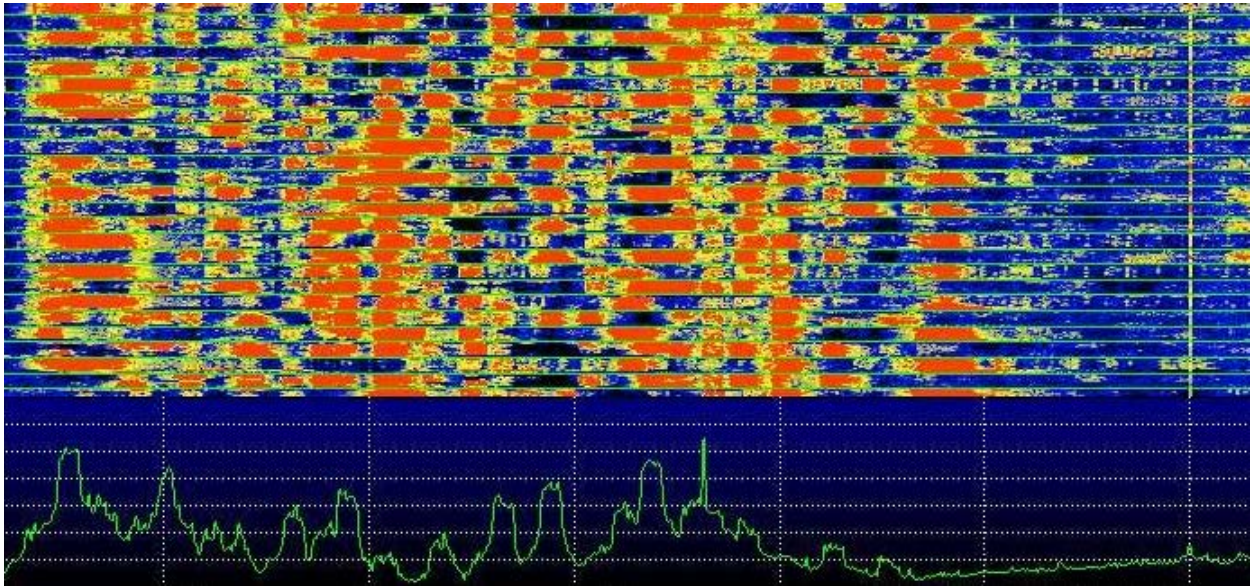# FT8 SETUP GUIDE

By WB9LIB

This FT8 setup guide is intended to serve as a reference to assist those who are setting up stations to operate in this relatively new weak signal mode of operation. It is based on tried and proven settings within **WSJT-X**, **GridTracker**, and the **N3FJP Amateur Contact Log,** which I am concurrently using to support FT8 operations. The features that will become available with the specified settings include:

- *Launch WSJT-X, GridTracker, & N3FJP with a single click*
- *Automatic QSO logging into N3FJP*
- *Automatic QSO uploads to LOTW, QRZ, & eQSL*
- *Highlighting stations, states, countries not yet worked*
- *Screen alert and alarm whenever your station is called*
- *Filter displayed stations by USA only or DX only*
- *Pop-up window & audible alert when your station is called.*

The settings noted on the following pages are those which work well for my application. Some adjustments may be needed to suit your own needs.
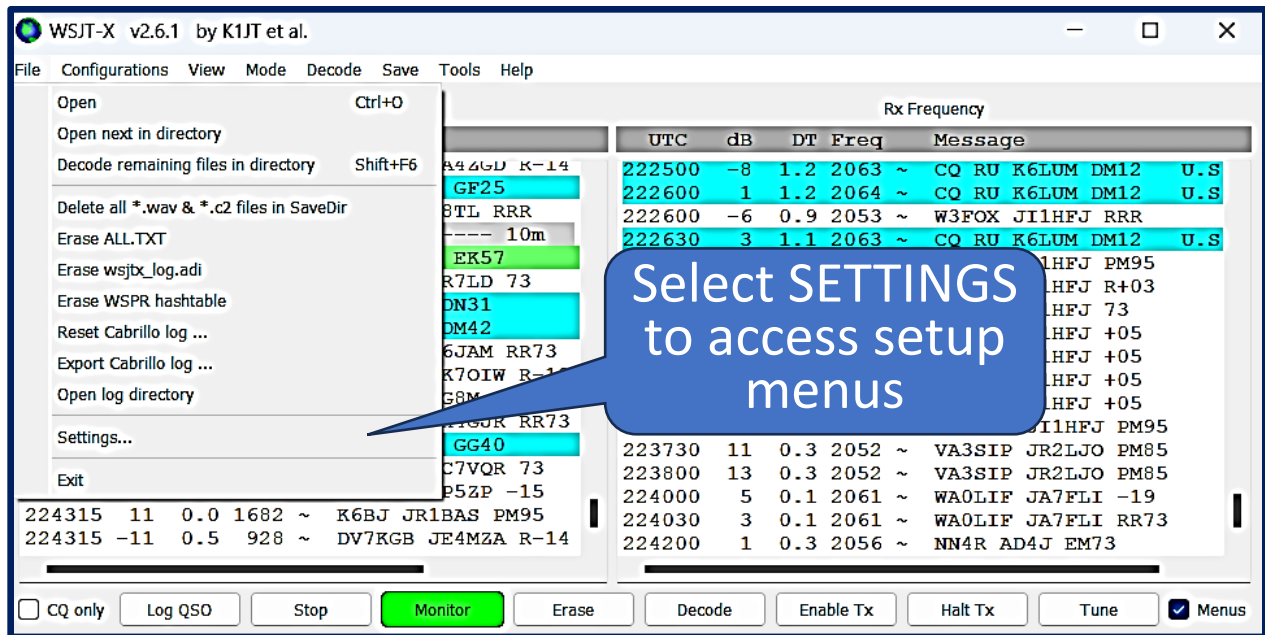
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LAUNCH WSJT-X, GRIDTRACKER, & N3FJP WITH ONE CLICK

It can be quite cumbersome starting WSJT-X, GridTracker, and the N3FJP Amateur Contact Logger individually every time you want to run FT8. This process can be greatly simplified by using a batch file to launch all three programs. To accomplish this, create a file named FT8.BAT with the following contents and save it on your desktop:

echo off
start "" "c:\WSJT\wsjtx\bin\wsjtx.exe"
start "" "C:\Users\Gary\AppData\Local\Programs\GridTracker2\GridTracker2.exe"
start "" "C:\Program Files (x86)\N3FJP Software - Affirmatech\Amateur Contact Log\aclog.exe"
exit

Now whenever you want to operate FT8, **simply double click the FT8.BAT icon on your desktop** and it will automatically fire up WSJT-X, GridTracker, and N3FJP Amateur Contact Log.

