

Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc.



## Ohio State Parks On The Air



### Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest - September 7, 2019

The 2019 Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest is in the history books. The logs have been received and reviewed and the results are out.

**2019 was the 12th annual OSPOTA !!**



**First - On behalf of the OSPOTA contest committee:  
CONGRATULATIONS to the WINNERS !!**



**Second - CONGRATULATIONS to ALL that participated !!**

This year the weather was perfect and many hams got out to enjoy the good weather and have fun in an Ohio State Park with their favorite hobby - ham radio. The OSPOTA contest was fun for all that were out or in a radio room at home. Many stations were on the air and activity was fantastic. We had hoped for a lot of activity and all of the participants made it happen. Your efforts in setting up, getting on the air and making contacts are applauded.

Each year OSPOTA is growing and more amateur radio operators both in and out of Ohio State Parks are becoming involved. Let's keep that going in future years.

This particular contest is not only a fun event for most amateur radio operators, it helps to promote the adaptability of hams and to showcase their expertise in being able to set up a portable communications center to make contacts in any weather. OSPOTA is not just a fun contest, it's also a practical exercise to keep our gear ready when called upon to assist local services for communications during an emergency.

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service (PCARS) - located in Ravenna, Ohio is proud to sponsor this contest, and we thank **you** for your participation

Visit PCARS on the web at [www.PORTCARS.org](http://www.PORTCARS.org)

**We'll be looking for you again on September 12, 2020 for OSPOTA 2020 !!  
Until then - Take care & 73**

# Ohio State Parks On The Air



## Greetings to the 2019 OSPOTA (Ohio State Parks On The Air) Participants

From the Portage County Amateur Radio Club's OSPOTA Committee, we would like to extend our appreciation for your participation in the 12th annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest. You are now part of OSPOTA history and our hope is that it will be a long and rewarding one.

The OSPOTA contest was conceived with three main goals in mind: **1.** Promoting public awareness of ham radio and Ohio's beautiful State Park system; **2.** Contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology; and **3.** Promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio's Amateur Radio Operators. It has been with your participation that we believe those goals were achieved again this year.

To those of you who placed in the top three spots in each category, congratulations on your efforts. You deserve your awards for your operating skills. The turnout for OSPOTA was fantastic and we are counting on having everyone do even better in OSPOTA 2020.



So until September 12, 2020 - 73!

**Tom - KB8UUZ**, OSPOTA Chairman

**John - KD8MQ**, **Joe - W8KNO**,

**John - KB8UHN**, **Chuck - W8PT**

OSPOTA Committee Members



OSPOTA Web Site: <http://www.ospota.org>

OSPOTA is sponsored by the **Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)**

PCARS Web Site: <http://www.portcars.org>

**OSPOTA 2019 General Information:** Top score this year - **25,593**

**64** Parks activated   **11** Parks not activated   **9** Parks activated did not submit log   **95** Logs submitted  
**14** Out of state logs submitted   **37** Clubs represented   over **245** Hams took part this year

## 37 Clubs Represented

Ashtabula County Amateur Radio Club	Fulton County Amateur Radio Club	Pedestrian Amateur Radio Club
Athens County Amateur Radio Association	Hamilton Amateur Radio Club	Portage County Amateur Radio Service (9)
Bradley County DX Association	Highland Amateur Radio Association (5)	Portsmouth Radio Club
Cambridge Amateur Radio Association	Hocking Valley Amateur Radio Club	Richland County ARES Group
Central Ohio Operators Klub Extra-Novice	Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club (2)	Society of Midwest Contesters
Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society	Koomer Ridge Contesters	Steubenville-Weirton Amateur Radio Club
Dayton Amateur Radio Association	Lake County Amateur Radio Association	Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation
Defiance County Amateur Radio Club	Mad River Radio Club (2)	Swamp Fox Contest Group
DeForest Amateur Radio Club	Madison County Amateur Radio Club	The Champaign Logan Amateur Radio Club
Delaware Amateur Radio Club	Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association	Toledo Mobile Radio Association
Drake ARC Contest Group	Medina 2 Meter Group (3)	Warren Amateur Radio Association
Fayette Amateur Radio Association	Ohio Valley Experimenters Club	West Allis Radio Amateur Club
		West Chester Amateur Radio Association



