

Pacific Northwest SOTA Newsletter

April-May-June 2020

Etienne-K7ATN – Strawberry Mtn W7O/NE-018

Upcoming Events –

Ham Radio – the Ultimate in Social Distancing! Everyone be safe and prudent with your activations while we enjoy communications while being far, far apart. There aren't too many places open to hiking in the Northwest as of this writing – see the links below. Reducing the burden on search and rescue teams and medical professionals is our current goal – we can climb and hike and activate as we wish when this is all behind us...This. Is. Temporary.

Oregon, Washington close all national forest sites, trails across 24M acres.

https://www.kgw.com/article/sports/outdoors/coronavirus-oregon-washington-close-all-national-forest-sites-trails-across-24m-acres/283-e70c8ff5-e594-42fb-b970-a80eb5a76038?fbclid=IwAR0pgvO3-SJzD0ziD35WzBrNVsSwbQrHlgpiePXr0Lf5gJ8PV_1k96ogDOI

BLM and Central Oregon Closures.

<https://ktvz.com/news/coronavirus/2020/03/27/covid-19-closures-national-forests-blm-recreation-sites-deschutes-john-day-rivers/?fbclid=IwAR234WlyHUv2pGcpWf0HWnhQ8TC3zMOCm63dMi9mMrgKPRm-dag1iw6Fc9M>

Northwest Volcano Climbing Closures.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/giffordpinchot/recreation>

SeaPac 2020 Cancelled (including the traditional SOTA Pizza Gathering).

<https://www.seapac.org/documents/SEA-PAC%202020%20Cancellation%20Notification.pdf>

Pacific Northwest Summit-to-Summit Parties – In a few months we **may** have a chance to get out in the mountains and work other summits – here's the tentative plan for this spring (email good on QRZ):

- + W7O Willamette Valley – Saturday, May 16 at 1900z, **146.56-fm**. Contact Ken-KI7VEM
- + W7O Central Oregon – Saturday, May 16 at 1900z, 146.58-fm. Contact Ron-W6PZA
- + W7O Southern Oregon – Saturday, May 16 at 1900z, 146.58-fm. Contact Matt-KC7OOY
- + W7M Before the [Glacier Hamfest](#) – July 16&17 – meet up at the gathering. Contact Rob-AE7AP
- + W7I Boise – pondering something this summer
- + W7W Puget Sound – considering a summer event
- + VE7 Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island – possibly joining in with W7W Puget Sound

Additional details for these events will eventually be found on <http://www.pnwsota.org/> and alerts of course on <https://sotawatch.sota.org.uk/>. You may also see a posting on the FaceBook groups or get a reminder email. Note that these events may be cancelled due to local Shelter in Place or Stay at Home orders.

Shutdown of SOTAWatch2 on March 25 – Yes, this has already happened. For those that read this newsletter, our old friend [SOTAWatch2 has been shut down](https://sotawatch.sota.org.uk/) and everyone should now use SOTAWatch3 at <https://sotawatch.sota.org.uk/>.

Support SOTA with Donations – Do you enjoy Summits on the Air? Do you recognize that the infrastructure that we use has a cost – not to mention that it is supported by the volunteer labor of many individuals to keep it humming for everyone? Why not make a small contribution to the costs – here’s an appeal and the donation URL: <https://reflector.sota.org.uk/t/financing-of-sota/22284>.