THE WSJT-X MAIN CONTROL PANEL

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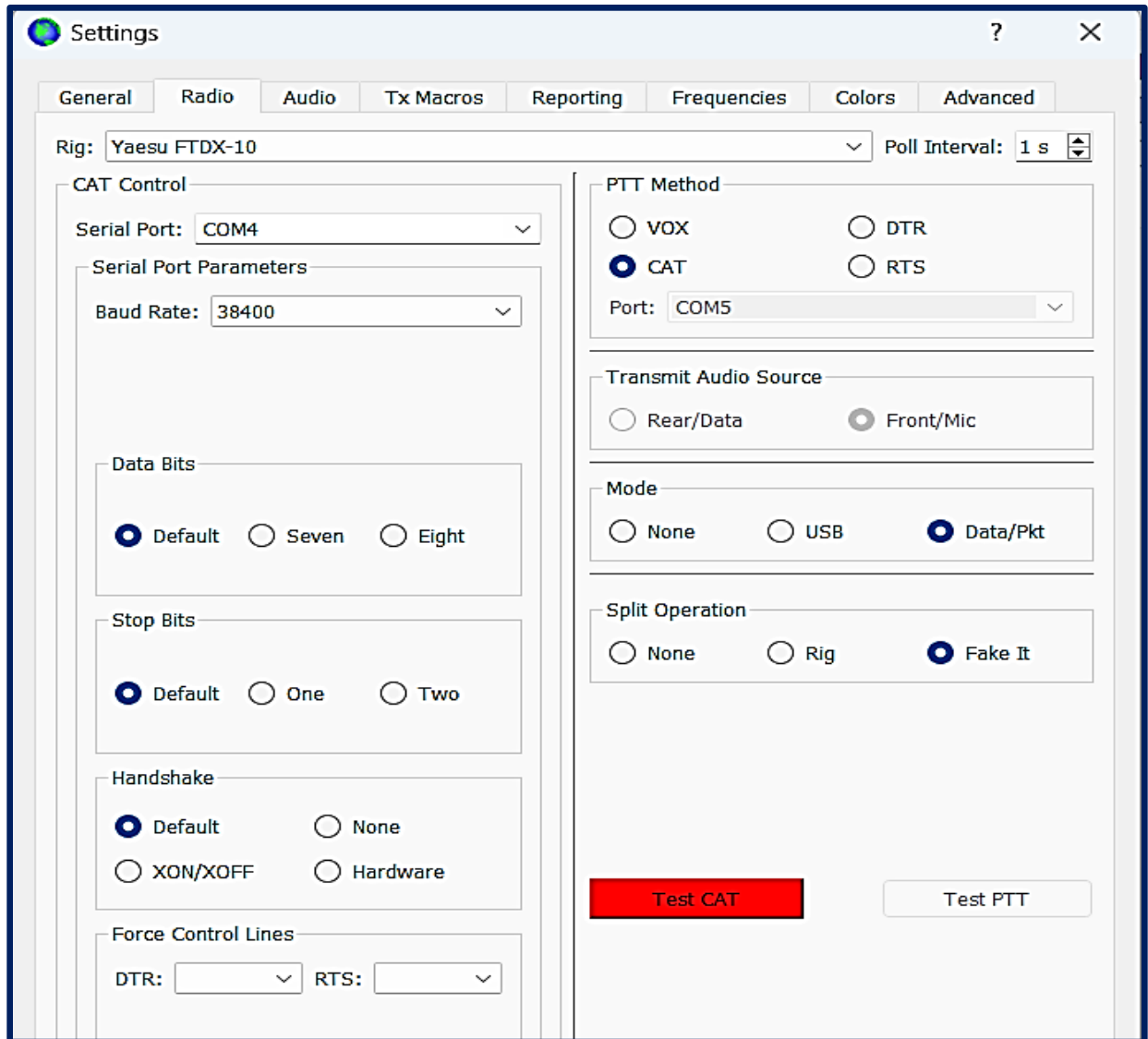
THE WSJT-X GENERAL SETUP MENU
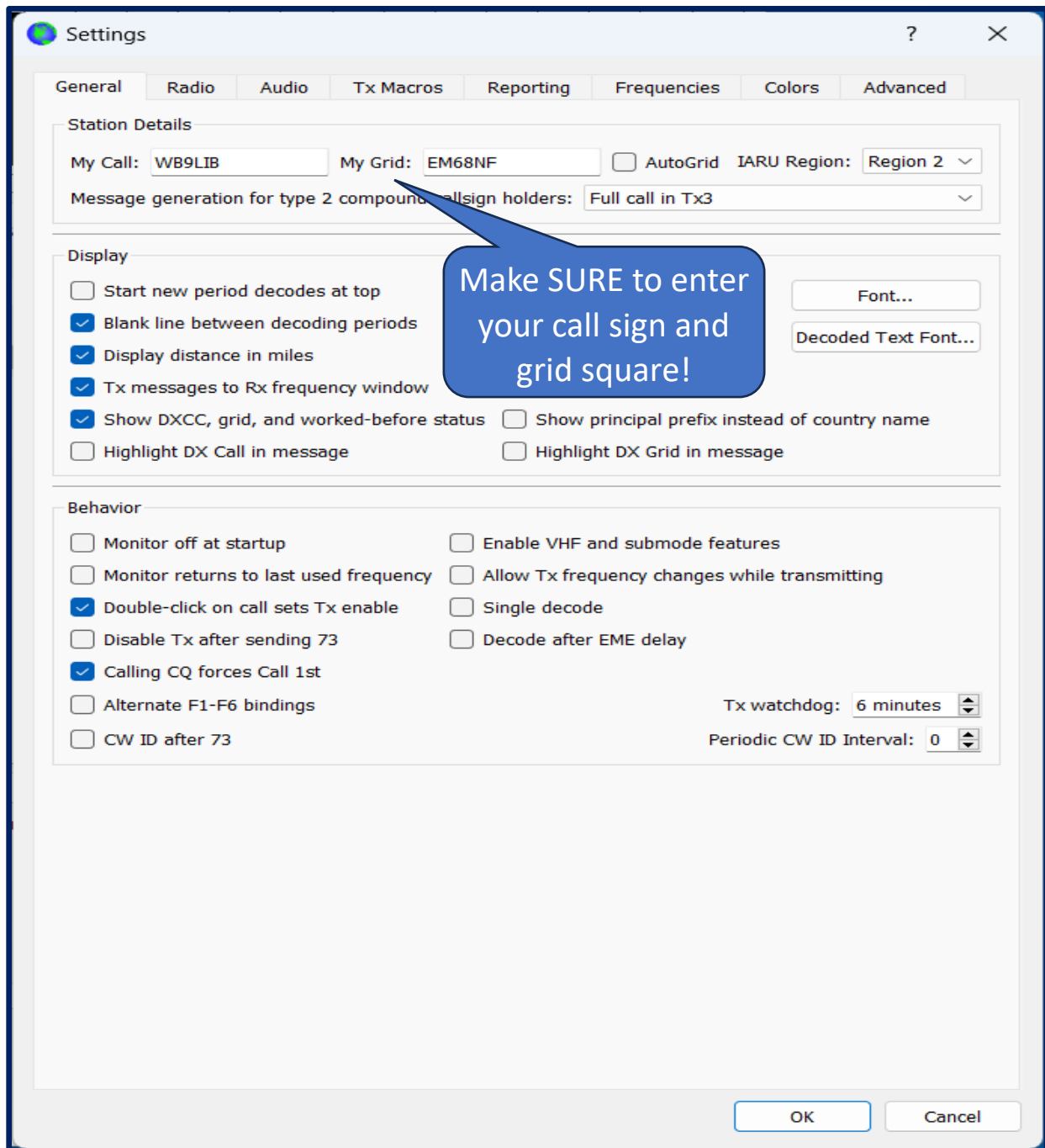
Set up the WSJT-X General menu as shown on above.

