

Cupertino Parks on the Air!

September 5, 2024
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Cupertino ARES/RACES



We will cover...

1. (Cupertino) Parks on the Air
2. Who are the players?
3. Where are the parks?
4. Activating a Park
5. Chasing a Park
6. What are the rules?
7. What's the plan?



Cupertino Parks on the Air Benefits

Cupertino Parks on the Air does a few things for CARES:

1. Gives field responders a chance to set up their best VHF/UHF station in the field.
2. Gives home responders a chance to check their home setup for simplex city coverage.
3. Gets everyone familiar with possible sites where we might find ourselves deployed.



What is Parks on the Air?

- **Parks on the Air** (or POTA), is an event, not a contest.
 - It is an amateur radio activity like many small "field days", where radio amateurs with portable amateur radio equipment get on the air in publicly accessible **state** and ***national*** parks and make radio contacts from there.
 - <https://parksontheair.com/index.html>



Where does POTA fit?

Contests vs. Special Events

There are two general types of field activities in which Amateur Radio operators typically participate.

- **Contests:** The goal of Amateur Radio contesting is to contact as many stations as possible during the contest period and get a high score!
 - Every contest has Contest Rules such as only certain bands may be used or modes of operations.
 - Typical contests are ARRL Field Day, CW Contest, and RTTY Contest to name a few.
- **Special Events:** The goal of an Amateur Radio Special Event is to move the amateur radio hobby outside into the sunlight and fresh air by making contacts with a station associated with a program that issues a Certificate or Award.

Parks on the Air is an Event, not a contest!



Anything similar to POTA?

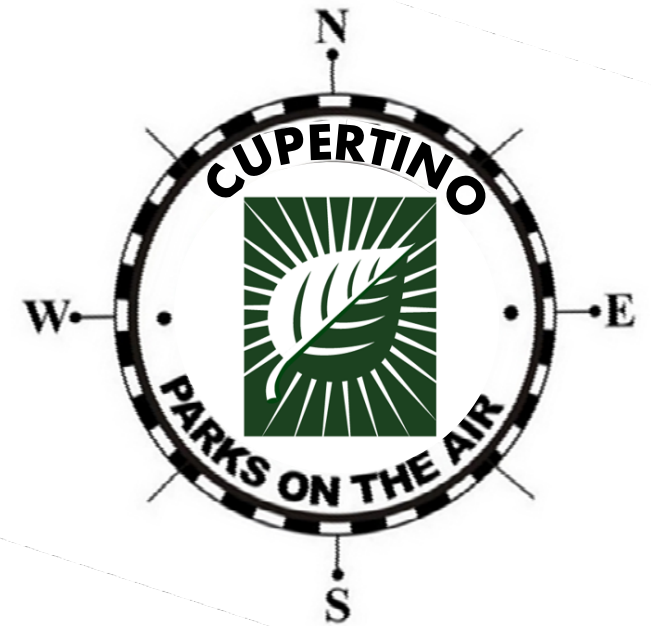
- Similar to *Parks on the Air*, other popular amateur radio events are typically worldwide *Certificate Programs* mostly on **HF**. Some are:
 - **IOTA** – **Islands on the Air**; promotes worldwide radio operation with amateur radio stations on inhabited and uninhabited islands with the help of the competition (talk to an Island) idea.
 - **SOTA** – **Summits on the Air**; a type of radio sport at communicating from mountain tops operating with portable transmitting and receiving equipment, antennas and power supplies.
 - **COTA** – **Castles on the Air**; more of a European diploma program, promotes and activates amateur radio operation of German castles and palaces.



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What is Cupertino Parks on the Air?

- **Cupertino Parks on the Air (CPOTA)** is also an event, not a contest.
 - It is a local amateur radio activity like many small one- or two-person "field days", where radio amateurs with portable amateur radio equipment get on the air in publicly accessible **city** parks and make radio contacts from there.



POTA vs CPOTA – what's different?

(National) Parks on the Air

1. Sets up the best station possible
2. Operates off the grid
3. Makes contacts, exchanges minimal info, ok to chit-chat
4. Operates in state and federal parks
5. Operates on all bands
6. Operates on any modes
7. Awards Certificates for specific accomplishments



Cupertino Parks on the Air

1. Sets up the best station possible
2. Operates off the grid
3. Makes contacts, exchanges minimal info, ok to chit-chat
4. Operates in City of Cupertino parks and trails
5. Operates only on VHF and UHF
6. Operates only voice FM on simplex channels
7. Awards Certificates for specific accomplishments



Who are the players?

