



W7W Has a New Summit List – As of December 1st the Washington Association has a revised list of SOTA summits. The revisions go along with a substantially revised ARM that is undergoing final changes and should posted to the SOTA site by press time.

One major change is that the prominence criterion has changed from 500 ft to 150m (492 ft). This alone has added new summits to the summit list. Mountains don't move of course, but with updated USGS surveys for prominence, some summits that were left out of the previous ARM have been added...and 41 summits in the previous ARM have been removed. After the update, W7W has a net gain of more than 100 new summits.

Winter Activations in the Snow! – Bonus points are calling! (1 December to ~31 March.) Sometimes winter activations just mean dodging raindrops, but here we are talking about dealing with snow. Often you can just “boot” it up a snowy trail – other times booting becomes “post holing” where you sink in every step up to your knees (or further!). Snowshoes make travel in deep snow very practical, and for those with the experience, cross-country or downhill skis are another way to access snowy peaks in winter. It's good to remember that while you make two mph or better on a trail, on snow you should think about one mph as a reasonable speed. And while you'll be warm enough while climbing, it's critical to take plenty of clothing to keep you warm while operating. For trails with limited snow and ice, Microspikes or Yaktrax or other simple traction devices are another idea for your kit. Here are some examples of trip reports that involved a snowy day – enjoy!

On foot:

[W7O/WV-062 – Larch Mountain](#)

[W7W/LC-136 – Bells Mountain](#)

[W7W/SN-105 – Mount Pilchuck](#)

On cross country skis:

[W7O/CN-050 – Multotorpor Mtn](#)

[W7O/CN-024 – Frog Lake Buttes](#)

On snowshoes:

[W7W-RS-049 – Elizabeth Ridge](#)

[W7O/CN-032 – Tom Dick Harry Mtn](#)

[W7O/CN-062 – Mud Creek Ridge](#)

On downhill skis:

[W7I/CI-060 – Peak 8762](#)

[W7M/GA-069 – Rumsey Mountain](#)

[W7I/BC-064 – Shafer Butte](#)

ARRL VHF Contest – January 21 & 22 – If you are on a summit during this contest give 2m FM or especially, 2m SSB a try – you may be very surprised (FT-817 is the rig to take). Note your grid square for the exchange – hand out a few QSOs to some grateful folks on 50MHz and up. <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>.

SOTA in Oregon's National Park – Crater Lake is Oregon's only National Park, and has one of the highest concentrations of accessible eight point summits in Oregon. They are close enough together to be able to do more than one peak in a day, two of them have well-established trails, and one of the off-trail summits (Dutton Ridge) is very approachable. It's not hard to do two or even three of these summits in a long summer day. Besides being great SOTA activations, it is one of our nation's gems for scenic beauty.

The two summits with trails are highly recommended – especially Mount Scott. This is the highest point in the park and has a spectacular view and a great operating position just past the summit lookout. Crater Peak is seldom hiked and you'll find some quiet there. One particularly interesting peak is Wizard Island that requires a reservation for a boat ride – be sure to be done with your activation in time for the return boat trip!

An access exception to note is the Llao Rock Natural Area that has been closed to the public to protect rare species. It is accessible only when covered with one continuous foot of snow – these conditions might only be found in the winter or perhaps in early spring – however, the roads to this area may not be open early enough for there to be snow all the way to the summit.

For accommodations, there's the famous Crater Lake Lodge (book in advance) and one concessionaire-operated campground requiring reservations, one small first-come first-served Park Service campground, and other camping and lodging options at nearby Diamond Lake to the north. Here are links to trip reports and a few details for each Crater Lake summit...



[W7O/CS-038 - Wizard Island](#) – This summit takes some coordination as you'll hike down a steep trail to a reservation-only boat ride that will take you to the island where you'll climb to its summit.

[W7O/CS-011 - Llao Rock](#) – This area is closed to protect plant species unless there is one foot of continuous snow cover. See the [Superintendent's Compendium](#) for details.

[W7O/CS-008 - Hillman Peak](#) – The climb of Hillman is one of the more challenging of the summits in the park. It's a scramble with significant loose rock to get into the Activation Zone.

[W7O/CS-010 - Applegate Peak](#) – This summit requires a bit of GPS cross-country navigation to be sure you are headed to the peak – and more importantly, to find the way back to your vehicle.

[W7O/CS-009 - Dutton Ridge](#) – A very straightforward cross-country jaunt to one of the most beautiful and accessible point on the rim. You'll be rewarded with quiet, great views and a super operating position.

[W7O/CS-026 - Crater Peak](#) – Here is one of the summits with a trail to the top...it's one of the easy and recommended summits to do in the park, along with close by Mount Scott.

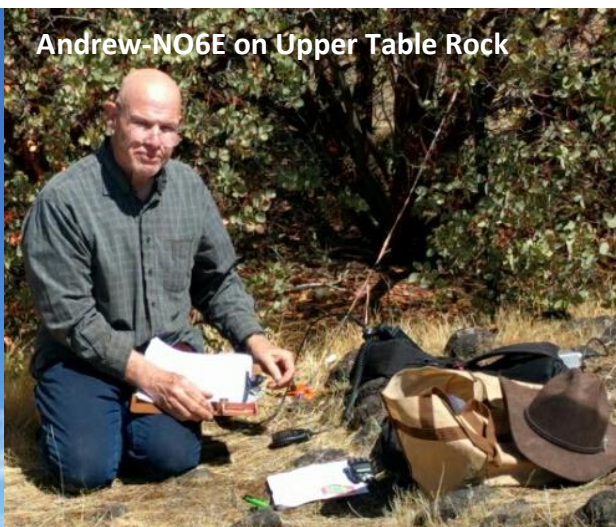
[W7O/CS-003 - Mount Scott](#) – Mount Scott is the other summit with a trail to the top. It's the highest point in the park with an all-encompassing view of the lake. There's a comfortable operating position just past the fire lookout where you'll most likely be out of the way of other hikers. The banner photo for this issue features Mount Scott as seen from Dutton Ridge.

New 2016 Activators in Oregon – Over the summer I often skimmed through sotawatch.org alerts to see if any W7O summits were on the air – and was pleased to see some **new folks** handing out points from Oregon. Here's a shout out to those activating in our Association – thanks for putting Oregon summits on the Air!

Roland-KG7FOP on Silver Star



Andrew-NO6E on Upper Table Rock



Alex-K7ALO on Mount Adams



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