

SKCC Straight Key Month - 2021 US K3Y Station Operator's Guide

INTRODUCTION

Straight Key Month is held each January to celebrate the use of hand-formed Morse radiotelegraphy. It commences on Jan. 2nd, immediately following ARRL's Straight Key Night event. January 2021 will mark the 15th Anniversary of the Straight Key Century Club and the Straight Key Month event (aka SKM).

SKM provides a unique opportunity for US-based SKCC members to operate using the special event callsign K3Y. Members outside of the US may also participate as official event stations using their own callsigns. Please see additional info for non-US operators in *K3Y_2021_Non_US_Operator_Guide.pdf*.

The SKCC Straight Key Month web page is located at www.skccgroup.com/k3y/

TIME-SLOT SCHEDULING

SKCC Members in the US who wish to operate as K3Y call sign stations should contact their Regional Coordinators in order to schedule operating time slots. Only one operator per each US call area can use the special event call sign at a time.

K3Y Area/Regional Coordinators are assigned to each US call-sign district and are responsible for scheduling your operating times and processing operator log files. Please contact the Coordinator in the region where you will be operating. The Coordinator email address for each region is shown below:

K3Y0@skccgroup.com

K3Y1@skccgroup.com

K3Y2@skccgroup.com

K3Y3@skccgroup.com

K3Y4@skccgroup.com

K3Y5@skccgroup.com

K3Y6@skccgroup.com

K3Y7@skccgroup.com

K3Y8@skccgroup.com

K3Y9@skccgroup.com

K3YKH6@skccgroup.com

K3YKL7@skccgroup.com

K3YKP4@skccgroup.com

The operator schedule is maintained on the SKCC Event Calendar at:
www.skccgroup.com/cgi-bin/calendar.pl?year=2021&month=1

All times and dates are in UTC/GMT. (*For example, Friday 01:00 UTC would be Thursday evening local time in the US.*)

The schedule displays time slots that have already been assigned. Pick unassigned times in your call area and notify your area Coordinator that you'd like to fill them. The earlier you make a request the better your chances of getting it. If you find that you cannot keep a previously scheduled time please notify your Coordinator as soon as possible so that it can be freed for others.

To facilitate scheduling of your requested operating times please be sure to include the following information so that your Coordinator will not have to look it up: Callsign, Name, State, SKCC Nr.

If you upgrade your C/T/S status during the course of the event please be sure to inform your Coordinator.

After you have requested an operating slot you should receive a confirmation email from your Coordinator. You must be listed on the Event Calendar in order to operate at the assigned time; *if you are not on the schedule you are not permitted to operate with the K3Y callsign!*

SHORT-NOTICE SCHEDULING

It is better to schedule well in advance whenever possible. However, you may be able to grab unassigned time slots within 1 hour of the start time by following the short-notice instructions below:

- Include the following six items in your request:
UTC Start & End K3Y Area Callsign Name State SKCC#
- Email to K3YSCHED@skccgroup.com **and** to your Area Coordinator address on pg.1;
- Do not operate unless you receive confirmation;
- Short notice requests can be made *only within one hour of the start time.*

LOGGING

K3Y operators must provide a log of all their contacts. Your Coordinator may request an initial sample log from you in order to ensure that it is a suitable format.

Logs should be in ADIF format and should contain at least the following fields: Date; Time; Callsign; Band; Mode; Name; RST Sent; RST Rcvd (*The ADIF tags for these fields are QSO_DATE; TIME_ON; CALL; BAND; MODE; NAME; RST_SENT; RST_RCVD*).

Some Coordinators will accept other kinds of logs but ADIF is preferred for ease of processing of the many thousands of contacts that will be made during the event. There are a number of free logging programs available that are suitable for this purpose. Several programs written by SKCC members are available here:
http://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/files_and_downloads/

You should send your log file to your area Coordinator as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours of operating. This will get your contacts into the master log with minimum delay and will reduce the number of inquiries that must be handled by Coordinators from members who are anxious to confirm their "stats".

All dates and times must be logged in UTC or GMT.

If you work another K3Y operator you should make sure to obtain and log their personal callsign. This will ensure that they receive personal credit in the K3Y Log and Stats for their contact with you. They should log you similarly.

If you find you have made a mistake or omission in any of your submitted log entries please advise your area Coordinator.

Please name your log files in the following example format: *K3Y02-AF2Z-NJ-01.adi*

- "K3Y02" your operating location area (K3Y01, K3Y02, etc. & K3YKH, K3YKL, K3YKP);
- "AF2Z" your callsign;
- "NJ" the state where you are operating from;
- "01" sequential number (01, 02, etc), different for each of your log files.

Make sure to keep backup copies of your log files.

ON THE AIR

K3Y operators must use only straight key, bug and cootie keys during their assigned time slots. The only exception is for those who were granted exemption to use an electronic key for K3Y station operation during the 2020 event.

As a U.S special event operator you will use the call sign corresponding to your geographic location: K3Y/0, K3Y/1, etc. plus K3Y/KH6, K3Y/KL7, K3Y/KP4.

A standard 2x2 call is generally recommended: "CQ CQ de K3Y/2 K3Y/2 K". You may also send "CQ SKM" (for Straight Key Month). Please DO NOT send "CQ SKCC" as this may discourage non-members from replying.

You can also respond to general CQs transmitted by any station and log them among your K3Y contacts.

Please include the following minimum information in your on-air exchange: RST; QTH; NAME; CALL; SKCC#. For example: 599 NJ Drew AF2Z SKCC 2082T

Specifically including "SKCC" in the exchange helps to "advertise" the club to non-members who may be listening in.

You are required to ID with your own callsign at least once per hour if it is not included in every exchange as suggested above.

You can refer non-members to the SKCC and K3Y website by sending "SEE SKCCGROUP DOT COM FOR INFO" or "SEE QRZ DOT COM".

You may use the special event call sign on the WARC bands (12m, 17m, 30m) except when participating in sprints or contests.

Operation with the K3Y call is NOT permitted on 60 meters.

In the interest of providing the widest possible coverage please do not run low power as a K3Y Operator *unless that is the limit of your station capability*. Low power stations are entirely welcomed and desired to be part of K3Y. But restricting your coverage by intentionally reducing output power is counter to the goal of the event. We want to give everyone the best possible chance of hearing and contacting as many K3Y operators as possible.

If possible, please log in to the SKCC Sked Page while operating as K3Y: <https://sked.skccgroup.com/>

Then click the *Go Active* button and type your K3Y call into the *Status* box at the

top right of the page, like this: =K3Y/2 or =K3Y-NA etc You are not obligated to respond to requests or engage in banter on the SkedPage while operating. You can choose to disable private messaging by unchecking the *Enable PMs* box at the top.

QSL Cards & SKCC Awards

An official K3Y QSL card will be available to anyone who contacts at least one K3Y station. The card will list one QSO per each US call district worked (including KH6, KL7 and KP4), plus each continental DX area (AF, AS, EU, NA, OC, SA): up to a maximum of nineteen QSOs for a complete worldwide "sweep" card

Cards will be distributed automatically to anyone who is a member of the SKCC QSL Bureau. Those who are not bureau members may request a K3Y QSL card by submitting a SASE, indicating their callsign and "K3Y" on the envelope. More info on the SKCC QSL Bureau can be found at:

http://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/qsl_buro/

The contacts you make as a K3Y Operator are valid for SKCC awards. Check the individual award requirements for specific requirements.

The call signs of K3Y Operators are listed in an "honor roll" in the following year's SKCC print calendar.

Thanks for being a K3Y Straight Key Month Operator!

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