

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 3rd 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 LoTW website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, Your QSOs, Awards, Find Call, Upload File, Your Account, and Help. The main content area is titled "Logbook Awards" and is divided into several sections:

- Your LoTW ARRL DXCC (IARU Century Club) Account(s)**: Includes a dropdown menu for "K4VIM - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and a "Select DXCC Award Account" button.
- Your LoTW ARRL WWS (Worked All States) Account(s)**: Includes a dropdown menu for "K4VIM" and buttons for "Select WWS Award Account" and "Create New WWS Award Account".
- Your LoTW ARRL VUCC (VHF/UHF Century Club) Account(s)**: Includes a dropdown menu for "K4VIM" and buttons for "Select VUCC Award Account" and "Create New VUCC Award Account".
- Your LoTW CQ WPX Awards Account(s)**: Includes a dropdown menu for "K4VIM - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and a "Select CQ WPX Award Account" button.
- Your LoTW CQ WAZ Awards Account(s)**: This section is currently empty.

On the right side, there's an "About Award Accounts" section with the following text:

Award accounts are created either automatically as needed or when you create them, depending on the awards program:

- DXCC – Accounts created automatically
- WWS – Accounts created by you
- VUCC – Accounts created by you
- CQ WPX – Accounts created automatically

automatically created award accounts, when one of your QSOs gets matched (QSLed), a new award account is created if there is not an existing account that can be used.

DXCC Accounts

For DXCC, an account is created for each unique combination of call sign and DXCC Entity. For example, suppose W1AW had uploaded QSOs signed using certificates bearing these call signs and DXCC Entities:

- W1AW (USA)
- 1M1 (USA) — club call
- W1WQ (USA) — club call
- W1AWIS (USA) — portable operation
- VE3W1AW (Canada) — expedition

As matching QSO records (QSLs) were uploaded from other stations, a DXCC award account would be created for each of these cases.

If you have more than one call sign in the same DXCC Entity, you can merge the accounts to make them one. For example, W1AW would probably choose to merge the W1AW (USA), 1M1 (USA) and W1AWIS (USA) accounts into one account. Under DXCC rules W1AW cannot claim credit for QSOs with a club call.

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.

