



Ohio State Parks On The Air



~ OSPOTA ~ Official Contest Rules

Purpose

To promote public awareness of ham radio and Ohio's beautiful state park system; to contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology; to promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio's Amateur Radio Operators; and to encourage contact with other Amateur Radio Operators around the state, country, and world.

Objective

To have competing stations operating from as many of Ohio's seventy-four state parks as possible. Making contacts from an Ohio State Park to other Ohio State Parks is the goal all stations should strive for. Note: Non-Ohio stations may work only Ohio stations located in an Ohio State Park; Ohio stations not located in an Ohio State Park may only contact stations operating from inside an Ohio State Park.

Contest Period

First Saturday after the Labor Day holiday - 1400 UTC to 2200 UTC (10 am - 6 pm ET). Eight hours.

Contest Dates

12th OSPOTA - September 7, 2019 13th OSPOTA - September 12, 2020 14th OSPOTA - September 11, 2021
15th OSPOTA - September 10, 2022 16th OSPOTA - September 9, 2023 17th OSPOTA - September 7, 2024
18th OSPOTA - September 6, 2025 19th OSPOTA - September 11, 2026 20th OSPOTA - September 11, 2027
Always the first Saturday after the Labor Day Holiday.

Modes and Bands

- Modes of Operation: SSB.
- Amateur Radio Bands: **80, 40, 20, 15 and 10** meters.
- Please honor all band plans. All contacts must be in the Phone portion of the bands.
- Stations may be worked once on each band.

Suggested Frequencies

These are only *suggested* frequencies. Operators should use good amateur radio practices and be considerate of others - do not cause interference.

| Band (Meters) | Phone (MHz) |
|---------------|-------------|
| 80 | 3.825 |
| 40 | 7.200 |
| 20 | 14.250 |
| 15 | 21.300 |
| 10 | 28.450 |

Entry Categories

- MML - Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter Low Power (.1 to 100 watts) located at one Ohio State Park
- MMH - Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter High Power (>100 watts) located at one Ohio State Park
- MSL - Multi-Op Single-Transmitter Low Power (.1 to 100 watts) located at one Ohio State Park
- MSH - Multi-Op Single-Transmitter High Power (>100 watts) located at one Ohio State Park
- SL - Single Operator Low Power (.1 to 100 watts) located at one Ohio State Park
- SH - Single Operator High Power (>100 watts) located at one Ohio State Park
- INOH - Operator (Single or Multi) inside Ohio not at an Ohio State Park (low or high power)
- OUT - Operator (Single or Multi) outside of Ohio (low or high power)

Reminder: Low Power = .1 to 100 watts High Power = Greater than 100 watts

Entry Category Definitions:

Single Operator Entry: One person (one call sign) performs all operating and logging functions. Only one transmitted signal is permitted on the air at any time.

Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter Entry: Entries where more than one person performs the operating and/or logging functions using more than one transmitter. Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter entries may employ multiple transmitters simultaneously on different bands. One call sign used.

Multi-Op Single-Transmitter Entry: Entries where one or more persons perform the operating and/or logging functions using only one transmitter. One call sign used.

New Ohio State Park or Deleted Ohio State Park

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) may add or delete Ohio State Parks at anytime during the year. For the purposes of this contest, use the OSPOTA State Park Identifier List as the official Ohio State Park List. Check the OSPOTA IO Group, Facebook Groups or OSPOTA web site for up-to-date information. If an Ohio State Park is deleted or closed for some reason by ODNR, delete it from the OSPOTA Identifier List. This has to be done since access to the property may not be possible. If an Ohio State Park is added by ODNR, **DO NOT** add it to the OSPOTA Identifier list. The new Ohio State Park (or re-opened State Park) will not be recognized as part of the OSPOTA contest until the following year. This will ensure long term planning is not disrupted for contestants.

Exchange

- Stations operating from an Ohio State Park send their call sign and their Ohio State Park Identifier.
Example: "K8BF, ADA"
- Ohio stations NOT operating from an Ohio State Park send their call sign and "Ohio".
Example: "K8BF, Ohio"
- Non Ohio W/VE stations send their call sign and State or Province.
Example: "KD4BF, Georgia" or "VE3BF, Ontario"
- DX stations outside of W/VE (including KH6/KL7) send call sign and "DX".
Example: "KL7BF, DX"



Location

All contest stations **must** be **inside the actual boundary of the Ohio State Park** they are reporting to be transmitting from. You cannot pull off of the highway *near* an Ohio State Park and claim to be in the Ohio State Park. The only exceptions to this rule are the *Island Ohio State Park and Little Miami State Parks*.

