

How do I?

An occasional series

This week: There is an App for that!

Fall is a great time to get out and play radio. There are lots of contests. The second weekend in October alone featured 3 state QSO parties: Arizona, Pennsylvania and South Dakota. Maybe you and your QRP rig or other portable rig got outside and worked from the Appalachian Trail or SOTA (Summits On The Air) or someplace less exotic but fun! Like a picnic table at your favorite campground.

Want to make it easier and have less stuff to carry? There is an app for that! Wait-aren't cell phones the bane of amateur radio's existence? In some ways yes, especially as a convenient way to play games, but your smart phone can make radio more fun.

There are dozens to hundreds of apps. Most of them are available in both Android and Apple-IOS. The ones listed here are the Android versions and all are free. Some may have paid ad free versions though.

Ham Radio Companion provides logging software, operating duration stats, call sign search, Q Codes, RST codes, CW abbreviations, phonetic alphabet, and 4 antenna calculators in one easy to use app. The log book can be exported via email to a .csv file for import into other logging programs.

Antenna Calculator is just that. It provides the formulas to calculate data for 5 different types of antennas.

Android (at least) has 2 different apps names **Ham Radio Tools**. The one I use the most provides a log book, band limits, several formulas and charts, 4 antenna calculators and a location tool that oddly enough does not provide Maidenhead Grid square locations. The app also provides call sign look up tools and Q code lists. I am using this one for my log book when portable, but might switch to **Ham Radio Companion**.

The second **Ham Radio Tools** is less useful to me. It has the seemingly omnipresent Q code lists, a very simple antenna calculator. A ERP calculator which I have not played with but seems to use a few keystrokes to do what my paper forms do. The app also includes an Ohm's Law calculator, LC resonance calculator and a grid square calculator.

Repeater Book is very handy for VHF/UHF mobile operators. Based on your GPS coordinates it shows repeaters within 25 (default) miles complete with call signs, transmit and receive frequencies and PL tones. For me the screen display is easier to read than a paper repeater guide.

LOCATOR is just that. a very simple to use Maidenhead Grid Square calculator. the GPS will tell your your location but you can also type in a street address to get the location there.

Amsatdroid Free provides current information on pass times, durations, elevation and azimuth, etc. for virtually every amateur radio satellite in use.

LOTW LOOK has become one of my most used apps. My N3FJP logging software will upload my log to Logbook Of The World with no hassles. I only upload a few times a year. **LOTW LOOK** accesses my LOTW account and displays recent confirmed contacts. If I have new ones then I can coax the radio laptop into getting online and download from LOTW to N3FJP log, but if I have no new ones, I don't need to get on line.

Ham Utility provides band plan information, Solar weather and Morse Code information.

QRZ Assistant is possibly my most used App other than a grid square calculator. QRZ assistant requires you to be registered with the QRZ web site but provides the "standard" QRZ data look up services then.

EQSL Droid is on my phone but not sure I ever used it. It allows you to submit an EQSL from your phone. I think if I used one of the log book apps listed earlier this would be a useful app. But since I use the phone apps as a very temporary log to record a contact then get home and upload to N3FJP and then upload to EQSL and LOTW from N3FJP, this app is less useful to me.

Catch ya on the air!

