

# **Ham Radio Awards - The Thrill Of The Chase**

**Bob Hensey – K4VBM**  
(Very Bad Memory)

March 2020  
GARS

Open the embedded file:

My Intro.mp4

# Welcome!

- You may raise questions during the presentation, but due to the time limit and large amount of information I have to present, I may defer some questions.

# Background

- Almost became a ham in 1965 when 9 years old in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Thank you *GARS* VE crew where all my tests were taken and passed
- I like to operate my radios, and chase DX and other awards



- One of the side-effects of operating your radio and keeping a log is that as you accumulate QSOs over time, and you can qualify for many ham radio awards that are out there. You may not even know about all these possible awards.
- Whether it be a certificate, or even just a special QSL card, it can be really fun to collect these awards. Let's look at the different types of awards you can collect, and provide some info to help you on your hunt!

- There are awards for practically every operating mode: SSB, CW, Digital and for every band! There are awards for most contests usually by power level ( $>100\text{W}$  HP,  $\leq 100\text{W}$  LP,  $\leq 5\text{W}$  QRP are common) and operating class (Multi-OP, Single OP, Assisted or Un-Assisted).
- There are special awards for contacting special event stations. There are awards for contacting DXpeditions. There are awards related to satellite contacts. You just need to find out about these awards, and make the effort to apply for them.
- Lets look at various awards out there.

# LoTW

- One of the most popular online logging systems including awards (DXCC, WAS, VUCC, CQ WPX, CQ WAZ, National Parks on the Air, ARRL Grid Chase, 3830 State QSO Parties, various ARRL sponsored contests including Field Days). It is free to use, but some awards have a cost.
- **TIP:** Learn and use TQSL, backup your keys and certificates

# LoTW Awards

The screenshot shows the ARRL Logbook Awards website in a web browser. The browser's address bar displays the URL [https://www.arrl.org/logbook/awards/awards\\_intro.asp?act=1](https://www.arrl.org/logbook/awards/awards_intro.asp?act=1). The page features a header with the ARRL logo and the text "THE ARRL LOGBOOK The World's Most Popular Ham Radio Logbook". A navigation bar includes links for Home, Your QSOs, Awards, Find Call, Upload File, Your Account, and Help. A sidebar on the right shows the user's profile: "Today is Wed, 5 Feb 2020 UTC", "You are K4VBM", "Log Off", "You have 39,552 QSO records", and "You have 26,814 QSL records". The main content area is titled "Logbook Awards" and contains several sections: "Your LoTW ARRL DXCC (DX Century Club) Account(s)", "Your LoTW ARRL WAS (Worked All States) Account(s)", "Your LoTW ARRL VUCC (VHF/UHF Century Club) Account(s)", "Your LoTW CQ WPX Awards Account(s)", and "Your LoTW CQ WAZ Awards Account(s)". Each section has a dropdown menu for the user's call sign and buttons to "Select" or "Create New" award account. A right-hand column titled "About Award Accounts" explains that award accounts are created either automatically or when a user creates them, depending on the award program. It lists the following award programs: DXCC (Accounts created automatically), WAS (Accounts created by you), VUCC (Accounts created by you), and CQ WPX (Accounts created automatically). It also states that a new award account is created if there is not an existing account that can be used. Below this, a section titled "DXCC Accounts" explains that for DXCC, an account is created for each unique combination of call sign and DXCC Entity. It provides examples: W1AW (USA) — old call, W1WQ (USA) — club call, W1WWS (USA) — portable operation, and VE3W1AW (Canada) — expedition. It further notes that as matching QSO records (QSLs) were uploaded from other stations, a DXCC award account would be created for each of these cases. It also mentions that if you have more than one call sign in the same DXCC Entity, you can merge the accounts to make them one. For example, W1WWS would probably choose to merge the W1WWS (USA), W1W (USA) and W1WWS (USA) accounts into one account. Under DXCC rules W1WWS cannot claim credit for QSOs with a club call. Finally, it states that if you have an existing DXCC award, you can have your DXCC record linked to the corresponding LoTW DXCC award account.

