

## PREFACE

As a contester of more years than I care to remember, I have witnessed many changes over the years. Implementation of computers and technology into our society has led to outstanding advancements in the world of Ham Radio, especially with logging and QSLing. Today we have fully automated shacks from simple serial port connections to radios, and antennas selected via band data to antenna switches. We can even watch our scores on line and see who is on air in real time. QSL cards are uploaded to QSL sites in real time also.

Most of the work by contest managers is done after the contest. Many hours are taken up checking logs for errors, dupes and who worked who, and so on. Producing reports, certificates and statistics is a huge job that so few appreciate the volume of work that goes into this. Australia has fallen behind with most managers still paper processing and are reserved in trying something new. However, in 2017 the VK Log Checker website was implemented and the latest technology and Cabrillo formats are now at the forefront for VK use. The Remembrance Day Contest, QPR, Harry Angel, and the VK Trans Tasman are catered for. Logs are uploaded to the log checker and are checked for dupes, stations worked, errors, and then scored. The managers work is more than cut in half.

A contest is an exercise in accurate message handling where the callsigns, reports and exchanges are logged and then checked for accuracy and scored accordingly. Even though new technology is available to cater for all this, there are still a few hesitant in taking a step into new territory and using it. This is why this 'how to' article is produced to assist those to move over from paper or excel logs into something that is compatible with modern technology.

Several logging programs are available and VKCL has been chosen for this article due to its simplicity of use and good following. Thanks to Mike VK3AVV for this excellent logger that was first started to cater for VK contests and has grown to cater for a whole lot more.

## HOW TO INSTALL AND USE VKCL LOGGER

1. Download VKCL Logger from <https://www.mnds.com.au/vkcl/>  
**Version 4.14 is the latest as of June 2021**
2. Click on VKCL Version 4.x (where x is the current version)

### VK Contest Log

The home of VK Contest Log (VKCL)  
specializing in Australasian contests  
but also covering some international ones too.

**VKCL Version 4.8**  
4th June 2019

While there is a significant change in that there is no longer the two divisions, no change is required in logging except to use

30th May 2019

no so no update to VKCL is really required.

from the previous VKCL release (these are primarily intended for the VHF-UHF field days):  
by on a number of bands, and previously it was necessary to enter the call sign on each band, which then recalled the  
to recall the last call sign in the database, but unlike F2, the database is not modified. If the F3 key is pressed before the band is  
g a duplicate contact, but ignore that, change to required band and the red background should clear. If you log a contact with  
all time as normal other than F2V since F2V only recalls the last call sign in the database and that recall is no longer the case

**DOWNLOAD**

Click on following link to download:  
**VKCL Version 4.8**

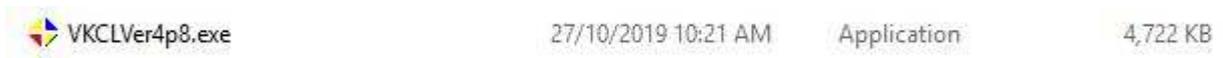
Check for viruses, and run the file to start the installation.

NOTE: It is always a good idea to create the database with the version of VKCL you will be using, in case there was a change in database structure. That is, DO NOT use any existing empty database created by a previous version.

Please email comments, suggestions, and problems to  
**vkcl@aanet.com.au**  
(You can check for new versions of VKCL from the 'About' page if connected to the Internet.)

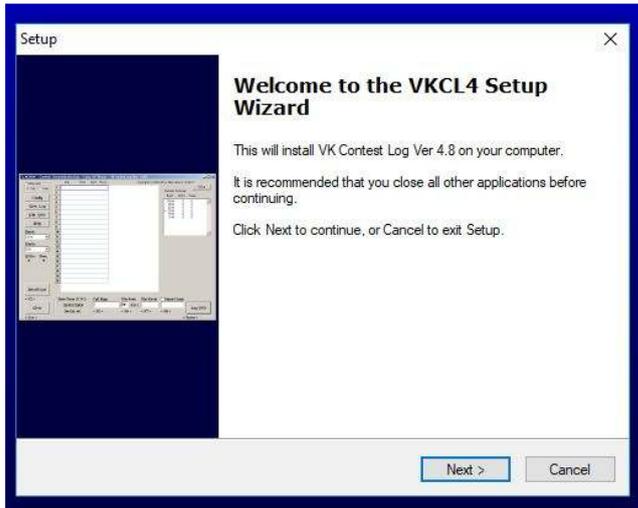
Notices

3. Download to your downloads folder
4. Go to your download folder and Open **VKCLVer4.?.exe** by double clicking on it.



- a. Windows 10 may show a blue screen that says it protected your PC. Do NOT click on "Don't Run", click "Run Anyway"

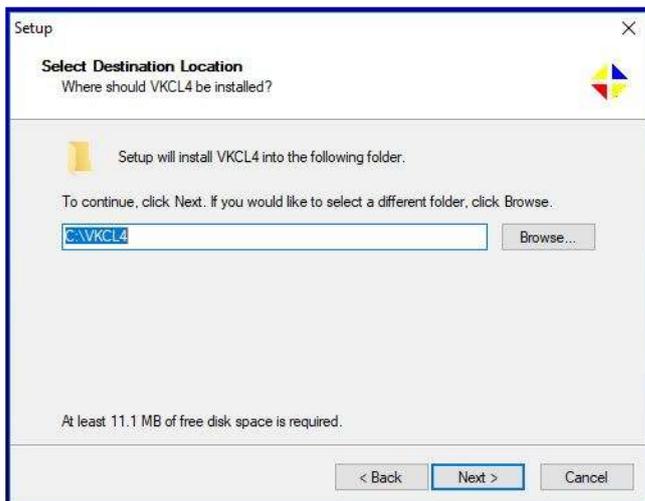
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5. Click Next>

