

QSL CARDS

By Tony Baker – AA3HD

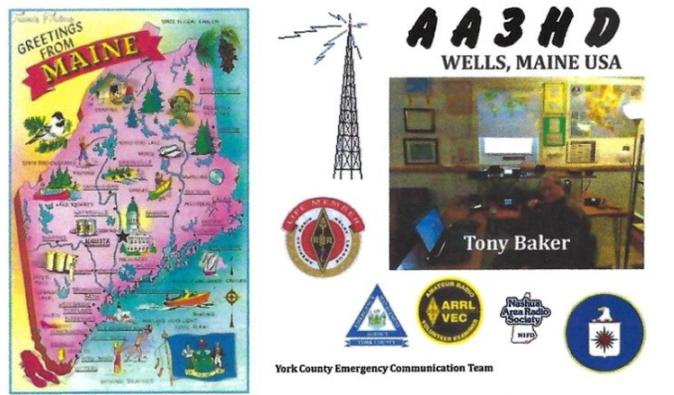
I am one of those HAM operators that exchanges QSL cards, and I fully indulge in this aspect of the hobby. But before I get too much into that, let me provide you with some background information on QSL cards.

“QSL” is a telegrapher’s shorthand for: “Can you acknowledge/I acknowledge receipt of my/your message or transmission.”

QSL cards are a form of postcard exchanged between amateur radio operators (HAMs) to confirm an on-air contact. The international standard size for a QSL card is 5.5” x 3.5” with a maximum weight of three grams.

Most modern QSL cards feature an image or images on the front side detailing something of radio, social, or geographical interest, as well as the sender’s callsign. The images are a way to convey more about the sender, and/or the sender’s interests, location, etc.

QSL cards also normally detail the band or frequency used, the time and date of the contact, how many watts were used, the mode, and other technical information, such as your ITU Zone, CQ Zone, and Grid Square. Often operators will include what kind of rig and antenna they used during the contact. Once sent, cards are often used to confirm details for amateur radio awards, competitions, etc.



AA3HD				Confirming QSO With
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	UTC	
MHZ	MODE	POWER	RST	
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send QSL		<input type="checkbox"/> Thanks for your QSL		

Tony Baker
 269 Coles Hill Road
 Wells, Maine 04090
 USA
 GRID: FN43ri
 CQ Zone: 05
 ITU Zone: 08
 To:



AA3HD@ARRL.NET

The front and back of my QSL card.

It is not compulsory to send a QSL card to confirm a contact and you probably should not send one for multiple contacts with the same station. Some HAMs note numerous contacts with the same station on just one card.



SLOVENIA
S573DX
S57DX

Zone: CQ-15, ITU-28, Grid Loc: JN75DW

SPECIAL EVENT STATION
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF ACTIVITY NUMBER
73 REPRESENTING THE YEAR OF 1973 WHEN I
START WITH MY NON-STOP HAM ACTIVITY
AND THE MOST IMPORTANT: I STILL ENJOY!
SLAVKO CELARC, Ob Igrišču 8, 1360 VRHNIKA

Ex. since 1973: YU8EJZ, YT3T, YU3TUX, YU3RQ, STZR(2007)

Confirm QSO with:

Date	UTC	Band	RST	2X
02-May-2021	21:04	14MHz	59	SSB
26-Aug-2021	16:58	14MHz	55	SSB
06-Oct-2021	20:01	14MHz	68	SSB
22-Oct-2021	18:36	14MHz	55	SSB
26-Mar-2022	10:29	14MHz	59	SSB

Tnx QSO's! Tnx OSU!
73! GL de Slavko S57DX

Tony, 73!

Verified by **S57DX**

Confirmed by Slavko - S57DX

Example of a QSL card I received from an operator with whom I made multiple contacts.

QSL cards can be very decorative and are collected by some to not only confirm on-air contacts, and/or as a record, (in addition to their log), of their amateur radio contacts, but also because QSL cards are collectables, just as some other hobbyists might collect matchbooks or coins. QSL cards are a fun way to also enjoy a visual as well as an RF memory.

