April 19, 2026 PCARC Hampton Beach (US-2656) POTA Picnic

It was great seeing the hearty New Englanders of our group come out to enjoy a typical New Hampshire Spring beach day yesterday. Our club's POTA operators have a Navy Seal Team level of endurance when it comes to braving the cold, wind and rain!

Our goal was to have a nice social & operating event where we get to spend time with friends, eat a bit of food, enjoy the park, and add to our club W1WQM & individual activations. All goals achieved.

We had three stations operating under the w1wqm call sign. Station 1 was set up by KC1SWOW and focused on 40/15 m SSB at 100W. Station 2 was set up by K1TKT and focused on 20/10m SSB at 100W. Station 3 was dedicated to FT8 as set up by N1THV and operated 20m in Stef's mobile rig with roof mount vertical.

Collectively, we added another activation to the club's stats with 37 total q's, and edged ups closer to a "kilo" for the park (1000 QSO's). We still have a long distance to go with a gap of about 600 q's to surmount. We are currently ranked 3rd on the POTA.APP leader board for the nr of q's at the park.

Band conditions were not good. 20m was by far the most productive band - nonetheless KC1SOW was able to land a few on 40m.

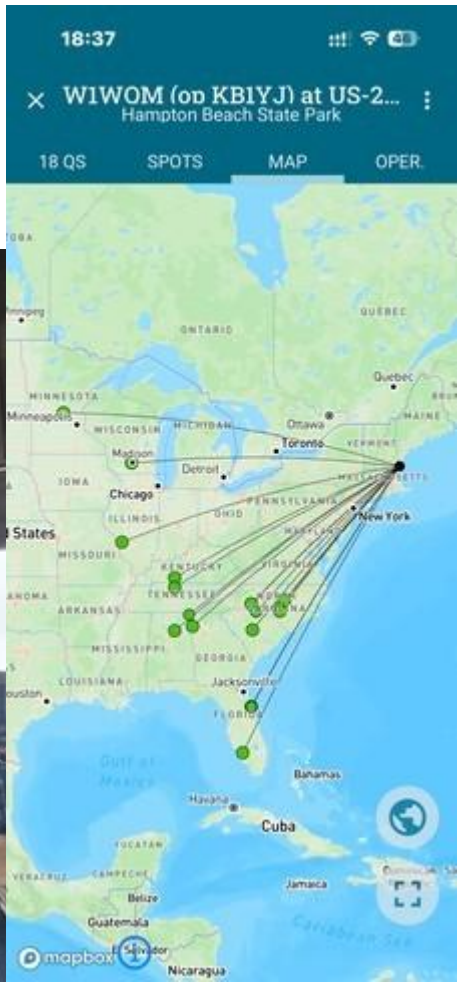
Congratulations to KB1YJ for scoring his first activation on his very first POTA experience - 13 qs on 20m SSB! Well done!

And thanks to N1THV (who also achieved an individual activation with 13 qs) for adding a new mode (data) to W1WQM POTA stats, and for demonstrating that the New England Seacoast POTA community works across clubs to enjoy this common interest.

Due to the weak propagation conditions, we were unable to run all modes simultaneously. The upshot being that although we had three stations, we could run either data or ssb on 20m at any point in time. Despite good separation between the antennas (guestimating 300+ft), when FT8 transmitted at 35W, the noise on the phone frequencies was too high to allow operation. I'm guessing it was not a great experience for my radio's receiver, so station 2 switched immediately to 10m, which aside from a couple of very loud DX stations, was dead.

As an interesting aside, even when station 2 was not operating at all, the antenna was somehow interfering with Stef's FT8 ability to get out. I don't have RBN data to back this up, but it appeared that her qso rate picked up dramatically when the station 2 dipole was disassembled.

Will be thinking about ways to build on this experience for the next POTA Picnic. Stay tuned for date.



Thom K1TKT
Buddy K9HAM