

QSOCardCreator — Card Creation for the Modern Ham

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A QSL card is a written confirmation of a two-way radio contact (QSO) between two amateur radio operators — essentially a postcard commemorating the contact. I've always enjoyed receiving QSL cards because they trigger memories far more vividly than flipping through old logbooks does.

As someone who frequently operates portable in the field, I've had the pleasure of making many rewarding contacts. I wanted to send QSLs to everyone I worked — especially those chasing parks, summits, or even counties. For some operators, I was their first VE contact! But after 100 contacts, managing QSLs became a chore.

With the rise of digital tools and increasing postal costs, many operators — including myself — have turned to electronic QSLs (eQSLs). I first discovered *QSO-CardCreator* after receiving an eQSL from Stuart, VE9CF, just hours after his POTA activation. I immediately thought, "I want that. I need that."

What Is QSOCardCreator?

QSOCardCreator is a light-weight Windows-based application designed by Robert Simoneau, N1ET, to automate and personalize

the process of sending eQSL cards. A MacOS version is in the works and should be released in the second half of 2026. Robert was frustrated as he was working on his Worked All States award and needed to confirm the contacts — if the station doesn't upload their logs, then the state confirmation is null. This program allowed him to send eQSL cards right away and then easily follow up to get a verification for his award submission. It integrates with **www.qrz.com** XML data (a subscription is required) to pull contact details

Bottom Line

The *QSOCardCreator* software is a well-designed, purpose-built tool that makes eQSL card creation and sending via email fast, customizable, and painless.

The screenshot shows the QSOCardCreator v11.6.0.0 interface. At the top is a table with columns: PKKey, Callsign, ContactDate, ContactTime, Band, Mode, QSOFlags, RST_Sent, Frequency, Power, and RST_Recvd. The table contains three rows of contact data.

PKKey	Callsign	ContactDate	ContactTime	Band	Mode	QSOFlags	RST_Sent	Frequency	Power	RST_Recvd
5250	W1AW	2025-05-06	21:07:05	40m	SSB		59	7.163000		59
5251	W1AW	2025-05-06	21:07:30	20m	SSB		59	14.200000		59
5252	AD2CD	2025-05-06	21:07:33	20m	SSB		59	14.200000		59
5253	VE3LBI	2025-05-06	21:07:39	20m	SSB		59	14.200000		59

Below the table is a control bar with buttons for 'Send E-Mail', 'Search for Callsign', 'Search', 'Comment', 'Default', 'Exclude sent already', 'Select Card', and 'Sync DB'. The main area displays a personalized eQSL card for VE3IPS (John Leonardelli, Maple, Ontario, L6A 2M2, Canada). The card features a photo of a car in a snowy field, various ham radio logos (ARRL, POTA, etc.), and the text 'LIFE IS SIMPLE EAT SLEEP HAM RADIO'. At the bottom of the card is a 'Confirming QSO With' table:

Confirming QSO With	Year	Month	Day	UTC Time	Band	Report	Mode
W1AW	2025	05	06	21:07	40m	59	SSB

Additional text on the card includes 'TKS for POTA. I enjoy activating Parks, P2P & eating Pizza Slices in the Parks' and 'ITU: 1 CQ:4 Grid: FN03fa'. On the right side of the interface, there is a 'Record Count: 8 Selected: 1' indicator, a photo of a house, and contact information for W1AW (Arri Hq Operators Club, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, E-mail Address: w1aw@arrl.org, QRZ DATA button, Max Comment Length: 80).

(including email addresses) and sends an introductory email with your custom message and eQSL card attached as a JPEG. You can even send the eQSL card during a ragchew.

It's fast, simple, and flexible enough to support different eQSL card images for confirming a wide variety of amateur radio activities like contests, Field Day, POTA, SOTA, DXpeditions, and special event stations. These activities always have lots of contacts to manage.

For example, I created a card featuring my -25°C snowy POTA activation — a fun memory of frozen fingers and toes (see the lead photo).

There are also various administration tasks available for viewing, editing log files, and database backup. You can even blacklist repeat contacts (like POTA hunters you've worked 10+ times) to prevent sending duplicate cards.

The setup tab allows customization and is also where we populate our **www.qrz.com** account information and XML key. I can create the introductory email message with the contact's first name and customize the body of the email message. It has a useful email test mode to send cards to yourself as you adjust your card.

The key component is the card image configuration file. You will need to read the manual to understand the image commands, but it's a lot easier using the configuration file that Robert creates for you as a reference. This file allows you to define the image you are using and the global variable legend data overlays. Date, time, RST, band, and mode are available, but I can also add MYPARK and YOUR-PARK information from the log file to populate the card. The program uses 1800 x 1200 JPEG image files. I can now send custom QSL cards from my ADIF log file in minutes (see Figure 7).

