

OSPOTA 2020



Tom, KB8UUZ
OSPOTA Chairman



Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) 2020 is in the history books. This year the weather was perfect for everyone in the state. Even with the Covid-19 situation, we had 95 logs submitted for Ohio State Parks On The Air 2020 contest.

The all volunteer OSPOTA Contest Committee has gone over the submitted logs and summary sheets from all of the participants.

It looked as if the bands were cooperating and a LOT of contacts were made this year. Ohio State Park activations were up and from what I have seen so far, everyone really had a FUN day playing radio and enjoying the Ohio State Parks.

Many of the stations replied to my request for write ups and pictures showing the set ups and operation during OSPOTA 2020 and are in this report for all to see how much FUN everyone had.

Thanks goes out to the committee for working hard to get through all of the logs. You have to remember - the OSPOTA committee are all volunteers (**there are five PCARS members that do this - KB8UUZ, KD8MQ, W8PT, KB8UHN and W8KNO**) and getting time set aside to spend HOURS going over logs then compiling the results, printing certificates, mailing to the top 3 in each category and the writing it all up for the newsletter is not an easy task that can be done quickly.

This was the first year for all logs to be submitted in Cabrillo format (no paper logs) and a special 'Hats-Off' to John, KD8MQ for running all of the logs through a computer checking program. John had a lot of work to get them all to work properly.

Notes from Committee member John, KD8MQ about logs:

Each log is gone over multiple times. Once by our chairman. Then the computer goes through and scores everything, cross-checking as it goes, and generates a list of discrepancies.

Finally, with this list of discrepancies in hand, I go through each & every log. This last step brings to light a lot of problems that a human may otherwise miss.

The most common issues found this year were:

- **Times too far off from one another.** If the times recorded between two stations were more than 10 minutes off from each other, then both parties lost the contact. If the contact was a new mult, then they both lost that park. Unfortunately, we were seeing times this year that were anywhere from right on the money to as far as 3 hours off.
- **Busted Calls** i.e K8BF being logged as W8BF
- **Busted exchange** i.e. KD8MQ listed by the other party as being in OH, instead of MTG
- **NIL** (Not In Log) Per the rules, the contact must be logged by both parties to be valid. If it isn't in both logs, it doesn't exist. I didn't see a ton of those, though.

So, the big takeaway for next year is to be sure that your time is set on the money. That one change will make the log checking process so much easier. If you'll take a moment before the contest begins, and check your clock against WWV, CHU, time.is, or whatever time standard you use, it will help out all of us.

If you are logging on paper, that's cool, but record the proper time for each contact. Then when you key it into the computer, you have the proper information at hand.

Ohio State Parks On The Air



Greetings to the 2020 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 13th 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 2021.



So until September 11, 2021 - 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 2020 General Information: Top score this year - **21,328**

53 Parks activated **22** Parks not activated **6** Parks activated did not submit log **95** Logs submitted
21 Out of state logs submitted **37** Clubs represented over **219** Hams took part this year

37 Clubs Represented

Ashtabula County Amateur Radio Club	Fayette Amateur Radio Association	Noble County Amateur Radio Club
Athens County Amateur Radio Association	Findlay Radio Club	Ohio Baptist Emergency Amateur Radio Service
Cambridge Amateur Radio Association	Fulton County Amateur Radio Club	Pedestrian Amateur Radio Club
Canton Amateur Radio Club	Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club (2)	Portage County Amateur Radio Service (10)
Central Ohio Operators Klub Extra-Novice (3)	Hamilton Amateur Radio Club	Preble Amateur Radio Association
Clinton County Amateur Radio Association	Highland Amateur Radio Association (2)	Society of Midwest Contesters
Contest Group Du Quebec	Hocking Valley Amateur Radio Club	St. Marys Amateur Radio Club
Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Service	Huber Height Amateur Radio Club	Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation
Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club	Lake County Amateur Radio Association	Tennessee Contest Group
Dayton Amateur Radio Association	Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association	Toledo Mobile Radio Association (2)
Delaware Amateur Radio Association	Medina 2 Meter Group	Warren Amateur Radio Association
Drake Amateur Radio Club	Milford Amateur Radio Club (2)	West Chester Amateur Radio Association
		Woodchuck Amateur Radio Club





