

LARC SPONSORED POTA EVENT

Quick Facts

- Who – All LARC members and guests
- What – Personal POTA Activations
- When – Saturday, October 8th, 11am-5:30pm EST
- Where – Tuttle State Educational Forest, 3420 Playmore Beach Rd, Lenoir NC 28645
- Why – To have fun, fellowship, and play radio!

Other Information

- Club provides snacks/drinks – Bring a bag lunch if you want
- Two reserved park sites (See attached map) – Left of Main Parking Lot and Gazebo
- Opportunities for setup, operation, logging, teardown
- PLEASE READ/REVIEW event details (See attached event planning)
- PLEASE RSVP to jeff@jefftickle.com KM4AYW (VP) AND caiken@aikencontrols.com KN4FNI (Secretary) if you plan to attend. Please note what equipment (if any) you plan to bring.
- Weather related decision (in the event of soggy weather) via Club Email List by 6:00pm Friday, October 7th.
- Provisions for members/guests with mobility or health issues. Easy access and NO HIKING required!

LARC SPONSORED POTA EVENT DETAILS

Tuttle State Forest

Saturday October 8th, 2022 – 11:00AM-5:30PM

Agenda and Format

I. Event Overview

This POTA (Parks on the Air) event is a “just for fun” activity for club members and guests!

Unlike the previous POTA event, that was a prelude to winter field day, this will be a bring your own radio event. You will use your own equipment, your own callsign, and be responsible for your activation and reporting.

Now, not to worry! If you don't have a field radio, we expect there will be plenty of opportunities to participate, get some experience, and have loads of fun and fellowship.

II. General Rules and Participation

As noted, this is a “framework” event. The club has arranged for us to use the facilities and will provide drinks and snacks, but the rest is for the members to flesh out. If you want a lunch, please make sure you bring this with you.

The general rules are simple. Come out, bring your gear, have fun, be respectful of the park. For those unfamiliar with POTA, check out - <https://parksontheair.com/>

There are a few rules that we think are wise to limit our footprint and potential for issues:

- Only battery operation. **NO GENERATORS**
- Only portable antennas. You can put up wire antennas BUT we can't damage the trees in ANY WAY. We must take care of how we “shoot” the wires in the trees.
- We are SHARING the park. There will be other groups in the park (e.g., a family reunion is near us) and families with small kids. We must ESPECIALLY be on-guard with any loading/unloading traffic and safety (more below).
- We must leave the park BETTER than we found it; Basically, be good stewards!

There are many ways to participate:

- Bring your portable station for setup and operation
- Help with setup, tuning, and activation
- Help with station operation
- Help with station logging
- Help with teardown/cleanup
- Help with education and outreach (folks in the park will be interested!)
- Just generally hang around, chat, and have fun

If you want to operate you will need to register with POTA prior to the event.

This will allow you to report your contacts and for both you (the activator), and the hunters (everyone that contacts you) to get credit. See - <https://pota.app/#/signup>

PLEASE TAKE CARE – If you WANT TO OPERATE, you MUST REGISTER and BE APPROVED. This might take a few days, so register early!

III. Start/End Marshalling Point

The meeting/marshalling point will be the main parking lot, on the left after you enter the park. Look for the signs and the Ham Nerds... You won't miss us!

The park opens at 11:00am. The idea is to first meet together as a group starting 11:00-11:10, sign-in, go over the opportunities/activities, divide up as need into sub-groups (see below) and start setup no later than 11:30am.

The park closes at 6:00pm and we MUST be out before this time. To ensure that we do not hold up the park rangers, we need to start tear-down on/before 5:00pm. The plan is to meet back at the marshalling point at 5:30pm for a quick debrief and departure.

If you have one, **bring a 2m handheld programmed for the 147.330 +141.3 repeater** as we will potentially be operating from multiple locations in the park and will use the repeater throughout the day for coordination!

IV. Approved POTA Sites

Since, unlike the first event, we may not have antennas of different polarities (e.g. vertical and horizontal), there is a fair chance we might interfere with each other if we are very close together.

To combat this, we are being allowed to occupy TWO sites. Site#1 is the side field we used for the first POTA event (just to the left of the marshalling point). Site#2 is a short drive up a maintained dirt road to the Gazebo area (approx.1 mile from the main parking lot).

If we intend to operate multiple radios and bands (which is likely), then we will have to sub-divide and occupy both sites to avoid interference. Please **bring a 2m handheld programmed for the 147.330 +141.3 repeater** in case we need to discuss interference from across the park!

