

1. Welcome to POTA Companion

POTA Companion is an Apple Watch app designed to put the information a POTA activator most often needs directly on the wrist. It can identify nearby POTA parks, show live activity, display your GPS position and Maidenhead grid, launch directions, and support the activation/self-spot workflow.

POTA Companion is an independent application and is not affiliated with or endorsed by Parks on the Air®.

What you can do

- See your current Maidenhead grid and GPS accuracy.
- Find the nearest POTA park and the next five nearby parks.
- See parks with live POTA activity nearby, including activator, band, mode, frequency, and spot comments.
- Open Apple Maps for directions to a park.
- Start a POTA activation and self-spot from the watch.
- Confirm that a submitted spot was accepted by POTA.
- End the activation with QRT when you are finished.

What POTA Companion does not replace

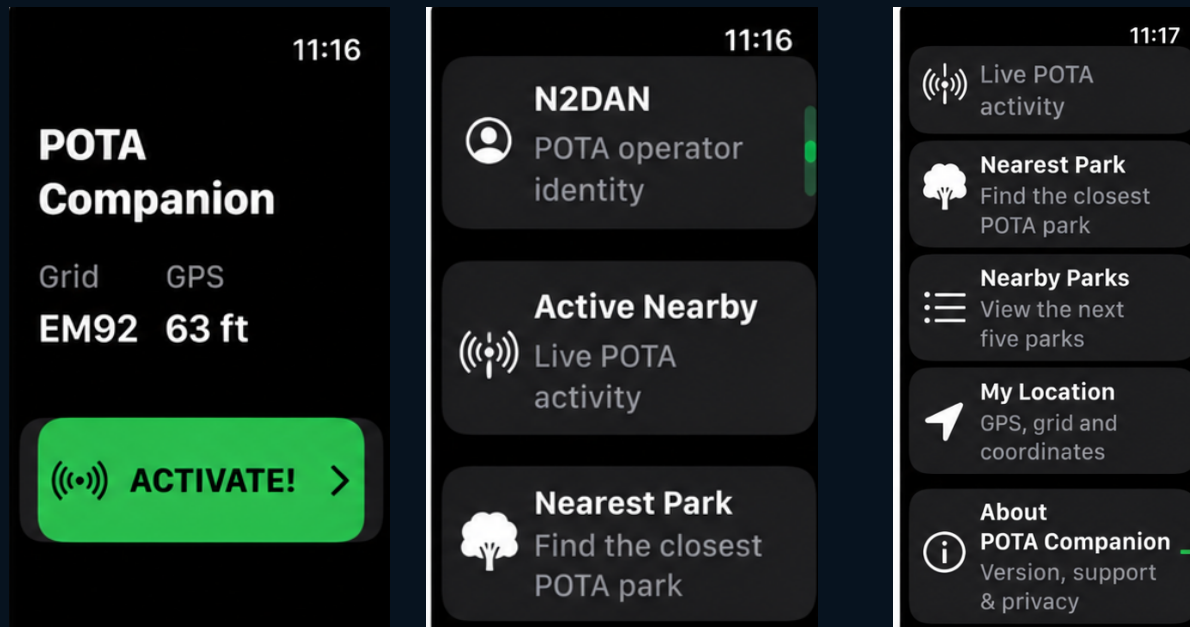
The app is a field companion, not a logging program. Continue to use your normal logger and follow all POTA rules, park requirements, amateur-radio regulations, and safe operating practices.

Beta note

This is prerelease software distributed through Apple TestFlight. Screens and behavior may change as the beta evolves. TestFlight builds also have an Apple-controlled expiration period; install updates when TestFlight offers them.

2. First Launch and the Dashboard

On first launch, allow location access when prompted and enter your amateur-radio call sign. POTA Companion uses location data to determine your grid, nearby parks, distance, and navigation context. Your call sign identifies you in the activation and self-spot workflow.



The dashboard

At the top, **Grid** shows your current Maidenhead grid square and **GPS** shows the reported location accuracy. The large green **ACTIVATE!** button begins the activation workflow. Scroll down for the main tools:

- **Active Nearby** - live POTA activity around you.
- **Nearest Park** - the closest POTA park to your current position.
- **Nearby Parks** - the next five nearby parks.
- **My Location** - GPS coordinates, grid, and location information.
- **About POTA Companion** - version, support, privacy, and RadioBum Software information.

Tip: GPS accuracy can improve after the watch has had a clear view of the sky for a short time. Park and distance results are only as good as the current location fix.

3. Finding Parks and Live Activity

POTA Companion is designed for quick, glanceable field use. You can use it both to discover parks and to see where operators are currently active.