## OSPOTA 2019 - Final Scores

### Overall High Score

**K8IV - 25,593**

### Multi Op-Multi Radio-Low Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
<b>K8IV</b>	<b>Punderson - PUN</b>	<b>25,593</b>
<b>WW8OH</b>	<b>Buckeye Lake - BKL</b>	<b>14,924</b>
<b>K8UU</b>	<b>Caesar Creek - CAE</b>	<b>9,776</b>
KE8RV	Madison Lake - MLK	9,325
N8BAP	Paint Creek - PTC	7,912
K8BXQ	Harrison Lake - HLK	4,825
W8H	Maumee Bay - MBY	4,433
K8HO	Rocky Fork - RFK	3,816
W8VP	Blue Rock - BLU	3,649
W8VTD	Mosquito Lake - MST	2,615
K8CY	Geneva - GEN	2,374
W8CWO	Jefferson Lake - JEF	2,356
K8LGN	Hocking Hills - HOC	1,658
W8QLY	Lake Milton - LML	1,359
K8GE	Adams Lake - ADA	1,234
N8QA	Shawnee - SHA	229
W8JFQ	Tinker's Creek - TCK	150
N8BC	Headlands Beach - HEA	7,855(CL)
K8EMD	Cowan Lake - COW	16 (CL)

### Multi Op-Single Radio-High Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
<b>KC8AAV</b>	<b>Burr Oak - BUR</b>	<b>11,248</b>
<b>W8O</b>	<b>Pymatuning - PYM</b>	<b>1,321</b>

### Multi Op-Single Radio-Low Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
<b>K8IYO</b>	<b>Pike Lake - PLK</b>	<b>8,015</b>
<b>N8TUW</b>	<b>Tar Hollow - TAR</b>	<b>6,361</b>
<b>W8UKE</b>	<b>Strouds Run - SRN</b>	<b>4,909</b>
W8AJT	Hueston Woods - HUE	3,469
K8PRC	West Branch - WBR	1,593
KD8CGH	Wingfoot Lake - WLK	1,417
WC8VOA	Little Miami - LMI	773
K8VON	Independence Dam - IDM	442
KD8LBS	Kellys Island - KEL	237
AC8QG	Guilford Lake - GLK	169
KC8WIT	Marblehead Lighthouse - MHD	4,752 (CL)
W8LTR	East Fork - EFK	57 (CL)

### Single Op-High Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
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*No entries in this category*

### Multi Op-Multi-Radio-High Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
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*No entries in this category*

**Framed Certificate**  
**Certificate**

(CL) = Check Log



### Single Op-Low Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
<b>WB8CPG</b>	<b>Delaware - DEL</b>	<b>12,961</b>
<b>KD8MQ</b>	<b>Mt. Gilead - MTG</b>	<b>10,931</b>
<b>WB8ERJ</b>	<b>Malabar Farm - MAL</b>	<b>10,204</b>
K8RGI	Oak Point - OPT	9,225
KY8U	Lake Loramie - LOR	7,956
KD8BBK	Salt Fork - SFK	5,545
K8FH	Findley - FIN	5,173
K8FAY	Deer Creek - DEE	4,993
K8MD	Middle Bass Island - MBI	4,865
K8RR	Beaver Creek - BEA	4,863
N8WCP	West Branch - WBR	4,569
KB8UEY	Pike Lake - PLK	3,961
KB8UHN	Guilford Lake - GLK	3,422
NF8O	Malabar Farm - MAL	3,268
AD8EC	Delaware - DEE	2,035
AE8U	East Fork - EFK	1,897
WA8RR	South Bass Island - SBI	1,221
K8RYU	Jesse Owens - JEO	1,117
K8RYU	Muskingum - MUS	876
KD8UPX	Shawnee - SHA	817
K8ZT	Nelson Kennedy Ledges - NKL	545
K8RYU	Dillon - DIL	445
W8KIW	Lake White - LWT	340
W8KIW	Lake Alma - LAL	289
W8KIW	Scioto Trail - STR	196
W8KIW	Lake Hope - LHO	120
W8FTV	Kiser Lake - KKL	48
NQ8T	East Harbor - EHB	40
W8YIH	West Branch - WBR	1,114 (CL)
AA8GP	Stonelick - STO	54 (CL)
KD8UZV	Shawnee - SHA	34 (CL)
K8KGX	Findley - FIN	29 (CL)
KD8UFE	Deer Creek - DEE	1 (CL)

