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

Working DX Stations
Communicating with the World


BS7H – Scarborough Reef

Baker Island
KH1/KH7Z
2018 Commemorative DXpedition

- 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

The Nations of the World

FO/AB1OC
FO/AB1QB

DXing and DXpeditions

DX'ing Video

3
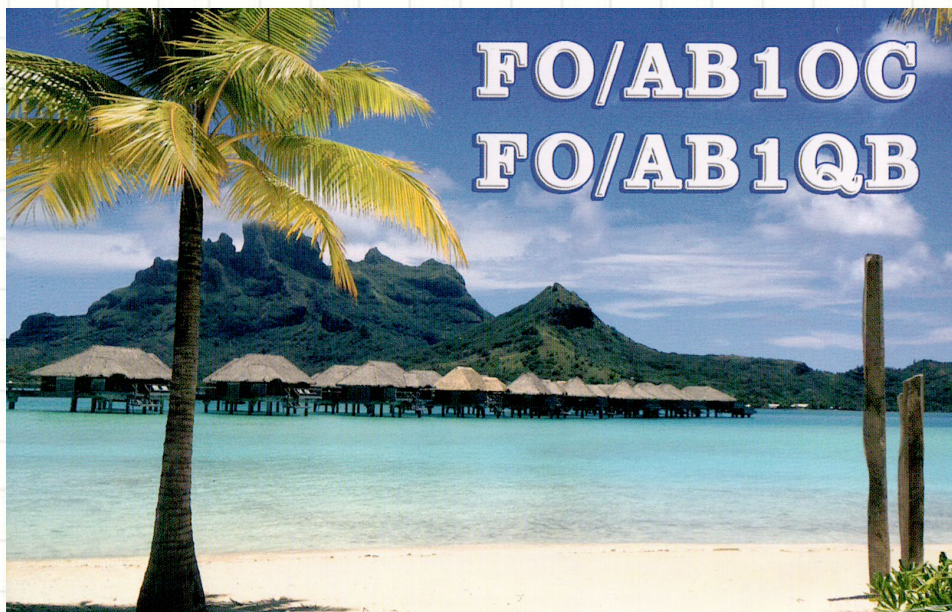
How To Find DX

- 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](#)
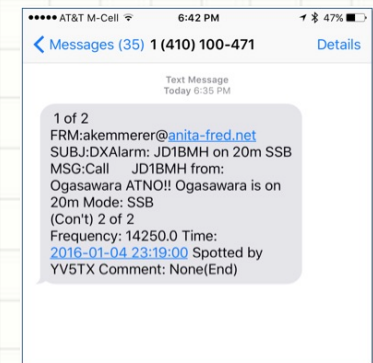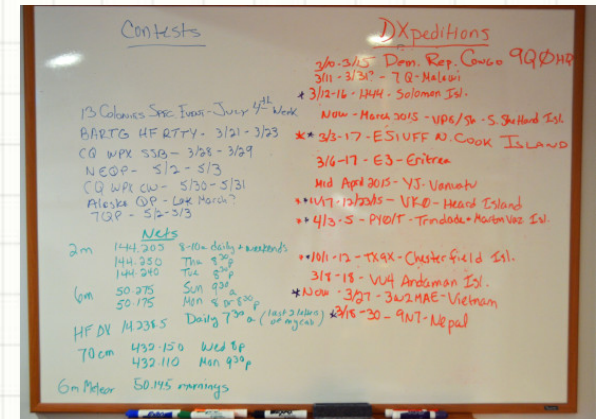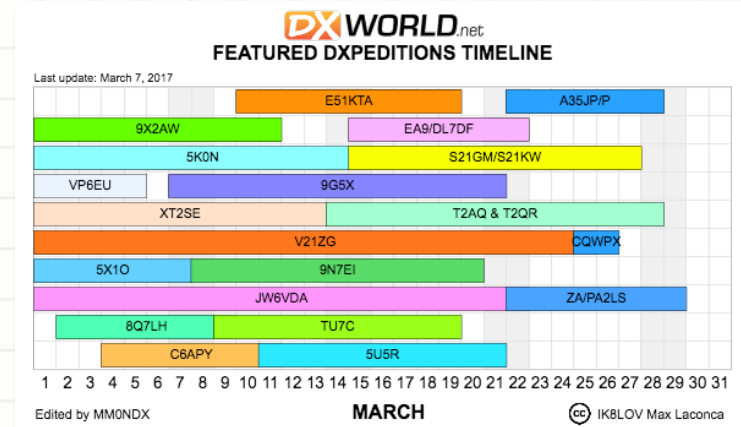
Why QSL?

