

Radio Net Logger

by Walker Consulting Solutions

User Guide
Software v1.1.1
8.15.2013

Radio net logging software for radio amateurs and other radio operators.

For more details or to contribute to the software with feedback or a monetary contribution, please visit our website at

www.WalkerConsulting.net

and locate the Radio Net Logger link on the Software Solutions page.

About This Software

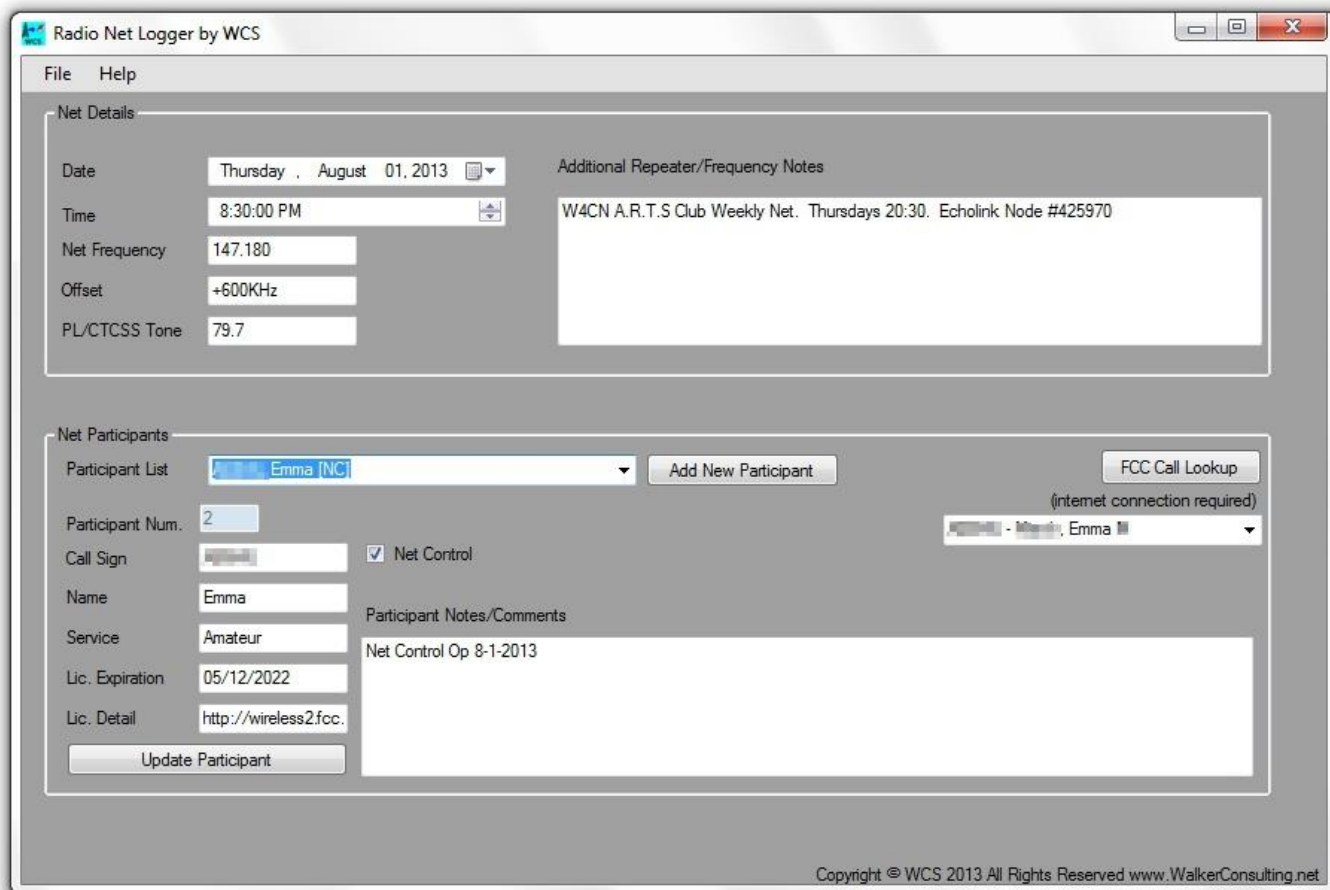
WCS Radio Net Logger by *Walker Consulting Solutions* is a convenient way for radio operators to keep track of on-air nets. This software allows the user to enter general information and notes about the net itself as well as operator details and notes about other net participants. Net information can be saved in an easy to read text file or can be exported to an extensible markup language (XML) file. Exported XML net data files can be later imported back into the software in order to review net information or make changes.

This software is **free to use and distribute**. If you distribute this software, user guide, net information files or other files associated with this software, we would certainly appreciate you also sharing the link to our website at www.WalkerConsulting.net.

More details on WCS Radio Net Logger software can be found at the link at the bottom of the Custom Software page of our website. If you find the software helpful for your radio operations and would like to contribute monetarily, there is also a PayPal donate button on this page.

