



FIVE AND NINE PLUS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE APPLEDORE AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Club Callsigns: *G2FKO and GX2FKO*

Website: www.adarc.co.uk

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Terry Adams	G4CHD	Committee	Ben Louder	2E0FTZ
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			Exam Secretary	John Lovell	G3JKL
			Editor	Mike Wogden	G4KXQ
			Mikewogden@gmail.com		

EDITORIAL

Apologies to all members — I missed the April “Natter Night” meeting as Di and I were on holiday. I’m told it was very well attended.

For this month’s meeting, we are grateful to welcome Tim GW4VXE back for another presentation. The topic of Tim’s online talk is “What’s So Special About VHF/UHF?” VHF/UHF operation is somewhat neglected by many amateurs, so I’ll be very interested to hear Tim’s presentation.

By now, I hope most members have renewed their membership. Any members who have not renewed by the end of May will have their contact details removed from the newsletter distribution list.

73,

Mike (G4KXQ)

North Devon Technology Club

Chris MØKNF has recently send out a request on Facebook for people to join a newly formed club called the North Devon Technology Group. This group has been established to provide a space for individuals in North Devon to: Learn about emerging and established technologies. Share projects and ideas with a community of peers. Experiment with new hardware and software. Participate in "Group Buys" for components and kits. Build technical projects and prototypes. Inspire and enthuse fellow members. Promote technology within the local community.

Core Focus Areas: Electronics & Robotics Computing & Coding Wireless Technologies & Radio Communication Techno-crafting (3D printing, laser cutting, programmable embroidery, etc.) Future

Plans: If there is sufficient interest, the aim is to host workshops and in-person meetings at a local venue. There is an online discussion forum at: <https://groups.io/g/north-devon-technology-club> for interested members to sign up or contact Chris MØKNF. At present there are 18 members signed up and lively discussion already taking place including Meshcore LoRa low power radio and Morse Code tutor projects.

Important – Club Subscriptions were due March 2026

Club bank account details: Account name: Appledore & District Amateur Radio Club, Sort Code: 30-90-78, Account Number: 01047485. The club's membership subscription is £15

Regards Alan M9NAE. Club Treasurer.

LOCAL NETS

2m Elevenses FM Net: Mon/Wed/Fri :
11 - 12.00 noon via GB3DN Net Control ; Mike (G3PGA)

Friday Night 2m Net: Friday : 145.450 FM, 8 -9pm

Sunday Top Band Net: Sunday 1.860 MHz
9.30 - 10.15am
(LSB - 32W pep max)

2m SSB Nets: Wed: 8 - 9pm 144.260MHz USB SSB (Vertical polarised)
Sun: approx 10.30am (follows Top Band Net) 144.260MHz USB SSB (Vertical polarised)

Sunday FM Net: Sunday: 11 to noon via GB3DN
Net Control : Chris (G0FJY)

Note :- FM Nets which use GB3DN as shown above will continue despite the recent changes. GB3DN is disconnected from the Wires-X/ Southern England Room just before the listed start and end of each FM Net

CLUB PROGRAM

May 18 th 2026	What's so Special about VHF/UHF?	Tim GW4VXE
Jun 15 th 2026	Hermes Light 2 – SDR Transceiver	Colin G8NBO
July 20 th 2026	How to Tell a Good Choke	Terry G4CHD
August 17 th 2026	Bring and Buy	
Sept 21 st 2026	LoRa Modulation and Its Uses	Chris G0FJY
Oct 19 th 2026	Club Quiz Night	
Nov 16 th 2026	Shack Remote Operations	John G3JKL
Dec 14 th 2026	Christmas Party	
Jan 18 th 2027	External speaker	TBC
Feb 15 th 2027	External speaker	TBC
Mar 15 th 2027	Annual General Meeting	

Morse Mania: A Fun Way to Master CW

As I started my retirement, one thing I wanted to get up to speed on was Morse code. I passed my 12 WPM Morse test in 1981 and can probably count on one hand the number of QSOs I've ever had. There are lots of CW clubs and Morse tutor applications available today, but one application I was pointed toward is an iOS app called Morse Mania.

Whether you are preparing for contests, improving emergency communication skills, or simply enjoying the tradition of CW, practice is the key to building speed and confidence.