- **Cupertino Parks on the Air** is a variation of a POTA special event.
- There are two types of participants:
 - **Activator:** An activator is a licensed amateur radio operator who deploys to a park or trail and makes contacts with other licensed amateurs.
 - **Hunter:** A hunter is a licensed amateur radio operator who contacts an activator operating at a park or trail. The term “chaser” is sometimes synonymously used.



Why are we doing this?

Cupertino Parks on the Air is about CARES members visiting parks and making contacts with other amateur radio operators.

Why do this? It's all about EMCOMM and organizational preparedness.

- **As an Activator**, how well can you set up our communications stations in the field and make contacts with other operators wherever they may be?
- **As a Hunter**, how well can you communicate with these park stations with whatever radios and antennas we have at our homes, in our cars, or elsewhere?

In both cases, CPOTA involves equipment and skills that we will use whenever and however we are activated to support the community or city.



Everyone benefits

If you are an Activator (field responder)

1. Practice with your field deployment kit whatever it may be.
2. Test different radios and portable antennas – rollups, mag mounts, etc.
3. Practice setting up in different environments and conditions.
4. Make **and log** contacts and have *fun!*
5. *Certificates... we're working on it!*

If you are a Hunter (home or mobile responder)

1. Test out your home radio setup and city-wide simplex coverage.
2. Test different radios and home portable antennas – rollups, mag mounts, base station, etc.
3. Make contacts (no logging) and have *fun!*
 - Make note of locations with poor reception
4. *Certificates... we're working on it!*



What is an activation?

1. An activation is one more operators who pick a park and set up the best field communications they have.
2. A successful activation requires the Activator to make at least one (1) contact from a CPOTA park within a single day.
3. Multiple activities at the same park and the same day by different activators count as separate activations.
 - a. Activate with a buddy



Are some parks better than others?

1. What parks can we use?
2. Where are the parks?
3. Where are the CARES members?
4. What is the terrain?



Parks? Yes! Cupertino has parks!

PARK ID	Park Name
CUP01	1. Blackberry Farm Park
CUP02	2. Blackberry Farm Golf Course
CUP03	3. Cali Mill Plaza
CUP04	4. Canyon Oak Park
CUP05	5. Creekside Park
CUP06	6. Deep Cliff Golf Course
CUP07	7. Franco Park
CUP08	8. Hoover Park
CUP09	9. Jollyman Park
CUP10	10. Library Field
CUP11	11. Linda Vista Park
CUP12	12. Little Rancho Park

PARK ID	Park Name
CUP13	13. Mary Avenue Dog Park
CUP14	14. McClellan Ranch Preserve
CUP15	15. Memorial Park
CUP16	16. Monta Vista Rec Center/Park
CUP17	17. Portal Park
CUP18	18. Somerset Square Park
CUP19	19. Sports Center
CUP20	20. Sterling Barnhart Park
CUP21	21. Stocklmeir Ranch
CUP22	22. Three Oaks Park
CUP23	23. Varian Park
CUP24	24. Wilson Park

