

# **SDXA LOGGING PROGRAMS**

**By KI7DG CHUCK**

I would like to thank all the club members who answered the survey and shared their info with the rest of the Club. While not every one wish to share, it is possible they may not have a logging program to share info with. The survey is not intended to promote one logging program over another but to inform club members who are seeking a logging or contest program with information to make an informed decision.

If one were to check the various web sites you would find in excess of 70+ logging programs. So which one is for you. By publishing what the club members are using it gives you a edge in that you can contact that member and get his opinion on a particular program. Some programs are FREE and others can cost as much as \$129 or as little as \$6.00. Surprisingly the majority of the club members are using programs they paid for.

Questions to consider in choosing a program. What do you want it to do? If your just doing general logging or plan on doing some contesting the following might be important questions to answer: Is it difficult to set up? If a paid for program how much will the up dates cost? Are up dates offered on the free programs? Almost all of the programs will create a ADIF file, up load to ARRL's LoTW, create a Cabrillo file, or Track awards.

Contest logging programs should track and compute your score, alert to Dup's, and depending on the contest, track what you worked, what you need and the ability to create a Cabrillo file for uploading your log to the sponsor of the contest. (ie... In ARRL's sweeps it would tell you what section you have worked and what section need to be worked)

These additional features may also be important to you: Print mailing labels, Rig control, DX spotting net access, Access to internet services such as QRZ or HamCall, On line help, Voice navigation, Beam headings, QSL alert function, CW or Phone Xmit functions.

I think it is safe to say all logging programs will allow you to move your log from one program to another using a ADIF file. This is beneficial for example when working a contest and merging the contest contacts into your general log. ADIF files can be used to upload files to eQSL, Club Log and LoTW. Since computers are prone to ....shall we say go South, it is wise to back up your log not on the same computer but on a memory stick or some external device.

While there are a LOT of logging programs, what we have listed here are those used by club members either now or in the past. It is by no means a complete list of all available programs to you. Eham Reviews, Club Log and 425DXN have a lot more to offer. Google "freeware logging programs" for a few hundred more. My thanks to the following Spokane DX Association members for taking the time to complete the very complicated survey and sharing their experience with everyone.

73 and good DX Chuck KI7DG

AD7XG Gary, K6MW Mike, K7AWB Steve, K7GS Gary, K7HRT Pat, K70X Gary, K7TQ Randy, KB7HDX Mark, KF7PBM Joe, KI7DG Chuck, N5AR Dan, N7AU Bob, N7KR Mike, W6AEA George, W7GSV Bob, W7MEM Mark, W7TJ Randy, WAØWWW Jay, WA1PMA Wayne, WA7LT LaMar, WA7TNT David, WX7B Chris, WS7I Jay.

## SDXA MEMBERS LOGGING PROGRAMS

| LOGGING PROG    | GENERAL | CONTEST | HAD USED | COST             | eHam reviews | #review/ rate |
|-----------------|---------|---------|----------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| DX4WIN          | 5       | 1       |          | \$90.00          | 64           | 4.0           |
| WriteLog        | 5       | 7       | 2        | \$30.00          | 42           | 4.3           |
| ACLog N3FJP*    | 4       |         | 1        | \$15.00          | 181          | 4.8           |
| ACLog N3FJP*    |         | 7       |          | \$6.00           | 68           | 4.8           |
| N1MM            |         | 8       | 6        | \$FREE           | 84           | 4.7           |
| WinLog32        | 3       | 2       | 1        | \$Free           | 57           | 4.6           |
| HDR             | 2       | 1       | 2        | \$100            | 353**        | 4.4           |
| ProLog2k        | 2       |         |          | \$60.00          | 64           | 4.8           |
| VQLog           | 1       |         |          | \$15.00          | 24           | 4.3           |
| Logic8          | 1       |         |          | \$129.00 †       | 27           | 4.7           |
| Paper Log       | 1       |         |          | \$               |              |               |
| Log4DX          | 2       |         |          | \$no information | Av.          |               |
| Log Windows     |         |         | 2        | \$89.95          | 35           | 4.0           |
| MacLoggerDX#    | 1       |         |          | \$95.00          | 129          | 4.8           |
| Skookum Logger# |         | 1       |          | \$Free           | 4            | 5.0           |

\*ACLog has a general logging program and separate contest logs for just about every contest.

\*\*Reviews include the free reviews before it went commercial

† Upgrades are extra charge.

# Programs are used by Mac users.

See previous article by KI7DG on the logs used World Wide on Club Log.

For Information the top 5 logs used in the USA on a 425DXN Survey were:

Prolog98, LogWindows, WriteLog, Logic, and ACLog.

|             |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|
| DX4WIN      | <a href="http://www.dx4win.com">www.dx4win.com</a>   | K7AWB, K7TQ, W6AEA, WA0WWW, WA1PMA,          |
| WriteLog    | <a href="http://www.writelog.com">www.writelog.com</a>   | K7GS, K7OX, KB7HDX, KF7PBM, W6AEA, WA7LT, #2 |
| ACLog       | <a href="http://www.n3fjp.com">www.n3fjp.com</a>   | KI7DG, KF7PBM, N7AU, W7GSV, W7TJ, WX7B, K6MW |
| N1MM        | <a href="http://www.n1mm.hamdocs.com/">www.n1mm.hamdocs.com/</a>                                       | AD7XG, K7AWB, K7GS, K7TQ, W6AEA, WA0WWW, #1  |
| WinLog32    | <a href="http://www.winlog.co.uk">www.winlog.co.uk</a>   | N7AU, K7HRT,                                 |
| HDR         | <a href="http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com">www.ham-radio-deluxe.com</a>                                 | W7GSV, K6MW                                  |
| ProLog98    | <a href="http://www.prolog2k.com">www.prolog2k.com</a>   | AD7XG, W7GSV                                 |
| VQLog       | <a href="http://www.vqlog.com">www.vqlog.com</a>   | W7MEM,                                       |
| Logic8      | <a href="http://www.hosenose.com">www.hosenose.com</a>   | W7TJ,  |
| Log4DX      | <a href="http://www.softinfodb.com">www.softinfodb.com</a>   | JA web site in Japanese WS7I                 |
| Log Windows | <a href="http://www.cssincorp.com/logwindows/">www.cssincorp.com/logwindows/</a>                       | KI7DG  |
| MacLoggerDX | <a href="http://www.dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html">www.dogparksoftware.com/MacLoggerDX.html</a> | WD7K   |
| Skookum     | <a href="http://www.k1gq.com/skookumLogger/">www.k1gq.com/skookumLogger/</a>                           | WD7K   |

N1MM #1 WA1PMA

WriteLog #2 WS7I