Designed for beginners and experienced operators alike, Morse Mania turns Morse code training into an engaging, game-like experience. The app helps users recognize letters, numbers, punctuation, and complete words through interactive listening exercises. Instead of relying on memorization charts, operators learn Morse the way it is meant to be learned — through sound recognition.

One of the app's strongest features is its progressive learning system. Users begin with a small set of characters and gradually unlock additional groups as their accuracy improves. This method follows proven CW learning techniques similar to the Koch method, helping students avoid the common habit of counting dits and dahs. Adjustable speed settings also allow operators to practice at their own pace while still training their ears for real on-air conditions.

For anyone interested in improving their contest performance or preparing for events such as Field Day, SOTA, or POTA, Morse Mania provides a convenient way to practice anytime and anywhere. A few minutes of daily training during a commute or coffee break can significantly improve character recognition and copying speed over time.

The game-style scoring and achievement levels keep motivation high compared to traditional study methods.



While no application can replace actual on-air experience, Morse Mania serves as an excellent companion for CW training. By combining modern mobile technology with one of radio's oldest communication methods, the app helps ensure that Morse code remains an active and enjoyable part of amateur radio for future generations.

CONTEST CALENDAR - Data Thanks to WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Highlight of the contest calendar in the coming weeks is the CQ WW WPX CW contest and the IRAU Region 1 CW Field Day

Date	Contest Name	Contest Time
16/05/2026	UN DX Contest	0600Z-2100Z
16/05/2026	NZART Sangster Shield Contest	0800Z-1100Z
16/05/2026	His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, 16 May to 1200Z, 17 May
16/05/2026	EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, 16 May to 1200Z, 17 May
16/05/2026	Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2359Z
16/05/2026	Baltic Contest	2100Z, 16 May to 0200Z, 17 May
17/05/2026	Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, 17 May to 0100Z, 18 May
24/05/2026	Real Time Contest	1600Z-2000Z
30/05/2026	CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, 30 May to 2359Z, 31 May
31/05/2026	Romanian Diaspora SSB Contest	0500Z-1700Z
06/06/2026	VK Shires Contest	0000Z-2359Z
06/06/2026	PODXS 070 Club Three Day Weekend Contest	0000Z, 6 Jun to 2359Z, 8 Jun
06/06/2026	Tisza Cup CW Contest	0000Z-1459Z
06/06/2026	Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0800Z
06/06/2026	UKSMG Summer Contest	1300Z, 6 Jun to 1300Z, 7 Jun
06/06/2026	IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW	1500Z, 6 Jun to 1459Z, 7 Jun
06/06/2026	RSGB National Field Day	1500Z, 6 Jun to 1500Z, 7 Jun
06/06/2026	ARRL Inter. Digital Contest	1800Z, 6 Jun to 2400Z, 7 Jun

DX NEWS

Start Date (UK Format)	End Date (UK Format)	DX Entity	Callsign	QSL Info	Info / Operators
13/05/2026	21/05/2026	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	LoTW	By EI8KN as V4/EI8KN and EI7BR as V4/EI7BR from Basseterre, St Kitts; 160-6m incl 60m; SSB FT8 some CW
14/05/2026	22/05/2026	Tonga	A31AA	LoTW	By JH3QFL from Nuku'alofa; HF; FT8 on 80-6m
17/05/2026	19/05/2026	Wales	MW	LoTW	By HB9EMP; holiday style operation; HF
18/05/2026	01/06/2026	Rodrigues Island	3B9IDX	See Info	By UR9IDX; HF; mainly CW some SSB
19/05/2026	07/06/2026	Juan Fernandez Islands	3G0Z	M0URX	By XQ7IR from Robinson Crusoe Island; 160-6m; FT8 CW SSB
20/05/2026	19/06/2026	Namibia	V5	LoTW	By N7XOB as V5/N7XOB; 7.165 and 14.265 MHz; SSB
21/05/2026	24/05/2026	Palau	T8	LoTW	By JR3QFB as T88JH, JA1MFR as T88KY, JF3PLF as T88IL from Koror; HF
24/05/2026	01/06/2026	St Kitts & Nevis	V4	LoTW	By WW6W as V4/WW6W from St Kitts Island; CQWW WPX CW Contest
25/05/2026	28/05/2026	Ascension Island	ZD8KX	eQSL	By M0HXC; 40-10m; mainly CW SSB FT8 FT4

