

HELP INDEX for SCR-Log v4.2c

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1) QUICK INTRODUCTION TO SCR-LOG

- All files are saved inside the folder that contains the SCR-Log application except for the backup files that you direct elsewhere.
- Logging is allowed only if at least one of these is true: The Timers checkbox is checked, the 'Not For SCR' checkbox is checked, or you are using manual time entry.
- Use the Enter key to move from one entry field to the next. In the last entry field the Enter key will log the contact. Defaults for RST and Class are used if you pass through without entry.
- Reset the Daily Timer to 6 hours at the start or end of each day.
- See item #36 below to jump start your exploration of the program.

2) FILES, FOLDERS & FRESH STARTS

When SCR-Log starts it looks for an SCRData database file inside its folder. If one is found it is used; otherwise, one will be created. For a fresh start with a new database, remove the existing database file and restart the program. Windows users must not discard the Libs folder.

Backup files are saved in the Backups folder except for those you direct elsewhere. Reports and exports are saved in the Exports_Reports folder. New files overwrite existing files of the same name.

I have found it convenient to keep the SCR-Log application folder on my desktop during SCR. Remove the application folder along with its contents to "uninstall" SCR-Log.

3) LOGGING TIPS

2-letter abbreviations or full names are used to log all QTH's in the USA and Canada. All others are logged as entities. See item #7 below for 5 ways to log DXCC entities.

RST fields default to 59(9) if you pass through with no entry. The Class field defaults to Individual if you pass through with no entry. Enter I, C, or S to set the class manually.

The easiest way to move from field to field is with the enter/return key. When the focus is in the last field the enter/return key is equivalent to clicking the Log It button. You can also move around with the arrow keys, tab, shift-tab, or mouse click. Under the Options menu you may elect to also use the space bar to move to the next field.

The ESC key or CMD+E for Mac or CTRL+E for Windows will erase entry fields, uncheck the "Not for SCR" checkbox, and return you to the Callsign field. CTRL+U on a PC or CMD+U on a Mac will do the same and, in addition, update the score panel.

DX and Canadian QTH suggestions, if any, are made as the focus leaves the callsign field. If you return to the callsign field and edit a DX callsign prefix, move the focus to check if there is a new suggestion before clicking "Log It."

Note: "GEORGIA (DX)" is a DXCC entity and "GEORGIA" is a state.

4) CANADA, USA, ALASKA & HAWAII

Although these are DXCC entities, they do not count as country multipliers for SCR. Log and count all of these contacts only as states, provinces or territories.

5) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

You may enter "DC" or "MD" to log the District of Columbia. The result will be "MARYLAND & DC" either way.

6) CLOCK OFFSET

When you initialize a new database you will set the number of hours to offset your computer system time for UTC. Under the File menu is an option to adjust an incorrect clock offset.

7) DXCC ENTITY ENTRY (5 WAYS)

You may:

- 1 - Accept SCR-Log's suggestion
- 2 - Enter the complete 3-digit entity number
- 3 - Enter the entity name spelled my way
- 4 - Click the entity in the Countries window
- 5 - Click the entity in the Prefixes window

NOTE: SCR-Log uses leading callsign prefixes to suggest DX entity QTH's. Always put entity modifiers in front of the callsigns. So, if you catch me vacationing in Puerto Rico, be sure to log my call as KP3/AD8B with the KP3 in front.

8) DUPE CHECKING

Partial call dupes are listed just above the Callsign field as you enter a callsign. Complete log data for a dupe is displayed if you exit the Callsign field with a dupe entry. 'Not for SCR' callsigns are not dupe checked.

9) MODES

Be as specific as you wish for your ADIF export file. The Cabrillo report generator reduces all modes to either PH or CW.

10) CHECKBOX - TIMERS

The Timers check box controls both the Daily Timer and the Time Log. Other than the shared checkbox the two are independent. Editing one will not affect the other. It is possible for them to display slightly different results. Note, however, that 3 ten-thousandths of an hour is about 1 second.

DAILY TIMER: The daily timer counts down the remaining operating time for the day. Resetting can only be done when the timers are off. The Daily Timer will adjust its remaining time if a break is canceled unless the remaining time was manually reset during the break. The Daily Timer window is opened each time you start the program as a reminder to reset it to 6 hours at the start of each day. See item #21 for more information.

