

Contesting with WSJT-X

This is a quick tutorial, aimed at the casual Ham who's familiar with WSJT-X and FT8, but is leery of creating and submitting a contest log. Field Day is the perfect opportunity to try your hand at contesting. There's no pressure, just making QSOs!

If you're having any trouble with Field Day, either operating or logging, we have a whole club full of helpful hams. Just ask!

Setting Up WSJT-X

You may choose to create a new log file for the contest as it *really* simplifies the process.

- With WSJT-X running, select **File > Open Log Directory** to find the location of your log file – make a note of this location—you'll need it again
- Stop WSJT-X
- Using your computer's file manager, go to the directory containing wsjtx_log.adi
- Rename the log file to something memorable, like: The_REAL_wsjtx_log.adi
- Restart WSJT-X
- Go to **File > Settings...**
- Go to the **Advanced** tab
- Check the **Special operating activity** box
- Select the **ARRL Field Day** option
- Enter your exchange - For most of us, you have 1 transmitter and run off commercial power, so the class is **1D**. Our ARRL Section is North Florida, so **NFL** Your exchange therefore is **1D NFL**.

The screenshot shows the 'Special operating activity' section of the WSJT-X settings. The 'Special operating activity' checkbox is checked. Below it, there are several options: 'Fox', 'SuperFox mode', 'Hound', 'OTP' (with a key field and interval of 1), 'Show OTP messages', 'OTP URL' (https://www.9dx.cc), 'NA VHF', 'NCCC Sprint', 'ARRL Field Day' (selected), 'FD Exch:' (1D NFL), 'EU VHF Contest', 'FT Roundup messages', 'FT RU Exch:' (FL), 'WW Digi Contest', 'ARRL Digi Contest', 'Q65 Pileup', 'CQ with individual contest name', and 'Contest name:' (PACC).

- Click **OK** to exit the Setting dialog

You'll see the standard messages have changed and that Field Day is highlighted in red. Also, for convenience, the Contest Log is displayed.

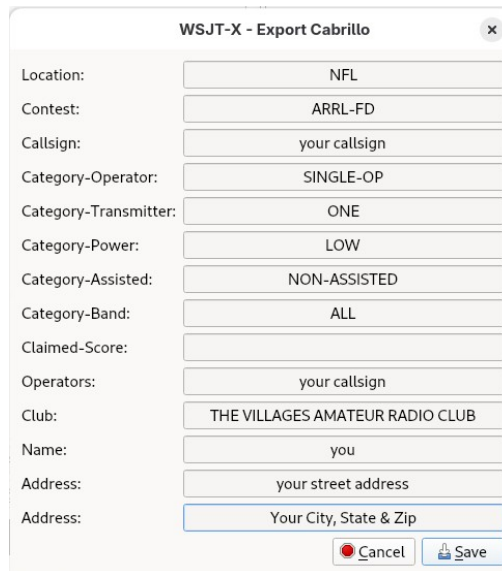
Make QSOs. Have fun!

When Field Day is over

Now it's time to prepare your log for submission to the ARRL.

(If WSJT-X isn't running, start it up.)

- Select **File > Export Cabrillo file...**
- In the Export Cabrillo dialog box, substituting your own information where needed, enter...



WSJT-X - Export Cabrillo

Location: NFL

Contest: ARRL-FD

Callsign: your callsign

Category-Operator: SINGLE-OP

Category-Transmitter: ONE

Category-Power: LOW

Category-Assisted: NON-ASSISTED

Category-Band: ALL

Claimed-Score:

Operators: your callsign

Club: THE VILLAGES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Name: you

Address: your street address

Address: Your City, State & Zip

Cancel Save

- Don't forget to enter the club's name: THE VILLAGES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
- Click **Save**
- Choose the location of your log file. You'll need it to submit to the ARRL.
- Open your Web browser
- Go to <http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org/>
- Fill out the form with your own information

Click on the appropriate link in the left-navigation column if you wish to submit a log for a different ARRL contest.

Use this form to submit your Cabrillo-formatted log to the ARRL for log checking. It will briefly check your log for proper formatting and completeness

Submitter's E-mail Address: Call Sign Used During Contest:

Location During Contest: Station 6-Character Grid: ([Find Grid](#))

ARRL-Affiliated Contest Club:

What's the highest output power you used during the contest? 5W or less 100W or less More than 100W (accepted as checklog only)

How many people operated under the call used during the contest? Only one More than one

Select Log File on Your Computer: No file selected. **OR** Paste your Cabrillo-formatted log into the text area below:

By submitting a log, I certify that I have observed all competition rules, as well as all regulations for Amateur Radio in my country. My report is correct available at www.arrl.org/contest-rules/

- Click **Browse** and locate the log you saved from WSJT-X
- Select the file and click the **Select** button
-
- Finally, click the Submit Log button to send your log to ARRL! You'll receive immediate feedback and can relax, or fix whatever error(s) may have been flagged. When the log has been accepted, ARRL will send you an email.
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- If you have errors and don't know what to do, you have until July 28, 2026 to submit your log. But don't procrastinate too much!

And Finally...

If you had renamed your log file, it's time to put it back.

- Stop WSJT-X
- Locate the directory containing wsjtx_log.adi
- Rename the log file to something memorable, like :FieldDay2026_wsjtx_log.adi
- Rename the old log file (maybe it's The_REAL_wsjtx_log.adi) to wsjtx_log.adi
- Restart WSJT-X
- Go to File > Settings...
- Go to the Advanced tab
- Uncheck the **Special operating activity** box
- Click **OK** to exit the Setting dialog

Let's do it again in 2027!!