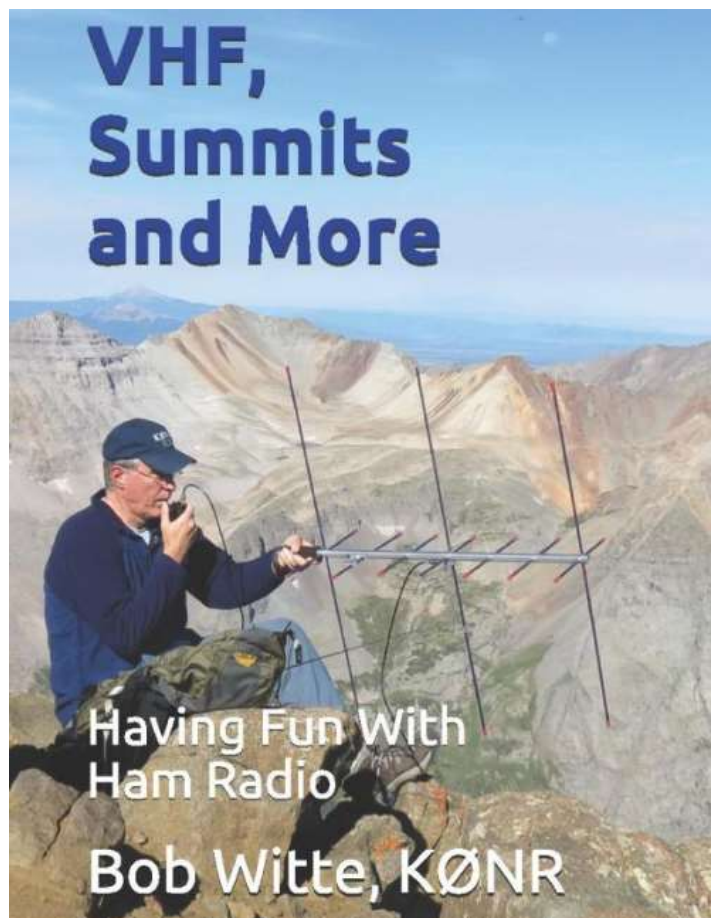
TEN ESSENTIALS – What you should have with you on a hike...

The ten essentials may not always be for YOU, but for someone else in your party or another hiker you encounter – here’s a good resource about what to have: <https://www.mountaineers.org/blog/what-are-the-ten-essentials>.

HB9NBN & HB9FZCs Winter-SOTA-Rallye by René-HB9NBN and Carine-HB9FZC. The Elecraft Newsletter features a fun story of trekking in the Swiss Alps...<https://mailchi.mp/elecraft.com/elecraft-february-newsletter>.

SOTA started 18 years ago! The associations back then were just England (G) and Wales (GW). SOTA can have its legal drink now (in the UK at least) – Cheers! <https://reflector.sota.org.uk/t/happy-18th-birthday-sota/22245>.

Chris-WX7EMT was recently featured in a podcast regarding SOTA. <https://thealpinegeek.com/summits-on-the-air-with-chris-caviezel/>.



Someone Need Some Book Help for SOTA? Bob-KØNR has written one! Per Amazon, “The final section helps the reader understand mountaintop operating, especially Summits On The Air (SOTA) activations, including operating tips and trip reports.” Find lots of this and other good information from Bob on his blog site: <https://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/>.

Thor Heyerdal and QRP Radio on the Kon-Tiki Expedition. Many of us have heard of the Kon-Tiki, but did you know the expedition included ham radio, QRP-style, under the callsign LI2B? Links below provide some fascinating information.



Introduction to ham radio on Kon-Tiki: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEvM4HxQxSQ>.
QST Article from December 1947: <http://p1k.arrl.org/cgi-bin/topdf.cgi?id=28028&pub=qst>.

New restrictions and Permit Requirements for hiking in Oregon and SW Washington:

<https://www.oregonlive.com/travel/2020/02/hiking-permits-confirmed-for-central-cascades-but-some-fees-called-off.html> and <https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/facility/273800>.

There are also new permit requirements for Through Hikers on the PCT: <https://www.pcta.org/discover-the-trail/permits/pct-long-distance-permit/>.

