



The Centurion



The 3905 Century Club Monthly Newsletter

SPECIAL EDITION EYEBALL 2023 PREVIEW

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Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the first ever “Special Edition” of the Centurion Newsletter.

This special edition covers everything you want to know about the upcoming 3905 Century Club Annual Eyeball, which is being held in Triangle, Virginia this year and is hosted by Katie Gilliam, K4TER.

k7qhu@outlook.com.



What are you waiting for?

**Make plans now to attend the 2023 Eyeball,
Prince William Forest Park in Triangle Virginia,
September 7 - 10 2023!
Don't Delay—Register Now!**

Hello From Virginia!



Katie K4TER and **David N7RCE** invite you to the 3905 Century Club Eyeball in Triangle, VA! We have moved from Cabin Camp 3 to Cabin Camp 4 (CC4)! CC4 is much larger than CC3. Upgrade highlights:

- Private campground
- Lighted pavilion
- Recreational size field
- Capacity increase by 130
- Nearby to restaurants/hotels
- Closer to Ham Radio Outlet
- No additional cost

Included in \$90 Registration:

- Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner
- Cabin for sleeping (cot provided, you need to bring bedding/towels etc.)
- Workshops - POTA N3WD| Logging/Scanning KL7OR
- Nets - QRP, Digital
- Shootout
- Presentation - Spies in the Park
- QSL Cards

