Setting Up WSJT-X for VHF Contest Use

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- The following slides detail key preference settings that can impact the performance of WSJT-X in a VHF contest mode.

- The logging software used by the station operator could potentially override these settings. Since there are several different logging programs in use today, the information in this presentation is strictly based on WSJT-x operation.

WSJT Can Be Your Friend or Your Worst Nightmare

- WSJT-X is a powerful contest tool – but only if you take the time to set it up
  - More than eight Set-Up screens with multiple preference settings to select
  - One configuration does not fit all applications!

- Avoid being the Problem Station
  - Don't be the one that calls stations they already worked multiple times during the contest
  - Don't be the one requesting signal reports when the exchange only requires grid squares
  - Don't be the one that ends the contact before receiving a confirming **73** message

- Which revision of WSJT-X should you use?
  - ***WSJT-X Improved 3.0.0-rc1***
    - Latest release candidate – Lots of features for HF contesting, No VHF contest enhancements
  - ❖***WSJT-X 2.7.0   Recommended***
    - GA Release Candidate – Contains all of the needed features for VHF contest applications

WSJT-X Setup Screen by Screen – Log Management
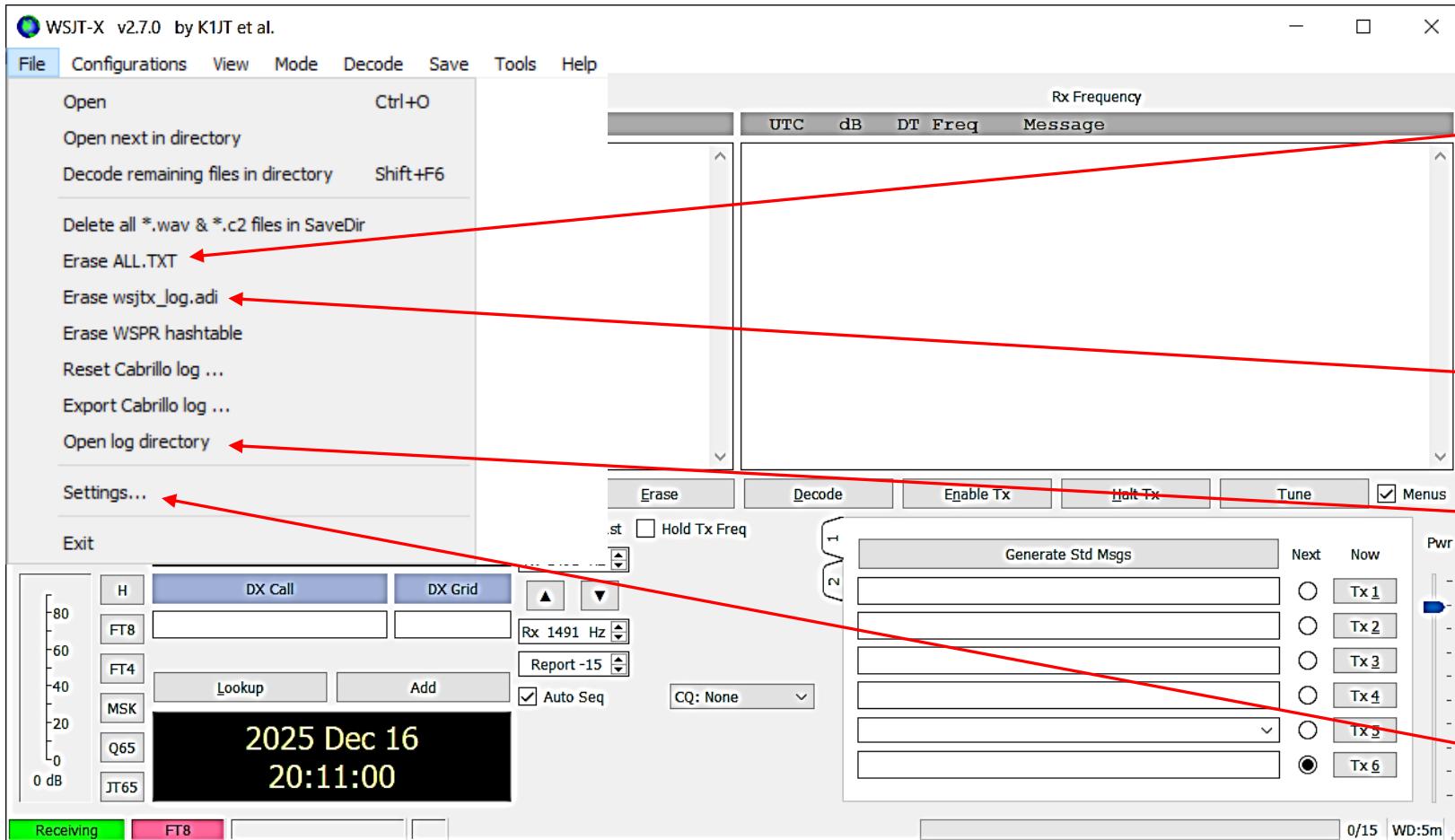
- Erase or rename old Logs
- ALL.txt
  - Stores the entire receive log
  - Can eat up a lot of memory if not cleaned out occasionally
- wsjtx_log.adi
  - Stores entire contact log
- Open log directory
  - Access PC stored log files
  - Allows you to rename and save old logs if desired
- Settings menu
  - Configure user preferences

I have never found a way to erase the "Contest Log" pop-up other than manually.
- Does anyone have a solution?

