

# WARC Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter of the Wantagh Amateur Radio Club

October, 2004

**Meeting Notice:** The next monthly meeting of the Wantagh Amateur Radio Club will be held at **7:00 P.M.** on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Wantagh Public Library. W2VA QSL cards and special event station certificates will be discussed, along with participation in the upcoming Bellmore Street Fair.

## WARC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – September 13th, 2004.

Vic K2IY, president, opened the meeting at 8:10 PM. All officers were present.

The minutes of the August meeting were accepted as read by the secretary, Bill N2RRX.

Chris KC2FBW, treasurer, reported \$ 103.92 as the current balance.

DX Report by Len KB2HK:

No report was available for tonight, however, he noted that there was a great deal of hurricane related traffic. Al K2ES noted that the bands seemed good today.

*Continued on Page 2 ▶*

## How to Design and Print Your Own QSL Cards

So you want to design and print your own QSL cards? Electronic Logbooks such as DXLog, WriteLog, DX4Win and others have the facility to print labels. The programs can be adjusted to print any number of labels per page or one label per page and in fact print directly onto the QSL card. Most inkjet printers and laser printers will accept and print 3.5" x 5.5" cards, the standard QSL size, fed into the printer short side in, as long as the card stock used is not too thick. OK, this will solve part of the problem, but what about creating the actual card?

Several years ago graphics programs were the domains of the professional printing houses, but today you can buy Corel Draw or Microsoft Publisher and other graphics programs relatively cheaply to design your own QSL cards. There are specific QSL design programs available on the Internet, but their designs are based on filling out a QSL with pen and ink. Here are a few websites to check for such programs, and more may be available from a GOOGLE search:

<http://hamradiosoftware.com/HAM/qsldes.html>  
<http://www.rsars.org.uk/qsldiy.htm>  
<http://www.df3cb.com/bv/bvfeatures.html>

Recently, I used Microsoft Publisher 2000 to

*Continued on Page 3 ▶*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 General Meeting Minutes
- 1 QSL Cards
- 2 Minutes - Continued
- 3 QSL Cards, Continued

OLD BUSINESS:

Vic reported that he contacted the Bellmore Chamber of Commerce regarding the street fair. He received an application, and the dates are Oct. 15th, 16th and 17th. He expressed our interest in attending on all three days. Sid K2LJH suggested that we contact George N2GA for ARRL materials to use as giveaways. Vic said he would schedule a meeting before those dates to finalize the plans.

Al K2ES reported that he had been in touch with the local papers. However, he had to get back to them for more information.

Sid K2LJH reported that Dianne Ortiz K2DO would speak at our October meeting about Public Relations for Amateur Radio.

Ralph WP4KO is negotiating with the library about having a live ham radio demonstration one weekend.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Frank N2RSO thanked the club for the floral bouquet sent to his wife following surgery. The flowers lasted 3 weeks.

Sid K2LJH reported that Lew W2BIE was just admitted to the hospital in critical condition.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vic K2IY announced the formation of a nominating committee as required by the club's constitution. The following members volunteered: Ralph WP4KO, Sid K2LJH, and Frank N2RSO.

Ralph WP4KO suggested that the club design and print a QSL card for radio contacts made on meeting nights from our "Rig-in-a-box".

The meeting was closed at 8:56 PM.

Several members used the club's radio, while we all enjoyed our coffee and donuts.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill N2RRX, Secretary ♦

## QSL Cards, Continued

design several W2VA QSL cards for our club. There are many advantages to this program; among them the ability to either simply print them for pen & ink fill-ins, or, by using the “mail-merge” feature, print the data directly on the cards after creating a database from your log entries. The program also allows an image to be imported into the card as a background, with additional images, logos, text, etc. used in the foreground. You don’t have to be an artist or graphics designer since QSL cards are not difficult to plan and organize, and you may have many examples already in your collection with which you can plagiarize for ideas. It’s a simple matter to copy the best of the designs and adapt them to your needs. Images can be found all over the Internet simply by doing a GOOGLE “Image” search for the required subject.

Original photos from a digital camera, or scanned snapshots can also be used either for background or foreground images. The text boxes can easily be created using Microsoft Excel, and digitally copied and pasted into the card. You can also insert other text messages, i.e., home address, email address, county, grid square, etc., directly onto the card from within the program. When you have all your data in place, you can save your file, and then use it as a template to create new cards, changing the images, text, etc. to suit your preferences. When you have completed the design(s) you can save your work to files, then either print your cards on a glossy or matte card stock suitable for mailing. Enjoy!

Here are some samples that I created as prototypes for the club. ~~~~~ Frank Porcaro, N2RSO

**The Wantagh Amateur Radio Club**

P.O. Box 251  
MASSAPEQUA NY 11758  
USA (KI2M Trustee)  
Nassau County  
Grid Square: FN30gq

**- New York -**

**W2VA**

Operating portable from Wantagh, Long Island NY, with an Icom IC-745 rig into a portable dipole antenna. Please visit our web-site at [www.qsl.net/w2va](http://www.qsl.net/w2va).

