

Note: We will be recording all Bootcamp Sessions. Anyone not wishing to be recorded should mute their video or disconnect.



FINDING DX AND QSL'ING – GETTING THEM IN THE LOG AND CONFIRMED

Nashua Area Radio Society

Fall 2020

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Working DX Stations

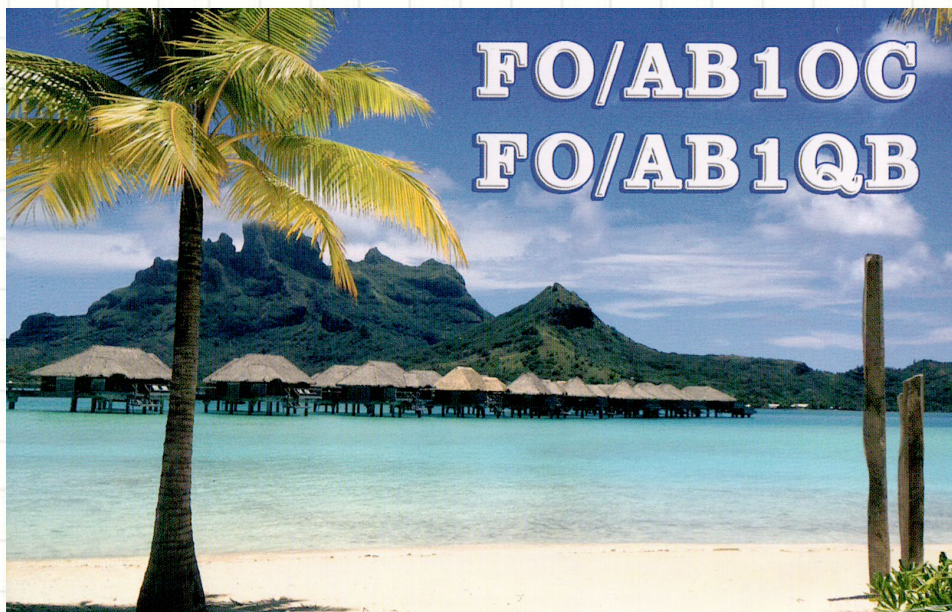
Communicating with the World



- There are 340 DXCC entities, some are located in remote, uninhabited places
- Hams can earn an operating award for working (talking to) and confirming 100
- All Hams want to “work them all” at least once
- Many are on only once every 10 to 15 years
- What do you think is the most wanted DXCC in the world right now?

Why Do I Want to DX?

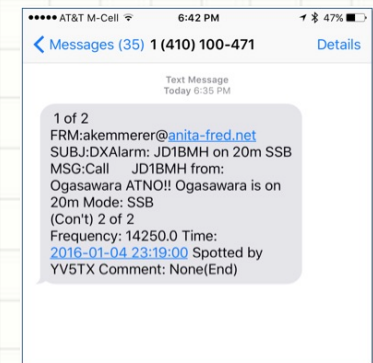
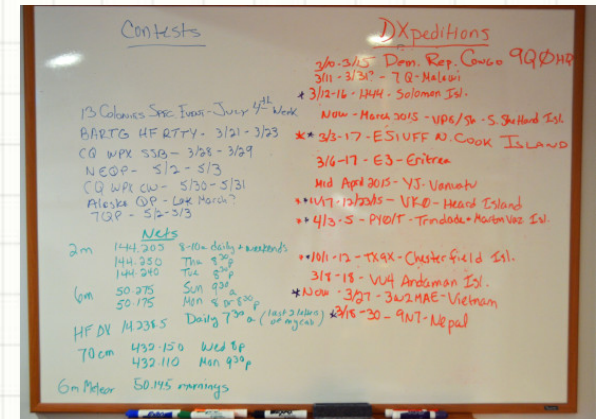
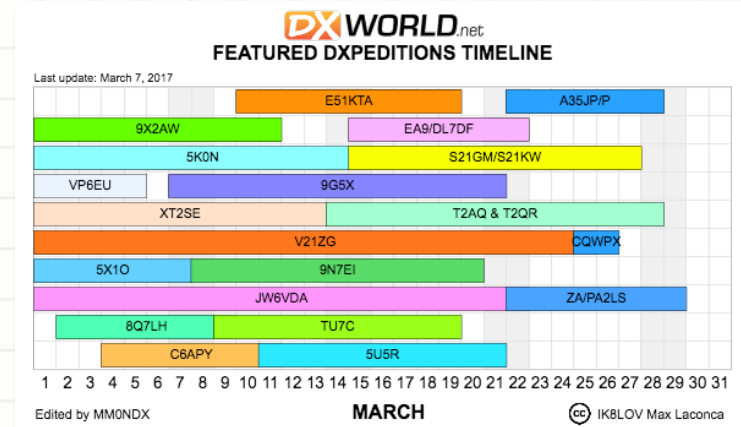
- It is a challenge
- Operating Awards
- Make friends in other countries
- Learn about geography
- Collect QSL Cards or Postage Stamps