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# WSJT-X Setup Screen by Screen – Log Directory
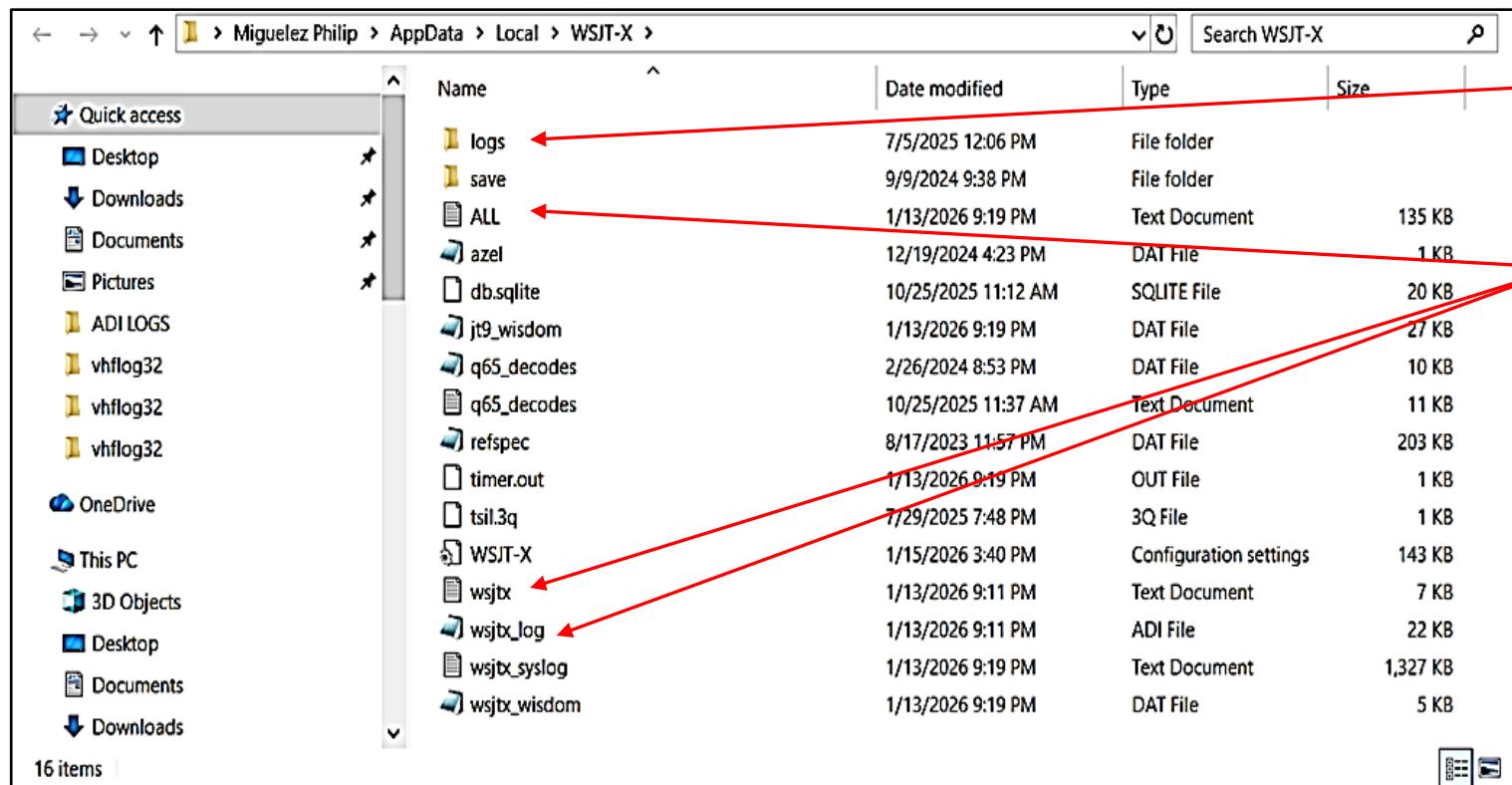
- Create new folders to store old log data (Optional)

- Delete these text data files and ADI file

- Wsjt will create new files on startup or new contacts

WSJT-X Setup Screen by Screen – General Setup

File menu:
- Open   Ctrl+O
- Open next in directory
- Decode remaining files in directory   Shift+F6
- Delete all *.wav & *.c2 files in SaveDir
- Erase ALL.TXT
- Erase wsjtx_log.adi
- Erase WSPR hashtable
- Reset Cabrillo log …
- Export Cabrillo log …
- Open log directory
- **Settings…**
- Exit

Settings window — General tab (General | Radio | Audio | Tx Macros | Reporting | Frequencies | Colors | Advanced)

Station Details
- My Call: WA3NUF
- My Grid: FN20KE
- ☐ AutoGrid
- IARU Region: Region 2
- Message generation for type 2 compound callsign holders: Full call in Tx1

Display
- ☐ Start new period decodes at top
- ☑ Blank line between decoding periods
- ☐ Display distance in miles
- ☑ Tx messages to Rx frequency window
- ☑ Show DXCC, grid, and worked-before status
- ☐ Show principal prefix instead of country name
- ☐ Highlight DX Call in message
- ☐ Highlight DX Grid in message
- Font...
- Decoded Text Font...

