subj: MS State Parks on the Air: US-xxxxxx

In the email please indicate the activator's callsign, or callsigns (in the case of co-activation).
If there are multiple activators, then each of them will count for credit for the contact.

Include all adi files as attachments.

All adi files will conform to the format specified in the POTA documentation. Make sure that <my_sig> and <my_sig_info> are part of your adi file. Using HAMRS will make sure of that.

Rename all adi files to have your PARK number and Activator Callsign as well. For instance: US-2550_N5MES_2024_1.adi, or US-2550_N5MES_FT8_1.adi (or something similar).

Activators, please NOTE: All adi files that are generated by wsjt-x must include either FT8 or FT4 or wsjtx or something to indicated that the file was generated by wsjt-x. The reason for this, is that there is no good way to indicate the adi fields <my_sig> and <my_sig_info> in them. The certificate coordinator will take care of that.

Scoring:

There will be scoring for Hunters, and Activators.

Scoring for Activators:

Each band/mode/activator in your log, will score 1 point. With the exception of CW, which will count as 2 points.

There will be a special certificate for the Activator that:

1. Has the most QSO's,
2. or has the furthest DX contact.

Scoring for Hunters:

Each band/mode/activator will score 1 point.

Modes are:

SSB

CW



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FT4

FT8

The Bands are:

160m, 80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m, 6m, 2m, and 70cm (FM simplex)

Each CW mode contact will count double, as that is the most difficult.

Scoring Scenarios:

Scenario #1:

W5AAQ has a QSO with K5AHU in park US-2548 on 20m on SSB : 1 point

W5AAQ has a QSO with K5AHU in park US-2548 on 10m on SSB : 1 point

later in the day, W5AAQ has a QSO with N5AVU in park US-2548 on 20m on SSB : 1 point

W5AAQ has 3 points, 2 bands, 1 mode with 2 activators.

Scenario #2:

KA2AAB has a QSO with K9ACX in park US-2547 on 40m CW : 2 points

KA2AAB also has a QSO with K9ACX in park US-2547 on 20m CW: 2 points

KA2AAB also has a QSO with K9ACX in park US-2547 on 10m SSB: 1 point

KA2AAB also has a QSO with K9ACX in park US-2547 on 20m SSB : 1 point

KA2AAB also has a QSO with K9AGC in park US-2547 on 20m SSB : 1 point

KA2AAB now has 7 points. 3 bands 2 different modes, 2 different activators (it doesn't matter the same park)

Certificates

There will be certificates emailed to all contacts who are in any Mississippi parks adi file, (who have valid email addresses in QRZ). If the contact does not have a valid email address in QRZ, then no certificate will be mailed. It is up to the individual contact to make sure that their QRZ email address is up to date.

There will be a special certificate for hunting all activated Mississippi state parks, (and an invitation to come down to our fine state for a visit!)

In addition, if a contact wishes to have a hard-copy of said certificate, please send \$5.00 USD and the QSO details of the contact to:



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**JCARA MSPOTA
P. O. Box 234
Gautier, MS 39553**

Plaques:

There will be two special plaques, for Hunters:

1. For the hunter who contacts all the State Parks on the included list during the contest and has the highest total score.
2. For the hunter who has the highest total score.