

XMLLog Help

Contents

Starting XMLLog

Using the Packet Window

Using the Log Window

New Features

XMLLog Info

Using Help

To navigate through the help screens, click on:

- Highlighted entries to move to that topic.
- "Contents" to return to this screen.
- "Back" to go back to the previously displayed screen.
- ">>" to move to the next screen in sequence.
- "<<" to move to the previous screen in sequence.

Main entries from the menu bars are shown in bold (e.g. **File** or **Options**). Items under the main entries are shown as menu name/item (e.g. **File/Open** or **Options/Labels Setup**).

Installing/Starting XMLog

Installing XMLog from a .ZIP File

Move the zip file to a temporary directory, unzip it, and use Windows to run setup from that directory. Here's the details assuming a zip file name of xmlog199.zip:

- Create a temporary directory, for example c:\xyz
- Move the xmlog199.zip file to c:\xyz
- Unpack the file with the command: pkunzip xmlog199.zip
- Use Windows to run c:\xyz\setup.exe
- When setup asks for the destination directory it's easiest to use the default value.
- That should do it, double-click on the XMLog icon to start things up.
- Delete the files in c:\xyz, delete c:\xyz

After the pkunzip step, you can optionally create a set of install diskettes by running the floppies.bat file.

Installing XMLog from Diskettes

Just run a:\setup, or to be more precise:

- Insert the XMLog diskette in drive.
- Use Windows to run a:\setup.exe
- When setup asks for the destination directory it's easiest to use the default value.
- That should do it, double-click on the XMLog icon to start things up.

Starting XMLog

If you created an XMLog icon as described above, just double-click on it. If you don't have an icon, run the file "C:\MLOG\MLOG.EXE".

The Supplied Environment

When you initially start XMLog, environment options will be set to values I use. Browse the various **Options** menu items and set the comm port number, comm port baud rate, your call, your location, etc.

The TNC and CW messages supplied are the ones I use to switch ports on my MFJ-1278 TNC, set my TNC's date and time, call CQ, etc. Feel free to delete these messages and define your own.

If the packet window takes too long to start up and exit, try reducing the size of the packet history by using **Options/Packet and TNC Options**.

File Sharing on Windows 3.1

XMLog uses the Microsoft Access system routines to manage log files. These routines use file sharing features that may not automatically be available on your system. If you get a message telling you that file sharing is not available, you'll need to modify your autoexec.bat file to invoke \dos\share before Windows gets started. Use a text editor (for example, Windows Notepad or the DOS edit command) and add the line:

```
\dos\share
```

If your autoexec.bat file contains a "win" command to automatically start Windows when you boot, be sure the new line precedes the "win" command. After making the change, you'll need to restart your computer to have the change take effect. (Note that you can't load file sharing by opening a MS-DOS window from Windows and then running \dos\share, it must be loaded before Windows is started).

After you've restarted your system, you should now be able to open log files. If you've been using "memmaker" to optimize your memory usage, run it again to insure "share" will be loaded into upper memory.

Using the Packet Window

General

[Starting Packet](#)

[Shutting Down Packet](#)

[Comm Port Parameters](#)

[Packet Window Menu Items](#)

The Screen and Keyboard

[Screen Layout](#)

[Scrolling Through Screens](#)

[Searching Through Screens](#)

[Input Editing](#)

[Shortcut Keys](#)

[The TNC Escape Character](#)

[Color and Fonts](#)

Sending Messages, Files and the Clipboard

[TNC Messages](#)

[Sending Text Files](#)

[Sending the Contents of the Clipboard](#)

Saving Sessions

[History](#)

[Recording](#)

Automatic Node Connection

[Overview](#)

[Special Node Handling](#)

[More Connection Features](#)

PacketCluster (TM) Support

[PacketCluster Alerts](#)

[Checking Calls and Prefixes](#)

[The "totals" File](#)

[HF Rig Control](#)

CW Features

[Setup](#)

[CW Messages](#)

[CW Pileup Mode](#)

[CW Keyboard Mode](#)

Starting Packet

To open the packet window, choose **Options/Packet Window**.

To automatically open the packet window each time you run XMLog choose **Options/Auto-Start Packet Window**.

If you're anxious to use the packet window without reading all the documentation just make sure the baud rate and Comm port for your TNC are set correctly. Choose **Options/TNC Comm Port Select** and set the appropriate values.

Closing the Log or Packet Windows

There are two ways to shut down the packet window without stopping XMLog:

- Choose **Options/Packet Window** again.
- Close the packet window.

There are three ways to exit XMLog:

- Choose **File/Exit** from the packet window.
- Choose **File/Exit** from the log window.
- Close the log window.

Packet Window Menu Items

File

Record Session
Stop Recording
Exit

Edit

Find
Next
TNC Escape
Split Screen
Horizontal Scrollbar

Node

Connect
Stop Connect

DX

Check Call/Prefix
Callbook Lookup
PacketCluster Alerts
Update Packet DXCC Status
Show Country List

Send

File
ClipBoard
Stop Sending
Message1-8

CW

Faster/Slower
Set Speed
Set CW Pileup Mode
Set CW Keyboard Mode
Send File
Stop CW
Set #him
Send Message1-8

Options

Log Options, QTH, Call
Verify Country Guesses
Enable Zone Prompts

Packet Window
Auto-Start Packet Window
Packet and TNC Options
TNC Comm Port Select
HF Rig Comm Port Select
CW Options

Labels Layout
Callbook Setup

Colors
Status Bar Clock

Screen Layout

Split Screen

The packet window is normally split into two areas. Data from your TNC is displayed in the top part of the window. The line you're currently typing is displayed in the bottom part of the window. The line you're typing is not sent to the TNC until you hit the Enter key. This means that data from your TNC can be displayed while you're composing the next line to be sent.

Be sure to set up your TNC so that it echoes characters sent to it. This allows the lines you send to be displayed amidst the incoming data in the top part of the packet window.

If you need to have characters sent as they are typed, choose **Edit/Split Screen** to clear Split Screen Mode, this combines the input and output areas. Disabling Split Screen Mode is useful when you operate HF packet or other modes in which the TNC needs to process characters as soon you type them.

Horizontal Scrollbar

Sometimes incoming lines are too long to fit on the screen, especially if you're using a large font. XMLog provides two schemes for handling long lines - choose **Edit/Horizontal Scrollbar** to switch between the two.

- When the horizontal scrollbar is disabled, lines that are too long to fit on the screen are broken up into shorter lines that do fit.
- When the scrollbar is enabled, only the leftmost part of a long line will be visible. Use the scrollbar to view the parts that didn't fit on the screen. Extremely long lines get broken up into multiple 250 character lines.

The Status Bar

The status bar is displayed at the bottom of the packet window. The status bar will display:

- **Scrolled** if you have scrolled the packet window up.
- **Pileup** if you have selected CW Pileup Mode.
- **CW KB** if you have selected CW Keyboard Mode.
- The file being used to record your session if you've chosen File/Record Session.

The Status Bar Clock

The status bars for the log and packet windows can also display the date and time. Choose **Options/Status Bar Clock** to enable or disable this clock. On slower systems, disabling the clock may improve the accuracy of the CW timing (the fewer things happening, the more resources available to send CW).

Color and Fonts

Color

Choose **Options/Colors** to select the foreground and background colors for the log or packet windows.

Fonts

Choose **Options/Log Options, QTH, Call** to select the font used for reports generated from the log window.

Choose **Options/Packet and TNC Options** to select the font used for the packet window. It's best to use a fixed-width (non-proportional) font for the packet window so data that's supposed to be shown in columns will line up correctly. The commonly available fixed-width fonts are Courier, Courier New and FixedSys.

Scrolling Through Previous Screens

To view old output, use the scroll bar at the right of the window or use these keys:

Up Arrow	Scroll the window back one line
Down Arrow	Scroll the window forward one line
Page Up	Scroll the window back one screen
Page Down	Scroll the window forward one screen
Home	Scroll back to oldest screen
End	Scroll forward to current screen

If you've scrolled back to view previous screens the status bar at the bottom of the packet window will show "Scrolled".

Searching Through Previous Screens

Use Ctrl-F or choose **Edit/Find** to search backwards through previous screens starting from the bottom line of your current screen. This search ignores upper and lower case differences.

To repeat the previous search use F3 or choose **Edit/Find Next**.

Input Editing

When in Split Screen Mode the following characters can be used to edit the line being entered.

Backspace	Delete character left of cursor
Delete	Delete character under cursor
Ctrl-X	Delete entire line
Ctrl-End	Delete to end of line
Left arrow	Move cursor left
Right arrow	Move cursor right
Tab	Move to next word
Shift-Tab	Move to previous word
Ctrl-Left arrow	Move to start of line
Ctrl-Right arrow	Move to end of line
Enter (Return)	Send the line to the TNC

Shortcut Keys

Some menu items for the packet window have function key shortcuts. These features are described in more detail in other sections.

