



Adventuring with Summits on the Air

Darryl Holman
WW7D

Inland Empire VHF Radio Amateurs Club, 10 Jun 2021

What is SOTA?

- **A ham radio *activity***
- **Two primary activities:**
 - 1. Activating summits for points**
 - 2. “Chasing” summits for points**

- **Started in 2002 by G3WGV and G3CWI**
- **Now there are 189 SOTA associations worldwide**
- **Washington’s Association (W7W) started in 2010**

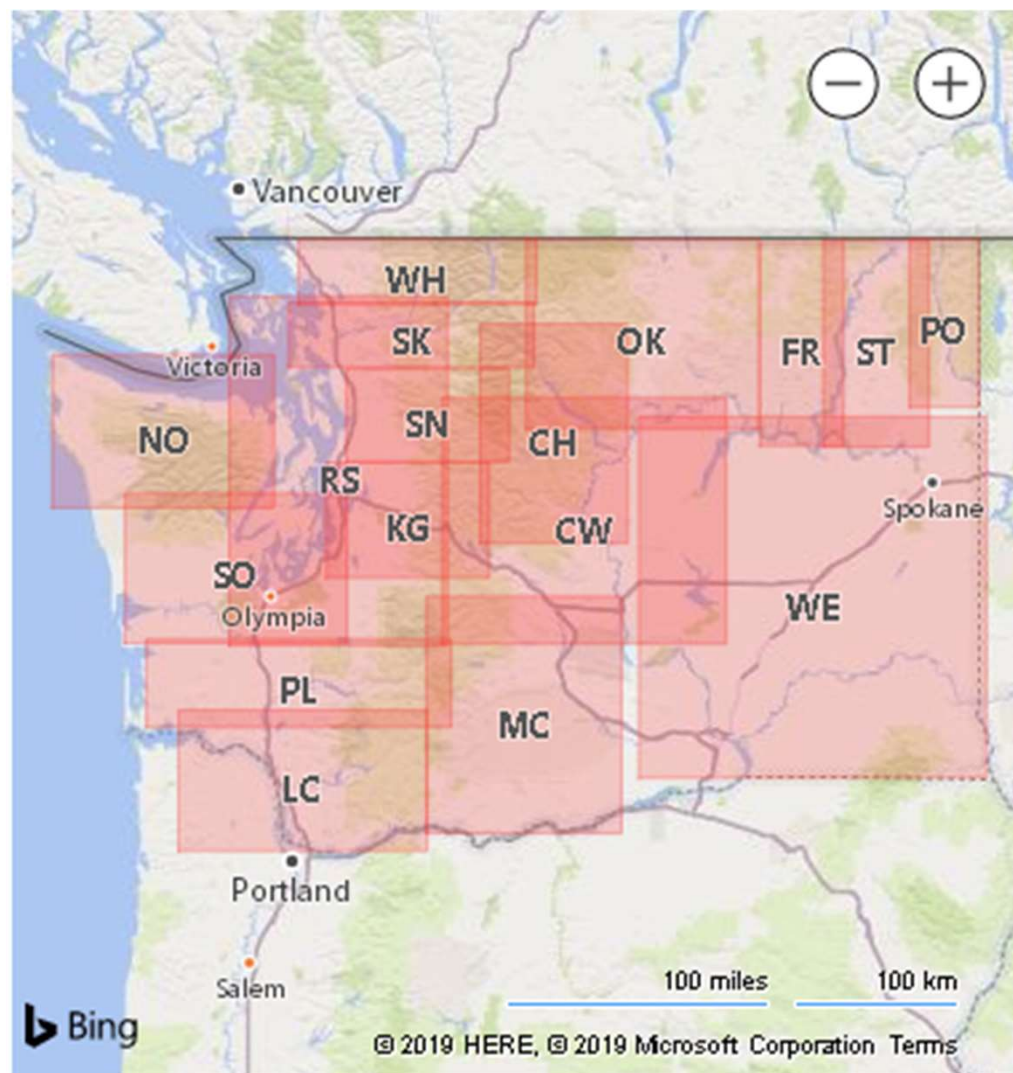
Washington state association (W7W)

