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Parks & Peaks iOS App - Quick Guide

This document has been produced as a cut down **How-To** version of the ParksnPeaks App user guide which is very comprehensive. If you want to expand on anything described in this guide, open the PDF called Parks & Peaks iPhone app v2.

Your first installation

1. Logon to the Parks & Peaks website, www.parksnpeaks.org.

2. If you don't have a login, you can register on the site. If you don't have one that's okay, you can still use the app but won't be able to save Spots & Alerts to parksnpeaks.org.

3. When you have logged in, select the **Options** button on the VK Spots or VK Alerts pages. Select the API Key & copy it ready to paste it into the entry box on the app sign in screen.
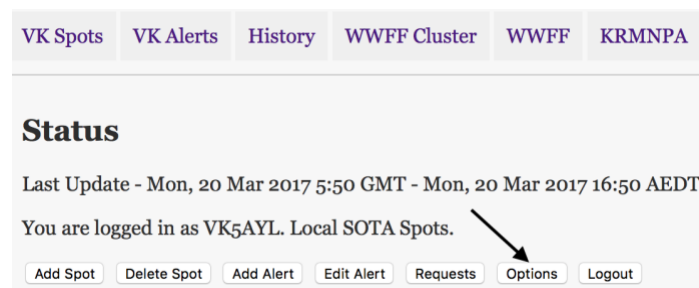
4. Go to the Apple App Store.

5. The ParksnPeaks iPhone app is currently only available in Portrait mode on an iPhone & iPad. You can download the app to an iPad by searching the app store for parksnpeaks first. It won't appear on your search until you change to iPhone Only at the top left of the App Store screen. Further developments will be done for the iPad in the future.

6. Once installed on your device, enter your Callsign or SWL Reference, User Name and API Key into the **Login Screen**. If you don't have a User Name or API Key, just type anything. Press the Sign In button. You will only need to sign in once unless you install the app on another device.

7. A warning message will be displayed if your API Key is invalid. You will still be able to use the app but the ParksnPeaks website will not save accept any Spots and Alerts you create. All QSO log items will be saved to your device for later exporting.

    At some time in the future when you register with parksnpeaks.org and have a valid API Key, go to Settings and under PARKSNPEAKS.ORG, click the Change Login button. When you enter a valid User Name & API Key, you'll be able to save spots and alerts.

8. Before you enter any data, in the app Settings, press Update Callsigns. Then press Update Sites, wait for it to finish the download before moving from this screen.

9. When you move away from the Settings screen, all settings will be saved.

Reinstalling a new version

If you are installing Version 2, you should remove the previous version first (if you have it).

You should save your data before installing a new version as a precautionary step. If you haven't done so at this point, follow these steps:

Backup your logs first

1. Press the Report button on the Log Analysis & Export screen.
2. Press the Export button on the same screen
3. Go to the Files App and copy the logs to your computer or send them by email or Airdrop etc

Backup to iTunes

1. Update to the latest version of iTunes.
2. Open iTunes and connect your device to your computer.
3. If a message asks for your device passcode or to Trust This Computer, follow the onscreen steps. If you forgot your passcode, get help.
4. Select your iPhone or iPad when it appears in iTunes. If your device doesn't appear in iTunes, learn what to do.
5. Right click on your iPhone/iPad and selected Backup from the drop-down list.
6. This process will back up the ParksnPeaks app and its data as well as everything else.
7. When the process ends, you can see if the backup finished successfully on the Summary screen in iTunes. Just look under Latest Backup to find the date and time.

You can also backup to iCloud but that is beyond this documentation.

How to remove the old version (V1)

It is better to remove the old version before installing the new one as major changes were made to the Sites data between V1 and V2.

1. Make sure you have backed up your data first, especially your logs.
2. On your iPhone/iPad, open the Settings app
3. Select General
4. Select iPhone Storage and wait for the list to refresh.
5. Find ParksnPeaks (unfortunately the list is not in alphabetical order)
6. Select it on the list
7. Press Delete App
8. This will remove the app and ALL its data
9. You will have to sign in again once you've installed the new version.

Navigating the app

The main functions have corresponding buttons on the Main Toolbar at the bottom of the 5 main screens, i.e. Spots, Alerts, QSO Log, Find Sites and Settings.

