# *OSPOTA 2026 - Final Results*

***Tom, KB8UUZ***
**OSPOTA**
**Chairman**

Ohio State Parks On The Air

The 19th annual **Ohio State Parks On The Air** (OSPOTA) 2026 contest held on September 12th is in the history books. The weather was a bit wet and rainy in most of the state and the teams and individuals that went out to the Ohio State Parks did a fantastic job. Activity on 40 and 80 was great and even 10 and 15 had some takers as well. 40 meters was definitely the most active band.

I was the one that initially received the logs and did some pre-checks and gathered info on the State Park, State or Country the log was from. Copied info on the Club affiliation, operators, loggers, helpers, and raw scores. Once the logs were in, I sent them to John, WG8X to run them through the log checking process (more on that in his article). Once they were done and sent back to me, I then updated my tally sheet, and wrote up the soapbox comments and photos we received. I estimated the total time for the committee work was well over 80 hours.

One thing I did notice this year that a few entries from participants that were in an Ohio State Park made contacts only to other Ohio State Parks. That's fine since Ohio State Parks are multipliers, but you missed out on a LOT of extra points by not making contacts to other stations as well. Think about that for next year. Your score would definitely increase by making more contacts.

And, there seemed to be a number of Ohio State Parks activated, but no log was sent in. Next year, ***please*** send in those logs. We would all appreciate them, especially for cross checking the logs.

The OSPOTA committee sends out a big **THANK YOU** to all that participated in this year's OSPOTA and we look forward to hearing you on the air again next year to have even more FUN. Start planning now for OSPOTA 2027.

**73 from the OSPOTA Contest Committee**

**KB8UUZ, WG8X, W8PT, W8KNO and KB8UHN**

Ohio State Parks On The Air

# *OSPOTA 2026 - Log Checking Information*

***John, WG8X***
**OSPOTA Log Checking**

Well, another Ohio State Parks on the Air contest is in the books, and the log checking is officially complete!

First, a big thank you to everyone who participated in OSPOTA 2026, especially those who took the time to submit their logs. Whether you made hundreds of contacts or just a handful, your logs help make the contest a success. This year, we processed **85 logs containing 8,093 QSOs**.

As usual, a variety of logging programs were represented. N3FJP's Ohio QSO Party Contest Log and N1MM Logger+ continued to be popular choices, accounting for 23 and 18 logs respectively. Ham2K Portable Logger (PoLo) also made a strong showing with at least 13 logs. Other entries came from World Radio League, GenLog and several other programs.

**A New Approach to Log Processing**

Those of you who have read my previous reports know that one of the most time-consuming parts of log checking has been getting the submitted Cabrillo files into a consistent format. Different logging programs sometimes handle frequencies, exchanges and park identifiers differently, and everything needs to be in the proper place before the logs can be compared.

This year, with the help of ChatGPT, I developed a log normalization program to automate much of that work.
Of course, developing the program was a learning experience! Each time I ran the logs through it, we discovered another issue that needed correcting. After approximately five passes, we finally had everything working properly.

The results were worth the effort! What previously took a week of work, totaling approximately 18–24 hours, was reduced to a single day of about nine hours.

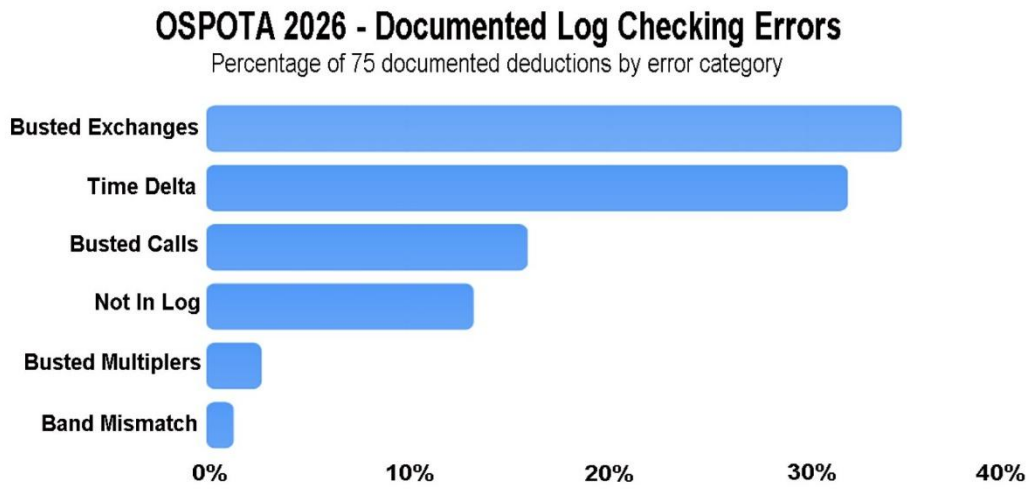
Once the logs were normalized, they went through Cab Evaluator, which compares contacts and generates cross-checking reports. From there, I reviewed the discrepancies, determined which were actual errors and calculated the final scores. The computer does a great job of finding discrepancies, but there's still a human element involved in deciding what they mean.

**How Did We Do?**

Here's some good news: **17 logs had no score reductions and are what we call Golden Logs!** Congratulations to those operators! The remaining logs had one or more deductions. Most fell into six familiar categories:

- **Busted Exchanges (34.7%):** Incorrectly copied states or three-letter park abbreviations.
- **Time Delta (32%):** Contact times that don't agree within the allowed window.
- **Busted Calls (16%):** Incorrectly copied call signs.
- **Not in Log (13.3%):** Contacts that couldn't be matched in another submitted log.
- **Busted Multipliers (2.7%):** Incorrect park multipliers.
- **Band Mismatch (1.3%):** Contacts recorded on different bands.

