

# HRU2021

Overview of Ham Radio Logging programs  
Tom Carrubba KA2D

# INTRODUCTION

- ◆ ...from ARRL
- ◆ The reasons for logging your amateur activity fall into three categories: legal, operational and personal. Legally, a log of your transmissions would be invaluable in providing details in an interference complaint. Operationally, having a log of past contacts is a resource when filling out that DX QSL card that may have taken months to arrive. Personally, a log is like a personal radio history reminding you of the people and places you've talked to, the nets you participated in and contests you worked.

# WHAT's IN A LOG

◆ Information needed for your log.

**DATE, TIME in UTC, CALLSIGN, Frequency/BAND, MODE, Signal report.**  
**Optional notes: Power output, name of contact, QTH and rigs, antenna etc....**

**For DX contacts; QSL route, direct, Buro , QSL Manager or online QSL service.**

**This is also good for Stateside (WAS), (VUCC) awards**

# PAPER or COMPUTER

- ❖ The hardcopy paper logbook is the traditional keeper of the contacts. Searching contacts through paper logs is very time consuming especially if you have many logbooks..

[illegible]

# PAPER or COMPUTER

- ❖ **Computer logging programs are widely available. There are many choices freeware or commercial in PC or MAC format. Also for your cellphone..**

**Computer logging programs are configurable and can keep track of a wide range of your logged information. Many include tools to control modern software controllable radios, antenna rotors and other station functions and devices.**

**Computer logging programs will automatically log the date, time and when used with rig control track frequency/band, mode. No need to keep calendars and clocks..**

**When linked online you can connect to the worldwide spotting networks. Your logging program will alert when a new DX is needed. It will also alert you to new band/mode.. With a click it will insert the needed call into your program.. And provide detailed information for that call, like beam heading, distance, sunrise/sunset.**

# ADVANTAGE of COMPUTER LOGGING

**Computer logging programs will log the date, time and when used with rig control track frequency/band, mode. No need to keep calendars and clocks**

**Ease of tracking QSLs sent and received; easy lookup**

**Callsign lookup from CD or online like QRZ, HAMCALL, HAMQTH and other available services.**

**Easy Tracking of awards; WAS, VUCC, DXCC, WAZ, IOTA, Parks on the Air, US Counties and host of other awards available.**

**Export/Import to LoTW, Clublog, eQSL. and QRZ**

# POPULAR LOGGING PROGRAMS

- ◇ **Amateur Radio Contact Log by N3FJP** - Easy to use, well written contact logging program.
- ◇ **DXLab by AA6YQ** - Integrated suite of programs for logging and station management
- ◇ **Log4OM by IW3HMH** – Complete Logging program
- ◇ **Logger32 by K4CY**- a 32bit logging program
- ◇ **DX4Win** - Comprehensive logging software for Windows
- ◇ **Ham Radio Deluxe** – Integrated suite of programs for logging and station management
- ◇ Listing of the many programs along with details, links and reviews;  
<https://www.eham.net/reviews/> see **Ham Logging Software**

# LOGGER SETUP

- ◆ Every Logger Program needs to be setup with your personal information.
- ◆ NAME along with City and State
- ◆ CALLSIGN
- ◆ LOCATORS: \*TIME ZONE, LAT/LONG, GRID SQUARE, CQ AND ITU ZONE.  
This info can be found on sites like QRZ or HAMCALL...
  - \* FOR RIG CONTROL: RADIO ID, RADIO BAUD RATE, COMPUTER COMPORT.
  - \*Radio info will be in the manual.ComPort info will be displayed in your computer's device manager.
- ◆ Each program will also have a list of preferences..  
Bands, modes to name a few..



# WHAT YOU SEE

Logger Window

Stations Needed >

DX Spots >



All Windows are  
configured by user

Station Worked Before  
Talk Messages  
CW Keyer  
Digital Keyer - various  
modes

country

< Grayline Map

# IMAGE of AWARDS TRACKING

**DXKeeper Realtime Award Tracking**

DXCC, Challenge, Top | Marathon | WAZ

Award Progress: 336 current DXCC entities [Filter: by progress]

|   | Prefix | Entity | Phone | CW | RTTY | PSK | 160M | 80M | 40M | 30M | 20M | 17M | 15M | 12M | 10M | 6M | 2M |
|---|--------|--------|-------|----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
|   | SV-A   | V      | V     | V  | V    |     |      | V   | V   |     | V   | W   | V   | W   | V   |    |    |
|   | T2     | V      | V     | V  | V    |     |      | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   |    |    |
|   | T30    | V      | V     | V  | V    |     | C    | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   |    |    |
| ▶ | T31    | V      | V     | V  | V    |     | W    | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   |    |    |
|   | T32    | V      | V     | V  | V    |     | V    | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   |    |    |
|   | T33    | V      | V     | V  | V    |     |      | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   |    |    |

