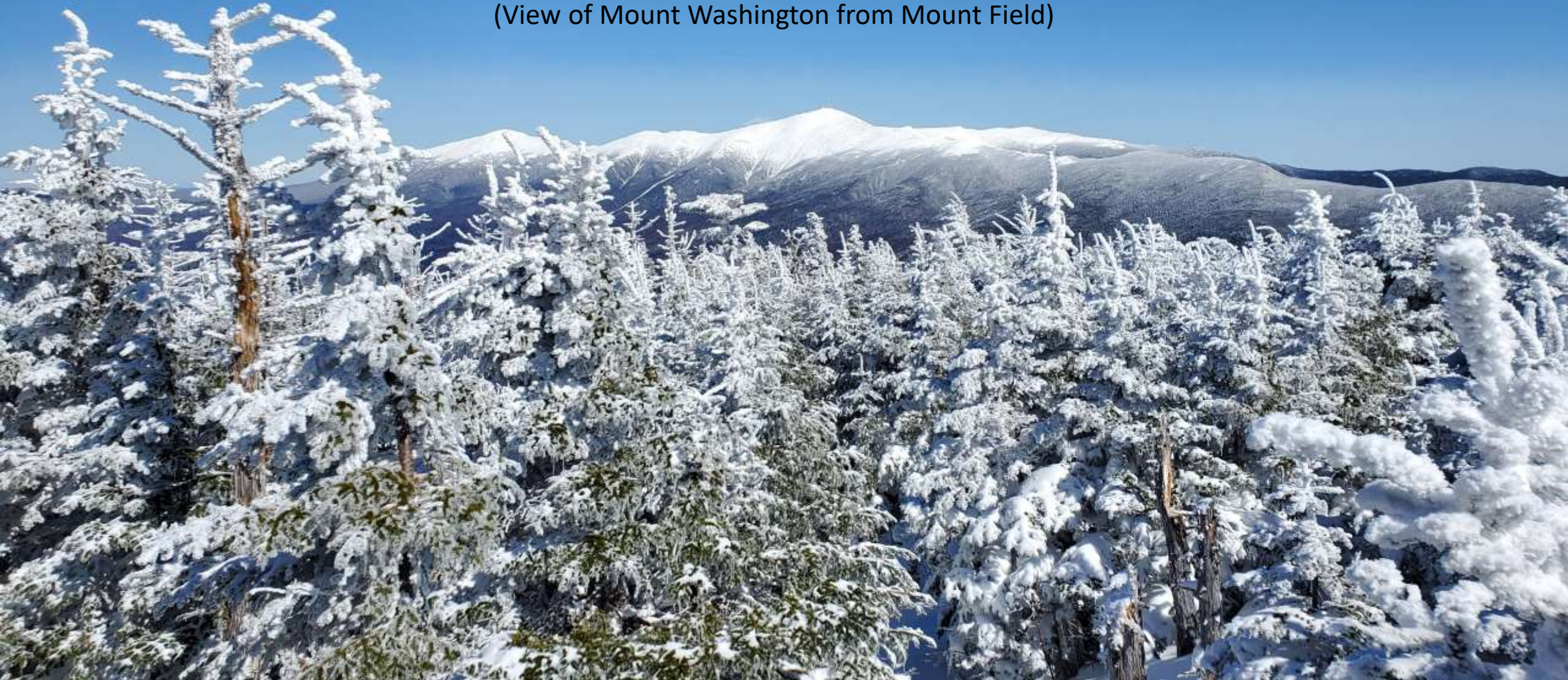


Summits On The Air

An Overview by Tim W3QP

(View of Mount Washington from Mount Field)



