California QSO Party

CQP 2024: POTA Challenge

Click on any entry in this Table of Contents to jump directly to that page.
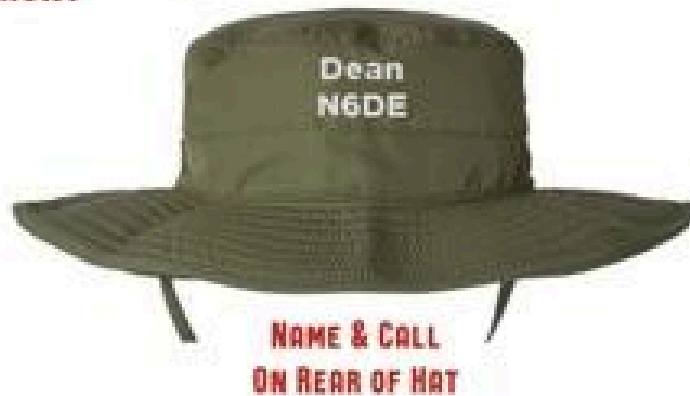
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2024 POTA Challenge Background

Beginning with CQP 2024, we introduced the CQP POTA Challenge.

This was a fun side contest that ran along with the main CQP event. It was intended to inspire additional motivation by participants.

There were no changes to the main CQP rules, categories, overlays, scoring, plaques and main results files. All of that continued unchanged in CQP 2024. This was an additional side challenge to enjoy.

Congratulations to all the POTA Challenge participants who won a CQP POTA hat embroidered with their name and callsign.

FRONT

Dean
N6DE

NAME & CALL
ON REAR OF HAT

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Parks on the Air (POTA) Challenge Summary

Eligibility:
- All entrants who operate CQP 2024 from a Parks on the Air (POTA) reference. Operation is judged to have been a valid POTA activation.
- Any power level
- Log submitted to CQP and judged to be a valid, scored log
- Log submitted to pota.app. Activation officially appears on pota.app web page under the POTA reference with the same callsign as the CQP log submission callsign.

Accolade:
Winners determined by **highest total number of QSOs**.

Inside California:
- Top 10 Single-Operator or Single-Operator Assisted POTA entries
- Top 1 Multi-Single POTA entry
- Top 1 Multi-Two POTA entry
- Top 1 Multi-Multi POTA entry

Outside California:
- Top 1 Single-Operator or Single-Operator Assisted POTA entry

Award:
- Single-Ops: CQP POTA hat with POTA logo and embroidered with operator's name and callsign
- Multi-Ops: Maximum of 4 CQP POTA hats with POTA logo to valid operators of the winning Multi-Ops, embroidered with operator names and calls. Additional hats available for purchase if desired.
- All POTA entries listed in a dedicated POTA results table

Sponsors:
NN6U, Northern California Contest Club, N6DE

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POTA Challenge Rules

Stations that operate from one or more Parks on the Air (POTA) references may enter the CQP POTA Challenge.

1. POTA contacts for this challenge must comprise one or more valid POTA activations, with logs submitted to pota.app and processed successfully prior to the CQP log submission deadline.
2. For each POTA reference activated, include a SOAPBOX line of "POTA" followed by the POTA reference activated and the number of **CQP** QSOs from that reference, e.g. "SOAPBOX: POTA US-1138 75". The total number of CQP QSOs from all POTA references in the log submission will be combined.
3. QSOs made by a CA county-line station each count as a single QSO for purposes of this challenge.
4. For stations operating from a location that overlaps multiple POTA references (a POTA "*n*-fer"), and for park-to-park QSOs where the other party is in multiple simultaneous POTA references, each QSO only counts as a single QSO for purposes of this challenge. If activating an *n*-fer, only list one of the references in the SOAPBOX line for that activation.
5. **CQP POTA hat** awards will be offered for:
   a. Top 10 Single-Operator or Single-Operator-Assisted POTA entries in California (SO or SOA, regardless of power level)
   b. Top 1 Multi-Single POTA entry in California
   c. Top 1 Multi-Two POTA entry in California
   d. Top 1 Multi-Multi POTA entry in California
   e. Top 1 SO/SOA POTA operator outside California.
   f. If fewer entries qualify in any category, additional hats may be awarded in the other categories.
   g. For the Multi-operator awards, each winning entry will receive 1 hat per listed operator, up to a maximum of 4 hats per winning entry. Hats for additional operators may be purchased at the winners' expense. Ordering codes for all hats will be sent to the contact submitting the log (Cabrillo EMAIL line) for distribution to the operators at their discretion.
6. Operation must follow all rules of the CQP and of POTA and each QSO claimed for the challenge must be valid for both CQP and POTA.

