1x1 Special Events

by Claus Niesen (AE0S)

June 3rd, 2021
Story County Amateur Radio Club

Every ham can hold special events with a 1x1 call sign. During this presentation I will show you how easy it is to do it yourself.

Who am I?
- Claus Niesen (AE0S)
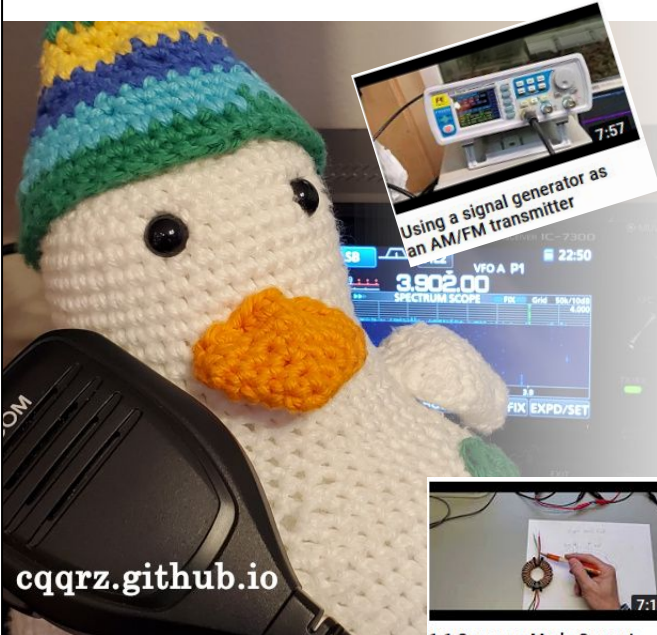- First licensed Dec. 2016
- Did CB operation as kid in Germany (favorite DX with England on AM)

- Enjoy to tinker and try things out
- Currently exploring ferrite cores, common mode chokes, and balun.

Website: https://cqqrz.github.io/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/cqqrz
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/user/adventurelaus

Amateur Radio Software Award
- Project I started for "promoting software projects that enhance and adhere to the spirit of amateur radio: innovative, free and open"
- With Kun Lin (N7DMR) and Rich Gordon (K0EB)
- Awards so far:
  - 2020 Antony Good - K3NG Arduino CW Keyer
  - 2021 Jordan Sherer - JS8Call

We wanted to run a special event for the award and award recipient

Website: https://arsaward.com/

What is a Special Event?
- ● No official definition
- ● FCC only mentions special event call signs (more on that later)
- ● ARRL: commemorate an historical occasion or other special event
    - ○ Political and commercial special events not accepted for their listings

Sample of 1x1 Special Events

Bigger annual events
- 13 Colonies
- Route 66
- 12 Days of Christmas

Other
- 70 Years of Heathkit
- Museum Ships
- Memorial Day
- Moonshine Whiskey

1x1 Call Sign Rules and Administration
- FCC rules don't specify what an eligible special event is, instead it's up to the special event callsign database coordinators to determine what is acceptable and to grant temporary operation under the 1x1 callsigns.
- The special event callsign database coordinators are a subset of the VEC members and their definition of special event is:
    - Event that is of public significant to the amateur community
    - Not for operating field day or contests
- Any licensed amateur radio operator may reserve one. Yes, that includes technicians.

Valid 1x1 Call Sign
- There are 750 callsigns
- Prefix: K, N W
- Number: 0-9
- Suffix: A-Z except for X
    - X following a digit identify experimental stations

1x1callsigns.org

Call	Start Date	End Date	Event	More Info
K2A	August 27, 2021	September 5, 2021	Amateur Radio Software Award	details
K2A	June 28, 2021	July 8, 2021	13 Colonies Special Event	details
K2A	July 1, 2020	July 8, 2020	13 Colonies special event	details
K2A	October 18, 2019	October 20, 2019	BSA Five Rivers Council JOTA	details
K2A	September 6, 2019	September 9, 2019	OMARC-Aerodrome R/C Jamboree Weekend	details
K2A	July 1, 2019	July 8, 2019	12 Colonies Special Event	details
K2A	October 19, 2018	October 21, 2018	BSA JOTA	details
K2A	September 8, 2018	September 8, 2018	Celebrating the first century of Radio and Aviation.	details
K2A	July 1, 2018	July 7, 2018	13 Colonies Special event	details
K2A	September 9, 2017	September 9, 2017	Celebrating the first century of Radio and Aviation.	details
K2A	July 1, 2017	July 6, 2017	13 Colonies Special Event	details
K2A	October 21, 2016	October 23, 2016	USCG Auxiliary 77th Anniversary	details
K2A	August 19, 2016	August 21, 2016	ANNUAL AACGNY CLUB PIG ROAST AND FLY IN	details

