

The 3905 Century Club, Inc.

Frequently Asked Questions

(Newest or most frequently asked questions are highlighted in purple.)

1. **What is the URL for the Club web site?**

The Club web site is located at <http://www.3905ccn.com/>. Always use all lower case.

2. **May I earn awards for operating club calls for which I am NOT the trustee?**

Yes. At the November 2009 Board Meeting it was decided that you may earn awards for operating club calls for which you are not the trustee. All contacts applied toward any such awards must be made by the same operator. Awards for club calls may **NOT** be earned based on contacts made by different operators of that club call. In all cases you must have the permission of the club call trustee to operate the club call and to apply for awards based on that operation.

3. **What standards govern QSLs and QSLing?**

Unless agreed otherwise by the parties involved at the time of the contact, initiating a paper QSL by postal mail via our bureaus for all contacts, without requiring an SASE from the other party, and without waiting for his/her QSL to arrive first, is a **responsibility** and an **obligation** of participation in our nets.

Simple economics – and remembering that a number of our participants are on fixed incomes – suggests that all parties serious about sustained participation in our nets become users of the Club QSL Bureaus and that QSLs be sent via that route because this represents a 10X – 15X savings over individually mailed QSLs, and a 20X – 30X savings over individually mailed QSLs if a SASE is required.

Mobile operators who are generally not able to log while driving will not be able to initiate a QSL because they won't have a record of the contact information, so you should always initiate a QSL to all mobiles you contact with both signal reports and the mobile's location indicated on the card. If the mobile wants a QSL for a club call, indicate the call sign of the mobile operator on the QSL card. If the Mobile Operator doesn't want a card for his club call you can make a note on the card sent to his personal call reminding him you also need a return card for his club call. The mobile operator will return QSL(s) based on the information on the QSL(s) you send.

Please understand that except for mobiles not logging – who have no other choice – it is a losing strategy to wait for a QSL before sending one. If everyone did that then no one would ever get a QSL. It is downright destructive to our Club's fundamental operations to engage in a practice that if engaged in by everyone would result in no QSLs for anyone.

We take QSLing very seriously because it's fundamental to our basic purpose, and we provide very fast, efficient and economical QSL bureaus at no cost other than the SASEs you send to the bureaus, in which your QSLs will be returned.

QSLs sent via the bureaus are sorted daily and QSLs for you are sent to you as soon as your envelope is full, which makes for a very fast turnaround if you are active on our nets. Obviously, if your envelope is only partially filled and you only check in a few times a month, your QSLs will not arrive as quickly as the ones for folks who check in often.

4. **May I obtain a replacement for a lost or damaged award certificate, or just to upgrade to the newer award certificate designs? How?**

Yes. You can order a new award certificate containing the same information as the original certificate by sending the details of the certificate (your call sign as it appears on the certificate, the name of the award, certificate number, date of issuance, band/mode if applicable) and your current mailing address to our Awards Secretary. The price for a reissued award certificate is \$4.00 and you can use the PayPal link on the Club website to pay (please describe in full detail what the payment is for) or you can send a check (no cash please) payable to our Club Treasurer. Send payment, or proof of payment in the form of a PayPal receipt, along with your request to our Club Secretary. Allow about 10 days for processing. See our web site for addresses of club officers.

5. **Can my son/daughter (brother/sister, mother/father, boyfriend/girlfriend, etc), not licensed, or not licensed to use the frequencies on which The 3905CC holds nets, operate on 3905CC nets if I am the control operator?**

Yes, but it will prove to be confusing since contacts made by or with any person who is not permitted use of the frequency by his/her own license are not usable toward Club awards.

6. **Are eQSLs valid for use toward 3905CC Awards?**

Yes. EQSLs have been valid for 3905CC awards since March 2003. Please note however that the use of eQSLs is an individual choice and many choose not to use them or not to even have an eQSL account. If the station you work doesn't have an eQSL account or for other reasons doesn't use eQSLs (and many don't), your eQSL will not be delivered and you will not get an eQSL in return. Those wanting to use eQSL would be wise to make this known in advance, and should be aware that insistence on using only eQSLs will tend to be a bit of an impediment, on average, to making contacts on our nets. EQSLing is very convenient and very inexpensive for the sender, but many feel it shifts the cost and burden of QSLing to the recipient in the form of printing expenses and the time spent printing and cutting eQSLs to size. It's also a problem to the recipient when information needed for award purposes is not on the eQSL card – something eQSL makes somewhat difficult – so if you do use eQSLs, please take the time to do it right and send a usable card with all needed information. **NOTE:** eQSL considers AA1AA, AA1AA /M and AA1AA /P to be three separate call signs requiring three separate eQSL accounts to receive cards sent to those call signs. Therefore, **DO NOT** make the /M or /P a part of the call sign you send the eQSL to; list that status separately along with the other info on the card. **ALSO NOTE:** You cannot send a corrected eQSL unless you change the time of the contact because identical date/time will be seen as a duplicate card and that card will be rejected.