These percentages represent the documented deductions, not the percentage of contacts affected.




Busted exchanges and Time Delta errors accounted for nearly two-thirds of documented deductions in OSPOTA 2026.

**What Time Is It, Anyway?**
Time Delta errors were particularly troublesome this year, accounting for 32% of deductions, compared with 13.5% last year. In most cases, this isn't a matter of copying something incorrectly. It's a matter of having your computer clock or logging software configured incorrectly. I found a couple of logs where the contacts appeared accurate, but the recorded times were exactly four hours off! That's a pretty good indication that local time was being recorded instead of UTC. When I encounter something like this, and I'm confident about the cause, I can sometimes correct the log. But please don't count on that happening every time! Before the contest begins, take a minute to synchronize your computer clock with an accurate time source. Also, make sure your logging program is recording UTC rather than local time. Remember, we allow a 10-minute window (plus or minus five minutes) when comparing contacts. **Let's get those clocks set properly before the contest begins, shall we?**

**Two-Fers, Three-Fers and More**
Another issue this year involved stations attempting to claim multiple parks for a single contact. In POTA, operators can activate more than one park simultaneously when operating from overlapping locations. These are commonly called Two-Fers, Three-Fers and so on. However, **OSPOTA does not recognize X-Fers!** For OSPOTA purposes, working a station operating from overlapping parks counts as only one contact. A couple of these appeared in this year's logs and were flagged as duplicates. Please remember that just because something is permitted in POTA doesn't necessarily mean it applies to OSPOTA!

**Work Those Dupes!**
I heard a few operators telling calling stations that they'd already worked them and were already in the log. Remember, **OSPOTA doesn't penalize duplicate contacts!** It's usually much quicker to work the station again than to explain why you think it's a dupe. Besides, you might not be in their log, or perhaps they copied your call sign incorrectly the first time. Mistakes do happen! A second contact could be the one that saves the other operator from losing points, and it costs you very little time. So save yourself the trouble and **work those dupes!**

**One Final Thought**
As always, individual log-checking reports are available if you'd like to see how your score was affected. Feel free to contact me at **wg8x.radio@gmail.com** with any questions.

Thanks again to everyone who participated, and I'll look forward to seeing your logs next year!

73 DE WG8X

Ohio State Parks On The Air

# OSPOTA Contest - 2026

# *Final Results*

# 19th OSPOTA - 2026 - Final Results

| Overall High Score |
|---|
| **K8BSR - 46,215** |

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

| Call | Park Name | Final Score |
|---|---|---|
| **K8BSR** | **Harrison Lake:** KE8TUW, KE8UTX, N8ZGM, WB8RG, AB8RC, W8NI, KF8CNK, W8FIL, KD8SM, KE8TSA, KB3CMT, KB3KLT, KE8QJV, KE8SZL | 46,215 |
| **K8UU** | **Caesar Creek:** WE8N, KD8VWF, WB8ZVL, WZ8K, WD8EMU, W8MDX | 24,549 |
| **W8VTD** | **Mosquito Lake:** AE8TA, K8CPG, K8CX, KF8EVL, KB8GAB, N8HRZ | 21,840 |
| KC3GFU | **Barkcamp**: KC3GFU, WF8U | 11,890 |
| W8UCO | **Alum Creek**: W7FTF, K8DSH, K8SLH, K8MP, NX8Y, AB8FE, N8IG, KD8RGW, KE8ANU, KB8YVC | 8,587 |
| WF8X | **Caesar Creek**: WF8X, KF8CEB, KL8X, K8MDB, KM4BE, KD8BNR, W5WJJ | 7,632 |
| W8AL | **Portage Lakes:** N8OH, N8XY, KF8UN, AC8RH, N8DTP, AD8NN, W8JKC, WD8PAP, KE8VPS, K8MRE | 5,166 |
| K8BXQ | **Harrison Lake:** KB8ELG, KE8OKA, KE8BHW, AA8YY | 4,488 |
| N0VRS | **Van Buren**: AD8AK, K8KTO, KE8IKV, N1OF, WE8ST, WE8TOM | 2,916 |
| W8VP | **Blue Rock:** WD8SDH, N8IMW, KB8BYY, KE8NI | 2,523 |
| N8QA | **Shawnee**: KB8SRN, N8MRB, N8JEN, KE6ASA, W8TBS, WD8LSN, KD8WTG, W8XDB | 2,040 |
| N8BAP | **Paint Creek:** N8BAP, N8CUB, N1DJS, KE8PAQ | 1,922 |
| WB8MMR | **Deer Creek**: KD8NKY, KD8OOT, KE8JWC, KE8ZKU, W8CBG, W8KJM | 1,040 |
| K8YOJ | **East Fork**: KF8ECF, N8BAK, AB8YF, N8LMJ, KA8RTG, KB6PLH, N8RQT,N8NLW | 756 |
| KC8OH | **Pymatuning:** AD8OI, KC8LAR, KF8GPW | 594 |
| K8QYL | **Grand Lake St. Marys:** W8GZ, WB8GPB, KC8UKB, KE8FKD, KE8ABA | 250 |
| W8QLY | **Lake Milton**: K8MSH, KD8NZF, KE8NSW, KF8EWQ, WB8YHD | 231 |
| W8WRC | **Nelson-Kennedy Ledges**: N8ROB, KE8VOB, KE8YZL, KC8UNR | 130 |
| K8ES | **Malabar Farm**: N8QL, AE8Q, KE8QPI, KE8TQP | Check Log |

