

## OSPOTA 2021 - Contest Results

**Tom, KB8UUZ**  
OSPOTA Chairman



### Hello **OSPOTA** Fans and Participants

**Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) 2021 is in the history books.** On September 11<sup>th</sup> many of you made the trip to one of the beautiful Ohio State Parks to set up and get on the air. We were listening for you! Plus other hams from around the USA and world were also tuning in to catch the OSPOTA Park Stations that were on the air. This year the weather was perfect for everyone in the state. Even with the Covid-19 situation, we had 81 logs submitted for Ohio State Parks On The Air 2021 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.

Some of the stations replied to my request for write ups and pictures showing the set ups and operation during OSPOTA 2021 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, WG8X, 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 second year for all logs to be submitted in Cabrillo format (no paper logs) and a special ‘**Hats-Off**’ to John, WG8X for running all of the logs through a computer checking program (more than once). John had a lot of work to get them all to work properly. Seems some people still have no idea what a Cabrillo file is and we will put some information together to help make 2022 log submissions go smoother.

During November the first, second & third place certificates will be mailed out. So keep an eye on the mail box if you were one of the top three finishers in your category !

## Ohio State Parks On The Air





### Greetings to the 2021 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 14th 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 2022.



So until September 10, 2022 - 73!

**Tom - KB8UUZ**, OSPOTA Chairman,

**John - WG8X**, **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 2021 General Information:** Top score this year - **30,150**

**58 Parks activated**   **22 Parks not activated**   **2 Parks activated did not submit log**   **81 Logs submitted**  
**14 Out of state logs submitted**   **36 Clubs represented**   over **199 Hams** took part this year

### 36 Clubs Represented

20/9 Radio Club, Inc.	Hamilton Amateur Radio Club	Portage County Amateur Radio Service	14
All Things Amateur Radio Association	Highland Amateur Radio Association	5	Portsmouth Radio Club
Alliance Amateur Radio Club	Hocking Valley Amateur Radio Club		Potomac Valley Radio Club
Athens County Amateur Radio Association	2	Huber Heights Amateur Radio Club	2
Cambridge Amateur Radio Association		2	Preble Amateur Radio Association
Central Ohio Operators Klub Extra - Novice		Lake County Amateur Radio Association	Richland County ARES Group
Clinton County Amateur Radio Association		Madison County Amateur Radio Club Ohio	Silvercreek Amateur Radio Association
Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society		Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association	Society of Midwest Contesters
DeForest Amateur Radio Club		Medina 2 Meter Group	2
Drake Amateur Radio Club		Medina County Amateur Radio Club	2
Fayette Amateur Radio Association		Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club	Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation
Fulton County Amateur Radio Club		North Coast Contesters	2
		Paulding County Ohio Amateur Radio Club	Warren Amateur Radio Association
			Washington Amateur Communications
			West Chester Amateur Radio Association





## OSPOTA 2021 - Final Scores

Overall High Score

**K8IV - 30,150**

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

Call	Park Name	Score
K8IV	Punderson	30150
WB8CPG	Delaware	21195
WC8VOA	Caesar Creek	14097
K8HO	Rocky Fork	9477
KE8RV	Madison Lake	7648
N8BAP	Paint Creek	7260
K8UU	Caesar Creek	7160
W8VTD	Mosquito Lake	4838
K8BXQ	Harrison Lake	3150
W8QLY	Lake Milton	1860
N8BC	Headlands Beach	1012
NO8I	Sycamore	663
K8EEN	Mohican	374
K8GE	Adams Lake	330
N8QA	Shawnee	264
W8CWO	Jefferson Lake	98

### MMH - Multi Op-Multi 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
N8EU	John Bryan	7372
N8XCC	Hueston Woods	6177
AD8FQ	Grand Lake St. Marys	2622
W8AJT	Hueston Woods	1305
KD8UPX	Maumee Bay	986
W8UKE	Strouds Run	825
W8ATR	A. W. Marion	594
W8WE	Marblehead Lighthouse	392
KE8FJX	Independence Dam	364
KD8OOB	Little Miami	156