[DX'ing Video](#)

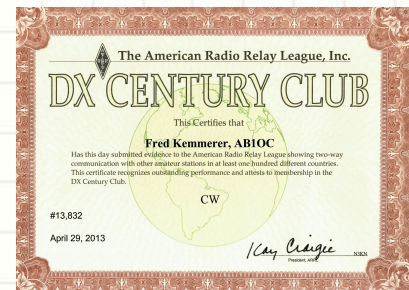
How To Find DX

- Tune the HF bands and Call CQ
- [DX World](#), [The Daily DX](#)
- [DXSummit](#) – Spotting Cluster
- [ClubLog](#) Personal Spots Cluster
- Logger Apps: Spot Collector in DXLab
- [DX Alarm Clock](#)
- Worldwide Contests
 - [CQ WW](#) , [CQ WPX](#), [ARRL DX](#)
 - Contest Calendars: [ARRL](#) and [WA7BNM](#)



Why QSL?

- Collect QSL Cards
 - Keep in Albums
 - Frame Favorite Cards
 - Make a Screen Saver with your Favorite Cards
- Earn Operating Awards – Certificates and Plaques
 - ARRL DXCC, WAS, VUCC
 - CQ WAZ, WPX
- Other Awards:
 - JARL (Japan), RSGB (UK), SARL (South Africa), WIA (Australia), WAE (Worked All Europe) and others



QSL'ing

Start with a QSL Card

- **UX5UO** – Gennady in Ukraine
 - Used by many DXpeditions
 - <https://www.ux5uogsl.com/>
 - He will help you to create a good design
- **KB3IFH** – Randy Dorman
 - Domestic –in Maryland
 - <http://kb3ifh.homestead.com/>
 - QSL Cards for 13 Colonies Special Event
- Information to include
 - Name, Callsign, Address, Email
 - Grid Square, CQ & ITU Zone
 - IOTA if applicable
 - QSO info: Date, UTC, Band, Mode, RST
 - Can make back blank and use logger to print info