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

| Call | Park Name | Final Score |
|---|---|---|
| **KC8AAV** | **Burr Oak**: KC8AAV, KC8QDQ, N8UVM, KE8WJJ, WD8OOJ, KB3URV | 21,973 |

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

| Call | Park Name | Final Score |
|---|---|---|
| **W8LKY** | **Guilford Lake**: KE8ZLT, KE8OWD | 8,228 |
| **W8UKE** | **Strouds Run**: W8UKE, N8XWO, KF8DES, N8SUZ, WD8RIF, WD8SCV, KD8FRQ, W8MHV | 5,808 |
| **N8XCC** | **Hueston Woods**: N8XCC, N8XC | 4,352 |
| W8HH | **Muskingum:** KD8CWV, K8KYE, WD8JFT, N8OIF, KE8RBY | 2,883 |
| W8AJT | **Hueston Woods:** KE8BWQ, WB8TCB, W8VUV, AD8LO, K8KTI | 1,792 |
| W8NL | **Mt. Gilead**: KE8FHG, KF8FIA | 1,675 |
| K8CY | **Geneva**: KC8KEB, N8NYI, N8YFF, W8RNG, N8TCR, K3YP | 1,675 |
| K8GE | **Adams Lake**: KE8GAD, AB8GJ | 725 |
| W8NP | **Portage Lakes**: N3JJT, N8IVJ, W8CRD, KE8IDH, KD8ENV | 672 |
| K8VON | **Independence Dam**: WD8JVV, KE8HQD, NO8C, W8UY | 294 |
| W8RSC | **Maumee Bay**: KE8IJV, KE8UU, W8CHS | 286 |

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

| Call | Park Name | Final Score |
|---|---|---|
| | *No Entries in this Category* | |

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

| Call | Park Name | Final Score |
|---|---|---|
| | *No Entries in this Category* | |

Ohio State Parks On The Air

| SL - Single Op-Low Power - In a Park | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Call** | **Park Name** | **Final Score** |
| **KF8AHK** | **Beaver Creek** | 14,280 |
| **KD8BBK** | **Salt Fork** | 12,519 |
| **N8JMS** | **Buckeye Lake** | 7,070 |
| K8RR | **Great Council** | 5,032 |
| AF1K | **Punderson** | 3,936 |
| KO4FSZ | **Tinkers Creek** | 2,223 |
| N8BC | **Headlands Beach** | 1,647 |
| KC8JC | **Salt Fork** | 1,020 |
| KA8NRK | **Cowan Lake** | 897 |
| KC8RJS | **West Branch** | 644 |
| KD8UFE | **Delaware** | 624 |
| N8MIQ | **Little Miami** | 462 |
| KB8ZR | **Caesar Creek** | 420 |
| NI8W | **Delaware** | 320 |
| AC8OW | **Marblehead Lighthouse** | 288 |
| N8VW | **Kiser Lake** | 98 |
| W8LBR | **Salt Fork** | 55 |
| K8RYK | **Geneva** | Check Log |
| KD8ZEI | **North Bass Island** | Check Log |

| MPO - Multi Park Operator(s) | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Call** | **Park Names/Score** | **Total Final Score** |
| **K8RYU** | **Great Seal** - 369<br>**Lake White** - 1,040<br>**Pike Lake** - 2,340<br>**Scioto Trail** - 812 | 4,561 |
| **K8PWR** | **Mary Jane Thurston** - 1,944<br>**Van Buren** - 1,026 | 2,970 |
| **WG8X** | **Guilford Lake** -108<br>**Lake Milton** - 84<br>**Quail Hollow** - 528<br>**West Branch** - 242<br>**Wingfoot Lake** -133 | 1,095 |

| In Ohio - Not In Park | |
|---|---|
| **Call** | **Final Score** |
| **AA8DL** | 1,353 |
| **KB8UHN** | 1,155 |
| **KB8UUZ** | 1,116 |
| N8YDM | 1,085 |
| K8BF | 1,044 |
| W3CRZ | 837 |
| K2KAR | 837 |
| N8CJ | 660 |
| N8OCJ | 528 |
| KA8SBI | 460 |
| KE8JVX | 400 |
| K8FF | 288 |
| WN8KDN | 168 |
| N4HAI | 20 |
| KF8I | 4 |
| **GOLDEN LOGS** | |

| Outside Ohio | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Call** | **Location** | **Final Score** |
| **W9RWG** | **IN** | 1,554 |
| **KA5VZG** | **TN** | 480 |
| **N3KN** | **VA** | 288 |
| WB9HFK | **IL** | 120 |
| W8RU | **MI** | 90 |
| N4ZQA | **VA** | 81 |
| K2EKM | **VA** | 42 |
| N1ADX | **VT** | 25 |
| KD2REH | **NY** | 16 |
| KN4FTT | **VA** | 12 |
| K4IEW | **VA** | 9 |
| VE2GT | **QC** | 1 |

