

Logging and Reporting the W1AW Portable Operations.

Throughout 2014 the [ARRL Centennial QSO Party](#) is in full swing with [W1AW portable call signs](#) operating from all 50 U.S States. Because a W1AW portable call sign will be used from many locations within a call area this has raised some questions about logging the QSOs with the W1AW portable operations.

Q: I worked W1AW/4 but my logging program says it is a dupe.

Log the contact as you copy it.

[Logbook of The World](#) works just like a paper QSL card, the credit you receive for a two-way contact depends on QSO information sent by the other station. All you have to do is log the QSO and upload the signed log file to LoTW.

Logbook of The World only accepts TQ8 log files. The TQ8 file is created using the TQSL software in your computer. The beauty of LoTW is in the TQSL software and the use of call sign certificates, station locations and having the option to sign a portion of a log file through the use of a QSO date range. All you have to do is log QSOs like normal. Let's see how it all works.

When a log file is to be uploaded to LoTW the user initiates the signing function in TQSL. The first selection the user is asked to make is which ADIF (ADIF is the file format developed to allow log data to be moved between different software) log file is going to be signed. The ADIF log file contains everything you log into the computer about a contact, including the five main components used in LoTW: call, date, time, mode, and band.

The next selection the user is asked to make is to choose which station location will be used to sign the ADIF log file. Station locations are associated with a call sign certificate. The station location contains the geographic information of an operation that will be attached to each QSO. The geography includes US State, County, Grid Square, Zones, etc. Because TQSL allows multiple station locations to be used for the same call sign, the multiple W1AW portable operations are easily configured in the software. In this example we will have one certificate for W1AW/4 – USA. We will have several station locations for the various State operations (AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, TN, SC, VA) associated to the call sign certificate W1AW/4 – USA.

At this point of the signing process the LoTW user is asked to provide a date range to sign the log. If used, this tool tells TQSL which portion of the ADIF log file to sign with the selected station location. If left blank, then TQSL will sign the entire log file.

When we at ARRL sign the log files for any of the W1AW/x portable operations, we will select the appropriate station location in TQSL and apply the proper QSO-begin and QSO-end dates, and sign the logs accordingly so any station who contacted W1AW/x will receive proper state credit for the QSO.

** Note: Before TQSL begins signing the ADIF log file the LoTW is asked to confirm the call sign and station location that will be used to sign the ADIF log file.*

All of this has nothing to do with you, the operator who made the contact, any more than how a paper QSL card is filled out by a station you have contacted. You upload your QSOs with your geographic information provided in your station location. You receive US State credit from the information uploaded by W1AW/x. This happens all from our side. Keep in mind this applies to for any LoTW user who operates from many locations, not just ARRL and W1AW/x.

Good Luck working all the W1AW portable operations, W1ØØAW, and every ARRL member.