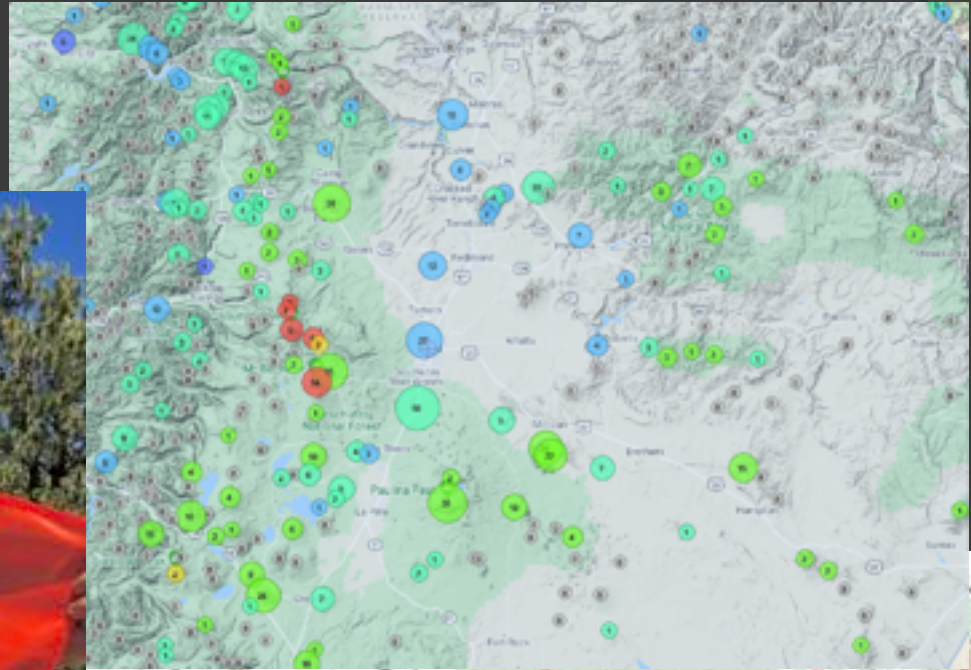


Trip Planning and Researching Summits

Ron - W6PZA



Trip Planning and Researching Summits

First - What are your goals for activating?

A goal is an idea of the future or desired result that a person or a group of people envision, plan and commit to achieve.

- Goals will help guide your trip planning and summit choices

Beginner:

- Gaining experience and confidence in portable operating
- Success in working those first few summits
- Start accumulating points

Established Activator:

- Gaining points working towards MG or other awards
- uniques, different modes, DX
- bagging certain summits in a region or on a trip

Trip Planning and Researching Summits

Where to start

- Tag along... Join a trip out with other experienced activators
- Contact the Regional or Association Manager in your area for ideas where to go and to connect with other activators
- Research summits and trip planning using computer, smartphone and other internet resources
- Good old paper maps and books

Trip Planning and Researching Summits

Researching SOTA-designated summits

Internet Based:

- SOTA Mapping Project (SOTA Maps) - Official SOTA mapping tool <https://www.sotamaps.org/>
- SOTLAS (SOTA Atlas) <https://sotl.as/map>

Smartphone Apps:

- SOTA Goat (iPhone)
- SOTA Spotter (Android)

Trip Planning and Researching Summits

SOTA Mapping Project

The screenshot displays the SOTA Mapping Project website interface. The browser address bar shows the URL <https://www.sotamaps.org>. The website has a navigation bar with links for **main**, **mapping**, **extras**, and **contact**. A dropdown menu is open under the **mapping** link, listing the following options: **main mapping page**, **range mapping page** (highlighted with a red circle), **tracks mapping page**, **activations mapping**, and **chases mapping page**. The main content area features a map of North America with various geographical features labeled, including the North Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. A sidebar on the left contains a 'Chosen Summits List' table with columns for 'Summit Code' and 'Summit Name'. The table is currently empty. Below the table are buttons for 'Search...', 'Settings...', 'Export...', and 'Help...'. A 'SOTA Links' menu is visible on the right side of the page, listing various resources such as 'SOTA Summits Site', 'Recent Summit Info', 'SOTA Home', 'Reflector', 'Database', 'SOTA Shop', 'Mapping', 'Videos', 'Photos', 'Facebook Group', 'FAQs', and 'Contact SOTA'. The footer of the page includes copyright information: 'Copyright © 2011-2020 SOTA - Summits On The Air'.