OSPOTA 2020 - Final Scores

Overall High Score

K8IV - 21,328

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

Call	Park Name	Score
K8IV	PUNDERSON	21,328
WB8CPG	DELAWARE	18,544
K8UU	CAESER CREEK	14,036
N8TUW	TAR HOLLOW	6,156
W8VTD	MOSQUITO LAKE	5,680
K8HO	ROCKY FORK	3,990
NO8I	SYCAMORE	2,639
W8P	PAINT CREEK	2,442
W8FT	VAN BUREN	2,006
N8BC	HEADLANDS BEACH	1,518
W8OBC	A.W. MARION	777
K8LGN	LAKE LOGAN	527
K8CY	GENEVA	Check log

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

Call	Park Name	Score
No entries in this category		

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

Call	Park Name	Score
N8XC	SYCAMORE	9,006
W8UKE	STROUDS RUN	6,903
KC8OKJ	PIKE LAKE	4,680
W8VP	BLUE ROCK	2,170
K8PRC	WEST BRANCH	1,960
NC8OH	JESSE OWENS	1,080
WC8VOA	EAST FORK	1,050
AB8DD	KISER LAKE	888
KC8BPE	MOUNT GILEAD	660
W8AJT	HUESTON WOODS	486
KD8OOB	STONELICK	460
W8QLY	LAKE MILTON	319
N8MIQ	NORTH BASS ISLAND	196
WA8Q	NELSON KENNEDY LEDGES	140
W8H	MAUMEE BAY	Check log

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

Call	Park Name	Score
KC8AAV	BURR OAK	16,727

SH - Single Op-High Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
No entries in this category		

Framed Certificate

Certificate

SL - Single Op-Low Power - In a Park

Call	Park Name	Score
KD8BBK	SALT FORK	14,040
KY8U	INDIAN LAKE	10,291
K8RGI	OAK POINT	7,458
KD8MQ	MOUNT GILEAD	7,439
WW8OH	DILLON	5,886
K8FH	FINDLEY	5,358
N8WCP	WEST BRANCH	5,280
KD8ODF	BARKCAMP	2,904
K8FAY	DEER CREEK	2,016
AF1K	TINKERS CREEK	1,725
WA8RR	SOUTH BASS ISLAND	1,664
K8BXQ	HARRISON LAKE	1,428
AA8GP	STONELICK	1,365
K8CAV	WEST BRANCH	1,118
WB8ERJ	MALABAR FARM	861
K8RYU	LAKE HOPE	840
K8RYU	LAKE ALMA	551
K8TSG	ALUM CREEK	540
K8RYU	JACKSON LAKE	406
KZ3L	CAESAR CREEK	392
K8RYU	FORKED RUN	364
W9AMA	COWAN LAKE	360
W8UF	LITTLE MIAMI	Check log
KE8RV	MADISON LAKE	Check log
K8FF	PUNDERSON	Check log

In Ohio - Not In Park

Call	Score
W3HKK	1,558
KB8UHN	1,470
WS6K	1,280
KB8UUZ	1,254
NX8Y	1,088
W8EOT	986
KA8TOA	837
KF8O	650
N8QE	504
W8BI	462
KE8NBC	196
K8ZT	144
W4YPW	130
W8GSR	121
KB8TUJ	121
W8BVH	90
N8WL	81
W8VE	25
AC8XO	Check log
KD8NZF	Check log

Outside Ohio

Call	State	Score
N3CU	PA	1,290
NO2C	NY	462
N8CWU	SC	437
KA1WPM	CT	440
K2RYD	NY	380
KC9BZL	IN	324
W9AV	WI	270
KG9JP	WI	196
KM4IAJ	VA	182
W1ZFG	CT	156
K4JSK	NC	121
W4SSF	TN	120
VE2GT	DX	64
KN4PLB	GA	49
W7LG	PA	20
K4VBM	GA	16
KE0QKF	IA	16
KG5JEN	NY	9
KC9ACL	IN	4
VE3SDF	DX	Check log
VE3ZIS	DX	Check log