### In Ohio - Not In Park

Call	Score
<b>W8GTS</b>	<b>1,773</b>
<b>W8TM</b>	<b>1,623</b>
<b>KB8UUZ</b>	<b>1,565</b>
WS6K	1,292
K8YLK	1,241
KE8BKP	825
W8BVH	775
W8BI	575
KF8O	531
W8EOT	508
WB8UWV	329
N8BD	250
N2OPW	175
W8KNO	99

### Outside Ohio

Call	State	Score
<b>N3CU</b>	<b>PA</b>	<b>2,665</b>
<b>N4EX</b>	<b>NC</b>	<b>1,480</b>
<b>WB9OWN</b>	<b>WI</b>	<b>1,145</b>
W9AV	WI	1,033
KA5VZG	TN	924
NA2X	NY	779
WB4HRL	SC	646
K9WPV	IN	553
KM4IAJ	VA	487
WG8Y	NC	445
K8GQ	WV	348
W4JUJ	TN	314
WA4JA	TN	110
W0YJT	KS	50







# Ohio State Parks On The Air



## Ohio State Parks Activated during the OSPOTA 2019

Ohio State Park	ID	2019
Adams Lake	ADA	X
Alum Creek	ALU	X
A. W. Marion	AWM	X
Barkcamp	BAR	
Beaver Creek	BEA	X
Blue Rock	BLU	X
Buck Creek	BCK	
Buckeye Lake	BKL	X
Burr Oak	BUR	X
Caesar Creek	CAE	X
Catawba Island	CAT	X
Cowan Lake	COW	X
Deer Creek	DEE	X
Delaware	DEL	X
Dillon	DIL	X
East Fork	EFK	X
East Harbor	EHB	X
Findley	FIN	X
Forked Run	FOR	
Geneva	GEN	X
Grand Lake St. Marys	GLM	
Great Seal	GSL	
Guilford Lake	GLK	X
Harrison Lake	HLK	X
Headlands Beach	HEA	X
Hocking Hills	HOC	X
Hueston Woods	HUE	X
Independence Dam	IDM	X
Indian Lake	ILK	X
Jackson Lake	JAC	
Jefferson Lake	JEF	X
John Bryan	JOB	X
Jesse Owens	JEO	X
Kelleys Island	KEL	X
Kiser Lake	KLK	X
Lake Alma	LAL	X
Lake Hope	LHO	X
Lake Logan	LOG	

Ohio State Park	ID	2019
Lake Loramie	LOR	X
Lake Milton	LML	X
Lake White	LWT	X
Little Miami	LMI	X
Madison Lake	MLK	X
Malabar Farm	MAL	X
Marblehead Lighthouse	MHD	X
Mary Jane Thurston	MJT	X
Maumee Bay	MBY	X
Middle Bass Island	MBI	X
Mohican	MOH	X
Mosquito Lake	MST	X
Mt. Gilead	MTG	X
Muskingum River	MUS	X
Nelson Kennedy Ledges	NKL	X
North Bass Island	NBI	X
Oak Point	OPT	X
Paint Creek	PTC	X
Pike Lake	PLK	X
Portage Lakes	POR	
Punderson	PUN	X
Pymatuning	PYM	X
Quail Hollow	QHL	X
Rocky Fork	RFK	X
Salt Fork	SFK	X
Scioto Trail	STR	X
Shawnee	SHA	X
South Bass Island	SBI	X
Stonelick	STO	X
Strouds Run	SRN	X
Sycamore	SYC	
Tar Hollow	TAR	X
Tinkers Creek	TCK	X
Van Buren	VAN	
West Branch	WBR	X
Wingfoot Lake	WLK	X
Wolf Run	WRN	



*Thanks goes out to all the ham radio operators and loggers that submitted logs for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest*

