

Ver. 8.12.26

Welcome to Route 66 on the Air Special Event 2026

We encourage local hams to activate a Special Event Station under the Call Sign W6L

W6L is a special event call sign for all of North East Oklahoma. The call is registered and administered by the Tulsa Amateur Radio Club but it is available to all Amateur Clubs and Hams in the area who wish to activate a Special Event Station for this, Route 66's 100 year Celebration.

Purpose of Route 66 On the Air

The purpose of the event is to commemorate the history of the "Mother Road" connecting the east and west United States. Through stories, songs and TV shows, the highway came to symbolize the spirit of the freedom of the open road, inspiring many to see America.

Route 66, established on November 11th 1926, as part of the U.S. Highway System, stretched 2,448 miles, from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California, passing through eight states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Known as the "Main Street of America" and later dubbed the "Mother Road" by John Steinbeck in his 1939 novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, it became an iconic symbol of American mobility and opportunity.

However, the demise of Route 66 began in the 1950's as the U.S. began its interstate highway system, and the highway was officially decommissioned in 1986. Today, small portions of the U.S. Highway 66 still exist in towns and rural areas in several states.

Although much of the original Highway 66 has been rerouted into a fast-moving interstate bypassing many of the small towns and interests of this nation, we take the week of 12 September 2026 to remember and celebrate and share the enthusiasm and memories that Highway 66 represented in its time... and even still today.

25 Special Event Stations under the 1x1 call sign have been set up to commemorate this event. W6L is the call sign set up for all of Northeast Oklahoma. Hams all over our area will be On the Air that week, remembering and making contacts and having conversations celebrating the freedom and opportunities that Route 66 represents. Help us celebrate the Freedom of the Open Road.

Background of Route 66 On the Air Special Event

Originally started by the Northern Arizona DX Association, it was a way to allow amateur radio operators a fun way to “Relive the Ride.” They also can relive their own memories of Route 66, and get to celebrate the highway’s rich history in making the U.S. what it is today.

Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC) in San Bernardino, CA took over the event a couple years after its inception and has grown into one of the best special amateur radio events of the year.

The 2026 Route 66 On the Air Special Event/Week

Starts 12Sept2026 @ 000hrs Z

Ends 20Sept2026 @ 2359hrs Z

How to participate in Route 66 OTA as a Station Activator

---If you are a TARC member go to the web site below and indicate your intention to activate a station under the W6L umbrella of the Route 66 On the Air Special Event.

Go to → <https://w5ias.com/>

and then select the pull down Events Tab and then Select Route66

Or go directly with this url....

<https://w5ias.com/event/route-66-on-the-air-2026/>

---If you are not a TARC (W5IAS) member the procedure is exactly the same.... As the procedure above... This is an event for all the Hams in Northeastern Oklahoma.

Select the Sign Up option.

--- left click the Route 66 tab that opens up the sign in and schedule selection.

---If you haven’t signed in before, at the top of the page you will see a selection that says **“Sign in First”**.... Click that and it will bring up the sign in dialog box that asks for name, call sign, license level etc also included in that is your email so we can communicate with all the activators and send you information and updates etc

---Again if you are not a TARC member the procedures are all the same--- see the instructions above.

How to select a Time Slot in the Schedule

After signing up, go down a few lines to the “**Scheduling Section**” by clicking the left most tab labeled “**Schedule Grid**”. A scheduling grid will appear and you can start selecting your operating slots. Below is an example of a portion of that grid.

You will notice that each band has many modes and slots to fill... pick several to your liking by simply clicking the box of your choice. That’s all there is to it, just click the box. Your call sign will appear.

The license filter is an optional planning aid. Operators remain responsible for using frequencies and modes permitted by their FCC licenses.

Fri 9/11 Sat 9/12 Sun 9/13 Mon 9/14 Tue 9/15 Wed 9/16 Thu 9/17 Fri 9/18 Sat 9/19 Sun 9/20

Friday, September 11, 2026

Band	Mode	Midnight to 2am	2am to 4am	4am to 6am	6am to 8am	8am to 10am	10am to Noon	Noon to 2pm	2pm to 4pm	4pm to 6pm	6pm to 8pm
160m	CW	NSNYT	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
160m	SSB	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
160m	AM	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
160m	RTTY	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
160m	PSK31	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
160m	FT8	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
80m	CW	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
80m	SSB	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
80m	AM	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
80m	RTTY	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
80m	PSK31	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
80m	FT8	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
40m	CW	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
40m	Phone	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
40m	RTTY	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
40m	PSK31	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
40m	FT8	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN
30m	CW	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN	☐ OPEN

There will be opportunities for two or more stations to operate on any of the time/band/mode slots, however.... We don’t need 10 people crowding on the same time

and mode.... So notice how the slots are filling up and try to pick a spot that needs a station...