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

Call	Park Name	Score
KC8AAV	Burr Oak	9296

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

Call	Park Name	Score
N8T	Pymatuning	560

G = Golden Log = No Errors

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

Call	Park Name	Score
KY8U	East Fork	12464
KD8BBK	Barkcamp	12440
KE8PAQ	Lake Hope	4440
N8WCP	West Branch	3960
K8MD	Middle Bass Island	3750
KD8ODF	Salt Fork	3744
K8RR	West Branch	3729
K8FH	Findley	3280
K8RGI	Oak Point	3135
K8FAY	Deer Creek	2528
NF8O	Malabar Farm	1536
KQ4YC	Stonelick	1280
KE8OXZ	Tinkers Creek	1170
W8VP	Blue Rock	897
W9AMA	Cowan Lake	480
K8TKA	Beaver Creek	462
WA8RR	South Bass Island	330
K8ETA	Guilford Lake	240
KD8UJG	Portage Lakes	95
AB1A	Beaver Creek	Check Log
K8TSG	Delaware	Check Log
NA8Y	Alum Creek	Check Log

### ROVER - In Parks

Call	Park Names	Score
K8RYU/R	Wolf Run, Muskingum River, Jesse Owens, Dillon, Buckeye Lake	2389
KD8MQ/R	Malabar Farm, Mohican, Mt. Gilead	2373
N8SUZ/R	Forked Run, Jackson Lake, Lake Alma	768
W8KIW/R	Pike Lake	312
AF1K/R	Portage Lakes, Wingfoot Lake	92

### In Ohio - Not In Park

Call	Score
KB8UUZ G	2014
N8CJ	1554
KB8UHN G	1080
KC8OKJ	783
KF8O	725
W8GTS	644
N8QE	437
K8IYO	437
KA8TOA G	90
W8KNO G	12
KB8TUY G	1
K8ZT	Check Log

### Outside Ohio

Call	State	Score
N3CU	PA	2296
N2BTD	NY	986
N3XLS	PA	825
KK4ADQ	VA	480
WB9HFK	IL	342
N3GTG	VA	256
N3KN G	VA	121
K4JSK G	NC	121
KN6IQB/8 G	MI	100
KD2REH	NY	81
K9RDU	NC	16
W7LG	PA	16
N8GU	FL	1
NU4N	KY	Check Log

1 November 2021



Ohio State Parks



On The Air







# Ohio State Parks On The Air



## Ohio State Park Listing showing Activated (Log Submitted) and Contacted in 2021

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

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	X
Mary Jane Thurston	MJT		
Maumee Bay	MBY	X	X
Middle Bass Island	MBI	X	X
Mohican	MOH	X	X
Mosquito Lake	MST	X	X
Mt. Gilead	MTG	X	X
Muskingum River	MUS	X	X
Nelson-Kennedy Ledges	NKL		
North Bass Island	NBI		
Oak Point	OPT	X	X
Paint Creek	PTC	X	X
Pike Lake	PLK	X	X
Portage Lakes	POR	X	X
Punderson	PUN	X	X
Pymatuning	PYM	X	X
Quail Hollow	QHL		
Rocky Fork	RFK	X	X
Salt Fork	SFK	X	X
Scioto Trail	STR		
Shawnee	SHA	X	X
South Bass Island	SBI	X	X
Stonelick	STO	X	X
Strouds Run	SRN	X	X
Sycamore	SYC	X	X
Tar Hollow	TAR		
Tinkers Creek	TCK	X	X
Van Buren	VAN		
West Branch	WBR	X	X
Wingfoot Lake	WLK	X	X
Wolf Run	WRN	X	X

Parks Activated (Log sent in) = 56

Parks Contacted = 58 (two parks did not send in a log EHB and KLK)

***Thanks goes out to the 199 ham radio operators and loggers that submitted logs  
for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest***