Start Date (UK Format)	End Date (UK Format)	DX Entity	Callsign	QSL Info	Info / Operators
25/05/2026	30/05/2026	Cyprus SBA	ZC4RH	LoTW	By G4WXJ; 40-6m; CW SSB FT8
25/05/2026	03/06/2026	Chatham Islands	ZL7IO	LoTW	By ZL3IO; 160-10m; CW SSB digital
26/05/2026	02/06/2026	Martinique	TO3E	LoTW	By AB2E at FM5BH; CQ WPX CW Contest
26/05/2026	06/06/2026	Bolivia	CP7DX	Club Log OQRS	By LU1FM and team from Tarija; 160-2m incl 60m; CW SSB FT8
27/05/2026	31/05/2026	Palau	T88PB	LoTW	By JA0JHQ; CQ WPX CW Contest
27/05/2026	08/06/2026	Bonaire	PJ4CB	WA7RAR Direct	By WA7RAR from various Bonaire locations; SSB CW
28/05/2026	01/06/2026	Maldives	8Q7QR	JJ1DQR	By JJ1DQR; HF; holiday style operation
01/06/2026	14/06/2026	Lord Howe Island	VJ1L	LoTW	By 7 operators; 40-10m perhaps 80m; CW FT8 SSB
03/06/2026	12/06/2026	Tanzania	5H1KB	LoTW	By DL2SBY from Zanzibar Island; focus on 6m
08/06/2026	07/07/2026	Tanzania	5H3DX	LoTW	By NK8O from Dodoma; 40-6m; CW FT8 FT4
10/06/2026	18/06/2026	Palau	T88AR	LoTW	By JA6UBY from Koror; 160-6m; FT8 FT4 SSB FM
10/06/2026	24/06/2026	St Martin	FS	LoTW	By K9EL as FS/K9EL; 80-6m focus on 6m; CW FT8

Data courtesy of Ng3K.com DX Operations : 2026

LOCAL REPEATERS/GATEWAYS

GB3XM – UHF DMR Repeater - Brayford

TX 439.5625 MHz RX 430.5625

Colour code 1, Slot 1 Talkgroup 9 local and direct dial, Slot 2 South West Cluster

GB7MX – VHF FM Tiverton (QRP, Solar powered)

TX 145.075, RX 145.575, Tone 77Hz – Keeper Steve M0ZZT

GB7MZ UHF DMR Repeater - Tiverton, (daylight hours solar powered)

TX 439.5625 MHz RX 430.5625

Colour code 1, Slot 1 Bradmeister Talkgroup 91. Keeper Steve M0ZZT

GB3ND UHF DMR Repeater - Holsworthy Beacon TX 439.7375 RX 430.7375 Colour code 1

Slot 1 local RF, Slot 2 SW Cluster Keeper G1BHM

GB3DN VHF FM/C4FM Repeater - Stibb Cross

Tone 77Hz (for analogue FM) TX 145.6375 RX 145.0375, Default Digital Connection : Wires-X Southern Fusion <http://www.g0rql.co.uk/gb3dn.htm>. Keeper Tony G1BHM

GB7FB UHF DMR Repeater - Bideford TX 439.475 RX 430.4750 Colour code 5 Slot 1 Local

RF/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster . Keeper Drew M0MFS

GB3LZ VHF FM/C4FM Repeater - Winkleigh

Tone 77Hz (for analogue FM) TX 145.6625 RX 145.0625, Digital Connection :

Wires-X SOUTHERN ENGLAND. Keeper Phil G6DLJ

GB7LZ UHF DMR Repeater - Winkleigh

TX 430.9125 RX 438.5125 Colour code 1, Slot 1 Talkgroup 9 local and direct dial, Slot 2 South West Cluster. Keeper G4MQQ

MB6DT VHF Fusion Gateway - Barnstaple

Frequency 144.8125 MHz. Gateway. Keeper Darren (2E0LVC)

GB7TG - UHF DMR Repeater - Wembworthy

TX 430.9750 RX 438.5750 Colour Code 7, Default Connection : Slot 1 Local/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster Keeper G7SOJ

GB3NX VHF FM Allstar Holsworthy Beacon TX 145.7375 RX 144.1375. CTCSS tone 77hz Connection SW AllStar network (SWAN). Wires-X default room: Southern-Fusion, Keeper G1BHM

GB7BU (was GB3BU)- UHF DMR Repeater - Bude

TX 430.9625 RX 438.5625 Colour Code 1

Default Connection: Slot 1 Local/DoD Slot 2 SW Cluster Keeper G1BHM

GB3JH – UHF Analogue Repeater – Tiverton

TX 430.8625 RX 438.4625, Tone 77Hz – Keeper G6ASK

GB3MD – UHF Analogue Repeater – Coldridge, Mid Devon

TX 430.850 RX 438.450, Tone 77Hz – Keeper G4PKZ

South West All Star Network (SWAN HUB)

Frequencies are those transmitted and received by the Repeater .