Ohio State Parks On The Air



Park Listing showing Activated and Contacted in 2020

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

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

Parks Activated = 47 (Log sent in)

Parks Contacted = 53 (Some parks may not have sent in a log)



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[illegible]

Ohio State Parks Activated during the OSPOTA Contests: 2008-2020

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Ohio State Park	ID	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Lake Loramie	LOR			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Lake Milton	LML	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Lake White	LWT		X	X	X	X	X	N3	-	-	N3		X	
Little Miami	LMI			X	X	X	X	X			X		X	X
Madison Lake	MLK	X		X		X		X	X				X	X
Malabar Farm	MAL			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Marblehead Lighthouse	MHD					X	X	X			X		X	
Mary Jane Thurston	MJT	X		X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Maumee Bay	MBY			X			X	X			X	X	X	X
Middle Bass Island	MBI						X	X		X	X		X	
Mohican	MOH			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Mosquito Lake	MST	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mt. Gilead	MTG	X			X		X	X	X				X	X
Muskingum River	MUS			X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Nelson Kennedy Ledges	NKL			X	X		X	X			X		X	X
North Bass Island	NBI						X						X	X
Oak Point	OPT							X			X	X	X	X
Paint Creek	PTC			X	X	X		X	X		X		X	X
Pike Lake	PLK			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Portage Lakes	POR	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Punderson	PUN	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pymatuning	PYM	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Quail Hollow	QHL	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	
Rocky Fork	RFK			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Salt Fork	SFK	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
Scioto Trail	STR		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Shawnee	SHA				X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
South Bass Island	SBI	X					X	X	X	X			X	X
Stonelick	STO	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Strouds Run	SRN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sycamore	SYC	X		X	X	X	X	X		X				X
Tar Hollow	TAR			X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Tinkers Creek	TCK	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Van Buren	VAN				X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
West Branch	WBR	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Wingfoot Lake	WLK	N1	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Wolf Run	WRN	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
		36	20	57	50	60	63	64	55	50	58	35	64	47

N1-Wingfoot Lake became a State Park in 2009

N2-Cleveland Lakefront was dropped as a State Park in mid 2013

N3-Lake White State Park was closed by ODNR - leaking dam 2014 - reopened 2018

N4 - Jessie Owens State Park became a State Park in 2018 - Was available for OSPOTA in 2019

Not all activated parks sent a log in for scoring.



November 1, 2020
Activated Parks 2008-2020



Thanks goes out to the 219 ham radio operators and loggers that submitted logs for the 13th annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest

AA8GP	K8UU	KD8JDH	KE8OJR	N8TUW	W8MAL
AA8HS	K8ZT	KD8KBU	KE8OLG	N8UVM	W8MHV
AB8DD	KA1WPM	KD8KZG	KE8PAI	N8VAR	W8MUK
AB8P	KA4VNK	KD8LHR	KE8PP	N8WCP	W8OBC
AB8YK	KA8IIM	KD8LYX	KF8LE	N8WL	W8P
AC8RJ	KA8TOA	KD8MQ	KF8O	N8XC	W8PU
AC8WQ	KB8BKE	KD8NZF	KG5JEN	N8XCC	W8QLY
AC8WW	KB8DOT	KD8ODF	KG9JP	N8XWO	W8UF
AC8XO	KB8LLL	KD8OOB	KM4IAJ	N8YFF	W8UKE
AF1K	KB8TAD	KD8ORN	KN4PLB	NC8OH	W8VE
K1RQS	KB8TUY	KD8OSI	KO3C	NO2C	W8VP
K2RYD	KB8UEY	KD8OSZ	KV8P	NO8I	W8VTD
K3GP	KB8UHN	KD8QYV	KY8U	NX8Y	W8ZL
K4JSK	KB8UUZ	KD8RLA	KZ3L	NZ8A	W9AMA
K4VBM	KB8YVI	KD8SYT	N2LC	VA3OPT	W9AV
K4YJ	KB8ZYE	KD8TUR	N3CU	VE2GT	WA8Q
K8BCI	KC3JXN	KD8VRX	N3JJT	VE3SDF	WA8RR
K8BL	KC8AAV	KD8VUY	N8AMY	VE3ZIS	WB8CPG
K8BXQ	KC8BPE	KD8VWF	N8BAP	W1ILE	WB8ERJ
K8CAV	KC8KEB	KD8WBZ	N8BC	W1ZFG	WB8LCD
K8CVM	KC8KSM	KD8WUS	N8CJ	W2TBQ	WB8PHI
K8CY	KC8LRH	KD8WVX	N8CUB	W3HKK	WB8RG
K8EEE	KC8OKJ	KD8ZMG	N8CWU	W4SSF	WB8TCB
K8FAY	KC8QDP	KE0QKF	N8ET	W4YPW	WB8YHD
K8FF	KC8QDQ	KE4UHC	N8GBU	W7LG	WB8ZGH
K8FH	KC8RJO	KE8ANU	N8IMW	W8AJT	WC8VOA
K8HO	KC8RYM	KE8CIE	N8JDY	W8BI	WD8RIF
K8IV	KC8UFV	KE8CIN	N8MIQ	W8BVH	WD8SDH
K8IYO	KC8YDS	KE8FHG	N8MWK	W8E	WE8N
K8LGN	KC9ACL	KE8HZZ	N8NYI	W8EOT	WE8TOM
K8MSH	KC9BZL	KE8IJU	N8ORJ	W8FHF	WS6K
K8PRC	KD8AMY	KE8IJV	N8OWS	W8FT	WT8E
K8QXO	KD8AVT	KE8IQE	N8QE	W8GSR	WW8OH
K8RGI	KD8BBK	KE8IQF	N8QNM	W8H	WZ8K
K8RYU	KD8DFL	KE8IUU	N8RLH	W8IJC	
K8SWS	KD8ENV	KE8LRZ	N8STN	W8LGX	
K8TSG	KD8FKB	KE8NBC	N8SUZ	W8LTR	



OSPOTA 2020 Photos and Soapbox Comments

K8CAV - West Branch State Park

One of the very few good things to come out of the COVID pandemic is that for the first time since 2015 I would be able to operate in the OSPOTA contest. Since taking over planning and implementing communications support for the annual Potato Stomp race which occurs on the same day as OSPOTA I've been unable to participate in OSPOTA so I was really looking forward to it. I had originally planned on locating to one of the more 'exotic' parks but my grandson in Boston recently received his Technician class license and I was out there Monday through Thursday before OSPOTA to help him get an antenna up and present him with his first hand-held. With only one day to get prepared I decided to set up in West Branch State Park which is only a half an hour from me. As it turned out there were two others that were operating from there as well but all of us were able to operate successfully without killing each other's receivers.



After a recon at West Branch a couple of weeks prior to the event, I decided to set up in an unused portion of the parking lot serving the beach on the south side of the reservoir. The weather was absolutely perfect, sunny, and a bit cool in the morning but rapidly warming to perfect temperatures. Setup went well and by 1400Z I was able to start operating. I started out on 80m to try and catch as many parks as I could. Signals were pretty good and the other two stations operating from West Branch were far enough away so that we could operate. The IC-7300's filtering was awesome and really helped out! In early afternoon I moved up to 40m and was able to make some contacts though not as many as on 80m. After a bit I moved up to 20m and had virtually no luck there so I went back down to 40m and 80m to finish out. By 1900Z I was packed up and on the way home.



I had 46 total QSO's with 26 parks contacted for a submitted score of 1,196. I was happy with my score but the best part is that it was FUN! Being able to successfully set up a station and operate, all in a portable environment is a thrill and well worth the time spent!

