



Re: Indiana Parks on the Air

This is an announcement for a new operating opportunity for Indiana amateurs. Yes, I know, you're probably thinking what do we need with another operating event but hear me out. This is a chance to get out and operate in a state park to have fun while practicing your operating skills. The idea is to operate either from a state park or to contact someone who is at a state park with a chance to earn an award. For those adventuresome enough going to a park a minimum of 4 QSOs will be credit you with a 'Park Activation'. Activating a park or working someone at a state park puts you on your way to earning an Activator or Chaser award. See the Indiana Parks on the Air web site at www.inpota.com for more details.

Either way, operating from the comfort of your home or packing a lunch and taking a cooler with cold drinks to operate from a picnic table or camper can be both relaxing and fun. Why not use this as an opportunity to make a lightweight antenna, i.e. a segmented dipole or take your Buddi-pole and make some contacts. For fast setup why not consider an inexpensive pushup pole to support your antenna(s). See <http://www.tmastco.com/> for lightweight masts. This is a great way for a QRP op to get on with minimum effort, a battery, antenna and inexpensive rig and bingo, you're on the air.

The Indiana Parks on the Air will have a dedicated page for posting alerts for upcoming operations and to spot an operation in progress making it easier to get involved as an Activator or Chaser. Additionally, there will be a yearly contest to run concurrent with the Ohio Parks on the Air contest also held in September.

See: <http://parks.portcars.org/ospota/index.php>

This is being done to garner more interest between amateurs from both states. Yes, this may sound like another Field Day event but I think you'll agree this event can be more relaxing and less stressful with simpler antennas and radio setups. There is no need to shoot for a high QSO rate nor will the contest run an entire 24 hour period. Just have fun and experiment.

In closing we respectfully ask for this message to get announced to club members and if you so desire, any other method you might have to get the word out about Indiana Parks on the Air. Please feel free to visit the web site and look over its features and operating and contest rules.

Yours respectfully,

Jim Tuner – AB9JT

Dennis Martin - WA2USA