There are a few special provisions for each area as follows.

V. Rules for Site#1 – Side Field

We can use the field as before. However. **NO DRIVING/PARKING IN THE GRASSY AREAS.** There is a small service road that can be used to reach the area, but we

need to have ANY traffic down this road to be led by a club member. If you need to load/unload/drop-off, have someone walk in front/behind of your truck to act as a watch as you go down/back.

If anyone needs help due to mobility issues, this is NOT a trouble. There are picnic tables in the area of the field. It is fine to be driven down and dropped off, then picked back up later. Please let us know in advance if you would like any assistance.

VI. Rules for Site#2 – Gazebo

The Gazebo area is about 1 mile away from the parking lot, down a maintained dirt road. We **MUST LIMIT OUR TRAVEL** on this road since there are people hiking in the park, and they cross/walk the road as well. We have been granted special access and will cover all the specifics of the gate the day of the event.

Again, you can go down to unload/load, but **GO SLOW..** and be very mindful of others in the park. This was a big caution point from the park rangers! Since it is such a distance you do NOT need to have someone walk ahead, but be extra, extra cautious.

Like site#1, **NO DRIVING/PARKING IN THE GRASSY AREAS**. We are clarifying with the rangers if we can just pull off to the side of the road and leave vehicles until you drive out. This point will be clarified the day of since it might be based on the weather/wetness of the area.

VII. Setup and Safety

In all cases, we need to be careful setting up, and be safe during operation and teardown. The club is going to provide **CAUTION TAPE, CAUTION FLAGS** for marking your antenna area.

In addition, take care of marking and securing any feed lines or guy wires! There might be some kids around, so we need to be as careful as possible.

VIII. POTA Logging/Reporting

For those that are new to POTA, if you operate, you need to be prepared to log and report your contacts. **EVEN IF YOU DONT GET ENOUGH TO ACTIVATE** (10 Contacts), you need to report, since hunters get credit in all cases.

There is help on the POTA site about how to do this, and there are club members that can lend a hand if you need some guidance or assistance.

Note... this event is NOT a competition... just fun... so no stress!

IX. Teardown and Cleanup

Finally, as mentioned prior, we **MUST BE OUT** of the park by 6pm. The rangers are working Saturdays and need to go home on time, so we need to be off the air by 5pm, have teardown/cleanup complete no later than 5:30pm and meet back at the meeting/marshalling point for a quick debrief and goodbye.

Check that you have all equipment, accessories, and any trash before leaving your area!

X. Weather Contingencies

If there is any inclement weather (rain.), we will make a decision the evening PRIOR to the event on/before 6pm. We will send an email over both email lists if needed.

If it looks like a soggy event... or a mudhole, then we would cancel and reschedule another weekend (dates permitting).

XI. How To Be Prepared

Please be familiar with the **POTA Rules** and the **Activator Reference** before the event, and read up on any other interests you may have on the POTA website.

- **POTA Rules:** <https://docs.pota.app/docs/rules.html>
- **Activator Reference:** <https://docs.pota.app/docs/activator.html>

At minimum, a field radio consists of:

- Portable Radio
- 12v Battery
- Power Cord of some kind
- Antenna
- Mechanism for quickly hanging antenna
- Cords to connect radio to antenna

This event is a great opportunity to try out your new setup, or get more activations if you're well-experienced. If you have none of the above, or aren't mentally prepared to take your kit to the Great Outdoors, bring yourself anyway and get on the air!

Please also bring a **2m handheld programmed for 147.330 +141.3** Hibriten Repeater for activity coordination throughout the day.

If you have an **antenna tuner** or **antenna analyzer** that you are comfortable bringing, please do! If you have any **extra equipment** such as power lines, coax, connectors, or adapters that you are comfortable loaning or giving to a less experienced ham, that is up to you.

For comfort and convenience, you may also wish to consider:

- Folding chair
- Folding table
- Bag Lunch

TUTTLE EDUCATIONAL STATE FOREST



Legend

- Fire Line Trail 0.7m
- Gazebo Trail 0.4m
- Grandfather View Trail 0.1m
- Demo Long Trail 2.0m
- Old Sleepy Hollow Trail 0.4m
- Other Trail
- Pond Trail 0.3m
- Shortcut Trail 0.2m
- Talking Tree Trail 0.6m
- Gravel Road 1.5m
- Paved Road
- Access road/trail
- Stream
- Pond
- Cemetery
- Restroom
- Gazebo
- Parking
- Grass Field
- Food Plot
- Property Boundary

