How do I?

An occasional series

This week: POTA Easy Peasy Paper Logging

Synopsis: Sometimes it is just not convenient to take a computer into the field. Here is a simple paper field-expedient method of logging your POTA contacts.

See Parks on the Air | POTA | Parks program for amateur radio.
for more information about POTA.

Hopefully you have been following the other articles on the N3FJP logging software, Log Book of the World (LOTW) and the joys of QSLing. Know-How Resources and Downloads -- Cumberland Amateur Radio Club (radioclub-carc.com)

POTA hunters want your logs uploaded! But before you can upload, you need a log! Computerized logging is easy, but it is not always convenient to take a computer into the field.

When I activate a park for POTA, I have a simple paper system. I have a clipboard, something like the image shown below. Inside I store blank log sheets, pens and a scratch pad.

In the field, I open it up and place a blank log sheet on the clipboard. Everything else can remain inside. Objective -- Not so much to blow around and it gives me a solid writing surface.

Operator:									
Notes:									
Park-to-Park	Park Number:				Other Park Number:				
Number	Call Sign	Date	Time On	Band	Report Sent	Report Recv	Mode		State
1									

Sample. See Page 3 for a full-featured, full-size POTA log sheet. Download this file and PRINT PAGE 3.

I start by filling in the Operator-my call sign and to the right make notes about start time (In UTC), frequency, park identifier, grid square and anything else I may need.

The rest is easy peasy and straight forward. I print them 10 rows to a page. You may prefer more or less. For me ten is a good compromise between sizing and legibility. Ten is also the minimum needed to count as an activation, so when done, one page full should work. Two pages provide insurance or bragging rights.

Somewhere near here our publisher has added a link to a PDF file so you can easily print your own log sheets.

Catch 'ya on the air!

Parks On The Air – General Purpose Log Sheet　　　　　　　　　　(Landscape)

Operator:	

Notes:	Call Sign Sent: _____ Park # Sent: _____

Number	Call Sign	Date	Time On	Band	Report Sent	Report Recv	Mode	Park-to-Park My Park # My Sig	Park-to-Park Other Park # Sig	State	Notes
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											