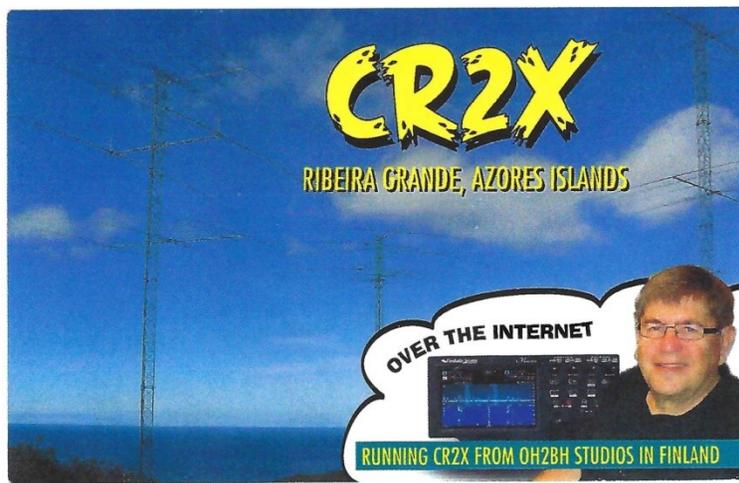


I keep my QSL cards in see-thru pages in loose leaf notebooks.

Not everyone is able to receive a QSL card for a variety of routing or membership reasons, and it may be wise to check with your contact before sending out a QSL card. Some operators just don't want QSL cards, although they may be willing to send out one of theirs if so requested.

Although QSL cards are, basically speaking, a postcard, I personally have not sent one out or received one just as a postcard through the mail. When sending out QSL cards domestically using the postal system, I place my QSL card and a self-addressed stamped envelope, (SASE), inside another envelope and mail it to my contact, indicating on my QSL card that she/he send me one of their QSL cards. For DX, (areas outside the US), contacts, I normally enclose a couple of dollars to cover foreign postage costs and don't put a stamp on my return envelope. As you can see, there is a cost involved in sending out QSL cards directly, (not to mention the cost of having your QSL cards designed and printed.)

I have also either sent out or received QSL cards through 'the bureau', (how I received my very first QSL card), but prefer to send them out directly via the post office.



AZORES ISLANDS SIGNAL CONTROLLED FROM OH2BH STUDIOS IN FINLAND



The Radio Arcala superstation CR2X was a European beacon for more than a decade, on all bands and in all contests. The target to capture all major SOAB contest EU records under a single call sign was achieved: CQWW, CQWFX and ARRL DX, both CW & SSB, including every single-band record in the ARRL DX Contest. These records still stand and will not be broken any time soon.

We enjoyed many wonderful years in this Atlantic paradise, with a total of nine different islands that stretch some 600 km from east to west. They feature different looks and blends, and we fell in love with each one. Our home was on São Miguel Island, and from our penthouse window, we had a seaview and a line of sight to the hilltop station. But sadly, all great stories come to an end: in 2018 we sold our home and were out of there with tears - heading for new adventures.

To Radio: AA3HD

We are happy to confirm the following 2-way Qso(s):

Date	UTC	MHz	Mode	RST
2020-10-24	13:45	21	SSB	59
.....
.....

CR2X CQWW 2020 -15M European Winner!

Martti Laine, OH2BH & CU2KG

Station Location: Ribeira Grande, São Miguel, Azores
Radio Equipment: Flex Radio 6700, OM-Power auto amps
NA Tower: Stacked 10-L interlaced 10-15-20 yagis
EU Tower: Stacked 10-L interlaced 10-15-20 yagis + 2-L 40M
Rotating Tower: 10-L interlaced 10-15-20 yagi, 2-L 40M + 2-L 80M
Control Location & Sound Studios: Espoo & Pusula, Finland
Thank You to our Azores partners: CU2CE, CU2DX and CSBAGB



Although the station itself is in the Azores - it is fully controlled from Finland or from anywhere through the internet.

The Azores powerhouse CR2X is the Atlantic outpost of our four remote station line-up (CR2X, OHDX, OH5X, and OH2BH). All of them keep the radio spectrum hot!

