

ARRL America250 Worked All States Event

W1AW/8 Michigan Section

Interim Report – March 7, 2026

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Background

During 2026, the ARRL is holding a Year-Long Worked All States operating event to recognize the 250th Anniversary (Semiquincentennial) of the Declaration of Independence. All amateur operators who have Logbook of The World (LoTW) confirmed contacts with all 50 states during the year can earn the ARRL Semiquincentennial America250 Worked All States (WAS) Award. Also, during the year, each state (and several US Possessions/Territories) will have two one-week sessions where operators within the state will have the opportunity to operate as W1AW/Portable. All amateur operators have the opportunity to “chase” these W1AW/Portable stations, and if they have LoTW confirmed contacts with all 50 states, they will earn a special endorsement for their WAS certificate.

According to the ARRL Guidelines (ARRL):

The objective for each state therefore is to gather as many operators as feasible who will in turn activate as many bands as possible on the three modes of CW, Digital, and Phone. While the object of the event is to hand out as many contacts with W1AW/Portable States as possible, operators are encouraged to explain the celebrations of 2026 (i.e. Semiquincentennial ARRL WAS-250 Worked All States Award, Year of The Club, and 100th Anniversary of the Field Organization) to the degree that operating time may allow. The other objective is to encourage other operators to get on the air, make contacts, and have fun.

For the state of Michigan, the W1AW/8 activation dates are:

1. February 18th 00:00 UTC through February 24th 23:59 UTC
2. October 28th 00:00 UTC through November 3rd 23:59 UTC

The other state activating at the same time was Texas W1AW/5.

Activation #1: 2/18 – 2/24

The Michigan activation got off to a slow start. With no State Coordinator in charge and about one month to the start date, Michigan Section Manager Ralph Katz/AA8RK asked if I would like the job. I accepted and began working on the event.

The first order of business was to start rounding up Michigan operators. I put together a “Call for Operators” e-mail which Ralph sent out to all Michigan Section ARRL members. While waiting for responses, I began to investigate software that could be used to schedule operating time slots.

Time Slot Scheduling Software

The need for scheduling software was primarily driven by one requirement (ARRL):

“... to have no more than three (3) W1AW/Portable Stations (one on each mode) on the air at a given time from the State (one on CW, one on Phone and one on Digital). This is to ensure that there are no overlapping multiband/multimode operations, particularly where any possible interference to non-Amateur Services might be identified by FCC, but we would not be able to immediately determine where the interference was emanating if two different stations were on the same band and mode, both using the same W1AW/Portable# call sign.”

Ideally the software would also:

- Be easily accessible i.e. web based.
- Be easy-to-use and easy-to-administrate i.e. incorporate a graphical user interface.
- Incorporate security so that only known operators could access it.
- Prevent operators from editing/deleting/overwriting other operator’s selections.
- Low or no cost.

Looking at other states W1AW/Portable operations, I examined several packages and eventually selected Ham QTV (<https://www.ham-qtv.com>). While it supported the above conditions, there is no identified company/developer to which questions could be addressed. Sleuthing the interwebs, I thought I found the author and sent him a message. I did not receive a reply.

Also, during this time, I connected with Dale McGorman/K8RO as he offered his help in running the event. We both worked through the software and wrote a simple User Guide that we could send out to our operators. Dale agreed to be the System Administrator for the software and would be the contact point for software issues. He also agreed to perform the operations necessary to “on-board” operators.

Michigan Section Operators

By mid-February, the “Call for Operators” e-mail resulted in 29 accepted operators. Of these, 24 would go on to actually operate and send in their logs. These operators include:

Jay Aho	N8QYQ
Ian Alkema	K18AN
Tom Behler	KB8TYJ
David Colliau	N8DC
Gregg Crump	N8GEO
Dennis Faist	K8YE
Michael Fluegemann	KE8AQW
Mike Gooding	W8ZFM
Jerry Grimes	K8GNG
John Hanse	AC8HZ
Jim Hessler	K8JH
John Huber	N8FYL
Lito Juliano	K8AJJ
Brian Lewis	N8XCO
Charlene Lewis	K8XCO
Andy Malburg	W8DMT
Zoey Malburg	W8ZLM
Dale McGorman	K8RO
Jeff Peters	K9JP
Dan Romanchik	KB6NU
Jim Scarlett	KD7O
Frederick Schebor	K8NGW
Eric Stoddart	K8ERS
Steve Wuelfing	K8BZ

As shown in Figure 1, the majority of these operators possessed Amateur Extra licenses.

