

# SOTA Resource Guide

## Getting Started

I recommend reading over the general rules and the Association Reference Manual (ARM) for any association you activate. ARMs may contain association specific requirements and define possible seasonal bonuses. Many associations have their own association awards as well.

## Official SOTA Websites

SOTAwatch – <http://sotawatch.org>  
Main Website – <http://www.sota.org.uk/>  
SOTA General Rules – <http://www.sota.org.uk/RulesAndGuidelines>  
Associations – <http://www.sota.org.uk/Associations>  
Awards – <http://www.sota.org.uk/Awards>  
SOTA Mapping Project – <http://www.sotamaps.org/>

## Register for SOTA Websites

You need to create login account for both the SOTA Results Database and the SOTAwatch website. This will allow you to upload/enter your activation and chasing logs as well as post alerts, spots and join the discussions on the SOTA Reflector

SOTA Results – <http://www.sotadata.org.uk/register.aspx>  
SOTAwatch – <http://sotawatch.org/user.php?action=new>

## Chasing Tools

In addition to the SOTAwatch website, there are various utilities to assist in chasing activators on summits.

**SOTA Spot Monitor (Windows)** – <http://ku6j.com/>

Similar to a DX Cluster client program but is dedicated to spots of Summits On The Air (SOTA) stations. Features include configurable filters and audio alerts. Filters can operate based on summit/region/association/country, activator call, band, mode, points or spotter call. The filters can be applied to the audio alerts, the spot list display, or both.

**SOTA Goat (iOS)** – <http://ww1x.com/sotagoat/>

An all-in-one utility for Summits On The Air activators and chasers. It was designed from the ground up as an invaluable tool for summit activators – it's as necessary as your transceiver and power supply! The database of over 55,000 summits is instantly available at your fingertips – no Internet connection necessary. Search by summit name, location, or use the handy map if you want to browse summits in a particular area. Summits can be marked as Favorites, providing a shortcut for future reference.

**Rucksack Radio Tool (Android)** – [http://www.dl1dlf.de/rucksack\\_radio\\_tool](http://www.dl1dlf.de/rucksack_radio_tool)

The backpack radio tool is an Android Smartphone app for licensed radio amateurs who take part in the mountain radio programs of GMA (German mountain Award) or SOTA (summits on the air). If you are familiar with GMA or SOTA, you can operate the app without instructions. This short description is limited to the peculiarities of the app.

**SOTA Cluster (Telnet Cluster)** – hostname:elgur.dtdns.net port:7300

Developed by a member of the SOTA management team, the SOTA cluster brings activation spots to your standard cluster client. At the moment, it is still in development and does not allow posting of new spots.

## Spotting

**SOTA Goat (iOS)** – <http://ww1x.com/sotagoat/>

See above for full description. SOTA Goat is my preferred method of spotting. It pre-populates most of the necessary information if you are creating a spot from an existing alert or spot.

### **Rucksack Radio Tool (Android)** – [http://www.dl1dlf.de/rucksack\\_radio\\_tool](http://www.dl1dlf.de/rucksack_radio_tool)

See above for full description. RRT will post your spot via one of two methods with a click of a button. Either through the web interface or by sending an SMS. Your phone number and callsign will need to be registered with the SMS Gateway.

### **SOTA Logger (Android)** – <http://tinyurl.com/lyurtks>

This app was designed for Amateur radio operators participating in Summits on the Air (SOTA). It will log QSO's with a date and time stamp and then format the log into the correct csv format to be uploaded to the SOTA Database. There is also a spotting function which will allow the ham radio op to send spots via QRPSpots and SOTAWatch via texting. (Registration with SOTAWatch and QRPSpots required.) Future updates include the option to send the csv log directly to the database.

### **DroidSpot NA (Android)** – [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=appinventor.ai\\_anpepper.DroidSpot&hl=en](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=appinventor.ai_anpepper.DroidSpot&hl=en)

DroidSpot provides an easy interface for composing a spot and sending via the SMS Gateway. Your phone number and callsign will need to be registered with the SMS Gateway.

### **SMS Gateway** – <http://www.intermoose.com/SMSBOT-usage.txt>

The SMS Gateway provides a way to post a spot via a text message. Your phone number and callsign will need to be registered with the SMS Gateway before using it. This is a great way to spot if you have no data coverage or a non-smartphone.

### **APRS2SOTA Gateway** – <http://www.sotaspots.co.uk/home.php>

The APRS2SOTA gateway provides a means for SOTA activators to send a spot to the SotaWatch system using a formatted APRS message, which may be generated using one of the hand-held or mobile Radio's that support APRS messaging. The APRS2SOTA gateway and this site has been developed, operated and maintained by Stewart Wilkinson GOLGS.

### **SpotAPRS Gateway** – <http://gyalogradio.ham.hu/spotsms/howto-en.html>

SpotAPRS scans European and US APRS traffic to filter spots. It parses the information (comment) field as opposed to sending an APRS message.

### **RBNGate** – <http://www.grizzlyguy.tv/RBNGate.htm>

RBNGate is software designed to automatically spot CW activators to SOTAWatch as soon as they call CQ SOTA on any CW frequency. RBNGate works by monitoring spots from the Reverse Beacon Network. When RBNGate receives a new spot from RBN, it checks to see if the callsign and time match any SOTAWatch alerts. If a matching alert is found, it sends a spot of the activator to Sotawatch (if the activator has not already been spotted on that frequency). The SOTAWatch spot's summit reference number is set to the one from the alert.

## Logging

### **SOTA Logger (Android)** – <http://tinyurl.com/lyurtks>

This app was designed for Amateur radio operators participating in Summits on the Air (SOTA). It will log QSO's with a date and time stamp and then format the log into the correct csv format to be uploaded to the SOTA Database. There is also a spotting function which will allow the ham radio op to send spots via QRPSpots and SOTAWatch via texting. (Registration with SOTAWatch and QRPSpots required.) Future updates include the option to send the csv log directly to the database.

### **SOTA CSV Editor (Windows)** – [http://www.g0lgs.co.uk/soft\\_info.php?AppName=sotacsveditor](http://www.g0lgs.co.uk/soft_info.php?AppName=sotacsveditor)

Features: Simple Log entry screen, User configurable Callsign/Band/Mode options, Suitable for Activator or Chaser Logs, Use of either CSV or TSV file formats as supported by the SOTA Database site, Choice of on-screen Log sort order: Date/Reference/Band/Mode/Station Worked/Own Call, Callsign structure checking (optional), Full Summit reference checking (optional) - using latest list from SOTA Database site, Shows Summit name and Locator information, ADIF export of Log entries (with additional features for more complete logging information), Built-in check/install updates.

## Logfile Conversion Software and Websites

### **ADI2SOTA (Windows)** – <http://www.sota-france.fr/pages/telechargements/telechargements.php>

### **ADIF to SOTA (Web)** – <http://www.on6zq.be/w/index.php/SOTA/ADIF2SOTA>

### **ADIF->SOTA (Mac OS)** – <http://smkymtns.com/radio/adif-sota.html>

The accompanying PowerPoint presentation and this Resource Guide can be downloaded at:  
<http://smkymtns.com/sota-resources/presentations-and-guides.html>