K8FH - Findley State Park

I belong to the Medina 2 Meter Group. Back probably 8-10 years ago I was building Go Boxes like everyone else and practicing emergency preparedness. It was about that time I decided to build a Go Trailer, a communications trailer to make "grab and go" operating easier and more efficient. Inside of a 12' enclosed trailer I built two redundant operating positions into hinged wall mounted racks. Each rack included a VHF/UHF radio, an HF radio, power supply, DC power



gate, DC booster/regulator, and misc. accessories such as speakers, DC power strips, and digital sound cards. Hinged racks makes it easy to get at the back of the radios as needed. Four 75ah batteries and charger are located under a bench seat built along one wall of the trailer, and a Honda 2000i generator rides in a tongue mounted box. A hinged mast base on one side of the trailer allows for easy erection of a 45' fiberglass mast which supports a VHF/UHF vertical and a pulley to pull up one end of a dipole or the center of an Inverted "V" for HF operation. There are also three NMO mounts on the roof of the trailer. The trailer is always ready to roll at the drop of a hat. Over the years the trailer has been used in a lot of public service activities like bike races and marathons. We have participated in Home Depot Safety Days, farm markets, the Pan Ohio and Cleveland Marathon,



Cleveland Sports and Outdoor Show, and an emergency exercise with FEMA, the EMA, police and fire. On the personal side I enjoy portable radio operating from the trailer, as in the OSPOTA and OHQP. For the QSPOTA this year I made a square horizontal loop cut for the 80 meter phone band (roughly 67' on a side) and supported it from four 30' telescoping fiberglass poles. Each of the poles are hose clamped to a 6' piece of light angle iron driven 1' into the ground and has an eye bolt at the top to facilitate a string to pull up each corner of the loop. A 25' piece of 300 ohm ladder line feeds the loop at one corner of the loop and the ladder line is fed with coax through a 4:1 balun. This antenna allows for operation on the 40-20-15-10 meter bands as well. All the 8' fiberglass mast pole sections travel on racks inside the trailer. Total set up time for the loop was about 45 minutes.

K8IV - Punderson State Park

Amy, N8AMY here - This contest gave us a chance to activate a park in nearly the same way we would have in a "normal" year. We added cleaning precautions and masks, but our operation took place in the spirit of normalcy. It was such a great morale boost to get together with the team and focus on one of our favorite contests!



Team K8IV worked OSPOTA from Punderson State Park & included Captain Ed Polack K8IV, Tom Sly WB8LCD, George Proudfoot K3GP, Ray Larrick KD8DFL, & Amy Leggiero N8AMY. We arrived early to set up the park for operation and were fortunate enough to have beautiful weather for the event. Everything went smoothly and we were able to start making contacts right at 1400 UTC.



I was on 20m using Tom Sly WB8LCD's Elecraft K3S transceiver and our contacts were almost completely European. We had some hams from the Texas and Alabama QSO parties that chatted with us as well. Our favorite contact had to



be Wolfgang Bunge, DJ1AG. He contacted us and talked for a while about his equipment and antennas. He was a really nice guy and both Tom and I wanted to send him QSL cards to commemorate meeting this super guy! He had some problems copying Tom's first name and after going back and forth several times, he said he had it, and his name was TOR. I nearly spit out my beverage laughing and realized



that Tor was a great nickname for our president. Sounded very Viking-like and appropriate for our leader. So next time you see WB8LCD, call him Tor- He WILL answer ☺

Special thanks to John Ziccardi N8GIE, for assisting the team all day! We also had several visitors during the contest. Wayne Smith K8FF was out operating with his homemade Mag Loop which he used on 40m -10m with his Kenwood TS-50 running 10 watts. Charles Walouke KD8VNS brought his son and future ham, Joshua to check out our station! Charles has been a ham for 13 years but has never been active. He contacted Tom who invited him to visit us during OSPOTA.

We operated until 2200 UTC when we began the cleanup in order to leave "nothing but footprints" in the beautiful state park. After the contest and cleanup, team K8IV celebrated at Blazin' Bills BBQ restaurant in Hiram, OH.