Spots

List of Spots

This will be the first screen displayed after signing in. When Parks and Peaks is turned on in Settings (the default), the list should automatically display Spots downloaded from the Parks & Peaks website in order by UTC.

- The screen will refresh every 10 secs, the default. You can change this on the Settings screen.
- Top left button will toggle Local or All Spots.
- The right-hand button (+) will create a new Spot.
- The WWFF ID, SOTA ID and Location detail on each spot can be copied and pasted elsewhere. Press the required ID and hold for a second until you see Copy. Now go to Search Sites or a web browser and Paste it in. This information allows operators to view a map of a particular site or to find out more about it, particularly since spot information doesn't always provide the site name. You can do the same with Callsigns.

How to add a new Spot

Press the **+** button on the Spots List to enter a new Spot.
- Press the **Save** button to send the Spot to the website and save to log if the switch is turned on.
- If the warning at the top of the screen says **Your Parks & Peaks Login is INVALID**, you won't be able to save Spots or Alerts to the website.
- If you enter a Spot and then decide not to save it, you can press the Cancel button anytime.
- If your Spot fails to be sent to the website, you will receive an error. However, your log item will be saved if you have turned on the switch.

How to create a Spot and/or Log record by swiping a Spot

If you have made contact with someone on the Spots list, you can re-spot them and/or save to your log at the same time. Check that they are in the same park/summit before swiping, they might have moved.

- Select the Spot you are interested in
- Swipe from left to right, select **Log it** and enter the required information.
- You'll notice that the necessary data from the original Spot has been copied into the Spot, saving you time.
- Press the **Save to Log** button if you just want to log it.
- Press the **Create Spot** button if you want to re-spot the Activator.

- Press the **Save** button to save to Log and/or send a Spot to the website.
- If the warning at the top of the screen says **Your Parks & Peaks Login is INVALID**, you won't be able to save Spots or Alerts to the website.
- If you enter the Spot and then decide not to save it, you can press the Cancel button anytime.
- If your Spot fails to be sent to the website, you will receive an error. However, your log item will be saved if you have turned on the switch.

- On the Spot list, you'll notice that the date/time box will change colour for swiped spots. A lighter blue if you saved it to Log and a grey colour if you only created a Spot during the swipe. Only the grey coloured swipes can be swiped again.

How to get Notifications

There are 2 types of notifications used in the ParksnPeaks app.

In-app Notifications

When the Spots list refreshes and the app is in the foreground, the goat sound fires off for a new SOTA spot and the kookaburra sound fires off for a new WWFF spot. It will also display a message indicating the number of SOTA or WWFF spots.

To turn off the in-app notifications, go to the app Settings page and under Notifications, you can turn off the goat and kookaburra sounds and just play the Apple Default sound.
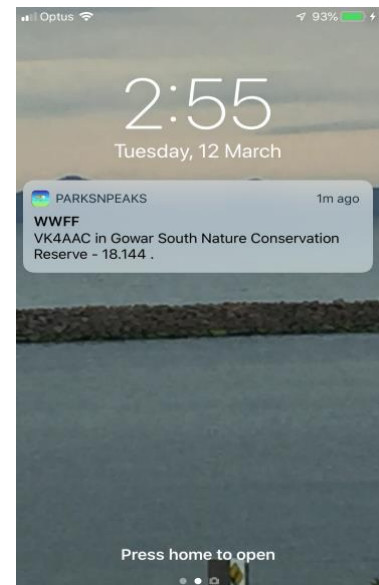
Push Notifications

When the app is in the background, the ParksnPeaks website sends notifications about new Spots via the Apple Push Notification Service (APNS). These have a lot more detail than their in-app cousins. They will appear on your lock screen and you can press on them to take you to the app.

To turn them off, go into the Apple Settings on your device, select Notifications and look for ParksnPeaks. Here you can turn off the Sounds switch and play with other settings.

You can also turn them off in Do Not Disturb. There are two ways:

1. Go to Settings > Do Not Disturb to turn on Do Not Disturb manually or set a schedule.
2. Open Control Centre, deeply press 🌙 to quickly adjust your Do Not Disturb settings or tap 🌙 to turn it on or off.

