

QSLing – Paper & Electronic



Jerry Spring VE6TL
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Outline

- What is a QSL Card?
- Why QSL?
- Paper QSL Cards
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 - Mailing Direct
- QSL Bureau
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- Electronic QSLs
 - LOTW, eQSL, QRZCQ
- Certificates
- References

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What is a QSL Card?

“The final courtesy of a contact” -
“QSL” means “I confirm reception”

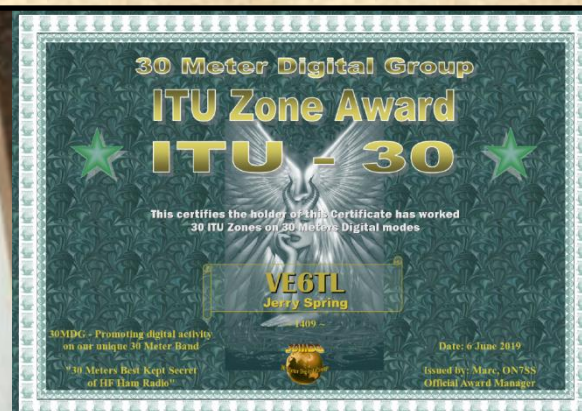
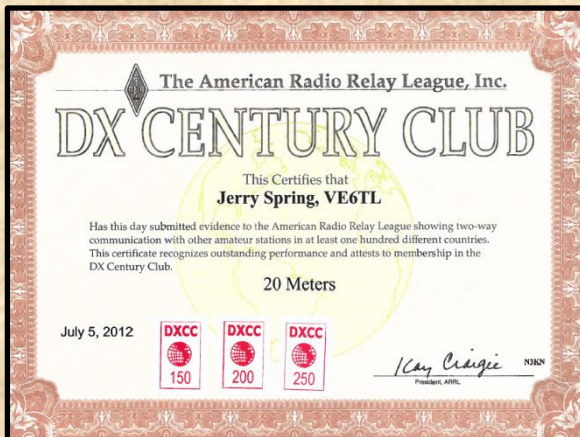
Traditionally, every ham operator should have their own, unique QSL card and be prepared to provide one to those who request one.



Why QSL?

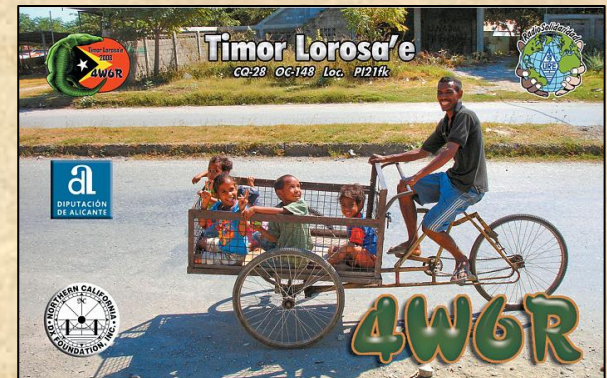
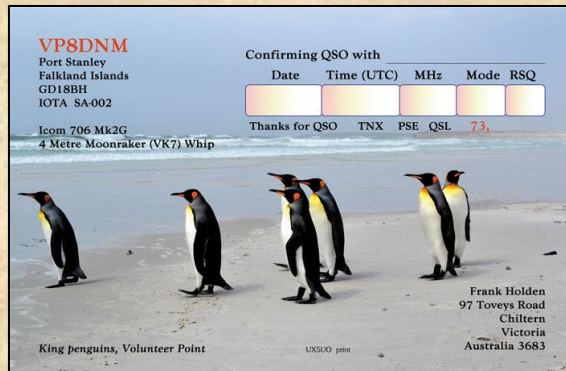
- To confirm important contacts (DX, special events, DXpeditions, etc.)
- To have one from each state, province, country ?
- To confirm contacts for awards/certificates
- To collect foreign stamps
- To display in the shack or in albums
- Some are sold to postcard collectors who resell them for a dollar or two each, while others are listed in online auction sites for \$5 and up (I have no idea why anyone would buy them.)
- How many should I get? Depends on your operating habits and preferences.