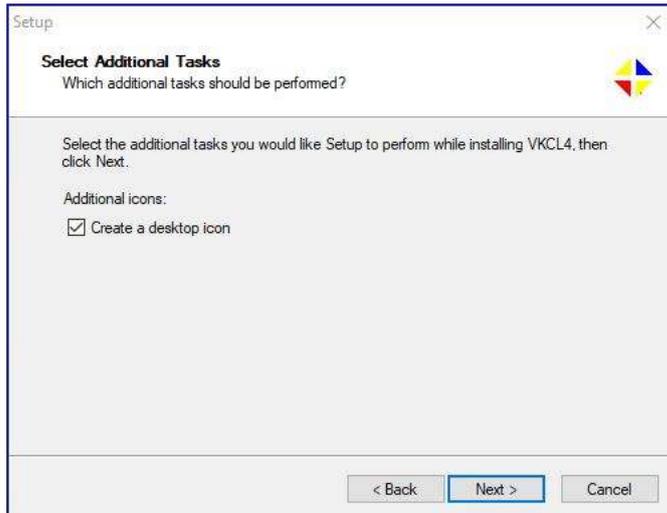


6. Click into I accept the agreement, then the Next> button.
7. On the next screen click Next>



8. On this screen, leave the default setting as shown. Click Next, then Next again, bringing you to this screen.

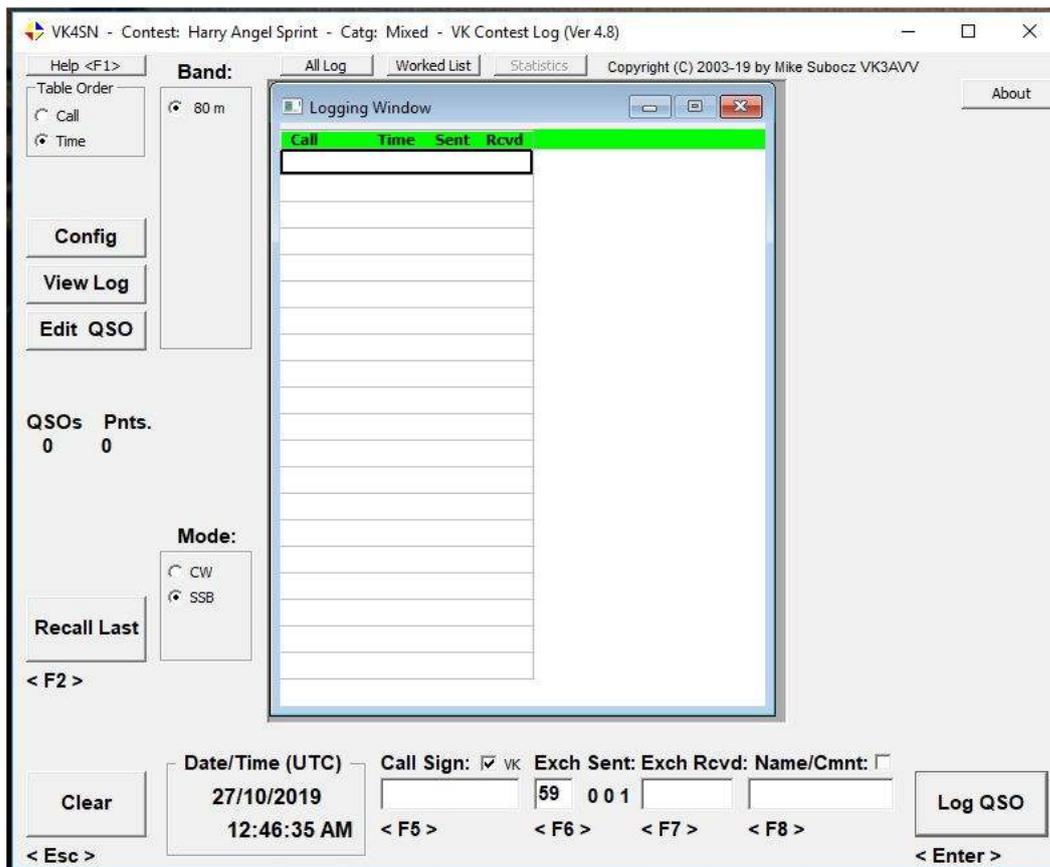
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9. Make sure the box is ticked so that an icon will show on your desktop. If not click the box.
10. Click Next, then click Install. – Click Next, then Finish.
11. The installation is now complete and you should find the VKCL4 icon on your screen.



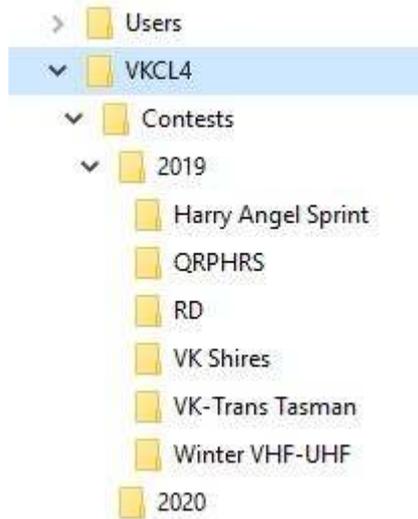
12. Double click this icon to open the program as below.



13. NOTE that there is a help F1 function in the upper top left. Let this be your friend, where you find all the good information that is not covered here.

14. The following guide will help you setup a contest.

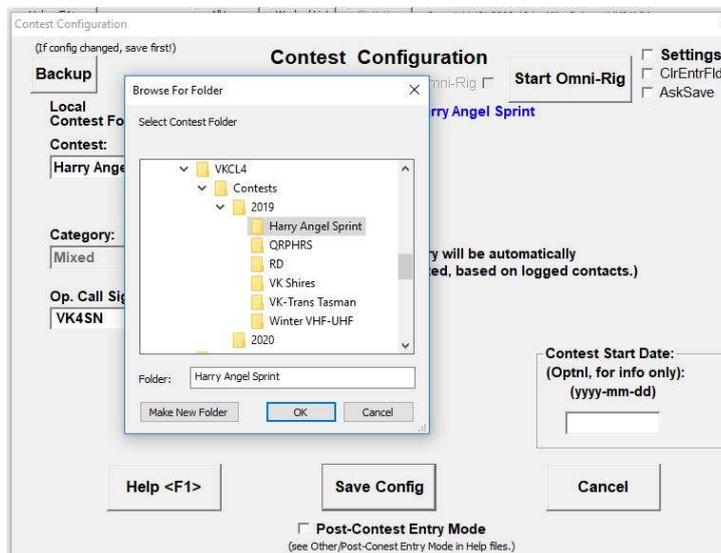
15. The program was loaded in to C:\VKCL4 with a file structure as shown. This is where you will find your logs.