The very first QSL card I ever received, and from world famous DX'er Martti Laine.

By using a resource like QRZ.com, you can usually determine a contact's address, and how much you should enclose to cover postage for a DX contact. Sometimes a contact has a QSL Manager who receives and sends out all the QSL cards for a particular operator or operators. If this is the case, send your QSL card to your contact's QSL Manager. But what if there is no address or QSL Manager...then you have to use 'the bureau.'

Rather than try to explain what 'the bureau' is, I would suggest looking at the ARRL website for an explanation. Copy and paste the below link into your internet browser to get started reading more about QSL card bureaus.

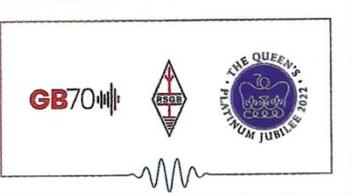
[QSL Service \(arrl.org\)](http://www.arrl.org)

Bureaus exist worldwide. However, there are some areas of the world that are not serviced by bureaus. I should mention briefly that there also is a cost to using the bureau and that sending and receiving QSL cards via the bureau is very slow; it usually takes months, sometimes over a year, to receive a return QSL card from your contact.

I particularly like working Special Event stations and getting their QSL cards. Some Special Event Stations I have recently worked include the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, and 13 Colonies. If I hear a POTA activation, I always try to check-in.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

GB70E GB70M
GB70W GB70I GB70J
GB70U GB70D





The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, has ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history. She has travelled more widely than any other monarch, undertaking many historic overseas visits. Known for her sense of duty and her devotion to a life of service, she has been an important figurehead for the UK and the British Commonwealth during times of enormous social change. The Queen's husband, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, was the RSGB Patron from 1952 until his death in 2021.

The RSGB is pleased to join with radio amateurs throughout the Commonwealth and across the world in celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen's exceptional reign.

DXCC

GB70D Isle Of Man
 GB70E England
 GB70I Northern Ireland
 GB70J Jersey
 GB70M Scotland
 GB70U Guernsey
 GB70W Wales

IOTA

EU-005 Great Britain
 EU-009 Orkney
 EU-013 Jersey
 EU-114 Guernsey
 EU-115 Ireland*
 EU-116 Isle of Man

*EU-115 relates to Ireland (Ireland/Northern Ireland)

To Radio : AA3HD

GB70E Confirms The Following QSO(s):

Date	UTC	Band	Mode	RST
2022-06-04	22:34	20 m	SSB	59



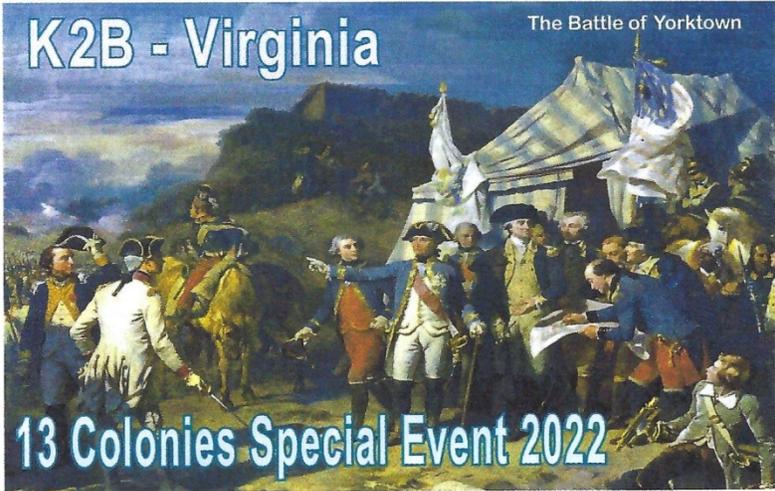
Txn fer QSO - 73 de GB70E

Front image credit: Jacob King/PA Wire/PA Images

UXSLIO print

QSL & Logsearch by M00XO OQRS

Confirmed QSO with GB70E, one of 13 official Radio Society of Great Britain special event stations celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. GB70E was located at Windsor Castle.



