



VHF/UHF
On
Mountains

2017 – Let's Go Portable!

How to have fun with your Go-Kit

“Elevating ham radio to new heights”

Guy Hamblen, N7UN aka nSOTA
(guest appearances of Rooster, Peanut, Steve/wG0AT)



Who am I?

- First licensed in 1963 as a novice then K7YYK, AA7QZ then N7UN
- 9 Dxpeditions into the Carribean; last 5J0X in 2014
- Member of CWops and Frankford Radio Club
- 9 band DXCC + 6m VUCC
- Top of the DX Honor Role (343 confirmed)

OK, what's next?

- Always interested in portable operations over the years
- Discovered mountain tops are great “towers”, especially for VHF/UHF/SHF
- SOTA and /p QRP activities

....more than old time radios and big batteries



....more than camping!



Portable Operations

- Backyard portable
- Mobile operations
- Picnic tables, parks
- Mountaintops
- Anyplace with a view....



2016 National Park Service Centennial Celebration

National Parks

ON THE AIR

2016

www.arri.org

Photo W6PNG©

All SOTA Peaks in the USA



Participation Roles



Activators:
those who
“activate” a peak



Chasers: those who
chase the activator



Short Wave Listeners:
those who can
confirm a qso

Each group scores “points” for their participation. Points then total for awards.

Mt Huron, 14,003 ft

Typical portable Bands and Modes

VHF+

- SOTA: A lot of 2m FM (HT)

UHF+

- Transverters for 902, 1296, 2304

HF

- SOTA: 45% CW, 36% SSB, 19% FM






Portable Equipment

- It's all a lot easier these days!
 - Equipment is smaller, lighter and more efficient
 - Battery technology has improved immensely
 - Most folks now using LiFE batteries (safety)
 - APRS and Cell phone SMS msgs for self-spotting
- Typical activator radios
 - MTR-series, FT817, LNR, Elecraft KX3/KX2/KX1!
 - Various handy-talkies for 2m-70cm FM

Typical Portable Antennas





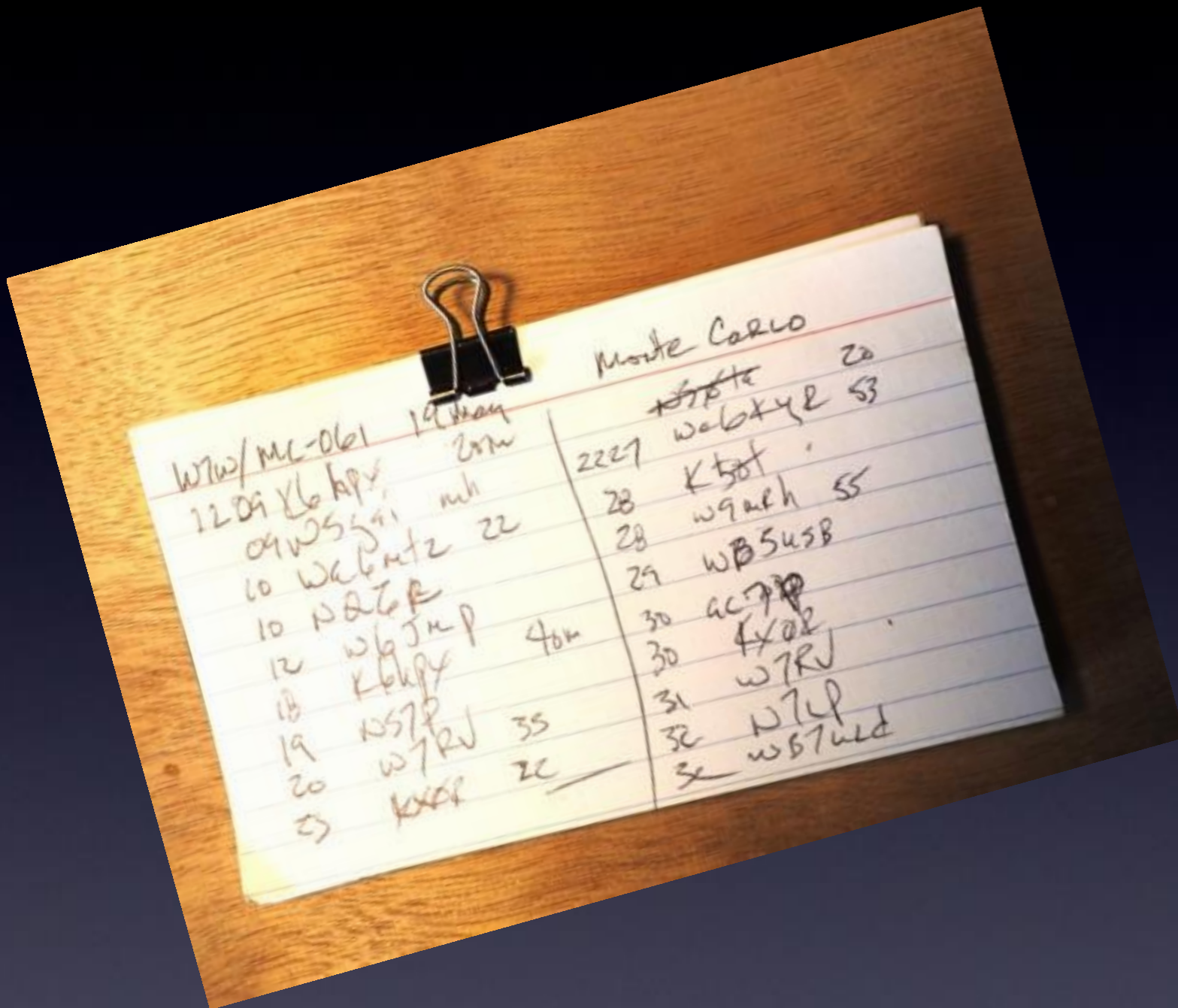
**1296 Loop and 4-el
Arrow for 2m
SG Labs xverter**

