

W7O – SOTA Oregon Newsletter

March-April 2016

2016 Dates for SOTA Fun in North America – Guy N7UN has updated major North America SOTA dates for 2016. We will set a stake in the ground for the NASOTA Spring Activity Weekend in April. In fact, let's use [23 April for a W7W and W7O Summit-to-Summit Party](#), shall we? Put these in your calendar and join the fun:

- 23-24 April: North America SOTA Spring Activity Weekend
- 3-5 June: [SeaPac Hamfest](#) with [SOTA Gathering on 3 June](#) (Seaside, Oregon)
- 11-12 June: [ARRL June VHF Contest](#)
- 18-19 June: North America SOTA Summer Activity Weekend
- 25-26 June: [ARRL Field Day](#)
- 16-17 July: SOTA optional date + [CQ WW VHF Contest](#)
- 6-7 August has these FOUR events:
 - NA SOTA Rocky Mountain Rendezvous
 - [Colorado 14er Event](#)
 - [W7 SOTA Activity Weekend](#)
 - [ARRL August UHF Contest](#)
- 10-11 September: NA SOTA Fall Activity Weekend + [ARRL September VHF Contest](#)

Welcome New Association Managers for North America – The following are new association managers (AM) in North America:

Paul W6PNG takes over in W6 from Adrian N6ZA, who served admirably during the trying time when W6 went from 208 peaks to 3,717.

Scott K7ZO takes over in W7 Idaho from the other Scott, W7IMC, who introduced SOTA to hordes of hams during travels and activations in his sales job all over the Western states, including KH6 and KL7.

Shannon KL3JI will be the first AM in the new KLA association surrounding Anchorage, Alaska. That association has a completed summit list/manual but has not yet launched. That may happen in March, along with KLF-Fairbanks, and KLS-Southeast, whose temporary AM will be SOTA Alaska founder **Guy N7UN**. With the 18,000 new Alaskan summits, the USA is expected to contain half the SOTA peaks in the world.

2015 North America SOTA Year in Review – Scott K7ZO has summarized SOTA activity across North America in 2015. He's put together some fun facts and interesting graphics in his report that you can find here:

www.pnwsota.org/sites/pnwsota.org/files/downloads/K7ZO/SOTA%202015%20In%20Review.pdf

Winter...A Time to Write Up Trip Reports – With the soggy weather we've been having this winter (wettest December in 75 years in Oregon) there have not been a lot of activations. So, being cooped up indoors, this is perhaps a time to write up a trip report for those that would activate a summit after us. Think about out of town Activators – if you can't join them in person on an activation, how about helping them with driving details to the trailhead, some information about the trail, and an idea of what they'd find at the summit? Remember that all trip report blogs on www.pnwsota.org are automatically linked to sotawatch.org summit pages – the best place to put your trip insights.

SOTA Activity in Montana – Ron AE7AP, AM for W7M, reports, "I am proud to announce that Montana has broken the 100-mark, we now have 106 activated summits! The two most popular summits are: W7M/CL-182, South Scratchgravel and W7M/SF-168, Monument Peak with four activations each."

South Scratchgravel is probably on par with lots of the other frequently activated peaks around the country, it is a nice walk-up that is close to Helena. Monument Peak, on the other hand, is a drive-up that is further off the beaten path than many other summits – about 50 miles from Helena. However, it has the additional distinction of being activated by a certified goat.

SOTA in the News – An article by Tim KG7EJT is featured on page 24 of the Mountaineers Club (Seattle) magazine. He's been very successful at activating using 2m FM – that's amazing itself: www.mountaineers.org/mountaineer-magazine/magazine-media-kit/Mtr_05_15.pdf

Bioenno Power Batteries for SOTA – The folks at Bioenno Power make some neat Lithium Iron Nano phosphate batteries. Lightweight of course, and I also like them because they are nominal 13V – very similar to Lead Acid batteries and they are chemically much more stable than Lithium Polymer. They are offering a 10% discount for SOTA folks with the checkout code: [PNWSOTA2016](https://www.bioennopower.com). The discount code is good for the entire year and if you are on their newsletter list, they occasionally offer other specials. They have reasonably priced charges bundled with batteries, and best of all, their batteries already have Anderson PowerPoles installed! www.bioennopower.com

Your SOTA Goal? – Perhaps January is the time of year that most folks think about goals, but I've heard that some of you are in late February thinking about what kinds of SOTA adventures you might have this year. As for me, I'm on the slow path to activate ten percent of the summits in W7O – about 193 or so. (I've got just over one-hundred done to date). And I'm also trying to make some contacts for the Pacific NW VHF Society Microwave Challenge that's going on through September: www.pnwhfs.org/microwave-challenge.html. You might think about what you'd like to achieve for SOTA this year: A ten-point summit? A group activation with new Activators? Working a VHF contest from a SOTA summit? Gathering a bunch of Summit-to-Summit points? A "field trip" to another association? Just make sure to be safe and have fun – it's a radiosport, after all.

It's a slow time of year for SOTA news – I'm always open to your contributions to this newsletter. Let's see who reads this fine print – by sending me your best activation photos for the next newsletter, eh? Share this newsletter with others or subscribe or unsubscribe by email to climb2ski@gmail.com. This newsletter is brought to you by the W7O SOTA Association Manager, Etienne-K7ATN. Find back issues here: www.pnwsota.org/content/w7o-sota-oregon-newsletters.