

Introduction to FT8 using WSJT-X

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An Introduction to FT8 using WSJT-X

- 1. How to set it up.
- 2. What else you might need for best results.
- 3. How to make a contact.

No Radio specific settings

Facts about WSJT-X and FT8

WSJT-X was developed by Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor K1JT in 2017and uses 8 tone FSK modulation

- ▶ Needs accurate timing +/- 1.0 seconds to UTC
- ▶ Shows signal strength (-26 dB to +30 dB)
- Designed for QSO's not "Rag Chewing"

▶ Logs contacts in ADIF format within the program

Generates appropriate TX messages to complete QSO

▶ 75-bit message with 12-bit forward error correction

▶ 50 Hz bandwidth at 6.25 baud

- Exchanges call signs, grid square and signal report
- Multiband standardized Frequencies on all supported bands
- ▶ Weak Signal mode low power mode, 100 W typical
- Computer Aided Transceiver (CAT) Compliant
- 10 different modes: FT4, FT8, JT4, JT9, JT65, QRA64, ISCAT, MSK144, WSPR, and Echo
- ► Fox/Hound Mode for DXPeditions

FT8 System Requirements

- SSB transceiver and antenna
- Computer running Windows 7 or later, macOS 10.13 or later, or Linux
- ▶ 1.5 GHz or faster CPU and 200 MB of available memory; faster machines are better
- Monitor with at least 1024 x 780 resolution
- Computer-to-radio interface using a serial port or USB device for T/R switching, or CAT control

Audio input and output soundcard supported by the operating system

Audio or equivalent USB connections between transceiver and computer

► A means for synchronizing the computer clock to UTC within ±1 second or better

Aids for WSJT-X and FT8

► WSJT-X –The main program (WSJT Home Page (sourceforge.io))

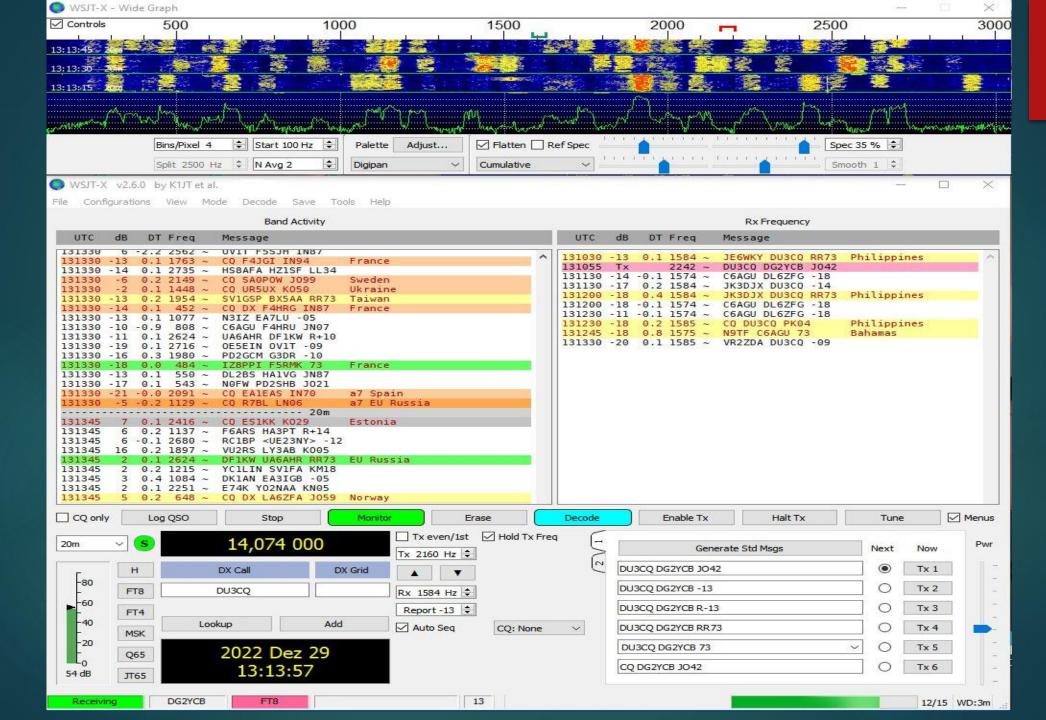
▶ Dimension 4 – to keep your time synced (https://download.cnet.com/dimension-4/3000-2094_4-10039998.html)

▶ HRD, N3FJP, DXLabs Suite – Log your contacts

▶ JT Alert – (<u>Hamapps.com</u>) – handy dashboard

- ▶ GridTracker (Gridtracker.org)
- ▶ PSK Reporter (https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html)
- ► **Groups.io** (https://groups.io) Email group for FT8, Radios, etc.

ARRL - LoTW Quick Start- VERY helpful (arrl.org/quick-start)



Signal / Noise Ratio

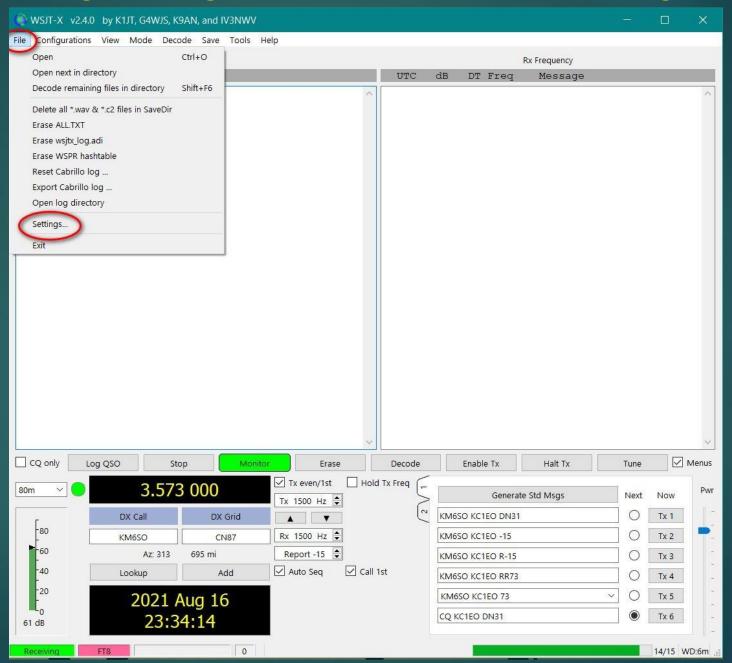
```
SSB +10 dB
CW -15 dB
FT8 -21 dB
JT65 -25 dB
JT9 -27 dB
WSPR -31 dB
```

2500 Hz bandwidth

Doubling power results in a 3 dB increase in SNR 31dB difference is about 2^10 = 1,024

1W FT8 vs 1,024W SSB

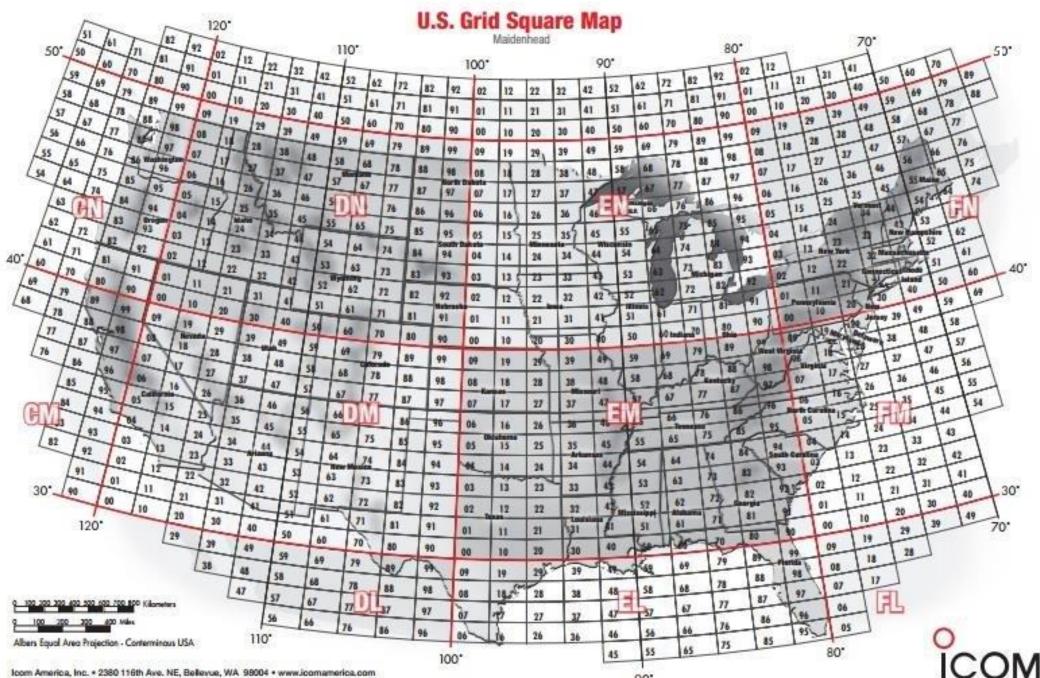
Settings changes are made on the following tabs

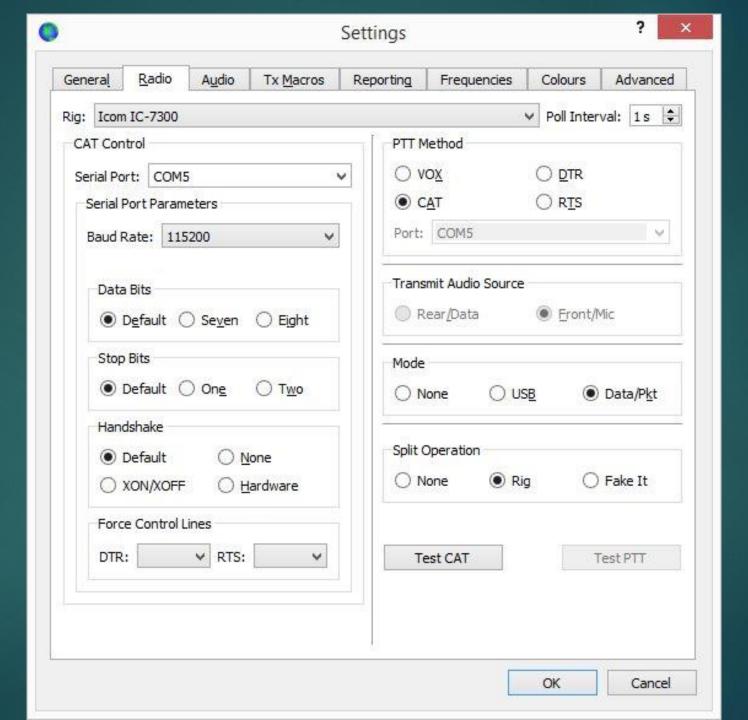


My Call: KC1EO My Grid: DN Message generation for type 2 compound to	
Display	
✓ Start new period decodes at top	Font
Blank line between decoding periods	Decoded Text Font
☑ Display distance in miles	becoded rextronum
✓ Tx messages to Rx frequency window	
Show DXCC, grid, and worked-before sta	atus Show principal prefix instead of country name
Behavior	
Monitor off at startup	Enable VHF and submode features
	Allow Tx frequency changes while transmitting
Monitor returns to last used frequency	
	Single decode
Monitor returns to last used frequency	☐ Single decode ☐ Decode after EME delay
✓ Monitor returns to last used frequency ✓ Double-click on call sets Tx enable	
Monitor returns to last used frequency Double-click on call sets Tx enable Disable Tx after sending 73	
Monitor returns to last used frequency ✓ Double-click on call sets Tx enable ✓ Disable Tx after sending 73 Calling CQ forces Call 1st	Decode after EME delay

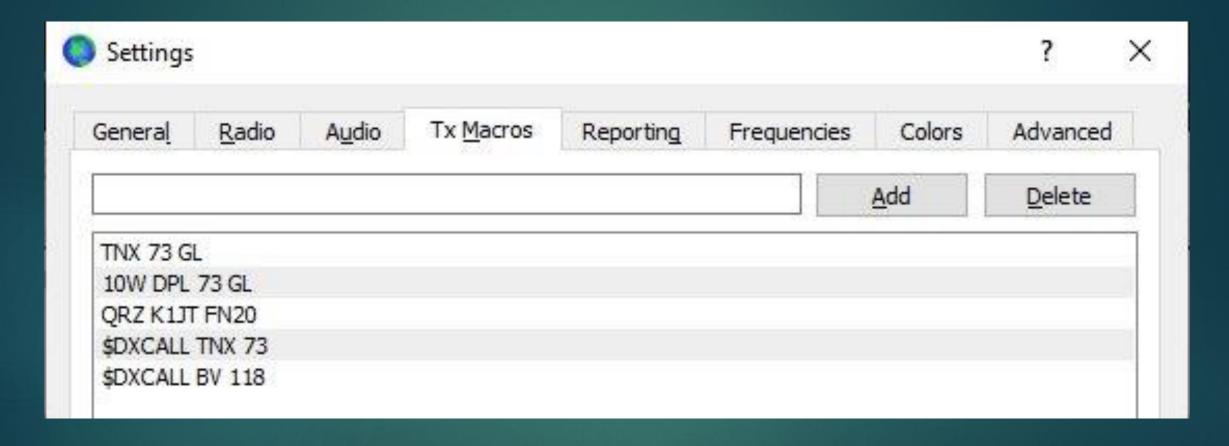
OK

Cancel





ieneral	Radio	Audio	Tx Macros	Reporting	Frequencies	Colors	Advanced
Soundca	ard						
Input:	Micropho	ne (2- USB /	Audio CODEC)			38	∨ Mono ∨
Output:	Speakers	(2- USB Aud	lio CODEC)				∨ Mono ∨
Save Dir	ectory						
Location	n: C:/Users/	wmcgo/App	Data/Local/WS	JT-X/save			Select
AzEl Dire	ectory						
Location	n: C:/Users/	wmcgo/App	oData/Local/WS	SJT-X			Select
Rememb	per power s	ettings by b	and				
	nsmit			☐ Tun	е		
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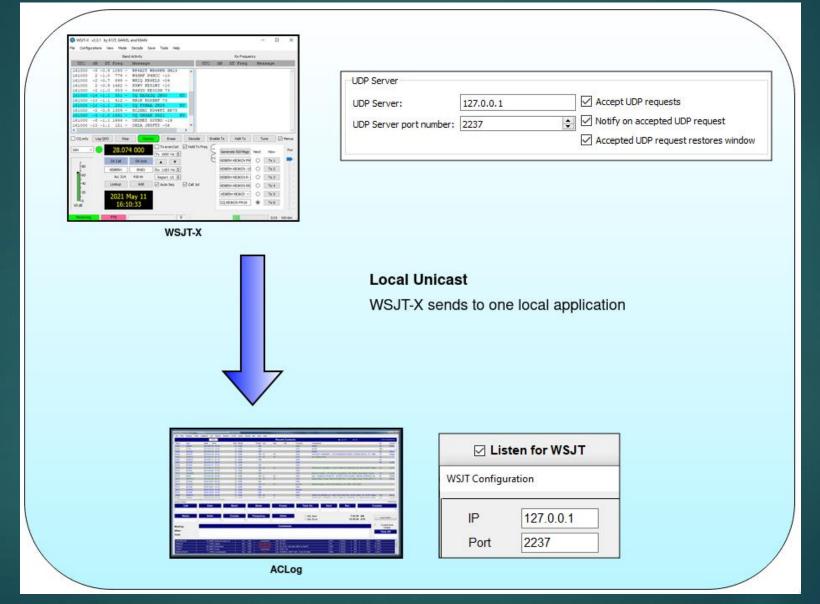
Tx Macros are an aid for sending brief, frequently used free-text messages.

Logging		\sim			
Prompt me to log QSO			Op Call:		
Log automatically (conte	esting only)			No.	
Convert mode to RTTY					
dB reports to comments	i				
Clear DX call and grid a	fter logging	/			
Network Services	/				
Enable PSK Reporter Sp	otting	Us	e TCP/IP connection	on	
UDP Server	y				
UDP Server:	27.0.0.1		Accept UDP	requests	
UDP Server port number: 2	2234	•	Notify on ac	cepted UDP	request
			✓ Accepted UE	OP request r	estores window
Secondary UDP Server (dep	recated)				
Enable logged contact A	ADIF broadcast				
Server name or IP address:	127.0.0.1				
Server port number:	2337				-

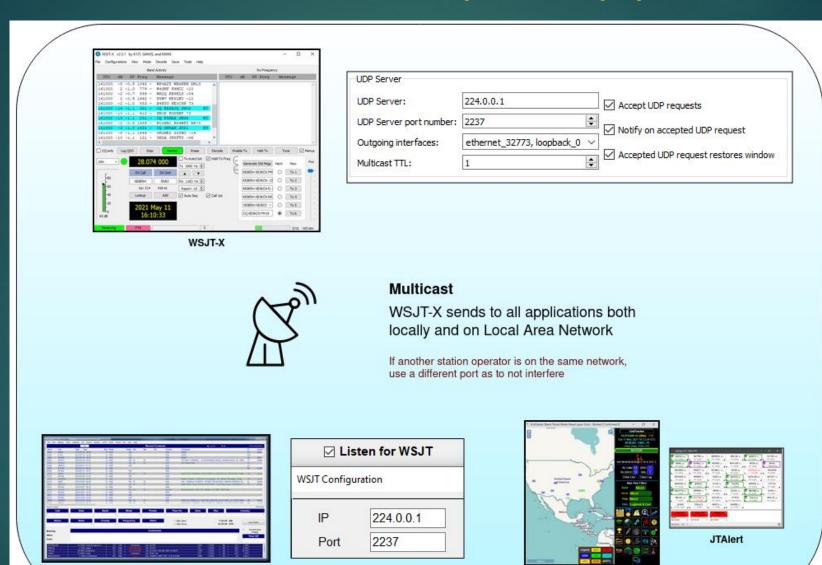
OK

Cancel

WSJT-X Data to One Application

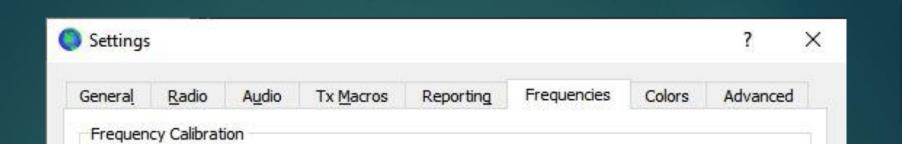


WSJT-X Data to Multiple Applications



Grid Tracker

ACLog



0.00 Hz 🖨

Working Frequencies

0.0000 ppm 🖨 Intercept:

Slope:

IARU Region	Mode	Frequency	Pref	Description	Start Date/Time	٨
All	FT4	10.140 000 MHz (30m)				
All	FT8	14.074 000 MHz (20m)	\square			
All	JT65	14.076 000 MHz (20m)				
All	Л9	14.078 000 MHz (20m)				
All	FT4	14.080 000 MHz (20m)				
All	FT8	14.090 000 MHz (20m)		ARRL Contest		V
		11	100000	1	>	- Files

Station Information

Band	Offset	Antenna Description	
6m	0.000 000 MHz	7 el at 85 ft	
2m	0.000 000 MHz	4 x 14 el Xpol	
3cm	-10,224.000 000 MHz	2 m offset dish	

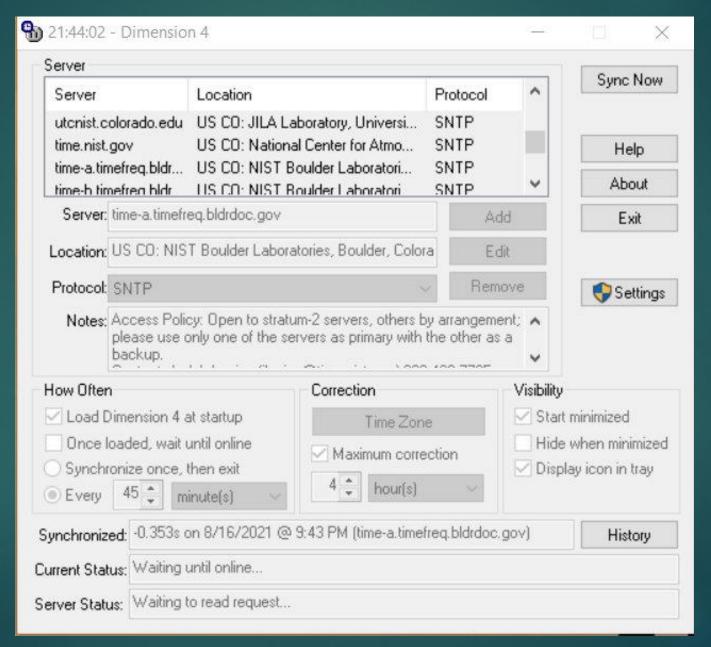
Settings					?	
nera <u>l</u> <u>R</u> adio <u>Au</u> dio	Tx <u>M</u> acros	Reportin <u>a</u>	Frequencies	Colors	Advanced	
Decode Highlightling						
✓ My Call in m	essage	[f/g un	set]		^	
New Continer	it [f/g	unset]				
☐ New Continer			unset]			
□ New CQ Zone	_					
New CQ Zone			nset]			
New ITU Zone						
New ITU Zone	The second second	Contract of the last of the la	unset]			
New DXCC [f/						
New DXCC on	THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY.	The state of the s	t]			
New Grid [f/	- 100 CONT.	100				
☐ New Grid on	Band [1	/g unse	tj		~	1
	Re	set Highlighting				
Highlight by Mode				Resca	n ADIF Log	
Only grid Fields sought						
☐ Include extra WAE entitie	ς.					
✓ Highlight also messages w						
Y High High it also messages w	101 /3 01 KK/3					
Logbook of the World User Va	lidation					
Users CSV file URL:		t totw-use	er-activity.csv		etch Now	ř
Age of last upload less than:	Controls for Lo	JODOOK	THE STATE OF THE S	120		1
	lookup.				1	