CQP 2024

POTA Challenge Results

Please see the following tables for the POTA Challenge results.

In order to be listed in the CQP 2024 POTA Challenge results, you needed to have completed these steps:

- Upload your CQP QSOs to pota.app, with your log successfully accepted by pota.app.
- Indicate to us the specific POTA reference you operated from in CQP 2024.
- Indicate to us the number of CQP QSOs that were made from that POTA reference.

What determined the QSO counts shown in the following tables:

- Your CQP 2024 log QSO counts <u>after</u> CQP log checking.
- The number of QSOs shown for you on pota.app under the respective POTA reference during the CQP 2024 time frame.
- The number of CQP QSOs you claimed for POTA Challenge credit. Some stations made a portion of their CQP QSOs from a POTA reference and made other CQP QSOs from home.

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CQP 2024: POTA Challenge

California Single-Ops

Place	Callsign	Location	POTA	CW QSOs	PH QSOs	Total QSOs
1	N6YEU	Mendocino National Forest	US-4460	657	396	1,053
2	KD6HOF	Plumas National Forest	US-4462	0	396	396
3	W6M (KB9ENS op)	Carrizo Plain National Monument	US-4541	189	139	328
4	KA3DRR	Pismo State Beach	US-3535	178	0	178
5	K6HES (NR5NN op)	Benicia State Recreation Area	US-3407	108	8	116
6	N3BEN	Folsom Lake State Recreation Area	US-3432	1	60	61
7	K9STV	Los Padres National Forest	US-0639	0	60	60
8	W6OBB	Montana de Oro State Park	US-1174	0	58	58
9	N6LY	Point Reyes National Seashore	US-0651	0	55	55
10	KK6IK	Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park	US-1160	33	0	33
11	KN6VBW	Tule Elk Reserve State Conservation Area	US-3583	0	32	32
12	NR7Z	Caswell Memorial State Park	US-1137	2	28	30
13	KU2MM	Candlestick Point State Recreation Area	US-7493	0	12	12
14	K6PLI	Candlestick Point State Recreation Area	US-7493	0	5	5

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CQP 2024: POTA Challenge

California M/S (Multi-Op Single-Transmitter) Stations

Place	Callsign	Location	POTA	CW QSOs	PH QSOs	Total QSOs
1	W6EK (AI6US, N6CTC, AI6JB ops)	Tahoe National Forest	US-4469	0	897	897
2	W6KSR (W6KSR, N6UTC ops)	Refugio State Beach	US-3546	87	33	120

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California M/2 (Multi-Op Two-Transmitter) Stations

Place	Callsign	Location	POTA	CW QSOs	PH QSOs	Total QSOs
1	K6M (K4XU, AA5TL, KI7IOC, K7PTC, KJ7BLE, W7JHR, W7YAQ, WB7WHG, AE7EU ops)	Modoc National Forest	US-4461	1,485	1,099	2,584
2	N6MI (N6MI, N7DA, K6VCR, KI6RXX ops)	Los Padres National Forest	US-0639	1,393	941	2,334
3	W6IA (W6IA, W7EEE ops)	San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area	US-3558	320	180	500
4	N6J (NN6U, K6TOR ops)	Fremont Peak State Park	US-1151	313	173	486

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CQP 2024: POTA Challenge

US/VE/DX Single-Ops

Place	Callsign	Location	POTA	CW QSOs	PH QSOs	Total QSOs
1	KT4Q	Cherry Creek State Park	US-1213	73	57	130
2	N5NR	W. Goodrich Jones State Forest	US-4422	67	0	67
3	W8KNX	Brighton State Recreation Area	US-3384	0	30	51
		Island Lake State Recreation Area	US-3315	0	21	
4	N7GND	Echo Canyon State Park	US-2630	0	47	47
5	WA4AUG (AA5JF op)	Augusta Canal National Heritage Area	US-7893	17	0	17
6	W9TCV	Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge	US-0252	0	5	5
7	K0KDS	Chichaqua Wildlife Area	US-10318	0	4	4
8	IX1CKN	Riserva Naturale Tzatelet Provincial Park	IT-0120	0	1	1

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FAQ - POTA Challenge

Q: Can I enter the POTA challenge in addition to entering CQP special award categories like Expedition or Mobile?
A: Yes. Most POTA activations would likely also qualify as one of the Expedition or Mobile categories. This challenge is independent of any special award category and it is possible to win multiple such awards.