<u>F1</u>	Help
<u>F2</u>	Send a TNC command escape
<u>Ctrl-F</u>	Prompt and search scrolled output
<u>F3</u>	Re-search scrolled output
<u>F4</u>	Show info for call or prefix
<u>F5</u>	Start node connection
<u>Shift-F1...F8</u>	Send TNC messages 1 through 8
<u>Ctrl-F1...F8</u>	Send CW messages 1 through 8
<u>F9</u>	Increase CW speed
<u>Shift-F9</u>	Decrease CW speed
<u>Ctrl-F9</u>	Prompt for new CW speed
<u>F11</u>	Set CW Pileup Mode
<u>Ctrl-F11</u>	Set CW Keyboard Mode
<u>F12</u>	Stop any CW in progress

The TNC Escape Character

TNCs have two modes, "command mode" and "data mode". When in command mode, the TNC is expecting commands that will be acted on locally and not transmitted. When in "data mode", anything sent to the TNC gets transmitted to your current connection.

TNCs generally recognize a special character that causes an escape from data mode to command mode. To send this TNC escape character, use F2 or choose **Edit/TNC Escape**.

To check the current definition for this escape character, choose **Options/Packet and TNC Options**. The default value is "3", the ASCII value for Ctrl-C. This is the value used by most TNC's. ASCII values for other control characters are 1 for Ctrl-A through 26 for Ctrl-Z, and 27 for Esc (Escape).

TNC Messages

You can define messages to be sent to the TNC by choosing **Options/Packet and TNC Options**. These messages can be sent by choosing **Send/Send Message to TNC** or by typing a function key plus the shift key - for example Shift+F1 sends message number 1.

Messages can include special "#" commands that are replaced with you call, the time, etc. The following commands are replaced with:

#me	(Your call, set by Options/Call)
#him	(His call, set by CW/Set #him)
#date or #time	(Current date or time)
#tncdate	(Date/time for TNC "daytime" command)
#msg1 ... #msg8	(Include the text from another message)
#cr	(Carriage return, end of line)
#cmd	(The TNC command escape character)

Some examples:

Hi, my call is #me#cr	
daytime #tncdate#cr	(set TNC date/time)
line 1#crline 2#cr	(sends two lines)

Automatic Node Connection

Starting a Connection Sequence

Use F5 or choose **Node/Connect** to start a sequence that automatically connects through a succession of nodes until you reach a final destination.

Node Files

When you request an automatic node connection, a list of destination nodes is displayed. The entries in this list represent "node" files that contain information describing how to reach the destination node. Node files are plain text files with extensions of ".nod" - the file "bbsxx.nod" will appear as bbsxx in the node list. These node files must reside in XMLog's working directory.

Node files contain lines of the form "connect nodename". XMLog will make successive connections to the nodes named by these connect commands.

Typically you will be making the first connection from your TNC when it is in a disconnected state, so be sure to use the F2 key to put the TNC in command mode before starting a connection sequence.

Special Cases

For information on other commands that can appear in node files see [Special Node Handling](#) and [More Special Node Features](#).

Aborting a Connection Sequence

To abort a node connection sequence in progress, choose **Node/Stop Connect**.

Receiving one of the following messages will automatically abort the node connection sequence: "Disconnected", "Invalid call", "Node-name busy", or "Node-name failure".

Special Node Handling

Some nodes display a name in their connection message that's different than the one given in the connect command. This means that XMLLog can't recognize that the connection has completed successfully. To handle these nodes, the connect command in your node file should include two names; the node name used for the connection and the name that's displayed when the connection is successful. For example, the line "connect xxx yyy" will send "connect xxx" and look for "connected to yyy".

Some nodes are accessed by providing their name without the leading "connect". To handle these cases, precede the first name with a "*".

Here's some example node file commands using all these features:

```
connect dave          (send "connect dave" , wait for "connected to dave")
```

```
connect ernie ron(send "connect ernie", wait for "connected to ron")
```

```
connect *collins (send "collins", wait for "connected to collins")
```

```
connect *kim mike    (send "kim", wait for "connected to mike")
```

More Special Node Features

Commands

Any line in a node file can contain "#" commands. These commands get replaced with the appropriate text. See [TNC Messages](#) for details on "#" commands.

Send and Match commands

There are two other commands that can be included in node files.

- The "send" command allows you to send arbitrary text.
- The "match" command creates pauses during the connect sequence and waits for certain text to be received. Upper/lower case differences are ignored by the match command.

Assume your call has been defined as w1aw by choosing **Options/Log Options, QTH, Call**. Here's an example of a node file that uses the send and match features.

```
connect bbsxxx      (send "connect bbsxxx", wait for "connected to bbsxxx")
match #me de bbsxxx (wait for "w1aw de bbsxxx" from the node)
send list/new      (send "list/new" to the node)
```

Sending Text Files or the Clipboard

Text files can be sent to your TNC by choosing **Send/Send File to TNC**. This feature allows you to prepare a file using a text editor and then send it later.

The contents of the clipboard can be sent to your TNC by choosing **Send/Send Clipboard to TNC**. Many programs allow you to move text to the clipboard with cut/copy commands.

Choose **Send/Stop Sending File/Clipboard** to stop any sending in progress.

Sending too fast for your TNC?

If your TNC doesn't seem to be getting every character from a file being sent, or you seem to be sending lines faster than your connection can handle them, try setting the "send pause" value. This pause time is set by choosing **Options/Packet and TNC Options** and defines the time (in seconds) to pause between each line that's sent.

CW Setup

CW keying is done via the keyboard or by sending a file as CW. XMLog can key your rig using the same mechanism used by CT and other programs - the DTR pin (Data Terminal Ready) of one of your communications ports is toggled. XMLog can also control the keying using the LPT1 or LPT2 port. Check **Transmitter Keying Circuits** at the end of this section for details.

Before using the CW features, set the following values by choosing **Options/CW Options**.

TX Port

Set **TX Port** to the port used to key your transmitter: COM1, COM2, LPT1, etc. Set **TX Port** to "None" to disable CW keying. The port you select must be unique - it can't be the same port you use for your TNC or for controlling your HF rig.

Speed

Set **Speed** to the initial CW speed to be used when XMLog starts up. Once you're under way you can change the speed by choosing **CW/Faster** (F9) or **CW/Slower** (Shift-F9). You can also set an exact speed with **CW/Set Speed** (Ctrl-F9).

Enable Sidetone

Set the sidetone option to turn on a local CW monitor when your rig doesn't provide a sidetone.

You can also set this option to experiment with the CW keyboard and CW Send File features when you aren't keying your rig (set **TX Port** to **None** if you need to disable transmitter keying).

Use PC Speaker, Use Sound Card

Set the **Speaker** or **Sound Card** option to select the device used for the CW sidetone and for CW PacketCluster alerts.

Tone Frequency

Set **Tone** to the frequency used for the sidetone.

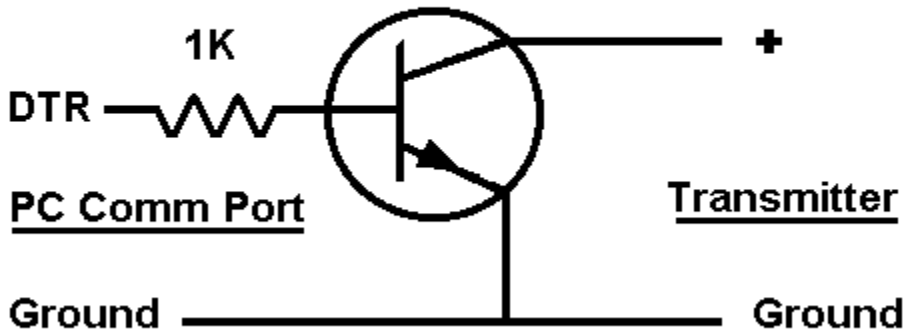
CW Messages

You can use XMLog as a memory keyer by defining messages that are sent with function keys. For more info see [CW Messages](#).

Transmitter Keying Circuits

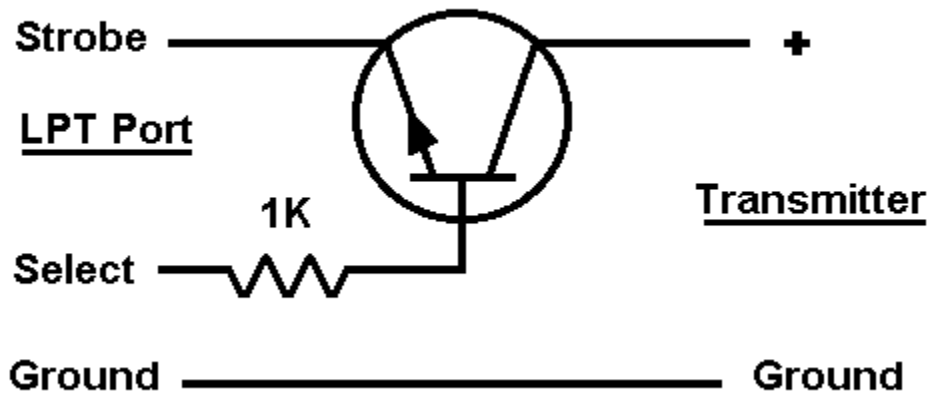
Here's all that's required to key your positive-keyed transistorized rig, either from a COM or an LPT port. Use a small-signal NPN transistor like a 2N2222, 2N3904, 2N4401, etc.

2N2222 or equivalent



For 25 pin connectors, DTR is pin 20 and Ground is pin 7. For 9 pin connectors, DTR is pin 4 and Ground is pin 5.

2N2222 or equivalent



For 25 pin connectors, Strobe is pin 1, Select is pin 17, and Ground is pin 18. For 36 pin connectors, Strobe is pin 1, Select is pin 36, and Ground is pin 19.

CW Messages

Choose **Options/CW Options** to define messages that can be sent as CW. "#" commands can be included in these messages - see [TNC Messages](#) for details on "#" commands. Here's an example of a CW message using # commands:

CQ CQ CQ de #me #me k

To send CW messages 1 through 8 use the Ctrl-F1 through Ctrl-F8 keys.

Use the F12 key or choose **CW/Stop CW** to stop any CW messages in progress.

XMLLog can send the following punctuation as CW:

, . / ? ' " ; : - _ () \$

Use the following characters to send these prosigns:

= (BT, pause)
% (AS, wait)

+ (AR, end message)
@ (SK, end work)

! (SN, attention)
~ (error)

CW Pileup Mode

In the heat of a DX pileup, typing Ctrl-F4 etc. to send messages while trying tune your rig and rotate your beam can be awkward. During these hectic moments use CW Pileup Mode to make sending CW messages a bit simpler. Use F11 or choose **CW/CW Pileup Mode** to enable or disable CW pileup mode. When CW Pileup Mode is set:

- F4 through F8 to sends CW messages 4 through 8 (no Ctrl key required).
- F1 through F3 and F9 through F12 retain their normal functions.
- F4 and F5 will also retain their normal functions if CW messages 4 and 5 haven't been defined
- The Esc key will stop CW in progress (in addition to F12).
- CW PacketCluster alerts are disabled.
- The status bar at the bottom of the packet window will show "Pileup".

CW Keyboard Mode

There are two ways to send CW directly from the keyboard:

- To send a line as CW, enter the text as though it were to be sent to your TNC, but use Ctrl-Enter rather than Enter to send the line.
- To send CW as the characters are being typed, use Ctrl-F11 or choose **CW/CW Keyboard Mode** to enable or disable CW Keyboard Mode. When in this mode, characters you type are shown in the input area of the packet window and are drained off to the left as they are sent. Characters that haven't been sent can be edited using Delete, Ctrl-X, etc.

When CW Keyboard Mode is set the status bar at the bottom of the packet window will show "CW KB".

CW Keyboard Mode is only available when the packet window is in Split Screen Mode.

History

The History feature allows your session to be saved in a file when the packet window is closed and be automatically reloaded the next time the packet window is opened. This session file will contain the current screen and all scrolled screens.

To enable this feature choose **Options/Packet and TNC Options** and set history to "Save". Also set "lines" to the number of lines you want to save. Setting "lines" too large on slow machines or on machines that have limited memory can cause XMLog to run slowly. It can also make opening/closing the packet window become annoyingly slow. 1000-2000 is a good range for an average 386 system - I use 10000 on my 486/16mb which gives me about a week's worth of history.

Session Recording

You can begin saving screen output in a text file at any time by choosing **File/Record Session**. You will be prompted for the name of the destination file. To stop recording choose **File/Stop Recording**.

While a session is being recorded the status bar at the bottom of the packet window will show "Recording: filename".

Session recording is independent of saving and restoring sessions using the History feature.

TNC Comm Port Parameters

Choose **Options/TNC Comm Port Select** to set communications port parameters for your packet TNC. The two most important parameters are the port number and baud rate.

Port

PC's have communications ports with names like COM1 or COM2. Check your TNC manual for help on connecting your TNC to one of these ports, then set **Port** to the port you choose.

Since XMLog can also use a comm port for CW keying or for HF rig control, you may get a message about port conflicts. If you get this message, choose **Options/CW Options** or **Options/HF Comm Port Select** and resolve the conflicts - be sure everyone is using a different port.

Baud Rate

Most TNC's have commands that control their baud rate. This value controls the speed that characters are exchanged between your PC and the TNC, it doesn't affect the speed at which characters are transmitted (usually 1200 baud). Even though you can't transmit faster than 1200 baud, it's still a good idea to set your TNC-to-computer baud rate higher since output from local TNC commands will display faster.

If you have problems with garbled output from your TNC, check your TNC manual for information on setting the baud rate or for details on how to enable automatic baud rate detection.

Echo

Most TNC's have commands that control whether characters sent to it are echoed back to the PC. If you can't set up your TNC to echo, turn XMLog's echo parameter on.

Normally, it's best to have XMLog's echo turned off and your TNC's echo turned on. With this set up it's obvious when your PC-to-TNC connection is working (and you haven't forgotten to turn on your TNC).

Flow Control

Most TNC's support various types of flow control. Flow control allows the TNC to signal that it has so much unsent data that further data sent to it will be discarded. Check your TNC manual for commands that enable flow control and set the corresponding XMLog flow control parameters.

Parity, Stop Bits and Data Bits

For most TNC's set Parity to "none", Stop Bits to "1" and Data Bits to "8".

HF Rig Comm Port Parameters

If you have set up an interface between your PC and HF rig, XMLog allows you to double-click on frequencies displayed in the packet window and will send your rig to that frequency and set the appropriate mode. Note: Frequency changes are applied to VFO A.

Choose **Options/HF Rig Comm Port Select** to set parameters for the communications port used to control your HF rig.

Set defaults for:

Use the **Set defaults for:** list to select your rig from the list of HF rigs supported by XMLog. Choosing an entry from this list will set values for Baud Rate, Parity, Data Bits and Stop Bits (as well as the Rig Address for Icom rigs).

To disable the rig control feature select "None" from the **Set defaults for:** list and then select the Save button.

Port

Select the communications port that you're using to connect your PC and HF rig. Most HF rigs require an optional interface box that is installed between the comm port and your rig. Check your HF rig manual for details on setting up the rig-to-PC connection.

Since XMLog also uses comm ports for your TNC or for CW keying, you may get a message about port conflicts. If you get this message, choose **Options/TNC Comm Port Select** or **Options/CW Options** and resolve the conflicts - be sure each feature is using a different port.

Baud Rate

Most rigs communicate to a PC using a preset baud rate. The appropriate value is automatically set when you choose a rig from the **Set defaults for:** list.

Parity, Stop Bits and Data Bits

Most rigs use values of "None" for Parity, "1" for Stop Bits and "8" for Data Bits. The appropriate values are automatically set when you choose a rig from the **Set defaults for:** list.

Non-Standard Setups

Some rigs allow you to use comm port settings other than the "standard" preset settings. After you select your rig from the list, you can manually set appropriate values.

Unlisted Rigs

When a manufacturer comes out with a new rig that isn't in the list of supported rigs, you may still be able to use that rig if it uses a similar setup to a rig already in the list. Select a rig from the same manufacturer and manually set appropriate values for the baud rate, rig address, etc.

Yaesu

I haven't had a chance to test any Yaesu rigs so I'm not sure rig control will work. If you

have problems with a Yaesu rig (or any other rig), I'll be happy to work with you if you have documentation on the "CAT" commands needed to control your rig's frequency and mode (this documentation is usually in HF rig manual).

PacketCluster Support - Alerts

When the Cluster sends a DX spot, it also sends a beep to make you come running. These spots can be filtered by XMLog so that you only receive alerts for those countries, bands, and modes you need. When XMLog sees a Cluster spot it does two things:

- Displays country info and QSL status in the packet window.
- Optionally gives a CW or voice alert.

Status Lines

When a DX spot is received from the Cluster, a status line for the country being spotted is displayed. This status line shows country info and the unconfirmed modes and bands. The bands and modes may be flagged with a * or + to indicate their QSL status:

- * (QSL in the mail)
- + (worked but not yet QSL'ed)

Here's an example spot and the resulting status line:

```
DX de KA1LBW: 7001.3 A5ABC
A5ABC (Bhutan, 18) - Phone RTTY 160 80+ 10*
```

In this case we've confirmed all modes except Phone and RTTY, we've confirmed all bands except 160, 80 and 10. We've also worked A5 on 80 and 10 and the QSL for 10 is in the mail.

The beam heading follows the country name and is displayed if you've set your location, see [Options/Log Options, QTH, Call](#).

If you don't want these status lines displayed choose **DX/PacketCluster Alerts** from the packet window and set **Don't Display Alert Info**.

CW DX Alerts

To get CW DX alerts here's what you need to do:

- Enable the alerts by choosing **DX/PacketCluster Alerts** from the packet window and set **Enable CW Alerts**.
- Select the PC speaker or the sound card by choosing [Options/CW Options](#).
- Maintain an up-to-date DXCC status file, see [PacketCluster Support - The "totals" File](#).