**Award Progress Filter**

Band: ANY | ☐ Unworked | ☐ Worked | ☐ Requested | ☐ Confirmed | ☒ Verified | All

Mode: MIXED | ☐ Include deleted DXCC entities | Report

**T31 (Central Kiribati) Progress Details**

|       | 160M | 80M | 40M | 30M | 20M | 17M | 15M | 12M | 10M | 6M | 2M |
|-------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| PHONE |      | V   | W   |     | W   |     | W   |     | V   |    |    |
| CW    | W    |     | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   | V   |     |    |    |
| RTTY  |      |     |     |     |     |     | V   |     |     |    |    |
| PSK   |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |

Summary

Config

Help

**Key**

- W - worked
- Q - queued
- R - requested
- C - confirmed
- V - verified

# TYPICAL LOGGER WINDOW

DXKeeper Capture @ 8/27/2018 11:51:54 Z

|               |                                   |            |          |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------|
| call          | ? P5DX                            | DXCC       | ? P5     |
| RST sent/rcvd | 599 500                           | mode       | ? CW     |
| name          |                                   | tx freq    | ? 14.005 |
| QTH           |                                   | rx freq    | 14.006   |
| pri sub       | ?                                 | sec sub    | ?        |
| QSL requested | <input type="checkbox"/> via      | cont       | AS       |
| use bureau    | <input type="checkbox"/> grid 1   | CQ -- ITU  | 25 44    |
| LotW member   | <input type="checkbox"/> IOTA     | az -- path | S        |
| eQSL AG       | <input type="checkbox"/> pwr 1500 | myQTH ID   |          |

Lookup Spot End began 11:47:41 Z Clear Log

# DX Spotting Network

Spider User VE7CC-7 @ VE7CC-1

Configuration Set Help

Connected to VE7CC-1 Disconnect Sunset 08 May -1:52 01:44:41

BER^HA7UG^226^69^AB5K^8^5^28^15^MA^^CT-Connecticut-W^Hungary-HA^FN32^JN97  
User UK2UK has logged out

Settings Country State Bands Locals = 27 DX WWV Login Msg Ann Wx Mail

| Spotter | Freq    | DX          | Time  | Comments                   |
|---------|---------|-------------|-------|----------------------------|
| U01AU   | 7004.0  | HC1MD       | 0138Z |                            |
| AD1C    | 7237.0  | WA1ENO      | 0139Z | Plymouth, MA (also WB1ARU) |
| W2YJ    | 28476.5 | ZL4PW       | 0139Z | 10m open!!!                |
| PY2D0   | 1817.5  | EW60IG      | 0139Z | tnx                        |
| AA3B    | 3517.8  | SN8F        | 0138Z | ARI                        |
| W0FLS   | 14020.5 | PY1CE       | 0143Z |                            |
| N5CRO   | 21308.0 | UK1CW       | 0141Z |                            |
| G8UHB   | 3768.0  | 9A4D        | 0141Z |                            |
| K4KWK   | 7012.0  | IR4T        | 0140Z | TEST, 599 PLUS 30 IN TN    |
| G8UHB   | 3773.0  | IQ3AZ       | 0141Z | GO                         |
| G8UHB   | 3786.0  | IQ2CJ       | 0141Z | MI                         |
| Y02LDC  | 1832.9  | SU5/DJ5AA/P | 0141Z |                            |
| AA3B    | 3510.1  | ON6NR       | 0139Z | ARI                        |
| W2RQ    | 7070.0  | IK0PHY      | 0141Z | qsx 7215 for stateside..   |
| W2XYZ   | 7041.5  | K1ZZ        | 0140Z | NEQP                       |
| W9YK    | 28430.0 | XE1ZGG      | 0143Z |                            |
| HA7UG   | 7037.0  | K1TTT       | 0144Z | MA- BER                    |











