



# MS State Parks on the Air 2026

February 25, 2026

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## Purpose

- To promote public awareness of Amateur radio and Parks on the Air in Mississippi.
- 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

This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mississippi State Parks on the Air. The very first year we had over 1100 QSO's!

As of this writing, there are at least 155 reference entities in the POTA database in the great state of Mississippi.

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 for POTA. Co-activating is allowed. Each activator will mail their adi files, with the park number to [wf5w.ms@gmail.com](mailto:wf5w.ms@gmail.com)

As in POTA the guidelines, if operating in a MS State Park, 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 as many POTA entities in Mississippi on one day
- 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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While **ANY** existing POTA entity can be activated for this event, emphasis will be given to any State Park run by the state Wildlife and Fisheries. There may be some of you that would not be able to activate if you had to travel to a state park, so we will not penalize you for that. But if you can, please make the effort to go to a state park.

If you do plan to do a state park, email your reservation of one or more of the parks in the below list that you plan to activate to [wf5w.ms@gmail.com](mailto:wf5w.ms@gmail.com) with the number of the parks, and your callsign.

POTA Number	Park Name	Activator Reservation
US-2532	Buccaneer State Park	
US-2533	Clarkco State Park	
US-2534	Florewood State Park	
US-2535	George P Cossar State Park	
US-2536	Golden Memorial State Park	
US-2537	Great River Road State Park	
US-2538	Holmes County State Park	
US-2539	Hugh White State Park	
US-2540	John W. Kyle State Park	
US-2541	J P Coleman State Park	
US-2542	Lake Lincoln State Park	
US-2543	Lake Lowndes State Park	
US-2544	Lefleur's Bluff State Park	
US-2545	Legion State Park	
US-2546	Leroy Percy State Park	
US-2547	Natchez State Park	
US-2548	Paul B. Johnson State Park	
US-2549	Percy E Quin State Park	

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POTA Number	Park Name	Activator Reservation
US-2550	Roosevelt State Park	
US-2551	Shepard State Park	
US-2552	Tishomingo State Park	
US-2553	Tombigbee State Park	WF5W
US-2554	Trace State Park	
US-2555	Wall Doxey State Park	
US-9847	Clark Creek Natural Area State Park	

## MS State POTA Dates

The MS POTA event date: Saturday, **03/28/2026. 1300 UTC to 2259 UTC (8 am – 5:59 pm CDT)**. Ten hours. There will not be a postponement date.

## Modes and Bands

Modes of Operation: SSB, CW, FT8/4 and any other legal mode that POTA allows

Amateur Radio Bands: Any Ham Radio band can be used. Also, 2m and 70cm - VHF/UHF Simplex is acceptable. This includes the WARC bands, as POTA is not a contest.

Stations may be worked once on each band, mode, and by activator. As with POTA uploads, DUPs will not be allowed.

## Activation conventions:

### FT8/4:

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

### Phone:



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

## **CW and PSK31 (or other digital mode):**

CQ CQ MS POTA ...

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

## **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.

1) Each Activator at a Mississippi POTA entity, 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 activator be a registered user of POTA.

2) Activators, in addition to uploading their adi files to POTA, will also mail those adi files to the certificate coordinator: [wf5w.ms@gmail.com](mailto:wf5w.ms@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.

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 most 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-xxxxx for <Activator Callsign>**

In the email please indicate the activator's callsign, and include all adi files as attachments.

All adi files will conform to the format specified in the POTA documentation.

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).



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## **Scoring:**

There will be scoring for Hunters, and Activators.

### ***Scoring for Activators:***

Each band/mode/contact 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. Has the furthest DX contact.

### ***Scoring for Hunters:***

Each band/mode/activator will score 1 point.

#### Modes are:

SSB  
CW  
FT4  
FT8  
JS8  
PSK31  
DATA

#### 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:



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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.

In addition, if a contact wishes to have a hard-copy of said certificate, (US hunters only), please send \$10.00 USD and the QSO details of the contact to:

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

## **Plaques:**

- There will be a special plaque, for Hunters: For the hunter who has the highest total score.
- There will be a special plaque, for Activators: Most QSOs from any one activator.