Certificates/Awards



Designing a Paper QSL Card

- Typical size is 9 x 14 cm (3.5" X 5.5")
- You can use any graphics software that can save images in common formats. Some services will design cards for you.
- The back of the card can be selected from a variety of standard forms (two sided is optional)
- Be creative! It should be eye-catching and also informative
- Use your own photographs or "borrow" others
- Should convey something about yourself or your location
- Should be done "tastefully"
- Many people print their own cards using shareware available online



What's on the back?

Callsign

AB3JU ☐/M
☐/P

Mobile/portable

Matt Smith
1706 Marsue Drive
Hampstead, MD 21074 USA
CQ 5 · ITU 8 · Grid FM19NO · Carroll Co.

Address

CQ Zone, ITU Zone, Grid Square, County

Confirming QSO with:

Via:

Date	UTC	MHz	Mode	RS(T)

Multiple QSOs

Radio:

Antenna:

☐ TNX ☐ PSE QSL via bureau or direct

73,

Typical Costs for Paper QSLs

- Depends on single or full colour, matte vs glossy, paper quality, one sided or two sided
- UX5UO is C\$98 to \$129 per 1,000 cards
- QSL Concept Canada is C\$89/1,000 cards but will print as few as 100 cards for \$49
- QSLWORKS – Cont. US Only \$162/1,000 cards
- Cheap QSL Cards: Black Ink: US\$9.99/100 cards
- “The QSL Man” Wayne Carroll, W4MPY – SK (2019 – Age 87)

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA
JAMES CITY COUNTY • GRID: FM17pg

A14QQ

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY	DATE MONTH	YEAR	UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY	QSL
VE6CNU	27	Dec	2008	2048	4.161	59	SSB	PSE TNX

JOHN HALE
2315 W. Island Road
Williamsburg, Virginia
23185-7682 U.S.A.
Email: VT59EE@aol.com

The Godspeed
Jamestown, Virginia
1607-2007

The QSL MAN® - W4MPY

CANTON, GEORGIA USA

K4EA

Cherokee County ~ EM74sf

Neal Sulmeyer
530 Old Doss Drive
Canton, GA 30114
neal@k4ea.net

Radio

Confirming QSO	PSE QSL	TNX QSL					
DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	RST	MHz	MODE	
VE6CNU	31	oct	04	1957	59	21	SSB

www.cheapqsl.com

Direct Mail – Do's & Don'ts

DO:

- Look up station on QRZ.com and follow QSL instructions, if any
- Double check you have correctly filled out your QSL card
- Send US\$2.00 and self-addressed envelope to US/CDN Stations
- Fold dollar bills inside folded SAE
- Double check address before mailing
- Use OQRS, if possible, for foreign QSLs and DXpeditions
- Follow-up with email if no card received within 3 - 4 months

DON'T:

- Send dollar bills to foreign stations, unless you are willing to gamble
- When sending money, never include their callsign in the address

Preferences – QRZ.com

- Some refuse to QSL
- Some provide explicit instructions
- Some will direct you to their QSL Manager

VE6TL 

Jerome L. Spring
206 HAMPSTEAD PL. N.W.
CALGARY, AB T3A 5J2
Canada

Email: Use mouse to view..

XML Subscriber Lookups: 36302

Biography

Detail

Logbook 44494

Web 247

Awards 8

Lookups	36302	(97456)
QRZ Record#	1483518	
QRZ Admin	VE6TL	
Last Update	2010-11-17 13:14:52	
Latitude	51.140461	(51° 8' 25" N)
Longitude	-114.153000	(114° 9' 10" W)
Grid Square	DO21wd	
Geo Source	User supplied	
Sunrise	14:04:38 UTC	
Sunset	01:29:56 UTC	
QSL by Mail?	Yes	(e.g. Will this ham QSL by Postal Mail?)
QSL by eQSL?	Yes	(e.g. Will this ham QSL with eQSL?)
Uses LOTW?	Yes	(e.g. Does this ham use ARRL's LOTW ?)

