

# Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)

## 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 while in an Ohio State Park.

### Objective

To have competing stations operating from as many of Ohio's seventy-five 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

17<sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 7, 2024    18<sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 6, 2025  
19<sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 12, 2026    20<sup>th</sup> OSPOTA - September 11, 2027  
*Always the first Saturday after the Labor Day Holiday.*

### Modes and Bands

- Modes of Operation: SSB only.
- 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
- R - Rover Low Power (.1 to 100 watts)
- 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)

**Note** - Rovers must submit a Summary Sheet for each park they activate inside the boundaries of the Ohio State Park. Rovers **must use a /R as their call sign** (example: K8BF/R).

**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.

**Rover Entry:** Entries where one or more persons perform the operating and/or logging functions using only one transmitter and Low Power. Call sign used must have **/R** (example: K8BF/R) and ensure the 3 letter park designator is part of the contest exchange. Rovers must be within the boundary of the Ohio State Park they are working from.

## 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" for a Rover it would be "K8BF/R, 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, DX"*  
(KH6/KL7 Hawaii and Alaska are US States)
- DX stations outside of W/VE send call sign and "DX".  
*Example: "VE3AA or XE2BB or GB4AA are all DX"*



Exchanges can be: State Park 3 letter abbreviation (ie: PUN), State 2 letter abbreviation (ie: OH) or DX if outside the USA (all of Canada and Mexico are 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 Parks* and *Little Miami Ohio State Park*.

## 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].

Note: 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 very 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 or on the ODNR website - look for the car symbol which is next to a picnic table symbol - there are 9 or more 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) **the State Park YOU are in will count as a multiplier.**
- FINAL SCORE - Multiply QSO points by the total number of multipliers.  
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 = 9 plus PUN, Total score = 10 x 37 = 370 points.
- **NO PAPER LOGS WILL BE ACCEPTED** Your log must be submitted as a 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. **Note:** ONLY Cabrillo logs will be accepted - no more paper logs can be submitted. The scoring mechanism requires only Cabrillo logs. 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 in Cabrillo format.

## Miscellaneous

- **Call signs and exchange information** must be received, confirmed **and logged** by both stations for a complete contest QSO. *Pay attention to Rovers - they must use /R and you must log the /R.* Example WG8X/R is the call that WG8X is using while running as a Rover station.
- 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.
- Multi-Operator entries may only use one call sign during the contest.
- If you have multiple operators, ensure the current operator holds the same class license as the call sign being used. If not, a control operator that holds the higher license must be present - this is an FCC regulation.
- No individual shall make a QSO utilizing more than one call sign.
- **Stations inside an Ohio State Park (includes Rovers) must make a minimum of TEN contacts. Four of the contacts being made to four other (different from where you are transmitting from) Ohio State Park stations. This gives others the opportunity to contact your Ohio State Park.**
- 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.* Yes, you can operate from more than one Ohio State Park and not be considered a Rover.
- Rovers must submit a Summary Sheet and log for each of the Ohio State Parks they operate from. If the Rover completes the minimum contacts required, the total score for the Rover will be the sum total for the Ohio State Parks that were activated.
- **Rovers** must send (and log) their call with a /R at the end (example: K8BF/R). Rovers will submit a summary sheet for each park they activate. Rovers' scores will be totaled up when their logs are checked and their total score will be the sum total of all the summary sheets they submit.
- Soliciting for contacts is **encouraged** to promote more contacts being made during the contest. You can ask a station over the air to meet you on a different band in order to make an additional contact. You can self-spot on a cluster or spotting network and you can ask another ham operator over the air 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 an Ohio State Park) and is controlling it remotely from another location (example: outside the Ohio 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(s), transmitter(s) and receiver(s) 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.
- Obviously, cheating isn't allowed. This includes operating more than 8 hours and trying to make it look like you operated only 8. Do not run 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 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/DX, or Ohio State Park Identifier received for all QSOs as applicable.
- Cabrillo files must be used for log submissions. A Summary Sheet will still be required.
- **LOGS and Summary Sheets MUST BE LEGIBLE TO BE SCORED.** Any incomplete, illegible or otherwise unable to be scored logs or summary sheets will be considered as check logs at the discretion of the Ohio State Parks On The Air contest committee.
- Send E-mail Cabrillo log(s) file(s) with a completed **summary sheet(s)** (summary text file(s)) to [LOGS@ospota.org](mailto: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. **Please rename the files with the call sign used.**
- Operating aids (rules, summary sheet, text file summary 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](http://www.ospota.org) or from the OSPOTA IO Site at: <https://groups.io/g/OSPOTA>
- By submitting an Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest log, and in consideration of the efforts of the OSPOTA Committee to review and evaluate that log, an entrant unconditionally and irrevocably agrees that he/she has:
  - 1) read and understood the rules of the contest and agrees to be bound by them,
  - 2) operated according to all rules and regulations that pertain to amateur radio for the station location,
  - 3) agreed the log entry may be made open to the public, and
  - 4) accepted that the issuing of disqualifications and other decisions of the Committee are official and final.If an entrant is unwilling or unable to agree to all of the rules, the entrant should not submit the entry or submit the entry as a Check Log only.
- Final results will be posted on the OSPOTA web site and the OSPOTA IO site.

## Reasons Why Your Log May Be Considered a ‘Check Log’

- 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 missing - UTC times not listed - band or proper exchanges missing
- Log and Summary sheet arrive past the due date



## Awards

### Certificates will be awarded to:

- 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place - in each of the entry categories



For the latest information or updates check the Ohio State Parks On The Air website: [www.OSPOTA.org](http://www.OSPOTA.org) or the OSPOTA IO site: <https://groups.io/g/OSPOTA>

**Logs must be emailed no later than 14 days after the contest.**  
**Ensure your log is legible, complete and you have also attached the OSPOTA Summary Sheet.**

**E-Mail Cabrillo Log with Summary Sheet to: [LOGS@ospota.org](mailto:LOGS@ospota.org)**



More information about this event can be found at the Ohio State Parks On The Air web site: [www.OSPOTA.org](http://www.OSPOTA.org)

Any questions? E-mail: [INFO@OSPOTA.org](mailto:INFO@OSPOTA.org)