# eQSL

- Another popular online logging system. It is free to use, many different awards, eQSL sponsored contests. Awards have a membership cost.
- **TIP:** Get Authenticity Guaranteed (AG) status if you join so others get award credit for QSOs with you.



# eQSL Awards



mixed



FT8



FT8

# QRZ.com

- Yet another popular online logging system, and many use it to host their free call sign web page.
- ***TIP:*** Create a web page with interesting things about you and what you enjoy about ham radio.

# QRZ.com Awards

The screenshot shows the QRZ.com website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like Database, News, Forums, and a search bar. The main content area is titled "QRZ Operating Awards" and includes a sidebar with a "Donate to QRZ" button and a "Search QRZ" button. The main content area is divided into three columns: "Logbooks" (listing K4VBM Logbook, K4VBM/4 Logbook, and K4VBM/7 Logbook), "Rules" (explaining the QRZ Operating Awards Rules), and "Awards" (listing various awards like United States Award, DX World Award, World Radio Friendship Award, World Continents Award, Grid Squared Award, United States Counties Award, and Master of Radio Communication - Europe). Each award has a "Purchase Certificate" button.

Logbook by QRZ.COM

18 09 20 UTC 5 Feb 2020

Enter Query... by Category Search Database News Forums Scrapbook Resources Contact Subscribe K4VBM

List Incoming Awards **Leaderboard** Help Settings Refresh

QRZ Operating Awards [Need Help? Check out our Logbook Handbook...](#)

**Donate to QRZ**

Search QRZ

Search

**K4VBM Logbook**  
K4VBM/4 Logbook  
K4VBM/7 Logbook

**Rules:**  
The QRZ Operating Awards Rules can be viewed [here](#).

**Instructions:**  
On the left is a list of logbooks that you control.  
To proceed, select the logbooks eligible to be combined for an award.  
Hold down the Ctrl (Windows) / Command (Mac) button to select multiple logbooks.  
Next scroll down and select the award you wish to view.  
Note: To determine which logbooks are eligible to be combined, see the rules.

**Awards:**  
There is no need to apply for any of our online awards.  
A printed certificate commemorating your achievement may be purchased at any time.

**K4VBM**

	United States Award <a href="#">view rules</a>		<a href="#">Purchase Certificate</a>
	DX World Award <a href="#">view rules</a>		<a href="#">Purchase Certificate</a>
	World Radio Friendship Award <a href="#">view rules</a>		<a href="#">Purchase Certificate</a>
	World Continents Award <a href="#">view rules</a>		<a href="#">Purchase Certificate</a>
	Grid Squared Award <a href="#">view rules</a>		<a href="#">Purchase Certificate</a>
	United States Counties Award <a href="#">view rules</a>		<a href="#">Purchase Certificate</a>
	Master of Radio Communication - Europe <a href="#">view rules</a>		<a href="#">Purchase Certificate</a>