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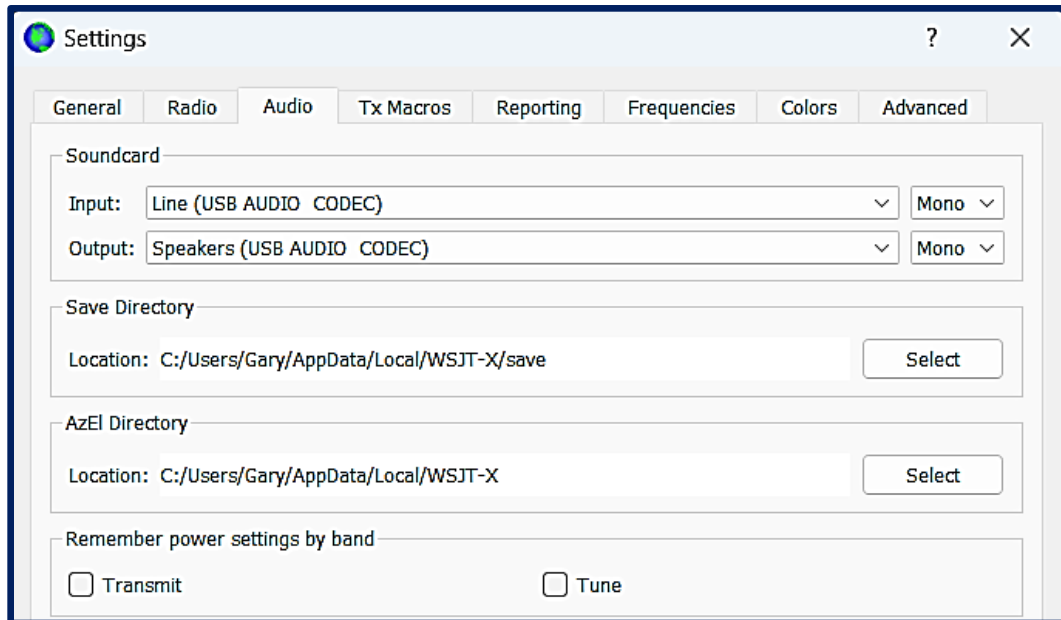
THE WSJT-X RADIO SETUP MENU

Set up the WSJT-X Radio menu as shown above. It is <u>VERY</u> important that you specify the radio you are using along with the serial port and Baud Rate. When the setup is complete, make sure to select TEST CAT and TEST PTT to ensure these functions are working.
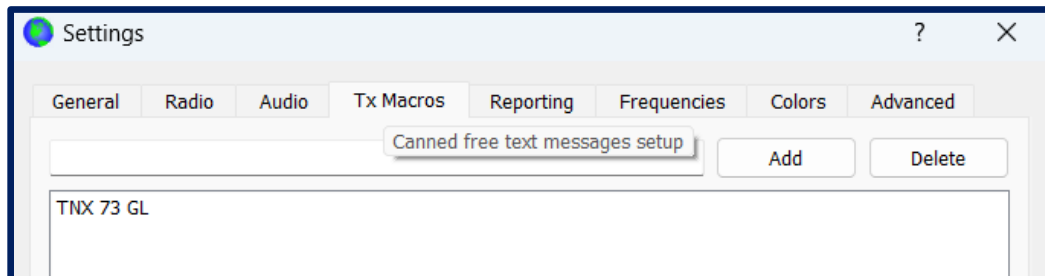
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THE WSJT-X AUDIO SETUP MENU

Set up the WSJT-X Audio menu as shown above. If your radio has a built-in sound card and you are using the USB interface, then your audio Input and Output should use the USB Audio Codecs as shown above.

THE WSJT-X TX MACROS SETUP MENU

No changes should be needed on this menu.

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THE WSJT-X REPORTING SETUP MENU

Set up the WSJT-X Reporting as shown above. The Network Services settings are **crucial** and allow WSJT-X to talk to GridTracker. The Secondary UDP settings **are also needed** to allow automatic logging of QSO's into the N3FJP Amateur Contact Log while running GridTracker.