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

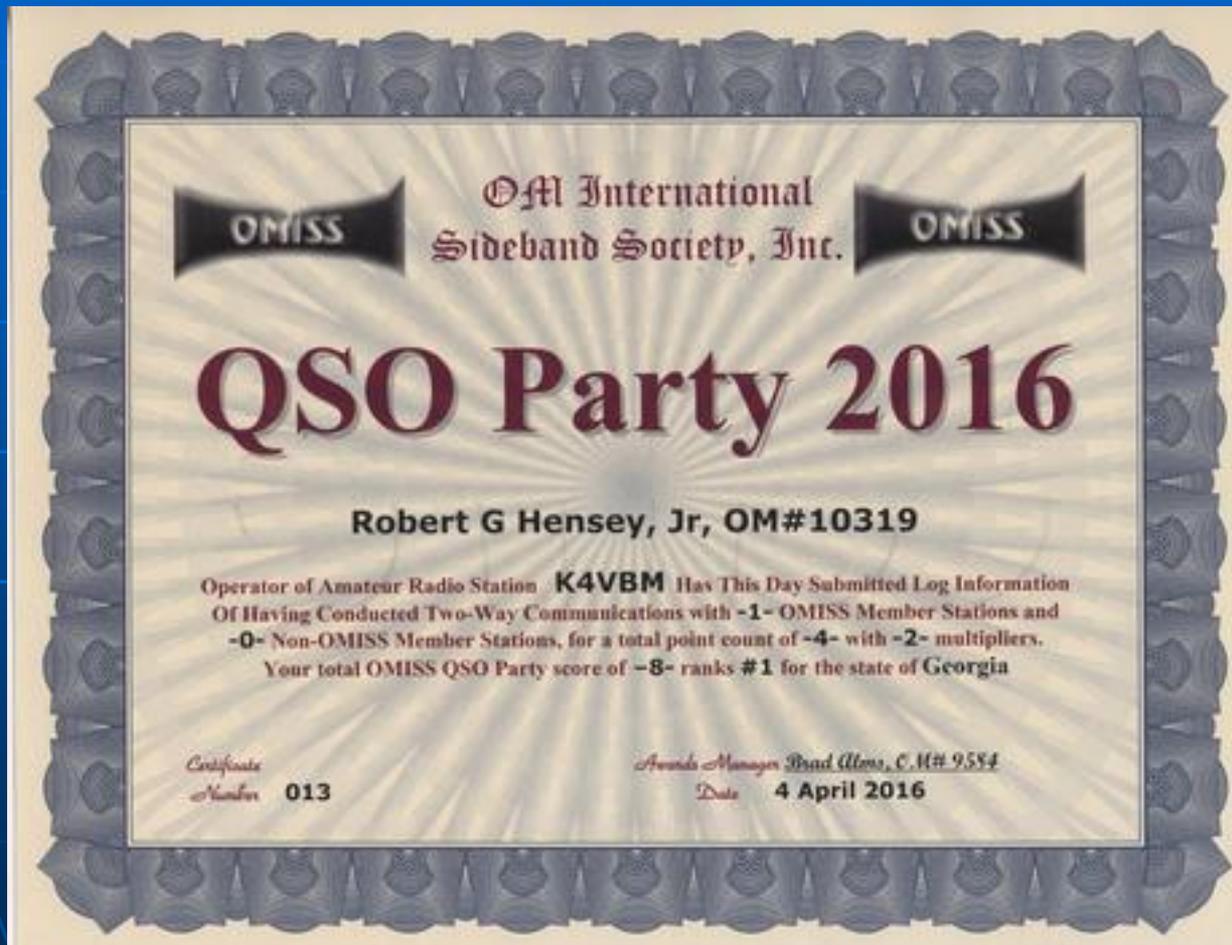
The screenshot shows the QRZ.com website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Database, News, Forums, Soapnet, Resources, Contact, Subscribe, and K4VBM. The main content area is titled "QRZ Operating Awards" and includes a "Need Help? Check out our Logbook Handbook..." link. On the left, there is a "Donate to QRZ" button and a "Search QRZ" search bar. The main content is divided into three columns: "Rules:", "Instructions:", and "Awards:". The "Awards:" section lists various awards with their respective logos and "Purchase Certificate" buttons. The awards listed are:

- K4VBM**
 - United States Award (50)
 - DX World Award
 - World Radio Friendship Award
 - World Continents Award
 - Grid Squared Award (GRID)
 - United States Counties Award
 - Master of Radio Communication - Europe
- K4VBM/7**
 - World Radio Friendship Award
 - World Continents Award
 - Grid Squared Award (GRID)
 - United States Counties Award

Contesting

- Practically every weekend.
- www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php
- You don't have to be a serious contester, 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





**RADIO SOCIETY
of
GREAT BRITAIN**



This is to certify that

K4VBM

achieved

1773rd in the Single Operator Section of the

IOTA Contest 2019

President of the RSGB

Dave Wilson, M0OBW

10 contacts



2015 ARKANSAS QSO PARTY



This certificate of merit is awarded to

Robert G. Hensey, Jr. – K4VBM

1st Place – Georgia

Single Operator, Low Power Mixed Mode Division

QSOs: 14

Multipliers: 14

Score: 140

Don Banta – **K5DB**

AQP Chair

1st Place and New Record 27 contacts

MINNESOTA QSO PARTY

Awards this Certificate of Achievement to:

K4VBM

Robert Hensey, Jr

First Place & New Record Score Georgia

Single Op Phone Category

In the 2016 Minnesota QSO Party held February 6, 2016

Certificate Sponsors: Al Dewy, K0AD; John Platt, W0ZQ; Craig Larsen, KC0DMF

Photo by Jim Lageson - N0UR



**18th
Place
Overall**

1st Place – 10 contacts



British Columbia QSO Party 2019

Orca

K4VBM

First Place – Georgia
Single-Operator Low-Power Mixed Mode
Score: 384

30 minutes north of Swartz Bay terminal
Photo credit: V4TRCC

President – Dan Swaine VE7VR
Contest coordinator – Rebecca Kivoto V4TRCC



CHIMNEY ROCK, MORRILL COUNTY

2019 Nebraska QSO Party

Congratulations To
Robert, K4VBM
1st Overall, 1st LP,
2nd FT8, 1st GA

September 7, 2019

7 contacts

Matt Anderson, KA0B0J

*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, request that certificate or QSL card

Examples of SE QSL cards.