Q: I didn't make it into the top entries for my category. Can I still get a hat?
A: Yes. A code to order a hat at your own expense will be sent to each qualifying entry (i.e. entries that include at least one successful POTA activation and follow all other POTA Challenge rules).

Q: Is it OK if only some of my CQP contacts are from a POTA reference and others are not (e.g. a Mobile activation passing through a National Forest)? If it OK if some of my POTA QSOs are valid CQP contacts and others are not (e.g. VHF or FT8 contacts or contacts outside the CQP timeframe)?
A: Yes. Just be sure to include the correct number of CQP QSOs for each POTA reference in the SOAPBOX lines (i.e. just the ones that you are also including in your CQP log) and make sure you have also submitted your logs to pota.app. Only count *n*-fer activations once (just give one of the POTA references), only count park-to-park *n*-fers once (since they only count as a single CQP contact), and only count CQP county-line contacts once (since they just count as a single contact for POTA). Basically, one QSO per QSO. We recognize that the POTA QSO counts may be higher than the counts listed in your CQP SOAPBOX lines.

Q: Does the required CQP exchange conflict with a POTA QSO exchange?
A: No. There is no required exchange in POTA. Any QSO that exchanges any info at all (even a signal report) is a valid POTA QSO. This is by design, so POTA is compatible with any other radio activity you might be doing from your park. You don't need to mention that you're doing POTA, you don't need to exchange park info, you don't need to be spotted on the POTA site. Just use the regular CQP exchange, although if you are calling CQ you might want to occasionally call CQ POTA to attract more callers.

Q: Can I spot myself during CQP on a POTA spotting page like I normally do when I'm a POTA activator?
A: No. Self-spotting is not allowed in CQP. It is acceptable for other stations to spot you. It is also acceptable to announce your POTA park number on the air. A POTA hunter might decide to spot you and your POTA park number on a POTA spotting web page.

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Q: What logging software should I use in CQP?
A: See CQP software page at: https://www.cqp.org/Software.html

Export an ADIF output from your logger and upload it to the pota.app web site. Export a Cabrillo file and upload it to the CQP log submission page.

Q: I operate the FT8 mode in my POTA activations. Does CQP allow FT8 QSOs?
A: No. CW and SSB are the only valid modes in CQP.

Q: If I also make some POTA contacts that don't count for CQP (e.g. FT8 or VHF contacts), how should I log those?
A: It's simplest to log those separately in whatever logger you normally use for POTA. You can submit the ADIF file for these contacts to pota.app separately from the ADIF file from your CQP logger, and the POTA site will combine them for purposes of your activation. There's no need to manually manipulate or merge your CQP and non-CQP ADIF files.

Q: If I use a 1x1 callsign or a club callsign in CQP, will the POTA web page support them?
A: Yes. Make sure to fill out STATION_CALLSIGN and OPERATOR fields properly in your ADIF file that you upload to pota.app. Please see https://docs.pota.app/docs/activator_reference/activator_guide_clubs.html for more guidance.

Q: The rules say "valid POTA activations" – what does this mean?
A: Minimum 10 contacts within the same UTC day to qualify as a valid POTA activation. See POTA rules at: https://docs.pota.app/docs/rules.html

If your POTA activation is successful including non-CQP QSOs, we will consider it successful (e.g. if you had 7 CQP QSOs and then finished up the activation with 3 FT8 non-CQP QSOs, list only 7 in the SOAPBOX line, but it will count as a successful activation for the purposes of this challenge if it counts as a successful activation on pota.app).

Q: Could you provide more information about operating in a contest from a POTA park, and information about past CQP expedition and mobile stations?
A: Please watch the W1DED interview with NN6U and N6DE at: https://youtu.be/QuPezzuTDZ0?feature=shared

Please also watch all the videos on the CQP audio-video page at: https://www.cqp.org/av.html

Q: The CQP rules state that CW QSOs are worth 3 points each and SSB QSOs are worth 2 points each. But I'm an SSB-only operator. Does this mean I'm at a disadvantage for the POTA Challenge CQP hat?

A: No. CQP POTA hat winners are determined by total number of QSOs made in CQP, not total points scored in CQP.