The specific CW alerts sent by XMLog are:

```
! prefix      (needed this band/mode)
!! prefix     (needed on all bands/modes)
? prefix      (unknown prefix)
```

Since XMLog will be giving alerts for interesting spots, you may want to ignore the normal beep sent along with PacketCluster spots. Choose **Options/Packet and TNC Options** and set **Beep** to "Off".

CW New Mail Alerts

XMLog also recognizes the Cluster message "You have new mail from xxx". When we see this message, we send the alert:

. Mail de xxx

To get mail alerts choose **DX/PacketCluster Alerts** from the packet window and set **Enable CW Alerts**. If you don't want the CW DX Alerts that get enabled with this feature, fill in **Specific bands, modes, countries to ignore:** with all.

Voice DX Alerts

If you have a sound card installed in your PC XMLog can provide voice alerts for PacketCluster spots. To get voice DX alerts here's what you need to do:

- Create a "voice" directory under your XMLog directory. For example, if XMLog is installed in "C:\MLOG", you must first create a directory named "C:\MLOG\VOICE".
- Move the file WAVES.ZIP into the VOICE directory and use the command "PKUNZIP WAVES.ZIP" to extract the wave files. WAVES.ZIP is available on the internet from my home page <http://www.xmlog.com>
- Enable voice alerts by choosing **DX/PacketCluster Alerts** from the packet window and set **Enable Voice Alerts**.

You can also record your own announcements and put them in the voice directory. You will need to create a wave file for each letter, number, and a few words. Here's the complete list of files required.

- 0.WAV, 1.WAV ... 9.WAV
- 11.WAV, 12.WAV ... 19.WAV
- 10.WAV, 20.WAV ... 90.WAV
- 160.WAV
- A.WAV ... Z.WAV
- SLASH.WAV, ON.WAV, METER.WAV, METERS.WAV
- CW.WAV, PHONE.WAV, DATA.WAV

Inhibiting Alerts

When alerts are enabled, they are normally given on a band and mode basis. If you have HBO confirmed on phone and a spot for HBO comes in on CW, we send an alert. If you aren't interested in alerts for certain bands, modes, or countries, choose **DX/PacketCluster Alerts** from the packet window and fill in the **Specific countries, bands, mode to ignore:** field. For example:

phone 160	(ignore phone and 160m)
cw rtty	(ignore cw and rtty)
rtty A5	(ignore A5's and rtty)
all	(mail alerts only)

Assuming that a band/mode/country hasn't been ignored as described above, we give alerts when we see spots for countries that haven't been confirmed for the band or mode being spotted. Some folk are only interested in confirming a country once - if you aren't interested in alerts for new bands or modes, choose **DX/PacketCluster Alerts** and set the

No alerts for new bands/modes option.

PacketCluster Support - DX/Check Call

Choosing **DX/Check Call** displays the QSL status for a given country for each band and mode. It displays a status line in the packet window using the same format used by PacketCluster alerts. For example, providing A5 to the Check Call prompt might show:

A5 (Bhutan, 18) - Phone RTTY 160 80+ 10*

In this case we've confirmed A5 on all modes except Phone and RTTY, we've confirmed all bands except 160, 80 and 10. We've also worked A5 on 80 and 10 and the QSL for 10 is in the mail.

The number in parenthesis is the beam heading and is displayed if you've set your location, see Options/Log Options, QTH, Call.

This menu item is also useful as a quick way to determine the country for a call with an unusual prefix. (Quicker than using **DX/Show Country List**).

PacketCluster Support - The "totals" File

The PacketCluster alert feature requires a file that tracks the QSL status for each country. This "totals" file has the same format as the report generated when you choose **Awards/DXCC Checklist** from the log window (and is similar to the ARRL DX Checklist).

PacketCluster users have three choices:

- Disable the alert feature - choose **DX/PacketCluster Alerts** from the packet window and disable the **Enable CW alerts** option.
- Use XMLog to maintain your log and the "totals" file. Since the totals file isn't updated automatically, choose **DX/Update Packet DXCC Status** to create an up-to-date totals file whenever you've made significant changes to your log. (You must have your log open to use **DX/Update Packet DXCC Status**).
- If you aren't using XMLog for your log, you can maintain the totals file manually using a text editor. It may seem a bit daunting, but the process is identical to keeping your ARRL DXCC Checklist up to date.

Maintaining the Totals File Manually

Create a new "totals" in your XMLog directory by copying the null totals file "totals.nil" supplied with XMLog to "totals". This new totals file will show you needing everything, everywhere. Each line in the file contains the QSL status for one country. The line starts with the country prefix followed by the QSL status for each mode and band. A status of "---" means unworked; "wrk" means worked but no QSL sent yet; "out" means QSL in the mail; and "cnf" means QSL received. Use a text editor to change the "---" entries to the appropriate values. The Notepad program provided with Windows can be used to do the editing.

The prefixes used in the totals file must match the ones defined in the "prefixes" file. The prefixes file supplied with XMLog defines the correspondence of callsign prefixes with countries. If you are maintaining your totals file manually and you make changes or additions to the prefixes file, be sure to make the same changes to your totals file - keep entries in both files in the same order. For information on the prefixes file, see [Updating the Country/Prefix List](#). Missing entries or mismatched prefixes in the totals file will result in warning messages being displayed when the packet window is opened.

PacketCluster Support - HF Rig Control

How would you like to be able to double-click on a frequency from a PacketCluster spot and have XMLog send your rig to that frequency and set the appropriate mode? If your rig supports a PC-to-rig interface and your rig is one that is recognized by XMLog here's what you need to do:

- Check your rig's manual and see what's required to set up a PC-to-rig connection. Some rigs require an optional interface box for this connection (for example, an IF-232C for Kenwood or a CT-17 for Icom). Other rigs can be connected directly to one of your PC's communications ports with an appropriate cable.
- Choose the **Options/HF Rig Comm Port Select** menu item to select your rig and the communications port to be used for the PC-to-rig interface (see [HF Rig Comm Port Select](#) for info).

Using the Log Window

Starting XMLog

Shutting Down XMLog

Log Window Menu Items

Log Options

Log Files

Creating New Logs

Opening Existing Logs

Importing/Exporting Log Entries

Log File Entries

Field Descriptions

Editing Fields

Adding New Log Entries

Modifying Existing Entries

Deleting Log Entries

Displaying and Printing Entries

Searching the Log

Searching

Search Keys

Wildcards in Search Keys

DXCC

DXCC Reports

Displaying the Country/Prefix List

Updating the Country/Prefix List

Updating DXCC Status for Packet

DXCC Submission Tracking

WAS/WAZ

Worked All States Reports

Worked All Zones Reports

WAS/WAZ Submission Tracking

Log Window Menu Items

File

Open Old Log
Create New Log
Stop
Exit

Edit

Add Entry
Modify Entry
Delete Current Entry
Delete Selected Entries
Set Date/Time in Entry
Use Defaults for New Entries/Date
Edit Defaults for New Entries/Date
Handle Bureau Card
Change Prefix
Copy
Cut
Paste

Display

Display Short
Display Medium
Display Long
Sort By
QSL and Mailing Labels

DX

Show Country List
Callbook Lookup
Update Packet DXCC Status

Awards

DXCC Totals
DXCC Checklist
DXCC Critical QSO's
DXCC Needed Countries
WAS Totals
WAS Checklist
WAZ Totals
WAZ Checklist
Award Submission Tracking

Import

Import CT .res File
Import XMLog Text File
Write XMLog Text File

Options

Log Options, QTH, Call
Verify Country Guesses
Enable Zone Prompts

Packet Window
Auto-Start Packet Window
Packet and TNC Options
TNC Comm Port Select
HF Rig Comm Port Select
CW Options

Labels Layout
Callbook Setup
Colors
Status Bar Clock

Log Files

Opening Existing Log Files

To open an existing log choose **File/Open Log**.

If you want a certain log file to be automatically opened every time XMLog starts up, set that log as the default log file using the **Options/Log Options, QTH, Call** menu.

Creating a New Log File

To create a new log file choose **File/Create New Log**.

Log Entry Field Descriptions

A log entry is composed of fields. Some are required, some are optional. When the value for a required field is unknown use ?. Here's the format for each field, required fields are marked with a *.

Although the format for date fields is mm/dd/yy by default, it can be set to dd/mm/yy by using the **Options/Log Options, QTH, Call** menu.

Date* mm/dd/yy

Time* hhmm (UTC)

Callsign* The call.

Frequency* mhz.khz

RST Sent 59, 599+20, etc. No format checking.

RST Rcvd 59, 599+20, etc. No format checking.

Mode* CW
Phone: SSB, AM, FM
Data: DATA, PACKET, AMTOR, RTTY,
PACTOR, FAX, FSK, AFSK, VIDEO
Unknown: ?

Power* 1 - 1500.

Country* Prefix and country. Automatically filled in based on the Call field.

Zone CQ zone. Automatically filled in based on the Country or QTH field.

QSL Via Address, manager, etc.

QSL Sent mm/dd/yy

QSL Rcvd mm/dd/yy

Name, etc. Name, etc.

Notes General info. The **Import CT .res File** feature saves contest info here.

If the "QSL Sent" field is non-blank, the QSL status for this contact is "outstanding". If the "QSL Received" field is non-blank, the QSL status for this contact is "confirmed". Use ? if you've sent or received a card but you don't know the date.

Award Info Fields

The checkbox in the lower left of the log window controls the display of additional fields used for Awards tracking. Nine date fields are displayed - the submission date, the acceptance date and the rejection date for the DXCC, WAS and WAZ awards. These fields are treated as normal date fields and can be provided as keys when searching the log. See [Award Submission Tracking](#).

Displaying the Country List

The DXCC country list can be displayed by choosing **DX/Show Country List** from the log or packet window. The list is also displayed when you add or modify a log entry and XMLog can't guess the country based on the callsign.

When you select a country, the distance and bearing from your QTH is shown at the top of the list if you've set your location using **Options/Log Options, QTH, Call**.

Selecting a Country from the List

- Click on an entry.
- Use the scroll bar, Page Up/Down, Home, End, and up /down arrow keys.

Finding a Country Based on a Call or Prefix

- Set the **Guess Call/Prefix** option.
- Fill in a call or prefix in the box next to the **Guess** button, and select **Guess**.

Finding a Country Based on the Country Name

- Set the **Match Country Name** option.
- Fill in all or part of a country name in the box next to the **Search** button, and choose **Search**.
- If you got a match, you can try for another match by choosing **Next**.

Exiting

When you're done, choose **Exit** (if you're using **Show Country List**) or **Select** (if you're editing a log entry).

Adding New Log Entries

To add a new entry, choose **Edit/Add Entry** and start filling in fields. Use the Tab key or the mouse to move between fields. After you've filled in the fields type Enter or select the **Add** button. After an entry is added, you're ready to fill in fields for the next entry. To get out of add mode select the **Stop** button.

When you start filling in fields for a new entry the **Stop** button changes to **Clear**, select **Clear** to clear all fields and stay in add mode.

When log entries are added, the country and zone fields can be automatically filled in based on the call, see **Country and Zone Guessing**.

For detailed info about the fields in a log entry see **Log Entry Fields** and **Editing Fields**.

Real Time Logging

There are several ways to set the date and time fields to the current date and time.

- Choose **Edit/Set Date and Time in Entry** (or use the shortcut Ctrl-D).
- Double-click on any date or time field.
- Use the default fields feature as described below.

The date and time used can be the current value of your PC's clock, or can be the value of the clock adjusted for UTC. To set a UTC offset, choose **Options/Log Options** and set **UTC Offset** to zero or to the number of hours difference between your PC's clock and UTC (5 for the east coast, 8 for the west, etc.).

Set the **Daylight Savings Time** option if you have set your PC's clock to use Daylight Savings Time. Set this option and forget it, don't turn it on and off when Daylight Savings Time comes and goes.

Defining Default Field Values

When new log entries are created XMLLog can optionally fill in pre-defined values for any field. To define these default values choose **Edit/Edit Defaults for New Entries**. Use the displayed form to define the default values and then select the **Save** button. To have these defaults applied to new entries, choose the **Edit/Enable Defaults for New Entries** menu item (this menu item will show a check-mark when the feature is enabled).

If you want to use the current date and/or time for new log entries, set the **Use Current Time** or **Use Current Date** options. Setting these options will override any value entered in the default date or time fields.

Country and Zone Guessing

Country Guessing

Whenever a log entry is added or modified, the callsign and prefix fields are checked. Several things can happen as a result of this check:

- If the prefix field is null, we try to guess the country based on the callsign.
- If the prefix field is not null we make sure it's one we recognize.

If we make a country guess, a dialog box with these options is displayed:

- **Use the Guess.** The guess is fine, use it.
- **Back to Edit Entry.** Go back to edit mode so you can replace the guess with something else.
- **Set to Unknown.** Set the prefix field to **?**, no country will be associated with the entry. A **?** should be used for maritime mobile stations or others that have no DXCC status. It should also be used for entries that were "not in the log", or those rejected by the ARRL for DXCC. Entries with a **?** in the prefix field are not included in DXCC summaries.
- **Select Country From List.** This option allows you to choose the country from the list of DXCC countries.

Zone Guessing

When the country is guessed, the correct zone may also be filled in. For countries that cover more than one zone, you will be prompted with a list of zones. Select one of these zones or use **?** to mean unknown.

For Canadian or U.S. entries the QTH field is scanned to see if a state or province was provided. If we find one, the appropriate zone is filled in - otherwise a **?** is filled in. The last "word" in the QTH entry is checked to see if it's a two-letter state or provincial abbreviation (we also recognize a few three letter provincial abbreviations). Since VE2 and VE8 cover more than one zone, we can't make a guess for these provinces.

Examples of QTH fields we can guess the zone from:

- Fargo, ND
- ND.
- 104 Main Street, Fargo, ND. - 10203

Examples of QTH fields we can't guess from:

- Fargo, ND USA
- 104 Main Street, Fargo, North Dakota

Screw-ups can occur using this scheme. For example:

- Norwich, VT, near Hanover NH

Controlling Country/Zone Guessing

The prompts given when a country is "guessed" can be enabled or disabled by choosing **Options/Verify Country Guesses**. When verification is disabled and the country can't be guessed, the prefix will be set to ?.

Prompts for zones can be enabled or disabled by choosing **Options/Enable Zone Prompts**. When zone prompts are disabled, zone fields for countries that cover more than one zone will be set to ?.

For Canadian or US QSO's, zone prompts are always disabled.

Modifying Log Entries

When you choose **Edit/Modify Entry**, the entry will be re-displayed and you can edit its fields. Type Enter or select **OK** to apply the changes. If a format error is detected when you choose **OK**, a message is displayed and you can correct the error. Type Esc or select **Cancel** to cancel editing an entry - any changes made will not be applied.

While modifying an entry you can double-click on any date or time field to replace that field with the current date or time.

For more info about the fields in a log entry see [Log Entry Fields](#) and [Editing Fields](#).

The Modify Button

Another way to get into edit mode is to select the **Modify** button. Early versions of XMLog would automatically enter edit mode when you clicked on any field in an entry. I found myself getting into edit mode by mistake too often, so I added the **Modify** button and removed the "click" feature. If you want to try the old way of entering edit mode by clicking on a field, choose [Options/Log Options, QTH, Call](#) and turn **Modify Button** off. I still find this useful when I get a batch of cards from the bureau and I'm modifying lots of entries. (For another bureau shortcut, see [The Bureau Card Shortcut](#)).

Deleting Log Entries

When you choose **Edit/Delete Current Entry** the currently displayed entry will be removed from the log.

When you choose **Edit/Delete All Entries** all the entries selected by the last log search will be removed from the log.

Editing Fields in a Log Entry

When entering or modifying a field in a log entry you can use these characters.

Left arrow	move left
Right arrow	move right
Delete	delete current character
Backspace	delete character to left
Ctrl-Left arrow	move to start of previous word
Ctrl-Right arrow	move to start of next word
Home	move to start of line
End	move to end of line

You can move from field to field by typing:

Tab	move to next field
Shift-Tab	move to previous field

You can also use the mouse to move from field to field.

Clipboard Editing

After entering edit mode you can use the clipboard as temporary storage for data going to and from fields.

- To move an entire field to the clipboard, highlight the text by double-clicking the mouse on the field, then type Ctrl-C (or choose **Edit/Copy**). Typing Ctrl-X (or choosing **Edit/Cut**) moves a field to the clipboard and erases the field.
- To move part of a field to the clipboard, hold the mouse button down and drag the mouse across the text you want to select. Then do a copy or cut as described above.
- To patch the contents of the clipboard into a field, set the cursor where you want it added and type Ctrl-V (or choose **Edit/Paste**). To replace part or all the text in a field, highlight the text you want to replace and do the paste.

The clipboard can be useful when doing repetitive changes to entries. For example, if you get a stack of cards from the bureau, enter the current "QSL Received" date once and then move it to the clipboard. Use Ctrl-V to paste that date into subsequent entries you modify. (For another bureau shortcut, see [The Bureau Card Shortcut](#)).

Log Searching - The Select and Search Buttons

After you've opened a log file, you can select a subset of the entries of your log using the **Select** button.

After you choose **Select**, supply the search keys that describe the entry (or entries) you want and then choose the **Search** button. The first entry that matched the search keys will be displayed and the number of matches is shown in the log window status bar. If the search keys matched more than one entry, you can use the scroll bar to move through those entries.

Use the **Display** menu items to print or display all the currently selected items as a list (one entry per line).

For info on searching techniques see **Search Keys** and **Wildcards in Search Keys**.

