

# W7O – SOTA Oregon Newsletter

May-June 2015

**Share this W7O Summits on the Air Newsletter with others who might be interested – suggest ideas for the newsletter to climb2ski at gmail.**

**It's a Party! A Summit-to-Summit Party!** – Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> - we've got two Summit-to-Summit Parties coming to the Northwest – one in the Willamette Valley of Oregon and another around Washington's Puget Sound. Both of these places are "surrounded" by a variety of peaks – some easy to access and others more challenging. See announcements here: and here: [www.pnwsota.org/content/puget-sound-s2s-party-16-may-2015](http://www.pnwsota.org/content/puget-sound-s2s-party-16-may-2015) and join the fun.

**Upcoming Events – SeaPac Convention** – For those in the Northwest, consider attending the SeaPac Convention, June 5-7 in Seaside, Oregon (<http://seapac.org/>). There will be presentations by SOTA chaser Phil-NS7P, and also Mike-W7RIS (and yours truly for the Friday workshop), and relevant seminars on solar power and antennas. And best, SOTA folks can gather with us for pizza in Seaside on Friday evening – see [www.pnwsota.org](http://www.pnwsota.org) for the announcement later in May.

**Upcoming Events – June VHF** – For those with 6 meter and up SSB capability, activating on June 13 and 14 could have an extra fun factor – the ARRL June VHF Contest. There will be bunches of folks delighted to work you on 50.125 and 144.200 MHz SSB, other bands too if you have the gear. There is a bit activity on 2 meter FM; but use of 146.52 isn't allowed so look for folks on 146.55 or 146.58. VHF contests are also a great time to activate a summit where you don't want to carry or put up an HF antenna. See the rules at [www.arrl.org/june-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf) and consider entering a log for the contest – people have gotten first place in their ARRL section with just a few contacts!

The June VHF Contest is also a great way to make some contacts for the newest [Official SOTA Challenge for 10m and 6m](#). See details here and consider adding those bands to your antenna and gear quiver on summits.

**Those “Unactivatable” Summits** – Let’s remember that access to any SOTA peak needs to be via public right of way or with permission to pass on private or restricted land. Near Portland are three summits with activation zones entirely on private property – Biddle Butte (W7W/LC-154), Ridgeway Butte (W7O/WV-092) and Peak 1129 (W7O/WV-136). Also off limits are fourteen summits in the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit east of Portland and all summits on Indian Reservations such as Warm Springs in Oregon and Yakama in Washington. Sometimes you can get one-time permission to activate a peak on private property – but consider how the property owner would feel if another activator showed up next month, and the month after that, and so on. There are more than 1,900 summits in Oregon and about 2,700 in Washington – plenty of things to do without venturing onto private property or into restricted areas.

**Name that Number Peak** – For Oregon, Washington and Idaho there’s a program to give a SOTA name to otherwise unnamed peaks. There are thousands of peaks without names – they are typically numbered according to their elevation. Renaming won’t be in any USGS list of course, but it will show up in the SOTA database and in each Association Reference Manual when updates occur. The intention is to provide a local place name when possible and otherwise have fun and encourage activations of these usually obscure numbered peaks. Examples include Peak 2140 (W7O/WV-134) that was renamed "Back-up Plan" after the preceding activation attempt failed, Peak 761 (W7O/WV-138) renamed "Skyline Ridge" for a nearby park, Peak 4375 (W7I/SR-167) was renamed "Sam High Point" to honor SK W7JWO, Sam High, and Peak 4980 (W7O/CN-082) was renamed "Chasers Rock" to recognize all SOTA Chasers. If a first time activator does not put forth a name within about three months of activation, here in Oregon I would entertain suggestions from the next activator. And if you don’t want to rename a peak or can’t think of a good name, don’t sweat it – sometimes a number is best. See [www.pnwsota.org/content/announcement-vanity-name-numbered-peak-program](http://www.pnwsota.org/content/announcement-vanity-name-numbered-peak-program) for more information.

**DX SOTA Activations** – If anyone is making any summer vacation plans outside the US, consider your own SOTA “DXpedition.” Note that for operating outside the US an Extra Class license is helpful because it is sometimes difficult or impossible to determine common operating privileges between countries, so having all privileges is simpler. See the ARRL website [www.arrl.org/international-operating](http://www.arrl.org/international-operating) for details on operation from other countries. Operating in other countries is fun way to see places that are off the tourist track and you can sometimes meet up with hams from the countries you visit as they are often happy to show you around their home turf. You’d do the same for any visitors coming your way.

This newsletter is brought to you by the SOTA W7O Association Manager Etienne-K7ATN. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please email climb2ski at Gmail. See back issues here: [www.pnwsota.org/search/node/newsletter](http://www.pnwsota.org/search/node/newsletter).