**K4VBM/7**

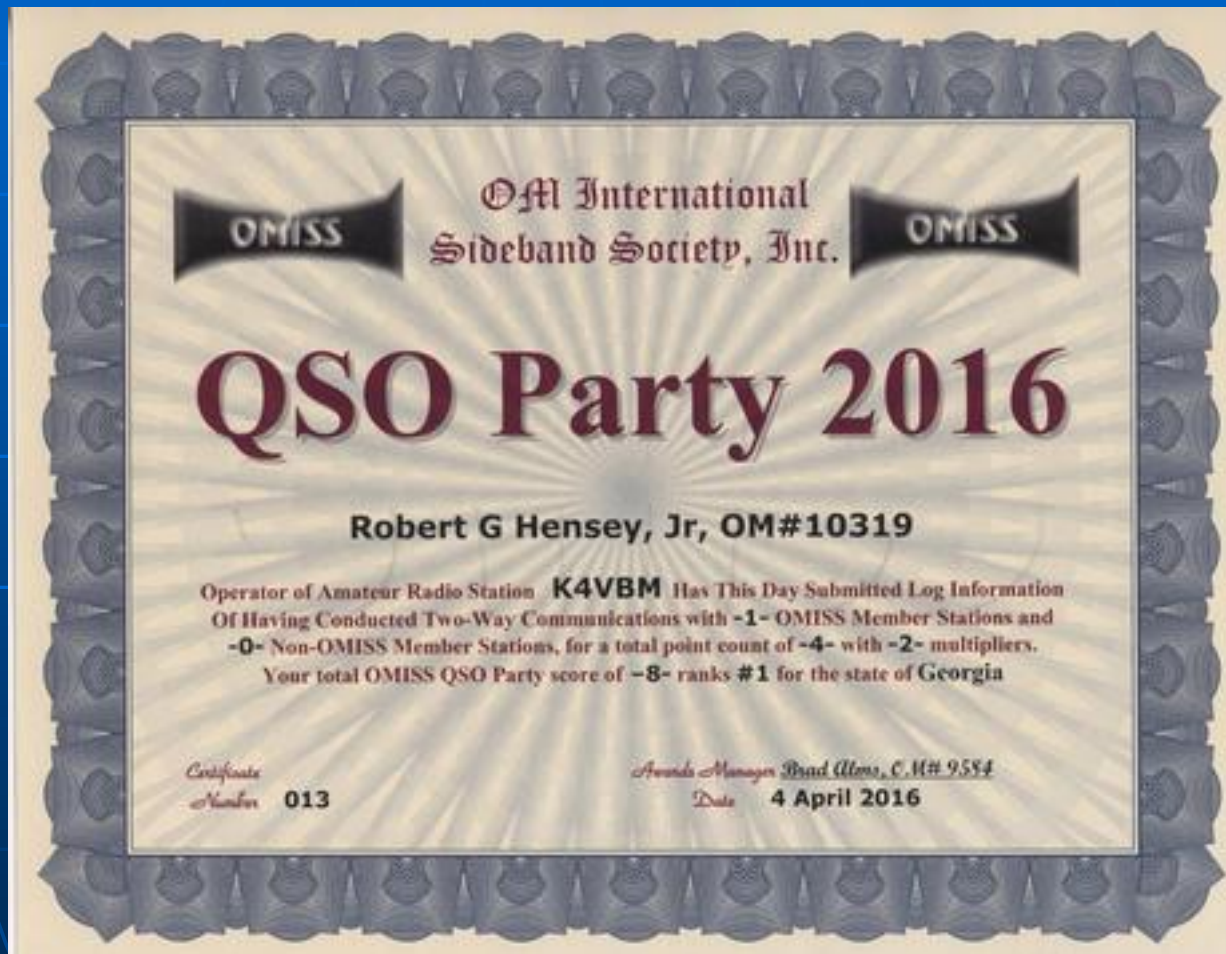
	World Radio Friendship Award <a href="#">view rules</a>		<a href="#">Purchase Certificate</a>
	World Continents Award <a href="#">view rules</a>		<a href="#">Purchase Certificate</a>
	Grid Squared Award <a href="#">view rules</a>		<a href="#">Purchase Certificate</a>
	United States Counties Award <a href="#">view rules</a>		<a href="#">Purchase Certificate</a>



# Contesting

- Practically every weekend.
- [www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php](http://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php)
- You don't have to be a serious tester, but getting on the air and participating in contests really helps with your award chasing (e.g., CW WAS)

# Contesting Awards – 1 QSO



# Another 1 QSO



# Yet another 1 QSO

**WIRELESS SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN MAINE**



## **The Maine QSO Party 2017**

This certificate is awarded to:  
**Robert Hensey, K4VBM**  
in recognition of achieving:  
**1st Place Florida**