Ohio State Parks On The Air

# Ohio State Parks On The Air

## 76 Parks - Listing showing Activated and Contacted in 2026

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

| Ohio State Park | ID | Activated | Contacted |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lake Logan | LOG | | |
| Lake Loramie | LOR | | |
| Lake Milton | LML | X | X |
| Lake White | LWT | X | X |
| Little Miami | LMI | X | X |
| Madison Lake | MLK | | |
| Malabar Farm | MAL | X | X |
| Marblehead Lighthouse | MHD | X | X |
| Mary Jane Thurston | MJT | X | X |
| Maumee Bay | MBY | X | X |
| Middle Bass Island | MBI | | X |
| Mohican | MOH | | X |
| Mosquito Lake | MST | X | X |
| Mt. Gilead | MTG | X | X |
| Muskingum River | MUS | X | X |
| Nelson Kennedy Ledges | NKL | X | X |
| North Bass Island | NBI | X | X |
| Oak Point | OPT | | |
| 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 | X | X |
| Rocky Fork | RFK | | X |
| Salt Fork | SFK | X | X |
| Scioto Trail | STR | X | X |
| Shawnee | SHA | X | X |
| South Bass Island | SBI | | X |
| Stonelick | STO | | X |
| Strouds Run | SRN | X | X |
| Sycamore | SYC | | X |
| Tar Hollow | TAR | | X |
| Tinkers Creek | TCK | X | X |
| Van Buren | VAN | X | X |
| West Branch | WBR | X | X |
| Wingfoot Lake | WLK | X | X |
| Wolf Run | WRN | | X |
| | | 48 | 60 |

**Parks Activated = 48 (log was submitted)**

**Parks Contacted = 60**

***Not all parks activated sent in a log for checking***

***Thanks go out to the 247 ham radio operators and club calls that submitted logs for the 2026 annual Ohio State Parks On The Air contest***

| AA8DL |
|---|
| AA8YY |
| AB8FE |
| AB8GJ |
| AB8RC |
| AB8YF |
| AC8OW |
| AC8RH |
| AD8AK |
| AD8LO |
| AD8NN |
| AD8OI |
| AE8Q |
| AE8TA |
| AF1K |
| AF8FD |
| K2EKM |
| K2KAR |
| K3YP |
| K4IEW |
| K8BF |
| K8BL |
| K8BSR |
| K8BXQ |
| K8CPG |
| K8CX |
| K8CY |
| K8DSH |
| K8ES |
| K8FF |
| K8GE |
| K8KTI |
| K8KTO |
| K8KYE |
| K8MDB |
| K8MP |
| K8MRE |
| K8MSH |
| K8PWR |
| K8QYL |
| K8RR |
| K8RYK |
| K8RYU |
| K8SLH |
| K8UU |
| K8VON |
| K8YOJ |
| KA5VZG |
| KA8NRK |
| KA8RTG |
| KA8SBI |
| KA8TOA |
| KB3CMT |
| KB3KLT |

| KB3URV |
|---|
| KB6PLH |
| KB8BYY |
| KB8ELG |
| KB8GAB |
| KB8SRN |
| KB8TUY |
| KB8UHN |
| KB8UUZ |
| KB8YVC |
| KB8ZR |
| KC3GFU |
| KC8AAV |
| KC8JC |
| KC8KEB |
| KC8LAR |
| KC8OH |
| KC8QDQ |
| KC8RJS |
| KC8UKB |
| KC8UNR |
| KD2REH |
| KD8BBK |
| KD8BNR |
| KD8CWV |
| KD8ENV |
| KD8FRQ |
| KD8NKY |
| KD8NZF |
| KD8OBA |
| KD8OOT |
| KD8RGW |
| KD8SM |
| KD8UFE |
| KD8VWF |
| KD8WTG |
| KD8ZEI |
| KE6ASA |
| KE8ABA |
| KE8ANU |
| KE8BHW |
| KE8BWQ |
| KE8FHG |
| KE8FKD |
| KE8GAD |
| KE8IDH |
| KE8IKV |
| KE8JVX |
| KE8JWC |
| KE8NI |
| KE8NSW |
| KE8OKA |
| KE8OWD |
| KE8PAQ |

| KE8QJV |
|---|
| KE8QPI |
| KE8RBY |
| KE8SZL |
| KE8TQP |
| KE8TSA |
| KE8TUW |
| KE8UTX |
| KE8UU |
| KE8UV |
| KE8VOB |
| KE8VPS |
| KE8WJJ |
| KE8YZL |
| KE8ZKU |
| KE8ZLT |
| KF8AHK |
| KF8CEB |
| KF8CNK |
| KF8DES |
| KF8ECF |
| KF8EVL |
| KF8EWQ |
| KF8FIA |
| KF8GPW |
| KF8I |
| KF8UN |
| KL8X |
| KM4BE |
| KN4FTT |
| KO4FSZ |
| N0VRS |
| N1ADX |
| N1DJS |
| N1OF |
| N3JJT |
| N3KN |
| N4HAI |
| N4ZQA |
| N8BAK |
| N8BAP |
| N8BC |
| N8CJ |
| N8CUB |
| N8DTP |
| N8HRZ |
| N8IG |
| N8IMW |
| N8IVJ |
| N8JEN |
| N8JMS |
| N8LMJ |
| N8MIQ |
| N8MRB |

| N8NLW |
|---|
| N8NYI |
| N8OCJ |
| N8OH |
| N8OIF |
| N8QA |
| N8QE |
| N8QL |
| N8ROB |
| N8RQT |
| N8SUZ |
| N8TCR |
| N8UVM |
| N8VW |
| N8XC |
| N8XCC |
| N8XWO |
| N8XY |
| N8YDM |
| N8YFF |
| N8ZGM |
| NI8W |
| NO8C |
| NX8Y |
| VE2GT |
| W3CRZ |
| W5WJJ |
| W7FTF |
| W8AJT |
| W8AL |
| W8CBG |
| W8CRD |
| W8FIL |
| W8GZ |
| W8HH |
| W8JKC |
| W8KFW |
| W8KJM |
| W8LBR |
| W8LKY |
| W8MDX |
| W8MHV |
| W8NI |
| W8NL |
| W8NP |
| W8QLY |
| W8RNG |
| W8RSC |
| W8RU |
| W8TBS |
| W8UCO |
| W8UKE |
| W8UY |
| W8VHS |