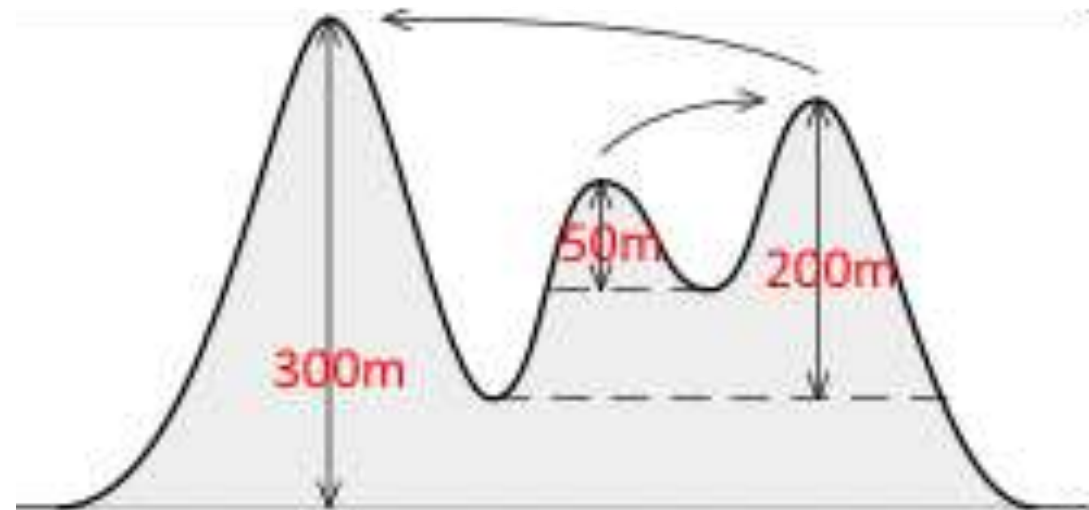
What is Summits on the Air

- Awards scheme where 'Activators' operate from designated Summits and 'Chasers' make contacts
- All bands, All Hams, All modes that allow for a basic exchange
- Launched on 2 March 2002
- 118 Associations globally, over 100,000 summits
- www.sota.org.uk
- WAY better than POTA ;-)
- Some summits are in POTA Parks, **SUBMIT LOGS TO BOTH**

What is a Summit?

- A summit is a Point of Prominence of at least 150 meter in height with a drop of 150 meters before a rise of at least 150 meters to the next summit (492 feet)
 - * If there are no 150m points in a region they may get a waiver to use 100m (328ft) points
- Summits are selected by an Association Manager (and there team)
 - Some areas are well mapped, others are a work in progress (Alaska), some countries don't currently participate, some summits make no sense
- There are a number of different Map sites / apps where you can find summits

wikipedia.org/wiki/Topographic_prominence



Summit Identifier

- Associations
 - Logically distinct geographical areas that form organizational components of the SOTA Program. Associations set the local rules based on the program's general rules
 - W1, W2, W3, W4V, W4T, W4A, KLA, KLF, KLS
- Regions
 - Within an Association there are one or more Regions. These can be based on geographic or political subdivisions
 - PD, PH, PO, SV, PW, ect
- Summit ID
 - A number between 001 and 999 within a given region for that specific summit, descending by elevation by when they were added (summits may have been added in 2, 3, more batches).
- SOTA Identifier
 - Association \ Region – Summit ID (001 to 999)
 - Example: W3\PD-001 OR W4V\SH-001

Summit Points

- Summits are worth 1,2,4,6,8,or 10 points based on their high in a given association
- Activators
 - Points awarded ONCE per year per Summit
 - 4 contacts to qualify for points
 - There MAY be a seasonal bonus of 3 points in an association. Dates Vary!
 - EG Winter Bonus – 1 December to 15 March (W3 **DOES** get a Winter bonus)
 - EG Summer Bonus – 1 June to 1 September (W3 does **NOT** get a Summer bonus)
 - Bonus points CAN be added for a 2nd qualifying activation
 - EG 10 points when activating in July, 3 Bonus points for a 2nd activation in December
- Chasers
 - Points based on summit being activated without bonus, once per contacted summit in a day UTC time
 - If you contact someone at 23:59 UTC and again at 00:01 UTC you get points for both days
- Summit To Summit (S2S)
 - For first operator on a summit, your summit points, with bonus + there summit point value without bonus
 - For each subsequent operator there summit point value without bonus
- Unlike Parks on the air EVERYONE needs to upload logs, not just the activator

View of Storsylen from Tempelet



Awards and Badges

- www.sotadata.org.uk
- 1000 Activator Points earns Mountain Goat
- 1000 Chaser Points earns Shack Sloth
- Certs available for different categories such as S2S, SOTA Unique, ect at 250, 500, 1000, 2500, 5000, ect.

Activator Badges

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  SSB 05 Oct 2021 |  HF 05 Oct 2021 |  Activated NA 05 Oct 2021 |  Seasonal Bonus 05 Dec 2021 |  Activator 100 08 Jan 2022 |  Activator 250 20 Feb 2022 |  Lazenby 20 Feb 2022 |  Dalton 21 Feb 2022 |  First Activator 24 Apr 2022 |  Brosnan 19 Jun 2022 |  Mountain Explorer Bronze 20 Aug 2022 |  Activator 500 21 Aug 2022 |
|  Craig 22 Aug 2022 |  Connery 02 Oct 2022 |  Moore 05 Nov 2022 |  FM 05 Nov 2022 |  VHF 05 Nov 2022 |  Activator Uniques 100 10 Dec 2022 |  10 First Activations 15 Jan 2023 |  Activator 1000 04 Feb 2023 |  Tourist 09 Jul 2023 |  Activated EU 09 Jul 2023 |  Frood 26 Aug 2023 | |

Spotting

- Post an Alert to SOTAWatch
 - sotawatch.sota.org.uk
- CW RBN Spot based on an Alert on SOTAWatch
- Self Spot via internet
 - SOTAWatch or App (SOTA Spotter, SOTA Activator)
 - When using App make sure database is up to date!
- Self Spot via SMS
 - Phone number must be added to Allow List www.sota.org.uk/Joining-In/SOTA-SMS-Format
 - Apps may offer this as an option when spotting
- Self Spot via digital modes such as FT8, PSK31, others.
 - SOTAmat - sotamat.com (also spots for POTA)

sotawatch.sota.org.uk

SPOTS ALERTS

Showing spots in last 24 hrs. [Hide Settings](#) [Add Spot](#)

