Portage **C**ounty **A**mateur **R**adio 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-six 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
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18th OSPOTA - September 6, 2025
19th OSPOTA - September 12, 2026   20th OSPOTA - September 11, 2027
Always the first Saturday after the Labor Day Holiday.

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Modes and Bands
- Modes of Operation: SSB and CW only (**no** RTTY, FT8 or other digital modes).
- Amateur Radio Bands: **80, 40, 20, 15 and 10** meters.
- Please honor all band plans. All contacts must be in the proper portion of the bands.
- Stations may be worked once on each band/mode (you can contact a station on both SSB and CW on each band).

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
- MPO - Multi-Park Operator(s), Low or High Power (was previously called "Rover")
- SL   - Single Operator Low Power (.1 to 100 watts) located at one Ohio State Park
- SH   - Single Operator High Power (>100 watts) located at one Ohio State Park
- INOH - Operator (Single or Multi) inside Ohio not at an Ohio State Park (low or high power)
- OUT - Operator (Single or Multi) outside of Ohio (low or high power)

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

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Entry Categories 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.

- **Multi-Park-Operator (MPO) Entry**: Entries where one or more persons perform the operating and/or logging functions using only one transmitter operating at multiple Ohio State Parks (one at a time). Was previously the "Rover" category. One call sign used. **DOES NOT** have to send a **/R** in the callsign exchange.

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 MPO it would still be "K8BF, ADA")
- Ohio stations NOT operating from an Ohio State Park send their call sign and "NOT".
  Example: "K8BF, NOT"
- Non Ohio stations send their call sign and State or DX.
  Example: "KD4BF, GA" or "KH6BF, HI"
  (KH/KL Hawaii and Alaska are US States)
- DX stations outside of USA send call sign and "DX".
  Example: "VE3AA or XE2BB or GB4AA, etc. are all DX"

Exchanges can be: State Park 3 letter abbreviation (ie: PUN), State 2 letter abbreviation (ie: OH or NOT) or DX if outside the USA (all of Canada and Mexico are DX, HI and AK are States in the USA).

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 and land 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 on each mode and/or band contact is worth one point. Example: Contacts to PUN on 80 meters SSB then CW are two valid contacts regardless of band used, but the Multiplier is counted once. Yes, you can contact PUN again on 40 meters on SSB and CW and count those two contacts.
- MULTIPLIERS - Multipliers are the *76* Ohio State Parks (1 per park = 76 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 SSB, 15 contacts on 40 meters SSB, 12 contacts on 15 meters CW, 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 <u>actual log file</u>). No ADIF, no CSV, 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.
- No cross-mode contacts and no credit for contacts made through repeaters or satellites.
- All contacts using Phone (SSB) must be in the Phone (SSB) portion of the bands.
- All contacts using CW must be in the CW portion of the bands.
- Please, honor all band plans.
- 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 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 log files. *Example: If you operate the MPO category at two or more different Ohio State Parks during the contest, you will need two or more summary sheets and two or more log files.* Yes, you can operate from more than one Ohio State Park in the MPO category.
- 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 (for operating, logging, spotting). 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 log files** 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 in the MPO category, send in three Summary Sheets and three Log files. 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 log files 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 file(s) with a completed **summary sheet(s)** to **LOGS@ospota.org** and must be sent in no later than 14 days after the end of the contest. Log files 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, 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: https://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:

- 1st 2nd and 3rd place - in each of the entry categories

For the latest information or updates check the
Ohio State Parks On The Air website: https://www.ospota.org/ or the
OSPOTA IO site: https://groups.io/g/OSPOTA

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

E-Mail Cabrillo Log file with Summary Sheet to: LOGS@ospota.org

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

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