



# OQRS - Online QSL Request System

Easier is Better

# QSLing with DX Stations is Hard

- Fun to collect QSL cards, especially DX
- Awards like DXCC, 5BDXCC requires confirmations, and physical QSL still works
- Getting that QSL card can be easier
- Think about QSLing from the DX Station's point of view (or QSL manager)



# Traditional DX QSL Card Tasks for You

1. Make QSO and log correctly
2. Write or print QSL cards
3. Send cards to bureau or direct
4. Direct - Include a return envelope
5. Direct - Include at least \$2.00 in return postage and donate if possible
6. Wait and hope your card arrives
7. Card arrives in mail or via bureau



# Traditional DX QSL Card Tasks for QSL Managers

- Receive cards, envelopes and cash
- Look up QSOs and verify by hand
- Print QSL labels and attach to cards
- Insert into correct envelopes
- Seal and mail - with correct postage
- Try to use thousands of 1 dollar bills to pay for postage
- Deal with all the cards



# DX Station/QSL Manager Does Not Need Your Card

- 2 way QSLing for a DX Card Costs Everyone More
- Waste: Your card is handwritten, decorative, etc, but discarded.
- Labor: Handling inbound cards is manual, slow, demanding work
- Theft: Envelopes containing cash are regularly stolen
- Missed Donations: Non USA stations can't easily obtain dollar bills
- Cash: How to deal with large numbers of \$1 bills
- Transportation: Waste sending unneeded cards around the world



# What is OQRS?

- Online QSL Requests (OQRS) lets you order a QSL card online
  - You don't fill out a QSL card
  - You don't buy stamps or envelope
  - You don't provide return envelope
  - You don't send dollar bills
  - You don't wait for outbound postal trip

You do send money for costs / donations

You do get a paper card in the mail or from bureau



# But I Have Logbook of the World, why do I need this?

Short answer, you don't, but:

- Some % of DX stations don't use LOTW - approx. 20-25% in my experience
- DXpeditions often take 6-18 months to upload to LOTW
- Usually, a OQRS request will get your LOTW confirmation quickly, plus a real QSL
- Real QSLs are fun, especially from DX stations



# I use eQSL or QRZ.com Logbook and Awards

- Not all DX stations use eQSL or QRZ.com logbook
- These awards don't have quite the weight of the ARRL awards, but you probably don't need OQRS if happy with these
- Unless you want a hard QSL card, then OQRS is still useful.





# OK, How Does OQRS Work?

OQRS is done using a website called “Clublog”

- Probably easier done when using an electronic logbook
  - But can be done just searching DX station logs (says K20ID)
- Clublog (<http://clublog.org>) is free
- Heavily used by DX Community
- Many features, but OQRS is one of them
- Won't be discussing other Clublog features here
- Clublog makes no money from your payment




# When to Use OQRS

- You want a particular DX QSL
- My Thought Process:
  - A few days after uploading to LOTW, check for confirmed QSOs
  - If a new/wanted QSO has not been confirmed, assume DX station does not use LOTW.
    - (Can check on LOTW when DX call last uploaded)
  - Check QRZ.com page for DX Station, or Google callsign for website (DXpeditions)
  - Usually will specify their QSL card policy, QSL direct, LOTW, OQRS, other
  - If no LOTW, but OQRS preferred, I will note which QSOs require OQRS
  - Some DX stations will QSL direct or via manager only. Then old-fashioned is only way.
  - *NOTE: Some semi-professional DXpediton groups use their own "OQRS" system. Works similarly to Clublogs.*

# How it's Done - Workflow Overview



# What is Required

- Electronic Logbook helpful (but maybe not necessary for occasional QRS)
  - Clublog Account helpful (Free) (not required says K2OID)
  - PayPal Account
  - Uploading of Logbook to Clublog (or manual searches)
  - A QSO with station that accepts OQRS requests
  - Make a Request via Clublog
  - Complete the payment (usually \$5.00 or \$6.00) via Paypal
  - Often, LOTW updated quickly
  - Card arrives at a later date
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# What About Multiple Contacts

- If you worked a station more than once on different bands or different modes, you can select which contacts you want a card for.
- Usually, more than 1 contact is the same price (card probably will have multiple QSOs printed out on sticker).
- But this is an area I don't know much about. If you are working on 5 Band DXCC or endorsements for other modes, and no LoTW, then please read up on this subject to find out and the intricacies on QSL card checking and OQRS.



# Wait - Are they Making Money off Me?

Maybe - Let's discuss

- Would have cost traditionally
  - World-wide stamp (\$1.30?)
  - Two envelopes
  - Two dollars cash
  - Time and effort
  - Getting near \$5.00
- I have read DX station might make \$1 per OQRS
  - Effort on their part for a confirmation you desire
  - If DXpedition, helps offset costs
  - DXpedition actually desires donations over and above the \$5.00



# Can I Use OQRS for Incoming QSLs?

- Yes, you can. But I doubt many US hams do, unless they make tons of contacts, or maybe part of a special event station
- Must be enabled on Clublog where you need to agree/certify you will respond to all OQRS requests.
- Maybe it will catch on, but I doubt it. Mostly designed for high volume DX stations



# Summary

- OQRS is a convenient way to solicit a QSL card and/or speed up a DXpedition confirmation on LoTW.
- Fairly painless, takes only a minute or two.
- Makes life much easier for DX stations, and maybe minimally compensates them for their being available and hounded by countries with large amateur populations





# Credits

Much of this was borrowed from an RSGB Presentation by G7VJR (Creator of Clublog)

