

Summits on the Air

Belgium (ON)

Association Reference Manual



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Association Manager	Johan Smet, ON5EX
Summits-on-the-Air	an original concept by G3WGV and developed with G3CWI

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1 Change Control

Date	Version	Details
01-Jun-07	1.0	First formal issue of this document
01-Jan-09	2.0	Modifications reflecting P100 prominence rule: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- change of name, coordinates and height for ON/ON-001 and ON/ON-004- deletion of ON/ON-002, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8- addition of ON/ON009 to 22

2 Association Reference Data

Association	Belgium (ON)
Commencement date	01 July 2007
Regions	Belgium (ON-xxx)
Association parameters ¹	
Summit operation criteria	Operation must be within 25m vertically of the summit
Band 1, score 1 point	<300m ASL
Band 2, score 2 points	>=300m ASL, <500m ASL
Band 3, score 4 points	>=400m ASL, <500m ASL
Band 4, score 6 points	>=500m ASL, <600m ASL
Band 5, score 8 points	>=600m ASL
Seasonal bonus	Yes
Bonus rationale	Winter period with highest probability of sub-zero temperatures and deep snow
Min. height for bonus	3 Points for activations >=500m ASL
Bonus period dates	1 December to 15 March inclusive
Association sponsored awards	None
Association Manager	Johan Smet, ON5EX, on5ex@on5ex.be

2.1 Programme derivation

SOTA Belgium is an extension of similar programmes already active in other countries. In a manner similar to the Marilyn programme of Great Britain, it considers the *relative* height of summits compared to their surroundings (“prominence”) and defines a minimum of 100 m climb from the surrounding cols in order to qualify.

With so few qualifying summits in Belgium, the summit database is likely to be complete. However, there is always the possibility of error, so activators are asked to submit details of any proposed additional summits to the association manager on5ex@on5ex.be, together with any supporting documentation. If the summit meets the SOTA criteria it will be added to the list. Summits cannot be counted for points until a reference number has been allocated by the association manager. The same address should be used for any other proposed amendments.

2.2 General information

Belgium is a generally low-lying country with its highest terrain in the eastern part of the country. Compared to its larger neighbours to the south and east, its hills are smaller and less challenging, and are ideally suited to relaxing expeditions on foot or by bicycle.

2.3 Rights of way and access issues

Some summits may not have public access. In this case, it is essential that the landowner’s permission be obtained before attempting activation.

¹ See General Rules for parameter definitions

2.4 Maps and navigation

The definitive maps for hill walking in Belgium are published by the Nationaal Geografisch Instituut (NGI) or Institut Géographique National (IGN). They are widely available in shops throughout Belgium, or can be ordered on-line from the website at <http://www.ngi.be/> . They are also available on CD-ROM.

Generally, navigation on the Belgian summits is not difficult, at least if you stick to the paths and the weather remains fine. It is, however, easy to get disoriented, especially in the more forested areas and during adverse weather conditions. Only the foolhardy will venture there without a compass and the knowledge to use it. A GPS is not an adequate substitute.

2.5 Safety considerations

It is worth remembering that all hills can be inhospitable places in inclement weather at any time of year. Despite Belgium's summits never being far from road access, you should always be prepared for a possible deterioration in the weather and dress accordingly.

Mobile phone coverage is generally good throughout Belgium, but, especially in the more sparsely populated areas of the Ardennes, there may be certain areas without coverage. Nevertheless, if you have a mobile phone, it is worth taking it with you.

2.6 Disclaimer

Hiking, hill-walking and rock-climbing are potentially dangerous activities. The SOTA Management Team and their associates assume no responsibility for accidents. Each participant does so at his or her own risk, and must decide, on the basis of their own ability, whether an objective is achievable. The listing of a summit in the reference does not mean that it is easy to reach, and it is always worth seeking local advice for all but the simplest of expeditions.

3 Summit Reference Data

3.1 Region Reference – Belgium

Association	Belgium (ON)
Region	Belgium (ON-xxx)
Region manager	Refer to Association Manager, Johan Smet, on5ex@on5ex.be

3.1.1 Regional notes

The coastal plain of Flanders consists mainly of sand dunes and polders. These are areas of land, close to or below sea level that have been reclaimed from the sea, from which they are protected by dikes or, further inland, by fields that have been drained with canals. Such a landscape does not sound very hopeful for SOTA summits, but one prominent hill achieves the required stature.