QSL'ing

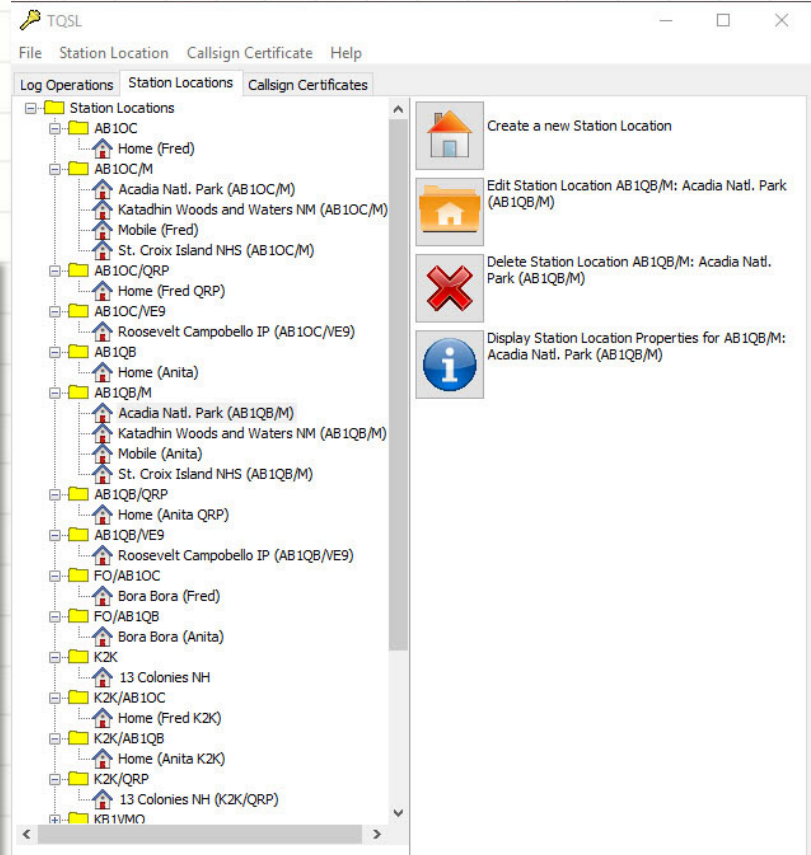
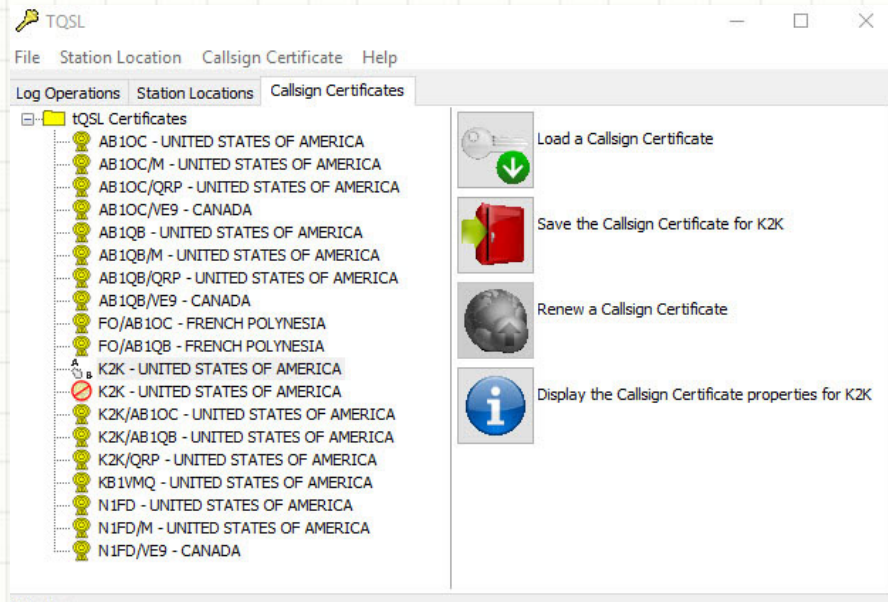
There Are Many Options...

- LoTW or eQSL – online services
 - Costs \$\$ to use confirmed QSOs for award credit
- ClubLog – check logs and order QSLs via Direct or Buro
 - Charge \$\$ for Direct QSL, “Buro” is usually free
 - There are other online QSL services as well (ex. M00XO)
- Direct QSL – send your card with SAE and return postage (green stamps)
 - Postal theft can be a problem
 - Can get expensive
- QSL “Buro” – least expensive but slow
 - Good for confirming less important contacts
- Always begin by checking QSL “route” & options – www.qrz.com



QSL'ing

LoTW and eQSL



- LoTW is ARRL service (must be a member to use confirmations)
 - Accepted for ARRL awards and a few others (ex. some CQ awards)
- Upload contacts via a LoTW tool (Tqsl)
 - Register your call sign(s) and get a “certificate” from LoTW
 - Configure your operating locations and match to call signs
 - Can accomplish upload from most loggers directly (best way)
- eQSL simpler (setup calls/QTHs on website, upload adif file)
 - Accepted for eQSL and some CQ awards only

