

2024 New Year POTA

December 28, 2023

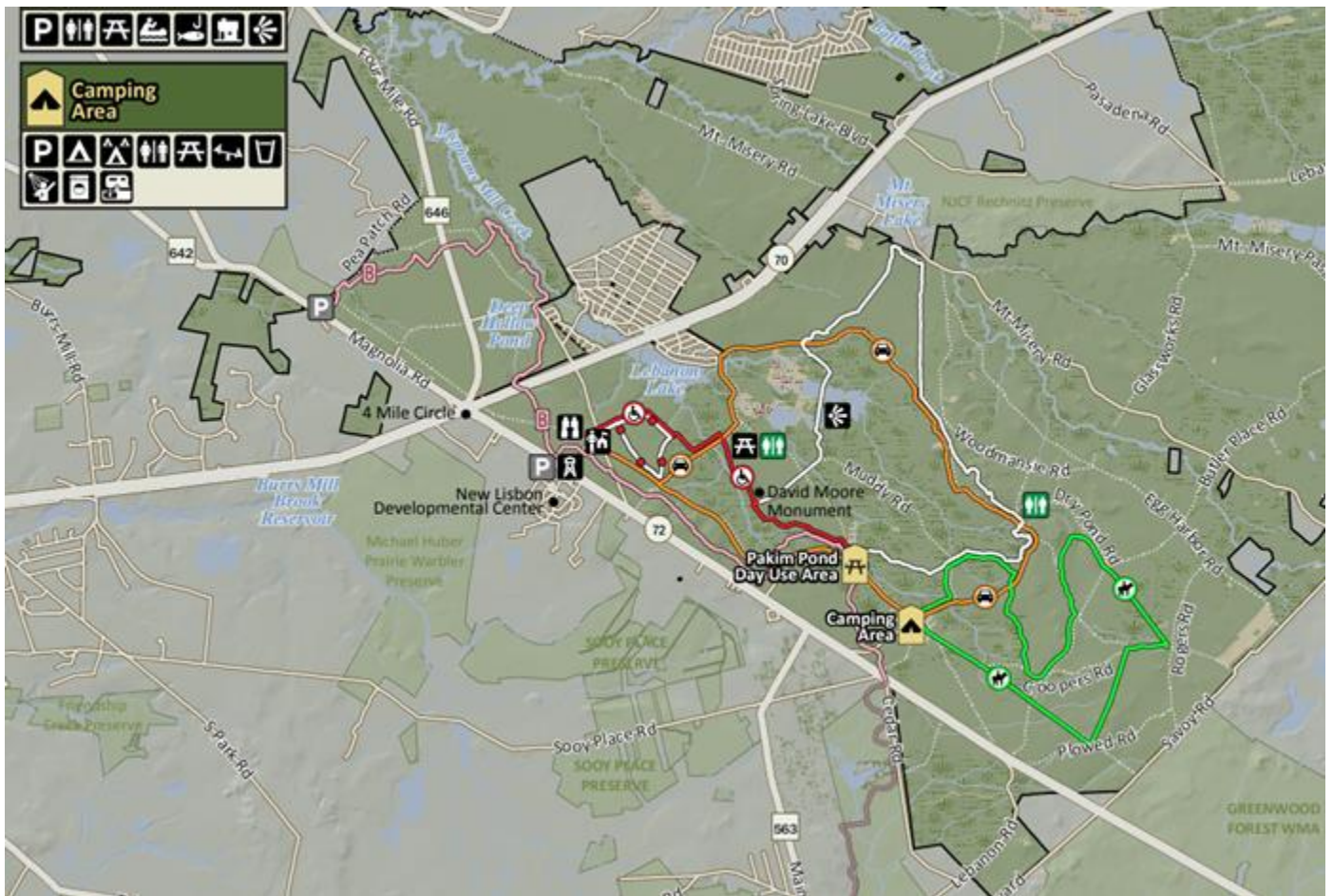
Happy Early New Year's to you all! I'm sorry for the short notice, but I'm thinking about going out tomorrow to try to do a POTA with my QRP and my home-made antenna. I'm thinking of activating Brendan T. Byrne State Forest K-4994 from the Pakim Pond day use area (see map below).

I can finish work early and be there by about 1:15 or 1:30.

If anyone wants to go please respond to this group email and I'll definitely meet you there.

I'm also considering going out on Jan 1st so let us all know if you want to go and where and we can make it happen.

Hopefully I'll see you tomorrow,
Paul KD2ZYV



December 29, 2023

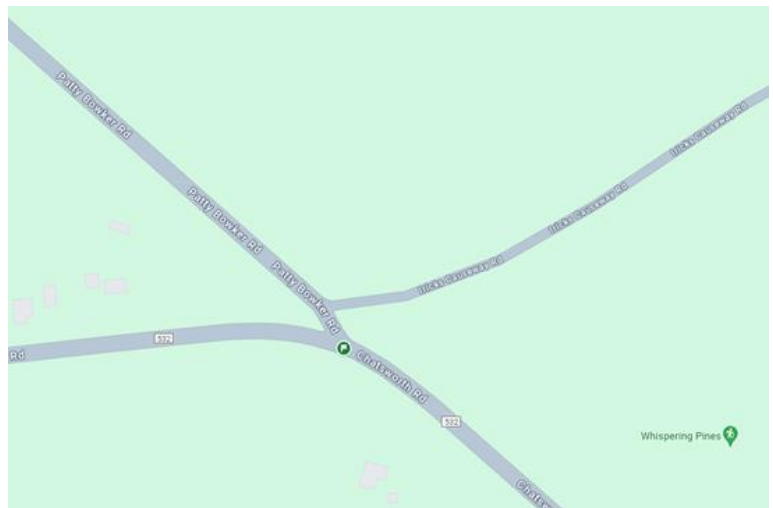
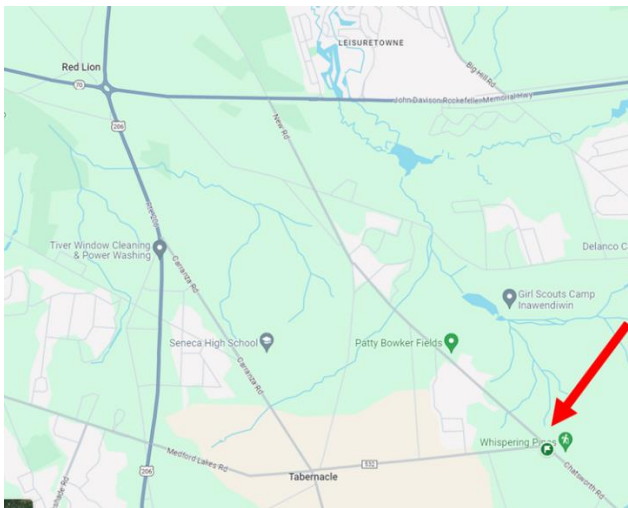
Hi all. We had POTA fun today visiting Pakim Pond but weren't able to activate the park.

Bert, Bill, Jack, and I made it out to the park. We had fun, but I don't think much radio actually occurred.

In my case, I had built a speaker mic for my new (tr)uSDX, but it seems to have had a short in the connector because it wouldn't actually transmit. Doh!

That night I fixed my connections in the speaker mic, and my radio will transmit. So we're going to try again on Monday 1/1/2024. There is a park (part of Wharton) at the intersection of Patty Bowker Rd, Chatsworth Rd, and Iricks Causeway Rd. (See maps below.) I plan to arrive between 1:00 and 1:30. Please let me know if you can attend. I hope to see you there!

Paul KD2ZYV



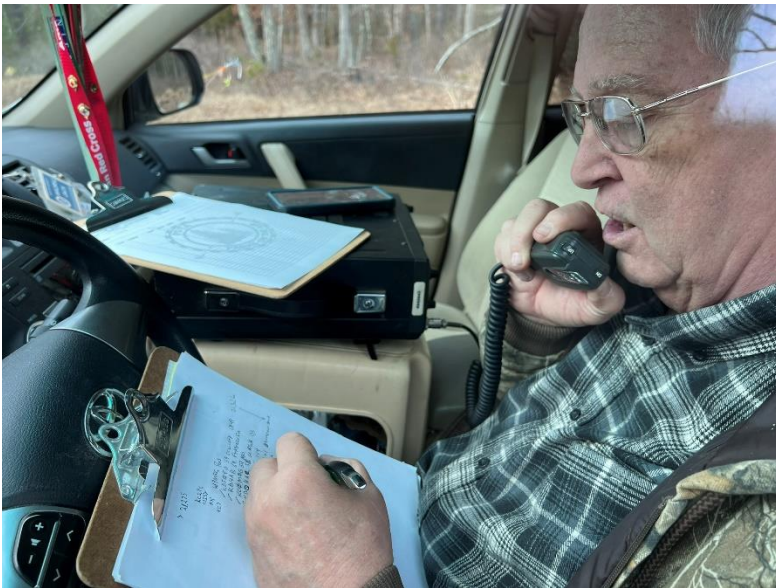
January 1, 2024

Happy New Year K2TD!

As you know we planned to do a POTA at 1:00pm on 1/1/2024 to ring in the New Year! (Location: Wharton State Forest, Park K-5000) I was hoping to activate the park on a single band and was hoping to test/use my new tr(u) SDx QRP rig. (I brought my 100W Yaesu just in case.)

The POTA was a success and we made contacts on 4 bands!

Monday afternoon was beautiful with an afternoon temp that was approaching 50 degrees when I arrived. Jack Gordon, Bill Dreisbach and I arrived at the park within a few minutes of each other. Joe Gadoury, was already there and set up on 20M. In fact, I think he had a few contacts before the rest of us were set up. Jack quickly set up his HamStick on 15M on the roof of his car, and powered his 100W rig with a Bioenno battery. Jack quickly got 30 contacts!!!



Bill thought he forgot his battery but did manage to get set up on 10M using his car as a power source. Unfortunately, 10M was really quiet. Still, Bill managed to pull a contact out of thin air!

(Bill's setup below)



I hung my EFHW antenna in a tree and used all 4½W that my tr(u)SDx transceiver had to make 13 contacts on 40M before shutting down. (I was happy that my DIY speaker/mic actually worked since it's failed me on my 2 prior attempts.)



Joe was set up a little bit away from us but moved closer after making 7 contacts. Joe hasn't successfully activated a park before. When I heard he was close, we set his radio up on my EFHW and started hunting the last few contacts that he needed to complete his first personal activation. It only took us a few minutes to add another 4 or 5 contacts to his log. **Way to go Joe on you first activation!** (Before switching to my antenna, Joe was using a really neat antenna. I think it is called the BuddiStick Pro. I'm really interested in this antenna and hope to team up with Joe on future POTA trips to explore this antenna further.)



I'm thrilled that the club purchased filters, and I'm sure that they are awesome. But, DOH! We've got to start bringing them to our POTA events. With Jack's 100W Van De Graaff machine...Uh...HamStick (just kidding) so close to my QRP rig I was a little worried about interference. While I could hear Jack on all the bands that I tried, we really didn't have too much trouble activating the park. (Next time I'll definitely plan to use the filters.)

As usual, I'm horrible about getting pictures but Bill got the few shots that I'm including here.

New to POTA?

If anyone wants to try POTA, just let me know and we can schedule a time and place. It wouldn't be hard to encourage me into something sooner, but I'm not currently planning another POTA until after Winter Field Day. I will let you all know as soon as I schedule something.

73,
Paul - KD2ZYV
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