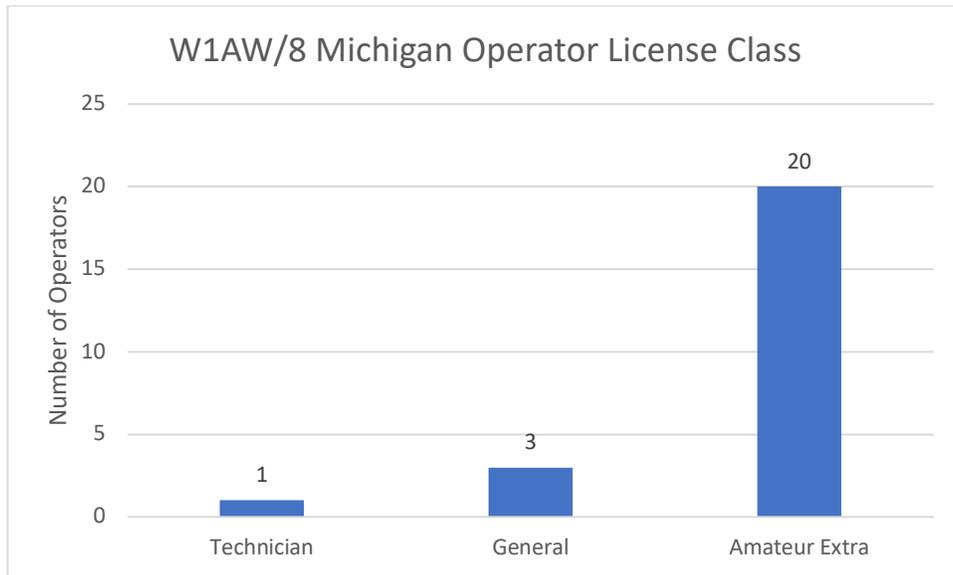


Figure 1 - Operator License Class

Ideally, our 24 operators would come from the four corners of the state. Figure 2 shows the actual geographic shack locations.

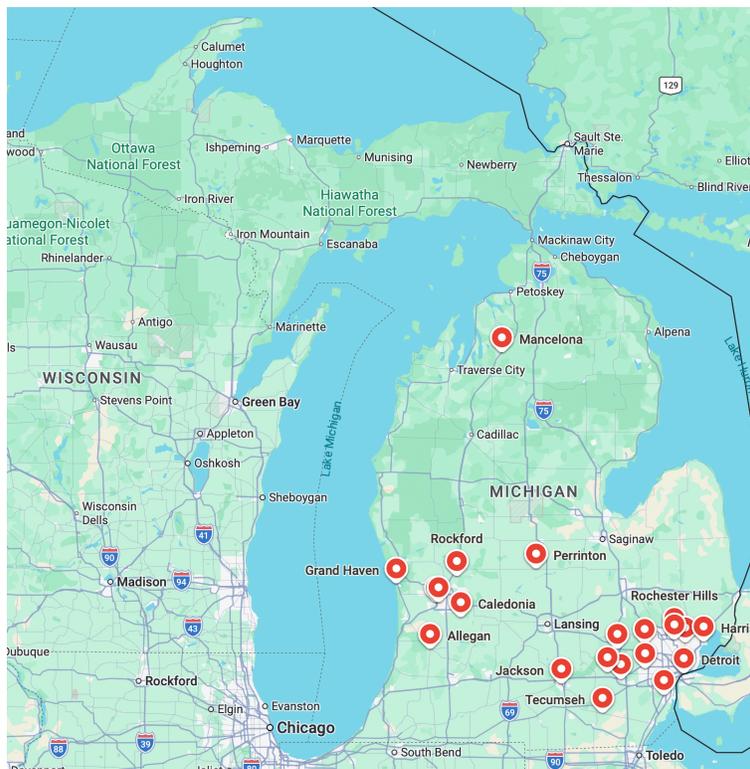


Figure 2 - Operator QTH locations

The wife/husband team of Charlene/K8XCO and Brian/W8XCO in Mancelona set the northern limit. The rest of the operators resided in the lower half of the lower peninsula.