AA8GP	K8ZT	KD8LBS	KY8U	N8XWO	W8VTD
AB8KT	K9GE	KD8LHR	N1BCF	N8YFF	W8XDB
AB8P	K9WPV	KD8MQ	N2OPW	N8YWX	W8YIH
AB8YK	KA5VZG	KD8NZF	N3CU	N9GD	W8ZL
AC8QG	KA8IIM	KD8ORN	N3JJT	NA2X	W9AV
AC8RJ	KA8NZS	KD8PSB	N4EX	NA8CB	WA4JA
AC8VV	KA8STM	KD8QYV	N4GAB	NF6H	WA8RR
AC8WQ	KB3RCK	KD8RAP	N8BAP	NF8O	WA8UWV
AD8AG	KB8BKE	KD8RLA	N8BC	NO8F	WB4HRL
AD8AL	KB8DOT	KD8SKL	N8BD	NO8I	WB8CPG
AD8EC	KB8ELG	KD8SKZ	N8BEK	NQ8T	WB8ERJ
AE8AT	KB8EMD	KD8SRC	N8BUS	NX8J	WB8LCD
AE8U	KB8IUO	KD8TUR	N8CJ	W0YJT	WB8PHI
E23RFM	KB8JO	KD8TVP	N8CUB	W3HKK	WB8TCB
K1RQS	KB8JTJ	KD8UFE	N8CWU	W4JUJ	WB8YHD
K3GP	KB8MGI	KD8UPX	N8EWH	W5UHQ	WB8ZGH
K8BXQ	KB8OMG	KD8UVU	N8FAA	W8AJT	WB9OWN
K8CY	KB8UEY	KD8UZV	N8GD	W8ATA	WC8RK
K8FAY	KB8UHN	KD8VUY	N8GU	W8BI	WC8VOA
K8FEY	KB8USO	KD8VWF	N8HLP	W8BVH	WD8AIG
K8FH	KB8UUZ	KD8WRN	N8IDA	W8CWO	WD8DLB
K8GE	KC8AAV	KD8ZCH	N8IMW	W8DLB	WD8JLP
K8GQ	KC8KSM	KD8ZKE	N8JEN	W8EOT	WD8JVV
K8HO	KC8OKJ	KD8ZMG	N8JMK	W8FHF	WD8RIF
K8ITE	KC8QDQ	KE8BKP	N8KYX	W8FTV	WD8SAB
K8IV	KC8RYM	KE8BTT	N8ME	W8GTS	WD8SCV
K8IYO	KC8TFW	KE8BWQ	N8MIQ	W8H	WD8SDH
K8KGX	KC8VOA	KE8DUV	N8MRB	W8IWD	WE8N
K8LES	KC8WIT	KE8EAS	N8MWK	W8JFQ	WG8Y
K8LGN	KC8YDS	KE8EZN	N8NYI	W8KIW	WS6K
K8MD	KD8BBK	KE8IER	N8ORJ	W8KNO	WT8C
K8MSH	KD8CGH	KE8JEC	N8QA	W8LGX	WT8E
K8NQ	KD8DFL	KE8JUJ	N8SDR	W8LTR	WW8OH
K8PRC	KD8DZ	KE8JWE	N8SEG	W8MHV	WW8PR
K8QXO	KD8ENV	KE8KEK	N8SUZ	W8NET	WX8G
K8RGI	KD8FRQ	KE8KHK	N8TUW	W8O	
K8RR	KD8GEI	KE8LWP	N8TWM	W8PAB	
K8RYU	KD8GQW	KE8MWD	N8UAZ	W8QLY	
K8TDA	KD8KBU	KE8RV	N8UVM	W8TC	
K8UU	KD8KDT	KF8LE	N8WCP	W8TM	
K8WEH	KD8KNC	KF8O	N8WL	W8UKE	
K8YLK	KD8KZG	KM4IAJ	N8XMI	W8VP	



## OSPOTA 2019 Photos and Comments



# AC8QG



# K8FH



# K8IV



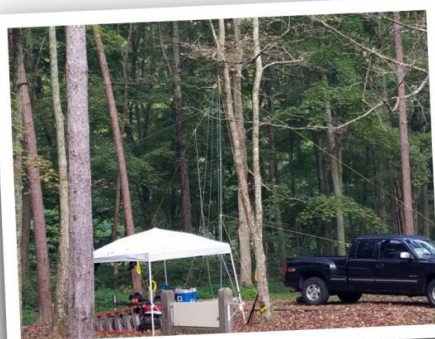




# K8RGI - Oak Point WA8RR - South Bass Island



Here are some pictures from K8RGI and WA8RR, Richard J. Robbins, activating South Bass Island and Oak Point State Parks. One picture shows some guests. They made such a mess that we had to rake our site before setting up our antennas and canopy. The weather was great and we both had a great time. Thank you for organizing this contest each year.