QSL'ing ClubLog

- Most DXpeditions and many [active DX stations are using ClubLog to QSL](#)
- Can check to see if you are “in the log”
 - Good to do a day or two after working a DXpedition....
- Order cards direct (\$\$) or via Buro
- Upload your logs so others can check them
 - No QSL, Buro, Direct are all options
- Include your log on your QRZ page – [ex. N1FD](#)



Home | About | Most Wanted | Expeditions | Donate

DXpedition Logs Hosted on Club Log

Welcome to the Club Log expeditions homepage. On this page, a summary of all current and past expeditions hosted on Club Log is available to browse, and you can track the latest updates from current expeditions. Club Log is a free service developed by Michael G7VJR and Marios 5B4WN.

- Since this service was first started 47,403,960 searches have been performed.
- If you would be interested in using this service for your next expedition, [click here for guidelines](#).
- If you are a registered Club Log user, you can [search all recent logs simultaneously](#).
- Callsigns that are using Live Streams can be seen here: [Recent Live Stream activity](#).
- Expeditions with a duration of more than 1 year are not listed below.
- There is also a [Super League](#) with a leaderboard of all expeditions worked in the last 12 months.

Expedition Donations

Many expeditions seek donations to support their activities. Expeditions in Club Log can use our built-in donations facility to simplify this process. Donors are generally then offered free use of the Online QSL Request (OQRS) as a thank-you. [List of expeditions requesting donations](#).

Latest/Current Expeditions

Last updated: Thu, 05 Nov 2020 15:42:12 +0000. Tip: Click on the table headings to sort by any heading (eg by date, by number of QSOs)

Callsign	Location	Cont.	Last QSO	QSOs	Uniques	OQRS	Twitter	Live Stream	Donate
9G5FI	GHANA	AF	2020-11-05 08:16	10,242	6,644				
J68HZ	SAINT LUCIA	NA	2020-10-29 20:20	243,190	45,648				
JD1BLY	OGASAWARA	AS	2020-10-06 01:22	82,973	28,745		@JD1BLY		
TO0Z	SAINT BARTHELEMY	NA	2020-09-17 11:11	3,951	2,184				
HR5/F2JD	HONDURAS	NA	2020-04-28 22:23	81,373	35,825				
PJ7AA	SINT MAARTEN	NA	2020-03-21 01:10	41,475	18,807				
EX0QR	KYRGYZSTAN	AS	2020-03-17 00:55	23,035	8,749				Donate



Home | Settings | Upload | OQRS | Donate | Expeditions | Help

Your Log

DXCC Charts
Timelines
QSL Charts
Zone Charts
Log Inspector
Log Matching

League Tables

DXCC Leagues
Zone Leagues
Club Leagues
CDXC Challenges
Super League
Uniques League

Tools

DX Cluster
Log Search
Call Tester
Most Wanted

Log Search

This form allows you to check if you are “in the log”. It only works for registered Club Log users and expeditions that have uploaded their logs. This service has been heavily optimised for large and/or popular logs.

Log to search:

140,013 QSOs logged between 2015-02-01 23:14Z and 2015-02-15 11:27Z

Callsign to check:

[Show contacts](#)

Band	SSB	CW	RTTY
160		1	
80		1	
40		1	
30			1
20	1		
17		1	
15	1		
12		1	
10	1		

Note: K1N is also using the [Club Log expedition charts](#)

[Request QSL Card](#)

QSL'ing

Direct Mail



- Most stations support direct QSL'ing
- You must take steps to avoid postal theft
 - Use a secure envelope system
 - Properly package your “Green Stamps”
 - Tape outer envelope properly
- Be sure to check QSL route, manager, and return postage requirements before sending
- Can get expensive - Figure ~\$4-5 for each successful confirmation

QSL'ing

Via QSL Bureau



- Actually, there are two Bureaus – Outgoing and Incoming
- Many but not all countries are part of the “Buro” system – check first as not all DX stations accept Buro cards
- Outgoing Bureau – used to send cards to other countries
 - There is a fee – \$2 for 10 or fewer cards; \$3 for 11-20 cards; 75 cents/oz for >20 cards
 - Must pre-sort cards properly
 - <http://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service>
- Incoming Bureau (we use the W1 Buro) - sort incoming cards and deliver them to HAMs who have an active account <http://www.w1qsl.org/>
 - There is a fee – currently \$0.10/oz plus \$0.10 service fee
- Takes time but can be cost effective if you want to QSL many DX contacts

QSL'ing

When All Else Fails...