2019 September VHF on Mt. Fremont-W7W/RS-005. The team of Rich-KR7W, Mike-W7MKE, Chuck-AC7QN and Pat-WT7N (who took the photos) operated the September VHF contest from the summit of Mt. Fremont in Mount Rainier National Park. They used the club call WW7LW. Here's the story from Rich:

We did operate from the official SOTA summit of Mt Fremont...but only as VHF Contest participants. It was too complicated (at least for me) to keep two logs at 7,000 feet at 39 degrees in the fog. So in 2019 we only did VHF Contest logging – however, it did count for those SOTA Chasers that worked us.

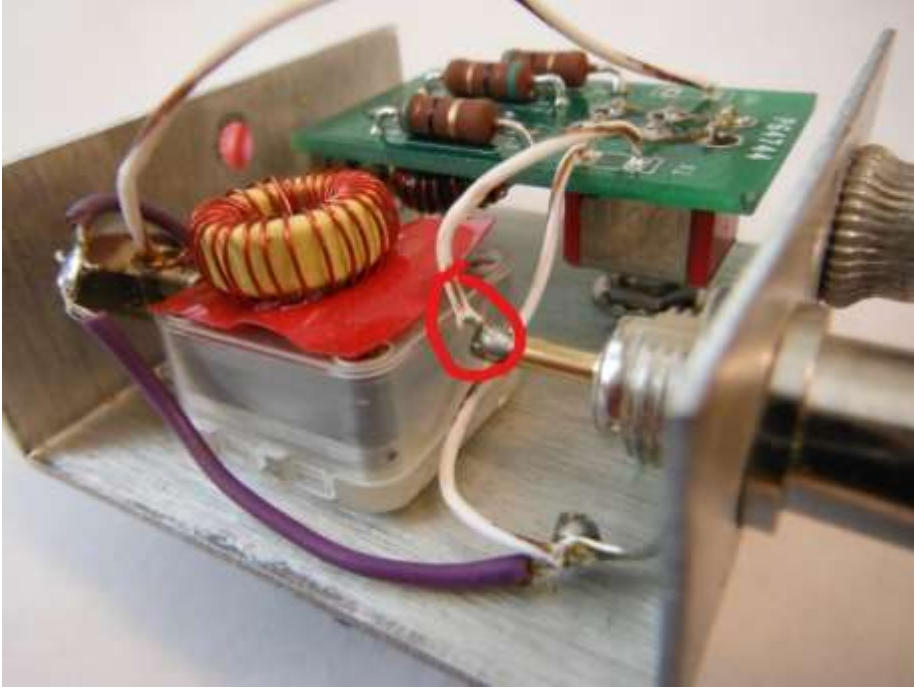




Previous photo – looking north from the summit. On the left: Yellow Coat Mike-W7MKE gets ready at the 2m SSB station. Rich-KR7W (black hat) makes coffee. Blue Coat Chuck-AC7QN anticipating coffee. On the right: AC7QN, W7MKE, KR7W attempt to respond to a CW CQ call heard on 432MHz. The CQer did not respond back. This was the only CW signal we heard during our outing.

Over the three hours we spent at summit there were 28 144MHz QSOs (SSB + FM), 20 50MHz SSB QSOs and six 432MHz SSB QSOs. Rigs used were a Yaesu FT-817 for 144 and 432MHz; an Elecraft KX3 for 50MHz SSB; and a Kenwood D72 for 146MHz FM; all radios at five Watts. All antennas are Home Depot PVC pipe + welding rod + aluminum angle stock – made to fit into a pack.

Keeping an Eye Out for Equipment Failures



Our equipment is used in the field and leads a hard and sometimes short, life. Here’s a reminder to pay attention. My EFHW tuner was eratically connecting to my rig – if I wiggled it just right it would work. When I opened it up I noticed that the pin on the BNC looked longer – in fact, it had been pushed into the tuner almost a quarter-inch, no longer making consistant contact. And the BNC mounting bolt was no longer tight and could rotate. Therefore the wire connecting (circled in red) was actually broken and just touching the pin. Check your gear! Before it hip checks you!