

# QSL?

QSL Cards Physical and Digital

# What is a QSL

**QSL? or QSL** - Can you acknowledge receipt? - I am acknowledging receipt.

**A QSL Card** - is a written confirmation of either two-way contact or one-way reception (SWL). The cards are about the size of a postcard and sent through the mail systems.

# QSL Card Origins

- QSL Cards can be first found around 1916-1919. With the current standard of information being in the 1919's
- The first use of QSL cards was to show that you were able to receive a distant station and to gauge the effectiveness of their transmissions by broadcasters.
- As amateur radio got started operators used QSL cards to validate a contact. The minimum information is both call signs, time and date, frequency, mode, and signal reports.

# QSO Details

- **Date:** The date of the contact.
- **Time:** The time of the contact in UTC (Universal Time Coordinated).
- **Frequency/Band:** The frequency or band on which the contact was made.
- **Mode:** The mode of transmission (e.g., SSB, CW, Digital).
- **Signal Report:** The signal report given and received (e.g., 59, 599).
- **Station Worked:** The call sign of the station you contacted.
- **A statement confirming the QSO**, such as PSE or TNX for QSO (Thanks for the contact).

**KODIAK ISLAND, ALASKA**  
3rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**KL7AF**

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	MODE 2-WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				
VGLCDD	14	MAR	92	0116	24.938	59	SSB

57° 47' 22" N  
152° 23' 21" W

*John*  
 PSE QSL    TNX QSL

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Box 1614  
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A W4MPY QSL

# Modern QSL Cards

- There is no standard for the design of a card as it is the operators calling card and their choice.
- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) recommends that cards be no bigger than 3-1/2" x 5-1/2". This meets the USPS postcard size and the reduced rate.

# Preparing Your QSL Card

- Include your call sign, name, address, and contact details.
- Add the details of the QSO: date, time (UTC), frequency, mode, signal report.
- Personalize your card with unique elements such as:
  - Photos: Pictures of your radio setup, local landmarks, or yourself.
  - Graphics: Custom logos, club logos, symbols, or artwork related to your radio activities.
  - Messages: Personal greetings or notes.
  - Themes: Designs that reflect your interests, hobbies, or the location you are operating from.
- Remember, there is no standard for the design of a card as it is the operator's calling card and their choice.

# How to send or receive QSL Cards

- Direct QSL Cards
  - Sent directly to the other operator's address.
  - You can check QRZ.com if an individual has their address published and/or open to receiving cards
- Bureau QSL Cards
  - Sent through a QSL bureau, a centralized service for distributing QSL cards. There are both incoming and outgoing
  -
- Electronic QSL Cards
  - Digital confirmations sent via platforms like eQSL and Logbook of The World (LoTW).

# ARRL QSL Bureau

- Bureau is slower than mail but can cost less
- Incoming getting your cards
  - The ARRL incoming is broken up by your call area 1,2,3...8...
  - Each areas manages their operation slightly differently
  - Cost depends on group running some want SASE other just an account with funds
  - Can take a year or more for cards to show up
- Outgoing
  - Must be a ARRL member
  - Cost \$2.00 + depends on card amount
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vxgcn3sMVtU>



# ARRL QSL Bureau



# Digital QSL's

- Log Of The World (LOTW) is hosted by the ARRL
  - LOTW is special as it is double blind. As you cant see others log and they cant see yours
  - It is Free to use, Awards do cost money
- EQSL The electronic QSL card center
  - You can see card request and approve / reject them you have control over your log book
- QRZ.com has a logbook with QSL cards built in. They also offer awards similar to LOTW
- Club Log allows for purchase of physical cards

# Resources

**American Radio Relay League: QSL Service (incoming/outgoing)**

<https://www.arrl.org/qsl-service>

**American Radio Relay League: Logbook of the World (LOTW)**

<https://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>

**eQSL: The Electronic QSL Card Centre**

<https://www.eqsl.cc/qslcard/Index.cfm>

**QSL Concept: Card Printing**

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

**QRZ.com: Confirmations**

<https://www.qrz.com/docs/logbook30/confirmations-how>



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AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB