

The purpose of this note is to describe how CQ/X can be used in a state QSO party to support the logging requirements of the ARRL International Grid Chase. It is assumed throughout the following that during the QSO party 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.

As part of its support for state QSO party mobile operation CQ/X keeps, by default, a GPS log in addition to the normal log required by the party. These GPS logs are stored in their own sub-directory under Devices | GPS | GPSLogs with each QSO being recorded as follows:

LA17,11/23/2017 06:03:10,From: NO5W LASLAN (EM30),To: N5HZ 14011KHz CW,30.69039917,-92.08020020

where the LA17 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 work to be done to develop data for the Grid Chase is to log the QSOs using CQ/X and when the party is over to extract the necessary data from the GPS log. This can be done using the following steps.

- Step 1: Start CQ/X and set it up to work the State QSO Party
- Step 2: Connect a GPS to CQ/X and Work the QSO Party
- Step 3: After the party activate QP Tools | After-Party Processing | Prepare Grid Chase Logs
- Step 4: Use the resulting dialog to browse to a GPS log to process
- Step 5: If desired view the selected GPS log
- Step 6: If desired define a new sub-directory where the files are to be stored
- Step 7: Select a sub-directory where the resulting files are to be stored
- Step 8: Click on the Prepare button

The output from this process will be a file defining the locations (station_data.txt), a set of adif logs whose name indicates the state, county and grid from which the QSOs were made, and a file TQSLBatch.txt to be used as a batch file from the command line to sign the adif logs. As an example in the case of Bosque county in Texas the county is split by two grids (EM11 and EM12) and in the example Texas QSO Party log QSOs were made from both the EM11 and EM12 parts of Bosque. So the set of adif files created for this log will contain two adif files for QSOs made from Bosque, one called TX-BOSQ-EM11 and the other TX-BOSQ-EM12. Once these files are created save any station_data.txt file that you want to keep and move the station_data.txt file created by the above process to the directory used by TQSL (typically this is ...\\Users\\YourUserName\\AppData\\Roaming\\TrustedQSL\\) and run the TQSLBatch file as a batch file (after changing the extension to bat). As a final step attach all of the signed log files to an email and send it to LoTW.

There are a number of optional capabilities within CQ/X for doing Steps 1 and 2 but the most basic option, and the only one that is required, is to simply connect a GPS to CQ/X and drive around in the QSO party making QSOs. When each QSO is logged CQ/X will determine the county and grid square and record that in the GPS Log.