KØLU
Tractor Mobile



Andrew B Slack
321 East Shore Trail
Spars, NJ 07871

K2EZ
Call: 202-549-7244; 434-849-1247

QTH
↓
Lake Michigan

Confirming QSO Work	Date (Day, Mo, Yr)	Time (UTC)	Freq	Mode	Rpt

K2EZ/Mobile

Andrew Slack
321 East Shore Trail
Spars, NJ 07871

K2EZ/15

Confirming QSO 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



N1A

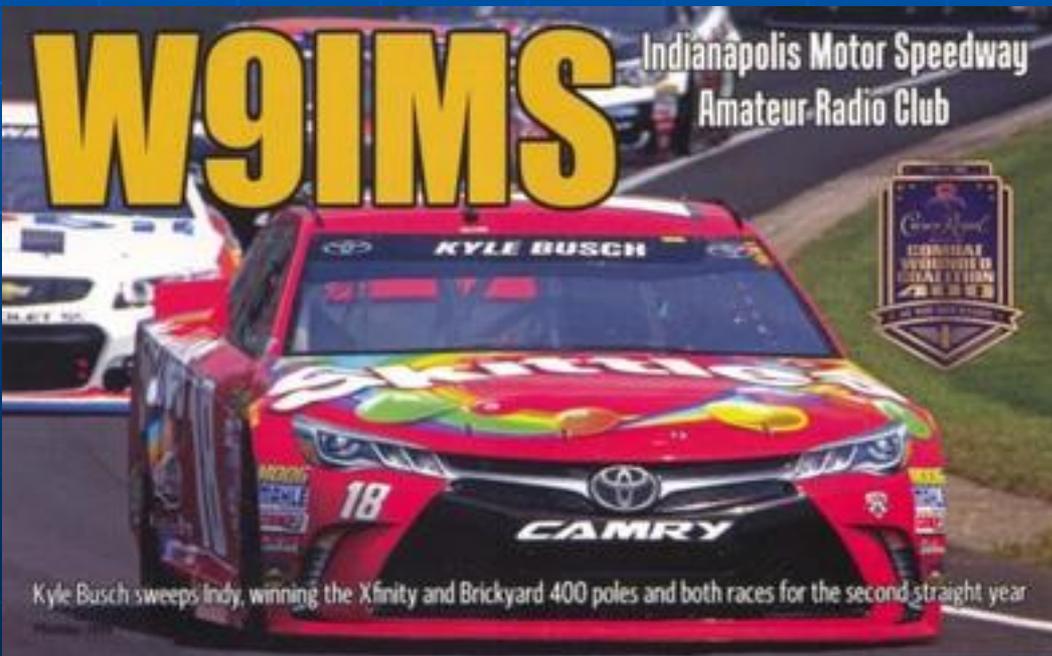
First Man on the Moon
50th Anniversary



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



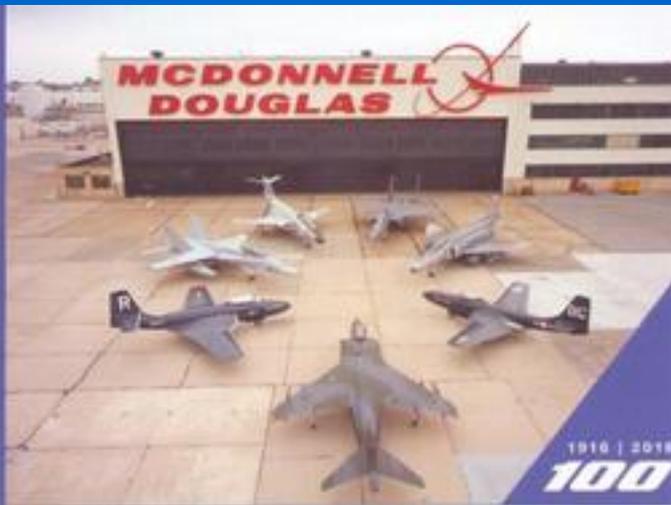
W9IMS QSOs with: *K4VBM*

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

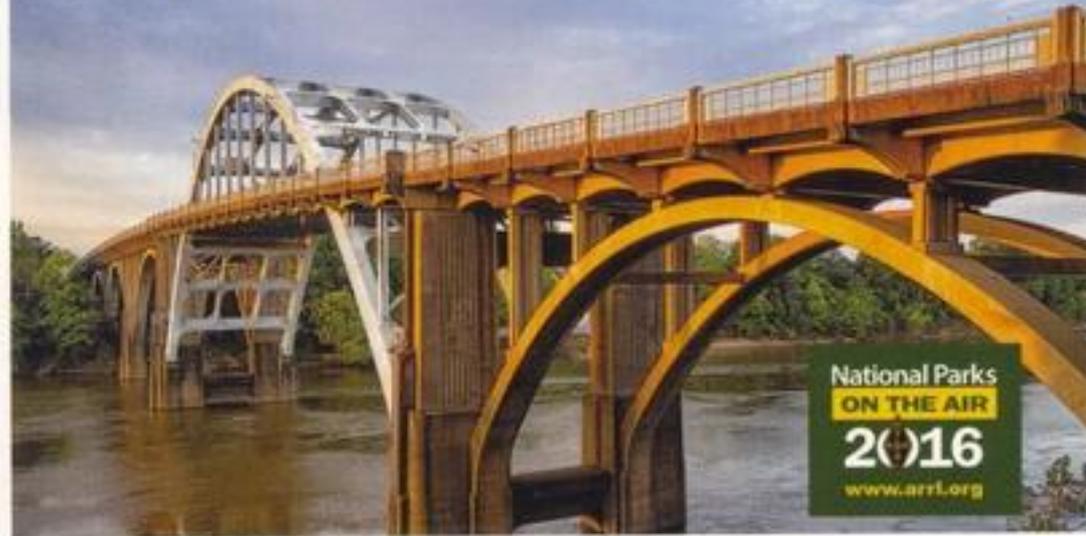
Comments: *73, Mark-W9MGR*

Indianapolis, IN www.w9ims.org
Indianapolis Motor Speedway ARC

W
O
M
A



Selma To Montgomery National Historic Trail
NPOTA TR16



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		DAY	MONTH	YEAR
K4VBM		22	06	2016
UTC	MHz	RST	2-RATE	QSL
0406	7.185	59	SSB	TNX

Grid FN55hg • ITU Zone 8 • CO Zone 5

WC8VOA

CO zone 84 - ITU zone 86 - Qth loc: 287911
Bullitt County



VOICE OF AMERICA
BETHANY RELAY STATION

www.wc8voa.org

72nd ANNIVERSARY
BETHANY RELAY STATION
VOICE OF AMERICA



National Parks
ON THE AIR

2016

www.arri.org



NOUR

UNITED STATES

W4GR

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Box 88
Lithia Springs, GA 30045
770-421-1558



RC 04 - ABBOTS FORD

GEORGIA USA
Gwinnett County



KM4LAO

Ruth Willet
337 Connemara Crossing
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

SK CC
Straight Key Century Club

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

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 ($\geq 50\text{MHz}$)



DX Peditions Ham Radio Amateur Radio