DX Example – IR2C

IR2C



Sezione ARI Cinisello Balsamo

c/o Calcara Calzature - Via F.lli Bandiera 97
Sesto San Giovanni - MI 20099
Italy

QSL: LOTW, EQSL, BUREAU, DIRECT

Email: ari.cinisello@tin.it

Ham Member Lookups: 56492

Label

Biography

Detail

Logbook 2407

Log a NEW contact with IR2C...

All our QSO will be regularly uploaded to eQSL and LoTW.
We accept also QSL via bureau or direct.

For the direct QSL only

New postal rates in Italy 2020

1.15 EUR for Europe

2.40 EUR outside Europe

3.10 EUR Pacific (VK-ZL-etc.)

This is for lightweight letters, max 20 grams standard size.

Should you want to receive a **direct QSL** from **IR2C**, please include:

2 USD for Europe + SAE

3 USD outside Europe + SAE

4 USD for Pacific (VK-ZL-etc.) + SAE

--- Please no IRCs and no STAMPS ---

IF NOT ENOUGH CONTRIBUTION TO COVER QSL COSTS, DIRECT QSL CARDS WILL BE REPLYED VIA BURO

You can send your direct QSL to our manager:

IK2FTB Franza Alfredo

Via N.Machiavelli 46

20092 Cinisello Balsamo - MI

Italy

QSL Bureau

Cheapest and slowest way to exchange paper cards

- Most countries have a QSL bureau
 - RAC in Canada
 - Service provided by RAC through volunteers (members or not)
- Send batches of your QSL cards to the *outgoing* bureau
 - Save postage by shipping cards in bulk:
 - Current rates are C\$2.71 (up to 30g) Int'l letter/postcard
 - C\$1.07 up to 30g within Canada
 - C\$5.47 400g to 500g within Canada
 - Cards weigh about 3g each, so can ship 150 cards to Ottawa for price of two cards sent direct international
 - Make sure all your cards show callsigns clearly and sorted alphabetically, as this helps the sorters
- Outgoing QSL Bureau address: <https://www.rac.ca/qsl-bureau/>

QSL Bureau – Incoming

- Canadian provinces have either their own incoming bureau or split the duty with nearby provinces
- The VA6/VE6 Incoming QSL Bureau: <http://buro.ve6hams.com/>
 - Contains a page which explains how this bureau works
 - If you are new and expect to receive cards, please notify the bureau chief (VE6TL) and eTransfer (preferred method) \$5.00 to cover local postage and supplies
 - You will be notified if/when funds run low
 - Make sure your home and email addresses are listed and are correct in QRZ.com
- If you relocate, it is your legal responsibility to notify ISED at the Amateur Radio Service Centre within 30 days. The bureau also checks your address listed here. The link is provided on the bureau website. The VA6/VE6 Bureau would also like to be notified.

Electronic QSLs

- Several different options: LOTW and eQSL are most popular
- Require registration and providing authentication of your license/certificate
- Offer similar certificates/awards: Paper or Plaques
- Awards are not free
- Free “back-up” of electronic log, should your PC files disappear or get corrupted
- The ADIF is the common currency of electronic logging (Amateur Data Interchange Format) – Virtually all logging program use this format to handle QSOs

Logbook of the World



- ARRL membership is not required
- Need to register in order to obtain a Callsign Certificate and an LOTW account
- Electronically submit contacts (QSOs) for confirmation
- View your submitted QSOs and resulting confirmations online
- View your [DXCC](#), [VUCC](#), [WAS](#), [WAZ](#) and [WPX](#) award progress online
- Electronically submit confirmations for [credit](#) toward DXCC, VUCC, WAS, WAZ and WPX awards
- To claim awards, QSLs cost \$0.12 (USD) each (no volume discounts)
- To get started: <https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/getting-started/>