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THE WSJT-X FREQUENCIES SETUP MENU
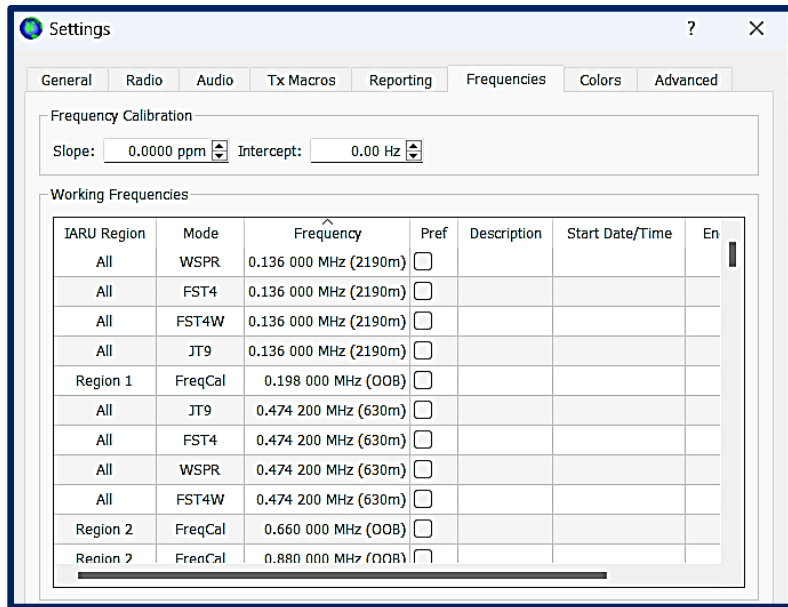
You do not need to make any changes to the WSJT-X Frequencies menu

THE WSJT-X COLORS SETUP MENU
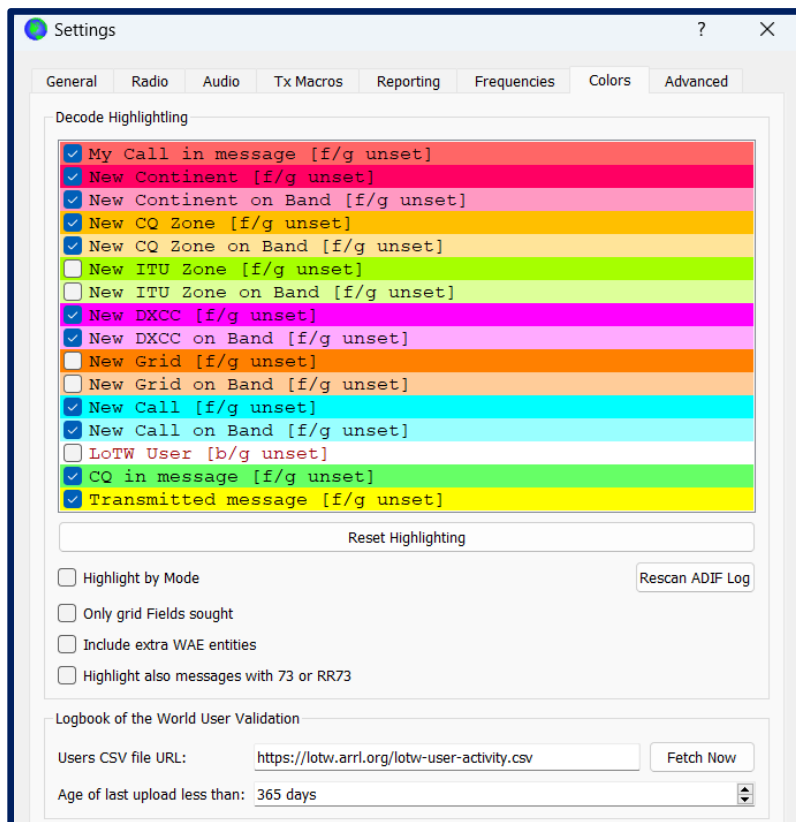
You do not need to make any changes to the WSJT-X Colors menu

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THE WSJT-X ADVANCED SETUP MENU
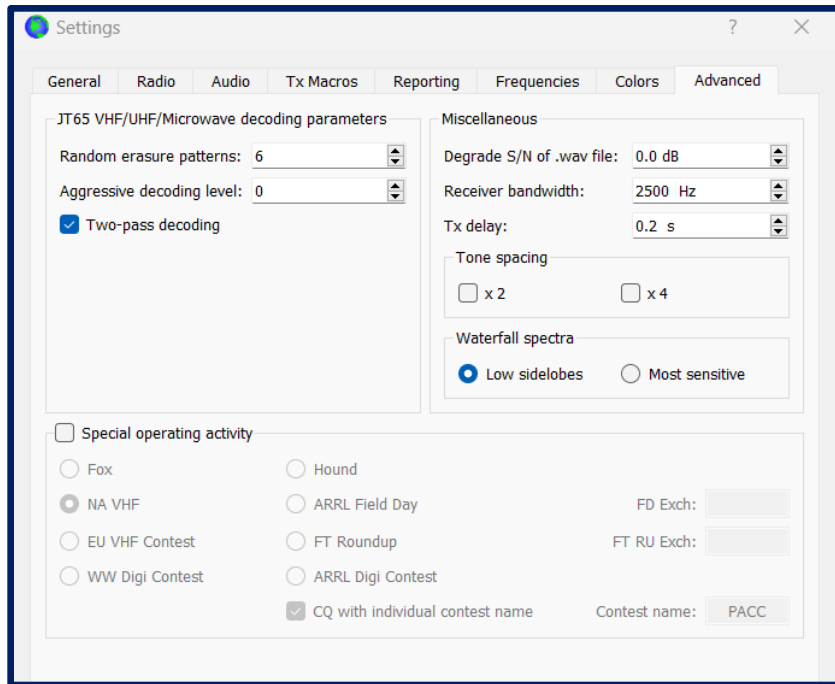
You do not need to make any changes to the WSJT-X Advanced menu

THE N3FJP AMATEUR CONTACT LOG API MENU
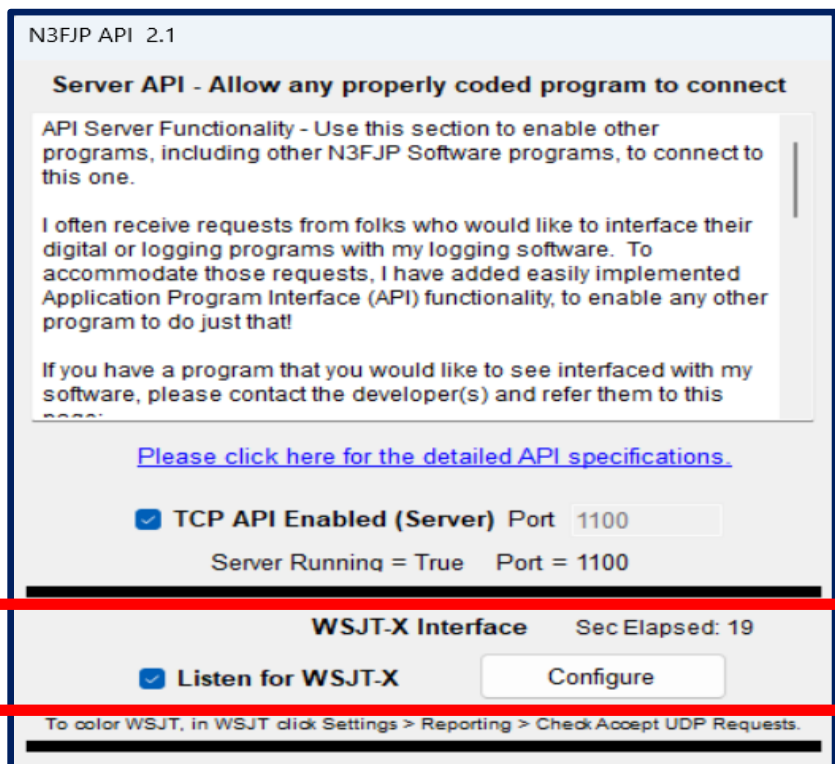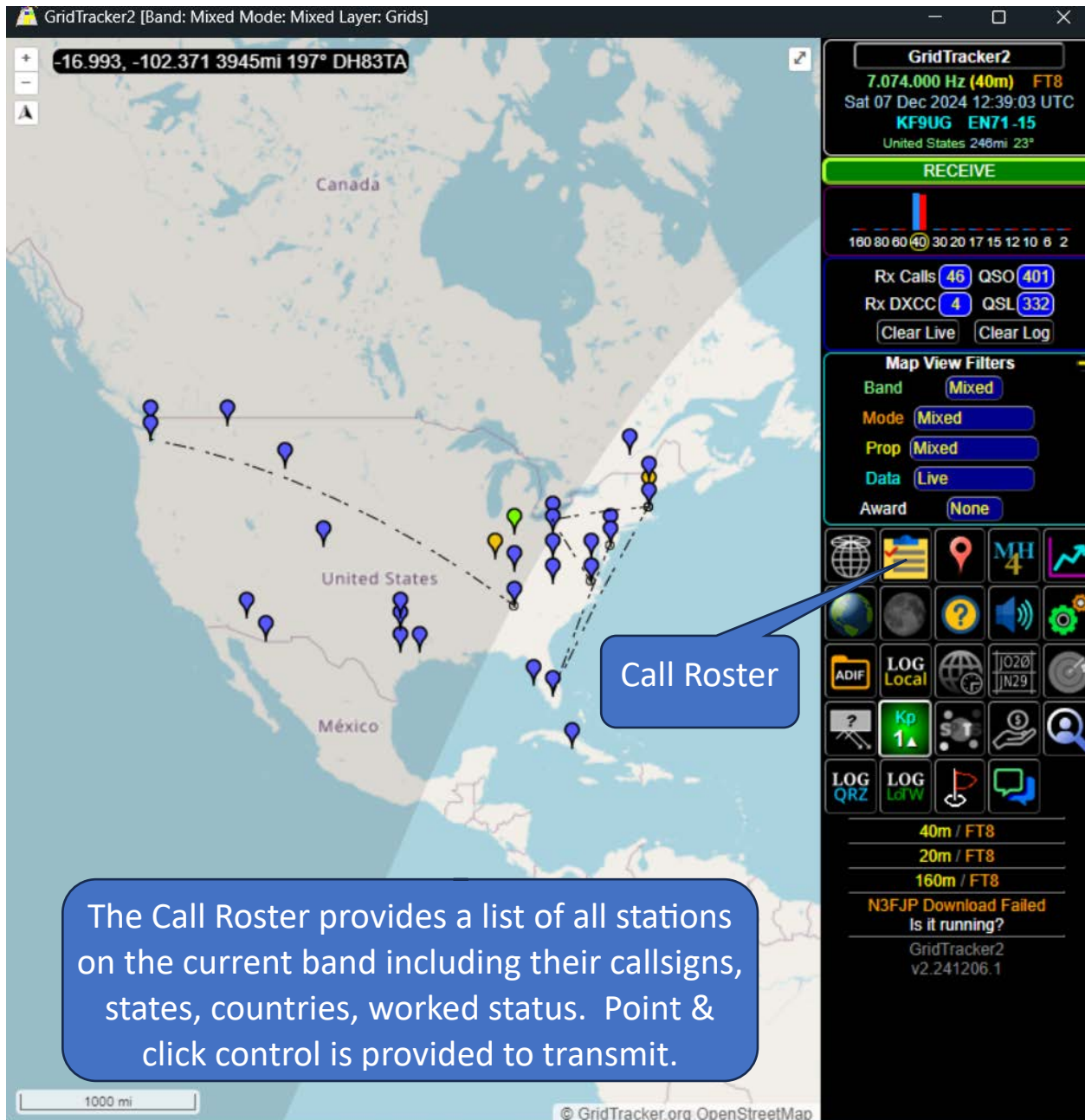
Make **sure** you have the WSJT-X Interface enabled within the N3FJP Amateur Contest Logger

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THE GRIDTRACKER MAIN MENU

Call Roster

The Call Roster provides a list of all stations on the current band including their callsigns, states, countries, worked status. Point & click control is provided to transmit.

This is the appearance of the GridTracker main menu when the program is running normally.

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THE GRIDTRACKER GENERAL SETUP MENU

Set up GridTracker General Menu as shown above.   Receive UDP Messages <u>must </u>be properly set up to allow communications with WSJT-X. Forward UDP Messages must be properly set up to automatically log QSO's into the N3FJP Amateur Contact Log.

THE GRIDTRACKER FEATURES SETUP MENU
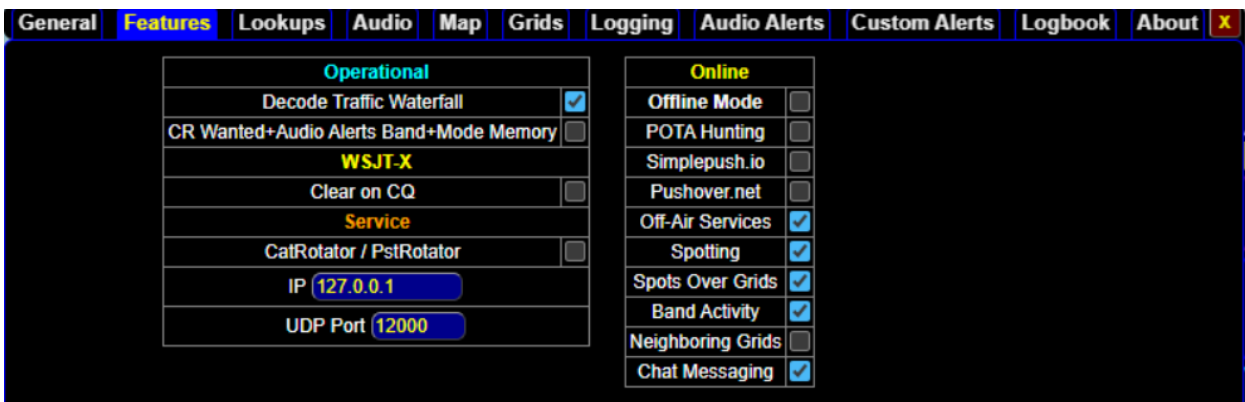
No changes should be needed on the GridTracker Features menu.

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THE GRIDTRACKER LOOKUPS SETUP MENU
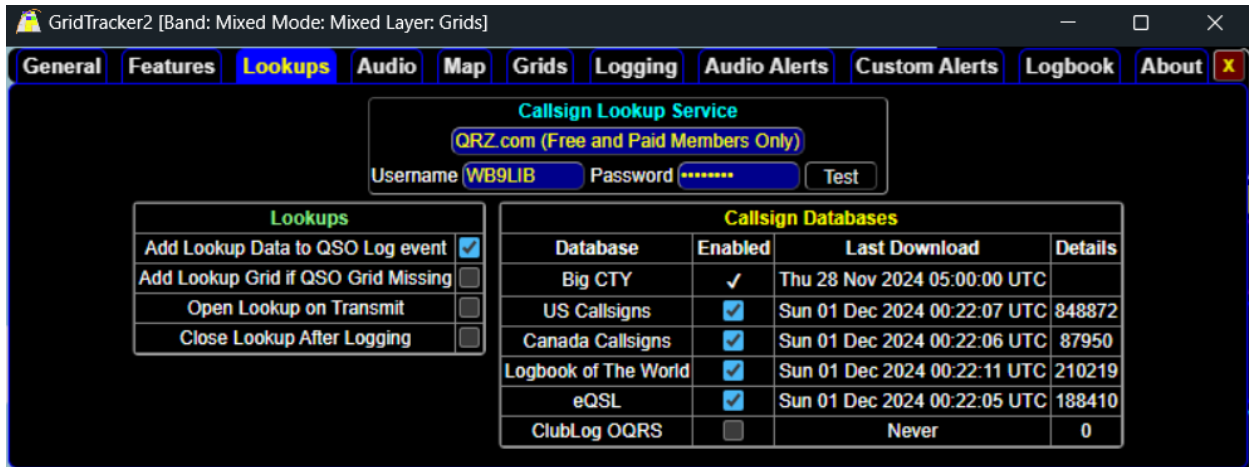
Make sure you specify an appropriate source (such as QRZ) for GridTracker to use when looking up and displaying callsign information.

THE GRIDTRACKER AUDIO SETUP MENU
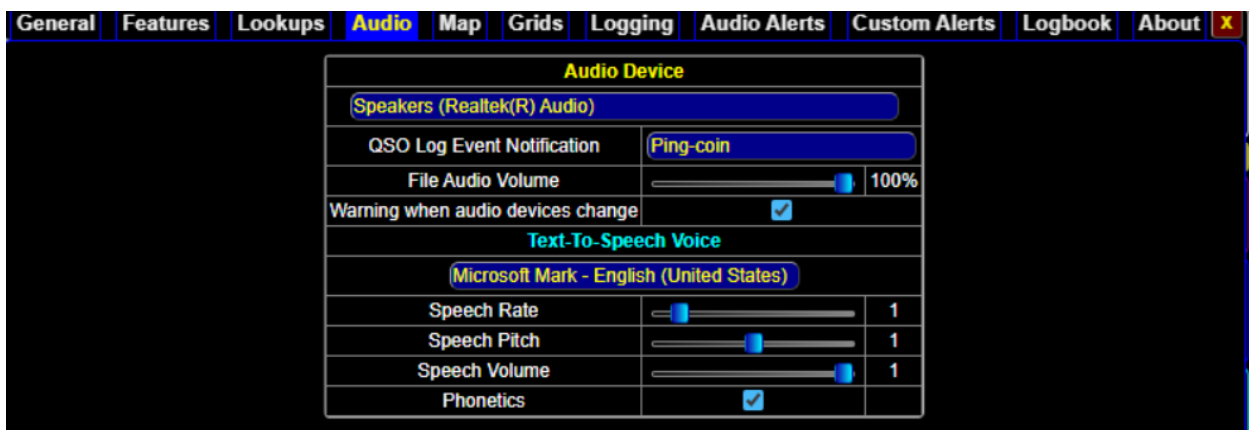
This menu specifies the sound that is made when you are prompted to log a QSO. No changes should be needed.

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THE GRIDTRACKER MAP SETUP MENU
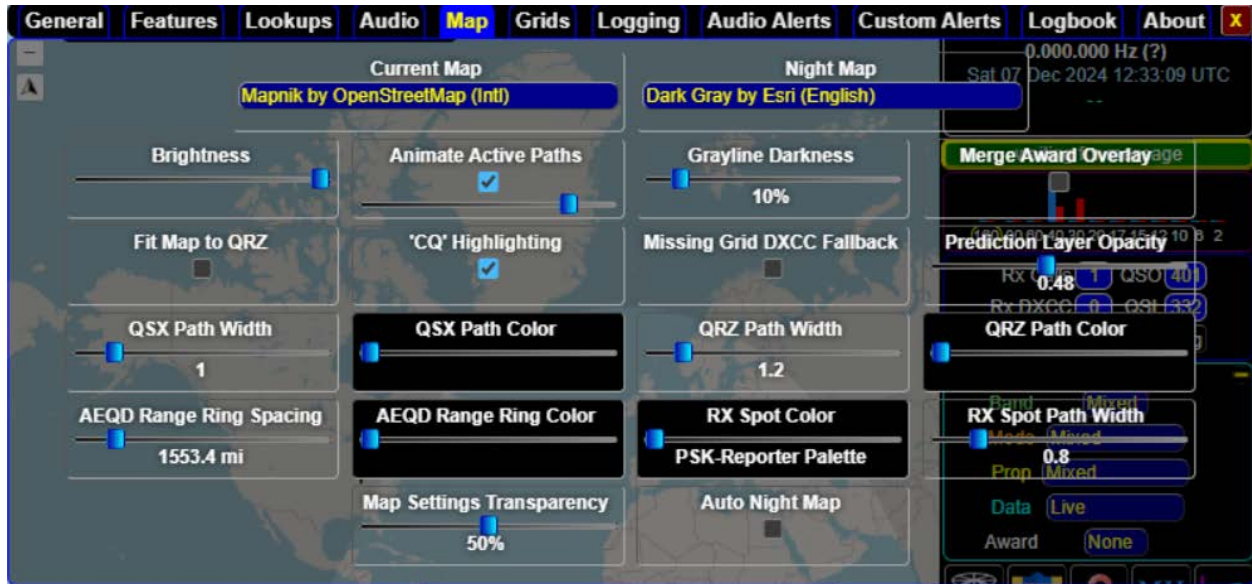
This menu specifies the appearance of the GridTracker map. No changes should be needed.