Check a 1x1 Call Sign Availability
- http://www.1x1callsigns.org/
- Search if callsign is available

1x1 Special Event Call Signs

1x1callsigns.org

Main Menu	Instructions:
• Home • Background Info • FCC Regulations • Coordinators • FAQ • Search 1x1 Calls • Request 1x1 Call	1. Be sure to read the Frequently Asked Questions for guidelines about this form. 2. Fill out form below. 3. Review Final Page and Submit

Reserve 1x1 Call Sign:	K2A
Coordinator:	Select Coordinator ▾
Beginning Date: Date of planned Special Event Operation	August ▾ 27 ▾ 2021 ▾
Ending Date: If more than 15 days contact coordinator first	September ▾ 5 ▾ 2021 ▾
Name of Event: Ex: Memorial Dedication, ARC Field Day	Amateur Radio Software Award
Name or Name + Club Station Name: As it appears on operator license	Claus Niesen
Current Call Sign / Club Call Sign: As it appears on operator license	AE0S
Current Mailing Address: As it appears on operator license	

Requesting a 1x1 Call Sign

- http://www.1x1callsigns.org/
- Request the callsign through the form
  - Choose your favorite VEC
    - ARRL took a week
    - Laurel day or two
  - Date (from- to)
  - Event Name
  - Event Description

- First-come, first-served
- Up to one year in advance
- Short notice reservation may be possible
- Up to 15 consecutive days (exceptions are possible)

Notification
- No notification is given. If your request is in the database you're good to go.

**"Special Event Station
K2A, K2R, and K2S
for the
Amateur Radio Software Award
on air
from August 27th
through September 5th, 2021"**

Publicity
- ● ARRL Special Event listing
  - ○ http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations
  - ○ 3 month ahead of QST publication
- ● QRZ Forum
- ● Social Media
- ● Your local ham club ;)

QRZ Page
- ● Definitely create a QRZ page for the special event - Facebook of amateur radio
- ● Specify your operating dates and QSL instructions for the special event
- ● Be nice and leave the prior event's QSL information below with operating dates.

How to update?
- ● If not claimed
  - ○ Account Settings: Your Callsign -> Account -> Manage Callsigns - > Add a managed callsign
- ● If claimed
  - ○ Contact manager and ask them to release it (Account -> Manage Callsigns)
  - ○ Create a new thread in the Database Helpers Forum with your request for assistance https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?forums/add-my-call-sign-to-qrz-database-helpers-forum.121/

Operating with a 1x1
- Call CQ
    - "CQ CQ K2A, special event station for the Amateur Radio Software Award, QRZ"
- Simple exchange of call sign and RST, more if desired - up to you
- Mention what the special event is about and be ready for an occasional question about it.
- Log contacts for QSL confirmations (i.e. QSL cards, LotW, etc)

FCC ID consideraton
- §97.119 (d): Id with the callsign that applied for the 1x1 call at least once per hour.
    - Multiple operators need to identify with call that registered the 1x1 (i.e. K1A/AE0S) ARRL: "You can let ANY US station use your call as the control operator. A station license is not tied to specific equipment."
    - Morse/FT8: "K1A/AE0S" or occasionally send "K1A ID AE0S"