Chat Fix Spots Set Alarm Clear ALL Announce Send Spot Get Spots ALL

| ALL                   |    | 85 |
|-----------------------|----|----|
| 160                   | 7  | 7  |
| 80                    |    | 22 |
| 40                    | 29 | 29 |
| 20                    | 5  | 5  |
| 15                    | 11 | 11 |
| 10                    | 11 | 11 |
| Alarm                 |    |    |
| Minor Radio Blackouts |    |    |
| SA: Eruptive          |    |    |
| GMF: Quiet            |    |    |
| Aurora                |    |    |
| SFI=110 A=17 K=4      |    |    |

# DX Spotting Network Window

☒ Auto Connect   DX de N5CR:   18069.8   TN5E   TNX FM WA   1735Z   (275/275)

Cluster   Spots

|  | UTC          | Call     | Frequency | Band | Mode | Name               | DX de  | Country               |
|--|--------------|----------|-----------|------|------|--------------------|--------|-----------------------|
|   | Fri 17:35:09 | TN5E     | 18.06980  | 17M  | CW   | Kenneth            | N5CR   | Republic of the Congo |
|   | Fri 17:35:07 | 7S9AT    | 28.46690  | 10M  | USB  | Kristoffer         | SQ8N   | Sweden                |
|   | Fri 17:35:00 | M0WHC    | 50.12500  | 6M   | USB  | Bill               | SV9IOQ | England               |
|   | Fri 17:34:55 | PD1BHZ   | 28.07600  | 10M  | RTTY | Richard            | OH3EQY | Netherlands           |
|   | Fri 17:34:54 | W0PHX    | 14.34200  | 20M  | USB  | George A           | W6RLV  | United States         |
|   | Fri 17:34:43 | YU180SB  | 50.17200  | 6M   | USB  |                    | IZ3KVD | Serbia                |
|   | Fri 17:34:41 | S59SV    | 28.53000  | 10M  | USB  | Vinko              | IZ7DJS | Slovenia              |
|   | Fri 17:34:26 | 9H1XT    | 50.09000  | 6M   | CW   | John               | OF8UV  | Malta                 |
|   | Fri 17:34:24 | R112MS   | 21.22200  | 15M  | USB  | Special Callsign   | UA6NT  | European Union        |
|  | Fri 17:34:24 | 9H2017EU | 14.08000  | 20M  | RTTY | Maltese Presidency | 9H1LC  | Malta                 |

VE7CC-1 ve7cc.net

Connected

AutoTune

Auto Lookup

Commands

Spot

☒ 160M

☒ 15M

☒ 80M

☒ 12M

☒ 60M

☒ 10M

☒ 40M

☒ 6M

☒ 30M

☒ 4M

☒ 20M

☒ 2M

☒ 17M

☐ 70cm

☒ Phone

☒ CW

☒ Data

☐ Local

# QUICK LIST OF COMMON FEATURES

- ◇ EASE OF RECORD KEEPING
  - QSL SENT/RECEIVED
  - SEARCH BY CALL, DATE, BAND, MODE
  - \*Great tool when you receive that envelope from the QSL buro..
- ◇ AWARD TRACKING – DXCC, WAS, VUCC, WAC, IOTA, PARKS AND MANY MORE
- ◇ IMPORT/EXPORT TO LoTW, QRZ, Eqsl, CLUBLOG , etc.
- ◇ Import contacts from WSJT, FT8, FT4, JT65 etc
- ◇ PRINTING QSL LABELS AND OR CARDS



# CONCLUSION

- ◆ There are “daily “ logging programs and “contest” loggers. They are somewhat interchangeable. Meaning you could use the daily logger in a contest and the contest logger for daily logging...

BUT

During a contest the daily logger will not keep score, show dupes and create the proper reports for submission to contest sponsor.

The contest logger will not track QSLs and Awards.

My advice is to use them as intended. After a contest I import the contest log into my daily logger.. All of the computer loggers can import or export using the ADIF file format. (Amateur Data Interchange Format)

**ALWAYS REMEMBER to BACKUP YOUR LOG**

# Q&A de Tom KA2D

Hope you enjoyed this presentation.

It was intended to give an overview of computer logging and its advantages.  
Like many of the windows type programs there are features that are basic.

So... check out the program which fits your needs.  
Confused... ask a club member for a demo..

◊ QUESTIONS??



73

**Tom KA2D**

*ka2d@optonline.net*