TIME LOG: The Time Log records the on/off times of your SCR operating periods in your database file and is unaffected by program exits and computer reboots. Total operating time for your Cabrillo report is calculated from this log. CTRL-U on a PC or CMD-U on a Mac will update the total hours shown in the logger score panel. You can also update the score panel by clicking on it.

Hint: If you operate and log PSK with DigiPan, run the timers simultaneously. Then when you import your DigiPan contacts you won't need to also edit the Time Log.

11) CHECKBOX - NOT FOR SCR

This checkbox is used for contacts that cannot be included in your Cabrillo report because they are dupes, are on WARC bands, were not during SCR, or lack a complete exchange. These contacts are included in the other exported files. Error and dupe checking is relaxed for these contacts.

12) CHECKBOX - HOLD : OP

The Op field is intended to record the name or call of your current operator. If you check the Hold box the Op field will be skipped over as you enter QSO information and the entry will be preserved when other fields are cleared.

Hint: If you wish to ignore the Op field, leave it blank and check the box.

13) BUTTON - LOG IT

The Log It button is active if the timers are running and the band is set to a non-WARC band. It is also active when the "Not for SCR" box is checked or manual time entry is selected.

Using the enter/return key while in the last entry field is equivalent to clicking the Log It button.

14) BUTTON - LOOKUP CALL

This feature accesses two optional files. Except for exporting a QSL address file the rest of SCR-Log will work fine if you haven't installed them. The files (amateur.txt and EN.dat) can be downloaded from the FCC and Industry Canada. Once the files are added to your SCR-Log folder lookups are done off-line. Links to the files are on the SCR-Log homepage. Both data files are regularly updated. It's a good idea to download and install current files before each SCR.

The Lookup Callsign button will initiate a scan of callsigns listed in the FCC file or the Industry Canada file. If the callsign is found, the licensee's name and location will be presented below the button. At the same time additional information from the file is presented in the Callsign Data Window. The keyboard shortcut is CMD+L for Mac or CTRL+L for Windows.

US callsigns can have more than one entry. Therefore, the file is searched sequentially from top to bottom and the last (most recent) entry is presented. Due to the size of the FCC file, faster computers will be noticeably quicker at presenting results for US callsigns. Canadian callsign lookup results are presented immediately. Canadian club callsigns will produce both the club's and the trustee's address in the Callsign Data Window.

15) BUTTON - GO TO CONTACT EDITOR

You may enter the Contact Editor by clicking the Contact Editor button or by clicking a past contact displayed at the top of the main logging window.

Before entering the Contact Editor, open the Prefixes and Countries windows if you might need to refer to their tables.

If you edit the contact log it is up to you to ensure that the time log matches your actual operating periods. There is no undo function so make a backup copy of the SCRData file before making extensive edits.

IMPORTANT: You must use the Save button to record your edits. Don't forget to use it before selecting another contact and before exiting.

16) BUTTON - GO TO TIME EDITOR

If you correct the time log it is up to you to ensure that it reflects your actual operating periods and all breaks were at least 30 minutes long. Edit with care; weird entries can produce weird results. Editing the time log does not affect the Daily Timer.

IMPORTANT: You must use the Save button to record your edits to each time period edited before selecting another time period or before exiting.

17) BUTTON - OPEN PREFIXES

This opens or closes a PREFIX <-> ENTITY cross-reference window. A checkbox option in this window permits it to automatically open when a DX prefix is recognized and close when it's logged.

18) BUTTON - OPEN COUNTRIES

This opens or closes an ENTITY NUMBER <-> NAME cross-reference. Also shown are the number of contacts logged for each entity.

19) BUTTON - OPEN ST/PROV/TERR

This opens or closes an ABBREVIATION <-> NAME cross-reference. Also shown are the number of contacts logged for each state, province and territory.

20) BUTTON - OPEN CALL DATA

This opens or closes a lookup window for US and Canadian calls. This displays more information than the main logging window. The lookup button in each window addresses the callsign entered in that window. See item #14 for more information.

21) BUTTON - OPEN DAILY TIMER

This opens and closes the Daily Timer window. The Daily Timer is controlled by the same Timers checkbox used for the Time Log. Reset this timer to 6 hours before beginning each day. The window will automatically open when two minutes are left if the auto-open option is checked. Both timers will stop when no time is left for that day if the auto-stop option is checked. See item #10 for more information.