While all the above operators did an outstanding job representing The Great State of Michigan, I'd like to highlight two in particular:

1. Zoey Malburg/W8ZLM – A 9-year-old Technician. Zoey operated six 1-hour slots resulting in 66 10m FT8 QSO's!
2. Ian Alkema/KI8AN – A 15-year-old Amateur Extra. Ian operated thirteen 1-hour slots resulting in 812 20m and 40m SSB QSO's which is nearly 10% of our group's total QSO's!

Event Results

While the ARRL America250 Worked All States Event is not a contest, we (the Michigan Section) want to ensure that every amateur who is chasing Michigan, has the opportunity for a QSO. This can only happen if:

1. We are on the air when they are on the air, and
2. We are on the band that they are on (or limited to), and
3. We are using the mode that they are using (or limited to).

We Are On the Air

Effective On the Air time can only occur if our operators expend the necessary BIC (Butt in Chair) time. Figure 3 shows the daily total hours (time slots) for the 7 days. We averaged just over 54 hours/day. The total time slot selection hours were 380.

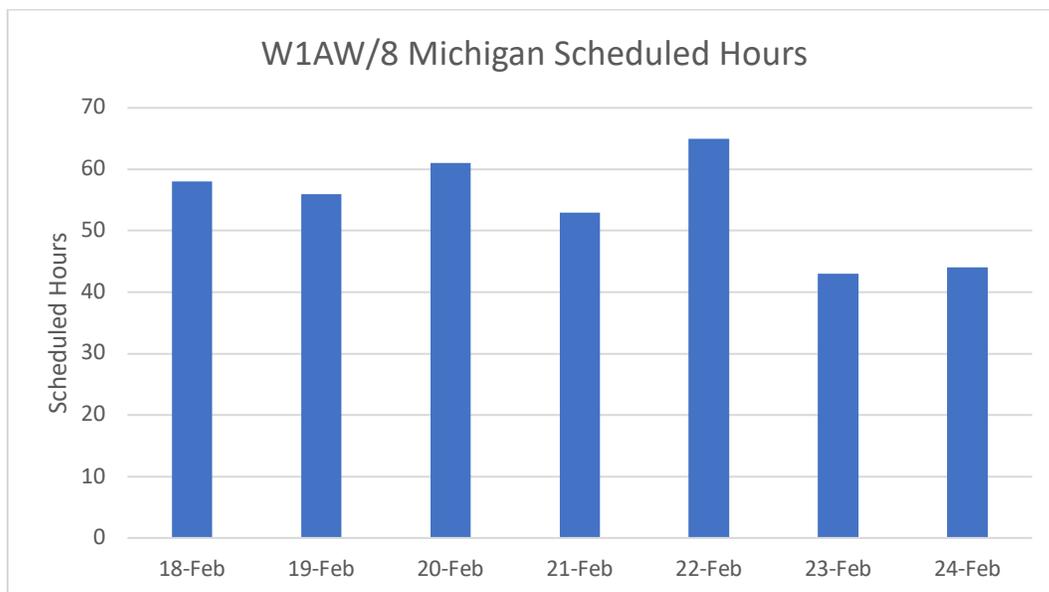


Figure 3 - Daily scheduled hours

Figure 4 shows how we operated during the day. The most popular time slot was 21:00 UTC (4 p.m. EST) followed by 00:00, 01:00, and 02:00 UTC (7 p.m., 8 p.m., and 9 p.m. EST). We were not on the air 05:00 UTC – 07:00 UTC (12 a.m. – 2 a.m. EST).