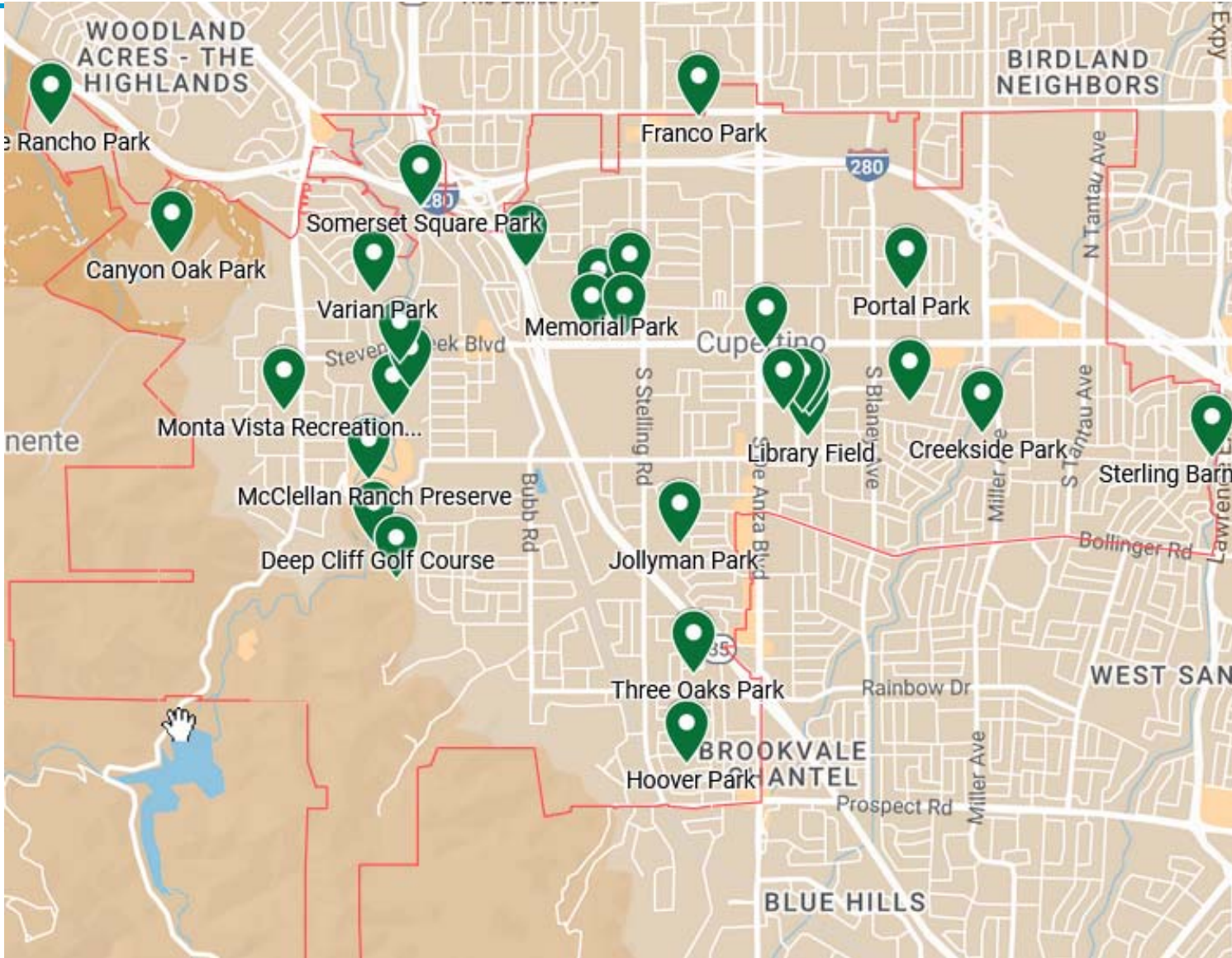
... and trails!

PARK ID	Trail Name
CUP25	25. Linda Vista Trail
CUP26	26. Stevens Creek Trail
CUP27	27. Don Burnett Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge
CUP28	28. Saratoga Creek Trail
CUP29	29. Scenic Circle Path
CUP30	30. Blackberry Farm Water Access Area Footpath
CUP31	31. Stocklmeir Trail
CUP32	32. Blackberry Farm Picnic Grounds Path
CUP33	33. McClellan Footpath
CUP34	34. Scenic Circle Barck Chip Footpath
CUP35	35. Regnart Creek Trail

