

**KB1DMX**

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CG Zone 3 ITU Zone 8  
 Grid Square FN31

One of the ARRL Headquarters Gang



**BARBADOS**

**8P7A**



Tom Georgens, W2SC/8P9JG

**TF/NN1N**

NN1N on Langjökull Glacier with Eiríkjökull Ice Cap in background

Dave Patton  
 Operating from Keflavik, Iceland  
 Grid HP84  
 CQ Zone 40  
 ITU Zone 17

One of the ARRL Headquarters Gang

13th Annual Operation – 11-12 July 2009 all from the state of HAWAII  
 CQ Zone 3  
 ITU Zone 6T

**NU1AW/KH6**

Celebrating the 50th year of Hawaiian Statehood in the USA

Stations provided by Alex, KH6YY, Lloyd, KH6LC.  
 All CW QSOs on 10, 15, 20, 40, and 160 Meters, and all 80 Meter phone QSOs were from KH6LC, Hawaii County, BK29, OC-019.  
 Ops: KH6LC, AH6RE, N6KB, KH7Y, NH6V

All Phone QSOs on 10, 15, 20, 40, and 160 Meters; and all CW QSOs on 80 Meters, were from KH6YY, Honolulu County, BL01, OC-019.  
 Ops: KH6ND, KH7U, AH6NF, NH6XO

**IARU HF Championship \* 5,076 QSOs in 24 hours**

2009 IARU HF Championship

# 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

|                                |            |                |             |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|
| <b>Confirming QSO<br/>with</b> | <b>Day</b> | <b>Month</b>   | <b>Year</b> |
| W1AW                           | 21         | May            | 2013        |
| <b>UTC</b>                     | <b>MHz</b> | <b>2x Mode</b> | <b>RST</b>  |
| 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](mailto: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
  - Foreign postage
  - Green stamps (cash)

# QSL Direct

- 99% return rates
- Most expensive way to QSL
- You pay postage both ways
  - 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

## 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

# End

Be sure to check out the QSL gallery and more

[arri.org](http://arri.org)