LOTW Award Accounts

Your Logbook DXCC Account (VE6TL - CANADA)

Account Status

DXCC Award	New LoTW QSLs	LoTW QSLs in Process	DXCC Credits Awarded	Total (All)	Total (Current)
Mixed *	5	0	320	325	323
CW *	7	0	302	309	307
Phone *	8	0	269	277	275
Digital	146	0	55	201	201
160M	23	0	24	47	46
80M *	32	0	101	133	132
40M *	21	0	166	187	186
30M *	51	0	151	202	200
20M *	7	0	311	318	316
17M *	27	0	176	203	202
15M *	7	0	249	256	254
12M *	7	0	148	155	155
10M *	4	0	179	183	183
6M	0	0	4	4	4
2M	0	0	1	1	1
Challenge *	179	0	1499	---	1678
5-Band *	---	---	---	---	---

* = Award has been issued

[View Award Credit Matrix](#)

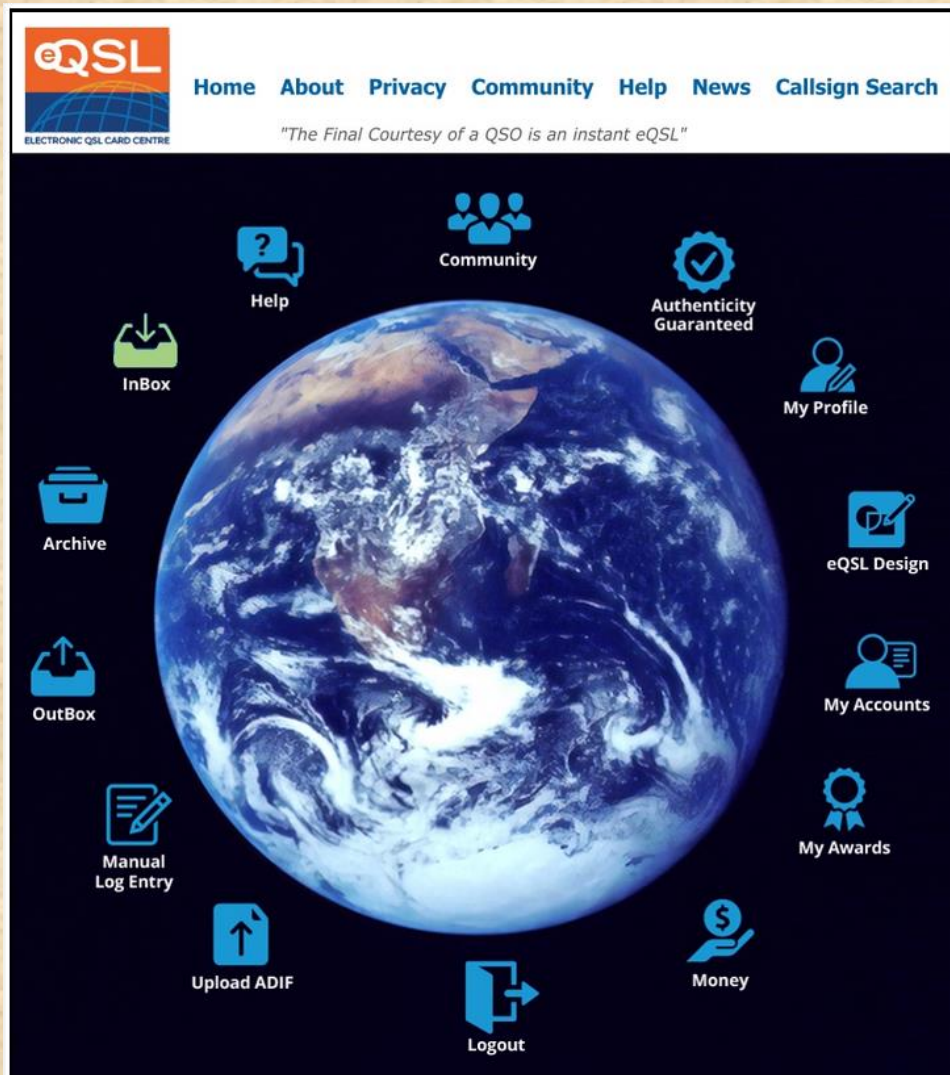
Your Logbook WAS Account (VE6TL - WAS)

Account Status

WAS Award	New LoTW QSLs	LoTW QSLs in Process	WAS Credits Awarded	Total
Mixed	50	0	0	50
160M	49	0	1	50
80M	50	0	0	50
40M	50	0	0	50
30M	50	0	0	50
20M	50	0	0	50
17M	48	0	0	48
15M	49	0	1	50
12M	31	0	2	33
10M	49	0	1	50
6M	36	0	1	37
CW	50	0	0	50
Phone	50	0	0	50
Digital	49	0	1	50
FT4	44	0	0	44
FT8	50	0	0	50

Jerry

eQSL



- Many equivalent awards to LOTW
- Many additional awards (including eEchoLink award)
- Can design your own QSL Card, use a “canned” design, or import your own
- Easier to use than LOTW
- Bronze, Silver and Gold memberships
- Over 90% of users have never contributed monetarily
- Many other features:
 - Forums
 - Real-time chat rooms
 - Propagation forecaster



“Club Log is an online database with a suite of powerful tools supporting active DXers”

- **Generate personal reports, showing which DXCC countries you have worked and/or confirmed, when you first worked them, which ones you still need, and which are the most likely to QSL**
- **See how you stand relative to your peers in various league tables and challenges**
- **Analyze your log for possible/likely errors in the DXCC allocations**
- **Predict the bands and times on which you are most likely to work almost any DX station, based on actual QSOs in the logs uploaded to Club Log, and draw great circle maps**
- **Allows use of OQRS by members (Online QSL Requests)**

OQRS

- **Allows requesting cards from Club Log users, provided they switched on OQRS on their account (free to all hams worldwide)**
- **I have not yet turned this on, but have requested (and received) cards from exotic DX stations**
- **When requesting QSL cards, you have two options: Free and Pay**
 - **Both options require manually entering QSO details, which will then be compared to the online log submitted by the other party. They must agree or the QSL will be automatically rejected.**
 - **The free option notifies the sender that you wish the card to be sent via “The Bureau”**
 - **The Paid option (normally via PayPal) usually costs US\$2.00 - \$5.00 and the cards are mailed directly to your home address**
 - **For multiple QSOs on different bands with one station, no extra charge**
- **Avoids placing paper money in the mail, while also speeding up the receipt of wanted cards. It works out to almost the same cost as the “old way”.**

Certificates/Awards

ARRL: The Gold Standard – DXCC, VUCC, WAS, WAZ, WPX

eQSL: Downloadable certificates, plaques can also be purchased
eDX100, 5BeWAC, eGrid, ePFX300, eWAC, eWAS, eZ40, etc.

QRZ: Can be seen directly from QRZ.com page, can purchase certificates –
US, Master or Radio Comm – Asia, SA, EU, US Counties, etc.

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FT8 DMC: Digital Modes Club – Free to join and download certificates –
Tons of pretty certificates

30M Digital Group: Affiliated with FT8 DMC. Many certificates
available. Designed to encourage 30m usage.



References

LOTW

<https://lotw.arrl.org>

eQSL

<https://www.eqsl.cc>

QRZCQ

<https://www.qrzcq.com>

Club Log

<https://clublog.org/>

QRZ.com

<https://www.qrz.com/>

VA6/VE6 QSL Bureau

<http://buro.ve6hams.com/>

RAC Outgoing QSL Bureau

<https://www.rac.ca/qs1-bureau/>

Digital Modes Club

[http://The](#)
Temporarily not working