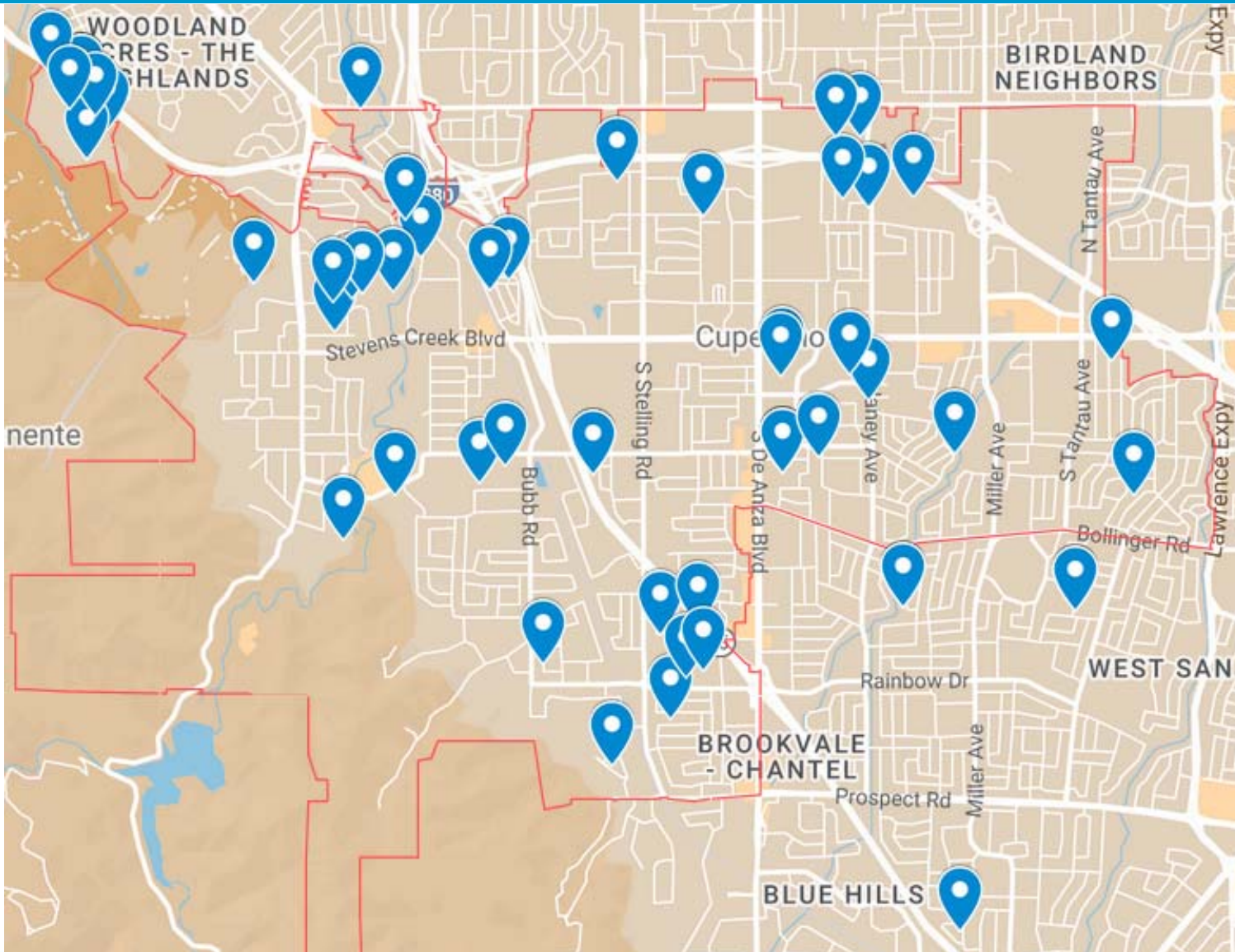


Where are the Parks?