Sorting

Normally the entries selected by a log search are sorted by date and time. To sort on different fields (prefix, call, ...) choose **Display/Sort By**. Using Sort By does not change the order of the currently selected entries - do another search to apply the new sort criteria.

Search Keys

Search keys are used to select a subset of the entries in a log file. After a search, use the scroll bar to move through the entries that were selected or choose one of the **Display**, menu items to produce reports that include all the entries that were selected. To select all entries in the log, choose the **Select** button and then choose the **Search** button without supplying any keys.

Simple search keys are strings of characters that are compared against the corresponding field in every log entry. Only entries with fields that exactly match the key will be selected. Upper/lower case differences are ignored during a search.

You can provide more than one search key to narrow the focus of the search. To get all entries for Brazil on 40 meters, fill in the prefix field with PY and the frequency field with 7

Search keys for the frequency field get some special handling. When you provide a frequency field as mhz.khz, XMLog looks for entries that match that exact frequency. To match all entries for a single band provide the mhz part of the frequency without the .khz (1, 3, 7, 14, ...).

For more info on search keys see **Wildcards in Search Keys**.

Wildcards in Search Keys

For more flexibility when searching your log, XMLLog allows search keys to contain "wildcards" that match a range of values in a field.

Matching Null Fields

Most wildcards include a comparison followed by a value. However, the simplest wildcard is a comparison for equality with no value provided. This wildcard matches "nothing" - fields that are null. By preceding this check with a "not" (!) you can match "not nothing", fields that aren't null.

= (Match null fields)
!= (Match non-null fields)

For example, to select entries for the Vatican which have outstanding QSLs, provide HV for the country field, != for the QSL Sent field, and = for the QSL Rcvd field.

Numeric .vs. String Fields

Some fields in log entries are treated as character strings, others as numeric values. The numeric fields are: Date, Time, QSL Sent, QSL Rcvd, Frequency, Power, and Zone. All other fields are treated as a string fields. Both types have unique features for their wildcards.

String Wildcards

Here's a description of wildcards that are only available for string fields.

? (Match any single character)
?? (Match any two characters)
etc.
(Match one number)
(Match two numbers)
etc.

[a-z] (Match a through z or A through Z)
[a-c] (Match a through c or A through C)
[0-5] (Match 0 though 5)
etc.

* (Matches as many characters needed to make the next match true.)

For example:

? (No wildcard, just match ?)
=? (Match any field with one character)
=abc? (Match 4 character fields starting abc)
=abc?? (Match 5 character fields starting abc)
=abc* (Match any field starting abc)
=a*bc (Match field: a, anything, bc)
=a*#bc (Match field: a, anything, number, bc)
=[a-b]*[y-z] (Match fields starting a thru b and ending y thru z)

More Comparisons

The above examples all used a comparison for equality. Here's the other comparisons available.

> (Greater than)
>= (Greater than or equal)
< (Less than)
<= (Less than or equal)

For example

>q* (Match fields starting with q, r, ...)

Numeric Wildcards

Numeric wildcards can't contain the string wildcards (*, ?, # and [x-y]), but multiple comparisons can be provided to narrow the search to a range of values.

Multiple wildcards for numeric fields are given by separating them with commas or semicolons. Using a comma specifies a logical "and" - all the comparisons must be true for a match. Using a semicolon specifies a logical "or" - only one of the comparisons needs to be true for a match.

Numeric Wildcard Examples:

1230 (No wildcard, match 1230)
>1230 (Match values greater than 1230)
>=0,<=1230 (Match 0 through 1230)
>=0,<=1230,! =1200 (As above but not 1200)
=1;=5;>7 (Match 1 or 5 or greater than 7)
>=1/1/88,<=1/31/88 (Match dates in Jan 1988)
<1/1/88;>1/31/88 (Match dates not in Jan 1988)

Note the difference between using "and" and "or". A search key of >=1;<=2 would always be true, <=1,>=2 would never be true.

Using the Not Character to Reverse a Comparison

A ! can precede the comparison in a wildcard to reverse the sense of the match.

For example:

!=abc (Match anything but abc)
!=*abc (Match fields except those ending abc)
!= [a-z] (Match any character except a through z)
!=*[a-z] (Match fields except those ending a-z)
!=22 (Match anything except 22)
!>22 (Not greater, same as <=22)

A Final Note

Remember that wildcards must start with a comparison, otherwise XMLog will look for an exact match for the characters in the key. But how do you match a field that starts with a comparison character? To disable wildcard searches, enclose the key in quotes. For example, to match fields that contain =abc, use a search key of "=abc".

Display

Choosing one of the **Display** menu items displays log entries, one per line, on the screen, on the printer, or in a file. You can display the currently selected entries or all log entries. Here's the display formats available:

- Short (80 column format)
- Medium (132 column format)
- Long (132+ column format. Displays all fields.)

If Medium-sized reports are too wide for your printer, try using **File/Printer Setup** to change your page layout to 'Landscape' mode. For 'Long' reports you may also need to use **Options/Log Options** to select a smaller printer font - try an 8 point font like Arial.

Selecting Entries and Destinations

These reports prompt for a destination; the screen, a file, the printer, or any combination. This prompt also allows you to select which entries will be included in the report; all log entries, or only the entries selected in the last log search.

Focusing on a Report Entry

Once a report is displayed on the screen, double-clicking on a line in the report will load the corresponding entry in the main log window and bring it to the fore. This feature only works if you've done a report based on "selected log entries".

Label Printing

Creating and Printing Labels

XMLog can create labels with QSO information for your QSL cards or mailing labels for envelopes.

- Use **Display/Add QSL Label** to add a label that contains info from the currently selected log entry (call, date/time, RST, etc.).
- Use **Display/Add Mailing Label** to add a label containing address info for the call from the currently selected log entry. To preview the mailing label before adding it to the list, use **Display/Preview Mailing Label**. These features require you to have an on-line callbook installed. Mailing labels can optionally include the callsign on the first line of the label (after the operator's name). To enable this feature use **Options/Labels Layout** and set the "Add callsign to mailing labels" option.

Whenever you select one of the "add label" menu items, the information is added to a list of labels waiting to be printed. To print labels in the list use **Display/Print Labels List**. (The labels list is maintained in a text file named "labels.out").

Clearing the Labels List

Whenever you use **Display/Print Labels List** you are asked if you want to clear the contents of the list. If you're not sure that the printing is going to go OK, answer no and then use **Display/Erse Labels List** after everything has printed successfully.

Setting Up Your Printer for Labels

Choose **Options/Labels Layout** to define the page layout for label printing. There are two ways to set up the page layout from this menu:

- Select a layout using **Load info from library**.
- Fill in the fields yourself. Define the location of the top left corner of the first label on the page by setting **Left Margin** and **Top Margin**. Define the vertical and horizontal spacing between labels by setting **Distance between top/left edges of labels**. These four values are expressed in inches. Define the number of labels on a page by setting **Labels per row/column**. Define the page size by setting **Page Width** and **Page Height**. Finally, use **Font** to set the font used for label printing.

Note that these values assume your printer can address the entire page (not always true, my HP-540 for example). You may need to adjust the values for the top and left margins to get things just right. If you want to add your own layouts to the library, use a text editor to edit the file "labels.ini".

Sprocket Feed Labels

Although labels on continuous forms still have "pages" that occur at the folds, most varieties can be considered to be one long page since the labels are equally spaced across this page break. If you don't want to have to set your labels to the top of a "page" every time you print, set **Labels per column** to 999.

Envelopes

When printing envelopes, most printers require you to use the **File/Printer Setup** menu item to change from portrait to landscape mode.

Many printers can only print to their maximum width (8 1/2") from the right edge of an envelope. This means that a return address can't be printed at the left edge of a wide envelope. (Return address feature under development).

The Bureau Card Shortcut

When you get a stack of cards from the QSL bureau, here's how to handle them:

- Get the next card from the stack and use Select to search for the call. If it's not found, it may have been mis-copied during a contest. Try a search using the QSO date (you can also narrow the search by providing a restricted time field, e.g. ">1300,<1330"). If a lot of entries are returned, use "Display/Short" to show them all at once. If you spot a likely candidate, correct the call in your log - otherwise fill out a "Sorry, not in log" card.

- Once the QSO is displayed, you could edit the QSL Sent and Received dates and then create a label by using the "Edit/Add QSL Label" menu item. However, it's easier to use the "Edit/Handle Bureau Card" menu item. This will add the current date to the QSL Sent and QSL Rcvd fields, and also add a QSL label to the list. When using this shortcut you only type a single key (Ctrl-B) after each lookup.

On-Line Callbooks

Callbook Types, Setup

XMLog supports three on-line callbooks available on CD-ROM.

- The Buckmaster HamCall Callbook (version of 5/95 or later).
- The QRZ Ham Radio CD-ROM Callsign Database (Volume IV, Winter 1995 or later).
- The Radio Amateur Callbook (Flying Horse) CD-ROM. (Version 1996 or later).

The QRZ disk is only useful for US calls, it has info for a few other countries but entries tend to be incomplete or badly formatted.

