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# NOARC GROUP POTA EVENT

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The North Ottawa Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a group POTA event in Hoffmaster State Park on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4pm. Feel free to come enjoy the park with us while we activate it for POTA. Participation in on-air activities is optional.

We encourage all licensed ham radio operators, as well as those interested in the hobby, but who are not yet licensed, to attend. Club membership is also not required. Anyone who is interested in joining us, regardless of club affiliation, is welcome.

## Details

### **When:**

Saturday, Aug. 24th at 4pm EST

### **Where:**

Hoffmaster State Park  
6585 Lake Harbor Rd  
Muskegon, MI. 49441

Enter via the Main Entrance  
(State Park pass required)

The meeting area is the Picnic Shelter marked with the BLUE star. It has been reserved for our use all day.

### **What:**

Club POTA activation & Cookout

Grilled hot dogs and drinks will be served for attendees

Picnic tables and outhouse-style facilities are available. Handicap parking is available

We will be running a single transmitter, multi-operator POTA station on HF phone bands for approximately four hours and activating Hoffmaster Park as a group. We may also have a separate CW station for CW ops



# POTA Activation Information

While this will not be a “true” club POTA activation (in the sense that all operators are using the club call to make QSOs like on Field Day), we will have a single HF station with a “primary operator” using the club call - other operators will use their own calls and operate the same station in sequence.

Operators will have the opportunity to participate for the length of time that they desire during the event.

The primary operator will be responsible for spotting the park, holding the frequency, running a pileup, and hand logging the contacts. Anyone wishing to be a primary operator is welcome to try. Initially N8GMZ will be the primary operator and will demonstrate how to run a POTA frequency while activating.

After the primary operator has made initial contact with the POTA hunter. The other operators at the station will then also make a QSO exchange with the calling station. You do not need to have any radio equipment, or experience with doing POTA to participate. The mic is handed to you with a station standing by for you to make a QSO. This is called “Passing the mic” POTA.

Here is an example of a “Pass the mic” POTA exchange:

**Primary Operator:** This is Whiskey Eight Charlie Sierra Oscar calling CQ POTA from US-1507 QRZ

**POTA Hunter:** November Eight Gulf Mike Zulu

**Primary Operator:** November Eight Gulf Mike Zulu you are 59 into the park QSL

**POTA Hunter:** QSL you are 59 Mike India

**Primary Operator:** QSL I copy your 59 Michigan, standby for 2<sup>nd</sup> operator

*(Primary operator logs all required information and then hands the mic and log to next operator)*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Operator:** November Eight Gulf Mike Zulu this is Kilo Echo Eight Victor Zulu Sierra at the same park, with the same signal report, QSL

**POTA Hunter:** QSL you are 59 Mike India

**2<sup>nd</sup> Operator:** I copy your 59 Michigan, standby for 3<sup>rd</sup> operator

*(2<sup>nd</sup> operator writes their call on the log and hands mic to next operator)*

This then repeats for each additional operator.

The last operator will end the QSO and tell the hunter “73” instead of asking them to standby.

The mic and log are then returned to the primary operator who begins calling CQ again.

The goal is for each operator to get at least 10 QSO’s, to “activate” the park, and thus be awarded an Activator point to their POTA account.

Historically multi-operator activations tend to develop into a pileup, due to the Hunter stations getting rewarded with multiple hunter points for the QSO, one for every activator they speak to. When someone re-spots the activation on the POTA spot page and mentions the number of operators, many others will begin to aggressively hunt the park to receive all the hunter points. It is a great way to do “contest” style QSO exchanges in a casual setting.

Prior to attending, you may want to sign up on the POTA website at <https://www.POTA.app>

This is optional.

Creating an account is free and you only need an email and your callsign to get started. You may find that once signed up, that you have been awarded retroactive hunter points by activators whom you have had a QSO with in the past. These will be credited to your account, and you may even have awards given to you depending on how many points you have. This does not mean someone else was using your callsign. Only the POTA activator is required to submit a log, and if you were in their log the points are awarded regardless of your own logs. Hunters are not required to log POTA QSO's or submit them.

As an operator at the NOARC POTA event you will not need to submit a log either. The log will be submitted under the club call, with you listed as an operator. All your QSOs will automatically be applied to your account, if you have one.

If there is enough interest, those that wish to stay past the scheduled end time can activate the park again, on the new day, which starts at 8pm EST. Logging 10 QSO's will earn you another activation point and will provide bonus “Late Shift” points for doing POTA after peak hours.

## Items to consider bringing include:

- A camp chair
- Bug spray
- Snacks
- Water/beverages

**Note** – If you do not have a current state park pass, they are available at the ranger station, at the park entrance, for a cost of \$19, or \$7 for a motorcycle. Day passes are not available to Michigan residents. For information on ride sharing reach out via the email address below. A NOARC member can meet you off-site for a ride into the park in lieu of purchasing a pass.

## Photos of the picnic shelter



Questions or comments about this event can be directed to:

NOARC's reflector <https://w8cso.groups.io/> or Levi Gates, at [CQ.N8GMZ@gmail.com](mailto:CQ.N8GMZ@gmail.com)

More information about NOARC, including a list of upcoming events: <http://www.W8CSO.org>

Join NOARC for their weekly net Tuesdays at 8pm: W8CSO analog repeater 145.490, -0.6 offset, 94.8 PL