Push Notification

Watch notifications

You can even get notifications from ParksnPeaks on your Apple Watch.
- Open the Watch App on your iPhone
- Select the Notifications option
- Find ParksnPeaks under *Mirror iPhone Alerts from* heading
- Turn on the switch
- You should now receive notifications from the ParksnPeaks website via   the APNS.
- The watch will only play the default sound, not ParksnPeaks sounds.
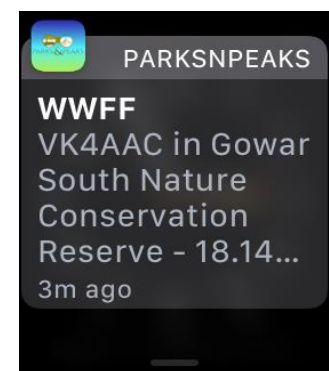
Watch Push Notification

Alerts

List of Alerts

When Parks and Peaks is turned on in Settings (the default), the list should automatically display Alerts downloaded from the Parks & Peaks website in descending order by date/time:
To refresh the list, you can pull the screen down.

How to add a new Alert

Press the **+** button on the Alerts List and enter the Alert information:
You can elect to save to device if PnP is unavailable. The App will automatically save the Alert to the device if you have an invalid login. You can access saved Alerts from the button on the left of the title on the Alerts List. You can select one or more saved alerts and send them to the website.

- Press the **Save** button to send the Alert to Parks & Peaks.
- If the warning at the top of the screen says **Your Parks & Peaks Login is INVALID**, you won't be able to save the Alert to the website.
- If you enter the Alert and then decide not to save it, you can press the Cancel button anytime.
- If your Alert fails to be sent to PnP, you will receive an error.

How to add a Spot from an existing Alert

If you have made contact with someone on the Alerts list, you can spot them and/or save to your log at the same time. Check that they are in the same park/summit before swiping, they might have moved.

- Select the Alert you are interested in
- Swipe from left to right, select **Log it** and enter the required information.
- The necessary data from the original Alert has been copied into the Spot, saving you time.
- Press the **Save** button to save to Log and/or send a Spot to the website.
- If the warning at the top of the screen says **Your Parks & Peaks Login is INVALID**, you won't be able to save Spots or Alerts to the website.
- If you enter the Spot and then decide not to save it, you can press the Cancel button anytime.
- If your Spot fails to be sent to the website, you will receive an error. However, your log item will be saved if you have turned on the switch.

- On the Alerts list, you'll notice that the date/time box will change colour for swiped alerts. A lighter blue if you saved it to Log and a grey colour if you only created a Spot during the swipe. Only the grey coloured swipes can be swiped again.

QSO Log

Press the QSO Log button on the main toolbar at the bottom of the screen. When you get to the list of logs, everything you need to do with Logging is from this screen.

Before going out in the field, go to the Settings page and press the Update Sites button. This will download the latest sites from ParksnPeaks.org.

List of Logs
The QSO Log list shows all logged items

What do the Log codes mean?

A2C Left - Activator, right - Chaser detail
A2H Left - Activator, right - Hunter detail
P2P Park to Park contact
S2S Summit to Summit contact
SIP Indicates a Summit in Park activity between two Operators. This will involve 2 records being added to the log, one for WWFF and the other for SOTA.

These codes are coloured blue for SOTA, green for WWFF, orange for other Awards and green for SIP.

If you want to see more information in the list about each QSO you can toggle the list view by pressing this button.

The view will change to Detail which shows the Site names. Press the button again to show the Summary view.

How to filter/search Logs
You can filter by Award or enter some search words to find logs.

Filter by Award

Press one of the Award buttons near the top of the screen to view the list by that award. For WWFF & SOTA, it will show all logs with that award where you were the activator or hunter. OTHER is used to show other awards like SHIRES, KRMNPA and SANPCPA. N/A is used to show logs such as those created by you as a WWFF hunter that normally wouldn't be exported to WWFF.

Incremental Search Function

The search function filters by for the Callsign, Site ID and/or Type, eg P2P, S2S, SIP. For example, if you had a QSO with VK5ZNC, and you searched with znc 003 sip, the results would include VK5ZNC in VK1/AC-003 and this site would be a summit in park.

You can enter just one search word, eg znc or 003 or znc sip. They can be entered in any order.

When you enter search words, the incremental search will return results containing those words. As long as the Callsign, Site ID and Type are separated by a space, it's smart enough to recognise the difference between the entries.

The search function I designed, parses the search field for the following in the order shown and these are not case sensitive so you can enter them in upper or lowercase:

Date: **d 5 (day)** or **d 514 (month and day)**

Type: **a2h, a2c, p2p, s2s** or **sip**

Site ID: **vkf** or **vkff** or **/** or **–** or **0-9** more than once eg vkf 6 OR vkf 618 or /mw or -168 or just 168

Callsign: Anything left that is not as above. Callsign can be searched by also adding one of the following indicators at the beginning of the callsign or partial callsign:

To search for an Activator's callsign:
type **a**<space><part of callsign>
eg **a znc**

To search for a hunter/chaser callsign:
type **h**<space><part of callsign> or **c**<space><part of callsign> . Note, it doesn't distinguish between a SOTA or WWFF hunter.

eg **h znc** or **c znc**

If you type **vk**, you will get all callsigns. If you type **vk znc**, without the number, you will get any Activator with the callsign **vk?znc** where ? will be a number between 0 and 9.

If you just type **znc**, you will get any activator or hunter with **znc** in the callsign

To search for a date:
Type d<space><date (in YYMMDD or MMDD or DD format), eg d 0520 or d 20190520.
You can even enter d 15 da sip which means find me the contact I had on 15th of this month with VK1DA and it was a Summit in Park (SIP).

How to add a Log item

At the top of the QSO Log list screen there are 2 buttons for adding. To the left is the Hunter/Chaser button and in the middle is the Activator button. Either button will allow you to create any type of log but initially the screen will be ready for recording an Activator or Hunter/Chaser log.

How to Log as an Activator

Press the Activator button. You can change the type of log by pressing on Activator, Chaser/Hunter and the screen will be populated with the appropriate information.

It will display the last Hunter/Chaser you communicated with; this helps when filling out the details from a handwritten log.

It also remembers your last activation site, frequency and automatically populates the current date and time. It knows the difference between a SOTA Chaser and a WWFF Hunter and changes labels accordingly. Enter the information as required.

▪ Press the **Save** button to save the Log item to the database on your device.
▪ If you enter the Log item and then decide not to save it, you can press the Cancel button anytime.
▪ The **CLS** button will clear the screen of all data.
▪ The **Last Entry** button adjacent to Activator Site, will copy the activator details from the last entry if there is one.

How to Log as a Hunter/Chaser

Press the Hunter/Chaser button. It has remembered the last Activator you communicated with; this helps when filling out the details from a handwritten log.

It also remembers your last activation site, frequency and automatically populates the current date and time. It knows the difference between a SOTA Chaser and a WWFF Hunter and changes labels accordingly. Enter the information as required.

▪ Press the **Save** button to save the Log item to the database on your device.
▪ If you enter the Log item and then decide not to save it, you can press the Cancel button anytime.
▪ The **CLS** button will clear the screen of all data.
▪ The **Last Entry** button adjacent to Activator Site, will copy the activator details from the last entry if there is one.

How to Analyse & Export your Logs

Press the Log Analysis & Export button.

This will display a summary of Logs by Award. From this screen you can Export your logs.

▪ The top section of the Analysis displays counts of your logs by Award.
▪ You'll notice that WWFF Hunter and Other are not applicable when sending logs to WWFF.

- The bottom section displays counts of logs that were exported. This is populated once you have done the final export.
- Once exported you will not be able to bring back logs but if you need to edit them, you can do so in the ADIF/CSV files.

How to run a Log Report before Exporting

Press the Report button

You can do this as many times as you wish but as soon as the data is exported to ADIF/CSV files, you won't be able to see the data again.

You'll find the report under the Report folder using the Files app.

You can email it to yourself or transfer it anywhere.

How to Export Logs

Press the Report button before exporting logs to save a snapshot of the data.
See How to Report on all logged data before Exporting

Once you are happy with the logged data, press the export button and the logs will be automatically created.

You'll find the logs under the individual Award folders using the Files app.

The other buttons on this screen are:

View ADIF & CSV log files. Click on a file to View the contents or Delete. Asks if you are sure.

Delete all logs that have been exported and reported on. Asks if you are sure.