THE GRIDTRACKER GRIDS SETUP MENU
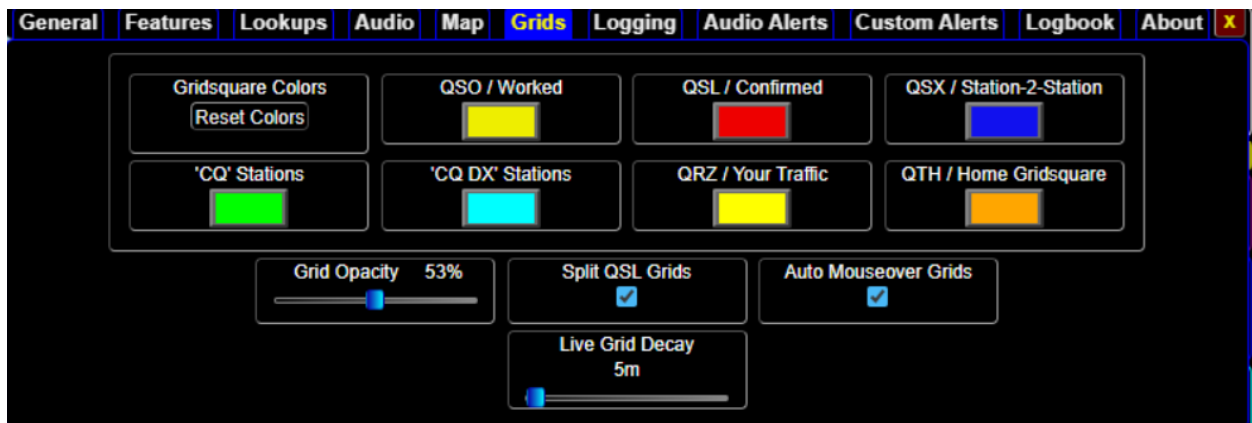
This menu specifies the coloration used for the grids on the GridTracker map.

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THE GRIDTRACKER LOGGING SETUP MENU

| General | Features | Lookups | Audio | Map | Grids | **Logging** | Audio Alerts | Custom Alerts | Logbook | About | X |

Source/Sync	Connect?	Menu?	Startup?	Log?	Details	Test	Result
WSJT-X Log			☑		wsjtx_log.adi		
GridTracker2			☑	☑	Backup Logs		
Local File(s)	☑	☐			Add File No file(s) selected		
PSK-Reporter	☐	☐			24 Hour History		
QRZ.com	☑	☐		☑	API Key ⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤	Test	
ClubLog	☐	☐		☐	Callsign WB9LIB Password _____ Email _____	Test	
HRDLOG.net				☐	Callsign _____ Upload Code _____ *** How to get upload code ***	Test	
CloudLog				☐	URL http://127.0.0.1 API Key _____ Station Profile ____	Test	
eQSL.cc				☑	User WB9LIB Password ⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤ QTH Nickname ☐	Test	
LoTW	☑	☑		☑	Login wb9lib Password ⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤⬤ TQSL Path C:\Program Files ... tedQSL\tqsl.exe TQSL Password _____ Station Name WB9LIB	Test Download Test TQSL	
HamCQ.cn				☐	API Key _____	Test	
N1MM Logger+				☐	IP 127.0.0.1 Port 2333		
Log4OM				☐	IP 127.0.0.1 Port 2236		
N3FJP Loggers	☐	☐	☑	☐	IP 127.0.0.1 Port 1100 QSL By Any		
DXKeeper				☐	IP 127.0.0.1 Port 52000		
HRD Logbook				☐	IP 127.0.0.1 Port 7826		

This menu specifies the logging functions used by GridTracker. The settings shown above allow the following:

- WSJT-X log is loaded at startup
- GridTracker log is loaded at startup and automatically logs contacts
- Local Files appears as an option on the GridTracker front menu
- QRZ automatically logs contacts and appears on the GridTracker front menu
- eQSL automatically logs contacts
- LOTW log is loaded at startup, automatically logs contacts, and is on the GridTracker front menu
- N3FJP log is loaded at startup

Note that appropriate login and password information must be provided for QRZ, LOTW, and eQSL for those services to work.
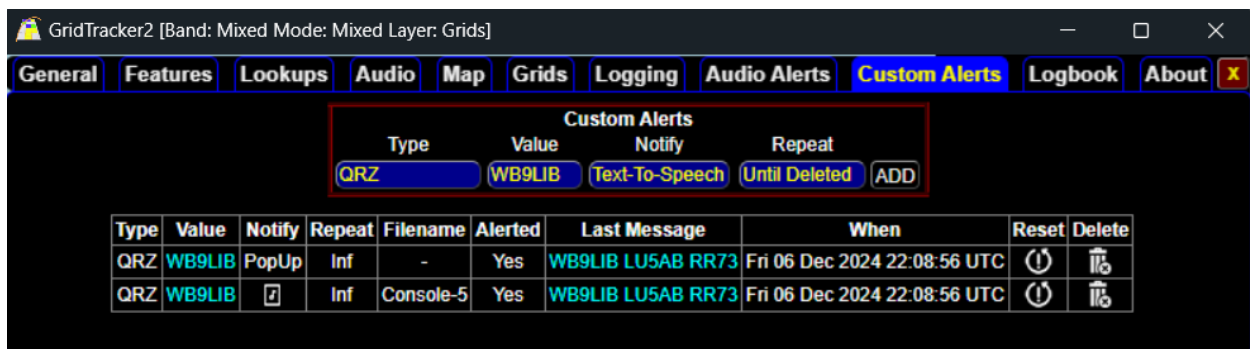
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THE GRIDTRACKER AUDIO SETUP MENU