Behavior
- ☐ Monitor off at startup
- ☑ Monitor returns to last used frequency
- ☑ Double-click on call sets Tx enable
- ☐ Disable Tx after sending 73
- ☐ Calling CQ forces Call 1st
- ☐ Alternate F1-F6 bindings
- ☐ CW ID after 73
- ☑ Enable VHF and submode features
- ☐ Allow Tx frequency changes while transmitting
- ☑ Single decode
- ☐ Decode after EME delay
- Tx watchdog: 6 minutes
- Periodic CW ID Interval: 0

OK   Cancel

- Add Call, Grid, and Region (2)
- Enable VHF Features
- Set watchdog timer

# WSJT-X Setup Screen by Screen – Set up QSY App
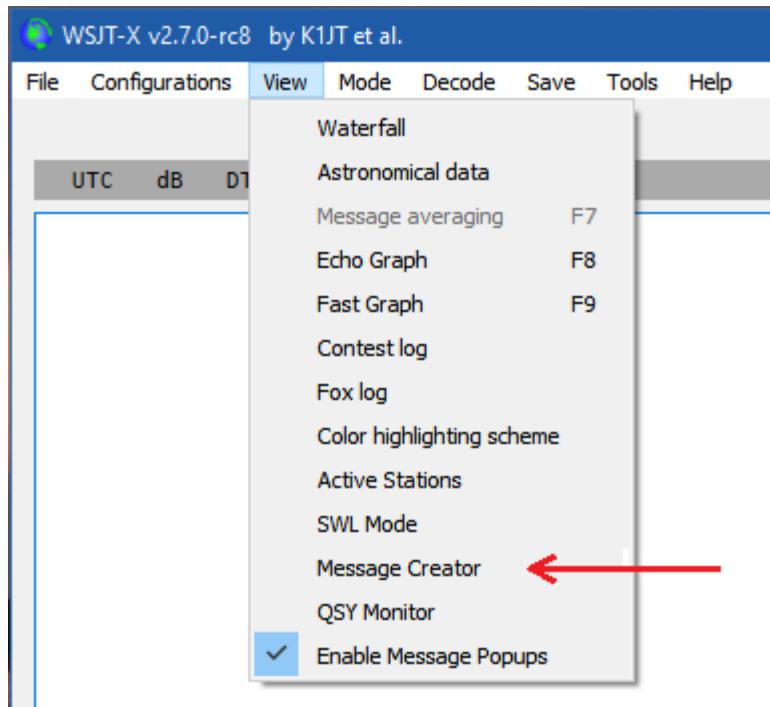
- Click on main screen view tab
  - Use Message Creator to set QSY MSG preferences
  - Click on Enable Popups to allow popups
  - Click on QSY Monitor to enable monitor status box
- Both sides of the contact must be using the QSY App (Rev 2.7.0 or higher)
  - Not always the case
  - Other station may be using an older Rev of WSJT

