

A Year-Long
Operating Event
Recognizing
Volunteers



VOLUNTEERS
ON THE AIR 2023



W1AW / 4
South Carolina

2023 ARRL Volunteers on the Air (VOTA)

W1AW/4 - Information Meeting

January 12, 2023

ED – K3DNE
SCOTT – KG9V

Meeting Agenda

- Event Overview
- Scheduling Process
- Coordination
- Review Logging Procedures
- Review Log Submission
- Operating Tips
- Q&A

Event Overview

- The ARRL VOTA Event operates throughout 2023
- Marc Tarplee (N4UFP), ARRL Section Manager for SC selected SFCG and Ed (K3DNE) to spearhead this event for SC
- Each state uniquely operates a W1AW/# team for 7 days, twice during the year.
- W1AW/4 for South Carolina operates Feb 1-7, and July 19-25
- All Bands and Modes can be worked, except for WARC bands.
- Only one W1AW/4 Operator will be on the air for a specific band/mode at a time.

SCHEDULING

January 15th – 18th: Schedule Opens for First Group.

Schedule yourself as much as desired, **however** scheduling is limited to a maximum of two consecutive 1-hour blocks per band/mode. No back-to-back scheduling by the same operator on the same band/mode for at least 2 hours.

Do not self-schedule in the shaded areas reserved for the second group. No self-scheduling of first group between January 19th - 23rd (reserved for exclusive scheduling by the second group).

UTC	EST	Band/Mode	Band/Mode
1100	6:00 AM		
1200	7:00 AM		
1300	8:00 AM		
1400	9:00 AM		
1500	10:00 AM		
1600	11:00 AM		
1700	Noon		
1800	1:00 PM		
1900	2:00 PM		
2000	3:00 PM		
2100	4:00 PM		
2200	5:00 PM		



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1900	2:00 PM		
2000	3:00 PM		
2100	4:00 PM		
2200	5:00 PM		



SCHEDULING (cont.)

- PLEASE use the self-scheduling spreadsheet. This is a new process. You will receive a link to access Keep it current PLEASE!
 - It is the first thing we should look at before operating
 - Input your full call into the cell for the period(s) you desire to operate
 - **One-Third of the two-hour scheduling blocks during the 0600 – 2400 period will be reserved for our newer operators as designated with a blue shading. More on this later.**
- Please sign up for dates, times, band, modes
 - Even if you see the time slot is blank and it's 3 AM, please put yourself in even if it's just for a short time
 - If you cannot operate during a time slot you signed up for, PLEASE remove yourself from the time slot
- Digital Ops Other – please also add the mode you will use (e.g. “K3DNE/FT4”)

SCHEDULING (cont.)

As mentioned earlier, Please DO NOT self-schedule in shaded areas reserved for the second group. No self-scheduling of first group between January 19th -23rd (reserved for exclusive scheduling by the second group). See example below:

UTC	EST	160 Data	80 CW	80 Phone	80 Data	40 CW	40 Phone	40 Data - FT8	40 Data - Other	20 CW	20 Phone	20 Data - FT8	20 Data - Other	15 CW	15 Phone	15 Data	10 CW	10 Phone	10 Data	6 CW	6 Phone	6 Data	Satellite	
0500	Midnight																							
0600	1:00 AM																							
0700	2:00 AM																							
0800	3:00 AM																							
0900	4:00 AM																							
1000	5:00 AM																							
1100	6:00 AM																							
1200	7:00 AM																							
1300	8:00 AM																							
1400	9:00 AM																							
1500	10:00 AM																							
1600	11:00 AM																							
1700	Noon																							
1800	1:00 PM																							
1900	2:00 PM																							
2000	3:00 PM																							
2100	4:00 PM																							
2200	5:00 PM																							
2300	6:00 PM																							
0000	7:00 PM																							
0100	8:00 PM																							
0200	9:00 PM																							
0300	10:00 PM																							
0400	11:00 PM																							
0500	Midnight																							

January 19th: Reserved blocks removed.

SCHEDULING (cont.)

January 19th – 23rd:

Schedule Opens for Second Group (only). Schedule yourself as much as desired, **however** scheduling is limited to a maximum of two consecutive 1-hour blocks per band/mode. No back-to-back scheduling by the same operator on the same band/mode for at least 2 hours. (See Slide 4)

January 24th:

Open Self-Scheduling for **All**. Scheduling is *still* limited to a max of two consecutive 1-hour blocks per band/mode. No back-to-back scheduling by the same operator, same band/mode for at least 2 hours. (See Slide 4)

February 1st- 7th:

Back-to-Back scheduling restrictions are removed during the event. **If** you have availability **and** the schedule is **open** you may self-schedule for **more** than two consecutive 1-hour blocks and/or add to the beginning or end of your already scheduled blocks.

COORDINATION

- We will set up the SC-VOTA groups.io email
- The Scheduling Spreadsheet Chat Function is available for communication between operators, great for hand-offs
- Check the schedule!
- Take advantage of Cluster Reporting Capabilities.
 - Consider spotting yourself on DXSummit.
 - Other good sites are DXHeat and QSOPartyHub
- Check DX clusters to see spots on your band/mode
- Best practice is to meet up via chat, (best way for digital), and for CW/SSB meet on the frequency in use by the current operator and do a “hand/off”
- For digital, a good option is <https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html>
 - Search for spots on the map “sent by” W1AW/4, last 15 minutes, and wait until the map is clear before operating!

COORDINATION (cont.)

- ID your personal call to stay legal with the FCC. We recommend the Beginning, EVERY 30 minutes, and End of operation.
 - Voice/CW – easy! - “This is YOURCALL – Operator for W1AW/4”
 - Digital – Use the free text message or macro – “QRV YOURCALL – W1AW/4”, “QRT YOURCALL – W1AW/4”
- Listen to other W1AW/# stations to get a sense of how other states are operating, what is working well, and not working well, etc.
 - When facing pile-ups, consider calling by numbers when the band is open to the Midwest, West Coast, DX to give distant stations a chance
 - Use power levels you want to use

LOGGING, ETC.

- This is a fun event, but please log each contact
- Please use Logging Software such as N1MM, etc.
- Input the W1AW/4 into the Operator Call-Sign Field, plus your ITU Zone, CQ Zone, State, County and Grid Square, etc.
- Do not worry about duplicates as these will be addressed at a consolidated level
- Every day, update the spreadsheet Summary Page for the total number of QSOs made for that day.
- At the end of the Event:
 - 1) Upload log to ARRL Portal (More Information Forthcoming)
 - 2) Submit Logs in ADIF format to Ed via: W1AW.4.Logs@gmail.com
 - Preferred File naming convention for logs is: **YOURCALL_VOTA_020723.adi**

OPERATING TIPS

- This is a fun event
- As Volunteers, we are operating for the participants
- Exercise patience, but work pileups efficiently
- Be professional, as all operators represent South Carolina
- Explore taking shifts at different times to get DX Stations
- HAVE FUN!!

Questions / Concerns