| W8VP |
|---|
| W8VTD |
| W8VUV |
| W8WRC |
| W8XDB |
| W9RWG |
| WA8LRW |
| WB8GPB |
| WB8MMR |
| WB8RG |
| WB8TCB |
| WB8YHD |
| WB8ZVL |
| WB9HFK |
| WD8EMU |
| WD8JFT |
| WD8JVV |
| WD8LSN |
| WD8OOJ |
| WD8PAP |
| WD8RIF |
| WD8SCV |
| WD8SDH |
| WE8N |
| WE8ST |
| WE8TOM |
| WF8U |
| WF8X |
| WG8X |
| WN8KDN |
| WZ8K |

PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OHIO STATE PARKS & WATERCRAFT
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## 46 Clubs Represented for OSPOTA 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| Alexandria Radio Club, VA | Lorain County Amateur Radio Association |
| Alliance Amateur Radio Club (2) | Mad River Radio Club (5) |
| Amigos Radio Club, Ashtabula (2) | Mahoning County Amateur Radio Association (2) |
| Ashtabula County Amateur Radio Club | Marietta Amateur Radio Club |
| Athens County Amateur Radio Association | Massillon Amateur Radio Club |
| Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club | Michiana Amateur Radio Club, IN |
| Cambridge Amateur Radio Association | Morrow County ARES |
| Canton Amateur Radio Club | North Coast Contesters |
| Central Ohio Contest Club | Northwest Ohio VHF Amateur Radio Society |
| Central Ohio Operators Klub Extra Novice | Portage County Amateur Radio Service (10) |
| Dayton Amateur Radio Association | Portsmouth Radio Club |
| Defiance County Amateur Club | Potomac Valley Radio Club, MD |
| DeForest Amateur Radio Club | Preble Amateur Radio Association (2) |
| Delaware Amateur Radio Club (2) | Reservoir Amateur Radio Association |
| Drake Amateur Radio Club | Risingsun Radio Club |
| Fauquier Amateur Radio Association, VA | Seneca Radio Club |
| Florida Contest Group | Southwest Columbus Ham Radio Club |
| Fulton County Amateur Radio Club | Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club, VA |
| Hamilton Amateur Radio Club | Sunday Creek Amateur Radio Federation |
| Hamilton County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps | Toledo Mobile Radio Association |
| Hilliard Contest Group (2) | Union County Amateur Radio Club (2) |
| Lake County Amateur Radio Association (2) | Warren County Amateur Radio Association (2) |
| Larkfield Amateur Radio Club, NY | Western Reserve Amateur Radio Club |

## OSPOTA 2026 Band and Mode Activity Report

| Submitted logs | QSO records | Phone | CW |
|---|---|---|---|
| 85 | 8,093 | 6,947 **85.84%** | 1,146 **14.16%** |

## QSO records by Band and Mode

| Band | Phone | CW | Total | Share |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **80** | 115 | 3 | 118 | 1.5% |
| **40** | 5,853 | 787 | 6,640 | 82.0% |
| **20** | 859 | 348 | 1,207 | 14.9% |
| **15** | 114 | 8 | 122 | 1.5% |
| **10** | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0.1% |
| **All bands** | 6,947 | 1,146 | 8,093 | 100.0% |

**Activity Highlights**

40 meters was the most active band with 6,640 contacts. **82.0%** of all QSO records.
40 Phone logged 5,853 contacts and 40 CW logged 787 contacts.
20 meters was the second most active band, with 1,207 contacts. **14.9%** of all QSO records. 859 Phone and 348 CW.

**Counting Method**

Counts represent QSO records in submitted logs, before log checking and scoring. A contact logged by both stations is counted once in each log. Duplicates and records that may later be disallowed are retained. These are not unique on-air contacts or final credited QSOs. Phone includes PH/SSB/USB/LSB; CW is counted separately.

# AF1K – Punderson

I was glad I reserved the Marina Shelter at Punderson! No lightning, thunder, or heavy downpours. But, there was plenty of misting and heavy drizzle. That would have been sufficient to make operating on a table with an overhead beach umbrella very miserable. I had planned to bring a bag of charcoal and invite some hams from NE OH area to come by to grill and make some contacts. But, that plan got 86'd once I heard the predicted forecast for 9/12. I did have one visitor though when Ray Larrick (KD8DFL) stopped by. It was pure coincidence that he & his xyl were camping at PUN. In past he and Ed (K8IV) have activated Punderson for OSPOTA but they took this year off. That was fortunate for me! I thought bands 20 & 80 were tough, 10 impossible, but 40 was the money band.

2026 OSPOTA AF1K Operating Station, w/ dads lucky butt pad he made from an old pair of his cop uniform pants

THANKS Again to all the participants, OSPOTA organizers, and PCARS for keeping this event going!

73 de Rich AF1K.

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# K8BSR – Harrison Lake

Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club has been a club for almost 3 years. OSPOTA is our favorite contest and we look forward to it every year. This year was no exception to that and 14 members and guests showed up to participate in the fun.