WSJT-X Setup Screen by Screen – Create Tx Macros
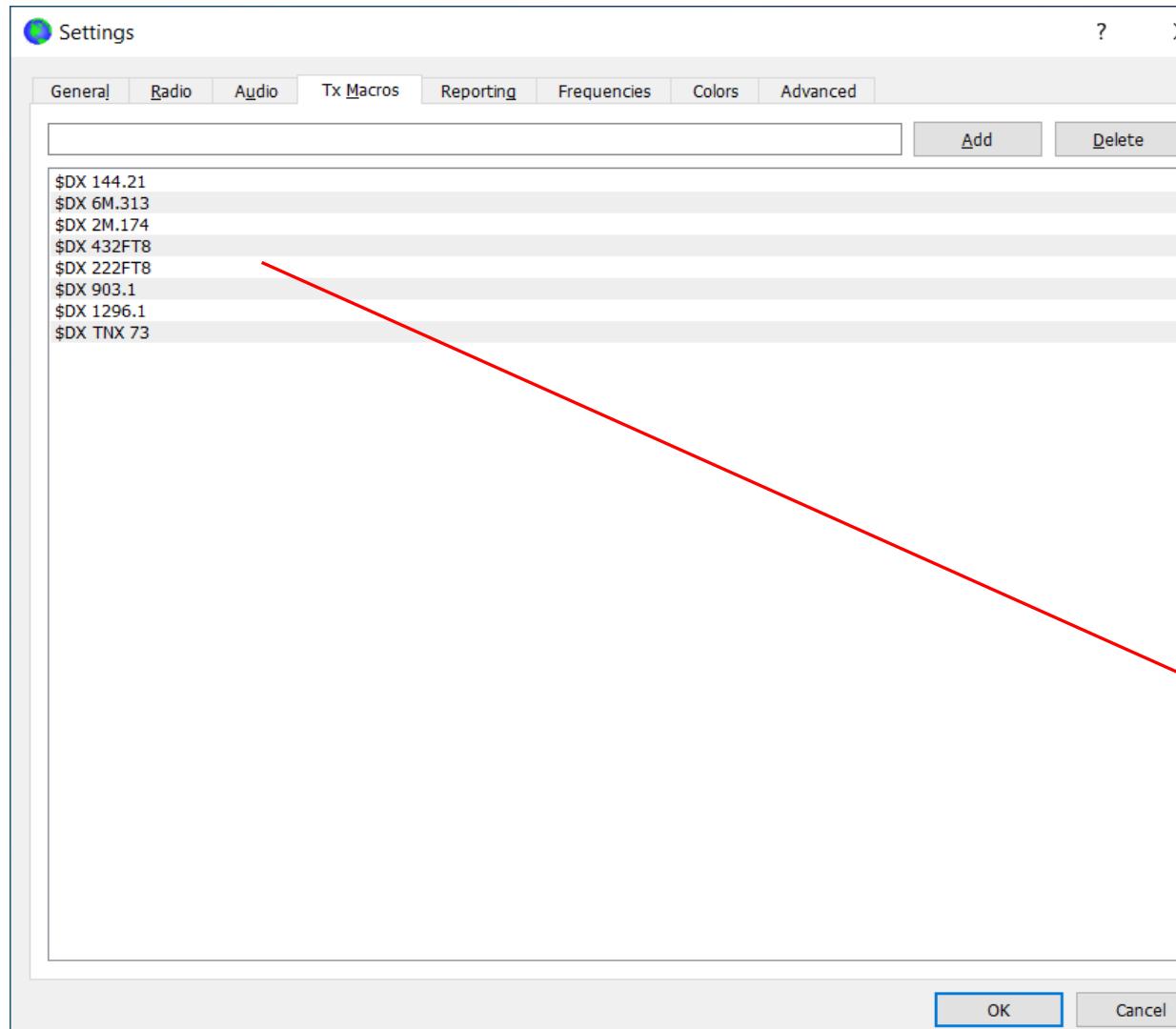
- Create a list of messages that can be selected for transmit using the TX 5 message box
  - Manual alternative to QSY App
  - Contact station will see the msg even if they are not using QSY App
  - MSG must be max 13 characters
  - Transmit MSG more than once
  - Double click TX 5 to return to 73 msg
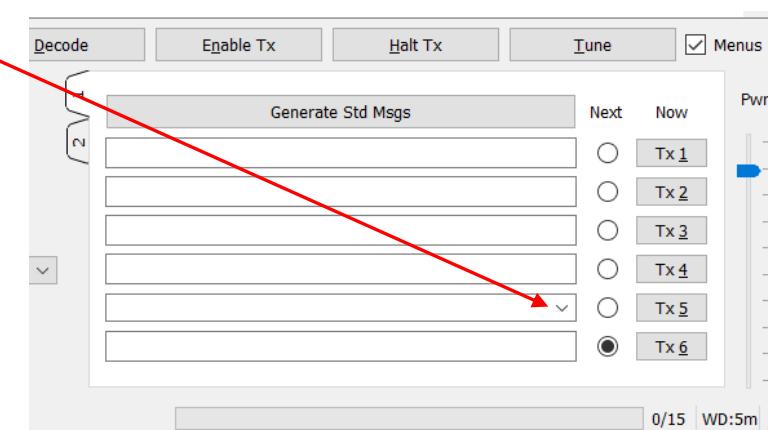
WSJT-X Setup Screen by Screen – Setup PSK Reporting
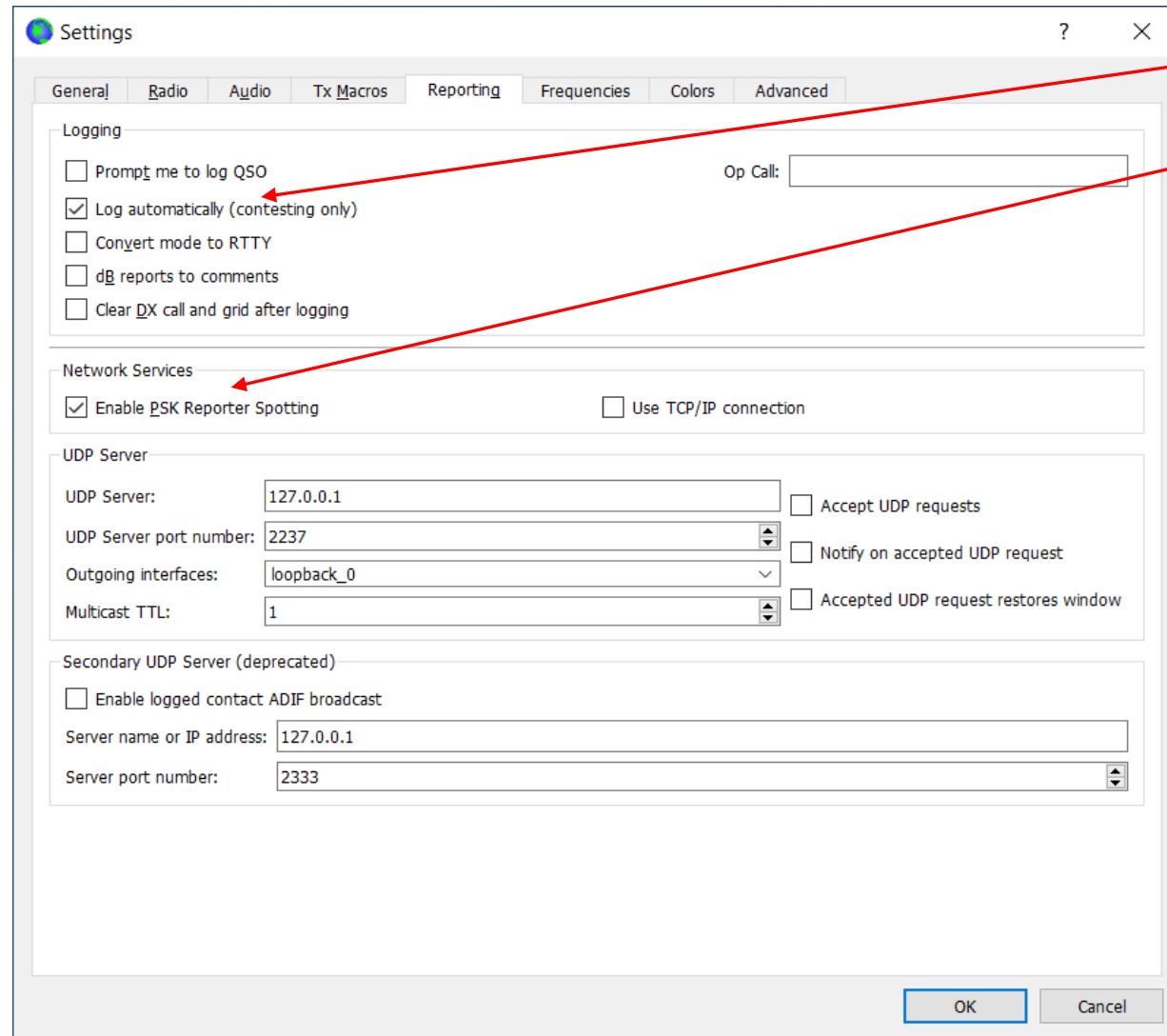
- Enable auto logging