Trip Planning and Researching Summits

SOTA Mapping Project

The screenshot shows the SOTA Maps website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'mapping', 'extras', and 'contact' links. Below that, a 'Define range' dropdown menu is highlighted with a red circle. The main content area features a 'Found Summits Listing' table with columns for 'Summit Name' and 'Brng (deg)'. A dialog box titled 'Define range and reference point(s)' is open, showing the following fields:

- Range type: Closed circle (selected) with a radio button option 'Define range as closed circle'.
- Range dimensions: Outer circle radius: 60 (selected) with radio button options for Kilometers and Miles.
- Reference point type: Address/City/Feature (selected).
- Address/City/Feature: Bend, OR (highlighted in yellow) with a red note '(Zip Code works too)'.
- Country: Please choose (dropdown menu).

Buttons for 'Help...', 'Close', and 'Map »' are visible at the bottom of the dialog box. The background map shows North America, and a 'Help.. Measure.. Export..' bar is at the bottom left.

Trip Planning and Researching Summits

Find SOTA Summits within: Define range **Area: circle, radius 70 miles** Reference point: Bend, OR

Found Summits Listing

Display: All summits in chosen range

Table col.#3: Bearing Activations count

Summit Code	Summit Name	Elev. (ft)	Dist. (mi)
W70/CE-009	Paulina Peak	173.2	25.700
W70/CE-014	North Paulina Peak	170.5	21.730
W70/CE-017	Burn Butte	212.5	60.447
W70/CE-020	Bald Mountain	182.1	54.271
W70/CE-021	Cappy Mountain	212.9	61.475
W70/CE-030	Walker Mountain	201.2	55.823
W70/CE-032	Odell Butte	214.2	49.024
W70/CE-039	Lookout Mountain	68.0	50.306
W70/CE-044	Mount Plogah	62.3	60.160
W70/CE-045	Round Mountain	64.0	53.281
W70/CE-048	Cross Mt.	154.0	28.648
W70/CE-053	Starns Mountain	186.8	48.582
W70/CE-056	Antelope Mountain	180.4	61.375
W70/CE-058	Pine Mountain	171.0	28.690
W70/CE-066	Marmot Butte	200.7	53.189
W70/CE-068	Pine Benchmark	130.3	25.171

400 Summits Tracks available for summit

Help... Measure... Export...