No changes should be needed on the GridTracker Features menu. Audio alerts are not enabled (too many alerts can be annoying)
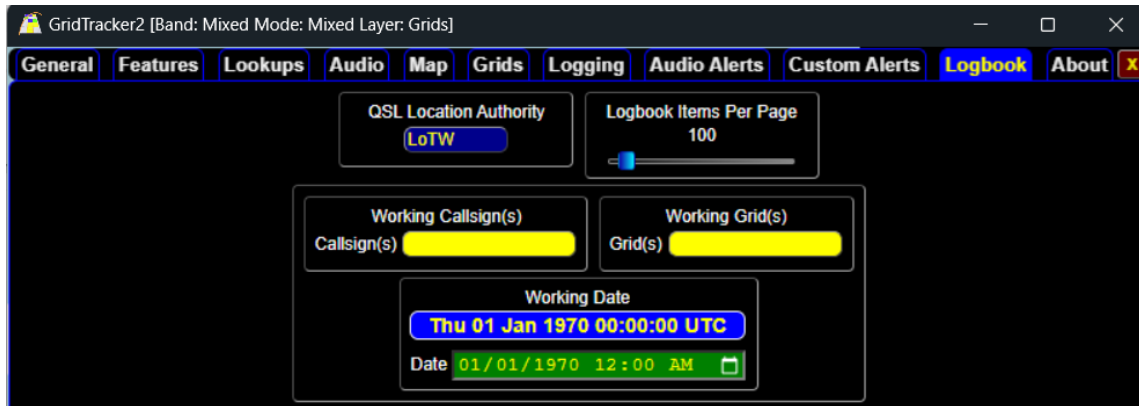
THE GRIDTRACKER CUSTOM ALERTS SETUP MENU

The settings above introduce a **POWERFUL** feature – a pop-up box will appear whenever any station gives you a call. An audible alert will also sound. This will help ensure you never miss a call.
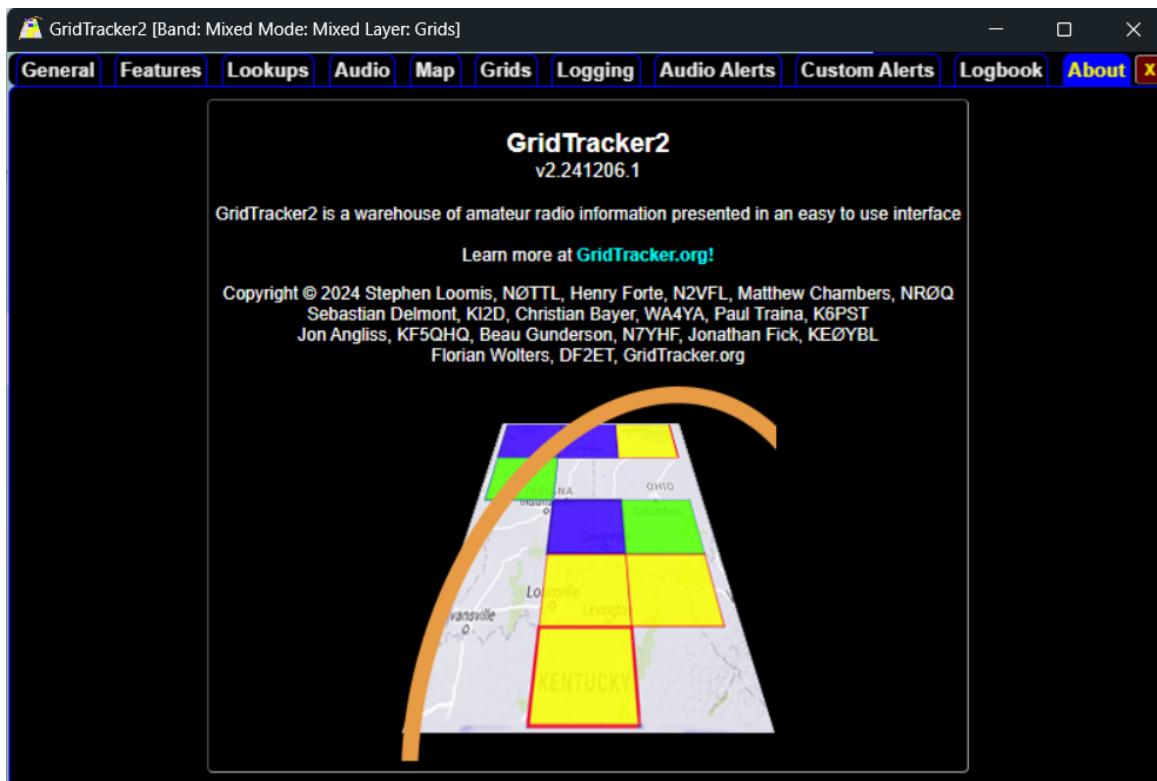
THE GRIDTRACKER LOGBOOK SETUP MENU

No changes should be needed on the GridTracker Features menu.

THE GRIDTRACKER ABOUT MENU

This provides the version of GridTracker when this manual was created.

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THE GRIDTRACKER CALL ROSTER (UNFILTERED)

All WANTED options are selected to highlight everything not worked.

No filtering applied. Everything is being displayed.

Simply click on callsign to transmit & attempt contact

The GridTracker Call Roster is your PRIMARY FT8 control point for observing stations currently operating on the selected band, which states or countries they are in, and whether you have worked those stations, states, or countries before.

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THE GRIDTRACKER CALL ROSTER (CQ ONLY)

All WANTED options are selected to highlight everything not worked.

CQ ONLY selected to only display stations calling CQ

Simply click on callsign to transmit & attempt contact

By selecting **CQ ONLY** you only display those stations who are calling CQ, inviting stations to contact them.

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THE GRIDTRACKER CALL ROSTER (USA ONLY)

All WANTED options are selected to highlight everything not worked.

ONLY MY DXCC selected to only USA stations

Simply click on callsign to transmit & attempt contact

By selecting **ONLY MY DXCC** you are able to display only stations calling from within the USA.

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THE GRIDTRACKER CALL ROSTER (DX ONLY)

All WANTED options are selected to highlight everything not worked.

NOT MY DXCC selected to only USA stations

Simply click on callsign to transmit & attempt contact

By selecting **NOT MY DXCC** you are able to display only DX stations calling from outside the USA.