

The ARRL Volunteers On the Air Operating Event



**ARRL Director of Operations
Bob Naumann, W5OV, and
ARRL Radiosport Manager
Bart Jahnke, W9JJ**

2023 is the ARRL Year of the Volunteers. With that, ARRL will be holding Volunteers On the Air (VOTA), a year-long on-air celebration that recognizes the organization's abundant volunteer support and contributions. By using ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW, www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world), participants making contacts in 2023 will accumulate points, as well as contact new stations and make new friends all over the world.

From January 1 (0000 UTC) to December 31, 2023 (2359 UTC), hams can participate in the VOTA event, which will include special week-long activations by W1AW portable stations from all 50 states and most US territories. Each W1AW portable activation will begin on a Wednesday at 0000 UTC and end the following Tuesday at 2359 UTC, and each state will be activated twice.

Visit the VOTA online dashboard (<https://vota.arrl.org>) for a complete list of dates and stations to be activated.

Scoring and Awards

This is the second ARRL-sponsored operating event for which every member is worth at least one point (the first was ARRL's 2014 Centennial QSO Party). The event is open to all, and only ARRL members, appointees, and elected officials; HQ staff; W1AW; DXCC Card Checkers, and ARRL Affiliated Club call signs

Frequently Asked Questions

For additional questions not listed below, contact vota@arrl.org.

Q Should I use a special CQ call to signify that I'm looking for Volunteers On the Air contacts?

A Nothing special is needed because casual, contest, or DX contacts qualify. Participants may operate as normal. Because ARRL members are worth at least one point, there will always be points to add.

Q Do I have to receive someone's ARRL position or abbreviation over the air in order to get point credit?

A No. If participants use LoTW, the point value will be determined by their contact partner's call sign.

Q Who should I contact if I think my call sign's point value is incorrect?

A Email us at vota@arrl.org.

Q If I hold multiple appointments, do all the point values add up?

A No. Each call sign is worth a specific number of points, and that value will be of the highest corresponding appointment in the QSO Points Table (<https://vota.arrl.org>).

Q If I'm a guest operator using a call sign other than mine at another station, does the other station receive my call sign's point value, or the point value of the call sign I'm using?

A The call sign in the log is the one that gets valued for points, so the call sign being used is the one that supplies and/or receives the points.

Q Can I contact DX stations?

A Absolutely. Many people who live outside the US are ARRL members (more than 7,000). Many DX stations will be actively chasing ARRL members and portable W1AW stations.

Q How do I know when W1AW portable operations from all the states and territories will occur? I want to contact each W1AW operation.

A There will be a schedule organized by week showing W1AW portable operations, which can be found at <https://vota.arrl.org>. The W1AW/# portable operations are worth five points for each contact, and they can be contacted on all bands and modes — participants are not limited to one contact. Additionally, participants may contact each state's first and second operations on all the band modes for points.

Q Can I make additional contacts with the same station on the same band and mode more than once for points?

A No. Except for W1AW portable stations, band and mode duplicates for the same station operating during the same week will not count for points. For example, participants may contact W1AW/2 in the first week of the New Jersey operation on 20 meters RTTY and 20 meters FT8. However, only one will be worth points for the digital contact.

Q Can I work the second weekly operation for a state or territory for points if I already worked the first operation?

A Yes. Participants may work the first and second weekly operations for each location on all the different bands and modes for points. Doing so means that participants are contacting different counties and grid squares during each operation.



are worth points. DX member stations outside of the US may count for points.

Only two-way contacts qualify for points (cross-band, cross-mode, and repeater contacts are not valid), using any mode (CW, phone, or digital) — including EME and satellite operations — on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, and 1.25 meters, as well as 70 centimeters, VHF/UHF/SHF, and microwave bands available to US amateurs above 2 meters (2190-, 630-, 60-, 30-, 17-, and 12-meter band contacts are not counted for credit in this event).

All contacts must be uploaded to LoTW. Stations exchange call signs and signal reports common to the modes being used. Contacts do not have to be contest-style, and participants are not required to provide ARRL organizational information. The VOTA database will assign point values to all contacts within logs submitted electronically via LoTW.

Participant scores are the values of all the completed eligible contacts, as uploaded to LoTW. Eligible contacts may be made with the same station on each of the three mode categories. Points are assigned based on the level of volunteer, or ARRL representative or member contacted. For example, ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, may be contacted for 75 points on 20 meters CW, 20 meters SSB, and 20 meters digital, as well as on the other bands where multiple modes are used. Essentially, each station may be contacted on each of the mode groups on each band. There are no multipliers or bonus points.

See the Volunteer QSO Points Table at <https://vota.arri.org> for the list of contact values.

Scores will be calculated daily (between 3:00 and 6:00 AM the following morning). Real-time score leaders by band and mode will be viewable on the VOTA dashboard, and certificates will be available to print or download (details will be announced on the dashboard after the event begins).

Worked All States (WAS) and VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) awards can be enhanced by contacting the portable W1AW and volunteer stations (standard LoTW award tracking and application processes with credits and fees will apply).

The deadline for completing LoTW uploads from your 2023 contacts is February 10, 2024. A final tally of participation, as well as a summary, will be made in the weeks following the deadline. This deadline is not connected to WAS or VUCC awards.

Suggested Bands and Modes

Participants are encouraged to contact stations on each mode, but may not contact someone on three modes using the same frequency. Contacts are suggested to be made within the bands listed in Table 1 (some bands show suggested frequencies for modes that are not allowed in the US).

The VOTA system will automatically look for point-qualifying contacts from those submitted to LoTW, and apply them to each participant's points table. Contacts don't have to be matched in LoTW for points to be achieved — this is an honor-based event.

Meters	CW (MHz)	Phone (MHz)	Digital (MHz)
160	1.800 – 1.843	1.843 – 1.900	1.800 – 1.843
80	3.500 – 3.600	3.600 – 4.000	3.525 – 3.600
40	7.000 – 7.125	7.040 – 7.300	7.025 – 7.100
20	14.000 – 14.150	14.110 – 14.350	14.025 – 14.150
15	21.000 – 21.200	21.110 – 21.450	21.025 – 21.200
10	28.000 – 28.300	28.200 – 29.700	28.025 – 28.200
6	50.000 – 50.125	50.125 – 50.500	Use normally accepted frequencies (50.310, 50.313, 50.318, etc.)
2	144.000 – 144.100	144.100 – 148.000	144.170, 144.174
1.25	222.000 – 225.000	222.000 – 225.000	222.000 – 225.000 (222.065, 222.074)
70 cm	420.000 – 450.000	420.000 – 450.000 (432.100)	420.000 – 450.000 (432.065, 432.074)
903 MHz and higher — one contact per mode			
Satellites — one contact per mode			

Leaderboard Reports and QSLs

In a similar fashion to the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase, ARRL plans to report leaderboard activity online.

W1AW portable QSL cards will not be issued for this event. QSLs will be automatically achieved if both contact participants upload their contacts to LoTW. As always, those who contact the W1AW HQ station during the year-long event are able to request a QSL card via SASE.