How to View the Contents of Logs (in-app)

Select a file from the list by pressing on it and then press the View Log files button to view the contents of individual log files. I have made the ADIF files easier to read by breaking the data up into individual fields and values on each line and colouring the end of header <EOH>, end of file <EOF> and end of record tags <EOR> so you can make some sense of what you are seeing.

These are not how the files are on your device, ADIF files are generally a continuous string of data and quite difficult to read.

How to E-Mail logs (in-app)

If you have setup email addresses in Settings for WWFF & SOTA, select for example a WWFF ADIF file from the list of files and press the E-Mail button on the bottom toolbar. The app knows it is a WWFF log and will send it to the email address you have in Settings for WWFF logs.

The button at top right of this screen will allow you to email all logs to yourself or someone else. This will also include reports as well. It defaults to your email address.

If you are having trouble with your logs you can send them to me to check. Delete the attached logs that are not causing you any problems but include the Reports as these are important to me. Include some information about your problem in the body of the email.

Add vk5ayl@gmail.com to the **E-Mail To:** line. Also, add your callsign in the subject or at the end of the E-mail.

How to Undo an Export

If you have already exported logs, you can undo the last export only.

- On the Log Analysis & Export screen
- You will see the last export date and an **Undo Export** button at top right of the screen.
- If you don't see the last export date, it means the last export has either been deleted or doesn't exist.
- When you press the Undo button, it will undo the last export and you'll be able to add to or edit the data.

How to use the Files App

ParksnPeaks has turned on the ability for the Files app to view and transfer exported files from folders created by the App. The Files App is an Apple Utility which can be downloaded from the App Store if you don't already have it on your device. You can find it on the App Store by searching for Files app, make sure it's the Apple Utility, its free. You can also use Siri to find it on the App Store.

To find the Files app on your device, use Spotlight. To access **Spotlight** search, swipe left on the Home screen or Lock screen. Tap the search bar at the top of the screen and type files. It is a blue folder icon and should appear under Applications.

Open the Files app and it will probably take you to the Browse screen:

- From the list of Locations, select On My iPhone (or iPad)
- The ParksnPeaks folder should be in the list
- Press on the ParksnPeaks folder
- If you have exported your logs and run the Report, you will see a list of further folders as shown in the screenshot.
- To view the list as per the screen shot, pull the screen down
- You should now see the options above the folders.
- You can add a new folder with the button on the left
- The button on the right will turn on the sorted list.
- Press on Sorted by and change to Name. Note the other sort by options.
- Now press on the Report folder to view a list of CSV files that have been exported from the app. See How to Report on all Logged data for further details.
- Now go back to the main folder list for ParksnPeaks and press on one of the other folders for example WWFF.
- Under the WWFF folder is one for ADIF and one for CSV. Press on the ADIF folder.
- If you exported any WWFF files as an Activator or P2P, ADIF versions should appear here.
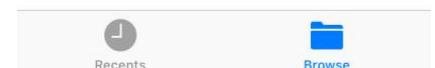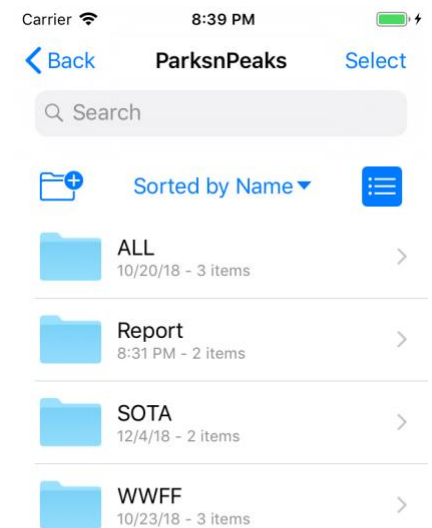
Files app Options

From the Files app you can transfer your files just about anywhere.

- Press the Select button at top right
- An empty circle will appear next to each file on the list
- Press on the empty circle to tick the files you need to transfer
- The bottom toolbar lets you share, email, copy, move or delete selected files from the list.
- You can read more about Files App options in the comprehensive ParksnPeaks App user guide.

Find Sites

The first time you enter this screen, you will be asked if you wish to enable Location Services for ParksnPeaks. You must allow ParksnPeaks to access your location to be able to find sites near you and show them on the map. If you answer No, you can change it later in Settings under Privacy, then ParksnPeaks.