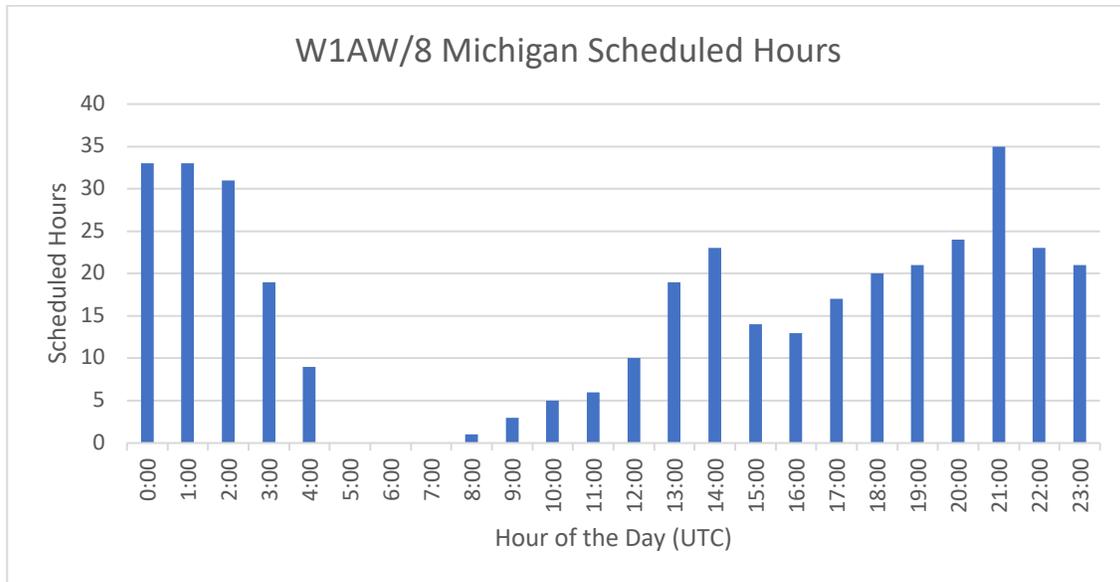


Figure 4 - Time-of-day scheduled hours

We Are On the Band That They Are On

Figure 5 shows the time slot selection as a function of band. While we had a presence on all the HF bands and 6m VHF, 20m and 40m were by far the most popular.

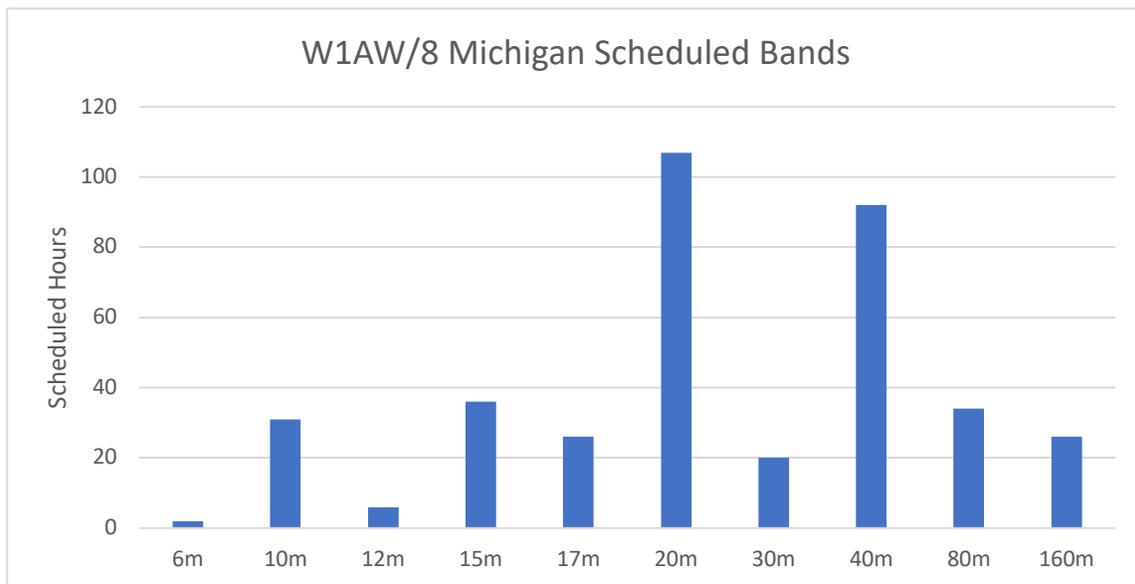


Figure 5 - Event selected bands

We Are Using the Mode That They Are Using

Figure 6 shows the time slot selection as a function of mode. Digital (FT-4, FT-8, RTTY) was by far (more than twice) the most often selected.

