To LOG or Not

- Logging is not a requirement so why do it
  - To keep track of your progress
  - To be able to respond to others about a contact
  - To accumulate contacts for awards
- Logging Software
  - I am familiar with ACLog ($40) and DXKeeper (Free)
  - Over 100 logging applications ranging from Free to $100.
  - https://www.eham.net/reviews/view-category?id=27
  - https://www.dxzone.com/5-free-ham-radio-logbook-programs/
- Many items are recorded in the log but the main ones are the same for a QSL.
- Features to look for are (from DXKeeper):
  - records and manages QSOs
  - extracts name, address, and location information from callbook CDROMs or QRZ.com
  - records and tracks progress toward awards
  - independently tracks hardcopy QSL, eQSL.cc, and Logbook of the World (LotW) confirmations for each QSO
  - can download DXCC credits and update logged QSOs to reflect the granting of a DXCC credit (screenshot)
  - prints QSL cards and QSL Labels, addresses envelopes, and prints address labels
  - uploads QSOs to eQSL.cc and LotW
  - downloads QSLs from eQSL.cc and LotW, and automatically updates your log to reflect confirmations
  - identifies QSLs required for DXCC submission, and generates required documentation
  - tracks DXCC verifications
  - imports and exports ADIF-compliant log files.
- Import/Export of ADIF is important because this allows you to easily move your log from one vendor to the other. Version 3 is current.
- It is important to backup you log each time you use. Most will provide a backup to an external device (thumb drive or separate USB drive).
- The beauty of the standard ADIF import/export is that it allows you to start with a simple logging program and move to something more complex at a latter time.
  - ACLog is simple to learn and provides the basics. There are others.
  - DXKeeper is more complex to learn but provides more functionality – log checking, filtering for specific awards or filtering an any ADIF field.