

## **Operating W1AW/Portable (0-9, KG/KH/KL/KP, etc)**

Guidelines for 2026 United States Semiquincentennial ARRL WAS-250 Worked All States Award Summary: In a fashion similar to the 2023 Volunteers on The Air (VOTA), ARRL will be celebrating the Year of The Club, as well as the 100th Anniversary of the ARRL Field Organization, and we will be holding a Year-Long Worked All States (WAS-250) operating event to recognize the 250th Anniversary (Semiquincentennial) of the US Constitution.

To seek the operating event WAS-250 Award, all QSOs must be uploaded to, and confirmed by both QSO Partners, within Logbook of The World (LoTW). This Award will be applied for within LoTW, and usual WAS Award Processing Fees will be applicable. There will also be Endorsements that include working all 50 States: The Endorsements include WAS by Band, by any or all of the three Modes (CW/Phone/Digital), Satellite, Working all 50-States contacting W1AW/Portable Stations, and Working all 50 States by Contacting ARRL Affiliated Club Stations (ARRL will look at the call signs confirmed and compare it against the Club Affiliations Club Call Sign data base to determine how many of the stations worked represented Affiliated Clubs).

As an operating event, ARRL will be seeking to identify W1AW/Portable stations to activate twice during the year from each States (and US Territories). We will also be on-the-air with W1AW (not portable) from Connecticut throughout the year with guest operators, and activation by staff (especially during the IARU HF Contest {2nd weekend in July}).

ARRL HQ will be working with the Section Managers and their Affiliated Club Coordinators to identify Stations in their Sections/States to activate a period of two (2) 7-day weeks (beginning midweek on a Wednesday at 0000 UTC and running through the following Tuesday at 2359 UTC) activating as many bands (excluding 60 Meters) as possible (on the three modes of CW, Phone and Digital) within their respective States to have no more than three (3) W1AW/Portable Stations (one on each mode) on the air at a given time from the State (one on CW, one on Phone and one on Digital). This is to ensure that there is no overlapping multiband/multimode operations, particularly where any possible interference to non-Amateur Services might be identified by the FCC.

**Operating Etiquette:** Use of the W1AW call sign (just as you would with your own call sign) is a privilege, and you want to show best practices and courtesy when operating. Operators must be polite at all times. Operators must operate using the privileges granted only by their personal license class serving as a control operator (or within the operator privileges of the highest-class Control Operator present and observing operations. Example, a Novice/Technician Class license holder, however, can operate on General Class or above bands provided a properly licensed Control Operator is present with them at all times.)

**Goodwill:** While the object of the WAS-250 Worked All States event is to hand out as many contacts with W1AW/Portable States as possible, operators are encouraged to explain the celebrations of 2026 (Semiquincentennial ARRL WAS-250 Worked All States Award {together with the Year of The Club and 100th Anniversary of the Field Organization} to the degree that your operating time may allow. Encourage other operators to get on the air, make contacts, and have fun. Calling “CQ WAS-250” is a great way to draw attention. Operating frequencies must be selected carefully to avoid conflicts. Even if a frequency sounds clear, the operator should ask at least two times if it is in use before calling CQ. Operators must avoid operating too close to license class or band edges as well.

**Bands:** Activity is encouraged on as many bands (including WARC bands) through all of the HF bands and all of the VHF/UHF/SHF using each of the three modes CW/Phone/Digital. Please balance CW and Phone activations against the ease of just making digital contacts.

While the object of the VOTA Operating Event is to hand out as many contacts with W1AW/0 as possible, operators are encouraged to briefly detail the event and its purpose should operating time allow. Encourage other operators to get on the air, make contacts, and have fun. Calling “CQ VOTA” is a great way to draw attention.

There are NO QSL cards available (from ARRL HQ) for any of the W1AW/Portable WAS-250 operating event stations during this event. All W1AW/Portable contacts will be confirmed via LoTW. Stations who contact W1AW at ARRL HQ can either upload such contacts to LoTW and/or can send QSL Cards (with SASE) to W1AW, ARRL HQ, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111 -- for contacts only made directly with the W1AW

Hiram Percy Maximum Memorial Station. As soon as ARRL has LoTW update and announcements made for the WAS-250 Award, applying for the WAS-250 Award can be made via LoTW once a minimum of 50 State QSO Confirmations appear in LoTW. After the initial WAS-250 Award and Certificate are issued, Endorsements can be sought (these will be supplied as WAS-250 Endorsement Stickers to apply onto your WAS-250 Award Certificate).

**Logging:** As it is expected that a W1AW/Portable operations will make hundreds of QSOs over the course of their operating periods, it is important that logging be done by computer using ADIF format. ELECTRONIC LOGGING MUST BE PERFORMED DURING THE COURSE OF THE OPERATING EVENT! NO PAPER LOGS WILL BE ACCEPTED! MAKE PERIODIC BACKUPS OF THE LOGGING FILE THAT YOU HAVE IN USE. Commonly used logging software such as N1MMLogger+ is recommended, but any software that will generate an ADIF-formatted file is acceptable. Ensure that each band/mode operating station is prepared to supply ALL station data in every QSO line (such as county, grid square, CQ/ITU zones, etc.) ARRL HQ will perform the ADIF file uploads to LoTW, as only we have the LoTW call sign certificates to sign and upload W1AW logs.

North Dakota station using W1AW/0 must within 10 days after operating email their ADIF files to [w0nd1@srt.com](mailto:w0nd1@srt.com). ARRL is the holder of all W1AW/# TQSL Call Sign Certificates used for signing and uploading files to Logbook of The World.

**JUST TO REMEMBER...** Once the week's operations are concluded all logs must be uploaded to [w0nd1@srt.com](mailto:w0nd1@srt.com), the North Dakota State Coordinator for combining and routing to ARRL Headquarters for processing.