AB1A	KA8STM	KD8QNY	KE8RV	N8QA	W8QLY
AB8YK	KA8TOA	KD8RLA	KE8SIA	N8QE	W8RAY
AC8QG	KA8WMF	KD8UEP	KE8SIG	N8QNM	W8SKJ
AC8RJ	KA8YTS	KD8UJG	KF8O	N8SUZ/R	W8TW
AC8WW	KB8BKE	KD8UPX	KG8FM	N8T	W8UKE
AD8AL	KB8ELG	KD8UZV	KI8N	N8TWM	W8VP
AD8FD	KB8OMG	KD8VLS	KK4ADQ	N8UVM	W8VTD
AD8FQ	KB8QPO	KD8VRX	KN6IQB/8	N8VAR	W8VUV
AF1K/R	KB8TUY	KD8VUY	KO4RDB	N8WCP	W8WE
K3GP	KB8UHG	KD8VWF	KQ4YC	N8XC	W8ZL
K4JSK	KB8UHN	KD8YLX	KY8U	N8XCC	W9AMA
K8BXQ	KB8UUZ	KD8ZKE	KZ3L	N8XWO	WA6WTF
K8EEN	KB8ZYE	KE4UHC	N2BTD	N8YWX	WA8RR
K8ETA	KC8AAV	KE8BBC	N3CU	NA8Y	WB8CPG
K8FAY	KC8EVS	KE8BHW	N3GTG	NF8O	WB8LCD
K8FH	KC8KSM	KE8BTT	N3KN	NO8F	WB8PHI
K8GE	KC8OKJ	KE8FJX	N3XLS	NO8I	WB8TCB
K8HO	KC8QDQ	KE8GAD	N8AMY	NU4N	WB8YHD
K8IV	KC8RJS	KE8HGE	N8ASH	W2TBQ	WB8ZGH
K8IYO	KC8YDS	KE8ICI	N8BAP	W7LG	WB8ZOI
K8MD	KD2REH	KE8ITJ	N8BC	W8AJT	WB9HFK
K8MSH	KD8AMY	KE8IUU	N8BEK	W8ATR	WC8VOA
K8RGI	KD8BBK	KE8KEK	N8CJ	W8CWO	WD8IJJ
K8RR	KD8DFL	KE8LWO	N8CUB	W8DLB	WD8RIF
K8RYU/R	KD8FRQ	KE8LWP	N8CWU	W8DWK	WD8SAB
K8SSK	KD8HOY	KE8NKV	N8EU	W8FHF	WE8N
K8TFG	KD8HSA	KE8NSW	N8GIE	W8GTS	WT8E
K8TKA	KD8KBU	KE8OEW	N8GU	W8KIW/R	WX8G
K8TSG	KD8KNC	KE8OKA	N8IMW	W8KNO	WZ8K
K8UU	KD8LYX	KE8OLG	N8JEN	W8LTR	
K8WEH	KD8MQ/R	KE8OXZ	N8MRB	W8ND	
K8ZT	KD8NZF	KE8PAQ	N8ORJ	W8NET	
K9RDU	KD8ODF	KE8QNT	N8OXQ	W8PAB	
KA8GPM	KD8OOB	KE8RJD	N8PPF	W8PEN	



***Ohio State Parks***



***On The Air***



## *OSPOTA 2021 Photos and Soapbox Comments*

### **AD8FQ - Grand Lake St. Marys State Park**

This year we traveled out to the western side of Ohio to work Ohio State Parks On The Air from Grand Lake St. Marys State Park. It was a beautiful park, with almost perfect weather. Ohio in September is truly the best.

Our goal was to have fun and learn. With that as the standard, it was mission accomplished. Of course, making Qs is a lot more fun than not, but we did alright on that front, too. There were some dry times and some pileups; pretty much feast or famine most of the day. In both cases, it was good practice for the operators.

The whole family got in on the fun. Everybody helped with setup and teardown. Bernadette KE8LWO, Benedict AD8FQ, and Agnes KE8LWP (the youth hams of our family) all made contacts. Even seven-year-old Dominic was thrilled to listen in on a headset and help pick out call signs. I, myself (AKA “Dad” in this story), spent a lot of time logging.