- Enable PSK Reporter
  - Allows other stations to see their reception report (and you to see how well you are being heard at their location)
  - Provides a quick visual of propagation and signal strength

PSK Reporter Setup

- https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html

- Real time view of FT8 stations that are hearing you

- Interfaces with WSJT to allow stations to report your signal strength

- Select show "signals, sent by, the callsign" and your call and FT8 mode

- Reports your signal strength and headings

PSK Reporter 222 Activity Night
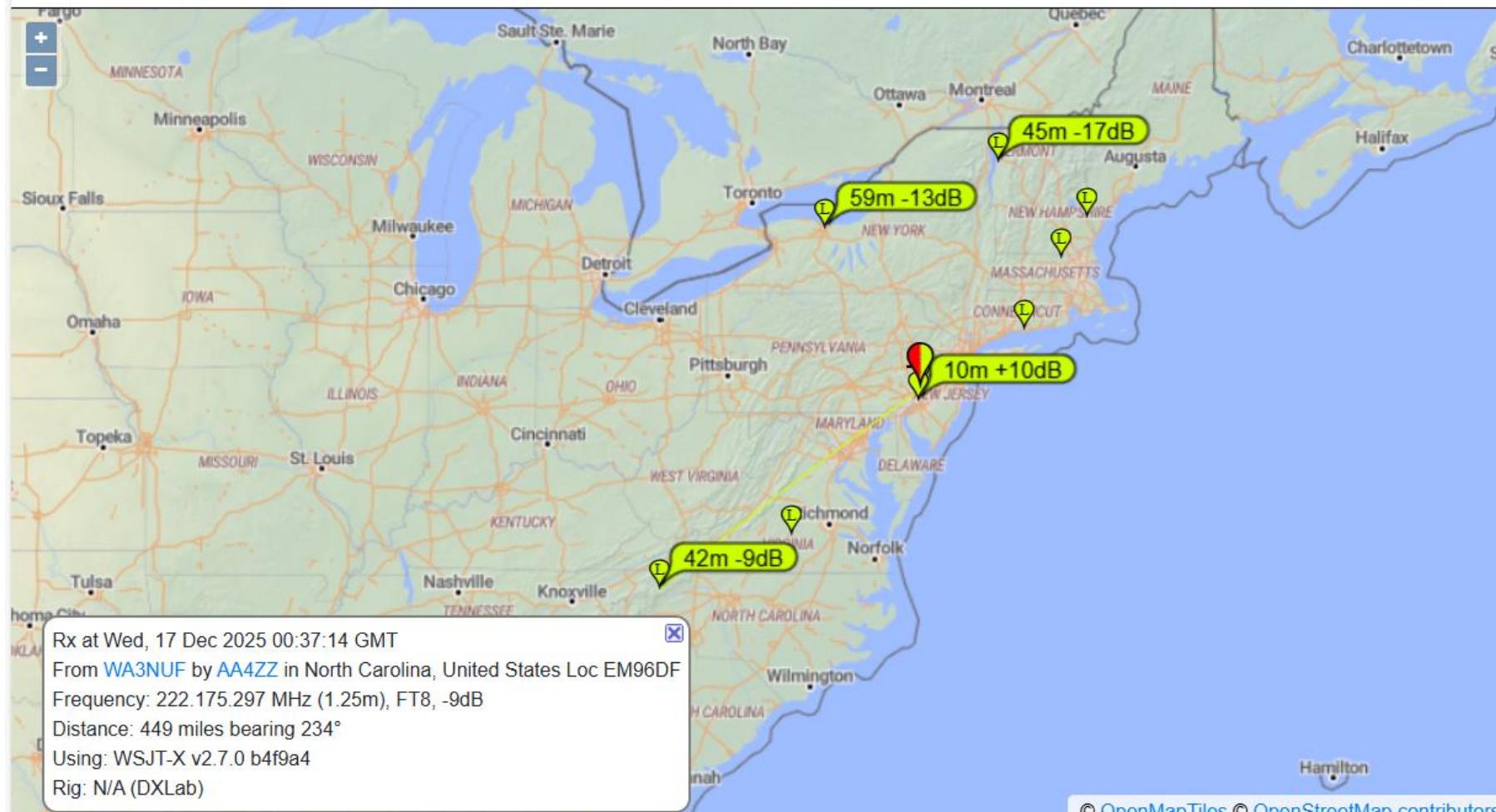
- Make sure to click "Go" after setting up PSK options
  - Use last 15 minutes for most activities
 - Use longer time periods for low activity bands to see a time lapse record