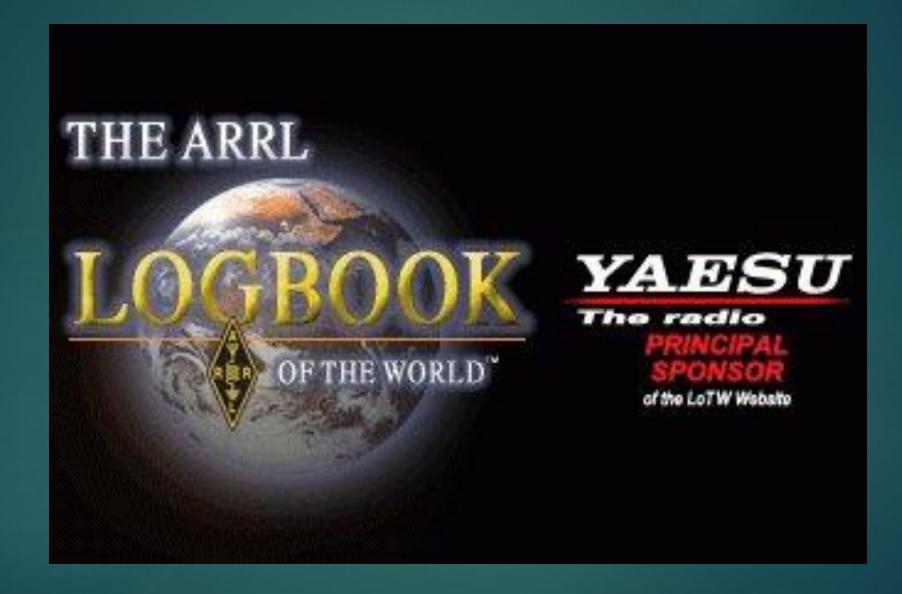
OK

Cancel

en <mark>era<u>l</u> <u>R</u>adio <u>Au</u>d</mark>	_	Reportir		des Coi	ors Ad	vanced	
JT65 VHF/UHF/Microwave			Miscellaneous				
Random erasure patterns	: 6		Degrade S/N o	f .wav file:	0.0 dB		-
Aggressive decoding leve	: 0		Receiver bandy	width:	2500 Hz		-
✓ Two-pass decoding			Tx delay:		0.2 s		+
			Tone spacing				
			_ x 2	9	_ x 4		
			Waterfall spe	ectra			
			Low sidel	obes	O Most se	ensitive	
Special operating activ	ity						
○ Fox	○ Hound						
O NA VHF	O ARRL Field	d Day		f	FD Exch:	6A SNJ	E
O EU VHF Contest	○ FT Round	up		FT F	RU Exch:	NJ	
O WW Digi Contest	ARRL Digi	Contest					
	CQ with in	ndividual cor	ntest name	Conte	st name:	PACC	

Synchronize Computer Clock





25 Records Shown (1-25) Sorted by QSO Date (0.005168 seconds elapsed)

-				10			<u>Next</u>
	Call sign	Worked	Date/Time	Band	Mode	Freq	QSL
<u>Details</u>	KC1E0	W1WSF	2023-10-30 13:57:15	17M	FT8	18.10120	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
<u>Details</u>	KC1E0	KE3ZT	2023-10-30 13:49:45	20M	FT8	14.07523	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Details	KC1E0	KC1QYD	2023-10-30 13:47:00	20M	FT8	14.07523	
Details	KC1E0	KB8YTD	2023-10-30 13:42:15	30M	FT8	10.13713	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Details	KC1E0	KT7N	2023-10-30 13:38:30	40M	FT8	7.07510	
Details	KC1E0	K5CM	2023-10-30 13:37:00	40M	FT8	7.07510	
Details	KC1E0	K1LEC	2023-10-30 13:32:45	40M	FT8	7.07510	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Details	KC1E0	KD5ZLR	2023-10-30 13:31:45	40M	FT8	7.07510	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Details	KC1E0	KQ0Q	2023-10-30 13:29:45	40M	FT8	7.07510	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Details	KC1E0	K4TER	2023-10-29 14:09:15	20M	FT8	14.07520	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Details	KC1E0	K5LVC	2023-10-29 14:04:45	20M	FT8	14.07510	
Details	KC1E0	VE3UIN	2023-10-29 14:03:45	20M	FT8	14.07510	
Details	KC1E0	KO4DBP	2023-10-29 14:01:15	20M	FT8	14.07510	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Details	KC1E0	JM8BPM	2023-10-29 13:54:45	30M	FT8	10.13750	
Details	KC1E0	N7BFO	2023-10-29 13:51:45	30M	FT8	10.13750	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Details	KC1E0	7N4WPY	2023-10-29 13:45:15	40M	FT8	7.07547	JAPAN
Details	KC1E0	JH7AUL	2023-10-29 13:41:45	40M	FT8	7.07547	JAPAN
Details	KC1E0	AA0HJ	2023-10-29 13:41:00	40M	FT8	7.07547	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Details	KC1E0	K0KD0	2023-10-29 13:38:45	40M	FT8	7.07547	
Details	KC1E0	JQ7BQT	2023-10-29 13:37:00	40M	FT8	7.07547	JAPAN
Details	KC1E0	N7CEE	2023-10-29 13:36:56	40M	FT8	7.07547	
Details	KC1E0	JA1QOW	2023-10-29 13:33:15	40M	FT8	7.07547	
Details	KC1E0	NONIY	2023-10-29 13:28:00	40M	FT8	7.07540	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Details	KC1E0	KJ7ZHG	2023-10-29 13:26:00	40M	FT8	7.07540	
Details	KC1E0	JO4JDU	2023-10-29 01:59:00	17M	FT8	18.10140	
-				-			Next

Most recent QSO record received 2023-10-30 14:10:51Z

	Select QSOs t	o List	Submit Query	Form
Call sign worked:	7	May use wildcards (? and *)	Submit	
Your call sign:	- Any - 🔻		Common Que	eries

Account Status

DXCC Award	New LoTW QSLs	LoTW QSLs in Process	DXCC Credits Awarded	Total (All)	Total (Current)
Mixed *	19	0	252	271	266
<u>CW</u>	0	0	12	12	12
<u>Phone</u>	15	0	245	260	255
<u>Digital</u>	103	0	0	103	103
80M	6	0	2	8	8
40M	42	0	2	44	44
<u>30M</u>	77	0	0	77	77
20M	57	0	106	163	159
<u>17M</u>	53	0	0	53	53
<u>15M</u>	50	0	110	160	160
<u>12M</u>	6	0	0	6	6
<u>10M</u>	62	0	92	154	151
<u>Challenge</u>	353	0	305		658

