

# LOGGING PROGRAMS

Exeter Amateur Radio Society

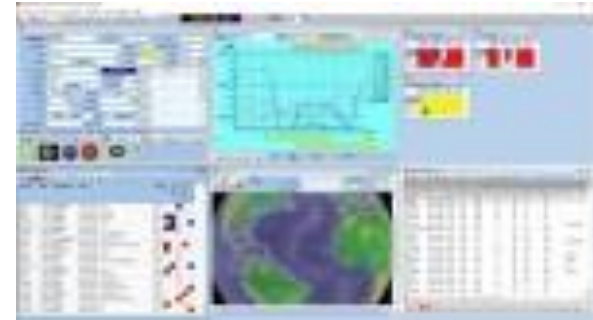
| DATE    | TIME ON | CALLSIGN | REPORT |      | FREQ/MODE | POWER | TIME OFF | NAME, QTH, COMMENTS                                  | OSL |   |
|---------|---------|----------|--------|------|-----------|-------|----------|--|-----|---|
|         |         |          | HIS    | MINE |           |       |          |  | S   | R |
| 3/4/92  | 6:30P   | NG0MW    | 59     | 59   | 28.428    | 100W  | 6:45P    | AL SQUADE, CAMBRIA CAL,                              |     |   |
| 3/4/92  | 6:45P   | "        | 59     | 59   | 28.425    | 100W  | 6:56P    | " " " "  |     |   |
| 3/14/92 | 7:27A   | HA3KNA   | 57     | 57   | 28.373    | 100W  | 7:29A    | ANTI, 100MI. FROM BUDAPEST HUNGARY/500W W/SELE, BEAM |     |   |
| 3/14/92 | 7:48A   | U15YUH   | 58     | 59   | 28.427    | 100W  | 7:49A    | SERGE, UKRAINE                                       |     |   |
| 4/2/92  | 6:15P   | N3JNF    | 59     | 58   | 28.4310   | 100W  | 6:28P    | MIKE 40W MOBILE, PENN                                |     |   |
| 4/23/92 | 6:15PM  | N5Y15    | 59     | 59   | 28.421    | 100W  | 6:30P    | KURT SHELDON RESEVER <del>EVER</del> KW 8305         |     |   |
|         |         |          |        |      |           |       |          |  |     |   |
|         |         |          |        |      |           |       |          |  |     |   |
|         |         |          |        |      |           |       |          |  |     |   |

# Intro

- Why not simply log our contacts in MS Excel?
- Logging programs provide many advantages over spreadsheets
  - Simple, fast and more accurate logging
  - Lookup and confirmation of info via Telnet, XML, Internet
  - QSL handling automatic for paper, eQSL, LoTW, etc
  - Award tracking
  - Station management
  - Support of digital modes
  - Inbuilt CW keyer
  - Appealing display of QSO or DX information

| DATE | TIME ON | CALLSIGN | REPORT<br>RIS I WINE | FREQ/MODE | POWER | TIME OFF | NAME, QTH, COMMENTS                              | QSL<br>819 |
|------|---------|----------|----------------------|-----------|-------|----------|--|------------|
| 2/26 | 6:30P   | N6UMJ    | 59 59                | 28.428    | 100W  | 6:45P    | AL SCHAEF CHRYSLER CAL.                          |            |
| 2/26 | 6:40P   | "        | 59 59                | 28.425    | 100W  | 6:50P    | "  |            |
| 2/26 | 7:27A   | HP-KND   | 59 59                | 28.542    | 100W  | 7:29A    | ANT. W/OUT PAID<br>BURROUGHS HOLLOW W/SEIB, BEAN |            |
| 2/26 | 8:46A   | 1Y5-YUH  | 58 59                | 28.427    | 100W  | 8:49A    | SERGE LUKEMINE                                   |            |
| 2/26 | 6:15P   | N53MT    | 59 59                | 28.4910   | 100W  | 6:25P    | MIKE UOU ANDRILE PENN                            |            |
| 2/26 | 6:18P   | N5Y1S    | 59 59                | 28.421    | 100W  | 6:30P    | KURT SHELTON RESERVE KW 8323                     |            |

# Selection Criteria



- There are literally hundreds of programs available
- How do I choose the right Logger for me?
  - What's my PC operating system (Windows, Linux, Mac)?
  - Basic operation or contesting?
  - Preferred mode of operation; digital only, CW only, mixed modes?
  - How much automation do I need or want for radio, amplifier, rotator, antenna system, etc?
  - Need support for Satellite communication?
  - User of online services like eQSL, LoTW, ClubLog, HRDLog, QRZ-Log?
  - What is my budget?