The Buckmaster disk is much more complete but still lacks entries for many countries (Germany, Japan, Australia, ...). The information which is there has not been "sanitized" - entries for some countries have the last name first, etc. If you want to use the Buckmaster info from your hard drive, create a directory at the root of your hard drive named "HAM0" (e.g. "C:\HAM0"). Copy the files COUNTRYS, HAMCALL.IDX and HAMCALL.DAT from the CD HAM0 directory to the HAM0 directory you created on the hard drive.

The Radio Amateur Callbook disk is the most complete. If you want to use this callbook info from your hard drive, create a directory at the root of your hard drive named "DATA" (e.g. "C:\DATA"). Copy the files USACALL.IDX, INTLCALL.IDX and THEDATA.DAT from the CD DATA directory to the DATA directory you created on the hard drive.

To allow access to these callbooks, choose **Options/Callbook Setup** then select the disk type and the drive that contains the callbook (D: or E: etc.).

There are several ways to do callbook lookups:

Choose **DX/Callbook Lookup** from the log or packet window to look up an arbitrary call.

Choose **Display/Preview Mailing Label** to look up the call from the currently selected log entry. Use this menu item to check callbook info before doing a **Display/Add Mailing Label**.

For a quick lookup on a callsign displayed anywhere in the packet window, double-click on the call.

DXCC Award Tracking

Report Types

Awards/DXCC Totals provides a summary that includes the number of countries worked and QSL status summaries for each mode and band.

Awards/DXCC Checklist creates a detailed list of your DXCC status, country by country and band by band similar to the ARRL DXCC Checklist.

Awards/DXCC Critical QSO's creates a list of contacts which, if confirmed, would boost your DXCC totals. Just scan down the QSL Sent column to see which cards haven't been sent or are long overdue and should be sent again. A ! is used to flag a line representing a QSO that would increment your country totals for all bands. A + is used to flag a line representing a QSO that would increment mode totals if confirmed. Un-flagged lines represent QSO's that would increment totals for that band if confirmed.

Awards/DXCC Needed Countries creates lists of unconfirmed countries. You'll get a prompt that allows you to select which summaries you'd like to see - summaries for "mixed", bands, modes, or for any combination. Countries that have been worked will be flagged with a +, a * is used to flag countries with cards outstanding.

Awards/DXCC Submission Tracking creates a list of QSO's submitted, accepted, or rejected for the DXCC award. This report also shows QSO's that are candidates for submission. See [Award Submission Tracking](#).

Selecting Entries and Destinations

These reports prompt for a destination - the screen, a file, the printer, or any combination. The prompt also allows you to select the entries to be scanned for the report - all log entries or the entries selected by the last log search.

Worked All Zones Award Tracking

Report Types

Choose **Awards/WAZ Totals** to get a summary that includes the number of zones worked and QSL status summaries for each mode and band.

Choose **Awards/WAZ Checklist** to create a detailed list of your WAZ status, zone by zone and band by band.

Choose **Awards/WAZ Critical QSOs** to create a list of QSO's that if confirmed, would boost your WAZ totals. Just scan down the QSL Sent column to see which cards haven't been sent or are long overdue and should be sent again. A ! is used to flag a line representing a QSO that would increment your zone totals for all bands. A + is used to flag a line representing a QSO that would increment mode totals if confirmed. Un-flagged lines represent QSO's that would increment totals for that band if confirmed.

Awards/WAZ Submission Tracking creates a list of QSO's submitted, accepted, or rejected for the WAZ award. This report also shows QSO's that are candidates for submission. See [Award Submission Tracking](#).

Selecting Entries and Destinations

These reports prompt for a destination - the screen, a file, the printer, or any combination. The prompt also allows you to select the entries to be scanned for the report - all log entries or the entries selected by the last log search.

Worked All States Award Tracking

Report Types

Awards/WAS Totals creates a summary that includes the number of states worked and QSL status summaries for each mode and band.

Awards/WAS Checklist creates a detailed list of your WAS status, state by state and band by band.

Awards/WAS Submission Tracking creates a list of QSO's submitted, accepted, or rejected for the WAS award. This report also shows QSO's that are candidates for submission. See [Award Submission Tracking](#).

Selecting Entries and Destinations

These reports prompt for a destination - the screen, a file, the printer, or any combination. The prompt also allows you to select the entries to be scanned for the report - all log entries or the entries selected by the last log search.

Determining the State

These reports require entries for US stations to have a two letter state abbreviation as the last "word" their QTH fields.

Examples of QTH fields OK for WAS:

- Fargo, ND
- ND.
- 104 Main Street, Fargo, ND. - 10203

Examples of QTH fields unrecognizable for WAS:

- Fargo, ND USA
- 104 Main Street, Fargo, North Dakota

Screw-ups can occur using this scheme however. For example:

- Norwich, VT, near Hanover NH

Since Alaska and Hawaii can be recognized by the country field, no QTH entry is required.

Award Submission Tracking

A check box on the Log menu allows you record the submission dates for the DXCC, WAS and WAZ awards. Three dates can be tracked - the date the card was submitted, the date the card was accepted, and the date the card was rejected. When these fields are set the Awards/Checklist reports will display statuses of SUB, ACC and REJ. Note that setting a rejected date means that a QSO will be treated as 'unworked' for award totals and for packet spotting.

If you want more detail about submissions than the checklist reports provide, choose the Awards Submission Tracking menu items. These reports show the calls for the QSO's submitted or accepted on a country by country (or state or zone) basis. They will also display up to three more calls that are candidates for submission. These reports can be generated on a band by band or mode by mode basis (including 'mixed').

The Country/Prefix List

To support the DXCC features, XMLog needs to be able to associate callsigns with DXCC countries. Each DXCC country has a "main" prefix used in the prefix field of log entries. The file "prefixes" contains these main prefixes as well as other prefixes associated with the main prefix.. This file also contains other information such as the latitude and longitude for the country and the CQ zone.

Adding New Countries and Prefixes

From time to time, countries are added to the official DXCC list. When this occurs, you'll need to edit the "prefixes" file. The Windows Notepad can be used to do this editing. Here's a description of the fields that comprise a prefixes file entry.

- The main prefix. Although there may be many prefix combinations associated with this country, this is the one that identifies the country. The entries in the file are sorted by this main prefix. If the prefix represents a deleted country, it is preceded with a *. Deleted country entries are sorted separately at the bottom of the file.
- The country name.
- The continent.
- The zone. Countries covering more than one zone use the format aabb... (e.g. 020304 means zones 2, 3, and 4).
- The latitude and longitude.
- Other prefixes and ranges of prefixes that are associated with this country. These prefixes are used when XMLog tries to guess the country based on the callsign.
- A ! to mark the end of the entry.

Deleted Countries

Deleted countries have their main prefix entry in the prefix file preceded by a *. When a country has it's status changed to deleted:

- Edit the prefixes file and add the * to the main prefix.
- Sort the entry among the other deleted entries at the bottom of the file.
- Change your log entries that reference the old prefix xxx to use *xxx by using the technique described next.

Changing a "Main" Prefix

If you change a main prefix in the prefixes file because a country was deleted, or you've changed the main prefix for any reason, you then need to change any log entries that used the former prefix. Choose **Edit/Change Prefix** and fill in the prompts with the old and new prefixes. You are given the choice of scanning all log entries or only the entries currently selected. For example, if a country is deleted whose main prefix was 1Z , the old prefix will be 1Z and the new prefix will be *1Z. See **Import/Exporting Log Entries** for more info on **Change Prefix**.

The PacketCluster "totals" File

If you're maintaining your PacketCluster "totals" file by hand, don't forget to apply any prefix changes to this file as well. These two files must contain the same entries and the entries must be in the same order. If you're using XMLLog to maintain the totals file, use **DX/Update Packet DXCC Status** to bring it up to date after any prefix changes.

Importing and Exporting Log Entries

The import feature allows you to load log entries from text files or CT log files.

It's a good idea to make periodic backups of your log, it's especially important to do one before importing text files or CT files. If you're unsure that the data to be imported is formatted correctly, create a temporary new log and import the data to that log first.

If you're going to be importing files containing QSO's not made recently, be sure to check the info on Deleted Countries at the end of this section.

Importing CT Files

You can use **Import/Load CT .res File** to add the contents of a CT log file to your log. Here's how:

- If your CT log file is from a CT version previous to version 8, first convert the log file using the CT utility program "7to8".
- Use the CT utility program "btor9" to convert the .bin file normally created by CT to a text file. If your CT log file was named "cqww.bin", btor9 will create a text file with the name "cqww.res".
- Choose **Import/Load CT .res File** and provide the name of the .res file you just created using btor9. You will be prompted for the contest type - XMLog uses the type to add a comment in the "Notes" field containing contest related info (contest name, sequence number, exchange, etc.).
- The menu displayed by **Load CT .res File** provides the option **Verify Country Guesses**. Since you have probably already verified the country information in the CT log file, this feature is normally left disabled.
- As each entry is loaded, it is verified as though you had just entered it yourself. This means you may be prompted to supply missing fields or to fix fields with bad format.