KD8BBK - Salt Fork State Park



KD8MQ - Mt. Gilead State Park

When I chose Mt. Gilead State Park for OSPOTA 2018, I found it was a great park for Amateur Radio. It was so great that I returned for OSPOTA 2019, and 2020. This is the first time I've ever chosen the same park three years in a row. Actually, I can't really count 2018. I got rained out, and operated from home. I didn't get rained out in 2019, but there were a couple good downpours that

weekend.



Now, fast forward to 2020.

Were things different in the face of a pandemic? Sure, but thanks to (or in spite of) COVID-19, there was a lot of activity that weekend. I arrived on Thursday, to do some park activation in advance of OSPOTA. Bands were great, and I had lots of fun being rare DX for a couple days. It was a great weekend for radio!

On Friday, the guys from Union County arrived. They consisted of KC8BPE, KE8ANU, KE8FHG, & K8BCIT. They were set up a couple sites away from me. It was great to have some other Hams to talk to. No, there was no interference from us being that close. They brought Handouts for the general public about Amateur Radio, and may have planted some seeds with one of the park employees. Wow, were they organized!



On Saturday, there were a couple visitors, including Scott, N8SY. I met a Husband/wife who were also camping up the way, and were Hams. I wish I'd have made a note of their callsigns. Unfortunately they aren't active at this time, but maybe that will change.

If you've never been to Mt. Gilead SP, I highly recommend Site #41 (#42 is a close second). Both are Ham radio friendly with lots of room for antennas. Using the potato gun, I was able to get the antenna to 51' this year.

Yes, I did find time to operate. Over the weekend, 346 contacts found their way into the log; 173 (exactly half) of them for OSPOTA. From MTG, I managed to put 41 parks in the log.



I used N3FJP for logging. It worked great except there was no field for POTA/WWFF Park numbers. So, I went old school, and kept a paper notebook for those numbers, and consolidated everything after the contest. It was a great weekend, but unfortunately the final trip of the year for the camper. I can't wait until 2021!

N8QE - In Ohio - Not in a Park

N1MM is easy to download and use. It uses two screens, one for logging your contact, and one for the log itself. I was up and running in less than an hour. I needed some way to easily create the Cabrillo file new requirement. I don't like it as much as N3FJP, but for OSPOTA it was my only real choice as I didn't want to mess with the N3FJP files.

Lots of activity for OSPOTA. Heard and worked many PCARS members in parks. Everything for me was 80 meters.

Was working the ARRL VHF Contest in between search and pounce OSPOTA with all but one contact via FT8 on 6 meters which is the future of VHF contests. 73, Bob

K8YU - Indian Lake State Park

2020 Ohio State Parks on the Air was so much fun! This year I decided to activate Indian Lake State Park. The weather could not have not been better. It was a beautiful sunny day with temperatures in the mid 80's and a slight breeze. This year I ran my military poll set with a home brew 80 /40 fan dipole. For my radio I ran an Icom 7300 set inside an Iportable pro 2 box. This setup has been my go to for the past year for field day and other POTA activation's.



My Great Dane helper Hansel is seen taking watch as I operate. He spent most of the day sleeping and didn't lend much help throughout the day but was a great companion! Many of you may have heard him barking in the background during our QSO's HI HI. Thank you everyone for the contact's and the great time. I look forward to this event every year! Looking forward to working everyone down the log! 73, Josh Koehler KY8U



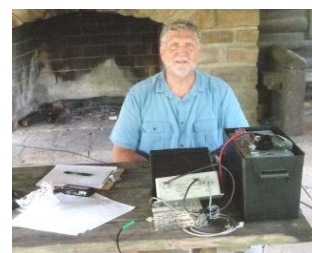
N8TUW - Tar Hollow State Park



I am Dwight, K4YJ. Steve, N8TUW asked me to join him this year in the OSPOTA. I said yes but later to find out it is SSB only and I am a CW kinda guy. Already saying yes I stayed in on the contest with him. We set up our stations in Tar Hollow.