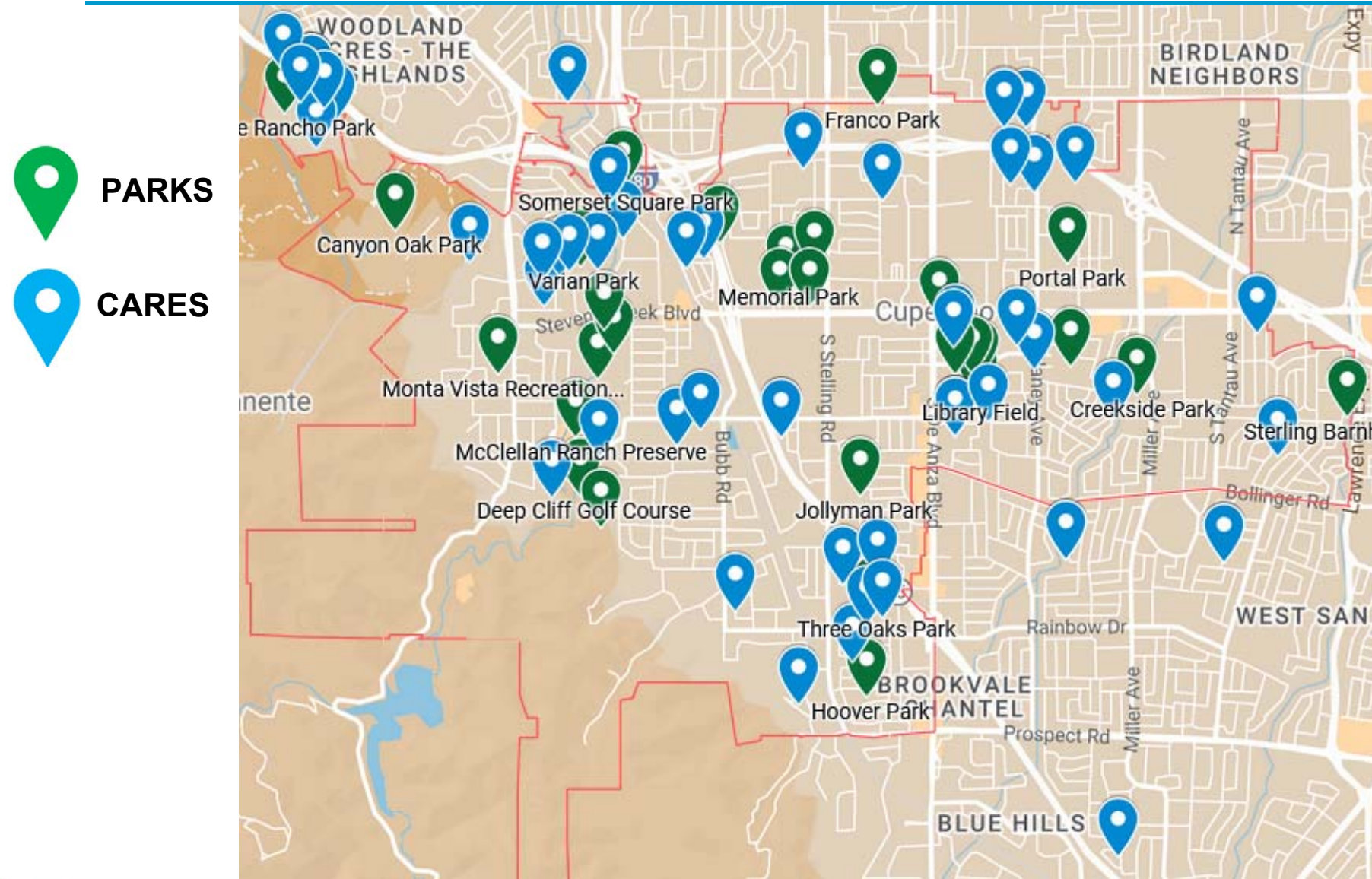
 **PARKS**



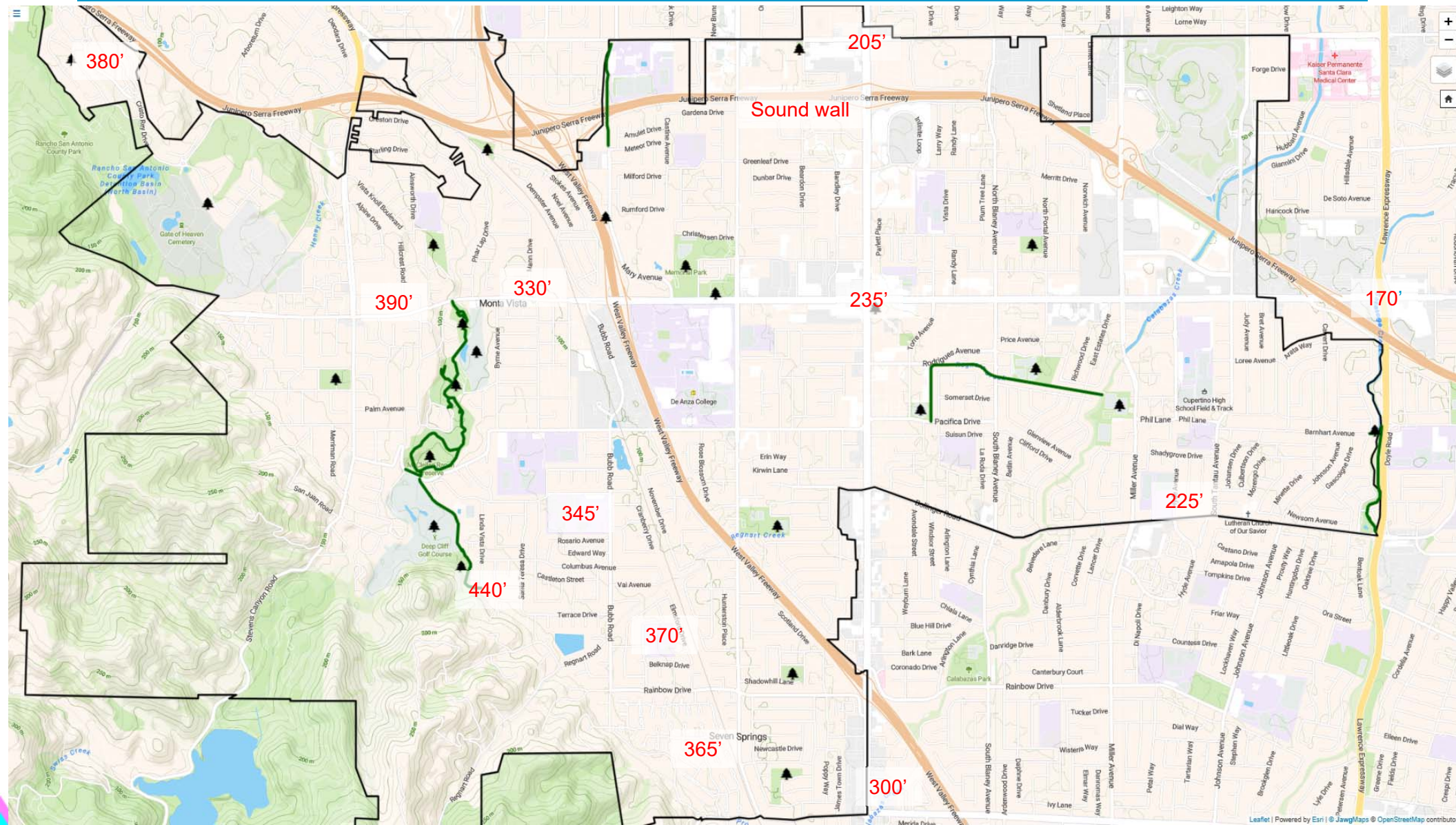
Where are CARES members?



