KEEPING A LOG

• Three reasons to keep a log
  • Legal – Invaluable in proving your innocence in an interference complaint
  • Operational – A resource to use when filling out QSL cards that take months to arrive
  • Personal – A “personal radio history”, reminding you of the people and places you’ve talked, nets you’ve participated in, and contests you’ve worked

• Contains Information about your operation and about the station you contact
  • Date, Frequency, Mode, Power, Call, Start/End time, Signal Report, Name, QTH (location)
TYPES OF LOGS

HARD COPY / PAPER LOG

ELECTRONIC / COMPUTER LOG
WHICH ELECTRONIC LOGBOOK?

**EQSL.CC LOGBOOK**
Contacts do not count towards ARRL Awards, Potential bogus records

**ARRL'S LOTW**
Sometimes has slow processing

**QRZ.COM LOGBOOK**
May require a subscription for certain features
WHAT IS LOTW?

• Logbook of the World (LoTW) is a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world.

• When both participants of an Amateur Radio Contact (QSO) submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a virtual “contact acknowledgement card”, or QSL, that can be used for ARRL award credit.

• All QSO entries are digitally signed using a digital certificate obtained by the ARRL to minimize the chance of fraudulent submissions.
MORE ABOUT LOTW

• LoTW uses software called TQSL
  • Free to download and use
  • Works with Windows, OS X, and Linux

• LoTW is free to all Amateur Radio Operators around the world

• ARRL Membership is not required

• Awards still require the appropriate application fees and QSO fees
  • No different than submitting a paper application for an award
FACTS & STATISTICS

- You do NOT have to be a member of the ARRL to use LoTW
- LoTW will electronically confirm your QSOs if you have an exact match with the call sign / band / mode / date / time (within 30 minutes of each other)
- As of last week, there have been 749,081,494 QSOs uploaded into the system.
- As of last week, there are 85,197 users registered in LoTW
WHAT ABOUT QSL CARDS?

- LoTW does not replace QSL collecting
- LoTW saves money and time
  - No postage fees
  - No QSL card printing expenses
  - No waiting for QSL cards
WHAT CAN I DO WITH LOTW

- Apply for awards
  - DXCC (DX Century Club), NPOTA (National Parks on the Air), WAS (Worked all States), VUCC (VHF/UHF Century Club), WPX (CQ Prefix Contest)
- Track DXCC Credits
- View DXCC Matrix
- Track WAS Credits
- Search QSOs and QSLs
- View QSL Details
WHY DO WE NEED TO USE TQSL?

• LoTW only accepts Trusted Files

• Trusted Files are created by TQSL

• TQSL uses the Call Sign Certificate to electronically sign the Trusted File

• TQSL is the software that “locks” the “box” you are sending your log files in to the LoTW servers, and only the same “key” at LoTW can unlock the “box”
I CAN ONLY USE ONE COMPUTER?! 

• The initial request and import of the certificate needs to be performed on the same computer

• After everything is set up and configured, you can use the TQSL software to Backup and Restore your certificate and station to move it to another computer
HOW TO SETUP AND USE LOTW

• Install / Configure TQSL
  • [https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/installation/](https://lotw.arrl.org/lotw-help/installation/)

• Request a new Callsign Certificate
  • Click “Callsign Certificate”, then “Request New Callsign Certificate…"

• Fill out the requested information

• TQSL will automatically send a .tq5 file to the ARRL, and they’ll reply with a .tq6 file
  • This exchange must be performed on the same computer

• Sit back and wait for a postcard in the mail with your password for the LoTW site