

Operating W1AW/5 Guidelines for 2023 VOTA Operating Event

Operating: Operators must be polite at all times. Operators must operate using the privileges granted by their license class (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.) 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 Intl 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) should be resolved by QSYing, not by arguing. Operators must avoid operating too close to band edges as well.

Bands: Activity is encouraged on as many bands and modes as possible. The **ONLY** exceptions are 2200, 630, 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters. There is **NO VOTA** activity allowed on these particular bands.

Goodwill: While the object of the VOTA 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 VOTA” is a great way to draw attention.

Scheduling Time/Band/Mode Slots: The Google Drive link you were provided by the event coordinator provides the ability to make changes to the schedule and it should be kept private. You do not need to have a Google Drive account to use this link. **ONLY** Mississippi stations who will be activating W1AW/5 during our 2 weeks should have the link. **DO NOT** share the link. If you know of another MS ham who wants to activate, have them contact the coordinator for that week. AG5Z for Mar/Apr, W5UE for Nov and we will provide them the link. Note there is a tab at the bottom of the sheet for each day of our activation period. All seven sheets look alike except the date in the header so please ensure you are making your reservations in the proper sheet.

Scheduling operating slots is simple. The spreadsheet is laid out in one hour slots per mode across the top and band down the left hand side of the sheet. All dates/times are in UTC. To reserve a time/band/mode slot simply type your callsign in the appropriate cell. The spreadsheet automatically saves any changes you make. Multiple people can be updating at the same time and all changes will be saved

QSLs: There are **NO QSL** cards available for any of the W1AW/5 VOTA operating event stations during this event. All W1AW/5 contacts will be confirmed via LoTW only. 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 Hiram Percy Maximum Memorial Station.

Logging: It's expected that a W1AW/5 portable operation will make hundreds of QSOs over the course of the operating period. Therefore, 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! 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 operation is prepared to supply ALL station data (if possible) such as county, grid square, CQ/ITU zones, etc. Your coordinator for the week will provide more details on log handling after each 7 day event for MS.