

How to make a Cabrillo log for the NTC QSO party

Starting in 2025 you will be uploading your logs to the NTC website. The only accepted format for your log is Cabrillo. Although a contest program like N1MM can create a Cabrillo log for you, a simple text editor like notepad or wordpad will also do the job. The Cabrillo log consists of a header together with QSO data.

The Cabrillo header

The header is always the same, here is an example:

```
START-OF-LOG: 3.0
CALLSIGN: PI4NTC
CONTEST: NTCQP
CATEGORY-ASSISTED: ASSISTED
CATEGORY-BAND: ALL
CATEGORY-MODE: CW
CATEGORY-OPERATOR: SINGLE-OP
CATEGORY-POWER: HIGH
CATEGORY-STATION: FIXED
CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: ONE
CLAIMED-SCORE: 9999
CREATED-BY: Notepad
EMAIL: pi4ntc$pi4ntc.nl
LOCATION: DX
NAME: Joop Stakenborg
ADDRESS: Annie Romein-Verschoorpad 1
ADDRESS-CITY: Culemborg
ADDRESS-STATE-PROVINCE:
ADDRESS-POSTALCODE: 4103VE
ADDRESS-COUNTRY: The Netherlands
OPERATORS: PG4I
SOAPBOX:
SOAPBOX:
```

The only things you have to change in this header:

- “CALLSIGN:”, fill in your callsign.
- “CATEGORY-POWER:”, fill in QRP, LOW or HIGH (LOW is not more than 100 Watts).
- “CLAIMED SCORE:”, enter your calculated score here.
- “EMAIL:”, your email address here.
- Change the “NAME:” and “ADDRESS:” and related entries. ADDRESS and related are not really necessary.
- “OPERATORS:”, only use this if different from “CALLSIGN:”. For example if you work at a club station.

Once the header is ready you can use it for every QSO party. Only change the “CLAIMED SCORE:” and “SOAPBOX:” entries.

The SOAPBOX

If you want to write a nice story, tell what your experience is or inform people what key you have used, please use the SOAPBOX in the Cabrillo header. Each line must begin with “SOAPBOX:” followed by a space. **Do not exceed 80 characters for each line.**

The Cabrillo QSO data

Each contact in the log is reported using the “QSO:” line. For example, here is a log with just 2 QSO’s:

```
QSO: 7032 CW 2024-11-21 1909 PI4NTC 599 Roel 200 SP70GP 599 PIOTR 111
QSO: 3555 CW 2024-11-21 1910 PI4NTC 599 Roel 200 I5ECW 599 VANNI 164
END-OF-LOG:
```

Your log must always end with “END-OF-LOG”. Each QSO starts with “QSO:” followed by:

- Frequency: use 3500 for 80m, 7000 for 40m and 14000 for 20m or use the real frequency.
- Mode: CW.
- Date: the format is yyyy-mm-dd. Year comes first, then month, then day.
- Time of the QSO in UTC (hhmm). 2 digits for the hour followed by 2 digits for minutes.
- Your callsign.
- Your report, 599 for example.
- 2-field sent exchange: name and NTC number (“Roel 200” in this example).
- Callsign of the other station.
- Received report, 599 for example.
- 2-field received exchange: name and NTC number (“Piotr 111” for example).

After you have entered one QSO you can use copy and paste to create the number of QSO’s you need and then just change the QSO data where needed.

Conclusion

When your log is ready give it a name but **make sure it ends in “.log” or “.cbr”**. In 2025 our log checker will be activated on the NTC website. You will then be able to upload your log and it will be checked automatically. In case of problems you can contact ntcqp@pi4ntc.nl with your log attached.

Creating a Cabrillo log is easy as you can see, no need to use a contest program. Example log by Pavel OK2BMA on the next page.

START-OF-LOG: 3.0
CREATED-BY: Fast Log Entry 3.0
CONTEST: NTCQP
CALLSIGN: OK2BMA
CATEGORY-OPERATOR: SINGLE-OP
CATEGORY-TRANSMITTER: ONE
CATEGORY-ASSISTED: NON-ASSISTED
CATEGORY-BAND: ALL
CATEGORY-POWER: LOW
CATEGORY-MODE: CW
CATEGORY-STATION: FIXED
CLAIMED-SCORE: 23
ADDRESS: Slunecna 4558
ADDRESS: 76005 Zlin
ADDRESS: Czech Republic

QS0:	7000	CW	2024-11-21	1911	OK2BMA	599	062	PAVEL	LB2WD	599	HELGE	265
QS0:	7000	CW	2024-11-21	1920	OK2BMA	599	062	PAVEL	ON7DQ	559	LUC	098
QS0:	7000	CW	2024-11-21	1924	OK2BMA	559	062	PAVEL	SC60	599	BEN	NM
QS0:	3500	CW	2024-11-21	1931	OK2BMA	599	062	PAVEL	OK2BVX	599	DALI	209
QS0:	3500	CW	2024-11-21	1934	OK2BMA	599	062	PAVEL	DL5XL	599	FELIX	080
QS0:	3500	CW	2024-11-21	1936	OK2BMA	599	062	PAVEL	SP70GP	599	PIOTR	111
QS0:	3500	CW	2024-11-21	1938	OK2BMA	599	062	PAVEL	OE8TIR	599	STEVE	105
QS0:	3500	CW	2024-11-21	1945	OK2BMA	599	062	PAVEL	OK1FFA	599	LUBO	NM
QS0:	3500	CW	2024-11-21	1949	OK2BMA	599	062	PAVEL	LB2WD	599	HELGE	265
QS0:	3500	CW	2024-11-21	1951	OK2BMA	599	062	PAVEL	PI4NTC	599	ROEL	200
QS0:	3500	CW	2024-11-21	1958	OK2BMA	569	062	PAVEL	OK1DZ	599	ZDENEK	217
QS0:	3500	CW	2024-11-21	1959	OK2BMA	599	062	PAVEL	I5ECW	599	VANNI	164

END-OF-LOG: