

Ohio State Parks On The Air



The Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS) announces the **19th Annual “Ohio State Parks On the Air” (OSPOTA)** contest, from the hours of 10 am to 6 pm EST (1400 UTC to 2200 UTC).

19th OSPOTA - September 12, 2026

20th OSPOTA - September 11, 2027

21st OSPOTA – September 9th, 2028

Always the first Saturday after the Labor Day holiday.



For hams throughout the State of Ohio, this is your opportunity to visit and enjoy the amenities offered by the 76 beautiful State Parks here in Ohio. Don't just make a day of it - spend the weekend at the park of your choice. No matter whether you are camping or staying at one of the outstanding lodges or resorts, you will find that the parks are one of Ohio's greatest assets. Find out more about the Ohio State Parks at: <https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-odnr/division-parks-watercraft>

In past years, hundreds of Amateur Radio Operators (hams) from around the country participated in the event. With the success of OSPOTA, we hope to have amateur radio operators at every Ohio State Park.

This contest places a premium on working stations located in the Ohio State Parks. That means that it is critical to have as many parks activated as possible. The challenge for Ohio stations will be to work HF in the 50 to 300 mile range. This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the design and deployment of Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) antennas. You can find numerous designs on the Internet and in various Amateur Radio antenna manuals. Along with your operating skills, it will be a chance to showcase your antenna building skills as well.

Individuals and multiple operators can operate Ohio State Park stations. Non-park stations in Ohio as well as stations outside of Ohio can also compete.

Contacts can be made on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters using SSB and CW. All contacts have the same point values.

Make sure that you read the Rules, FAQ's and get your forms for the contest that are posted on the OSPOTA website: <https://www.ospota.org/> before the contest.



So get to an **Ohio State Park** and get **On The Air** in September.

Have some fun with this contest!

Learn more about PCARS at <https://www.portcars.org/>.



73 for now and we look forward to hearing you during OSPOTA 2026,
OSPOTA Contest Committee

January 2026