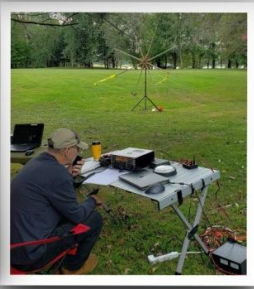


## KB8UEY



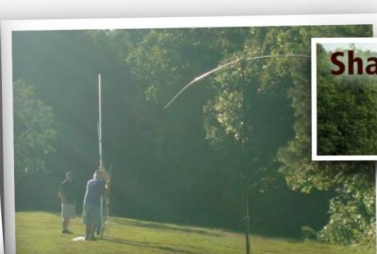
## W8QLY





# KD8CGH

Dale (NX8J) and I (KD8CGH) activated Wingfoot Lake Park. We are both ex Goodyear employees and had often visited the park when it was Goodyear's. We had a great day and enjoyed catching up on each other's lives. My wife Susan brought us sub sandwiches around noon and joined us for awhile. We used my Elecraft K3 and an LDG Z100 tuner. I built a 42' long W3EDP jr. that doesn't require radials. Running from 6' high up at about a 30 degree angle it tuned easily on 20, 40 and 80. Dale built a giant 10' diameter magnetic loop for 80 m. When I saw it, I immediately thought about that line in Crocodile Dundee, "Loop - that's not a loop - THIS is a loop." Most of our contacts were on 80 and most of them with the loop. - Bob



# N8QA

Here are some photos sent me by Mike Bailey for N8QA. Besides being a member of the Portsmouth Radio Club, Mike and his wife Jennifer are HARA members. The Portsmouth group operated the Ohio Parks from Shawnee. Although Jeff at Rocky Fork and I at Lake Hope each heard them, we never were able to make contact. They had a lot of stations calling but they were not hearing them. The second photo is of Gary Caldwell, WX8G. Perhaps some of you recognize him from some of our meetings when promoting the Portsmouth Hamfest. The third photo is of Mike's wife Jennifer, N8JEN. Mike and Jennifer too have attended our meetings when we had a special program. If you attend hamfests in the region, you probably have seen them. Undoubtedly they will be at the upcoming Chillicothe hamfest. The fourth photo has a couple other familiar faces of their members who have journeyed to Hillsboro for our meetings.

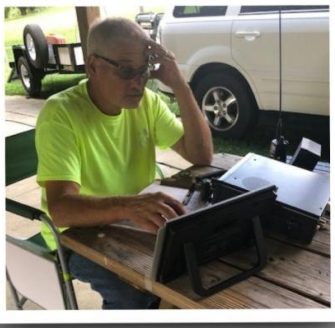




**WB8ERJ**



Since I live just a few miles from Malabar Farm, it was the obvious choice for me. Set up was straight forward for me, except my non-resonant slinky vertical with auto tuner (see photo...) mysteriously wouldn't load up on 80 meters this time (!!!!!!! MURPHY!!!!!!). It took me about an hour of fiddling, but it eventually loaded on 80, 40, and 20 just fine. Started out on 80 in the morning, and it went hot hand heavy for a couple of hours then faded off. I then switched up to 40 meters and worked several people, but not much in Ohio. I did get several park to parks for POTA, and yes I will upload to the pota site as well. 20 meters was disappointing as I only worked 2 people up there. After bouncing between 80 and forty, around 430 I settled in on 80 thinking / hoping it would open up a bit. I was not disappointed! Soon I pretty much had a pileup with several out of state hams calling me. They were obviously more interested in the POTA credit, to which I gave out my "K-1974" just as a matter of course. Other than the great weather, I think the highlight was when I worked N0KKY in Colorado on 80! So I guess all the hassle in getting the non-resonant slinky vertical to work on 80 was worth it! Looking forward to next year! - Mike WB8ERJ



**N8BAP**





I saw John Myers, KD8MQ, at the Findlay Hamfest on Sunday. He said that although there is not a class for rovers to go ahead and submit the logs so the park could receive credit for activation. I believe John was going to forward the photos of the adventure to you. This is the first (Lake White) of four parks I activated as a portable operation. I was not operating mobile. I will submit Scioto Trails, Lake Alma and Lake Hope in the coming days. The equipment was a FT-7200 into a trap inverted V with the apex about 25 supported by a mast in the bed of my truck. Except for commercial power at Lake White, power was from a 1200 watt generator. It was a fun day and reminded me of my mobile county hunting days of years gone by. John Levo, W8KIW Highland ARA Information Officer & Editor--Monday Morning Memo