N7UN



**6m 2-el Moxon
1296 Loop Yagi
4-el Arrow 2m**

How to Log QSOs

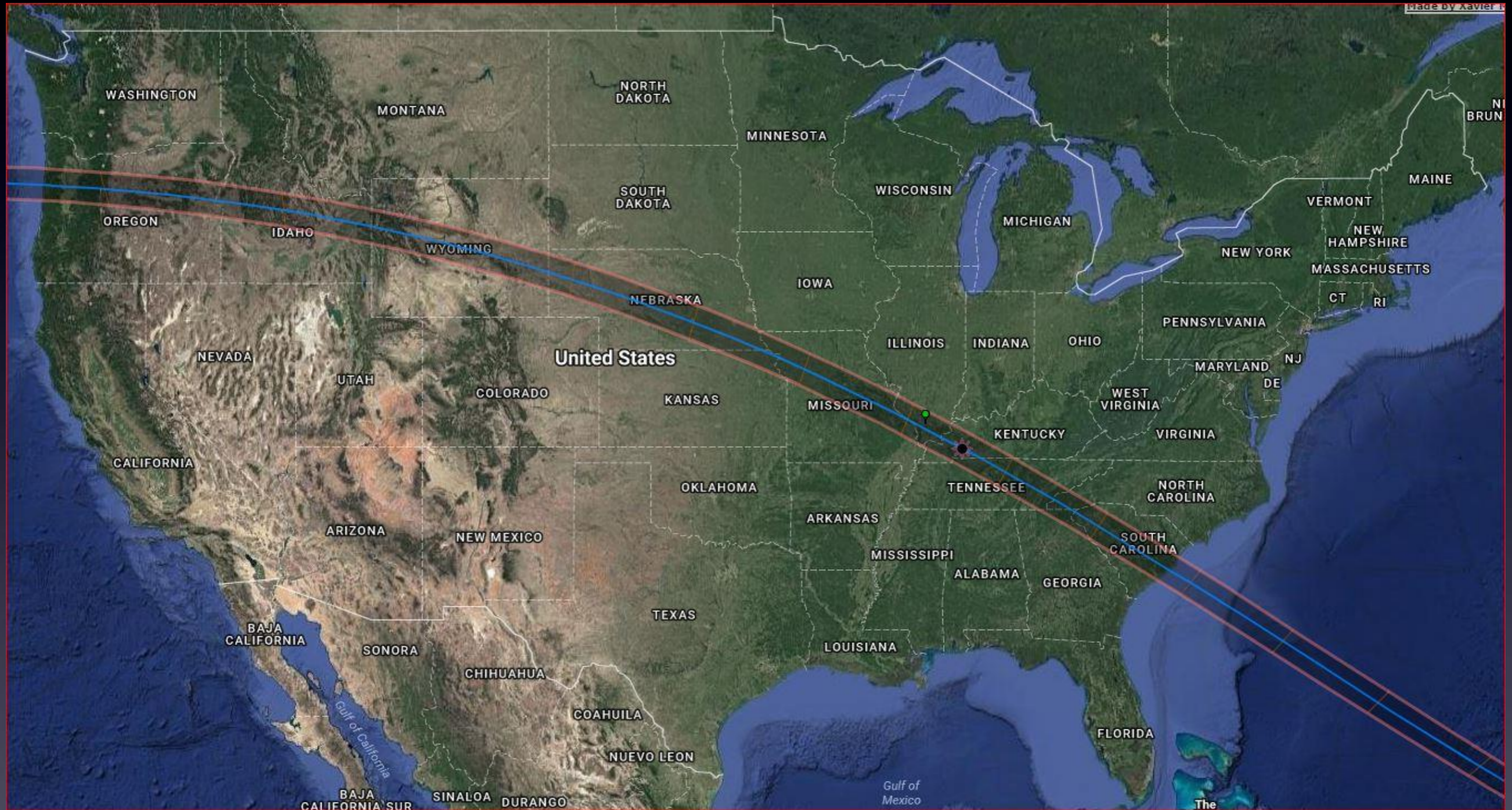


Manual 3x5 card

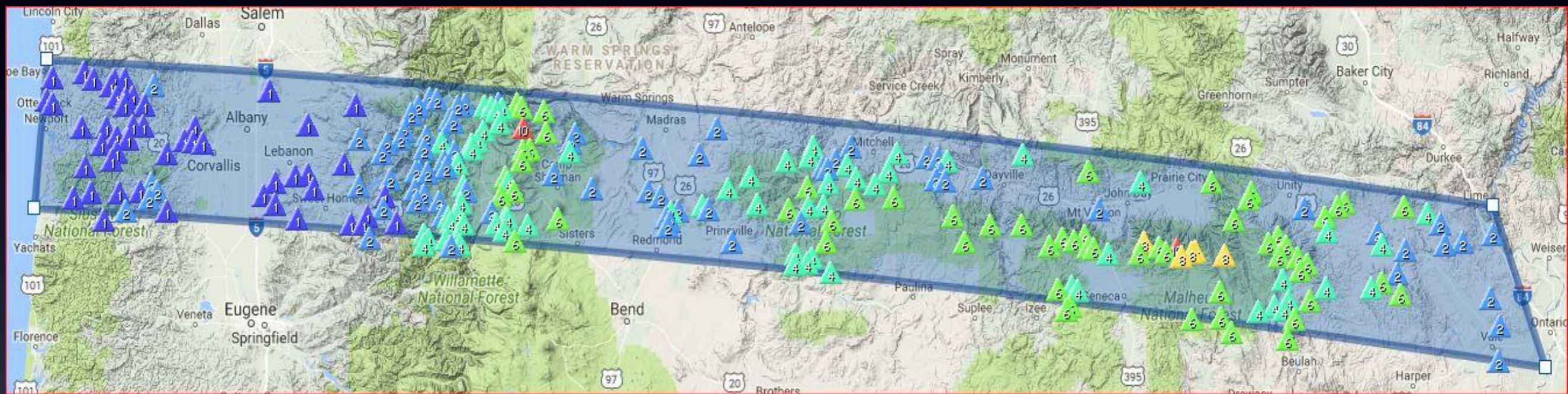


Hamlog iPhone
www.pignology.net

Total Solar Eclipse: 21 Aug (Mon)



Path of Totality for Oregon with SOTA Peaks



http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/solar_eclipses.html

ARRL QSO Party and HamSCI
Propagation tests using RBN network

Lots of ways to get /p Active!



Become
SOTA
Active



Operate
/m or /p

4 STATE
QRP
GROUP

Join a
QRP
Club

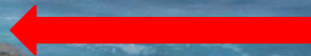


AE5X Trans-America Trail (Jun-Jul)

Or go for a bike ride....

Portable operations can be

anywhere.....



Possible SOTA and portable side effects

VHF/UHF
On
Mountains

- **Possibly improve your health by getting you moving, walking, or maybe even hiking and possibly meet some new friends who like to do same?**
- **Improve your equipment's readiness. (go-bag)**
- **Improve your operating skills**
- **Improve you knowledge and awareness of the history, geography and topography of your area/region.**
- **You'll no doubt see trees, planets, flowers and wildlife not seen before!**

Have a go!



