

QSL Cards

A Fun Tradition In A “Cutting Edge” Hobby

Andrew Stevens-WX4AMS

What we're going to cover

- o The Definition of a QSL Card
- o QSL Card History
- o QSL Card Design Examples and Guidelines
- o QSL Card Mailing
- o eQSLs

WHAT IS A QSL CARD?

QSL CARD-WHAT IS IT?

- QSL: “I acknowledge receipt of your transmission”
- QSL Card: Written confirmation or acknowledgement of a contact
- Can also refer to an electronic log confirmation, a.k.a. an “eQSL”

QSL CARD-WHAT PURPOSE DOES IT SERVE?

- Required for some contesting and awards
- Nice courtesy; “The final handshake of a contact”
- Tradition: These cards have been exchanged by hams for nearly a century!

THE HISTORY OF QSL CARDS

QSLING-A HISTORY

- ✘ Started with Commercial Verification-c. 1910
 - + 8XK-1st “Broadcast” Station-Dr. Frank Conrad
 - + KDKA- First Licensed broadcast station-Pittsburgh, PA
- ✘ Hams caught on to the idea- c. 1916
 - + 8VX (Buffalo, NY) to 3TQ (Philadelphia, PA)
 - + Credited by QST: Cartoonist 8UX (Akron, OH, c. 1919)



RADIO

In spite of a terrible howl on the second step, I heard you on detector and one step

for receiving and

Have you heard me?

Have you any suggestions for

8UX

*I don't seem to have a chance of
 that much feed. On my part
 of mine. I don't see how it is possible
 "QST" after a while I may shall in many
 document. I don't know it is a matter of fact*

49 E.

"QST's Cartoonist"



"SUPER HET"

34 KIRKWOOD AVE.
AKRON FROM OHIO
D. A. HOFFMAN

~~1551 EAST 93RD STREET~~
~~SUITE 8~~

~~CLEVELAND, OHIO~~

QST'S CARTOONIST AND ORIGINATOR OF DX CARD FAD

A CARTOON FOR YOUR CARD DRAWN TO ORDER 75 CENTS

HRD U WKE 6CAE SUN. NITE
AT 10:43. SO SES HAS NEW
HERTZ ANTENNA? WISH I HAD
TIME TO GET MY 7½ WATT
TRANSMITTER GOING - GOT ALL
THE PARTS.

OCCUPATION...WHOLESALE RADIO SALESMAN

QST
collection

Designing a QSL Card

The fun of graphic design!

What to Include

o Printed:

- o Your Call Sign
- o Location Info
 - o Grid Square
 - o Address
 - o ITU/CQ Zones
 - o County
- o “PLS QSL TNX”
- o Email Address

o Write-in Blanks:

- o QSO with/SWL Report from
- o Date
- o Time (UTC)
- o Frequency
- o Signal Report (RST)
- o Mode
- o Comments

What to Avoid

- o “Overly Embellished Lettering”
- o Religious Symbols
- o Anything that might be offensive in international cultures

Things to Consider

- o Size: 3.5" x 5.5"
- o Return Address
- o Blanks Positioning:
 - o All-on-front
 - o Front-and-back
- o Color
- o Co\$t

Design Programs

- o Professional Printing:
 - o Adobe Photoshop
 - o GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program)
 - o Online Tools
- o At-Home Printing:
 - o Microsoft Word
 - o Avery “Design&Print”

The Basic Card

OGDEN, ILLINOIS 61859 USA
2564 CR 1700 N

KX9X

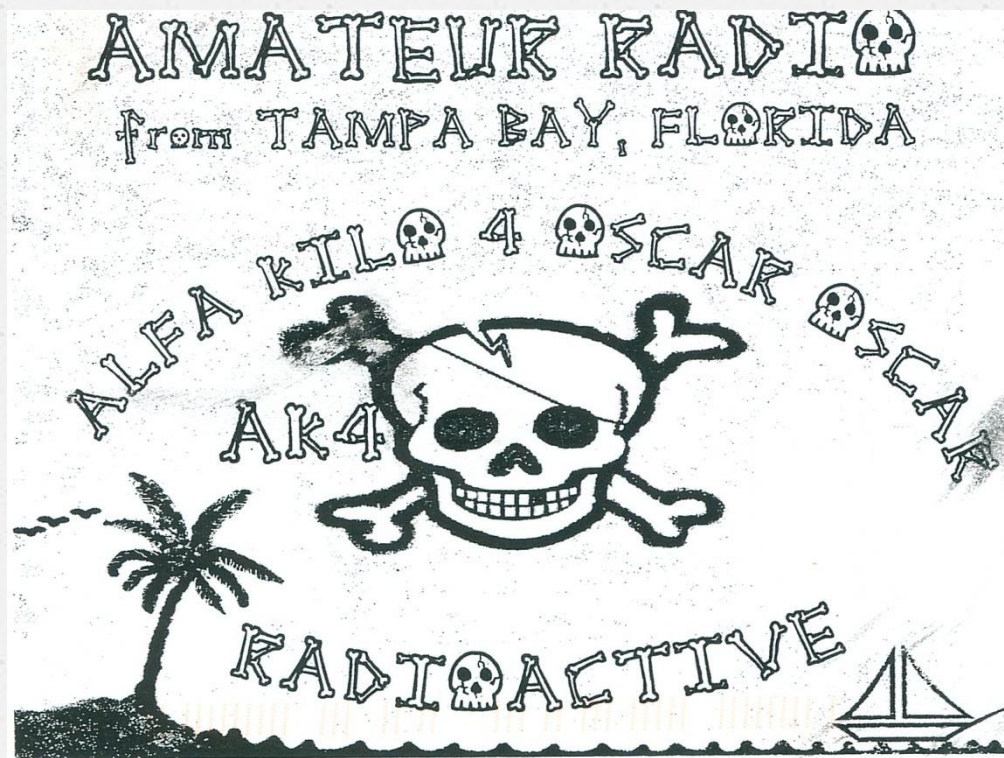
DXCC, WAZ, 5BWAS, 6m VUCC, E-MAIL: kutzko@jgk.net

CONFIRMING QSO WITH		DAY MONTH YEAR		
UTC	MHz	RST	2-WAY	QSL

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY GRID EN60ac 73, SEAN KUTZKO

A STAR QSL

Basic Black-and-white



Joseph Wallauer
PO.Box 891131
Tampa, Florida
U.S.A. 33689

AMATEUR RADIO

ALFA RILEY AK4 SEAR SEAR



County:
Hillsborough
Grid: EL88ub

AK400 CONFIRMING CONTACT WITH: WX4AMS

Date: JAN 8, 2015
UTC: 1:07
MHZ: 146.685
Mode: FM
RST: 59
QSL:
PLS:
TNX

Andrew Stevens
210 LENA VISTA blvd.
Auburndale, FL

33823

Thanks X
HAPPY New Year
73
AK400



Picture card

KC1APK

Confirming QSO with	Date			UTC	Band	MHz	Mode	RST	QSL
	Day	Month	Year						
WX4AMS	30	01	2015	2133	2M	147.150	FM	599	PSE/THX

Thank you for the contact! 73 de KC1APK - David Blin 307 Bissette Drive, Colchester Vermont 05446

David Blin
307 Bissette Drive
Colchester, Vermont 05446
United States of America

BURLINGTON VT 054



Hi Andrew,
Thanks for the contact
on the 9050 East Coast
Reflector. I enjoyed
receiving your QSL card.
I didn't realize you
were 17 - Great to
hear young hams
on the air. I hope
you stick with
Amateur Radio!

Andrew Stevens
210 Lena Vista Blvd
Auburndale FL
33823



9181

13 de
KCIAPK
LoTW Dave

County: Chittenden
Grid: FN34jm

Picture card



KEØMPH

Confirming QSO With:

WX4AMS

DATE	Day	Month	Year
	2	2	15

UTC	MHz
22:52	28:400

RST	Mode
5/9	SSB



Merlyn Gilmoie
1917 Flag Mountain Dr.
Pierre, SD 57501



www.qslworks.com

To:

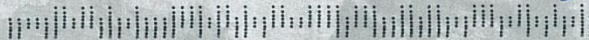
WX4AMS

Andrew STEUENS

210 LENA Vista Blvd

Auburndale FL

33823



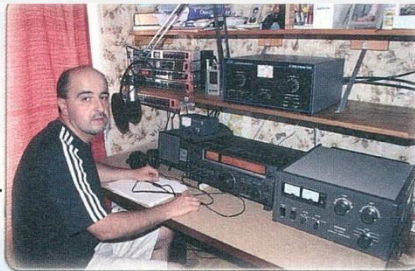
Picture card



F4GBU

RENAULT PATRICE
FAUTREL
22630 LE CHAMPS GERAUX
FRANCE

CQ 14
ITU 27
DEPT 22
BRITTANY
LOC: IN98AK



Remarks: *Thank you QSO and QSL
Andrew. See you again*

To Radio: *73, Patrice*

Via:

Equipment:

TRX: IC 775 DSP

AMP: TL 922

ANT: SPIDERBEAM

PSE QSL TNX
direct or via bureau

LZ1YE PRINT

DD/MM

To Radio: **WX4AMS**

RST

F4GBU confirms the following QSO (s) :

DD/MM/YY	UTC	Band	2way	RST
18-10-14	15:03	10m	SSB	59

TNX

Guidelines for Mailing QSL Cards

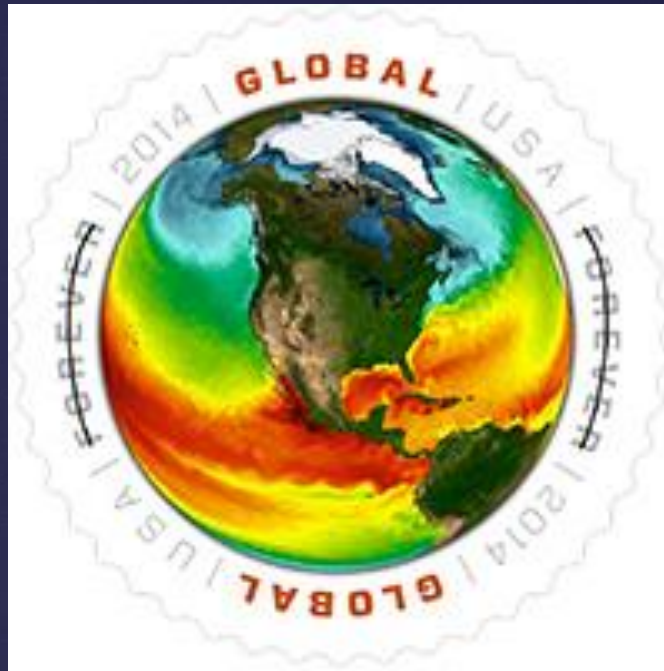
{ Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow...

{ SASE Required - 49¢

{ No SASE - 34¢



Domestic



The Global Forever Stamp
Current Cost: \$1.15
Sends 1 Ounce

International

**AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

- ⌘ Only one option: “Green Stams”
 - ⌘ Use \$1.00 bills, 2 or 3 are usually requested
 - ⌘ Don't write call signs on the envelope
 - ⌘ Try to use “Social Envelopes”, they look less conspicuous
 - ⌘ Place the cash in between the card and return envelope.

Busy Stations-Sending Return Postage

“BURO”

“THE BURO”: INCOMING AND OUTGOING

■ Incoming:

- Free to use, run by volunteers.
- Organized by region number (xx4xxx, xx5xxx, etc.)
- Send Self-addressed, stamped business envelopes.
- Check the ARRL website to find your regional bureau

■ Outgoing:

- Requires ARRL Membership
- Reasonable costs
- Check the ARRL website for the latest information



The Bottom Line

Costs for Printing and Postage

The Bottom Line: Printing

- You Design and Print at Home:
 - ▣ Cost of printing supplies
- You Design and have professionally printed:
 - ▣ ~\$30 for 250 (gotprint.com, etc.)
- Basic pre-made card:
 - ▣ ~\$10 for 100 (Basic black-and-white)
 - ▣ ~\$30 for 250 (“Deluxe” colored cards)

The Bottom Line: Postage

- Direct:

- Domestic

- Postcard: 34¢

- First-Class: 49¢

- International

- No return postage: \$1.15

- With return postage: ?, probably ~\$3.15

The Bottom Line: Postage

- “Buro” (International Only):
 - Outgoing:
 - 10 or fewer: \$2.98 with shipping
 - 11-20 cards: \$3.98 with shipping
 - More than 21: 75¢ per ounce + shipping
 - Incoming:
 - 7 1st class stamps + \$1.59 for 5 envelopes: ~\$5.00 (Up to 25 cards)

eQSLs

eQSLs

LOTW

Pros:

ARRL Membership not required

Free for logging, “pay-per-QSO” for awards

Widely Used

Good idea for DX, contests, etc.

Cons:

Somewhat complex verification process

eQSL.cc

Pros:

Gives you an actual image to view

Usable for CQ magazine awards with subscription

Cons:

Requires subscription to verify identity

Can be falsified

Questions



WX4AMS



Andrew Stevens

210 Lena Vista Blvd,

Auburndale, Florida, 33823, USA

Grid EL98cb // Polk County

ITU Zone 8 // CQ Zone 5



- 73s! ...