17 Regions

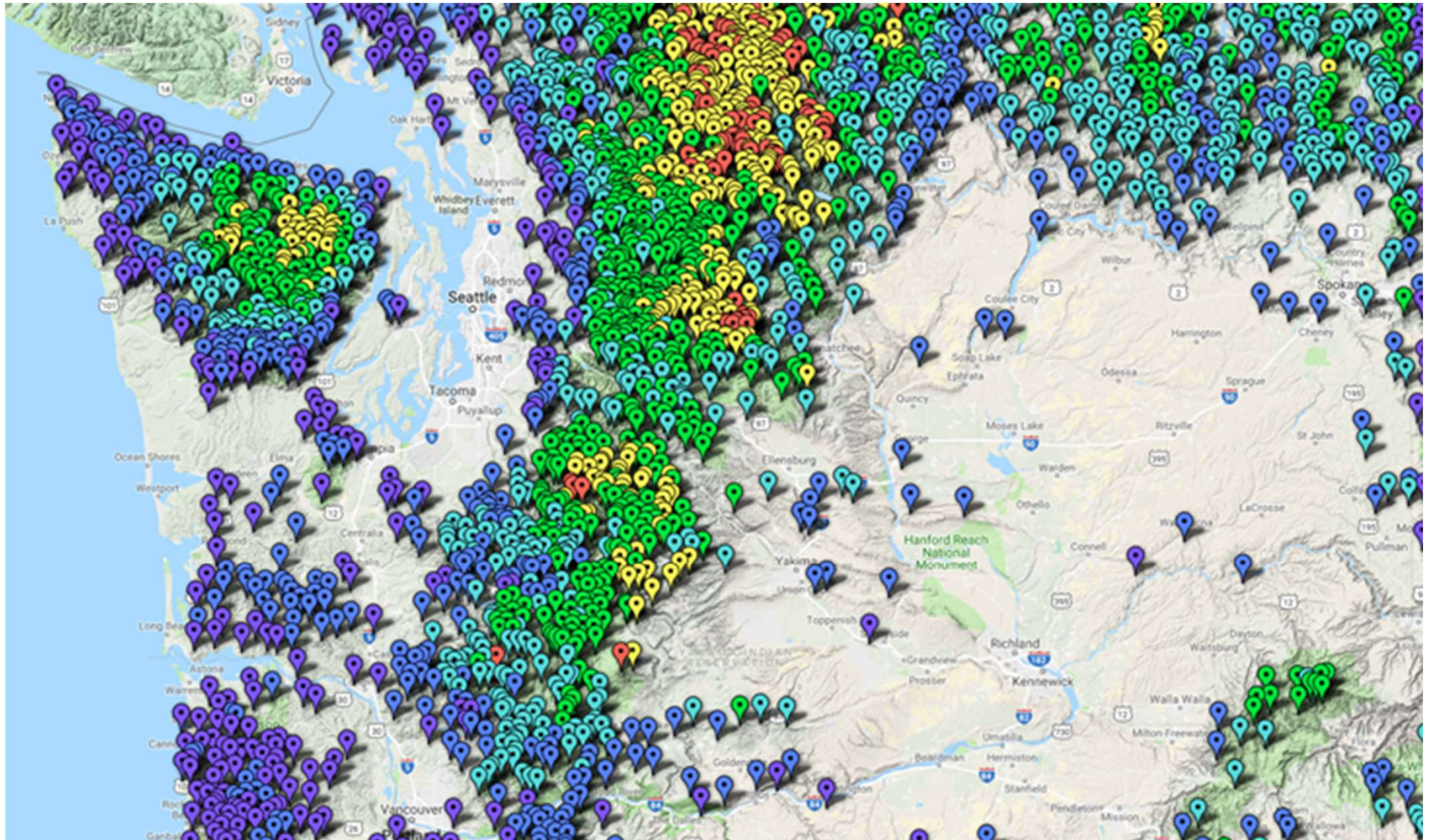
2,762 Summits (of 129,369)