K2B Virginia

To Radio	DATE			UTC	Band	2-Way	RST
	Day	Month	Year				
AA3HD	04	07	22	16:51	20M 14.292	550	59

PSE QSL TNX **73** Hope you enjoyed the Special Event

Be sure to visit The 13 Colony website at <http://www.13colonies.us>
 QSL via KU2US for your certificate.

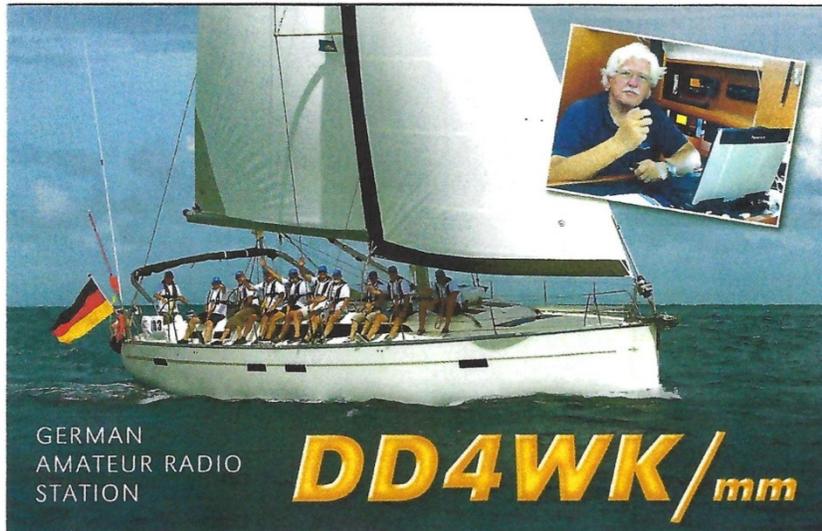
Thankyou, Tony

73,

Aronda
WOMAN

KB3IFH QSL Cards

Confirmed QSO with K2B, Virginia's 13 Colonies Special Event Station.



GERMAN
AMATEUR RADIO
STATION

DD4WK/mm

DD4WK/mm

WOLF KNIPFER
OSTERWEG 45
25821 STRUCKUM
GERMANY



TO RADIO

AA3HD

VIA MANAGER

CONFIRMING OUR QSO YOUR SWL REPORT

DD	MM	YY	UTC	TWO WAY	MHz	RST
10	03	22	1954	SSB	18.142	54

My Locator at time of QSO:

9M 02 XX

Finally after 9.300 miles ^{DOK M13} off sea
I am back home.
Best regards

www.segelwolf.com

PSE QSL DIRECT OR VIA DARC QSL BUREAU
LINDENALLEE 4 · 34225 BAUNATAL · GERMANY

THYR CONTACT: 73
PSE QSL THYR QSL

www.QSLSHOP.com

Confirmed QSO with DD4WK/mm...a German maritime mobile operator I contacted while he was crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

K3JRZ
BEAR, DELAWARE, USA

DECEMBER 7, 1787
NEW CASTLE COUNTY

CHECK OUT OUR POTA QSO AT:
K3JRZ ON THE AIR
www.youtube.com/K3JRZontheair

K3JRZ CONFIRMING QSO WITH: AA3HD

DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	MHZ	MODE	RST	POWER
04	07	2022	17:47	14.333	SSB	59	100

PSE QSL
TNX QSL

K-1732



Jeff Zarge
254 Palermo Dr.
Bear, DE 19701
USA

TRANSCEIVER: Yaesu FTDX10

ANTENNA: MFS 1620T 20m HF Stick

REMARKS: Tony!
Thanks for the contact from
Maine! Catch you again soon!



73, Jeff

New Castle County | Grid: FM29do | ITU Zone: 8 | CQ Zone: 5

Confirmed QSO with K3JRZ, POTA K-1732. If you go to K3JRZ's YouTube, and find his July 4, 2022 POTA, you can see and hear my contact beginning at about 7:55 into the video.