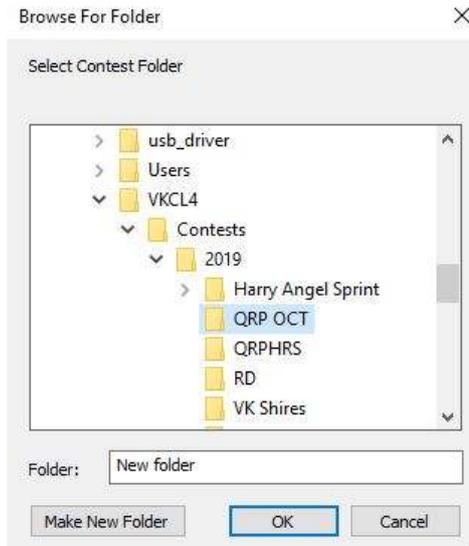
16. Before logging can commence, the logger must be configured for the contest you are entering. For our purposes here, it will be the QRP Hours contest held in October.

17. Click the **Config** button to open the Contest Configuration window.

- Click the **Browse** Button, and in the window that opens, scroll down to find the VKCL4 folder.
- Expand the folders by clicking on the arrows – open Contests, then the year where you will see a list of contest folders.

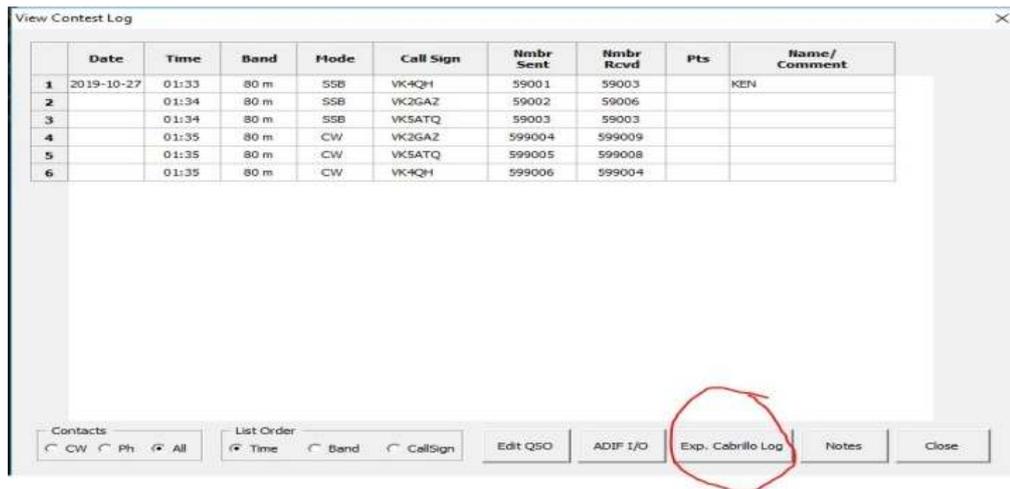


- In this case there already is a QRP HRS folder that was used earlier in the year. Normally one could just click this folder and use it, but our scenario is about the October contest, so we need to create another folder to use.
- To do this, click once on 2019 to highlight it. Click **Make New Folder** and enter the new name.
- In this case it's called QRP OCT.

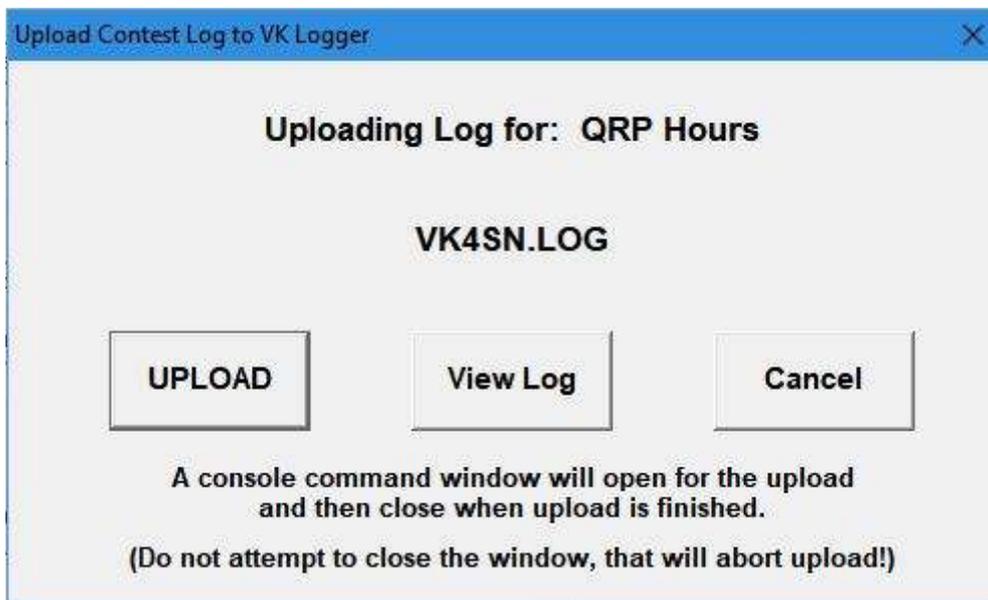


- f. Click OK. – You are now back at the configuration window.
  - g. Select **QRP Hours** from the drop down Contest: option.
  - h. Select the category, enter your callsign, and tick QRP if you are going to run 5 watts.
  - i. If you have your Radio connected to the computer via a serial port, then we assume that it is ready to use, so tick Start Omni-Rig. This will fill in frequency information automatically.
  - j. Click **Save Config**
18. Referring back to the program window above, take notice of the option settings such as the band, the mode, and the entry windows <F5> <F6> <F7> <F8>.
- a. If you have a radio connected, the band and mode should match the band and mode on the radio. For manual users make sure the correct buttons are ticked.
19. Logging callsigns is easy.
- a. **Type the callsign** heard into the Call Sign window. And press the **Space Bar** to move into the Exch Rcvd: window, where the received exchange is entered.
  - b. If needed, pressing the TAB key will move you to the next window rather than jumping directly to the exchange field.
  - c. Pressing Enter or clicking the Log QSO button will log your contact.
- 20. AFTER THE CONTEST:**
- a. **Sending the log can be done in 3 ways**, listed in preferred order:
  - b. Click on **View Log** to open the view log window and click **Exp. Cabrillo Log**

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- c. Fill in name, address, email. (Leave location as DX)
- d. Click Create File, and then click yes on the next box. Clicking **Edit File** will allow corrections to be made.
  - i. **DO NOT CHANGE the CATEGORY- options** – they must have correct options for uploading to go smoothly. If incorrect go back to setup and fix.
- e. Now Click Cancel if you are happy with the log.
- f. Click on **Submit Log**. This will automatically send the log to the log checker website. Follow on screen instructions.



If this method fails, please follow the method below.

- a. NOTE: At this point, the log is now saved in  
C:\VKCL4\Contests\2019\QRP OCT\MYCALLSIGN.LOG
  - a. Navigate to this folder and open MYCALLSIGN.LOG

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- b. Open your browser and go to the log upload site <https://vklogchecker.com>.
- c. Click on QRP contest and then **Submit Log** where the submission window will open.
- d. Copy and paste the log into the required window and click SUBMIT LOG
- e. An automated reply will be sent to the email address entered in the log, and to the manager.

And finally, your log can be attached to an email. The log is in the folder as indicated above.

- f. Email to the submission email address as indicated in the rules.

I hope this helps to get your Cabrillo 3 logs in order. Any queries can be directed to vk4sn at wia dot org dot au.

Best 73 and good luck in the contests

Alan VK4SN