HU1DL El Salvador

2020-02-03 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

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Announced DX Operations: 2020

[\[About AD XO\]](#) [\[AD XO Text Version\]](#) [\[Abbreviations\]](#)
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[Active/Upcoming](#)
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Last updated: Wednesday, 05-Feb-2020 09:31:22 EST

[\[Currently Active Operations\]](#)
[\[Spots provided courtesy of DX Watch\]](#)

Start Date	End Date	DXCC Entity	Call	QSL via	Reported by	Info
2020						
January						
2020 Jan06	2020 Feb29	Belize	V3 <small>(isocal)</small>	LoTW	IDDX 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	6Q1QQ <small>(isocal)</small>	6O100	IDDX 20200113	By EP3CQ fm Mogadishu, 160-6m; SSB CW FT8; 100w, vertical; QSL details @qrz.com
2020 Jan17	2020 Feb29	Aruba	P4 <small>(isocal)</small>	LoTW	IDDX 20200113	By K3DMG as P4K3DMG, 160-12m; CW + digital; no paper QSLs
2020 Jan19	2020 Feb29	DR Congo	9Q1C <small>(isocal)</small>	IK7UXW	IDDX 20200121	By IK7UXW fm Kinshasa; HF; 100w; operation to continue for 2 months
2020 Jan23	2020 Feb07	Guadeloupe	FG <small>(isocal)</small>	LoTW	IDDX 20200127	By F5HRY as FG5HRY, 80-10m, focus on 30 17m; CW, G5RV, dipoles; QSL also OK via F5HRY direct
2020 Jan26	2020 Feb07	Gambia	C5XW <small>(isocal)</small>	G5XW	DXV.Net 20191209	By G5XW, 40-17m, holiday style operation
2020 Jan30	2020 Feb09	Cocos I	T9C <small>(isocal)</small>	LoTW	IDDX 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 <small>(isocal)</small>	LoTW	DXV.Net 20191027	By DH8WR DJ6TF DJ9KH DL1KWK DL2HWA DL2RNS DL4SWA 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