143 Activators (of 6,847)

175 Chasers (of 7,179)

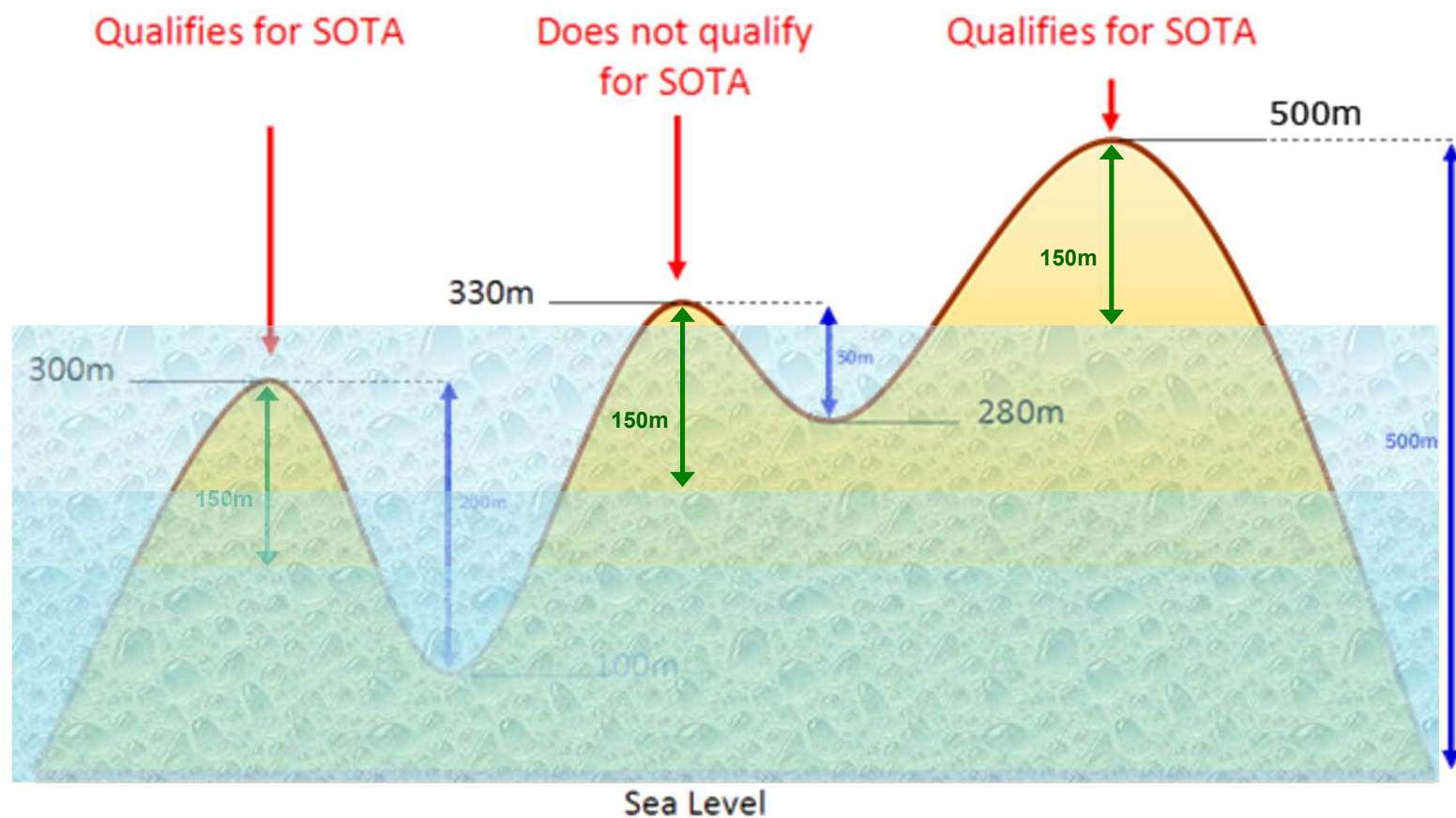


Purple	1 pt	$\leq 500\text{m}$ ($\leq 1640\text{ ft}$)
Blue	2 pts	500m to 1000m (1640' to 3281')
Cyan	4 pts	1000m to 1500m (3281' to 4921')
Green	6* pts	1500m to 2000m (4921' to 6562')
Yellow	8* pts	2000m to 2500m (6562' to 8202')
Red	10* pts	2500m+ (8202'+)



