

How do I?

An occasional series



This week: QRZ? No-QRZ!

Long time readers of this space will see there are many articles on radios, antennas, and other tips and tricks for operating. See <https://www.radioclub-carc.com/resources/> for more articles.

QRZ.com is an online call book, space for amateur radio licensees to tell the world about themselves and a log book. A basic listing is free, but for more services, you may want to purchase a subscription.

Elsewhere in this series we have discussed paper callbooks. QRZ.com [Callsign Database - QRZ.com](#) is probably about 20 years old. The name comes from the amateur radio shorthand for who's calling? QRZ automatically downloads call sign information for US amateurs and possibly Canadian. They may automatically include others. The website is vague, probably for competitive reasons. Foreign licensees may ask QRZ to include them.

QRZ is used by hams to look up contacts, get addresses for sending QSL cards, see the other guy's location on a map, and so forth. Before QRZ.com existed, when two strangers met on the air, common questions were asked, such as what radio are you using? What antenna? Where are you? Now it is common to hear "I see on your QRZ page..."

If you are brand new to the hobby, about three days after your FCC call sign becomes active, you will appear in QRZ.com

Your basic entry will list you as a ham member and provide basic data: call sign, name, address, license class and expiration date. If you activate the account, **(FREE!)** you can personalize it with some basic data such as your QSL preferences: by mail, LOTW, Bureau, eQSL, and the like. You can add a biography. This is be simple, or fancy. Fancy includes photos. Simple is straight forward who you are.

Some items people include:

- Your history and your interests in ham radio (kit building, QRP, DXing, contests, volunteer examiner (VE) , public service, the options keep going.)
- A lot of hams have similar hobbies. You can list your other hobbies as well. Photography, weather, astronomy, stamp collecting, camping and hiking, cars, planes, chasing trains.

- Awards you have received.
- Photos of your shack, family, places you have visited.
- Clubs or organizations besides amateur radio to which you belong: Scouting, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Masons, American Legion, volunteer fire department. You get the idea.

The logbook feature is used for hams to record the QSOs. QRZ has their own awards program modeled along the lines of programs operated by the ARRL and CQ Magazine. The awards seem to be automatic, based on a Club Log type survey of your QRZ log. If you like wall paper, the QRZ log could be very useful. To a certain extent, the awards are gamification of radio, very similar to the Parks On The Air (POTA) awards. They start with "easy pickings"- working 25 other QRZ members world wide and advance to more challenging awards for working all continents, US states, US counties, DXCC.

You can also incorporate other logging programs, such as Club Log into your QRZ profile. There are some widgets that add Parks On the Air (POTA) stats, map of Maidenhead grid squares worked..

Popular logging software such as the N3FJP Amateur Contact Log, not only readily facilitate call sign lookups from the QRZ database, but also upload your Amateur Contact Log data to your QRZ log. To do this, you must purchase a XML Logbook data subscription from QRZ. As I write this, the cost of the subscription is \$35.95 per year.

When Linked In became mainstream a few years ago, a friend told me "you are not a real professional if you are not on Linked In".

QRZ.com has become pretty much the same way. If you are not found in the QRZ database, you do not exist, as far as many US operators are concerned.

Premium subscriptions: A premium subscription currently costs \$45.95 for one year. It includes the XML package and the ability to turn off banner advertising on the site.

The Platinum package is \$79.95 per year. It includes all enhancements previously listed as well as a free call sign certificate and custom webpage design for your QRZ.com page.

Power user? Award chaser? Want everything already mentioned and some more goodies? Such as getting the \$24.95 operating award certificate you earned for "free"? Then the \$995.00 Lifetime package maybe what you want.

I do not have the actual numbers, but I expect well over 90% of the QRZ.com users are either entry-level ham members, or they fulfill their wildest dreams using only the XML package.

Good friend Steve, N3FWE and others advocate for an informative QRZ.com page.



Steve’s page features a photo showing his strong interest in portable operations and the Appalachian Trail.

He includes a brief description of himself, his station, his accomplishments in the hobby. A link to the home page of his favorite ham radio club: <https://www.radioclub-carc.com/>

And a snip of his ClubLog, which is updated by N3FJP logging software.

		Worked	Confirmed	Log Search	
N3FWE		242	176	<input type="text"/>	Go
DX Call	Date	Band	Mode	Entity	
HC1M	2023-10-28	10M	FT8	ECUADOR	
V26B	2023-10-28	10M	SSB	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	
CN3A	2023-10-28	15M	SSB	MOROCCO	
TM3Z	2023-10-28	15M	SSB	FRANCE	
E7DX	2023-10-28	15M	SSB	BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	
A25R	2023-10-28	15M	FT8	BOTSWANA	
A25R	2023-10-28	12M	FT8	BOTSWANA	
PI4COM	2023-10-28	10M	SSB	NETHERLANDS	
A25R	2023-10-28	10M	FT8	BOTSWANA	
S50G	2023-10-28	15M	SSB	SLOVENIA	
CR6K	2023-10-28	15M	SSB	PORTUGAL	
9A5Y	2023-10-28	15M	SSB	CROATIA	
TI1E	2023-10-28	40M	SSB	COSTA RICA	
TI1T	2023-10-28	40M	SSB	COSTA RICA	
4A7T	2023-10-28	40M	SSB	MEXICO	
V26B	2023-10-28	40M	SSB	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	
V47T	2023-10-28	40M	SSB	SAINT KITTS & NEVIS	
PJ2T	2023-10-28	40M	SSB	CURACAO	
ZF1A	2023-10-28	40M	SSB	CAYMAN ISLANDS	
VP5M	2023-10-28	40M	SSB	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	

To view his full page

[N3FWE - Callsign Lookup by QRZ Ham Radio](#)

Also check out our club's profile (Cumberland Amateur Radio Club – CARC) as another example. Our club station call sign is K3IEC.

<https://www.qrz.com/db/K3IEC>

With the arrival of Autumn the days become more conducive to staying on the warm side of the wall. This is a great opportunity to take a few minutes and review your QRZ.com page.

In the business world, my colleagues and I are often told – “You only get one chance to make a good first impression”.

Ask yourself: “Is my QRZ.com page presenting the positive image I want to project to the world?”

If not, spending 10-15 minutes will easily correct this. You can tell your story for free! Free can be good!

Catch 'ya on the air!