Online Log Upload for ARRL Contests

A new web-based tool is the best and easiest way to submit your log.

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The contest is over and now it’s time to submit your log — but what’s the best way? Until now, the fastest and most reliable method has been to use the e-mail “robot,” which involved attaching your log to an e-mail, sending it to the right address, and getting a message back with your acceptance notice and confirmation number. Upon reading the message, if there was a problem you’d fix it, e-mail the log again, and repeat. If that sounds like a lot of steps just to enter a contest, you’re right — and now there’s a better way.

Thanks to the volunteer work of Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, all ARRL contests for which a log is required are now supported by the brand-new online log upload web page at contest-log-submission.arrl.org. You now have a “one-stop shop” for all contests, without having to remember the right e-mail address.

How to Use It

Figure 1 shows what you’ll see when you browse to the web page. The page asks you a few questions about your operation in the contest — whether you are entering an HF or VHF contest, as well as a few selections to determine your category of entry and location. You’ll then use the CHOOSE FILE button to browse to your Cabrillo-formatted log file on your computer, or copy and paste the log data into the text area. Then click SUBMIT LOG — it’s that easy.

You don’t have to tell the web page which contest you’re entering. The web script will read that from the header of your log. As a matter of fact, the answers to the questions you’ll answer on the web page are part of your header, too, but it is very common for there to be a misconfiguration of the logging software that creates discrepancies in the log’s header or QSO lines. By answering the questions explicitly, on the web page, log data quality is greatly improved, which saves the log checkers hours and hours of time.

After you click the SUBMIT LOG button, you’ll see a screen like that shown in Figure 2. If your information was all okay and the QSO lines were formatted correctly, you’ll get a confirmation number, the green boxes show how your category was determined, and that the log was submitted to ARRL. (The complete log will also be displayed below the area shown.) You’ll also receive an e-mail confirmation. Save your confirmation number for future reference, in case there are any problems later.

More Basics

What happens if there is something wrong with the information? For example, maybe the location in your header doesn’t match the location in the QSO line. Or maybe (as the author has done — oops) misconfiguring the logging software puts one call sign in the header and a different one in the QSO! After reviewing the log, the web page will clearly state any problems. You can fix your log right then and there, and resubmit until everything is just right. The whole process takes just minutes.

It’s also important to note what the log review process does not do. Your QSOs are not cross-checked against any other log — they are only checked to be sure the date/time and band mode are okay, and that all of the necessary exchange information is present and in the right order. The review doesn’t check to be sure your operating meets the contest rules or that you’ve typed in the call signs correctly — that’s your job.

Once your log has been submitted, it will then show up on ARRL’s Logs Received page, where you can be sure that it was submitted in the correct section and category and credited to the right club, if desired.

Any problems can be corrected by editing and resubmitting your log.
Starting right now, the new web page is the preferred method of uploading your contest log. The old log-submission e-mail addresses will still work, but we hope you'll switch to this faster and more efficient method that already has thousands of satisfied customers. Upload one log, and we're pretty sure you'll make the switch permanent!

Notes
1 The Cabrillo log format standard is available at www.arrl.org/clarbillo. WA7SNM also provides a web service to generate a Cabrillo-formatted file by entering non-Cabrillo log data at b4h.net/cabforms.
2 www.arrl.org/logs-received

W1AW Schedule
W1AW's schedule is at the same local time throughout the year. From the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November, UTC = Eastern US Time + 4 hours. For the rest of the year, UTC = Eastern US Time + 5 hours.

Figure 2 — After the log has been reviewed and no errors or discrepancies found, the log’s confirmation number is displayed along with the category of entry. The full log is also displayed below this portion of the screen.