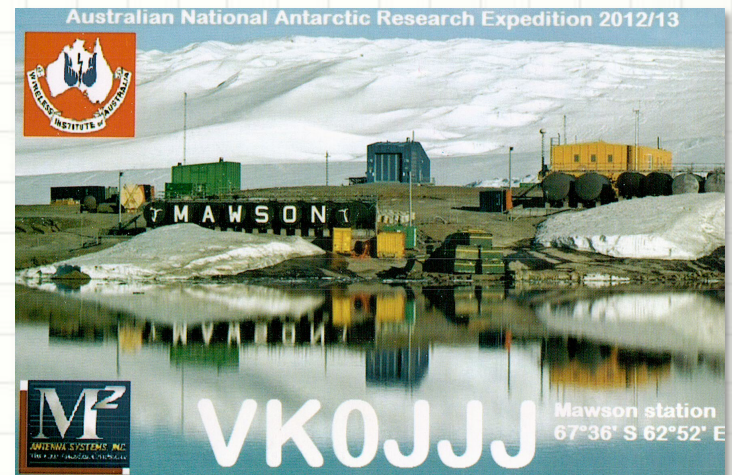


- Make sure you have the correct **current QSL route**
- You can try using registered mail if you think you are a victim of postal theft – this is \$\$\$\$
- You can try emailing the DX station to confirm that you are in their log and to work out a special QSL arrangement ...
 - Example for first Iran contact – sent \$25 via online service (\$5 for postage + \$20 for “local service fees” ...)
- Keep working those needed DX entities until one confirms...

QSL'ing

How long will it take?

- **Buro:** Figure 1-2 years
- **Direct QSLs:** 2 – 6 months
- **ClubLog/Other Online QSL Services:** 1-2 months
- **LoTW/eQSL:** Varies, many will be within a few days
- **AB1OC QSL Stats:**
 - Total QSOs: 88,618
 - Cards Sent: 16,173
 - Cards Confirmed: 11,581 (72%)
 - LoTW Confirmed: 31,238 (35%)
 - eQSL Confirmed: 23,183 (26%)



Why Chase Awards?



- Sense of Accomplishment
- Improves your operating skills
- Allows you to set goals for operating
- Gauge where your HF station will reach
- See results when you make improvements to your station
- Decorate your shack

An Entry Level DX Award

Worked all Continents

- IARU Award
- Good goal for a new ham
- Requires QSL Cards
- One contact from each continent
 - North America, Europe – fairly easy
 - Africa – Canary Islands, EA8 is fairly easy to work – Western Sahara – SOS
 - Oceania – Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand
 - South America – Aruba P4 and Curacao, PJ2 are on the air in most major contests, 9Y Trinidad and Tobago
 - Asia – closest are middle eastern countries – Turkey, Israel, Kuwait, Cyprus, Oman, etc.
 - To apply see <http://www.arrl.org/wac>



ARRL Worked All States

- Mixed WAS
 - One contact from each state
 - Any band or mode
- 5 Band WAS (Plaque)
 - One contact from each state
 - 10m, 15m, 20m, 40m and 80m
 - Endorsements for 6m, 12m, 17m, 30m, 160m
- WAS Triple Play (Plaque)
 - Work each state on CW, Digital, and SSB
 - All contacts confirmed on LoTW
- Can also get certificates for WAS on single band or single mode
- ARRL Accepts QSL Cards or LoTW confirmations – can be combined
- To apply, see <http://www.arrl.org/was>

