

# Ohio State Parks On The Air



## OSPOTA – FAQ's

### **What is a Club Station?**

Basically it is any Multi-Operator station operating from an Ohio State Park. Ideally it is a station that is sponsored or operated by an ARRL affiliated club, whether from the Ohio Section or any other section.

### **How is a Club Station different from a Special Category Club entry?**

Club Stations are involved in on-air operations (see above). A Special Category Club entry is only to compete against other clubs to see which club can activate the greatest number of Ohio State Parks. So if the XYZ Radio Club has eight club members at eight different parks and a club station at another park it will have activated a total of nine Ohio State Parks. If the ABC Radio Club also activates nine Ohio State Parks (and no other club had more than eight parks) the two clubs would be tied. To break the tie we will total up the scores for all of the club station and individual member stations for each club and whichever has the highest point total will be the winner of the award.

### **What if a friend and I want to run a Multi-Operator station from a State Park but we are not affiliated with any particular club?**

Please join in the activity. You can still submit your entry under one call sign but without a designated club.

### **What if my club is located in Pennsylvania?**

Hop in the car and head West! One of the goals of the Portage County Amateur Radio Service in sponsoring this contest is to encourage as many clubs as possible to have club stations entered in this event. And you do not need to be an Ohio Section club to enter. Just get out there and join us for some ham radio *FUN!* An event like this is designed to give club members an event that they can participate in together.

**I am not an Ohio resident. Can I be a Single Operator Ohio State Park entrant?**

Absolutely! Many of Ohio's State Parks are easily accessible to hams from neighboring states. Even better, if you are a ham who is planning to be visiting Ohio on September 6<sup>th</sup> you are welcome to bring your gear and operate from an Ohio State Park.

**If I am from out of state can I only operate from an Ohio State Park?**

Negative. You are more than welcome to compete in the category of a Single Operator Inside Ohio, or you may operate from your home QTH (outside Ohio) as an Out of State Single Op.

**If I am a Single Operator who is not operating from an Ohio State Park who may I contact for points?**

You will receive one point for each station that you contact located at an Ohio State Park, no matter whether you are operating from inside or outside Ohio. So, for example, if a station outside Ohio contacts a station inside Ohio that is not operating from a State Park, neither station receives a point for that QSO.

**If I am operating from an Ohio State Park, who can I contact for points?**

Ohio State Park stations can work another station inside or outside Ohio, including stations at other Ohio State Parks.

**Can there be more than one station at each Ohio State Park?**

You bet. All of the Ohio State Parks will be able to accommodate multiple stations (stations using different call signs). No one will have the exclusive right to operate from any particular Ohio State Park. For example: KC8CKP is operating as a single op near the pavilion, KB8ABC is operating with his neighbor KB8XYW as a multi-op near the ball field, and there's a club (K8OH) operating near the parking lot. That's three different stations operating at the same Ohio State Park - The more the merrier!

**Why have operations on all of the non-WARC HF bands plus six and two meters?**

We want to maximize the QSO opportunities for stations operating from the Ohio State Parks. VHF operations are encouraged. How about some two meter SSB for a change of pace? HF band conditions always vary but this contest will encourage participants to maximize their signal coverage within the state borders. This is a great chance to try Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) antennas, for example. Check out those Ohio State Parks near the middle of the state and think about how you can blanket the state on eighty or forty meters.

### **If I am operating a multi-mode station how do I score multiple contacts with another station?**

You receive one point for each QSO per mode per station per band. For instance, if AA8AA works AB8BB on forty meters SSB, CW and Digital (PSK31 or RTTY, etc.), each station would receive a total of three points. They could duplicate those contacts on other bands for additional points.

### **What's with the "additional prizes may be awarded?"**

The Portage County Amateur Radio Service will be looking to find additional ways to recognize and reward the top finishers. Check the web site, <http://parks.portcars.org> for updates.

### **Are computer generated logs acceptable?**

Yes. As long as the log contains all of the contact information (Serial Number Sent, UTC time, Band, Mode, Call Sign Contacted, Serial Number Received, State/DX, and Ohio State Park Identifier received) contained in the official log it will be accepted. PCARS is encouraging the publishers of commercial software to incorporate the Ohio State Parks On The Air format into their contest logging software.

### **Has the Ohio Department of Natural Resources approved this special activity at the State Parks?**

Yes, and for your convenience we have created an information sheet that you can provide to any State Park staff that are unfamiliar with the contest. The information sheet has contact numbers for both ODNR administrative staff and the PCARS public information officer.

### **What if I don't find the answer to my question here?**

No problem. Send your question via e-mail to [OSPOTA@portcars.org](mailto:OSPOTA@portcars.org).



**Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc. (PCARS)**  
<http://www.portcars.org>