If you have questions, comments, feature requests or other feedback on the software, you can send them to us using the Contact Us feature of our website.

Software Overview



The above figure is a screenshot of the main interface window for WCS Radio Net Logger. The screen is divided into two basic sections: *Net Details* at the top and *Net Participants* at the bottom.

Net Details can store the following information about the net (One instance of the Net Details block of information is stored per net log):

- Date (month, day and year)
- Time (hour and minute)
- Net Frequency
- Offset
- PL/CTCSS Tone
- Additional notes regarding the frequency/repeater/net

Net Participants can store the following information about participants (multiple instances of the Net Participant block of information may be stored):

- Call sign
- Name
- Net control operator status (yes/no)
- FCC service description
- License expiration
- URL to FCC license database entry
- Additional notes about the participant

Using The Software

Entering Net Details

The top portion of the WCS Radio Net Logger software contains the controls for entering general net information.

Upon software startup, the *Date* and *Time* fields are automatically populated using the current system time. Additional details about the net may also be entered into the *Net Frequency*, *Offset* and *PL/CTCSS Tone* fields. General notes about the net (e.g. repeater or club name, schedule, purpose, etc.) may be entered into the *Additional Repeater/Frequency Notes* field.

Entering Participant Information

The bottom portion of the WCS Radio Net Logger software contains the controls for entering participant information.

Each new radio net log starts with zero participants in attendance. To add a new net participant, click the *Add New Participant* button to the right of the *Participant List* dropdown menu. This creates a new blank participant entry in the list of attendees. Any information already contained in the participant information fields will be cleared and the cursor will move to the *Call Sign* field.

You are now ready to enter participant information that can include the participant's *Call Sign*, *Name*, *Service*, *Lic. Expiration* and *Lic. Detail*. Note that these fields are simple text strings and will hold any information that you wish to type in to them. The field descriptions are there mainly as suggestions (although the information populated into these fields using the *FCC Call Lookup* function matches these headers – but more on that later). A checkbox to indicate whether this net participant is a net control operator is also provided.

There is also a field for *Participant Notes/Comments*. Here you may enter additional notes about net participants (e.g. location, station type, signal report, operator's comments, etc.).

Once you are finished entering this participant's information, **be sure to click *Update Participant* to store participant information into this attendee's log entry**. If you do not click the *Update Participant* button before adding new participants, saving reports or exporting net data, this participant's information may be lost!

WCS Radio Net Logger currently has the ability to store up to 50 net participants.

If you want to update or add to a net participant's log entry, you may select that net participant from the *Participant List* dropdown menu. Upon selecting the participant from the menu, their user will be populated into the fields below. Again, remember that if you make changes, you must click the *Update Participant* button to store these changes before moving on.

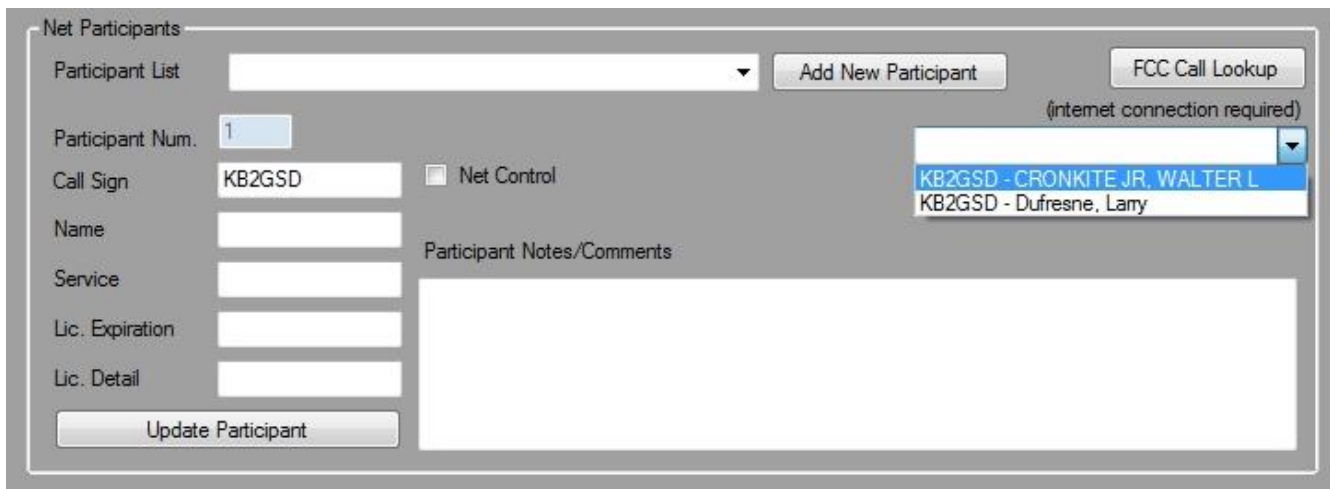
The screenshot shows the 'Net Participants' window. At the top, there is a 'Participant List' dropdown menu with 'Enma [NC]' selected. Below this is a list of participants: 'WV B Bell. Arthur W', 'VA J Enma [NC]', 'VA Don', 'VA H Guy', 'VA Mark', 'NC Mark', and 'VA Blair'. The 'Participant Num.' field is set to '2'. The 'Call Sign' field is empty. The 'Name' field is populated with 'Enma [NC]'. The 'Service' field is 'Amateur'. The 'Lic. Expiration' field is '05/12/2022'. The 'Lic. Detail' field is 'http://wireless2.fcc.'. There is a checkbox for 'Net Control Op' which is checked, with the date '8-1-2013' next to it. At the bottom, there is an 'Update Participant' button.