- 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
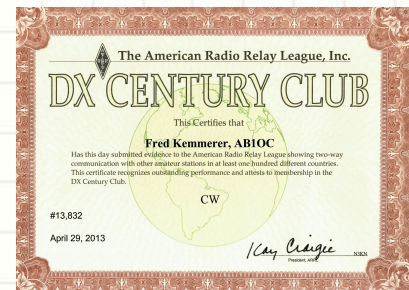
QSL'ing
Start with a QSL Card

- **UX5UO** – Gennady in Ukraine
  - Used by many DXpeditions
  - https://www.ux5uoqsl.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. M0OXO)
- 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
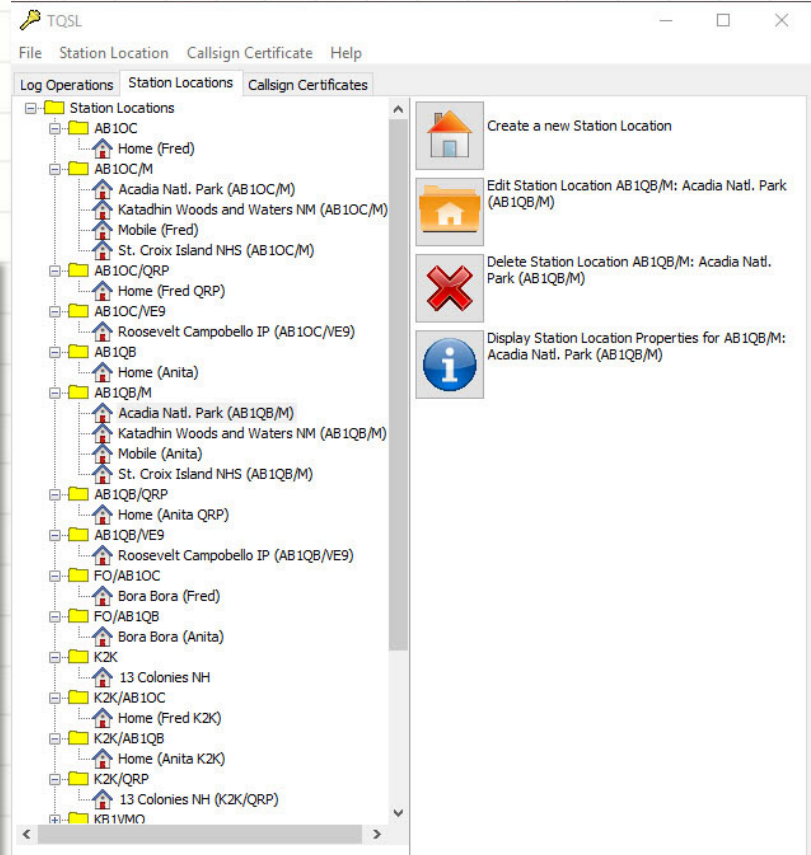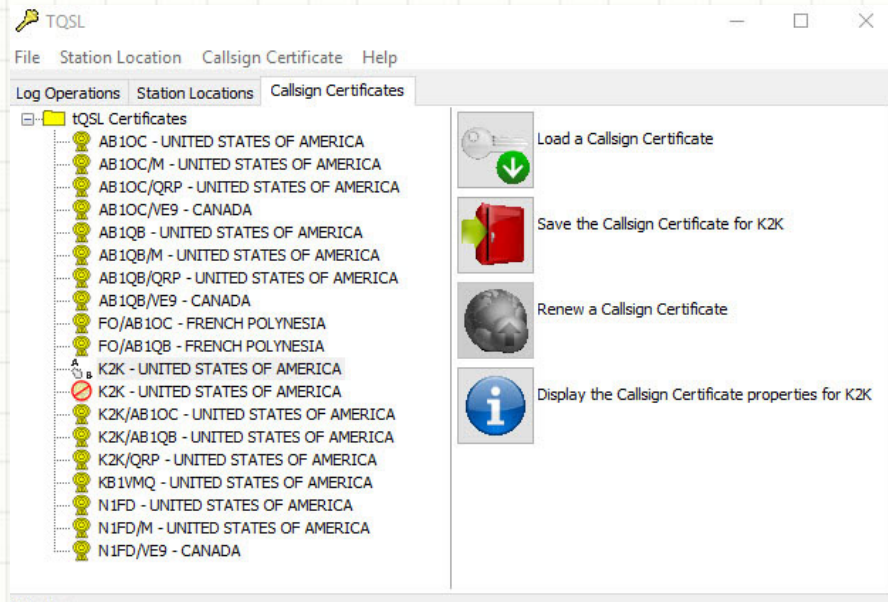
- LoTW is ARRL service (must be a member to use confirmations)
  - Accepted for ARRL awards and a few others (ex. some CQ awards)
- Upload contacts via a LoTW tool (Tqsl)
  - Register your call sign(s) and get a "certificate" from LoTW
  - Configure your operating locations and match to call signs
  - 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](#)

