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 Declaration of Independence.

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}).

In the coming weeks, 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 (coordinating with adjoining SMs/ACCs in States with multiple sections) 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 FCC, but we would not be able to immediately determine where the interference was emanating if two different stations were on the same band and mode, both using the same W1AW/Portable# call sign.]

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 – Eg, 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-250Worked 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" on CW or Phone only (not on Digital) 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 [eg, complaints about being too close to a net or SSTV frequency (ie: the 14.300 MHz International Maritime Net, or frequencies that may be needed during weather related emergencies such as the Hurricane Watch Nets on 14.325 MHz or 7.268 MHz, and SATERN Net on 7.262 MHz) must be resolved by QSYing, not by arguing.] **Operators must avoid operating too close to license class or band edges as well.**

Bands: Activity is encouraged on as many bands (including WARC band) from 2200 Meters LF through all of HF; all of VHF/UHF/SHF, all of the Microwave bands and via Light (excluding 60 Meters), on each of the three modes (CW/Phone/Digital), as may be possible. Please balance CW and Phone activations against the ease of just making digital contacts.

Goodwill: While the object of the **America250-WAS** Operating Event is to hand out as many contacts with W1AW/xx 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 **250WAS**" great way to draw attention.

QSLs: 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).

Very Important:

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.

SUBMITTING LOGS TO ARRL HQ IMMEDIATELY AFTER EACH PORTABLE ACTIVATION

Within 10 days after the operating event, participating States/Host-Coordinators must upload their single/final log to w1aw@arrl.org ARRL is the holder of all W1AW/# TQSL Call Sign Certificates used for signing and uploading files to Logbook of The World. Your individual band/mode ADIF-formatted log files can be imported/assembled using this tool – this will allow each State Host/Coordinator to assemble one single W1AW/# log for transmission to w1aw@arrl.org Be sure to enter the call signs of ALL operators of all stations when using the log-assembly tool.

See next two pages for details of the tool with links in the below to follow (As used with VOTA in 2023, this procedure will be used for submitting your logs):

Content supplied by the individual Band/Mode stations

Step 1: Operators/owners of those stations used for a W1AW/area operation must use the following link to be sure their ADIF logs contain all of the location data (state, CQ and ITU zones, grid square) and are uploaded to the database that will be used to produce a combined log. The link should not be shared with anyone who doesn't need it to upload their log. **https://contests.arrl.org/am250waslogutility.php?**

For the 2026 WAS-250 Worked All States W1AW/Portable Activations, use the procedures that follow to submit your band and mode ADIF log files to ARRL. It will check your logs for proper formatting and completeness before it saves your file for access by your area coordinator (examples follow):

Submitter's email address: kb7hdx@arrl.org

Call sign used: W1AW/7 (Eg, W1AW/7)

Call sign of station location used: KB7HDX

Call signs of operators: KB7HDX, KA7JQ, W7VO

SELECT LOG FILE ON YOUR COMPUTER: [browse] [No File Selected] or paste your ADIF formatted log into the text area below:

Submit Log

W1AW Log Upload Utility

The Following Logs have been previously uploaded for W1AW/7 at KB7HDX:

STATION CALL	STATUS	UPLOAD TIMESTAMP	QSO	DATES
(none)				

Please review the following call sign and location information associated with the uploaded ADIF log. Make any necessary corrections and then click the SUBMIT LOG button to save your log upload. The location of your station (county, grid, zones, etc) will be included in every QSO line of your ADIF log file.

Field1	Value	. .
Call used	W1AW/7	(eg, W1AW/call-area)
Operators	KB7HDX, KA7LJQ, W7VO	
State or Territory	WA	(State two-letter USPS Postal Abbreviation)
County		(County needed if within a State {eg, Orange})
Grid Square		(Grid IS needed (4- or 6-character {eg, DM04})
CQ Zone		(CQ Zone needed {eg, 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 27, 31})
ITU Zone		(ITU Zone needed {eg, 1-90})

SAVE LOG **RESET VALUES** **Cancel Upload**

Once the week's operations are concluded and all logs have been uploaded in step 1, the State Coordinator then selects the appropriate logs for the week's activation and hits "process" (in this example above, all but the last log had been selected – but in the intended result, all logs are to be selected before hitting "PROCESS"). This tool allows the option to delete a duplicate or incomplete band/mode log (if there is question about a given log's content).

All logs must be selected BEFORE the final PROCESS button is now sent. The PROCESS action then sends a duplicate email – one to the coordinator - and the other to W1AW at HQ .