Multiple Stations
- Like field day, same location, same 1x1, different band or modes
- Multiple 1x1, often different locations
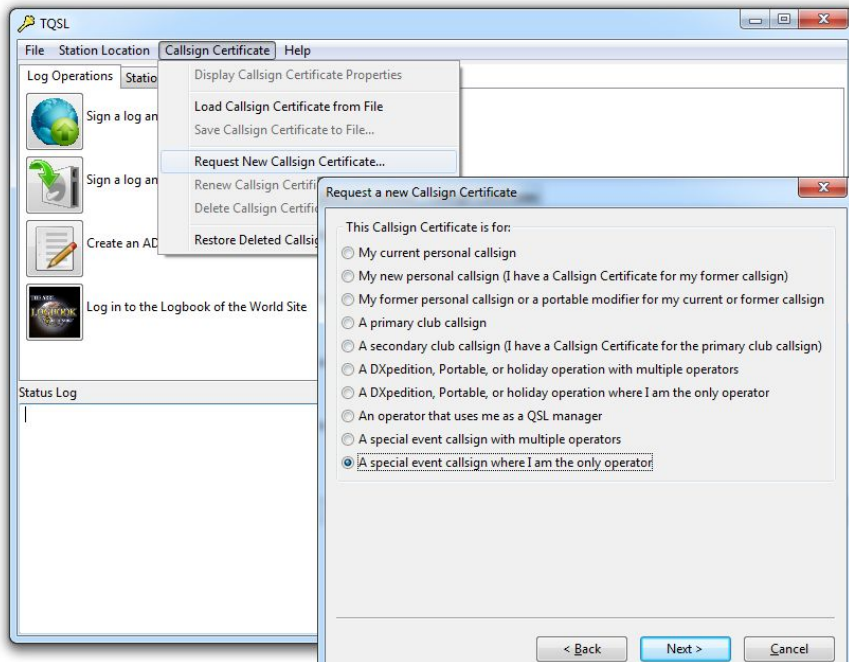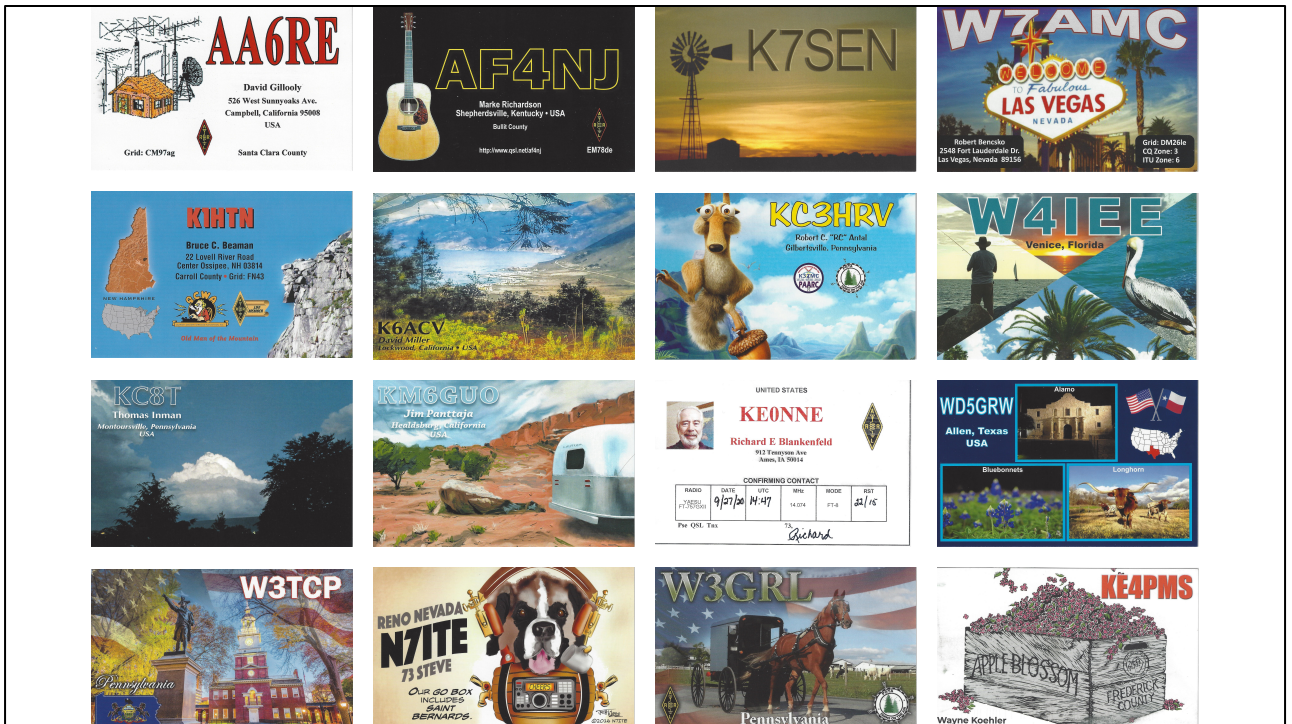- Same 1x1, different location, different band or mode

QSL Cards

- Not required, but a fun part.
  - Communicate if SQL cards or certificates are available or not
- Use nice cards (GotPrint.com 250 cards ~$25 shipped)
- Cost reduction via SASE
- Announce due date to SASE by and order cards after date
- Have card design before event and display it on the QRZ and/or event website