10 contacts



# 2015 ARKANSAS QSO PARTY



This certificate of merit is awarded to

**Robert G. Hensey, Jr. – K4VBM**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Georgia**

**Single Operator, Low Power Mixed Mode Division**

**QSOs: 14**

**Multipliers: 14**

**Score: 140**

*Don Banta – K5DB*

AQP Chair



# 1<sup>st</sup> Place and New Record

## 27 contacts



# 1<sup>st</sup> Place – 10 contacts







CHIMNEY ROCK, MORRILL COUNTY

# 2019 Nebraska QSO Party

Congratulations To  
Robert, K4VBM  
1<sup>st</sup> Overall, 1<sup>st</sup> LP,  
2<sup>nd</sup> FT8, 1<sup>st</sup> GA

*September 7, 2019*

7 contacts

*Matt Anderson, KA0BDJ*

*ARRL Section Manager and  
Sponsor of the 2019 NE QP*

# Contesting *TIPS*

- Participate in the state and Canadian QSO parties as stations will be out there, or play in the CQ Magazine contests).
- 3830 QSO Party **Challenge** – enter your QSOs!  
<http://stateqsoparty.com/>
- Why not take the time to send in your contacts/score to the contest organizers (even if you only made 1 contact)?
- Enter in a category beneficial to your QSOs (Low Power, QRP, Phone, Mixed, 20m, etc.)
- Know and contact the contest bonus stations

# Special Events

- They happen all the time, internationally.
- 13 Colonies, Route 66, Saints, anniversaries, Lake Havasu Lighthouses, Worldwide Antarctica Program, etc.
- **TIP:** Check spotting networks like [dxsummit.fi](http://dxsummit.fi), request that certificate or QSL card



# Examples of SE QSL cards.

**KØLU**  
Tractor Mobile



Andrea B Slack  
321 East Shore Trail  
Sparks, NJ 07871

**K2EZ**  
Grid: 2825p Zone: 140gus1.net

QTH  
Lake Michigan

Continuing QSL Work	Date Day Mo Yr	Time UTC	Freq	Mode	Rpt

**K2EZ/Mobile**

Andrea Slack  
321 East Shore Trail  
Sparks, NJ 07871

**K2EZ/5**

Andrea B Slack  
321 East Shore Trail  
Sparks, NJ 07871

Continuing QSL Work	Date Day Mo Yr	Time UTC	Freq	Mode	Rpt

**K2EZ/ROVER**

2016 January VHF Contest

**K4MIA**

National POW MIA Recognition Day 2019

**KH6BWG**

Hawaii  
Kalaupapa County

NPOTA HPIS





BROWN CLARK CHAMBERLAIN ANDERSON RAMON MCCOOL HUBBARD  
STS 107  
2003 - 2012  
NACOGDOCHES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
WE WILL NEVER FORGET

SPECIAL EVENT STATION

# K5C

TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES FEBRUARY 1, 2003 AND THE HUNDREDS OF AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS WHO ASSISTED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE LOSS OF COLUMBIA.

# W9IMS

Indianapolis Motor Speedway  
Amateur Radio Club

KYLE BUSCH

18

CAMRY

Kyle Busch sweeps Indy, winning the Xfinity and Brickyard 400 poles and both races for the second straight year