Reading/Writing Entries Using Text Files

Import/Import XMLog Text File and **Import/Write XMLog Text File** are available so you can process log entries created by other programs. **Import/Write XMLog Text File** is also useful if you want backup your log as a text file.

Until XMLog can directly import log entries from text files created by other logbook programs, it will be up to you to reformat those files. This usually means writing a program that reads lines from the foreign text file, moves fields around within the lines, and writes the rearranged lines to a new file. To help with these conversions, a QBasic program named import.bas is supplied with XMLog. This program can be modified to reformat files so they can be read with **Import/Read XMLog Text File**. For details, check the documentation contained within import.bas.

XMLog Text File Layout

Each line in a XMLog text file corresponds to one log entry and each field for the entry starts at a fixed column within the line. Each line is 354 characters long and begins with a header of "350," followed by 350 characters of entry data. Here's the complete layout showing the starting character positions for each field and the field width. For details on field formats

see [Field Descriptions](#).

Note: All dates are in mm/dd/yy format regardless of the "Log Options/Date Format" setting.

Field	Start	Width
header1	4	"350,"
date	5	8
when	13	6
time	19	4
time2	23	4 unused
call	7	15
freq	42	8
freq2	50	8 unused
rstout	58	7
rstin	65	7
mode	72	4
power	76	4
zone	80	2
qth	82	40
prefix	122	7
country	129	30
qslvia	159	40
qslsent199	8	
qslrcvd	207	8
name	215	40
notes	255	100

Finally, the DXCC, WAS and WAZ award tracking dates (submit date, accept date and reject date).

dxsub	355	8
dxacc	363	8
dxrej	371	8
wassub	379	8
wasacc	387	8
wasrej	395	8
wazsub	403	8
wazacc	411	8
wazrej	419	8

Notes for imports:

- The "when" field is a combination of the date and time used for sorting. This field should be left blank, it's created during the import.
- The "unused" fields (time2 and freq2) should be left blank.
- The "prefix" and "country" fields can be left blank. XMLog will fill in these fields based on the callsign. If you want to verify these guesses, use **Options/Verify Country Guesses** before you begin the import.

Deleted Countries

When XMLog adds new log entries, it uses information in the "prefixes" file to guess the

country based on the callsign. If the QSO's being added weren't made recently, the info in the prefixes file may not be appropriate. A country may have had its DXCC status changed to "deleted", or prefixes may have been reassigned. Since XMLog doesn't automatically recognize "old" calls, how do you handle these situations?

- First, review the section on [The Prefix File](#) for some background on deleted countries, the prefixes file, and how to change prefixes.

- Here's an example that describes how to handle old OK prefixes that were "mis-guessed". OK as Czechoslovakia was deleted 1/1/93 and became the Czech Republic. To correct the old QSO's that got marked as the Czech Republic, first select all the old OK entries by searching with a date key of <1/1/93 and a prefix key of OK. Then choose **Edit/Change Prefix** and change OK to *OK. When changing the prefix, be sure to specify "selected log entries" rather than "all log entries" (otherwise you'll change the correct OK entries as well!).

- Here's another example, old East German QSO's. Select all the old East German QSO's that got guessed as Germany by searching with a prefix key of DL and a call key of =Y[2-9]*. This call key will match any call starting Y2 through Y9. Then choose **Edit/Change Prefix** and change the selected DL entries to *Y2 .

Unfortunately not all changes are so straightforward, especially the reassignments of Russian calls that have been made through the years. After importing a file containing old QSO's, use one of the **Display** menu items to create a report and satisfy yourself that all the entries have the correct country.

If you are only importing a limited number of entries, the best strategy may be to verify guesses as each entry is added to the log. Before you start the import, choose **Options/Verify Country Guesses** to enable or disable verification.

Packet and TNC Interface Options

When you choose **Options/Packet and TNC Options** you can display or change the following parameters:

Beep

When **beep** is disabled, XMLog will ignore incoming beep characters (Ctrl-g). You may want to disable beeps when using PacketCluster alerts, see [PacketCluster Alerts](#).

Highlight

Enabling **highlight** allows XMLog to handle ANSI highlighting sequences for text in the packet window. These sequences are sent by PacketCluster nodes if enabled using the "Set/ANSI" command.

Packet Font

Choosing the **Packet Font** button allows you to set the font used in the packet window. You can select any font, but if you want things to line up in columns you need to select a non-proportional (fixed-width) font. For most systems this limits you to Courier, Courier New and FixedSys.

TNC Escape

TNC Escape defines the character used to drive your TNC into command mode. This character is sent when you hit the F2 key. The default value is 3, which represents a Ctrl-C. See [TNC Escape](#) for more info.

Messages

Defines messages sent to the TNC by hitting Shift-F1 through Shift-F8. See [TNC Messages](#) for more info.

History

Enabling **History** causes your session to be saved in a file when you close the packet window. This saved session is automatically restored the next time you open the packet window. See [History](#) for more info.

Send Pause

Set a pause time (in seconds) that is spent between the lines sent using **Send/Send File to TNC**. See [Sending Text Files](#) for more info.

Log Options

When you choose **Options/Log Options, QTH, Call** you can display or change the following parameters:

Default Log File

Log file opened when XMLog starts up. If you don't want a file opened at startup, set this field blank. See [Creating a New Log File](#) and [Opening an Existing Log File](#) for more info.

Call

Your call - can be included in messages with #me. See [TNC Messages](#) and [CW Messages](#) for more info.

Address

Your address... (unused at the moment, will be used for envelope return addresses).

Location

Defines the latitude and longitude for your QTH using this format:

lat-deg lat-min N/S long-deg long-min E/W

For example: 41 26 N 59 34 E

See [DX/Check Call](#) and [Show Country List](#) for more info.

Report Screen Font

Sets the font used for reports generated from the XMLog logging window.

Report Printer Font

Sets the printer font used for reports generated from the XMLog logging window.

Date Format

Sets the format used for entering and displaying dates. The format can be mm/dd/yy or dd/mm/yy. Note that dates contained in XMLog import/export files always use a mm/dd/yy format and are not affected by this setting.

Time

Sets the UTC offset relative to you PC's clock. Currently only used when adding dates to log entries, see [Adding New Log Entries](#) for more info.

Modify Button

Controls how edit mode is entered to allow updates of log entries. When "Modify Button" is off, clicking on a field puts you in edit mode. When "Modify Button" is on, you select the **Modify** button to enter edit mode. See [Modifying Log Entries](#) for more info.

File/Stop

Choosing **File/Stop** interrupts most actions that process more than one log entry. This includes the **Display**, **Awards**, and **Import** menu items. **File/Stop** will not interrupt a log search.

New Features

To display a complete list of changes, choose **Help/Display changes.txt**

Support for dd/mm/yy date format.

XMLog can now handle dates in day/month/year format. See [Log Options, OTH, Call](#)

Voice PacketCluster Alerts.

In addition to CW alerts for PacketCluster spots, XMLog can now provide vocal alerts. See [PacketCluster Alerts](#).

HF Rig Control.

If you double-click on a frequency displayed in the packet window, XMLog can move your rig to that frequency and set the appropriate mode. This feature allows you to double-click on frequencies displayed in PacketCluster spots. This only works for rigs that allow PC control and are in the list of rigs supported by XMLog. See [HF Rig Control](#).

Defining default values for all log fields.

When new log entries are created XMLog can now use pre-defined values for any field. See [Adding New Log Entries](#).

Radio Amateur Callbook

XMLog now supports the "Flying Horse" callbook CD. See [Callbook Setup](#).

Award Submission Tracking

The status of submissions for the DXCC/WAS/WAZ awards can now be tracked. You can track award status by submission/accepted/rejected dates. Reports give details on the status for each band/mode/state/country, etc. See [Award Submission Tracking](#)

Log Window Status Bar

Added a status bar at the bottom of the window to show error messages, displays the date/time, etc.

QSL Bureau Card Shortcut

A new menu item allows you to update the current entry and create a QSL label in one step. See [The Bureau Card Shortcut](#).

Worked All Zones Award Critical QSO Reports

See [Worked All Zones Reports](#).

Allow Sound Cards for CW Sidetone

You can now use **Options/CW Options** to select the PC speaker or a SoundBlaster compatible sound card. See [CW Setup](#).

Reading Messages from Bulletin Boards

For those of us who constantly mistype the "r ###" command when reading items from bulletin boards, try this. Click the **right** mouse button on the line you want to read and we'll generate the command for you.

Packet Window Status Bar

Shows the status of the CW modes, displays the date/time, etc. See [Screen Layout](#).

XMLog Info

To get the latest version of XMLog, check my internet home page at:

<http://www.xmlog.com>

Questions and suggestions should be directed to:

michael.mcamis@valley.net (internet)
W1ECT @ W1ET.NH (packet)

Mike McAmis - W1ECT (ex- WA3ECT)
433 Hanover Center Road
Etna, N.H. - 03750