POTACat

The Problem: The “Manual Fatigue” of Modern Hunting

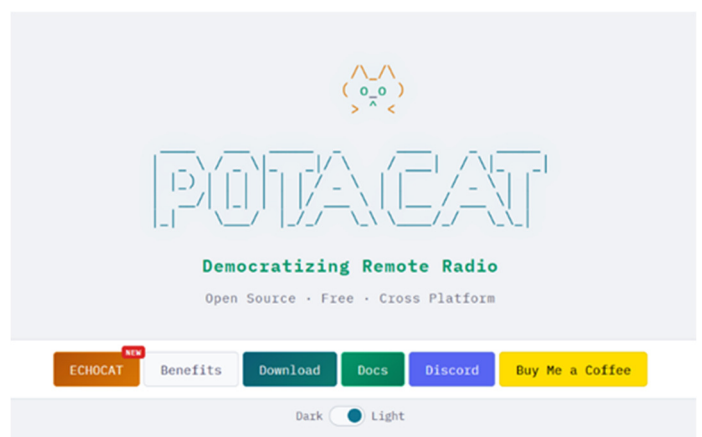
Before POTACat, a typical POTA hunter’s workflow was often fragmented. An operator would keep the POTA.app website open in a browser to monitor live spots. When a desired park or callsign appeared, the operator had to manually spin the VFO (Variable Frequency Oscillator) knob on their radio to the correct frequency, change the mode (SSB, CW, or Digital), and perhaps check a separate map to see whether the signal path was viable.

By the time the radio was tuned, the activator might have moved on, or a “pile-up” of other hunters might already have formed. This manual process, while traditional, can be exhausting during high-activity periods. POTACat was born from a simple desire: to make the hunt as fluid and instantaneous as the digital data that powers it.

The Core Innovation: One-Click CAT Control

The “CAT” in POTACat stands for CAT Control (Computer-Aided Transceiver). This is the heart of the application. By integrating with established libraries such as Hamlib, OmniRig, flrig, and direct FlexRadio APIs, POTACat can communicate with hundreds of different radio models.

When you see a spot on your screen—whether it’s a rare DX station in the South Pacific or a friend



activating a local state park—you simply click it. Instantly, your radio jumps to the exact frequency and switches to the correct mode. If you are a CW (Morse code) operator, the software even accounts for XIT offsets. This “1-Click QSY” (frequency change) functionality levels the playing field, allowing operators to move through dozens of spots in a fraction of the time it would take to tune manually.

A Unified Dashboard of the Airwaves

POTACat is more than just a tuning tool; it is a powerful data aggregator. While its name highlights POTA, the application actually pulls real-time data from seven distinct sources:

- **POTA (Parks on the Air):** Live activator spots updated every 30 seconds.
- **SOTA (Summits on the Air):** Spots for operators on mountain peaks, including summit coordinates and elevation data.
- **DX Cluster:** Traditional Telnet streams from global networks such as AR-Cluster.
- **RBN (Reverse Beacon Network):** A global network of “skimmers” that hear your CW or digital signals and report your signal-to-noise ratio (SNR).
- **PSKReporter:** Real-time digital-mode spots, including FreeDV digital voice.
- **WSJT-X:** Direct integration with the popular digital-mode software to show decodes directly in the POTACat table.
- **DX Expeditions:** High-priority pins for rare stations currently on the air.

By centralizing these sources into a single, filterable interface, POTACat eliminates the need to juggle multiple browser tabs and specialized software.

Visual Intelligence: Maps and Filtering

A key feature of POTACat is its use of the Leaflet mapping engine. Operators can choose between a list-based Table View and a Map View—or use a split view to see both.