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%)
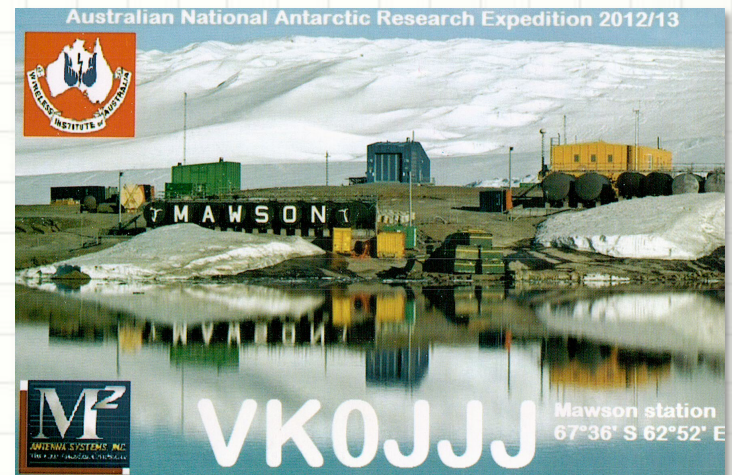
Why Chase Awards?

- Sense of Accomplishment
- Improves your operating skills
- Allows you to set goals for operating
- Gauge where your HF station will reach
- See results when your 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 – S0S
  - 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
  - Card checkers can be at Ham Conventions – Boxboro, Dayton, etc.
- For more info see: http://www.arrl.org/dxcc
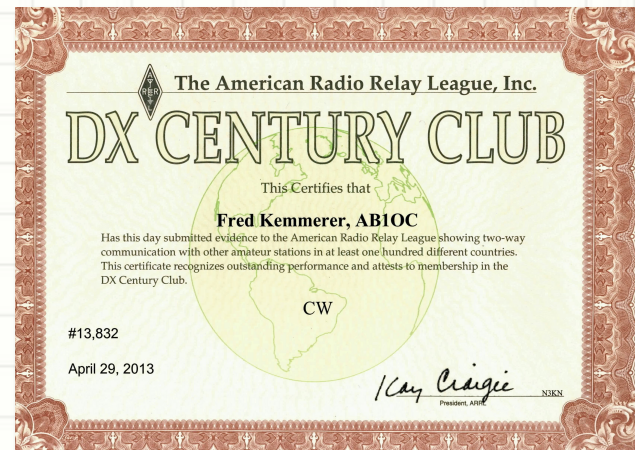
ARRL VUCC