All of us are now a bit more experienced. We have a lot of learnings to apply and a lot of new ideas to try out. We can’t wait for OSPOTA 2022!



### **K8FAY - Deer Creek State Park**





## K8IV - Punderson State Park

This year the team members included Captain Ed K8IV, and operators; George K3GP, Ray KD8DFL, Tom WB8LCD, John N8GIE and Amy N8AMY.

The WX was perfect with a slight breeze and temp of 75 degrees. At 10am the guys were finalizing adjustments to the 80m antenna, so I jumped on 40m to start operating and kick off the contest. Team K8IV came out of the gate strong on 40m with a near instant pileup!

Most of the contacts were from NA with the occasional “park-to-park” call that made your heart beat faster! It was really fun to hear from guys who were working 5 watts on a remote summit in the NW US & guys in Southern Ohio in a park in Cambridge! We made QSL’s with parks located all over the US. A couple of special event stations worked us: K4MIA, National POW MIA Recognition Day & W6F, Route 66 on the Air.

My favorite contact was a 94 year old ham contacting us on 40m from a yacht 15 miles off the shore of NJ who invited me to come down and “party” after the contest ended.

In the afternoon the 20m station was overcome with EU contacts who were part of their own contest. During this time, it was difficult to hold a frequency and I was forced to move by an overpowering booming Bulgarian station. But I was determined to operate to the last minute and kept on moving.

We had a few obligatory drive-thru visitors asking us if we were “pumpkin chunking” with our Antenna Trailer. Also welcomed Team K8IV supporter, Wayne K8FF (my Dad), who came by to check on the operation. (K8FF then went home to his QTH to work all three of our stations!) Logging via N1MM software on NUC computers worked very well with few issues.

After the contest, we tore down the stations and had our annual celebratory dinner at Blazin’ Bills. We love the great BBQ, and the fact that they don’t mind us driving trucks & trailers across their grass!



## K8RYU - Buckeye Lake State Park



## K8TSG - Delaware State Park

Check out their video at: <https://youtu.be/A0oeEgiawAo>

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## KD8MQ/R - Malabar Farm, Mohican & Mt. Gilead State Parks

So, while I'm dragging my feet to get my OSPOTA entry submitted, I thought I'd pass along some pictures, and some words about my OSPOTA adventure.



This year, I thought I'd try to hit a few different parks during OSPOTA. So starting out at Mohican, I happened upon a spot that was already taken by another group of Hams. They were friendly enough, but not wanting to be in their way, I opted to find another spot to operate from. As luck would have it, I found a semi-deserted parking lot about a mile away, and it was still in the State Park.



in short order.



After a short time, I drove over to the Horsemen's area at Malabar Farm only to find it was already taken. I had a nice conversation with Dave, NF8O, and then left to set up at a spot at the bottom of the hill.



Finished at Malabar Farm, I found a quick lunch, then headed back to my home camp at Mt. Gilead SP. This is where I made the bulk of my contacts. 75M which had died earlier in the afternoon came back to life in the last hour of the contest, allowing me to get 17 parks in the log. 40M, which had been awesome all weekend, did not disappoint. It was a great afternoon.

As per my custom, I started a roaring campfire in the last hour of OSPOTA, then cooked the thickest steak I could find once the contest was over. Once dinner was over, I got back on the air, and continued my POTA activation. I'm already looking forward to doing it again next year. 73 DE WG8X

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## KE8OXZ - Tinkers Creek State Park

I've only been licensed for a little over a year, but in that time I've found POTA and really enjoyed both hunting and activating. Most of my activations are more of the opportunistic type where I have a small window and a very small, usually QPR, station (that fits in a small backpack) and I just try to get as many contacts as I can in the short time I have available. This was somewhat of a new experience for me where I was planning on spending the better part of a day in the park so I brought my Icom IC-7300 from my shack out into the field for the first time with a 20AH battery and set up for the day. Had a great time and, as usual, got to talk to some really great people on the air. Of the 119 contacts I made, 39 of them were also in parks, and 11 of those were in Ohio State Parks. I'll definitely be back again next year. 73, Mike KE8OXZ

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## KE8PAQ - Lake Hope State Park



I got started about half an hour after I had planned. Who knew a 30-foot pole could be slightly difficult to put up by yourself. I was set up on a picnic table at the top of a hill overlooking the beach, which attracted the attention of a handful of people. One gentleman towards the end of the day came over and discussed his experiences with

shortwave, including the military.