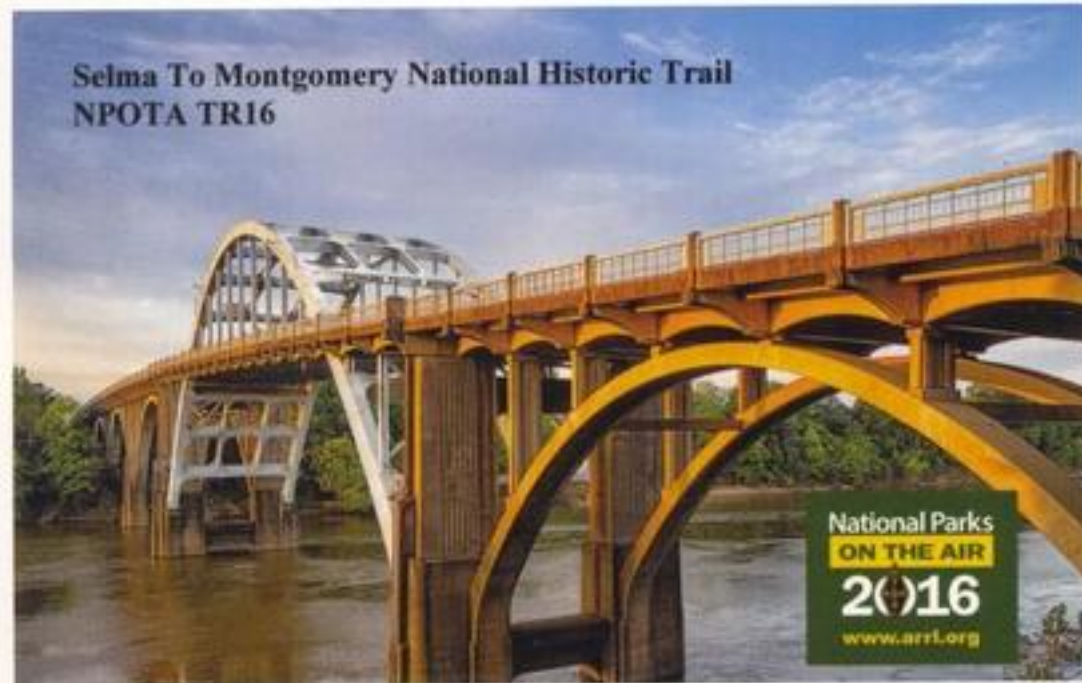
W9IMS QSOs with: *K4VBM*

Date	UTC	MHz	RST	Mode
<i>26</i> May 2016	<i>1409</i>	<i>14.240</i>	59	SSB
May 2016			59	SSB
May 2016			59	SSB

Comments: *73, Mark-W9MGR*

Indianapolis, IN [www.w9ims.org](http://www.w9ims.org)  
Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC





## Special Event Station W0C

70th Anniversary of Churchill's "Iron Curtain" Speech

4-7/March/2016

Contact with: K4VBM  
 Band: 20 RST: 59+  
 Mode: CW SSB FM  
 PSK RTTY  
 Date: 7/March/2016  
 UTC: 22:00

A total of 575 contacts were logged.  
 Thanks for your participation! 73



Callaway  
Amateur  
Radio

League LLC

Fulton, Missouri, USA

Callaway County  
EM48au



RIPLEY MAINE USA  
BICENTENNIAL 1816 ~ 2016

NIR

CONFIRMING QSO WITH  
K4VBM

DAY MONTH YEAR  
22 06 2016

UTC 0406	MHz 7.185	RST 59	2-RATE SSB	QSL TNX
-------------	--------------	-----------	---------------	------------

Grid FN55hg • ITU Zone 8 • CO Zone 5



# WC8VOA

CG zone 34 • ITU zone 28 • Qnd loc: 287911  
Butler County

72nd ANNIVERSARY  
BETHANY RELAY STATION  
VOICE OF AMERICA

VOICE OF AMERICA  
BETHANY RELAY STATION

[www.wc8voa.org](http://www.wc8voa.org)



National Parks  
ON THE AIR  
2016  
[www.arri.org](http://www.arri.org)

# NOUR



UNITED STATES

# W4GR

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Box 88  
Columbus, GA 30045  
(706) 928-1019

CONFIRMING QSO WITH

RADIO	DATE	UTC	MHz	MODE	RST
K4VBM	MAY	2016	7.273	SSB	59

RC 04 - ABBOTS FORD



SK CC  
Straight Key Century Club

GEORGIA USA  
Gwinnett County

# KM4LAO

Ruth Willet  
337 Connemara Crossing  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

PSE QSL ☐ TNX QSL

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR
K4VBM	24	09	2016
UTC	MHz	RST	MODE
19:47	7.273	59	SSB

[www.chesops.com](http://www.chesops.com)