Nearest Park

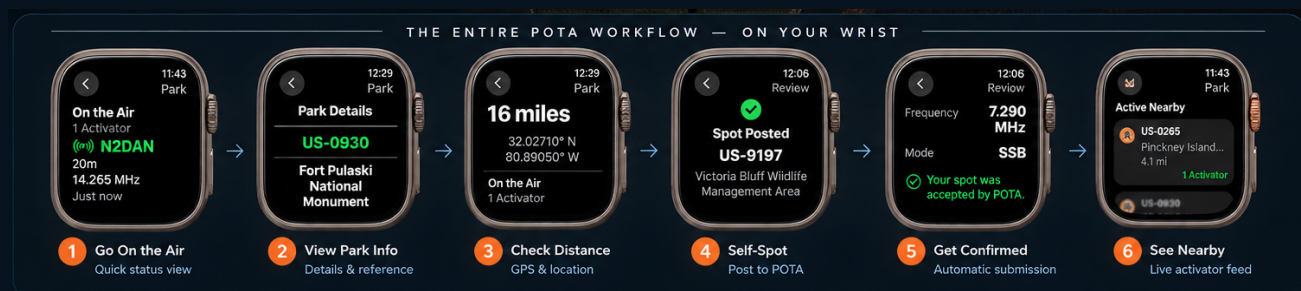
Open **Nearest Park** to see the closest POTA entity based on your current GPS position. The park detail view provides the POTA reference, park name, distance, coordinates, and current activity when available. Use the directions control to hand the destination to Apple Maps.

Nearby Parks

Nearby Parks lists the next five POTA parks near your position. This is useful when you are traveling, scouting possible activations, or deciding whether another park is close enough for a second activation.

Active Nearby

Active Nearby combines your position with live POTA spots. Tap a park to see who is operating and the available spot details, such as band, mode, frequency, and comments. From the park view you can also open directions.



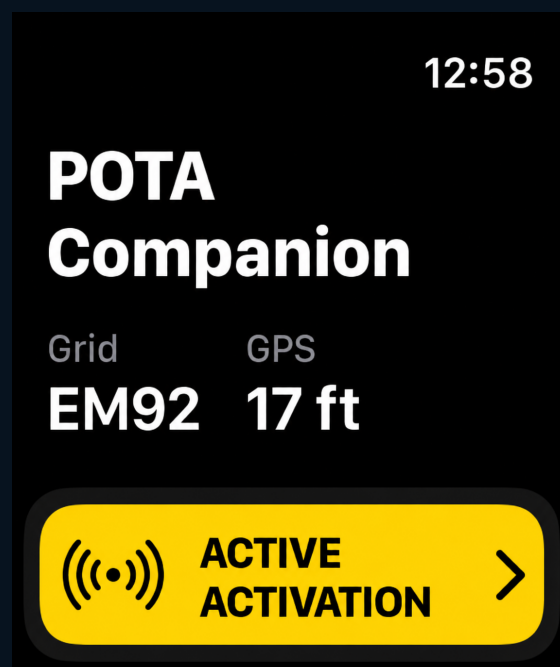
The live feed reflects information available from POTA services. A missing or stale spot does not necessarily mean a park is inactive; network connectivity and upstream data can affect what the watch can display.

4. Starting an Activation

From the main screen, tap the green **ACTIVATE!** button. POTA Companion guides you through selecting the park and preparing the activation. Review the park reference carefully before proceeding - especially when two parks are close together or you are operating from a location that qualifies for more than one entity.

Typical activation flow

- Tap **ACTIVATE!**.
- Select or confirm the POTA park you intend to activate.
- Review the park reference and park name.
- Begin the activation. The main screen changes to a yellow **ACTIVE ACTIVATION** state so you can quickly return to it.



Always verify that you are physically within the qualifying POTA entity and that your activation complies with current POTA rules. The app can assist with location and park information, but the operator remains responsible for choosing the correct reference.

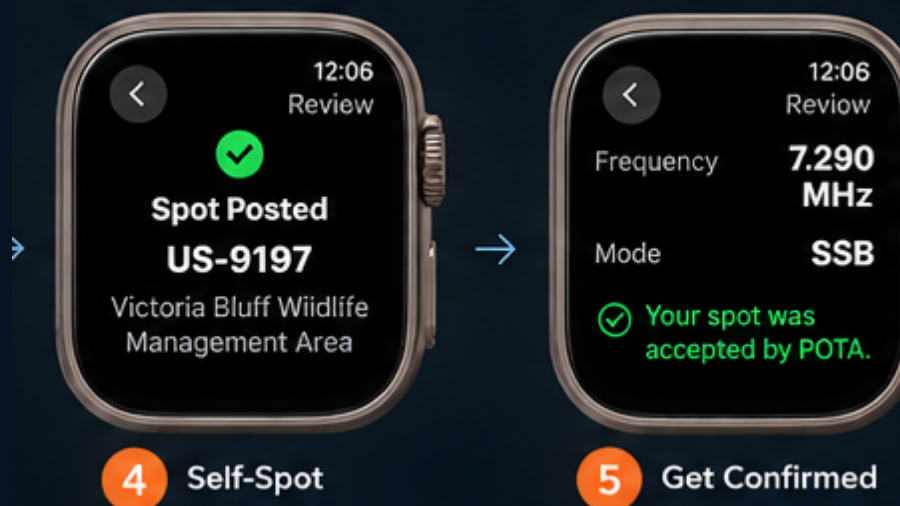
5. Self-Spotting from the Watch

During an active activation, POTA Companion can submit a self-spot to POTA. This is intended to minimize phone handling in the field while still giving hunters the information they need.