Parks and CARES members?



Terrain Factors



Activating Parks

with an F2/P2 Field Station



Activating Parks

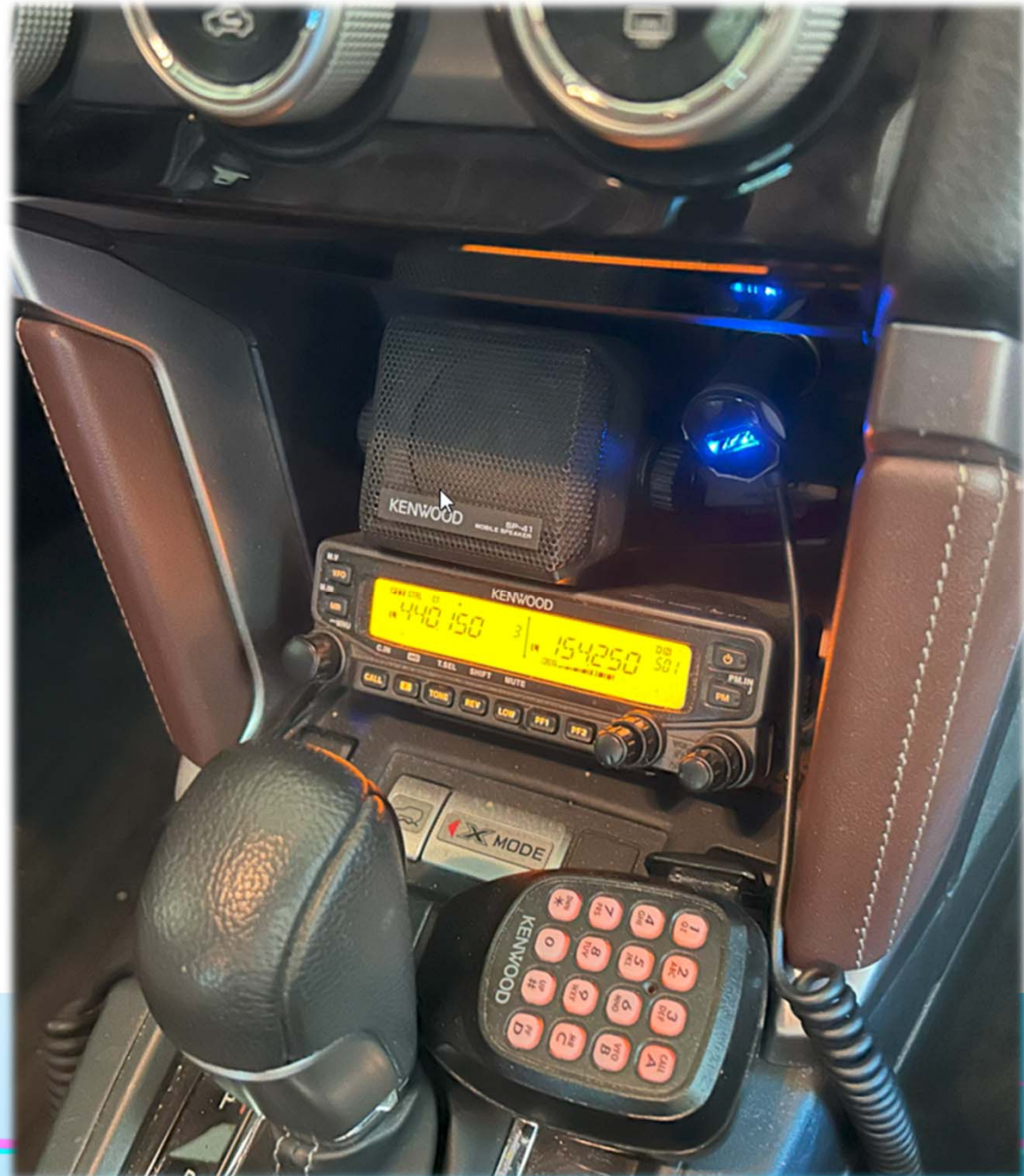
Minimalist system



Activating Parks

From your car

1. You might have a mobile radio and a mag mount antenna or a push-up antenna.
2. You must park your vehicle on park grounds.