Bands Filter ▾ All Modes ▾ FILTER...
spots in last 24 hours ▾ Toggle Expanded Spots

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 03:24 Sat | VK2BNY/P on VK4/SE-120 📄 | 7.16 ssb |
| 03:23 Sat | VK4MPB on VK4/SE-048 📄 | 21.074 data |
| 03:23 Sat | JR2KHB/1 on JA/YN-086 📄 | 10.1174 cw |
| 03:21 Sat | JJ1SWI/1 on JA/KN-032 📄 | 7.005 cw |
| 03:21 Sat | 7N3CNW/1 on JA/TG-031 📄 | 18.088 cw |
| 03:17 Sat | KE6MT on W6/CC-033 📄 | 3.838 ssb |
| 03:13 Sat | JR2KHB/1 on JA/YN-086 📄 | 10.1174 cw |
| 03:10 Sat | VK4MPB on VK4/SE-048 📄 | 21.074 data |
| 03:09 Sat | JK1FYU/1 on JA/KN-003 📄 | 430.050 cw |
| 03:04 Sat | JR2KHB/1 on JA/YN-086 📄 | 28.0525 cw |
| 02:56 Sat | KE6MT on W6/CC-033 📄 | 3.5420 cw |
| 02:46 Sat | JR2KHB/1 on JA/YN-086 📄 | 28.0525 cw |
| 02:36 Sat | VK7JDZ on VK7/WC-040 📄 | 7.090 ssb |
| 02:35 Sat | JK1VUZ/7 on JA/MG-094 📄 | 144.070 cw |
| 02:31 Sat | JR2KHB/1 on JA/YN-086 📄 | 14.0650 cw |
| 02:27 Sat | JJ1SWI/1 on JA/KN-032 📄 | 50.193 ssb |
| 02:26 Sat | JA7ENA/0 on JA/NI-023 📄 | 7.000 other |
| 02:25 Sat | JN1MSO/1 on JA/YN-055 📄 | 14.064 cw |
| 02:22 Sat | 7M4QZE/1 on JA/KN-007 📄 | 14.0610 cw |
| 02:18 Sat | VK3PF on VK3/VG-001 📄 | 10.116 cw |
| 02:17 Sat | JH0UUY/0 on JA/NN-204 📄 | 1295.08 fm |
| 02:17 Sat | KE6MT on W6/CC-033 📄 | 7.0310 cw |
| 02:17 Sat | JR2KHB/1 on JA/YN-086 📄 | 14.0650 cw |

Monday 30 October 2023

00:01 **WO6JO** on [W6/SC-329](#) 7-21-cw, 146.58-fm
S-6 (Posted by WO6JO)

Tuesday 31 October 2023

00:01 **WO6JO** on [W6/CC-066](#) 7-21-cw, 146.58-fm
S-4 (Posted by WO6JO)

19:00 **WO6JO** on [W6/CC-066](#) 7-21-cw, 146.58-fm
option if I don't make it on Monday
S-6 (Posted by WO6JO)

Thursday 2 November 2023

17:00 **WO6JO** on [W6/CT-281](#) 7-21-cw, 146.58-fm
(Posted by WO6JO)

Friday 3 November 2023

23:00 **WO6JO** on [W6/CC-068](#) 7-21-cw, 146.58-fm
S-6 (Posted by WO6JO)

Saturday 4 November 2023

12:00 **DL6GCA/P** on [DM/BW-018](#) 7, - 28, cw, ssb
Trans-Atlantic S2S event (Posted by DL6GCA)

12:00 **GM4OIG/P** on [GM/SS-272](#) 14, 18, 21, 24,
Trans-Atlantic S2S Event. Bands to suit
28-cw/ssb
conditions. S-1 S+6 (Posted by G4OIG)

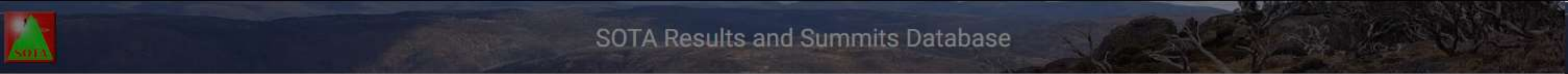
13:00 **DM1CM/P** on [DL/AM-176](#) 7-ssb, 14-ssb
Trying out 20m delta loop for Trans-Atlantic S2S Event (Posted by DM1CM)

14:00 **NJ7V** on [W7A/AW-031](#) 28-cw, 18-cw, 14-cw,
EU/US SOTA event 100 WATTS s+8
10-cw, 7cw
(Posted by NJ7V)

Basic Exchange

- CQ CQ CQ W3QP calling CQ Summits on the Air from W2GA001 Listening
- WOMNA
- WOMNA Good Afternoon, you are 59 (on W2GA001) OR (in the Adirondack Mountains) OR (on Mount Marcy) QSL
- Roger you are 59 Kansas
- Roger Roger, thanks for the contact, 73!
- 73, have fun

Logging www.sotadata.org.uk



Upload Logs

Buttons for uploading logs: Add Chaser QSO, Add Activation, Import CSV, Import ADIF, Import FLE, and Manage Uploads. The first three buttons are highlighted with red boxes.