Island Ohio State Parks

Island Ohio State Parks are: Kellys Island (KEL), South Bass Island (SBI), Oak Point (OPT), Middle Bass Island (MBI) and North Bass Island (NBI). [SBI & OPT are both located on South Bass Island].

Catawba Island is not an island, it is a peninsula - there is a main highway physically connecting it to the mainland.

Because of the property limitations, complication getting to/from one of the islands and special circumstances regarding operations from an Island Ohio State Park, anyone on an Island Ohio State Park located on one of the Ohio islands (The islands are: South Bass, Middle Bass, North Bass and Kellys) operating a **portable** station (not a fixed station) may claim they are on one Island Ohio State Park even if they are outside of the actual boundary area for that Island Ohio State Park (but *on* that island or tied to dock next to the island). Operating from a boat that is physically tied up to a pier on the island **is** allowed. Being anchored off shore, with no physical connection to the island is **not** allowed.

For example: I have a portable set up next to the airport hangar on North Bass Island - I can claim that I am inside North Bass Island Ohio State Park for this contest.

Another example: I am operating on South Bass Island, I can claim to be in either one (only one) of the two Ohio State Parks that are on South Bass Island (South Bass Island - SBI or Oak Point - OPT) for this contest. If I want to operate half the contest in SBI and half the contest in OPT, I can do that as two separate entries. I cannot make contacts claiming to be in one, then the other, then the other, etc. There has to be a complete split of the operations in this case. If you have questions on this exception, contact the contest chairman before the contest to get further instructions.

Little Miami State Park

Little Miami State Park - which if you look at it, it is nothing more than a l-o-n-g trail (about 75 miles). Unlike the 'traditional' Ohio State Park, there are no camp grounds. HOWEVER, in speaking with ODNR, the access points that have a parking lot - which is also owned by Ohio - the parking lot would be considered part of the Little Miami State Park for OSPOTA. Take a look at the Little Miami State Park Map - you'll find all the maps in the files section of the OSPOTA IO group - look for the car symbol which is next to a picnic table symbol - there are 9 of them to choose from.

Scoring

- QSO POINTS - Each complete non-duplicate contact is worth one point.
- MULTIPLIERS - Multipliers are the 75 Ohio State Parks (1 per park = 75 maximum).
- FINAL SCORE - Multiply QSO points by the total number of multipliers.
- **GRAND TOTAL - You can ADD 25 points (added after the above scoring) if you submitted your log in Cabrillo format (not a copy, or a picture of the Cabrillo log, but the actual log file). No ADIF, no CVS, no Text files - send in a standard Cabrillo file only. You still need a Summary Sheet included, even with a Cabrillo file.**
- Files from word processing, spreadsheet programs or "bin" type logging program files are not valid or usable.
- Any electronic file that is not submitted in required format will not be eligible for competition and awards.
- A paper printout for a log that has been generated by a computer in lieu of the actual data file in the required format is not an acceptable substitute.
- Paper logs that are entered into a logging program or computer after the contest are considered electronic logs and must be submitted via e-mail.
- **Note:** Starting in 2020 - ONLY Cabrillo logs will be accepted - no more paper logs can be submitted. The scoring mechanism requires only Cabrillo logs.



Example:

K8BF operating from Punderson State Park (PUN) -
10 contacts on 80 meters, 15 contacts on 40 meters, 12 contacts on 15 meters, Total Contacts = 37,
Number of different Ohio State Parks contacted = 10, Total score = 10 x 37 = 370, submitted with Cabrillo file +25 points, so Grand Total would be 395 points.