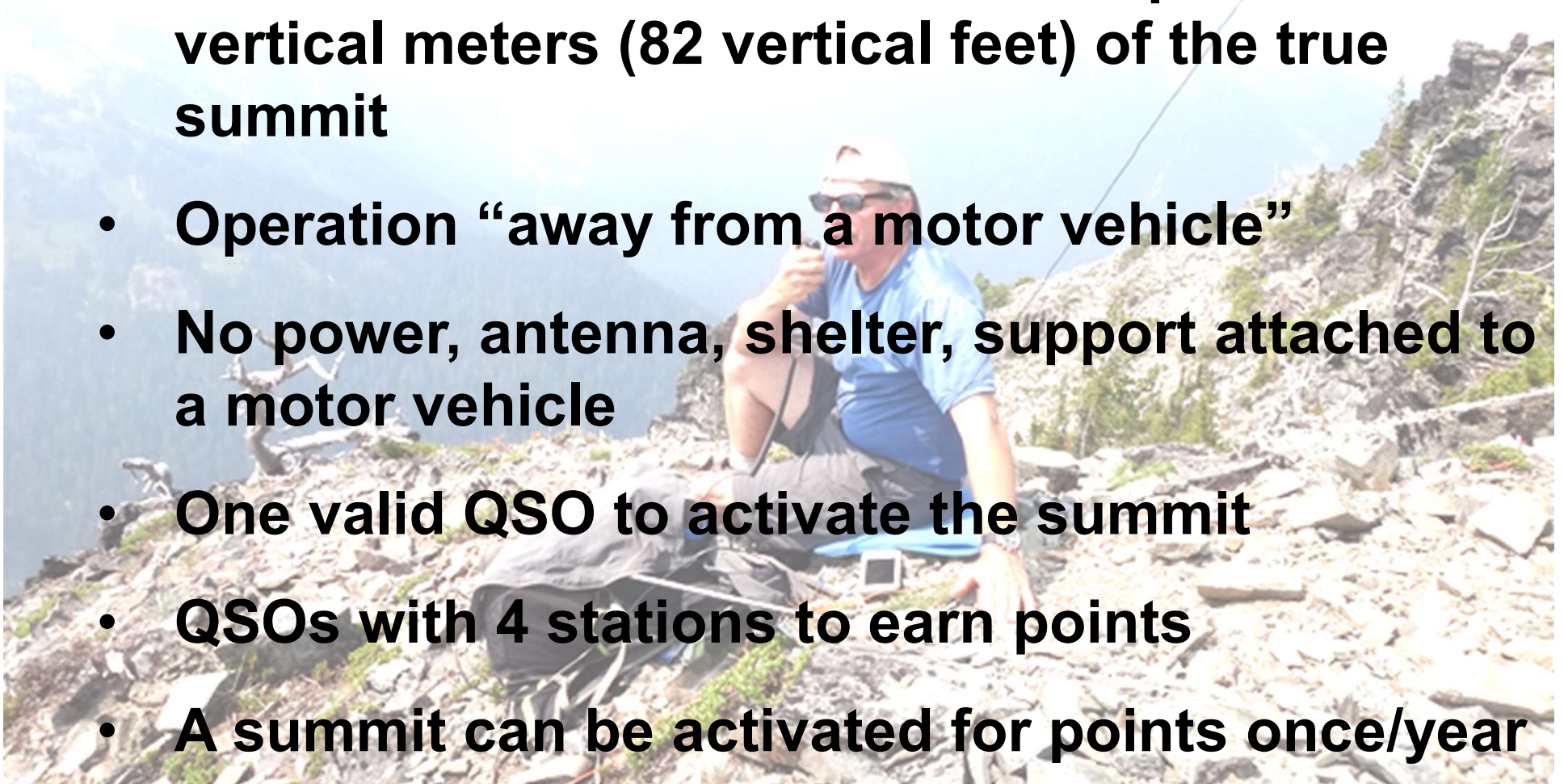
“Prominence” defines a summit

In most associations: P150 = 150 meters (492 feet)



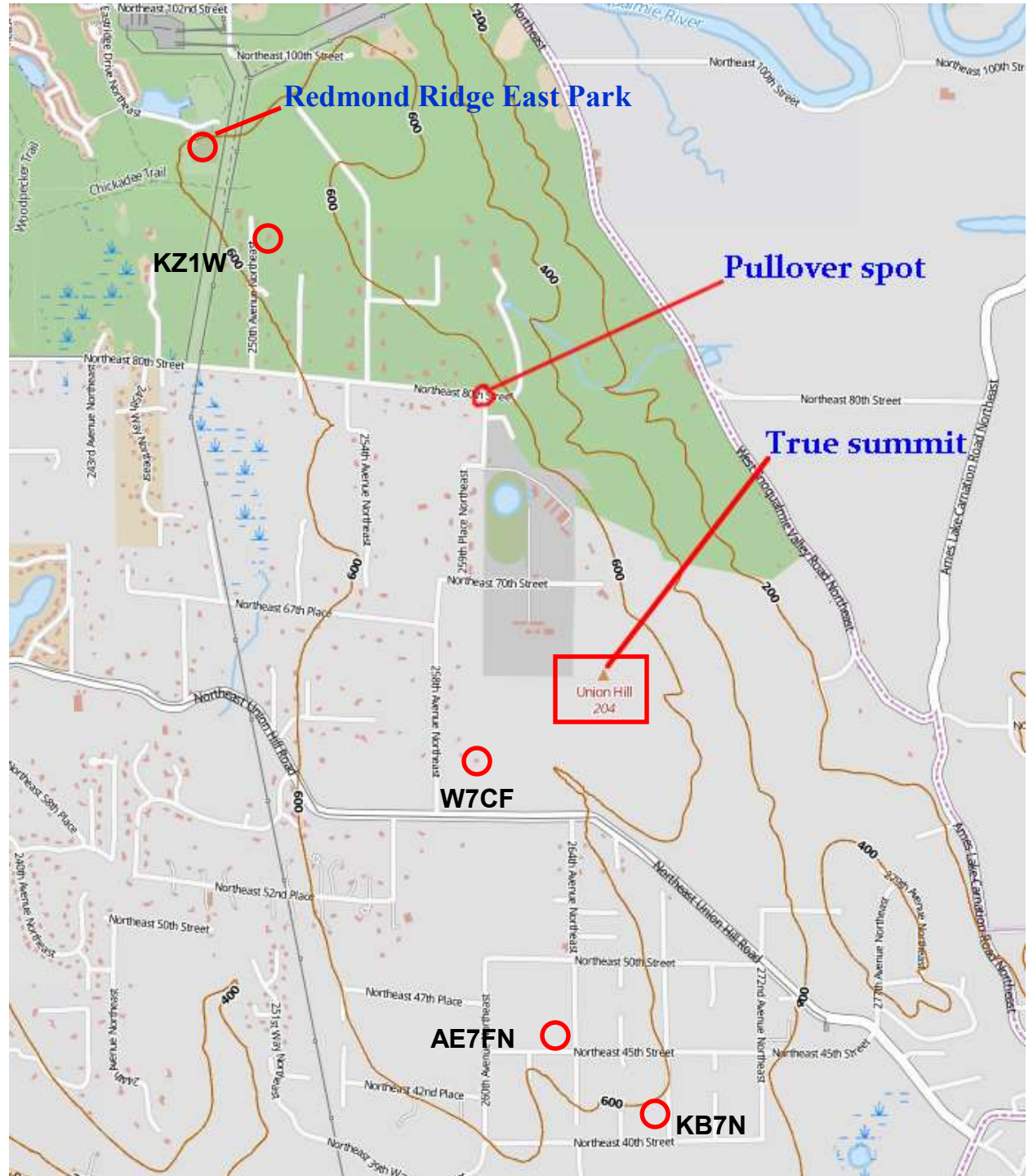
What defines an activation?

