

eQSL Cards (eQSL.cc) by Ed Poccia, KC2LM

The use of postcard QSL Cards to confirm contacts is a long standing tradition in Ham Radio having been around since hams first started attaching wire to trees. I'm sure old timers all remember the thrill of receiving their first post card QSL Card in the mail. Today, however with the ever increasing cost of printing and postage an alternative has become quickly popular. The **eQSL.cc** web site performs the task of sending and receiving of QSL cards electronically, involving the computer and the Internet.

Once logged on to the **eQSL.cc** website, there are two paths you can pursue. The free site will have you sending out the ugliest QSL card you have ever seen. Even if you select a picture from their free gallery to add a bit of color to your card, it doesn't help. Having been sent cards from five different countries with a picture of the same darn boat, the whole idea of using the free site lost its appeal. So I sent along \$10 last year and get to prepare my own card. I use an image of hot air balloons captured at last year's Balloon Fiesta. To achieve AG (*Authentication Guaranteed*) status, which means your contacts could be counted for eQSL awards, you need to email a jpeg file of your ham radio license to the web site.



To send out your eQSL to your contacts, you either laboriously type in all the conformation data manually, have your logging program do it, or download your contacts to an adf file and then up load the file to the eQSL.cc web site.

CALLSIGN	DATE	UTC	BAND	MODE	RST
<input type="text"/>	2015 ▾ April ▾ 6 ▾	<input type="text"/>	10m ▾	SSB ▾	<input type="text"/>
Comments <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>					
Special Propagation Mode: (none) ▾					
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>					

Getting your eQSL cards is a simple matter of clicking on the "In Box" and viewing them.

Action	Callsign	Date/Time	Band	Mode (SubMode)	Country	AG	Signal Report and Comments
DISPLAY	AE5UV	05Apr2015 17:22	20M	PSK31	USA	Y	599 73 from Fort Worth, Texas, USA
DISPLAY	K4HVF	03Apr2015 16:15	15M	PSK31	USA	Y	599
DISPLAY	K9DEB	04Apr2015 21:26	20M	PSK31	USA	Y	599 Thanks for the PODXS070 31 Flavors contest QSO. 73 Don K9DEB #2007
DISPLAY	NO1AI	04Apr2015 19:03	20M	SSB	USA	Y	59

Turn around times for cards is amazingly fast. I send out my cards immediately after closing down the station. Apparently many operators follow

a similar routine allowing hams to exchange QSL cards, the same day. It is important to note that confirmed contacts on eQSL are **NOT** eligible for ARRL operating awards (WAS, DXCC ...). To address this issue, eQSL.cc has established its own operating rewards (eWAS, eDX100 ...) and keeps track of your progress for each award online. Once you have confirmed contacts within the eQSL community, it allows you to printout an attractive certificate in recognition of the accomplishment. They may not offer the same prestige as ARRL certificates but they do look great on the walls of the shack.



Sadly, eQSL cards allow printing on only one side. They do allow you to send along a short greeting but it will take up additional space on the front of the card.

You can click on individual cards so they can be printed and displayed or save them to your computer. The web site has a service which will print them out on a quality card stock for \$1.25 each for those of us who cling to the paper QSL cards. I have put my most interesting and colorful eQSL cards in a slide show, set the whole thing to music and bore my visitors to tears in the new wave of electronically enhanced media.