Logbook of the World

- Using TSQL "Request New Callsign Certificate", sign with your current callsign certificate
- Will get the certificate via email
- https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/multiple-callsigns-locations/?lang=en
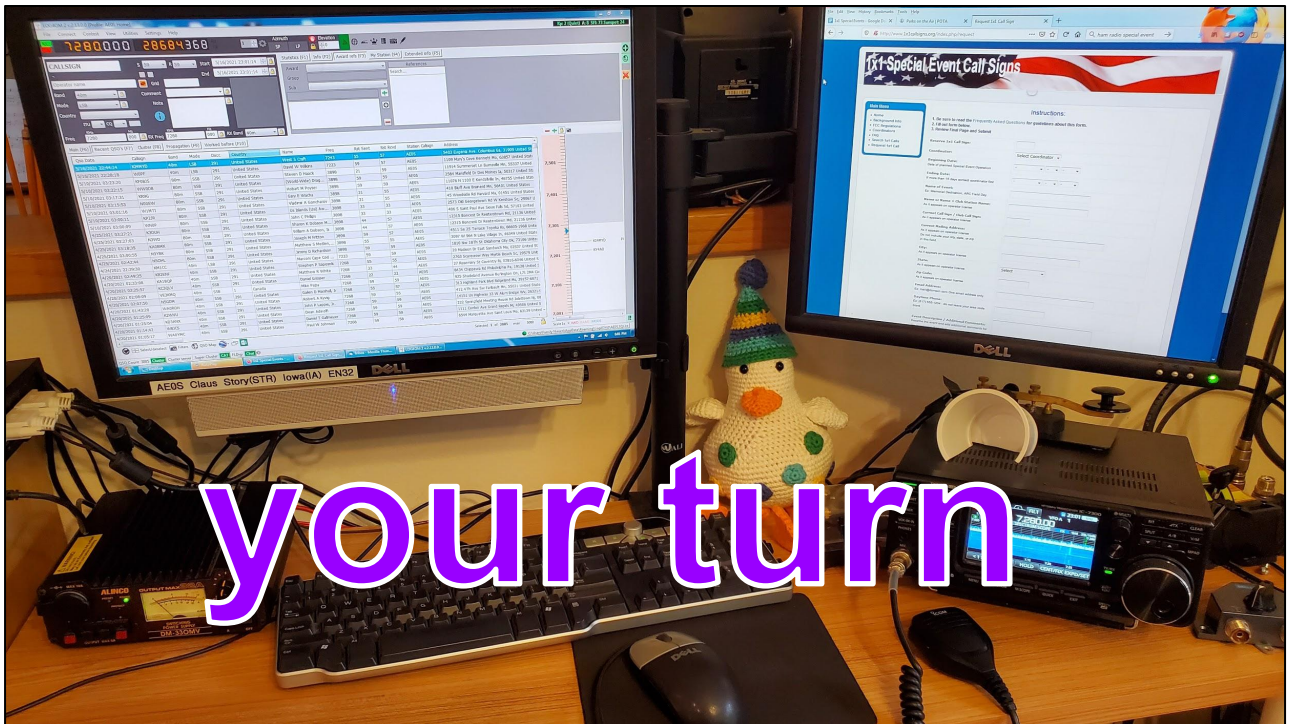
Getting more contacts

- Publish operating schedule on event website or QRZ with frequency
- Self spot
- Operate in conjunction with other things:
    - POTA
    - Nets (3905 CCN, OMISS, Hellscriber, etc)
    - Consider QSL effects
        - POTA, most probably want the POTA contact not the special event QSL card
        - Some nets, i.e. 3905 CCN, require QSL card exchange. May not want to require SASE but may be able to use net's bureau.

2020 ARSA Special Event Statistics

		QSOs	SASE	
Total		**519**	**39**	**8%**
SSB		**396**	**23**	**6%**
Digital		**123**	**16**	**13%**
	FT4	13	2	15%
	FT8	103	12	12%
	Hell	7	2	29%

Not included: 40m 3905 Century Club Net with 33 QSOs & QSLs

QSO and QSL statistics from last year's Amateur Radio Software Award special event station

Have fun

- Don't let propagation ruin your day (schedule event for multiple days)
- Don't make it a job
- Share the fun
- Try new modes
- Technicians: while I mostly have HF experience there's no reason not to operate a 1x1 special event on VHF, Satellites, Echolink or even the local repeater.
- It's amateur radio - Do it!