Had another great event in Delaware State Park. Seen lots of banners out there this year. Looked great. Had lots of activity this year partly due to great weather and a large amount of park Hunters from POTA. They seemed to be in a feeding frenzy due to all the great activators here in Ohio. Many thanks to them. Ohio park operators please register with POTA and submit your logs to them. I'm sure they will appreciate it as much as we appreciated their support. I expect the scores to be some of the highest we've had over the years. Looking forward to next year already. Thanks everyone. 73's Jim WB8CPG





On Saturday, September 7, 2019, members of the ACARA participated in the 12th annual PCARS “Ohio State Parks on the Air” (link), activating Strouds Run State Park at the Bulldog Picnic Shelter and operating under the club’s callsign, W8UKE. Participants: Josh Cash, KE8EAS - Bob Curtis, KD8FRQ - Chalisa Magpanthong, E23RFM - John McCutcheon, N8XWO - Drew McDaniel, W8MHV - Eric McFadden, WD8RIF - Miles McFadden, KD8KNC - Bob Moore, KC8KSM - Paul Schulz, WD8SCV - Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ. Unlike last year (link), when there was lots of rain, for this year’s event, the weather was just about perfect—not too cool, not too hot, not too windy. The station this year consisted of the ACARA’s Elecraft K3 transceiver, an LDG Z-100 Plus automatic antenna tuner provided by W8MHV, an 80m/40m fan-dipole and a 24' military mast provided by WD8RIF. Power came from a Honda 2kW inverter-generator provided by WD8RIF. As has become the custom, at 5 o’clock those present enjoyed a cookout/potluck. KD8KNC brought fire in the form of a two-burner propane grill and cooked beanie-weenies to share as well as burgers brought by some participants. (As has also become a custom, N8XWO brought his crowd-favorite broccoli salad to share.) By the time the eight-hour event was over, the team had made a total of 111 contacts and had worked stations at 44 of the 75 Ohio State Parks. After figuring in the 25-point bonus for submission of the log in Cabrillo format, the club’s claimed score was 4,909 points, up significantly from 2018’s score of 2,433 points. By band, 65 contacts were made on 75m and 46 contacts were made on 40m. No state parks at all were worked on 40m until the last hour of the event when 40m suddenly “went short” and allowed contacts within Ohio. Contacts were made by KE8EAS, N8SUZ, WD8RIF, and KD8FRQ. The ACARA took 1st-place in class in 2016 and 2017. This year’s score of 4,909 points might be good enough to give the ACARA 1st-place in class in 2019—we’ll have to wait and see. Eric McFadden, WD8RIF - President, Athens County Amateur Radio Association.

**K8UU - the Drake ARC Contest Group from Caesar Creek:** Oh the bands were better! The weather was better! Everything was better! We needed a third radio station that didn’t show but we still did well. Radios were an Icom 756 pro III, And a Icom 7300. Antennas we used were bazookas on 80 and 20, and an off center fed dipole on 40. A good time was had by all. Thank YOU again for a wonderful contest. We are grateful. WE8N



**KB8EMD from Cowan Lake:** It is official Cowan state park falls within the old Nike missile base Faraday cage area. That has to be it when for so many years 3 or more skilled amateur radio operators cannot make contact with or even hear other Ohio state parks from that location. Great mast great 20 and 40 meter antennas,



Nothing! Only one park was heard and that most likely was ground wave reception. Unlike years past this year when we arrived the tent camping area had several tents. We could not spread out like before so one station only and we picked the wrong bands 20 and 40. We did make contact with several other states. In-spite of not doing well we had FUN a

new ham stopped by an extra class who only had 7 contacts under his belt, what did we do to calm his nervous? Sat him down and walked him through making contacts. Remember your first time with a group watching, he did well and I'm sure he left with new found confidence. So next year watch out ..... LARRY, KB8EMD

**NQ8T - from East Harbor** - I enjoyed operating from the park. I got pretty frustrated being stepped on by the other ongoing events and only hearing a few other OSPOTA ops. So I said to my self, "Self you may as well join in the other events". So I contacted ops from ME, FL, CA, KS etc. At least I felt better knowing the signal from my pea shooter was "getting out". I'll send, via "snail mail", this year's Summary Sheet and paper log. There a only 8 contacts & 5 State Parks, so not much for you to deal with I am not a tester. Messing with a computer on a picnic table outside and maintaining a separate contest only logging program makes life too complicated for the casual "tester". I will participate next year so others can log a contact from the park I elect to activate. I'll then send in a Summary Sheet so you know how many QSO's I made from that particular park! Please don't take offense; next year, I won't bother with sending in a log. I enjoyed the event but don't much care about my score. TNX for your efforts to organize this ..... 73 steve NQ8T