My setup included an FT-450, connected to an MFJ manual tuner, which was then connected to a G5RV Junior, which was supported in the center by a 31-foot Jackite fiberglass pole. I was surprised that I managed to tune the G5RV on 80 meters, and even more so that most of my activity ended up on 80. I was also running on a 35aH battery and 25-watt solar panel and pushed 100 watts the entire time.



I've been operating exclusively portable so far, so OSPOTA has quickly become my favorite contest. Last year, it gave me my first opportunity to see HF in action at Paint Creek, and for better or worse has gotten me hooked. Thanks for the great time and looking forward to 2022!

## KE8RV - Madison Lake State Park

The Madison County Amateur Radio Club operated at Madison Lake. Operators were N8CWY, NO8F and W8RAY. Helpers were N8BEK and AD8AL. The Rigs used were a Yaesu 857D and an ICOM 817.



We used the N3FJP Logging program and I networked the two laptops together using an old wireless router. The Park provided us with a nice shelter house and an abundance of trees which we were able to use to hang our homemade dipoles for 20.40, and 80 meters. Activity was pretty good on all bands, however all but one of the In state park contacts were made on 80 meters. Many POTA stations were contacted during the contest. All had a good time and hope we will be able to do it again next year. 73, Larry N8CWU



## Ohio State Parks On The Air



## KQ4YC - Stonelick State Park

Thanks to all the volunteers making this event happen. You guys ordered up the perfect weather! Well almost perfect... a little windy for paper logs. But the sunshine was spot on.



This November, I'll be licensed for 30 years, and this is the first contest log I've ever submitted. But there was about a 24 yr gap before I got back on the air in 2020.

I'm just getting started with portable operating. Got hooked at field day where I built an EFHW and setup in our neighborhood park. I used my sump pump battery. Lesson learned: An 80 lb battery is not the way to go. I also learned that I need to tell people on our Facebook page what I'm doing... the officer almost counted as a government official visiting my site.

I picked up a G90 at the Cincinnati Hamfest a few weeks ago. The goal is to take it on future Scout campouts. JOTA is coming up. OSPOTA was a great opportunity to learn more lessons, which I did. I'm glad it ended at 6pm, so I wasn't tempted for just-one-more-contact. I enjoyed taking a little time to rag chew now and again. Some time was spent letting folks know a 4 call is operating in an 8 call area park. Haha. I snuck in a few SKCC contacts for the Weekend Sprint.



Stonelick State Park was an easy choice. The area is great, the beach fun, and I enjoy the disc golf course and the people that play. There wasn't much activity at the beach area. Only a few people stopped by. One guy whose grandfather is a ham offered to climb a tree to help string up my antenna.

All in all, a fantastic afternoon. 73 ES CUL, James Nichols KQ4YC

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## KY8U - East Fork State Park



This year I activated East Fork State Park (EFK).

As always I had an absolute blast! The weather was picture perfect and I truly couldn't have asked for a better day.

This year I set up my military pole with a home brew 80 / 40 fan dipole antenna.



For my radio I ran my Icom 7300.

you all for the contacts! I look forward to this event every year and love talking with all of you. I am already looking forward to OSPOTA 2022! Thanks again for putting on this event!  
73 from Josh, KY8U



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## N8CJ - From in Ohio

What a beautiful weekend to be in a park. Wish I could have been there. I'm stuck at home for now recovering from recent knee surgery. Had a great time chasing parks I could find on 80m. Next year, God willing, I'll be in a park. 73 - Alan - N8CJ

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## N8SUZ/R - Forked Run, Jackson Lake & Lake Alma State Parks



I trip over my fat fingers pretty regularly, too. Was by myself so didn't take a lot of time for pictures. Was a long drive between my first two parks and didn't think about pix. Been trying to document my POTA activations. I did take two from Forked Run (FOR), attached. Thanks for adding the rover category. I was pretty disappointed a couple of years ago when my rover parks had to count individually. Decided to just operate with my club the last two years when I also had an evening Masonic meeting on the same day. They moved the meeting this year so gave me time to do rover.

I was really surprised about getting so many POTA hunters. I have activated several new parks the last few weeks so I figured they jumped on my parks once I hit the spotting networks. It has been almost ten months since KD8MQ activated and mine was just the sixth overall.

About the rat, we have a group of operators from SE Ohio that do mobile operating at outdoor events and park activations called the Southeast Ohio Radio Adventure Team (SEORAT). The rat is our symbol

and we try to get a picture of him somewhere at the station or with the location in the background. The Southeast Ohio Radio Adventure Team - <https://wd8rif.com/seorat.htm>



## N8T - Pymatuning State Park

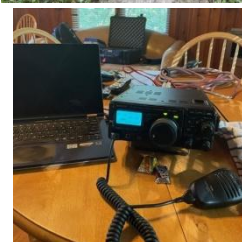


Very enjoyable OSPOTA this year. I was at Pymatuning SP for the 3rd year, using special event call N8T. Perfect weather!

My station was a Yaesu FT-897d, an EMB solid state amplifier (throttled at 300W) and a homebrew End Fed Sloper - 141ft at 35ft. Incredible receive antenna. I could hear hundreds of stations on 40m and 20m. 80/75m was noisy and didn't load well - 2.6:1 SWR. Still, I could hear stations on 80m.

From 2:30-4:00pm, a null from a solar flare made conditions difficult. The last hour, I was on 20m, cherry-picking DX stations from a contest. Europe, especially Germany, was booming! Also got Slovenia, S53M at 59+10! Not too bad for a portable station!

All in all, an enjoyable time.



## Ohio State Parks On The Air





## N8WCP - West Branch State Park



I only took two pix. Didn't think I would participate Saturday, came down with a head cold and sore throat Friday.

Felt good enough to set up for a few hours then went home and slept the rest of the day.

Beautiful day at West Branch, just had to dodge a few frisbees from the frisbee golf course :) 73, Mike, N8WCP



## NA8Y - Alum Creek State Park



Wow.. bad year for me. I couldn't find a clean spot on the bands where I was at.

So many confusing people that were actually doing POTA not OSPOTA too.

Even people at Ohio State Parks were doing it.



## N08I - Sycamore State Park

As a newly licensed Tech, I was looking to combine a new hobby (HAM radio) with an old hobby (being outdoors). But, I was nervous because I had no clue what I was doing. I had never attended a field day or

even operated on any of the HF bands. The biggest problem was, as a tech, I could only participate in the contest using the 6 and 10 meter bands. So, I asked around for help. But, I could only find one General to help, and he wasn't even sure he'd be able to make it! I began planning as best I could to go it on my own. I borrowed a radio from a fellow club member and we sat down for a couple hours as he showed me how to

use it. However, I struggled to make any contacts on the 10 meter band. As we got closer

to the contest, the club decided to move the monthly meeting to the location I was planning. All of a sudden, I had a group of Generals and Extras helping with planning... generator power, antennas, tables, chairs, etc.



The morning of the contest, we began setting up 3 separate radios and got a couple computers ready for digital logging. Many club members stopped by to say hi and see how the contest was going. It was amazing to see all the support! Everyone had their own tip or advice to offer. One individual started out making contacts under the club call sign (N08I). Then, others joined in on the other radios. Eventually, I jumped in! We scanning the dial for a little while. Then, camped out and started calling CQ.

We took a break for lunch to discuss how things were going and what us "newbies" had learned. When we were done, we packed everything up and made sure to "leave no trace" by cleaning up any trash we found. We left the park looking as if we were never there... even cleaner than we arrived! While we weren't in it to break any records, it was still fun to be outside, making contacts on the radio, and enjoying each others' company.