The club operated 4 SSB stations and 2 CW stations this year, from Harrison Lake State Park, just outside of Fayette, Ohio, in Fulton County. The main link with all of our members is the Parks On The Air program so for us, this is what we all know and love. It's our annual challenge to see just how many multipliers, contacts, and DX we can achieve in an 8-hour window.

Watching the smiles appear when all of those familiar call signs chime in, a new multiplier pops up, or a new and surprising DX entity makes that contact is priceless. Each year we set new goals to achieve and this year, we exceeded those goals once again and when the contest ended, no one was ready to stop playing radio and having fun.

The 2026 event will be one that we all always remember and we are already looking forward to the 2027 event.

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who continue to make this contest possible and to all of the participants who help to make this so much fun.

Until next year, 73 from everyone at the Black Swamp Amateur Radio Club!

# K8QYL– Grand Lake St. Marys

# K8RR – Great Council

The 2026 OSPOTA Contest period started out very rainy in SW Ohio, so set-up was delayed. This year I ventured to the new Great Council State Park (GRC, US-11673) just north of Xenia which consists of a gorgeous new learning center (pictured) and a short hiking trail. Soon to be completed is a fortress-style observation platform which is hidden behind a tree in the image of my fun "new" 2015 Subaru Outback and the antenna mast. The excellent staff were gracious and accommodating. They are familiar with POTA, as activations were plentiful during Hamvention earlier this year.

40 meter SSB was the only band busy with OSPOTA and other state QSO parties. I tried CQing on CW, but couldn't raise a soul on any band. Even the 80 meter SSB activity was mostly missing! 20 through 15 meters were busy with a DX contest, but several contacts were made. Very few out of state stations were looking for OSPOTA, so I was also doing POTA and had several park to park calls.

A great day of OSPOTA radio, that I had to cut short to dodge another thunderstorm!

73, Rod - K8RR

# K8RYU/R – Great Seal, Lake White, Pike Lakes and Scioto Trail

I left Marietta about 8:15 local, which was a miscalculation of about an hour which got me to Lake White much later than desired. The setup at LWT went easy, My new telescoping fiber glass mast holding up the inverted vee at 40 feet went up without a hitch. Signals were good, but because I was late I did not get any 75M action. From LWT I drove to Pike Lake after a bunch of detours due to high water. The setup at PLK also easy, but the power line noise (from where I don't know) was serious. I was lucky in that the noise blanker on the K3 took the buzz out and that stop was my best in terms of total contacts. From there off to Scioto Trail again after a bunch of road closures and detours. I ended up at Great Seal, where there were few participating stations at Ohio Parks left on air. From the point of view of a "rover" it is important that stations stay on until the end of the event.

This is a fun event for me. I think I've only missed one year since it started, though I don't think I sent log in for all of them. I usually work 80%CW, but in this event I get some SSB action for a change. I checked CW several times but did not find any action. May have looked at the wrong times. Then on up US-23 to Findlay Hamfest.

# K8UU – Caesar Creek

We always look forward to this event each year. We were dealing with rain down pours and very busy of course on the air. Unfortunately, we got together afterwards and none of us snapped any pictures. We pretty much run the same homemade wire dipoles and radio setups.. ha ha ha.. I guess this year we dropped the ball.... sorry we will be better about pictures next year.

THANKS AS ALWAYS YOU GUYS! From the K8UU Team

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# KA5VZG – Tennessee

I was in Ohio, Way back when - born in Columbus, grew up in Marietta, (check out my QRZ page to see about my radio beginnings), two time graduate of "The Ohio State University". After the OSPOTA event, I was looking forward to taking a break in the recliner and watch the game. . . . . .

Oh well, at least OSPOTA was fun. Bands not the best but nice to get in a few CW licks this year. My wife still has family in SE Ohio. I have even scouted out Jackson Lake, Lake Alma, and Lake Hope with dreams of coming up and activating one.

You guys have one of the better organized events. Thanks for all your time and efforts. (The big paycheck probably helps, but no one could expect you to do it all for free)

73, Alan, KA5VZG

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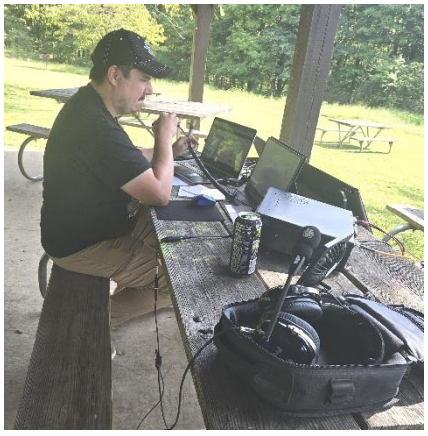
# KC3GFU – Barkcamp

Another great year of OSPOTA! My husband and I operated from Barkcamp State Park (BAR) with just the two of us and two transmitters. This was our best year yet from an operating standpoint, and the improved band conditions compared with previous years certainly helped! We did have some bad weather roll through that forced us to unplug and get off the air for a bit, but thankfully it didn't last long and we were able to get right back to operating. We're especially proud of what we accomplished as a two-person team in a category where we're competing alongside clubs and larger groups with many operators.



OSPOTA continues to be one of the events we look forward to every year.

We're already talking about what we can improve for next year and can't wait to do it again! Thanks to everyone who worked us and to everyone who makes OSPOTA possible!

73 from KC3GFU & WF8U - Barkcamp State Park!