- **Simplex (or satellite) operation from a valid summit**
- **“Activation zone”**: Station is set up within 25m vertical meters (82 vertical feet) of the true summit
- **Operation “away from a motor vehicle”**
- **No power, antenna, shelter, support attached to a motor vehicle**
- **One valid QSO to activate the summit**
- **QSOs with 4 stations to earn points**
- **A summit can be activated for points once/year**



Union Hill W7W/KG-142 1 point, 204m

204m is 669 feet, so
everything in 600'
contour is valid
activation zone.



Getting started with SOTA:

1. Chase SOTA activations!
2. Assemble a field station
3. Try an easy or drive-up summit
4. Take on new challenges and adventures



WU7H Photo

W7W Association Manual

<https://summits.sota.org.uk/association/W7W>

Summits on the Air

U.S.A. (W7W)

Association Reference Manual (ARM)



Document Reference	S39.1
Issue number	2.0
Date of issue	01-Dec-2016
Participation start date	01-July-2009

Authorised Date	08-Jul-2009 obo SOTA Management Team
Association Manager	Darryl Holman, WW7D, ww7d@arrl.net
Summits-on-the-Air	an original concept by G3WGV and developed with G3CWI

Notice
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Why Chase?

- **Learn the culture of SOTA before activating**
- **Help out activators**
- **Learn to squeeze maximum performance out of your radio**
- **Practice with spots and spotting**
- **Earn awards**



SOTAWatch:

<https://sotawatch.sota.org.uk/en/>

Alerts and spots



SPOTS	ALERTS
Showing spots in last 168 hrs. Settings Add Spot	
23:03	JP3DGT/3 on JA/NR-049 📄 <i>(by JP3DGT)</i> 14.060 cw
23:03	ZL3MR on ZL3/CB-673 📄 cq now *[Outd Log] <i>(by ZL3MR)</i> 7.090 ssb
23:02	ZL3AB on ZL3/CB-288 📄 [RBNHole] at 3D2AG 18 WPM 15 dB SNR. <i>(by RBNHOLE)</i> 18.0919 cw
23:00	ZL1KR on ZL1/WK-023 📄 ssb [SOTA Spotter] <i>(by ZL1KR)</i> 14.250 ssb
22:50	ZL3AB on ZL3/CB-288 📄 Mark [VK port-a-log] <i>(by ZL3AB)</i> 14.062 cw
22:47	VK1DA on VK1/AC-037 📄 also VKFF-0854 [VK port-a-log] <i>(by VK1DA)</i> 7.032 cw
22:43	ZL3GA on ZL3/CB-806 📄 Geoff [VK port-a-log] <i>(by ZL3GA)</i> 14.061 cw
22:42	ZL3AB on ZL3/CB-288 📄 [RBNHole] at ZL2BR 18 WPM 9 dB SNR <i>(by RBNHOLE)</i> 7.0319 cw
22:38	VK1DA on VK1/AC-037 📄 also VKFF-0854 [VK port-a-log] <i>(by VK1DA)</i> 7.090 ssb
22:27	K6CPR/P on W6/SC-200 📄 CQ CQ. In Act zone but can't get to top [sotl.as] <i>(by K6CPR)</i> 146.52 fm
22:24	VK1DA on VK1/AC-037 📄 also VKFF-0854 [VK port-a-log] <i>(by VK1DA)</i> 18.091 cw
22:23	ZL3GA on ZL3/CB-806 📄 Geoff [VK port-a-log] <i>(by ZL3GA)</i> 14.061 cw
22:18	ZL3GA on ZL3/CB-806 📄 Geoff [VK port-a-log] <i>(by ZL3GA)</i> 10.117 cw
22:13	ZL1KR on ZL1/WK-023 📄 ssb [SOTA Spotter] <i>(by ZL1KR)</i> 7.105 ssb
22:11	ZL3GA on ZL3/CB-806 📄 Geoff [VK port-a-log] <i>(by ZL3GA)</i> 7.032 cw



SPOTS

ALERTS

Showing 115 alerts.

