LoTW Update—July 2020
Logbook Committee

Since our April report, there are almost 42 million additional QSO records, resulting in more

Logbook of the World Status

1,205,711,658	QSO records have been entered into the system.
240,929,322	QSL records have resulted.
132,914	Users are registered in the system
192,457	Certificates are active
28,929,721	User files have been processed

than 11 million additional QSL records. We have over 4300 additional registered users, and have processed 2.4 million additional user files. (9 July 2020).

Logbook availability exceeds our 99% uptime target. You can always find the realtime status report at https://status.lotw.arrl.org/. In the last 30 days (as of 7/9) we had 99.998% uptime, with 1 minute of downtime.

Like every aspect of League functioning, Logbook has been affected by the mandatory lockdown of ARRL HQ. IT as a function is comparatively adaptable to remote working, but Logbook is a cross-department collaborative activity. Logbook Support and Awards are both also affected by Work From Home, but continue to provide members with remarkable service. Overall, lower efficiency and distracting tasks continue to delay the beginning of the development of Logbook 2.0.

Programming to add a new ARRL award to Logbook has been completed, and at this time, Awards is still reviewing the implementation. At our last introduction of a new award on Logbook, WAZ, we went through a deliberately extended period of beta testing, first with only a few testers, and eventually expanding the beta test. We only released WAZ publicly once we stopped discovering bugs. As a result, the release of WAZ produced few if any hiccups in Logbook. We plan to follow this model to release the new award capability.

New Modes
At the introduction of FT4, the ADIF standard, which Logbook follows, did not yet include a designation for this mode, so users entered a variety of substitutes for mode, such as "data". Users have also adopted some similar "workarounds" over the years as other new modes have emerged. Users have been frustrated by the ensuing mis-matches of mode on Logbook, and we are working on an alternative display that will make it easier for users to view and understand what is preventing a QSO confirmation in Logbook.

We are aware that K1JT and company are developing other new modes, beyond FT4 and FT8, and we are attempting to communicate with them to try to have an update for the ADIF standard adopted _before_ the release of WSJT-X with those modes.

Supporting Logbook
Users have asked over several years if there is a way they can financially help support Logbook.

Widin and Niswander have been working with Development Manager Melissa Stemmer to help her create a campaign for contributions designated for Logbook. CFO Diane Middleton has

confirmed that a specially designated fund for Logbook can be created to support this campaign.

Better and Easier Uploads
One of the long-term complaints about Logbook has been that some users upload incomplete data, for example, without designating the station's grid, county and state. In order to help address this problem, TQSL now cross-checks a user's certificate with the information in the ADIF file to be uploaded. It also adds integrity checks, such as checking that the user has correctly chosen the ITU zone matching the uploaded location. The introduction of cross-checking has revealed significant non-conformance of the output of many logging programs with the ADIF standard. For example, ADIF indicates that the "Operator" field must contain a call sign, but some users fill this field with their given name. Some logging applications will accept this entry and emit the non-conforming field in what is supposedly an ADIF-compliant file.

Most users must rely on their logging programs to provide ADIF-compliant outputs. We have begun working with developers to help them bring their output files into compliance. We are also working on communications to help users understand their options with regard to TQSL's cross-checking—though we don't recommend it, TQSL provides the option to skip cross-checking.

Another capability has been added and will also require developer support. Until recently, each TQSL upload to Logbook could contain only 1 location. TQSL now supports multiple locations within a single upload. This provides a much easier interface to Logbook for rovers, county hunters and grid chasers. This will also help provide native support for additional awards we plan to add to Logbook. Of course, the proper ADIF field needs to be available in order to support this capability, and again the user's logging program will need to include that field. We have begun working with logging program developers to support this useful extension of TQSL.

Logbook Support
Our discussion and support group ARRL-LOTW (on groups.io) continues to answer user questions, often by other users. This helps relieve the workload on the ARRL Help Desk, and with Help Desk personnel working remotely, it may also improve the response time. Since a significant number of DX stations participate in the group, user answers provide them with quicker access to help than they might otherwise receive.

As always, the Committee thanks A&F and the Board for their continuing support. Though our report will not be presented live this July, we continue to be available to answer any questions.

Submitted by,
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        for the Logbook Committee

Members: AA7A, K3DGB, K7GM, KØGW, W3IZ, W9JJ, K1MK, K1MU/4, K6WX, Doug Haney