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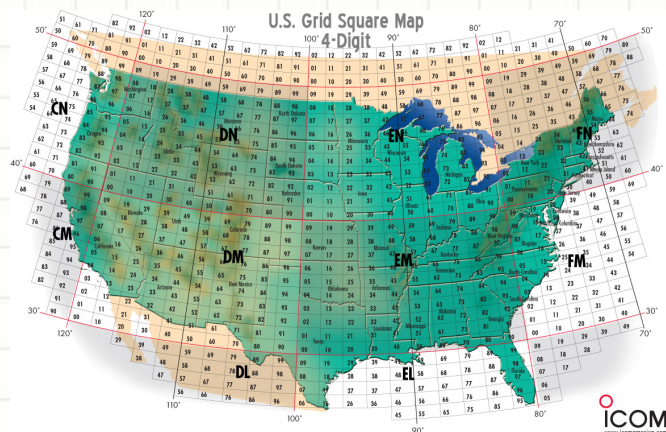
- Confirm contacts with at least 100 Maidenhead Grid Squares on a VHF or UHF Band
- Most common are 50 MHz, Satellite, 144 MHz
  - Endorsements for each additional 25 credits
- For 432 MHz, need to work 50 Grid Squares
- Confirmation can be LoTW or QSL Cards
- "Fred Fish Memorial Award" award for confirming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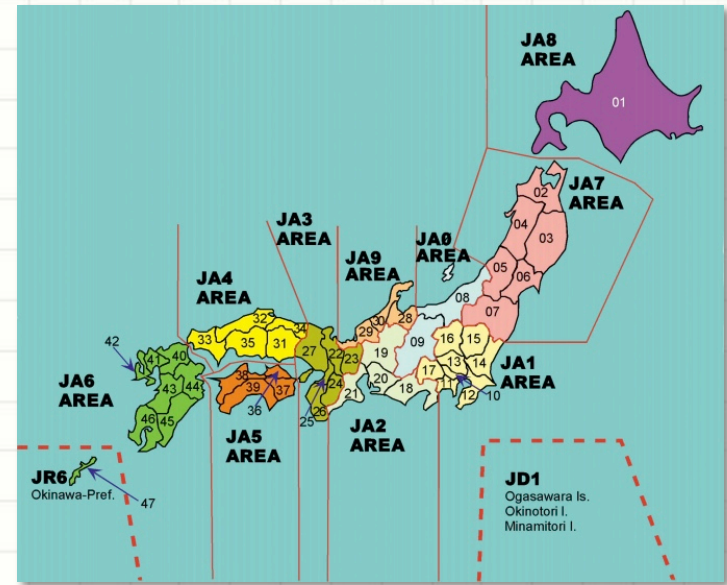
CQ Awards

Worked all Zones – WAZ
Worked all Prefixes - WPX
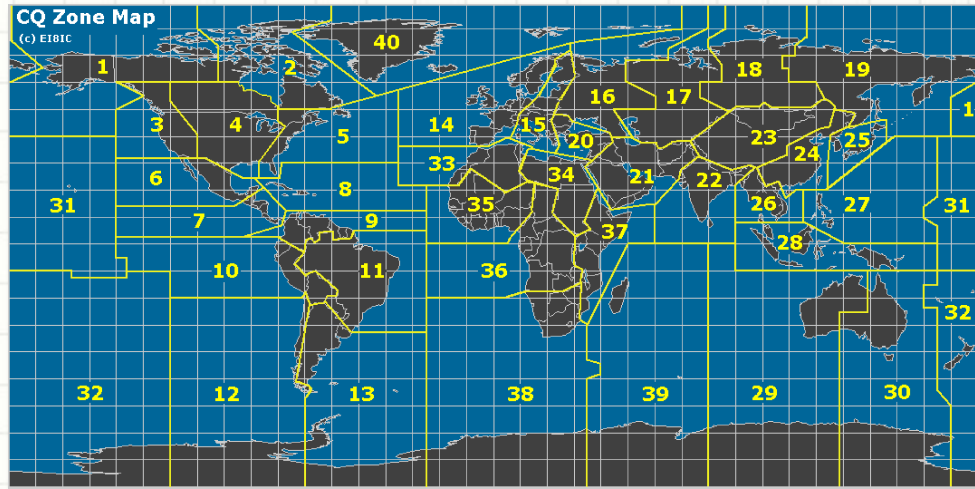
- Worked All Zones Award – Confirm contacts in all 40 CQ Zones
  - Mixed
  - Any Single Band or Mode
  - 5 Band WAZ
- Worked all Prefixes Award (WPX) –Awards for confirming contacts with different Callsign Prefixes (AB1, KC1, etc)
  - Can use LoTW, eQSL or cards to confirm
  - Certificates for 400 mixed, 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