# Which Operating System?



- Microsoft Windows
  - Hundreds of loggers
  - Big names are Logger32, Ham Radio Deluxe, DXLab Suite, Commcats, Ham Office, SwissLog to name just a few
- Linux
  - K-Log, X-Log, CQR-Log
- Mac
  - Aether, MacLogger, Promethius, HamLog, RUMLog, Skookum
- Mobile Platforms
  - PortaLog, MobileLog, CommCat

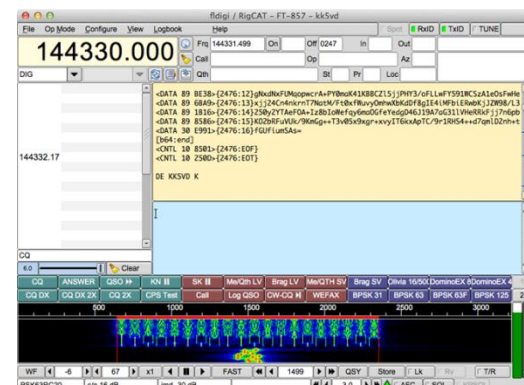
# General or Contest Logging



- General Logging
  - Every logging program that is not a specific contest logger can be used for general logging
  - The decision may not be easy considering the vast array of features that many loggers today offer
- Contest Logging
  - Support the particular requirements and rules of contests
  - Provide performance monitoring and post-contest reporting
  - Favourite contest loggers are N1MM-plus, WinTest, AALog, CT, SD-Log...
  - There are loggers specifically written for contests like field days, QSO parties, 10-10 rallies, RSGB-CC contests...

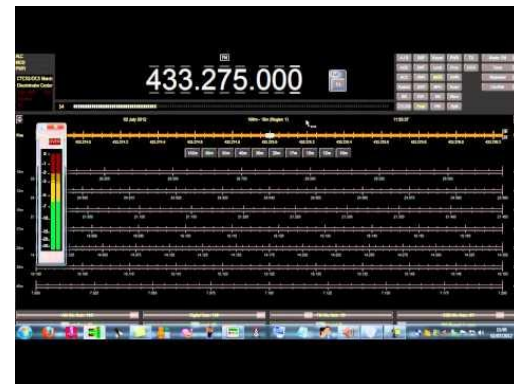
# Operating Preference

- For digital modes only, the choice would be MixW, FIDigi, DM-780, JTDX, WinPSK, DigiPan...
  - Extensive support for digital modes plus basic logging operation
- There is no logger specifically designed for CW mode
  - Many programs provide integrated CW-keyers as part of their package
  - Loggers also offer interfaces to Winkeyer or CWType
- Most, if not all, logger programs provide sufficient support for all modes
  - If mode is not integrated then an interface to external specialized digimode or CW programs is available



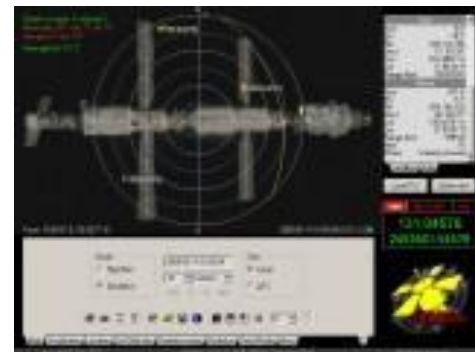
# Automation

- Logger programs support anything from basic CAT-interface to complete station management
- CAT (Computer Aided Transceiver) connects the radio with the logger to read and write frequency, mode and PTT keying
- Amplifiers like Alpha 87A, Expert can be controlled from the logger
  - Display of power, SWR, temperatures...
- Rotator control turns the rotator towards the desired direction
  - Some rotators like YAESU provide real-time reading of their position
- Adjustable antennas like SteppIR and UltraBeam can receive their commands from logger program
  - Adjust antenna resonance to the required frequency



# Satellite Communication

- Operating via satellites requires programs that are specifically designed for that purpose
  - Orbitron, SatPC32, Sat Tracker, WX-Track...
- Sat-Loggers provide only very basic logging functionality
- Programs control special radios for satellite communication like IC-9700, IC-910H, TS-2000...
- Main features of Satellite programs are
  - Calculate and display of satellite positions
  - Control azimuth/elevation rotators during satellite pass
  - Determine Doppler-shift frequency offsets and adjust the radio
  - Communicate with web resources to obtain latest Kepler data





