

Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Kentucky Parks On The Air

Official Contest Rules

Purpose

To promote public awareness of ham radio and Kentucky's beautiful state park and national park system; to contribute to the recognition that Kentucky has a very diverse and wonderful ecology; to promote camaraderie within the ranks of Kentucky's Amateur Radio Operators; to encourage contact with other Amateur Radio Operators around the state, country, and world, and to provide additional operating experience for Amateur Radio Operators.

Objective

To have competing stations operating from as many of Kentucky's fifty-one state parks and ten national sites (referred to here as Kentucky Parks) as possible. Making contacts from a Kentucky Park to other Kentucky Parks is the goal all stations should strive for. Note: Non-Kentucky stations may work only Kentucky stations located in a Kentucky Park; Kentucky stations not located in a Kentucky Park may only contact stations operating from inside a Kentucky Park

Contest Date/Time

- 7th KYPOTA – August 8, 2026 - 1400 UTC to 2200 UTC (9 am - 5 pm CDT). Eight hours.
- Should contest postponement be necessary the makeup date will be August 22, 2026.

Modes and Bands

- Modes of Operation: SSB, CW and Digital
(Only digital modes capable of including the park ID in the exchange can be allowed)
- Amateur Radio Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters.
- Stations may be worked once on each band, mode, and park.

Suggested Frequencies

- These are only suggested frequencies. Operators should use good amateur radio practices and be considerate of others - do not cause interference.

Band (Meters)	Phone (MHz)	CW (MHz)
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80	3.825	3.530-3.550
40	7.200	7.030-7.050
20	14.250	14.070-14.090
15	21.300	21.040-21.060
10	28.450	28.000-28.100

Entry Categories

- You may work this contest as either a Single Operator or Multi-operator, you can use any legal power limit. But only one log should be submitted by each callsign for each park activated.

Kentucky Park Identifiers

Park:	ID:	Park:	ID:	Park:	ID:
Barren River Lake	BRL	Big Bone Lick	BBL	Blue Licks Battlefield	BLB
Breaks Interstate	BI	Buckhorn Lake	BLR	Carr Creek	CC
Carter Caves	CCR	Columbus-Belmont	CB	Cumberland Falls	CF
Dale Hollow	DH	Dawkins Line Rail trail	DLR	Dr. Thomas Walker	DTW
"Tom" Sawyer	TS	Ft. Boonesborough	FB	General Burnside Island	GBI
General Butler	GB	Grayson Lake	GL	Green River Lake	GRL
Greenbo Lake	GLR	Isaac Shelby Cemetery	ISC	Jefferson Davis	JD
Jenny Wiley	JW	John James Audubon	JJA	Kenlake	KLR
Kentucky Dam Village	KDV	Kincaid Lake	KL	Kingdon Come	KC
Lake Barkley	LB	Lake Cumberland	LCR	Lake Malone	LM
Levi Jackson Wilderness	LJW	Lincoln Homestead	LH	Mineral Mounds	MM
My Old Kentucky Home	MKH	Natural Bridge	NB	Nolin Lake	NL
Old Fort Harrod	OFH	Old Mulkey Meetinghouse	OMM	Paintsville Lake	PL
Pennyroy Forest	PF	Perryville Battlefield	PB	Pine Mountain	PMR
Pine Mountain Scenic Trail	PMT	Rough River Dam	RRD	Taylorsville Lake	TL
Waveland Historic Site	WSH	White Hall Historic Site	WH	Wickliffe Mounds	WM
William Whitley House	WWH	Yatesville Lake	YL	Otter Creek ORA	OC

Kentucky National Sites

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace	ALB	Big South Fork	BSF	Camp Nelson	CN
Cumberland Gap	CG	Fort Donelson	FD	Lewis and Clark	LAC
Mammoth Cave	MC	Trail of Tears	TT	Land Between the Lakes	LBL
Mill Springs Battlefield	MSB				

Special Host Bonus Station

K9OIM BOB

Exchange

-Stations operating from a Kentucky Park send their call sign and their Kentucky State Park Identifier. Example: "W4PJC, LBL" R(ST)

- Kentucky stations NOT operating from a Kentucky Park send their call sign and "Kentucky".
Example: " W4PJC, Kentucky" R(ST)

- Non-Kentucky W/VE stations send their call sign and State or Province. Example:
"KD4BF, Georgia" or "VE3BF, Ontario" R(ST)

- DX stations outside of W/VE (including KH6/KL7) send call sign and "DX". Example: "KL7BF, DX" R(ST)

Location

- All contest stations must be inside the actual boundary of the Kentucky Park they are reporting to be transmitting from.
- Operation from a boat is allowed but the park ID operated from must still be supplied as part of the entry. The operation must occur within the park boundary or from within a bay where the park is located.