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	Day	DATE	Year	UTC	FREQUENCY	RST	MODE
Remarks:							

73, de .....  
☐ PSE ☐ QSL ☐ TNX ☐

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**The Wantagh Amateur Radio Club - W2VA**  
P.O. Box 251  
MASSAPEQUA NY 11758

Thank you for the recent QSO with one of our members. Our club is one of the oldest amateur radio clubs, if not THE oldest, on Long Island. Meetings of the Wantagh Amateur Radio Club are held on the second Friday of every month, at 8:00PM in the Wantagh Public Library, 3285 Park Avenue near Wantagh Avenue. The library is located about two blocks northwest of the Wantagh LIRR Station. The meetings are informal, and last from one to two hours. Visitors, both hams and other persons interested in ham radio, are invited to attend. Coffee tea and doughnuts usually are served after the business meeting and before any presentations from guest speakers. If you're ever in our area during a monthly meeting, please join us for conversation and refreshments.

\_\_\_\_\_/ Name / \_\_\_\_\_ / Callsign /

Stamp

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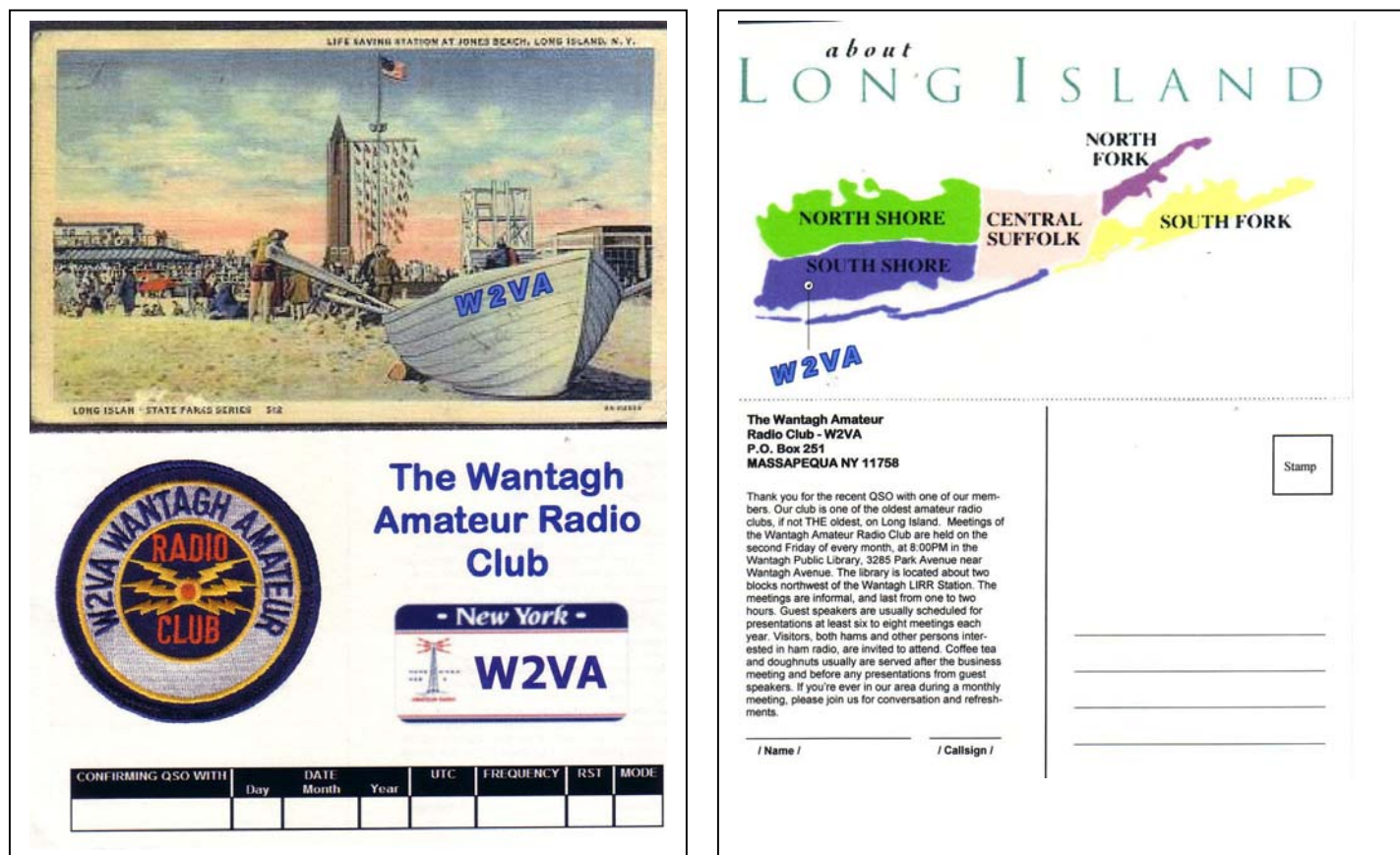
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This is an example of a double-sided QSL card that folds in the center.

The WARC Newsletter, an official publication of The Wantagh Amateur Radio Club, is edited and published monthly by Frank Porcaro, N2RSO.

The Wantagh Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Friday of each month at the Wantagh Public Library. Directions to the library, along with notices of meeting changes, invited speakers, demonstrations, etc. can be found at the club's website at <http://www.qsl.net/w2va/home.htm>. Visitors, both hams and other persons interested in amateur radio, are invited to attend. Coffee tea and doughnuts usually are served after the business meeting and before any presentations from guest speakers.

Frank Porcaro, N2RSO, Editor