There may be a time when you find yourself with a few hours to spare and you would like to operate for a couple of hours but you hadn't committed to that particular time slot... It's ok to jump in and work a few hours... It all works "As long as you have previously signed up as a special events operator" with the web site... See sign in procedures above

The sign in procedure fulfills the FCC requirement that the Registered Special Event Call Sign (W6L) Station is aware of each of the Specific Station Operators who are operating under the umbrella of that call sign In our case W6L... Once you have signed in, the program creates the list of operating stations.... And you are good to select a time slot and get on the air.

How to “un-select” a Time Slot in the Schedule

Oops make a wrong selection? or just wanting to change one... that can be done... Just left click on the reservation that you want to remove and “un-register”. it's that simple.

The Purpose of the Sign Up and Schedule

The purpose of the sign up and schedule for this event is not to be ultra strict and go overboard controlling everyone. But it does provide several advantages...

1---it is a means that will hopefully allow for better distribution of active W6L stations across the different times, bands and modes and hopefully keep folks from bunching up into just a few time slots but also be a means of stimulating more active operating stations.

2--- it allows for better communication with the activators involved throughout the week as the sign-in provides a list of names and emails.

3---it allows for better collection of contact data and post event follow up, knowing names and emails and will also help build and grow the list of activators for following years.

4---The sign up and schedule is a new program developed “in house” by our own W5JHC and it will have many uses for other TARC Amateur Events e.g. Field Day... so there may be a few hiccups along the way... We are asking not only for patience but also for feedback to make this program more and more useful in the Rt66ota event.

Typical QSO Examples and some guidelines

----Of course you must operate within your own Amateur License Band Privileges even though you will be using the call sign W6L. Each of the different modes have different ways of indicating the Rt66 OTA Special Station Status in the CQ/QSO. Below are a few examples..

---QSO EXCHANGE for this event the QSO exchange will be a **signal report (RST, dB) and State/Province or Country if foreign...** We will try to track the states and countries contacted... it makes an interesting map.

---CW CQ Example

CQ CQ R66 OTA de W6L ...or variations there of...

Then exchange RST and State/Province or Country

---note every 10 minutes you must identify your station call sign as the operator of the W6L Special Events Station. That might sound something like: R66OTA W6L by “your call sign” and location.

---FT8 --- For FT8 go to settings and change your call to W6L and then in the computer to computer exchange you might add “Rt66ota” or something like that to identify the Special Event.

---SSB CQ Example

CQ CQ Route 66 On the Air this is W6L ...or variations there of...

Then exchange Signal Reports and your State or Location

-----again every 10 minute you must transmit... This is “your call sign” operating the Route 66 Special Event Station W6Lnear Route 66 in Eastern Oklahoma, celebrating the Freedom of the Open Road... it’s good to describe your location, give a county, or a grid square etc... Put together a little Rt66 Speil about the event and where you are located Make it fun...

Again you must identify your personal station call sign as an operator of W6L. The FCC will like you for that.

On Site Operation---

When it’s hot in August, no one thinks much about setting up a remote station, outside, at an interesting site that’s associated with Route 66... But in September that may be more of an acceptable opportunity... Please feel free to set up a site and operate W6L right there on the Mother Road. Have fun with that... also there are times that the Club Trailer may be free and several can make a bigger splash and draw a little attention to the Event and to our respective clubs... Go for it.

Operating Frequencies and Operating Guidelines

	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m
CW	3.533	7.033	10.11	14.033	18.08	21.033	24.9	28.033	50.033
SSB	3.866	7.266		14.266	18.164	21.366	24.966	28.466	50.166
Digital	3.573	7.074	10.136	14.074	18.1	21.074	24.915	28.074	

Frequencies

Above are the recommended frequencies for RT66 On the Air Activating Stations... noticing that they all end in 66 if they can... a little bit of 66 quaint glamor there...! Now that should be a starting point for all of us. As the 66 hunters will start looking there... but realistically in past years, we all know that sometimes one finds a clear space in the band and camps there... so you can expect to see many Rt 66 stations everywhere... especially if the bands are good... The main criteria for us is **Be Flexible and Be Courteous...**

Interference

There is a good chance that frequency spacing may be problematic... use adequate spacing to keep from interfering with other nearby stations. 3kHz or more for phone and 200-500 Hz or more for CW. Be Patient and Be Kind.

New Hams

This is a chance for new Hams to get involved in a low key, low stress Activation/Contest situation and develop experience in handling such a situation... Two ways to go about it... notice in the QSO modes above there are some typical QSO “speak” that you can learn... also just listen in on someone who is handling the moment and learn vicariously.

There is also a chance to play CoPilot to someone who is good at it.... and experience the action from the “right” seat so to speak... If you would like to be there and “learn” with someone... we can make that happen... please contact Daryl Reimer N5NYT (see QRZ for my email) and we can set up that learning moment... so that in the future you will be able to go at it alone. That’s the main goal... to get new people out there and on the air.

Also it’s a good way to learn the ropes of a “new to you” logging program.

Future New Hams

This is also the chance to inject some Ham DNA into some young man or woman who shows an interest... Invite them to your shack... involve them with logging and have them make a few calls there in your presence... get them on the air... make it fun

Oklahoma Special Event Call Signs

The Oklahoma Special Event Stations are **Elk City, W6J** and **Oklahoma City W6K** and **Tulsa W6L**... there is also an **Aeronautical Rover** that will be flying back and forth above Rt 66 which is also out of Oklahoma City...that call is **W6Y**.