7. **What are “progressive awards” or the “progressive award series?”**

Progressive, or “points” awards, are the awards that are named for the number of points required to earn them; i.e., 100-point, 500-point, 1000-point, 2000-point, and up. If you pursue these awards they must be earned in order, progressively, by net, so they are often referred to as a “progressive award series.”

8. **May I use a contact with a call I've worked before if that call is reissued to a new operator?**

Yes. And for a real example, if you worked Clint E. Wise, W1XN, now a silent key, and Clint A. Wise, who is also W1XN because he was granted his father's call sign, then both contacts are good contacts for award purposes. (It might be a good idea to add a note on the award applications that forbid reuse of calls if you know a call has been reissued.)

9. What are “VIP” or “Officer” points?

Contacts with Club officers, appointees and Net Control stations are usable toward the Officers Award and a few other awards. Each contact may be applied toward each and EVERY office held at time of contact by the person contacted. As one example, a contact with the President of our Club while he’s acting as NCS of a net is good for “two VIP points” or “two Officer Points.” The term “VIP” is no longer the preferred term because Club officers do not really have special privileges or special standing during net operations.

10. May I use contacts made on the Late Nets for awards other than the Nite Owl Award?

Yes. Contacts made on the Late Nets are indistinguishable from contacts made during the corresponding Early Nets except when applying for the Nite Owl Award, which requires contacts only from the Late Net.

11. Is there a list of who is active in the QSL bureaus?

Yes. Our QSL Bureau Managers try to keep an up-to-date list of who is currently using the bureaus. These lists may be queried at <http://radiohome.com/wb5fdp/3905ccn> . You may also download a query program to run on your own computer.

12. I see a difference between an award application from the web page and from our Club Information Officer. Which one is correct?

All current awards applications have a revision date in the lower right corner. The application with the most recent revision date is the correct application and that will always be the one on the Club web site. This situation is not likely to occur unless you compare an application you obtained some time ago with an application currently on our web site. The Information Officer always sends the version of the award that’s on the web site at the time the request is made.

13. How many call signs may one operator check into a net?

An operator may check in with a maximum of three (3) call signs. At least one of those calls must be assigned to the operator by the operator’s national licensing authority. One additional call may be a club call, and one more additional call may be a special event call, with a maximum of three calls. Each of these calls may be checked in on as many state (province/territory, etc) lines as the operator may be operating. Each operator checked in, on his/her turn for a call, is entitled to only one call in any round (not one call per call sign checked in – just one call total) regardless of the number of lines occupied on the check-in list.

14. What are all these different call signs from Canadian stations? Are they good for Club awards?

Yes. Each of those call signs is a different call sign for the purpose of most Club awards – but see the specific requirements for each award. Canada has many special prefixes and other special calls that Canadian stations are permitted to use from time to time. Some of these calls are only available for use for a short time so the best advice is to work them all. Canada is DX and you will need DX contacts for many awards.

15. May I apply for more than one award at a time?

Yes, you may apply for as many as you wish. Cards may be used on multiple awards, just include a note to the Awards Manager. A good example is to submit cards for the 1000-point Award and for Worked All States at the same time using the same cards. You must hold a 100-Point Award on a given band/mode before applying for any other awards on that band/mode, but you may apply for other awards at the same time as you apply for the 100-Point Award.