The map provides instant geographic context. Spots are color-coded by source (for example, orange for SOTA and green for POTA), and users can see a “Grayline” overlay to understand how solar conditions might affect propagation. For the dedicated hunter, the filtering options are highly precise. You can hide parks you have already worked, filter by specific bands (160m through 6m), or set up a Watchlist. If a specific friend or a rare park “entity” comes on the air, POTACat will send a desktop notification, ensuring that you never miss a high-value contact.

Breaking the Shack’s Walls: ECHOCAT and Remote Operation

Perhaps the most futuristic aspect of POTACat is its remote capability, dubbed ECHOCAT. Using a self-hosted browser interface and secure networking tools such as the free Tailscale, POTACat allows operators to control their home HF (High Frequency) station from a smartphone or tablet.

This is not just about changing frequency. ECHOCAT enables full-duplex audio, meaning you can hear the radio and transmit your voice (PTT) directly through your phone’s microphone. It includes a virtual VFO dial and a digital keypad. For operators with young children, demanding jobs, or frequent travel commitments, this feature turns the home station into a global resource accessible from anywhere with a cellular signal.

Seamless Logging and Workflow

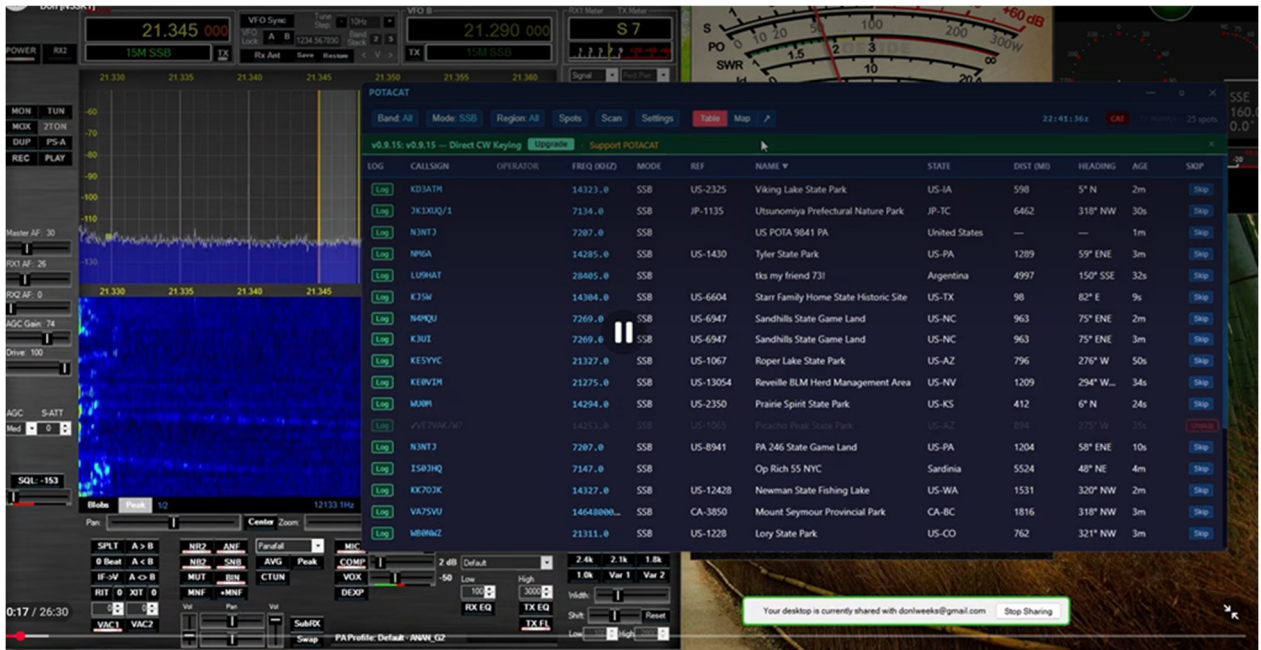
Log contacts without leaving the app. Every QSO is saved locally and can be forwarded to your favorite logging program in real time. POTACat also includes a built-in logger that saves contacts in the industry-standard ADIF format. However, recognizing that most hams have a preferred logging program, the developer built deep integrations with popular suites such as Log4OM, N3FJP, and Ham Radio Deluxe.

When a contact is made in POTACat, it can be automatically forwarded to these external logbooks.

This ensures that your award progress and historical records remain synchronized without any manual data entry.