Settings

Add Alert

Friday 8 January 2021

12:15	OK1CHP/P on OK/JC-023 [SOTA Spotter] (Posted by OK1CHP)	14.062
12:30	HB9PIM on HB/AI-007 +/- 0.5h (Posted by HB9PIM)	145.550-fm
12:30	HB9ELZ/P on HB/ZH-011 (Posted by HB9ELZ)	7-ssb 14-ssb 145-fm
12:30	LA8NHA on LA/BU-129 (Posted by LA8NHA)	144.500-ssb, 144.500-cw
12:30	HB3YPI/P on HB/ZH-011 Pfannenstiel ab ca 1300+/- 145MHz. (Posted by HB3YPI)	145.475
12:50	HB9BAB/P on HB/ZH-015 (Posted by HB9BAB)	7.030-cw
14:34	LA1KHA/P on LA/TM-049 [SOTA Spotter] (Posted by LA1KHA)	10.120-cw
16:00	VE6VID on VE5/SP-009 Time approx. driving from VE6 (Posted by VE6VID)	7.185-ssb, 14.343 -ssb
16:00	N6MKW on W6/CT-029 S-1. APRS.fi as N6MKW-7 (Posted by N6MKW)	10.112-7.032-14.062-cw, 146.52-fm
16:00	N6AN on W6/CT-225 S2S welcome. (Posted by N6AN)	3.5-21-cw, 146.58-fm
16:30	KF7NP on W7A/MN-143 with AG7YB (Posted by KF7NP)	20 ssb, 40m ssb, 144.410 fm, 1296.410 fm
16:30	AC1Z on W1/HA-012 (Posted by AC1Z)	14.062-cw, 7-cw, vhf



Summits On The Air

Shack Sloth


THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO






In recognition of his achievement

1000 points in the Chaser Section


Awards Manager

Qualifying date: 29 Jun 2013
Certificate number: SC-1 

Summits on the Air



Golden Eagle Award

THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO

Chris Caviezel
WX7EMT

In recognition of earning 500 points working
summits in Washington State

Darryl Holman, W7W Association Manager

Qualifying date: 04-Aug-2017
Certificate: WA-GEs-0001

Assembling a station





WU7H



KX2 and KX2C2 paddle board



Sometimes you can get by with VHF radios!

- In populated areas, 146.52 MHz FM will usually get you 4+ QSOs
- Microwave activity (esp. Puget Sound area)



Activating



Photo: KI7YQV

Some SOTA adventures:

- **Earning awards**
- **First activations of summits**
- **Winter bonuses**
- **New years eve twofer**
- **Contesting from a summit (Field Day?)**
- **Microwave activities**
- **Summit to summit (S2S)**
- **EME?**



Getting started activating

- **Start out with easy summits**
- **Be prepared (water, maps, sunblock, navigation tools, warm clothes, etc.)**
- **Plan thoroughly!**
 - **Planning can be half the fun**
 - **On-line map apps (e.g. caltopo.com)**
 - **PNWSOTA trip reports**
 - **WTA, Peakbagger, summitpost reports**

SOTA Maps: <https://sotamaps.org/>

W7W/CW-xxx (central WA)

The screenshot shows the SOTA Maps website interface. The main map displays a topographic view of a mountain range in central Washington, with numerous summits marked by colored triangles and labeled with codes like CW-001, CW-002, etc. The left sidebar contains a 'Chosen Summits Listing' table. The top navigation bar includes options for 'Map', 'Satellite', 'OSM', 'OC', 'OT', '4U', and 'CT'. The bottom right corner shows map data from 2018 and copyright information for SOTA - Summits On The Air.

Summit Code	Summit Name	All	My
W7W/CW-001	Mount Daniel	✓	✓
W7W/CW-002	Chimney Rock	✓	✓
W7W/CW-003	Jaguli Peak	✓	✓
W7W/CW-004	Mount Hixman	✓	✓
W7W/CW-005	Lemah Mountain	✓	✓
W7W/CW-006	Summit Chief Mountain	✓	✓
W7W/CW-007	Lynch Peak	✓	✓
W7W/CW-008	Nevado Peak	11	0
W7W/CW-009	Bears Breast Mountain	✓	✓
W7W/CW-010	Hawking Mountain	1	0
W7W/CW-011	Grande Mountain	✓	✓
W7W/CW-012	Solomon Mountain	2	0
W7W/CW-013	Earl Peak	12	0