- **You don't have to be a mountaineer for SOTA!**
 - Some summits where you can almost drive to the top
 - You can participate from your shack
- **But if you are a hiker...**
 - There are many first expeditions yet to be done
 - It's a good excuse to enjoy the outdoors on the summit looking at the views
- **There's fun to be had after NPOTA with SOTA and /portable**



VHF/UHF On Mountains



Something for Everyone!



Summary

- SOTA's program promotes Activating, Chasing and it's addictive!
- /p operation is great FUN!





**QRP
Community!**

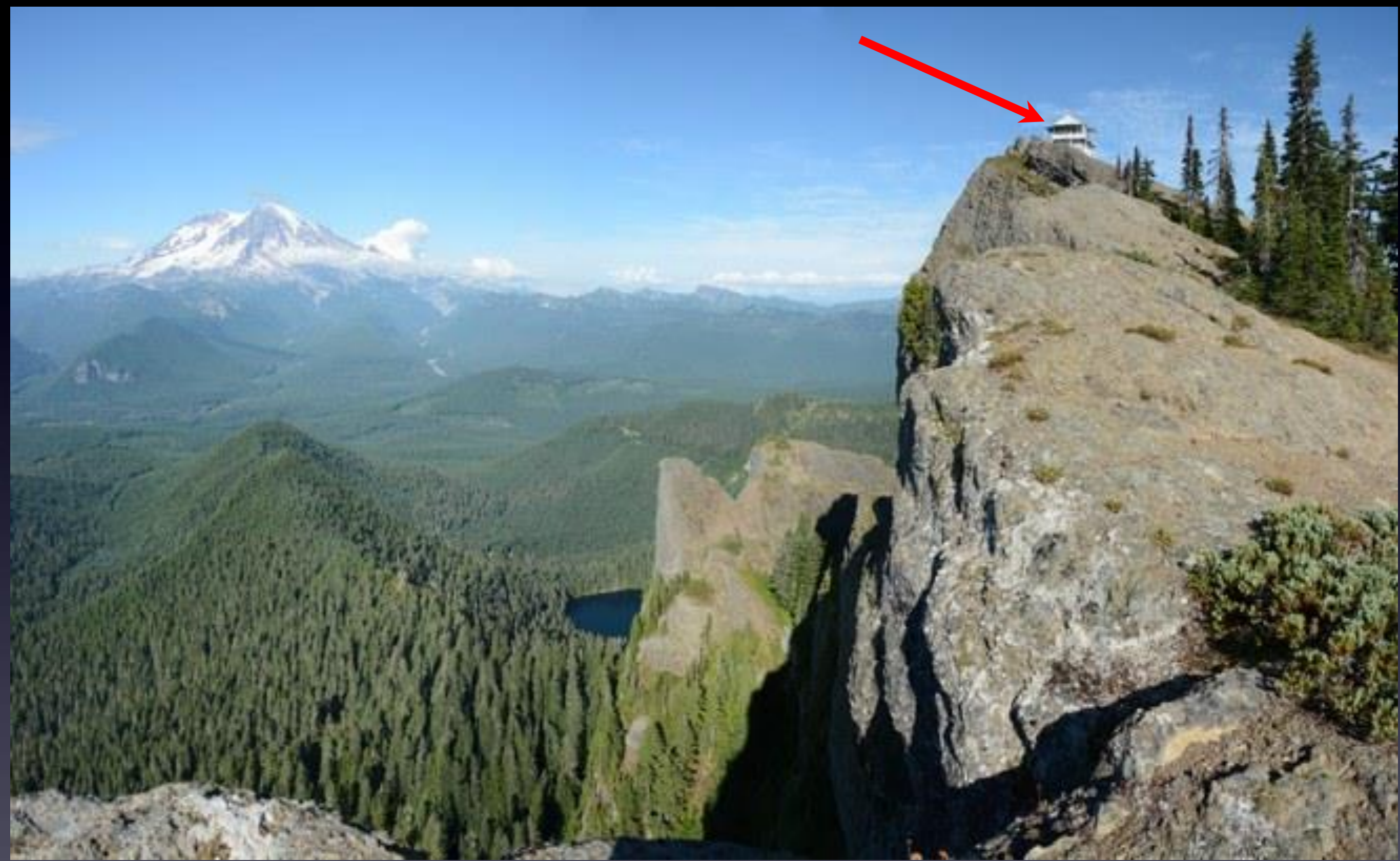
North Cascades NP – Cascade Pass











Links and Credits:

- SOTA: www.sota.org.uk
- SOTA maps: www.sotamaps.org
- Solar Eclipse:
http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/solar_eclipses/TS_E_2017_GoogleMapFull.html
- 6m Moxon: www.sotabeams.co.uk

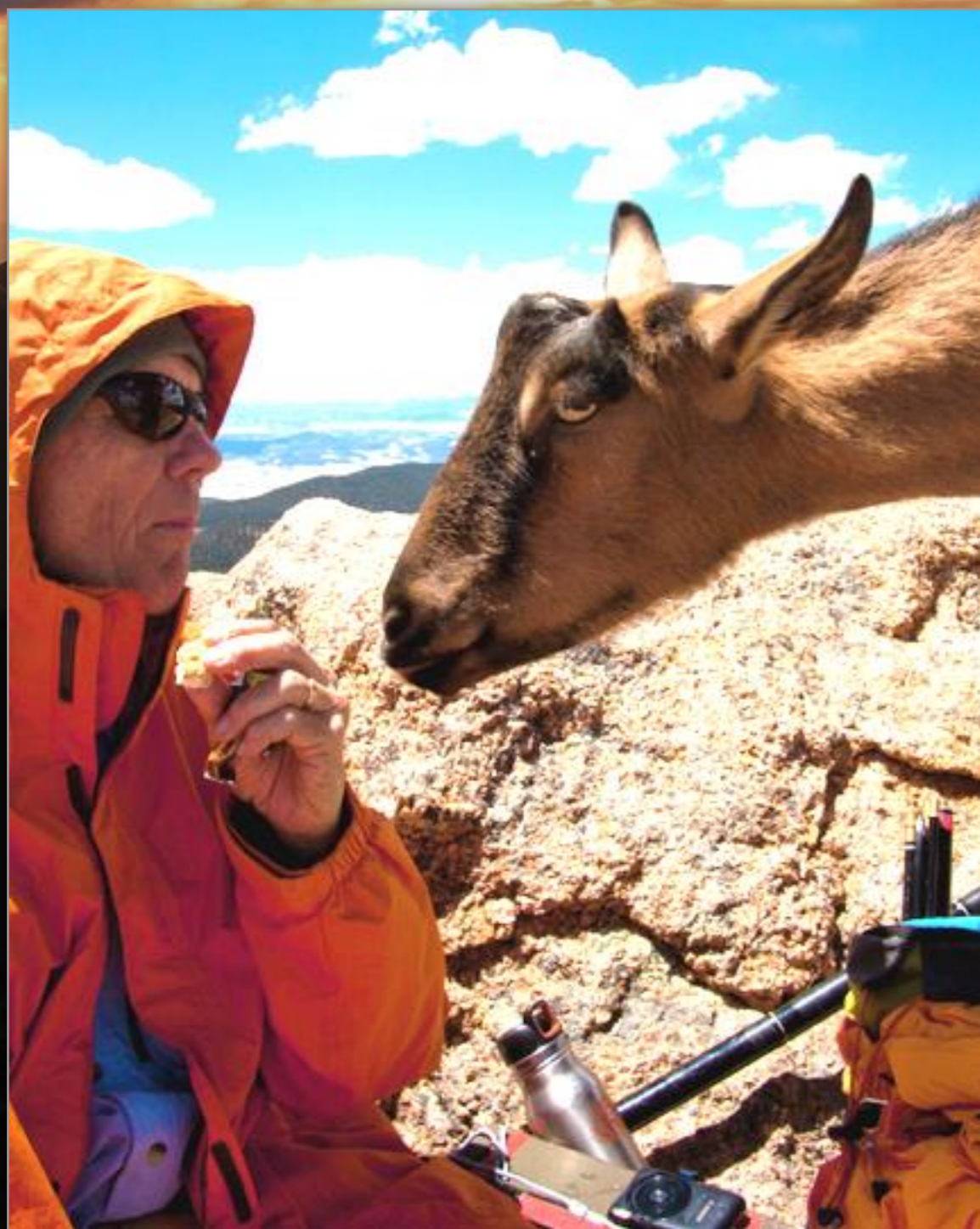
Some photos by:

- wG0AT: plus.google.com/s/wg0at
- W6PNG: w6png.wordpress.com

(All photos used with permission)

What happens to old QRPers!





Questions?

n7un@arrl.net

www.sota.org.uk

www.sotawatch.org

Yahoo.groups.com

search for "nasota"

Hey Dude! Time to QRT!