For other Special Event Call Signs see the listing below and notice the associated web site in case one needs specific information about that special event station...

Route 66 Stations On the Air

W6A: SANTA MONICA, CA	WESTSIDE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	http://www.qsl.net/route66
W6B: LOS ANGELES, CA	WESTSIDE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	http://www.qsl.net/route66
W6C: SAN BERNARDINO, CA	CITRUS BELT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	www.w6jbt.org
W6D: VICTORVILLE, CA	VICTOR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	www.vvarc.org
W6E: BARSTOW, CA	BARSTOW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	www.wa6tst.club
W6F: KINGMAN, AZ	HUALAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	www.wb6rer.net
W6G: FLAGSTAFF, AZ	BILL SCHUCHMAN RADIOSPORT ASSOCIATION	www.nadxa.com
W6H: ALBUQUERQUE, NM	ALBUQUERQUE DX ASSOCIATION	https://www.qrz.com/db/w6h
W6I: AMARILLO, TX	PANHANDLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	www.w5wx.net
W6J: ELK CITY, OK	WEST CENTRAL OKLAHOMA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	https://sites.google.com/view/wcoarc
W6K: OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	W6K OKLAHOMA CITY	https://ocapa.org
W6L: TULSA, OK	TULSA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	www.w5ias.com
W6M: TRIBUNE, KS	WESTERN KANSAS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	https://www.qrz.com/db/W6M
W6N: JOPLIN, MO	JOPLIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	https://joplinarc.com
W6O: LEBANON, MO	DALE PRUITT, K1USA	https://www.qrz.com/db/W6O
W6P: ST LOUIS, MO	ST. LOUIS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	www.qrz.com/db/w6p
W6Q: CHICAGO	IL SIX METER CLUB OF CHICAGO	www.k9ona.com
W6R: SPRINGFIELD, MO	SOUTHWEST MISSOURI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	www.smarc.org
W6S: ARIZONA ROVER 1	NORTHERN ARIZONA DX ASSOCIATION	www.nadxa.com
W6T: ARIZONA ROVER 2	NORTHERN ARIZONA DX ASSOCIATION	www.nadxa.com
W6U: WILMINGTON, IL	WILMINGTON AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	www.qrz.com/db/w6u
W6V: KINGMAN ROVER 1	HUALAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	www.wb6rer.net
W6W: KINGMAN ROVER 2	HUALAPAI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	www.wb6rer.net

W6Y: AERONAUTICAL ROVER ENGINEERS FLYING CLUB

WILEY POST (KPWA) OKLAHOMA CITY, OK <http://www.efcokc.com>

Reporting QSOs

--- Please provide your contact report in an ADIF Format. Below are some app examples that you can use to log W6L contacts and then select the ADIF format and up load your contacts.

To help you with that effort a few of the apps that some have used are as follows:
N3FJP, Log4OM 2, QRZ, Ham Radio Deluxe, DXkeeper / Dxlab, Grid Tracker, RumLogNG
I'm sure there are more...

---More information will be supplied later on where to send your ADIF files...

Data to Collect and Report----

Date/Time (Z), Frequency, Band/Mode, Signal Report (sent and received),
and State or Country and any comments you feel appropriate.

Go out and have fun and bring along a new ham or prospective ham...

Questions---

Direct questions to Daryl Reimer N5NYT (email in QRZ)...

Let's have fun out there.

2025 RT66ota Results

Below is a copy of the Contact Results Page from the 2025 Route 66 Event

2025 ROUTE 66 ON THE AIR STATION TOTALS

updated 11/11/2025

INFORMATION AS WE GET IT FROM THE STATIONS.....

CALLSIGN	LOCATION	CONTACT TOTAL
W6A	SANTA MONICA, CA	2,357
W6B	LOS ANGELES, CA	4,327
W6C	SAN BERNARDINO, CA	4,074
W6D	VICTORVILLE, CA	
W6E	BARSTOW, CA	2,745
W6F	KINGMAN, AZ	6,141
W6G	FLAGSTAFF, AZ	5,216
W6H	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	5,729
W6I	AMARILLO, TX	3,710
W6J	ELK CITY, OK	2,578
W6K	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK	6,211
W6L	TULSA, OK	1,542
W6M	TRIBUNE, KS	9,682
W6N	JOPLIN, MO	3,694
W6O	LEBANON, MO	5,623
W6P	ST. LOUIS, MO	3,545
W6Q	CHICAGO, IL	2,443
W6R	SPRINGFIELD, MO	
W6S	ARIZONA ROVER 1	2,540
W6T	ARIZONA, ROVER 2	3,735
W6U	WILMINGTON, IL	1,474
W6V	KINGMAN ROVER 1	1,875
W6W	KINGMAN ROVER 2	2,435
W6Y	AERONAUTICAL ROVER	
	GRAND TOTAL (so far)	81,676