Miscellaneous

- **Call signs and exchange information** must be received, confirmed **and logged** by both stations for a complete contest QSO.
- No cross-mode contacts and no credit for contacts made through repeaters or satellites.
- Please honor all band plans. All contacts must be in Phone (SSB) and in the Phone portion of the bands.
- No station may claim simultaneous operation of the same call sign in more than one Ohio State Park, State, Province or Country at the same time.
- No individual shall make a QSO utilizing more than one call sign.
- Stations inside an Ohio State Park must make a minimum of **four** contacts. Three of the four contacts being made to three other (different from where you are transmitting from) Ohio State Park stations. This gives others the opportunity to contact your Ohio State Park.
- Multi-Operator entries may only use one call sign during the contest.
- A scoring summary sheet **MUST** be included with all logs. *Example: If you operate at two different Ohio State Parks during the contest, you will need two summary sheets and two logs.*
- Contacts made with captive stations do not support the stated purpose of OSPOTA and will not be counted. This includes contacts made with other passengers in a mobile, as well as so-called “California Train operations”, wherein a group of mobiles travel together for purposes of making contacts within the group.
- Soliciting for contacts is encouraged to promote more contacts being made during the contest. You can ask a station to meet you on a different band in order to make an additional contact. You should not self-spot on a cluster or spotting network, but you can ask another ham operator that is not in your group to spot you.
- Use of spotting networks is allowed. Since the use of mobile smart phones and wi-fi in Ohio State Parks is now commonplace, looking up spots on clusters is easy to do. This will encourage additional contacts for everyone during the contest.
- Remote operations are not allowed. Remote operations are defined as an operator having a transmitter at one location (example: in a State Park) and is controlling it remotely from another location (example: outside the State Park). Or an operator has a receiver in a different location than the transmitter where the operator is located. For this contest the operator, transmitter and receiver must be in the same location.
- If you are multi-op, you can get assistance from other humans in your operation. We encourage the monitoring of packet or spotting systems during the contest so additional awareness of the contest can be made to encourage participation during the contest.
- Cheating isn't allowed. This includes operating more than 8 hours and trying to make it look like you operated only 8. It means running more power than you are supposed to in your category. Using other means such as QRZ.COM to fill in those missing or questionable call signs is not allowed. **This is a RADIO contest and you should put in your log what you heard during the contest - not what you found on the internet afterwards.**
- Decisions of the Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest Committee are final.



Reporting

- A scoring summary sheet **MUST** be included with all logs (mailed in entries, or e-mailed entries LOGS@ospota.org) showing entrant's call sign, operating location, mailing address, and claimed score. **One entry sheet per Ohio State Park.** Example: If you activate three Ohio State Parks, send in three Summary Sheets and three Logs. All entries must use the official OSPOTA park identifiers for logging and the received exchange from Ohio stations.
- Logs must clearly indicate **UTC time** (*not local time*), Band, Mode, Call Sign Contacted, State/Province/DX, or Ohio State Park Identifier received for all QSOs as applicable.
- Cabrillo files are encouraged to be used for log submissions. Eventually this contest will switch away from paper logging when log checking software becomes readily available. So now is the time to get and use computer logging and reporting. A Summary Sheet will still be required.
- **LOGS MUST BE LEGIBLE TO BE SCORED.** Any incomplete, illegible or otherwise unable to be scored logs will be considered as check logs at the discretion of the Ohio State Parks On The Air contest committee.

- Paper logs must be sent to the address listed below and must be postmarked no later than 14 days after the end of the contest. Mailed entries must include both the completed **summary sheet** and the logs. Logs arriving after the 14 day entry window will be considered check logs.
- E-mailed logs with a completed **summary sheet** (summary text file) may be sent to LOGS@ospota.org and must be sent in no later than 14 days after the end of the contest. Logs arriving after the 14 day entry window will be considered check logs.
- Paper entry forms and operating aids (rules, summary sheet, test file summary sheet, log sheet, Ohio State Park identifiers and other information) are available for downloading in PDF format from the: Ohio State Parks On The Air web site at: www.ospota.org or from the OSPOTA IO Site at: <https://groups.io/g/OSPOTA>
- Final results will be posted on the OSPOTA web site and the OSPOTA IO site.

Reasons Why Your Log May Be Considered a ‘Checklog’

- No Summary Sheet included with entry - or it is filled out incorrectly
- Not Legible - If the judges cannot read your writing, we can't verify your entry
- Log sheet(s) missing - UTC times not listed - exchanges missing
- Log/Summary sheet arrive past the due date



If you have any questions, please contact the OSPOTA team by e-mail: info@ospota.org

Awards

Framed Certificates will be awarded to:

- 1st place - in each of the entry categories
(Overall High Score entry will also be noted on the top winner's certificate)

Certificates will be awarded to:

- 2nd and 3rd place - in each of the entry categories

Additional prizes or certificates may be awarded. For the latest information or updates check the Ohio State Parks On The Air website: www.OSPOTA.org or the OSPOTA IO site: <https://groups.io/g/OSPOTA>

Logs must be postmarked or emailed no later than 14 days after the contest.

Ensure your log is legible, complete and you have also attached the OSPOTA Summary Sheet.

Mailing Address for Paper Logs with Summary Sheet:



Ohio State Parks On The Air
c/o Tom Parkinson - KB8UUZ
9992 State Route 700
Mantua, OH 44255



Cabrillo Log with Summary Sheet may be E-mailed to: LOGS@ospota.org

More information about this event can be found at the Ohio State Parks On The Air web site: www.OSPOTA.org

Any questions? E-mail: INFO@OSPOTA.org