# Expeditions/ Experiments

- DXpeditions  
<https://dxnews.com/dxpeditions/>  
<https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>
- Experiments (Voyager, your own)
- **TIP:** Learn and use OQRS on Club Log
- **TIP:** Technicians take note: try SSB, CW, FT4/FT8 and other digital modes on UHF and VHF ( $\geq 50\text{MHz}$ )





# More than just DX News

[DX NEWS](#) [CONTESTING](#) [ARTICLES](#) [CALENDAR](#) [IOTA](#) [DX PEDITONS](#) [FUNDED DX PEDITONS](#) [ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)RU **EN**

## DX Peditions Ham Radio Amateur Radio



### HU1DL El Salvador

2020-02-02 13:51:01

HU1DL Team will be active from El Salvador, 30 January - 13 February 2020.



6722 2

More...



### VP8PJ South Orkney Islands

2020-02-02 13:46:31

VP8PJ Team will be active from South Orkney Islands, IOTA AN - 008, 20 February - 5 March 2020.



9443 3

More...

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## Announced DX Operations: 2020

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[\[Submit a Expedition\]](#)

HCAL OXCAL link

Active/Upcoming

Expired

Previous Years

Expired Contest and Special Operations (1996+)

Last updated: Wednesday 05-Feb-2020 09:31:22 EST

[Currently Active Operations]

[Spots provided courtesy of DK Watch]

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Info
2020						
January						
2020 Jan06	2020 Feb29	Belize	V3 <a href="#">(expired)</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">IDXX</a> 20200110	By DJ4KW as V31YN and DK9GG as V31GW; 160-10m; CW FT8 SSB; see Web for full QSL and operational details
2020 Jan09	2020 Feb05	Somalia	6O1OO <a href="#">(expired)</a>	6O1OO	<a href="#">IDXX</a> 20200113	By EP3CQ fm Mogadishu; 160-6m; SSB CW FT8; 100w; vertical; QSL details @qrz.com
2020 Jan17	2020 Feb29	Aruba	P4 <a href="#">(expired)</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">IDXX</a> 20200113	By K3DMG as P4/K3DMG; 160-12m; CW + digital; no paper QSLs
2020 Jan19	2020 Feb29	DR Congo	9Q1C <a href="#">(expired)</a>	IK7UXW	<a href="#">IDXX</a> 20200121	By IK7UXW fm Kinshasa; HF; 100w; operation to continue for 2 months
2020 Jan23	2020 Feb07	Guadeloupe	FG <a href="#">(expired)</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">IDXX</a> 20200127	By F5HRY as FG/F5HRY; 80-10m; focus on 30 17m; CW; G5RV; dipoles; QSL also OK via F5HRY direct
2020 Jan28	2020 Feb07	Gambia	C5XW <a href="#">(expired)</a>	G5XW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20191209	By G5XW; 40-17m; holiday style operation
2020 Jan30	2020 Feb09	Cocos I	T9C <a href="#">(expired)</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">IDXX</a> 20190917	By XE1B HK5OKY fm IOTA NA-012; 160-6m; SSB; 2 stations; 700w; QSL also OK via Club Log OQRS; no Buro cards
2020 Jan30	2020 Feb13	El Salvador	HU1DL <a href="#">(expired)</a>	LoTW	<a href="#">DXW.Net</a> 20191027	By DH8WR DJ6TF DJ9KH DL1KWK DL2HWA DL2RNS DL4SVA DL7JOM DL7VEE DL9GFB; 160-17m; incl 60m; CW SSB RTTY FT8; 3 stations; each 1kw; QRV 24/7; QSL via Club Log OQRS
February						



# DXpeditions

Penrhyn Atoll  
Northern Cooks Group

## E51WL

Ward & Latham

Confirming QSO with	DATE	G.M.T.	Freq	RST	2 Way	Remarks
K4VBM	17 May 2017	05:28	3.576 MHz	-15 dB	JT65	

ITU Zone 62  
CQ Zone 32  
Grid BI00xx  
IOTA OC-082

RIG: 10760  
ANT: Inverted Vee

Pse ☐ Trx ☒ QSL  
73s Hanzack

Image Courtesy of Ewan Smith, Air Rarotonga Ltd.



