QSLing

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SPARC 2015

Agenda

- QSL overview
- Paper or electronic?
- Paper QSL Techniques
- Electronic QSL Techniques
- Questions

QSL

- "**A QSL is the final courtesy of a QSO**"
- Awards
- Fun receiving unique cards
- But how do we get the cards?

Paper QSLs

- Cards on the Wall!
- Some awards require paper QSL (WAC)
- Options to receive cards:
  - Direct Mail
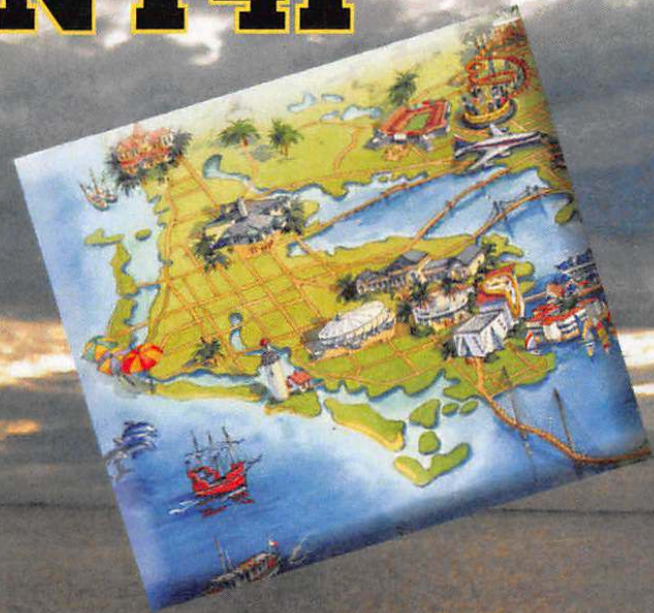 - Bureau

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Paper QSLs via Direct

- Direct - It's not cheap!
  - Domestic ($1.25)
    - SASE (if required)
    - First Class round-trip: $0.98
    - Card + 2 envelopes
  - International ($3.50)
    - Global Forever Stamp: $1.15
    - $2-$3 dollars to place in envelope for return postage (more if rare DXPedition is appreciated)
    - Card and envelopes

Direct QSL Hints

- Use QRZ and follow DXs QSL directions EXACTLY!

- Look for US QSL Manager (cheaper)

- Decide if you need the paper card
  - Do they use LOTW? Lists available to tell you (logging program/cluster/QRZ)

- Use UTC date

- See if station has an online log

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Confirming QSO with:

PSPSE

QSL via:

United States of America
CQ Zone 5 • ITU Zone 8
Grid EL88 • Pinellas County

LIFE MEMBER

	DATE		UTC	FREQUENCY MHZ	2-WAY QSO IN	SIGNAL REPORT			QSL
D	M	Y				R	S	T	
28	3	2050	0035	14.010	CW	5	9	9	PSE TNX

KB3IFH QSL Cards

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Ten Tec Orion II • Icom 775 • Icom 9100
Alpha 9500 • Zero-Five 43' vertical

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Bureau ("Buro") System

- Incoming and Outgoing
- Clearing house for QSLs
- Cheap but veeeeeeerrrrrrryyyyyyy slow
- Follow directions
- Not all hams use bureau
- Incoming bureau workers are VOLUNTEERS (be kind…)

Incoming Bureau

- Inbound for "4" calls
  - One letter Prefixes (K4, W4, N4)
    - Carolina DX Association
      - http://www.cdxa.org/w4qsl-bureau/index.php
  - Two letter prefixes
    - Sterling Park ARC
      - http://www.qsl.net/sterling/uf1.htm
  - Normally 6x9 envelope
  - Callsign in upper right and postage

Outgoing QSL Bureau

- ARRL Outgoing Service
  - ARRL Membership is required
  - See if country has an incoming bureau
  - Follow directions on QRZ for DX station.
    - Some hams just do not use their bureau
  - Sort cards, pay by weight and send them to ARRL (or drop them off at some hamfests)
  - Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait…
  - 1-3 years not unusual

Electronic QSLs

- LOTW, eQSL, QRZ
- What you use depends why you QSL.
- ARRL Awards (WAS, DXCC) require LOTW or paper card.
  - Triple-play WAS is ONLY LOTW.
- It's really not that hard to setup.
- Any LOTW setup difficulty is to ensure "you are you".
  - How else does ARRL know it is you?

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LOTW Setup

- Download TQSL

- Create Certificate request (do NOT put a password on the certificate!)

- You will receive post card

- Go to LOTW and complete setup

- If anyone does that, next month (Sat after meeting), we can help you setup.

Upload your Log

- Send ADIF file (signed with TQSL) to LOTW
- Other stations upload must match your QSL (no QSO fishing…)
- Time within 15 minutes of each other.
- TQSL handles multiple station locations.
- Use a logging program
  – DXKeeper excels at LOTW operations

Awards – Paper Cards

- For awards, you have to send some version of QSLs.

- Some use honor system, some need actual card.

- For DXCC, let ARRL keep your records…
  - Once you qualify for basic 100, periodically send your cards (or better, bring them to card checker).

Awards - LOTW

- Select QSLs you want to use
- Create application in LOTW
- Pay for credits
- Submit
- Credit within 1-2 days
- Demo

Online DXCC

- https://p1k.arrl.org/onlinedxcc/

- Submit cards manually or via ADIF file

- Saves processing time for awards

- Great for card checkers
  - Lists card in the sorted order

Online DXCC Application

DXCC Record Sheet

: NY4I

rds may be submitted directly to ARRL or checked by a DXCC Card Checker. Cards must be placed in the own below.

Call Sign	QSO Date	Band	Mode	Entity
BV3FG	1999-06-13	20	CW	TAIWAN
UP2L	2012-10-27	20	PHONE	KAZAKHSTAN
YW5YL	2012-06-02	17	PHONE	VENEZUELA
FG/TU5KG	2012-10-24	15	PHONE	GUADELOUPE
S512IAPMC	2013-01-10	12	PHONE	SLOVENIA
EA9RY	2012-10-27	10	PHONE	CEUTA & MELILLA

Card Checkers or ARRL

- You can mail cards to ARRL DXCC Desk but mail can be lost
- You can visit cards checkers
  - Tampa Bay Hamfest
  - Orlando
  - Cards never leave you sight!
  - My preferred way

Questions