Amateur Contact Log Overview (ACL - N3FJP)

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Bob WB4SON - June 12, 2017

Agenda

- Quick Review of what is out there
- ACL Feature Review
- ACL for Field Day

Popular "Logging" Programs

- DXKeeper (DXlabs) - Most popular DX hunter logging program
- N1MM+ - Most popular contest logging/control program
- Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) - Complicated swiss army knife does everything
- Amateur Contact Log (ACL) - Most popular general logging program

MANY more out there. Some free. Some not. The four above are the biggies in their perspective area.

DXKeeper

- Part of DXLabs Suite (http://www.dxlabsuite.com)
- This is THE Logging program for DX Hunters
- Very "DOS" like old feel. Separate programs (nine of them) to do different tasks (like spotting, logging, rig control)
- Author is very responsive to bug fixes, and very active Yahoo group support
- Free

N1MM+

- http://www.n1mm.hamdocs.com
- Most popular contest logger by FAR
- Not really a general purpose logging program
- Full rig control for sending exchanges CW/DATA/even SSB
- Easy to use but fairly complex setup
- Support via Yahoo group. Extensive WIKI with videos
- Free

Ham Radio Deluxe

- http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com
- Highest level of integration of digital modes, logging, rig control, even satellite
- Complicated to setup and use
- Support via a custom "ticket" system for paid support users. VERY POOR response time. Bugs take years to fix. Support staff often rude.
- $100 to buy plus $50 a year for support
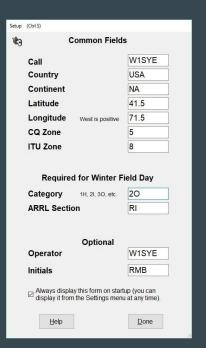
Amateur Contact Log

- http://www.n3fjp.com
- Most popular logging ONLY program
- Easiest to setup and use BY FAR
- Can receive frequency/mode info from modern radio
- Supports MANY contests
- Not really intended to for full station control
- Support via email or Yahoo group (never taken more than a few hours for a response via email)
- Costs $50 for full package, $25 for ACL, $9 for individual contests

Setting up ACL

- Almost any Windows PC will do (very low CPU/GPU requirements)
- Download the contest you want (or the general purpose log)
- Enter your call sign and license key (sent via email)
- Enter your operator information (location, call, operator name/initials)
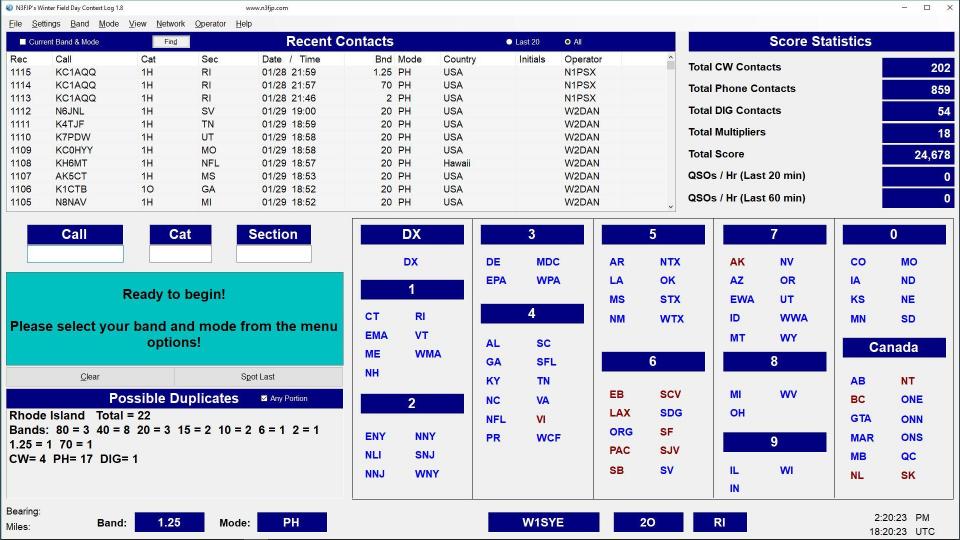- Select your radio interface
- Start logging!

ACL Setup

- Shows on startup or settings/setup choice
- General ACL has Call/Country.../Zone info
- Contest have required data like 2O for WFD Or 2A for Field Day
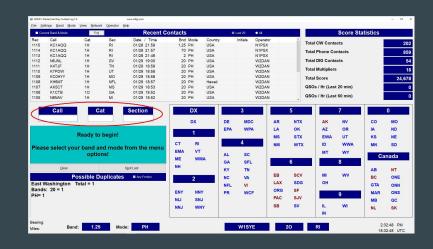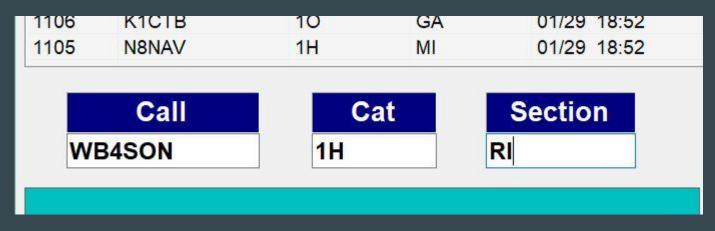- Enter your Operator Initials at the bottom!

Using ACL

- Pretty much everything you need to know is on a single screen
- Just enter info for the other station (call, exchange, contest details, etc.)
- Easy to export to an ADIF file, do Cabrillo Contest files, lotw, eqsl, etc.

