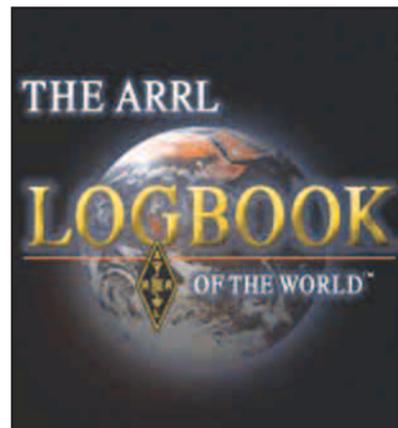

ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) system now supports CQ's Worked All Zones (WAZ) Award. Here are some commonly-asked questions and answers about using LoTW credits to apply for WAZ.



Q&A – Using Logbook of the World for the Worked All Zones Award

BY JOHN BERGMAN,* KC5LK

April 2, 2018, saw the dawn of a new era for the CQ Worked All Zones Award program. That was the day for which many of us had been waiting six years to arrive, the day that filing WAZ applications by using QSOs confirmed by the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) electronic QSLing system became a reality.

The startup has raised many questions that I became aware of during testing and the early days of general use. Many of the questions I have been asked are the result of the applicant being unsure of what is happening when an application is being filed. Some are the result of the way the LoTW database is constructed and how WAZ relates to LoTW. Finally, there is one change to the way paper card applications will be filed and that change relates to the updating of your current WAZ records in the LoTW database. Perhaps a series of questions and answers will be the easiest way to present these issues. This is a new era in WAZ, as it was a few years ago for WPX, but together we can make it work.

Paper Cards and LoTW

Question: I have several paper QSL cards that were approved for DXCC and I can see those cards as confirmed in LoTW, but why don't they show up when I check my WAZ account status page?

Answer: This issue relates to the way that the station location information was completed when setting up TQSL, specifically that the CQ zone was not filled in by the station you contacted. If that station did not enter a zone in his/her TQSL setup, there will be no WAZ match in LoTW. In addition, since DXCC matches do not require a CQ zone, paper cards accepted for DXCC may not have had a zone entered into the database. Without a CQ zone in the system, no LoTW match is possible.

A related question was asked during beta testing. What happens when a station enters his/her zone incorrectly during TQSL setup? For example, a station in British Columbia had his zone listed as Zone 5 but BC is actually in Zone 3. In Detailed View, if the other station does not show a CQ zone, or shows an incorrect zone, then send an email to the QSO partner and request that he create or edit his station

location in TQSL to include his correct CQ zone and resubmit your QSO. In the second case, if an incorrect zone is given, you must submit a hybrid application to me (not a checkpoint) with a note explaining the problem. If I can verify that the stated zone is incorrect, you will be given credit.

Multiple Callsigns

Question: I have recently obtained a vanity callsign. My new call has very few zones confirmed but my old call has many more. Why?

Answer: As with the DXCC award, you must merge all of your callsigns into one callsign record for all of your contacts to be shown together. My suggestion is to merge your old callsign records into the records for your current callsign. If your Account Status page has a "Merge Records" menu, merge your callsigns.

What About eQSL?

Question: Now that WAZ is using LoTW for QSL support can I still use eQSL applications?

Answer: Yes, our relationship with eQSL.cc has not changed.

Application Questions

Question: May I use hybrid applications?

Answer: Yes, and they may be any combination of LoTW, eQSL, and paper cards.

Question: How do I complete the application form when using paper cards for a hybrid application?

Answer: Several years ago, there was an excellent discussion in CQ on preparing applications using eQSL confirmations with CQ applications (March 2009, p. 90). At the time, it was recommended that the letter "E" be used on the award application to designate an electronically-confirmed QSO, rather than filling in the callsign for a paper QSL. The only change I recommend now is that the letter "L" be used in lieu of a callsign if an LoTW QSL is used, with "E" specifically standing for eQSL rather than a generic electronic confirmation. Because I receive applications from both LoTW and eQSL, I may need to know which application to look at for a particular zone.

Question: Do I need to complete a paper application if I use LoTW or eQSL for all of my award contacts?

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Answer: No, both systems send me completed applications. A paper application is needed only when using paper cards for some or all of your claimed QSOs.

Question: I just completed a LoTW application. What should I do now?

Answer: All you need to do is to be patient. Please do not send an email that you have submitted an application because I have already been notified by LoTW. When I get to your application, I will contact you at the email address on the application. At that point, you will need to send me the CQ award fee, which is separate from the LoTW credits fee paid to ARRL. And no, it is not logistically feasible to combine the two fees into a single payment.

Linking and Updating

Question: I sent you a link request, but you did not respond. Why?

Answer: I cannot link your records because there is no separate WAZ database. To link your WAZ records, you must provide me with your records. A discussion on linking may be found by selecting the "LoTW-WAZ info" tab on the <www.kc5lk.com> website.

Question: Why is there an extra step in the WAZ application procedure?

Answer: Excel® spreadsheets are needed to update LoTW. I use the spreadsheet to update LoTW after I complete your application, and I need the paper application for my records. This new step is closely related to Linking (see above).

Care must be taken when filling out the Excel-style spreadsheet application or Request for Update application. The Date and Time fields must be formatted in the following manner: The date must be yyyy-mm-dd, and the time hh:mm:ss. If you do not log seconds, then use 00 as the seconds. Any deviations and the LoTW database will not accept the update.

Thanks and Enjoy!

We hope you enjoy the convenience offered by ARRL and CQ's cooperation to permit the use of LoTW credits for the Worked All Zones award program, and we thank the IT folks at ARRL for their hard work in making this happen; along with Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, for his behind-the-scenes efforts; and the volunteer alpha and beta testers, who helped check things out in advance and make the launch as smooth as possible. I look forward to getting your applications, by whichever means you choose, for WAZ awards and endorsements.