[Credits](#) | [Facts and Figures](#) | © 2002-2023 Summits on the Air. Summits on the Air, SOTA and the SOTA Logo are trademarks of the Programme. Questions or comments about this site should be directed to the [web](#) in SOTA is at your own risk. The listing of a summit does NOT imply access is possible. Verify before accessing. See our [Acceptable Use Policy](#).

Add Activation

Own Callsign Summit Date

| Other Callsign | Date | Time (UTC) | Band | Mode | Other Summit | Comments | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="text" value="Other Cal"/> | <input type="text" value="yyyy-mm-dd"/> <input type="calendar"/> | <input type="text" value="hh:mm"/> | <input type="text" value=""/> | <input type="text" value=""/> | <input type="text" value="Other Summit (S2S)"/> | <input type="text" value="Comments"/> | <input type="button" value="🗑️"/> |

Community

- groups.io
 - <https://nasota.groups.io/g/main/topics> (All North America)
 - <https://groups.io/g/NortheastUSASotaClub/topics> (W1, W2, W3)
 - <https://groups.io/g/SOTAppalachia/topics> (VA / WV)
 - There are many more!
- SOTA Reflector <https://reflector.sota.org.uk/>
- Campouts and Dinners
- Core group of chasers
 - F4WBN (83)
 - W0MNA (80)
 - WB6POT (40)
 - WB8BHN (32)

View of Woodland Valley on way to Mount Panther



Activation Rules

- You must be within 25 vertical meters (82ft) of the summit to activate (the Antenna can be outside of that)
- Some summits are 'closed', don't activate without permission!
- You can not be in, 'near', or dependent on a vehicle while activating
- Power supply must be portable, no fossil-fuel / mains power
- QSOs via terrestrial repeaters do not count. Contacts via satellites or free balloon borne repeaters are permitted
- Don't do anything that brings Amateur Radio / SOTA in to a bad light

Notes on Activating : It Depends

- VHF / UHF is popular in some areas and dead in others
 - 146.58 (adventure frequency) is often but not always used in an area
- How long: MOST activators will stay at least 10min but could be as long as all day
- What Band: Most popular are 40, 20 and 2m. Depends on conditions!
- What Modes: ~75% of spots are CW, OFTEN activators use both CW and SSB
- How many summits: Often activators will try to get a few summits in a day

Antennas and Radios

- Most common VHF/UHF: HT with upgraded whip, J-Pole, handheld Yagi-Uda
 - Cheap HT (EG Baofeng) can be problematic with front-end overload
- Most common HF: Small 10w or LESS, low power draw radios with EndFeed (HalfWave / Random Wire) or Dipole
- Anything and everything has been used by someone, take recommendations with some salt
- Learn what others are doing, youtube, message boards, ect
- Go activate with someone and see how they do it
- When building a station keep in mind:
 - What's on the summit (trees, bushes, bare rock)
 - How you're getting to the summit
 - Weight of kit
 - What's required to support the system
 - Weather your willing to put up with
 - Losses in the system
 - What compromise you're ok with

How hard is a summit?

- Points DO NOT equal difficulty! There are easy 10 pointers and miserable 1 pointers
- Rought summit effort scale
 - Drive-up / ski lift / gondola
 - Near Drive-up with short trail (forest road)
 - Near Drive-up with short bushwack
 - Well maintained trail
 - Poorly maintained Trail
 - Light bushwack
 - Heavey bushwack
- Weather and time of year matter
- Review Maps / look at how many times it's been activated / Read activation notes

smp main mapping extras contact overview

Choose Region: Multi All

- W3/PH - Philadelphia (5 summ
- W3/PO - Pocono (43 summ
- W3/PT - Pittsburgh (12 summ
- W3/PW - Pennsylvania Wilds (81 summ
- W3/SV - Susquehanna Valley (78 summ
- W3/WE - Western (19 summ