Scoring

- A new “Special Host Club Bonus Station” has been added this year: K9OIM, ID: BOB will award contacts with 3 QSO bonus points just like the other host club stations.

- QSO POINTS - Each complete non-duplicate contact is worth one point, per mode, band, and park.
- MULTIPLIERS - Multipliers are the 61 Kentucky Parks (1 per park = 61 maximum). 1 multiplier for each different Kentucky Park contacted
- FINAL SCORE - Multiply QSO points times the total number of multipliers.
- Contestants contacting the host club, K4MSU, W4GZ, K4IRN or K9OIM can receive 3 QSO bonus points for each contact on each band and mode.
- Murray State University Amateur Radio Club (MSUARC) members and logs submitted under the K4MSU, W4GZ, K4IRN or K9OIM will be considered check logs only.
- Send in a standard ADIF or Cabrillo file only.
- Example: W4PJC operating from Kenlake State Park - 10 contacts on 80 meters, 15 contacts on 40 meters, 12 contacts on 15 meters, Total Contacts = 37, plus 3 bonus points for contacting a K4MSU site. Number of different Kentucky State Parks contacted = 10, Total score = 10 x (37+3) = 400.

Logging

- It is recommended contestants use an N1MM KYPOTA contest template that offers an exchange sent and one received. A link to the template can be found on our web site. To use them all you need to do is copy the file to the UDC folder found in My Documents->N1MM Logger->UserDefinedContest, and then restart N1MM. Your logs should show the exchange you send (your park ID, if you are operating from a Ky park, etc) and the exchange you received (park/state/province), as well as the time and signal report.

Miscellaneous

- No cross-mode contacts and no credit for contacts made through repeaters or satellites.
- No station may claim simultaneous operation of the same call sign in more than one Kentucky Park, State, Province or Country at the same time. Except the host club call sign,
- No individual shall make a QSO utilizing more than one call sign.
- Stations inside a Kentucky Park must make a minimum of four contacts. Three of the four contacts being made to three other (different from where you are transmitting from) Kentucky Park stations. This gives others the opportunity to contact your Kentucky Park.
- Multi-Operator entries may only use one call sign during the contest.

- Soliciting for contacts is encouraged to promote more contacts being made during the contest. You can ask a station to meet you on a different band to make an additional contact. You should not self-spot on a cluster or spotting network, but you can ask another ham operator that is not in your group to spot you.

- Use of spotting networks are allowed. Since the use of mobile smart phones and wi-fi in Kentucky Parks is now commonplace, looking up spots on clusters is easy to do. This will encourage additional contacts for everyone during the contest.

- Decisions of the Kentucky Parks On The Air Contest Committee are final.

Reporting

- e-mail entries to: KYPOTA@murray-ky.net .

- Logs must clearly indicate if this is a Kentucky park activated, UTC time (not local time), Band, Mode, Call Sign Contacted, State/Province/DX, or Kentucky Park Identifier received for all QSOs as applicable.

- ADIF or Cabrillo files are requested to be used for log submissions.

- E-mailed logs must be sent to KYPOTA@murray-ky.net and must be sent in no later than August 22, 2026, or 14 days after the end of the contest. Logs arriving after the 14-day entry window will be considered check logs.

Reasons Why Your Log May Be Considered a 'Checklog'

- Log sheet(s) missing - UTC times not listed.

- Log sheet arrives past the due date.

- If you have any questions, please contact the KYPOTA team by e-mail: KYPOTA@murray-ky.net

Awards

- Electronic Certificates will be awarded to:

- 1st place -

- Logs must be emailed no later than August 22, 2026 or 14 days after the contest.

- Logs may be E-mailed to: KYPOTA@murray-ky.net.