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Setup Frequency Offsets and XVTR L.O. Offsets
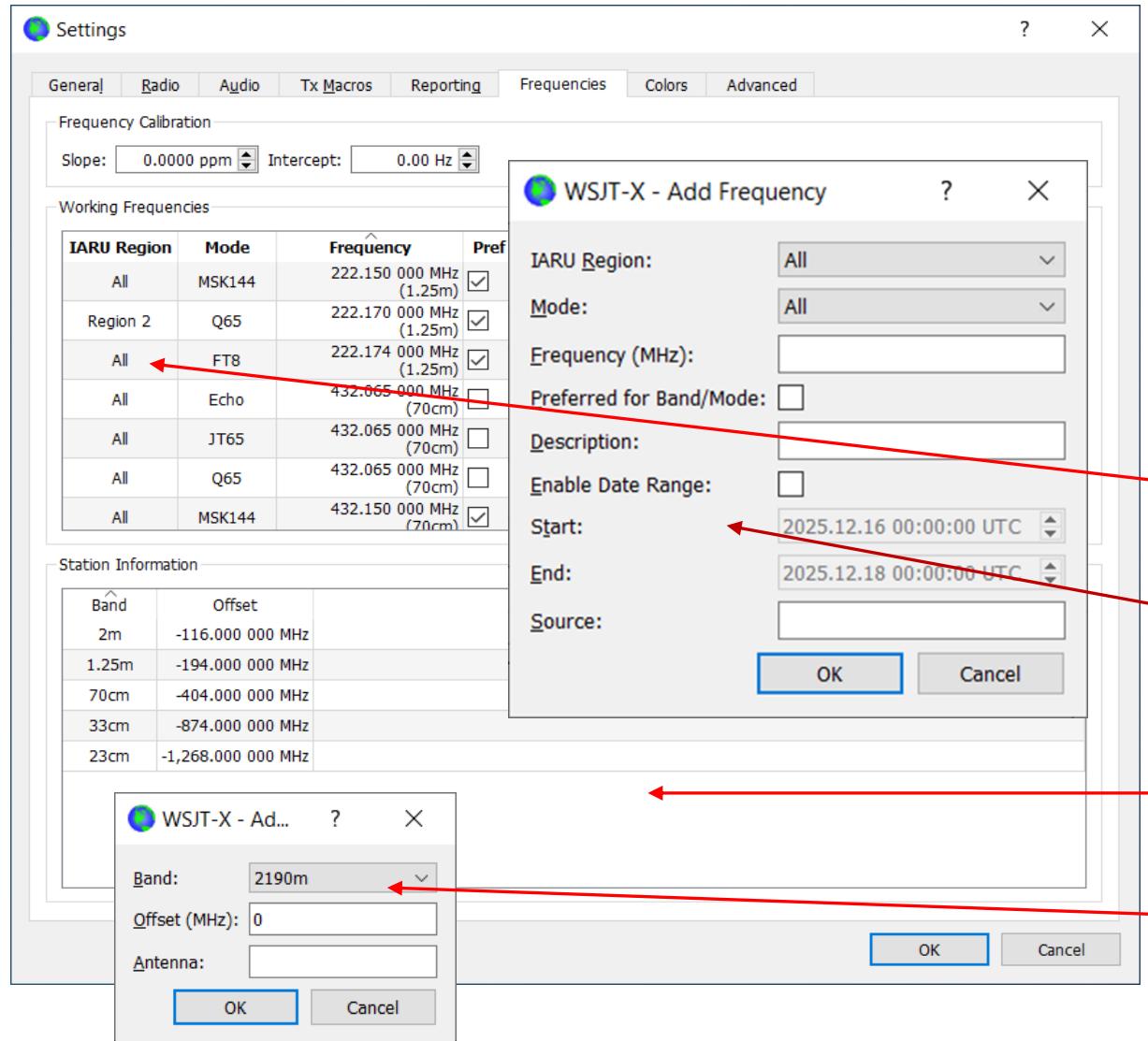
- WSJT lists a number of regional frequencies for the various WSJT modes and bands
  - Not all modes are included for higher bands
  - Calling frequencies for VHF and higher bands are also missing in many cases

- Clicking on a regional band within the "Working Frequency" chart will provide a popup allowing a new line item to be created and inserted

- Clicking on the "Station Information" chart will provide a popup that allows the XVTR IF frequency offset to be added
  - WSJT will now display 222.1 instead of 28.1