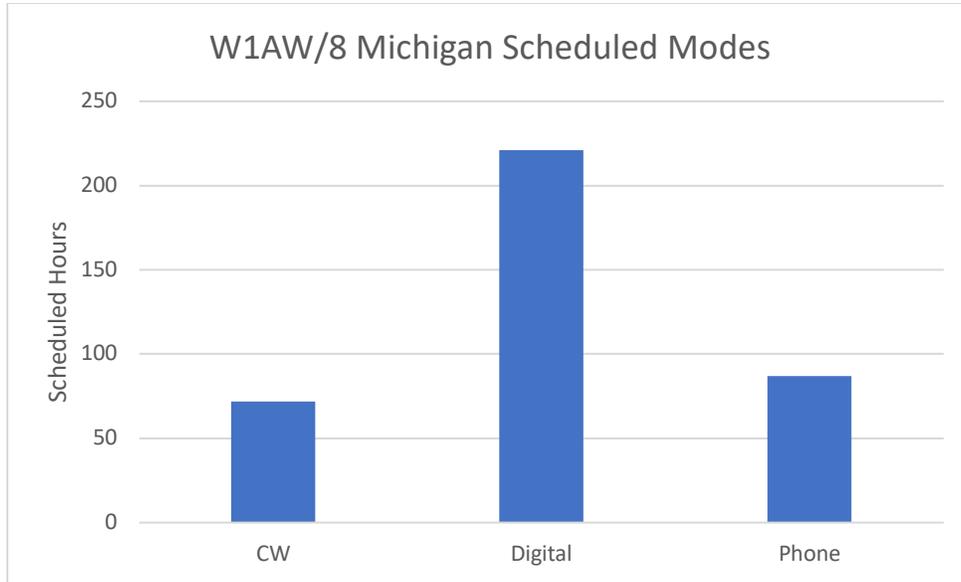


Figure 6 - Event modes

QSO Count

For the 380 hours that W1AW/8 Michigan operators were on the air, we had a total of 8,390 QSO's! Figure 7 shows the QSO count per band. Although not shown (due to scaling), there were 6 QSO's on the 6m band.

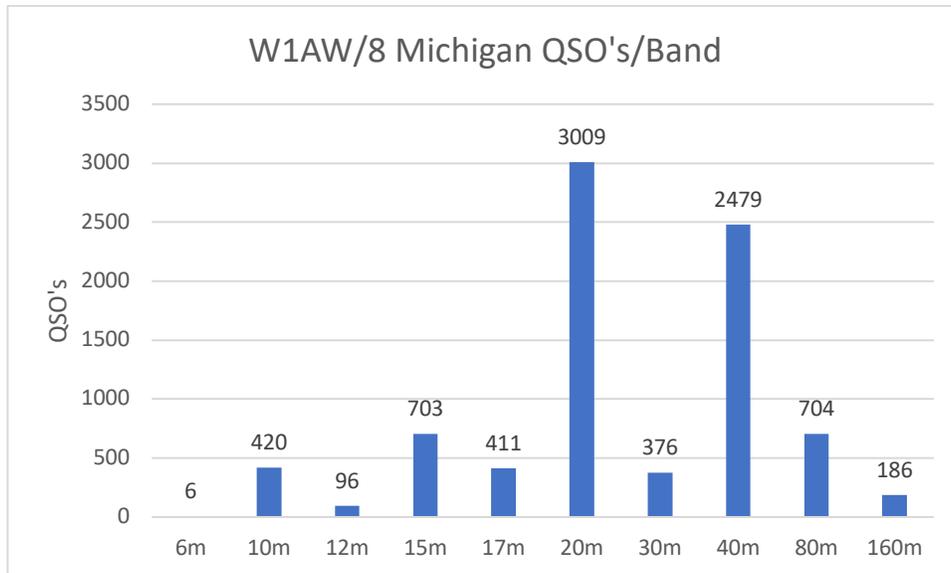


Figure 7 - QSO count/band

Figure 8 shows the QSO count per mode. The chart shows that nearly 50% of the QSO's were using the digital mode.