Choose Association: Multi

W3 - USA

Choose Summit: --- Please choose --- Sort Summits by: Code

Mapping Summit history Region summaries

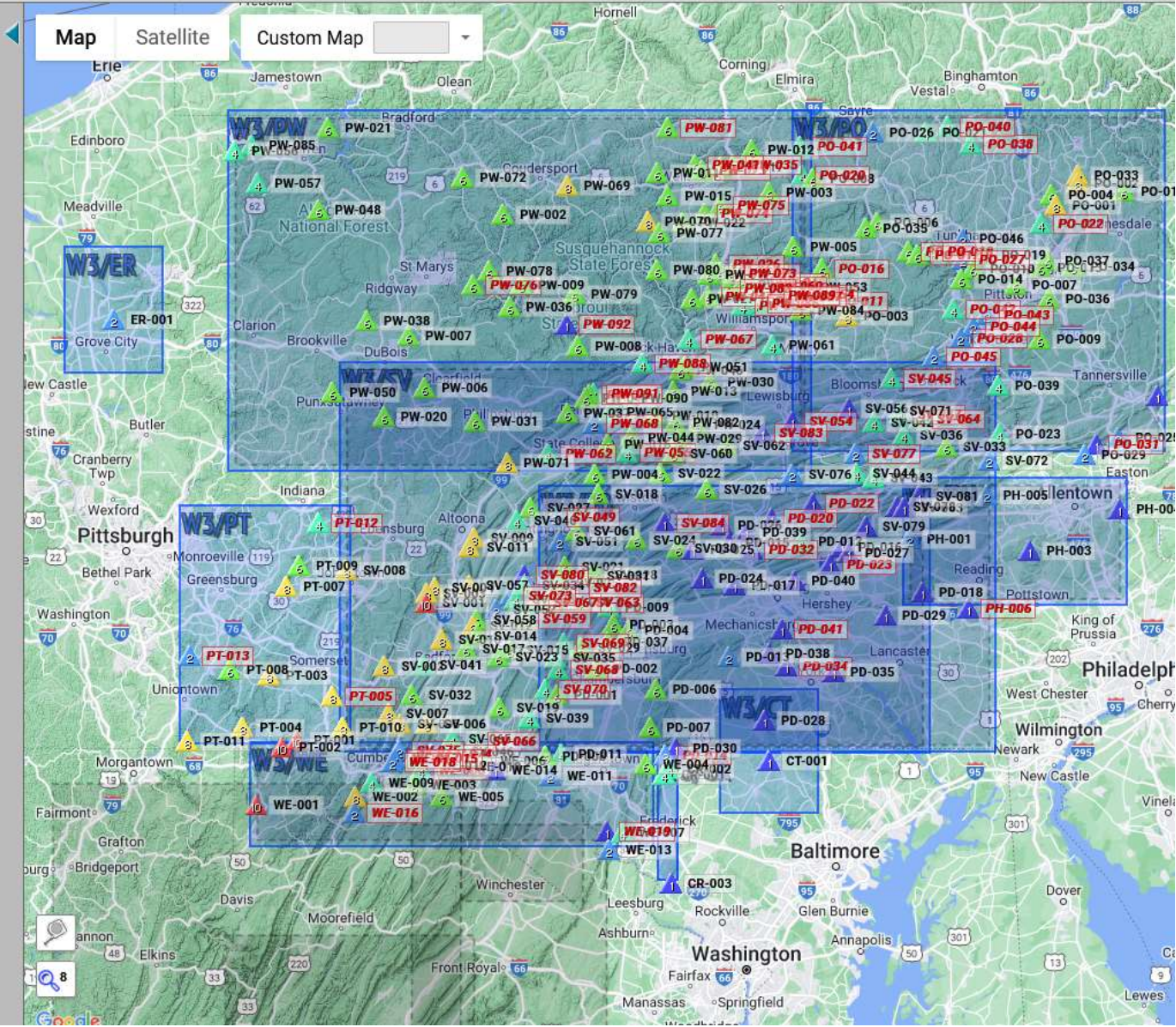
Chosen Summits Listing

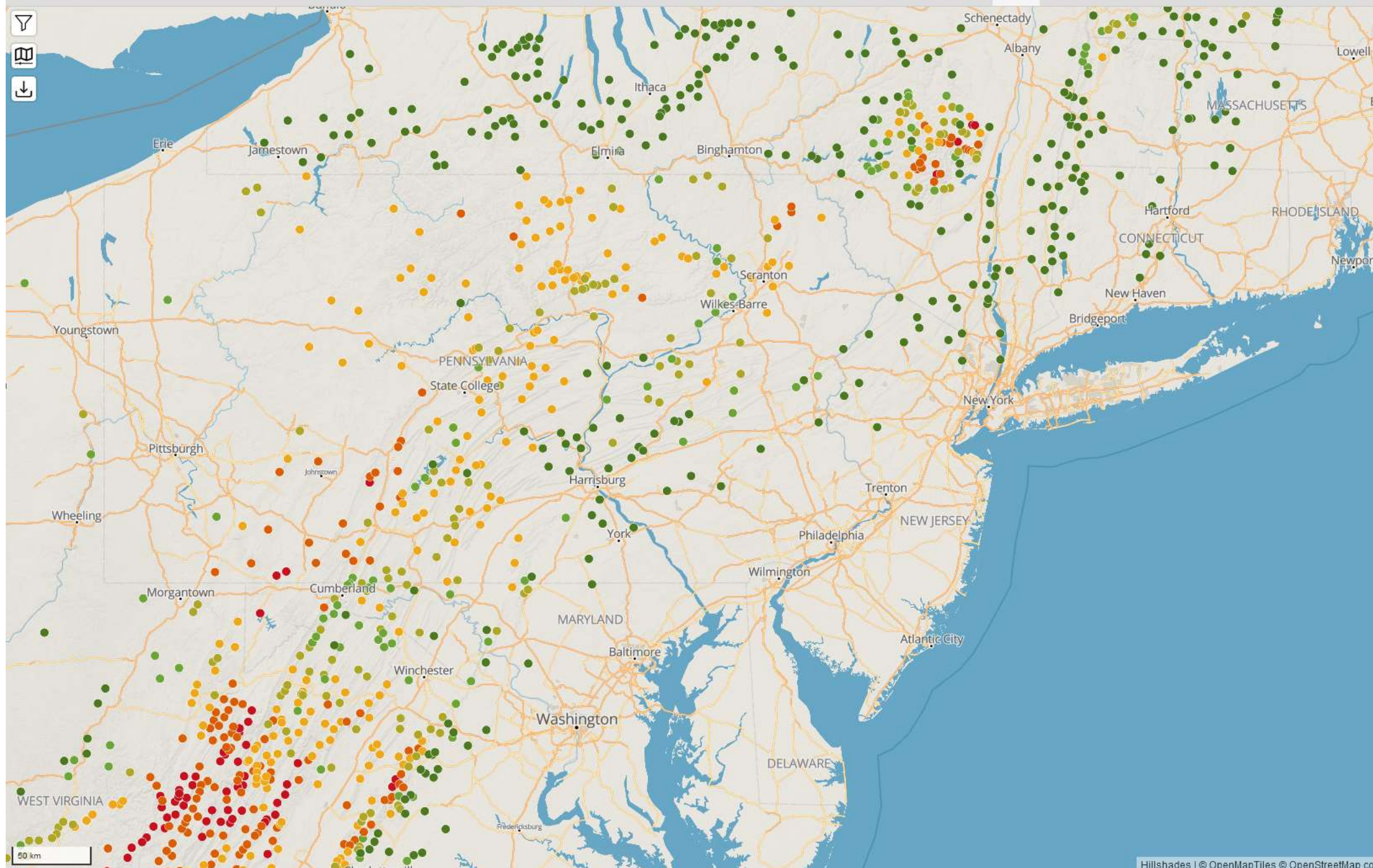
Display: All summits in chosen range

| Summit Code | Summit Name | All Act. | My Act. | Pts. |
|-------------|--------------------|----------|---------|------|
| W3/CR-001 | Piney Mtn | 12 | 1 | 4 |
| W3/CR-002 | College Mtn | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| W3/CR-003 | Sugar Loaf Mtn | 44 | 0 | 1 |
| W3/CT-001 | Yingling Benchmark | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| W3/ER-001 | Mercer County HP | 18 | 0 | 2 |
| W3/PD-001 | Big Mtn | 64 | 1 | 6 |
| W3/PD-002 | Clarks Knob | 46 | 1 | 6 |
| W3/PD-003 | Rising Mtn | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| W3/PD-004 | Blue Mtn | 27 | 1 | 6 |
| W3/PD-006 | Flat Ridge | 63 | 1 | 6 |
| W3/PD-007 | Snowy Mtn | 60 | 1 | 6 |
