The purpose of this note is to describe how CQ/X can be used outside of a state QSO party to support the logging requirements of the ARRL International Grid Chase when traveling cross country through possibly several states. It is assumed throughout the following that during the trip the operator will be using a GPS interfaced to CQ/X and that CQ/X will be the logging software used. A simple GPS receiver module will be adequate.

In this case the mobile operation is planned and executed for the sole purpose of handing out grid squares for the Grid Chase. The mobile operator wishes to send a signal report and grid square information as part of the exchange sent to the other station and would like to be able to accept any of the following QTH information from the other station: four-character grid square, US state postal code, Canadian province postal code, or DX.

As in the state QSO party case CQ/X will be used to keep a GPS log showing the grid square and county from which each contact was made and will provide an efficient means of preparing the necessary adif files for uploading for each county-grid pair location. These GPS logs are stored in their own sub-directory with each QSO being recorded as follows:

GR17,11/23/2017 06:03:10,From: NO5W LASLAN (EM30),To: N5HZ 14011KHz CW,30.69039917,-92.08020020

where the GR17 is an internal code describing the event and year of the event. There are entries for the date and time of the QSO, the county abbreviation for the county from which the QSO took place, the four-character grid square from which the QSO took place, the station worked, frequency of the QSO and latitude longitude where the QSO took place. The main difference between cross-country and state QSO party operation is the fact that cross-country can include multiple states so it will be necessary to tell CQ/X which states are going to be involved so it will know which county shape files to load for detecting the county from which a QSO is made. So here are the steps for the cross-country operation.

- Step 1: Start CQ/X and Choose GRID-CHASE as the "contest"
- Step 2: Specify which states you plan to include on your trip
- Step 3: Setup CQ/X to make QSOs by defining messages [1], key assignments, etc.
- Step 4: Connect a GPS to CQ/X, also a WinKey if you plan to do CW
- Step 5: Take off on your trip, making QSOs. CQ/X will detect the county and grid of each QSO and record it in the GPS Log as long as you stay within the states you specified in Step 2.
- Step 6: Once you are ready to prepare the Grid Chase logs you follow the same process as described in the State QSO party document, using menu item **QP Tools | After-Party Processing | Prepare Grid Chase Logs**.
1. For CW operation put a $ in each message where you want the grid square to be inserted

There are a number of optional capabilities within CQ/X for performing Step 3. Spending a little time to plan the trip using CQ/X and Google Maps will enable these options and make for a more efficient trip. It should be emphasized, however, that the most basic option, and the only one that is required, is to simply connect a GPS to CQ/X and drive around making QSOs and logging them through CQ/X. When each QSO is logged CQ/X will determine the county and grid square and record that in the GPS Log ready to be processed into separate adif files when you are ready to upload.