

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 cars are about the size of a postcard and sent through the mail systems.



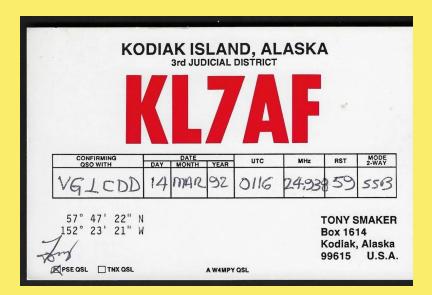
QSL Card Origins

- 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 amature 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).





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





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.grz.com/docs/logbook30/confirmations-how





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