PNWSOTA: <http://pnwsota.org/>

Trip reports!
Summit data
Newsletters

The screenshot shows the homepage of pnwSOTA.org. At the top is the logo with the tagline "getting high on whatever trails in the great northwest". A navigation menu on the left includes links for About pnwSOTA, How to Contribute, Getting Started, Recommended Summits, SOTA Resources, Downloads, and Trip Report Archives. Below this are sections for "Activation Alerts" (showing no scheduled alerts), "User login" (with fields for username and password), and "Search". The main content area features a "Welcome to the Pacific Northwest!" message, followed by a featured trip report titled "Bald Hill, WA (near Monroe) | March 2019" submitted by WAT20. Below this is another report "First activation of Linney Butte" submitted by s7AM6. The bottom of the page shows the start of a report "My First SOTA point" submitted by s7Z2B5. Each report includes a submitter's profile picture and a "Read more" link.

pnwSOTA.org
getting high on whatever trails in the great northwest

- About pnwSOTA
 - How to Contribute
- Getting Started
 - Recommended Summits
- SOTA Resources
 - Downloads
 - Trip Report Archives

Activation Alerts

No scheduled alerts

User login

Username: *
pw7d

Password: *

Log in

[Create new account](#)
[Request new password](#)

Search

Search this site:
Search

Welcome to the Pacific Northwest!

The pnwSOTA website was created to facilitate communication between SOTA operators in the Pacific Northwest region, as well as show off some of the activities of the top-notch folks we have in the area. On this site you will find information about getting started in SOTA as well as details about summits and activations *contributed* by people that are operating here.

Bald Hill, WA (near Monroe) | March 2019

Submitted by [WAT20](#) on Thu, 06/06/2019 - 22:16

[Forested Summit](#) [Good Parking at Trailhead](#) [No View from Summit](#)
[Good Parking at Trailhead](#)

Summit: [W7W/SN-182](#)

Bald Hill is located just west of Monroe in Snohomish County, WA. While the summit is on private property, there is a small activation zone located in the SE corner of Lord Hill Regional Park. Hiking distance was ~2.2 miles RT, and 467 feet of gain (most of which was in short section of Pipeline trail).

[WAT20's blog](#) [Read more](#)

First activation of Linney Butte

Submitted by [s7AM6](#) on Thu, 06/06/2019 - 11:16

[Good Parking at Trailhead](#) [Shady Trail](#) [Exposed Summit](#) [Good Views from Summit](#)

Summit: [W7O/CN-034](#)

Quick notes: I have Google Fi, which uses T-Mobile and Sprint. Cell service is great, if you have a view to the northeast. Otherwise, it dies, and quickly. This was obvious when I was trying to stay in contact with people throughout the hike, leading to cutting in and out throughout the trip.

[s7AM6's blog](#) [Read more](#)

My First SOTA point

Submitted by [s7Z2B5](#) on Tue, 06/04/2019 - 21:18

Mountain Goat Award

1000 activation points

K7MAS



Tim, KG7EJT, W7W's first Mountain Goat



Summits on the Air



**Bighorn Ram
Award**

THIS CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED TO

**Tim Nair
KG7EJT**

In recognition of earning 500 points activating
summits in Washington State

Darryl Holman, WA Association Manager

**Qualifying date: 01-Aug-2016
Certificate: WA-BR-0001**

Activator Roll of Honour

SOTA is not inherently a competitive activity, it's about individual aspirations and working towards a goal at your own pace. However, it can be fun to see how your progress compares with that of others, hence we publish our Honour Roll on the internet.

Please help us to keep this page up-to-date by regularly submitting your SOTA logs.

Association	Year	Band	Modes	
W7W - USA - Washington	▼ - All Years -	▼ -All Bands-	▼ -All Modes-	Show

Position	Activator Callsign	Summits	Points	Bonus Points	Total Points	Average	View Log
1	KG7EJT	484	2374	72	2446	5.05	View
2	WW7D	461	1985	153	2138	4.64	View
3	N7UN	292	1789	9	1798	6.16	View
4	WU7H	303	1394	138	1532	5.06	View
5	K7MAS	247	1411	54	1465	5.93	View
6	AC7MA	248	1252	48	1300	5.24	View
7	WX7EMT	264	1184	69	1253	4.75	View
8	WA7NCL	224	1163	0	1163	5.19	View
9	NU7A	170	1024	0	1024	6.02	View
=9	K3OG	235	973	51	1024	4.36	View
11	K7JRO	195	853	90	943	4.84	View
12	N7RR	131	557	63	620	4.73	View
13	KE7JWP	105	550	21	571	5.44	View
14	K7NEW	100	515	24	539	5.39	View
15	KL0NP	80	410	21	431	5.39	View
16	W7TAO	97	415	9	424	4.37	View
17	WA7JNJ	128	399	0	399	3.12	View
18	KR7W	63	328	0	328	5.21	View

Some ways to get to a SOTA summit:

- Hike
- Bicycle
- Snowshoe
- Car
- 4x4
- Motorcycle
- Dog sled
- Snowmobile
- Horse
- Helicopter?



Some drive-up summits:

- **Wellpinit Mountain (W7W/ST-154), Wellpinit**
- **Wahatis Peak (W7W/CW-099), Mattawa**
- **Amabalis Mtn (W7W/CW-076), Easton**
- **Quartz Mtn (W7W/CW-033), Ellensburg**
- **Lion Rock (W7W/CW-030), Ellensburg**
- **Sugarloaf Peak (W7W/CH-195), Leavenworth**
- **Chumstick Mtn (W7W/CH-196), Leavenworth**





N7IDS photo



Mountain Bike



Winter Bonus (Dec 1 to Mar 31)



WU7H photo

New Years Eve Twofer





Photos: WU7H



Photo: K7BWH

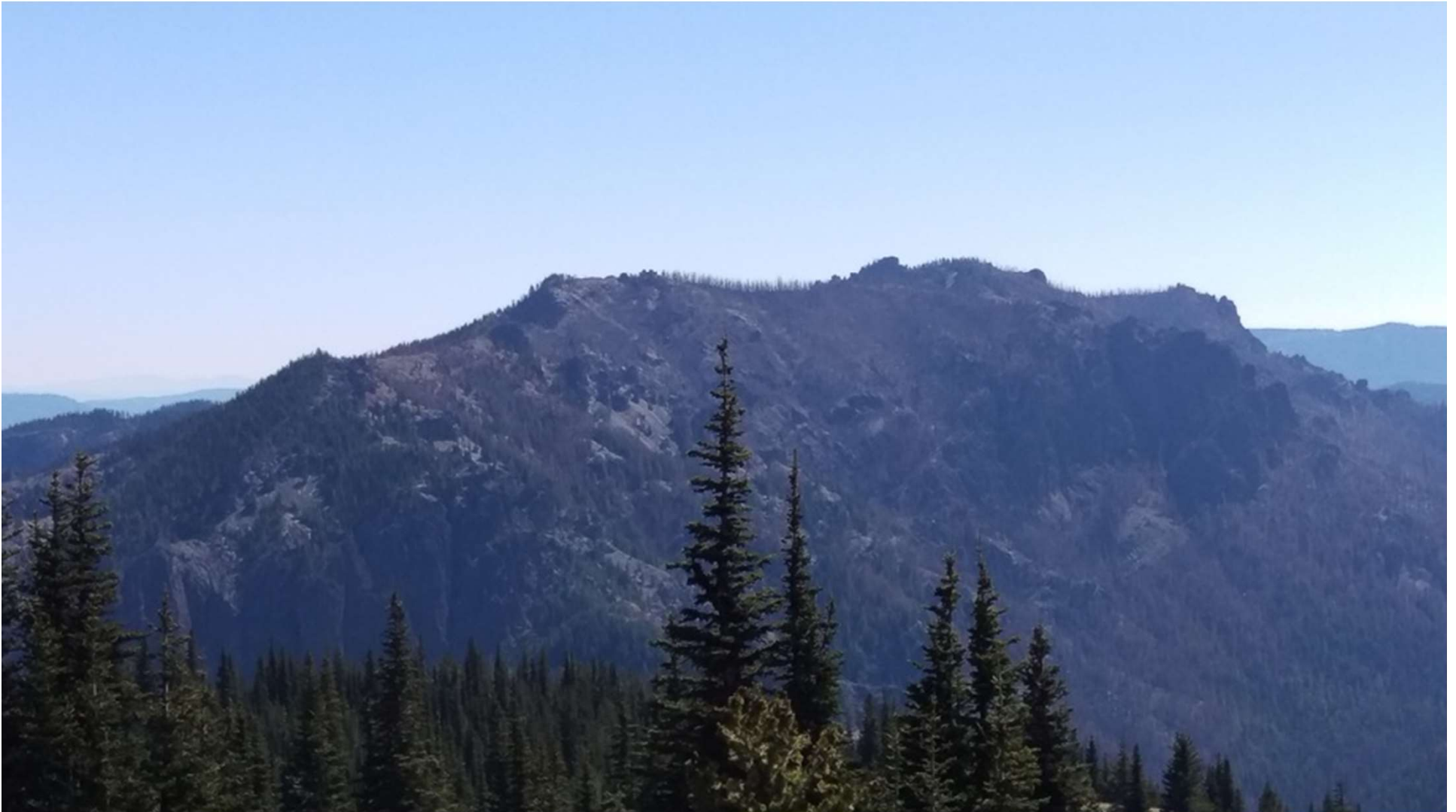
WU7H



First Activations

East Fifes Ridge (W7W/MC-024) viewed from Raven Roost (W7W/MC-038).

With WU7H on 01-Sep-2018









WU7H Photo







Questions?



Darryl Holman, WW7D

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