## W8ATR - A.W. Marion State Park

FIRST TIME PARTICIPATING IN OSPOTA AS A NEW CLUB IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY! LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR!

## W8KIW/R - Pike Lake State Park

Best laid plans failed my roving adventure.

After a successful Pike Lake run and arrival at Great Seal, the rig failed and I had to abort the remaining five parks on the planned route.

73, John, W8KIW



## WB8CPG - Delaware State Park



Another great event.

Thanks to all of you out there. WB8CPG/Jim, KD8AMY/Amy and KD8LYX/Larry all had a great time at Delaware State Park and could not have had better weather.

Bands seemed to be in pretty good shape all day and we scored pretty well and had a lot of fun doing it.



## Ohio State Parks On The Air





**Start Making Plans for the  
15<sup>th</sup> annual**

*Ohio State Parks On The Air*



**September 10, 2022.**

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



*Ohio State Parks*



*On The Air*





## OSPOTA Logging & Checking

**John, WG8X**  
(formerly KD8MQ)



Well, the log checking process is complete, and you likely have already read the results here in the Radiogram. Congratulations to all who participated, but especially to those who braved the beautiful weather during this year's OSPOTA.

I thought I'd share some thoughts on the log checking process, and give some insight into what goes on behind the scenes after you submit your log.

Beginning with last year's contest, we joined the growing list of contests which accept only Cabrillo files for entry. Cabrillo is a standard log format that lets us do a more accurate scoring of the logs, and is a lot more accurate than scoring paper logs.

The log-checking process begins when you send your log in to us at ospota.org. Parky, KB8UUZ does a review to find any errors, such as incorrect file type, missing information, etc. He may e-mail you at that point and give you an opportunity to correct the errors and re-submit your entry.

As the deadline for log submission approaches, he & I compare notes and reach out to as many of the in-park stations as possible who've not yet submitted their logs. If they are having trouble creating a Cabrillo, I do my best to help point them in the right direction.

Once the deadline for log submission is past, Parky forwards all received logs to me along with a tally sheet of scores, so that I can begin the cross-checking process. I start by going through each file to check for proper formatting. I also check for times recorded in Local rather than UTC time. I try to fix things like this if I can do it easily.

Then, the logs get run through the Cab Evaluator program which generates cross check sheets for each station. This is where most of the issues are found, such as incorrect band & times. We also find any busted calls at this step.

Then, I go through each log manually, checking the computers work, and re-scoring your log. I then add my results to the tally sheet, and send it back to Parky, who checks things again before preparing the final results that you see here in the Radiogram.

There are a few points I would like to touch on:

- 1) We don't require atomic clock accuracy on your times. If you can log within +/- 5 minutes of the actual time of contact, we will call it good. Beyond that, we have to penalize. So, check those clocks.
  - 2) This year, I saw a lot of "bands out of range" errors. I think this usually happens when someone changes bands, and forgets to note it in their log, or software. For a lot of us, this could be solved by hooking up the rig interface on your logging program. I know that not all the rigs out there have a communications port, but a lot do.
  - 3) I saw a lot of cases where a "V" would become a "U", and vice-versa. There were other instances too where I could tell that someone was transcribing a paper log after the contest. This is OK, if that's how you roll, but it's a place where errors will sneak in.
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Some of you are still using paper logs, and that's OK. I'll be posting more to the [OSPOTA@groups.io](mailto:OSPOTA@groups.io) list in summer of 2022 to help make things easier for you. No, we won't ever go back to accepting paper logs, but we can give you tips that will make generating a Cabrillo file a bit easier.

I know that some of you had some challenges in creating a Cabrillo file this year. I'm available before & after the contest to assist with logging questions. I do however put my phone on Do Not Disturb on the day of OSPOTA so that I can enjoy the contest too.

The big take-away here is to test your logging setup in advance, and make sure that all is working the way you expect it to. This will help you immensely on the big day.

Again, congratulations to all who participated. I hope that you had fun. 73 DE WG8X (formerly KD8MQ).



*Ohio State Parks*



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