| W3/PD-008 | Cross Mtn | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| W3/PD-009 | Tuscarora 1990 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| W3/PD-011 | Kasies Knob | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| W3/PD-012 | Broad Mtn | 10 | 1 | 4 |
| W3/PD-013 | Long Mtn | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| W3/PD-014 | Raven Rock Mtn | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| W3/PD-015 | Buffalo Mtn 1470 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| W3/PD-016 | Second Mtn | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| W3/PD-017 | Cove Mtn | 11 | 0 | 1 |

277 Summits ★ = Tracks available for summit

Search... Settings... Export... Help...







Mt. Sherill, one of the Catskill High Peaks, seen from Spruceon Road (Greene County Route 6), near West Kill, NY, USA).

Daniel Case [CC BY-SA 3.0]

Sherrill; Mount [W2/GC-060](#)

Altitude 3550 ft

Points **6** +3

Activations 6

Last activation 20 May 2023 (W3QP)

Close

Minimize

More

North Dome
W2/GC-009
3609 ft

7

Sherrill; Mount

🇺🇸 W2 USA / GC Greater Catskills - 060

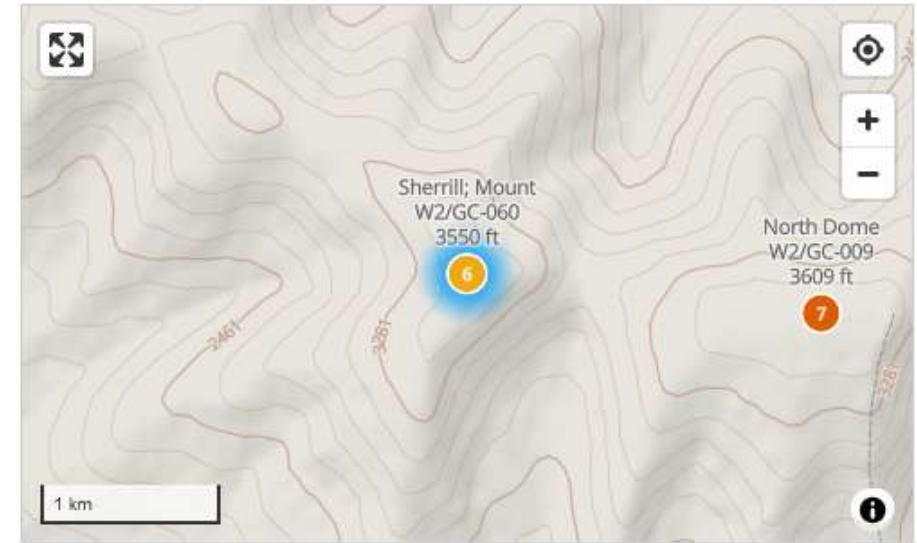
[+ Alert](#) [+ Spot](#)W2/GC-060 | 3550 ft | **6** **+3** points | ⬆️ 6 activations