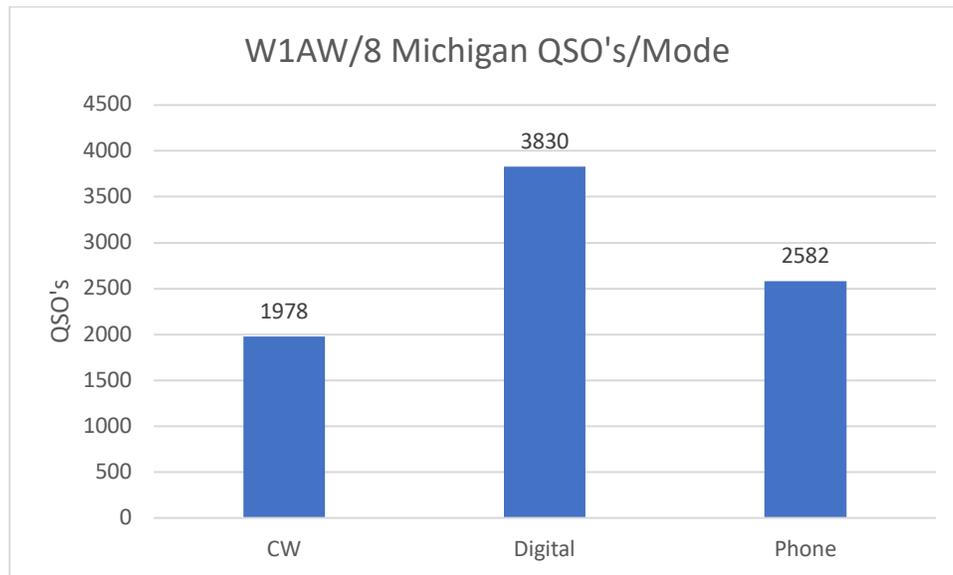


Figure 8 - QSO Count/mode

Log Files

At the completion of the event, all 24 operators submitted logs. A few logs required minor editing changes (primarily exchanging the OPERATOR and STATION_CALLSIGN values). Once done, using ARRL utilities, all logfiles were successfully uploaded to the ARRL on March 2 completing the requirements of my position.

Summary

Although we were delayed in startup, due to the efforts of Dale/K8RO in getting the operators on-boarded, and, most importantly, the operators themselves with their 380 on-the-air hours, resulting in 8,390 QSO's, we had a successful event! Monitoring W1AW/8 on DX clusters (such as My DX Summit – Figure 9) we were a near continuous presence during the 7-day event.

Spotter	Freq.	DX	Time	Info	Country
N8XCO-@	14074.0	W1AW/8	00:02 24 Feb	ft8 am250	United States
N8XCO-@	14080.0	W1AW/8	23:59 23 Feb	ft4 am250	United States
K8XCO-@	21040.0	W1AW/8	21:52 23 Feb	AM250	United States
K8XCO-@	21040.0	W1AW/8	21:40 23 Feb	AM250	United States
K8XCO-@	21040.0	W1AW/8	21:33 23 Feb	AM250	United States
K8XCO-@	21040.0	W1AW/8	21:27 23 Feb	AM250	United States
N8XCO-@	14074.0	W1AW/8	21:21 23 Feb	am250	United States
K8XCO-@	21040.0	W1AW/8	21:04 23 Feb	AM250	United States
N8XCO-@	21074.0	W1AW/8	20:38 23 Feb	AM250	United States
K8XCO-@	14044.0	W1AW/8	20:30 23 Feb	AM250	United States
N8XCO-@	21074.0	W1AW/8	20:10 23 Feb	ft8 american 250	United States
N8XCO-@	21074.0	W1AW/8	20:04 23 Feb	ft8 250	United States
K8XCO-@	14044.0	W1AW/8	20:02 23 Feb	AM250	United States

Figure 9 - W1AW/8 as logged on 2/24 @ 04:11

The chasers noted our presence as well as the absence of the “other (Texas/5)” state. If the chasers feel frustrated in their efforts, they will (unfortunately) start posting “editorial” comments. Figure 10 shows a typical comment. Clearly W1AW/8 hit the mark!

Spotter	Freq.	DX	Time	Info	Country
W5RG	7165.0	W1AW/8	03:20 19 Feb	CQ CQ	United States
KS7T-@	14000.0	W1AW/5	03:12 19 Feb	/8 on all day /5 only early am	United States
AC8TN	7265.0	W1AW/8	03:09 19 Feb	cq cq	United States
AD8MP-@	3873.0	W1AW/8	03:07 19 Feb	Special Event	United States
AD8MP-@	3873.0	W1AW/8	03:06 19 Feb	Special Event // Special	United States

Figure 10 - A state availability “editorial” comment

Next Steps

Both myself and Dale are volunteering to reprise our roles for the Fall activation. The Ham QTV software while not perfect, certainly performs the job. I've already had comments from several of the Winter operators that they will be back for the Fall activation, and I've already had two new operators volunteer for the Fall. I think we're set and ready to go this fall! The next step should occur mid-August 2026 with Michigan Section Manager Ralph Katz/AA8RK sending out another "Call for Operators" e-mail.

Activation #2: 10/28 – 11/3

To be supplied ...

Works Cited

ARRL. (n.d.). Operating W1AW/Portable (0-9, KG/KH/KL/KP, etc), Guidelines for 2026 United States Semiquincentennial ARRL WAS-250 Worked All States Award.