N3FJP's Winter Field Day Contest Log 1.8   www.n3fjp.com

Menu: File Settings Band Mode View Network Operator Help

Recent Contacts

☐ Current Band & Mode   [Find]   ● Last 20   ○ All

Rec	Call	Cat	Sec	Date / Time	Bnd	Mode	Country	Initials	Operator
1115	KC1AQQ	1H	RI	01/28 21:59	1.25	PH	USA		N1PSX
1114	KC1AQQ	1H	RI	01/28 21:57	70	PH	USA		N1PSX
1113	KC1AQQ	1H	RI	01/28 21:46	2	PH	USA		N1PSX
1112	N6JNL	1H	SV	01/29 19:00	20	PH	USA		W2DAN
1111	K4TJF	1H	TN	01/29 18:59	20	PH	USA		W2DAN
1110	K7PDW	1H	UT	01/29 18:58	20	PH	USA		W2DAN
1109	KC0HYY	1H	MO	01/29 18:58	20	PH	USA		W2DAN
1108	KH6MT	1H	NFL	01/29 18:57	20	PH	Hawaii		W2DAN
1107	AK5CT	1H	MS	01/29 18:53	20	PH	USA		W2DAN
1106	K1CTB	1O	GA	01/29 18:52	20	PH	USA		W2DAN
1105	N8NAV	1H	MI	01/29 18:52	20	PH	USA		W2DAN

Score Statistics

Total CW Contacts	202
Total Phone Contacts	859
Total DIG Contacts	54
Total Multipliers	18
Total Score	24,678
QSOs / Hr (Last 20 min)	0
QSOs / Hr (Last 60 min)	0

Call / Cat / Section

Call [   ]   Cat [   ]   Section [   ]

Ready to begin!

Please select your band and mode from the menu options!

[Clear]   [Spot Last]

Possible Duplicates   ☑ Any Portion

Rhode Island   Total = 22
Bands: 80 = 3   40 = 8   20 = 3   15 = 2   10 = 2   6 = 1   2 = 1
1.25 = 1   70 = 1
CW= 4   PH= 17   DIG= 1

DX
DX

1
CT   RI
EMA   VT
ME   WMA
NH

2
ENY   NNY
NLI   SNJ
NNJ   WNY

3
DE   MDC
EPA   WPA

4
AL   SC
GA   SFL
KY   TN
NC   VA
NFL   VI
PR   WCF

5
AR   NTX
LA   OK
MS   STX
NM   WTX

6
EB   SCV
LAX   SDG
ORG   SF
PAC   SJV
SB   SV

7
AK   NV
AZ   OR
EWA   UT
ID   WWA
MT   WY

8
MI   WV
OH

9
IL   WI
IN

0
CO   MO
IA   ND
KS   NE
MN   SD

Canada
AB   NT
BC   ONE
GTA   ONN
MAR   ONS
MB   QC
NL   SK

Bearing:
Miles:

Band: 1.25   **Mode:** PH

W1SYE   2O   RI

2:20:23 PM
18:20:23 UTC

Adding a Contact to the log

- Look for area near left/center
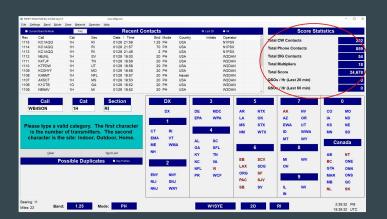- Add in contact details (call/exchange)
- Frequency/Time/Mode automatic

Keeping Track of Progress

- Upper Right Corner of screen dedicated to progress
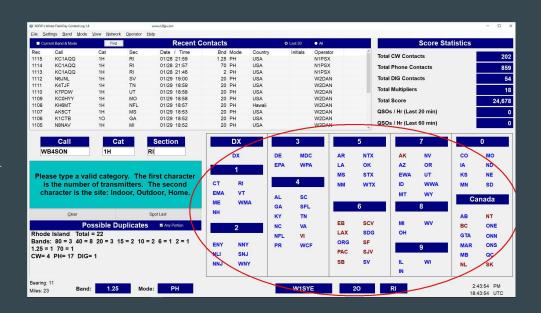- Score is good to know but RATES tell story!

Sections/Multipliers

Some contests keep track of sections (Field Day does NOT), but they are Listed which helps you get it right

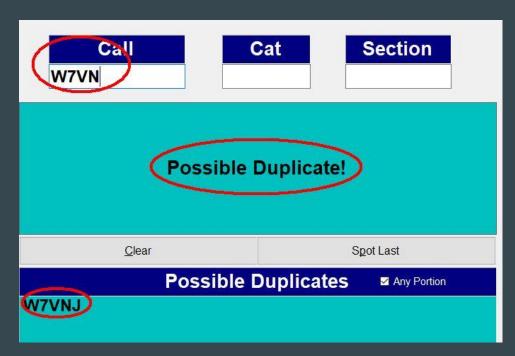Red highlighted ones are still needed

Suggests possible call signs

- Bottom-left corner of screen
- Enter a part of a callsign and ACL suggests common contesters
- In example to right, typing "W1S" in the Call Box pops up a list of 15 calls.
- Sure enough W1SYE is in there!

Duplicates

- Program will warn of a possible duplicate callsign
- Actual Duplicate big red warning
- Can't enter a duplicate contact

By the way, don't mention it to the Other operator -- Just move on!

Fixing a Mistake

- So quick and easy to enter a contact
- Fixing a mistake real break of "flow"
- Go to upper-right. Newest at top
- Click on desired entry and click
- Click on Edit box

Suggestions

- Download ACL for Field Day -- its free
- http://www.n3fjp.com
- Try the software out to get used to it.
- See if you can tie it to your rig (most modern post 1990 rigs supported)
- Avoid USB interface cables with non-FTDI chips!