

SKCC K3Y Anniversary Event - 2018

US Station Operator's Guide

INTRODUCTION

"K3Y" is a month-long operating event held each January to celebrate the use of hand-formed Morse radiotelegraphy. It commences on Jan. 2nd, immediately following ARRL's longstanding Straight Key Night event. January 2018 will mark the 12th Anniversary of the Straight Key Century Club's founding.

K3Y provides a unique opportunity for any US-based SKCC member to operate on the air using the K3Y special event callsign. DX members may also participate as special event stations using their own callsigns. Please see the separate guide for K3Y DX operators.

SCHEDULING

SKCC Members in the US who wish to operate as K3Y special event stations should contact their Regional Coordinators in order to schedule an operating time slot. The terms of usage for the special call sign require that no more than one operator in each US call-sign area be allowed to use the special event call sign at any given time.

A K3Y Regional Coordinator is assigned to each US call-sign district. He is responsible for scheduling your operating times and processing your log files. Please contact the Coordinator for the region where you will be operating from. Email addresses are listed on the SKCC Anniversary Event web page at www.skccgroup.com/k3y/

The operator schedule is maintained on the SKCC Event Calendar at: www.skccgroup.com/cgi-bin/calendar.pl?year=2018&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 lists time slots that have already been assigned. Pick some unassigned times for your call area and notify your area Coordinator that you'd like to have 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 he can free it for others.

You may also be able to make "short notice" scheduling requests by contacting Randy KB4QQJ, Ron AC2C or Pete NM5PS. Please first check with your Area Coordinator to see if this service is available. If so, and should you suddenly find yourself with some free operating time when your Coordinator is not available, Ron, Randy and Pete may be able to get you signed up on very short notice. Their contact info is listed on the K3Y page.

Once you have requested an operating time slot you should receive a confirmation email from your Coordinator. In any case, you must be listed on the K3Y schedule page in order to operate at any particular time; *if you are not on the schedule you are not permitted to operate with the special event callsign!*

As a courtesy please include the following information in your scheduling requests so that your Coordinator will not have to look it up: *Callsign; Name; State; SKCC Nr.*

LOGGING

K3Y operators must maintain 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.

Log files should be named in the following example format: *K3Y02-AF2Z-NJ-01.adi*

"K3Y02" is the call area you are operating from (including K3YKH, K3YKL, K3YKP);
"AF2Z" is your callsign;
"NJ" is the state where you are operating from;
"01" a two-digit number (01, 02, etc), different for each of your log files.

If you work another K3Y operator you should make sure to obtain and log his personal callsign. This will ensure that he receives personal credit in the K3Y Log and Stats for his contact with you. He should log you similarly.

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

Please keep backup copies of your log files.

ON THE AIR

As a U.S special event operator you will use the callsign assigned to your particular area: *K3Y/0, K3Y/1, etc.* plus *K3Y/KH6, K3Y/KL7, K3Y/KP4.*

Some recommendations for on-air procedure follow:

- A standard 2x2 call is generally recommended: "*CQ CQ de K3Y/2 K3Y/2 K*". A shorter 1x1 call can be used during busy periods. Please DO NOT send the directed call "CQ

SKCC" as this may discourage non-members from replying.

- Please include the following minimum information in your on-air exchange: *RST; QTH; NAME; SKCC NUMBER*. The exchange can be made more wordy depending on your preference or how busy you are. The bare minimum would be, for example: "599 NJ Drew SKCC 2082T". It is suggested that you explicitly include "SKCC" in the exchange. This gives SKCC an on-air presence and helps to inform non-members who may be listening in.

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

- You are required to send your own callsign at least once per hour. Many K3Y ops mention their personal calls as part of every QSO.

- Please keep in mind this is not a contest but a special event. You may operate the special event call sign on the WARC bands EXCEPT when participating in sprints or contests.

- Operation on 60m is NOT permitted.

- 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 welcome 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.

- Operators may work repeat callers ("dupes") if they like but must at all times give preference to new callers. Again, we want to give everyone a fair chance of working as many different K3Y operators as possible. Dupe contacts are not reflected in the stats.

- While operating please consider signing in to the SKCC Sked Page at:

<https://sked.skccgroup.com/>

Then type your K3Y call into the Status box at the top right of the page, like this: =K3Y/2 That will let everyone clearly know that you are the K3Y station in your area. You need not feel obligated to field requests, enable PMs, or engage in banter on the Sked Page while you are operating.

QSLs & SKCC Awards

An official K3Y QSL card will be available to anyone who works 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 various SKCC awards programs. Check the individual award requirements for specific details.