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# KE8JVX – Hilliard, OH

Operated from home as I didn't have the desire to set up portable at a rainy park this year but sure glad others did!  73 from KE8JVX

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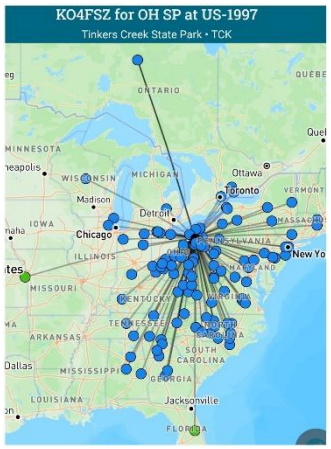
# KO4FSZ – Tinkers Creek

I headed out at 9:00 AM to reach the park in time to set up before 10:00 AM, arriving at Tinkers Creek around 9:45 AM. I found a nice tree to throw my end-fed antenna into. In the attached picture, you can see the transformer end of an antenna design I made for a fellow ham in NC to use while operating in Nunavut, Canada.




While listening for a clear frequency, I heard "Is this frequency in use?" - it was Sandy, KE8UTX, using the club call K8BSR from Harrison Lake. My very first contact of the day was with good friends in another park, all because I happened to hear them looking for an open spot just as I was.

I had a lot of fun working this contest, which was my first SSB-style contest. I'm really into POTA, so it came naturally to me. After two hours, I had to pack up and head home for family time and my son's band concert. Teardown was an adventure, as it decided to start pouring rain as soon as I went QRT. Even driving home soaking wet, this activation was well worth it.

Thank you to all of the contacts I made during this event. I look forward to next year!

73,  Chris, KO4FSZ

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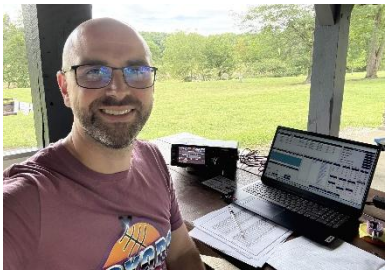
# N0VRS – Van Buren

N0VRS activated Van Buren State Park (VAN). AD8AK, K8KTO, KE8IKV, N1OF, WE8ST and WE8TOM participated.  We dodged a few rain drops. MacGyver-Repaired an antenna and dealt with some moody bands...but we all had a great time.

Looking forward to next year!



# N4HAI – Mobile in Franklin County

Appreciate your efforts with OSPOTA. I did all my Qs from the Jeep, in Franklin County, on I-70, heading back home from DC, using a FT891 and a Tarheel II screwdriver.

73 OM ES CUL DE N4HAI

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# N8CJ – Newark, OH

Limited time and worked from home because of family commitments and weather conditions. Fought the lightning most of the day.

Thanks for the OSPOTA organizers and operators - always a great time.

73 - Alan - N8CJ

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# N8QA – Shawnee

The Portsmouth Radio Club participated in the yearly OSPOTA challenge at Shawnee State Park located in southern Ohio with 8 operators in attendance. Tom Williams KD8WTG, Gary Miller KB8SRN, Todd Stambaugh W8TBS, Michael Bailey N8MRB, Jennifer Bailey N8JEN, Wallace McClurg KE6ASA, Larry Cobb WD8LSN, and Dave Baker W8XDB (not in the group picture).

The day was pleasant with a few showers but nothing to dampen the spirits. Many antennas were tried and used during the event. Three different Alpha antennas, an “HOA Buster” and an Alpha vertical multi-band, an Alpha configured as an NVIS, an EFHW, a MC-750, and a JCP-12.

In all five stations were used for the duration. It was as much a test of our equipment as our methodology. The group had a total of 89 contacts including 25 Ohio parks and 6 DX stations.

The Portsmouth Radio Club (N8QA) has been a long-standing hub for amateur radio in Southern Ohio since June 14, 1949, when it was affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Over more than seven decades, the club has served as both a technical and community resource for radio enthusiasts in Scioto County.

73, Gary, KB8SRN

# N8XCC – Hueston Woods

Not much to add, wasn't our best year.  We had some issues with RFI that couldn't be fixed last minute. Will be back in full force next year.

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# W8UCO – Alum Creek

The Union County Amateur Radio Club, W8UCO, operated from Alum Creek State Park, where we reserved 6 campsites all in one cul de sac.  We ran one SSB station and one CW.

Since we had the room, we put up two 80-10M club built Fan Dipoles, one on each side of the cul de sac.  All in all, we had 16 in attendance, 11 club members, 3 wives and 2 visitors.  The SSB station ran a Yaesu DX-1 Optima and the CW used an Icom-7300 both at 100 Watts.  We had some memorable experiences with the antennas.  Because of timing and manpower, we put up the 2 Fan Dipoles in the dark Friday night!  Ed, KE8ANU, used his trusty fishing pole to throw the lines over trees right where we needed it.  After pulling the antennas up, the SWR checked high on the SSB antenna.  We found the 40 meter wire was twisted and wrapped around the 20 M wire.  Dave, W7FTF, taped a plastic fork to a POTA mast and tried to unwrap the wires from the ground but "no go." Every twist fixed created a new twist so ultimately, we had to take the antenna down.  We got the twists worked out and hoisted the antenna again around 10:30pm.  None of this was easy working in the dark with flashlights.  At that point, we called it a night.

Saturday morning, we checked the SWR and determined we needed to shorten the 40M wire to bring the resonant frequency up the band.  We took one end down, shortened it and put it back up.  Two minutes after we put it back up, one of the support lines on the opposite end let go.  So out came Ed's fishing pole again to throw another line.  We finally got the antenna back in action right at 10AM.  This all was done in drizzling rain.