Mt. Sherrill, one of the Catskill High Peaks, seen from Spruceton Road (Greene County Route 6), near West Kill, NY, USA.

Daniel Case [CC BY-SA 3.0]

Coordinates: **42.1756, -74.3733**[Open ▾](#) [Copy](#)Locator: **FN22te**First activation: **N1EU** on 24 Mar 2013

Resources (+ Article)

[Wikipedia: Mount Sherrill](#)[Google: Sherrill; Mount](#)[🔗 Access from Rt 42](#) (by W3QP on 22 May 2023)[🔗 There is no trail - this is a bushwhack only hike \(eom\)](#) (by N1EU on 22 Apr 2013)

Photos

📷 Log in and upload your photos of this summit!



Posted by W3QP on May 22, 2023

[← Return to W2/GC-060](#)

Access from Rt 42

[Edit Article](#)

There is a parking area that shows off rt 42 at aprox 42.16512, -74.40866 on both CalTopo and on GaiaGPS. If you use gaia, <https://www.gaiagps.com/map/?loc=13.9/-74.3804/42.1698&layer=GaiaTopoRasterMeters> you will see a 'Herd Path' that goes up over Sherrill, Aprox 4.46 miles and 1990ft gain round trip to the summit THOUGHT if you come this far follow the trail over to North Dome (8 point summit). Aprox 7.15 miles, 3111 ft gain round trip.

The path is well traveled almost the whole way, i only lost the trail for a few hundred feet about 3/4 of the way up Sherrill and it was easy to find again. The east side of Sherrill was rather step if heading over to North Dome but otherwise i found the hike less rocky / step than several others that i have done in the Cats. This was not a bushwack when i hiked in May.

Summit is somewhat densely wooded with short trees but i found a space just off the sumit to put up a EFHW on 20m.

42.17566, -74.37353

Open

Copy

Locator: FN22te52

Elevation: 3533 ft (approx.)