* = Award has been issued

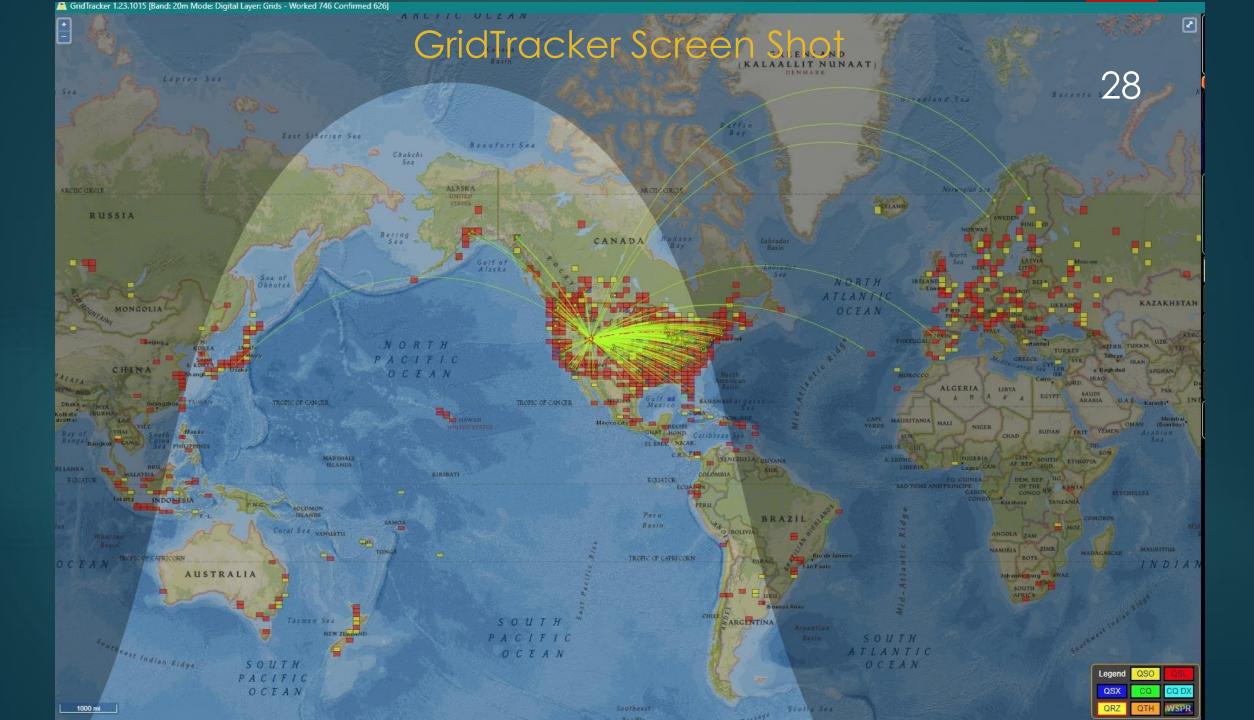
View Award Credit Matrix

This account includes credits for the following:

- UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
This account is linked with DXCC record:

Notes

- Click on the Awards item in the menu at the top of the page to select a different LoTW award account.
- You can click on the links in the Account Status table to view the credit list for an individual award.
- When you are ready to apply your LoTW credits to your DXCC record, use <u>Application</u>
- To view the present and past applications you have submitted, use <u>Application History</u>.
- For an ADIF download with the details of all QSLs in your DXCC record use <u>DXCC QSL Download</u>.



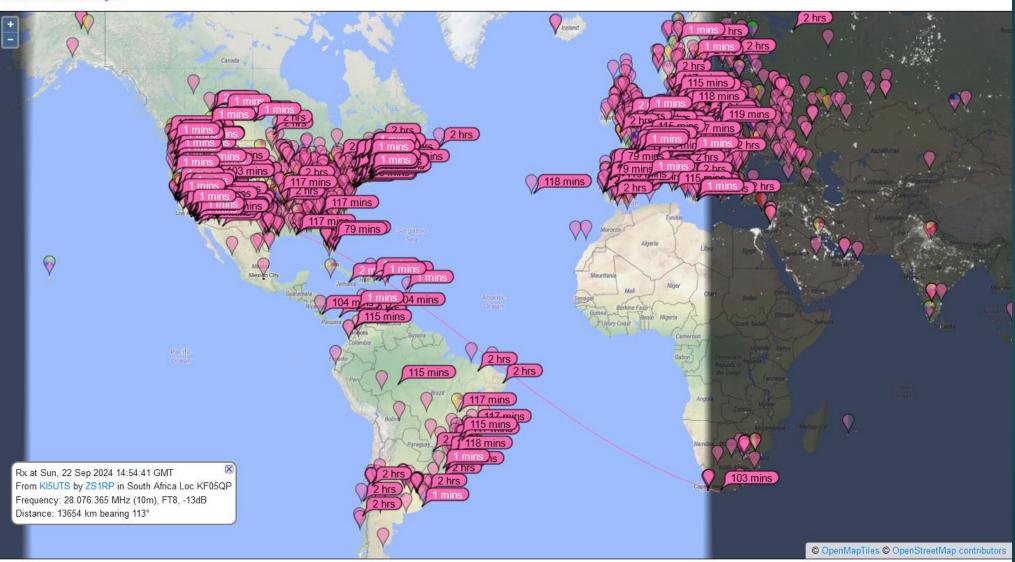
PSK Reporter Screen Shot

On 10m v, show signals v sent by v the callsign v ki5uts using FT8 v over the last 3 hours v Go! Display options Permalink

Monitoring KI5UTS (last heard 1 mins ago). Automatic refresh in 5 minutes. 383 reception reports for KI5UTS are shown as times (show logbook).

