

# Hot Tips

***Good info for the new ham, and old stuff to refresh your memory***

## Logging contacts

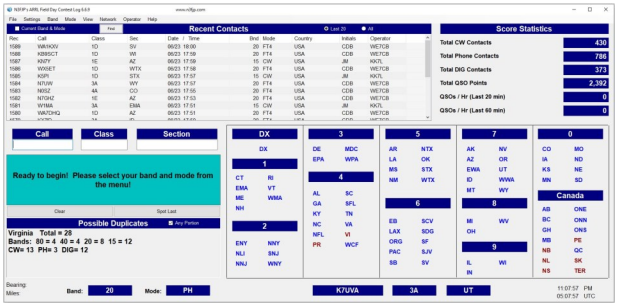
While it can be exciting to complete an actual two-way radio contact with another person, a fun activity to follow up is documenting the event. For decades, amateurs were required to log their contacts, but in late 1982 the FCC eliminated that requirement in the interest of modernization and deregulation. Today, even if not always necessary, ***logging contacts*** can be an entertaining way to keep track of them, and is in fact required to obtain most amateur radio awards.

In addition to logging a contact, an operator can also request ***confirmation*** of the contact by the person contacted. This means you can hold a QSO, log the exchange, then request an acknowledgement of the two-way QSO from the person you communicated with. The information you might want to exchange in the confirmation might include your call signs, your locations (countries, states, counties, or grid squares), the frequency or band, and the date and time of contact.

So, just how does an amateur go about logging a contact? Fortunately, a wide variety of logging software is available to help you not only easily record and maintain contacts, but to request online confirmation of them, also required for most awards.

Here's a short list of some of the most popular logging software:

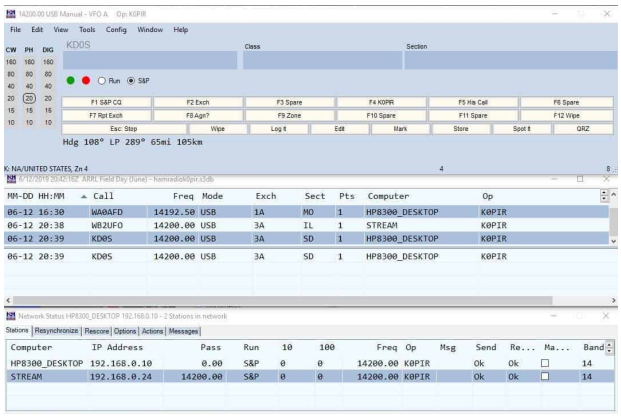
### N3FJP




Possibly the world's most popular logging software ***for the serious contester***, because of its robust capabilities, intuitive interface, and professional finish. The minimal data entry requirement makes it the most ideal software for rapid-fire contesting. It does require a one-time subscription, but the wealth of features and useful functions is well worth it.

N3FJP presents a user interface that's unique to each event or contest, tracks and displays your statistics in real time, has built-in networking support for multiple station coordination, alerts for duplicate entries, transceiver control, real-time world and contest mapping, automatic time synchronization, real-time data exchange, and presents you with the contest exchange. It can export results in all the popular file formats, including Cabrillo, LoTW, and plain text.

### N1MM Logger+




Possibly the world's most popular logging software ***for the serious contester***, because of its robust capabilities, intuitive interface, and professional finish. The minimal data entry requirement makes it the most ideal software for rapid-fire contesting. It does not require a subscription, but the package contains



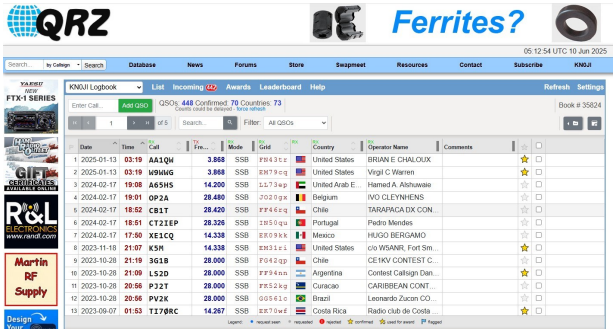
# Hot Tips

***Continued***

a wealth of features and useful functions.

N1MM has built-in networking support for multiple station coordination, alerts for duplicate entries, transceiver control, rotator control, transverter support, DXpedition Mode, ESM Mode, automatic time synchronization, real-time data exchange, and automatic CW generation. It can export results in all the popular file formats, including Cabrillo, LoTW, and plain text.

## QRZ




The world's most popular logging software for any purpose, primarily because they provide every American ham their own free website. Along with the website, each ham has a ready-made way to log their first forty contacts. You'll need to pay for the $20 annual subscription to log more than the forty.

Another great benefit that lends to its popularity, QRZ is the only software that provides an online method of automatically displaying your contacts to the world. At the same time, you can peek at the contacts logged by others if you've subscribed to the service.

## LoTW (Logbook of the World)

A mandatory logging interface for those awards that are promoted and sponsored by ARRL (American Radio Relay League), such as WAS, WAC, DXCC, VUCC, and WPX.

There are many good, free, or otherwise worthwhile logging software packages, including eQSL, HRD (Ham Radio Deluxe), Log4OM (Log for Old Men), NetLogger, and HamRS. Nearly all of these run on Windows, and many operate on Linux and/or Mac. Many are also supported on Android and iOS phones. That being said, nearly every ham still use pen and paper for casual contact logging, then transfer the information to their favorite software later.

## Awards

It's not every ham's dream to win awards; often, it's enough to make the contact. But it's also nice to have something to show for your effort, so several groups, such as QRZ, ARRL, and individual contests offer awards based upon confirmed contacts.




There's not enough room to list every ham radio contact award, but a few of the more sought-after ones include WAS (Worked All States), WAC (Worked All Continents), DXCC (Worked 100 Countries), and GRID2 (Worked All Grid Squares). Some of these awards require the operator to register or pay a fee.

Finally, keeping a log of contacts can be a satisfying way to look back on some memorable QSOs, especially with amateurs from distant lands. For those new to the craft, logging can also help you track your progress in your ham radio journey, as you watch the variety and locations of the contacts you've made grow through the years. It's another way to keep you motivated to make contacts, improve your equipment, and spend more money. ☺

*Noji Ratzlaff, KNØJI (kn0ji@arrl.net)*