3905 Century Club 2023 Eyeball

Prince William Forest Park. Triangle VA

Eyeball 2023 QSL Card

Prince William Forest Park
Triangle, Virginia

National Park Service US. Depa



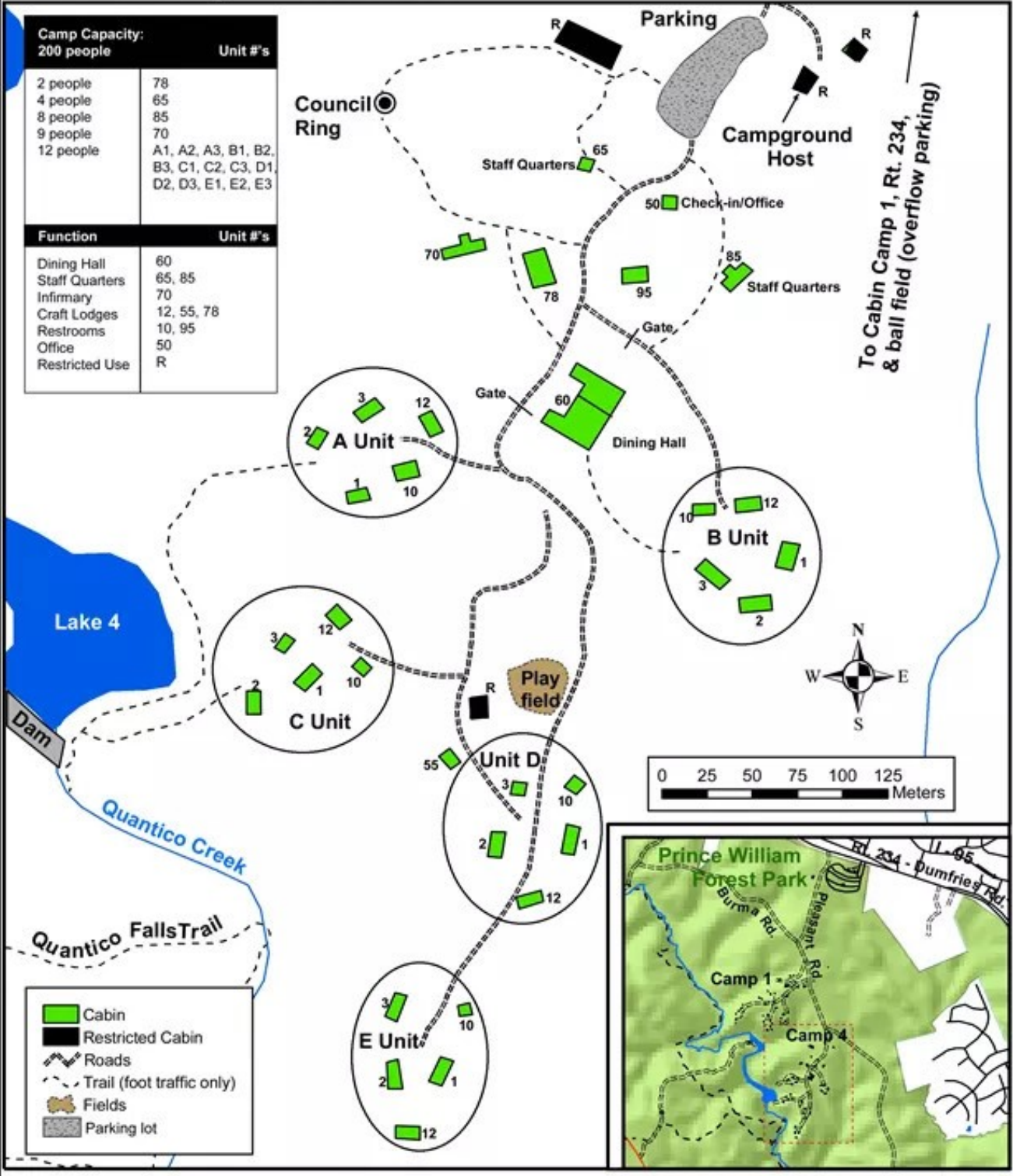
Cabin Camp 4 - Pleasant

Camp Capacity:
200 people

Unit #	Capacity
78	2 people
65	4 people
85	8 people
70	9 people
A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, C3, D1, D2, D3, E1, E2, E3	12 people

Function

Function	Unit #
Dining Hall	60
Staff Quarters	65, 85
Infirmary	70
Craft Lodges	12, 55, 78
Restrooms	10, 95
Office	50
Restricted Use	R



Produced by PRWI Resource Management Division

June 2006



Campground 4 Pavilion

Event Schedule

Thursday, 7 September

Checkin, SetUp, Meet & Greet _____ 3:00+
 Dinner _____ 6:00

Friday, 8 September

Breakfast _____ 7:00
 Nets – QRP _____ 8:00 – 11:00
 Workshop – POTA _____ 8:00
 Lunch _____ 12:30
 Nets – Digital _____ 1:00 – 5:00
 Workshop – Logging _____ 2:00 – 3:00
 Dinner _____ 6:00

Saturday, 10 September

Breakfast _____ 7:00
 Park Presentation – Spies in the Park _____ 8:00 – 9:00
 Shootout [Stafford Regional Airport] _____ 9:00 – 12:00
 Lunch _____ 12:30
 Group Picture _____ 2:30
 Annual Meeting _____ 3:00
 Dinner _____ 6:00

Sunday, 10 September

Breakfast _____ 7:00
 Checkout _____ 9:00

Eyeball 2023 is being hosted at the Prince William Forest Park in Triangle Virginia. Here is everything you need to know about the park.

Prince William Forest Park

[General Information About Prince William Forest Park](#)

Triangle is in Prince William County, Virginia. It is bounded to the south by the Marine Corps Base Quantico, which surrounds the town of Quantico. It is bounded to the north and west by the town of Dumfries. It is bounded to the west by Prince William Forest Park and to the east by the Potomac River. Prince William Forest Park is an oasis, a respite of quiet and calm. In 1936, Chopawamsic



Recreation Area opened its gates to house children's 'relief' camps during the Great Depression. Renamed Prince William Forest Park in 1948, these fragrant woods and trickling streams have welcomed generations of campers, hikers, bikers and nature lovers. The hilly, forested lands in the large northern part of Prince William Forest Park near Quantico, Virginia, became the site of training camps for the OSS Special Operations and the Communications Branches in 1942. In a 5,000 acre section of the park, Donovan's organization set up Training Area A for advanced paramilitary work in sabotage and guerrilla activity and other aspects of unconventional warfare behind enemy lines. Additional acreage in the northern part of the park was subsequently designated Training Area C and was assigned as the radio operators school. Within Areas A and C, the OSS converted the five National Park Service summer cabin camps and one of the Civilian Conservation Corps work camps into sub-camps capable of training several hundred men. The U.S. Marine Corps base at Quantico was located adjacent to the park, and the Marines used the acreage in the southern part of the park, where there were no summer cabin camps, for their own type of field training. The wartime military facilities in the 14,000 acre park played an important part in OSS and Marine Corps training. They also led to important changes at the park.

[Address:](#)

16675 Pleasant Rd. Dumfries, VA 22025

Directions to Prince William Forest Park

From Points North

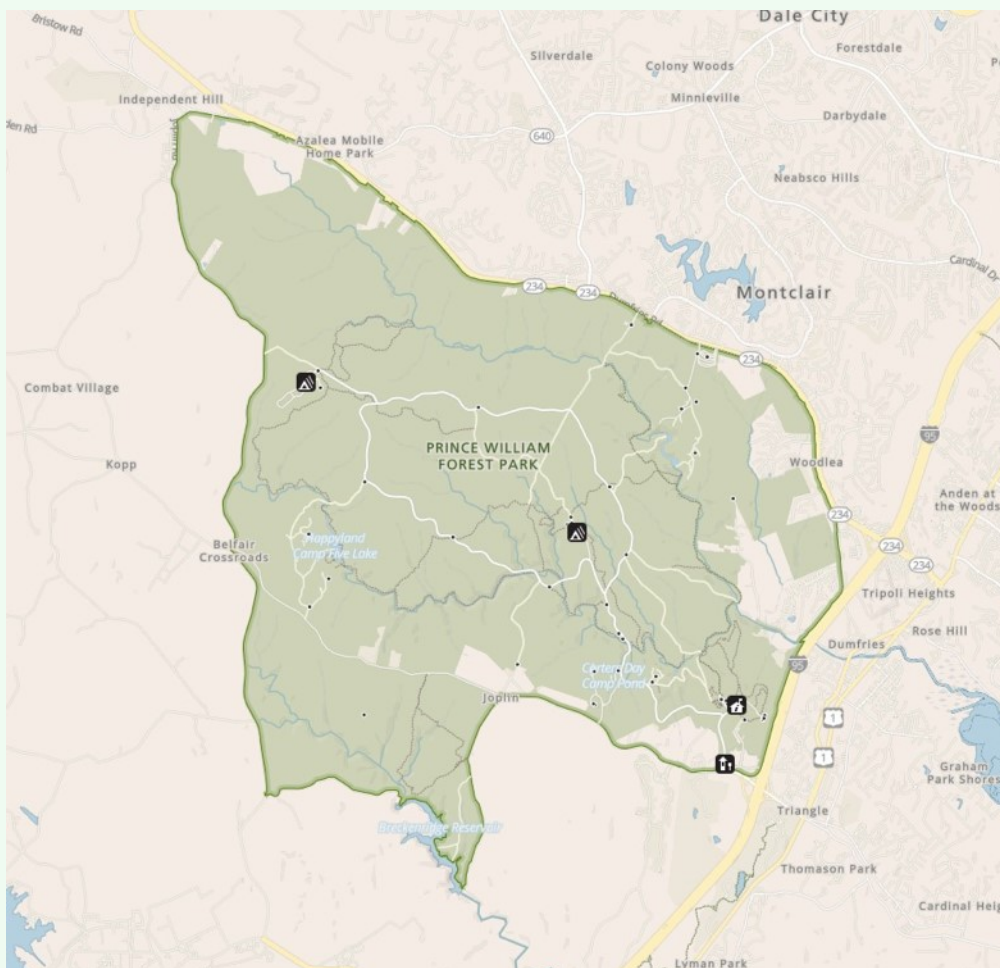
Use Interstate 95 South. Take exit 152B west toward Manassas on Highway 234 Dumfries Road. Continue straight for three miles. Turn left on Pleasant Road. Pleasant Road starts out paved but quickly turns to gravel. Bear left at a bend in the road. drive three quarters of a mile to Cabin Camp 4.

From Points South

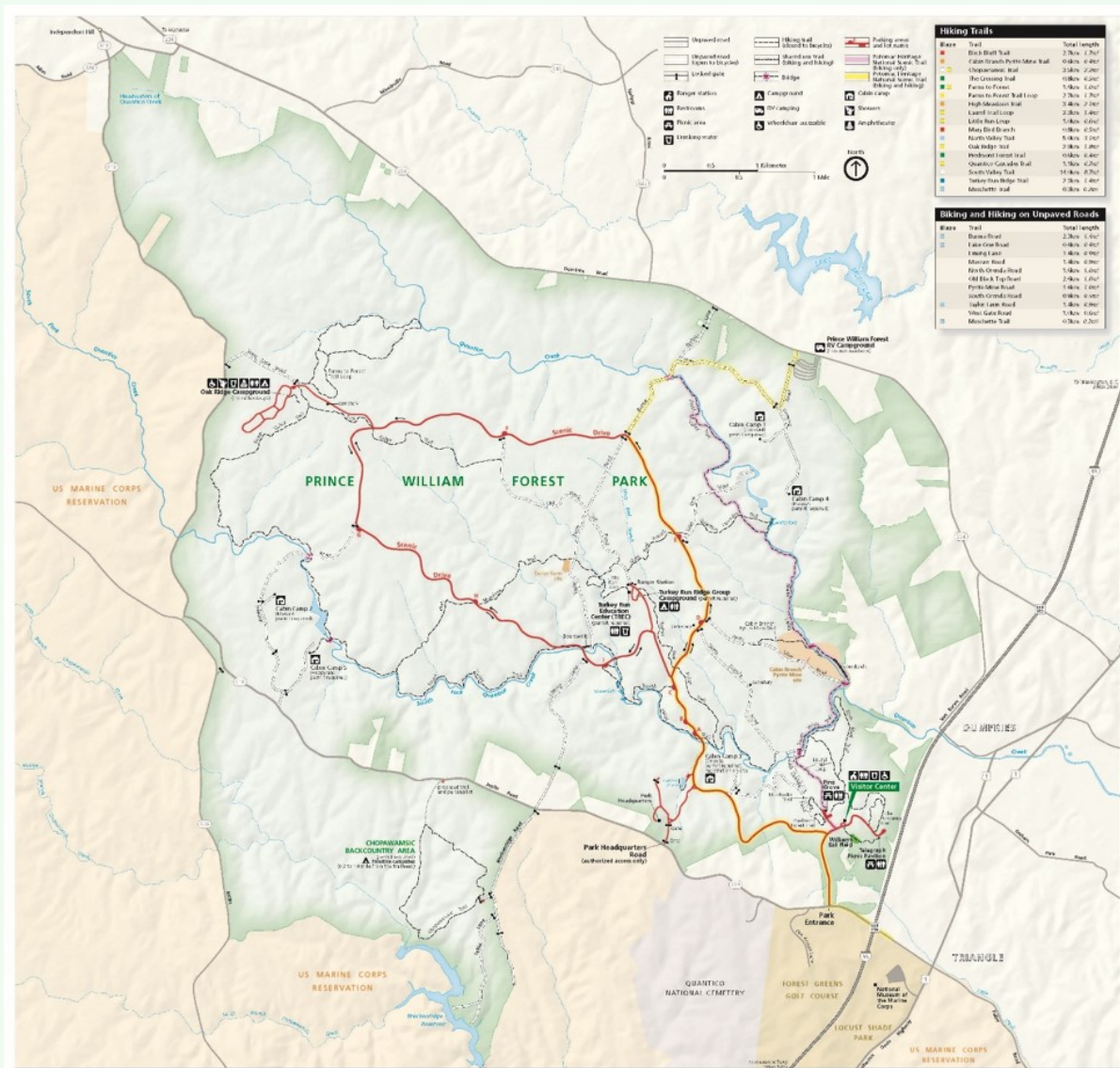
Use Interstate 95 North. Take exit 152B west toward Manassas on Highway 234 Dumfries Road. Continue straight for three miles. Turn left on Pleasant Road. Pleasant Road starts out paved but quickly turns to gravel. Bear left at a bend in the road. drive three quarters of a mile to Cabin Camp 4.

From Points West

Travel east on State Highway 234 Dumfries Road to approach the park. Turn right on Pleasant Road. Pleasant Road starts out paved but quickly turns to gravel. Bear left at a bend in the road. Drive three quarters of a mile to Cabin Camp 4.



Prince William Forest Park, Triangle VA



Additional Map Prince William Forest Park, Triangle VA

Parking

- Cabin Camp 4 has a designated parking area.
- One vehicle is permitted to remain at the dining hall throughout your encampment. If a member of your group has a vehicle with a handicap license plate or valid hangtag, they are permitted to keep the vehicle at the dining hall. No other vehicles are authorized to remain parked at the dining hall or any other buildings within the cabin camp.
- Campers are allowed to park at the dining hall to unload vehicles, but once they are unloaded they must be parked in the designated parking area.
- No more than two vehicles may be parked behind the dining hall at one time.