WSJT-X Setup Screen by Screen – Msg Color Scheme
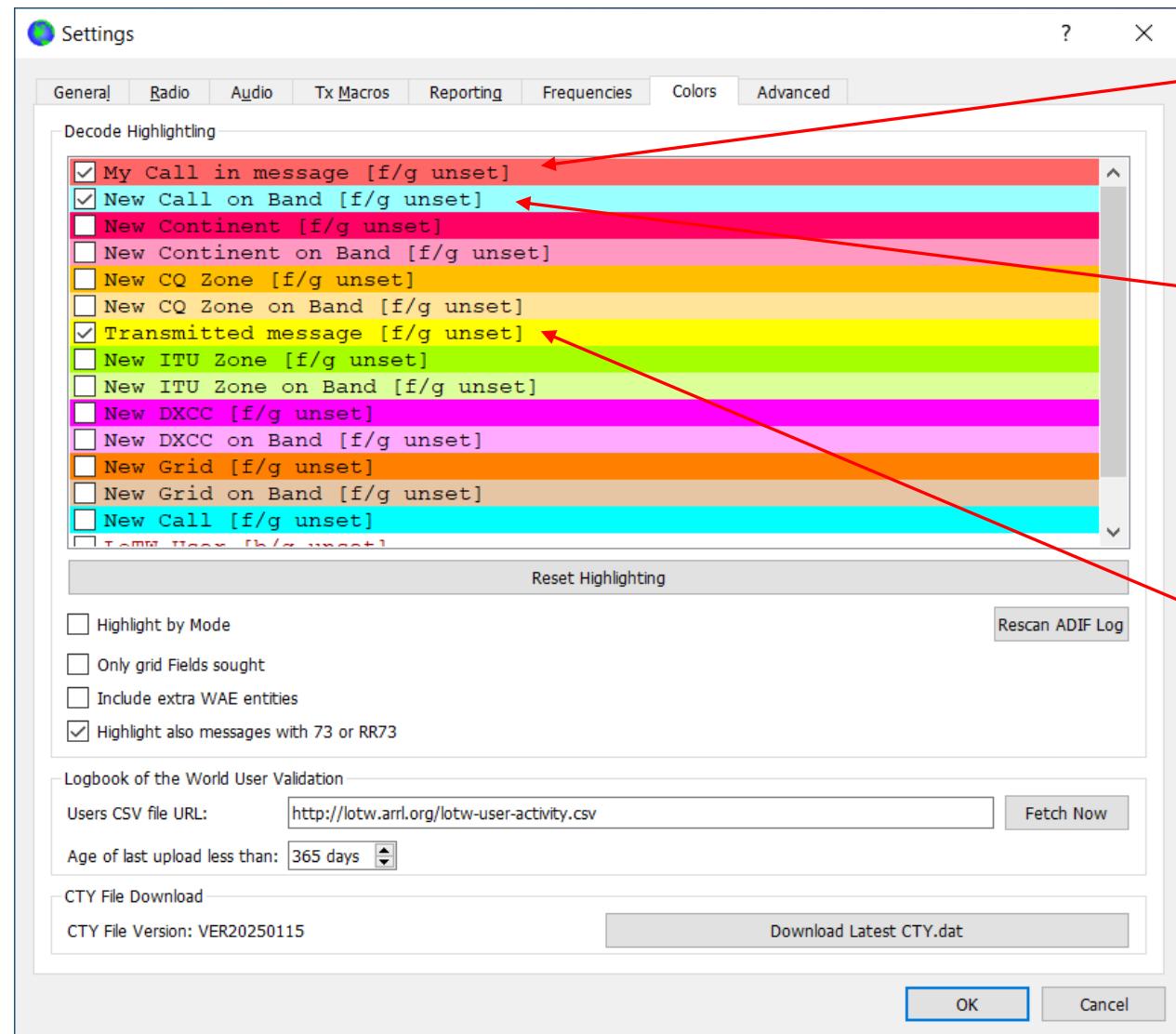
- Your call highlighted in RED within the Activity window box when you receive a call or response

- CQ's from unworked stations highlighted in light Blue
  - Once logged any new CQ messages from that station are displayed on a white background (no highlight)

