



Wisconsin Parks on the Air

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Purpose

The Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club (FCARC) is pleased to support the Wisconsin Parks on the Air (WIPOTA) operating contest. This contest is designed to promote public awareness of ham radio within Wisconsin's beautiful state park system.

Objective

To have competing stations operate from as many Wisconsin parks as possible and work hams in other WI parks, as well as hams not located in a park in any state, province or country.

Contest Period

The 3rd Saturday in September each year for seven hours from 11 am until 6 pm local/CDT, or 1600 to 2300 UTC.

September 21, 2024

Park Defined

The WIPOTA is conducted in all Wisconsin parks as defined by the Parks on the Air (POTA) organization. For example, if you operated at Havenwoods state forest in Milwaukee, you would be in **US-5579**.

One Park at a Time

You may operate in only one park at a time. If you want to try another WI park, you must move a straight-line distance of at least 10 miles to set up and operate.

Bands

You may operate on all amateur bands, except 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters.

Modes

You may operate any voice or digital mode, and CW, **just make the appropriate exchange.**

Working a Station Multiple Times per Band

You are allowed to work a station multiple times on a given band. Once per mode.

For example, you could work someone on SSB and AM. Even FM or C4FM if the FCC allows it on that band. Then work them on CW. Finally, you might switch to FT8 to work that station and conclude with an FT4 contact. In this example, that would count as seven (7) QSOs.

Exchange

For stations operating in a WI park, you need to exchange your call sign and **US**-POTA park number during each and every QSO, with one exception.

Exception: When you are operating during the WIPOTA contest and searching and calling stations in other contests, such as state QSO parties, it is acceptable to use an exchange appropriate for their contest instead of the **US**-POTA exchange. **That is typically 59 WI.**

All other stations only need to exchange their call sign.

Here is an example of a CW QSO:

```
CQ CQ WIPOTA N9EEE  
Other station: W1USA  
W1USA US5579  
Other station: R 73 W1USA  
TU 73 N9EEE
```

Here is an example of a CW exchange when working a New Jersey QSO party station:

```
Other station: CQ CQ NJQP W2USA  
W9AV  
Other station: W9AV 5NN county  
R 5NN WI  
Other station: TU W2USA
```

Here is an example of an exchange using a popular mode like FT8 or FT4:

CQ POTA WA9TT EN54
W5JCC WA9TT +02
W5JCC WA9TT RR73
US4343 WA9TT*

*Add **US4343 WA9TT** in the Settings>Tx Macros. Then at the conclusion of each QSO, select it from the Tx 5 dropdown menu, and Enable Tx to send. **Although, see a better way below for an automated FT8 exchange.**

WSJT software allows only four characters, such as POTA. You will probably want to use POTA when running a frequency since WIPOTA will not fit into your transmission.

Automated FT8 Exchange

Joe WB9SBD modified the WSJT-X software so you can automatically send 73 and your POTA park number just before logging the QSO.

Download the latest WSJT-X Improved files software at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/wsjt-x-improved/files>. You may wish to save it in a separate sub-directory within the WSJT primary sub-directory in order to keep separate from any other WSJT-X software, eg, in wsjtx_WIPOTA.

Once installed, go to File>Settings>Advanced, check the special operating activity box, check WW Digi Contest plus check “CQ with individual contest name” and insert POTA.

Next go to the Tx Macros tab and insert 73 US1234 for your park number. When done this way, it will automatically bring up the WSJT-X log dialog (if you have the log dialog properly activated).

Finally, on the WSJT-X operations page, go to Tx5 and select that 73 US1234 macro from the dropdown menu. Then right mouse click over Tx5 and the macro message will turn yellow.

Now just call CQ and transmit as normal. You will satisfy the WIPOTA requirement of exchanging your call and POTA park number.

40 Meter Calling Plan

As an optional convenience for WI park operators who need more WI park multipliers, you may QSY to **40m** at the **top of every hour** and call CQ to look for **phone** stations in WI parks for a few minutes **near 7250 kHz**.

At the bottom of every hour, ie, on the half-hour, you may QSY to 40m and call CQ to look for CW and digital stations in WI parks for a few minutes. Here are suggested calling frequencies. FT8 and CW are set close so that you may see both on your waterfall.

- **FT8 on 7117 kHz**
- **CW on 7120 kHz**

Propagation often is not good on 75m, but if you go there, here are suggested calling frequencies.

- SSB on 3847, 3850 and 3853 kHz
- FT8 on 3844 kHz
- CW on 3841 kHz

Power Levels

- Inside WI park: 100 Watts
- QRP: 5 Watts
- Elsewhere: Legal limit

Multipliers

A multiplier is earned when a station has a confirmed QSO with anyone in one of the **US-POTA** Wisconsin parks. **Note: you do not earn a multiplier for working out-of-state parks.**

You count all of the **UNIQUE** WI parks you have worked.

In addition, you may add any other UNIQUE parks which you have operated in during the WIPOTA contest and have had at least ten (10) QSOs in that park.

Scoring

- # of QSOs, times
- # of unique **WI** parks worked (**not out-of-state parks**)

Operator Categories

- Single transmitter at one time in WI park
- QRP for single transmitter at one time in WI park
- Multiple simultaneous transmitters in WI park
- WI operators not in a park
- Non-WI operators

Planned Park Activation

We also encourage hams who plan on operating within a park to indicate their plans. Go to the WIPOTA website and click on the Activate Parks link. Fill out a row in the spreadsheet with your plans for the day. This is helpful for all contestants to see. This is optional.

Spotting

We encourage the use of spotting networks, such as POTA Spots, in order to make more contacts and to spread the word about the contest. Self-spotting is permitted. You may even contact hams on local repeaters and encourage them to switch to 2m FM simplex to work you.

Log Reporting

You have until the end of September after the contest to submit your log. Simply go to the WIPOTA website and click on Logs found at the top of the home page. Fill in your information and submit. It's that easy. All log submissions must come through this Logs web page.

We ask that you upload your file in adi format for checking purposes. You should be able to use the same file used for POTA. Here are fields for WIPOTA that will be helpful for our review:

- Date (adi field: QSO_DATE)
- Time of contact (TIME_ON)
- Station worked (CALL)
- Mode (MODE)
- Band (BAND)
- Your call sign (STATION_CALLSIGN)
- Your park (MY_SIG_INFO)
- If the station you worked is in a WI park, then their **US**-POTA park number (SIG_INFO)

Awards

- Plaques will be given to the highest scoring participants in all categories.
- Printed certificates will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place participants in each category.
- Personalized certificates of appreciation will be emailed to all hams who request one when submitting their log information.

If there is a tie for number of points in a category, the tie is broken by the number of most unique parks worked. If still tied, then by earliest log submission. If another 1st place contestant (multi-op station) wants a plaque, they can obtain one for \$50.

Supporting Sponsors

We thank these companies for their financial support so that WIPOTA can furnish attractive awards to contest winners.



Neenah Engineering Inc.