There are 2362 active FT8 monitors: 2341 on 10m, 271 on 15m, 269 on 20m, 238 on 12m, 224 on 17m, 163 on 40m, 144 on 30m, 63 on 80m, 52 on 6m, 52 on 6m, 52 on 60m, 47 on 2m, 14 on 160m, 12 on 11m, 5 on 2.4Ghz, 3 on 10Ghz, 1 on 600m.

Show all on all bands. Legend



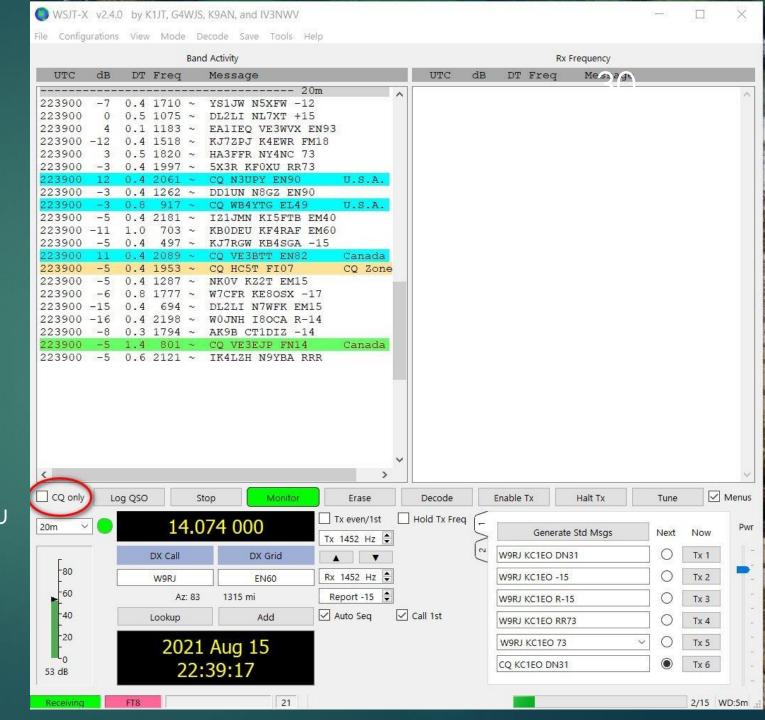
There is A LOT going on.

You must decide whose CQ you want to return. Have you worked them before? How strong are they to your QTH?

Do you need them for a Prefix or DXCC or WAS? You have 15 seconds to decide tick..tick..tick..

TIME'S UP!!!!!!!!

Can we do anything to help us decide???????? Easiest way is to reduce the number of decodes you see by checking the CQ only box.....OR.....use the "JT Alert" program



JT Alert

Helps make better informed decisions quickly. Incoming calls can be sorted by signal strength. Countries and US counties are identified as well as needed prefixes.



QSO in progress

				Dai	ia Activity		
UTC	dB	DT	Freq		Message		
					4 Om		^
043400	15	0.2	797	*	CQ AK9B DM61	U.S.A.	
043400	3	-0.1	584	~	W4NRG XE2JS RR73		
043400	4	-1.4	1593	~	K7NWT KD9OFJ 73		
043400	3	0.5	1298	~	CQ KI6NAZ DM03	U.S.A.	
043400	6	0.1	2050	~	NOPOH KD2QAR FN02		
043400	0	-0.1	1689	~	LY1CX K9TF EN63		
043400	-3	0.2	2250	~	CQ DX KO4DCR EL98	U.S.A.	
043400	-7	0.7	1492	~	CQ VE3ELL FN04	Canada	
043400	1	0.2	1385	*	CQ NOYEP EN33	U.S.A.	
043400	0	0.1	2117	~	SP1MGM KG4AKV -16		
043400	-4	0.9	1001	~	WOL W1BUS CN85		
043400	-7	0.2	1780	~	CQ EA7CK IM76	CQ Zone	
043400	5	0.1	1931	~	CQ DX N9TNY EN51	U.S.A.	
043400	-1	0.4	2168	~	KB60QJ F5LOW -14		
043400	4	0.2	1953	~	<s5030xx> KU0G EM3</s5030xx>	8	
043400	-1	0.1	748	~	G6MND KB9JJA EM48		
043400	-15	0.1	692	~	ZL1VAH WA6GXQ FM06		
043400	-6	0.2	1386	~	M3FON N4MEC FM06		
043400	-14	0.2	1557	~	NOPOH K4NDN FM08		
STATE OF STA					<> KN4JCD R-15		
043400	-18	0.2	1544	~	XE1YO YS1RS -09		
043400	-17	0.3	2637	~	CQ W70K CN86	U.S.A.	

Ţ	JTC	dB	DT	Freq		Message		
043	3130	4	0.4	871	~	CQ PT7ZZ HI06	CQ	A
043	3148	Tx		871	~	PT7ZZ KC1EO DN31		
043	3200	-7	0.4	871	~	CQ PT7ZZ HI06	CQ	
043	3215	Tx		871	~	PT7ZZ KC1EO DN31		
043	3230	-5	0.4	870	~	CO PT7ZZ HI06	CO	
043	3230	8	0.1	797	~	CQ AK9B DM61	U.S	
043	3245	Tx		797	~	AK9B KC1EO DN31		1
043	3300	15	0.1	797	~	KC1EO AK9B -13	į	П
043	3315	Tx		797	~	AK9B KC1EO R+15		1
043	3330	6	0.1	797	~	KC1EO AK9B RR73		1
043	3345	Tx		797	~	AK9B KC1EO 73		
043	3400	15	0.2	797	*:	CQ AK9B DM61	U.S	

Here is a typical QSO

AK9B calls CQ with callsign and grid.

