

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.

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 OSPOTA weekend 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: K8BF 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 there are 75 parks, How can I get all 75 if I'm in one of them?

Two ways -

1. Another club or single operator is operating in the same park and you contact each other.
2. Another ham radio operator (NOT part of your club entry) *drives through the park* and contacts you while they are mobile.

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 (UTC time, Band, Mode, Call Sign Contacted, 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.

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

No problem. Send your question via e-mail to: Chuck, W8PT at W8PT@portcars.org



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