

QSL cards – They serve as proof of successful contact. Some reflect operator's personalities, others reflect special events, and some document historical events. When I make a contact, I check QRZ if they accept cards, if they don't or if it doesn't say I usually don't send one. I try to keep it simple and only use QRZ.

Special Event Cards – My first set was when I chased the 13 Colonies in July of 2022 that started me looking for historical and other events. Some change their theme each year, so you don't usually get the same cards. They don't all do cards some just do a certificate.

Throughout the year there are special events, some with a single-call sign, some with a set of call signs. Some use their own or club call signs, others get call signs from the FCC, those are always 1 x 1 – K74. You can find information in QST, QRZ, Facebook and ARRL (https://www.arrl.org/special_events/search/page:7/model:Event) <https://1x1callsigns.org/index.php>. [DX Summit](https://www.dxsummit.fi/#/) – useful to track call signs. <http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>. It allows you to select band, mode, specific call sign, and time. 80m & 40m good in the early morning, 30m and above throughout the day.

Here are a few of the special events thought the year:

Louisiana Purchase

NASA Events **NN4SA**

Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald

Foreign Country Battles

Texas Rangers

911 Memorials

Telephone Company

Park Ranger Day

Activities from Midway **NI6IW**

Activities from the Savannah **K3SAV**

Several Famous people birthdays'

Audie Murphy's Birthday

Patsy Cline Birthday

Hedy Lamarr (net) – the inventor of “spread spectrum.”

Lee DeForrest “vacuum tube”

250 Anniversary of America – watch for special events - Cornwall Challenge is currently running.

There are special events that have multiple contacts for you to make and receive special certificates. These can be a challenge – Sometimes they are strictly on SSB and do not work FT8 or CW. Some events have websites, a few offer a schedule which can be helpful, they also offer a checklist to help you track your progress. If not, I create my own list in excel.

Here are some website to find more details:

Lewis & Clark	June 6 – 21-they use their own call signs or their club call signs. Lctota.org
Museum Ships Weekend	June 6 – 7 they use their own call signs. If you get 15 contacts or more you can request a certificate. https://www.nj2bb.org/museum
World Soccer Tournament	June 11 to July 19 – Brand New – they will have a collection of cards and certificate at the end wc2026ses.org
Indy 500 Brickyard	2 races in May and 1 in July – all 3 get certificate W9IMS .
13 Colonies	July 1 – 7 - K2A to K2M and bonus stations GB13COL WM3PEN & TM13COL 13colonies.us
Route 66 Centennial	September 12-20 - W6JBT.org
Fire Safety Week	October - hamfire.com .
Big Foot	October - spells out BIGFOOT (W7B, W7I, etc.) with bonus stations (single card with all contacts listed) w7dk.org
Eisenhower Birthday	October 10 th – 16 th - spells out EISENHOWER gracysoncountyarcs.org
Prickly signals from the Sonoran Desert	November - spells out CACTUS with bonus stations K7RST rstclub.org
MARS (Military Amateur Radio Svc)	November - put on by the Air Force issues a certificate afmars.com (Certificate Search)
12 Days of Christmas	December - usually use the first letter of the day i.e. W2D – Twelve drummers drumming. K2RYD on QRZ

You can also go to 1x1callsigns.org click on Search 1X1 Database and enter only the date(s) and you will see everything that is currently active.

I have made special card for Valentines Day, International Women's Day.

POTA - My husband and I enjoy doing POTA – we take pictures of the area and the sign and design a card unique to that park.

POTA Equipment:

Yaesu FT-991, LDG tuner, laptop, battery, GPS, hot spot for logging, and a telescoping dipole antenna that connects to the trailer hitch. Recently we added a solar panel.

We include a laptop so we can use FT8 with WSJT-X. When it comes to FT8 I don't let it be impersonal – I look people up. I go after special events or special call signs. FT8 seems to get through even under adverse conditions. If cell phone service is available, I use Grid Tracker for logging to QRZ. If I'm looking for someone special, I go into Grid Tracker settings and put the call sign in under Custom Alerts and it tells me when they are on air on that band. If I'm doing a POTA or am portable, I always do a manual log as backup should anything fail, and it has! The GPS location is important, and I use a USB dongle with BKTIMESYNC software as not only is your location important but also your time.

QSL Cards & Cost

Currently my QSL card runs me about \$125 for 1000. Which can last a couple years.

You can also create your own using cardstock and your own design – I use publisher.

Because you are using 2 stamps when you mail out your QSL card it can become costly. I purchased both #6 and #10 envelopes. Some operators do not require SASE so that helps. I spend an average of \$50 a month on stamps and around \$10 on envelopes.

Thanks for your participation today – if you have any questions or would like to contact me you can reach me at:

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