KC1EO answers with call sign and grid

AK9B responds with signal report

KC1EO returns signal report

AK9B sends RR73

KC1EO sends 73

AK9B sends CQ looking for next QS0

How do we make a contact: Search and Pounce or Call CQ or Fox/Hound)

Search and Pounce

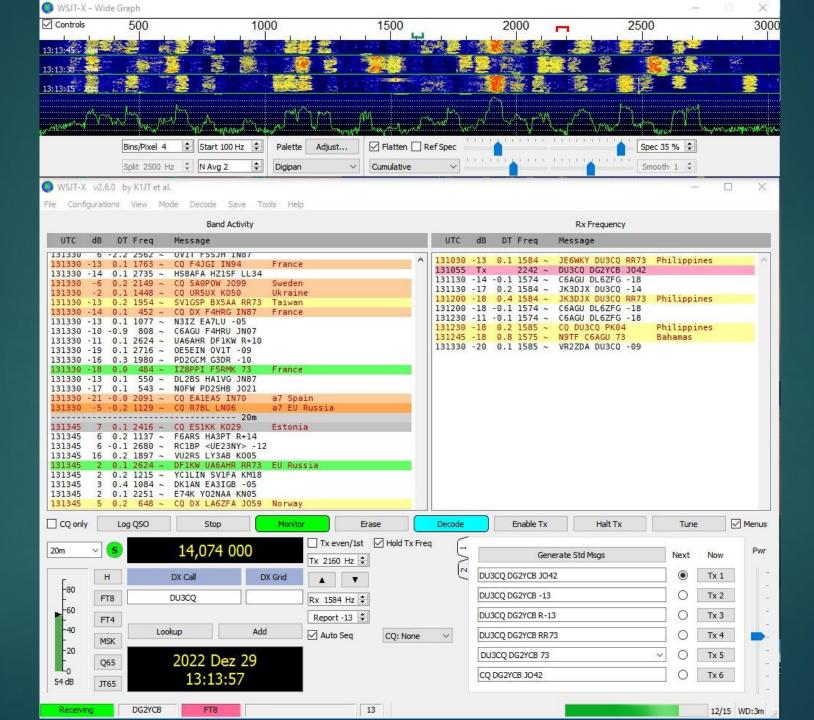
Double click on either the "WSJT-X" call you want to work or "JT-Alert" Callsign box

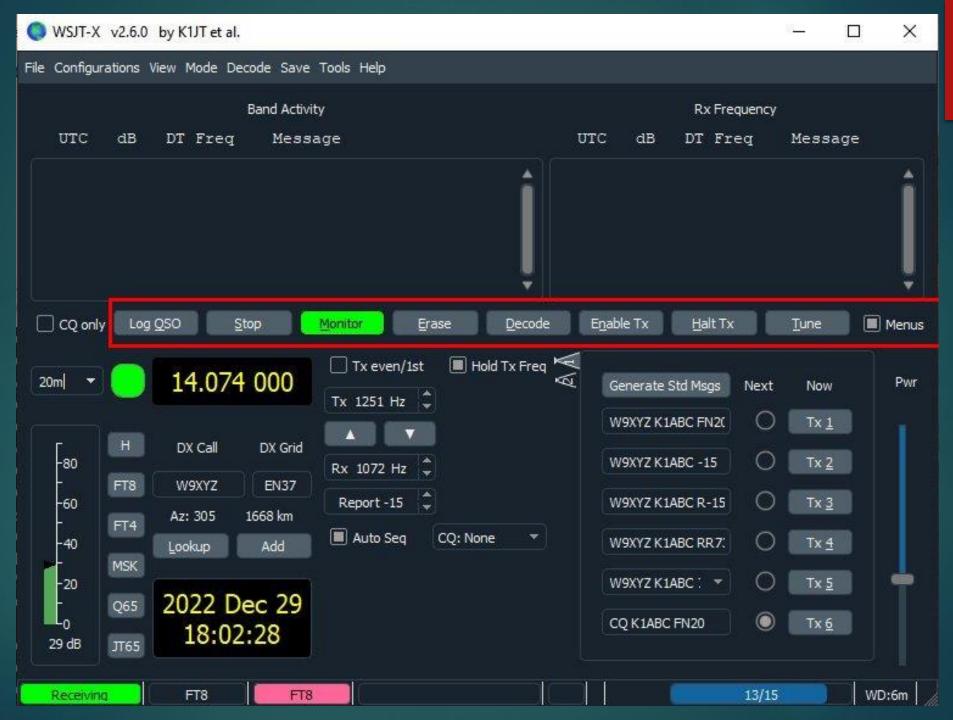
Calling CQ

Calling CQ is a bit more involved initially. Find an unused frequency. Move both the <u>Red and Green</u> frequency marker to the <u>unused space on the waterfall</u>. Move the <u>Red marker</u> by holding down the <u>Shift key</u> while clicking. Move the <u>Green Marker</u> by clicking on the same open space. Next, click the <u>TX6 radio</u> button. Now merely select <u>Enable TX</u> on the menu bar located above the "Generate Standard messages" line on the main screen.

Fox and Hound Mode Operation - Typically DXPeditions

- Select the "H" on the lower half of the WSJT-X screen to select "HOUND" mode
- Set Transmit (Red goal post) to any frequency that is clear but must be ABOVE 1000 on the Waterfall.
- Enter the DX's call into the DX Call box
- Select "Generate Standard Messages"
- Click on Enable Transmit





Summary

- 1. We've reviewed what kind of **radio** hardware you need to run the program
- 2. We've reviewed what computer hardware you need to run the program
- 3. We've reviewed what **ancillary programs** are useful when running the program.
- 4. We've reviewed the **initial settings** on WSJT-X as to how to set up the program but read the manual <u>wsjtxmain-2.6.1.pdf</u> (<u>sourceforge.io</u>)
- 5. We've reviewed the main WSJT-X screen and identified major sections
- 6. We've reviewed "How to call "CQ" or answer "CQ

Questions?

FT8 Waterfall Hoodie



https://hamtactical.com/collections/ft8