Chasing parks

Hunting from home

1. You might have a base station radio and an external antenna.
2. Get on the frequency and listen for the park *Activator* to call for contacts.
3. Reply!



Chasing parks

Hunting from home... on a budget

1. Or, you have an HT with a roll-up j-pole hanging from a high room where you live.
2. Get on the frequency and listen for the park *Activator* to call for contacts.
3. Reply!



Cupertino ARES/RACES

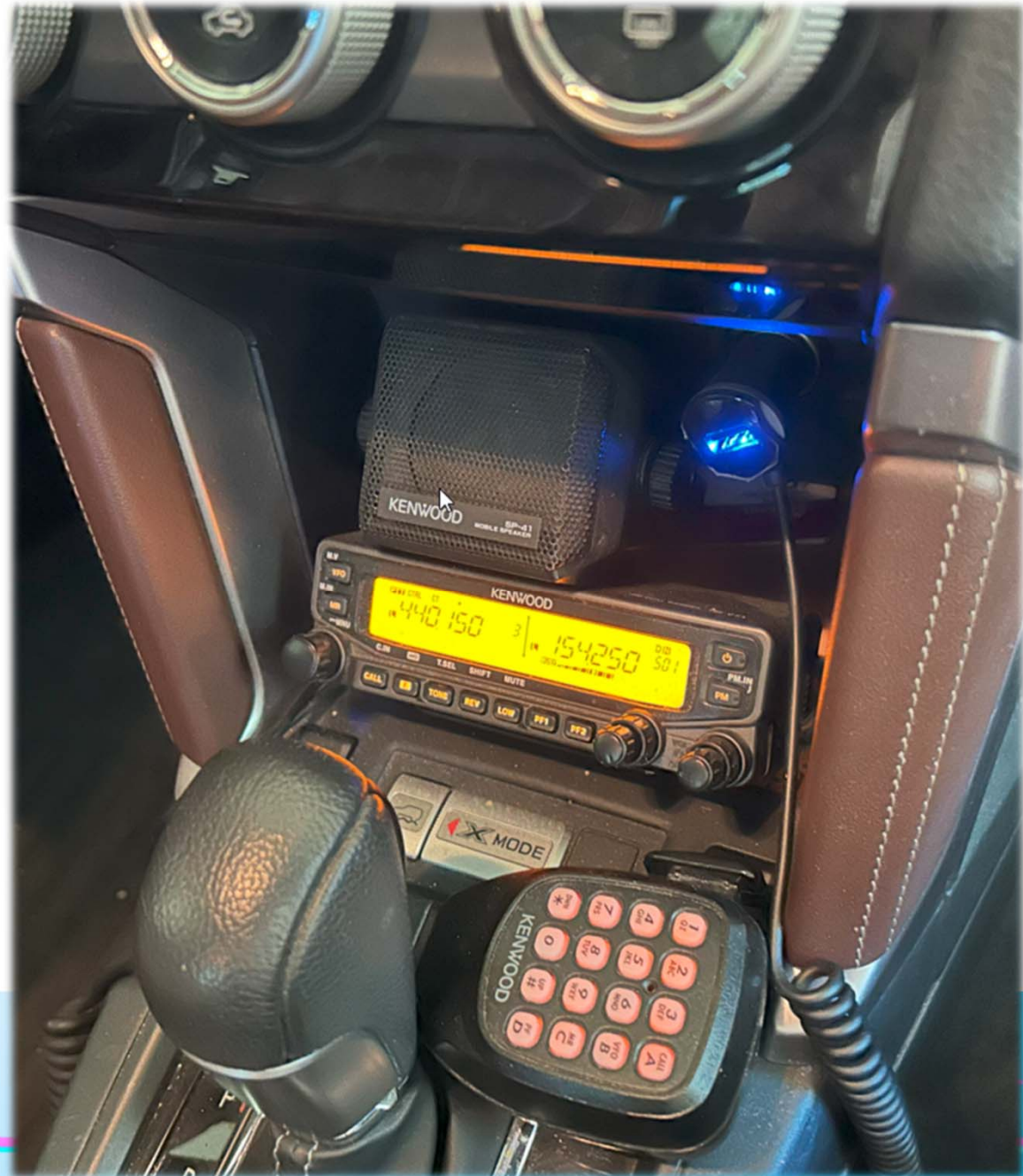


Chasing parks

Hunting from your car

1. You might have a mobile radio and a mag mount antenna.
2. Or you have an HT with a mag mount antenna (you have a mag mount, right?!).
3. Get on the frequency and listen for the Activator to call for contacts.
4. Reply!

