

QSL Managers Message



Are you required to keep logs for the contacts you make as a Amateur Radio Operator???

The answer is NO; however, if you want to get a Confirmation of the contacts you made you'll need to keep a log.

Getting awards or participating in a contest requires that you keep a log of the contacts you make.

So, what logging software is the best one to use? There is no easy answer to that question. Much depends on your personal preferences.

Many hams still use a pencil and paper to log the contacts they make. However, the majority of 3rd party QSL services require that you send in an ADIF file for the contacts you make. You'll need to use a computer program to generate an ADIF file. Folks who conduct contests require either an ADIF file or a Cabrillo file. Software programs that are set up for different contests can generate either an ADIF file or a Cabrillo file.

Who are the 3rd party QSL services? They are...

Logbook of the World...<http://www.arrl.org/quick-start>

eQSL.cc...<https://www.eqsl.cc/>

QRZ.com...<https://www.qrz.com>

There are many others, but these are the most popular. They offer all kinds of awards for the confirmed contacts you make while playing of the radio.

Here are some links to popular logging software programs...

[Ham Radio Deluxe Software | Radio Amateur's Best Asset](#)

<http://www.n3fjp.com/>

[N1MM Logger Plus – Free Software for Phone, CW & Digital \(hamdocs.com\)](#)

<https://hamrs.app/>

There are many, many more available. Some are free and others will cost you some \$'s.

The main one I use is the software from N3FJP...the 2nd one listed above. It is very easy to use and he

has programs available for many different contests that happen during the year. It costs \$60.00 for everything and you'll get free updates for life.

The other program I use is Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) for the digital modes...other than FT8. For FT8 I use the software from Joe Taylor, WSJT-X. His program is free. HRD does cost about \$100.00. There are free software programs available, but I have never used them.

FT8 is by far the most popular digital mode right now and the WSJT-X software works great. Older digital modes such as PSK, RTTY, Olivia, Hell, etc. require another software program to run. I think you'll find that these older digital modes are seldom used any more so unless you are really interested in using them don't worry about the software you'll need to run them.

So what is required to accurately document the contacts you make? You'll need to document these 8 things...

Your call sign

The call sign of the station you contacted

The date

The time...Zulu time only...doesn't have to be exact...can be off + or - about 15 minutes

The band....don't need exact frequency

The mode

The signal report sent...only important in a contest...not required by 3rd party QSL services

The signal report received...only important in a contest...not required by 3rd party QSL services

The good news is that you know most of these things. The only really important thing you need to get while making a contact is the Call Sign of the other station.

The last thing I want to mention is Parks On The Air, POTA. Activators are required to keep a log and send it into the POTA web site for each Activation. Hunters are not required to log anything and don't have to send anything into POTA. Hunters get credit for contacts made when Activators upload their logs to the POTA web site.

If you have any questions about any of this please feel free to get in touch with me.

Have fun!

73

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