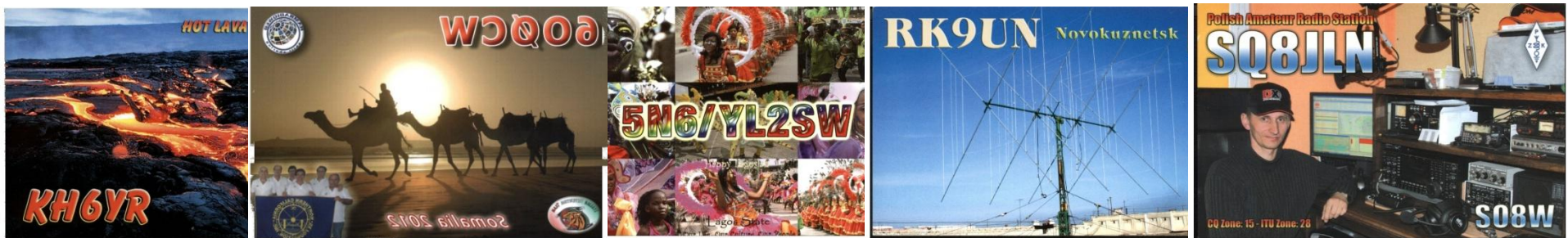




QSL CARDS

Sending and Receiving Paper Gems



What is a QSL Card?

“QSL” is a telegrapher’s shorthand for:

“I acknowledge receipt of your message or transmission.”

A **QSL card** is a written confirmation or acknowledgment of a contact.

Why Do I Want a QSL Card?

- **Courtesy** – Sending a QSL card is the final handshake of a contact.
- **Awards** – QSL cards serve as proof of a two-way contact needed for certain awards.
- **Tradition** – Exchanging QSL cards has been a long tradition in ham radio and it is fun to get cards from other contacted hams.

Information on a QSL Card

Confirming QSO with	Day	Month	Year
W1AW	21	May	2013
UTC	MHz	2x Mode	RST
14:30	21.395	SSB	59-

- Call signs
- Location
- Time & Date
- Frequency
- Mode (2-way)
- Signal Report

Be sure to include all of this basic information because QSL cards are often used to verify contacts for awards.

Essential Information

- Your **call sign** should be printed or written on the report side of the card.
- Indicate if you were **portable or mobile**.
- Include your **geographic location**
 - Street address, city, state, county, and grid square
- Include **ITU and CQ zones**

Additional Information

Other information may include:

- Membership in a club
- Organization affiliations
- Email address
- Awards earned
- Previous call signs held

Information to Exclude

Because QSL cards are sent to people from a variety of cultures, you may want to **refrain from putting certain things on your QSL card:**

- Religious or political statements
- Risqué pictures, drawings, remarks or humor
- Anything that could generally be offensive

Basic QSL Design

OGDEN, ILLINOIS 61859 USA
2564 CR 1700 N

KX9X

DXCC, WAZ, 5BWAS, 6m VUCC, E-MAIL: kx9x@earthlink.net

CONFIRMING QSO WITH		DAY MONTH YEAR		
UTC	MHz	RST	2-WAY	QSL

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY GRID EN60ac 73, SEAN KUTZKO

A STAR QSL

Standard QSL size: 3 ½ inches high x 5 ½ inches wide
horizontal or vertical

Filling out the QSL Card

- **Call sign** of the other station you worked
- **Time and date** (Use UTC for both and be sure to properly convert from local time and date, if that is how you keep your log. Spell out the month to avoid confusion.)
- **Frequency** (Approximate frequency in kHz , MHz, or band in meters)
- **Mode** (AM, SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK)
- FCC emission designators are not easily understood
- **Signal Report** – Use standard RST system; Phone modes only use RS

Additional Information

If you make a mistake when filling out a QSL card, throw it away and start over.

*Crossed out or written over information
will disqualify any card being submitted
towards an award.*

Additional Information

If you are sending the QSL card to a QSL manager through the QSL bureau, please be sure to indicate this using “QSL via.”

Example: QSL via: KB1DMX

PSE QSL TNX

- Circle “**QSL TNX**” to indicate that you are answering a QSL: “Thanks for QSL”

~~PSE~~ **QSL TNX**

- Circle “**PSE QSL**” to indicate that you are requesting a QSL: “Please QSL”

PSE QSL ~~TNX~~

How to Send Your Cards

- QSL Bureau
- QSL Manager
- Direct Mail

QSL Bureau

“Via Buro”

Advantages

- Least expensive
- Good return rate
- Can send to foreign QSL managers (not stateside managers)

Disadvantages

- Not time sensitive
- Not all DX uses the Bureau

The QSL Bureau is for DX cards only (Includes KL7 & KH6)

The QSL Bureau cannot forward IRCs or “green-stamps” (cash)

QSL Mangers

Stateside

- Some DX operators have stateside QSL managers
- Not very expensive
- You pay postage both ways (SASE)
- Excellent return rates
- Fairly good turn around time

Overseas

- Excellent return rates
- Can get expensive
- Faster return than QSL Bureau
- You pay postage both ways
 - IRC
 - Foreign postage
 - Green stamps (cash)

QSL Direct

- 99% return rates
- Most expensive way to QSL
- You pay postage both ways
 - IRC
 - Foreign postage
 - Green stamps (cash)

Use foreign postage on SASE for best return rate.

Dos & Don'ts

Do:

- Write legibly or use QSL labels
- Use professionally printed cards
- Send SASE or IRC

Don't:

- Write call signs on envelopes
- Send cash

Electronic QSL (LOTW)

Advantages

- Fast upload
- Secure
- Apply for awards online
- Upload feature built in on some logging programs

Disadvantages

- Only matches QSO with other LOTW users
- No QSL card to display

Displaying QSL Cards

Albums

- Show by band, mode, award, etc
- Easy to carry to meetings or conventions

Wall Hangers

- Easy to hang & change cards
- Minimal attachment to walls

Display Boards

- Great for presentations or shows
- Use of photo corners prevent tape damage to cards

Frame

- Display special cards or events



QSL Cards

Display boards are great for presentations or shows.

End

Be sure to check out the QSL gallery and more

arri.org