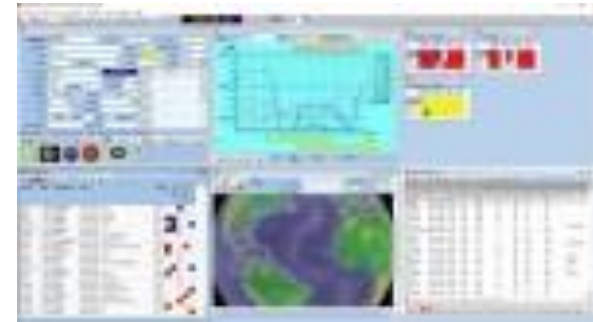
# Online Services



- Most logging programs today provide functionality to communicate with online services like eQSL, LoTW, QRZ, ClubLog and many more
  - Upload of logged QSOs
  - Online QSLing
  - Lookup of contact information and QSL manager
- Online Logs
  - eQSL, LoTW, ClubLog, HRD-Log, HamOffice, QRZ-Log...
  - Online logs allow public access to the logbook
  - Used to check if QSO is “in the log” for example of Dxpedititions
  - eQSL and LoTW also provide QSO confirmation required for awards like DXCC and many others
- Online Lookups from QRZ.com, HamQTH, SSA

# Budget

- Logging programs come at various costs
- Most loggers, and even some of the very best, are offered for free
  - Shareware, freeware, GNU
- Others can be quite costly
  - HRD for example must be purchased and offers a yearly “Maintenance Plan” for updates and upgrades
  - HamOffice must be purchased with annual subscription
  - Some program authors request a one-off fee or “donation”
  - Prices range from a few to well over 100 USD

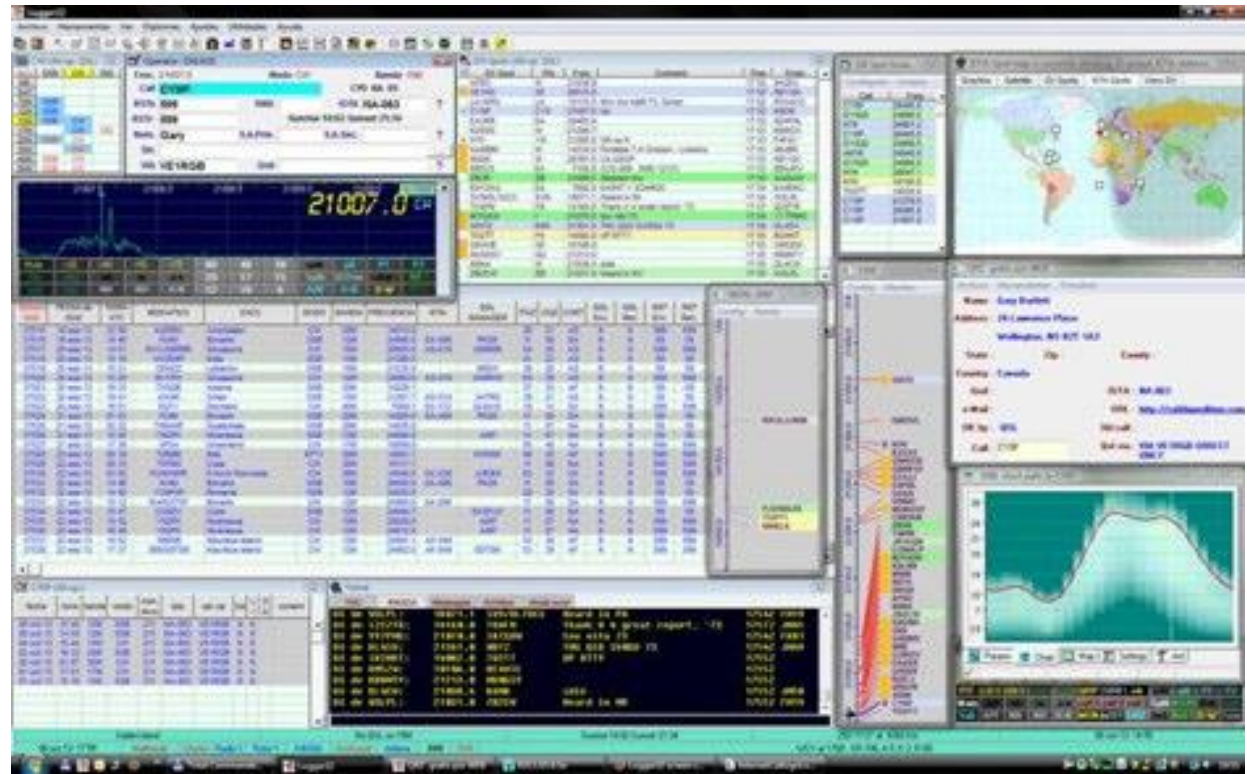


# Now What?

- Decide what level of comfort and sophistication you need for your ham radio operation
- Read customer or user reviews like on eham.net
- Authors offer demo versions or free downloads
  - Download, install, play with it
- Pick other hams' brains and ask for their experience and recommendations
- Make up your mind and go for it



# Logger32



- No cost, free of charge
- Versatile and well programmed logger
- Large and active user group
- Author (Bob, K4CY) very responsive and provides updates almost on daily basis

# Thank you

...and go make some noise on the bands

73 de Harry, M0IHT