Integration and Workflow

QSOCardCreator supports integration with popular logging software like N3FJP's *Amateur Contact Log*, *Ham Radio Deluxe*, and *Log4OM*. You can also import standard ADIF files from logging apps like PoLo and HAMRS. Each ADIF file is added to the program's internal database, and the software tracks which contacts have received an eQSL.

My typical workflow looks like this:

- Activate a POTA or WWFF park and make ~150 contacts using PoLo or HAMRS on my phone or tablet.
- Export the ADIF log file to my Gmail address.
- Download it from my email, and upload the log to POTA and WWFF sites and **www.qrz.com**.
- QRZ Log and Map Viewer will pull data from **www.qrz.com**.
- Import the same ADIF log into *QSOCardCreator*.
- Select a pre-made eQSL card, add a custom message, and hit **SEND**.

Customization and Design

When you purchase *QSOCardCreator*, Robert provides a professionally designed custom card. After that, it's easy to modify and save new card templates and use your images. The website shows samples of many beautiful QSL cards, and if you are a photography buff, then this combines two hobbies in one.

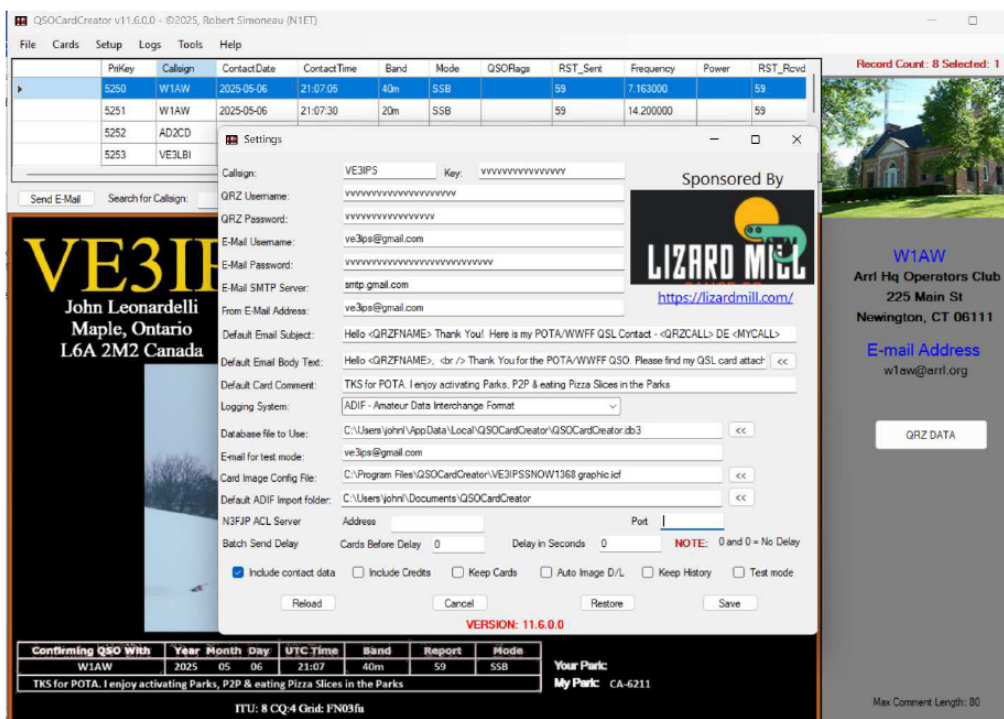


Figure 7 — The *QSOCardCreator* software configuration screen.

A Real-World Example

I operated as P4/VE3IPS in Aruba during CQWW SSB and a POTA/WWFF activation. I made many contacts during my stay and created a unique, location-themed eQSL using Photoshop and then loaded it onto *QSOCardCreator*. It was easy and fast, and I hope it leaves an impression on my contacts. A few days later, recipient QSL cards trickled back to my email inbox, adding verifications easily.

User Experience

QSOCardCreator is intuitive and focused. The interface is clean, and the workflow — from importing logs to sending cards — is smooth. It avoids feature bloat and instead focuses on doing one thing exceptionally well: generating and sending eQSL cards. Even if you're not particularly tech-savvy, you'll find this software easy to use.

Several updates have been released, with the upgrade process very simple. I had no software crashes, hang-ups, or lost data to contend with.

It does not integrate with Logbook of The World®, so those who need that should contact Robert, N1ET, for a feature request.

Final Thoughts

QSOCardCreator isn't trying to replace your logging software. Instead, it complements it with powerful eQSL functionality. Whether you're a casual operator or a serious contester, this is a smart, streamlined solution for modern QSLing.

Manufacturer: Robert J. Simoneau, N1ET, www.n1et.com. Price: software, \$50; additional custom card, \$20.