Google Maps

Bing Maps

Gaia GPS

Mapy.cz

FatMap

OpenStreetMap

OpenTopoMap

SummitPost

Peakbagger.com

aprs.fi

APRS Direct

North Dome
W2/GC-009
3609 ft

7

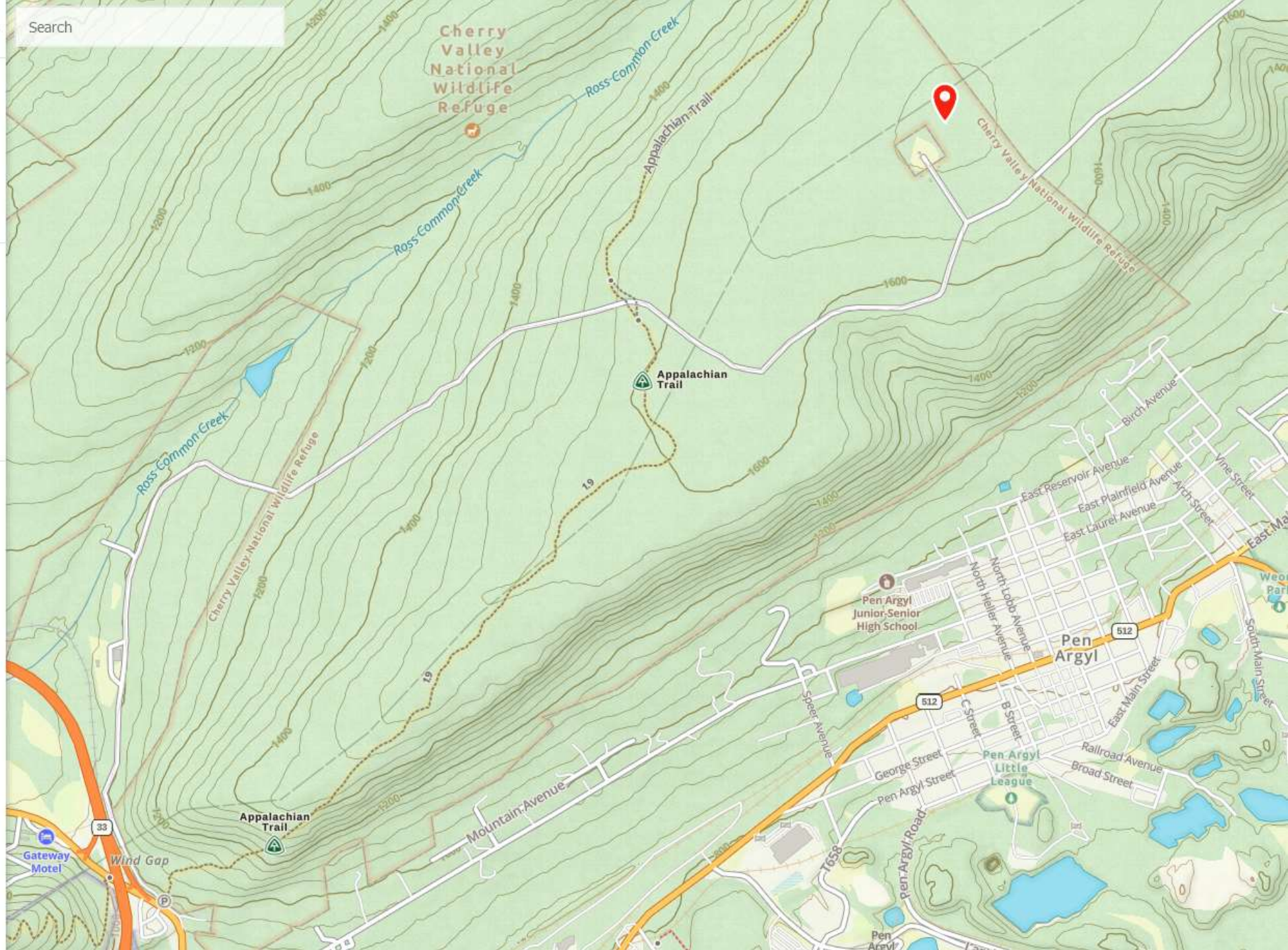
BUSHNELLSVILLE

Map

- Overlays
- Layers
- Saved Items
- Preferences

Create

- Waypoint
- Route
- Area
- Import Data
- Print Map



CALTOPO showing activation zone (DEM Shading) (Link to video series on the end slide)

Map interface showing terrain modeling and parcel data for a specific location in Altoona, PA.

Map Objects: Ctrl-O, Import, Export, Add

Markers:

- W3SV009 00 Park 1st choice
- w3SV009 10 AZ 1st Choice
- w3SV009 20 Park 2nd choice
- w3SV009 25 AZ 2nd choice
- w3SV009 30a Park 3rdA Choice
- w3SV009 30b Park 3rdB Choice
- w3SV009 35 AZ 3rd choice
- w3SV009 90 sum

Lines & Polygons (+)

Terrain Modeling

AZ Starts

Map Layers: Ctrl-L

Base Layers:

- MapBuilder Topo
- Shaded Relief @ 0%
- Normal
- + Stack Base Layer

Map Sheets:

- + Stack Map Sheet

Map Overlays:

- Contours Mixed
- MapBuilder Overlay
- Slope Angle Shading
- Geology
- Public Lands
- Parcel Data Pro
- Structures
- Motor Vehicle MVUM
- Recreation
- Fire History
- Fire Activity
- Sun Exposure
- Cell Coverage
- Parcel Data Ownership

Custom Layers:

- AZ Starts

Forecasts:

- Weather Shading
- Wind Plot
- Avalanche

Realtime Data:

- Weather Stations Pro
- Aircraft Pro
- Shared Locations

Preset Combinations:

- MapBuilder Topo
- 7.5' Topo Maps
- Forest Service
- Aerial Topo Hybrid
- Hybrid Satellite
- Slope Angle Shading

Map Information:

- W3/SV-009, Brush Mtn 2575
- 40.51961, -78.35102
- 17T 0724406E 4488803N
- CUMMINS 1837 ft WGS84
- W3SV009 90 sum HNSON, DAVID E ET AL

Map Features:

- MapBuilder Topo Info
- Scale: 300 m, 1000 ft
- Connect
- Follow for tips, tricks, and more (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube)
- Get the app (App Store, Google Play)







Basic Hiking guidelines

- Know your non-radio gear
- Know your fitness level
- Be prepared to turn back
- Be prepared to be out- longer than expected, in bad weather, wild life encounters
- Have the "10 Essentials" (list vary but in general)
 - Navigation / Communication
 - Sun Protection
 - Proper Footwear / Clothes
 - Extra Water
 - Extra Food
 - Light / Headlamp
 - First Aid / **Repair Kit**
 - Knife / Multi-tool
 - Fire
 - Emergency Shelter

Links

- www.sota.org.uk
- Sotawatch.sota.org.uk
- www.sotadata.org.uk
- www.sota.org.uk/Joining-In/SOTA-SMS-Format
- reflector.sota.org.uk
- wikipedia.org/wiki/Topographic_prominence
- sotl.as
- gaiagps.com
- caltopo.com
 - CalTopo for SOTA: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-czX9Lqa20Q&list=PLvKixHk9mLAGwkuzgl4xW0tPthIH2-2uk
- nasota.groups.io/g/main/topics
- groups.io/g/NortheastUSASotaClub/topics
- groups.io/g/SOTAppalachia/topics
- Sotamat.com