16. **I operated on the 3905CC nets from a DX country using a different personally held call sign. May I use the cards received along with those received for contacts made with my home call toward Club awards?**
Yes. All cards received for all personal calls you have held are good because Century Club awards are really for the operator rather than the call. A call sign change such as a license upgrade, vanity call, or DX operation using a personally assigned call sign has no effect on your individual awards because contacts made using a personally held call sign, once made, belong to the operator regardless of which of his various personally held call signs was used. Club calls and Special Events calls are exceptions – they are not personally held calls. QSOs made using a club call or special event call may only be applied toward awards for the club or special event call, subject to the rules regarding applying for awards using Club or Special Event calls. To help your Awards Manager, please make a note of your personal call sign changes. You should inform the QSL Bureau Manager(s) of your call sign changes also.
17. **Is it OK to ask on the nets what county or grid square a station is located in?**
No. The 3905CC is not a county hunting net, an island hunting net, a grid square hunting net, etc. It's Club policy to discourage queries of this type because they tend to delay the nets. However, QSLs exchanged as a result of contacts on our nets are usable for anything you see fit, including county hunting, etc. The considerate QSLer includes this information on all of the cards he/she sends as a courtesy to those who may have special interests.
18. **Is there a minimum signal report?**
Yes. The minimum signal report for a valid contact is 21. We follow the standardized RS(T) system of signal reporting and a readability (R) value less than 2 means the signal is unreadable and is an invalid report.
19. **To be on a state line must the vehicle or station antenna be right on the line?**
No. In many cases it can be difficult to determine the exact location of a state line, because boundaries aren't always marked and maps don't always show exact locations. Also, placing yourself exactly on a state line can sometimes represent a safety risk to yourself or others. A best good faith effort by the operator to place himself on the line is required. With that done, the Board of Directors has decided that if an operator declares a station to be on a state line, then it will be accepted that the station is on a state line. However, "wet lines" – where the line is in a river or other body of water – are not permitted under any circumstances. Wet lines are just plain not counted – **no exceptions** – even if you're operating safely from a boat. Also note, when it comes to declaring yourself as being on a line, a statement saying, "I'm 50 feet from the line" is the same as saying "I'm NOT on the line." If you know for a fact you are 50 feet (or even just 5 feet) from the line and can get closer practically and safely, then you need to get closer. If you're as close as you can practically and safely get, then you need to just say, "I'm on the line."
20. **Is there a logical strategy when working toward the progressive (points) awards?**
Yes, and it's outlined in the current progressive award application documents. The basic thing to remember is that once a QSL card has been applied toward any progressive award you CANNOT use that card again on other progressive awards in the same series – meaning on the same net (band and mode). A quick look over the 100-pt application indicates that filling every blank will accumulate far more than 100 points. You only need 100 points. So when deciding what cards and categories to use, you need to pick contact categories that are either not needed for later progressive awards, or are easy to obtain more of to use on later awards. The strategy is to NOT "waste" a card on your 100-pt award that you are more likely to have a greater need of later for your 500-pt or 1000-pt awards unless that category of contact is reasonably easy to make. A quick look over the 500-pt

and 1000-pt applications indicates there is no State Capital category on either of them. So... if you have ten State Capital contacts (preferably fixed or portable, not mobile) with relatively easy to get states and fairly common call sign prefixes, use those cards on your 100-pt award for ten points each – a total of the 100 points you need – and be done with it. If you have more than 10 contacts with State Capitals, use the ones from the easy to get states, and with the most common, easy to get prefixes, since you need 5 different prefixes from EACH of the lower 48 states for the 1000-pt award. DON'T use any contact you might have with AK or HI on the 100-Point or 500-Pt awards since you need those on the 1000-pt award and they're rather hard to get. Delaware can be hard too, plus a few others depending on where you're located and which band you're using. Simply put, don't use any hard to get category on your 100-Point Award application if that same category is required on the 500-Pt or 1000-Pt awards.

If you've gotten this far and don't have 100 points with State Capitals alone and want to go ahead with the 100-Point application anyway, you might want to use: 2-letter calls – but don't use ones with rare prefixes or from AK or HI, or mobiles. You can also use combos and/or YLs – with the same reservations as above. Also DX – but remember you need 15 minimum from at least 5 countries for the 1000-pt award and you're allowed to use up to 10 on the 500-pt. You will be far better off saving those even if you have enough because you may want to use them on the 2000-Pt Award if you continue on.

Your best strategy is probably to get applications for 100-Point, 500-Point and 1000-Point and back-fill the 500-Point with cards you don't need for the 1000-Point, then apply for both at the same time. Also, you may find it convenient to apply for WAS at the same time as you apply for your 1000-Point Award by fully completing a WAS Award application and sending it in at the same time. This avoids sending in 50 cards twice. "Fully completing" means you write all the call signs on the WAS application, not just make a reference to the 1000-Point Award.

And finally, if you intend to go on to earn 2,000-Point (or higher) awards, each of these require meeting the requirements for the 100, 500 and 1,000-Point Awards all over again, so the same strategy applies the second (and later) time around.

21. **Reserved**

If anything in this FAQ conflicts with the most current Club bylaws or with the most current awards applications, the bylaws and awards applications will prevail over this FAQ. Before reporting a conflict, please make sure you really do have the most current documents and then mention the revision dates of the conflicting documents when reporting conflicts. Please bring any conflicts found, or any other questions, to the attention of our Club Information Officer:

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Postal Mail: Jim Higgins, KB3PU, 210 Mallard Drive, Sumter, SC 29150-3181