

Operating Rules and Guidelines

W1AW/6 Southern California

Operating Rules

- ONLY operate your assigned specific time-slot, mode, and band. We absolutely must avoid having two same-mode signals at the same time, on the same band!
- ANY UNMARKED TIMESLOTS ARE ASSIGNED TO STATION K6NA; changes must be authorized.
- If you need a schedule-change or can't cover your assigned slots, contact K6NA.
- Remain calm and courteous-- No frequency fights, stay away from nets, ignore intentional QRM.
- Be on your best behavior - we are representing W1AW and ARRL. Use the full call sign, W1AW/6.
- Be a crisp operator, but not frantic! Take the time to log call signs ACCURATELY.
- If you get complaints of bad audio or splatter, check amp tuning and compressor settings.
- AVOID band edges! Example: Lower limit for General Class operators on 40m phone band is 7.175 kHz. BUT, using LSB the carrier frequency should be no lower than 7.178, to keep lower sidebands in-band. Watch your frequency!
- Send the exchange as 59(9) CA when on CW or SSB (actual reports are obviously okay). More appropriate signal reports for the digital modes can be used.
- Make sure your logging program, mode, and radio's frequency are in agreement when you change bands!

Other Guidelines

- Stay in General portion of bands (or Tech on 10m USB; 28.3 - 28.497) as much as possible.
- If possible, choose a CLEAR frequency close to those suggested.
- Be aware of other activity on the bands, such as nets or major DXpeditions.
- If you are following another station on the same band/mode, try and assume his frequency at the scheduled time, so his pileup isn't left hanging.
- Use reasonable CW speeds-- don't intimidate potential callers.
- Call CQ, don't search-and-pounce! People are looking for you.
- Don't spot yourself; there will be enough others to spot us.
- Avoid calling by call areas; this invariably leads to ill will.
- Listen 'split' if necessary, but keep the split reasonable. By observation, Up 1 for CW, Up 3 - 4 for SSB, are good.
- Be careful not to land your pileup on a net or another busy frequency.
- Don't call CQ within a DX window (e.g. 3.795).
- Use only standard phonetics. Many newer operators are participating.
- Someone will want you on every different band/mode, so generally ignore requests for changes; explain that you are limited to your assigned bands/modes and suggest they use DX Cluster to find other W1AW/6 activity.

- If your QSO rate is slow, consider moving to one of the other possible band/modes ONLY IF IT'S ASSIGNED at your site. If unsure, contact K6NA.
- It doesn't hurt to occasionally ask for 'DX Only' if the band is open and stateside is loud.
- Repeater contacts are not valid for credit, but repeaters can be used to announce a simplex frequency where the FM operators can meet W1AW/6 for valid two-way contacts.
- Study the ARRL's rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>.
- QSLing procedures for W1AW/6 contacts are explained on the website, but a quick answer is: You can mail your card directly to ARRL, NO SASE needed, and ARRL will reply; or use LoTW.

Log Instructions for Host Stations

- When the week is finished, send your ADIF file to K6NA, the SoCal Coordinator.
- You will send file as ATTACHMENT to a regular email message. DON'T SEND TO ARRL!
- Use filename format: hostcallsign_yourcounty.adi Example: n6aa_losangeles.adi
- In the body of the email message, put Host call sign, County, Grid Square, physical address of station, and list of operators.
- If you cannot generate an ADIF log file, contact K6NA.
- At minimum, logs need: Call of the station worked, UTC Time, Date, Band and Mode.
- RST would be a helpful addition, but the received ARRL abbreviation is NOT needed.