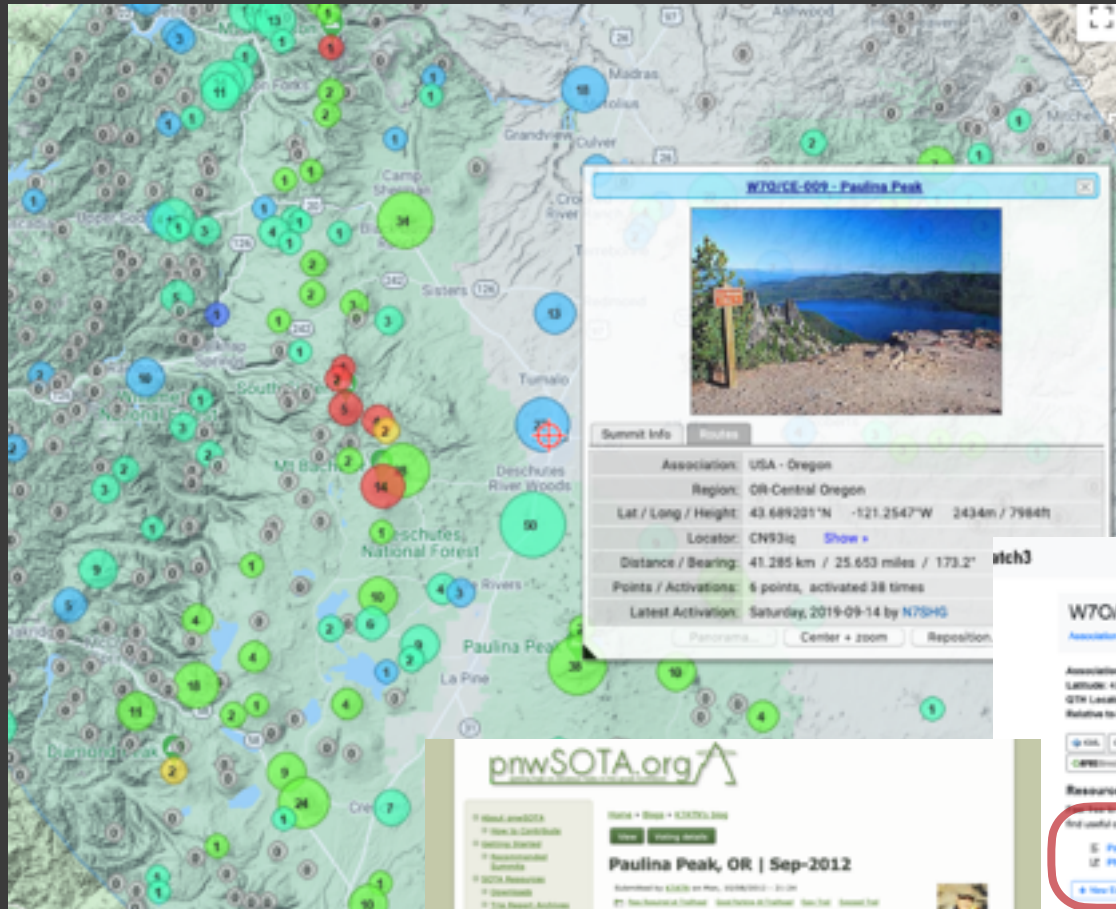
GPX/KML

• Summits with most activations are usually easier accessed

• Zero may mean access restrictions or private property - or ready for #1

Trip Planning and Researching Summits

Finding Summit Info - First Level



- Reviewing Trip Reports and contacting a recent activator are quick ways to get updated summit info - not much research necessary.



Trip Planning and Researching Summits

SOTA Atlas

The screenshot displays the SOTLAS website interface. The browser address bar shows the URL: <https://sotlas.com/coordinates/43.944287,-121.4313779,36/summits/W70ICE-008>. The page features a search bar with the text "Summit, Colloquy, Coordi...", navigation tabs for "Map", "Summits", "Spots", "Alerts", and "Activators", and a "Login" button. A left-hand sidebar contains filter options for "Activations" (Never, Rarely), "Points" (min, to, max), "Altitude" (min, to, max, ft), "Activated by" (This year), "Not activated by" (This year), and "Complete candidate for me". The main map area shows a topographic map with numerous colored markers representing summits. A detailed information popup for "Paulina Peak" is overlaid on the map, featuring a photo of the peak and the following data:

Altitude	7990 ft
Points	5 / 13
Activations	38
Last activation	14 Sep 2019 (N7SHG)

At the bottom of the popup, there are buttons for "Close", "Minimize", and "More". The footer of the page includes copyright information: "© OpenMapTiles © OpenStreetMap contributors | © MapTiler © OpenStreetMap contributors".

• Same basic summit info as SOTA MAPS
with cleaner layout

• Nice activator data page

Trip Planning and Researching Summits

When choosing a summit:

- Confirm access and land status (public/private)
- Determine basic driving and hiking routes
- Even with trip descriptions check for recent updates, closures, etc

Trip Planning and Researching Summits

Tools for Researching Summit Access

- CalTOPO
- Gaia Maps
- Avenza Maps
- AllTrails
- Google Earth
- Peak Bagger
- Forest Service MVUM Access maps
- USGS Public Lands Maps - <https://maps.usgs.gov/padus/>
- SOTAMaps - Tracks