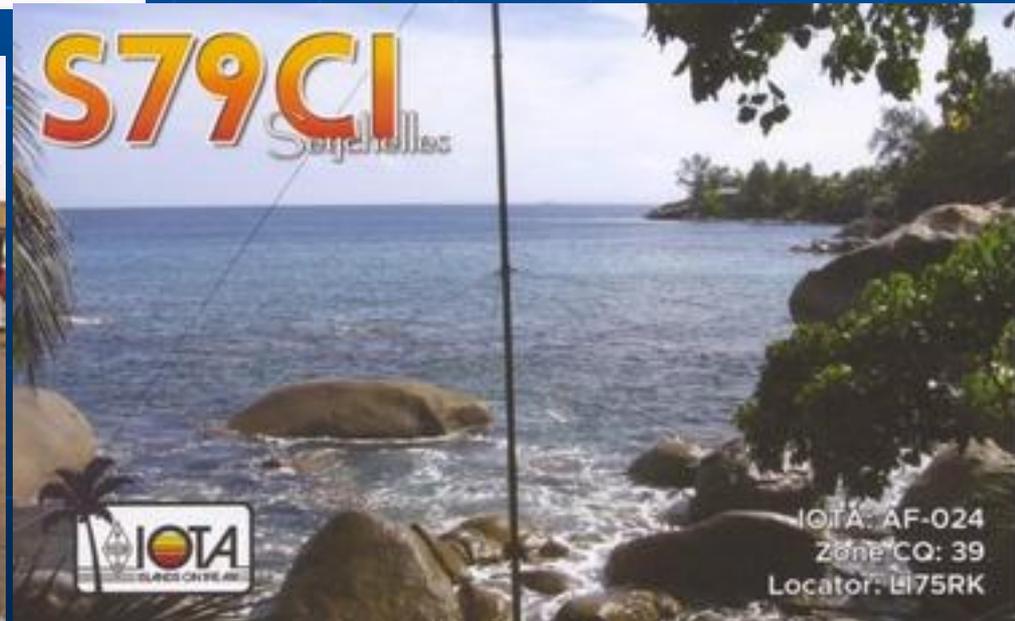
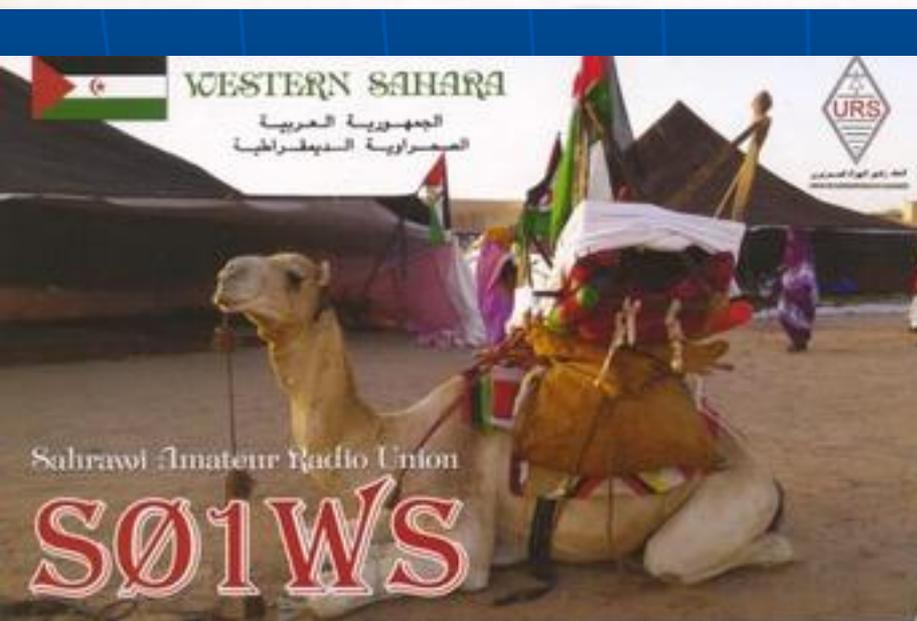
Confirming QSO with	DATE	G.M.T.	Freq	RST	2 Way	Remarks
K4VBM	17 May 2017	05:28	3.576 MHz	-15 dB	JT65	