WESTERN SAHARA  
الجمهورية العربية الصحراوية الديمقراطية

Sahrawi Amateur Radio Union

## SØ1WS

URS

## S79CI

Seychelles

IOTA

IOTA: AF-024  
Zone: CQ: 39  
Locator: LI75RK





OC-048



## Tokelau Islands



Robert Henney  
4264 Thamesgate Close,  
Peachtree Corners  
GA 30092  
USA



# HF Voyager KH6JF/MM



- <http://www.jrfarc.org/hf-voyager>



# Voyager QSL

- Grid Squares CL52ve and BK28kt



- **TIP:** Mail your QSL cards in an envelope

# International Space Station (ISS)

- <https://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html>
- Technicians take note!
- ***TIP:*** Learn how to receive and send SSTV

# ISS SSTV image



RXSSSTV: PD120|2019-Feb-10 11:29:52



# Satellite QSOs

- Bouncing signals off ham radio satellites to make contacts
- FM/SSB/CW/special equipment and antenna(s)/prediction software/crowds
- Technicians take note!
- **TIP:** Tag along with an experienced satellite chaser
- **TIP:** Do good research before buying equipment – start out small
- **TIP:** Learn how to properly log QSOs (propagation mode)

# County Hunting

- Goal: collect every US county in all US states
- [countyhunter.com](http://countyhunter.com) - resource for information on the United States of America Counties Award (USA-CA) from CQ Publishing

# Join Clubs

- GARS May Madness
- NFARL Challenge
- OMISS Awards - [omiss.net](http://omiss.net)
- Digital Modes Club awards -  
<https://www.digital-modes-club.org/>  
(free)
- Feld Hell Club Awards -  
<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>  
(free)

# Join Clubs - continued

- 070 Club Awards -  
<https://www.podxs070.com/join-us>  
(free)
- Etc. etc.
- ***TIP:*** Join some clubs that match your interests and chase some awards

### OFFICIAL 070 Award Progress for K4VBM

Please see <http://www.podxs070.com/membership-endorsements/available-endorsements> for complete award information.

The QSO log information is solely for your reference -- Please validate against the actual award rules and award manager's submission instructions and your logbook.

Click on the 'Have' count for each award to see (or hide) your QSO log info.

Click on the 'Target' count for each award to see (or hide) any incomplete requirements.

Orange rows indicate that it has submitted for approval.

Blue rows indicate confirmation on the [Endorsement Standings](#) page.

K4VBM - 22:46:17 29-Feb-2020 - Trophy Case

[Return to Award Checker information.](#)

LOGFILE

QSO COU

## PROGRAM

## PROGRAM

ADIF\_VE

## HEADER

ADIF £1

[ Award Progress: 070-Endorsements 070-LONP 070-WTW 070-GRIDS 070-24x7 070-365 ]

[ Non-070 Progress: PEX CTY WA[illegible]



# Try Remote Operating

- Remotehams.org
- Make a friend and share radios (you will learn a lot about propagation vs. time of day)
- **TIP:** Learn what you need to do to QSL from different QTHs online

# You can help others achieve awards too!

- One way is just by uploading your logs to the various online sites. I know many of you activate parks and islands, or participate as a special event station operator, and participate in field days – it's fun being the sought after "rare" contact and handling those pile-ups!
- **TIP:** Make the effort to upload your logs online

# In Summary

- As you explore the hobby of amateur radio, there are ample opportunities to collect awards (“wall paper”) if you only make the extra effort to do so.
- In the process you will make new friends, maybe have some fun competition, improve your operating skills, and hopefully continue enjoying the greatest hobby!

# Questions?



Open the embedded file:

My trailer.mp4

# Happy Operating!

I hope you take away some good tips on chasing Ham Radio awards! Wishing you many of your own!

- Thank you for your time and attention!
- Get out there and operate!
- See you on the bands!
- And tell us about your achievements!
- 73, K4VBM (Very Bad Memory)