22) BUTTON - MANUAL DATE/TIME

If you type in contacts from a paper log or digital contacts from a different program, using manual date/time entry with the main logger is easier than using the Contact Editor. Since manual entry would usually be done at a later time, running the timers is optional. Manual entry can be initiated under the Shortcuts menu or by clicking the "M" button in the date/time header.

You should then also use the Time Editor to add or edit your operating periods if you did not run the SCR-Log timers while you operated. Or, you could run the SCR-Log timers whenever you log on paper or with your digital program.

Note: You can import contacts directly from a Digipan file. See item #32 below.

23) FILE - BACKUPS

Under the File menu are options to create backup files. These files are named by UTC date and time. You can make a backup at any time either in the Backups folder or in a location of your choice such as a flash drive. To use a backup file, rename it as 'SCRData.rbd' and move it into the application folder to replace the existing 'SCRData.rbd' file.

24) FILE - DAY'S END DISPATCH

Under the Reports menu is an option to create a Day's End Dispatch. If you have entered your callsign, and/or club name into the Cabrillo report form they will be included. Each report file name will include the day of the week (local time) it was generated. A second report generated on a particular day will overwrite the first.

25) FILE - CABRILLO REPORT

Under the Reports menu is an option to go to your Cabrillo report form. You may enter and edit station information at any time the timers are not running. Then generate your report file after the end of SCR. This is the file that is submitted as part of your participation report. If you have entered your callsign and club name into this report they will be included in your Day's End Dispatches.

26) FILE - ADIF DATA

Under the Export menu is an option to export an ADIF data file named SCR_ADIF. "Not for SCR" contacts will be included with the other contacts. Your regular logging program may allow you to import SCR-Log contact information from this file.

27) FILE - HELP

Under the Export menu is an option to export the help file you are currently reading. A pretty-to-print pre-formatted version was included with the download and is available on the SCR-Log website.

28) FILE - ENTITY NUMBERS

Under the Export menu is an option to export a DXCC entity number file. Two lists are provided in the file. The first list is sorted by entity name and the second by entity number. If you plan to print this file, I suggest three columns with a font size of 9 and inserting a page break between the two lists. However, the easily accessible Countries and Prefixes windows are more useful than this file.

29) FILE - TABBED DATA

Under the Export menu is an option to export a tab-delimited data file named Tabbed_Data. This file includes all recorded data and the "Not for SCR" contacts. You could import the information into a database. But, unless you are really into data mining, this file has been made obsolete by the pre-formatted QSL Record files. See item #30.

30) FILE - QSL RECORD

Under the Export menu are options to export a QSL record file sorted by either callsign or by date/time. It includes exchange information, comments and operators. Check-offs are included for tracking cards sent and received.

31) FILE - QSL ADDRESSES

Under the Export menu are options to export a QSL address list for US and Canadian stations contacted sorted either by operator or by callsign. Information is drawn from the optional lookup files. Canadian callsigns will include addresses for both the club and the club trustee. See item #14 above.

32) DIGIPAN IMPORT

Under the File menu is an option to import an unedited "DigiPan.adi" file placed in the SCR-Log folder. Contacts will be inserted into the log by date and time. Therefore, if you don't create Day's End Dispatches, you could wait until the end of SCR to import all your DigiPan contacts at once.

IMPORTANT: SCR-Log expects the QTH to be recorded by its own 2-letter or 3-digit code. It expects the Class to be the first letter of the Notes field using I for Individual, C for Club or S for School. Here are some DigiPan logging examples:

QTH: OK Notes: I
QTH: CT Notes: C ARRL Headquarters
QTH: 339 Notes: I Masao in Tokyo
QTH: MO Notes: S U of M

Additional characters after the first in DigiPan's Notes field will be copied to SCR-Log's Notes field. DigiPan's optional Name field will be recorded in SCR-Log's Op field. DigiPan's optional RST fields default to 599 in SCR-Log if omitted or incorrect.

Run SCR-Log timers while you log with DigiPan so you will not need to edit the Time Log later.

DigiPan reports frequency which SCR-Log converts to band. This conversion may not work if you have reconfigured the frequencies in DigiPan's Band Properties. To restore the initial settings remove the existing DigiPan.INI file from the Windows folder and restart DigiPan.