After the contest started, we had heavy rain and thunderstorms for the first hour or two. One lightning strike was close enough to scare everybody and shut the CW laptop down.  After that, we were up and running for the rest of the contest.

Overall, we had a great time...cookout Friday night and a birthday celebration for Linda, N8SNA;  fun operating in the contest; enjoying a Pizza party Saturday night after the contest; and everyone pitching in taking antennas down and packing up.  Already planning for next year...

73, Ron  NX8Y, UCARC Vice President

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# W9RWG – Mishawaka, Indiana

I operated the 2026 OSPOTA contest portable from Indiana Dunes State Park. It was partly cloudy with temperatures in the mid-80s, making for a warm but enjoyable day of portable operating.

My station was a Xiegu G90 running 20 watts. For 40 meters, I used a 49:1 end-fed half-wave, and later switched to a Wolf River Coil with a 16.5-foot whip for 80 meters.

I finished with 46 OSPOTA QSOs and contacted 38 different Ohio State Parks, for a claimed score of 1,748 points. Most of the activity was on 40 meters, with 80 meters providing a few additional contacts toward the end of the contest.

This was my second year participating in OSPOTA, and I enjoyed trying to hunt down as many different Ohio State Parks as possible.

Thanks to all the park activators who got on the air and to the OSPOTA organizers for another enjoyable event.

73, Ron, W9RWG

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# WB8MMR – Deer Creek

Just a photo of the 6 Southwest Columbus Ham Radio Club attendees at Deer Creek. Doug Aumiller KD8OOT showed up with his newly converted red POTA trailer. We dodged some raindrops but it was a good time! 40 meters with a horizontal NVIS 66' EFHW seemed to be the one that hit the state parks better than the others.

Thanks for putting on the event - while I've participated in years past, this was our first go as a club!

73, Chris, W8CBG

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# W8LKY – Guilford Lake

This year was a first for Alliance Amateur Radio Club (W8LKY). Allen KE8ZLT and Doug KE8OWD went to Guilford Lake State Park for this year's OSPOTA. When we arrived we thought we were at the wrong location. Why do you ask? The lake was nowhere to be found. This left us confused and we thought we took a wrong turn. After confirming where we were it was soon discovered that the lake was drained to make repairs to the lake. As the morning went on we were quickly seeking shelter from the approaching storm. Maybe this was the help that was needed to refill the lake. After a period of heavy rain that did not stop this crew from calling CQ. As the calls racked up, so did the rainfall. Although it was not enough to fill the lake it was fuller than it was when we arrived. We had a special guest join us. Isaac Smith son of Allen joined us after a day at a Scout merit badge activity at a nearby Seven Ranges Scout Reservation. He did an outstanding job working pile ups and logging them as well. We put a total of 246 calls in the log and made 34/76 Ohio parks contacts. We cannot wait until next year and looking forward to it.

73,
KE8ZLT
Allen Smith

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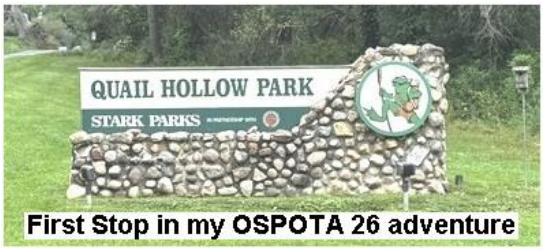
# WG8X/R – Quail Hollow, Wingfoot Lake, West Branch, Lake Milton and Guilford Lake



First Stop in my OSPOTA 26 adventure

My plan was simple this year: start at Quail Hollow, head to Wingfoot Lake, then West Branch before retracing my route on 80 meters. Things didn't quite go according to plan! After a late start at Quail Hollow, contacts quickly began filling the log. The weather wasn't cooperating, and by the time I reached Wingfoot Lake, the rain had arrived. One advantage of roving is being able to operate from the comfort of the truck. However, changing antennas in the rain wasn't particularly appealing, so I stayed on 40 and 20 meters. The rain had stopped by the time I reached West Branch. 80 meters wasn't looking promising. With 40 meters running short and providing plenty of Ohio contacts, there wasn't much reason to backtrack.

GoodYear Blimp Hangar at Wingfoot Lake

Manner House at Quail Hollow

So, I continued east to Lake Milton, where I found a quiet spot overlooking the lake. After another 14 contacts, I continued on to Guilford Lake.

Much of Guilford Lake had been drained for dam repairs, but that hadn't stopped the Alliance ARC from setting up W8LKY. Naturally, I stopped by to visit and enjoy some cold pizza.

While there, the conversation turned to nearby Briar Island. Someone had suggested walking out to activate the island for the US Islands On The Air program. One of the guys discovered that a drained lake doesn't necessarily mean a dry lake! The exposed lakebed was still pretty gooey, so that adventure will have to wait till winter. After visiting with the W8LKY crew, I moved farther up the shore to finish my final activation. By then, activity was winding down, and I was getting hungry, so I packed up and headed home.

In total, I traveled 96 miles, spent about 2¼ hours driving and activated five Ohio State Parks. It wasn't quite the day I'd planned, but that's part of the fun of portable operating.

Sometimes the best adventures happen when Plan A goes out the window!

**73 - DE - WG8X**

Want to read the full story of my OSPOTA rove? Check out my article on the DX Engineering's OnAllBands.com: A Perfect Ham Radio Day

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# It's never too early to start planning for the 2027 Ohio State Parks On The Air contest.

# September 11, 2027 will be the 20th OSPOTA

He never lets me make any contacts……