**W8BVH - from Lancaster, OH** - Greetings, I had fun but this was the 1st time to use a logging program and it was really hard work.?? I guess I'll get used to it some day. Thanks to all that helped get this together. I know it takes a lot of work but I for one do appreciate all of the time you all spent getting this together. Best regards, Ralph Howes, W8BVH

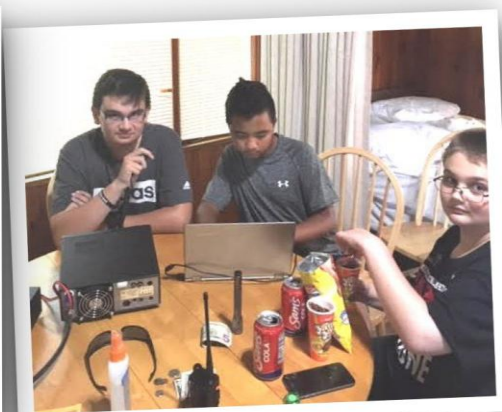
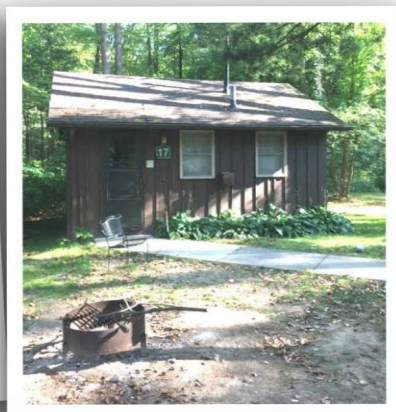
**WW8OH - Central Ohio Operators Klub Extra-Novice (COOKEN) - from Buckeye Lake** : What an event! Perfect weather, and a great location for WW8OH's two stations. And really good propagation with looooooww QRN, strong signals, and a nice 10 or so person turn-out to help set up and tear down. A couple of pizzas for mid day fortification, and we were back at it for the closing "putsch." My own "not ready for prime time" scoring calculations put us above 13k points. I'm guessing after last years rough weather, the multitudes were out really chafing at the bit to participate in this fun contest. From 10-11am it sounded like a wall of contest



animals clamoring to entice takers. WW8OH's 80m station was about 30 minutes late getting OTA, but the more efficient 40m station was on time. Multiple loggers kept track of the qsos and mults. Early hours were hot and heavy. Rates gradually tapered off throughout the day. And our 80m station seemed to run out of fresh meat by around 4:30, as its' lonely voice recorder labored on, trying to scare up just one more qso or mult. Even attempts at a more humorous CQ OSPOTA went unanswered. Alas, it was over. Set up took 2 hours, but tear down was more like 30 minutes. Amazing how that works out. Scenery by the lake was spectacular. There were no crowds, just a few fishermen and passers-by. One guy stopped for a chat. He has been an SWL for ages but never got his license. Nice guy. And while there were boats galore, the noise level was unobtrusive to our open mic's and external speakers. Having our two station tents 150 ft apart, and antennas 200 ft apart meant we had no cross-station qrm of any kind. And those Honda 2000i generators sound more like hummingbirds than machines. Lesson learned by this op: those light weight InvV antennas supported by push up light wt masts and strings work pretty darned well! (the 80m V uses a 40 ft mast and the 40/20m V uses a 20 ft mast). All this on a perfectly flat grassy knoll next to a placid lake, seemed to work great! We had numerous reports of "strong signal! or "Good signal!". Malabar Farm seemed to have the most unique call signs. Kudos to a couple of rovers who sought to bring us the missing parks. We could use more rovers if we are to populate all 75 parks during OSPOTA. And with the growing appeal of OSPOTA, POTA, Peaks on the Air, etc, I think we will get there. Great job, by the organizers and supporters on OSPOTA! de Bob, W3HKK



**KC8OKJ operating Pike Lake as K8IYO this year!** Using a small generator with K8IYO's Kenwood TS-440S has been our go-to rig for the event for the past 7 years and hasn't let us down yet! Great rig! Great weather! Great contacts! Looking forward to next year!