Getting Participant Information from the FCC License Database

WCS Radio Net Logger has the capability to search the FCC license database by call sign and populate returned data into participant information fields using FCC application programming interface (API) calls. Note that an active internet connection is required to use this feature.

To retrieve attendee information from the FCC license database, enter the attendee call sign in the *Call Sign* field and click the *FCC Call Lookup* button in the top left corner of the *Net Participants* section. After a brief pause while the information is looked up and retrieved from the FCC database, the results (up to 10) will be populated into the dropdown menu below the *FCC Call Lookup* button. Selecting one of the results from this menu will populate the information from the database (licensee name, service description, license expiration date and URL to full licensee information on the FCC website).

This feature does not create a new user into which this information will be populated. Rather, licensee information will be populated directly into the active participant fields displayed in the WCS Radio Net Logger interface.



The screenshot shows the 'Net Participants' window. At the top, there is a 'Participant List' dropdown menu, an 'Add New Participant' button, and an 'FCC Call Lookup' button with a note '(internet connection required)'. Below the 'FCC Call Lookup' button is a dropdown menu displaying search results for the call sign 'KB2GSD': 'KB2GSD - CRONKITE JR, WALTER L' (highlighted) and 'KB2GSD - Dufresne, Larry'. On the left side, there are input fields for 'Participant Num.' (1), 'Call Sign' (KB2GSD), 'Name', 'Service', 'Lic. Expiration', and 'Lic. Detail'. A 'Net Control' checkbox is also present. A large text area for 'Participant Notes/Comments' is on the right. An 'Update Participant' button is at the bottom left.

As with manually entering or modifying participant information, after this information has been populated into the participant fields, the *Update Participant* button must be clicked to associate these details with the currently selected participant.

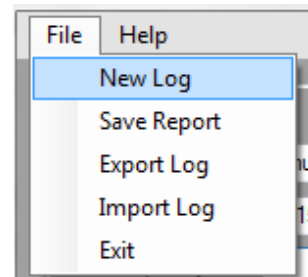
Creating a New Net Log

A new radio net log may be created using the *New Log* feature from within the *File* item on the WCS Radio Net Logger Menu bar.

Using this feature will clear all entered data and start a fresh log.

Saving Net Reports

A report on the radio net may be saved as a text file using the *Save Report* feature from within the *File* item on the WCS Radio Net Logger menu bar.



Selecting this feature from the menu will open a *Save As...* dialog window asking you where you would like to save your report.

Reports are saved in human-readable format in a text file containing all of the net information that you have entered along with appropriate headings for the data.

Exporting Net Data

Net log data can be exported from WCS Radio Net Logger by using the *Export Log* feature from within the *File* item on the menu bar.

Net data is exported in *extensible markup language* (XML) and saved to a file with the *.xml* extension. The general XML data format is shown below. Note that multiple `<participantInfo>` elements are permitted within the `<participantList>` element.

If this looks like gibberish to you, don't worry – you do not need to be able to read it. These XML files aren't meant to be read by humans. The files simply serve as an easy way to store net data so that it can be written from and read back into the WCS Radio Net Logger software.

```
<WCSRadioNet>
  <netInfo>
    <nDateM></nDateM>
    <nDateD></nDateD>
    <nDateY></nDateY>
    <nTimeH></nTimeH>
    <nTimeM></nTimeM>
    <nFreq></nFreq>
    <nTone></nTone>
    <nOffset></nOffset>
    <nNotes></nNotes>
    <nNumOps></nNumOps>
  </netInfo>
  <participantList>
    <participantInfo>
      <pCall></pCall>
      <pName></pName>
      <pService></pService>
      <pExpiration></pExpiration>
      <pDetailLink></pDetailLink>
      <pIsNetControl></pIsNetControl>
      <pNotes></pNotes>
    </participantInfo>
  </participantList>
</WCSRadioNet>
```

When this feature is selected, a *Save As...* dialog will open to allow you to choose where you would like to save the exported data.

Importing Net Data

Data exported from WCS Radio Net Logger software in the above XML format can be imported back into the software by using the *Import Log* feature from within the *File* item on the menu bar.

When this feature is selected, an *Open File* dialog will open to allow you to select a net data file to import. Once successfully imported, the net data will be populated into the appropriate fields in the software just as if you had entered it manually.