SKCC Straight Key Month - 2025
US K3Y Station Operator's Guide

INTRODUCTION

The Straight Key Month event is held each January to celebrate the use of hand-keyed Morse radiotelegraphy. It commences on Jan. 2nd, immediately following ARRL's Straight Key Night event. January 2025 marks the 19th Anniversary of the Straight Key Century Club and Straight Key Month (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_2025_Non_US_Operator_Guide.pdf*.

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

OPERATOR RESERVATIONS

SKCC Members in the US who wish to operate using the K3Y call sign should contact their Regional Coordinators in order to reserve operating time. 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 reserving your operating times and processing operator log files. Please contact the Coordinators in the region where you will be operating. The Coordinator email address for each region is shown below:

K3Y0@skccgroup.com	K3Y5@skccgroup.com	K3YKH6@skccgroup.com
K3Y1@skccgroup.com	K3Y6@skccgroup.com	K3YKL7@skccgroup.com
K3Y2@skccgroup.com	K3Y7@skccgroup.com	K3YKP4@skccgroup.com
K3Y3@skccgroup.com	K3Y8@skccgroup.com	
K3Y4@skccgroup.com	K3Y9@skccgroup.com	

Reserved times are displayed on the SKCC Event Calendar at:
www.skccgroup.com/cgi-bin/calendar.pl?year=2025&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 event calendar displays only times that have already been reserved. Choose some times *in your call area* that have not been reserved and notify your Coordinator that you'd like to fill them. The earlier you make a request the better your chances of getting it. If you later find that you cannot operate at your scheduled time please notify your Coordinator as soon as possible so that it can be freed for others.

Please be sure to include the following information in your request so that your Coordinator will not have to look it up: *Callsign*, *Name*, *State*, *SKCC Nr*.

If you reserve a long contiguous period, or a large number of slots, you may later need to relinquish a portion to other operators, depending upon demand for time in

your call area.

When your operating time has been reserved you will receive a confirmation email from your Coordinator. Check your reservation on the calendar for correctness before operating. *You are not permitted to operate with the K3Y call sign at times other than those assigned to you on the event calendar.*

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

SHORT-NOTICE RESERVATIONS

Requests for operating time should be made well in advance whenever possible. However, you may be able to reserve operating time within 1-hour of the desired start by following the instructions below:

- Requests should be made **only within 1-hour** of the intended start time;
- Address your email to **both** your Coordinator and K3YSCHED@skccgroup.com
- Include the following three items in **every** request:

    Start & End Times UTC
    Your K3Y operating Area (*K3Y/1, etc.*)
    Your op info formatted as *CALL-NAME-STATE-SKCC#*. Example: *AF2Z-Drew-NJ-2082s*

- Do not operate as K3Y unless you receive a confirmation of your request.

LOGGING

K3Y operators must provide a log of 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. Many members use the *AC2C SKCCLogger*, more info here: https://www.skccgroup.com/member_services/skcc_logger/

Please send your log file to your area Coordinator as soon as possible 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 have their contacts confirmed.

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

If you work another K3Y station make sure to log the contact under the operator's personal call sign. This will ensure that they receive personal credit in the master log and stats for their contact with you. For event purposes there is no

need to log K3Y call signs: these will not count in the stats and will eventually
need to be removed from the master log.

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;
- *"0*1*"*   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 operating times.

Use the call sign corrresponding to your geographic location: *K3Y/0, K3Y/1,* etc.
and *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.

PLEASE send some QRS CQ's from time to time to encourage replies from slower speed
operators.

You can answer CQs transmitted by any station and log them among your K3Y
contacts.

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

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

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

If you can't copy all of an SKCC member's name, qth, skcc#, etc. just log as much
as you can. We will attempt to fix "busted" calls after the event.

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

You are permitted to use the K3Y 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 *SKM-NA* etc

When your time slot is finished please make sure to completely erase your K3Y info from the Status box; do not type "K3Y/2 QRT" or similar in your Status box. That will only clutter the Status list and make it harder for people to spot the currently active K3Y stations.

You are not obligated to respond to requests or engage in SkedPage chat 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 other specific requirements.

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

Thanks for being a Straight Key Month Operator!

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