(Don't operate from inside your garage!)



Ready to be an Activator?

A few simple rules...

1. Follow the law
2. Follow the Golden Rule
3. Leave no trace
4. Follow any instructions from park rangers or city employees that you encounter
5. Be respectful to the public space and courteous to members of the public.
6. You and all your equipment must be set up within the boundaries of the park.
7. For vehicle activations, OK to set up curb-side if no park parking is available.
8. You must submit a log after your activation is complete.
9. Bring your Citizen Corps DSW badge
10. Take pictures... for the record!



Ready to be an Activator?

And a few more rules...

11. **Bands/Modes:** VHF/UHF bands, and FM voice mode are available to the participants and may be used in Cupertino Parks on the Air.
12. **Repeaters:** Contacts made by repeaters are not permitted.
 - BUT! You may use a repeater to request direct contacts of the frequency that you are using, but **NOT** by repeater.
13. **Power limits:** CPOTA does not have a power limit.
 - BUT! you must still comply with legal limits based on your license class/band plans and use the minimum power necessary to carry out the contact.
14. **Same Hunter, different Band:** If a Hunter contacts the Activator at the same park on the same day, but on a different Band, then that counts as a separate contact, requiring a separate log entry.



Activation Location and Contact

15. Activations must be performed from parks and facilities that are open to the public and listed in the CPOTA designated list.
16. The activator and all equipment must be within the park's boundary and on public property.
 - OK to activate from vehicles, RVs, etc., that are parked within the park's boundary; curb-side activations are allowed if no parking is available.
17. Activators should not trespass on private property to access park lands.
18. Activators should not attempt to activate from private property, even if the private property is adjacent to, or surrounded by, park property.
19. If a trail system is designated as a CPOTA entity by itself (not as part of a land park having a defined boundary), the activator and the station equipment must be on public property within 100 feet (30.5m) from the edge of the trail.



OK, you agree to activate a Park

What next?

Steps to a successful CPOTA activation:

1. Decide you want to do this... **Done!**
2. Pick a park to activate
3. Determine how long you want to operate (1 to 2 hours is typical)
4. Pick a date and time to activate (any day and time of the week works)
5. Several days before the activation. Send an email to members@cares... stating you will be activating <this park> on <this day> between <these hours> on <this simplex frequency> using FM voice. Also, Tuesday nets.
6. On the day of the activation. Be all set up and ready to operate by your designated time.
7. Call *CQ CQ CQ <this park>, this is <your call>*. Call periodically.
8. You pass: your park / trail name and call sign.
9. They pass: their call sign, location (CARES grid, street, or city). OK to chit-chat but be aware others may want to contact you as well.



OK, you agree to activate a Park

What next?

Steps to a successful CPOTA activation:

10. When done, announce you are closing down.
11. Pack up and go home.
12. Fill out the log and submit it to Steve KK6FPI for the results to be compiled.



Paperwork?

The job is not done until the paperwork is complete!



1. Logs are submitted by the **Activator, not the Hunter!**
2. Logs can be formatted by hand or in a spreadsheet, and must minimally include the following 8 fields per contact:

Park_ID	ACT_CS	Date	Band	Mode	Time	HUNTER_CS	HUNTER_Loc
CUP03	KK6FPI	7/9/2024	VHF	Voice	0909	KD6CMV	O18
			VHF	Voice	1004	KA6BCD	Saratoga
			VHF	Voice	1015	KE6FGH	Squirrel Hill Rd
			UHF	Voice	1025	KD6CMV	M15
			UHF	Voice	1035	KI6JKL	CUP15

3. Submit the log to sghill3@yahoo.com as soon as it is complete. We will figure out where to post the results on the website!



What's the plan?

1. Activating one park relies on Hunters attempting to contact you.
2. Activating multiple parks at the same time gives Hunters more parks to contact.
3. We can either...
 - Have one person on one day activate one park
 - Plan on a group of CARES members to activate a lot of different parks at the same time. As a suggestion:
Date...21-Sep 2024 ?? Other?
Time...10:00a to 12:00p
Where...you pick the park (ideally one that no one else is at!)
4. If you are interested in participating, then please send an email to kn6pe@arrl.net with your preference (Activator or Hunter) and if Activator, what park you would activate.



We covered

1. (Cupertino) Parks on the Air
2. Who are the players
3. Locations of the Cupertino parks and trails
4. Activating a Park
5. Chasing a Park
6. The rules
7. The plan



Thank you
Any Questions?