It was a nice day to be out with perfect weather. Steve ran all 80m and got all the multipliers and I ran all 40m and rarely worked someone else in Ohio.

We only had a few visitors but had a great time in the park. Thanks for hosting this contest - Dwight, K4YJ



W8H - Maumee Bay State Park

Toledo Mobile Radio Association OSPOTA Story - Preparations for the OSPOTA event took place for over a month beforehand with the committee hard at work: Richard KE8IJV (event coordinator), Jim

KE8IJU (event co-chair), Mike W8MAL (Safety Officer), Mike WA8SYD (Elmer), Brad WB8RG (event co-chair) and Steve KC8TVW (Elmer).



Two Saturdays beforehand, the 40 meter inverted V antenna was erected, tuned, and tested. The 80 meter antenna had been used at Field Day and had already been tuned. Because they were relatively few trees in the area, we had to use an aluminum mast with plastic top section for the 40 meter antenna. Similar masts were used for the 80 meter antenna. Since the 80 meter antenna was relatively horizontal, it may have active more like a NVIS antenna and may have been responsible for the more numerous contacts on 80 meters within Ohio.

As you can see, orange plastic cones were used for safety.

Late in the afternoon, we stopped transmitting momentarily to rotate the 40 meter dipole 180 degrees and catch more contacts. We had no difficulty setting up

either station and we used the N3FJP Ohio QSO software for logging as well as written logs for confirmation. A great time for held by all.



W8UKE - Strouds Run State Park

Here's the ACARA/W8UKE story: On Saturday, September 12, 2020,

members of the ACARA participated in the 13th 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.



Because of the ongoing corona virus crisis, the ODNr is not allowing reservations of group facilities; this means the club was not able to reserve the use of the Bulldog Shelter. Joe Weber, KE8LRZ, and his son Bob arrived at the site extra early and were able to hold the shelter for our use.



The weather turned out to be perfect for doing outdoor radio—not too hot, not too cold, not too windy.

The station this year consisted of the ACARA's Elecraft K3 transceiver, an LDG AT100 Pro II automatic antenna tuner provided by Jeff Slattery, N8SUZ, and an 80m/40m fan-dipole and a 24' military mast provided by Eric McFadden, WD8RIF. The logging computer and Honda 2kW inverter-generator were also provided by Eric.



Because of the continuing coronavirus crisis, measures were taken to keep participants and visitors safe. The operator and logger positions were separated by six feet and observers were asked to keep six feet away from everyone else.

Also because the continuing coronavirus crisis, the traditional 5pm potluck was canceled in favor of a bring-your-food



gathering. Unfortunately, only a few members were present at the dinner gathering but those who were present were rewarded by the sight of a bald eagle on the other side of the lake.

By the time the eight-hour event was over, the team had made a total of 171 contacts and had worked stations at 37 of the 75 Ohio State Parks. The club's claimed score was 6,726

points, up significantly from 2019's score of 4,909 points and 2018's score of 2,433 points. By band, 92 contacts were made on 75m and 85 contacts were made on 40m.

Contacts were made by KE8LRZ (9), Bob Weber (9), KA4VNK (60), KD8FKB (12), KD8WVX (19), N8SUZ (67), and WD8RIF (1). 73, Eric McFadden, WD8RIF - President, Athens County Amateur Radio Association



WB8CPG - Delaware State Park

This year Delaware State Park was Activated by a team consisting of WB8CPG, Jim Popovich, KD8LYX, Larry Oliver, and KD8AMY, Amy Oliver.



Jim hammered 40 mtr and 20 mtr for contacts for points while Amy and Larry worked on getting Parks on 80 mtrs.

Antennas consisted of an inverted V on 40 mtr, a Diamond HF20CL vertical for 20 mtr on a tripod with six 1/4 wave radials, and a NVIS Dipole on 80 mtrs.



All had a great time and very successful activation. Already making plans to return next year.

Thank you everyone for a great event.



Ohio State Parks On The Air



**Start Making Plans for the
14th annual**

Ohio State Parks On The Air



September 11, 2021.

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