Check your connections and settings before SCR is underway and make a few PSK contacts. Set up your macros to reduce your workload. I also configure the multichannel coloring effect to highlight the terms "CQ", "SCR", and "SCHOOL".

A DigiPan short guide can be found under the Show menu. It tells how to use DigiPan's fields so that necessary SCR information can be imported into SCR-Log.

33) SORTABLE TABLES

Every table with headings is sortable. You can click any column heading to sort and reverse sort by that column.

34) WINDOW SIZE

The main logging window can be set to small (640x430), medium (960x645), or ginormous (1280x860) under the Options menu. Others can be adjusted by dragging the lower-right corner.

35) NEW DX ENTITY

Under the File menu is the option to add a new or reactivated DXCC entity. Be aware that not all countries are listed where you might expect. Germany is found with the F's, etc. Countries you add to the list are saved with your current SCRData database file. The most recent addition to the built-in list is entity number 521, Republic of South Sudan.

36) ARTIFICIAL QSO'S

Under the File menu is an option to generate artificial QSO's. It is helpful to have at least 50 QSO's already logged when you explore the program. Callsigns are generated randomly so duplicates are possible.

Artificial QSO's cannot be added to a log that already contains contacts. The fastest way to clear out these demonstration entries is to trash the SCRData file and restart the program.

37) MOUSE-OVER TAGS

Under the Options menu is an option activate information tags for the labels and controls in the Logger window. When tags are active they are shown when the mouse cursor stops over a label or control.

38) SCR PEP SQUAD

Under the Show menu you can invite the SCR Pep Squad to join the fun. The squad members love to celebrate each QSO point and multiplier. However, if the message flash option is turned off, celebrations are cancelled.

Can you find the "Easter egg" button they hid in the Pep Squad window? And what they did to the dupe field?

39) ALERTS & FLASHES

No alert sounds are called by SCR-Log. However, your operating system may generate alerts for certain actions such as unexpected keystrokes.

Feedback message flash along with Pep Squad action can be turned off under the Options menu.

40) CHAT BOX

Under the Chat menu is the option to visit the SCR Chat Box using your web browser. All SCR participants are welcome to spot themselves and others or to just chat during SCR week.

41) THIRD PARTY RULES

I believe the following to be correct for stations licensed by the FCC.

A DXCC entity tagged by SCR-Log with an asterisk (*) indicates the existence of a third party agreement between it and the United States. Third parties in the US and US territories may communicate with other stations in the US and US territories and also, under third party agreement rules, with stations in Canada and in these tagged entities. When operating under third party agreement rules, both station callsigns must be given at the end of the contact. If your callsign does not indicate your actual geographic location, add the appropriate designator such as AD8B/5.

A station's response to a CQ voiced by a guest operator is not in itself third party traffic. In the absence of a third party agreement, the third party should not acknowledge a DX station's response. Instead, the exchange should be made by the control operator.

In its discussion of third party communications the FCC website states "the rules make no distinction between a third party who holds an amateur operator license grant and one who does not." So, if you are not the current control operator you are a third party.

42) PREP SUGGESTIONS

- * Read the current rules for SCR on the LIMARC or the ARRL website.

- * Practice with third party participants before the Roundup. They should at least be able to spell their first names phonetically.

- * Prepare a script of likely exchange elements and QSO comments. Tape this to the operating desk and point to an appropriate exchange or comment when third party participants are at a loss for words or seem confused.

- * Mount a large map of North America on a wall near the operating position. Let the first student to contact a particular state, province or territory place a sticker or pin on it. If you plan to work DX, post a DXCC map. The ARRL's Azimuthal Projection Map of the World is perfect for demonstrating that going due west gets your signal to Australia. And don't forget to prove that tidbit using a strip of paper and a globe!

- * Consider keeping a second, unofficial computer log or paper log and dupe sheet to increase student participation. Logging is also a non-threatening step toward the operating position.

- * SCR may be structured like a contest but it's really a social event. You're not required to be in a hurry, nor are you required to go slow. You can compete for points. Or you can look for old friends and make new ones. Or do both. Whatever your style, come join the fun.

Blessings...

Dave VonDielingen, AD8B



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