The Ardennes is a region of extensive forests and rolling hill country, stretching from France, through Belgium, and into Luxembourg. It continues into Germany, where it is known as the Eifel mountain range. The region is typified by steep-sided valleys carved by fast-flowing rivers, the most prominent of which is the Meuse. Its principal cities, Liège and Namur, are both in the Meuse valley, but otherwise the Ardennes is a relatively sparsely populated region. The scenic beauty of the region and its wide variety of outdoor activities, including cycling, walking, skiing and canoeing, combine to make it an important tourist destination all year round.

3.1.2 Table of summits

SOTA	Alt (m)	Summit name	Latitude	Longitude	Lat. Decimal	Long. Decimal	WWLoc.	Valid from	Valid until	Points
ON-001	684	Petite Hesse	50 30 27 N	06 05 17 E	50.5075	6.0881	JO30BM	1/07/2007		8
ON-002	674	Baraque Michel	50 31 07 N	06 03 45 E	50.5186	6.0625	JO30AM	1/07/2007	31/12/2008	8
ON-003	652	Baraque de Fraiture	50 15 00 N	05 43 35 E	50.2500	5.7264	JO20UG	1/07/2007	31/12/2008	8
ON-004	581	Au Chemin de Ste-Ode	50 01 54 N	05 25 30 E	50.0317	5.4250	JO20RA	1/07/2007		6
ON-005	569	Recongne-Bastogne	50 02 37 N	05 43 35 E	50.0437	5.7264	JO20UB	1/07/2007	31/12/2008	6
ON-006	505	Croix Scaille	49 57 02 N	04 50 38 E	49.9506	4.8439	JN29KW	1/07/2007	31/12/2008	6
ON-007	400	Preusswald	50 44 39 N	06 02 06 E	50.7442	6.0350	JO30AR	1/07/2007	31/12/2008	4
ON-008	159	Kemmelberg	50 46 45 N	02 48 47 E	50.7792	2.8131	JO10JS	1/07/2007	31/12/2008	1
ON-009	690	Iverst	50 24 28 N	06 22 05 E	50.4078	6.3681	JO30EJ	1/01/2009		8
ON-010	646	Fraiture	50 15 03 N	05 45 52 E	50.2508	5.7311	JO20VG	1/01/2009		8
ON-011	587	Bois de Reuland	50 19 51 N	05 58 41 E	50.3308	5.9781	JO20XH	1/01/2009		6
ON-012	587	Wolfsbusch	50 21 30 N	06 05 42 E	50.3583	6.0950	JO30BI	1/01/2009		6
ON-013	561	Bois de Hodinfosse	50 19 08 N	05 51 00 E	50.3189	5.8500	JO20WH	1/01/2009		6
ON-014	509	Fagne d'Erria	50 20 46 N	05 46 26 E	50.3461	5.7739	JO20VI	1/01/2009		6
ON-015	450	Hatzebiert	49 39 45 N	05 47 02 E	49.6625	5.7839	JN29VP	1/01/2009		4
ON-016	429	La Croix du Soldat	49 46 12 N	05 12 10 E	49.7700	5.2028	JN29OS	1/01/2009		4
ON-017	400	Boix Haut	49 32 42 N	05 44 39 E	49.5450	5.7442	JN29UN	1/01/2009		4
ON-018	383	A la Plate	50 19 06 N	05 32 12 E	50.3183	5.5367	JO20SH	1/01/2009		2
ON-019	354	Bois de On	50 09 30 N	05 17 32 E	50.1592	5.2914	JO20PD	1/01/2009		2
ON-020	331	Bois de Viné	50 22 33 N	05 25 54 E	50.3758	5.4317	JO20RJ	1/01/2009		2
ON-021	301	Plantis de Mesnil	50 10 41 N	04 54 42 E	50.1781	4.9117	JO20KE	1/01/2009		2
ON-022	150	Hotondberg	50 45 36 N	03 34 23 E	50.7600	3.5731	JO10SS	1/01/2009		1