# W8O

What a beautiful weekend we had for OSPOTA! I checked in Friday evening and Saturday evening on the 3905 Century Club with the Special Event call, W8O - that was a hit! And then, Saturday for OSPOTA was just perfect. My newly licensed "helpers", KE8MWD, Shane, and John Lopez (pending license, and my stepson), are HOOKED!!! They want to get their General tickets fast! We only had an antenna for 40m/15m, so we missed many state parks. But, the band was quite long: unusual to hear AR, MS, NE, ME and QB as legit 59+ signals in the middle of the day! We are planning NOW for next! Thank you all - especially KB8UUZ, Parky and KD8MQ, John! What an event! 73 de W8NET Miles / "Gene"



# KE8RV





# W8YIH



# N8TUW

## Warren County Amateur Radio

### Ohio State Parks on the Air

### Caesars Creek State Park

Setup begins at 8 AM! - multiple Stations will be operating at the same time.



## Open to all hams

## September. 7, 2018

## 10:00AM - 6:00PM

**Join us for Ohio State Parks on the Air.**  
 This is a great operating event for all hams!  
 All participants will receive ample opportunity to operate.  
 No experience or license level is necessary to participate!!

**Caesars Creek State Park**  
**4020 N Clarksville Rd. Waynesville, OH 45068**  
[information@wc8ema.org](mailto:information@wc8ema.org) \* <http://goo.gl/c8yjyh>

Talkin on the Event Channel: 145.550 TSQ 118.8  
 Email below to let us know you will be able to attend all or part of this event.



## OSPOTA at Mt. Gilead (MTG)

*John, KD8MQ*

Well, another OSPOTA is behind us. Last year, I planned to activate Mt. Gilead SP (MTG) for OSPOTA. But, thanks to Hurricane Gordon, I changed plans and operated from home instead.



This year, I vowed that “Things would be different”. Leave for Mount Gilead on Thursday, and activate a few extra parks during the weekend. Thanks to the POTA, and WWFF programs, activating

a state park seems like something akin to being rare DX. But, this was not to be. My trusty FT-450 let me down. After an ill-fated morning at Delaware SP, I packed it in, and decided to operate from Mt. Gilead for the weekend using my contest rig.

This year, I took the potato gun and shot a line over a limb about 45’ up. That’s where I hung the G5RV. Ordinarily, I’m nervous about using the potato gun in a state park, but I knew I had a secluded location, so I decided to give it a go. It sure paid off for me this year!

I got on the air around dinnertime on Friday, and tore down on Sunday afternoon. Including the time spent operating OSPOTA; my QSO count for the weekend was 421.

During OSPOTA, I worked 268 contacts; 81% of them on a band declared dead, or unproductive by some other ops. This year’s contest was a new personal best for me. I suspect that it was a good year for others as well.

The following morning, on the way to the Findlay Hamfest I dictated seven rules for next year’s OSPOTA operation (I used the voice recognition app on my phone; PLEASE don’t text & drive!).

Here, with some light editing, are my 7 rules for operating OSPOTA:

- Because things will let you down at the worst possible time, bring a backup for **everything!**
- When things slow down, or you just get tired, don’t be afraid to take a power nap. Just be aware that the power nap may cost you. I wound up missing first place by about 2000 points; probably the number of contacts I could have made in the time that I was napping!
- But, make hay while the sun shines. When 40 m is hot and you’re running stations as fast as you can work them, keep your butt in that chair!
- NVIS is nice, but if you want to make lots of contacts you have to also be heard in other parts of the world.
- The G5RV is **not** a compromise antenna
- Don’t compromise; build the best portable station you possibly can.
- If someone tells you that a band is unproductive, check it out for yourself. Your results may be different.

So there you have it. My advice boiled down to 7 rules. Thanks to all who took time to work me this year. I had stations who called me even though they weren’t in the contest. Some really nice QSOs were had over the weekend.

So where will I be next year? I don’t know, but I’m really beginning to warm up to Mt. Gilead.



**Ohio State Parks On The Air contest - Sept. 7 th**



# Ohio State Parks On The Air



**Start Making Plans for the  
13<sup>th</sup> annual  
Ohio State Parks On The Air  
contest - September 12, 2020.**

**We'll be listening for you !!!!!**



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