- **Log dialog:** Pre-filled callsign, frequency, mode, park/summit reference, date, time, power, and RST fields.
- **ADIF file:** Every QSO is saved to a local ADIF file as a built-in backup.

- **Log4OM2:** Automatic forwarding via UDP.
- **DXKeeper:** Direct integration for the DXKeeper logbook.
- **Ham Radio Deluxe:** QSO forwarding via UDP.
- **N3FJP:** QSO forwarding via TCP.
- **Recent QSOs:** View your session's contacts in a scrollable list with re-spot support.



POTACat - Hunter Mode - v1.5.3

Band: All Mode: All Spots Scan Settings Logbook Table Map More VFO 12:58:39z CAT 25 spots

v1.5.18: v1.5.18 Upgrade Support POTACat

CALLSIGN	OPERATOR	FREQ (KHZ)	MODE	SOURCE	REF	NAME	STATE	DIST (MI)	AGE	SKIP	HIDE
W8TMI	Timothy	7038.0	CW	POTA	US-9409	Goll Woods State Nature P...	US-OH	3695	2m	Skip	Hide
AISP	Richard	7289.0	SSB	POTA	US-8508	Big Creek State Conservati...	US-MO	4083	35s	Skip	Hide
AD2MM	Vince	7029.5	CW	POTA	US-8081	Floyd Bennett Field Nation...	US-NY	3310	2m	Skip	Hide
K5LD	Walter	14075.0	FT8	POTA	US-6636	Brownstown Prairie State ...	US-MI	3626	25s	Skip	Hide
K61A	Thomas	7051.0	CW	POTA	US-6305	Guana River Wildlife Mana...	US-FL	4105	57s	Skip	Hide
KO4VYT	Jennifer	14082.0	FT4	POTA	US-3617	Estero Bay Preserve State P...	US-FL	4303	2m	Skip	Hide
KL7NL	Robert	7052.5	CW	POTA	US-2738	Jones Lake State Park	US-NC	3768	1m	Skip	Hide
KK1X	John	14076.0	FT8	POTA	US-2435	Great Brook Farm State Park	US-MA	3123	25s	Skip	Hide
K2MJP	Matthew	7056.5	CW	POTA	US-2153	Valley Stream State Park	US-NY	3297	11s	Skip	Hide
K2JVB	David	7054.0	CW	POTA	US-2014	Bethpage State Park	US-NY	3285	2m	Skip	Hide
K2EAG	Matthew	14044.0	CW	POTA	US-1943	Cowan Lake State Park	US-OH	3774	21s	Skip	Hide
W1EKU	Mark	14308.0	SSB	POTA	US-1909	Oscar Scherer State Park	US-FL	4293	3m	Skip	Hide
NZ1J	David	7205.0	SSB	POTA	US-1728	Wharton Brook State Park	US-CT	3231	2m	Skip	Hide
KC1STF	Julian	7205.0	SSB	POTA	US-1728	Wharton Brook State Park	US-CT	3231	1m	Skip	Hide
WA1VEI	Paul	7058.0	CW	POTA	US-1385	Milton State Park	US-PA	3414	24s	Skip	Hide

Built by the Community, for the Community

As a free and open-source project hosted on GitHub, POTACat represents the “hacker” spirit of amateur radio. The lead developer, K3SBP, is remarkably active in the community, often releasing “quality-of-life” updates based on user feedback within hours of a request.

The software is built using Electron, which allows it to run natively on Windows, macOS, and Linux. This cross-platform support is critical in a hobby where many users have moved away from Windows in favor of lightweight Linux distributions such as Raspberry Pi OS.

The Future of Portable Operations

POTACat is more than just a software utility; it is a sign of where amateur radio is headed. As the hobby becomes more data-driven and mobile, tools that reduce friction and increase efficiency become indispensable. By combining rig control, spot aggregation, mapping, and remote operation into a single elegant package, POTACat has set a new standard for what radio software can be.

Whether you are a “Big Gun” hunter with a multi-element beam antenna or a QRP enthusiast trying to snag a park contact from a park bench, POTACat provides the situational awareness and speed needed to succeed. In the world of Parks on the Air, where the next great contact is always just one click away, POTACat is the ultimate companion for the modern radio operator.

For more information, to download the app, or to view the source code, visit [POTACat Official Website](#).

To see a video demonstration: [YouTube Demonstration Video](#)

~ John VE7TI

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