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

RIG: 10760
ANT: Inverted Vee

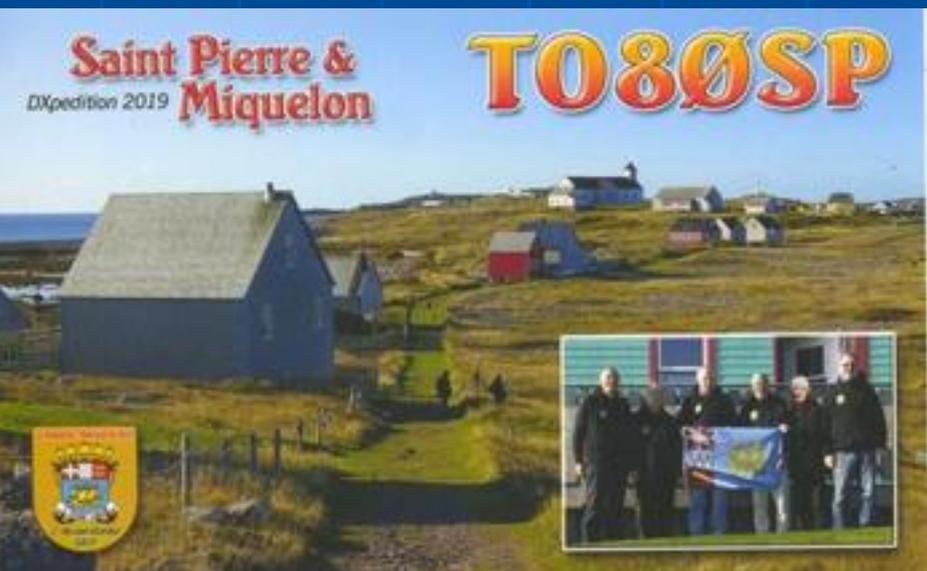
Pse Trx QSL
73s
Horse

Image Courtesy of Ewan Smith, Air Rarotonga Ltd.





Tokelau Islands



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



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 - 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
- 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_COUNT

PROGRAM

PROGRAM

ADIF_VERSION

HEADER_COMMENT

ADIF_FILENAME

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

[Non-070 Progress: [PEX](#) [CTY](#) [WA](#)]

COMPLETED: 4					IN PROGRESS: 17					NOT STARTED	
Award	Last QSO	Have	Target		Award	Last QSO	Have	Target		Award	Last QSO
Leap Year	2020-02-29	1	1		Lower 48	2020-02-29	29	48		Wrk'd All Oz	
24x7 [072]	2020-02-29	85	[072]		Clock and Calendar	2020-02-29	1	1		WABOL 2018	
WAC	2020-01-15	6	6		365 [090]	2020-02-29	54	[090]		Top Band	
Aloha	2017-06-13	1	1		24x7 [120]	2020-02-29	85	[120]		TRI-WARC	
					WALC-NA	2020-01-25	4	5		Ragchewers 3/30	
					PSK GOLF [9]	2020-01-25	6	[9]		QRP Tri-Band	
					China Clipper	2020-01-25	3	5		QRP	
					IOTA [10]	2020-01-15	3	[10]		DakotaDouble	
					WITWIS	2020-01-04	1/13	[4]		Christmas Run 2018	
					VirginiaDouble	2020-01-04	1	2		CarolinaDouble	
					TripleDouble	2020-01-04	1	30		Antarctica	
					88 Tri-Band	2020-01-04	2	3		Alaska	
										Above60	

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)