- Your transmitted MSG highlighted in Yellow within the RX window box

- Other color highlights can be selected or added as desired

WSJT-X Setup Screen by Screen – Advanced Settings
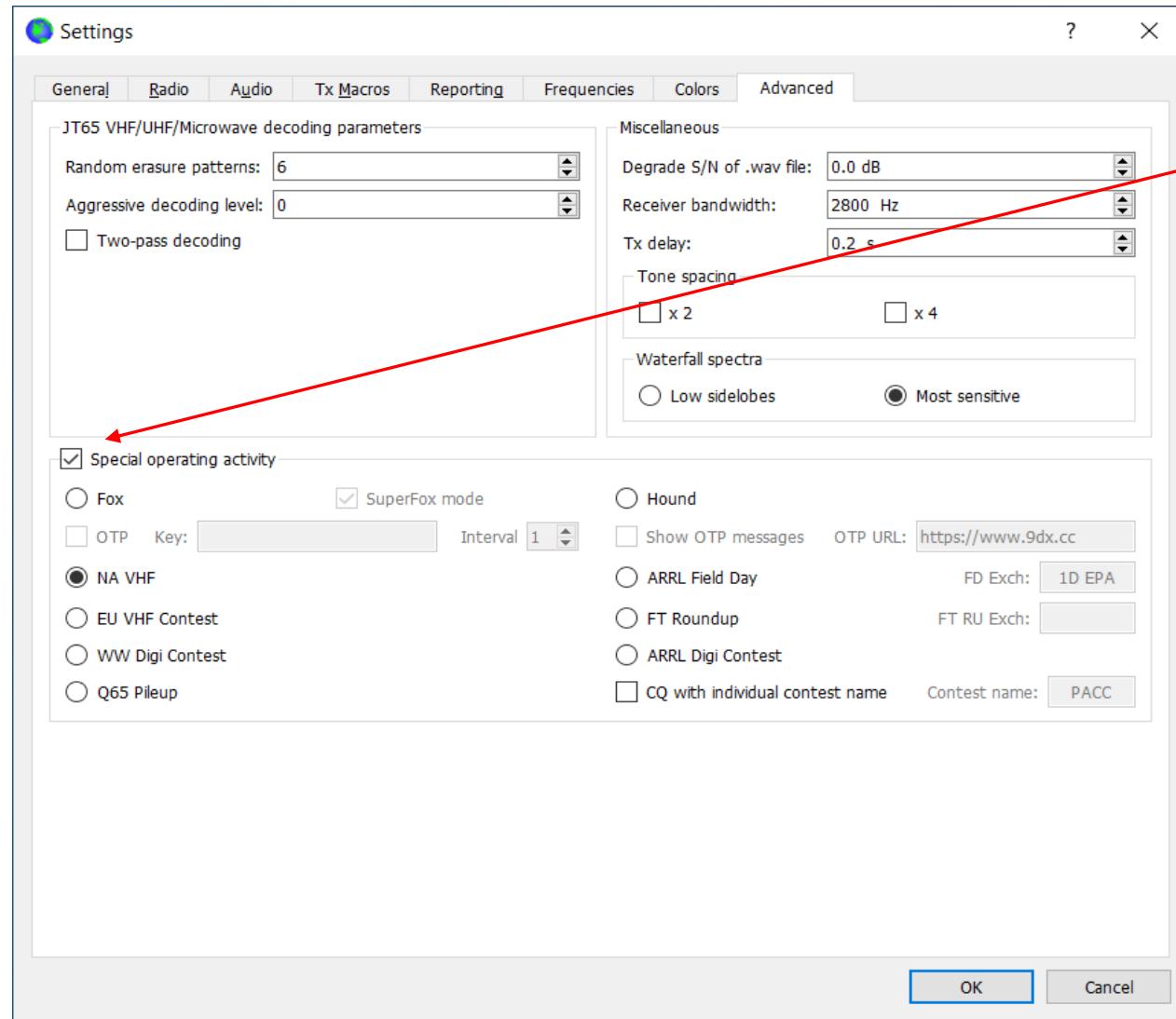
- Click the Special Operating Activity box for VHF contest mode
  - Select NA VHF for most 4-digit Grid Square contest events
  - Select EU/ VHF Contest for 6-digit Grid Square contest events
- When the contest is over, deselect the Special Operating Activity box to return to standard signal report messaging

Other Contest Hints
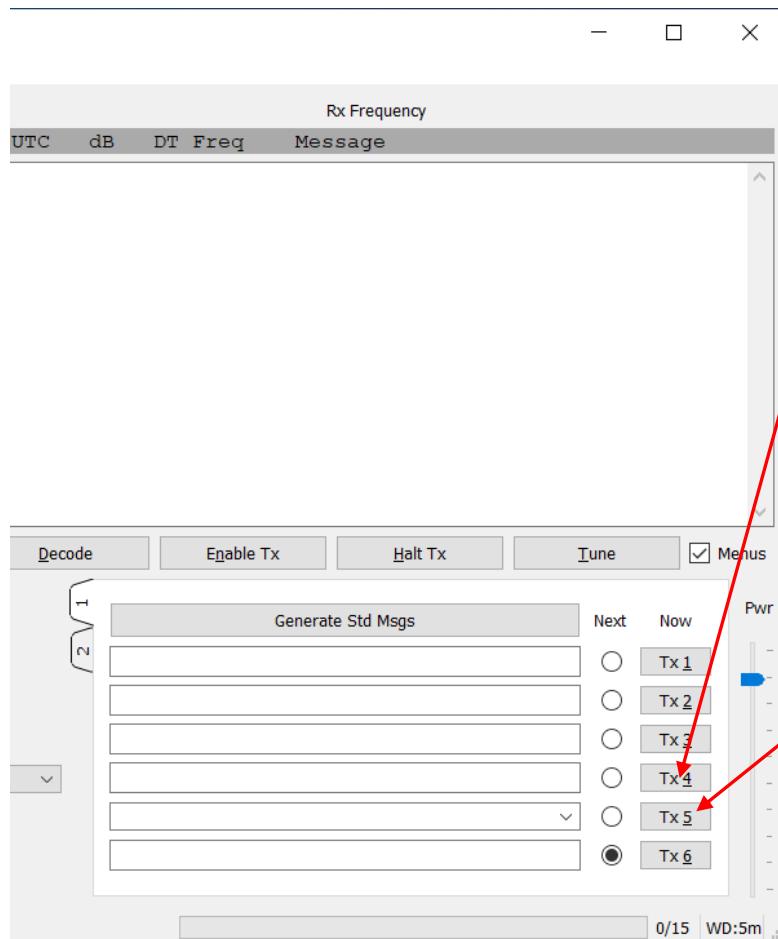
- Hold the cursor over TX 4 msg box to change from RR73 to RRR
  - Always use RRR in a contest
  - RR73 will cause the other station to assume the contact is completed and not send his 73
  - RRR will cause WSJT to respond with a 73 msg
  - Click "TX 5" msg box and click "Enable Tx" box to manually send 73 msg

- Hold the cursor over the TX 5 msg box to change from 73 msg to a Macro msg

THANK YOU