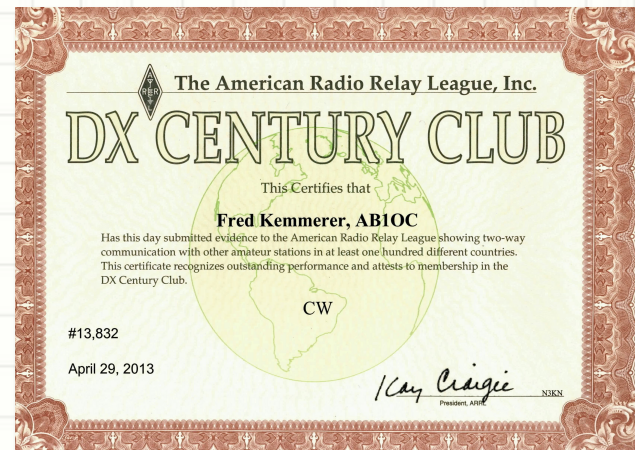


ARRL DXCC

DX Century Club

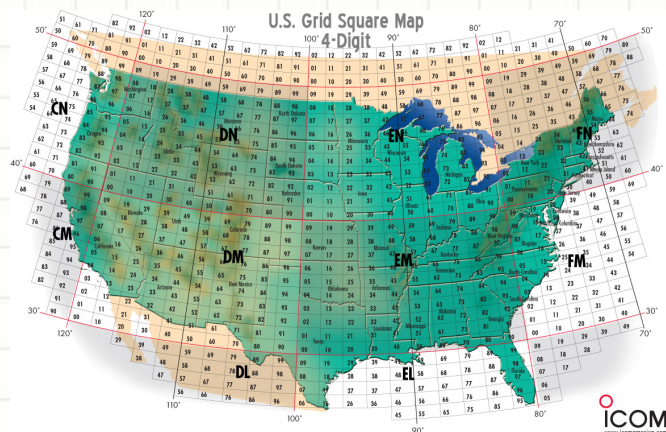
The Premier Operating Award

- Mixed DXCC is the starting point – 100 DXCCs on any band or mode
- Confirmations via combination of QSL Cards and LoTW
- Many options for additional DXCC awards
 - Single Band DXCC
 - Single Mode DXCC
 - DXCC Challenge – work 1000 band points
 - Endorsements for each additional 500 band points up to 2500
 - 5 Band DXCC - 100 DXCCs on each of 10m, 15m, 20m, 40m, and 80m
 - Endorsements for 6m, 12m, 17m, 30m, 160m
- Need a DXCC Card Checker to verify all QSL cards
 - Send cards to ARRL
 - Find a local card checker – see [arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)
 - Card checkers can be at Ham Conventions – Boxboro, Dayton, etc.
- For more info see: <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc>



ARRL VUCC

VHF/UHF Century Club

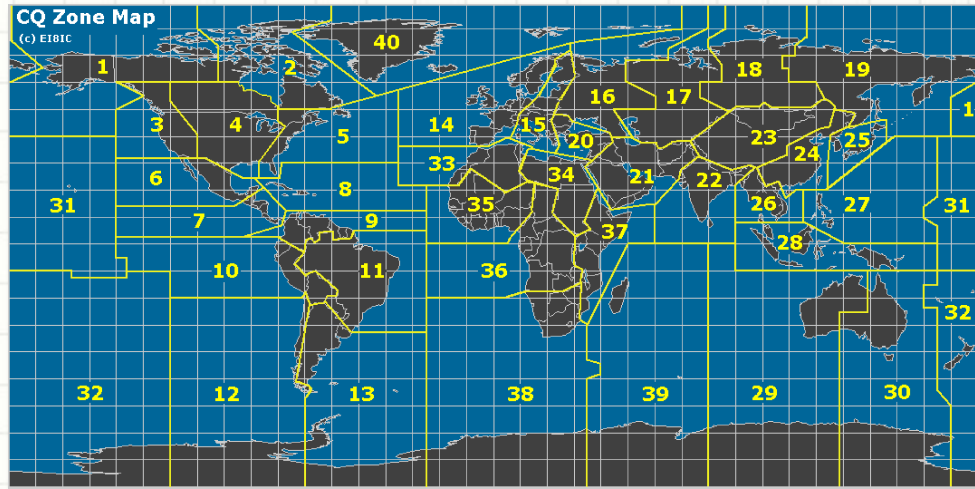


- Confirm contacts with at least 100 Maidenhead Grid Squares on a VHF or UHF Band
- Most common are 50 MHz, Satellite, 144 MHz
 - Endorsements for each additional 25 credits
- For 432 MHz, need to work 50 Grid Squares
- Confirmation can be LoTW or QSL Cards
- “Fred Fish Memorial Award” award for confirming all 488 Grid Squares in the 48 continuous United States on 6 Meters (there have only been 9 Recipients)

CQ Awards

Worked all Zones – WAZ

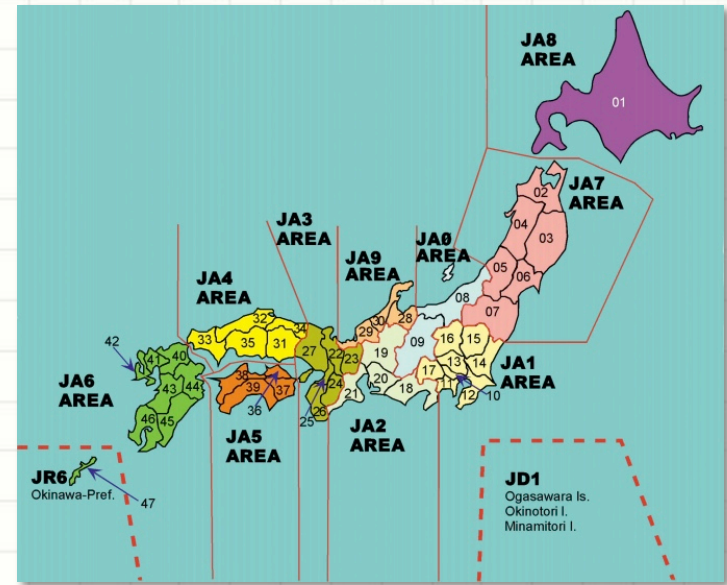
Worked all Prefixes - WPX



- Worked All Zones Award – Confirm contacts in all 40 CQ Zones
 - Mixed
 - Any Single Band or Mode
 - 5 Band WAZ
- Worked all Prefixes Award (WPX) – Awards for confirming contacts with different Callsign Prefixes (AB1, KC1, etc)
 - Can use LoTW, eQSL or cards to confirm
 - Certificates for 400 mixed, 300 CW, SSB or Digital Prefixes
 - Endorsements for Bands and Continents
 - Award of Excellence Plaque for all of 100 prefixes Mixed and 600 SSB and 600 CW and all 6 continents and all 5 non-WARC bands

JARL Awards

Japan Amateur Radio League



- Japan's Amateur Radio Organization sponsors many awards
 - **AJD** – All Japan Districts – Confirm one contact in each JA Call Area
 - **JCC** – Japan Century Cities – Confirm contacts with at least 100 Cities in Japan
 - **WAJA** – Worked All Japan Prefectures Award
 - Confirm a contact with each of the 47 prefectures in Japan – like a Worked All States for Japan
 - **ADXA** – Confirm contacts with 30 countries in Asia
 - [Rules and More Info](#)

More Awards...



Islands On The Air



- [RSGB IOTA Awards](#) – Islands On The Air
- [WAE \(Worked All Europe\)](#) Awards for Working Europe DX
- [Worked All VK Call Areas](#) – HF Award for Working Australia
- [All Africa Award](#) – South African Radio League



Questions?

To Learn More:

Check out the Nashua Area Radio Society's Tech Night Program at:

n1fd.org/tech-night

Become an Internet Subscriber (or members of NARS):

n1fd.org/join-us

Much more information, pictures and video are available on our Blog at:

stationproject.blog