Park Admission

- Vehicle entrance fee \$20 - valid 7 consecutive days.
- Free Admission for current Military and Veterans
- The National Park Service in partnership with Operation Live Well would like to thank military personnel and their families for their service and invite them to enjoy their national parks.
- The free Military Pass is a way to thank current US military members and their dependents, Gold Star Families, and US military veterans for their support of our country and to encourage them to explore recreational opportunities on their public lands and waters.
- A free lifetime Military Pass is available for Gold Star Families and US military veterans. A free annual Military Pass is available for current US military members and their dependents. The passes provide free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests.
- Please visit the following for additional information: [veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access](#)

Park Rules and Regulations

- All pets are prohibited in the cabin camp area, cabins and camp buildings (except service animals).
- Smoking is not permitted in any of the cabins or buildings.
- Fires are not permitted outside of the council rings and designated fireplaces.
- Camping tents, screen tents or other structures are not permitted in the cabin camp.
- Removal or moving of picnic tables, beds, or mattresses is prohibited.
- No nails, tape, tacks, staples, screws, or other hardware or adhesives may be applied or attached to the interior or exterior of camp buildings, structures, or to trees.
- The camp is subject to inspection by the Park Superintendent or his/her representative at any time.

What to Bring If Staying at Cabin Camp 4

- In each cabin there are lights, electrical outlets, bunks and mattresses. Sleeping cabins do not have heat or air conditioning. Campers should bring all gear including bedding, pillows, and towels.
- Campers should bring hand soap, detergents, and other necessary toiletries. Toilet paper is provided.
- Sleeping cabins do not have heat or air conditioning. Campers should bring all gear including bedding, pillows, and towels.

Nearby Lodging

Hotel	Address	Price per Night
Econo Lodge	17005 Dumfries Rd, Dumfries VA	\$69
Comfort Inn	16931 Old Stage Rd, Dumfries VA	\$83
Motel 6	17133 Dumfries Rd, Dumfries VA	\$65
Ramada by Wyndham	4316 Inn St, Triangle VA	\$75
Super 8	17416 Jefferson Davis Hy, Dumfries VA	\$64
Comfort Suites	14525 Gideon Dr, Woodbridge VA	\$84
Red Roof Inn	153 Garrisonville Rd, Stafford VA	\$69

Katie has invited a Park Ranger to speak with club members about the Prince William Forest Park and its history.

Guest Speaker – Park Ranger Melissa Weih

Office of Strategic Services (1942-45) Spies in the Park

Prince William Forest Park was built as Chopawamsic Recreational Demonstration

Area during the 1930s as an outdoor recreation area for urban youth. Cabins were built in its peaceful, rolling hills to shelter children during their first experiences in the great outdoors. Like so much of America, the bombing of Pearl Harbor forever transformed Chopawamsic and the people who used it. From 1942-1945, America's first centralized intelligence agency, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), converted



Chopawamsic's sleepy summer camps into secret training Areas "A" and "C". For 4 years, thousands of military men and everyday citizens came here to learn the art of spying and survival behind enemy lines.

Lt. F. Ralph and John Balsamo set up a SSTR-1 transmitter and receiver at Area C



Morse code training for OSS radio operators at Area C, in a building today known as “Camp #4 Craft Shop”

Editor’s Note: I am somewhat suspicious that this is actually a photo of our members operating the QRP nets at a previous Eyeball. It looks like someone cleared out the empty beer bottles before they snapped the photo.

Eyeball Events and Activities

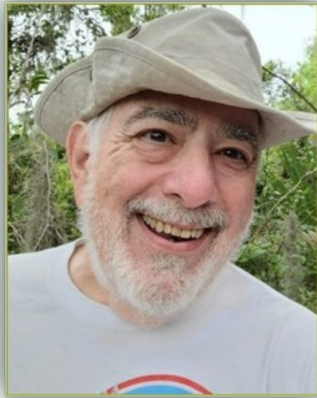
Raffle/Door Prizes

- Please bring an item representing your state for the Raffle.
- Two (2) raffle tickets are included with Registration.
- Raffle tickets will be available at the Camp Site, \$5 per ticket or 21 tickets for \$100.