This screen allows you to find Sites that have the criteria for inclusion in the various Awards. You can find sites close to your current location, view information for your current location, search for sites and view your selections on a map. You can even show the route from your location to the site.

The following values ensure you don't end up with lots of data on screen or on the map.

- Nearest Sites Radius (km) – The radius for your search
- No. of sites to display on Map – how many drop pins to display on map
- Your location - current Latitude/Longitude position is shown at the bottom of the screen.

How to find Sites close to you

The **Near Sites** button displays the following information about sites near your current location given the radius you entered. The data will appear in descending order by the distance from you.

Where am I

The **My Location** button displays information about your current location.

The Map button is disabled for this selection.

How to find a Site

Press the **Search Sites** button to drill down on a site you are looking for. This is the same screen used as a picklist for finding Activator or Hunter/Chaser sites on various screens.

- The site data comes from a database which is installed with the app and can be updated in Settings. There are a lot of sites and having them on your device makes searching very fast. It also means that you don't need to be connected to the network to find a site.
- You can search by Award, State or text. It will accept upper or lower case and you can search for a partial word such as **hill**. Below, I wanted to find Black Hill, I only needed **black h** to find it.
- Select the site you want from this list and it will display on the Find Sites list.
- The list will also show how many kilometres away the site is from your current location.

▪ From there you can view it on the map and even show the route from your current location to the selected site.

How to find parks and summits around a site

If you plan a weekend away activating parks/summits in a particular area, you can find and map more sites around the site you are interested in. This can be done using Near Sites or Search Sites. Of course, Near Sites only shows parks and summits within a maximum of 80 km of your current location but you can

▪ Press Search Sites and find a site you are interested in, then select it.
▪ Back on the Find Sites screen, press the **Show** button just above Show Map.
▪ A list of parks and summits around the site you searched for will appear in descending order by distance.
▪ The site you searched for is at the top with a zero distance because it is now the focus of your search.
▪ Everything listed is relative to your selected radius around that location.
▪ The app is not using your current location to calculate distance only the location of your selected site.

How to view sites on the Map

The **Map** button is enabled for all buttons.

Once you have a site or sites, you can view them on the map. Press the **Show Map** button to view.

If you have pressed My Location and then Show Map, it will just show your location.

▪ The Near Sites button gave me a list of sites close by including Black Hill.
▪ I elected to display only 5 of the closest sites on the map
▪ Black Hill is shown with its WWFF reference and info button. It is the closest site to my location.   ⓘ
▪ The blue dot is my current location, its hidden under the annotation.
▪ You can view the Map, a Satellite or Hybrid Map by selecting one of the buttons at the top.
▪ There is a Show Route button which will draw a line along a route from your current location to the site.

Press the **Info button** on the Black Hill annotation. A screen will pop up with some further information about the selected site.
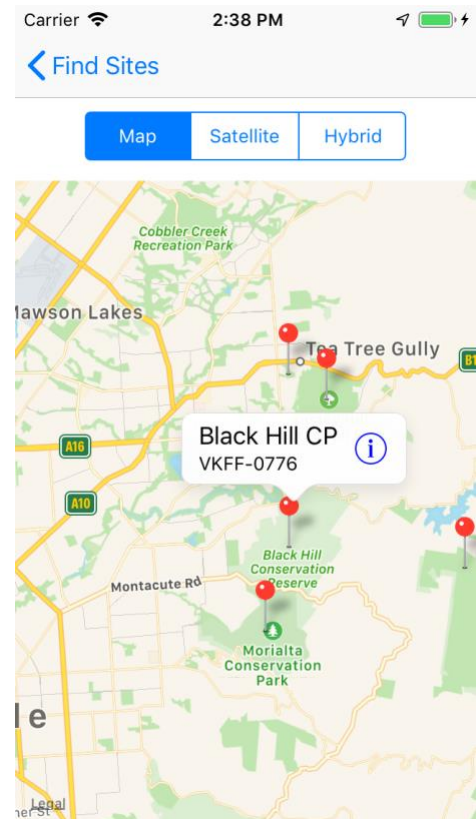
Map showing multiple Sites

Contact Information

You can send me message via the contact screen on my blog at www.vk5ayl.com. I also have a Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/parksnpeaks/.