To self-spot

- Open your **Active Activation**.
- Choose the self-spot option.
- Enter or select the operating frequency.
- Select the operating mode.
- Add a short comment when useful.
- Review the park, frequency, and mode before submitting.
- Submit the spot and wait for the confirmation screen.

A successful submission displays a confirmation that the spot was posted/accepted by POTA. If the submission fails, check that the watch has internet connectivity and verify the information before trying again.



Before transmitting, confirm your radio is actually on the frequency and mode shown in the spot. If you move frequency or change mode, submit an updated spot so hunters are not sent to stale information.

6. Ending an Activation (QRT)

When you are finished operating, return to the active activation screen and use the **QRT** control to end the activation. This closes the active session in POTA Companion and sends the appropriate QRT update through the POTA spot workflow.

Before you tap QRT

- Make sure you are actually finished with the activation.
- Confirm any final logging is complete in your normal logging application or logbook.
- If you plan to continue on another band or frequency, update your spot instead of ending the activation.

Activation persistence

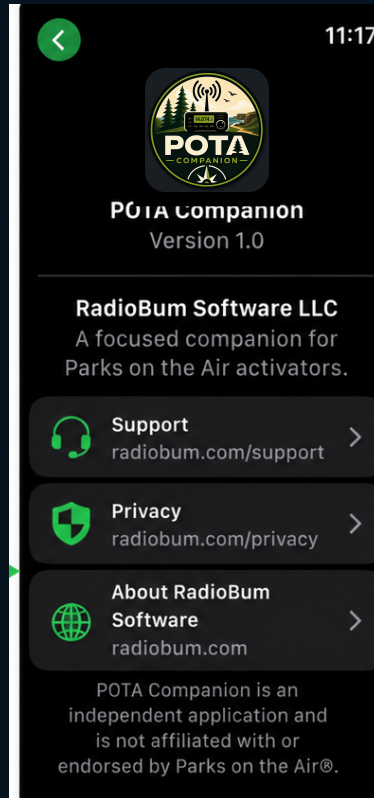
An active activation is designed to persist if you leave and reopen the app, so an accidental app exit should not force you to start over. When an activation is in progress, the dashboard presents the yellow **ACTIVE ACTIVATION** button.

POTA Companion does not create or upload your QSO log. Ending the activation in the app is separate from submitting your completed activation log to POTA.

7. My Location

My Location provides the watch's current GPS position, Maidenhead grid, and related location information. It is useful for confirming where the watch thinks you are and for troubleshooting park-distance results.

8. Support, Privacy, and About



Scroll to **About POTA Companion** for the installed version and links to support, privacy information, and RadioBum Software. The app also includes the required independent-app affiliation statement.

Support

For beta feedback, bug reports, or questions, contact support@radiobum.com. Helpful reports include the watch model, watchOS version, POTA Companion version/build, what you expected to happen, what actually happened, and the steps that reproduce the issue.

Privacy when sending screenshots

Before sharing a screenshot publicly, check it for precise coordinates or other location details you do not intend to disclose. Your amateur-radio call sign may itself be publicly searchable, so share screenshots with the same care you would use for other radio-related material.

Beta feedback we especially value

- Incorrect nearest/nearby park results.
- Unexpected GPS or grid behavior.
- Live activity that does not refresh as expected.
- Problems starting, restoring, or ending an activation.
- Self-spot failures, incorrect frequency/mode handling, or missing confirmation.
- UI text that is clipped or difficult to use on a particular Apple Watch model.

9. Quick Field Reference

Goal	On the watch
Find closest park	Dashboard → Nearest Park
See more parks	Dashboard → Nearby Parks
Find live activators	Dashboard → Active Nearby
Check grid / coordinates	Dashboard → My Location
Start operating	Dashboard → ACTIVATE!
Return to current activation	Dashboard → ACTIVE ACTIVATION
Tell hunters where you are	Active Activation → Self-Spot
Finish	Active Activation → QRT
Get help	About POTA Companion → Support

Field checklist

- Watch has a usable GPS fix.
- Correct POTA park/reference selected.
- Radio frequency and mode match the self-spot.
- Internet connectivity is available when live data or self-spotting is needed.
- Normal QSO logging method is ready.
- QRT is sent when the activation is truly finished.

Thanks for helping test POTA Companion. Field feedback from activators is what will make the app better before public release.

POTA Companion | RadioBum Software LLC
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