Shootout

- **Saturday, September 9, 2023 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**
- Please join us for a grand Saturday morning competition where we will determine how your mobile signal stacks up against the rest! If you do not have a mobile setup, come anyway – this event is a fun spectator sport where you can enjoy wagering on whose rig will be Top Gun!
- The winner will be crowned **Top Gun**, and he or she will reign until the next shootout. Our most recent winner was **Jim Higgins, KB3PU**. Second and Third Place entrants will be recognized as **Big Gun** and **Son of a Gun**, respectively. Even the last place finisher will not be left out – the **Pop Gun** designation will stick with him or her for a full year. Congratulations to **Doug Roberts, NE0A**, who amazed us all with an outstanding 2021 performance that will live in infamy.
- The shootout was not held last year due to the unforeseen illness of one of the organizers. We'll make up for lost ground this year!
- Our 2023 subevent venue is the **Stafford Regional Airport, 95 Aviation Way, Fredericksburg, VA**, which is about a forty five-minute drive from the Prince William Forest entry road via either Interstate 95 or U.S. Highway One.
- A locator/routing map is included in the Shootout Event Brochure, where you will learn all about the shootout, its history, how we score it, where you will go, and everything else you will need to know to compete for Top Gun. Please register early online, so we can keep the full list of combatants up to date.
- Our shootout masters this year once again will be the Dynamic Duo of the Fourth Area: **Ben, AE4NT**, and **Dwight, WF4H**, along with a cadre of competent volunteers. We look forward to seeing you in Virginia!

Your intrepid judges for the Eyeball Shootout:



Ben, AE4NT



Dwight, WF4H



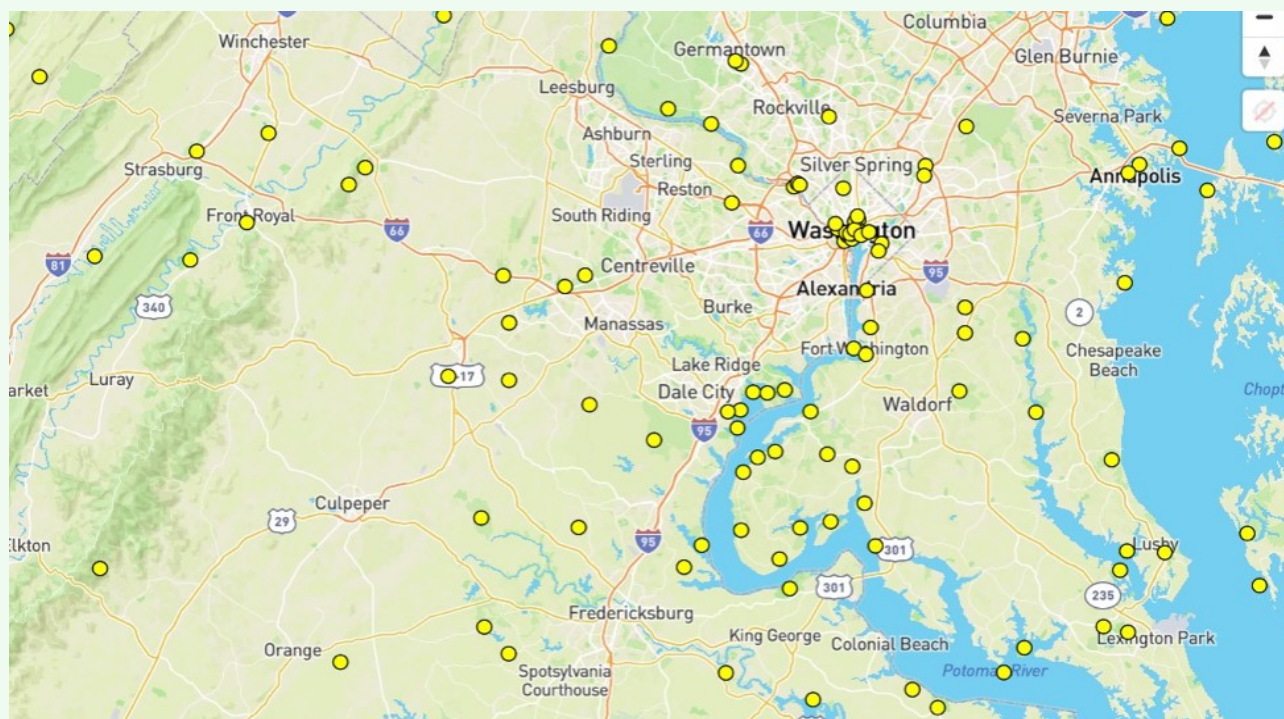
Photo of Shootout contestants from a previous Eyeball



Stafford Airport

POTA Workshop - Bill, N3WD

- What is POTA? Parks on the Air and much like the 3905CCN it came about from of a one-year event. The 3905CCN originated from the ARRL Bicentennial WAS award in 1976. POTA came about from the 2016 ARRL NPOTA, National Parks on the Air. Information on POTA can be found at <https://pota.app>. Please do not be mistaken in thinking this is an app. It is not. It is a website. When reached it will open to the Spots page. Use the three bars in the upper left corner to get to additional pages on the website.



Nearby Parks on the Air Locations

- Is there a fee to join POTA? NO – POTA is 100% free. You can create an account for free. In POTA there are hunters, those that contact people in the parks; and activators, those that go to the parks. Activators can also be hunters when they work another activator which is called a Park to Park contact.
- Do I have to send QSL cards? NO – If you are a hunter, you do not have to do anything but work the stations in the parks. If you are an activator, you are required to upload an adif file to the POTA site under your account.
- Are there logging programs designed for POTA? YES – the two most popular are HAMRS (free) and works on Windows, MAC's and Android. You can even log on your phone. The other is N3FJP's AClog.

- Are there awards? YES – Many awards for both hunters and activators. Most of the awards are endorsable. They will show up in your account automatically as a pdf and best of all they are FREE.
- How do I find POTA activators? From the POTA web site under the Active Spots page. Activators will spot themselves provided they have cell service or access to the internet. Hunters can also assist and spot an activator. There are also ways to get spotted via APRS, and the RBN network.
- Can I work someone again in the same park? YES – the only rule is that you can only work someone once per UTC Day on the same band and mode. You can use any band that you are licensed to use and any mode. That includes HF, VHF and UHF and satellites. The only thing is out of bounds is you cannot use land base repeaters.
- What are activations and attempts? An activation is making at least 10 contacts from a park in a UTC day.
- Where is POTA active? POTA is not only active in the US and its territories but is growing internationally. There are currently 95 other countries outside of the US with a total of 34,393 parks. The US and its territories comprise 9,785 parks for a total of 44,178 parks.
- What is considered a park for POTA? For the US any national (federal) park, state park, state and national forests, state and federal wildlife management areas, state game lands and national historic trails. Every park has a unique designator. The park for the eyeball is K-0691.
- How do I find what parks are around me? There are two ways. Using the POTA site, you can get a list of parks in the state you wish. You can also use the map to see parks in the area you are at. Every yellow dot is a park.
- Why would you consider doing POTA? Example, everyone going to the eyeball and participating in the QRP nets from within the park will also count at POTA contacts. If you get on the CCN nets in the evening from the park those contacts will also count for POTA. Even if the other stations do NOT participate in POTA. POTA also has what is referred to as 2-fer, 3-fer even 6-fer activations. Sort of like when you do state lines and tripoints. An example of this in POTA would be Ft. McHenry National Monument, K-0928 also has three trails inside the park. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, K-4581, Washington- Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, K-4582, and Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, K-4567. So, if you operate from there the hunters would get credit for four parks and the activator gets credit towards activating all four parks.
- If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at qrz@n3wd.com.

Scanning/Logging Workshop — Dean, KL7OR

- Updates to CClogger
- Scanner ES-580W

Local Attractions

Local Attractions

- The National Museum of the Marine Corps



- Potomac Mills Shopping Center
- Government Island - This historic park is the quarry site that provided Aquia sandstone for the construction of the White House and the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. The 1-mile hiking/walking trail, creeks, wetlands, and marsh area provide a variety of habitats for native and migratory birds and other wildlife. The elevated boardwalk through the wetlands and woods to the island offers a continuous, accessible viewing area. Fishing is not permitted from the island.
- Mount Vernon
- Downtown Fredericksburg
- Ham Radio Outlet, Woodbridge VA

David and I are hoping many of you can join us at Eyeball 2023! Remember, all roads lead to Prince William Forest Park in September.

